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Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

But they said to him, "Five loaves and two fish are all we have here." Then he said, "Bring them here to me," and he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass.

Taking the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he said the blessing, broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, who in turn gave them to the crowds.

They all ate and were satisfied..."

~ Matthew 14:13-21



Our Parish Festival is this week!

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 6-11 PM • FAMILY HOURS: SAT., 3-6 PM

Kid's area, rides, raffle, silent auction, food, beer, adult games of chance and live music. Find information on how you can help out and view this year's sponsors on page 16.

Holy Mass*

SATURDAY VIGIL 5:30 PM

SUNDAY 7:15, 8:45, 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, schedule a Confession with one of our priests, by calling the parish office.

**Regular Mass and Confession times may change. Find this week's calendar in the weekly bulletin or on our website.*

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


**Saint
Brendan**
THE NAVIGATOR

MINISTERS TO THE PARISH: 614-876-1272

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ext. 226, frseverance@stbrendans.net

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Fr. Weldit Abay, Parochial Vicar
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ext. 230, deaconmorris@stbrendans.net

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Peter Shearer, Facilities Supervisor
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ST. BRENDAN PARISH SCHOOL: 614-876-6132

Mike DeMassimo, Principal
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Courtney Kreber, Assistant Principal
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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

Information Center

Parish Office Hours
M-F, 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
Phone: 614-876-6132,
Fax: 614-529-8929

New Members: Visit
stbrendans.net/welcome
and fill out a New Member
Registration form or call the
parish office at 614-876-1272.

Marriage: Fill out a Marriage
Request form at least six
months prior to your wedding.
Marriage prep is required.
Questions? Email Valerie Scheel
weddingplanner@stbrendans.net

Baptisms: 12 PM most
Sundays. For details, visit
stbrendans.net/baptism
or for questions, email
baptism@stbrendans.net.
Baptism Prep 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 mos.-4 years old)
Questions or to volunteer:
nursery@stbrendans.net

**OCIA (Order of Christian
Initiation of Adults):** Curious
about the Catholic faith?
Contact Wendy Ferkany at
wferkany@stbrendans.net
614-876-1272, ext. 291 or

**Ministry of Evangelization
& Catechesis (Family Faith
Formation):** Contact Jacob
Doran: 614-876-1272, ext. 231

Marketing/Bulletin Request:
stbrendans.net/marketing or
marketing@stbrendans.net

Mass Intentions: Fill out
a Mass Intention envelope
(available in the Church
Gathering Space) with \$10
cash/check and drop it off
at the Parish Office.

Candle Donations: \$2 for large
candles and 25¢ for small votives.

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 so, extra is welcomed!

**Ministry of Care for the
Homebound:** To receive
Eucharist at home or a facility,
email Nell O'Connell at
doconnell@stbrendans.net

Protecting God's Children:
Register at www.virtus.org or
tinyurl.com/StBrendanPGC

Navigator News/ParishStaq
Visit stbrendan.ccbchurch.com to
receive or weekly e-newsletter 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/](http://www.rotundasoftware.com/ministry/stbrendans)
ministry@stbrendans.net or, email
ministryscheduler@stbrendans.net
for liturgical scheduling questions.

Facebook: StBrendanofHilliard

Instagram:
Parish @stbrendanhilliard
School @saintbrendanschool
Vine @stbvine
Roots @stb_theroots
Young Adults @stbya

Livestream: Parish YouTube—
SaintBrendantheNavigatorHilliard
OR Facebook: [facebook.com/](https://facebook.com/StBrendanHilliardyoutube.com/c/)
StBrendanHilliardyoutube.com/c/
Mass Livestream schedule:

- Sunday, 10:45 AM
- Mon./Wed., 5:30 PM
- Tue./Thu./Fri./Sat., 8 AM

Share your Parish 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 and social media!

St. Margaret of Cortona Preschool
Contact Andrea Boyd, Director/
Lead Teacher, at 614-274-1922 or
aboyd@cdeducation.org



From Our Pastor

ON THIS EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, attempts to withdraw to a deserted place by boat to pray in isolation. But the quietude Jesus seeks does not last long – the crowds track His movements and arrive ahead of Him. But instead of turning them away to preserve His privacy – choosing to focus first on serving the needs of others – Jesus is moved with compassion and pity. He heals the sick and spends the entire day ministering to their deepest spiritual and physical needs. As evening approaches, the disciples view the situation through a lens of human limitation and scarcity of resources. They urge Jesus to dismiss the crowds so the people can buy food

in the surrounding villages. Jesus responds with a command that must have shocked them: “They do not need to go away; give them some food yourselves.” The disciples look at their meager resources – five loaves and two fish – and declare it impossible to feed the thousands of men, women and children who are present. If we take a step back, we can see this reaction reflects a common human instinct – when faced with overwhelming needs (or odds), we often focus on what we lack rather than what God can accomplish through us. Jesus takes these modest gifts, looks up to Heaven, says a prayer of blessing, breaks the loaves, and gives them to the disciples. In the hands of Our Lord, scarcity is transformed into a surplus – a surplus so abundant that twelve wicker baskets of fragments remain after everyone has eaten their fill. This miracle of the loaves and fish teaches us that God does not require our perfection or limitless wealth to perform wonders. He simply asks for our radical trust and the willingness to offer whatever small gifts we possess, no matter how inadequate they may seem at any given time.

Today’s Gospel also serves as a direct prefiguration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. The actions of Jesus – taking, blessing, breaking, and giving – are the exact Eucharistic actions repeated at every Catholic altar by every Catholic Priest during every Catholic Mass across the face of this earth. In the Holy Eucharist, Jesus takes simple bread and wine and transforms them into His ultimate gift: His own Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. Just as the crowd in the wilderness was physically satisfied, we are spiritually sustained by this heavenly food, which grants us the grace to endure the trials of our daily lives. Folks, our parish family and faith community is continually called to live out this miracle. The divine command to “give them some food yourselves” applies directly to each of us today. We are surrounded by individuals starving for basic needs – human companionship, and the timeless truths of the Gospel. It is easy to feel overwhelmed by the brokenness of the world and conclude that our individual prayers, time, or financial contributions are too small to make a meaningful difference. However, today’s Scripture reminds us that our primary duty is to bring what we have to Christ and place it in His hands. When we offer our time in prayer, volunteer our time, gifts and service to parish ministries and events, and our financial tithing to support the work and ministries of our wonderful and vibrant parish, Christ multiplies these efforts. He uses our cooperative faith to build up His Church and extend His mercy to those in despair. Let us reject the very basic human fear of scarcity and instead embrace the reality of God’s infinite generosity. As such, I invite everyone to reflect deeply this week on what “loaves and fish” each of us are being called to hand over to Jesus. May we never dismiss those in need or send them away out of fear. Let us instead approach the altar with hearts full of gratitude, confident that the One who feeds us in the Eucharist will multiply our small offerings to continually transform our parish and the wider community where we live, work, and interact with one another as children of God and brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus.

IT’S ALMOST SHOWTIME! We are just days away from our wonderful Parish Festival. Abundant and continued thanks in advance to our Festival organizers and teams, our army of volunteers, our sponsors, all who have donated to the silent auction, all who have donated to the cake raffle, parish staff, and everyone who has had a hand in our Festival. Let’s pray for good weather, and that everyone who attends our Festival has a safe and enjoyable time! See you at the Festival!

LAST SUNDAY, we were blessed to have Mr. Victor Marin, Executive Director of the Cardinal Lourdusamy Foundation, visit and address us during all Masses as part of the annual mission appeal. If you did not have an opportunity to donate to support this Foundation, you can still drop off a check in the Offertory or Parish Office – simply note “Mission Appeal” in the memo section of your check. You can also go online and donate via your PushPay account at <https://ppay.co/MqvSJChMI9A> (or scan the QR code to the right). Thank you for your support!



PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU ARE REGISTERED IN OUR PARISH; do not presume you are registered; we want to make sure you are registered. When people need a letter to serve as a Godparent at a Baptism, serve as a Sponsor for a Confirmation, or who plan on getting married in another Church, you need to be registered here in order for us to provide that letter. Your parents may be registered here, but you may not be – especially if you went away to college, moved away, and are now an adult. Or perhaps your parents moved, you’re still here, but never registered thinking it was automatic since you were raised here in the parish. Years ago, there was apparently a purge of parishioners from the parish census due to any number of reasons, but people were not informed of this, so people are getting re-registered in the Parish as they call in requesting a letter of good standing. I could go on and on with examples, but the main thing is to check to see if you are registered. You can contact the Parish Office to check on your status or, quickly register using the fillable form on our parish website at <https://stbrendans.net/about/welcome/> – fill it out and email it (as an attachment) to dharder@stbrendans.net. I’m even registered as a St. Brendan parishioner, and contribute each Sunday to the Offertory (electronically, of course). God bless, folks!

Fr. Mike

Fr. Michael Lumpe, Pastor

Saint John Vianney: Patron Saint of Priests

Article by Catherine Fournier is made available courtesy of the Domestic Church web site.

YOUNG FAMILIES

The life of the Cure of Ars is a story that really shows that with God all things are possible. John Vianney was a famous confessor, and was loved and revered by his parishioners. People travelled for miles and stood for hours in the rain just to speak to him for a few minutes, or hear him preach.

Yet he almost didn't become a priest at all. First, his father was reluctant to let him leave the family farm. Then, he was conscripted into Napoleon's army, and by a series of mistakes was accused of deserting and had to hide for nearly two years. When he returned, he had terrible trouble with his studies, especially Latin. Then, he failed the entrance exam for the seminary. When he was finally accepted into the seminary, he failed the final exams because he couldn't write well enough and became confused and tongue-tied in the oral exams.

It took a special appeal to the vicar-general of France to get permission to be ordained. The vicar-general asked "Is he pious?" Yes, he was undoubtedly pious. "Ordain him," the vicar-general decided, "The grace of God will do the rest."

Father John Vianney was sent to Ars, a remote French village of some 40 houses. There, the work of God began. He hadn't been there long, when people heard about this new priest and began visiting from other parishes. He visited all the homes in Ars, performed penances for their souls, and helped the villagers with their everyday problems. Ars was soon transformed from a rough and rowdy place with four taverns and low church attendance to a pious and faithful village.

By the end of his life, Saint John Vianney was visited by people from all over the world. He spent from 16 to 18 hours in the confessional each day, and survived on a few pieces of bread and a few hours of sleep. He performed miracles of aid and healing.

No one who knew him as a child or young man would ever have expected John Vianney to amount to much – except God.

PRACTICED FAMILIES

Two decades after the French Revolution inspired massacres of 300 priests in France, there was a desperate need for priests. But no one seemed to want an admitted "blockhead" and poor student such as John Vianney. Even when he obtained permission to be ordained, he had to walk to Austria for his ordination in 1815. Three years later he was made parish priest of Ars, a remote French hamlet.

He wasn't wanted there either. In a village of 40 houses, there were 4 taverns. Church attendance was very low, the farmers worked on Sunday, everyone spent their time drinking and swearing. It was a "punishment parish" and the people laid bets on how long this new priest would last. But the new Cure of Ars surprised them all.

Someone peeked in his window and saw that he prayed all night. Others noticed that he removed all the fine furniture from the rectory and turned the parlor into a woodshed. He gave his clothes away to the poor and ate only two potatoes a day. Others reported that though his voice seemed to hurt their ears, his sermons stirred their hearts. He became part of the village life as well, visiting all the homes, and helping the villagers with their daily lives. He helped a shop owner with his

bookkeeping, prescribed remedies for whooping cough, and when a tavern closed for lack of business, raised money for the owner to buy a farm, then tore the tavern down.

Twelve years later, people would say "Ars is no longer Ars." Everyone went to the three-hour Masses. The farmers prayed the Rosary as they worked in the fields. When Father Vianney heard confessions, people would stand in line for hours.

It was as a confessor that his true talents lay. His spiritual directions and hearing of confessions was distinguished by common sense, remarkable insight, and supernatural knowledge. He would sometimes know what sins had been withheld in an imperfect confession. People travelled for miles and from around the world to make a confession to him. Sinners were converted at a few words from him. By the end of his life, he spent 16 to 18 hours a day in the confessional, and he was mobbed whenever he appeared. He heard 20,000 confessions a year, up to 300 a day.

In a country that had murdered great numbers of its priests, and discouraged the practicing of the Catholic faith, John Vianney moved like a bright light, restoring faith and healing hearts.

EXPERIENCED FAMILIES

Universally known and loved as the Curé of Ars, Saint John Marie Vianney was ordained a priest in 1815. Three years later he was made parish priest of Ars, a remote French hamlet, where his reputation as a confessor and director of souls made him known throughout the Christian world.

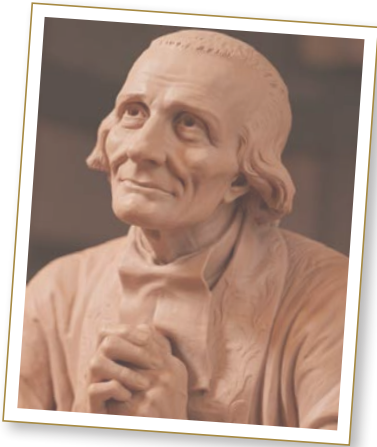
The heroes of his youth were those priests who refused to submit to the French revolutionary government's nationalization of the Church, and risked martyrdom to celebrate Mass in secret in houses and barns of the faithful. John began to practice mortifications in imitation of these priests and as sacrifice for sinners from an early age.

When he was ordained and sent to Ars, he continued these austerities. He disposed of the fine furniture in the rectory, and used the money to help the poor of the parish. He spent hours in prayer, hours in the confessional and more hours serving the day-to-day needs of his parishioners. Indifferent at first to their new priests, the people of Ars first came to listen to his sermons that "stirred their hearts" and soon grew to love him.

Famous for his skill as a confessor, Saint John Vianney's instructions were simple and clear. He used imagery drawn from daily life and country scenes to instruct and teach the penitents. It is recorded that even the staunchest of sinners were converted at his mere word. The miracles he performed fall into three categories: first, the obtaining of money for his charities and food for the orphans; secondly, supernatural knowledge of the past and future; thirdly, healing the sick, especially children. The greatest miracle of course is his life. Despite numerous obstacles, he fulfilled his heart's desire and became a priest. In addition, in carrying out his duties for forty years his food and sleep were insufficient to maintain health.

It wasn't all smooth and easy. Fellow priests envied his success and accused him of "ostentatious poverty." Parishioners, angered by the reform of the parish, vandalized his home and spread rumors about him. At night, he was tormented

Saint John Vianney
Feast Day: August 4



by and wrestled with the devil. But he calmly, patiently and faithfully persisted in the life God had called him to and continued to serve his people.

Saint John Vianney remains to this day the living image of the priest after the heart of Christ. He died on August 4, 1859 and was canonized on May 31, 1925.

PRAYER

Almighty and merciful God, in Saint John Vianney You have given us a Priest who was outstanding in pastoral zeal. Through his intercession help us to win souls for Christ and together with them attain eternal glory. Amen.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Raise up worthy ministers for your altars, ardent but gentle servants of the Gospel, and generous souls who renounce worldly power and profit to serve you and their brothers and sisters faithfully in the spirit of poverty and humility.

† † †

SHRINE OF ARS

Website:

<https://www.arsnet.org/en/>

Virtual Tour: <https://360.arsnet.org/uk/> (360° panorama)

Prayer Intentions: <https://www.arsnet.org/en/prayer-intentions/>

Parking Lot Expansion Project

Folks, the term “vibrant parish” gets tossed around rather loosely at times, but it accurately defines our Parish Family of Saint Brendan the Navigator.

I want to thank everyone who contributed thus far to this year's Appeal. We have made our Diocesan goal of \$335,583, now we continue to raise the \$180,000 in additional funds through *The Appeal* to expand our much-needed parking and security lighting on our campus.

When I arrived here as your Pastor in February, the constant issue that was brought to my attention was the need for more parking on our Parish campus. As God continues to bless us with new faces and growing families, our current parking is tight, to say the least.

Your generosity today ensures that we can accommodate the growing attendance at Mass and Liturgies, multiple meetings and events taking place simultaneously in our Parish Church and School, welcome visitors without frustration, and provide safe, accessible parking for our elderly members and young families alike. We are not just paving a lot; we are preparing the ground for the faithful to gather, worship, connect, learn and serve.

When I addressed the congregations at all the Masses several months ago, I stated that our proposed new parking in front of the Rectory will have landscaping and suitable lighting to preserve the beauty of our campus. The landscaping will feature a strategic perimeter buffer designed to mitigate the visual impact of the parking by incorporating high-density, multi-tiered vegetative screening. Such a design will conceal parked vehicles, enhance curb appeal, and provide a harmonious environment.

I invite you to prayerfully consider how you can support *The Appeal* at this juncture, recognizing that every dollar contributed from this point forward comes back to our Parish in the form of rebates. And in funding this enhanced parking and lighting Project through *The Appeal*, we avoid the 10 percent Diocesan “tax.” This translates into saving \$18,000 on this project.

We all benefit from increased parking; no donation is too small. Envelopes for *The Appeal* are available in our Church welcoming area on the counter, and also through the Parish office. You can also make a secure online donation as I did (I donated \$1,000 through my credit card, payable by \$100 per month over a 10-month period, making it affordable for me).

Thank you for your continued generosity, your prayers, and your commitment to making our Parish a place where all are truly welcome. God bless!

Fr. Mike



Please scan the QR code to make your gift to *The Appeal*.



The Five Loaves and Two Fish Principle

Article by Robert Stackpole, STD is made available courtesy of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M.



When Jesus heard of the death of John the Baptist, he withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by himself. The crowds heard of this and followed him on foot from their towns. When he disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, and he cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples approached him and said, "This is a deserted place and it is already late; dismiss the crowds so that they can go to the villages and buy food for themselves."

Jesus said to them, "There is no need for them to go away; give them some food yourselves." But they said to him, "Five loaves and two fish are all we have here." Then he said, "Bring them here to me," and he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he said the blessing, broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, who in turn gave them to the crowds. They all ate and were satisfied, and they picked up the fragments left over — twelve wicker baskets full. Those who ate were about five thousand men, not counting women and children. (Matthew 14:13-21)

We cannot make much of a positive difference in the world on our own - but with Jesus Christ we can. The underlying message in the story of the loaves and fish is not only that the Lord Jesus can feed hungry people miraculously, but also that He can do so by using just the little that people have on hand and that they are willing entrust to Him for His use. "'Five loaves and two fish are all we have here.' Then he said, 'Bring them here to me,' and he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass" (Mt 14:17-19). Yet that meager supply, when offered in faith to Jesus, was enough to feed multitudes. So, too, will our seemingly insignificant efforts to serve Him and make a difference in this world - if completely offered up to Him and guided by His Holy Spirit - work miracles. That is "the five loaves and two fish" principle!

Let's take three examples from history of people of no great social standing, people who simply offered to Jesus Christ in faith their limited strength and pure intentions, and let's see how our Savior used them to change the world. This is how He works His miracles that really make a difference: by taking human lives freely surrendered to His service and using them for His great and benevolent purposes.

PART ONE

Bartolome de Las Casas of Spain was only eight years old when, in 1493, he saw Christopher Columbus parading down the main street of his home city, Seville, with the treasures and natives that Columbus had brought back from the New World. Bartolome was thrilled, and so was his father Pedro, who immediately signed up to accompany Columbus on his next voyage. Five years later, Pedro returned home a wealthy man, bringing with him a special gift for his son: a native slave boy. The two boys became fast friends, and Bartolome learned a valuable lesson: that slaves are just as human as their masters.

Some years later, Bartolome himself traveled to the island of Hispaniola, where he became the first priest to celebrate his ordination in the New World. Bartolome found the natives on the island to be a friendly and gentle people, eager to learn the Christian faith. However, he discovered that the Spanish colonists were anything but gentle. They treated the natives cruelly - "worse than animals," Bartolome later wrote - and often enslaved them. Most of the Spanish colonists had come to the New World simply to make a fortune, as his father had done, and the quickest way to do that was to enslave the native peoples and make them do all the hard labor. "It was upon these gentle lambs," Bartolome wrote, that the Spanish colonists "fell like ravaging wolves upon the fold."

A group of his fellow Dominican priests in New Spain began to protest these injustices, even threatening with damnation anyone who dared to hold natives as slaves. Bartolome joined their cause and devoted the rest of his life to publicizing through his writings the cruelty inflicted upon the indigenous peoples of the New World. By divine Providence, his words ultimately reached the ears of Pope Paul III in Rome, who responded by writing the papal bull "Sublimus Deus" in 1537, declaring that all the peoples discovered in the New World were equally and fully human, that they should therefore be treated with human dignity, and that those who enslaved and mistreated them were guilty of grievous sin. As a result of this papal document and several more by subsequent popes, slavery was gradually abolished throughout the entire Spanish Empire. In fact, "Sublimus Deus" is judged by many historians to be the first real treatise on human rights in the modern world. And it all started with one devout Dominican friar, Bartolome Las Casas, who refused to "look the other way" when he saw the miseries and injustices suffered by the natives of Hispaniola.

PART TWO

Frances Xavier Cabrini was born in Italy in 1850, the thirteenth child of a farming family. From her youngest days she dreamed of being a missionary. She used to make paper boats, fill them with violets, and set them down a canal, pretending that they were filled with missionaries journeying to the far corners of the globe. She wanted to become a nun, but several convents refused her entry, ostensibly because of her fragile health. Frances, therefore, resigned herself to becoming a teacher and gave up her missionary daydreams, entrusting the course of her life to the hands of Jesus Christ.

It turned out that Frances had repeatedly been refused entrance to convents because of a scheming priest named Monsignor Serrati who really wanted to put Frances to work on his own projects. He convinced Frances to go to an orphanage run by a new religious institute that was under his oversight, to help reform its management practices; he promised her that she did not need to stay there more than a few weeks. In the end, he refused to permit her to leave, and she spent six years in charge of the orphanage. Frances did such a splendid job in running this institution in the face of great obstacles that other sisters came to join her in the religious community there, and she successfully applied to Rome to turn the institute in to a full religious congregation with a worldwide mission. She took as the congregation's motto the words of St. Paul: "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."

Frances would often need the Lord to do "all things" on her behalf, for numerous times the orphanages and schools run by her congregation ran short of money. Whenever this occurred, she would simply tell the sisters to pray and have faith, and the money would be found to carry on: sometimes, miraculously, even in a particular drawer or a cupboard where Frances had told the sisters to look.

Meanwhile, Bishop Scalabrini of Piacenza made known to Mother Frances the terrible plight of the Italian immigrants in America. Shamelessly exploited as laborers, they suffered also due to their limited knowledge of English, and many of them lived in dire poverty. Sisters were badly needed in America to educate the children of these immigrants--especially in English and in the Catholic faith--to care for their orphans, and to provide them with affordable hospitals. Mother Frances was sympathetic, but she had already set her heart on sending her sisters to work in China. However, when she went to the Pope and knelt for his blessing on her work in the Far East, he replied, "No, not the East, but the West." Thus commissioned by the Holy Father himself, she made her way to America with seven sisters in 1889. Starting out with almost no money at all, they began to establish orphanages, schools, and hospitals in New York and Chicago, later branching out to New Orleans and even farther south: to Nicaragua and Grenada. She started her first hospital, Columbus Hospital, in New York with just four gifts of \$50 each! She even did missionary work among the Italian miners in Colorado, going down mine shafts and tunnels to teach them English and the Catholic faith. Ultimately, Mother Frances became a U.S. citizen herself.

Finally, full of joy yet worn out by her labors, Mother Frances made a visit to Rome in 1910 and asked the prefect of her congregation, Cardinal Vives y Tuto, to relieve her of her

responsibilities as head of her religious order so she could spend her final years in contemplation. But the Cardinal had secretly conspired with the sisters of the order unanimously to re-elect her to another term in office. When he received her request for retirement in person, therefore, the Cardinal replied, "Mother Cabrini, as up to now you have governed your institute so badly, I have decided to give you another chance, in the hope that you will do a better job in the future. You are to remain the Superior-General."

Seven years later she still held the post. Her last day on earth was spent wrapping Christmas presents for her friends and filling bags of candy for the schoolchildren. Her Christmas card that year read, "Send forth Thy light and Thy truth; they shall lead me into Thy holy Mountain and into Thy tabernacles." When her sisters objected that this was a strange sentiment for a Christmas card, she replied, "Leave it as it is."

Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini died quietly in her room on Dec. 22, 1917, and was canonized in 1946. She was the first citizen of the United States to be named a saint.

PART 3

Our third example can be dealt with very briefly because we know so little about the details of his life. He was a common laborer and called a "just man" in the Bible. He did little else, according to the Scriptures, than protect and provide for his family. He disappears from the scene some time after his foster son's twelfth birthday. We have no record at all of any words he spoke, nor did he ever write anything as far as we know.

His name is St. Joseph. He is the patron saint of the Universal Church and the foster father of the Savior of the world.

The point of these three stories is certainly not that in order to make a difference in the world you have to be an activist priest, a missionary sister, or a layman raised up to be the guardian of the Redeemer Himself! But notice how the Lord used each of these three people in ways far beyond what any of them could have expected. Bartolome Las Casas was providentially put into contact with what was happening on the other side of the world, originally by his father's desire for wealth, and the Lord used Bartolome's subsequent firsthand knowledge of the situation of the indigenous peoples in the New World - and his writing skills - to overturn terrible injustices being perpetrated in the Spanish Empire. Mother Cabrini entrusted her daydreams of missionary adventures to our Lord when it appeared that they could never be fulfilled, and Christ used the scheming of Monsignor Serrati, the words of the Pope (who, no doubt, had been prepped by the Bishop of Piacenza), and the further (well-intentioned) conspiracy of Cardinal Tuto and the sisters to make her life bear fruit beyond her imagining. As for St. Joseph, he died before ever seeing the full fruition of his labors, but he had the assurance of the angel who had come to him in a dream and told him that his Son would be named "Jesus" (which means "God saves") because He would save His people from their sins.

The point is that when you entrust your heart to Jesus Christ to be His true disciple, He can do more with that little offering than you can ask or imagine!

Saint Paul Shows Us What Love Is & Is Not

Article by Fr. Ed Broom, OMV is made available courtesy of the Catholic Exchange.

One of the greatest spiritual masterpieces ever penned on the topic of love is from Saint Paul in his thirteenth chapter to the Corinthians. At weddings, this is often one of the favorite second Readings in the context of the Nuptial Mass. If the couple, as well as all of us, would seriously read, meditate, and strive to understand the importance and meaning of these few verses, without a doubt the understanding that we have of Love would be radically transformed. And of course, as a consequence, the way we would strive to live out this most demanding virtue would change.

We would like to extract four short verses from I Corinthians 13 – verses 4-7 and expound upon and explain these few verses related to love: *“Love is patient, love is kind. Love is not jealous, it is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury. Love does not rejoice over wrong-doing, but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”*

Saint Paul, obviously led by the Holy Spirit, was truly inspired to highlight characteristics of charity or supernatural love and its concrete application. In a word, love/charity is not a mere ephemeral sentiment, or passing emotion, or transitory romantic glimmer or smile. Quite the contrary: supernatural love, that is termed in theological language *charity*, is very demanding. According to the Angelic Doctor, Saint Thomas Aquinas, it is indeed the greatest of all virtues!

This being said, we would like to simply list the terms of what love is and what it is not according to Saint Paul and give a brief explanation of these words, with the hope that all of us would have the audacious courage and trust in God's grace to put this sublime virtue into practice in our daily lives! Off we go!!!

1. LOVE IS PATIENT

Are you patient? Examine your life, specifically in three basic areas related to patience. Are you patient with God and the way He deals with you in your life? Or do you question and rebel against God's providential designs?

Next, are you patient with others, especially those with whom you associate on a daily basis? Or is your attitude and philosophy, “It's my way or the Highway!”

Finally, are you patient with yourself? By this is meant, when you fail, do you give in to discouragement or rise from your fall and start anew?

Examine yourself on patience in these three areas!

2. LOVE IS KIND

If you do not really understand the whole concept of being kind or kindness, we offer you the antithesis, the opposing vice, and that would be the demeanor of a mean person. Such a person is often bitter, angry, sharp, sarcastic, calculating, touchy.

On the other hand, the kind person exudes joy, mercy, compassion, a winning smile. A kind person is tender, loving, and supportive. A kind person will not judge, criticize, and condemn but overlook quickly the faults and limitations of his brothers and sisters.

3. LOVE IS NOT JEALOUS

A jealous person tends to compare himself with others, and, as a result, is never really at peace with himself. Jealousy and envy are related. Jealousy can be explained as a person who feels bad when somebody has something he does not have, he feels bad because of this absence in his life.

Envy is worse! The envious person rejoices when something bad happens to the person who has more than he has. The opposite of jealousy and envy would be fraternal charity – to will the good of the other. Saint Paul expresses this perfectly: *“To rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep.”* (Rom 12:15)

Another manifestation of the opposing virtue would be that of admiration. You do not downplay the goodness of your neighbor, but rather you admire him and compliment him.

4. LOVE IS NOT POMPOUS, NOT INFLATED

Both the words *pompous* and *inflated* can be united as whole. Such a person is proud, conceited, a braggart, self-seeking, self-aggrandizing, ostentatious, as well as demeaning and disparaging towards others. Also, such a person is egocentric; he wants to be the focal point of attention. He wants at all times and places to be, so to speak, *the life of the party*. Possibly the best image from the animal world would be that of the peacock – always ready and willing to show off his plumage, show off his rainbow colors so that all can see!

The contrary is a person who is soft-spoken, unassuming, hidden, modest, never over-bearing, who seeks the honor of others rather than himself.

5. LOVE IS NOT RUDE

We all have met rude people and possibly have given into being rude ourselves. What are the qualities of a rude person? He is pushy, can never wait, cuts in line, elbows his way to the first place, and is a perpetual complainer. A rude person is uncouth, vulgar in speech, coarse, bloated in self-importance. Maybe we have given into the attitude of being a *rude dude* to the detriment of our family and work environment.

The opposite is a *gentleman* or *lady*. Such a person is courteous, gentle, refined, soft-spoken, polished, and well-mannered at home and everywhere.

6. LOVE IS NOT QUICK-TEMPERED

Quick-tempered is meant that such a person has a very short fuse. He explodes at the drop of a hat. Anything – whether it be person, place, thing, or circumstance – that does not flow and harmonize with his particular criteria can cause him to go into at least a minor rage. The quick-tempered person blurts out whatever comes to his mind without a moment of reflection, and consequently can cause irreparable damage to himself, to his family, to his relatives, and to countless other people. His impulsive, impetuous, explosive, knee-jerk reactions to all that is not according to his tastes is like living or associating with someone who has firecrackers in his pockets and matches ready at hand!

The opposite is a person who is capable of suffering bad language and insults, even physical sufferings in silence, uniting himself to Jesus in His Passion and sufferings.

7. LOVE DOES NOT BROOD OVER INJURIES

The person who broods over injuries has not learned how to forgive; he has not understood the importance of the greatest virtue in the Heart of Jesus – that of mercy.

The opposite of brooding over injuries is forgiving those who offend us right away and from the heart. It is putting into practice the prayer of Jesus in the *Our Father*, in the petition, *"Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us."* Jesus is the most sublime example, especially as He hangs on the cross and from the depths of His loving and Sacred Heart cries out: *"Father forgive them, for they know not what they are doing."* (Lk 23: 34)

8. LOVE DOES NOT REJOICE OVER WRONGDOING, BUT REJOICES WITH THE TRUTH

Love and truth must work and collaborate as a total whole. A person motivated by true love will never call sin, virtue; nor right, wrong. Impossible!

Love is honest; love is sincere; love is transparent and not murky. Love will strive to correct wrongdoing. This is called the virtue of fraternal correction. Upon seeing someone in sin or in the wrong, a person motivated by love will have the courage, the honesty, and the zeal to try to bring the wandering sheep back to the fold, back to the flock, back to the arms of Jesus who is the Good Shepherd even of the wandering sheep.

9. LOVE BEARS ALL THINGS, BELIEVES ALL THINGS

In bearing all things, we are called to contemplate Jesus in His Passion as He carries the cross – a cross weighed down by the weight of all the sins of all of humanity, from Adam and Eve until the last person in the world, and that includes our own personal sins. If the person who is loaded down with trials, tribulations, afflictions, and contradictions of all sorts, lifts up his eyes to Jesus carrying the cross with the sins of the whole world, his strength will be renewed.

The prayer and meditation over Jesus' patient endurance of the cross is a powerful motivation to imitate the Lord and His infinite love. By believing all things, we call to mind the modern classic of the Secretary of Divine Mercy, Saint Faustina, in *Divine Mercy in My Soul*. One of the hallmarks of this classic is that of believing Jesus in all of His words and promises, trusting Jesus in all times and places, summarized in these five simple but most profound words: JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU!

10. LOVE ENDURES ALL THINGS

One of the key virtues of the followers of the Lord Jesus is that of enduring all things; another way of expressing this is the virtue of perseverance. Jesus Himself stated: *"He who perseveres until the end will be saved."* (Mt 24-13)

Using an image from sports, Saint Paul states that not all of the runners in the stadium, in the marathon, will win the race, but only one. We are called to be that one in the Heart of Jesus. Saint Alphonsus Maria Liguori insisted upon the importance of enduring until the end with the concept of final perseverance.

As we conclude our essay, let us prayerfully meditate upon the words of Saint Alphonsus with regard to final perseverance: *"The grace of all graces to persevere in the state of grace."* Let us beg the Blessed Virgin Mary for this supreme and most exalted of all graces. She who is the *full of grace*, we beg her for the grace to live in grace, grow in grace, persevere in grace, and die in the state of grace, so as to attain the crown of our greatest reward – Heaven for all eternity!



August Spotlight

"Come Back to Mass"

August is a transitional month of the year when we wind down from summer vacations and travels to prepare for back- to-school, festivals, harvest time, etc. The Church provides events during this time that allow us to celebrate the major feasts in the life of Christ and Mary – the Feast of the Transfiguration (August 6) and the Feast of the Assumption (August 15).

Some Feast/Holy Days this month are:

St. John Mary Vianney (Aug. 4)
Dedication of St. Mary Major (Aug. 5)
Transfiguration of the Lord (Aug. 6)
St. Dominic (Aug. 8)
St. Clare (Aug. 11)
St. Maximilian Kolbe (Aug. 14)
Feast of the Assumption (Aug. 15)
St. Bartholomew (Aug. 24)
St. Monica (Aug. 27)
St. Augustine (Aug. 28)
The Passion of St. John the Baptist (Aug. 29)

The Spiritual Spotlight resource selections this month focus on the saints listed above and information on how to bring those away from their faith back – what to do and what not to do, as well as resources for those who have been away from the Church. At our St. Monica event on August 27, join us at 5:30 PM Mass to pray for those no longer practicing our Catholic faith (see page 18 for details).

Please take the books and resources and share them with others.

For more information about the St. Brendan Inviting Catholics Home Ministry, visit www.stbrendans.net/ich

Make a Pilgrimage of Hope:

BASILICA AND NATIONAL SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF CONSOLATION

Discover a place where heaven touches earth. Just a short drive north of Columbus, the Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation in Carey, Ohio, has served as a sanctuary of peace, prayer, and miraculous physical and spiritual healings since 1875. Whether you seek a quiet day of deep reflection or are looking to organize a parish group pilgrimage, this sacred site offers profound opportunities to experience the comforting presence of our Blessed Mother.



**Basilica & National Shrine of
Our Lady of Consolation**

Carey, Ohio | 419-396-7017 | www.olcshrine.com
www.shrineoffice@olcshrine.com

SACRED PLACES TO EXPLORE

The Undercroft: A Gallery of Miracles

Located in the Lower Basilica, the Undercroft houses a moving collection of thanksgiving offerings. For over a century, pilgrims healed of their ailments have left behind their discarded crutches, braces, litters, and written testimonies of physical miracles. It is also here that you can view the beautifully preserved, intricate vestments worn by the miraculous statue of Our Lady of Consolation across the generations.

The Rosary Park

Just down the street, the expansive Shrine Park provides a natural, shaded oasis designed for outdoor prayer. Walk the quiet, winding pathways lined with mature trees to pray the outdoor Stations of the Cross and find physical rest while meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary.

LITURGY & DEVOTION SCHEDULES

The Shrine is under the pastoral care of the Conventual Franciscan Friars, who provide a rich daily liturgical life for parishioners and pilgrims alike.

Regular Mass Times

- **Saturday Vigil:** 5 PM (Upper Basilica)
- **Sunday:** 9 AM & 11 AM (Upper Basilica)
- **Daily Mass (Tuesday-Friday):** 7 AM & 11 AM
- **Daily Mass Location:** Celebrated in the historic Original Shrine Church, May-October & in the Lower Basilica, November-April.
- **Shrine Devotions:** Every Sunday following the 11 AM Mass.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

- **Tuesday:** 6:30 PM-7:15 PM
- **Saturday:** 3:30 PM-4:30 PM (Lower Basilica)
- **Sunday:** 10 AM-11 AM (Lower Basilica)

Annual Assumption Novena & Feast Day Celebration

Each year from August 6 through August 14, the Shrine hosts its historic Assumption Novena, a powerful nine-day period of intense prayer, preaching, and devotion. This culminates in one of the largest annual Marian gatherings in the Midwest on the **Feast of the Assumption (August 14-15)**, drawing thousands of pilgrims from across Ohio and neighboring states.

Daily Novena Schedule (August 6-14)

- **11 AM:** Daily Novena Mass (Celebrated in the Upper Basilica).
- **8 PM Weeknights:** Evening Novena Devotions.
- **2 PM Sundays:** Afternoon Novena Devotions.
- **Note on Devotions:** Each session includes a traditional hymn to Our Lady, a Rosary procession, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Scripture reflection by guest preacher, Benediction and individual blessings with a Relic of the True Cross.

The Hope & Healing Masses

For those carrying heavy burdens of terminal illness, chronic pain, addiction, or deep psychological distress, the Shrine's Hope and Healing Masses provide powerful encounters with Christ's healing touch. **Held at 11AM in the Upper Basilica**, these special liturgies are scheduled seasonally, traditionally falling on the **first Saturdays of February, May, and October**, alongside a special August liturgy during the annual Assumption Novena.

- **Anointing of the Sick:** Celebrated right after the homily for those facing serious illness of mind or body.
- **Blessing with the True Cross:** At the end of Mass, all attendees are invited to receive an individual blessing with a Relic of the True Cross.
- **Pilgrim Luncheon:** Following the liturgy, the Knights of Columbus Council #1925 host a community lunch in the Shrine Cafeteria (11:30 AM-1:30 PM; suggested \$8 donation).

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 August is dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

“See, before God, my brethren, on what side you are. On the side of the sinners, who have abandoned everything and plunge themselves into sin without remorse? On the side of the just souls, who seek but God alone? Or are you of the number of these slack, tepid, and indifferent souls such as we have just been depicting for you? Down which road are you travelling?” +SAINT JOHN VIANNEY

Monday, August 3 ~ Eighteenth Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Matthew 14:22-36 Jesus made the disciples get into a boat and precede him to the other side of the sea, while he dismissed the crowds. After doing so, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When it was evening he was there alone. Meanwhile the boat, already a few miles offshore, was being tossed about by the waves, for the wind was against it. During the fourth watch of the night, he came toward them, walking on the sea. When the disciples saw him walking on the sea they were terrified. “It is a ghost,” they said, and they cried out in fear. At once Jesus spoke to them, “Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid.” Peter said to him in reply, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” He said, “Come.” Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus. But when he saw how strong the wind was he became frightened; and, beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand and caught him, and said to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?” After they got into the boat, the wind died down. Those who were in the boat did him homage, saying, “Truly, you are the Son of God.”

After making the crossing, they came to land at Gennesaret. When the men of that place recognized him, they sent word to all the surrounding country. People brought to him all those who were sick and begged him that they might touch only the tassel on his cloak, and as many as touched it were healed.

Meditation: This dramatic incident on the sea of Galilee revealed Peter's character rather vividly. Here we see Peter's impulsivity — his tendency to act without thinking of what he was doing. He often failed and came to grief as a result of his impulsiveness. In contrast, Jesus always bade his disciples to see how difficult it was to follow him before they set out on the way he taught them. A great deal of failure in the Christian life is due to acting on impulse, feelings and emotions without counting the cost. Peter, fortunately in the moment of his failure clutched at Jesus and held him firmly. Every time Peter fell, he rose again. His failures only made him love the Lord more deeply and trust him more intently. The Lord keeps watch over us at all times, and especially in our moments of temptation and difficulty.

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: Does the Lord seem distant when trials or adversity come your way? Jesus assures us that we have no need of fear if we trust in Him and in his great love for us. When calamities or trials threaten to overwhelm you, do you respond with faith and hope in God's love, and his care and presence with you? If not, you should! True peace and divine direction can be ours only if we turn to Christ.

Tuesday, August 4 ~ Eighteenth Week in Ordinary Time **Memorial: Saint John Vianney, Priest; Patron Saint of Priests**

Holy Gospel: Matthew 14:22-36 Jesus made the disciples get into a boat and precede him to the other side of the sea, while he dismissed the crowds. After doing so, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When it was evening he was there alone. Meanwhile the boat, already a few miles offshore, was

being tossed about by the waves, for the wind was against it. During the fourth watch of the night, he came toward them, walking on the sea. When the disciples saw him walking on the sea they were terrified. "It is a ghost," they said, and they cried out in fear. At once Jesus spoke to them, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid." Peter said to him in reply, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus. But when he saw how strong the wind was he became frightened; and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" After they got into the boat, the wind died down. Those who were in the boat did him homage, saying, "Truly, you are the Son of God."

After making the crossing, they came to land at Gennesaret. When the men of that place recognized him, they sent word to all the surrounding country. People brought to him all those who were sick and begged him that they might touch only the tassel on his cloak, and as many as touched it were healed.

Meditation: When you face life's trials or adversity, do you ever think that Jesus is far from you? It was at Jesus' initiative that the disciples sailed across the lake, only to find themselves in a life-threatening storm. Although they were experienced fishermen, they feared for their lives. While Jesus was not with them in the boat, he, nonetheless watched for them in prayer. When he perceived their trouble he came to them on the sea and startled them with his sudden appearance. While you may think that Jesus is far from you, he never is, and so we must remember to turn to him first and always when we encounter difficulty or challenges in life.

Prayer: Almighty and merciful God, who made the Priest Saint John Vianney wonderful in his pastoral zeal, grant, we pray, that through his intercession and example we may in charity win brothers and sisters for Christ and attain with them eternal glory. 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: Never forget that the Lord, like a Good Shepherd, keeps watch over us at all times, and especially in our moments of temptation and difficulty. While we may turn our backs on him, Jesus never turns his back on us. Jesus assures us that we have no need of fear if we trust in Him and in his great love for us. And so when calamities or trials threaten to overwhelm you, have faith and hope in God's love, care and presence with you.

A Prayer for Priests: We thank you, God our Father, for those who have responded to your call to priestly ministry. Accept this prayer we offer on their behalf: Fill your priests with the sure knowledge of your love. Open their hearts to the power and consolation of the Holy Spirit. Lead them to new depths of union with your Son. Increase in them profound faith in the Sacraments they celebrate as they nourish, strengthen, and heal us. Lord Jesus Christ, grant that these, your priests, may inspire us to strive for holiness by the power of their example, as men of prayer who ponder your word and follow your will. O Mary, Mother of Christ and our mother, guard with your maternal care these chosen ones, so dear to the Heart of your Son. Intercede for our priests that, offering the Sacrifice of your Son, they may be conformed more each day to the image of your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen. Saint John Vianney, universal patron of priests, pray for us and for our priests!

A Prayer for Vocations: Heavenly Father, Your Divine Son taught us to pray to the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into His vineyard. We earnestly beg You to bless our Diocese and our world with many priests who will love You fervently; and gladly and courageously spend their lives in service to Your Son's Church under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We pray that their lives may be always centered on our Eucharistic Lord; that they be always faithful to the Holy Father; and that they may be devoted sons of Mary, our Mother, in making You known and loved; and that all may attain Heaven. Bless our families and our children and choose from our home those whom You desire for this holy work. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Wednesday, August 5 ~ Eighteenth Week in Ordinary Time **Dedication of Saint Mary Major**

Holy Gospel: Luke 11:27-28 As Jesus said this, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts that you sucked!" But He said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

Meditation: When an admirer wished to compliment Jesus by praising his mother, Jesus did not deny the truth of the blessing she pronounced. Her "beatitude" (which means "blessedness" or "happiness") recalls Mary's canticle: All generations will call me blessed (Luke 1:48). Jesus adds to her words by pointing to the source of all true blessedness or happiness - union with God in heart, mind, and will. Mary humbly submitted herself to the miraculous plan of God for the incarnation of his only begotten Son - the Word of

God made flesh in her womb, by declaring: I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word (Luke 1:38). Mary heard the word spoken to her by the angel and she believed it.

Prayer: Pardon the faults of your servants, we pray, O Lord, that we, who cannot please you by our own deeds, may be saved through the intercession of the Mother of your Son and our Lord. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Our ultimate goal in life, the very reason we were created in the first place, is not to attend a certain university, have a particular job, live at a certain address with a particular car parked in the driveway. No, our ultimate goal is to get to heaven where we may experience complete union with God. We were made for God and our hearts are restless until they rest in him. Saint Lucian of Antioch, an early Christian theologian and martyr, once said that "a Christian's only relatives are the saints." Those who follow Jesus Christ and who seek the will of God enter into a new family, a family of "saints" here on earth and in heaven. Jesus changes the order of relationships and shows that true kinship is not just a matter of flesh and blood. Our adoption as sons and daughters of God transforms all our relationships and requires a new order of loyalty to God and his kingdom. As in "those who hear the word of God and keep it" (Luke 11:28) and those who are "doers of the word, not hearers only" (James 1:22). Think about it!

The Importance of Saint Mary Major: We celebrate today the dedication of one of the four most illustrious churches of Rome. While each diocese and parish keeps its own dedication anniversary, the Church universal commemorates the consecration of the four great Roman basilicas, the mother churches, we may call them, of Christendom, viz., Saint John Lateran, Saint Peter Basilica, Saint Paul Outside the Walls, and Saint Mary Major. By means of these feasts the Church seeks to link all Christians with the Holy See. This feast commemorates the miracle of the snowfall that occurred during the night of August 4-5 in the year 358 on the site where the basilica now stands. According to tradition, the Virgin Mary appeared in a dream to two faithful Roman Christians, the patrician John and his wife, as well as to Pope Liberius (352-366), asking that a church be built in her honor on the site where snow would fall on the night of August 4-5. Pope Liberius traced the outlines of the church in the snow and the first basilica was built on that site. It was completed about a century later by Pope Sixtus III (432-440), after the Council of Ephesus in 431 during which Mary was declared to be the Mother of God. St. Mary Major is important to Christendom for three reasons: **(a)** It stands as a venerable monument to the Council of Ephesus (431), at which the dogma of Mary's divine Motherhood was solemnly defined; the definition of the Council occasioned a most notable increase in the veneration paid to Mary. **(b)** The basilica is Rome's "church of the crib," a kind of Bethlehem within the Eternal City; it also is a celebrated station church, serving, for instance, as the center for Rome's liturgy for the first Mass on Christmas. In some measure every picture of Mary with the divine Child is traceable to this church. **(c)** Saint Mary Major is Christendom's first Marian shrine for pilgrims. It set the precedent for the countless shrines where pilgrims gather to honor our Blessed Mother throughout the world.

Thursday, August 6 ~ Eighteenth Week in Ordinary Time

Feast of the Transfiguration

Holy Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9 Jesus took Peter, James, and his brother, John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with him. Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud cast a shadow over them, then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." When the disciples heard this, they fell prostrate and were very much afraid. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and do not be afraid." And when the disciples raised their eyes, they saw no one else but Jesus alone.

As they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, "Do not tell the vision to anyone until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

Meditation: Saint Jerome's meditation on the Transfiguration of Jesus is worth reading as part of our meditation: "Do you wish to see the transfiguration of Jesus? Behold with me the Jesus of the Gospels. Let him be simply apprehended. There he is beheld both 'according to the flesh' and at the same time in his true divinity. He is beheld in the form of God according to our capacity for knowledge. This is how he was beheld by those who went up upon the lofty mountain to be apart with him. Meanwhile those who do not go up the mountain can still behold his works and hear his words, which are uplifting. It is before those who go up that Jesus is transfigured, and not to those below. When he is transfigured, his face shines as the sun, that he may be manifested to the children of light, who have put off the works of darkness and

put on the armor of light (Romans 13:12). They are no longer the children of darkness or night but have become the children of day. They walk honestly as in the day. Being manifested, he will shine to them not simply as the sun but as he is demonstrated to be, the sun of righteousness."

Prayer: O God, who in the glorious Transfiguration of your Only Begotten Son confirmed the mysteries of faith by the witness of the Fathers and wonderfully prefigured our full adoption to sonship, grant, we pray, to your servants, that, listening to the voice of your beloved Son, we may merit to become co-heirs with him. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: When God speaks to those present in today's Gospel and says "This is my beloved Son. Listen to Him..." God is also saying that to you, to me, and to every man, woman and child. And so we must ask ourselves: do I listen to Jesus, or do I turn a deaf ear to him? Do I pay attention to what Jesus teaches me, or do I think I know better – "Here's what I think" or "Here's what I feel." If your thoughts or feelings water down, detract or are contrary to what Jesus is revealing to us in sacred scripture, then you need to peel away the layers of the onion more and ask yourself whether or not you truly believe in Jesus? For if you truly believe in Jesus, and what he reveals to us and teaches us, then we ask for nothing more – not our own thoughts, opinions or feelings, which are of human origin – for we need nothing more than Jesus as he has the words of everlasting life.

Friday, August 7 ~ Eighteenth Week in Ordinary Time
Optional Memorials: Saint Sixtus II, Pope and Martyr, and Companions, Martyrs;
Saint Cajetan, Priest

Holy Gospel: Matthew 16:24-28 Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? Or what can one give in exchange for his life? For the Son of Man will come with his angels in his Father's glory, and then he will repay each according to his conduct. Amen, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his Kingdom."

Meditation: What is the most important investment you can make with your life? Jesus poses some probing questions in today's Gospel to challenge our assumptions about what is most profitable and worthwhile. In every decision of life we are making ourselves a certain kind of person. The kind of person we are, our character, determines to a large extent the kind of future we will face and live. It is possible that some can gain all the things they set their heart on, only to wake up suddenly and discover that they missed the most important things of all. Of what value are material things if they don't help you gain what truly lasts in eternity. Neither money nor possessions can buy heaven, mend a broken heart, or cheer a lonely person. A true disciple gladly gives up all that he or she has in exchange for an unending life of joy and happiness with God. God gives without measure. The joy he offers no sadness or loss can diminish.

Prayer ~ Saint Sixtus and Companions: By the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray, almighty God, make us docile in believing the faith and courageous in confessing it, just as you granted Saint Sixtus and his companions that they might lay down their lives for the sake of your word and in witness to Jesus. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer ~ Saint Cajetan: O God, who endowed the Priest Saint Cajetan with the grace of imitating the apostolic way of life, grant us, through his example and intercession, to trust in you at all times and to seek unceasingly your Kingdom. 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: There is a Prayer of Saint Ignatius of Loyola that comes to mind whenever I read this Gospel: "Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, and all my will, all that I have and possess. You have given them to me; to you, O Lord, I restore them; all things are yours, dispose of them according to your will. Give me your love and your grace, for this is enough for me."

Excerpts from the *Lectionary for Mass for Use in the Dioceses of the United States of America, second typical edition* © 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. Used with permission. All rights reserved. No portion of this text may be reproduced by any means without permission in writing from the copyright owner. Prayers are from *The Roman Missal*, Catholic Book Publishing, 2011; information about saints, solemnities, feasts and memorials courtesy of the Catholic Culture web site.

frlumpe:2026



The Causes of and Solutions for a “Hardened Heart”

Article by Michael Houdmanis made available courtesy of the Catholic Exchange.

To better understand the causes and solutions for a hardened heart, it's important to understand the broad biblical meaning of the word “heart.” The Bible considers the heart to be the hub of human personality, producing the things we would ordinarily ascribe to the “mind.”

For example, Scripture informs us that grief (John 14:1); desires (Matthew 5:28); joy (Ephesians 5:19); understanding (Isaiah 6:10; Matthew 13:15); thoughts and reasoning (Genesis 6:5; Hebrews 4:12; Mark 2:8); and, most importantly, faith and belief (Hebrews 3:12; Romans 10:10; Mark 11:23) are all products of the heart. Also, Jesus tells us that the heart is a repository for good and evil and that what comes out of our mouth – good or bad – begins in the heart (Luke 6:43–45).

Considering this, it's easy to see how a hardened heart can dull a person's ability to perceive and understand. Anyone's heart can harden, even those of faithful Christians. In fact, in Mark 8:17–19 we see Jesus' own disciples suffering from this malady. The disciples were concerned with their meager bread supply, and it was clear that each of them had forgotten how Jesus had just fed thousands with only a few loaves. Questioning them as to the hardness of their hearts, Christ spells out for us the characteristics of this spiritual heart condition as an inability to see, understand, hear, and remember. Regarding this last criterion, too often we forget how God has blessed us and what He has done for us. Similar to the disciples in this instance or the Israelites wandering in the wilderness, when a new calamity arises in our lives, our hearts often fill with fear and concern. Sadly, this simply reveals to God the little faith we have in His promise to take care of us (Matthew 6:32–33; Philippians 4:19). We need to remember not only the many times God has graciously provided for us in our time of need, but also what He has told us: “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you” (Deuteronomy 31:6; Hebrews 13:5).

Sin causes hearts to grow hard, especially continual and unrepentant sin. Now we know that “if we confess our sins, [Jesus] is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins” (1 John 1:9). However, if we don't confess our sins, they have a cumulative and desensitizing effect on the conscience, making it difficult to even distinguish right from wrong. And this sinful and hardened heart is tantamount to the “seared conscience” Saint Paul speaks of in 1 Timothy 4:1–2. Scripture makes it clear that if we relentlessly continue to engage in sin, there will come a time when God will give us over to our “debased mind” and let us have it our way. The apostle Paul writes about God's wrath of abandonment in his letter to the Romans where we see that godless and wicked “men who suppress the truth” are eventually given over to the sinful desires of their hardened hearts (Romans 1:18–24).

Pride will also cause our hearts to harden. The “pride of your heart has deceived you... you who say to yourself, ‘who can bring me down to the ground’... I will bring you down declares the LORD” (Obadiah 3). Also, the root of Pharaoh's hard-heartedness was his pride and arrogance. Even in the face of tremendous proofs and witnessing God's powerful hand at work, Pharaoh's hardened heart caused him to deny the sovereignty of the one, true God. And when King

Nebuchadnezzar's “heart became arrogant and hardened with pride, he was deposed from his royal throne and stripped of his glory... until he acknowledged that the Most High God is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and sets over them anyone He wishes” (Daniel 5:20–21). Accordingly, when we're inclined to do it our way, thinking we can “go it on our own,” it would be wise to recall what King Solomon taught us in Proverbs 14:12 and 16:25: “There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.”

So, what then is the antidote for a heart condition such as this? First and foremost, we have to recognize the effect that this spiritual disease has on us. And God will help us to see our heart's condition when we ask Him: “Search me O God, and know my heart... see if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting” (Psalm 139:23–24). God can heal any heart once we recognize our disobedience and repent of our sins. But true repentance is more than simply a resolute feeling of steadfast determination. Repentance manifests itself in a changed life.

After repenting of our sins, hard hearts begin to be cured when we study God's Word. “How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. I seek you with all my heart... I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you” (Psalm 119:9–11). The Bible is our manual for living, as it is “God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness” (2 Timothy 3:16). If we are to live life to the fullest as God intended, we need to study and obey God's written Word, which not only keeps a heart soft and pure but allows us to be “blessed” in whatever we do (Joshua 1:8; James 1:25).

Hearts can also become hardened when we suffer setbacks and disappointments in life. No one is immune to trials here on earth. Yet, just as steel is forged by a blacksmith's hammer, so, too, can our faith be strengthened by the trials we encounter in the valleys of life. As Saint Paul encouraged the Romans: “But we also rejoice in our sufferings because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us” (Romans 5:3–5).

Never stop praying for people.
Never stop having a good heart.
If God places someone on your
mind, pray for them. A prayer
can change someone's life.
Remember that.

Community Calendar

MONDAY, AUGUST 3

6:30 AM	Daily Mass	Adoration Chapel
8:00 AM	Daily Mass	Church
9:00 AM	Church Cleaning	Church & Chapel
5:00 PM-6:00 PM	Fingerprinting Session	Davidson, Room B
5:30 PM	Daily Mass	Church
6:00 PM-10:00 PM	Eucharistic Adoration	Adoration Chapel
6:00 PM	Protecting God's Children Class	Davidson, Room A
7:00 PM	St. Teresa of Avila, Nine Grades of Prayer	Wellnitz, Room 1

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4

6:30 AM	Daily Mass	Adoration Chapel
6:30 AM	Esto Vir Men's Ministry	Davidson, Room A
8:00 AM	Daily Mass	Church
8:30 AM-10:00 PM	Eucharistic Adoration	Adoration Chapel
6:30 PM	OCIA Immaculate Conception Cohort Mtg.	Davidson, Room B
7:00 PM	OCIA Assumption Cohort Meeting	Davidson, Room A
7:00 PM	Men's Club Monthly Meeting	Wellnitz, Rooms 1 & 2

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5

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	Young Adult: Summer Sundown Party	Hayden Run Crossing's Community Clubhouse
7:15 PM	Parish Choir Rehearsal	Church

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6

6:30 AM	Daily Mass	Adoration Chapel
8:00 AM	Daily Mass	Church
8:30 AM-10:00 PM	Eucharistic Adoration	Adoration Chapel
10:00 AM	SVdP Sandwich Making for the Homeless	Wellnitz, Room 1
6:30 PM	Communion & Liberation School of Community	Wellnitz Hall, Room 2

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7

PARISH FESTIVAL, 6-11 PM

No 1st Friday Adoration
(Adoration ends 4 PM)

6:30 AM	Daily Mass	Adoration Chapel
8:00 AM	Daily Mass	Church
8:00 AM	Seniors NOW: Mass & Breakfast	Church/Der Dutchman, Plain City
8:30 AM-4:00 PM	Eucharistic Adoration	Adoration Chapel
8:45 AM	VINE Encyclical Study	Wellnitz, Rooms 1 & 2
7:00 PM	Summer VINE	Meet at Festival

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8

PARISH FESTIVAL, 6-11 PM

Family Fun Hours, 3-6 PM

No 1st Friday Adoration
(Reg. Sat. Adoration hrs.)

5:30 AM	Fit Shepherds Men's Ministry	Campus Parking Lot
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 9

7:15, 8:45, 10:45 AM, 5:30 PM	Sunday Masses	Church
During 8:45 & 10:45 AM Mass	POD Nursery	Childcare Center
6:30 PM-10:00 PM	Eucharistic Adoration	Adoration Chapel



AUGUST Saturday, August 15: 10 AM
INCENSE: Sunday, August 16: 10:45 AM

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

Mass Intentions

MONDAY, AUGUST 3

- 6:30 AM Jeanie Krsak+ †
 8:00 AM For the needs of our parishioners as they begin the week
 5:30 PM For the return of non-practicing Catholics

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4

- 6:30 AM Intention of the Sizemore Family
 8:00 AM Bill and Gerry Cain †

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5

- 6:30 AM Mary Calabrese †
 8:00 AM Jean Morris †
 5:30 PM Jane Carlas †

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6

- 6:30 AM James R. Vanek †
 8:00 AM Robert Suchy †

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7

- 6:30 AM In Thanksgiving for our Festival Volunteers and Sponsors
 8:00 AM Catherine Eckstein †

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8

- 8:00 AM Bill Grubbe †
 5:30 PM Anthony & Georgia Pulsinelli + †

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9

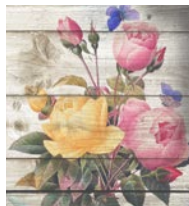
Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 7:15 AM Jim Hefner †
 8:45 AM Dolores D'Amico †
 10:45 AM Antonio Morlani †
 5:30 PM For the People of St. Brendan Parish

(† Intention is for someone deceased.)

MASS INTENTIONS ARE NEEDED!

We currently have many dates available on our Mass Intentions Calendar throughout August. To make your intention, fill out the form on the special Mass Intention envelopes (found in the Church Gathering Space), include \$10 cash or check, and then drop it off at the Parish Office.



Our Sympathy

PRAY FOR THE FAMILIES OF:

Vincent "Chico" Perez
 Darrell Flocken
 Barbara Feldbush
 Don "John" Azelvandre



Congratulations

ON THE BAPTISM OF:

Noel Amante Blanco

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	Alan LaForrest
Sean Grier	Elliott Verrilli	Gib Bickel
Ken Weitmarshen	Steve Strait	Amelia Black
Margie Hiam	Tonya Prickett	Suzzette Briones
Kathleen Carlson	Bailey Curtis	Gregg U'sellis
Ken Weitmarshen	Daffine Papaly	Esthelind Gutierrez
Jimmy Gutierrez	Evie Scoville	Sue Devore
Curt Thayer	Hannah Kelley	Amiee U'sellis
Daniel Francis	Mary Reed	Max Elliott
Michael Nguyen	Sarah Ortlieb	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	Nathaniel 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. stbrendans.net/ich

Eucharistic Adoration

Sign up for adoration at stbrendan.weadorehim.com
 When you arrive, please sign in at the Kiosk, even if as a guest.

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 26, 2026 \$46,763
 (Cash, checks, online giving)

Weekly Budgeted \$55,537



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

Adoration Ends at 4 PM on August 7

There is no overnight First Friday Adoration on Friday, August 7 due to the Parish Festival that evening. Adoration will end at 4 PM on August 7 and resumes Saturday, August 8 at 8:30 AM until 1 PM.

Thank You to our Festival Sponsors!

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- The Myers Family
- Steve & Connie Hodges



KID'S AREA • RIDES • RAFFLE • FOOD/BEER • LIVE MUSIC



**Our Parish Festival is
August 7 & 8, 6-11 PM**
FAMILY HOURS ARE SATURDAY, 3-6 PM

VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL NEEDED!

Sign up for one of the volunteer roles needed: <https://tinyurl.com/26festival> or, sign up to bake sweets for Cake Bingo: <https://tinyurl.com/26cakes>

Volunteers:



*ALL volunteers need to sign the Code of Conduct: <https://tinyurl.com/stb-conduct> (pg. 2 of the Volunteer Information Form). Those volunteers working around children need to fill out and sign both pages, 1 & 2.

Cake Bakers:



RIDE WRISTBANDS: Pre-purchase ride wristbands until August 5 for \$2 off (site issue is fixed!) at <https://stbrendanchurch.square.site/>

RAFFLE TICKETS: \$20 ea. for a chance to win \$13,333 or four other cash prizes. Return raffle tickets soon!

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

Festival Features...

VISIT FR. WELDIT'S ERITREAN GE'EZ RITE FOOD TENT (AVAILABLE SATURDAY ONLY)

Don't miss the chance to try some Eritrean Ge'ez authentic food selections available on Saturday, August 8. Support their faith community while expanding your culinary repertoire!

ERITREAN GE'EZ RITE

FESTIVAL FOOD MENU:

ENTREES

All entrees served with your choice of **injera bread** OR **rice**

Meat & veggie platter

Chicken & veggie platter

Veggie platter

SMALL BITES

Sambusa: meat or veggie

DESSERTS

Himbasha bread

Dabo Qolo (Sweet bread bites)

Chocolate brownies

BEVERAGES

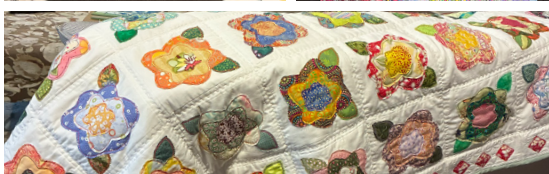
Traditional coffee

Coffee & Himbasha bread Combo



FESTIVAL SILENT AUCTION, PLUS RAFFLE

Bid on beautifully curated baskets, in person, while at the festival, or online. As part of the Silent Auction, there is also a raffle (\$5/ticket) for a chance to win one of 3 amazing prizes. No need to be present to win. An online catalog of the silent auction items will be available to view a few days before the festival, so watch for that link coming soon on our festival web page at <https://stbrendans.net/about/parish-festival/>



Saturday, August 15

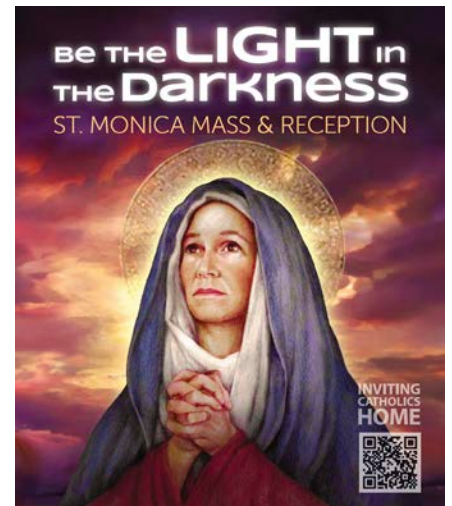
THE SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

is **NOT** a Holy Day of Obligation this year as it falls on a Saturday. Mass is offered at our regular Saturday morning 8 AM Mass time. Also, join us for a special **10 AM Mass** for **OUR 2026 OCIA ASSUMPTION COHORT** participants entering into the Catholic faith and for all members of our Parish Family. Please pray for the following Catechumens and Candidates who will become fully

initiated members of the Catholic faith at the August 15, 10 AM Mass: Derek Berry, Don Boyd, Taylor Castleman, Abby Christopher, Aidan Hall, Anna Hatcher, Matt Ritch, Kyle Van Fleet, Nancy Taguam & Beck Zwilling

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 St. Monica evening Mass on August 27 with refreshments and a reception to follow. Let your prayers "Be the Light in the Darkness" for others.



2026 FALL KICK-OFF



The Friendship Project, September 3

Benefit from a night of fellowship on Thursday, September 3, 6:30 PM in the Davidson Rooms, as you grow spiritually with friends while reflecting on "The Friendship Project." The book authors, Michele Faehnle and Emily Jaminet, will lead the evening sharing insights from the book to develop deep, meaningful relationships, to care for others and be cared for, and to deepen your Catholic faith. The book will be for sale at the event to purchase it (optional) and refreshments will be available. Please sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/stb2026women> Questions? Contact Wendy Ferkany at wferkany@stbrendans.net

**2026-27 REGISTRATION
IS NOW OPEN!**



Family Faith Formation

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. Register via the QR code or at <https://tinyurl.com/FFFstB> (to avoid a late fee, register by August 17.) Questions? Contact Jacob Doran: jdoran@stbrendans.net or call 614-876-1272, ext. 231



Summer VINE

SUMMER FRIDAYS, 7-9 PM

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.

The Roots
FOR 6-8TH GRADERS
SUNDAY NIGHTS
6:30-8:30PM

9.13	Roots Kickoff Fields
9.20	Hearing God in Prayer Davidson
9.27	Identity in Christ Gym
10.4	Men's & Women's Night Davidson
10.11	NO ROOTS

POD Nursery Volunteers Are Needed...

Our 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 be added to the roster.
- **The Elizabeth Ministry** is seeking childcare for mothers to spend time in Adoration on: September 25, October 30, January 29, 2027, February 26, 2027 & April 30, 2027. To help, email Regina at thelonggrears@gmail.com
- **OCIA Easter Vigil Cohort** is seeking nursery help on Tuesdays, beginning in September, 6:15-8:30 PM. Contact Wendy at wferkany@stbrendans.net
- **Catholic Way Bible Study** is in need of childcare help on Monday mornings beginning in September. Contact Wendy at wferkany@stbrendans.net

Note: POD Nursery Volunteers 18+ must complete Protecting God's Children training and a BCI background check before serving. The next PGC class at St. Brendan is Monday, August 3. See details directly below...

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/StBrendanPGC

Next Moms at the Metro, Aug. 15

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.



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

Thank You to Our Bulletin Sponsors...

Thanks to Dee Printing and our bulletin sponsors, our bulletin is provided weekly at no cost to the parish. To place an ad, contact Kati at 614-777-8700 or kati@deeprinting.com. **SPONSOR-OF-THE-WEEK:**

Modlich Monument Company



Red Cross 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).

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. Whether you're a caregiver, family, friend, or simply interested in learning more, all are welcome to this informative free series. Meet at 5:30-7 PM on 3rd Thursdays monthly, August-November. Questions? Email Nell at doconnell@stbrendans.net & sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/dementia4part>

AUGUST 20: Dr. Gavin Baumgardner, Owner, *Healthy Alliance*
The Medical Aspects of Alzheimer's & Dementia

SEPTEMBER 17: Kelly Lambert, Executive Dir. *Dublin Glenn Memory Care*
The Emotional Aspects of Being a Caregiver

OCTOBER 15: Tonya Kreml, Owner, *Transitioning Your Senior*
Safety at Home While Caregiving

NOVEMBER 19: Laurie Schier, *Oasis Senior Advisors*
Resources Beyond the Home

EMHC 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 5:30 PM Mass, 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 the ministry. If unable to attend either Mass, contact Nell O'Connell at doconnell@stbrendans.net

Seniors NOW (Navigating Our Way)

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 8 AM – Those ages 65 + are invited to 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 your lunch, drink and a chair. No RSVP needed.

Crafters Wanted for Our Fall Craft Show

Our Knights of Columbus **Craft Show** is Saturday, November 7. Out of 85 booths, fewer than 30 are now available, so grab a spot soon! Find vendor details/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

Fall Athletics Registration is Open

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

St. Brendan's Young Adults

Summer Sundown Party

Join us for some fun and a fire!

Wednesday August 5th at 7pm

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5316 Spring River Ave. Dublin, OH

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We hope to see you there!



Questions? Email Jorden Frey at jfreydesigns@gmail.com

Around Our Diocese

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

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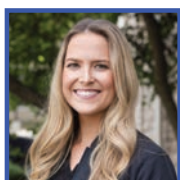
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