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Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

*The kingdom of heaven is like a
treasure buried in a field,
which a person finds and hides again,
and out of joy goes and sells all that
he has and buys that field.*

~ Matthew 13:44-46

Holy Mass*

SATURDAY VIGIL
5:30 PM

SUNDAY
7:15 AM, 8:45 AM,
10:45 AM, 5:30 PM

Daily Mass*

MON./WED.
6:30 AM, 8 AM, 5:30 PM

TUE./THU./FRI.
6:30 AM, 8 AM

SATURDAY 8 AM

Reconciliation*

WEDNESDAY
6-7 PM (during Adoration)

SATURDAY
Following 8 AM Mass
or, call the parish office to
schedule a Confession
with one of our priests.

**Regular Mass/Confession
times may change due to
events, funerals, or Holy
Days. Find this week's
parish calendar in our
bulletin or on our website.*

4475 DUBLIN ROAD | HILLIARD OH 43026 | 614-876-1272 | STBRENDANS.NET


**Saint
Brendan**
THE NAVIGATOR



Mission Appeal 2nd Collection this Weekend

See details
on page 16

Information Center

PARISH OFFICE HOURS – Weekdays, 8:30 AM-12 PM & 1-4 PM

CHURCH HOURS – M-F & Sunday, 6 AM-10 PM; Saturday, 6 AM-6 PM

ST. BRENDAN SCHOOL – 614-876-6132, fax 614-529-8929

NEW MEMBERS – Fill out a New Member Registration form at stbrendans.net/welcome or 614-876-1272 / parish@stbrendans.net

MARRIAGE – Marriage Request form: stbrendans.net/marriage (fill out at least six months prior to your wedding.) Marriage prep is required. Email Valerie Scheel, weddingplanner@stbrendans.net

BAPTISMS – 12 PM most Sundays. Visit stbrendans.net/baptism or email baptism@stbrendans.net for questions or details. Baptism Preparation Class: 2 required, 1st Sundays monthly, 12 PM.

ANointing OF THE SICK – Contact the Parish Office.

POD NURSERY – Sundays during 8:45 & 10:45 AM Mass (for children 6 months-4 years old) Questions? Email nursery@stbrendans.net

OCIA – (*Order of Christian Initiation of Adults*) Are you interested in becoming Catholic? Contact Wendy Ferkany at 614-876-1272, ext. 291 or wferkany@stbrendans.net

MINISTRY OF EVANGELIZATION & CATECHESIS – (*Family Faith Formation*) Contact Jacob Doran: 614-876-1272, ext. 231

MARKETING & BULLETIN REQUESTS – Fill out a marketing request form at stbrendans.net/marketing or marketing@stbrendans.net

MASS INTENTIONS – Fill out a Mass Intention envelope (in the church gathering area) with \$10 cash/check and drop off at the Parish Office.

FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR – Visit <https://tinyurl.com/flowers4altar> to remember a loved one or for a special intention (published in the bulletin.) \$75 donation. Actual cost is \$109—extra is welcomed!

CANDLE DONATIONS – \$2 for large candles / 25 cents for small ones

MINISTRY OF CARE FOR HOMEBOUND – To receive Eucharist at home or at a facility, email Nell at doconnell@stbrendans.net

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN – Register at www.virtus.org

NAVIGATOR NEWS / PARISHSTAQ – To receive our weekly parish e-newsletter, visit stbrendan.ccbchurch.com and create your account in ParishStaQ. Log in to be automatically added to our email list.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY PORTAL – Access *Ministry Scheduler Pro* at www.rotundasoftware.com/ministry/stbrendans or, for liturgical scheduling questions, email ministryscheduler@stbrendans.net

FACEBOOK – Parish [StBrendanofHilliard](https://www.facebook.com/StBrendanofHilliard)

INSTAGRAM – Parish [@stbrendanhilliard](https://www.instagram.com/stbrendanhilliard) / School [@saintbrendanschool](https://www.instagram.com/saintbrendanschool) Vine [@stbvine](https://vine.co/v/stbvine) / Roots [@stb_theroots](https://www.instagram.com/stb_theroots) / Young Adults [@stbya](https://www.instagram.com/stbya)

LIVESTREAM – YouTube: [SaintBrendantheNavigatorHilliard](https://www.youtube.com/SaintBrendantheNavigatorHilliard)
OR Facebook: [facebook.com/StBrendanHilliardyoutube.com/c/](https://www.facebook.com/StBrendanHilliardyoutube.com/c/)
Sunday, 10:45 AM; Monday/Wednesday, 5:30 PM; and Tuesday/Thursday/Friday/Saturday, 8 AM

SHARE YOUR PARISH/SCHOOL EVENT PHOTOS – Upload photos at stbstories.net and hit "submit" so we can share the many happenings with our parish and school through our bulletin & social media!

ST. MARGARET OF CORTONA PRESCHOOL – Contact Andrea Boyd, Director/Lead Teacher, at aboyd@cdeducation.org or 614-274-1922

MINISTERS TO THE PARISH: 614-876-1272

Fr. Michael Lumpe, Pastor ext. 223

Fr. Sam Severance, Parochial Vicar
ext. 226, frseverance@stbrendans.net

Fr. Dan Moloney, Parochial Vicar
ext. 253, frmoloney@stbrendans.net

Fr. Weldit Abay, Parochial Vicar
ext. 238, frweldit@stbrendans.net

Rev. Mr. Jim Morris, Permanent Deacon
ext. 230, deaconmorris@stbrendans.net

Rev. Mr. Doug Saunders, Permanent Deacon
ext. 230, deacondoug@stbrendans.net

Rev. Mr. Doug Yglesias, Permanent Deacon
ext. 230, deaonyglesias@stbrendans.net

Henry Szabo, Order of Instituted Acolytes

Danielle O'Connell, Pastoral Associate
ext. 227, doconnell@stbrendans.net

Wendy Ferkany, Adult Evangelization
ext. 291, wferkany@stbrendans.net

Jacob Doran, Dir. of Youth Evangelization & Catechesis
ext. 231, jdoran@stbrendans.net

Sarah Pennington, Family Faith Formation Coordinator
ext. 233, spennington@stbrendans.net

Kara Shand, High School Youth Ministry
ext. 232, kday@stbrendans.net

Anneliese Johanni, Pastoral Assist., High School Youth Ministry
ext. 232, ajohanni@stbrendans.net

Anna Marino, Middle School Youth Ministry
ext. 232, amarino@stbrendans.net

PARISH OFFICE: 614-876-1272

Kris Jesse, Parish Administration Director
ext. 222, kjesse@stbrendans.net

Lisa Guzzo, Parish Administrative Assistant
ext. 285, lguzzo@stbrendans.net

Ben Romaker, Dir. of Development/Multimedia Coordinator
ext. 224, bromaker@stbrendans.net

Lee Salcone, Marketing/Bulletin/Communications
ext. 237, lsalcone@stbrendans.net

Dr. Ross Williams, DMA, Director of Music
ext. 236, rwilliams@stbrendans.net

Dina Harder, Database Administrator/Event Coordinator
ext. 235, dharder@stbrendans.net

Teresa Boyne, Safe Environment/Security Coordinator
ext. 221, tboyne@stbrendans.net

Cathy Brackenridge, Parish Accountant
ext. 229, cbrackenridge@stbrendans.net

Peter Shearer, Facilities Supervisor
ext. 297, pshearer@stbrendans.net

ST. BRENDAN PARISH SCHOOL: 614-876-6132

Mike DeMassimo, Principal
ext. 248, mdemassimo@cdeducation.org

Courtney Kreber, Assistant Principal
ext. 247, ckreber2@cdeducation.org

Marcia Voelkel, Office Manager
ext. 246, mvoelkel@cdeducation.org

Logan Johansen, Office Secretary
ext. 298, ljohansen@cdeducation.org

Lorin Pankewicz, Dir. of Student Services
ext. 249, lviglio@cdeducation.org



From Our Pastor

ON THIS SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME,

Let's begin by pausing and asking ourselves: "What is the most valuable thing that I own?" In answering you might say it's a precious family heirloom, a home you worked decades to afford and decorate, or a hard-earned career milestone. We naturally spend our lives protecting, investing in, and thinking about the things we value most. In today's Gospel of Matthew, Jesus shares three powerful

parables about the Kingdom of Heaven. He speaks of a buried treasure, a pearl of great price, and a fishing net cast into the sea. These ancient words are not just stories from the past. They are a direct, living message for our parish community today. They challenge us to look closely at our lives, our priorities, and where we place our ultimate value.

LOOK WHAT I FOUND: The first two parables speak of an overwhelming, life-changing discovery. Imagine walking through a dusty, familiar field and stumbling upon a treasure so vast that it changes your entire reality. Think of the merchant who spends his lifetime searching for the perfect pearl and finally holds it in his hand. Jesus tells us that when these individuals found what they were looking for, they went and joyfully sold everything they owned to possess it.

Notice that this sacrifice was not made with sadness or regret. The Gospel specifically highlights that the man went "out of joy." This is the core of our Christian vocation. Following Christ and pursuing His Kingdom is not a burden or a chore. It is a joyful response to finding the ultimate source of love, peace, and meaning. When we truly discover Jesus, everything else in our lives takes second place. Pope Saint John Paul II beautifully captured this reality when he proclaimed:

"It is Jesus that you seek when you dream of happiness; He is waiting for you when nothing else you find satisfies you; He is the beauty to which you are so attracted; it is He who provokes you with that thirst for fullness that will not let you settle for compromise."

Yes, Jesus is the true treasure buried in the field of our daily lives. Jesus is the pearl of great price. When we realize this, we find the courage to let go of material possessions, worldly anxieties, and fleeting pleasures that can never truly satisfy our hearts. However, the third parable brings a solemn shift in tone. Jesus describes a net thrown into the sea that collects fish of every kind. When the net is hauled ashore, the good fish are gathered into buckets, and the bad are thrown away. This is a vivid reminder of the reality of judgment and the weight of our choices. Our parish, much like that net, is a diverse gathering place for people at all different stages of their spiritual journey. God welcomes everyone into His net. But a time comes when our choices matter, and our fidelity is tested.

THE BIG QUESTION: Jesus asks His disciples a direct question: "Do you understand all these things?" They answer with a simple, "Yes." Today, Jesus asks each of us that same question. Do we understand the immense value of the faith we hold? Do we realize that the Kingdom of Heaven demands our entire heart, mind, and soul? As Pope Saint John Paul II reminded us, we cannot settle for compromise. We cannot be half-hearted Catholics, keeping one foot in the Kingdom and one foot in the world.

Jesus concludes by saying that every scribe instructed in the Kingdom is like the head of a household who brings from his storeroom both the new and the old. As a parish, we are blessed with a beautiful spiritual storeroom. The "old" represents our sacred traditions, the timeless teachings of the Church, and the ancient wisdom of the saints. The "new" represents the fresh ways the Holy Spirit moves in our hearts today, inviting us to renew our parish life, support one another, and evangelize our modern culture.

Folks, let's look at our lives this week and ask ourselves: What is our buried treasure? Are we willing to let go of the things that hold us back from God so that we can fully possess the pearl of great price? Let us pray for the grace to choose what is good, to live righteously, and to support one another as we journey together toward eternal life.

Thank you for your continued faith, your dedication to and support of our wonderful parish, and your witness to the Gospel. Please know that you and your families are in my daily prayers.

Fr. Mike

Fr. Michael Lumpe, Pastor



Welcome Our New Parish Administrative Assistant, Lisa Guzzo!

Lisa Guzzo is a native Californian who moved from Reno, Nevada to Columbus in the summer of 2025 to be closer to family. She and her husband, Bob, live in the Linworth community. Their son, Jackson, is a Clinical Mental Health Counselor in Spokane, Washington.

Lisa's professional background includes sales, hospice operations, and 10 years in Catholic education. She enjoys spending time at the beach, visiting Disneyland, trying new restaurants, playing mini golf, and most of all, making memories with family and friends.

Lisa is excited to be part of the St. Brendan community and looks forward to getting to know everyone. Please feel free to stop by the Parish Office to say hello!

New Parish Office Hours

Beginning August 1, 2026, our Parish Office will open half an hour earlier (8:30 AM) making it convenient to stop by immediately after the 8 AM Daily Mass!

What We May Do & Not Do with the Body after Death

Article by Karlo Broussard, courtesy of the Catholic Exchange.

"For the living know that they will die," says the author of Ecclesiastes (Eccles. 9:5). This is a reality we all face. But the question of what to do with the body after death remains. May we cremate it? If so, may we scatter the ashes or must we preserve them? May we donate the body to science?

Such questions weigh heavy on the minds and hearts of many who contact Catholic Answers. As such, it's important that we address the question on what we can and can't do with the body after death.

TO DUST YOU SHALL RETURN

Let's take the cremation issue first.

In August of 2016, the Congregation of the Doctrine for the Faith (CDF) addressed several pertinent questions concerning cremation in its instruction *Ad resurgendum cum Christo* – "To rise with Christ" (ARC). The document makes clear that the Church is not opposed to cremation:

The Church raises no doctrinal objections to this practice, since cremation of the deceased's body does not affect his or her soul, nor does it prevent God, in his omnipotence, from raising up the deceased body to new life. Thus cremation, in and of itself, objectively negates neither the Christian doctrine of the soul's immortality nor that of the resurrection of the body. . . . Cremation is not prohibited, "unless it was chosen for reasons contrary to Christian doctrine" (ARC 4).

It is important to note that the document doesn't endorse the practice. It merely notes the Church is not opposed to it. This signals the Church's strong preference for burial of the deceased, something the document makes clear:

"The Church continues to prefer the practice of burying the bodies of the deceased, because this shows a greater esteem towards the deceased" (ARC 4).

ASHES ABROAD

The question that is asked most often is whether we can scatter the ashes of the deceased. The answer is no:

In order that every appearance of pantheism, naturalism or nihilism be avoided, it is not permitted to scatter the ashes of the faithful departed in the air, on land, at sea or in some other way, nor may they be preserved in mementos, pieces of jewelry, or other objects. These courses of action cannot be legitimized by an appeal to the sanitary, social, or economic motives that may have occasioned the choice of cremation (ARC 7).

Although there are many movies of ashes being scattered, these may provide for dramatic cinema, but it is not Catholic.

GRANDMA ON THE MANTLE?

"Okay, maybe we can't scatter the ashes," you say, "so we'll put Grandma's ashes on the mantle in our home." Though it may be a good sentiment, the Church doesn't permit that either:

[T]he conservation of the ashes of the departed in a domestic residence is not permitted. Only in grave and exceptional cases dependent on cultural conditions of a localized nature, may the ordinary, in agreement with the Episcopal Conference or the Synod of Bishops of the Oriental Churches, concede permission for the conservation of the ashes of the departed in a domestic residence (ARC 6).

Now that we know what we can't do, what can we do? The CDF specifies that the ashes must be preserved in totality in a sacred place:

When, for legitimate motives, cremation of the body has been chosen, the ashes of the faithful must be laid to rest in a sacred place, that is, in a cemetery or, in certain cases, in a church or an area, which has been set aside for this purpose, and so dedicated by the competent ecclesial authority (ARC 5).

WHY THE SACRED PLACE?

The reasons for this can be found in the list of reasons the CDF gives for *burying* the dead in a sacred place.

- It expresses the Church's faith in the resurrection of the body (ARC 3).
- It shows "the great dignity of the human body as an integral part of the human person whose body forms part of their identity" (ARC 3).
- It "corresponds to the piety and respect owed to the bodies of the faithful departed who through baptism have become temples of the Holy Spirit" (ARC 3).
- It "encourages family members and the whole Christian community to pray for and remember the dead" and upholds "the relationship between the living and the dead" and "has opposed any tendency to minimize, or relegate to the purely private sphere, the event of death and the meaning it has for Christians" (ARC 3).

WHAT IS MINE IS YOURS

What does the Church have to say about donating the body for the use of organs and/or medical research?

The Church permits it. With regard to organ donation after death, the Catechism of the Catholic Church says, "Organ donation after death is a noble and meritorious act and is to be encouraged as an expression of generous solidarity" (CCC 2296).

The Catechism is quick to warn, however, against those things that would render organ donation after death immoral:

It is not morally acceptable if the donor or his proxy has not given explicit consent. Moreover, it is not morally admissible to bring about the disabling mutilation or death of a human being, even in order to delay the death of other persons (CCC 2296).

One would think these instructions are common sense, but the Church has to make it clear, given the fact that so many have never developed the ability to reason to moral precepts.

Concerning donating the body of the deceased for scientific research, the Catechism answers "yes": "Autopsies can be morally permitted for legal inquests or scientific research" (CCC 2301).

The above Church's burial norms (sacred place, respect for body, etc.) would apply to the remains of the body after the research is completed.

CONCLUSION

Discussions about end-of-life issues often revolve around the topic of what constitutes ordinary and extraordinary means of prolonging life. Should we keep Grandma on the ventilator or not? When is it morally just to pull her feeding tube?

These are important questions, and they deserve answers in line with our Catholic faith. But the question of what to do with Grandma's body after death is also an important end-of-life issue. Due to the Church's clear teaching on this matter, Catholics have one less thing to stress over when dealing with the death of a loved one.

For more information, visit:

Diocese of Columbus:

<https://www.catholiccemeteriesofcolumbus.org/>

The Catholic Times:

<https://catholictimescolumbus.org/news/ashes-in-my-closet/>

The Catholic Times:

<https://catholictimescolumbus.org/news/what-to-do-with-cremation-ashes/>

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops:

<https://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/sacraments-and-sacramentals/bereavement-and-funerals/cremation-and-funerals>



Separate, but related . . .

If you are interested in having a **simple wood casket or urn**, I encourage you to visit the following monasteries in the United States; they hand-craft simple wood caskets and urns. (*NOTE: Fr. Mike is getting his simple wood casket from one of the Abbeys listed below – hopefully it's not needed for a while!*) Just like ordering other caskets and urns through your funeral home, these can be ordered and delivered to meet the needs of your loved ones and families AND, in purchasing hand-crafted caskets from one of these abbeys, you are supporting the work and mission of these monks:

ABBAY CASKETS

Saint Meinrad Archabbey:

<https://abbeycaskets.com/>

TRAPPIST CASKETS

New Melleray Abbey:

<https://trappistcaskets.com/>

MOUNT MICHAEL ABBEY

Mount Michael Abbey Caskets:

<https://mountmichael.org/caskets/>

SAINT JOSEPH ABBEY CASKETS

Saint Joseph Abbey:

<https://www.saintjosephabbey.com/caskets>

Prayer List

If you would like our parish to pray for loved ones who are **ill at home, hospitalized, or are active duty military**, fill out our *Bulletin Prayer Request Form* at www.bit.ly/Bulletin-Prayer-List, via the QR code, or call the Parish Office. The list is updated every 3-6 months; if someone you added was deleted but is still ill, please fill out a new prayer request.



If you or a loved one is hospitalized or ill at home and would like a pastoral visit, call 614-876-1272.

Please Pray for...

THOSE HOSPITALIZED OR ILL

Pamela Theado	Chris Carrino	Sarah Ortlieb
Sean Grier	Robert William	Alan LaForrest
Brenda Bezan	Elliott Verrilli	Gib Bickel
Ken Weitmarshen	Steve Strait	Amelia Black
Shirley Buswell	Tonya Prickett	Suzzette Briones
Margie Hiam	Don Azelvandre	Gregg U'sellis
Kathleen Carlson	Bailey Curtis	Esthelind Gutierrez
Ken Weitmarshen	Daffine Papaly	Sue Devore
Jimmy Gutierrez	Evie Scoville	Amiee U'sellis
Curt Thayer	Hannah Kelley	Max Elliott
Daniel Francis	Mary Reed	Nichole Otayco

ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY

Thomas Dye	Kale Grunenwald	Connor Olson
Aaron Huesman	Cody Longstreth	Dan Severance
Sam Imwalle	Jackson Maassel	Trevor Pfirman
Christopher Keck	Rick Shonkwiler	Zackery Reed
Robert Carollo	Luke Stumphauzer	Robbie Hite
Kyle Mullins	Thomas Noel	Nathanial Mattson
Joe Alverson	Addison A.	Ross McDonald

...we pray for all our men and women in service to our country, healthcare workers and first responders.

THOSE AWAY FROM THE CHURCH

St. Brendan Inviting Catholics Home Ministry prays daily for those no longer practicing our Catholic faith. Learn more about the Inviting Catholics Home Ministry at stbrendans.net/ich

Eucharistic Adoration

Sign up for adoration at stbrendan.weadorehim.com

When you arrive to adore, please sign in at the Kiosk, even if signing in as a guest or staying less than an hour.

MONDAY	6 PM–10 PM
TUE./THU./FRI.	8:30 AM–10 PM (1st Fridays, 8:30 AM–Sat., 1 PM)
WEDNESDAY	7 AM–5 PM (Holy Hour, 6–7 PM w/Confession)
SATURDAY	8:30 AM–1 PM
SUNDAY	6:30 PM–10 PM

Financial Stewardship

St. Brendan Parish is sustained by the generosity of our parishioners through time, talent & treasure. For all that you do, **THANK YOU!**

Offertory, July 19, 2026 \$40,195
(Cash, checks, online giving)

Weekly Budgeted \$55,537



To give online via your PushPay account, please scan the QR code.

THE GIFTS OF WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING:

Why “Fear of the Lord” is the Beginning of Wisdom

Article by Fr. Michael Lumpe

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.” (Proverbs 9:10)

During the beautiful liturgy of the Sacrament of Confirmation, a powerful and ancient moment occurs just before the candidates are anointed with Sacred Chrism. The Bishop extends his hands over the confirmands, calling down the Holy Spirit upon them. In this solemn prayer to bestow the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit, the Bishop in prayer petitions God with the words: *“Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who brought these Your servants to new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, freeing them from sin: send upon them, O Lord, the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete; give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and fortitude, the spirit of knowledge and piety; fill them with the spirit of the fear of the Lord. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.”* This most-holy prayer, which utilizes the traditional Biblical concept of “fear of the Lord,” reminds us that a mature Catholic faith begins by recognizing the sheer majesty and holiness of God our Father.

In our modern culture, “fear” is almost universally viewed as a negative emotion — a psychological “I’m scared” barrier that has the potential to paralyze human freedom and damage one’s self-esteem. When we encounter the ancient scriptural declaration that “the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,” it can easily strike the modern ear as harsh, blunt or outdated. And so, some might wonder how a faith built on the premise that “God is love” can simultaneously command us to “fear Him.” For Catholics, resolving this apparent contradiction is the first step toward a mature spiritual life. The “fear of the Lord” prayed for in the Rite of Confirmation is not the terror of a cruel tyrant. Instead, it is a holy fear, a profound reverence, and a supernatural gift of the Holy Spirit that serves as the essential launchpad for true wisdom and understanding.

SERVILE FEAR VERSUS FILIAL FEAR

To understand this concept, Catholic theology relies on a crucial distinction systematically organized by Saint Thomas Aquinas: the difference between *servile fear* and *filial fear*.

Servile fear is the dread of a servant who obeys a master simply to avoid punishment or eternal damnation. While this type of fear can be a useful starting point – acting as a spiritual brake that keeps us from falling into serious sin – it focuses primarily on self-preservation rather than love.

Filial fear, on the other hand, is the fear of a devoted child. A child does not fear that a loving parent will strike or abandon them; rather, the child dreads wounding the parent’s heart or fracturing the harmony of their relationship. Filial fear is rooted in tremendous reverence for God’s immense majesty, holiness, and goodness. As we grow in the spiritual life, servile fear naturally diminishes, while filial fear actually increases. The great Doctor of the Church, and Patron Saint of our Diocese of Columbus, Saint Francis de Sales, perfectly summarized this dynamic by writing, “We must fear God out of love, not love Him out of fear.”

GUIDANCE FROM THE SAINTS

Throughout the history of the Church, the saints have modeled how this balance of love and holy awe transforms the soul. They demonstrate that filial fear does not restrict us but rather expands our capacity for holiness.

- **Saint John Chrysostom** explained that this virtue prepares the soul for perfect communion: *“The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom, but it is perfected by love.”*
- **Saint Anthony of Padua** highlighted how holy fear acts as a protective shield for our spiritual journey: *“The fear of the Lord is the root and foundation of all virtue; where it is absent, no true virtue can stand.”*
- **Saint Teresa of Ávila**, a Doctor of the Church, offered profound advice on balancing trust with a healthy vigilance over our actions: *“The soul that truly loves God must possess two things: a deep love for Him and a holy fear of offending Him, so that it may walk securely on the path of prayer without falling into temptation.”*

WHY HOLY FEAR PRECEDES TRUE WISDOM

True wisdom is far more than mere intelligence or worldly cleverness; it is the capacity to see the world, our lives, and our daily choices through the eyes of God. However, divine wisdom cannot grow in a heart that is crowded with self-centered pride. Pride blinds us to our own flaws and limitations, making us believe we are the sole authors of our destiny.

The fear of the Lord acts as a spiritual clearing agent. By establishing a right order in our souls, it puts God at the absolute center of human life and humbles our egos. When we look upon God with authentic awe, obedience ceases to feel like a burden and instead becomes a joyful response to His love. Holy fear prepares the soil of the heart so that love and wisdom can bloom safely without turning into vanity.

HOLY FEAR: THE ANTIDOTE TO SELF-DECEPTION

Father Thomas Merton, OCSO, argued that true wisdom begins when we stop playing the role of God in our own lives. He famously recognized that humans are incredibly prone to spiritual pride and self-deception. In his widely prayed masterpiece, “The Merton Prayer” (from his book *Thoughts in Solitude*), Merton honestly confessed: *“My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going... Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so.”* For Merton, “fear of the Lord” means having a healthy, holy dread of our own ego. It means admitting that we do not have all the answers and that we cannot save ourselves. This radical humility is exactly where divine wisdom begins. He beautifully demonstrated that a person filled with filial fear (the desire to please a loving Father) is completely liberated from servile, terrifying fear.

GUIDANCE FROM THE POPES

In our contemporary era, the Vicars of Christ continue to remind the faithful of the beauty and necessity of this gift. **Pope Saint John Paul II** reflected extensively on the daily need for this grace. In his personal devotions, he prayed constantly for the Seven Gifts, explicitly petitioning the Holy Spirit to grant him the gift of the fear of God so that no earthly motivations could pull him away. As recorded in his childhood prayer intentions, he regularly asked: *“Give me the gift of the fear of God, so that I can always serve your majesty with filial love.”* This saintly pope understood that holy fear keeps our focus directed toward eternity rather than worldly preoccupations.

Building upon this timeless truth, **Pope Benedict XVI** clarified exactly what happens when a Catholic embraces this virtue. During his General Audience on June 8, 2005, Pope Benedict XVI commented on Psalm 111 and explained that the scriptural call to fear the Lord does not imply fright or terror. Instead, the Holy Father taught that it signifies a: *"serious and sincere respect which is the fruit of love, a genuine and active attachment to God"* (Vatican General Audience Archive).

Building upon this timeless truth, **Pope Leo XIV** reminds us in his first encyclical, *Magnifica Humanitas*, that this holy respect prevents us from trying to put ourselves in the place of God. He explains that true human growth is not measured by our own power, control, or technological performance, but by how faithfully we respect our human limits before the Creator. The Holy Father writes: *"True fulfillment is not found in technological 'perfection' or in trying to eliminate every human limitation. From a Catholic perspective, real growth is about becoming more fully human before God"* (*Magnifica Humanitas*, 16).

In looking to the wisdom of these three popes, we see that the fear of the Lord does not diminish human dignity; rather, it elevates it by anchoring our hearts securely in divine truth.

BRINGING HOLY FEAR INTO PARISH LIFE

Living out this biblical truth requires concrete, intentional shifts in our daily routines and family life. We can cultivate this gift within our parish community by recovering a sense of reverence in our approach to the Sacraments. Frequently seeking Christ in the Sacrament of Reconciliation heals the pride that separates us from God, while arriving early for Mass to spend time in prayer, or in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, builds a quiet awareness of His immense majesty.

Additionally, we can practice an evening examination of conscience, reviewing our daily choices not out of a sense of scrupulous guilt, but to ensure our actions have truly honored God's love. Cultivating humility also means looking to the saints as our guides, learning from their examples how to rely entirely on God's mercy rather than our own strength.

CONCLUSION

Ultimately, the fear of the Lord is not an obstacle to divine love, but its protective shield. By fostering a healthy, holy fear of God, we open our hearts to receive the Divine wisdom needed to navigate the complexities of modern life. This gift keeps our feet firmly planted on the path of righteousness, guiding our parish families through the trials of this earthly exile and leading us safely to eternal communion with God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ.

The Merton Prayer

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going.

I do not see the road ahead of me.

I cannot know for certain where it will end.

Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following Your will does not mean that I am actually doing so.

But I believe that the desire to please You does in fact please You.

And I hope that I have that desire in all that I am doing.

I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.

And I know that if I do this You will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it.

Therefore will I trust You always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.

I will not fear, for You are ever with me, and You will never leave me to face my perils alone.

Mass Intentions

MONDAY, JULY 27

- 6:30 AM Charles D. Heinlen †
- 8:00 AM For the needs of our parishioners as they begin the week
- 5:30 PM Denise A. Levy †

TUESDAY, JULY 28

- 6:30 AM Intention of the Sizemore Family
- 8:00 AM Jean Morris †

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29

- 6:30 AM Intention of Darren Harder
- 8:00 AM Jean Morris †
- 5:30 PM Paul & Gabrella Luppino †

THURSDAY, JULY 30

- 6:30 AM Dyanne Olachea †
- 8:00 AM Loretto & Mary Petrozzi †

FRIDAY, JULY 31

- 6:30 AM Intention for Nichole Otayco
- 8:00 AM Jean Morris †

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1

- 8:00 AM Joseph DiPietro †
- 5:30 PM Robert Brockway †

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 7:15 AM Bill Grubbe †
- 8:45 AM John G. & Dolores D'Amico †
- 10:45 AM For the Projection of the Unborn
- 5:30 PM For the People of St. Brendan Parish

(† Intention is for someone deceased.)

8 AM Wednesday Mass All Summer!
(Until school Mass starts back up, August 26.)



Flowers for the Altar

In Honor of
the Halter Family
~Senta Miles



Congratulations ON THE BAPTISMS OF:

Hazel Rose Davis
Luke Richard Dickson
Archer Macias Frank
Margaret Beatrice Grondin
Sawyer Bennett Thomas

The Porter of Saint Bonaventure:

THE HUMBLE PATH TO SAINTHOOD OF DETROIT'S BLESSED SOLANUS CASEY

A LIFE OF SIMPLE OBEDIENCE

Born Bernard Francis Casey in 1870 to Irish immigrant parents in Wisconsin, the man who would become Blessed Solanus Casey spent his youth working as a logger, a streetcar operator, and a prison guard before answering the call to the priesthood. His journey was far from easy. Struggling deeply with the academic coursework and the Latin required in the diocesan seminary, he was eventually advised to join a religious order. He entered the Capuchin Franciscan Order in Detroit in 1897, taking the religious name "Solanus" after Saint Francis Solanus, a Spanish Franciscan friar and missionary in South America.

Because of his persistent academic limitations, his superiors ordained him as a *simplex priest* in 1904. This meant that while Father Solanus could celebrate Holy Mass, he was officially forbidden from preaching doctrinal sermons or hearing formal confessions. Rather than harboring bitterness over these lifelong restrictions, Father Solanus accepted his limitations with profound joy and radical humility, viewing them as a direct invitation to serve God through total, loving obedience.

THE DOORKEEPER WHO HEALED THOUSANDS

The Capuchins assigned Father Solanus to the unassuming, lowly role of "porter"—the monastery doorkeeper—at various parishes in New York and ultimately at St. Bonaventure Monastery in Detroit. It was at this threshold that his true ministry flourished. As the primary point of contact for the public, Father Solanus welcomed the broken, the sick, and the destitute with unmatched compassion, turning no one away.

Remarkable spiritual and physical favors quickly began to unfold at the monastery gates. Visitors reported miraculous healings from severe illnesses, financial deliverances during the height of the Great Depression, and deeply troubled souls finding sudden, overwhelming peace after speaking with the gentle friar. Whenever people tried to credit him for these wonders, Father Solanus redirected their gratitude to God. He famously instructed those suffering to "**thank God ahead of time**" for the blessings and answers to prayer that were yet to come. In 1929, he co-founded the Capuchin Soup Kitchen to feed the starving residents of Detroit, a ministry that continues to serve the community today. Visit <https://www.cskdetroit.org/> to support the work of this soup kitchen.

THE PATH TO SAINTHOOD

Father Solanus Casey passed away on July 31, 1957, at the age of 86, with his final words being, "I give my soul to Jesus Christ." His funeral was flooded by over 8,000 mourners seeking to pay their respects to the holy doorkeeper who had spent decades carrying their burdens.

Recognizing his extraordinary virtue, Pope John Paul II declared him Venerable in 1995. On May 4, 2017, Pope Francis officially approved a miracle attributed directly to his intercession: the instantaneous and scientifically inexplicable healing of a regular pilgrimage visitor from a genetic skin disease. This historic milestone culminated in his formal beatification in November, 2017 before 60,000 faithful at Detroit's Ford Field.

Today, Blessed Solanus Casey stands just one authenticated miracle away from being canonized as a full saint, which would make him the very first U.S.-born priest to achieve sainthood in the Roman Catholic Church.

MAKE A DAY TRIP TO THE SOLANUS CASEY CENTER

Plan your departure from Columbus by 6 AM to maximize your time at the Shrine.

† **Information:** 313-579-2100, <https://www.solanuscasey.org/>

† **Location:** 1780 Mount Elliott St., Detroit, Michigan 48207

† **Operating Hours:** Open Tuesday–Sunday, 9 AM–5 PM
(The center is closed on Mondays).

† **Admission:** \$10 for adults, \$5 for students. Smartphone self-guided audio tours available at the gift shop for additional \$5.

† **Key Highlights:**

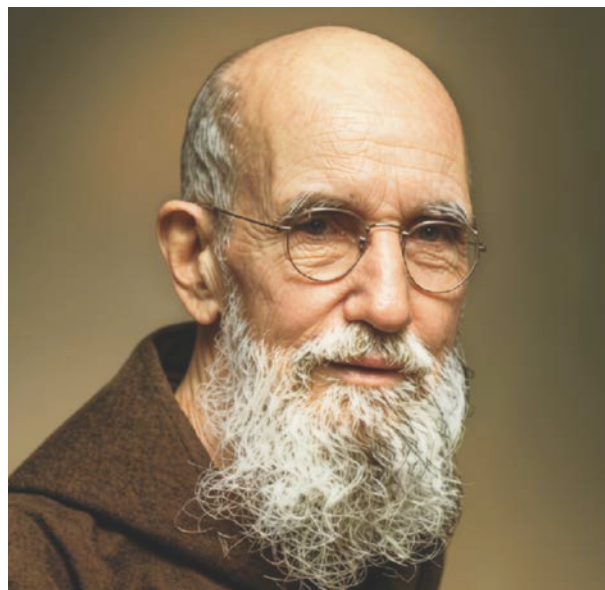
THE TOMB: Pray at the glass-covered tomb of Blessed Solanus, where you can write down personal intentions and place them directly in the baskets surrounding his casket.

SACRAMENTS: Capuchin friars offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation on a first-come, first-served basis Tuesday through Saturday from 9:30 AM to 4 PM.

BLESSING OF THE SICK: If your schedule allows, attend the moving, traditional Blessing of the Sick service, held every Wednesday and Sunday at 2 PM in the main chapel.

AMENITIES: The campus features free on-site parking, an award-winning museum exhibit, a comprehensive gift shop, and *On the Rise Bakery & Café* for lunch.

JULY 30: MEMORIAL OF BLESSED SOLANUS CASEY



Lectio Divina

SCRIPTURE READING + MEDITATION + PRAYER + CONTEMPLATION

"What page, what passage of the inspired books of the Old and New Testaments is not the truest of guides for human life?" +Saint Benedict, from the *Rule of Saint Benedict* (73:3)

The month of July is dedicated to the Most Precious Blood of Jesus

"If we would completely rejoice the heart of God, let us strive in all things to conform ourselves to His divine will. Let us not only strive to conform ourselves, but also to unite ourselves to whatever dispositions God makes of us. Conformity signifies that we join our wills to the will of God. Uniformity means more. Uniformity means that we make one will of God's will and our will. In this way we will only what God wills. God's will alone is our will." +SAINT ALPHONSUS LIGUORI

Monday, July 27 ~ Seventeenth Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Matthew 13:31-35 Jesus proposed a parable to the crowds. "The Kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a person took and sowed in a field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, yet when full-grown it is the largest of plants. It becomes a large bush, and the *birds of the sky come and dwell in its branches.*" He spoke to them another parable. "The Kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed with three measures of wheat flour until the whole batch was leavened." All these things Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables. He spoke to them only in parables, to fulfill what had been said through the prophet:

I will open my mouth in parables, I will announce what has lain hidden from the foundation of the world.

Meditation: Unless you spend time baking, "leaven" is probably an unfamiliar term. Leaven is a powerful agent of change. A lump of dough left to itself remains just what it is, a lump of dough. But when the leaven is added to it a transformation takes place which, when heated, produces rich and wholesome bread – a staple of life for humans. Just as leaven transforms the ingredients of dough to make bread, the "living word" of Jesus and the grace of His sacraments have the power to transform each of us into a disciple of Christ. The kingdom of God produces a transformation in those who receive the new life which Jesus Christ offers. When we yield our lives to Jesus Christ and allow his word to take root in our heart, we are transformed and made holy by the power of the Holy Spirit who dwells in us. As Saint Paul reminds us: "we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us" (2 Corinthians 4:7). Do you believe in the transforming power of Jesus through His teachings and through His sacraments? Do you believe in the transformative power of the Holy Spirit?

Prayer: O God, protector of those who hope in you, without whom nothing has firm foundation, nothing is holy, bestow in abundance your mercy upon us and grant that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may use the good things that pass in such a way as to hold fast even now to those that ever endure. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: It comes down to this. If we truly believe in Jesus as our Savior and Redeemer, then shouldn't we desire above all things to be challenged by the Gospel and embrace His teachings? Once we embrace Christ's teachings, we are called to live a life in witness to Christ as "doers of the Word, not hearers only" (James 1:22). Christ's teachings can transform us, but we need to turn away from the ways of the world and instead embrace Jesus who is the way, the truth and the life. Don't challenge the Gospel – let the Gospel challenge you!

Tuesday, July 28 ~ Seventeenth Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Matthew 13:36-43 Jesus dismissed the crowds and went into the house. His disciples approached him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field." He said in reply, "He who sows good seed is the Son of Man, the field is the world, the good seed the children of the Kingdom. The weeds are the children of the Evil One, and the enemy who sows them is the Devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. Just as weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be

at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his Kingdom all who cause others to sin and all evildoers. They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the Kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears ought to hear."

Meditation: It has been said: "Sow an act and you reap a habit. Sow a habit and you reap a character. Sow a character and you reap a destiny" (Charles Reade). Since we were children we have been reminded by our parents that "you reap what you sow" – if you study hard you will learn well and earn good grades; if you work out regularly and practice you will be a good athlete; if you nourish your faith life with scripture and prayer, do the will of God by living the Gospel you will be a worthy disciple of Christ. Folks, there will be a judgement day for each of us. On that day of judgment each will reap what he or she has sown in this life. And so it would be prudent to look at another Gospel, where Jesus welcomes those into eternal life given the criteria Christ said He would judge us by: "Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me" (Matthew 25:35-36). And so, once again, it comes down to the challenge of living the Gospel: "be doers of the Word, not hearers only, deceiving yourselves" (James 1:22).

Prayer: O God, protector of those who hope in you, without whom nothing has firm foundation, nothing is holy, bestow in abundance your mercy upon us and grant that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may use the good things that pass in such a way as to hold fast even now to those that ever endure. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Today's Gospel makes us think, and rightly so, about where each of us are in relation to being followers of Jesus. And so each of us need to make an assessment today by asking: Am I an authentic disciple of Christ? Am I a half-hearted disciple? Am I disciple at all? Be honest with yourself in answering; lying to yourself will not help. At many points on our life's journey we need to assess our faith life and our faithfulness to Christ and His teachings. If your life in Christ – your discipleship – is not where it needs to be, seize this moment to begin anew, starting with the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Wednesday, July 29 ~ Seventeenth Week in Ordinary Time **Memorial: Saints Martha, Mary and Lazarus**

Holy Gospel: John 11:19-27 Many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother [Lazarus, who had died]. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him; but Mary sat at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise." Martha said to him, "I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and anyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world."

Meditation: Martha, like many Orthodox Jews, believed in the life to come. The loss of her brother Lazarus did not diminish her hope in the resurrection – in fact she gently chides Jesus for not coming sooner to save Lazarus from an untimely death. But Jesus does something unexpected and remarkable, both to strengthen her faith and hope in the life to come, and to give her a sign of what he was to accomplish through his own death and resurrection. Jesus gave to her belief a new and profound meaning: He came from the Father to defeat sin and death for us and to restore life to those who believe in him. Jesus states unequivocally the he himself is the Resurrection and the Life. And the life that he offers is abundant life – life which comes from God himself. Jesus also offers everlasting life – the fullness of life which knows no end.

Prayer: Grant, we pray, almighty God, that the example of your Saints may spur us on to a better life, so that we, who celebrate the memory of Saints Martha, Mary and Lazarus, may also imitate without ceasing their deeds. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: In light of what unfolds in today's Gospel, we might ask ourselves what gives us hope and joy in the face of death? The loss of a loved one naturally produces grief and anguish of heart. When Martha, the sister of Lazarus and a close friend of Jesus, heard that Jesus was coming to pay respects for the loss of Lazarus, she immediately went out to meet him before he could get to her house. What inspired her to leave the funeral gathering in order to seek out Jesus? Was it simply the companionship

and consolation of Jesus – a friend who loved her brother deeply? Or did she recognize in Jesus the hope that God would restore life through Christ who is our Savior? Probably both, with the latter building on the former; Jesus, who loves each of us as much as he loved Lazarus, is our sweetness and our hope – hope for eternal life with Him that can be ours by living an earthly life “through Him, with Him and in Him” as faithful disciples, loving Christ as He loves us.

Thursday, July 30 ~ Seventeenth Week in Ordinary Time

Optional Memorial: Saint Peter Chrysologus, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Optional Memorial: Blessed Solanus Casey, OFM Cap., Religious

Holy Gospel: Matthew 13:47-53 Jesus said to the disciples: “The Kingdom of heaven is like a net thrown into the sea, which collects fish of every kind. When it is full they haul it ashore and sit down to put what is good into buckets. What is bad they throw away. Thus it will be at the end of the age. The angels will go out and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.” “Do you understand all these things?” They answered, “Yes.” And he replied, “Then every scribe who has been instructed in the Kingdom of heaven is like the head of a household who brings from his storeroom both the new and the old.” When Jesus finished these parables, he went away from there.

Meditation: Many wonder why Jesus compares a “trained scribe” with a “head of a house who brings from his storeroom both the new and the old” (Matthew 13:52). Why emphasize keeping the old along with the new? Why not replace the old, especially if the new seems to be better or more useful? Wouldn't a person want to throw away an old pair of shoes and replace them with a new pair - especially if the old pair became well-worn or torn beyond repair? But, who in his right mind would throw away an old precious jewel or some old gold coins simply because they were old and tarnished? After all, precious gems and gold do not lose their value with age; like vintage wine they increase in value. Jesus' parable of the “old” and the “new” points to the “older covenants” which God made with His people of the Old Testament, beginning with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and with Moses on Mount Sinai, and with King David (Psalm 89:3 and Psalm 110:1). Jesus' parable also points to the “new covenant” which He came to establish through the shedding of his blood on the cross and the anointing of his Holy Spirit who seals the new covenant on the day of Pentecost. Jesus did not come to abolish the Old Covenant but to fulfill it. The Lord calls us to treasure all of His words – all of His commandments, promises, precepts, and teachings (Psalm 119:14,72,127,162). If we maintain our part of the covenant that He established we will not have to worry about the outcome of where the angels will separate us.

Prayer + Saint Peter Chrysologus: O God, who made the Bishop Saint Peter Chrysologus an outstanding preacher of your incarnate Word, grant, through his intercession, that we may constantly ponder in our hearts the mysteries of your salvation and faithfully express them in what we do. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer + Blessed Solanus Casey: O God, who in your providence conformed Blessed Solanus Casey to the image of your Son making him tireless in service to the poor, by his intercession and example, grant also to us the same generosity and joy in giving of ourselves in service to our neighbor. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Contemplation: Do you buy into the line “we are a New Testament Church” and therefore ignore the teachings in the Old Testament? There is a profound unity between the Old and New Testaments. Both are divinely inspired by one and the same Spirit (2 Timothy 3:16). The Old Testament prepares for the New and the New Testament fulfills the Old – the two shed light on each other. The Old Testament prepared the way for the coming of Jesus Christ as the redeemer of all who would be saved through His sacrifice on the cross. The New Testament lies hidden in the Old and the Old Testament is unveiled in the New. That is why Jesus interpreted the Old Testament Scriptures for His disciples and explained, beginning with Moses, how He came to fulfill what was promised and foreshadowed in the Old (Luke 24:27), and that He “did not come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill” (Matthew 5:17). That is why we read the Old Testament in the light of Christ's saving death and resurrection.

Friday, July 31 ~ Seventeenth Week in Ordinary Time

Memorial: Saint Ignatius of Loyola, Priest; Founder, Society of Jesus

Holy Gospel: Matthew 13:54-58 Jesus came to his native place and taught the people in their synagogue. They were astonished and said, “Where did this man get such wisdom and mighty deeds? Is he not the carpenter's son? Is not his mother named Mary and his brothers James, Joseph, Simon, and

Judas? Are not his sisters all with us? Where did this man get all this?" And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his native place and in his own house." And he did not work many mighty deeds there because of their lack of faith.

Meditation: How easily familiarity breeds contempt. Jesus could do no mighty works in His hometown because the people who were familiar with Him were closed-minded and despised His claim to speak and act in the name of God. The people pigeon-holed Jesus, looking down their noses and saying "Is he not the carpenter's son?" as a way of discrediting Him and His teachings.

Prayer: O God, who raised up Saint Ignatius of Loyola in your Church to further the greater glory of your name, grant that by his help we may imitate him in fighting the good fight on earth and merit to receive with him a crown in heaven. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Today is an opportunity to ask if I pigeon-hole others, and possibly discredit others as the people did in today's Gospel. Or do I treat others with kindness and respect? The Lord Jesus offers us freedom from sin, prejudice, contempt, and fear. His love and grace sets us free to love others with the same grace and mercy which he has shown to us. Only Jesus can truly set us free from the worst tyranny possible - slavery to sin and the fear of death. His victory on the cross brings us pardon and healing, and the grace to live holy lives by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Saturday, August 1 ~ Seventeenth Week in Ordinary Time **Memorial: Saint Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop and Doctor of the Church**

Holy Gospel: Matthew 14:1-12 Herod the tetrarch heard of the reputation of Jesus and said to his servants, "This man is John the Baptist. He has been raised from the dead; that is why mighty powers are at work in him." Now Herod had arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip, for John had said to him, "It is not lawful for you to have her." Although he wanted to kill him, he feared the people, for they regarded him as a prophet. But at a birthday celebration for Herod, the daughter of Herodias performed a dance before the guests and delighted Herod so much that he swore to give her whatever she might ask for. Prompted by her mother, she said, "Give me here on a platter the head of John the Baptist." The king was distressed but because of his oaths and the guests who were present, he ordered that it be given, and he had John beheaded in the prison. His head was brought in on a platter and given to the girl, who took it to her mother. His disciples came and took away the corpse and buried him; and they went and told Jesus.

Meditation: King Herod, the most powerful and wealthy man in Judea, had everything he wanted, except a clear conscience and peace with God. Herod had respected and feared John the Baptist as a great prophet and servant of God. John, however did not fear to rebuke Herod for his sinful, adulterous relationship with his brother's wife. Not wanting to hear the truth about this adulterous relationship anymore from John, Herodias found the ultimate way to shut him up by having him beheaded. Even though John the Baptist, the source of truth, was silenced, the truth remained; Herodias achieved nothing.

Prayer: O God, who constantly raise up in your Church new examples of virtue, grant that we may follow so closely in the footsteps of the Bishop Saint Alphonsus in his zeal for souls as to attain the same rewards that are his in heaven. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Jesus Christ gives grace and help to the humble, to those who acknowledge their weaknesses and their sinfulness, and to those who look to God for His mercy and pardon, wisdom and strength. His grace and pardon not only frees us from a guilty conscience, it enables us to pursue holiness in every area of our lives, in our thoughts and intentions as well as our words and actions. If we are doing something contrary to the laws of God and to the teachings of Christ and His Church, don't run from the truth – these situations are moments of opportunity and conversion of mind and heart.

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Selecting the Right Godparents

Article by Fr. William Saunders, courtesy of the Catholic Exchange.

The role of the godparent for Baptism is rooted in the role of the sponsor in the catechumenate, which originated in the early Church. Recall that until the year 313, the Church was under the persecution of the Roman Empire and had to be cautious in conducting its affairs so as to prevent pagan infiltration and persecution. Also, until the Middle Ages, the Sacraments of Initiation – Baptism, Holy Eucharist, and Confirmation – were administered at once. The role of the sponsor then was to attest to the integrity of the person, oftentimes an adult, seeking admission into the Church as well as to assist him or her during the catechumenate in preparing for these sacraments and in living a Christian life. For infants, these sponsors would also make the Profession of Faith in the child's name, and accept the responsibility of instructing the child in the faith, especially if the parents failed in this duty. About the year 800 when infant Baptism was truly the norm, such a sponsor was called "patrinus," or "godfather." Traditionally, we identify the sponsor of a child for Baptism as the godparent – godmother or godfather, but the technical term remains "sponsor."

According to the *Code of Canon Law*, "Insofar as possible, one to be baptized is to be given a sponsor who is to assist an adult in Christian initiation, or, together with the parents, to present an infant at the Baptism, and who will help the baptized to lead a Christian life in harmony with Baptism, and to fulfill faithfully the obligations connected with it" (No. 872). This statement clearly reflects the historical roots of the role of sponsor.

To be a sponsor, a person must be chosen by the person to be baptized, or by the parents or guardians of a child, or, in their absence, by the pastor or minister of the sacrament. The sponsor must not only have the intention of being a sponsor but also meet proper qualifications. The sponsor must have completed his or her 16th year unless the Bishop has established another age for sponsorship, or the pastor or minister judges that a just cause warrants an exception to the rule. He or she must be a registered, active, practicing Catholic who has received the sacraments of Holy Eucharist and Confirmation, and "leads a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken." Moreover, the sponsor cannot be impeded by some canonical penalty. Ideally, this sponsor at Baptism should also be the sponsor for Confirmation. Note that the mother and father of the child cannot serve as sponsors. Also note that these are the same requirements for confirmation sponsors. (Cf. Code of Canon Law, No. 874.1).

Strictly speaking, a person only needs one godparent for Baptism – male or female, but should have two godparents, one male and one female. Here the *Code of Canon Law* wants to eliminate the practice of having numerous godparents or even sponsors, as has occurred in some cultures (No. 873). Also, in the case of an emergency, such as imminent death, no godparent or sponsor is needed.



Here we should pause to clarify who qualifies as a Catholic godparent. A Catholic who does not practice the faith by regularly attending Mass or who is in an invalid marriage disqualifies himself or herself from being a godparent. Moreover, if a person is Catholic but antagonistic to the faith, i.e., has the attitude "I am a Catholic but...", and would not be a good example and witness to the faith, this also disqualifies him or her. If a person is not striving to fulfill his or her own obligations of Baptism and Confirmation, he or she will not fulfill the responsibilities of helping another to do so.

As a pastor, I am truly perturbed each time someone comes by the rectory office and wants me to sign a certificate and attest that he or she is a practicing Catholic when I do not recognize them, they have not registered in the parish and they do not attend Mass faithfully. In justice, I cannot meet such a request.

Parents need to find good practicing Catholics for godparents. Sadly, this task can be very difficult in today's world. The best place is to look for relatives, even grandparents, who have a blood relationship with the godchild and have kept the faith over the years. Good friends are also appropriate, but sometimes friendships wane, leaving the godchild without an active godparent. Godparents should be faithful individuals who are ready to accept the responsibility of being a part of a godchild's life for the rest of his life.

What if someone would like to have a faithful Protestant friend as a sponsor? Only Catholics in good standing can be godparents or sponsors. A Christian of another denomination, whether Orthodox or Protestant, however, may be a "Christian witness" to the Baptism along with the Catholic godparent. The reason for this distinction and restriction is that the godparent not only is taking responsibility for the religious education and spiritual formation of the baptized person, but also is representing the Church, the community of faith, into which the person is being baptized. A Christian who is not Catholic, although perhaps a very holy Christian, cannot fully attest to the beliefs of the Catholic Church. Likewise, a Catholic can only be a Christian witness for someone who is baptized into another Christian denomination (Cf. Vatican II, "Decree on Ecumenism," No. 57).

In all, godparents serve a special role in the life of the baptized person. Therefore, each parent should choose a godparent not just because of a blood relationship or friendship; rather, a godparent should be a trustworthy witness of the Catholic faith who will help the godchild attain salvation.

Read more about choosing Godparents and find the form to request a Baptism here at St. Brendan by visiting <https://stbrendans.net/sacraments-prayers/baptism/>

Community Calendar

MONDAY, JULY 27

6:30 AM	Daily Mass	Adoration Chapel
8:00 AM	Daily Mass	Church
9:00 AM	Church Cleaning	Church & Chapel
5:30 PM	Daily Mass	Church
6:00 PM-10:00 PM	Eucharistic Adoration	Adoration Chapel

TUESDAY, JULY 28

6:30 AM	Daily Mass	Adoration Chapel
6:30 AM	Esto Vir Men's Ministry	Cafeteria
8:00 AM	Daily Mass	Church
8:30 AM-10:00 PM	Eucharistic Adoration	Adoration Chapel
8:30 AM	ROOTS Middleschool Summer Bible Study	Cafeteria
6:30 PM	OCIA Immaculate Conception Cohort Mtg.	Davidson, Room B
7:00 PM	OCIA Assumption Cohort Mtg.	Davidson, Room A

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29

5:30 AM	Fit Shepherds Men's Ministry	Campus Parking Lot
6:30 AM	Daily Mass	Adoration Chapel
7:00 AM-5:00 PM	Eucharistic Adoration	Adoration Chapel
8:00 AM	Daily Mass	Church
5:30 PM	Daily Mass	Church
6:00 PM	Adoration with Confession	Church
7:00 PM	Adult Study: Unlocking Mystery of the Bible	Davidson, Room B
7:15 PM	Parish Choir Rehearsal	Church

THURSDAY, JULY 30

6:30 AM	Daily Mass	Adoration Chapel
8:00 AM	Daily Mass	Church
8:30 AM-10:00 PM	Eucharistic Adoration	Adoration Chapel
6:30 PM	Communion & Liberation School of Community	Wellnitz Hall, Room 2

FRIDAY, JULY 31

6:30 AM	Daily Mass	Adoration Chapel
8:00 AM	Daily Mass	Church
8:30 AM-10:00 PM	Eucharistic Adoration	Adoration Chapel
7:00 PM	Summer VINE	Off-site: Darby Creek Park

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1

5:30 AM	Fit Shepherds Men's Ministry	Campus Parking Lot
8:00 AM	CYO Football Coaches Meeting	Davidson, Rooms A & B
8:00 AM	Daily Mass	Church
8:30 AM-1:00 PM	Eucharistic Adoration	Adoration Chapel
9:00 AM	Confession	Confessional
5:30 PM	Vigil Mass	Church

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2

7:15, 8:45, 10:45 AM, 5:30 PM	Sunday Masses	Church
During 8:45 & 10:45 AM Mass	POD Nursery	Childcare Center
12:00 PM	Baptism Preparation Class	Wellnitz, Rooms 1 & 2
12:00 PM	Baptisms	Church
6:30 PM-10:00 PM	Eucharistic Adoration	Adoration Chapel
7:00 PM	Grief Support Group	Wellnitz, Room 1



**AUGUST MASS
INCENSE SCHEDULE:**

Saturday, August 15:
10 AM Mass

CONTEMPORARY MUSIC SCHEDULE: 5:30 PM, 2nd & 4th Wednesdays • 5:30 PM, Sundays
Masses with contemporary music will utilize the screens.

PARISH FESTIVAL 2026 ST. BRENDAN THE NAVIGATOR

AUGUST 7 & 8
6-11 PM
FAMILY FUN HOURS:
SATURDAY, 3-6 PM

6:00
KELLS DUO

FRIDAY 08/07
9:00
Cami Nyx & THE SHADES

7:30
ARCH CITY BIG BAND

SATURDAY 08/08
4:00
DUBLIN SCHOOL OF ROCK

6:00
RICHENS TIMM IRISH DANCE

6:30
SONIC SKYWAYS

8:15
the NAVIGATORS

Help Support Our Festival!

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED! Sign up for one of the many roles needed <https://tinyurl.com/26festival> or, sign up to bake sweets for our Cake Bingo at <https://tinyurl.com/26cakes>

Volunteers,
Sign up
HERE...



Bakers,
Sign up
HERE...



DISCOUNTED RIDE WRISTBANDS: Purchase your ride wristbands until **August 5** for the discounted price of \$28 ea. (reg. \$30) at <https://stbrendanchurch.square.site/>

RAFFLE TICKETS are \$20 each for a chance to win \$13,333 or 4 other cash prizes. Please return your raffle tickets and money to the parish office soon!

Find all our festival needs and updated news by visiting <https://stbrendans.net/about/parish-festival/>

3RD THURSDAYS, 5:30-7 PM
AUGUST-NOVEMBER

DEMENTIA 4 PART SERIES



Join us for a four-part series exploring the medical, safety, emotional and community-resource aspects of Alzheimer's disease and dementia. Sessions are 5:30-7 PM on 3rd Thursdays monthly, August through November.

Session 1: August 20

Dr. Gavin Baumgardner, Owner, *Healthy Alliance*
The Medical Aspects of Alzheimer's & Dementia

- Understanding types of dementia, symptoms & behaviors
- Medical advances in treatment

Session 2: September 17

Kelly Lambert, Executive Director, *Dublin Glenn Memory Care*
The Emotional Aspects of Being a Caregiver

Session 3: October 15

Tonya Kreml, Owner, *Transitioning Your Senior*
Safety at Home While Caregiving

Session 4: November 19

Laurie Schier, *Oasis Senior Advisors*
Resources Beyond the Home

Whether you're a caregiver, family member, friend, or simply interested in learning more, all are welcome to attend this informative series. RSVP at <https://tinyurl.com/dementia4part> Questions? Email Nell O'Connell: doconnell@stbrendans.net

Extraordinary Minister Recommissioning, August 15 & 16

All Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion who serve at Mass and those who bring Holy Communion to the homebound are invited to participate in our recommissioning at the 5:30 PM Mass on Saturday, August 15 and 8:45 AM Mass on Sunday, August 16. Ministers are asked to attend one of these Masses to renew their commitment to this important ministry. If unable to attend either Mass, please contact Nell O'Connell at doconnell@stbrendans.net

First Friday Adoration, August 7

The next First Friday Adoration is Friday, August 7, 9 AM through Saturday, August 8 at 1 PM. Adorers are needed. Sign up at <https://stbrendan.weadorehim.com>

Seniors NOW (Navigating Our Way)

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 8 AM – First Friday Mass followed by breakfast at Der Dutchman on SR 42 in Plain City.

MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 12 PM – Summer Lunch at Weaver Park, Norwich Pavilion. Bring a lunch, drink & chair. No RSVP.

Blood Drive, August 14

The next St. Brendan Knights of Columbus sponsored Red Cross Blood Drive will be Friday, August 14, 12-6 PM in the Davidson Rooms. Give the gift of life! Visit www.redcrossblood.org to sign up or call 1-800-Red-Cross (1-800-733-2767).





Family Faith Formation

Families with children, grades 1-8, not attending a Catholic school should enroll in Family Faith Formation which includes at-home Family Meetings plus regular at-church Family Sessions to support parents, teach our children and build community. To get started, scan the QR code or visit <https://tinyurl.com/FFFstB> to register by August 17. Questions? Contact Jacob Doran: 614-876-1272, ext. 231 or jdoran@stbrendans.net



POD Nursery Volunteers

The POD Nursery, for children 6 mos.–4 years old, is in need of volunteers during the 8:45 & 10:45 AM Sunday Masses, especially during the summer. Email nursery@stbrendans.net to let us know you can help. Volunteers 18+ must be Safe Environment compliant and are scheduled through Parishstaq.

Summer VINE

SUMMER FRIDAYS, 7-9 PM

7/31 Nature Hike at Batelle Darby Creek Park

8/7 Parish Festival on St. Brendan Campus

APOLOGETICS WEDNESDAYS, 7-8:30 PM

8/12 *Spiritualities*, in Wellnitz Hall

For questions, contact Kara Shand at kshand@stbrendans.net or follow

@stbvine on Instagram to stay updated.

Fall Athletics Registration

Registration is open for St. Brendan K-3 Soccer, Cheer and Field Hockey. Find details/sign up at <https://stbrendans.net/ministries/athletics>

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OCIA Assumption Cohort Mass, August 15

Join us at a special Mass for our OCIA Assumption Cohort Catechumens and Candidates who will be initiated into the Catholic Church on Saturday, August 15, 10 AM. All are welcome to attend to show your support and offer prayers to our newest faith community members!

Please pray for:

JB Bailey
Samantha Butler
Sumi Chen
Charlotte Cordell
Jack Cordell
Bentley Davis
Adam Haugen
Jon Lopez
Jackie Perrotta
Alicia Price
Mike Werhan
Karl Williams

PRAYER FOR OCIA CANDIDATES & CATECHUMENS

Lord, we pray for those in the OCIA process who journey to You. Strengthen their faith. Open their hearts to the fullness of Your love. Deepen their understanding. Set their hearts on fire for the Kingdom of God. We ask this through Jesus, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life for all. Amen.

Save the Date! St. Monica Mass, August 27

The Inviting Catholics Home St. Monica Prayer Boards are up in the Gathering Space by the Welcome Desk for you to write the first name of loved ones no longer practicing their Catholic faith. We will pray for their return back to the Church at our evening St. Monica Mass, "Be the Light in the Darkness" on August 27. Save the date!

Crafters Wanted for Craft Show

Our Knights of Columbus **Fall Craft Show** is Saturday, November 7. Out of 85 booths, fewer than 30 are currently available! Find vendor details and register at <https://tinyurl.com/events4stb> (click on "Craft Show").

HAVE A MINISTRY THAT NEEDS TO RAISE MONEY? Consider securing a vendor booth at our Fall Craft Show and have your ministry members contribute handmade items to raise funds! To learn more or for any questions, email Eric at sbcraftshow@gmail.com

Volunteers Needed for Elizabeth Ministry

The Elizabeth Ministry is seeking volunteers to help provide childcare while mothers spend time with Our Lord in Eucharistic Adoration in the chapel. (Note: Volunteers must complete Protecting God's Children training and a BCI background check before serving.) Dates that volunteers are needed are: September 25, October 30, January 29, 2027, February 26, 2027, April 30, 2027. If you are interested, email Regina Longgrear at thelonggrears@gmail.com

ELIZABETH MINISTRY / MOMS AT THE METRO:

Join the Elizabeth Ministry for a summer social series *Moms at the Metro*. Bring the kids to the Glacier Ridge Metro Park (by playground) on Saturdays: **August 15 & September 19 for: 9 AM Nature Walk; 10 AM Craft/Playtime; 11 AM Wrap-up.** Please RSVP to Regina at 330-754-8028 or, Alyssa at 406-781-1396.



Protecting God's Children Class, August 3

The next PGC class at St. Brendan is on August 3 in the Davidson Rooms. Fingerprinting is 5-6 PM (available for anyone who needs to update their fingerprinting) and the PGC class is 6-9 PM. No appointment is necessary for fingerprinting but sign up for the class at tinyurl.com/StBrendanPGClass

Mission Appeal 2nd Collection this Weekend, July 25 & 26

This year's mission appeal is by the **Cardinal Lourdasamy Foundation**. Vincent Marin, Managing Director of the Foundation, will join us at all Masses this weekend. As Secretary of Propaganda Fide for 14 years, Archbishop Lourdasamy was a force behind Mother Teresa sending her sisters all over the world for their services. As a member of the Dicastery for Causes of Saints, Cardinal Lourdasamy championed Mother's cause for sainthood, and he was Pope St. John Paul II's representative for Mother's funeral. This appeal is to support the request for 25,000 illustrated Catholic Bibles in local languages from sisters of St. Teresa of Calcutta, formally known as Missionaries of Charity, to give to non-Christians they serve.

A second collection will be made this weekend and we ask for your support for the mission of the Universal Church. Please make checks payable to St. Brendan Church (with "Mission Appeal (MCP)" on the memo line). Give online via the QR code or visit <https://ppay.co/MqvSJChMI9A>



Weekly/Monthly Parish Ministries/Groups

Esto Vir Men's Ministry – Scripture studies at 6:30 AM in the Davidson Rooms, **Saturdays** or **Tuesdays**. Questions? Email ricekris8813@att.net

Fit Shepherds Men's Ministry – Meet in the parish parking lot on **Wednesdays** and **Saturdays** at 5:30 AM to workout with other men of faith. To join, email Nick Hasou at njhasou@gmail.com

Church Cleaning – Meet Mondays at 9 AM in the church for light cleaning. Supplies are provided. Email Lisa at lisaploug@gmail.com

M.A.S.T. (Mature Active Singles Together) ages 45+ who are single, widowed or divorced. To join, email Chris: chrishauck0522@gmail.com

Prayer Shawl Workshop – Meet 1st Saturdays & 3rd Wednesdays in Wellnitz, Room 2. Yarn and free lessons provided! To join us, email Kathy at kendriz@aol.com or Karen at kkessmith@yahoo.com

St. Brendan Young Adults – Those in their 20s & 30s meet monthly 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 7-9 PM. Women meet off-campus. Men meet on campus (see parish calendar). To join, email Jorden at jfreydesigns@gmail.com

SVdP, Sandwiches for the Homeless – Meet in Wellnitz Hall twice monthly on: 1st Thursdays, 10 AM and 3rd Thursdays, 7 PM.

Grief Support Group – Meet 1st Sundays at 7 PM in Wellnitz, Room 1. for grief support. Questions? Email Nell at doconnell@stbrendans.net

Celebration for Life
Pregnancy Decision Health Centers

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2026 PDHC Celebration for Life Galas

No admission ticket needed to attend the Gala but please register via the QR code. (Donations are accepted at the event.) Questions? Email KristinG@PDHC.org

**Thursday,
September 24,
6 PM at
Villa Milano**

Around Our Diocese

Mommies Matter "Tippy Tea," August 4

Mommies Matter is excited to introduce our inaugural Tippy Tea, taking place on Tuesday, August 4 at Asterisk Supper Club in Uptown Westerville, 4-6 PM. Join us to support the ever-growing housing needs for single, pregnant mothers in Central Ohio to help offset rental costs and secure stable housing for the moms we serve. Mommies Matter provides group and one-on-one mentoring support, as well as housing, educational, employment and financial assistance to brave, single, pregnant moms. For details, visit <https://mommiesmatter.org/tippy-tea-party>

Marriage Conference, Sept. 19

Married and engaged couples are invited to the annual *Together in Holiness* marriage conference on September 19, 8:30 AM-4 PM at St. Catharine Catholic Church in Columbus (presented by Saint John Paul II Foundation & Diocese of Columbus) to strengthen your relationship with your spouse and discover God's plan for your family. Cost is \$64 per couple & \$5 per child for childcare. Register at <https://forlifeandfamily.org/events/th26-cmoh/>

Cradling Christianity Benefit Dinner, Sept. 17

Preserving Christianity in the Holy Land Through Education annual benefit dinner in support of the Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land is Thursday, September 17. Mass begins 5 PM with reception and dinner to follow at Our Lady of Victory Church & Parish Hall (1559 Roxbury Rd., Columbus). Keynote Speaker: Bishop A. Elias Zaidan, Chairperson of the USCCB Committee on International Justice & Peace. For questions, email CradlingChristianity@gmail.com and for ticket pricing, information and payment, visit FFHL.org/Regions/Columbus/RSVP

St. Vincent Back-to-School Volunteers

St. Vincent Family Services is looking for volunteer groups able to help them prep their campus for the start of another school year by doing some "spring cleaning," sorting, landscaping, or painting. Volunteers are needed July 25–Friday, August 7. For details or to sign up, call Carson Firestone or 614-252-0731, ext. 1132. St. Vincent is a Diocesan-sponsored pediatric behavioral health center on the east side of Columbus.

Volunteer @ Open Door Women's Recovery

At Open Door Women's Recovery Alliance, volunteers walk alongside women rebuilding their lives after addiction and exploitation. Through friendship, encouragement and a consistent presence, lives are transformed. No experience is needed. Learn more at www.opendoorwomensrecovery.org or, email info@opendoorwomensrecovery.org

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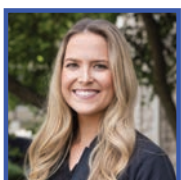
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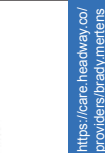
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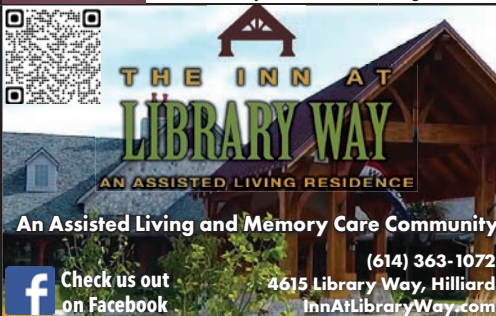
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