## DISCIPLES CALLED TO WITNESS

#### St John the Evangelist Parish / St. Mary Parish Bellaire - Neffs - Shadyside - Powhatan Point www.bnspcatholic.org

Mission Statement: Inspired by the Holy Spirit and our Lord Jesus Christ, we strive to grow in faith, love and service to God and our neighbors.

#### SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

FEBRUARY 25TH, 2024

St John Church (SJ) - 415 37th St, Bellaire, OH 43906

St. Mary Church (SM) - 240 E 40th St, Shadyside, OH 43947

#### WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday 4:00 PM - SM Saturday 5:30 PM - SJ Sunday 11:00 AM - SM Sunday 9:30 AM - SJ

#### WEEKDAY MASS

6:00 p.m. (Mon.) SJ 8:00 a.m. (Wed. & Fri.) – SJ 8:00 a.m. (Tues. & Thurs.) - SM 8:00 a.m.



Saturday: 3:00 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. - SM Sunday: 8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. - SJ Monday: 5:00p.m. - 5:45p.m. - SJ Tuesday & Thursday: 7:30 -7:45a.m. - SM Wednesday & Friday: 7:30 a.m. - 7:45a.m. - SJ

#### **CENTRAL OFFICE**

3745 Tallman Ave., Bellaire, OH 43906 Phone - 676-0051 - Fax - 671-9776 Email: stjohns3745@comcast.net

Office Hours: M,W,F -8:00am-12:00pm / 1:00pm-4:00pm

Fr. Daniel Heusel, Pastor (SJ), Pastor (SM) Cell: (740) 298-4158 Email: dheusel@diosteub.org

> Mrs. Tonya Grimm, Secretary (740) 676-0051

Email: stjohns3745@comcast.net

St. Mary Central Grade School, Martins Ferry (740) 633-5424 Mrs. Theresa Young, Principal

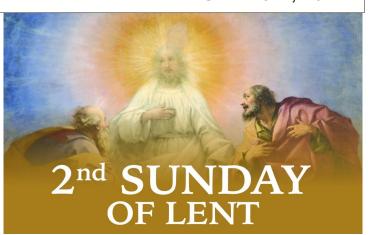
#### We use Flocknote to connect with parishioners!

1. Text MISSION2LOVE to 84576 or

2. Go to StJohnandStMaryparishes.flocknote.com and sign up there! Receive updates, including the weekly bulletin, via email and text message!



www.fb.me/stjohn.bellaire.neffs www.fb.me/stmary.shadyside.powhatan



#### PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

O God, who have commanded us to listen to your beloved Son, be pleased, we pray, to nourish us inwardly by your word, that, with spiritual sight made pure, we may rejoice to behold your glory. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Collect of 2nd Sunday of Lent



#### MT CALVARY CEMETERY CLEANUP

Anyone that wants to keep their Christmas decorations that were placed on their loved ones graves, please have them removed by March 7th. After that date the decorations that are left

will be discarded. Thank You!



#### **CONFIRMATION 2024**

We look forward to celebrating the CONFIRMATION Sacrament of Confirmation with Bishop Bradley on Monday, June 3rd at the 6:00pm Mass at St. John's. All Catholics, Grade 5 and up, are invited to sing-up for preparation. There will be five sessions

that will begin on Sunday, April 7 at 6:00pm in the St. Mary's Church Sartori Hall. There will be on information session for candidates and parents on Sunday, March 17 at 6:00pm in St. Mary's Sartori Hall. Please complete a registration form available at the church entrances.







#### Fr. Dan's Intentions for the Week

Saturday, February 24th, 2nd Sunday of Lent

4:00p.m. (SM) + Dale Louda Sr. (Nile & Jean Cassandra)

5:30p.m. (SJ) + Lucy Paul (Joe & Mary De Genova)

Sunday, February 25th, 2nd Sunday of Lent

9:30a.m. (SJ) + Joe, Mal, Ray & Isaac De Genova (Joe & Mary De Genova)

11:00a.m. (SM) + For the People of St. John's & St. Marv's

Monday, February 26th

6:00p.m. (SJ) + Paul Paolucci (Mom, Dad & Sister)

Tuesday, February 27th, St. Gregory of Narek

8:00a.m. (SM) + Greg Forbes (Julianne Volek)

Wednesday, February 28th

8:00a.m. (SJ) + Roger & Lois Farrier (Daughter)

Thursday, February 29th

8:00a.m. (SM) + Wayne Phillips (Paula & Grandsons)

Friday, March 1st, World Day of Prayer

8:00a.m. (SJ) + Alex Kish (Family)

Saturday, March 2nd, 3rd Sunday of Lent

4:00p.m. (SM) + For the People of St. Mary's & St. John's 5:30p.m. (SJ) + The deceased members of the Bernard J.

Gerdau Family (Gerald Gerdau & Cindy (Gerdau)

Edwards)

Sunday, March 3rd, 3rd Sunday of Lent

9:30a.m. (SJ) + John Kolenich III (Vince & Sons)

11:00a.m. (SM) + Emily Richmond (Dad)



#### Lord, bless and protect those serving our

**country**, especially: Lt. Col. Brian Zeno, Airmen 1st Class Curtis McElfresh, Sgt. Christopher Wetzel, Lance Corporal Zachary Knowlton, Staff Sgt. Wm. Kayne Melko,

HTF Kory Melko, Sgt. Joshua Hall, Staff Sgt. Aaron Loeffler, Tech Sgt. Craig DeBeni, Major Trey Vasey, Capt. Tom Dyer, Staff Sgt. Josh Pempek, Mitchell Rataiczak, Master Sgt. Chris Dipold, Sgt. Ryan James, Sgt. Dylan Frizzi, Sgt. Jake Foster and Pvt. Zachary Popovich, Lance Cpl. John Morgan, Jr., Pvt William Clegg, Petty Officer Alex Rader, Pvt. Colton T. Selmon, 1st Lt. DJ Olexa, Staff Sgt. Kelsey (Ryncarz) Turner, Corporal Vincent J. Kolenich II, Senior Airman Cameron Opic, Sgt. Evangeline Kotson, PFC D'eondre Burney, Petty Officer Jared Keiser, Petty Officer Brody P. Halenar, Major Alex Beverdidge, Lance Cpl. Keenan Cook



#### **CHOIR MEMBERS NEEDED!**

We are is dire need of new choir members for our combined choir of St. John's and St. Mary's parishes. All are welcome to join! Please contact Joe De Genova at (740) 579-6154 if you would like to join! "God takes

joy in hearing His people sing!"



#### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations are this Friday at 6:30pm at St. John's!

#### **Offertory Collection**

#### For the Weekend of February 17/18

St. Mary's: Adult (42env) \$870, Loose \$110, Ash Wednesday (26env) \$530, Rice Bowl (10env) \$135, St. Vincent de Paul (1env) \$20, Priest Retirement (7env) \$570, Food Pantry (1env) \$5, Building Fund (4env) \$60, Grade School (1env) \$5, Propagation of Faith (1env) \$5, Church in Latin America (1env) \$5, Candles \$57.25

St. John's: Adult (75env) \$1,987, Loose \$375, Easter Flowers (1env) \$20, Ash Wednesday (7env) \$347, Steubenville Register (5env) \$50, St. Vincent de Paul (2env) \$40, Grade School (1env) \$50, Building Fund (2env) \$21, Priest Retirement (5env) \$100, Candles \$210



#### **PRAYER LIST**

**Please Note:** This prayer list is an important part of our love for our brothers and sisters in need. Names

will be included on this list for four weeks at a time. After four weeks a person's name will be removed but can be added again the next week simply by calling the office. Please pray for the following: Vicky Oboy, Lindy & Don Freed, Jax McCort, , Dominic Alexander, Lou Ann Kinder, Fr. Sam Saprano, Dorothy Kresak, Jeff & Mandy Fahey, Quentin Scott Coyne, Magan Nichole Sechrest, Jeremy Chirpas, Tyce Hughes, Isaac Salva, Lawrence Lotz, Baby Everett Sommers, Steve Kiss Jr., Lucy Kowalski, John Bires Jr., Shannon Koher, Paul Heagy, Courtney Kosky Johns, Pat Tedeschi, Natalie Zimmerman, Ed and Rose Grammar, Irene Lloyd, Susan Gray, Matthew McMahon, Jackie (Donahue) Woods, Bryan Grimm, Sydney Battistelli, Dr. Matt Sokus, Christian White, Joe Boston Jr., Camden Brown, Peggy Kotson, Sandy Fijalkowski, Ted Corder, Tom Galinski, Barney Wiley, Susan Vasey, Gilbert Patt, Bob, Bill & Tom, Julie Sharpe, Brie Griffen, Chris Adams, Ferdinand Creutz, Adolph Knackstedt, Hart Brader, Rev. Sergey Loktionov OFM, Rev. Dave Burrell CSC, Rev. Temesgen Petros SDB, Rev. Aziz Halaweh, Sally Shopper, Judith Weckbacher, Debbie Respole, "Chic" & Debbie Henderson, Kay Bambeck, Sally Traversa, Mary Kay Hanasky, Ann Hodges, Eric Allen, Herk Sparachane, Zachary Oboy, Tom & Margie Merryman, Margaret Biernot, Craig Blacker, Patrick Strain and granddaughter, Halen, James Jeter, Jim Garczyk, Natalie McFeley, Dan Busack, John Hanasky, Anna Johnson, Beverly, Beau Boston, Mary De Genova, Sharon Leonard, Rosalind Fitch



#### JESUS AND THE EUCHARIST STUDY

This Lent we would like to invite you to grow closer to Jesus alongside fellow parishioners through the Jesus and the Eucharist study. . This study will be a special time to grow in community within our parish as we walk this sacred year of

Eucharistic Revival together, and we really desire you to join us. Please join us on Sunday, February 25, 4-6pm in St. Mary Sartori Hall *OR* Monday, February 26, 1-3pm in St. John's Church Hall.

#### CARING CRAFTERS 50/50 and BAKE SALE

The caring crafters will be having our annual bake sale and 50/50 raffle on Palm Sunday. Tickets for the 50/50 raffle in pews. You can place them in the collection. We are still taking orders for Easter Wreaths. Order forms are at the main entrance of the church.

#### ST MARY'S FISH FRY

Every Friday until March 22nd, 11:00a.m. to 6:00p.m. Accepting donations of soft drinks in cans, bottled water, paper towels, napkins and zip type sandwich bags. To order call 740-340-5061. Thank You!

#### MEN'S DAY OF RENEWAL

Men, please sign up for our Men's Day of Renewal, Saturday March 9th at St. Stephen Church in Caldwell, Ohio. The theme is: Living in the Power of the Holy Spirit. Registration forms are at the church entrances or call the parish office. Cost to register is \$25.

# Momen's A LENTEN DAY OF SPIRITUALITY FOR CATHOLIC WOLLD

A Saturday, March 16th, 2024 at the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption

in Marietta. The theme will be Eucharistic Revival. The fee of \$25 is payable in advance, which covers lunch and refreshments. Make reservations through the parish office. See the brochure at the church entrances.

#### St. Mary's Grade School News

St. Mary Central School is selling Easter candy from Sarris **Candy**. Sarris is offering online ordering as well with free shipping on all orders with no minimum purchase needed, however, there is a \$5.00 handling fee. Anyone interested ordering candy the website can get on www.sarriscandiesfundraising.com, click on Ordering, go to Products then Master Sheet Easter 2024. From there you can put in our Group ID# 10-0304 and place your order. It will be delivered directly to you and our school receives a 25% profit...

### The Diocese of Steubenville presents

A Pilgrimage to the National Eucharistic Congress July 17-21, 2024...5 days

Come make history with us in Indianapolis at the 10th National Eucharistic Congress, where we will gather at the feet of Jesus for the first time in nearly a century, boldly anticipating a new Pentecost. Your life—and our Church will never be the same. The trip includes bus transportation with Steubenville and Cambridge departure points, lodging, daily transfers between hotel and event locations, and breakfast daily. Price is \$799.00 per person double occupancy (triple, quad & single rates available). For more information and to register call Wendt Touring at 740-282-5790.

#### **GOSPEL MEDITATION**



As a college student, my prized possession was an after-market car stereo. It was my pride and joy: glorious audio. eye-catching display screen, and multi-disc CD changer. It drained my hard-earned dollars, but it was totally worth it. It drenched me in music everywhere I

drove. On Ash Wednesday of my senior year of college, Father Tom, the Jesuit priest at my university said, "Pray for God to tell you what he wants you to sacrifice for Lent.' I did. In my heart, the answer came: "Give up listening to your car stereo for forty days." I winced. Not possible, I thought. Can't do it. I made other plans. The next morning, I was stunned to find that my car had been broken into, and my fancy stereo ripped out and stolen.

God's command to sacrifice what we love is no joke. This week in Genesis 22, God says: "Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love — Isaac — and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you." Believe me, I know. We like to be in control. It chaffs us that God sets the terms of what we must sacrifice, and how. But this is no impersonal, tyrannical process. Remember that God uses their names, Abraham and Isaac. God knows each one of us and the precious gifts He commands us to offer. Finally, our sacrifices are for our own good. Do we trust this enough to do what Father Tom asked me to do?

Lenten challenge: This week, I dare you to ask God: "What do you want me to give up?" He may ask for that which you love most. It will be something precious to you: time, money, a relationship, a dream, an opportunity. What matters is we trust Him and act sacrificially in line with His command. Whatever we sacrifice will of course come back to us as surely as the Risen Jesus — but that doesn't make it — Father John Muir easy. ©LPi

#### 40 HOURS DEVOTION -**ADORERS NEEDED!**

The 40 Hours devotion is a special period of continuous prayer during which the Eucharist is exposed in a monstrance for adoration. Our 40 hours devotion will take place at St. Mary's,

beginning on Thursday, March 21 at 7:00 p.m. with Mass, and concluding on Saturday, March 23 with the 4:00 p.m. Mass at St. Mary's. We actually have 45 hours of Eucharistic adoration in St. Mary's Church, from 7:00pm on Thursday, March 21 to Saturday afternoon at 4:00pm and so we need 90 adorers, 2 for each hour! Please sign the signup on the sheets in back of church.



#### **Prayer of Trust**

Dear Lord, Your ways confuse me sometimes. Often, I don't understand what You are doing. But I believe that You are working in a way

that will one day make sense. Until then, keep me close to You, trusting blindly in the ways You lead me. Amen.



#### Week of February 25, 2024



#### The Three Temptations with Dr. Brant Pitre

Reflect with Dr. Brant Pitre on the temptations of Jesus in the desert as he gets to the heart of the meaning of Lent.



#### The Hour of Our Death | Eternal Rest |

The Anointing of the Sick is one of the seven sacraments of the Church. This session, we discover the role of this sacramental anointing in the spiritual struggle during serious illness, the final stages of our temporal life, and the hour of our death.



#### Talking Back: Scripture's to Answer

Common Fears | Fearless | Episode 3

How can the Word of God help us face fear and win back victory from the Enemy's control? Chris continues his conversation with Fr. Dave Plvonka about how people of faith address fear. Scripture provides concrete ways to wield the power of God Word against the fear of need, abandonment, vulnerability, condemnation, and more. Unlock the means for the Lord to free you from all fear.

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#### **MASSTIMES.ORG**

Travelling? Never miss a weekend mass by finding mass times near your destination. Just go to masstimes.org and enter the city, state or zip code of the place you'll be visiting. And bring Fr. Dan back a bulletin!

#### **NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS AND THE** CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent / March 3, 2024

#### First Reading:

In those days, God delivered all these commandments: "I, the LORD am your God,

who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that place of slavery.

You shall not have other gods besides me." (Ex 20:1-3) Psalm:

Lord, you have the words of everlasting life. (Ps 19) **Second Reading:** 

We proclaim Christ crucified,

a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, Jews and Greeks alike,

Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. (1 Cor 1:23-24)

#### Gospel:

Jesus answered and said to them,

"Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." (Jn 2:19)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved

CCC 459, 577-582: Jesus and the Law

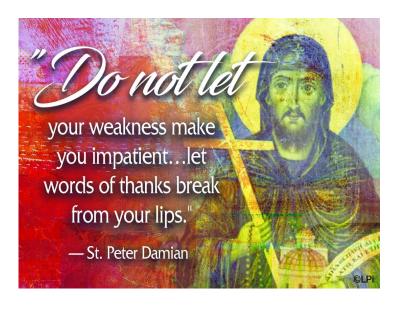
CCC 593, 583-586: Temple prefigures Christ; he is the

CCC 1967-1968: the New Law completes the Old CCC 272, 550, 853: Christ's power revealed in the Cross

2nd SUNDAY OF LENT







#### ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS

In the name of St. Patrick, the Glorious Apostle of Ireland, the members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Div. 1, Wheeling, WV wish you a Happy St. Patrick's Day and Irish-American Heritage Month! Men: celebrate and be proud of your Irish-Catholic heritage all year long by joining the AOH! Info at <a href="www.aoh.com">www.aoh.com</a>, <a href="facebook.com/roadbowling">facebook.com/roadbowling</a> or Tom Connelly: 304-280-4350.



#### St. Vincent de Paul Society

Our parishes have a conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and our patron is St. Martin de Porres. We are called the "St. Martin de Porres Conference". A "conference" is the basic

unit of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul on the parish level and is made up of parishioners of St. John's and St. Mary's parishes. We meet twice a month, on the second and fourth Thursday of the month at 6:00pm in the St. John's Church basement. We respond to requests for assistance that come to the parish office. Do you or someone you know need assistance? You can reach someone from the St. Vincent de Paul society by calling or texting 740-340-8540. Would you like to learn more about our conference? Call the number for more information or come to one of our meetings. neighbors. Come check it out!



#### **HOUSE BLESSINGS**

Fr. Dan is scheduling annual house blessings. If you would like to have your house blessed please sign up at the church entrances and Fr. Dan will schedule a time to come and bless your home and family.



#### SPIRITUAL ADOPTION PROGRAM

We have begun our Spiritual Adoption Program to pray every day over the next nine months for a baby that is in danger of abortion and his/her parents. Sign up with your name and your adopted baby's name on the sheets at the church

entrances and take a copy of the daily prayer.



## We have Adoration of the Blessed sacrament every Tuesday, 9:00am-5:00pm, St. Mary Church

Would you consider signing up for an hour or signing up to be a substitute, to fill in when regular adorers cant' be there? Please call the parish office today!



#### **DPSC 2024 Announcement**

You may have received a letter from Bishop Bradley asking you to consider your contribution to this year's Diocesan/Parish Share Campaign. Your gifts to the DPSC bring life to all our diocesan ministries and services that go

beyond what any parish can provide on its own, including formation; seminarian care for retired administrative support for Catholic schools; Catholic news and evangelization (especially through the Steubenville Register); promotion of the sanctity of life; training for catechists; youth ministry activities; assistance for those most in need through catholic Charities; and much more. The DPSC also provides essential support to our parishes, as 100% of all funds raised above the parish goal are returned to the parish. These funds help parishes live out the mission of the Church by providing for a wide variety of needs, such as construction and renovation projects, youth ministry programs, evangelization initiatives, and outreach programs for the poor. As we continue to discern the future direction of our diocese, it is imperative that we continue to fund the essential ministries and services so that the work of the Church can continue. Please be assured that all funds received through the DPSC are donor restricted and will remain in the Diocese of Steubenville. Pledge Sunday will take place on March 3rd. Please prayerfully consider how you can participate in this years campaign.



#### <u>CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN</u>

**Question**: An assembly of Cardinals formed to elect the next pope is referred to by what name?

Answer: A Conclave. ©LPi



#### **Bereavement Ministry**

St. Mary's Church bereavement Ministry will welcome guest speaker, Sherrie McCutcheon Dunlevy with a presentation on "Grief". This presentation will provide helpful suggestions on how to heal and move through the grieving process. Sherrie will also be speaking on how

others can offer support and comfort to their grieving friends, family members, & Colleagues. Whether you are ready to help a dear friend or ready to help yourself, this presentation is sure to bring you tangible suggestions on how to navigate through the very difficult process of "Grief".

Date: Sunday March 3rd

**Time:** 3:00p.m.

Where: St. Mary's Church—Marian Hall

218 W. Main St., St. Clairsville, OH 43950



#### QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK -REFLECT AND RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE

**First Reading:** Abraham passed God's test to offer his beloved son,

Isaac, as a sacrifice. Have you ever felt tested by God?

**Second Reading:** Paul speaks of God's generous love and affection for us, ever willing to defend and protect us. As we continue the Lenten journey, to whom might you offer some comfort and care this week?

**Gospel:** After witnessing Jesus' transfiguration, hearing God's voice, and commanded to silence, Peter, James, and John must have been spiritually and emotionally drained. *What helps energize you spiritually?* ©LPi



#### <u>BUILDING A CULTURE OF LIFE</u> A Pro-life Lent

The traditional practice of "giving something up for Lent" is a practice of self-denial; our Lord said that to follow him, we must deny our very selves. It means we say No to

selves. It means we say No to ourselves and Yes to God and others. This reverses the pattern of sin, which says Yes to ourselves and No to God and others. In our culture, the most violent No to God and others is abortion.

Over three thousand times every day in our nation, people say No to a little child so that they may say Yes to their fears or their plans. This Lent, as we practice self-denial, let's think of these children. Let's offer our sacrifices for them. May all say Yes to God and Yes to the unborn.

For more ideas about how to foster respect for the unborn this Lent, visit our Priests for Life website at www.EndAbortion.US.

#### Lenten Small Group for those who have lost a child:



Have you lost a child (of any age) and would like to be connected with others who have been asked to carry

this difficult cross? We are happy to encourage you to join a virtual small group through the Red Bird Ministry as they go through Red Bird's Lenten Journal: I am Beloved, Not Broken.

Join Red Bird Ministries as they journey through brokenness to the place of belovedness, commemorating the 40 days Jesus spent praying and fasting in the desert and carrying our own crosses as we walk with Christ through His crucifixion, burial, and Resurrection of Christ, Easter Sunday!

Learn more and register here: <a href="https://www.redbird.love/lenten-stud">https://www.redbird.love/lenten-stud</a>. The Journal is available in both print or digital form.

## EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

#### When Sacrifice Becomes Mundane

It seems to happen every year, like clockwork: we drag a bit, as we enter into the second week of Lent. On Ash Wednesday, we feel a bit like soldiers banging our shields, rushing into battle. "We're ready, God!" our hearts cry out. "Transform us through sacrifice! Your will be done!"

But by now, these Lenten resolutions are no longer novelties — they've joined the ranks of everyday inconveniences, which somehow are the hardest to bear. Because transformation, in real life, happens in inches, just as a battle is won slowly in the crash of one sword against another. It's not always a dramatic thing, to the naked eye. It's the perseverance in prayer despite weariness, or the continual denial of some pleasure even though there's that nagging voice in our minds saying: *go ahead, God doesn't really mind*.

It's a week when we all need a shock to the system — and wouldn't you know it, this Sunday God gives us a double-whammy of dramatic sacrificial scenes. We picture Abraham, who also cried "Ready!" when God called, never imagining what He would ask: the surrender of his long-awaited son. We see Christ himself transfigured, as God shows us what He is ready to give up for love of us.

We must remain committed, persevering daily in acknowledging that everything belongs to God. What we sacrifice, we simply give back to Him.

If God is for us, who can be against us? Can we still reply, "Ready!" when we hear the call of God?

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

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OR CONNECT WITH US ONLINE AT: **stjohnandstmaryparishes.flocknote.com**Sign up and receive our parish bulletin, daily bible verse, monthly calendar, updates and alerts on schedule changes, and more, sent to your cell phone and email address.

Text STOP to 84576 to stop txt notifications at any time. Text HELP for help. There is no charge for this service, but your carrier message and data rates may apply. View full privacy policy & terms at Flocknote.com/txt. *Have questions? Need help signing up?* Call the parish office!

## (PRACTICING) CATHOLIC - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

#### On the Mountain

Why climb a mountain? "Because it's there," George Mallory famously said, before perishing in an attempt to scale Mount Everest.

God is an event planner; every detail matters, and the location is most crucial of all. On the mountain, God demanded the sacrifice of Isaac. On the mountain, he restored Isaac to his father. On the mountain, Jesus was transfigured, revealed in all his mystifying glory as the beloved Son of God, the sacrifice which would finally balance the scale.

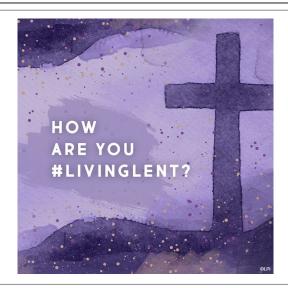
These things happened on a mountain because they could only happen on a mountain. The mountain is where the reckoning happens. It is where God takes, where He gives back, where He hands down.

In Lent, we encounter the mountain. We are removed from the distractions of ordinary life and placed outside the confines of our everyday habits. We find silence and mystery, pain and truth. We struggle and we become tired, and there is always a moment when we wonder if, perhaps, it would have been easier not to climb. There is always a moment when others look at us and think: "Why climb a mountain?"

I confess, I am not much of an outdoorswoman. Hiking, in my family, is any walking you do on a trail that is not paved, so I am far from qualified to comment on whether or not the view from the summit was worth George Mallory's life. But I do know a thing or two about struggling through a difficult experience. I know the strange peace that exists in the moment after it's all over and you catch your breath and realize you are a better, stronger, wiser person for the pain.

The mountain is there. Let's climb it.

"God put Abraham to the test. He called to him, 'Abraham!' 'Here I am!' he replied." — Genesis 22:1©LPi





## SAINT OF THE WEEK – EXAMPLES OF OUR FAITH

#### **Blessed Carlo Acutis**

Blessed Carlo Acutis (1991 – 2006) was born in London, England and raised in Milan, Italy. From an early age, he displayed a remarkable talent for

computer programming and a deep love for the Christ in the Eucharist. He loved sports, particularly soccer, playing video games, graphic novels, and volunteering with those in need outside of his school hours.

Carlo's particular devotion to the Eucharist was inspired by St. Francis of Assisi and evident in that he always spent time in prayer before his parish's tabernacle either before or after every Mass he attended. He tried to go to Mass daily and he saw the Eucharist as a tangible manifestation of God's love.

With his tech-savvy skills, young Carlo spent four years creating a website that catalogued Eucharistic miracles from around the world. The purpose of his site was to increase awareness and appreciation for the Eucharist while also celebrating the worldwide Church. His hope for this project was to inspire those who visited the site to deepen their faith and develop a stronger relationship with Jesus.

Tragically, in 2006 when Carlo was just 15, his life was cut short when he succumbed to leukemia. Despite this, his story, and website, live on as a shining example of youthful holiness. Recognizing his extraordinary sanctity, the Church beatified Carlo on October 10, 2020, making him the first millennial to be beatified.

Carlo's beatification has gone on to spark a renewed interest in the Eucharist among some young people today. His story also serves as a reminder that holiness is attainable even amid modern challenges and that today's tools, like computers and the internet, can also be an avenue through which someone can serve the Kingdom of God. Blessed Carlo, pray for us!



# "What is a missionary's favorite type of car?"



#### "A convertible."



"Conversion" is the change of heart and mind referenced as we draw closer to Jesus and His will for our lives.

**OLP** 

# CONGRESS

July 17–21, 2024
Lucas Oil Stadium INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

Would your family like to attend this momentous event in the life of our Church here in the United States? The parishes may be able to pay for your registration so that you can attend - make it a family vacation! Please contact Fr. Dan in interested ASAP.

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## EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

#### Put me in, Coach!

I have had the honor of coaching all three of my kids in soccer. When you are a coach of a team of little ones, along with the fundamentals of the game and good sportsmanship, you want to teach the value of teamwork. If they can learn about how a team functions and why working together matters, that lesson can benefit them for many years to come.

The Body of Christ is a type of team. We are all called upon to use our talents and gifts in such a way that they complement those of others. We are stronger and capable of so much more together than when we are apart.

Our stewardship isn't just about our personal call of God to cultivate our gifts and give them back with increase to Him. It is about how our stewardship way of life builds up the Body of Christ. The Body cannot function as God intended it to if parts of it are not fully giving of themselves. In community, we have the power to change the world around us because we bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to those who need to hear it and witness it by our actions.

This Lent, consider how you fit into the Body of Christ. How can your gifts and talents make the Church stronger? You just might be the missing component of a team that really needs help to make the greatest impact for Jesus.

--Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



Today we are following Jesus up on a high mountain with Peter, James, and John. There they see Jesus "transfigured," his face like the sun and his clothes as white as light. Jesus is there conversing with Moses and Elijah.

What are we to make of this image of Jesus, the earthly teacher of this small band of disciples? They were merely followers of a teacher, a rabbi. When they see this and hear a voice proclaiming, "This is my beloved Son..." they begin to realize this man is more than just a rabbi. However, Jesus tells them to keep this a secret until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.

Well, they have no idea what this means. Therefore, they continue to follow him as if he was just a human, a teacher. However, we live in the time after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead. Now it is we who must proclaim the good news of Jesus, the Son of God the Father.

Take this week and think about how, in your own way, can proclaim through your words and deeds the Jesus is your savior, your teacher, and rabbi.

#### ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST PARISH / ST MARY PARISH : BELLAIRE, NEFFS, SHADYSIDE, POWHATAN

Readings for the week of February 25, 2024

**Sunday:** Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 116:10, 15, 16-17,

18-19 (116:9)/Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10

**Monday:** Dn 9:4b-10/Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13/Lk 6:36-38 **Tuesday:** Is 1:10, 16-20/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23/Mt

23:1-12

Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20/Ps 31:5-6, 14, 15-16/Mt 20:17-

28

**Thursday:** Jer 17:5-10/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 16:19-31 **Friday:** Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/Ps 105:16-17, 18-19,

20-21/Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12/

Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

**Next Sunday:** Ex 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 (Jn 6:68c)/1 Cor 1:22-25/Jn 2:13-25 *Scrutiny:* Ex

17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 (8)/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/ Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

#### This Week

Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Lent DPSC Appeal Sunday

9:30-10:45a.m. PSR (SM)

Tuesday: 9:00a.m.-5:00pm Eucharistic Adoration (SM)

Wednesday: 5:30p.m. Caring Crafters (SJH)

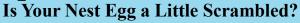
**Thursday**: 6:00p.m. St. Vincent de Paul Meeting (SJH)

7:00p.m. OCIA (SJH) **Friday:** 11:00am-6:00pm Fish Fry (SM)

6:30p.m. Stations of the Cross (SJ)

Next Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Lent DPSC Pledge Sunday

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