

# DISCIPLES CALLED TO WITNESS

St John the Evangelist Parish / St. Mary Parish

Bellaire - Neffs - Shadyside - Powhatan Point

[www.bnspcatholic.org](http://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.

**3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**JANUARY 26TH, 2025**

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

5:15 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: 4:30 p.m. - 5:00p.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 - (740) 676-0051 - Fax - (740) 671-9776  
Email: [office@bnspcatholic.org](mailto:office@bnspcatholic.org)

**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](mailto:dheusel@diosteub.org)

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

Email: [stjohns3745@comcast.net](mailto:stjohns3745@comcast.net)

St. Mary Central Grade School, Martins Ferry  
(740) 633-5424

*Mrs. Theresa Young, Principal*



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[www.fb.me/stjohn.bellaire.neffs](http://www.fb.me/stjohn.bellaire.neffs)  
[www.fb.me/stmary.shadyside.powhatan](http://www.fb.me/stmary.shadyside.powhatan)



## **3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

The Spirit of the Lord  
is upon me...  
He has sent me to  
proclaim liberty to  
captives  
and recovery of sight  
to the blind,  
to let the oppressed  
go free.  
- Lk 4:18

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

## PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Almighty ever-living God, direct our actions according to your good pleasure, that in the name of your beloved Son we may abound in good works. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who loves and reigns with you in the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

*The Collect of the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time*



The secrets of every happy family

## MESSAGE SERIES

All of us come from families that are diversified by size and other factors, but share many commonalities, including our strong emotions when it comes to different familial relationships and experiences. In this series, we will look at our family relationships – both in the past, present, and future - and will explore three principles of every happy family: successful families accept the messiness of family life with grace and flexibility; are marked by mutual respect; and are committed to a larger purpose beyond themselves.

**Week 5: Grace**

Scripture: Nehemiah 8:2-10

In the reading from Nehemiah, families gather to hear readings from the law (the Old Testament Scriptures) as a way to unite the nation of Judah. Prayer and family worship unite a family and keep them together. In this message we will look at how prayer, worship, and ultimately grace help to keep a family together.



## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

**Our next Women's Fellowship gathering** will be held on Tuesday February 4th, 6:00p.m. at the Central Grill in Shadyside. Please RSVP to Carol at 740-676-8922 and leave a message or text (740) 298-4158. All women are invited!

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

**Saturday, January 25th, 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
4:00p.m. (SM) + Christine Cruciotti Hanneken (Dina Cruciotti)

5:30p.m. (SJ) + Ellen Oboy (Ruth England)

**Sunday, January 26th, 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

9:30a.m. (SJ) + Eric Haraldsen (The Gerdau Family)

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

**Monday, January 27th St. Angela Merici**

**\*5:15p.m.** (SJ) + John Paulette Jr. (Sister Nancy & Family)

**Tuesday, January 28th, St. Thomas Aquinas**

8:00a.m.(SM) + Dolores Matuska (Bob & Janice Kovak)

**Wednesday, January 29th**

8:00a.m. (SJ) + Dan Busack (Mike Kotson)

**Thursday, January 30th**

8:00a.m. (SM) + Walter & Marge Waligura (Family)

**Friday, January 31st, St. John the Bosco**

8:00a.m. (SJ) + Rhea Rose (Ann & Ashley Marinacci)

**Saturday, February 1st, The Presentation of the Lord**

4:00p.m. (SM) + Nancy Sheeketski (Pete & Jean Zaccagnini)

5:30p.m. (SJ) + Norman Harper Bladen, William Norman Bladen & Dr. Gerald Tierney (Chris Bladen)

**Sunday, February 2nd, The Presentation of the Lord**

9:30a.m. (SJ) + Marianne Finan (Bruce & Mary Ann Young)

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

**Offertory Collection**

**For the Weekend of January 11/12**

**St. John's:** Adults (79env) \$3,175, Loose \$427, Solemnity of Mary (1env)(1env) \$10, St. Vincent de Paul (4env) \$35, Grade School (1env) \$10, CWC Dues (8env) \$50, Building Fund (4env) \$140, Candles \$58

**St. Mary's:** Adults (49env)\$2,030, Loose \$229, Christmas (1env) \$40, St. Vincent de Paul (4env) \$150, Food Pantry (2env) \$175, Retired Priests (1env) 10, Candles \$53



*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, Mgrs. Gene Mullett, Fr. Tom Petronek, Dorothy Kresak, Jeff & Mandy Fahey, Quentin Scott Coyne, Baby Everett Sommers, Ed and Rose Grammar, Susan Gray, Jackie (Donahue) Woods, Joe Boston Jr., Peggy Kotson, Tom Galinski, Susan Vasey, Bob, Bill & Tom, "Chic" & Debbie Henderson, Kay Bambeck, Mary Kay Hanasky, Ann Hodges, Tom & Margie Merryman, Craig Blacker, Patrick Strain and granddaughter, Halen, Jim Garczyk, Natalie McFeley, John Hanasky, Beverly Kolenich Beau Boston, Sharon Leonard, Rosalind Fitch, Roger Peters, Jerry & Phyllis, Adam Ruskowski, Jeff Doneson, Joe Budrevich, Rudy Bresiger, Cathy Ciulles, Warren Wright ,Rich Price, Marlyn Marling, Jay Morgan, Kathy Kavmirski, Sandy (Donahue) Bass, Kyrie Vincent, Janice Arno, Andrew Zaborek, Kim Scott, Joyce Mellott, Gwen Brown, Bobby Roth, Peg Stipetich, Sarah Stipetich, Rhonda Tipton, Rebecca Brown, Mary DeGenova, Anthony De Genova Magan Nichole Sechrest, Megan Kristin Sechrest, Magan Nichole Sechrest, Lori Runyan, Monroe DeLuca, Albert DeBlasis, Mary Jo Garner, Camden Thomas, Julie Sharpe, Jill Brinker, Baby Kennedy Rae, Shelli Macurak, Pete Padyjasek, Ainsley Oliniski, Mary Taris, Beth Baker Phillips, Linda Ullom, Shelly Garczyk, Tom Kucera



**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 William Clegg , Petty Officer Alex Rader, Pvt. Colton T. Selmon, 1st Lt. DJ Olexa, Staff Sgt. Kelsey (Ryncarz) Turner, Senior Airman Cameron Opic, PFC D'eondre Burney, Petty Officer Jared Keiser, Petty Officer Brody P. Halenar, Major Alex Beveridge, Lance Cpl. Keenan Cook



*Liturgical Ministers*

**Liturgical Ministers: Weekend of February 1/2**

**St. John's**

**Feb. 1st** EM: K. Ball Lector : S. Homer  
**Feb. 2nd** EM:B. Wallner Lector : L. A. Bennett

**St. Mary's**

**Feb. 1st** EM: T. Mowery Lector: E. Kalinowski  
**Feb. 2nd** EM: M. Brown Lector: M. Brown

**REST IN PEACE**

Please pray for the repose of the souls of **Mark Cervelli, Myrdith Kennedy, Elizabeth Gasbarre, and Mary Soland.** We offer our prayers also for their loved ones. *If you have a family member that dies but was not buried from our parishes please call the parish office, we would like to include them here in this space.*

**MEMORIAL DONATIONS TO ST. JOHN'S CHURCH**



**In Memory of Dominic Davolio** by The Family of Rosemary Crawford , Doug & Cindy Hartlieb, & Susan Pinzone Faulkman & Jeff & Stacey Paolina .

**In Memory of Mark Cervelli** by The DeVendra Family





**Catholic Schools**  
United in Faith and Community

**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK**

Catholic schools have an irreplaceable role in the Church’s evangelizing mission. Building on the central goal of Catholic schools to form saints, Catholic schools teach and embrace the whole person, body, mind and spirit. The fact that all members of a Catholic school community share the Christian vision of faith that Christ is the foundation of Catholic education is what unites the school as a faith-filled community. Help us to build a spirit of the gospel to benefit the whole human family!



**REFLECT AND RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE**

**Gospel Question:** We hear how Jesus began to reveal his true identity as Israel’s long-awaited Messiah in his hometown of

Nazareth. *Have you ever received news that you thought was unbelievable? What was it?*

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading Question:** Ezra and Nehemiah (the religious and political leadership of the day) grounded their work in Scripture. *How does Sacred Scripture guide your life?*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Question:** Paul uses the human body as an analogy for the many and varied parts of the Christian community. *What role would you like to have in your parish?* ©LPi

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 26, 2025**

**Sunday:** Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15 (see Jn 6:63c)/1 Cor 12:12-30 or 12:12-14, 27/Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21

**Monday:** Heb 9:15, 24-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6/Mk 3:22-30

**Tuesday:** Heb 10:1-10/Ps 40:2 and 4ab, 7-8a, 10, 11/Mk 3:31-35

**Wednesday:** Heb 10:11-18/Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4/Mk 4:1-20

**Thursday:** Heb 10:19-25/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Mk 4:21-25

**Friday:** Heb 10:32-39/Ps 37:3-4, 5-6, 23-24, 39-40/Mk 4:26-34

**Saturday:** Heb 11:1-2, 8-19/Lk 1:69-70, 71-72, 73-75/Mk 4:35-41

**Next Sunday:** Mal 3:1-4/Heb 2:14-18/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32



**K of C Euchre Tournament**

The K of C in Bellaire will hold a Euchre Tournament on Saturday, February 1st at 5:00p.m. For more information or to register call Charlie Flowers at 740-579-1894.

**3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**



**GOSPEL MEDITATION**

A young couple in my parish told me they were expecting their second child, a baby boy. I knew that their five-year old only child Emma had been desperately wanting to be a big sister for years, so I said, “Emma must have been so happy when you told her the news.” “Actually,” they said,

“she burst into tears. She wanted a baby *sister!*” How often in life God wonderfully fulfills our desires and we are sad because we don’t approve of the *way* he does it. We want to control the gift and the delivery method.

The same thing occurs in the Gospel this week when Jesus announces in his hometown that the promise of an Anointed One bringing glad tidings to the poor is **“fulfilled in your hearing”** (Luke 4:21). After a moment of elation, his fellow townsfolk realize *this man* is the way God is fulfilling his promises, and they erupt into a violent outburst. So Jesus departs. How sad for them.

Every single Sunday at Mass, including this one, some version of this happens to many of us. God’s word announces the fulfillment of God’s promises in Christ, and we easily overlook or disdain it. His way is almost never according to our narrow expectations. What’s required of us is to set these aside, and to embrace a new openness to God’s gifts, no matter how he wishes to give them. God is fulfilling his promises the way He likes — why be sad?

— *Father John Muir* ©LPi



**Sunday: 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time / National Catholic School Week Begins / Word of God Sunday**

- 9:30-10:45am Family Faith Formation (SM)
- 3:00pm Spiritual Adoption Program kick-off (SJ)
- 6:30pm Youth Group (SM)

**Tuesday: 9:00a.m.—5:00p.m. Eucharistic Adoration (SM)**  
6:00p.m. St. John Finance Council (SJH)

**Wednesday: 5:30p.m. Caring Crafters**

**Thursday: 7:00pm OCIA (SJH)**

**Next Sunday: The Presentation of the Lord  
World Day for Consecrated Life**

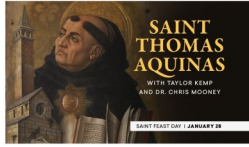
**NIGHT AT THE RACES FUNDRAISER**

Saturday, February 15, 2025 at St. Mary Central School Gym, Martins Ferry. Name and enter your own horse in a race - \$15.00. Forms are available in the church vestibule. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Races begin at 7:15 p.m. Submit form and payment ASAP to the school office so you don’t miss out. The 100 horses sell like hotcakes! You may call the school office at 740-633-5424 for more info.



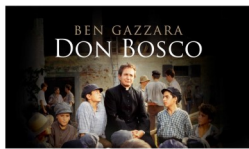
THIS WEEK ON  
**FORMED**

Week of January 26, 2025



**St. Thomas Aquinas | Catholic Saints**

St. Thomas Aquinas was given one of the greatest minds in history. He devoted his life to studying God. Not only did St. Thomas cover almost all of theology, but he also did it while maintaining theological accuracy.



**Don Bosco: The True Story of the Apostle of Youth**

Don Bosco is the inspiring true story of a brave and holy priest. Blessed with tremendous gifts, a creative imagination, and a great sense of humor, Bosco had a winning way with youth and was a brilliant educator.



**Ongoing Formation**

When it comes to formation, it's easy to be passive consumers. Instead, let's show up, get excited and be proactive about our own faith formation. The focus of this episode is turning down the noise and forming our minds.

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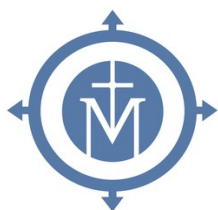
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2. Go to [StJohnandStMaryparishes.flocknote.com](http://StJohnandStMaryparishes.flocknote.com) and sign up there! Receive updates,

including the weekly bulletin, and daily reminders via email and text message! It's free for you!



**MASSTIMES.ORG**

Travelling? Never miss a weekend mass by finding mass times near your destination. Just go to [masstimes.org](http://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**

**The Presentation of the Lord / February 2, 2025**

**First Reading:**

Lo, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me; and suddenly there will come to the temple the LORD whom you seek. (Mal 3:1)

**Psalm:**

Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord! (Ps 24)

**Second Reading:**

Therefore, he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every way, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest before God. (Heb 2:17)

**Gospel:**

"Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation." (Lk 2:29-30)

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. ©LPi

CCC 529 The Presentation of Jesus in the temple

CCC 583 Jesus and the Temple

CCC 439 Jesus the Messiah

CCC 614 The sacrifice of Christ

3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



**BUILDING A CULTURE OF LIFE**

"The fact that we know that we are right about the sacred value of human life should make us humble and more determined to spread this message by the love shown in our lives and our willingness to be servants of life. As St. John reminds us, "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us" (1 Jn 1:8). Pro-lifers are convinced – mightily convinced – of the boundless mercy of God. That is the light we bring to the world: the truth about God's love, about forgiveness, about the beauty of human life in all its stages and states."

J. Michael Miller, CSB, Archbishop of Vancouver, Canada, Homily at Holy Innocents Annual Pro-Life Mass, January 12, 2010



**(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC**

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

**These Evil Days**

“Alas, that these evil days should be mine.”

If you’ve ever seen “The Lord of the Rings,” you might recognize this quote from “The Two Towers.” The words are spoken by King Theoden at the grave of his only son and heir, as Theoden contemplates the coming war for Middle Earth, a war which has already claimed the life of his son, a war he wants no part of, a war that seems utterly hopeless and unwinnable.

*These evil days.*

You don’t have to be a fantasy enthusiast or even a Tolkien fan to identify with Theoden here. We have all experienced this same feeling of despair, perhaps increasingly in this age of technology and social media, when the ills of the whole world — violence, injustice, moral disorder and chaos — are in our faces, on our phones, looming over our days.

But when we despair like this, we forget an important truth: this is the time of fulfillment, and we are lucky enough to be living through it.

Yes, the world is broken. It was broken two thousand years ago, too, when Jesus stood up in the synagogue on the Sabbath and read the words of the prophet Isaiah: “He has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives...and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord.”

Jesus didn’t come to fix the brokenness of the world. He came to fix *our* brokenness. He offers us not relief from the trials of life, but an answer to the question of how to live in joy, in love and in purpose in the midst of these evil days.  
©LPi



©2004 LPi

**CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN**  
**Question:** What do we call the successors of the apostles in communion with the pope?  
**Answer:** Bishops. ©LPi

**WHY DO WE DO THAT? - CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED**      **Love as a Theological Virtue**

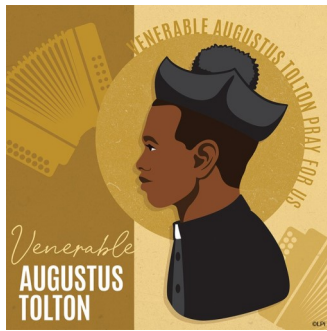
**Question:** I’ve heard that love is a theological virtue. What does that mean?

**Answer:** Charles Shultz, the creator of the *Peanuts* comics wrote, “*I love mankind ... it’s people I can’t stand!*” This good humored comment gets at an important truth. St. John wrote a very strong statement in one of his letters: “*If anyone says ‘I love God,’ but hates his brother, he is a liar; for whoever does not love a brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen*” (1 John 4:20). How often do we say “I love the homeless,” but ignore the parish food drive? Or insist on the importance of respecting others, but don’t bother to say hello to our cashier? If we can’t love an individual person, we might not love people like we think, and we certainly need to work on our love for God.

Love is “*the theological virtue by which we love God above all things for His own sake, and our neighbor as ourselves for the love of God*” (CCC 1822). God knows acts of love of Him and others isn’t always easy. So He invites us to pray for the grace to do it. The virtue of love gives us the grace and strength we need to offer our lives to God and love people in our lives, especially those who are difficult to respect, tolerate, and care for. Real love, of course, is risky. Real love wills the good of the other when we just want good for ourselves. Real love gets up on the cross when we’d prefer to take a nap in Gethsemane. Real love changes things. ©LPi

**LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK**  
Jesus is the fulfillment of the Scripture passage he reads in the synagogue, a missive of promise and hope from an ancient prophet. But he invites us to be part of his work, here and now, in our own lives, our own communities. Be part of the fulfillment. ©LPi

**ST. JOHN'S AND ST. MARY'S DISCOVERY TOOL**  
POWERED BY MINISTRY ARCHITECTS VOLUNTEER ACCELERATOR  
We offer to all our parishioners a short but powerful survey— what are calling our Discovery Tool! In just a few minutes, you'll have your results and a better sense of how your interests and gifts align with the service opportunities and ministries of our church. When we understand more about our God-given talents and what brings us joy and a sense of purpose, we are better equipped to walk in love -- serving God, our parish, and our community as Jesus calls us to do. Scan the QR code to find the link to the survey, or on our website - [bnspcatholic.org](http://bnspcatholic.org)



### Venerable John Augustus (Gus) Tolton

John Augustus (Gus) Tolton was born on April 1, 1854, to parents who were enslaved by a white Catholic family in Missouri. Early in his childhood, the Civil War broke out and his father, Peter Paul Tolton, escaped slavery to join the Union Army. John and his mother remained enslaved until 1862 when they escaped by crossing the Mississippi River into Illinois.

Tolton and his family were introduced to Catholicism by their enslavers, and, despite the awful circumstances that they were subjected to, John developed a deep personal relationship with Jesus. It's said that, after escaping into Illinois, his mother told him, "John, boy, you're free. Never forget the goodness of the Lord."

Tolton attended an all-white school in Illinois, St. Peter's Catholic School, where he was noticed and mentored by the school's pastor, Fr. Peter McGirr. As he matured, he intended to go to seminary, but no American seminary would accept him due to the color of his skin. With Fr. McGirr's support, Tolton attended seminary in Rome, instead, and began his formation for the priesthood. While there, he learned many languages and studied music! He was ordained a priest at the age of 31.

Although his experience of acceptance and racial harmony in Rome was transformative, he still expected that he would be assigned to an African nation for his service within the Church. To his surprise, though, he was instead sent back to the United States where he celebrated his first public Mass at St. Boniface church in Quincy, Illinois. He is considered to be the first priest in the USA who was publicly known to be black. He became the pastor of St. Joseph Catholic church and school in the same city but, after racial tension continued to escalate in the area, he transferred to Chicago at the invitation of Chicago's Archbishop Patrick Feehan.

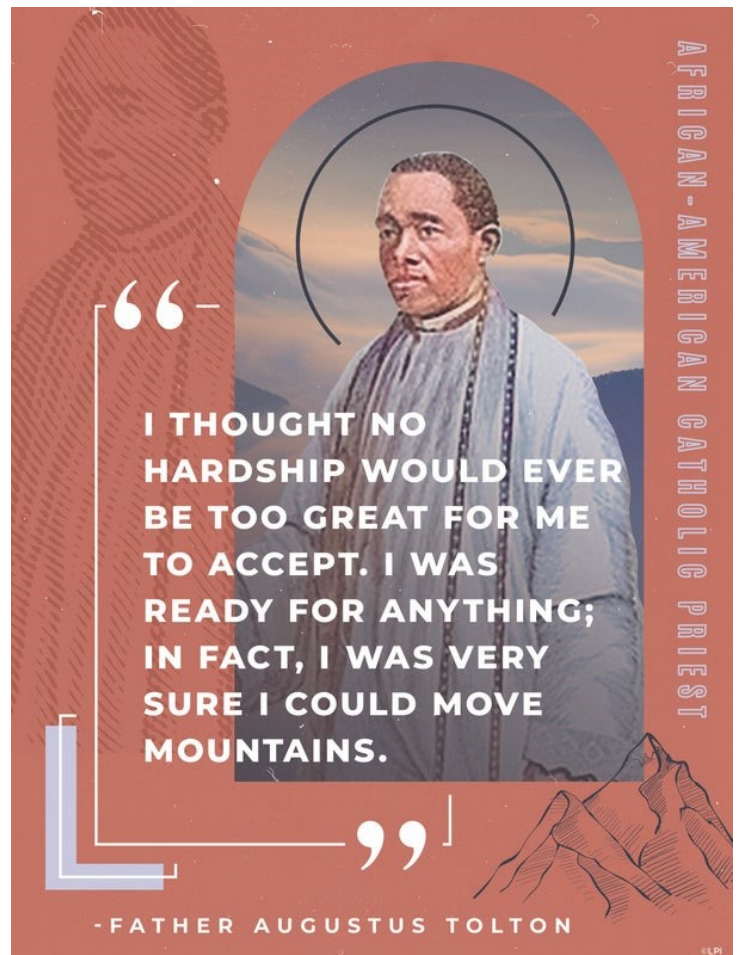
In Chicago, Tolton led the development of St. Monica's Catholic Church in Chicago's South Side. After four years of hard work, the Chicago Tribune covered the church's dedication, printing on January 15, 1884, that, "St. Monica's Church was dedicated yesterday with impressive services. It is the first Catholic church in this city to be built by colored people. More than this, it is the first church of the kind constructed in this State and probably the only Catholic church in the West that has been built by colored members of that faith for their own use. The pastor of St. Monica's is the Rev. Father Augustus Tolton and the handsome edifice at the corner of Thirty-sixth and Dearborn streets will stand as a monument to his untiring labor on behalf of the Church of his adoption."

*(continued...)*

*(...continued)*

As pastor of St. Monica, Tolton served the poor, fed the hungry, ministered to formally enslaved families, shared his beautiful singing voice and talent for playing the accordion, and led many to the faith. Locally he was known as Father Gus and his congregation grew rapidly, frequently being recognized in the newspapers and other greater Chicago publications.

In 1897, at age 43, Fr. Augustus Tolton died of heat stroke. The sudden tragedy left his whole community shocked and saddened. His legacy, however, lives on and he was declared Venerable by Pope Francis in June of 2019. © LPI



### Prayer

Venerable Father Tolton, when confronted with the hatred of a brother and the taunts of a few, you imitated the Lamb of God and did not open your mouth against them.

Help us, Father Gus, to follow your example of long-suffering compassion and silent perseverance, to love our enemies and to pray for our persecutors.

Teach us to be noble servants of Christ until he calls us into the presence of his majesty, there to look upon the Master's loving face. Who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.



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

**The Daily Journey of Life**

Remember that time when you arrived at school to take a test or quiz on material you failed to read? Maybe it was on a classic book or a chapter in a science textbook. Did your blood pressure go sky high and the sweat start to show on your forehead? Squirming in the seat, you wondered what you could have done to avoid feeling this way. Then it came to you: you should have read what you were supposed to read!

Procrastination, indifference, poor scheduling of time, and stubbornness are all reasons why we fail to be prepared for a situation that arises in our lives. We lack commitment in doing what we are asked to do or what we know we should do. This is certainly true in our spiritual lives as well. We may choose to bear the label of disciple or good steward, but we don't really prepare ourselves for the daily journey of life.

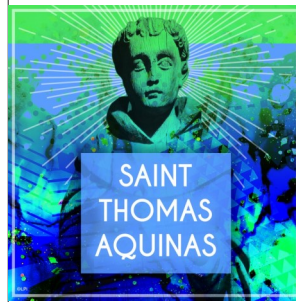
Sacred Scripture can prepare us more fully for the circumstances of life, but not if we fail to read it. The words contained there are Spirit and life for us. They help us to understand where we fit into the Body of Christ and how we are to respond to the daily call of Christ. Everyday Stewards should be committed to reading and reflection of the Word of God. We know we should spend time with God's Word, but too often we fail to do so due to the same reasons already mentioned. When we failed to read in school, perhaps we failed the test and it hurt our grade. When we fail in life due to lack of preparedness, sometimes the consequences are more severe.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



On September 30, 2019, a Motu proprio Apostolic Letter "*Aperuit illis*" issued by Pope Francis established the **Third Sunday in Ordinary Time** as the "Sunday of the Word of God." This celebration every year is to be devoted to the celebration, study, and

dissemination of the Word of God. Recalling the importance given by the Second Vatican Council to rediscovering Sacred Scripture for the life of the Church, Pope Francis explains the celebration has "ecumenical value, since the Scriptures point out, for those who listen, the path to authentic and firm unity."



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

**St. Thomas Aquinas | January 28**

One of the most famous members of the Dominican Order, St. Thomas Aquinas (1225 – 1274) is well-known by many for his

theological work, "*The Summa Theologiae*." Born in Italy, his mother wanted him to become a Benedictine and had high hopes that he would eventually become abbot of Monte Cassino, where he spent much of his youth. To change his vocation, she had him kidnapped by his brothers on his way to Paris at the age of 19. He spent two years in their captivity. Despite this, nothing could shake him from his vocation to become a Dominican priest and he was eventually released. Once free, he went to Paris and then to Cologne, where he finished his studies with Albert the Great.

His greatest contribution to the Catholic Church is his writings. The unity, harmony, and continuity of faith and reason, of revealed and natural human knowledge, encompasses his writings. The *Summa Theologiae*, his last and, unfortunately, uncompleted work, deals with the whole of Catholic theology.

The patron saint of teachers, theologians and students, St. Thomas Aquinas died in 1274. His life and the impact he had on the whole Church, however, remains alive today.

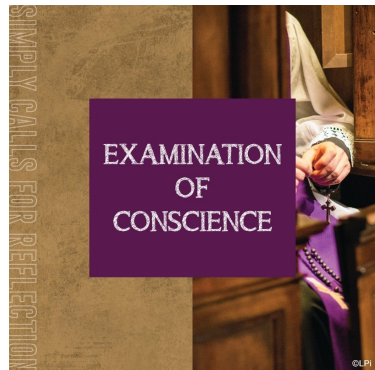
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2025 is the Jubilee Holy Year, the 2,025th anniversary of the Incarnation of our Lord, an "event of great spiritual, ecclesial, and social significance in the life of the Church."

The concept of "Jubilee" has its origins in the Book of Leviticus (chapter 25) as a special year of reconciliation, pilgrimage, and coming home.

Pope Francis has designated the 2025 Holy Year as a time to renew ourselves as "Pilgrims of Hope."



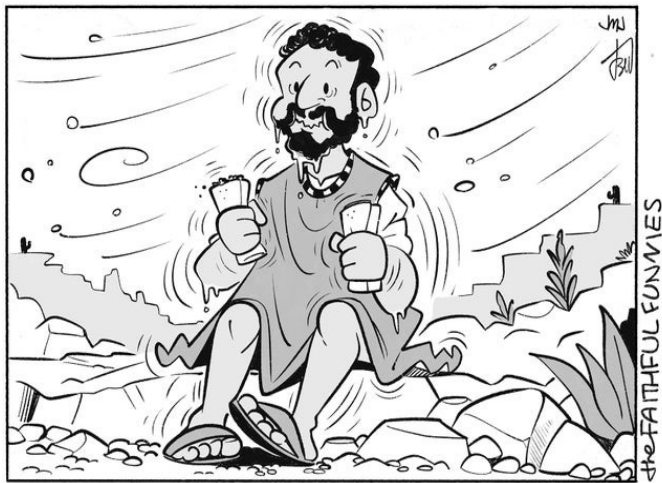
**Devotions, Explained!**

**Examination of Conscience, Explained**

In Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians, the apostle writes that it is imperative for a Christian to reflect on his conscience before he partakes of Holy Eucharist: “Let a man examine himself, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup” (1 Corinthians 11:28). The practice of examining one’s conscience before seeking the Sacrament of Reconciliation thus dates to the very beginning of the Christian faith and was encouraged as a regular practice by many saints and founders of religious orders as a means of growing in virtue.

An examination of conscience, when it relates to the sacrament, simply means reflecting on one’s actions (and particularly the intentions behind those actions) since the penitent’s last absolution, making note of lapses in judgment that should be confessed. A good basis for this reflection can be the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes and the seven deadly sins. ©LPi

**“What’s St. Juan Diego’s favorite food?”**



**“Brrrr-itos!”**



St. Juan Diego was a poor, ordinary man who was blessed with seeing apparitions of the Blessed Mother, who is now known as Our Lady of Guadalupe!

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*“I hope in your Word” (Ps 119:74).*

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

**Plant Your Works in the Word**

One of the things about Scripture is that even the smallest word and shortest phrase can be critical to the overall message. When you take a quiet moment to rest with the Word, you find how quickly the most mundane sentence can reach out and grab you, pulling you into a deeper contemplation of some truth you hadn’t even considered until then.

But we often fail to act as the Israelites in the Book of Nehemiah, standing before the Water Gate “listening attentively.” Whether it’s at Mass during the Liturgy of the Word or at home poring over the Bible, time after time we find ourselves less mindful than we could be. Our ears accept the sounds of the words and our eyes glance over the shape of the letters.

But are we mindful — truly?

The best answer is hopefully at least sometimes. There are always tasks to be completed, problems weighing on our minds that we can’t quite give over to God. We lose ourselves in these things instead of in Scripture. We “clock in” with Bible reading instead of “diving in.”

We can never forget that the words of the Lord are spirit and life. They are the soil that quickens the seed of all stewardship. There is no mindfulness, no prayer, no graciousness, no gratitude or accountability or sense of commitment unless there is the Word.

So let us pray today for mindfulness, that our every action will be grounded in the law of God — giving it true spirit and life. — Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

**YOUR WORDS, LORD, ARE SPIRIT AND LIFE. PSALM 19**

**PRAYER – FOR EVERYDAY AND EVERYBODY**



**Prayer of Mission**

Spirit of the Living God, Anoint me to bring your love, light, and freedom to the places you call. From the heights to the depths: you are there, you are actively moving, and when you call, you will also provide. Amen. ©LPi



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Tuesdays doors open at 4:00  
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