

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.

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

APRIL 6TH, 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

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 you!

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



5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

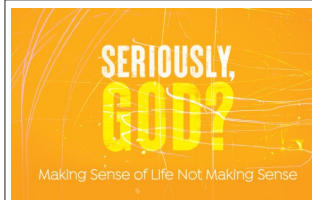
Jesus bent down and began to write on the ground with his finger. But when they continued asking him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her."
- Jn 8:6b-7

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

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God, may we walk eagerly in that same charity with which, out of love for the world, your Son handed himself over to death. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

The Collect of the 5th Sunday of Lent



MESSAGE SERIES

A friend's child dies; a parent gets a cancer diagnosis; your spouse loses their job. Sometimes life and God's plan don't make sense and we end up feeling hurt and angry. In

Seriously, God? we will explore the denial, doubt, and betrayal we experience when we face hardship and life not making sense. While those experiences can drive us further away from God, they can also be opportunities to lean in and learn more about him. The series is all about overcoming some of the typical objections to trust in God so we can deepen our relationship with him.

WEEK SIX – SERIOUSLY, PAIN IS A PROBLEM

Scripture: Philippians 3:7-15

Pain is a huge argument against the Gospel and Christianity. However, the Scriptures do not run from this issue but address it full on. In this message we will look at St. Paul and what he teaches us about looking past the pain and focusing on Jesus.

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICES THIS WEEK

Sunday, April 6: 3:00pm St. Mary's Church, Shadyside

Monday, April 7: 6:30pm St. Mary's Church, St. Clairsville

Wednesday, April 9: 6:30pm St. Joseph Church, Tiltonsville

Fr. Dan's Intentions for the Week

Saturday, April 5th, 5th Sunday of Lent

4:00p.m. (SM) + Ed & Irene Snyder (Family)

5:30p.m. (SJ) Kevin & Keith Sechrest & John Kiss For God's healing Graces of Soul, Mind & Body (Mom/Sister)

Sunday, April 6th, 5th Sunday of Lent

9:30a.m. (SJ) + Mary Hodorowski (Husband Joe & Children)

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

Monday, April 7th, St. John the Baptist de la Salle

5:15p.m. (SJ) + Roger Peters (Cheryl Boston & Paula St. John)

Tuesday, April 8th

8:00a.m.(SM) + Patricia Padyjasek (Stanley Galownia)

Wednesday, April 9th

8:00a.m. (SJ) + Judy Fahey (Family)

Thursday, April 10th - 40 Hours begins with evening mass

* **7:00p.m.** (SM) + Betty Benedetta - 25 years deceased (Lindy, Jack & Family)

Friday, April 11th, St. Stanislaus

8:00a.m. (SJ) + John Nowak - 5 years deceased (Wife Connie & Sons)

Saturday, April 12th, Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

4:00p.m. (SM) + Larry Phillips (Wife Paula & Sons)

5:30p.m. (SJ) + Joe Ronevich Sr. (Ernie & Mary Ann)

Sunday, 13th, Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

9:30a.m. (SJ) + Eddie Oboy (Family)

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

* **Please note the change in mass time for Thursday April 10th.**



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: APRIL 12/13

St. John's

April 12 EM: C. Bladen **Lector :** C. Flowers

April 13 EM: M.A. Kiss **Lector :** A. Busic

St. Mary's

April 12 EM: J. Ferrelli **Lector:** I. Louda

April 13 EM: L. Kernik **Lector:** M. Kernik

Has No One Condemned You ?

— John 8:10

Offertory Collection

For the Weekend of March 29/30

St. John's: Adult (95env) \$3,902, Loose \$419, Easter Flowers (25env) \$477, Catholic Relief (2env) \$40, Grade School (1env) \$15, Building Fund (11env) \$1,405, Priest Retirement (1env) \$30, Candles \$153

St. Mary's: Adult (42env) \$1193, Easter (1env) \$50, Easter Flowers (9env) \$205, Building Fund (2env) \$150, Food Pantry (2env) \$110, Candles \$110

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, Jeremy Chirpas, Tyce Hughes, Jax McCort, Dominic Alexander, Lou Ann Kinder, Mgrs. Gene Mullett, Fr. Tom Petronek, Dorothy Kresak, Jeff & Mandy Fahey, Quentin Scott Coyne, Baby Everett Sommers, Ed and Rose Grammar, Jackie (Donahue) Woods, Joe Boston Jr., Peggy Kotson, Tom Galinski, Susan Vasey, Bob, & Tom, Mary Kay Hanasky, Halen, Jim Garczyk, Natalie McFeley, John Hanasky, Beverly Kolenich Beau Boston, Sharon Leonard, Rosalind Fitch, 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, Kim Scott, Gwen Brown, Bobby Roth, Peg Stipetich, Sarah Stipetich, Rhonda Tipton, Rebecca Brown, Mary DeGenova, Anthony De Genova Magan Nichole Sechrest, Megan Kristin Sechrest, Lori Runyan, Monroe DeLuca, Albert DeBlasis, Mary Jo Garner, Camden Thomas, Julie Sharpe, Jill Brinker, Baby Kennedy Rae, Shelli Macurak, Ainsley Oliniski, Mary Taris, Beth Baker Phillips, Linda Ullom, Tom Kucera, Brian B., Joanne Dantrassy, Rita Kovallo, Bruce Anastasia, Denise Myers, Todd Link, Charlotte Kovalyk, Susan Gray, Shelley Garczyk, Danielle Watt, Tom Galinski, Sylvia Breedlove, Bonnie Bustamante, Cheryl Boston, Bubba Peters

MEMORIAL DONATIONS TO ST. JOHN'S CHURCH



In Memory of Mark Cervelli by Friends at Kammer/Mitchell Plant, Gianangeli Family, Joe & Mary DeGenova, Leslie Veda & Family, Somerset Township Trustees, Bill & Terri Biggins, Tom, Teresa Faykus, Becky Taggart, Mark Donahue & Family, Diane Mc Gorey, Rick & Debbie Respole

COMMUNION TO THE SICK/ HOMEBOUND



If you know a relative or friend who is currently homebound or in a nursing home, who would like to receive communion taken to them, please contact Joe De Genova at 740-579-6154

**SPRING ASSEMBLY**

Our annual Spring Assembly is so important to the life of our parishes! It's the time we all come together to see where we have been in the past year and to chart our way forward. Don't miss it this weekend—Sunday,

April 6, 12:15pm—2:00pm St. Mary's Sartori Hall.

D/PSC 2025

If you haven't made your pledge to this year's campaign please do so this weekend—there are pledge cards in the pews—please fill one out and put it in the collection—we will put the postage on it for you and send it to the diocesan pastoral center.

ST MARY'S FISH FRY

Thanks to all the generous volunteers and your support again this year. Our last Fish Fry will be this Friday!

**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 **this Thursday**, April 10 at 7:00 p.m. with Mass, and concluding on Saturday, April 12, 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 to Saturday afternoon at 4:00pm - and so we need 90 adorers, 2 for each hour! Please sign the sign-up on the sheets at the entrances of church.

**Sunday: 5th Sunday of Lent**

9:30-10:45a.m. Family Faith Formation (SMRE)
12:15- 2:00p.m. Spring Assembly (Sartori Hall)
3:00p.m. Penance Service (SM)
6:30p.m. Women's Small Group (SH)

Monday: 1:00p.m. Mass (CCRC)

1:00p.m. Mixed (Men & Women) Small Group (SM)
6:30p.m. Penance Service (St. Mary, St. C)
7:00p.m. K of C Meeting

Tuesday: 9:00a.m.—5:00p.m. Eucharistic Adoration (SM)**Wednesday: 5:30p.m. Caring Crafters**

6:30 Penance Service (St. Joseph—Tiltonsville)

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

6:00pm OCIA

7:00p.m. Mass (SM)

8:00pm 40 Hours of Eucharist Adoration (SM) begins

Friday: 40 Hours of Eucharist Adoration cont. (SM)

11:00a.m. —6:00p.m. Fish Fry

1:00pm Stations of the Cross (SJ* different from calendar)

5:15p.m. Stations of the Cross (SJ* different from calendar)

Saturday: 8:15a.m. —9:00a.m. Men's Small Group (SH)**Next Sunday: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord**

9:30-10:45a.m. Family Faith Formation (SMRE)

6:30p.m. Women's Small Group (SH)

**GOSPEL MEDITATION**

"The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery and made her stand in the middle" (John 8:3). Why do they make her stand in the middle? Why not expose her on the periphery? The reason is something that affects us practically every day.

The center is what stabilizes a community's identity. We humans tend to center ourselves around an accused and condemned victim — though we rarely admit it. This renews our fragile communities and our power as those who weaponize the accusation. This is effective because it is often a victim who represents something truly dangerous for the group. In this case, adultery stands for the breakdown of a community and those within it, because it forces questions like: who is my father? Whose child is this? Is this child one of us, or that of an outsider? The accusers place the adulteress in the center because their community, like most, is built around turning an enemy into a victim.

Once you understand this, you'll see it almost anywhere humans group together (families, politics, workplaces, sports, schools, etc.). The good news is Jesus exposes this dynamic by deftly pointing out the sin-infected hearts of everyone besides the woman. They all leave, symbolizing the breakdown of the old order, and she is **"left alone before him."** A new community has begun, structured around the merciful love of Christ.

What is in your center? What is in the center of our parish and family communities? Strive to center on Christ's forgiveness, and we experience the new, lasting community we call the Church. — *Father John Muir* ©LPi

PASTORAL PLANNING SPRING ASSEMBLY

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 2024-2025. 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 **this weekend Sunday, April 6th**, 12:15pm—2:00pm in the St. Mary Sartori Hall. **We will be getting your feedback on the self-study report of our Diocese that was in the bulletin last weekend!**

News & Notes

Caring Crafters Palm Sunday Bake Sale & 50/50. Turn your tickets in ASAP (Ticket packs in the pews). Next Sunday will be the bake sales!

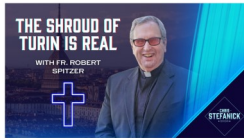
Spiritual Adoption Program—please participate!

Lenten Food Drive—our Faith Formation kids are doing a food drive. Please leave your non-perishables in church!



This Week on Formed

Week of April 06, 2025



The TRUTH About the Shroud of Turin w/Fr. Robert Spitzer | Chris Stefanick Show

The Shroud of Turin is the subject of a lot of rumors, myths and controversies — maybe you've heard some of them yourself and don't know what to believe. In this episode, Fr. Robert Spitzer offers amazing facts and stories about the Shroud.



Preparing for Holy Week

Join Dr. Tim Gray and Dr. Mark Giszczak, professor of Sacred Scripture at the Augustine Institute Graduate School of Theology, as they walk through the liturgies of Holy Week, historical spots in the Holy Land, and how to prepare our hearts for the events of the Passion.



Saint John Baptist de la Salle

Celebrate the feast day of St. John Baptist de la Salle, the patron saint of teachers, with this great movie on Formed. St. John Baptist de la Salle, pray for us!

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5TH SUNDAY OF LENT



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 Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord / April 13, 2025

First Reading: The Lord GOD is my help, therefore I am not disgraced; I have set my face like flint, knowing that I shall not be put to shame. (Is 50:7)

Psalm: My God, my God, why have you abandoned me? (Ps 22)

Second Reading: Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name. (Phil 2:9)

Gospel: Then he took the bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which will be given for you; do this in memory of me." (Lk 22:19)

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 557-560: Christ's entry into Jerusalem

CCC 602-618: the Passion of Christ

CCC 2816: Christ's kingship gained through his death and Resurrection

CCC 654, 1067-1068, 1085, 1362: the Paschal Mystery and the liturgy

Readings for the week of April 6, 2025

Sunday: Is 43:16-21/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 (3)/Phil 3:8-14/Jn 8:1-11

Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Jn 8:12-20

Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9/Ps 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21/Jn 8:21-30

Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56/Jn 8:31-42

Thursday: Gn 17:3-9/Ps 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Jn 8:51-59

Friday: Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7/Jn 10:31-42

Saturday: Ez 37:21-28/Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13/Jn 11:45-56

Next Sunday: Lk 19:28-40/Is 50:4-7/Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 (2a)/Phil 2:6-11/Lk 22:14-23:56

LENTEN FOOD DRIVE



The Family Faith Formation Group is sponsoring a food drive through Lent. Children will be at both parishes on the weekends to collect your donations. If you do not see one of the children, please just leave your donation. Thank You!



SPIRITUAL ADOPTION PROGRAM

Our Parishes are once again participating in the Spiritual Adoption Program. The program is to raise awareness about the sanctity of life and the potential for abortion, encouraging participants to pray for the well-being of unborn children.

We are asking everyone to please participate!

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

The Allure of Being Right

It wasn't a real question.

"The law of Moses says we should stone her. What do you say?" the Pharisees asked Jesus as they brought the adulterous woman before him. But they weren't *really* asking. They didn't care what Jesus' answer was. They didn't ask his opinion because they wanted to know. They asked because they wanted to use his words against him.

Righteousness, truth — that wasn't the goal. The goal was being right.

And in the middle of the whole scene, dragged before Jesus, used as a literal prop in this staged drama, is a woman. A real flesh-and-blood woman.

I find myself wanting to know more about her. She had been "caught in the act," they claimed, but I wonder what that even means. With whom was this act committed, and what were the reasons for her participation in it? Was she coerced? Was she scared? Was she confused? Was it really a cut-and-dry, black-and-white situation of adultery, of lust, of making the wrong decision?

We will never know the answers to these questions, and it doesn't matter — it's not our business. God knows the answers. God knows the truth of the matter: what she did, what she chose, what she felt. Because she wasn't a prop to Him. She was a person.

When God looks at us, he sees more than the worst decisions we've ever made.

I worry that we use one another as props even today, when we try like the Pharisees to illustrate "What is Right." We have a terrible tendency to see only decisions, and in doing so we dehumanize the people behind them.

Too often, we don't care about righteousness or truth. We just care about being right. ©LPi

5th SUNDAY OF LENT



PRAYER – FOR EVERYDAY AND EVERYBODY

Prayer of Community

O God, Help us to see each other as You see us, not by our faults or failings, but by our identity as Your own. Give us Your eyes to see, Your heart to love. Amen. ©LPi



WHY DO WE DO THAT? - CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED Priesthood

Question: *If someone is interested in becoming a priest, how does he go about it?*

Answer: Discerning a vocation can happen in any number of ways. It might come as a surprise to the person called or to family or friends. Sometimes it is a gradual process, and other times it is as quick and bright as lightning. Regardless of how it starts, a vocation to the priesthood or religious life requires a process of discerning, testing, and preparing. The best place to begin would be with lots of prayer, receiving the sacraments, and attending daily Mass whenever possible. Then talk to your pastor or a priest you know and trust. Your diocese may have a vocation director who can provide you with guidance and information. The Serra Club is also a great resource for information and contacts to help you discern if indeed God is calling you.

Remember that many young Catholic men have considered the priesthood. Some are ordained and others realize this is not their calling. However, we are all called to be of service to others as we practice our faith. These are extraordinary times in which we live, and they require an extraordinary witness to faith and to God's presence in the world. Our work, our ministry as Catholics, is to be the body of Christ with and for others. The Church needs priests. If God calls you to ordained service in the church, He will provide the grace, direction, and support you need. Just listen and respond with all your heart, mind, and soul. ©LPi

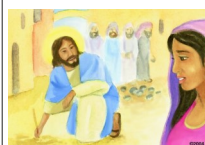


QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - INVITE PARISHIONERS TO REFLECT AND RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE

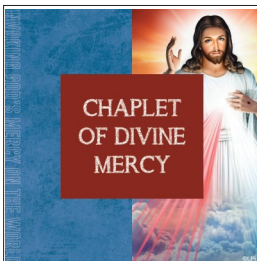
1st Reading Question: The prophet Isaiah teaches us that the Lord forgets our sins and offers us a new beginning so that we might praise him. *What could you do today to honor and praise the Lord?*

2nd Reading Question: Paul tells the believers in Phillipi of his deep desire and hope to know Jesus and the power of his resurrection. *In what ways have you drawn closer to Jesus during this season of Lent?*

Gospel: Jesus showed mercy toward the sinful woman when others were quick to judge her. *Is there someone in your life who you could show mercy over judgment this week?* ©LPi



Then Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She replied, "No one, sir." Then Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin any more." (Jn 8:10-11)

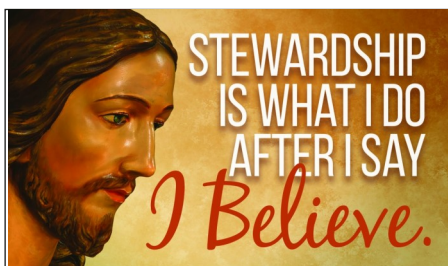
**DEVOTIONS, EXPLAINED!**

*CONNECT WITH TRADITION AND
GROW YOUR FAITH*

Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Explained

The Chaplet of Divine Mercy is an intercessory prayer invoking God's mercy on the world, utilizing words drawn from the text of The Diary of St. Faustina Maria Kowalska. St. Faustina was a Polish nun who received visions of Christ imploring her to spread the message of his Divine Mercy, specifically through the recitation of this chaplet.

Prayed with an ordinary five-decade Rosary, the chaplet opens with a recitation of the Our Father, the Hail Mary and the Apostle's Creed. The beads usually used for the Our Father are used to recite this prayer: "Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world," followed by ten Hail Marys and the words "Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world." ©LPi

**Take a Look in the Mirror**

Some celebrities do a lot to help out various causes that are meaningful to them. Sometimes they give of their time, talent,

or treasure, while other times they create giving opportunities for the rest of us to be generous. The celebrity then does much to highlight the cause, and the hope is that enough people will give to make a difference.

I never judge another's motive when they choose to give to or support a cause. However, I hear many times a criticism levied against seemingly rich people who start a fundraiser and ask the rest of us to give: "Since they have so much money, they could simply give all the money needed themselves!" This exclamation often comes with disdain and a tone of superiority. This sentiment also comes frequently from those who have chosen to give little to nothing to the cause themselves.

Stewardship begins with the person in the mirror. You and I are accountable to each other, but at the end of the day, the only one who knows the true level of our generosity is God. As this Lent draws to a close, it is time to take a good long look in the mirror. You probably aren't famous, so there probably won't be a crowd of people to question the level of your sacrifice, devotion, and generosity this Lent. Of course, God knows and so does that person looking back at you in the mirror. -Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

**Make a Way**

What's your comfort zone: emotionally, professionally, personally? We all have one. But did you realize that you can have one spiritually? Think

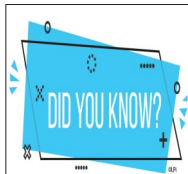
about what you like and what you don't particularly enjoy when it comes to church, prayer, and liturgy. We all have "those songs" we crinkle our noses at, either because they're too modern or too old-fashioned. We all have "those people" in our parish whose ideas we aren't so sure about, whether that's because they're trying to change too much or because they seem always to be looking toward the past. Also, when was the last time you sat on the OTHER side of the church during Mass?

As much as we may not want to admit it, even (and especially) as people of God, we get deeply attached to our own personal comfort zones — and we tend to view those outside with distrust.

But what if God had a comfort zone? What if He viewed us, in our sin and our misery, as too "far away" from Himself to reach? Thankfully, our God is a God who "opens a way in the sea and a path in the mighty waters." Our God is a God who does "something new."

The call to stewardship demands that we look outside of ourselves. Our thoughts, our opinions, our preferences — these things are not important to the steward. Even if there is a vast, dry desert of discord, or a seemingly endless wasteland of opposing views between us and our neighbor, God challenges us to "make a way" out of our comfort zone, that together we may announce His praise.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

**CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN**

Question: How many items does the Vatican Secret Library supposedly hold?

Answer: 150,000 ©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



SAINT OF THE WEEK – EXAMPLES OF OUR FAITH

**Saint Stanislaus/ April
11th**

Anyone who reads the history of Eastern Europe cannot help but chance on the name of Stanislaus, the saintly but tragic bishop of Kraków, patron of Poland. He is remembered with

Saints Thomas More and Thomas Becket for vigorous opposition to the evils of an unjust government.

Born in Szczepanow near Kraków on July 26, 1030, he was ordained a priest after being educated in the cathedral schools of Gniezno, then capital of Poland, and at Paris. He was appointed preacher and archdeacon to the bishop of Kraków, where his eloquence and example brought about real conversion in many of his penitents, both clergy and laity. He became bishop of Kraków in 1072.

During an expedition against the Grand Duchy of Kiev, Stanislaus became involved in the political situation of Poland. Known for his outspokenness, he aimed his attacks at the evils of the peasantry and the king, especially the unjust wars and immoral acts of King Boleslaus II.

The king first excused himself, then made a show of penance, then relapsed into his old ways. Stanislaus continued his open opposition in spite of charges of treason and threats of death, finally excommunicating the king. Enraged, the latter ordered soldiers to kill the bishop. When they refused, the king killed Stanislaus with his own hands.

Forced to flee to Hungary, Boleslaus supposedly spent the rest of his life as a penitent in the Benedictine abbey in Osiak. ©LPi



Seven Essential Elements of Parish Life

Evangelization – The ways in which a parish continues to spread the Good News of Jesus, especially (though not exclusively) through personal and communal sharing of faith. (66)

Worship – The communal witness to the sovereignty of God, the abiding presence of Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit at work in the Church, particularly in the Sunday Eucharist and other sacramental and liturgical rites. (70)

Word – Those things that pertain to the ongoing process of spiritual maturation and growth of individuals and as a community of faith. “The deepening of faith results from echoing God’s word, which takes place in a variety of ways and in multiple contexts within the life of the Church.” The word “catechesis” denotes the process of handing on the faith. (73)

Community – The element of parish life which “draws parishioners together in mutual support, activity, celebration and growth. It is the unity that results when members become involved with one another in all aspects of the pastoral mission.” A parish is a place where everyone belongs. Inclusivity and mutuality are hallmarks of community. (76)

Service – The mission to which Christ calls the Church clearly includes works of charity and justice. “We cannot be truly ‘Catholic’ unless we hear and heed the Church’s call to serve those in need and work for justice and peace.” *Communities of Salt and Light: Reflections on the Social Ministry of the Parish*, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1993. (79)

Stewardship – We are called to make the most responsible use of our gifts and resources. “Stewardship, for believers, involves the sharing of individual time, talents, and treasure, as well as the commitment of communal resources (temporal, financial, human, etc.) in service to the community of faith.” (83)

Leadership – “Effective parish pastoral councils require a shared leadership among clergy and laity which calls forth the gifts of visioning, planning, empowering, and evaluating. These gifts are placed at the service of the community for the fulfillment of the pastoral mission.” (87)

Eucharist at the Center – “The communal celebration of Sunday Eucharist (which includes the Saturday evening Vigil) is both the source and summit of the seven essential elements of parish life.” (90)

From *Revisioning the Parish Pastoral Council*, by Mary Ann Gubish and Susan Jenny, S.C. with Arlene McGannon, Paulist Press, 2001.



BUILDING A CULTURE OF LIFE

Precisely because this involves the internal consistency of our message about the value of the human person, the Church cannot

be expected to change her position on this question [of abortion]. I want to be completely honest in this regard. This is not something subject to alleged reforms or “modernizations”. It is not “progressive” to try to resolve problems by eliminating a human life. On the other hand, it is also true that we have done little to adequately accompany women in very difficult situations, where abortion appears as a quick solution to their profound anguish, especially when the life developing within them is the result of rape or a situation of extreme poverty. Who can remain unmoved before such painful situations? - Pope Francis, *Apostolic Exhortation, Evangelii Gaudium*, Paragraph 214, November 26, 2013

Jubilee

YEAR OF HOPE



What is the Jubilee Year 2025?

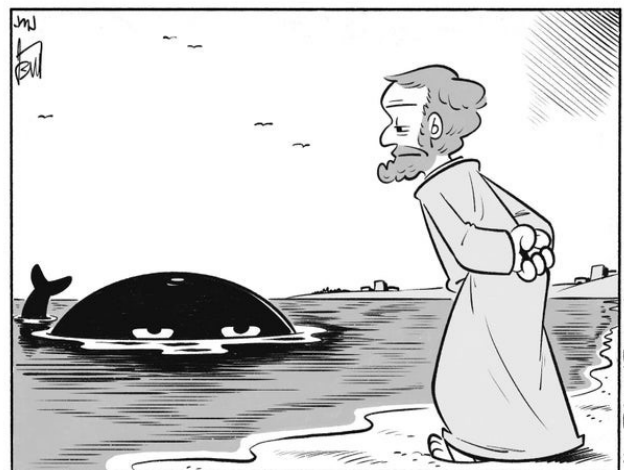
“Jubilee” is the name given to a particular year; the name comes from the instrument used to mark its launch. In this case, the instrument in question is the *yobel*, the ram's horn, used to proclaim the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur). This (Jewish) holiday occurs every year, but it takes on special significance when it marks the beginning of a Jubilee year. We can find an early indication of it in the Bible: a Jubilee year was to be marked every 50 years, since this would be an “extra” year, one which would happen every seven weeks of seven years, i.e., every 49 years (cf. Leviticus 25:8-13). Even though it wasn't easy to organize, it was intended to be marked as a time to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation, and involved the forgiveness of debts, the return of misappropriated land, and a fallow period for the fields.

Quoting the prophet Isaiah, the Gospel of Luke describes Jesus' mission in this way: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord,” (Luke 4:18-19; cf. Isaiah 61:1-2). Jesus lives out these words in his daily life, in his encounters with others and in his relationships, all of which bring about liberation and conversion.

In 1300, Pope Boniface VIII called the first Jubilee, also known as a “Holy Year,” since it is a time in which God's holiness transforms us. The frequency of Holy Years has changed over time: at first, they were celebrated every 100 years; later, in 1343 Pope Clement VI reduced the gap between Jubilees to every 50 years, and in 1470 Pope Paul II made it every 25 years. There have also been “extraordinary” Holy Years: for example, in 1933 Pope Pius XI chose to commemorate the 1900th anniversary of the Redemption, and in 2015 Pope Francis proclaimed the Year of Mercy as an extraordinary jubilee. The way in which Jubilee Years are marked has also changed through the centuries: originally the Holy Year consisted of a pilgrimage to the Roman Basilicas of St. Peter and St. Paul, later other signs were added, such as the Holy Door. By participating in the Holy Year, one is granted a plenary indulgence.

Next week—“Characteristics of the jubilee year”

“Why couldn't Jonah trust the ocean?”



“Because there was something fishy about it.”



The story of Jonah being swallowed up in the belly of a whale for three days symbolizes Christ being in the tomb for three days before His resurrection from the dead.

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LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

“Go, and sin no more,” Jesus tells the woman caught in adultery. Her life, like ours, has been saved. She, like us, has a chance for a new beginning. So he begs her, and he begs us: be changed by it. Let the mercy transform you. Go, and sin no more. ©LPi

The Dynamic Catholic Prayer

Loving Father,
I invite you into my life today
and make myself available to you.
Help me to become the-best-version-of-myself
by seeking your will
and becoming a living example of your love in the world.
Open my heart to the areas of my life that need to change
in order for me to carry out the mission
and experience the joy you have imagined for my life.
Inspire me to live the Catholic faith
in ways that are dynamic and engaging.
Show me how to best get involved in the life of my parish.
Make our community hungry
for best practices and continuous learning.
Give me courage when I am afraid,
hope when I am discouraged,
and clarity in times of decision.
Teach me to enjoy uncertainty
and lead your Church
to become all you imagined it would be
for the people of our times. Amen.

(Please pray this prayer every day for our parishes)

March Is National Nutrition Month



"Keys to a healthy you. Drink 48 or more ounces of water daily. Eat dark green vegetables, whole grains, beans and lentils, fish, winter squash, berries, and soy. Cut back on red meats, sweets, and salty snacks. For you and the ones you love." **Evelyn Krapa Parsons, RDN**

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By Bruce & Mary Ann

God's Blessings for the
The Boston & Donahue Families
By Cheryl Boston

In Loving Memory of
Bill Kahl *by Wife Karen*
George, Bud, Murph & Jerry Snider
By Sister & Family

In Loving Memory of the
Kuchinka, Teasdale & Stolz Families
by Marion & Jeff

In Loving Memory of
The Masciarelli & Smigill Families
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BINGO NIGHTS
ST JOHN CENTRAL ACADEMY

The 1st **Sunday & Thursday** of the month. On Sundays doors open at 1:00p.m. & Bingo starts at 2:00p.m.

Thursday doors open at 4:00 & Bingo starts at 5:00.

Concessions / Raffles/Other Prizes/Pull Tabs
Location: 3625 Guernsey St. Bellaire, OH in the gymnasium.

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