

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.

12TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JUNE 21ST, 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



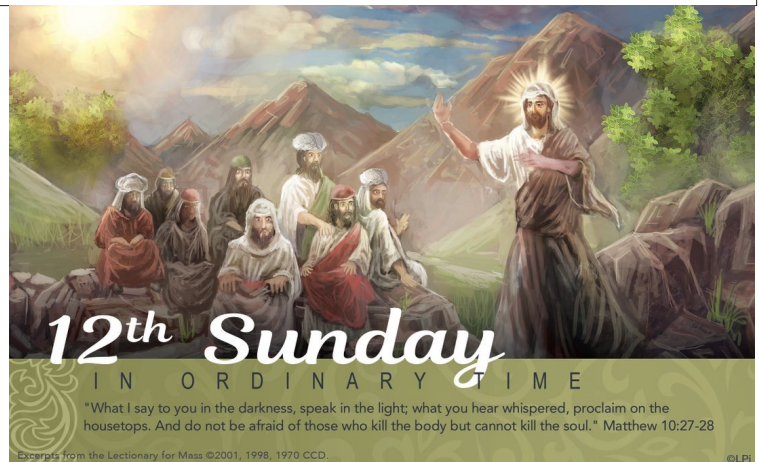
We use Flocknote to connect with you!

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

Grant, O Lord, that we may always revere and love your holy name, for you never deprive of your guidance those you set firm on the foundation of your love. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you I the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Collect of The 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time



QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - REFLECT AND RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE

1st Reading

Jeremiah trusts in the Lord despite his fear of being attacked and persecuted.

Can you think of a time when you had to totally trust in God?

2nd Reading

Paul compares and contrasts the impact of Adam and Christ on our lives. *Who would you say has made the biggest impact on your life so far?*

Gospel Reading

Jesus warns his disciples against spiritual forces that seek to destroy both the body and the soul. *Where do you see malevolent spiritual forces at work in our world?*

©LPi

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES FOR JUNE 27/28

St. John's

June 27th EM: B. Wallner

Lector: M. Kosky

June 28th EM: M.A. Kiss

Lector: L.A. Bennett

St. Mary's

June 27th EM: I. Louda

Lector: E. Kalinowski

June 28th EM: L. Kernik

Lector: M. Kernik

Fr. Dan's Intentions for the Week

Saturday, June 20th, 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00p.m. (SM) + David Smith (Kathi)

5:30p.m. (SJ) + For the People of St. Mary's & St. John's

Sunday, June 21st, 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time/

Father's Day

9:30a.m. (SJ) + Father's Day Intentions

11:00 a.m. (SM) + Father's Dan Intentions

Monday, June 22nd, St. Paulinus of Nola/St. John

Fisher/St. Thomas More

5:15p.m. (SJ) + Joseph Boston Sr. (Wife, Children &

Grandchildren)

Tuesday, June 23rd

8:00a.m. (SM) + Joseph Padyjasek 90th Birthday deceased

(Sons ~ Pete & John)

Wednesday, June 24th, The Nativity of the John the

Baptist

8:00a.m. (SJ) + Paul Cook Happy Father's Day in Heaven

(Mark & Leslie)

Thursday, June 25th

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

Friday, June 26th

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

Saturday, June 27th, 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00p.m. (SM) + Marlene Seita (Family)

5:30p.m. (SJ) + Father's Day Intentions

Sunday, June 28th, 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:30a.m. (SJ) + Jimmy Romish (Mike & Kathryn Kelly)

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

Offertory Collection

For the Weekend of June 13/14

St. John's: Adult (96env) \$3,748, Loose \$377, Communications (3env) \$35, St. Vincent de Paul (1env) \$5, Grade School (2env) \$15, Building Fund (4env) \$65, Father's Day (1env) \$20, Peter's Pence (1env) \$10, Candles \$18.28

St. Mary's: Adult (52env)\$1,620, Loose \$183, Ascension (1env)\$25, Communications (1env) \$15, Peter's Pence (1env) \$5 Building Fund (3env) \$50, Food Pantry (5env) \$105, Candles \$12



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, Susan Gray, Danielle Watt, Paula St. John, Mary Stegman, John, Mary & Heidi Patt, Raisa Rodsky, Jacquie Jochumsen, Tom Waligura, Shari Taylor, Gerald Paolucci, Mark Barker, Ernest Kiss, Rose Reeher, Lou "Weegee" Bennington, Jean Morgan, Bill Shepherd, Peggy Byles, Adam Ruskowski, Janet (Rose) Green, Carol Zemba, Donna Richards, Jack Selmon, Jamie Ellis, Tom & Margie Merryman, Beau Boston, Emily LeMasters, Dalisay Donato, Adrienne Forbes, Stacey Gilli, 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, Pam (Schau) Mitchell, Taylor Foster, Diana McCulley, Janet Green, Darla Schau, Ella Karst, Richard Gates, Liz Gates, Peggy Gress, Kyle Beaver, Eileen Penyak, JoAnn Rankin, Sandina Leonard, Dick Johnson, Connor Hanasky, Brode Brown, Xander Wilson, James (Cracker) Graham, Gary DeVendra, Liz M., David Arnold, Tom Lengyel, Joe Munjas, Fr Tim Shannon



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, Lt. Col. Trey Vasey, Capt. 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 1st Class Meleah (Tiber) Hernik, Seaman Joshya D. Nelson, E - 4 Specialist Luke G. Bell, SSG John Workman, Corporal Dane Miscovich, E-4 Specialist Wyatt L. Robertson

HELP THOSE IS NEED



St. Mary's Parish is collecting deodorant and hand soap for the Shadyside Food Pantry. We will be taking donations in June & July. Please drop your donations off in the back of church. Thank You!

Wedding Anniversary



Congratulations to Robert & Janice Kovack on their 60th Wedding Anniversary!

"Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. May your bond grow deeper and your faith grow stronger. Happy Anniversary!"

Fatima, Lourdes & Spain Pilgrimage



Join Fr. Bradley Geer & Fr. Timothy Huffman, September 10-20, 2026 on the Fatima, Lourdes & Spain Pilgrimage. For more information or to make a reservation, contact : Veronica Wendt/ Queen of Heaven Tours at 800-213-4295/Veronica@QoHTours.com/www.QoHTours.com

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Our St. Vincent de Paul Society will meet this Thursday, June 25th @ 6:00p.m. in the St. John Church Hall. Come check out what we are all about!



Happy Father's Day

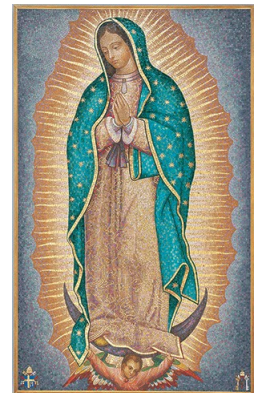
Here's to all our Dad's—may God bless them and shower them with his love and grace. Men, let's ask for the intercession of St. Joseph to be the kind of men our families, parishes and communities need. Strong of men

of faith who look first to what those around them need and give their lives joyfully in humble service. Men, be encouraged by the love our heavenly Father has for you, He gives you all the grace you need to be like Him!



Father's Day Novena of Masses

Grab a card (if you need one) and turn in your envelopes by June 19th so we can pray for our dads, living and deceased! You can find Father's day envelopes in your regular offertory packet. Write the names of your fathers and mark "living" or "deceased." We will remember them in nine masses offered for "Fathers Day Intentions."



Holy Hour for Life With Our Lady of Guadalupe

As patroness of the unborn, Our Lady of Guadalupe is a powerful advocate for those at-risk of abortion and all those involved in the pro-life cause. Our Knights of Columbus Council #1246 will be gathering the parish to pray to Our Lady of Guadalupe for the cause of Life and to seek Our Lady's assistance, such as defense of the unborn, healing from infertility, care for mothers and families and an end to the evil of abortion. The Holy Hour will be this **Wednesday, June 24th at 6:30pm, St. John's Church.**

Blessing of Fathers



God and Father of all creation, we come before you today with humble hearts. You are our model of a loving father. When we fail and fall short of your expectations, you are always there at the end of the day with open arms,

ready to heal the cuts and scrapes of the day and to encourage us to try again and not to give up.

We hold up these men in our midst who act in the world as fathers to their children or models of fathers for others.

Bless them in their moments of doubt and frustration with their children. Give them warm and open hearts to forgive failures. Provide them with the words needed for encouragement and perseverance. We ask all this in the name of Jesus. Amen. ©LPi



GOSPEL MEDITATION

Jean Améry, a Holocaust survivor tortured by the Nazis, later wrote about the abyss of human evil. He described his reaction as an "indignant despair." Haven't we all, to some degree, felt that abyss opened beneath us? A sudden loss, a violent headline, a moment of loneliness or panic, when the world feels fragile and meaning seems to collapse?

It is to this fear that Jesus speaks in today's Gospel: **"Do not be afraid of those who can kill the body."** (Matthew 10:28) He does not deny evil or pretend we will never suffer. Instead, He reframes the abyss: do not fear those who can kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Your life is seen, known, and counted by the Father. Even the hairs of your head, even the sparrow's fall.

This is not superficial comfort. Jesus himself has entered the abyss: suffering, death, even our sense of forsakenness, and he has come through it. That is why his words, "Do not be afraid," hold such weight. They do not erase the abyss but build a bridge across it.

Faith is not pretending everything is fine. It is staring into the abyss and still choosing trust. And in that trust, we discover we are never alone. Christ stands with us, and the Father's care surrounds us. That is the only comfort deep enough for our (often fearful) hearts. — *Father John Muir* ©LPi



CARING CRAFTERS NEWS

Happy Father's Day to all our fathers. We have a gift for you as you leave church today. Also we will have our Christmas in July paint workshop on July 23. Watch for flyers at church entrances! All are welcome!



ST. JOHN PARISH FESTIVAL

St. John Parish Festival Committee will meet this Tuesday, June 23rd, at 6:00p.m. (SJH) We will wrap up this year's event and start planning for next year!

ST MARY'S FESTIVAL MEETING

Our next Meeting to plan for the St. Mary's Festival, August 14-16, 2026 will be this Tuesday, June 23rd, at 7:00pm in the **St. Mary's Religious Education Building.** All are welcome to attend!

12TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Readings for the week of June 21, 2026

Sunday: Jer 20:10-13/Ps 69:8-10, 14 and 17, 33-35/Rom 5:12-15/Mt 10:26-33
Monday: 2 Kgs 17:5-8, 13-15a, 18/Ps 60:3, 4-5, 12-13/Mt 7:1-5
Tuesday: 2 Kgs 19:9b-11, 14-21, 31-35a, 36/ Ps 48:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 10-11/Mt 7:6, 12-14
Wednesday: Is 49:1-6/Ps 139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 14c-15/Acts 13:22-26/Lk 1:57-66, 80
Thursday: 2 Kgs 24:8-17/ Ps 79:1b-2, 3-5, 8, 9/Mt 7:21-29
Friday: 2 Kgs 25Lam 2:2, 10-14, 18-19/ Ps 74:1b-2, 3-5, 6-7, 20-21/Mt 8:5-17
Next Sunday: 2 Kgs 4:8-11, 14-16a/Ps 89:2-3, 16-17, 18-19/Rom 6:3-4, 8-11/Mt 10:37-42)

THIS WEEK

Sunday: 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time
HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!
Tuesday: 9:00a.m. –5:00p.m. Eucharistic Adoration
 6:00p.m. St. John Festival Committee Meeting (SJH)
 7:00pm St. Mary's Festival Mtg (SMRE)
Wednesday: 6:30p.m.—7:30p.m. Holy Hour of Life (SJ)
Thursday: 6:00pm St. Vincent de Paul Mtg (SJH)
Next Sunday: 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time



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

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

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

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

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

In Loving Memory Of
 The Boston & Donahue Families
By Cheryl Boston

In Loving Memory of
 Joseph, Patricia & Erin Padyjasek ~ Peter & Frances (Pronishun)

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

Stemkowski ~ Andrew & Helen (Ashmanas) Padyjasek.
Love Son~Brother~Grandson
~Peter

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

BAUKNECHT-ALTMAYER
 FUNERAL HOMES & CREMATORY
 Celebrating Life's Treasured Memories

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
 Pre-Planning Specialist
 740.695.8475
hbeary@bauknecht-altmayer.com
www.bauknecht-altmayer.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



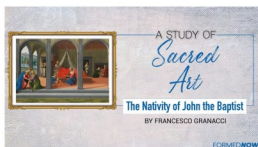
This Week on Formed

Week of June 21, 2026



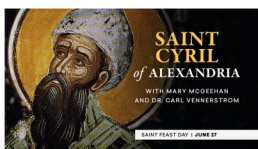
Saint Thomas More: The Age of the Author

This engaging series delves into the lives of the saints who led the Catholic Counter-Reformation. In this episode, learn about St. Thomas More, a patient witness to the faith who endured a heroic martyrdom at the hands of Henry VIII.



The Nativity of John the Baptist

On the Nativity of John the Baptist, join Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp as they sit down and discuss a piece of Sacred Art depicting this holy event.



St. Cyril of Alexandria | Catholic Saints

During the Nestorian Controversy of the fifth century, heroic saints like Cyril of Alexandria defended the truth of Christ's divinity. In this episode, Dr. Carl Vennerstrom and Mary McGeehan discuss the Nestorian heresy and how St. Cyril's humble, courageous spirit aided the Church during a time of discord.

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

An offering from the AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE

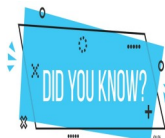


ENJOY FREE ACCESS TO FORMED.ORG

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: Absolution, penance, and confession all refer to which Sacrament?

Answer: The Sacrament of Reconciliation.



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

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS AND THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time / June 28, 2026

First Reading: When the woman had been called and stood at the door, Elisha promised, "This time next year you will be fondling a baby son." (2 Kgs 4:15-16)

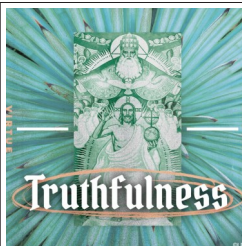
Psalm: For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord. (Ps 89)

Second Reading: We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life. (Rom 6:4)

Gospel: Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. (Mt 10:39)

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 2232-2233: to follow Christ is first vocation of Christian
CCC 537, 628, 790, 1213, 1226-1228, 1694: baptism, to die to self, to live for Christ
CCC 1987: grace justifies through faith and baptism



Virtues, Explained!

Affability, Explained!

There was a certain sister in the Carmelite convent who particularly tried the patience of St. Therese of Lisieux.

But instead of avoiding this person, St. Therese instead made a point of smiling at her whenever the two met.

"Charity must not consist in feelings, but in works," wrote St. Therese. "I set myself to doing for this Sister what I would do for the person I loved the most." In doing so, she learned to see "Jesus hidden in the depths" of this woman's soul.

St. Therese was growing in the virtue of affability when she did this. Affability is attached to justice, writes St. Thomas Aquinas, and demands "that we behave pleasantly to those among whom we dwell." (*Sum.*, II:II, 114, Art. 2)

In being affable, we make ourselves friendly, approachable, and agreeable to those around us, regardless of how they make us feel. "How good and how pleasant it is when brothers dwell together as one," writes King David in Psalm 133.

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Fear No One

In the 1883 painting “Mass in a Connemara Cabin,” a small congregation of shabbily dressed faithful is huddled together in a sparsely appointed room. A priest extends his hand over them in blessing. One woman presses her forehead to the ground in prayer.

This painting, created in 1883 by Aloysius O’Kelley, depicts a “station Mass,” offered for the community in a private home. Though this practice originated in the period of the Penal Laws, when Catholic worship was illegal in Ireland, it persisted even after the “emancipation” of Catholics in the 19th century.

I have used quotation marks around the word “emancipation” because we must never forget that just because something is made legal does not mean it is made popular. And it certainly is not made safe.

In the moments that pass immediately after this scene concludes, the altar candles will be extinguished and the faithful will disperse, carrying the Body and Blood of Christ into a world suspicious of him, suspicious of them.

And yet here they are, kneeling. Foreheads pressed to the floor.

This painting sits on my family’s prayer table as a call to reflection. I make my living writing Catholic things for Catholic publications. The people who read what I write are bound to agree with me — they’re usually reading my words in a church. I must confess that in my personal life, I am far less bold. I fear controversy. I dread giving offense. I buckle beneath the weight of discipleship.

It doesn’t matter that most Americans identify as “Christians” — the world we face when we leave Mass is every bit as resentful of true Catholic teaching as the world that lies beyond O’Kelley’s Connemara cottage. And while I do not fear those who can kill my body, I do fear those who can kill my reputation.

“Mass in a Connemara Cabin” illustrates how my ancestors worshiped: in secret, in shadow.

I worship in the daylight.

**PRAYER – FOR EVERYDAY AND EVERYBODY****Blessing for the Summer**

Praise God!

Pour Your mercy upon this season, Lord! As the days fill with sun, fill our hearts with the fire of Your love. As we gather to share story and song, campfires and connection, be with us. Bless our work, our rest, and our play in Your goodness. Amen.

WHY DO WE DO THAT? - CATHOLIC LIFE**Priestly Ordination of Men****Question:**

Why are only men allowed to be priests or deacons in the Church?

Answer:

One of the most debated and — in some circles — contentious teachings of the Church is that only men can be ordained as priests and deacons. Critics see it as a way of strengthening a patriarchal system in which women have little or no voice. Those who support this teaching look to New Testament teaching (where we read of Jesus choosing only men to be apostles) and the long-standing practice of the Church. This was certainly the perspective of St. John Paul II who, in his 1994 apostolic letter, *Ordinatio Sacerdotalis*, closed the discussion on the possibility of ordaining women as priests.

In the letter, he reflected on the dignity of women and their call to share in the life and mission of the Church, but he concluded by solemnly declaring that “the Church has no authority whatsoever to confer priestly ordination on women and that this judgement is to be definitely held by all the Church’s faithful” (no. 4).

This position has been upheld by Pope Francis in interviews, most notably as he returned from his 2016 visit to Sweden.

The ordination of women to the diaconate is another question and one which is being studied. In 2016, Pope Francis created a 12-member commission to study the question from several perspectives (theological, liturgical, historical, etc.). The commission issued an initial report for Pope Francis who later said that the commission had not yet produced a “definite response” to the question because of a lack of agreement on the role of female deacons in the Early Church.

For now, however, regardless of what changes might come from ongoing study and debate, the Church continues to reserve ordination to the diaconate to men only, recognizing a vital link between the diaconate and the priesthood and the lack of certainty about the presence and function of female deacons throughout history. ©LPi



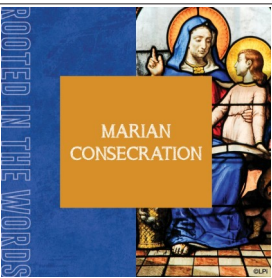
EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

Will You Say Yes?

You find yourself in the difficult situation of being accused of blasphemy and confronting possible execution. Your crime is believing in Jesus Christ. The question is then asked of you, "Are you a Christian, a follower of the one named Jesus Christ?" Your answer may very well dictate what happens to you next. What is your answer?

It is probably easier to answer this question when the scenario is make-believe. All of us want to believe that we would say yes to the question of belief in Jesus, but strange things happen when humans panic in the face of extreme stress. As we reflect on what we would say, there are those all over the world who are being asked that very same question. It is a question that was asked of many in the first centuries of the Church. Those who respond "yes" are considered martyrs and saints.

We might not usually think of all this in terms of good stewardship living. However, our faith is also a gift we have received from God to cultivate, grow, and share with others. The more interesting question than the one posed above is, "Would an accuser even think of asking you such a question?" Would you have cultivated, grown, and shared your faith enough that anyone would even consider you worthy of asking the question? They might assume you don't know Jesus Christ at all. I don't like conflict and do not seek out conflict, but I would rather someone ask the first question posed than assume there is no reason to confront me in the first place. — *Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS* ©LPi



Devotions, Explained !

Marian Consecration, Explained

Marian consecration, the act of consecrating oneself to Jesus through the intercession of his Blessed Mother, is actually rooted in the words of Jesus himself when he beseeched the Apostle John to look upon Mary as his mother (John 19:27) and to "take her into his own home." He was actually instructing us all to do likewise — to "behold your mother" and take Mary into our hearts, for wherever she is beloved, Christ is known and praised.

St. Maximilian Kolbe described Mary as "the stairway to Heaven." Marian consecration, therefore, could be likened to climbing the stairs. Different formulas exist for spiritual development in preparation for the consecration, based on the writings of saints like St. Louis de Montfort, and there are different prayers for the act of consecration. However, there is no "right" way to consecrate oneself to Jesus through Mary, so long as the ultimate goal is closeness to Christ and the glorification of God. ©LPi



LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

"What I say to you in the darkness, speak in the light." We all hear God's voice whispering in our hearts. Discipleship means speaking those words out loud. We all feel the Spirit sing into our souls. Discipleship means that we dance to the tune.



Happy Father's Day!



Let's thank God for the fathers and father figures who care for their families and help build loving homes. St. Joseph, pray for us, and especially for our fathers!

©LPi

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

The Wonders of God

When I was a teenager, after a homecoming dance one year I took my date for a walk on the Potomac in downtown Alexandria. The moon was out and I was struck by how the light shimmered on the water. I remember focusing to try to see all the details of the dancing rays on the ripples. My date didn't see it and didn't really get it. She thought it was no big deal. It was a great date and a fun night, but for that one moment we saw the world from two completely different vantage points.

Two of the greatest gifts from God to each of us are life and time. Without taking care, we can easily miss the grandeur and beauty of both. Being mindful as an everyday steward means pausing to see the detail in all that exists around us. God's creation is not something created with a broad brush, but instead with the intricacies of a master painter.

God created all things with purpose and a complexity only the divine could fully comprehend. Every single hair on our head has been counted! But when we take a moment to