

DISCIPLES CALLED TO WITNESS

St John the Evangelist Parish / St. Mary Parish

Bellaire - Neffs - Shadyside - Powhatan Point

www.bnspcatholic.org

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

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

MAY 11TH, 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



4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Jesus said: "My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish."
- Jn 10:27-28a

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

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

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

Collect of the 4th Sunday of Easter



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 Four – New Heart

Scripture: Acts 13:14, 43-52

Through the resurrection, God gives us a new heart. He takes away the heart of stone, a heart of jealousy and anger and gives us a heart of flesh. In this message we will look at how to have a new heart.



Heavenly Father, from the beginning you have chosen to entrust the human person to mothers in a special way. We thank and praise you for the gift of mothers; for their tenderness, care, and compassion, for their intuition and encouragement, for commitment and sacrifice. Bless all mothers this day. Keep, strengthen, and refresh them in your loving care. May they be blessed by our open-hearted love and gratitude. Amen.

Fr. Dan's Intentions for the Week

Saturday, May 10th, 4th Sunday of Easter

4:00 p.m. (SM) + In Honor of the Blessed Mother (Seita Family)

5:30p.m. (SJ) + Clara Presutti Birthday deceased (Children)

Sunday, May 11th, 4th Sunday of Easter/Mother's Day

9:30a.m. (SJ) + For the People of St. John's & St. Mary's

11:00a.m.(SM) + Marlene Seita (Family)

Monday, May 12th, St. Nereus/St. Achilleus/St.

Pancras

5:15p.m. (SJ) + Paul Paloucci

Tuesday, May 13th, Our Lady of Fatima

8:00a.m.(SM) + Mother's Day Intentions

Wednesday, May 14th, St. Mattias

8:00a.m. (SJ) + Michael Petronek (Merryman & Soos Families)

Thursday, May 15th, St. Isidore

8:00a.m. (SM) + Mother's Day Intentions

Friday, May 16th

8:00a.m. (SJ) + Mother's Day Intentions

Saturday, May 17th, 5th Sunday of Easter

4:00p.m. (SM) + Carol DeVendra (Jim & Lynne De Vendra)

5:30p.m. (SJ) + Louise Cicogna (Chick & Boys)

Sunday, May 18th, 5th Sunday of Easter

9:30a.m. (SJ) + John, Rose & Cathy Magistro (Bruce & MaryAnn

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

Correction

The mass intention, for Richard Imbroscio, on May 2nd was offered by his cousin, **Martin Imbroscio**.



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 17/18

St. John's

May 17th EM:K. Ball **Lector:** A. Snedeker

May 18th EM: D. Moscato **Lector:** J. Hindman

St. Mary's

May 17th EM: L. Gates **Lector:** S. Ferrelli

May 18th EM: L. Kernik **Lector:** M. Kernik

Lectors Please recite the rosary before mass

Offertory Collection

For the Weekend of May 3/4

St. John's: Adult (91env) \$4115, Loose \$636, Easter (1env)\$100, Ascension (1env) \$5, Easter Flowers (1env) \$20, St. Vincent de Paul (8env) \$116, Grade School (1env) \$50, Cemetery (1env) \$20, Building Fund (3env) \$40, Candles \$83

St. Mary's: Adult (50env) \$2,355, Loose \$194, Ascension (1env) \$10, Communications (1env) \$10, Peter's Pence (1env) \$10, St. Vincent de Paul (10env) \$215, Cemetery (2env) \$250, Building Fund (6env) \$100 Food Pantry (2env) \$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:

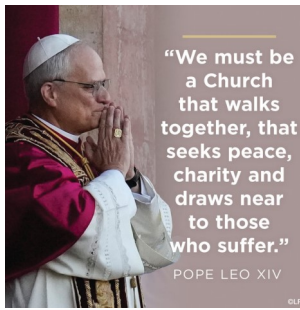
Vicky Oboy, Lindy & Don Freed, Jeremy Chirpas, Tyce Hughes, Jax McCort, Dominic Alexander, Lou Ann Kinder, Mgrs. Gene Mullett, Fr. Tom Petronek, Dorothy Kresak, Jeff Fahey, Quentin Scott Coyne, Baby Everett Sommers, Ed and Rose Grammar, Jackie (Donahue) Woods, Joe Boston Jr., Peggy Kotson, Tom Galinski, 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, 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, Mary Stegman, John, Mary & Heidi Patt

LOOP FEST VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our parishes will have a booth selling Lemon Shakes at the Loop Fest in Shadyside Friday, June 13 and Saturday, June 15 from 6:00pm - 10:00pm. We will have two time-slots for volunteers each night, 6:00pm-8:00pm and 8:00pm-10:00pm. Please sign up at the Church entrances.

ST JOHN CHURCH FESTIVAL

We are bringing back the St. John Church Festival this year on Saturday, June 21st, from 5pm-10:00pm on Tallman Ave! We want to bring the same community atmosphere that we have developed at St. Mary's over the last couple of years. Please sign up to volunteer!



Hahemus papam! We have a Pope!

Let us pray for Pope Leo XIV, elected the 267th pope May 8, the first North American to be elected pope. In his own words he described the ministry of the Pope, "beginning with St. Peter and up to myself, his unworthy successor, the pope has been a humble servant of God and of his brothers and sisters, and nothing more than this." May the Lord bless and strengthen him for this ministry.

SUMMER FESTIVALS!

June 13-14 Loop Fest, Shadyside

June 21 St. John Church Festival (New this year!!)

August 15-17 St. Mary Church Festival



PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Good and gracious God, You call each person by name and invite them to follow you. On this World Day of Prayer for Vocations, may each person hear and respond to the call they have received. We pray for all discerning marriage, the chaste single life, consecrated life, or

ordained ministries, that your Holy Spirit would guide, inspire, and strengthen them. May your Church and the world be enriched by the "yes" of your children. Amen.

This Week

Sunday: 4th Sunday of Easter *Happy Mother's Day!*

May Crowning / World Day of Prayer for Vocations

Monday: 10:00am Shadyside Fellowship of Churches (Shadyside Nazarene Fellowship Hall)

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

Thursday: OCIA (SJH)

Next Sunday: 5th Sunday of Easter

Honoring Our Graduating Seniors



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!



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!



GOSPEL MEDITATION

A few years back, I felt as if I couldn't hear God's voice the way I used to. The words in the Bible seemed like cold ink on a page. Prayer felt like sitting anxiously in a lonely room. I was worried — how could I, a priest, preach or help others if I couldn't hear God's voice? It went on for months.

Then a friend encouraged me to go on a retreat and spend as much time as possible in silence. After a day or two of quiet prayer, I noticed gentle but clear thoughts of repentance in two specific areas of my life. I asked God for the grace to change, and I went to confession. Suddenly, the divine silence that haunted me was filled with a sense of God's closeness and goodness. I realized, gratefully, that God had been speaking to me in the quiet voice of my conscience.

This week we hear Jesus say, "**My sheep hear my voice. I know them and they follow me**" (John 10:27). Jesus links the hearing of his voice to following him. He speaks to us in our conscience in an intimate, personal way, when we most need to hear him. When you feel deaf to God's voice, perhaps it is time to listen in silence for His voice in your conscience calling you to hear and follow the Good Shepherd of your soul. — *Father John Muir* ©LPi



REFLECT AND RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE

1st Reading Question: Paul and Barnabas experienced resistance from some of the Jews and leaders of the city of Antioch. *What sustains you in difficult and challenging experiences?*

2nd Reading Question: John sees a vision in which those who have suffered and died for the faith are comforted by God and relieved of their distress. *Is there a family member or friend you could comfort this week?*

Gospel: We hear how Jesus gives eternal life to all who follow him. *How does following Jesus impact your work or family life?* ©LPi

Readings for the week of May 11, 2025

Sunday: Acts 13:14, 43-52/Ps 100:1-2, 3, 5 (3c)/Rv 7:9, 14b-17/Jn 10:27-30

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

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

Wednesday: Acts 1:15-17, 20-26/Ps 113:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8/Jn 15:9-17

Thursday: Acts 13:13-25/Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27/Jn 13:16-20

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

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

Next Sunday: Acts 14:21-27/Ps 145:8-9, 10-11, 12-13 (see 1)/Rv 21:1-5a/Jn 13:31-33a, 34-35



This Week on Formed

Week of May 11, 2025



The Day the Sun Danced: The True Story of Fatima

In 1917, three children in Fatima, Portugal, saw the Blessed Mother, shared her message, and witnessed the miracle of the sun dancing in the sky. Their faith inspired the world. Experience this miracle in this great film the entire family will enjoy.



The 13th Day

In a world torn apart by persecution, war, and oppression, three children in Fatima were chosen by God to offer an urgent message of hope to the world. Based on the memoirs of the oldest seer, Lucia Santos, The 13th Day dramatizes the true story of three young shepherds who experienced six apparitions of Our Lady, which culminated in the final prophesied miracle on October 13.



Our Lady of Fatima | Brother Francis and Friends

Brother Francis and Sister Imelda tell the story of the three shepherd children from Fatima who saw visions of Mary, later to be known as Our Lady of Fatima. Learn about the courage and faith these children exhibited and how they were rewarded with an amazing miracle!

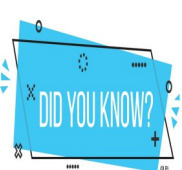
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CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: What pope served the shortest pontificate at only 13 days?

Answer: Pope Urban VII



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

5th Sunday of Easter / May 18, 2025

First Reading: And when they arrived, they called the church together and reported what God had done with them and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles. (Acts 14:27)

Psalm: I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God. (Ps 145)

Second Reading: I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them and they will be his people and God himself will always be with them as their God." (Rv 21:4)

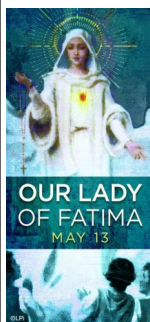
Gospel: I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. (Jn 13:34)

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 2746-2751: Christ's prayer at the Last Supper
CCC 243, 388, 692, 729, 1433, 1848: the Holy Spirit as Advocate/Consoler

CCC 1965-1974: the New Law fulfills the Old

CCC 865, 869, 1045, 1090, 1198, 2016: the heavenly Jerusalem



Francisco Marto, Jacinta Marto, and Lucia dos Santos, were three young shepherds, ranging in age from 7 to 10 years old, from the small village of Fátima, Portugal. On May 13, 1917, their lives changed when all three saw an apparition of Mary while tending to their flocks. The apparitions of Mary continued for six months, culminating in the famous Miracle of the Sun, or Miracle of Fátima, on October 13, 1917, which was witnessed by thousands of people. During the apparitions, Mary conveyed messages to the children and asked them to pray the rosary. She petitioned the children to pray for world peace, the end of World War I, for sinners, and for the conversion of Russia. She also gave them three secrets — predicting the end of World War I and the start of World War II, a vision of those suffering in Hell, as well as a prediction the persecution of Christians and a man dressed in white, probably a Pope, being shot. The Church officially recognizes this as the assassination attempt on St. Pope John Paul II's life in 1981. On May 13, 2017, the centennial of the first apparition, the Marto siblings, who died in their youth, were canonized as saints and Sister Lucia was declared a Servant of God. © LPi

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

We Don't Follow Strangers

I get a little crazy when it comes to my kids' safety. We've probably had a few too many conversations that could be entitled "What to Do If Mommy Loses You At the State Fair" or "Don't Trust People Just Because They Smile At You." Am I making them paranoid? Possibly. But that's something they can sort out later with their therapists.

Because here's the bottom line of it all — I don't want to instill a fear of strangers into my kids, but I do want them to understand that you can't always trust people you don't know (heck, you can't always trust the people you *do* know, but that's another therapy-provoking conversation we can have when they're older).

If someone says, "Hey, follow me," and we don't know them, it's not always a great idea to comply. First, we have to ask questions. "Where are you taking me? Why are we going? Who else will be there?"

But if someone we know and love and trust says, "Hey, follow me," we don't even think twice, and we don't need to ask any questions. We know wherever we're going is a safe place for us because we have a relationship with the person doing the leading. We feel comfortable putting ourselves in their care.

That's why it's so important to Christ that we know him. That we have a relationship with him. That we trust him.

Because we don't follow strangers, do we?

I don't have all the answers to the questions I would love to ask Christ. "Why is this happening? Where are you taking me?" But the beautiful thing is, I don't actually *need* those answers. I know him. He's got my hand. Wherever we're going is where I want to be.

©LPi

WHY DO WE DO THAT? - CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED The Tradition of Genuflection

Question: *Why do Catholics genuflect?*

Answer: Genuflection is an act of devotion that literally means "to bend the knee." For many Catholics, it's an almost automatic gesture that we perform before entering our pew or row of seats at Mass. But, like many of the symbols and gestures of our faith tradition, genuflecting can also be an invitation for deeper reflection.

The practice of "bending the knee" is an ancient way of recognizing the presence of someone greater than we are. It has been said that the practice dates back to the time of Alexander the Great, but it became a common part of etiquette in the royal courts of the Middle Ages. From throne rooms and palaces, it was a small step to genuflecting becoming part of the devotional lives of Christians, who used this secular gesture as a way of recognizing the presence of the One who is King of Kings, especially in the Eucharist.

Today, Catholics are asked to genuflect in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament (whether in the tabernacle or exposed on the altar during eucharistic adoration). So, while it has become second nature to genuflect before entering your seat in church, we should pay attention to where the Blessed Sacrament is kept in each church or chapel that we visit, and genuflect in the direction of the tabernacle where the Blessed Sacrament is kept. In churches or chapels in which the tabernacle is in a separate space, we are invited to simply bow toward the altar.

In addition to genuflecting before the Blessed Sacrament, we are also instructed to genuflect before the cross used for veneration on Good Friday (during the solemn celebrations of the Lord's Passion) and any time a relic of the True Cross is displayed for veneration. This long-standing tradition is a way of honoring the cross as the great sign of our salvation and of showing devotion to the passion of Jesus.

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4th SUNDAY OF EASTER



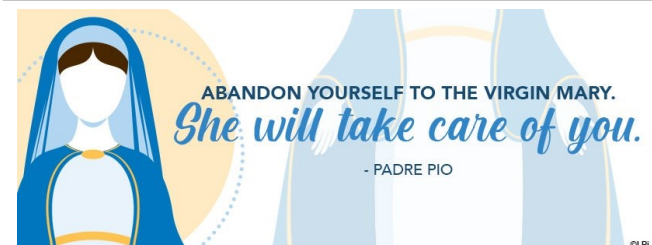
GriefShare®

When: May 27th / June 10th & 24th / July 8th & 22nd / August 5th, 19th, & 26th

Time: 11:00a.m. to 1:00p.m.

Where: St. Mary's Parish Office, 212 West Main Street
St. Clairsville, OH 43950

Contact: Andrea Bigelow, anbigelow1@gmail.com
(740) 391-4519



**Devotions, Explained!****Retreat, Explained**

Spiritual retreats are an act of removing oneself from one's daily life for a period of prayer and reflection, with the intent of returning to that daily life transformed.

It was Christ himself who was the greatest and earliest advocate of spiritual retreat. In the Gospels, he is constantly depicted as withdrawing from other people to be alone in prayer. Likewise, participants in a modern retreat most often go somewhere like a retreat center to seek silence, solitude and communion with God. There are many different varieties of retreats; they can be guided and take place in a group setting, or they can be undertaken alone by just one person. Some are focused on a specific topic or theme; some are defined by periods of total silence. Though clerics are compelled by canon law to go on retreat regularly, all faithful are encouraged to make retreat part of their spiritual life. ©LPi



Our Lady of Fatima, we accept your challenge, your request, we will pray the rosary every day, like you asked us to do!

PRAYER – FOR EVERYDAY AND EVERYBODY**Prayer to the Good Shepherd**

Beloved Shepherd,
You guide in a way often beyond my understanding.
You lead to paths yet undiscovered.
Keep me in Your care, as together we seek
green pastures and still waters. Amen.

**SUMMER FESTIVALS!**

June 13-14 Loop Fest, Shadyside
June 19-22 St. John Church Festival (New this year!!)
August 15-17 St. Mary Church Festival

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS**God is Always There**

When I was little, I would always cling to the same routine each night before going to bed. I would say to my parents, "Good night." They would respond, "Good night." I then would say, "See you tomorrow, okay?" I would await their response, and if they did not respond, I would say it again louder, "See you tomorrow, okay?" I somehow felt that if they did not assure me that I would see them tomorrow, it would possibly not happen. What would happen to me if I awoke and no one was there? It seems silly now, but to a small boy, it was very serious.

In our lives, many of us have somehow bought into the notion that there is so much in the world that can take us away from God. We believe that worldly values, immorality, or evil itself can take us away from God's love and protection. But there are few greater lies than this. The reality is that if we find ourselves far away from God, the only force that carried us away was our own choices.

In John's Gospel, Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me...No one can take them out of my hand." Yes, we are tempted at every side, but no temptation can take us away from him. Unfortunately, sometimes after initial choices, we find ourselves in addiction or dependency, making our reconciliation with God impossible without the help of friends and loved ones. But make no mistake, no one or nothing can take those who are His sheep away from God.

When you think about this, you realize the importance of your actions. The power of your stewardship is great, because by utilizing your gifts, you determine if you will draw closer to or wander away from God. The world can't do that. The devil can't do that, nor can the wishful words of a little boy in the night.

-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

Jubilee

YEAR OF HOPE



Characteristics of the Jubilee Year

Prayer

There are many reasons and ways to pray, but at the root of prayer is always the desire to be open to God's presence and His offer of love. It is the Spirit of the Son that calls the Christian community to prayer and allows for each person to return to the Father. It was Jesus who entrusted His disciples with the Lord's Prayer, which is commented on by the Catechism of the Catholic Church (cf. CCC 2759-2865).

The Christian tradition also offers other texts, such as the Hail Mary, that can help to find words to address God: "By a living transmission—Tradition—the Holy Spirit in the Church teaches the children of God to pray" (CCC 2661).

The prayer opportunities on the journey show that the pilgrim holds the path to God "in his heart" (Psalm 83:6). Refreshment is also provided by the various stops and opportunities for rest along the way, which are often organized around shrines, sanctuaries, and other places filled with spiritual significance, where one realizes that — before us and alongside us — other pilgrims have also passed along and traveled those same roads. Indeed, the paths leading to Rome have often been trod by many

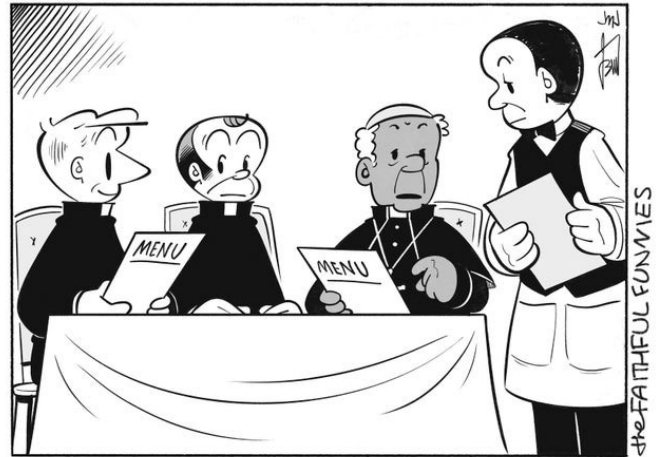
Next week's characteristic—"Liturgy"



LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me." To follow him, we must know him. This week, how can we know Jesus better? ©LPi

"What do you call a priest, a deacon, and a bishop asking for food at a restaurant?"



"Holy Orders."



Holy Orders refers to the sacrament in which a man is ordained a priest. When a man shares in the priesthood of Christ, he is then able to dispense the sacraments and offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

©LPi



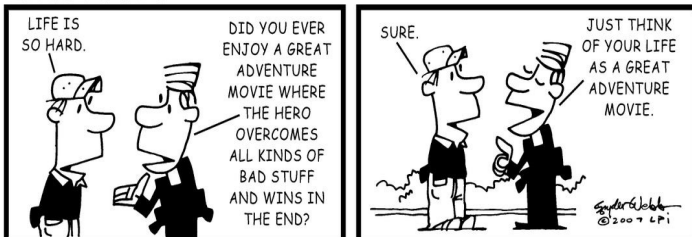
"For the Lamb who is in the center of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to springs of life-giving water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes." (Rv 7:17)

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)

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER



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

Sheep get an awfully bad rap, linguistically. Some are quick to label people as “sheep” if we think they haven’t sufficiently questioned authority or if they’re too willing to go along with someone else’s plan. We say someone has “the wool over their eyes” if they aren’t willing to see what we think is very obvious. “A wolf in sheep’s clothing” is what we call someone looking to take advantage of those too gullible to identify a real threat.

Taking all this into account and considering how often we are referred to as sheep in Scripture, you’ve really got to wonder if God trying to tell us something about ourselves.

If you look at the phraseology associated with sheep, it’s no wonder that nobody *wants* to be one. Sheep are innocent. Sheep can’t protect themselves. They’re vulnerable and easily misled.

We want to see ourselves as the opposite of all that. We like to think we’re shrewd, with plenty of common sense. We want to believe that we don’t have to rely on anybody for anything. We would sooner identify with the wolf than with the sheep — at least the wolf can take care of himself.

We do this because we often resist the need to rest in the greatness of God. Like a child walking to school alone for the first time (forgetting his mom is following watchfully in the car), we want to think we can handle it all by ourselves.

The truth is that God *is* trying to tell us something by comparing us to sheep: *You don’t have to do this on your own.*

Every time I look at an obstacle and think that there is no way around it, I am forgetting that I have a shepherd who knows the location of the gate.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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**BUILDING A CULTURE OF LIFE****The People of Life**

It is wondrous enough that someone rose from the dead by his own power. But the Lord Jesus, in rising from the dead, does not just conquer his death; he conquers ours. He overturns the entire kingdom of death. The entire ministry of the Church is focused on bringing us – and all humanity – the eternal life that flows from Christ and his Resurrection. This is the sense in which he is the Good Shepherd. Not only does he keep us from danger in this life; he shepherds us through death itself to the life that knows no end.

**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.

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