

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.

PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

MARCH 29TH, 2026

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: office@bnspcatholic.org

St. Mary Central Grade School, Martins Ferry

(740) 633-5424

Mrs. Theresa Young, Principal



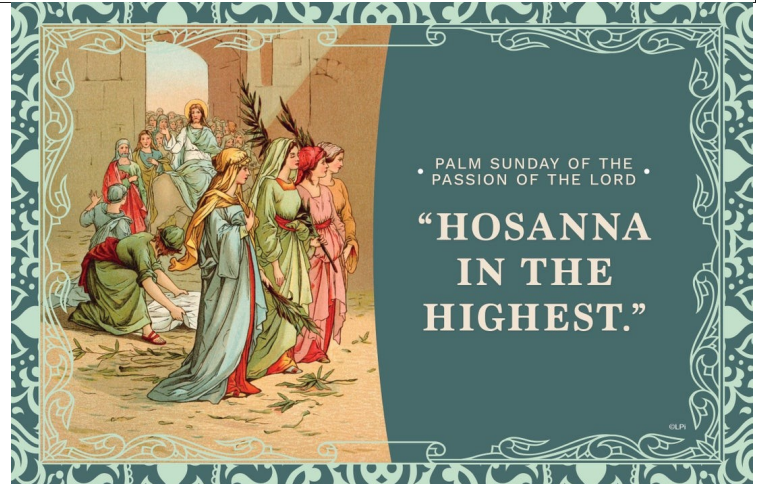
We use Flocknote to connect with you!

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

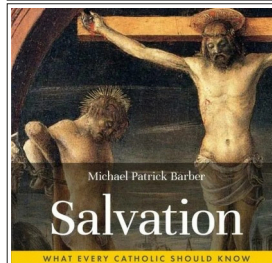
www.fb.me/stmary.shadyside.powhatan



PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Almighty ever-living God, who as an example of humility for the human race to follow caused our Savior to take flesh and submit to the Cross, graciously grant that we may heed his lesson of patient suffering and so merit a share in this Resurrection. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Collect of Palm Sunday



MESSAGE SERIES

At every Sunday Mass, Catholics confess that Jesus came down from heaven 'for us men and for our salvation.' But what does 'salvation' mean? With the help of Scripture scholar and theologian Michael Barber we will explore a thorough, deeply Catholic, and deeply biblical,

answer, unpacking what the New Testament teaches about salvation in Christ, and detailing what exactly salvation is, and what it is not. We will come to understand the salvific message that God is love, and his love is one of transformation and redemption.

Week Six: Not A Spectator Sport

Scripture: Philippians 2:6

As we reflect on the Passion narrative this weekend we see many participants, but the one we focus on is Jesus himself. Paul's Letter to the Philippians, our second reading today, describes the inner attitude of Jesus, the one that we want to imitate. Salvation is not a spectator sport. Grace is so amazing that it actually enable us to share in Christ's work. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus dwells in us and continues his work. We can't do it on our own, we were never meant to. With the grace of Christ we can walk the path of our own Passion so as to be brought, by grace, to the glory of the Resurrection!

Fr. Dan's Intentions for the Week

Saturday, March 28th, Palm Sunday
 4:00p.m. (SM) + Shirley Mae Echemann (Dianna Gosney & Cheryl Boston)
 5:30p.m. (SJ) + Alex Kosky (Stan & Kitty Pazyk)
Sunday, March 29th, Palm Sunday
 9:30a.m. (SJ) + For the People of St. John's & St. Mary's
 11:00 a.m. (SM) + Sherry Kalpoka (John & Sue Ferrelli)
Monday, March 30th, Monday of Holy Week
***9:00a.m.** (SJ) + Derek Feller (Trouten Family)
Tuesday, March 31st, Tuesday of Holy Week
 8:00a.m. (SM) + Roger & "Bubba" Peters (Family)
Wednesday, April 1st, Wednesday of Holy Week
 8:00a.m. (SJ) + Domingo Tugaoen (Trouten Family)
Thursday, April 2nd, Holy Thursday
7:00p.m. (SM) + For Vocations to the Priesthood
Friday, April 3rd, Good Friday
7:00p.m. (SJ) Commemoration of the Lord's Passion
Saturday, April 4th, Easter Vigil in the Holy Night
8:30p.m. (SJ) + For the Newly Initiated
Sunday, April 5th, Easter Sunday
 9:30a.m. (SJ) + Ed & Irene Snyder (Family)
 11:00a.m.(SM) + For the People of St. Mary's & St. John's

**Please note the time change for Monday*



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, SSG Kayne Melko, HTF Kory Melko, Sgt. Joshua Hall, SSG Aaron Loeffler, Tech Sgt. Craig DeBeni, Major Trey Vasey, Capt. Tom Dyer, SSG Josh Pempek, Mitchell Rataiczak, MSG Chris Dipold, Sgt. Ryan James, Sgt. Dylan Frizzi, Sgt. Jake Foster, Pvt William Clegg, Petty Officer Alex Rader, SFC Shawn Selmon, SSG Colton Selmon, Seaman Brooke Selmon, 1st Lt. DJ Olexa, SSG 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, Petty Officer Meleah (Tiber) Hernik, Seaman Joshya D. Nelson, E -4 Specialist Luke G. Bell, SSG John Workman

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES FOR APRIL 4/5

St. John's
April 4th EM: C. Bladen **Lector:** T. Bonfini
April 5th EM: T. Young/A. Hathaway **Lector:** L.A. Bennett
St. Mary's
April 5th EM: Volunteer **Lector:** Volunteer

MEMORIAL DONATIONS TO ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

 **In Memory of Jeanne Busack** by Randy & Rosemary Baum.

He humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him. (Phil 2:8-9)

Offertory Collection

For the Weekend of March 21/22

St. John's: Adult (95env) \$4,459, Loose \$630, Easter Flowers (39env) \$ 850, Holy Thursday (1env) \$5, Rice Bowl (1env) \$10, Good Friday (1env) \$10, St. Vincent de Paul (3env) \$230, Building Fund (5env) \$77, Candles \$14

St. Mary's: Adult (47env) \$1,510, Easter Flowers (18env) \$390, Rice Bowl (1env) \$10, St. Vincent de Paul (1env) \$50, Building Fund (1env) \$5, Candles \$41.20



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: Lindy & Don Freed, Jax McCort, Dominic Alexander, Lou Ann Kinder, Mgrs. Gene Mullett, Fr. Tom Petronek, , Quentin Scott Coyne, Baby Everett Sommers, Joe Boston Jr., Bob, & Tom, Mary Kay Hanasky, John Hanasky, Beverly Kolenich, Sandy Bass, Anthony De Genova Magan Nichole Sechrest, Monroe DeLuca, Albert DeBlasis, Mary Jo Garner, Camden Thomas, Ainsley Oliniski, Beth Baker Phillips, Tom Kucera, Brian B., Joanne Dantrassy, Rita Kovalo, Charlotte Kovalyk, Susan Gray, Danielle Watt, Paula St. John, Mary Stegman, John, Mary & Heidi Patt, Raisa Rodsky, Jacquie Jochumsen, Mike Kavage, Tom Waligura, Shari Taylor, Fr. Mark Moore, Gerald Paolucci, Mark Barker, Ernest Kiss, Rose Reeher, Lou "Weegee" Bennington, Jean Morgan, Bill & Evelyn Shepherd, Peggy Byles, Adam Ruskowski, Janet (Rose) Green, Carol Zemba, Donna Richards, Jack Selmon, Jamie Ellis, Tom & Margie Merryman, Beau Boston, Emily LeMasters, Toni Sivert, Dalisay Donato, Adrienne Forbes, Stacey Gilli, Maria Biers, Max Townsend, Jim Garczyk, Debbie Respole, Julie, Brian, Patricia, Marie, Josie P. Warren Wright, Vince Lewis, Danny Nardo, Steve Loveless, Betsy Ashcraft, Bob Wallace, Verna Martin, Aleyna Zwack & Atlas Zwack-Howes, Fran Sobray, Pam (Schau) Mitchell, Taylor Foster, Diana Mc Culley, Janet Green, Darla Schau, Ella Karst, Richard Gates, Liz Gates, Peggy Gress, John Sidon



The **Helping Holidays Organization** would like to thank everyone who supported our Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser. We raised \$800. This will help fill Easter Baskets for 50 children in our local communities. Your continued support is greatly appreciated. We want to wish a most Blessed Easter to all of

you!



Knights of Columbus

Please turn in your Cash Bonanza Tickets as soon as possible. We would like everything turned in by April 1st. Thank You!

JOIN US THIS ©LPi HOLY WEEK

Sunday: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

6:00pm Palm Sunday Choir Fest (South Bellaire Methodist)

Monday: 9:00a.m. Daily Mass (SJ)

2:00pm Chrism Mass (Basilica of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Marietta)

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

7:00p.m. Ecumenical Tenebrae Service (Faith Fellowship Church, Bellaire)

Thursday: Holy Thursday

3:00pm Server Practice (SM)

7:00p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper (SJ)

Friday: Good Friday

9:30a.m. Cross Walk (Bellaire City Park)

12:00p.m. Stations of the Cross (SJ)

3:00p.m. Divine Mercy Novena (SJ)

5:30pm Shadyside Ecumenical Service—7 Last Words of Jesus (Shadyside Community Room)

7:00p.m. Commemoration of Our Lord's Passion (SJ)

Saturday: Holy Saturday

9:00a.m. Office of Readings (SJ)

10:00a.m. OCIA Practice (SJ)

3:00p.m. Divine Mercy Novena (SJ)

No 4:00pm or 5:30pm Masses today. The first mass of Easter is the Easter Vigil at 8:30p.m.

8:30pm The Easter Vigil Mass in the Holy Night (SJ)

Sunday: Easter Sunday of the Resurrection

9:30a.m. (SJ)

11:00a.m. (SM)

3:00 Divine Mercy Novena (SJ)



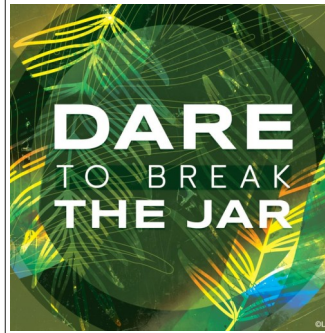
ST. MARY CENTRAL FLOWER SALE

St. Mary Central School is having its annual flower sale. Flowers are sold by flats, hanging baskets and ferns. These beautiful flowers are also the perfect Mother's Day gift.

Order forms are available in the back of the church. To place an order, fill out the order form, include your payment, and drop in the collection basket. You may also place an order through any St. Mary's student. The last date to order is Friday, April 10, 2026.

Flowers will be available for pick up on Wednesday, May 6 2026, from the hours of 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. at St. Mary's parking lot.

If you have any questions, you may call the school office at 633-5424. Thanks for your support of our fundraisers.



GOSPEL MEDITATION

Just prior to this week's Passion narrative in St. Matthew's Gospel, there is a small, striking story describing a woman's scandalous action toward Jesus: "A woman came up to him with an alabaster jar of costly perfumed oil, and poured it on his head" (Matthew 26:7). The ointment was pure nard, worth more than 300 denarii. A year's wages. Maybe a dowry, maybe a family inheritance. In any case, she breaks it. She does not measure or ration. She pours it all out, irreversibly, over Jesus. Why does this image begin Holy Week?

Because what she does with the jar, Jesus will soon do with his life. The jar must be broken so the fragrance can be released. Jesus' body will be broken so his priceless divine and human love can be poured out. She gives everything, just as he is about to give everything. And He sees it: "She has done a good thing for me" (Matthew 26:10). Her act is lavish, impractical, scandalous in its apparent wastefulness. And he loves it. It is what Holy Week is all about.

What jar are you still holding onto? Your time? Your comfort? Your plan for how life should go? Don't just wave palms today. Let yourself be broken open so your love, too, can be poured out.

Lenten Challenge: Offer something costly to Jesus this Holy Week — not out of guilt, but love. Your attention. Your forgiveness. Your time. Break the jar. Trust that nothing poured out for him is ever wasted.

— Father John Muir

©LPi

BETHLEHEM OLIVE WOOD SALE

Catholic and Christian families in Bethlehem, the Holy Land, craft beautiful olive wood items. These families rely heavily on the income generated from their craftsmanship to sustain their livelihoods, especially in these challenging times. Next weekend, March 28/29 these exquisite olive wood items will be available to purchase. The items include various religious artifacts such as crosses, nativity sets, rosaries, and other hand-carved pieces that hold great spiritual significance. This sale will provide much-needed financial support to these families but also offer our congregation the opportunity to own a piece of the Holy Land and deepen their connection to our faith.



PALM SUNDAY BAKE SALE

The Caring Crafters are having a bake sale and 50/50 raffle this Sunday after each mass in each church's basement. The drawing will be held after the 11:00 mass at St. Mary's. Please stop down for some goodies.

St. Mary Central School Martins Ferry Quarter Auction
Sunday, April 12, 2026, school gym. Doors open at 11 a.m. for shopping, Auction begins at noon. Tickets, \$5 on sale in the school office. Includes your entry and 1 paddle. 20 vendors, 3 rounds of bidding. Chinese Auction, 50/50 raffle. Concessions. Get your tickets now!



This Week on Formed
Week of March 29, 2026



Triduum: A Spiritual Pilgrimage
Triduum: A Spiritual Pilgrimage cinematically walks through the locations of the Holy Week story, representing the most important days of human history. Immersed in the Holy Land, the pilgrim is brought tangibly nearer to the story, the landscape, and the reality of the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.



The Last Days: The Passion and Death of Jesus the Christ w/ Jonathan Roumie
This filmed presentation of the theatrical production movingly recreates the final moments of Jesus' earthly ministry as a teacher through His crucifixion and death. The play has been seen by thousands worldwide, not only as a live performance but also in live streams and televised broadcasts.



Understanding Palm Sunday
Focusing on the Biblical account of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, Dr. Tim Gray and Dr. Ben Akers break open the meaning of why Jesus rode on a donkey, the significance of the palm branches and the singing of Hosanna, and how this event launched Holy Week and the redemption of the world.

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

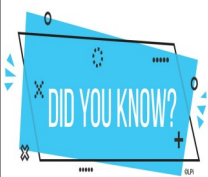
An offering from the AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE



ENJOY FREE ACCESS TO FORMED.ORG

Please enjoy a free subscription to Formed.org, where you can stream hundreds of hours of inspiring movies and video series, read bestselling Catholic eBooks, and listen to audio presentations from the Church's most compelling speakers! All available from virtually any device...anytime, anywhere.
1. Go to Formed.org 2. Choose "Find your parish subscription" 3. Click "Sign-in or Create an account" 4. Follow instructions to set up your Account. 5. The "Join your Parish" screen will appear. - Enter the zip code, "43906" in the Search box, then choose "St. John the Evangelist/St. Mary" and click on "Submit" 6. You will be prompted to set up a password for your account. 7. Enjoy! Download the app!

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN



Question: In addition to St. Sebastian, who is the patron saint of police officers?

Answer: St. Michael the Archangel. ©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

Easter Sunday / April 5, 2026

First Reading: To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name. (Acts 10:43)

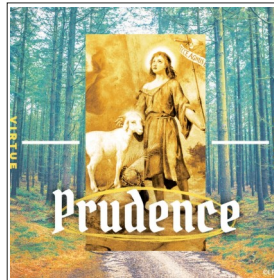
Psalm: This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad. (Ps 118)

Second Reading: If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. (Col 3:1)

Gospel: Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. (Jn 10:1)

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 638-655, 989, 1001-1002: the Resurrection of Christ and our resurrection
- CCC 647, 1167-1170, 1243, 1287: Easter, the Lord's Day
- CCC 1212: the Sacraments of Initiation
- CCC 1214-1222, 1226-1228, 1234-1245, 1254: Baptism
- CCC 1286-1289: Confirmation
- CCC 1322-1323: Eucharist



Virtues, Explained!

Prudence, Explained!

Those who have the vision condition of nearsightedness need glasses in order to discern objects which are far away. Without the aid of glasses, a nearsighted person's world is small; anything which lies beyond their strength of vision is hidden to them.

The virtue of prudence is like glasses for a soul made nearsighted by original sin. "A prudent man is one who sees as it were from afar, for his sight is keen, and he foresees the event of uncertainties," said St. Isidore of Seville.

The Catechism teaches that prudence disposes our practical reason to not only discern what is good, but to choose the right way of achieving that good. Prudence is "the charioteer of the virtues," guiding the judgment of our conscience and directing our actions in accordance with that judgment (CCC 1806). Without prudence, not only can we not clearly see what is good, but we have no hope of realizing that good.
©LPi

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

The Humanity of Holy Week

We have all sold Jesus out, at one point or another. Some of us have done it more than once, and we've done it for a lot less than 30 pieces of silver.

We have all denied Christ, and we have done it more than three times and under much less pressure than Peter, who feared for his life when he shouted, "I do not know the man!"

We have all struck the face of God — out of anger? Fear? Confusion? All of the above? — screaming, in agony, "Prophecy for me!"

At one point or another, we have all looked at our Lord beaten and betrayed, and we have all said, as Pilate did: "What shall I do with Jesus called Christ?"

And we have all hung on the cross chosen for us, crying out in bewilderment: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Holy Week is a week where we see humanity, in all its vulnerability and ignorance. We see it in the "villains" of the piece, like Judas, and in the morally neutral characters like Pilate and the Jews who have been misled about Jesus. We even see it in the "good guys" like Peter.

In this, the holiest week of the year, we see ourselves at our very worst. The chasm between man and his Creator is an ancient one, and it is driven deep and wide — by the pridefulness of Adam and Eve, yes, but also by every poor choice you and I have ever made.

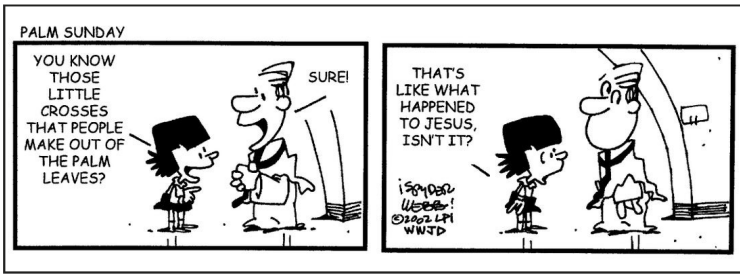
Every "I don't know the man!"

Every "Prophecy!"

Every "What shall I do with Jesus?"

These cries echo forth from the depths of this chasm.

But this week — this Holy Week — a bridge is built across the chasm. And God reaches out His hand. ©LPi



The centurion and the men with him who were keeping watch over Jesus feared greatly when they saw the earthquake and all that was happening, and they said, "Truly, this was the Son of God!" (Mt 26:54)

WHY DO WE DO THAT? - CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED Chastisement vs. Punishment


Question: *What is the difference between a chastisement and a punishment?*

Answer: The distinction between chastisement and punishment is, in many ways, a subtle one, but which is still relevant in our Catholic tradition.

First, chastisement is a concept that is grounded in Sacred Scripture. Here, we see chastisement as a response by God to people's actions that is intended to teach a lesson. As St. John Paul II observed, "chastisement appears to be ... a kind of divine pedagogy, in which the last word is reserved to mercy: He scourges and then shows mercy, casts down to the depths of the nether world, and he brings up from the great abyss" (Tobit 13:2). The idea here is that in order to capture our attention or to highlight how we have not lived out our covenant-relationship with God as we should, there are times when God uses events in life to draw us back to the quality of relationship or faith that we should have.

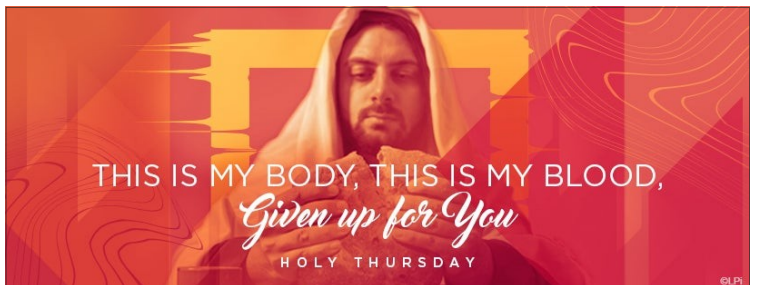
The concept of punishment, however, has a different sense. The Catechism of the Church observes that punishment is the consequence of a damaging action that "has the primary aim of redressing the disorder" and to protect the community and the common good from further damage or harm (see no. 2266). Although we always hope that someone who is being punished for a crime or some other harmful action will learn from their actions, punishment isn't necessarily intended to teach a lesson in the same way that a chastisement is.

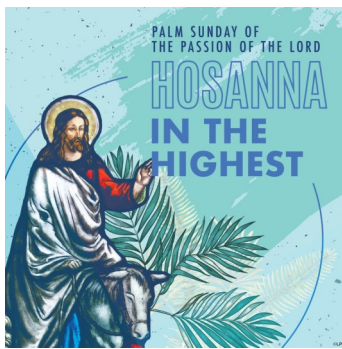
Ultimately, how we make the distinction between chastisement and punishment is a matter of discernment. As with almost everything in life, our experiences can be an opportunity for grace — or for something less — depending on how open we are to recognizing the movement of God's Spirit within them. ©LPi



LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

This week, we see things that break our heart — God betrayed. This week, we see things that shake our faith — God bleeding on a cross. This week, this Holy Week, with all its difficult moments, can change us, if we let it. Are we ready? ©LPi





Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

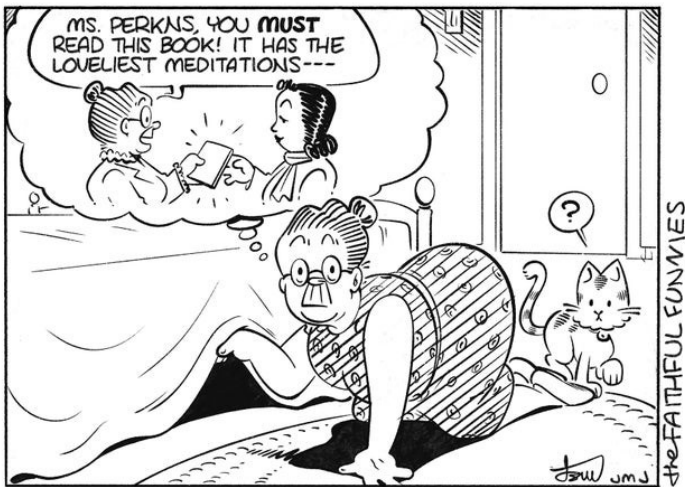
Hosanna to the Messiah!

While Jesus would not be crowned an earthly king, Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem has many parallels to the Messianic expectations of the Hebrew people. Before entering, Jesus requisitions a donkey from its

owner. In the ancient world, kings had this right. Yet the animal that Jesus requests is rare -- a colt upon which no one else has sat yet. Yet, it's a donkey.

This is no great war-charger, no magnificent animal. Jesus acts with all the authority of an earthly king, yet his kingdom is one of simplicity and peace. As the disciples throw cloaks over the donkey, the crowd spreads theirs on the road. This ancient gesture dates back to the line of kings descended from David. Not only are these physical kingly gestures, but the crowd of followers cries out in jubilation and praise. The Messiah has come to Jerusalem! ©LPi

"Why couldn't the grandma find her prayer book?"



"She forgot it was Lent."



The 40 days before Easter are also known as "Lent," where we focus on praying, fasting, and giving alms. One could also lend books during the 40 days, though.

©LPi



PRAYER – FOR EVERYDAY AND EVERYBODY

Blessing for Holy Week

Be with us this week, Lord, journeying closer and closer to Your pierced and Sacred Heart.

Immerse us in Your intense and undying love.

Help us to encounter Your passion in new ways that inform, surprise, and inspire us. Amen. ©LPi

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

The 6 Characteristics of an Everyday Stewardship for Lent – Accountable

Easter is only a week away, and churches everywhere in the West are beginning the holiest of weeks. For a moment, even the secular world will bow to religious observances: closings on Good Friday, Easter baskets filled with treats, and television specials featuring Biblical figures. You and I will be reflecting on the meaning of Lent and how we have died and risen with Our Lord, Jesus Christ. Either we have prepared well for this Holy Week observance, or we are left lamenting that maybe next year will be when we get back on track.

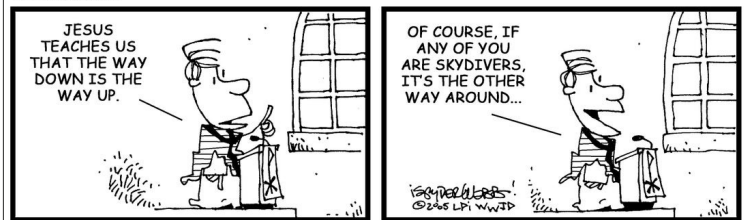
The question before us is: "To whom are we accountable?" Did our Lenten observance only have to do with us? Does it matter to anyone if we really took this time seriously or not?

Both faith and community are gifts from God to us. The Church exists so we may live out that faith and respond to God's call, being strengthened by the grace imparted through the sacraments and the community in which we find ourselves. If we are accountable to no one, then the community is simply an option on a Sunday morning, much like golf or household chores. If we are not accountable to God, then our faith is simply something we look to periodically when we are sad or frightened.

However, if we are accountable to each other and to Jesus Christ, then we must answer for our stewardship gifts of faith and community. The Body of Christ is counting on us. Without a strong sense of accountability, we think our actions only affect us. In the end, we are connected to each other through Christ in such a manner that no one ever stands alone.

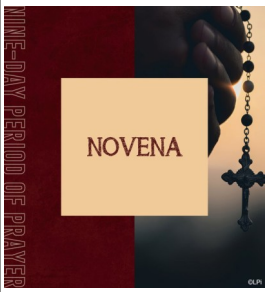
—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

PALM SUNDAY



The crowds preceding him and those following kept crying out and saying: "Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; hosanna in the highest." Mt 21:6*





Devotions, Explained!

Novena, Explained!

The word *novena* comes from the Latin word, *novem*, for nine. A novena is a nine-day period of private or public prayer. There are four basic categories of novenas — novenas of preparation, of mourning, of prayer, and of

indulgence.

The nine days of prayer format comes directly from scripture where we read in the book of Acts that it was nine days after the Ascension that the Holy Spirit descended onto the Apostles. During that time, the faithful men and women “devoted themselves to constant prayer,” (Acts 1:12-14) waiting for the Lord.

Today, Catholics can find hundreds of novenas to pray about a plethora of topics. Many Catholics pray novenas in times of need or in devotion to a specific saint. Although a saint’s novena may traditionally begin or end on the saint’s feast day, while others, like the “Novena for Adopted Children” or the “Novena for Vocations,” can be prayed any time of the year, there is flexibility here for those wanting to pray. The faithful may choose to pray a private novena on any topic at any time! Want to pray a novena to St. Francis but it’s not his feast day? Go ahead! ©LPi



QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - TO REFLECT AND RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE

1st Reading Question: Isaiah speaks of his obedient response to God’s call despite

his suffering. *Have you ever suffered for your faith?*

2nd Reading Question: Paul recounts how Jesus’ life was characterized by humility and obedience. *In what ways do you live by these virtues?*

Gospel Question: There are numerous unique features to Matthew’s account of the passion of the Lord, including the details of Judas’ suicide. *What parts of the passion narrative do you find most engaging?* ©LPi



Make a holy hour before the Blessed Sacrament once a week

Jesus is present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. He is there in the tabernacle in every Catholic Church. He promised to be with us always and one way he does that is

by his abiding presence in the Eucharist. When you see the sanctuary light near the tabernacle you realize that Jesus “has kept the light on for you.” How about scheduling a holy hour with Jesus at St. John’s during the week? The church is open every day. We also have the Blessed sacrament exposed for adoration every Tuesday at St. Mary’s from 9am to 5:00pm, so if you can make your holy hour on Tuesday all the better. And it’s a great way to offer a spiritual gift for a friend or family members!



BUILDING A CULTURE OF LIFE

Jesus’ Death is Our Example

“Jesus, who upon entering into the world said: "I have come, O God, to do your will" (cf. Heb 10:9), made himself obedient to the Father in everything

and, "having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end" (Jn 13:1), giving himself completely for them. He who had come "not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Mk 10:45), attains on the Cross the heights of love: "Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (Jn 15:13). And he died for us while we were yet sinners (cf. Rom 5:8). In this way Jesus proclaims that life finds its center, its meaning and its fulfillment when it is given up. At this point our meditation becomes praise and thanksgiving, and at the same time urges us to imitate Christ and follow in his footsteps (cf. 1 Pt 2:21). We too are called to give our lives for our brothers and sisters, and thus to realize in the fullness of truth the meaning and destiny of our existence.” -- John Paul II (The Gospel of Life, n. 51)

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

Take Up Your Cross

As a Catholic, I am very grateful for the wonderful expression of the Mass. When united in this liturgical experience, we are not only present to the reality of the bread and wine becoming the real presence of Jesus, but are also connected spiritually to the institution of the Holy Eucharist at the Last Supper and to the future heavenly banquet at the end of time. During the Eucharistic Prayer, this is a time to be truly as mindful as we can to what is happening in our midst. Our effort to completely surrender ourselves to the moment is a true act of stewardship.

When we hear the Gospel reading of the passion and death of Jesus at Mass, we are also being called to give of ourselves completely to the moment and to be truly caught up in the story. We should strive to be there at the events of over two thousand years ago, but also to what the reality of those events mean for us today. To do this effectively, we need to spend more time reflecting on the dynamics of the events of Jesus' passion. Hopefully, our Lent has been fruitful and we have spent time with devotions like the Stations of the Cross. Maybe we have taken time to read Scripture slowly and deliberately, taking time to let each aspect sink into our mind and spirit. If Lent has been instead a time of too much business and not much prayer and reflection, the good news is that it is never too late.

During this Holy Week, take some time to enter into the story of the Passion. Good stewardship calls us to not only give of that which can be seen, but also that which cannot be seen. Surrender your mind, body, and spirit to Jesus. He carries his cross before you and beckons you to follow him.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

**SPRING ASSEMBLY
of St. Mary's and St. John's Parishes**

**Sunday, April 19, 2026
12:15PM-2:00PM St. Mary's Sartori Hall**

The purpose of this annual assembly is look back on the progress we have made in our pastoral plan and to see where we can go in the next year.

Scripture: Matthew 9:17

“People do not put new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise the skins burst, the wine spills out, and the skins are ruined. Rather, they pour new wine into fresh wineskins, and both are preserved.”

PARISH ASSEMBLY AGENDA

1. Review the Seven Essential Elements of Parish Life
2. Review the Pastoral Plan
3. Evaluate our progress on this year's Objectives
4. Brainstorm new objectives for the coming year
5. Celebration, Gratitude and Closing

PASTORAL PLAN FOR 2025-2026

Parish 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.

Goal #1- STEWARDSHIP – To increase by 25% the members of our faith family who participate in the ministries and activities of our parishes

Objectives

- Develop an Implementation Team for each of the 7 Essential Elements
- Review the Discovery Tool results with each parishioner who completed it
- Take 5 minutes before the start of mass to explain the many offices within the diocese that support the individual parishes

Goal #2 – EVANGELIZATION – To introduce a program of outreach to the inactive members of our parishes

Objectives

- Plan one Evangelization Event/Program for this year
- Send care packages to college kids each semester
- Develop a Care Team for each of the parishes

Goal #3 – COMMUNITY – To increase communication with members and the community about parish ministries, activities, and finances

Objectives

- Develop a Communication/Social Media Team
- Plan 3 Social events for the community
- Take advantage of grant to implement Our Sunday Visitor Increased Offertory Program (IOP)

From the workbook:

Ongoing Renewal: The Annual Spring Assembly

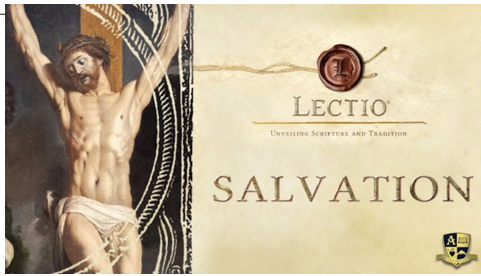
Once the initial start-up period for pastoral planning is complete, pastoral councils enter the ongoing renewal process which updates the plan every year. There is no more essential part to the growth of the pastoral plan than consultation with the parish community.

After the evaluation of objectives has been completed, the agenda for an annual Spring Assembly can be finalized. The council will need to develop a format for convening the parish again. At this assembly, council members once again engage with parishioners in reviewing the seven essential elements of pastoral life and their vitality in the parish. A report on the past year's progress toward the goals and objectives is part of this meeting. Congratulations and thanks could be offered to those responsible for implementing the objectives. Updated information on changing parish statistics and trends as well as regional, ecumenical, and collaborative efforts may be presented. Finally, the three-to-five-year goal areas are put before the assembly for additional brainstorming. Where should we go next on this pastoral issues? With the input they have received, parishioners should be able to add additional suggestions for new objectives.

What is important is the communication process. Parishioners ought to know what's going on and how their ideas can fit into a parish plan. The annual assembly is a celebration of achievements, naturally, but it also provides for dreaming exciting possibilities for the parish. In whatever form it takes, the annual assembly gathers "the baptized" to seek their wisdom and contributions toward fulfilling the parish mission.

After the assembly, the council returns to its task of shaping objectives-based on the input of the parishioners for the next year. Once again, the entire parish is asked to ratify the mission statement, goals and objectives-the Parish Plan-and to help form new implementation teams based on the new objectives. Spring is the perfect season to plant new seeds in a parish life cycle.

The Spring Assembly is one of the most important events in the life of the parish community. It's one of the places where parishioners take responsibility for living out the mission of the church and actively participate in shaping how the parish responds to changing situations, discerning the working of the Holy Spirit and seeking to work together, as the Body of Christ, to be the Church that Jesus made us to be.



At every Sunday Mass, Catholics confess that Jesus came down from heaven 'for us men and for our salvation.' But what does 'salvation' mean? In this

remarkable 10-part video series, Scripture scholar and theologian Michael Patrick Barber provides a thorough, deeply Catholic, and deeply biblical, answer.

Not Self-Help | Lectio: Salvation | Episode 1

Jesus came to earth to save us! We affirm that truth every time we say the Nicene Creed at Mass: he came down from Heaven "for our salvation." But what does that mean? In this first episode, Dr. Michael Barber explains why every Catholic should understand the importance of salvation: not just for our eternal state, but for our lives here and now. Drawing on Scripture and Tradition, he begins to discuss what it means to "be saved" and launches into the first of ten misconceptions that can lead to spiritual pitfalls: the idea that salvation is a matter of "self-help."

Not Just Fire Insurance | Lectio: Salvation | Episode 2

"Salvation as self-help" is only the first of many common misunderstandings that can become pitfalls in the way we understand and live our faith. In this session, Dr. Barber addresses the common misconception that salvation is like "fire insurance": that it's all about saving people from the fires of Hell. Jesus doesn't simply save us from Hell; he also saves us for something wonderful: "abundant life." Dr. Barber explains how a proper understanding of the Old Testament concepts of law and covenant reveals the essential link between God's law and our happiness and fulfillment.

Not without Cost | Lectio: Salvation | Episode 3

In the last session, we saw that salvation means more than just avoiding Hell and is, in fact, about having abundant life and knowing God's love. This raises the question: why the Cross? What do life and love have to do with suffering and death? To find the answer we must explore what Scripture says about sin as a debt and salvation as the ransom paid for us. When we do so, we discover that Christ's death on the Cross was not just a redeeming action but also a revelation of divine love

Not Just Personal | Lectio: Salvation | Episode 4

Salvation is not without cost, as we saw in the last session. We were not only "bought with a price" (1 Corinthians 6:20), but we were ransomed for a purpose—communion with the Most Holy Trinity. But that communion is not merely a personal relationship between us and Jesus. Our relationship with Jesus necessarily includes a relationship with his Body, the Church. In this session, we will explore the relationship between Christ and his Church and what it means for us and our salvation.

Not Just a Legal Transaction | Lectio: Salvation | Episode 5

After the Fall, each person is born not only with the stain of

sin on their soul but also with a fallen human nature. Thanks be to God that his gift of salvation not only frees us from Original Sin but also transforms us from the inside out, healing the root of our brokenness: our hearts. As we will see in this session, salvation is not simply a legal transaction by which we are declared righteous, but by the gift of God's Spirit we are actually made righteous.

Not a Spectator Sport | Lectio: Salvation | Episode 6

As we continue our study, we look at how grace moves us to cooperate and participate in the work God is doing in us. This brings us to the question of the role good works play in our standing with God and our transformation as his sons and daughters. Relying heavily on Jesus's own teachings, we will see that God intends for us to make good use of the grace he gives us. God's grace moves us to do good works, and then, in his generosity, God rewards us for the good works that he gave us the grace to perform.

Not Simply a Moment | Lectio: Salvation | Episode 7

We can talk about salvation in many different ways. We can speak of it in terms of whether or not we will go to Heaven—something that is a future reality. We can also speak of a past time when we turned from a life of sin and began living for Christ, or the date on which we were baptized. In this session, Dr. Barber will examine how Scripture speaks of salvation as something that entails the past, present, and future. Understanding salvation from all these facets will help us see the full portrait of what Jesus has done for us, will do for us, and is doing in our lives to perfect us.

Not Inevitable | Lectio: Salvation | Episode 8

In an earlier session, Dr. Barber spoke about the misunderstanding of salvation as just "getting out of Hell." He discussed that salvation is so much more than "fire insurance." Why then is it necessary to speak of Hell in a discussion of salvation? While Jesus spent a great deal of time proclaiming the "good news" of salvation, he also warned his disciples of an "eternal fire" (Matthew 25:41). Salvation is a gift, but how does our free will and the choices we make affect our salvation?

Not Just for Other People | Lectio: Salvation | Episode 9

In this session, we will look at one of the biggest obstacles in the spiritual life: ourselves. God is eager to forgive us of our sins and give his grace to conform us into the image of his Son, but in order to receive forgiveness, we must repent! Repenting of our sin means taking responsibility for our failures and admitting that we struggle to love God from the heart. How can we practice more readily recognizing our sin and asking for God's help and the help of those God has put in our lives?

Not Only About the Future | Lectio: Salvation | Episode 10

Why is it so hard to avoid temptation? In this session, we'll look at Scripture passages that remind us we are not alone (since all creation is struggling) and that give us remedies to strengthen us to win the battle against temptation. The new creation is not merely about the future, but can enter our lives here and now. Let's find out how!

Our FORMED Study for Lent

Readings for the week of March 29, 2026

Sunday: Mt 21:1-11 (37)/Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24/150:4-7/Phil 2:6-11/Mt 26:14-27:66 or 27:11-54
Monday: Is 42:1-7/Ps 27:1, 2, 3, 13-14/Jn 12:1-11
Tuesday: Is 49:1-6/Ps 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5ab-6ab, 15 and 17/Jn 13:21-33, 36-38
Wednesday: Is 50:4-9a/Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31 and 33-34/Mt 26:14-25
Thursday: Ex 12:1-8, 11-14/Ps 116:12-13, 15-16, 17-18/1 Cor 11:23-26/Jn 13:1-15
Friday: Is 52:13-53:12/Ps 31:2 and 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17 and 25/Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9/Jn 18:1-19:42
Saturday: Easter Vigil: Gn 1:1-2:2 or 1:1, 26-31a/Ps 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35 (30) or Ps 33:4-5, 6-7, 12-13, 20-22 (5b)/Gn 22:1-18 or 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11 (1)/Ex 14:15-15:1/ Ex 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18 (1b)/Is 54:5-14/Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13 (2a)/Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 (3)/Bar 3:9-15, 32-4:4/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 (Jn 6:68c)/Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28/Ps 42:3, 5; 43:3, 4 (42:2)/Rom 6:3-11/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23/Mt 28:1-10
Next Sunday: Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 (24)/Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8/Jn 20:1-9 or Mt 28:1-10 Or Lk 24:13-35



©LPI

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*



Hosanna!

©LPI

Mountaineer Soft Wash



Siding
Gutters
Roofs
740-359-9277
Owner: Greg Green

www.mountaineersoftwash.com



MARY KAY

TERRIANN PRESUTTI BONFINI
Independent Sales Director

56769 Jordan Run Rd
Bellaire, OH 43906-9730
304-280-9498

tbonfini@att.net
www.marykay.com/tbonfini

ADVANCED SKIN CARE CONSULTANT



**Compassion,
right next door...** **Bellaire**
441 37th Street
740.676.1611

A Catholic funeral provides hope at what is often one of the bleakest times. It is an act of thanksgiving to God for the gift of the life of the person who has died. It also offers hope and consolation to those left behind. Our funeral professionals can help.



HILARY BEARY
Fun Planning Specialist
740.676.1611
www.bauknechtaltmeyer.com



Scan this QR Code to schedule an appointment with Hilary to pre-plan.

Shadyside 3900 Central Ave (740) 676-4310
Powhatan Point 186 Main St. (740) 795-5451


In Loving Memory Of
The Sharpe & Cerasoli Families
By Anita & Jeannine

In Loving Memory of The
Westlake, Gress & Novy Families
By Terry & Linda

In Loving Memory Of
John, Rose & Cathy Magistro
By Bruce & Mary Ann



Happy Easter To The
The Boston & Donahue Families
By Cheryl Boston

In Loving Memory of
Joseph, Patricia & Erin Padyjasek ~ Peter & Frances (Pronishun) 
Stemkowski ~ Andrew & Helen (Ashmanas) Padyjasek.
Love Son~Brother~Grandson
~Peter

In Loving Memory of
The Masciarelli & Smigill Families
By Sunny & Anita Smigill

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