

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.

2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER /DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

APRIL 27TH, 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



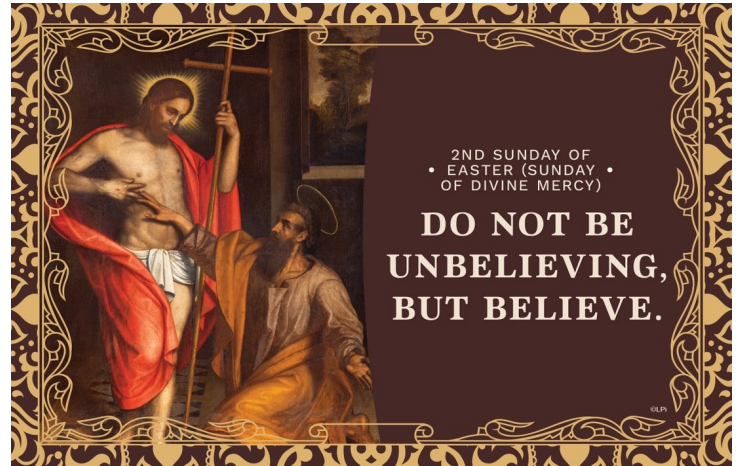
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1. Text MISSION2LOVE to 84576 or 2.Go to StJohnandStMaryparishes.flocknote.com and sign up there! Receive updates, including the weekly bulletin, via email and text message!



www.fb.me/stjohn.bellaire.neffs

www.fb.me/stmary.shadyside.powhatan



PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

God of everlasting mercy, who in the very recurrence of the paschal feast kindle the faith of the people you have made your own., increase, we pray, that grace you have bestowed, that all may grasp and rightly understand in what font they have been washed, by whose Spirit they have been reborn, by whose Blood they have been redeemed. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Collect of the 2nd Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy)



EASTER MESSAGE SERIES

We love the brand new – new clothes, new gear, the new car smell. Two-thousand years ago Jesus rose from the dead and that means there is the power for

each of us to be made brand new. To be made new we must believe in that power and open up ourselves to receive it. In this 5-week series we will look at how to tap into the power of the resurrection so that we can have a new life in Christ.

Week Two – New Mind

Scripture: John 20:19-31

Whether we realize it or not, the life we have right now, good, bad, successful, struggling, is a reflection, in part, of the thoughts we think. Our lives are always moving in the direction of our strongest thoughts. The good news is that if we change our thinking we can change our lives. Believing in the resurrection, like Thomas the Apostle, and all its implications opens up new possibilities and challenges us to a greater imagination. *Sign up for Flocknote to receive the Daily Devotionals from this series for this week!* Just

look to the left of this box for directions on how to sign up! Start treading a new path in your mind, by using God's words instead of your words, 6-10 minutes a day.

Fr. Dan's Intentions for the Week

Saturday, April 26th, 2nd Sunday of Easter/Divine Mercy Sunday

4:00 p.m. (SM) Bryan Boston for a Successful Surgery and a speedy recovery (Mom)

5:30p.m. (SJ) + Eileen & Barry Bladen (Son ~ Chris)

Sunday, April 27th, 2nd Sunday of Easter/Divine Mercy Sunday

9:30a.m. (SJ) + For the People of St. Mary's & St. John's
11:00a.m.(SM) + Eli Keys (Anna Marie Davis)

Monday, April 28th, St. Peter Chanel/ St. Louis Grignon de Monfort—Mass for Pope Francis!

5:15p.m. (SJ) Christine Cruciotti Hanneken (Daughter ~ Dina)

Tuesday, April 29th, St. Catherine of Siena

8:00a.m.(SM) + Marlyn Marling (Dr. Richardson & Staff)

Wednesday, April 30th, St. Pius V

8:00a.m. (SJ) + Ann & Charles Good (Bob & Liz)

Thursday, May 1st, St. Joseph the Worker

8:00a.m. (SM) + Children, Grandchildren & Greatgrandchildren (Karen Kahl & Family)

Friday, May 2nd, St. Athanasius

8:00a.m. (SJ) + Richard Imbroscio (Cousin ~Mark Imbroscio)

Saturday, May 3rd, 3rd Sunday of Easter

4:00p.m. (SM) + Delores Matuska (Chris & Diane Bailey)

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

Sunday, May 4th, 3rd Sunday of Easter

9:30a.m. (SJ) + Richard Nowak birthday deceased (Linda & Nieces)

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



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: MAY 3/4

St. John's

May 3rd E.M: Lector: S. Stewart

May 4th E.M: Lector: C. Flowers

St. Mary's

May 3rd EM: T. Mowery Lector: E. Kalinowski

May 4th EM: J. Ferrelli Lector: A. Schamp

SPIRITUAL ADOPTION PROGRAM

We are doing a Spiritual Adoption Program to support an unborn child and his/her parents! Sign up today!

Offertory Collection

For the Weekend of April 19/20

St. John's: Adult (66env) \$1,863, Loose \$804, Easter (81env) \$2,173, Easter Flowers (2env) \$40, Holy Thursday (22env) \$242, Good Friday (26env) \$290, St. Vincent de Paul (1env) \$20, Grade School (1env) \$5

St. Mary's: Adult (42env) \$1,081, Loose \$803, Easter (33env) \$1,075, Holy Thursday (16env) \$298, Rice Bowl (1env) \$100, Good Friday (14env) \$219



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, Jeremy Chirpas, Tyce Hughes, Jax McCort, Dominic Alexander, Lou Ann Kinder, Mgrs. Gene Mullett, Fr. Tom Petronek, Dorothy Kresak, Jeff 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, John Hanasky, Beverly Kolenich Sharon Leonard, Rosalind Fitch, Jerry & Phyllis, Adam Ruskowski, Jeff Doneson, Joe Budrevich, Cathy Ciulles, 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 Koval, Bruce Anastasia, Denise Myers, Todd Link, Charlotte Kovalyk, Susan Gray, Shelley Garczyk, Danielle Watt, Tom Galinski, Sylvia Breedlove, Bonnie Bustamante, Cheryl Boston, Paula St. John, Bubba Peters, Tiffany O' Donnell

Memorial Gifts to St. John's & St. Mary's Churches



In Memory of Bill Habenicht by Joann & Bob Rankin

In Memory of Fr. Sam Soprano by Perry & Carolyn Gaughan



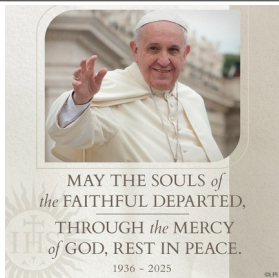
MOTHER'S DAY NOVENA OF MASSES

Every year we offer a novena of masses during the month of May for our mothers, living and deceased. *Cards are available in church, if you would like to send one or give one.* Include your mother in the novena—write her name (and the names of others you would like to remember) on the "Mother's Day Spiritual Bouquet" envelope with your offering for the masses and put the envelope in the collection basket. *If you don't need a card* you can include the names of the women you would like to remember on the smaller envelope, with your offering.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWLY INITIATED!

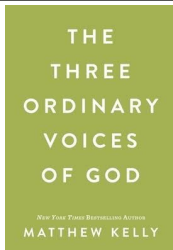
At the Easter Vigil last Saturday night we experienced the joy of six of our brothers and sisters being initiated into Jesus Christ and His Body, the Church, through Baptism (or Profession of Faith) Confirmation and Holy Eucharist! We rejoice with Tom Patt, Wendy Vavrek, Easton Hathaway, Harper Hathaway, Paul Leek, Maddie Ging, their godparents, sponsors and families. May they continue to inspire us to live out our baptismal vocation to follow Christ in all we do!



MASS FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF POPE FRANCIS

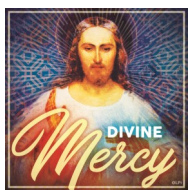
Join us this Monday, April 28, at 5:15pm at St. John's for a Mass offered for the repose of the soul of Pope Francis and in thanksgiving for his faithful service to the Church as our holy father, our Pope. We will also pray for the

work of the Holy Spirit in guiding the cardinals in the election of our next pope in the conclave that will begin soon. May Pope Francis, through the mercy of God, rest in peace!



THE THREE ORDINARY VOICES OF GOD

Please take a free copy of Matthew Kelly's "The Three Ordinary Voices of God," our gift to you this Easter. Beginning this Wednesday, April 30th, at 7:30pm, Fr. Dan will lead us in reflections on this book on the online platform, Zoom. Zoom is a free online platform for video meetings on your computer or smartphone. You have to sign up for **Flocknote** in order to receive the link to these Zoom meetings! God is speaking to you every day! Wouldn't you like to be able to recognize his voice? Come join us! When you sign up for Flocknote you will also be sent a daily reading plan for the book.



Divine Mercy Sunday Devotions

2-4 p.m.
St. John Church

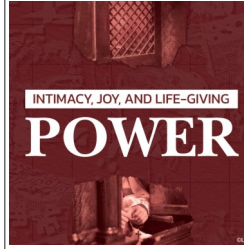
This Sunday April 27th
Schedule:

Eucharistic Adoration: 2-4 p.m.

Confessions: 2 - 3 p.m.

Divine Mercy Holy Hour: 3-4 p.m. Including: Sung Chaplet of Divine Mercy and the Litany of Divine Mercy

A plenary indulgence is available to the faithful who, in a spirit that is completely detached from the affection for a sin, even a venial sin, takes part in the prayers and devotions held in honor of Divine Mercy in a church.



GOSPEL MEDITATION

It's common for Catholics to hear the question, "Why do I have to go to a priest to have my sins forgiven?" I've never liked that question because not only is it clunky (confession is the ordinary way for the pardoning of serious sins, not lesser ones). But it misses the larger context: the wonderful origins of the sacrament itself. And this context is deeply Jewish.

Ancient Jews associated forgiveness of sins with priests offering sacrifices in the Jerusalem temple. It was a solemn, public, and tangible way to access God's mercy. So when the risen Jesus breathes on the Apostles and says, "**Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained**" (John 20:23), the upshot is remarkable: he is the new temple and his Apostles are the new priests. Jerusalem is no longer the place to find forgiveness from sin. Jesus' body, the Church, is.

So why should we go to the Sacrament of Confession? For the same reason ancient Jews went to the temple in Jerusalem: to experience the intimacy, joy, and life-giving power of God's eternal forgiveness.

— Father John Muir

©LPi



Sunday: Divine Mercy Sunday

9:30-10:45am FFF (SM)

2-4pm Divine Mercy Devotions (SJ)

6:30pm-8:00pm Youth Group (SMRE)

Monday: 1:00pm Mixed Study Group (SM)

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

Thursday: 12:00pm National Day of Prayer (Bellaire Union Park)

6:30pm Belmont County Unity Prayer & Dinner (St. Mary, St. C)

7:00pm OCIA (SJH)

Saturday: 8:15-9:00am Men's Study Group (SM Sartori Hall) - New members always welcome!

Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Easter

First Holy Communion



CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES

High School Grads: Please turn in your Senior Bio forms no later than Wednesday, May 14th. They are located at the entrances of the churches. We look forward to celebrating with you on May 18th at both masses!

SOCK IT TO OUR VETERANS



The **Caring Crafters** will be collecting cotton crew socks for our veterans. Donations can be placed in the bins at the church entrances. Monetary donations can be placed in the collection. Thank you!



This Week on Formed

Week of April 27, 2025



Divine Mercy with Fr. Michael Gaitley

Renowned speaker and author Fr. Michael Gaitley tells the dramatic history of God's love and mercy as interwoven through the transformative message of St. Faustina, the miraculous appearance of Mary at Fatima, the witness of Maximilian Kolbe, and the world-changing papacy of Pope St. John Paul II.



The Wild Goose

In this Easter season, join Fr. Dave Pivonka in the Wild Goose, a 14-part series on living a life inspired by and with the Holy Spirit.



Easter Special | The Annie Moses Show

Patterned after classic variety shows, The Annie Moses Show brings together a musical family of singers, players, actors, and creators, unified under one mission: to declare the truth, beauty, and goodness of God.

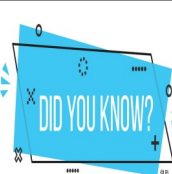
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Visit signup.formed.org and select our parish name.

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CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: The archangel Michael is traditionally depicted holding what item?

Answer: A sword. ©LPi



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

3rd Sunday of Easter / May 4, 2025

First Reading: God exalted him at his right hand as leader and savior to grant Israel repentance and forgiveness of sins. (Acts 5:31)

Psalm: I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me. (Ps 30)

Second Reading: "To the one who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor, glory and might, forever and ever." (Rv 5:13)

Gospel: Jesus said to them, "Children, have you caught anything to eat?" They answered him, "No." So he said to them, "Cast the net over the right side of the boat and you will find something." So they cast it, and were not able to pull it in because of the number of fish. (Jn 21:5-6)

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 642-644, 857, 995-996: the apostles and disciples as witnesses of the Resurrection

CCC 553, 641, 881, 1429: the risen Christ and Peter
CCC 1090, 1137-1139, 1326: the heavenly liturgy

Readings for the week of April 27, 2025

Sunday: Acts 5:12-16/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 (1)/Rv 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19/Jn 20:19-31

Monday: Acts 4:23-31/Ps 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9/Jn 3:1-8

Tuesday: Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5/Jn 3:7b-15

Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Jn 3:16-21

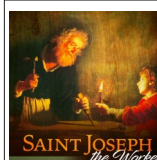
Thursday: Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20/Jn 3:31-36

Friday: Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Jn 6:1-15

Saturday: 1 Cor 15:1-8/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Jn 14:6-14

Next Sunday: Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41/Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13 (2a)/Rv 5:11-14/Jn 21:1-19 or 21:1-14

2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER



Did you know...?

St. Joseph has two feast days on the liturgical calendar. The first is March 19—Joseph, the Husband of Mary. The second is May 1—Joseph, the Worker.

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Wonder, Don't Wander

My daughter recently asked me if it's okay to "wonder if all the Jesus stuff is true."

I wasn't surprised by her question. I've expected it, in fact. If you're raising a child to be a critical thinker, you don't want them to accept everything you tell them simply because it comes from your lips. I have promised my children that I will always give them the truth about God. But that's all I can do — give it to them. Whether or not they accept it, ultimately, is their own choice.

"I know it's true," she told me. "But sometimes it just all sounds so...unbelievable."

She's not wrong. It *does* sound unbelievable that an all-powerful God could create us for no reason other than sheer love, that He could be generous enough to give us free will to accept that love, that he could be merciful enough not to destroy us when we reject that love, and finally that he could be faithful enough in that love to become flesh and die in order to save us from the consequences of our own poor choices.

But lots of things are unbelievable. That doesn't mean they're not true.

When Jesus says, "Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed," he isn't calling Thomas a fool for questioning something that sounds a little outrageous. He's just highlighting the fact that Thomas is afforded a luxury that none of the Christians born after him, my daughter included, will have: he gets to see proof with his own eyes.

I told my daughter it's fine to wonder — just don't wander. Take Thomas' example. Stay close to the people you trust. Return to the warmth of the upper room. Be willing to recognize Jesus when he's in front of you. Never be afraid to believe. ©LPi

WHY DO WE DO THAT? - CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED Sin

Question: *If Jesus destroyed sin, why are sins still with us?*

Answer: We are the children of God, heirs of the Father's work, which is life. The struggle is between good and evil and the greatest weapon of evil is death. It is final — the end of hope and all possibility of change. Jesus must destroy death so that life, eternal life, might be possible. That is why Jesus dies: to take on sin's weapon and destroy it by his resurrection. It was not to satisfy God's sense of justice, but to meet sin on its own terms and defeat it.

Since we are heirs and coworkers with God, ours is the struggle with the remnants of evil, its last desperate attempt to overcome good. Like Jesus, we are about the Father's business in our daily life, carrying the message of salvation to everyone. We are strengthened in our struggle and come to realize the great gift of life with which we are graced. It is our hope that one day we will rejoice with the Father in a job well done! ©LPi



REFLECT AND RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE

1st Reading Question: In the aftermath of Jesus' resurrection, the Apostles performed "many signs and wonders," healing the sick and exorcising unclean spirits. *Is there something in your life that needs healing?*

2nd Reading Question: John is initially frightened at the strange vision of Jesus, but Jesus reassures him, "Do not be afraid." *How does Jesus calm your fears?*

Gospel: The resurrected Jesus' first words to his disciples are "Peace be with you." *How could you be a peacemaker this week with a family member or neighbor?* ©LPi



PRAYER – FOR EVERYDAY AND EVERYBODY

Prayer of Divine Mercy

O Blood and Water that redeems and saves, have mercy on us!

O Blood and Water that heals and restores, have mercy on us!

O Blood and Water that strengthens and

renews, have mercy on us! Amen. ©LPi

2025 Catholic Home Missions Appeal

Home Mission dioceses are those Catholic dioceses in the United States, its territories, and former territories that cannot provide basic pastoral services without outside help. Basic pastoral services include Mass, the sacraments, religious education, and ministry training for priests, deacons, religious sisters, and lay people. Nearly 40% of dioceses in the United States and its territories are considered home mission dioceses. Next week we will be taking up a special collection for the Catholic Home Missions.

The Catholic Investigator

Saints Philip and James, Apostles, share a feast day—May 3. What are the feast days of the other Apostles? Do any of them also share a feast day?



Devotions, Explained!

Sprinkling Rite, Explained

The rite of sprinkling, also called the Asperges rite, describes the act of sprinkling the congregation with holy water, an action which recalls the new life we received in the waters of our baptism.

If this rite is performed during Mass, it takes the place of the penitential act.

The sprinkling rite usually takes place on Sundays during the Easter season but is permitted on any Sunday. When it is completed, the congregation sings the Gloria.

The name “asperges” comes from the first line of Psalm 51, a penitential psalm that begins with the words “Have mercy on me.” In the Extraordinary Form of the Mass, the Asperges rite is done before each principal Mass, except on Palm Sunday.

The tool used by the priest to sprinkle the congregation is called the aspergillum, and the bucket containing the water is called the aspersorium. ©LPi

2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER



On June 12, 1775, the Second Continental Congress recognized the importance of prayer across the colonies, saying, “We may, with united hearts

and voices, unfeignedly confess and deplore our many sins, and offer up our Joint supplications to the all-wise, omnipotent, and merciful Disposer of all events.” One could argue that the National Day of Prayer is older than America itself! Twenty-two years later, President John Adams further built on the tradition of a single day focused on prayer (and fasting): “I have therefore thought fit to recommend, and I do hereby recommend, that Wednesday, the 9th day of May next, be observed throughout the United States as a day of solemn humiliation, fasting, and prayer.” President Truman issued a proclamation in 1952 formally instituting National Day of Prayer, and it’s been an annual occurrence since. The National day of Prayer takes place every year on the first Thursday of May. This year, 2025, it will be this Thursday, May 1. The Bellaire Clergy Association sponsors a prayer service at noon at Union Park.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

The World Is Watching

If you’re a parent, you know this to be true: the world is watching. All it takes is one slip-up — one bad word, one selfish action, one uncharitable commentary, and that’s the thing your child seems to notice.

When he or she calls you on it, the only thing you can do is come clean. “Yep, I did that,” you have to say. “I’m a work in progress, but luckily, God never stops working.”

I think it’s fair to say that we don’t think enough about the wounds of Christ. It’s a little understandable, of course. Our human bodies flinch at the sight of such pain and mortification. It’s a lot to handle, the physical trauma of a crucifixion. It carries an R rating in a PG world.

But the wounds of Christ are the only thing that could make Thomas believe. Literally nothing else was so powerful, not even the testimony of his most trusted friends. Only by looking at and feeling the torn flesh — by beholding that messy reality — did this Apostle, this actual companion of Christ, come to believe in the Resurrection.

“Christ has no body now but yours,” goes the famous quote attributed to St. Teresa of Avila. What she’s saying is that we have become the means through which God chooses to accomplish His will in the world. Us, the broken. Us, the weary. Us, the imperfect. Yes, miraculous events and apparitions still occur from time to time, but by and large, if a person is going to come to believe in Jesus Christ in this day and age, it will be because of something we Christians do or say.

Christ has no wounds now but ours. Our brokenness, our weariness, our imperfection — our reality. It all belongs to him, and the world is watching.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

©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



Characteristics of the Jubilee Year

The Holy Door

Holy Door From a symbolic viewpoint, the Holy Door takes on a special significance: it is the most powerful sign of the Jubilee, since the ultimate aim of the pilgrim is to pass through it. The opening of the door by the Pope constitutes the official beginning of the Holy Year.

Originally, there was only one door, at the Basilica of St. John Lateran, which is the cathedral of the Bishop of Rome. Later, to allow as many pilgrims as possible to take part in the Jubilee experience, the other Roman Basilicas also opened their own holy doors. In crossing the threshold of the Holy Door, the pilgrim is reminded of the passage from chapter 10 of St John's gospel: "I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture." Passing through the Holy Door expresses the decision to follow and be guided by Jesus, who is the Good Shepherd. The door is a passageway that ushers the pilgrim into the interior of a church.

For the Christian community, a church is not only a sacred space, to be approached with respect, with appropriate behavior and dress code, but it is a symbol of the communion that binds every believer to Christ: it is a place of encounter and dialogue, of reconciliation and peace which awaits every pilgrim, the Church is essentially the place of the community of the faithful.

In Rome, this experience takes on a special significance because of the special links between the Eternal City and Saints Peter and Paul, the apostles who founded the Christian community in Rome and whose teachings and example are models for the universal Church. The tombs of Saints Peter and Paul are located in Rome, they were martyred here; and together with the catacombs, these sacred sites are places of continuous spiritual inspiration.

Next week's characteristic—"Reconciliation"

"How do angels greet each other?"



"Halo!"



In sacred art, we often see light radiating from the heads of the angels and saints. This light is known as a halo, and it's meant to symbolize that person's holiness and closeness to God.

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LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Thomas needed proof to believe the amazing things that had happened. God, in His mercy, gave him that proof — but it was up to Thomas to accept it. Do we accept the proof we see of God's love every day?

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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)

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

Today Is the Day

After my mother passed away, my sister and father had a falling out of sorts. When he moved to be closer to me, she told me that she didn't ever want to speak to him again, saying, "Even if he is on his death bed, do not call me." My father was in his late 70's, and the pain he would have felt if he knew her wishes would have been too much to bear. Because of this, I made a decision to not tell him. This also put a strain on my relationship with my sister as I cared for the one person in this world she seemed to despise the most.

Of all the gifts God has given us, time and family are at the top of the list to be cherished. Also, both are finite gifts. Our family members will not walk in this world forever, and each day that slips away cannot be restored. Still, we build up walls of fear, doubt, resentment, anger, and pain, not allowing ourselves to forgive and be good stewards of what we have been given.

On Divine Mercy Sunday, God's mercy is overflowing through all the earth. There is no excuse for you and me to not be reconciled with God and accept this profound compassion. In turn, there is no excuse to not extend that mercy and reconcile with those who have hurt us.

I always believed I would have a renewed relationship with my sister when my father's death would come to pass. Two weeks after he passed, my sister suddenly died as well. There is no rewind of time. Yes, good stewards, today is the day!

-Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



BUILDING A CULTURE OF LIFE

Divine Mercy and Pro-life

Pope John Paul II declared the Sunday after Easter to be Divine Mercy Sunday.

Many of the faithful pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy regularly. There is a link between this devotion and the pro-life movement. Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC, who was a principal translator of St. Faustina's diary, and the postulator of her cause of canonization, writes the following: *"On at least three occasions, from 8:00-11:00 in the evening, she felt like her insides were being torn apart. She suffered so much that she thought she was going to die. The doctors couldn't figure out what was ailing her, and no medication was able to alleviate her sufferings. Later, she was given to understand that she was undergoing those pains for mothers who were aborting their children (Diary, 1276).*

*"On another occasion, she had a vision of an angel coming with thunderbolts to destroy one of the most beautiful cities of her country. And she felt powerless to do anything about it (Diary, 474). What antidote did the Lord give her? The Chaplet of Divine Mercy. [She explained] that the city was to be chastised for its sins, **primarily the sin of abortion.**" ("Wombs of Mercy," *Marian Helpers Bulletin*, Summer 1995, p.13).*



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.

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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God's Blessings for the
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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
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BINGO NIGHTS
ST JOHN CENTRAL ACADEMY

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

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