

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.

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SEPTEMBER 6, 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

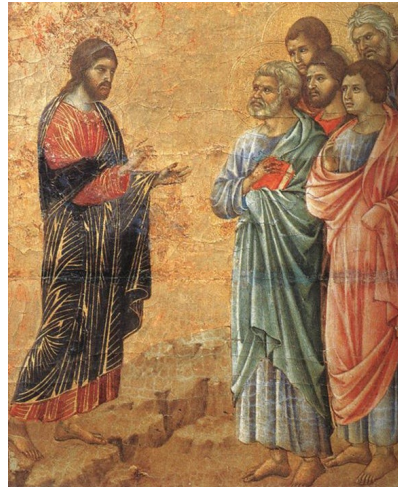


We use Flocknote to connect with you!

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



23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have won over your brother."
- Mt 18:15

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

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

O God, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption, look graciously upon your sons and daughters, that those who believe in Christ may receive true freedom and an everlasting inheritance. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Collect of The 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

LIFE. LOVE. PURPOSE.

What Jesus has to say about the things that matter most.

MESSAGE SERIES

Welcome to our four-week message series, **Life.Love.Purpose**, where we will explore

what Jesus has to say about the things that matter most. Four weeks. Four questions. One invitation: Come and see what Jesus has to say about your life.

Week One: When Life Gets Messy

Scripture: Matthew 18:15–20

What do I do when the people I love hurt me? Jesus doesn't pretend relationships are easy. People will hurt us. Jesus doesn't promise us a life without broken relationships. He shows us what to do when they break. In Matthew 18, he gives us a radically different way of dealing with conflict: go to the person, seek reconciliation, and don't give up on the relationship. Don't gossip. Don't retaliate. Don't simply walk away. *Go.* Reconciliation is worth pursuing, because relationships matter to God. Life is better when we stop running from broken relationships and learn how to pursue reconciliation. Remember, Jesus lived this message. When we were still sinners he came to save us by giving his life.

This week's Invitation: Who is one person with whom God may be asking me to take the first step?

Fr. Dan's Intentions for the Week

Saturday, September 5, 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
 4:00p.m. (SM) + Wayne Peters (Cindy & Lori)
 5:30p.m. (SJ) + Linda Tylka, Birthday Dec. (Connie, John & Jeff)
Sunday, September 6, 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
 9:30a.m. (SJ) + Janice Whorton (Barb Poch & Family)
 11:00 a.m. (SM) For the People of St. Mary's & St. John's
Monday, September 7, Labor Day
9:00a.m. * (SJ) + Mary Ronevich (Ernie & Mary Ann)**
Tuesday, September 8, Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 8:00a.m. (SM) + Dan Busack (Jeanne Busack)
Wednesday, September 9, St. Peter Claver
 8:00a.m. (SJ) + Paul & Stella Crum (Ginny Shutler)
Thursday, September 10
 8:00a.m. (SM) + Zora Kernik (Betty Ann Brusnahan)
Friday, September 11, Patriot Day
 8:00a.m. (SJ) + Mary Markovich (Ed & Taeko)
Saturday, September 12, 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 4:00p.m. (SM) + Judy Rulong (Paula Phillips)
 5:30p.m. (SJ) + Dom Presutti (Daughter Terriann & Family)
Sunday, September 13, 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 9:30a.m. (SJ) + Rick Midei (John & Cathy Traylinek)
 11:00a.m.(SM) For the People of St. Mary's & St. John's

***** Note Holiday mass time for Labor Day!**



Lord, bless and protect those serving our country, especially: Lt. Col. Brian Zeno, Airmen 1st Class Curtis McElfresh, Sgt. Christopher Wetzels, 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 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



Recycle Your Religious Items!

A Religious Recycle Group will be stopping by to collect Religious items that need a new home. **Items they take are anything Catholic such as Statues, Rosaries (Broken rosaries OK), Crucifixes, Holy Medals, Holy Cards, Framed Pictures, Prayer Books and Bibles as well as used musical instruments.**

Items they do not take- Outdoor Concrete Statuary, Religious Reading Books that would qualify as a Catholic Library Book, Pamphlets, Greeting Cards, Wax Candles, Angel Figurines (Saint Angels are fine), Christmas decorations. Please bring your items into the parish office no later than **Sunday September 13th.**

Offertory Collection

For the Weekend of August 22/23

St. John's: Adult (83env) \$2,663, Loose \$507, Assumption (2env) \$10, St Mary Grade School (1env) \$50, Building Fund (2env) \$255
St. Mary's: Adult (39env) \$880, Loose \$160, Assumption (1env) \$60, St. Vincent de Paul Society (1env) \$15, St Mary Grade School (1env) \$25, Building Fund (3env) \$105, Candles \$25

For the Weekend of August 29/30

St. John's: Adult (85env) \$2,707, Loose \$458, Assumption (1env) \$5, St Vincent de Paul (2env) \$10, St. Mary Grade School (1env) \$10, Building Fund (7env) \$143, Candles \$38
St. Mary's: Adult (45env) \$2,020, Loose \$185, Immaculate Heart Fund (1env) \$20, St. Vincent de Paul Society (2env) \$50, St. Mary Grade School (3env) \$75, Building Fund (4env) \$180, Food Pantry (1env) \$25, Candles \$65



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, Jeremy Chirpas, Tyce Hughes, 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 Kovallo, Susan Gray, Danielle Watt, Paula St. John, Mary Stegman, John, Mary & Heidi Patt, Raisa Rodsky, Tom Waligura, Shari Taylor, Gerald Paolucci, Mark Barker, Ernest Kiss, Rose Reeher, Lou "Weegee" Bennington, Jean Morgan, Bill Shepherd, Peggy Byles, 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, Julie, Brian, Patricia, Diana McCulley, Janet Green, Darla Schau, Ella Karst, 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, Bill West, Johnny Rushman, Patty Smith, Martha Rollandini, Marty Strussion, Waneta Janosik, Jarrett Burga, Joseph Weyrick, Cathy Cilles, Henry Boston, Bubba Kapral, Jan West, Marlene Workman, Cathy Wright

BUILDING THE DOMESTIC CHURCH KIOSK

Live out the Church's vision for our families by checking out the **Building the Domestic Church** kiosk in the back of our churches. All Booklets are free of charge, thanks to our Knights of Columbus Council!



The Seven Essential Elements of Parish Life
You've heard me talk about them and I'm excited to continue developing our efforts as a parish in Evangelization, Worship, Word, Community, Service, Stewardship and Leadership. Our message series this month focuses on the element of Word, how the Word of God grows in the hearts of disciples!



PARISH PICNIC

Our Parish Picnic will be Sunday, September 13, 2026, 12:45pm - 3:00pm at the Powhatan Pt., Park Shelter, 147 Allen Ave, Powhatan Pt, OH 43942. Please RSVP by returning the form in last's weekend bulletin, scanning the QR Code or going to our website, bnspcatholic.org. The parish will provide hamburgers, hotdogs and drinks, and parishioners are asked to bring a salad, side dish, or dessert.



The *Caring Crafters* are organizing the annual Chinese auction at our picnic. They are asking for donations such as: gift certificates, prepared gift baskets, merchandise, goods or handmade items. Please kindly have all donations dropped off at the church rectory by Sept 11, or call if a pick up is needed. Thank you as always for your time, generosity and support.



St. John the Evangelist and St. Mary Parishes

Faith Formation Program 2026-2027

Classes Pre-K through Adult begin Sunday, September 20, 9:30am-10:45am, St. Mary's Church Religious Education Building. There will be other times available for adults to attend class together during the week. Please return the registration form, found at the entrances to church, to the parish office by Monday, August 17th. You can place in collection basket, mail it to 3745 Tallman Ave, Bellaire, OH 43906, take a picture of the completed form with your cell phone and text to (740) 298-4158, or Email it to office@bnspcatholic.org.

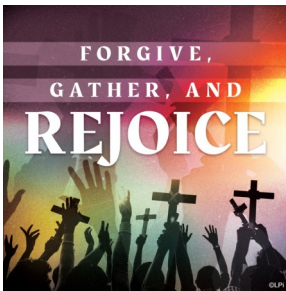


Questions? Call or text (740) 298-4158. To sign up online you can find the a link on our website, bnspcatholic.org, or scan the QR Code to find the link for online sign-up!



LABOR DAY CAR SHOW

Monday September 7th, St John's Church will be hosting our 2nd annual cruise-in-style car show. 10am-4pm and free to spectators. There is a \$10 entry fee. Thanks to your generosity last year our profit was \$7,500 that we were able to divide between the Salvation Army Emergency Center, St. Vincent de Paul, Bellaire Local Schools Weekend Food Program, the Living Bread Pantry & the Coat Closet at the Bellaire Presbyterian Church! Come and enjoy the car show! Food, and raffles!



GOSPEL MEDITATION

A few summers ago, my family had a big reunion. It included my parents, my four siblings, and all their many children. One of my favorite moments was simply watching my parents' contented faces as they took in all of us together, laughing, sharing food, singing, telling stories. They loved seeing their children happily *together* with each other.

That is something like the heart of God we see in today's Gospel message about Christian reconciliation. These verses come right after Jesus' parable of the lost sheep. He is not giving the disciples a cold formula for dealing with conflict. He is revealing the Father's longing for children who love and reconcile with each other. His heart aches when his children are divided and isolated.

So when Jesus says, **"Go and tell your brother his fault,"** He is not deputizing us as morality police. He is inviting us into his mission of reconciliation. When he adds, **"If he listens to you, you have won over your brother,"** we glimpse the real goal. Not winning arguments, but reuniting a divided family.

These days, we often think religion is just between God and me. But the Father's dream is about a lively family, one in which His children forgive, gather, and rejoice together.

Lord Jesus, give me the courage to seek reconciliation where it is needed. Make my heart resemble the Father's heart, longing and working for unity among His children. Amen.

— Father John Muir

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REST IN PEACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of **Paula St. John, Jack Sechrest and Anthony "Skip" Bumbico**. We offer our prayers also for the comfort of their loved ones. *If you have a family member that dies but was not buried from our parishes please call the parish office, we would like to include them here in this space.*

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES FOR SEPTEMBER 12/13

St. John's
September 12 EM: C. Bladen Lector: S. Homer
September 13 EM: B. Wallner Lector: L.A. Bennett
St. Mary's
September 12 EM: I. Louda Lector: E. Kalinowski
September 13 EM: J. Ferrelli Lector: S. Ferrelli





This Week on Formed

Week of September 06, 2026



What Catholics Believe About Mary: Immaculate Conception, Virginity

Join Dr. Edward Sri as he answers some of the internet's most asked questions about Mary. Who is Mary? Why do Catholics pray to Mary? How could she be a virgin if Jesus had brothers and sisters according to the Bible? Find out answers to these and more questions in this episode of What Catholics Believe.



Mary of Nazareth

What would it have been like to have known the Mother of God? Watch this beautiful film portraying the life of Mary in order to contemplate Mary's profound faith and the mysteries of her life.



Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

In this episode, Dr. Tim Gray and Dr. John Sehorn discuss the birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

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

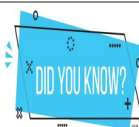
An offering from the AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE



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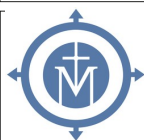
1. Go to Formed.org
2. Choose "Find your parish subscription"
3. Click "Sign-in or Create an account"
4. Follow instructions to set up your Account.
5. The "Join your Parish" screen will appear. - Enter the zip code, "43906" in the Search box, then choose "St. John the Evangelist/St. Mary" and click 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: The word "Catholic" comes from the Greek "katholikos," meaning what?

Answer: Universal ©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

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time / September 13, 2026

First Reading: Forgive your neighbor's injustice; then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven. (Sir 28:2)

Psalm: The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion. (Ps 103)

Second Reading: None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord. (Rom 14:8)

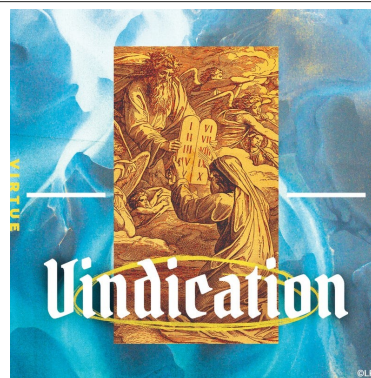
Gospel: Peter approached Jesus and asked him, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times." (Mt 18:21-22)

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 218-221: God is love

CCC 294: God manifests his glory by sharing his goodness

CCC 2838-2845: "forgive us our trespasses"



Virtues, Explained!

Vindication, Explained!

Most commonly, we understand the term "vindication" in a very legal, argumentative context. We say someone is "vindicated" when they are proven innocent, or when their good name is defended from an accusation.

This isn't so far from what vindication means in the sense of virtue, either. Vindication is related to the virtue of justice, which demands we honor our duty to God and to one another. Justice seeks to ensure the fairness of human interaction. It seeks to safeguard truth against those who would co-opt it for their own purposes.

If we truly put our trust in God and seek to do His will, we may not always have popularity, but we will have truth: "Commit your way to the Lord, trust in him and he will act, and make your righteousness shine like the dawn, your justice like noonday." (Psalm 37:5-6)

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(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Treat Him Like a Gentile

In today's Gospel, Jesus gives instructions for ministering to those persisting in error. Here's the CliffsNotes version: If all else fails, "treat him as you would a Gentile or a tax collector."

In other words? Don't give up. Tell him the truth. Wash, rinse and repeat.

Technically speaking, I'm a Gentile. I've done those mail-in DNA tests, and none of my ancestors were Jewish. So whoever told my family about the God of Abraham, it wasn't Moses, and it probably wasn't Jesus himself, unless he spent some time in northwestern Europe that the Gospels fail to mention.

Nope, my ancestors were big old Gentiles living in a big old Gentile world. Lucky for me, someone evangelized them. At first, my ancestors probably didn't listen. But the evangelist, whoever he or she was, didn't give up.

I say "lucky for me" because this all means that I was born and raised Catholic. It makes it easier, I think — but it doesn't make it easy. I'm not an automaton, and I still have to accept the truth of the faith I choose to live. So do you. So do we all.

Inevitably, we falter. What then?

Who are the tax collectors? Zaccheus was one. Matthew was another. Maybe you recognize his name — he's the guy who wrote this Gospel. And who are the Gentiles? Me. You, maybe. Everyone the disciples decided not to give up on. Everyone the Church is called not to forget about, not to dismiss, and not to take for granted.

So treat them all like Gentiles, and remember that God sees the future, not just the past.

©LPi

**PRAYER – FOR EVERYDAY AND EVERYBODY****Back-to-School Blessing**

Dear God,

We ask that You bless the students in our congregation, giving them inspirational teachers, studious habits, solid friendships, and Your grace in every moment of this school year.

Bless the teachers and school staff in our congregation, too. Fill them with Your love and care so that, as they teach and minister to our young people, Your wisdom and light may be known, encountered, and shared.

Amen. ©LPi

WHY DO WE DO THAT? - CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED**Miraculous Medal**

Question: *What is the "Miraculous Medal" and why is it called that?*

Answer: The medal of the Immaculate Conception that has come to be called simply the "Miraculous Medal" dates back to an apparition of Mary to Saint Catherine Laboure, who was then a novice sister with the Daughters of Charity. On November 27, 1830, Our Lady appeared to her standing on a globe, with shafts of light streaming from her hands and the words, "O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee," surrounding the image. In the same vision, Catherine saw a capital "M" with a cross above it and below two hearts. Catherine seemed to hear a voice telling her to have what she saw struck as a medal and a promise that those who wore the medal would have the protection and intercession of the Mother of God. The first 1,500 medals were distributed in 1832. Many miraculous favors were attributed to the use of the medal.

Saint Catherine's "Miraculous Medal" is among the recognizable and popular symbols of modern Catholicism. Reflecting on its widespread use, the 2001 Vatican document, "Directory on Popular Piety and Liturgy," observes that the medal "recalls the mystery of Redemption, the love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and of the Sorrowful Heart of Mary. It signifies the mediatory role of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the mystery of the Church, the relationship between Heaven and earth, this life and eternal life."

©LPi

"What do you always get on your birthday?"**"Another year of memories!"**

We celebrate special birthdays a few times a year: St. John the Baptist on June 24, Jesus' Mother, Mary, on September 8, and of course, Jesus on December 25. Happy birthday, heavenly family!

©LPi



Labor Day Blessing

Dear God,

We thank You for this Labor Day.

Bless the men and women who serve in our workforce, and grant them strength and protection in

their work.

Bless, too, those who courageously seek to build fairer and more just working environments for all our brothers and sisters.

Bless all of us as we gather to rest and recreate during this holiday weekend.

Amen. ©LPi

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

Owe Only Love

I have to smile when I read in St. Paul's Letter to the Romans, "Owe nothing to anyone, except to love one another." I smile because I know that in today's world few people owe nothing to anyone. We have credit card debt, mortgages, student loans, car loans, and new loans to consolidate old loans. It would seem that we actually owe everything to everyone.

These debts are of this world. I am pretty sure no one residing in heaven is still making mortgage payments. We have created contracts in this world to make possible certain transactions of goods, services, and shelter. But there is one thing that we naturally owe one another and that lasts longer than our time on earth: love.

You do not need to take out a loan to have more love to give. There also is no limit to the love you have been given to share. However, it is the one gift that we sometimes treat with the least respect. We hold back love due to sins of pride, prejudice, and apathy. We distort and manipulate love for our own gain and selfish desires. We can find ourselves placing more importance on the things for which we have taken out loans than the love that is eternal.

I am trying the best I can to get to a point where I no longer owe anything to banks and mortgage lenders. I don't want to leave this world owing anyone for the earthly things I had in this life. But even more importantly, I realize the shame it would be to leave people behind that didn't get enough love from me. There is nothing greater than love.

Tracy Earl Welliver

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BUILDING A CULTURE OF LIFE Come to the Church

"On what reasonable grounds and with what imaginable right can anyone suggest that any human life since that time of Abram, is less precious or valuable than that of Isaac? Or has less potential in the plan of our Creator? What a savage, unconscionable, heinous act it would have been to have put this special gift of God, Isaac, to death in his mother's womb. And to how many potential Isaacs has that happened and is still happening.....The right to life is the greatest civil rights issue of our time. This is the issue that will determine whether America remains a hospitable society, committed to caring for women in crisis and their unborn children, -- or whether America betrays our heritage and the truths on which the founders staked their claims to independence....No one has to have an abortion. To all those in crisis pregnancies, I pledge our support and our financial help. Come to the Catholic Church. Let us walk with you through your time of trouble. Let us help you affirm life. Abortion need not be an answer ..."

---Archbishop Edwin O'Brien Maryland March for Life St. Mary's, Annapolis, March 13, 2008

SEPTEMBER 11

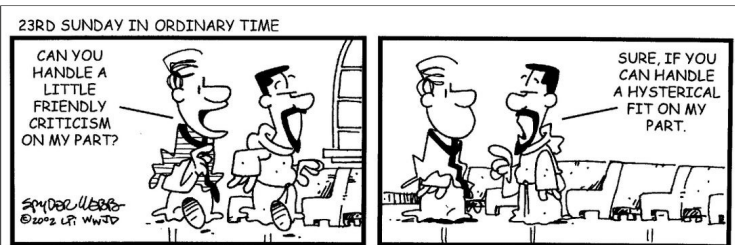
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NEVER FORGET



BECOME DEBT FREE!

One of the biggest sources of stress in people's lives—including their spiritual lives—is money. Our church is hosting a **Financial Peace University** class starting on **Tuesday, August 29 at 6:00pm**. This is a nine-week class, taught by Dave Ramsey and his team of experts, where we'll walk through biblical principles of how to handle money. You'll learn how to master a budget, pay off debt, invest for the future, and become a more generous giver. This class is for anyone who wants to manage their money better and become a good steward of their money for God's glory. The cost of the course is \$79.90, payable to St. John's Church. Financial aid is available, we don't want the cost to be an obstacle for anyone who wants to take the course! If you're interested in joining the class, call or text (740) 298-4158 for more info!



EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

The Blessing of the Community

I have been blessed to be a member of my parish community for 28 years. For much of that time I was serving as a member of the parish staff, but it was still the community that I call home. I have been fortunate to be able to remain in that parish even as my life has encountered new chapters and callings. I am so grateful to God that I have been able to grow, be nourished, and find companionship in a parish for this long of a time.

It is a natural tendency for human beings to desire belonging to something bigger than themselves. Not everyone is fortunate enough to find the community, big or small, that fulfills that need. Unfortunately, that means that many communities suffer from not having the benefit of the gifts, skills, and talents that any member can offer. Communities are in many ways living organisms that move and breathe based upon the individuals who form that body. A community is truly the sum of its parts.

Your parish community reflects you and everyone else in that community. The more each member gives to the community, the stronger that community finds itself. If you hold back, your community suffers, and you gain little. I know firsthand what being a part of a community can mean to a person. I would be no one at all – and you would not be reading this – if it weren't for the life I have had in my parish community.

– Tracy Earl Welliver

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Devotions, Explained!

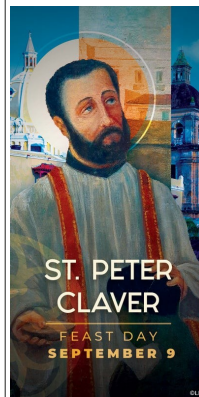
Lectio Divina, Explained!

Lectio divina (“divine reading”) is a practice of praying through the reading of Scripture, opening oneself to the inspiration and communication of the Holy Spirit.

The practice of *Lectio divina* dates to ancient monastic communities, but it has gained popularity in modern times as a way to meaningfully engage with the word of God.

The formula for *Lectio divina* is simple and follows four steps. The text of the Scripture is read (*lectio*) multiple times, and the reader takes note of any words or phrases that resonate with him in a particular way. The reader then reflects deeply on the passage (*meditatio*) and the words that he noticed, turning them over in his mind. Following this, the reader prays with the passage (*oratio*), and dialogues with God, inviting him to illuminate the reader's understanding of the text. Finally, there is rest and contemplation (*contemplatio*).

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St. Peter Claver—Feast Day: September 9

Born in Catalonia, Spain, in 1580, St. Peter Claver studied first at the University of Barcelona and then joined the Jesuits. He became friends with fellow brother St. Alphonsus Rodriguez, who encouraged him to be a missionary in the New World. Accordingly, St. Peter went to Cartagena, a city in present-day Colombia, where he was ordained in 1615.

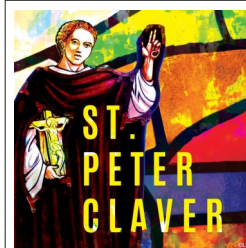
Cartagena was a center for the slave trade, and the young missionary knew where he could best serve God. He proclaimed himself, “the slave of the Negroes forever.” As ships would arrive with their human cargo, Saint Peter and a group of interpreters would rush into the hold with food and medicines. When the slaves were moved to pens to await sale, the saint continued to work among them, communicating God's love with acts of generosity and teaching the Catholic faith.

He also led missions in the interior, refusing the hospitality of plantation owners and preferring to stay in the slave quarters. He organized charitable societies and is said to have baptized and catechized more than 300,000 enslaved persons.

St. Peter Claver died on September 8, 1654. He was canonized with his friend St. Alphonsus Rodriguez in 1888 by Pope Leo XIII. He is the worldwide patron saint of African Americans and of enslaved peoples.

St. Peter Claver, pray for us!

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Celebrating St. Peter Claver

“Who is my neighbor?” Jesus’ answer to this question was the parable of the Good Samaritan. In short, the person you least expect. Peter Claver was born in 16th century Spain. Peter became a Jesuit and was deeply influenced by the missionary call.

At age 30, he set out for modern-day Colombia. At the time, Cartagena was one of the largest slave markets in the New World. As a priest, Peter knew his role was spiritual service. He quickly dedicated his ministry to these “neighbors” whom the world rejected. When a slave ship entered the harbor, Peter would rush on board with food, water, and a human touch. He introduced some slaves to Christ in a more formal way. As these new converts were moved to plantations, he would visit them, stay in their quarters, and advocate with the masters to act humanely.

St. Peter Claver called himself “the slave of the slaves forever.” May we, too, have a powerful sense of our neighbor.

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ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST PARISH / ST MARY PARISH : BELLAIRE, NEFFS, SHADYSIDE, POWHATAN

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 6, 2026

Sunday: Ez 33:7-9/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7b, 7c-9/Rom 13:8-10/Mt 18:15-20
Monday: 1 Cor 5:1-8/Ps 5:5-6, 7, 12/Lk 6:6-11
Tuesday: Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30/Ps 13:6ab, 6c/Mt 1:1-16, 18-23
Wednesday: 1 Cor 7:25-31/Ps 45:11-12, 14-15, 16-17/ Lk 6:20-26
Thursday: 1 Cor 8:1b-7, 11-13/Ps 139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 23-24/Lk 6:27-38
Friday: 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22b-27/Ps 84:3, 4, 5-6, 12/Lk 6:39-42
Saturday: 1 Cor 10:14-22/Ps 116:12-13, 17-18/Lk 6:43-49
Next Sunday: Sir 27:30-28:7/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12/ Rom 14:7-9/Mt 18:21-35

THIS WEEK

Sunday: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday: Happy Labor Day!
9:00am Mass (SJ)
 10:00am—4:00pm St. John's Labor Day Car Show (Guernsey St)
Parish Office Closed
Tuesday: 9:00a.m.— 5:00p.m. Eucharistic Adoration
Wednesday: 5:30pm Caring Crafters (SJH)
Thursday: 6:00pm St. Vincent de Paul Society (SJH)
 7:00p.m. Discover Catholicism & OCIA (SJH)
Friday: 9/11 Patriot Day—We Will Never Forget
 5:00pm Wedding Rehearsal (SJ)
Saturday: No Men's Study Group (SM)
 2:00pm Snedeker/Ging Wedding (SJ)
Next Sunday: 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 12:45pm-3:00pm Parish Picnic (Powhatan Park Shelter)

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

~ 50 Year Reunion 1976 ~ 2026 ~
In Loving Memory of the Deceased &
In Honor of the Living
SJC Class of 1976 Members.
In Remembrance of the Deceased & In
Honor of the Living Teachers we
had Growing Up!
The SJC Class of 1976

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

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



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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.



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 Pre-Planning Specialist

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