

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.

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 21ST, 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.



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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



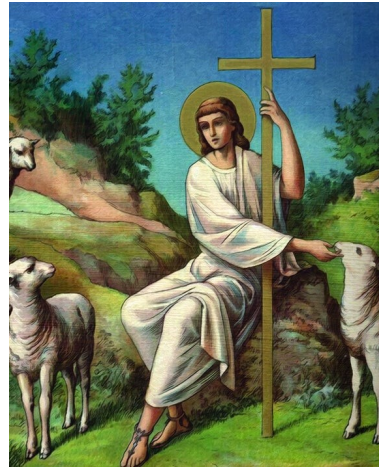
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1. Text MISSION2LOVE to 84576 or 2.Go to StJohnandStMaryparishes.flocknote.com and sign up there! Receive updates, including the weekly bulletin, via email and text message!



www.fb.me/stjohn.bellaire.neffs

www.fb.me/stmary.shadyside.powhatan



4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

"I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep." - Jn 10:14-15

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LPI

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Almighty ever-living God, lead us to a share in the joys of heaven, so that he humble flock may reach where the brave Shepherd has gone before. Who lives and reigns with you in the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Collect of 4th Sunday of Easter

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Jesus the Good Shepherd knows that real love is an action, not an idea. His sacrifice is the proof of his love for his flock. Let us remember to love one another as the Good Shepherd loves us: not just in words but in actions, in choices, in deeds. ©LPI

This Week

Sunday: 4th Sunday of Easter

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

9:30a.m.—10:45am Parish School of Religion (SM)

4-6pm Jesus and the Eucharist Study (St Mary Sartori Hall)

6-7:15pm Confirmation Prep Session 3 (St. Mary Sarotri Hall)

Monday: 1-3pm Jesus and the Eucharist Study (SJH)

Tuesday: 9:00am-5:00pm - Eucharistic Adoration (SM)

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

8:00pm Zoom Bible Study on Acts of the Apostles

Thursday: 6:00pm Festival Committee Mgt. (SM)

6:00p.m. St. Vincent de Paul Society (SJH)

7:00pm OCIA (SJH)

HONORING OUR GRADUATING HS SENIORS

We would like to honor all our graduating high school seniors at the masses on Sunday, May 19th, 2024. If you have a graduating senior please ask them to take a "Senior Bio" form at the church entrance and return by Wed. May 15th, 2024

Fr. Dan's Intentions for the Week

Saturday, April 20th, 4th Sunday of Easter

4:00p.m. (SM) + A. Richard St. John Birthday deceased (Wife & Daughters)

5:30p.m. (SJ) + Deceased Members of the Bernard J. Gerdau Family (Cindy (Gerdau) Edwards & Gerald Gerdau)

Sunday, April 21st, 4th Sunday of Easter

9:30a.m. (SJ) + Deceased Members of the Kiss & Steinke Families (Mary Ann)

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

Monday, April, 22nd

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

Tuesday, April, 23rd, St. George & St. Adalbert

8:00a.m. (SM) + Susan Falbo (June Bossell)

Wednesday, April, 24th, St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen

8:00a.m. (SJ) + James Paulette (Sister, Brother & Families)

Thursday, April, 25th, St. Mark

8:00a.m. (SJ) + Ruberto Valencia (Candari Family)

Friday, April 26th

8:00a.m. (SJ) + Mary DeBlasis Birthday deceased (Grandsons)

Saturday, April 27th, 5th Sunday of Easter

4:00p.m. (SM) + Jack Klug (Paula Phillips)

5:30p.m. (SJ) + Rose & Joe Piloseno, Mary Marcovich, Joe & Mary Marcovich (Ed & Taeko Marcovich)

Sunday, April 28th, 5th Sunday of Easter

9:30a.m. (SJ) Kevin & Keith Sechrest & Families for God's Healing Graces for Mind, Body & Soul (Mom)

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

Offertory Collection

For the Weekend of April

St. Mary's: Adults (50env) \$1,145, Loose \$142, Easter (1env) \$10, Catholic Home Missions (1env) \$25, Food Pantry (3env), \$125, Candles \$38

St. John's: Adults (89env) \$3,203, Loose \$378, Easter (4env) \$41, Easter Flowers (2env) \$7, Holy Thursday (1env) \$2, Good Friday (1env) \$2, Catholic Home Missions (1env) \$10, St. Vincent de Paul (7env) \$160, Grade School (2env) \$15, Building Fund (2env) \$105, Priest Retirement (1env) \$50, Candles \$140.56



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, Baby Everett Sommers, Steve Kiss Jr., Lucy Kowalski, John Bires Jr., Shannon Koher, Paul Heagy, Pat Tedeschi, Ed and Rose Grammar, Irene Lloyd, Susan Gray, Jackie (Donahue) Woods, Bryan Grimm, Sydney Battistelli, Dr. Matt Sokus, Joe Boston Jr., Camden Brown, Peggy Kotson, Sandy Fijalkowski, Ted Corder, Tom Galinski, Barney Wiley, Susan Vasey, Gilbert Patt, Bob, Bill & Tom, Julie Sharpe, Sally Shopper, Judith Weckbacher, "Chic" & Debbie Henderson, Kay Bambeck, Sally Traversa, Mary Kay Hanasky, Ann Hodges, Eric Allen, Herk Sparachane, Zachary Oboy, Tom & Margie Merryman, Craig Blacker, Patrick Strain and granddaughter, Halen, James Jeter, Jim Garczyk, Natalie McFeley, Dan Busack, John Hanasky, Beverly, Beau Boston, Mary De Genova , Sharon Leonard, Rosalind Fitch, Susy Sands, Laine Castello, Sandy Grimm, Theresa Baker, Kevin West, Gwen Brown, Jack Selmon, Brody Beckett, Jeff Stolz, Kay Bambek, Peg Stipetich, Becky Marsh



Lord, bless and protect those serving our

country, especially: Lt. Col. Brian Zeno, Airmen 1st Class Curtis McElfresh, Sgt. Christopher Wetzal, 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 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, PFC D'eondre Burney, Petty Officer Jared Keiser, Petty Officer Brody P. Halenar, Major Alex Beveridge, Lance Cpl. Keenan Cook



Ministers for the Weekend of April 27/28

St. John's:

April 27th **EM:** C. Bladen or L. Kiss **Lector:** C. Flowers
April 28th **EM:** M.A. Kiss **Lector:** LA. Bennett

St. Mary's :

April 27th **EM:** L. Gates **Lector:** J. Amato
April 28th **EM:** M. Brown **Lector:** A. Schamp

Readings for the week of April 21, 2024

Sunday: Acts 4:8-12/Ps 118: 1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28, 29 (22)/Jn 3:1-2/Jn 10:11-18

Monday: Acts 11:1-18/Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4/Jn 10:1-10

Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7/Jn 10:22-30

Wednesday: Acts 12:24—13:5a/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8/Jn 12:44-50

Thursday: 1 Pt 5:5b-14/Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17/Mk 16:15-20

Friday: Acts 13:26-33/Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab/Jn 14:1-6

Saturday: Acts 13:44-52/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 14:7-14

Next Sunday: Acts 9:26-31/Ps 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32 (26a)/1 Jn 3:18-24/Jn 15:1-8

ANNUAL SPRING ASSEMBLY—APRIL 28

The Spring Assembly is our annual time to gather as a community, review and reflect on the seven essential elements of parish life, and track our progress on the goals and objectives of our pastoral plan for 2024. It's also a time to look at our three-year goal areas and do some additional brainstorming on what we want to do next., to see if there are any new objectives that we want to pursue. Our Spring Assembly will take place next Sunday, April 28th at 12:15pm—2:00pm in the St. Mary Sartori Hall.

PASTORAL COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

We are looking to identify potential candidates for our pastoral council. Please prayerfully consider parishioners whom we should consider for the pastoral council selection process and submit their names on the nomination forms at the church entrances by Monday, April 29th. Thank you!



Read Acts of the Apostles for Easter...

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful and kindle in them the fire of Your love. Send forth Your Spirit and they shall be created. And you shall renew the face of the earth. Amen

This Week - Week 4: Acts 10-15:35

“In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him.” Acts 10:34-35

Summary: This week, we follow the adventures of Peter as he baptizes Cornelius (a Gentile), attempts to convince the Jewish believers that salvation through Christ is meant for all, is arrested by Herod, and is visited in prison by an angel who helps him escape. We continue with what is commonly referred to as Paul’s 1st missionary journey. Paul preaches boldly, heals a crippled man, and survives a stoning. At the Council of Jerusalem, the early church discerns that the Gentile converts need not become Jews.

Reflection Questions:

1. Which place that Paul visited on his 1st missionary journey struck you the most? Explain.
2. Which person that Paul met/encountered on his 1st missionary journey struck you the most? Explain.
3. Through the prompting of the Holy Spirit, Peter and Paul opened the doors to the Gentiles by sharing the Good News of salvation through Jesus. Who might be the unexpected person that you are being called to share the Good News with?
4. When have you presumed that God was showing partiality against someone that you were judging to be “unworthy”?
5. God sent an angel to unshackle Peter and lead him to safety. Do you believe that God has the power to break the chains in your life? Why not take a moment now to ask God to lead you to freedom?

Sign up for Flocknote and join our Zoom bible study!

GOSPEL MEDITATION



Recently I was with my little dog Libby at a retreat center in the Arizona desert. I sat in a chair near a ravine filled with shrubs. Unbeknownst to me, Libby wandered down there and disappeared. Suddenly an animal’s wild shriek erupted from the area.

Without thinking, I bolted down into the ravine fully expecting to see coyotes, javelinas, or rattlesnakes. I didn’t care. I desperately wanted to get Libby out of there, without any self-regard. Before I could face whatever danger lay hidden, my dog blissfully trotted out from an entirely different area, utterly unaware that I had (quite heroically) just placed my life on the line.

When the adrenaline wore off, I thought to myself: how far would I have been willing to go to save her? I don’t know. But I do know, if I had literally died, my friends and family would have certainly thought me insane for dying for a dog. No offense, Libby.

How passionately Jesus wants us to know him and his willingness to die for us! This week he says, “**I know my own and my own know me,**” and “**I lay down my life for the sheep.**” Here we encounter an insanely excessive love for us. Christianity is a relationship and not simply a religion or ethical code. In Jesus, God rescues and saves us. He laid down his life for you and me — and he has taken it up again. So often we are like Libby — blissfully ignorant of the reality of both our spiritual danger and his saving love. This Easter season, the risen Jesus calls us to be more conscious than ever before about his love. He never ceases to lay down his life for us. — *Father John Muir* ©LPi



CARING CRAFTERS NEWS

We are collecting white cotton crew socks for the veterans at the VA Outpatient Clinic in St. Clairsville. Place donations in the bins at the church entrances. Donations collected for the homeless bought 13 tents and tarps, bed pillows and personal/first aid supplies, socks and underwear per their request. Thank you all for your generous support! We recently made spring centerpieces and Easter candy for the Country Club Retirement Center and Shadyside Care Center for the residents. We're presently working on Patriotic grave wreaths, weaving our mat, prayer shawls and more. Our next meeting is Aug. 24th. No special talent is needed. Come and joins us!

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Good and gracious God, You call each person by name and invite them to follow you. On this World Day of Prayer for Vocations, may each person hear and respond to the call they have received. We pray for all discerning marriage, the chaste single life, consecrated life, priesthood or the permanent diaconate, that your Holy Spirit would guide, inspire, and strengthen them. May your Church and the world be enriched by the "yes" of your children. Amen.

THIS WEEK ON
FORMED

Week of April 21, 2024



Genesis Part 2 | Old Testament: Book Overviews | The Bible Project
Watch our overview video on Genesis 12-50, which breaks down the literary design of the book and its flow of thought. In Genesis, God promises to bless rebellious humanity through the family of Abraham, despite their constant failure and folly.



Lectio: Mark
Join Dr. Tim Gray in this powerful 14-part series to discover the Gospel of Mark like never before. Immerse yourself in this action-packed Gospel that offers Saint Peter's account of Christ's life and teaching. Combining the insights of Dr. Tim Gray with the masterful artistry of the Augustine Institute, this Lectio series uses the Church's rich tradition of Lectio Divina to help you better understand and better pray with the Gospel of Mark.



Beloved - Session 1: Does Marriage Matter?
Is your marriage all it can be? Beloved unlocks the sacrament of marriage in 12 sessions, showing how God designed it to fulfill you. Open to all couples, young or old.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription.
Visit signup.formed.org and select our parish name.

An offering from the AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE and OPUS DEI PRESENTS

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

5th Sunday of Easter / April 28, 2024

First Reading: Then Barnabas took charge of him and brought him to the apostles, and he reported to them how he had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken to him. (Acts 9:27)

Psalm: I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people. (Ps 22)

Second Reading: And his commandment is this: we should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another just as he commanded us. (1 Jn 3:23)

Gospel: "I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing." (Jn 15:5)

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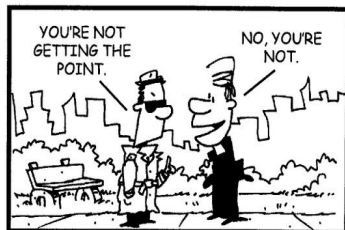
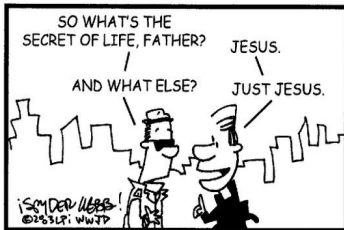
CCC 2746-2751: Christ's prayer at the Last Supper
CCC 736, 737, 755, 787, 1108, 1988, 2074: Christ is the vine, we are the branches
CCC 953, 1822-1829: charity



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4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

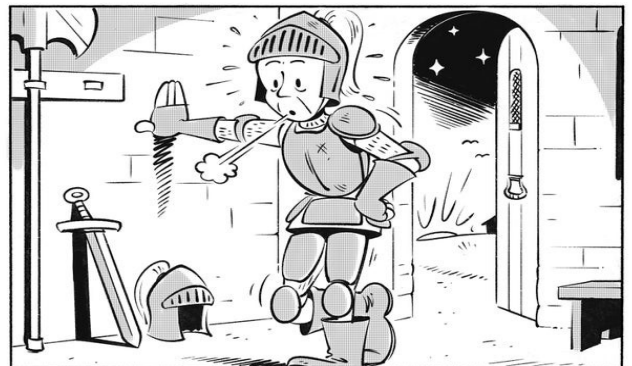


PRAYER – FOR EVERYDAY AND EVERYBODY

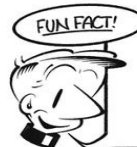
Prayer of the Good Shepherd

Dear Lord, You are my Shepherd, a Good Shepherd, who leads in ways beyond my understanding. Guide me in the paths You would have me go. Amen. ©LPi

"Why was St. George tired?"



"He worked the knight shift."



St. George is the patron saint of England, he was a soldier and officer in the Roman army who was martyred for his faith in Jesus.



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!

©LPi



**SAINT OF THE WEEK –
EXAMPLES OF OUR FAITH**

St. Paschal Baylón

St. Paschal Baylón (1540-1592) was born in Spain to impoverished Catholic parents. He worked alongside his father as a shepherd from his childhood until his 20's.

He often prayed while working in the fields, listening daily for the church bells that would ring at the point of Elevation of the Eucharist during Mass to remind him to spend time with the Lord. He was known for his work ethic and honesty among his neighbors and desired a religious life from a young age.

Baylón taught himself to read so he could pray the Little Office of the Blessed Virgin, a prayer popular in his time. He would give parts of his dinner away to those in need when it was brought to him as he was shepherding in the field. He also had great compassion for the sick.

At age 24, Baylón joined the Friars Minor and although invited to study to be a priest, he chose to be a brother. In this vocation he served his brothers in many ways, including as a chef, door man, gardener, and official beggar. As a Franciscan lay brother, he took a vow of poverty but remained generous to those poor who came begging at the monastery — to the point that the other friars sometimes tried to limit his giving.

St. Paschal found particular solace while praying before the Blessed Sacrament. His devotion to Christ in the Eucharist was tangible as he was known to spend most of his free time in adoration and would occasionally experience visions after all-night prayer. Because of this devotion, he is the Patron Saint of Eucharistic Congresses and Societies. He was also known widely for his spiritual council. People all over the region would visit him to talk about faith and life. St. Paschal Baylón, pray for us! © LPi



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

First Reading: Peter bore witness to the Sanhedrin that it was the crucified and risen Jesus who healed the crippled man and through whom we are saved. *Have you ever told someone else about your faith in Jesus?*

Second Reading: John tells us that as believers we are destined one day to be like the resurrected and glorified Jesus. *How do you think we can best prepare for such a future?*

Gospel:

As the “Good Shepherd,” Jesus speaks of the power given to him by the Father to lay down his life for his sheep. *What could you do this week for the benefit of another?*

© LPi

**EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD
IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS**

Lead By Example

During the Easter season, we reflect on being followers of the stone that the builders rejected, the crucified and risen Jesus. Like a shepherd he leads us by his voice that echoes throughout the centuries and remains real and effective even in our modern world. To be his disciple means to risk rejection in a similar way as he experienced. The shepherd will not lead his lambs into danger, but there is danger all around us regardless.

Everyday Stewardship can be something we talk about in the abstract or a way of living we simply wish we could follow. It can be an imperfect reality that at times places us in direct conflict with the world. As we decrease and Jesus increases in us, many will be drawn to the love and compassion that flows through us. However, some will see us for fools and will suggest we are ridiculous. Cultivating our gifts for God's sake and the total surrender of all we possess and have become to God is not wise in some eyes. Either they think we are crazy, or, just maybe at times, the example of our lives causes them to question their own values.

If you give a little, you will be admired. If you give a lot, you will be celebrated. If you give it all, you can be rejected. Not everyone will have this negative reaction. Some will see your example and will seek to do the same. They will then join you in following the shepherd. They will become a true sign of Jesus Christ to the world. But their conversion of heart begins with you and your example.

--Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



The Eucharist is the sacrament
of love: it signifies love,
it produces love

- ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

©LPi

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

The Good Shepherd and the Wolf

I remember very clearly the first movie I watched during my pregnancy with my eldest child. In this film, there is a scene where a young boy is kidnapped and shoved into the back of a van guarded by vicious dogs. His mother persists in trying to free him, even as the dogs snap at her. Their bared teeth and full-throated snarls don't slow her efforts in the slightest.

It wasn't a great movie or even a particularly great scene, but I'll never forget this scene. I'll never forget those dogs.

I had just learned that I was a mother a few days ago. The life growing deep within seemed to me as frail as a whispered secret, but I loved it powerfully. I worried constantly if the baby was safe and healthy. I agonized over signs — real or imagined — that could tell me if the poppyseed-sized child was thriving or failing.

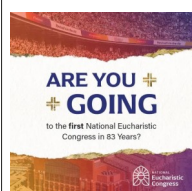
I understood, for the first time in my life, why a woman would charge a pack of attack dogs without hesitation — not because she should, but because she has to.

She could choose not to fight, certainly. She could walk away. But why would she? A future without her son is so much more painful than any physical wound. She may fear for her life, but she fears a life without her child so much more.

The Good Shepherd discourse reveals to us the motivation behind God's actions throughout all of salvation history. From Adam to Noah to Abraham, all the way down to the time of the Messiah and beyond, He keeps trying to get us back. He keeps braving the attack dogs, time after time. He never stops. He never grows weary. And it baffles us: *what's in it for Him?* we wonder, because we are quicker to give up on ourselves than He is. *Why does He keep trying?*

He could choose not to fight, sure. But why would He? He doesn't want a future without us.

"I will lay down my life for the sheep." — John 10:11



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. *See brochure on church bulletin boards for more info!*

WHY DO WE DO THAT? - CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED What is a Pilgrimage?

Question: *What is a pilgrimage? Why do people go on them?*

Answer: A pilgrimage is a spiritual journey to visit a holy site, such as the shrine of a saint, a place where the Blessed Virgin Mary has appeared, or an historic church or chapel. What makes a pilgrimage different from a vacation and a pilgrim distinct from a tourist is the spirit in which the journey is made. Pilgrimages are really a symbol of our spiritual journey in life, reminding us that this world is not our true home and that we spend our lives journeying to our homeland, which is the Kingdom of God.

Pilgrimages — which can be as involved as a trip to Rome or the Holy Land or as simple as visiting the Blessed Sacrament in a local parish church — are also an opportunity for us to step out of the rhythms and limits of our daily lives to seek out connection with God in a special way, by visiting a holy place. At times, such as on a special feast, a jubilee, or the anniversary of the dedication of the church, special graces (called “indulgences”) can also be offered to pilgrims, helping to enrich our experience of the celebration.

In the end, pilgrimages are an ancient act of devotion and something that each of us can put into practice, helping us to discover how God is present in the world around us, in places both near and far. ©LPi



PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

Confidence in Princes

Have you ever confided your problems to a friend, only to get the answer, “have you prayed about it as much as you’ve talked about it?”

Like all good advice, it can really irritate the recipient at first. Here I am, vulnerable and wounded, unloading my problems, and this joker tries to load them right back up and ship them off to Someone with a higher pay grade.

But again, like all good and irritating advice, it rings true if you sit and think about it.

Sure, venting is helpful. We all need that friend or family member who can listen to our problems. But if we ever start to think that person can solve them, it’s a good sign that we’re losing perspective.

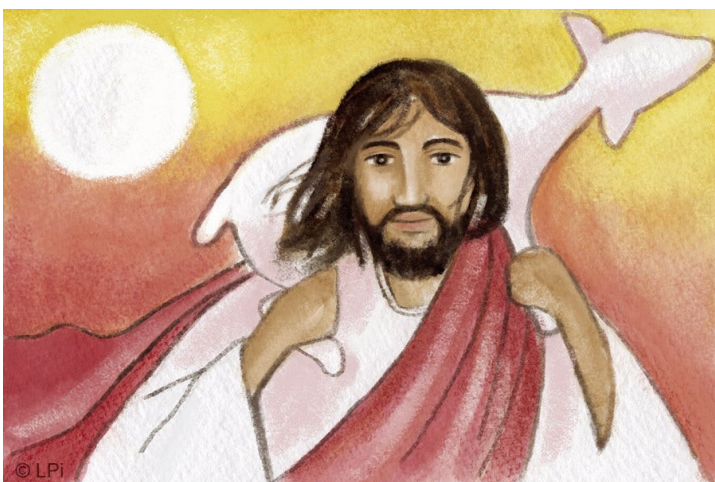
Are you looking to the world for an answer? Are you looking in the mirror, expecting to find a solution to your problems? Are you expecting happiness, peace, contentment or justice to come from any place other than God?

“It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to put confidence in princes,” the Psalms tell us. Well, I’ve never put much confidence in princes. But when it comes to problems, I often find myself telling God to take a step back — “I’ve got this.”

It’s tough to pray about any problem as much as you talk about it. We want so badly to tackle the issue ourselves. But I’ll let you in on a secret: it doesn’t matter what the question is, we don’t have the answer. Take it to the One who does.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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“I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep.” — Jn 10:14-15

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.



St. Paschal Baylón was a devout Spanish monk. In his vocation as a lay brother, he worked as a chef, porter, gardener, and official beggar. He often gave so much to the poor that his brothers tried to limit his generosity. Because of his devotion to the Blessed Sacrament, he is the Patron Saint of Eucharistic Congresses and Societies.

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CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: What is the liturgical color used during Ordinary time?

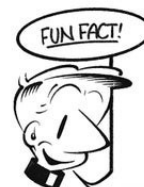
Answer: Green.

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“Which day scares an Easter egg the most?”



“Fry-day!”



Easter is more than just Easter Sunday! Catholics actually celebrate Easter for 50 days, that’s right, even longer than Lent!

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