

# The Catholic **TIMES**

The Diocese of Columbus' News Source

August 11, 2019 • 19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • Volume 68:38

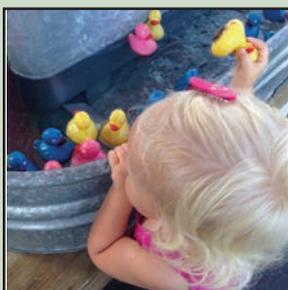
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## LANCASTER ST. MARY CHURCH BEGINS YEARLONG BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

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Editor's reflections by Doug Bean

## Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Hope in hard times

On Thursday, Aug. 15, the Church honors the Blessed Virgin Mary with a special day marking her glorious Assumption into heaven. Catholics are required to attend Mass on the Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary, but this feast deserves to be observed as more than a holy day of obligation.

Even though the Assumption is considered important enough for most dioceses throughout the world to require all practicing Catholics to attend Mass on that day, the importance of the Assumption seems to get overlooked amid the multitude of Marian feasts throughout the year.

Maybe that's because some Catholics only vaguely understand its significance, or possibly because it's the

newest of the four Marian dogmas recognized by the Church. Pope Pius XII's elevation of the Assumption as dogma, which is considered a binding truth divinely revealed by God, came just 69 years ago. On Nov. 1, 1950, he declared, "The Immaculate Mother of God, the ever-Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory."

"It almost seems like a second-tier feast day," said Mark Miravalle, one of the world's foremost Mariologists and a professor at Franciscan University of Steubenville. "But to see it that way is to misunderstand the beautiful interconnectedness of Catholic dogma. If you deny the Assumption, you're really denying the Immaculate Conception. ..."

"That's why all dogmas, especially dogmas in the Church with a solemn-

ity, should have a first-tier respect even though all the truths about Our Lady are going to be subordinate to Jesus. But it's a key connector between us and Jesus, and that's why the Marian feasts are so important."

In the Diocese of Columbus, the Assumption of Mary takes on added significance for one parish in particular. Lancaster St. Mary of the Assumption Church begins its 200th anniversary celebration in its beautifully restored sanctuary on Aug. 15. (See Pages 10-12.)

Many artists and scholars through the centuries have depicted in paintings and words the splendor of Mary reaching paradise. And while there are no direct biblical references to this great event, there is nonetheless plenty of rich scriptural evidence for the Assumption. It also stands to reason that her sinless soul and incorrupt body, immaculately conceived by God to be the divine mother of Jesus, would join her son in heaven.

"There's actually a very strong early Church tradition to celebrating the end of Mary's life," Miravalle said. "That's why Pius XII in 1950 had confidence to define it, because it was a universally celebrated doctrine from the early centuries."

But why did it take the Church hundreds of years to proclaim the Immaculate Conception and then the Assumption as undeniable truths?

"The Church is kind of like a very

holy womb where seeds are planted, but it takes time for them to grow," Miravalle said.

"At Vatican I back in 1870, there were 50 petitions asking for this, and the Church said 'No, give it a little bit more time.' But the Church recognized the logical progression between the Immaculate Conception and the Assumption. It just wanted a little bit more maturity within the faithful."

Between 1846 and 1950, more than eight million petitions asking for the Assumption to be proclaimed were submitted by the faithful, Miravalle said. "Actually, the pope praised the people for sending in the petitions because it helped mature the doctrine," he added.

Miravalle pointed out that the Assumption logically follows the first three Marian dogmas: Divine Motherhood (declared by the Council of Ephesus in 431), Perpetual Virginity (Lateran Council, 649) and Immaculate Conception (Pope Pius IX, *Ineffabilis Deus*, Dec. 8, 1854).

"The Immaculate Conception had to come first because it is in fact because of the Immaculate Conception you have this dogma, the dogma of the Assumption," he said. "The feast is the natural effect of the Immaculate Conception."

The Immaculate Conception is

See ASSUMPTION, Page 5

### BISHOP ASKS FOR PRAYERS AFTER SHOOTINGS

Bishop Robert Brennan issued the following statement this past weekend after the tragic shootings on Saturday, Aug. 3 in El Paso, Texas, and early Sunday, Aug. 4 in Dayton:

"The heart-rending trauma suffered this weekend by the people of El Paso and Dayton calls all of us to turn to Our Lord for healing and guidance. As those who suffered the loss of loved ones and who are beginning the long journey of recovery from their injuries, losses, and pain, I ask that all in the Diocese of Columbus hold them up in prayer. May all who suffer find healing in Our Lord's loving care."

### THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

Tuesday, August 15

Check individual parishes for schedule of Holy Day Mass times



Front Page photo:  
**LANCASTER  
BICENTENNIAL**  
Father Craig Eilerman,  
pastor of Lancaster St. Mary  
Church, points to its newly  
painted ceiling. The church  
is undergoing renovation  
for its 200th anniversary.  
(CT photo by Ken Snow)

## Catholic TIMES

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Catholic Times (USPS 967-000) (ISSN 745-6050) is the official newspaper of the Catholic Diocese of Columbus, Ohio. It is published weekly 45 times per year with exception of every other week in June, July and August and the week following Christmas. Subscription rate: \$25 per year, or call and make arrangements with your parish. Postage Paid at Columbus OH 43218.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Catholic Times, 197 E. Gay St., Columbus OH 43215. Please allow two to four weeks for change of address.

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### Catholic Times is on summer schedule!

Things slow down during the summer, and that includes the Catholic Times. In August, we are publishing every other week. Look for the Catholic Times in your mailbox just prior to **Aug. 25**. We will return to weekly publication in September.

## Festival will highlight Portsmouth St. Mary's 150th anniversary



Bishop Robert Brennan will visit Portsmouth St. Mary Church next month to highlight a celebration of the 150th anniversary of the laying of the church building's cornerstone.

He will celebrate a Mass at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 15 that will be part of the parish's annual international festival, held on the parish grounds for more than 40 years. Festival dates and times are: Friday, Sept. 13, 5:30 to 10 p.m.; Saturday, Sept. 14, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Sunday, Sept. 15, 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

St. Mary Church is located at 524 6th St. in Portsmouth's historic Boneyfiddle area, just outside of downtown. The parish was founded in 1841. The church cornerstone was laid by Columbus' first Catholic bishop, Sylvester Rosecrans, one year after the founding of the Diocese of Columbus in 1868.

The building's clock tower, built in 1895, reaches a height of 216 feet, the tallest church tower in the city. It houses three bells known as St. Peter, St. George and St. Philomena. The tower has been on the National Register of Historic Places since 1979.

The parish is part of the Scioto Catholic consortium, with Father Joseph Yokum as pastor. Other parishes in the consortium, formed in 2017, are Portsmouth Holy Redeemer, New Boston St. Monica and Wheelersburg St. Peter in Chains.

Festival chairman Rick Estep said next month's event will be the principal observance of the church building's anniversary. The celebration also included a Year of the Family conference in June at Portsmouth Notre Dame High School that included a Mass; the Sacrament of Reconcili-

ation; talks by nationally recognized Catholic speakers Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers, Gus Lloyd and Danielle Bean; a concert with nationally recognized Catholic musicians The Vigil Project; a children's camp series of programs; workshops; and a wine tasting.

Estep said the anniversary celebration's theme is "150 Years: The Cornerstone of Faith and Family." T-shirts, tumblers and keychains with a logo including the slogan and the church tower are on sale at the parish office.

He said the international festival started in the 1970s, when the late Father Jerome Raiser was pastor. It originally was a parish Oktoberfest, with its horizons being expanded while the late Msgr. William Maroon served as pastor from 1982 to 1993. Msgr. Maroon's skill in cooking Lebanese foods still is remembered fondly in the parishes he served, and he encouraged addition of other ethnic food traditions to the festival. It originally was a two-day event and expanded to three days about 10 years ago.

Food booths at this year's festival will serve American ribs and chicken; Appalachian chicken, noodles, beans and cornbread; German bratwurst, sauerkraut and potato salad; Indian, Italian, Irish, Mexican and Asian specialties; and hot dogs and macaroni and cheese for children.

"Friday night will be mostly for food and a concert featuring the local band Night Shift," said Estep, who has been festival chairman for about 15 years, with Tim Paul as his assistant for much of that time.

"Saturday activities will include a flea market, quilt and craft shows, children's games and inflatables, a basket raffle, music with Ground Zero, Steve Free and the Sheldon Road Band, and Mass at 5:30 p.m. Also that day will be an antique and custom car show, which we've had for years. Last year's drew more than 200 cars.

"Besides the bishop's Mass on Sunday, the flea market will continue, and there will be entertainment by City Heat and other bands. The festival closes with a raffle at 6 p.m. Our first display of vintage farm tractors will take place Sunday, and another first-time event will be a petting zoo for children on Saturday and Sunday.

Gov. Mike DeWine's office will be issuing a proclamation during the festival honoring the church building's 150th anniversary."

The festival is St. Mary's largest annual fundraising event, with proceeds used for various expenses. Estep said the parish built a community center four or five years ago, and money earned through the event since then has paid for improvements in the building. He said last year's festival proceeds totaled about \$32,000.

"We have anywhere from 100 to 200 volunteers taking part each year. Their enthusiasm makes the festival

possible," he said. "They embrace this event and look forward to it every year. Planning for the festival starts in March, with meetings every month for a while, then every two weeks, then every week. Many of the volunteers have been involved for 10 or 20 years or more, so they know what makes the festival work and set out each year to make it work better.

"The one thing we can't control is the weather. In most years, we've had little rain at festival time. I like to think it's because we always ask the children in the parish school to pray for good weather in mid-September."



The cornerstone of Portsmouth St. Mary Church in the city's Boneyfiddle area was laid in 1869. That event will be commemorated at a Mass celebrated by Bishop Robert Brennan at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 15 as part of the parish's annual International Festival. The parish was founded in 1841. (Photo courtesy St. Mary Church)

## Catholic Social Services event to focus on crisis at border

As the U.S.-Mexico border was being flooded with migrants seeking refuge, Rachel Lustig, president and CEO of Catholic Social Services (CSS), flew to San Diego to offer support.

This past Christmas, Lustig volunteered at a Catholic Charities temporary family shelter near the border, where she provided assistance to families seeking asylum.

“There have been many stories in the media recently which highlight the current situation at the border,” Lustig said. “I think what’s been missing from the dialogue is our connection to the humanity of the issue. This human dimension overrides any political party or ideology and is what we, at Catholic Social Services, are called to consider above all else.”

The border crisis will be the topic of discussion at the CSS annual Breakfast with the Bishop at 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 6 at the Renaissance Columbus Hotel, 50 N. 3rd St. Bishop Robert J.

Brennan and Sister Norma Pimentel, “the Mother Teresa of South Texas,” will speak about the migrant issue. Sister Norma’s Humanitarian Respite Center in Texas has helped more than 100,000 families since 2014.

The Catholic Charities shelter where Lustig volunteered last year takes in migrants temporarily after they are released from a border detention center and have found a place to live in the U.S. Lustig and other volunteers provided the migrants with food, supplies and a place to rest while they prepared for their life in America.

During her week at the border, Lustig met a mother who was traveling with her 3-year-old son and infant daughter. The family had been quarantined because the son was too sick to stay with 96 others in the parish hall that was serving as a temporary shelter.

“The image of this exhausted, frightened mother gathering up her children and four plastic grocery bags

containing everything they owned has stuck with me,” Lustig said. “All year, I have found myself remembering the haunted, wary look in her eyes and wondering why a mother with two vulnerable children would make such a harrowing journey.”

Lustig also gained firsthand insight into this issue as it relates to CSS’ local work with Hispanic immigrants at the agency’s Our Lady of Guadalupe Center in west Columbus. The center recently helped a 21-year-old woman and her 6-year-old son who came to the United States from El Salvador seeking asylum after the woman’s father was shot and dismembered in front of her by the MS-13 gang.

“This woman fled because she didn’t feel like she had any other option,” Lustig said. “She, like the woman I met at Christmas and many others, decided that the unknown had to be better than what she was leaving.”

When the woman arrived at the

Guadalupe Center, desperate for assistance and fearing for her safety, CSS provided her and her son with food and connected them to housing and legal services.

Lustig pondered what might happen to these migrant families without the help of volunteers working to ease the crisis. Among the many volunteers she met, Lustig noted one man who worked full time as a border agent. He was so moved by the people he saw that, after a hard day’s work, he volunteered at the shelter.

“As I’m bombarded by media stories, I remember these people and many others I met,” Lustig said. “They remind me how dire the situation is and they give me hope. Most of all, they remind me that these stories are about real people – a reminder I think we all may need.”

For more information about Breakfast With the Bishop, or to register, visit [www.colssc.org](http://www.colssc.org).

## Catholic Schools Drive provides tools to help students in need

It won’t be long before parents start their yearly hunter-gatherer trek for school supplies and uniforms that will fit those children who have grown two or three inches during the summer. This time of year can be bittersweet for parents and students. On one hand, the end of summer is in sight, and that means kids will be back in school and life will resume a more routine (however hectic) schedule. On the other hand, there is an urgency to jam as much activity as possible in these last weeks before a more routine (however hectic) schedule takes away the free-wheeling summer. It’s also a good time for us to consider the challenges of beginning a new school year.

Many students attending our Catholic schools have limited means to acquire the requisite school supplies (“tools”). To help meet those needs, some of our parishes, especially those with elementary schools, have annual school supplies collections. God bless those parishes for acknowledging and supporting our Catholic schools. This year, the diocesan Catholic Schools and Social Concerns offices are partnering with Generations Religious Gifts to support a diocese-wide drive allowing parishes without individual drives to act in solidarity with all our schools.

The “Tools for Catholic Schools”

drive started on Aug. 4 and runs through Aug. 11. The goal is to provide at least 1,100 students with school bags and the “tools” they will need for the coming school year. Distribution of the items will be done through the Office of Catholic Schools, based on requests from principals with students in need.

I want to give a special thanks to the Knights of Columbus and the St. Vincent de Paul Society, who are distributing and will be collecting the boxes for donations.

The diocesan drive will close with a festive dropoff event in Columbus. On Sunday, Aug. 11, parishes and individuals should bring their collection boxes and/or donations to Generations Religious Gifts, 1095 Dublin Road, Columbus, from 1 to 4 p.m. All are welcome to drop off donations and join in the fun activities. Monetary donations may be sent to the diocesan finance office at 197 East Gay St., Columbus OH 43215. The checks should be made out to the Catholic Diocese of Columbus, with “Tools for Schools” in the memo line.

Pope Francis reminds us that “Education cannot be neutral. It is either positive or negative; either it enrich-

### FAITH IN ACTION

Erin Cordle

*Erin Cordle is associate director of the diocesan Office for Social Concerns.*



es or it impoverishes; either it enables a person to grow or it lessens, even corrupts him. The mission of schools is to develop a sense of truth, of what is good and beautiful. And this occurs through a rich path made up of many ingredients. This is why there are so many subjects – because development

is the results of different elements that act together and stimulate intelligence, knowledge, the emotions, the body, and so on.”

The best way to make sure our Catholic schools provide positive, enriching education is to make sure our students have the tools they need to succeed. Please support this drive with your prayers and your treasures.

If you have questions or need additional information, don’t hesitate to contact me at [socmailbox@columbus-catholic.org](mailto:socmailbox@columbus-catholic.org) or (614) 241-2540, or go to <https://education.columbuscatholic.org>.

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# Queen Mary radiates beauty in many ways

She was a tiny, wrinkled little thing. But she was beautiful in that glowing, still way that newborns are. Maybe she wasn't glowing; her mother was. And after holding her, so was I, though I am not – have never been – a baby person in any sense of the phrase.

She wasn't yet the princess she would turn into beginning at about age two. She wasn't yet the narrator of adventures and the accomplice of her big brother's plots. But she was, amazingly, my first godchild.

I gazed at her and I thought of her birth. She was a miracle. Her mother had struggled in some unique (to me) ways and experienced a sense of loss when her home birth just didn't work for safety reasons.

And yet here she was, healthy and in my arms, and born on the feast of Mary's queenship.

It was a feast I only knew about because, having heard that my friend was in labor, I looked up the day's patron saints (call it an addiction, but I need to know whose patronage the children in my life fall under). I was shocked that it was a Marian feast day. I had never heard of it and it was the day before my husband's birthday.

Throughout her pregnancy, my friend experienced a great deal of anguish and trouble. She grieved the way she wanted things to go with her baby's birth versus the way she was afraid they would turn out, and I think I must have told her, in a thousand different ways, to turn to Mary. I prayed countless rosaries for her and cried for the trials that blocked her unfettered enjoyment of her pregnancy, of the new life within her.

And the baby was born on a feast

of Mary.

There's a heavenly connection between me and this baby, begun with my role as godmother and sealed with the feast day she blessed with her birth.

My role – to pray for and help this child to grow toward heaven -- is parallel to the role

Mary plays in each of our lives. As the Queen Mother, Mary intercedes with the King, her Son. She has a role of dominion, but she exercises it with humility and love, and I take my lesson from her.

It's my goal to reflect the queenship of Mary in my small – yet important, oh-so-important – role as godmother. One way I can do this is to understand how heaven might appear to a preschool girl.

So I've spent some time picturing Mary in a different way than I usually do. In this altered portrayal, inspired by a four-year-old's version of heaven, her hair's not scattered, she's not wearing an apron, and she isn't wearing the same old thing. Her hair is coiffed and, in all likelihood, has flowers in it. She's wearing something that I might consider over-the-top for daily life, which is certainly a dress and includes silver slippers with rhinestones embedded across the toes.

She's marvelous, isn't she? I think she's Cinderella-meets-Beauty, crossed with Sleeping Beauty and Thumbelina. She'll have a crown on, of course, and I think it's going to be delicate. This is the part where I refuse to yield to the four-year-old's sense of style and lean

## FINDING FAITH IN EVERYDAY LIFE

Sarah Reinhard

*Sarah's online at SnoringScholar.com. She's a wife, mom, and author; in addition to being addicted to coffee and books.*



instead to my own tastes.

I had pictured heaven as a rather more peaceful place than my daughter's suggestion of a sparkly glitter-filled palace allowed. I wasn't considering what I would wear (or what she would wear, either), and honestly, I didn't think it would matter.

And it really doesn't matter, except to make heaven accessible to a four-year-old's mind. In her world, the very best things are princess-y. They are filled with pink and shimmer and flounce.

The wonder of heaven, to children, includes the things that make them gasp and smile here on earth. Though I chuckle to myself, my girls see so much more than just the external glam I'm describing. Thanks to their innocent acceptance, they see the true beauty, the real wonder, the authentic heaven.

The words they use to describe it limit them, but it's that quality of their hearts – innocence, truth, wonder, authenticity – that reminds me, when I consider the Queen of Heaven, that I must become more like a little child.

But why do we go to all this trouble for Mary? Isn't she just the woman who bore Jesus? Does she really deserve all this finery?

In Catholic tradition, the title Queen

of Heaven has been included in literature, prayers and devotions almost since the beginning, back when the apostles were still walking the earth. It stems from the custom, in the Old Testament kingdom of David, of the queen mothers. Since the kings had many wives, due to reasons of state and human weakness, the honor of queen was reserved for the king's mother. Her authority was greater than the many wives; for one thing, there was only one of her.

When I think of Mary as Queen of Heaven, though, I don't picture her as a dictator, and, though the little girls in my life would dispute this, she's not wearing anything fancy. For me, Queen Mary is an everyday sort of woman. She's busy helping the unhappy dying who need comfort, the frazzled moms who need sanity, the desperate poor who need sustenance.

She isn't kicking back and having her feet massaged, but is, rather, holding a new infant and the parents whose hearts are broken, welcoming a young woman through the garden gate, and praying for the many on earth who cry out to her.

Mary is a queen who wears an apron and drinks her tea on the go, though I believe she always has a moment to sit down and savor it – and the company she's in – given the chance.

She's a gardener who plants seeds in hearts and waters them with her prayers. She's a cook who stirs in love and simmers it over the fire of her Son's mercy.

Maybe I'll find out someday that Mary wears a sparkly crown. I think it more likely, though, that she will be dazzling without need for all the accessories.

## ASSUMPTION, continued from Page 2

celebrated on Dec. 8, nine months before the birth of Our Lady, which the Church traditionally recognizes as Sept. 8. Miravalle said there's no specific historical evidence for the Assumption's Aug. 15 date, but it is celebrated as a holiday in some countries.

As Catholics prayerfully prepare for the Assumption next week, Miravalle suggests reflecting on Mary's purity and her triumph over sin and death.

"If we want our hearts consecrated and dedicated to Our Lord, we've got to show that in our bodies," he said. "And so the Solemnity of the

Assumption is a great day to examine our call to Christian purity, to Christian chastity according to our vocation, because Mary's Assumption is a bodily expression of her Immaculate Conception, of her interior fullness of grace ... a striving toward temperance and purity, especially when we have the pandemic of pornography. This is a beautiful corrective calling us to re-examine that we should be pure, and we can be pure with the grace of God. Our Lady is the purest example of that.

"The second concrete expression is that it's the celebration of victory. Mary's victory as expressed in her

bodily Assumption is a foretaste for our resurrection of the body on the last day."

Keep in mind that there's an important distinction between Jesus' Ascension and Mary's Assumption into heaven.

"Jesus ascends by his own power," Miravalle stressed. "Mary is assumed not by her own power but by the power of God. It's a victory of her purity.

"We're not going to have an assumption of our bodies like Mary did, but it is a sign for the future that we will, when Christ comes again in glory, have a resurrection of our bodies."

As scandals, senseless deaths and the scourge of abortion rage on today, the world needs Mary's powerful intercession. Meditate especially on the fourth glorious mystery of the Rosary, the Assumption, which is followed by the fifth mystery, the Crowning of the Blessed Virgin as Queen of Heaven and Earth. The feast of the Queenship of Mary is on Thursday, Aug. 22.

"I think right now, as the Church faces significant challenges, it's great to celebrate hope, and I think that's what the Assumption does for us," Miravalle said. "Mary's victory is a foretaste of our victory."

## 'Buying' Gregorian Masses; age for first Holy Communion

I have a question about the Gregorian Masses. I have been told that there can be Masses said for 30 consecutive days (at a cost of \$300) with the hope that the deceased person will be received into heaven immediately, without having to pass through the cleansing rigors of purgatory. I have no doubt in the power of prayer, but why do we have to "buy" our way into heaven? (Washington, Iowa)

The practice of celebrating "Gregorian Masses" has a long tradition in the church. It takes its origin from the time of the papacy of St. Gregory the Great (590-604). St. Gregory was concerned about a fellow monk who evidently had broken his vow of poverty before he died, so St. Gregory determined that Mass should be celebrated for that monk on each of 30 consecutive days following his death.

The monk, named Justus, later appeared to a friend and said that he had been released from purgatory at the completion of those Masses. For centuries thereafter, the custom of Gregorian Masses came to be observed, particularly in Benedictine monasteries.

There is no official church teaching on this matter, and the release of a soul from purgatory cannot, of course, be guaranteed, but the practice underscores the church's strong belief in the intercessory power of prayer.

I feel some of the same discom-

### QUESTION & ANSWER

Father Kenneth Doyle  
*Catholic News Service*

Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at [askfatherdoyle@gmail.com](mailto:askfatherdoyle@gmail.com) and 30 Columbia Circle Drive, Albany NY 12203.



fort as you do about the "cost" of the Masses. First, it should be noted that the stipend for a Mass is an "offering," not a "fee," and should never be made a requirement – especially for those who cannot afford it.

I would also point out that, in many cases, Mass stipends are the sole means of support for religious orders or for priests on missionary assignment. (Most often, priests in a parish setting would have difficulty scheduling Masses on 30 consecutive days for a single intention.)

I have two sons, ages five (entering kindergarten) and seven (entering second grade), who attend Mass with me every week. They both have strong faith, know their prayers and comprehend all of the religious instruction they have received.

I teach Christian formation in my parish for my older son's grade, and my younger son "audits"/sits in on that class. Instead of putting my younger son into the kindergarten religion class this coming year, I would

like to enroll him in my second grade class and prepare him for first Communion, along with his brother.

I have read in our diocesan guidelines that, to receive first Communion, the child must be "of the age of reason (usually 7)." I can attest that my 5-year-old is

fully capable of reasoning and that he comprehends the mysteries of Christ.

He has a thorough interest in religion (more than his brother!) and is rapt with attention in learning new stories about Jesus. He already understands that at Mass, the bread and wine are consecrated and become the body and blood of Christ.

What would my 5-year-old have to do to qualify to receive his first Communion this upcoming school year? Could he be interviewed to demonstrate that he has reached the age of reason and comprehends enough of the instruction? (Chesapeake, Virginia)

In the early centuries, the usual practice in the Latin-rite (Roman) Catholic Church was for infants and children to receive first Communion immediately after baptism (usually by administering a drop of the precious blood). By the 13th century, though, it had become customary for children to receive first Eucharist when they reached the age of discre-

tion (which was variously interpreted as being between seven and 14).

In 1910 – in a change spearheaded by Pope Pius X – the Vatican Congregation for the Sacraments established that the age of discretion should be considered around the age of seven, and that remains the current practice.

The church's *Code of Canon Law* says simply that "the administration of the most holy Eucharist to children requires that they have sufficient knowledge and careful preparation so that they understand the mystery of Christ according to their capacity and are able to receive the body of Christ with faith and devotion" (Canon 913).

Interestingly, in 2010, Cardinal Antonio Canizares Llovera, head of the Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, wrote an article in the Vatican newspaper *L'Osservatore Romano* in which he noted that children today are maturing more quickly and suggested that the church should consider lowering the age for first Communion.

In your own situation, you are certainly entitled to consult the bishop's office in your diocese to see whether an exception can be made in your son's case.

I would think, though, that it might be practically difficult for every 5- or 6-year-old to be offered the opportunity to be evaluated as to his or her religious maturity and that the diocese may choose to retain the 7-year-old standard.

### Local news and events

## Father Hayes to lead women's evening of reflection at St. Therese's

The Catholic Laywomen's Retreat League will sponsor an evening of reflection for women from 6 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 22 at St. Therese's Retreat Center, 5277 E. Broad St., Columbus.

Father Stephen Dominic Hayes, OP, will lead the retreat with the theme "Matters of the Hearts: Finding the Depths of Love Through the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary."

Father Hayes resides at St. Patrick Priory in Columbus. After practicing law for a few years, he entered the Dominican Order in 1982 and was ordained a priest in 1988. He has served as a priest and pastor for the past 29 years in Ohio and Kentucky.

He was designated as a papal mis-

sonary of mercy by Pope Francis during the 2016-17 Jubilee of Mercy. Besides pastoral service, he has experience in retreat work, parish missions and pilgrimages and as a spiritual director, and in working in media.

Father Hayes will give two talks during the evening, which also will include dinner and will close with Evening Prayer. The cost is \$25. Registration deadline is Friday, Aug. 16. Send a check (non-refundable) made payable to the Diocese of Columbus. The mailing address is St. Therese's Retreat Center, Attention: CLRL, 5277 E. Broad St., Columbus OH 43213. The center also accepts donations to aid in its work. If the check includes a donation, designate this in the memo

line and indicate the amount donated.

For more information, contact Terry Norris at (614) 595-1972 or [norris.m@sbcglobal.net](mailto:norris.m@sbcglobal.net).

### Fr. Lutz to speak at Catholic Record Society meeting

Father Kevin Lutz, founder of the Jubilee Museum in Columbus, will speak about the museum's treasures and its future at the Catholic Record Society's quarterly meeting at 1 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 8 in St. Therese's Retreat Center, 5277 E. Broad St., Columbus.

Father Lutz, a priest of the Diocese of Columbus for 41 years, founded the museum, named for the Catholic Church's jubilee year of 2000, in 1998 at the former Columbus Holy Family

School while he was pastor of Holy Family Church. The museum now houses the nation's largest collection of diversified Catholic artwork. He has been pastor of Columbus St. Mary, Mother of God Church in German Village since 2013.

The talk will be preceded at noon by a lunch and followed by a short business meeting. Anyone wishing to eat lunch is asked to make a reservation by sending a \$10 check, payable to the Diocese of Columbus, to Catholic Record Society, 197 E. Gay St., Columbus OH 43215 by Aug. 28.

For more information, contact soci-

# An authentic democracy

Those of us who have grown up within the womb of a democratic society may not always recognize how radical the idea behind such a society actually is, nor how fragile its structure can be in the face of strident claims regarding individual freedoms. Legalization of abortion, to focus on one of the most strident claims, corrodes the very pillars of our democratic society.

The legalization of abortion means guaranteeing immunity from prosecution for those older human beings who directly end the lives of much younger humans before they are born, or even as they are being born. Such actions constitute a form of injustice perpetrated by the powerful against those who are, by virtue of their extreme youth, the weakest, most vulnerable and most voiceless humans. Laws sanctioning abortion fundamentally confirm the idea that “might makes right.” An ordered society, however, and especially a democratic one, never can be built upon such a self-serving, unjust and distorted premise.

This premise runs directly counter to the tradition of our great Western constitutional texts, which arose as a cry for an order of justice superior to the raw exercise of power and domination by privileged individuals and groups. Those texts were born from centuries of struggle by entire peoples living under various forms of oppression. The order of justice they sought required the clear acknowledgement of the universality of basic human rights, first among which was the assurance that one’s life would not

be unjustly exploited, attacked or ended. As Msgr. Michel Schooyans has noted, “That is why democratic regimes were founded – first and foremost to protect citizens from arbitrary executions, from the terrorism of despots and their police.”

Many of us who have lived in a democratic society for most or all of our lives, never having struggled or fought for its original implementation or continuation, can forget the threatening historical circumstances that led to forging the substance of that democracy. Moreover, even as we benefit from the blessings of liberty, we can fall prey to erroneous conceptions about the meaning of freedom as the rights of some begin to be subtly elevated over the rights of others. Indeed, every democracy struggles to avoid the treachery of various forms of despotism, as the long and arduous battles over human slavery that culminated with the Civil War remind us. At Gettysburg, President Lincoln declared that “a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal” was now “engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated can long endure.”

Preceding those turbulent times, “equality” certainly had been pro-

## MAKING SENSE OUT OF BIOETHICS

Father Tad Pacholczyk

*Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, PhD, earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did postdoctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the Diocese of Fall River, Massachusetts, and serves as director of education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See [www.nbccenter.org](http://www.nbccenter.org).*



claimed and was textually present within various founding documents. It remained, however, fundamentally elusive as laws continued to sanction the inequalities of human bondage and realities on the ground continued to thwart basic human rights. During those dark times, the light of democracy sputtered and flickered and nearly went out. The widespread practice of abortion today raises a similar threat, as stronger individuals are tempted to establish their liberties upon the ruins of weaker ones. What is most important to recognize is how this existential threat to democracy is actually – without hyperbole – greater now than it was during the times of slavery.

Msgr. Schooyans trenchantly describes it this way:

“The liberalization of abortion laws puts into motion a political process in which the democratic State imperceptibly becomes transformed into a totalitarian State. ... From the very

moment the state reserves for itself the right to decide, through its institutional organs, which human being has the right to protection and which human being does not, it ceases to be a democratic state because it negates the fundamental reason for which it was instituted: the defense of every human being’s right to life. The power such a state exercises becomes arbitrary when it authorizes certain citizens to execute their own equals with impunity.”

One is reminded of the testimonies of certain U.S. soldiers who, upon their return from Vietnam in the wake of the sexual revolution, were shocked by the seismic shifts in the understanding of freedom that had occurred during their long deployment.

Some of them said they hadn’t stepped onto the battlefield and made great personal sacrifices in order to defend a false liberty so their fellow citizens at home could descend into promiscuity and abortion with reckless abandon.

The promotion and legalization of abortion inexorably leads to a system of privileges for the powerful that engenders instability and divisiveness as it undercuts the most basic of all human rights. Abortion really kills at least twice. It kills the body of the baby and it kills the conscience of a nation, perverting the very essence of a democratic society.

Legal safeguards for all human life, on the other hand, assure the possibility of liberty, justice and equality – protecting the very core of an authentic democracy.

### LOCAL NEWS, continued from Page 6

ety chairman Mike Finn at (614) 268-4166 or [FCoolavin@aol.com](mailto:FCoolavin@aol.com).

#### Luncheon club to hear about St. Paul’s Outreach

John Stevenson of St. Paul’s Outreach, a Catholic organization evangelizing on college campuses throughout the Midwest, will speak at the September meeting of the Catholic Men’s Luncheon Club. His topic will be “Forming Boys Into Men on Campus.”

The club will meet Friday, Sept. 6 at Columbus St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave. Lunch will be served after the church’s 11:45 a.m. Mass, and the meeting will end by 1 p.m. No reservations are necessary. A \$10 donation

is requested to cover the cost of the lunch and meeting. The sponsor for the event is St. Gabriel Radio.

Bishop Robert Brennan will give his first talk to the club at its meeting on Friday, Oct. 4.

For information about the club, visit [www.catholicmensministry.com/cmlc](http://www.catholicmensministry.com/cmlc) or contact club president Craig Hepner at [craigkofc@gmail.com](mailto:craigkofc@gmail.com).

#### Bishop to speak at Walk for Life

Bishop Robert Brennan will be the featured speaker at the eighth annual Tuscarawas County Walk for Life at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 7.

Participants will gather at New Philadelphia Sacred Heart Church, 139

3rd St. N.E., and walk to the county courthouse about a quarter-mile away for a speaking program.

For more information, contact Father Jeff Coning at (330) 343-6976.

#### Serra club to visit GV St. Mary’s

The Serra Club of North Columbus will host a visit to Columbus St. Mary, Mother of God Church, 672 S. 3rd St. in the city’s German Village neighborhood, on Tuesday, Sept. 3.

Mass will be at noon, followed by a tour of the newly restored church with its pastor, Father Kevin Lutz. Lunch will follow at 1:45 p.m. at Schmidt’s Sausage Haus. The cost is \$25.

Reservations are required for mem-

bers and guests by Tuesday, Aug. 20. Checks may be made out to Serra Club of North Columbus and mailed to Frank Hartge, 904 Hilton Drive, Reynoldsburg OH 43068.

#### Kreeft to speak in Springfield

Dr. Peter Kreeft, one of the nation’s most popular writers on Catholicism, will speak on “Why Be a Catholic?” at 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 22 in the Hollenbeck-Bayley Conference Center, 100 S. Limestone St., Springfield.

The talk will be the fifth annual lecture sponsored by the parishes of the Springfield Deanery of the Archdioc-

## Father Yakkel receives military chaplain training

Newly ordained Father Christopher Yakkel will begin his first assignment as a diocesan priest on Tuesday, Aug. 20 after spending several weeks at Ramstein Air Base in Germany, training for the military chaplaincy.

Father Yakkel was ordained as a priest of the Diocese of Columbus by Bishop Robert Brennan on Saturday, May 25. He will serve as parochial vicar of the Perry County Consortium of Parishes in New Lexington, Corn-

ing, Crooksville and Junction City.

He described some of his experiences in Germany in a letter to Father Michael Lumpe, diocesan vicar for priests.

“My assignment to Ramstein is considered a chaplain candidate active duty training tour,” he wrote. “It’s essentially an internship where I spend time each day shadowing the different chaplains on base, learning about the day-to-day duties of a chaplain. This has involved unit visitations

throughout the base, where I’ve had the opportunity to interact with airmen from all career fields, learning about their mission and giving some encouragement along the way. It has also involved briefings on resiliency in times of trial and building up spiritually fit airmen. ...

“One special memory I have from

See YAKKEL, Page 12



Father Christopher Yakkel stands outside a military chapel in Germany.

## Diocesan day of reflection focuses on lives of African-American sainthood candidates

Stories about the lives and work of six candidates for sainthood in the African-American community were the focus of a day of reflection on Saturday, Aug. 3, at New Albany Church of the Resurrection.

The day of prayer and catechesis, sponsored by the diocese’s Catholic

Ethnic Ministries Office, allowed participants to learn about Henriette DeLille, Pierre Toussaint, Mother Mary Lange, Julia Greeley, Sister Thea Bowman and Father Augustus Tolton.

The event was designed to motivate participants to be more actively engaged in their faith. The presentations connect-

ed the lives of the candidates with concerns of today including racism, education, social justice, immigration, health and wellness and stewardship.

All of the candidates used their gifts in those various ministries to live the Gospel.

Toussaint, for example, was born a slave in Haiti and yet

opened the first Catholic orphanage in New York and donated funds for the Oblate Sisters of Providence. He also is credited for laying the foundation of the model for Catholic Charities.

Bishop Joseph N. Perry, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Chicago and promulgator for Tolton’s cause, said, “The candidates remind us that we all bear the imprint of the Divine.”

Alfred Akainyah, African consultant with the Ethnic Ministries Office, said he was excited about the program and learned much about the candidates. “Walking with the saints has given me a new focus and a renewed strength,” Akainyah said. “My takeaway is that the individuals nominated could never have reached this level of success if they had listened to outside voices. Luke 11:28 says, ‘Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it.’”

“Indeed, there is no success unless you are willing to take a chance. And yet, these individuals took the chance despite all the daunting challenges at

that time.”

The day concluded with Mass, with Canon A. Gerard Jordan, O. Praem., serving as the main celebrant and homilist. Father Jordan’s homily encouraged attendees to be generous stewards of their time, talent and treasure. He recalled the vocations of the six candidates and their generosity to their communities.

Father Jordan, an assistant to Bishop Perry, worked closely with the event’s local planning committee, which included Pam Harris, director of the Ethnic Ministries Office; Virginia Hardy, chair of the office’s African-American Advisory Council; and Akainyah.

Presenters included Sister Pat Dual, OP; Sister Marcia Hall, OSP; Erin Cordle, associate director of the diocese’s Office of Social Concerns; Father Reynaldo Taylor of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati; Suanne Gettings, pastoral associate at the Church of the Resurrection; and Sabree Akinyele, vice president of programs for Catholic Social Services.



Participants and organizers in the day of reflection included (from left) Father Reynaldo Taylor; Virginia Hardy; Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Perry; Pam Harris; Bishop Robert Brennan; Sr. Marcia Hall, OSP; Sr. Pat Dual, OP; and Rev. Canon A. Gerard Jordan, O. Praem.

(Photo courtesy Ethnic Ministries Office)

## Sister Marie Shields retiring after serving 28 years at St. Matthias

After spending the last 51 years in Columbus – 28 of them at St. Matthias Church – Sister Marie Shields, SNDdeN, is retiring as a pastoral associate and will live with the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur at their Motherhouse in Cincinnati.

She will be honored at a reception from 3 to 6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 11 at the church, 1582 Ferris Road.

“I’m returning to Cincinnati for health reasons and because I look forward to the opportunity to live in community with the other sisters of my order,” she said. “They have a beautiful health center where I will be surrounded by love and care.

“At the same time, I know I’m going to miss being part of a church community and serving the universal church

after all these years in parish life.

“The people I have met have nourished me constantly, and the Lord has brought so much love to me through them, their faith and their generosity.”

Sister Marie came to Columbus in 1968 for a dual assignment as religious education director at St. Joseph Cathedral and a teacher at St. Christopher School from 1968 to 1972.

She remained at St. Christopher as a pastoral associate until 1983, then served in the same role at Immaculate Conception Church from 1983 to 1991 and St. Matthias from 1991 until now.

In 1972, Sister Marie began an association with Father James Smith and Father Richard Huelsman, SJ, that extended through three parishes,

27 years with Father Huelsman and 41 years with Father Smith, who came to St. Christopher in 1971 as administrator and became its pastor the following year.

Sister Marie and the two priests were at St. Christopher until 1983, Immaculate Conception for the next eight years and St. Matthias from 1991 until Father Huelsman’s retirement in 1999. He died in 2003. Father Smith remained at St. Matthias until his death in 2013.

Sister Marie lived at the former Columbus St. Joseph Academy until 1991, then moved to her current residence, an apartment near St. Matthias.

Sister Marie also spent the 1959-60 school year in Columbus, where she taught third grade at St. Agnes School.

In addition, she was a teacher in Cincinnati, Hamilton and the Cincinnati suburb of Wyoming.

Sister Marie grew up in Chicago and was given the birth name Mary Louise by her parents, Joseph and Bernice (Laramie) Shields. She has two older brothers, both deceased.

She is a graduate of Notre Dame High School for Girls in Chicago, entered the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur on Sept. 8, 1955, and made her first profession of vows on March 12, 1958, and her final profession on Aug. 13, 1963.

She received a bachelor’s degree in education from Our Lady of Cincinnati College and a master’s in religious studies from Mundelein College in the Chicago area.

## Walk for Life participants



Members of Bremen St. Mary Church who participated in the Walk for Life sponsored by the Pregnancy Decision Health Centers on Saturday, July 13 were (from left): Charles Schoenlaub, Susan Drumm, Addyson Borah, Sarah Borah, Karah Borah and Wyatt Borah. About 125 people attended the two-mile walk through downtown Lancaster, starting and ending at the bandstand. More than 200 people attended a similar two-mile walk on the following Saturday, July 20, at Scioto Audubon Metro Park in Columbus. Both events included food, entertainment, face painting and a raffle. The walks earned a combined \$30,000 to support PDHC's work of pregnancy intervention, youth development, family empowerment and abortion recovery at three sites in Columbus and one in Lancaster.

*(Photo courtesy Sarah Borah)*

## Marysville parish life center construction begins



Ground was broken last month for a new parish life center next door to Marysville Our Lady of Lourdes Church. Construction is expected to be completed by May 2020. The center will include classrooms, meeting rooms, a hall that will accommodate 400 people, a kitchen and restrooms. Parking lot improvements and a change in traffic flow are part of the construction plan. The building was designed by architect Scott Harper, and Corna Kokosing Construction is the general contractor. The center is the first phase of a parish master plan that will allow Our Lady of Lourdes to better serve projected growth in the community and expanding parish needs. Pictured are (from left): Cari Grome, Tiffany Wood and Dave Irish, building committee members; Jill Turner, religious education director; Dan Fitzgerald, building committee; Paul Cordell, parish business manager; John Melish, parish maintenance director; Brian Clark, building committee; Deacon Dave Bezusko; Father Kevin Kavanagh, pastor; Ken Yunker, building committee; Scott Harper, architect; Bruce Boylan, facilities director for the Diocese of Columbus; and Jim Valentas and Tim Beverage of Corna Kokosing.

*(Photo courtesy Our Lady of Lourdes Church)*



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SEPTEMBER  
21, 2019

START TIME  
8:00AM

PACKET PICKUP  
6:30AM

#### FAMILY RATE

SAVE \$5/PERSON  
when registering at  
least 3 participants  
at one time.

#### SWAG

All participants receive  
bread and a bottle  
of wine, or bread and  
a jar of Trappist  
Monastery jam.

*Presented by*  
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Josephinum**

## Renovated church's Aug. 15 reopening kicks off Lancaster St. Mary of the Assumption's bicentennial year

The interior of Lancaster St. Mary of the Assumption Church has undergone extensive changes during eight months of renovation. But its "new look" is one that would have been familiar to parishioners who worshiped in the building when it was consecrated 155 years ago.

"We wanted the church to look much as it did when it opened in 1864," said Father Craig Eilerman, its pastor. "It's still a Gothic church, and nothing was done to change it structurally. But it's much brighter because it's been repainted in a lighter color scheme and will have new LED lights.

"We wanted to do more to honor the Blessed Mother, the church's patroness, so the church will have what some may describe as a more feminine appearance, with a recurring floral motif on the walls and ceiling and a starry blue sky depicted above the altar. These sorts of embellishments were common in churches built 150 years ago."

The church has been closed for eight months while being remodeled. Its reopening will take place at a 7 p.m. Mass on Thursday, Aug. 15 – the parish's patronal feast, the Solemnity of the Assumption. The Mass also will begin a year of 200th anniversary events for the parish, which was founded in 1820. That was three years after Dominican Father Edward Fenwick, Ohio's pioneer Catholic priest, celebrated the first Mass in Lancaster, in a building that is near the church and now serves as the office of the Fairfield County Foundation.

Plans for the parish bicentennial began with a celebration honoring that Mass. "I came here in 2011 and soon became aware that my anticipated period as pastor would include several major anniversaries," Father Eilerman said. "First came the 150th anniversary of the current church building in 2014, then the 2017 bicentennial of Father Fenwick's first Mass here, leading to the parish's own bicentennial.

"To mark all of those occasions, we wanted to make sure the building was structurally sound. First we looked at the church exterior and made sure it was in good condition. In 2016, we installed a new slate roof, mostly because the original roof, also slate, was 150 years old and was due for replacement. Other minor work was done, then we looked at the interior.

"The most obvious need there was a new paint job, because the walls were very dirty," Father Eilerman said. "Some other updates were needed, so we invited church architect William Heyer to view the building and make recommendations about beautifying it." Heyer has been involved with renovation of several worship spaces in the Diocese of Columbus, including St. Turibius Chapel at the Pontifical College Josephinum.

"Bill's suggestions were brought before the parish council and finance and maintenance committees to see if we wanted to move forward. In the spring of 2018, a decision was made to consider a capital campaign to raise money for church beautification and

other needs. After a feasibility study was completed, plans for the campaign were announced last August."

The campaign had a goal of \$2.5 million, including \$1.5 million for church beautification and \$1 million for other needs. The \$2.5 million total was surpassed in pledges late last month. Of the pledged amount, more than \$981,000 was in hand as of July 25.

Funds from the capital campaign that are not used for the church beautification will be put aside for improvements to the two parish school buildings, possible development of 3 ½ acres at the parish cemetery and possible construction of a parish center.

The beautification project includes returning the tabernacle to its original position in the center of the church; repairing water damage to the plaster walls; refinishing the pews and the floor; renovating the sacristy; replacing terrazzo wall covering with wooden wainscoting including a pattern of Gothic arches; doubling the size of the restrooms; refurbishing two confessionals and a reconciliation room; giving the Stations of the Cross new Gothic frames; making the child care room quieter and adding a closed-circuit television monitor to it; installing a new fire detection system; and refurbishing the church's 30-year-old, 2,093-pipe Austin organ.

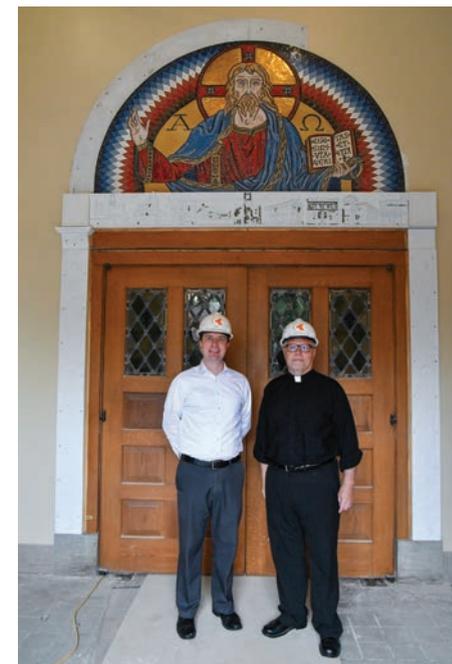
The altar, the ambo and the baptismal font were left unchanged.

Beautification of the church also includes restoration of shrines to St. Joseph and the Blessed Virgin, with two medieval-style illuminations added to those shrines. The illuminations are by Jed Gibbons of Chicago, a former advertising agency creative director who has been a full-time sacred artist since 2000.

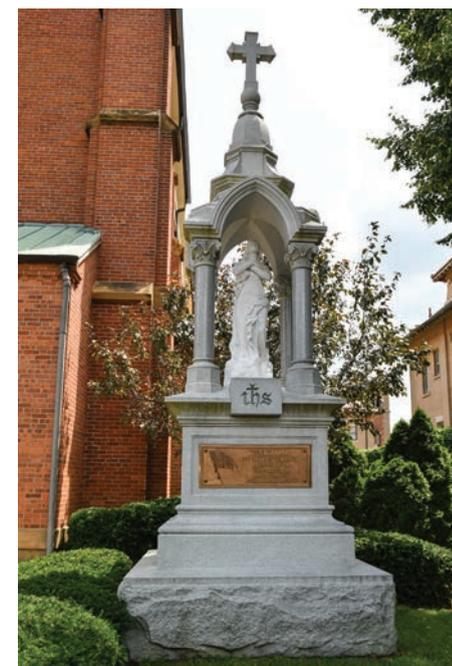
"They combine to convey one story of faith," Father Eilerman said. "The Marian shrine will show the Blessed Mother reading a Jewish Scripture scroll with her parents. In the background will be an image of St. Mary Church. The shrine to Joseph will show him in his workshop teaching Jesus to be a carpenter, and they will be building a replica of this church. Both illuminations will include a plumb bob, which not only is a standard carpenter's tool but also is a symbol of generational faith because it does not change and is always straight and accurate."

New church artwork also includes installations above both sides of the

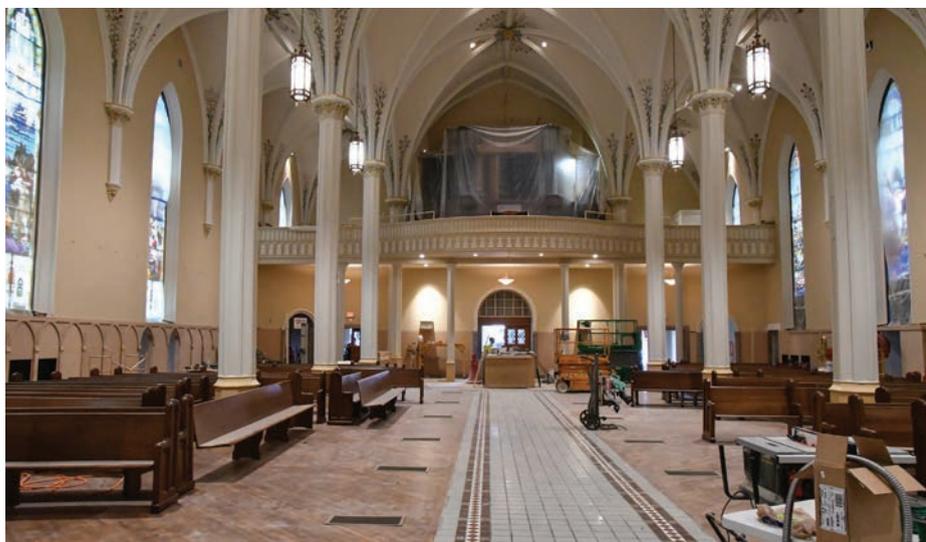
main entrance from the vestibule into the sanctuary by Pennsylvania sculptor Andrew Wilson Smith, whose works are located at churches, col-



Parish faith formation director Brian McCauley and Father Craig Eilerman, pastor, stand in front of a newly installed mosaic by Pennsylvania sculptor Andrew Wilson Smith at the sanctuary entrance.

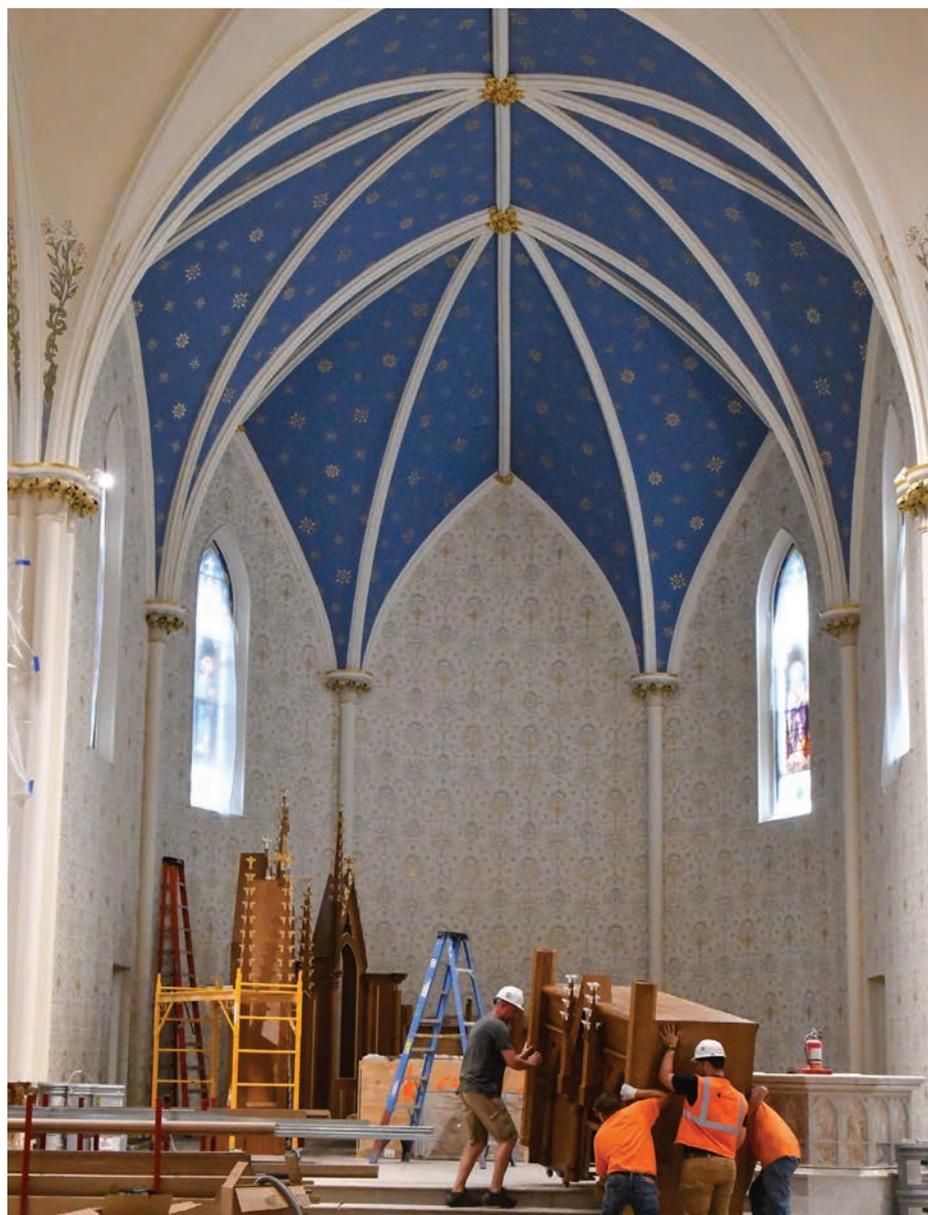


A traditional stone monument to Mary was dedicated in 1920 in front of the church building to mark the centennial of the founding of Lancaster St. Mary of the Assumption Church.



A view from the sanctuary of the interior of Lancaster St. Mary of the Assumption Church, which has been extensively remodeled for the church's yearlong bicentennial. The celebration will open with a Mass at 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 15, the Solemnity of the Assumption, which is the parish's patronal feast. The church building, the third to serve the parish, was consecrated in 1864. (CT photos by Ken Snow)

## ST. MARY, continued from Page 10



**Workers move the reredos, which stands behind the altar, back into position at Lancaster St. Mary of the Assumption Church. The altar had been moved so the area behind it could be repainted during the church's remodeling. Two formerly blank panels of the reredos located above the altar will now include a depiction of Mary's Annunciation.**

leges and other institutions throughout the nation.

The vestibule side is a mosaic of colored stones depicting Christ in glory, holding a Bible displaying the Latin words for "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life." At the base of the mosaic are images of several buildings in Lancaster, including the three churches that have served the parish; St. Mary School; the former parish convent; City Hall; the Fairfield County Courthouse; and the Anchor Hocking glass plant.

Anchor Hocking, now part of the Columbus-based Oneida glassware group, was Lancaster's dominant employer for decades and still has a plant in the city employing several hundred people. Around the mosaic are deco-

rative plaster pieces based on Anchor Hocking glass designs. Father Eilerman said that years ago, the parish had a 5 a.m. daily Mass for Anchor Hocking glassblowers.

Above the sanctuary side of the entrance will be a plaster image with Our Lady, Seat of Wisdom at the center, surrounded on one side by a mother, father and children and on the other by Dominican Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs (now the Dominican Sisters of Peace), who taught at the parish school for more than a century. For its first two decades, Dominican priests served the parish before it was turned over to the pastoral care of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati in 1839. It became part of the Diocese of Columbus when the diocese was formed in 1868.

"Andrew Smith's two-sided work is a fitting way both to memorialize the parish bicentennial and to set it in a historical context," Father Eilerman said. "It complements a traditional stone monument to Mary which stands in front of the church and was dedicated in 1920 to mark the parish centennial."

Smith said he spent about four months in his studio near Scranton, Pennsylvania, on the artwork, then came to Lancaster in July to finish the details and install it. He said he learned from Heyer two years ago about Father Eilerman's interest in new installations for the church. "Father provided the most input for this, because he had been wanting for some time to honor the sisters in a fitting way. Father also suggested the theme for the mosaic and left the details up to me," Smith said.

What had been two blank panels on either side of a portrayal of the Assumption on the *reredos* (the area above and behind the altar) will include a depiction of Mary's Annunciation by liturgical artist James Langley of Savannah, Georgia, a former teacher at Franciscan University of Steubenville. The left panel will show the Archangel Gabriel announcing to Mary that she is to be the mother of Jesus, and the right panel will represent Mary's saying "Yes" in response.

Corna Kokosing Construction is general contractor for the beautification, with other major work being done by Martin Painting and Coating of Grove City; Bent Tree Woodworking of Adams County; Claypool Electric of Lancaster; Jones Schlater Flooring of Reynoldsburg; and Muetzel Plumbing, Heating and Cooling, Worthington Air, and Safway Scaffolding, all of Columbus. Matt Indrutz of Muralworks in Columbus was in charge of painting the starry sky in the sanctuary and the floral motif throughout the church.

The last Mass before the beautification began was celebrated on Sunday, Jan. 6, the Feast of the Epiphany. "We removed the Blessed Sacrament from the altar and placed it in the tabernacle of the rectory, then everyone at Mass was invited to stay and box things up and move them," Father Eilerman said. "First, we had to take down the Christmas decorations, then remove everything else movable. We walked everything over to the school next door and got some help from the parish St. Vincent de Paul Society's truck. Fortunately, that day had wonderful weather for January."

Since then, weekend Masses have taken place in the school gym, with

weekday Masses at the Spirit Center in the basement of the older of the two school buildings on the parish property at Chestnut and High streets near downtown Lancaster.

"The gym also is used as a cafeteria and a multipurpose room, so every Sunday after Mass, we had to move chairs from the gym floor and set the area up for its regular purposes, then do the same thing in reverse at the end of the school week," Father Eilerman said. "We also had to do this on Tuesdays for all-school Masses. We stored items on the school stage, but had to find places for those when the school play was going on. Fortunately, we had plenty of good 'roadies' willing to help."

The church beautification process may not be finished by Aug. 15, "but we will have Mass on that date," Father Eilerman said. "Undertaking something like this was a bit daunting, but it was an affirmative process because so many people were willing to step up to bat. The response was overwhelmingly positive, and it's something that will have an impact on generations of future parishioners."

The opening Mass will be followed through the next 12 months by several special events. The schedule is as follows:

Thursday, Oct. 24, lecture on Marian privileges and devotions by Father Thomas Buffer, pastor of Marion St. Mary Church; Wednesday, Nov. 6, Mass of All Souls, including the *Requiem* by Gabriel Faure, commemorating the parish organ's 30th anniversary and rededicating it; Saturday, Dec. 14, church is final stop for annual candlelight tour of downtown Lancaster churches; Sunday, Dec. 15, Advent lessons and carols; Saturday, Feb. 1, World Marriage Day Mass and winter gala.

Monday to Wednesday, March 16 to 18, parish mission with Deacon Greg Kandra, former CBS News writer and producer; Sunday, April 5, Tenebrae service designed to re-create the sense of abandonment related to Good Friday; Friday, May 1, "Singing the Mass Down the Ages," a concert of Mass music from many centuries.

Sunday, June 14, Feast of Corpus Christi celebration, with procession; Saturday and Sunday, June 27 and 28, church is featured in annual Lancaster heritage tour of homes; Thursday, July 23, Lancaster Festival opening night concert (a parish tradition for many years); Friday, Aug. 14, Mass to conclude the bicentennial celebration.

For more information, go to [www.stmarylanaster.org](http://www.stmarylanaster.org) or call (740) 653-0997.

## LOCAL NEWS, continued from Page 7

cese of Cincinnati in honor of Deacon Jack Gould of Springfield.

Deacon Gould was a passionate defender of the Catholic faith and an advocate of spreading its message through education.

Kreeft is a professor of philosophy at Boston College and The King's College in New York City. He has written more than 100 books, including *Fundamentals in the Faith, Handbook of Christian Apologetics*, and *Christianity for Modern Pagans*.

For more information, contact St. Teresa Church at (937) 342-8861.

## St. Christopher youth choir forming for school year

The Columbus St. Christopher Church youth choir invites second- through eighth-grade students of northern and northwest Franklin County parochial and public schools to attend its opening practice of the 2019-20 school year at 10 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 18 in the cry room of the parish, 1420 Grandview Ave.

There are no auditions. The only

membership requirements are a love of music and meeting new people. Practices are from 5 to 6 p.m. on Thursdays. The group sings at the 11:30 a.m. Mass on the second Sunday of each month, the 4 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass and other occasions.

For information, contact parish music director Pandora Porcase at (614) 306-0342 or pporcase@yahoo.com.

## Run/walk starting time moved

The starting time for the Friends of the Josephinum's four-mile run/walk on Saturday, Sept. 21 has been moved back one hour, to 8 a.m., because of conflicts at Glacier Ridge Metro Park, 9801 Hyland-Croy Road, Dublin. Packet pickup begins at 6:30 a.m. at The Club at Corazon, 7155 Corazon Drive, Dublin.

Packets also may be picked up from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 20 at Fleet Feet Sports, 1270 E. Powell Road, Lewis Center.

The entry fee is \$45 per person. Register online at m3ssports.com.

## YAKKEL, continued from Page 8

my time here was when I got to take part in a repatriation ceremony on the flight line. Standing side by side with a Jewish rabbi chaplain and a Protestant chaplain, the three of us rendered honors (saluted) as the remains of 28 WWII veterans were transferred to an aircraft set to bring them home to the U.S. for their final resting. It was a very powerful moment."

He also joined a flight crew during a day mission, observing a fellow chaplain and providing pastoral care to the crew.

"Being a priest has of course been the best part of all," Father Yakkel wrote. "I have been able to provide sacramental/spiritual support for the Catholic community here, which the priests here have especially appreciated since one of their current priests is deployed.

"Because Ramstein is such a large base and because of multiple military installations nearby, this is one of the

few bases they try to have more than one priest at. However, this is a challenge, given that the Air Force needs 120 active-duty priests and currently has only 57," he wrote. He has celebrated Masses at Ramstein and at the Vogelweh Military Complex, heard confessions, baptized a baby, and visited the Landstuhl Army Medical Center.

Father Yakkel will serve in the Diocese of Columbus for three years, then go on active duty with the U.S. Air Force, where he is a second lieutenant. Under the co-sponsorship agreement between the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, and the nation's dioceses, he will return to Columbus upon completion of his military service.

He succeeds Father Daniel Swartz in Perry County. Father Swartz, ordained in 2016, also is a military chaplain and is going on active duty with the U.S. Navy.



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with  
the Bishop

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## DeSales mourns loss of incoming freshman after fatal shooting

Xavier T. Quinn, 14, who was to enter Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School later this month as a freshman, was shot to death on Friday, July 26.

A prayer service for him took place on Saturday, July 27 at the school, where the rosary was prayed for him on Monday, July 29. His funeral service was on Friday, Aug. 2 at the First Church of God in Columbus. Burial was at Evergreen Burial Park, Columbus.

Police said the shooting occurred shortly after 8 p.m. on July 26 at a home owned by Quinn's father, Kenyetietta Quinn, in the city's Linden neighborhood. He was transported to OhioHealth Riverside Methodist Hospital, where he died about a half-hour later. A 15-year-old was charged in connection with the shooting.

Quinn graduated from Columbus St. James the Less School this year and planned to play football at DeSales in the fall. On the day he was killed, he had completed a three-week preparatory program that most of this year's incoming DeSales students attended, and then practiced with the football team.

He was the second of four children in his family, and his older brother, Quintell, who is entering his junior year at the school, is a member of the

team. The shooting occurred hours after Xavier chose 29 as his uniform number for the season. Quintell wears number 28.

"I am absolutely heartbroken by the tragic news of Xavier Quinn's death," Bishop Robert Brennan said in a statement issued after news of Quinn's death was received. "My heart goes out to his family and friends, as well as to the DeSales High School and St. James the Less Parish communities. I am keeping Xavier's family, friends and fellow students in my prayers. ... I ask that all join together in prayer for Xavier's family, as well as anyone else affected by the tragedy."

The bishop was out of town at the time of the prayer service for Quinn, which about 1,000 people attended, but was among 750 people at the rosary service and spoke at the event, said DeSales principal Dan Garrick.

Diocesan, school and parish staff members were at the school and church to provide counseling and pastoral care in the days following the shooting and continue to be available to anyone going through the grieving process.

"This was a very tragic loss," said DeSales head football coach Ryan Wiggins. "Xavier was a great young man, a very talented young man, with

a big smile on his face and a quiet confidence about him. He was a really good player, a really good teammate, who made a big impact in just a couple months here."

"My heart breaks for the Quinn family. It's a great family. My heart breaks for Quintell. We're going to rally around each other to support Quintell, support his family, support one another and focus on our faith, which is the center of everything we do here, and try to do the best that we can."

"It's difficult to wrap your head around a tragedy like this," Garrick said. "In the short time I was able to know Xavier, I saw he had an ever-present smile and was incredibly well-respected by his peers, our faculty and coaches, and his parents."

"He was a hard-working student, a gifted athlete just beginning to transition into a young adult and to realize his potential."

For each academic year, DeSales selects a theme and emphasizes two virtues. Garrick said this year's theme is "Hope Lives Here," and the virtues are hope and fortitude. "Ironically, those are the virtues we need at this time," Garrick said.

"When I reflect on this tragedy, it's important to remember that Xavier lived his life with passion and purpose. Young people today face the type of challenges that people of my generation never had to deal with at that stage of their lives. It takes a great commitment of faith and a sense of courage to face those challenges and live in a countercultural way. Xavier was trying to do that."

"In times of darkness, Christ's love will shine through. I've seen that in countless gestures of love from members of the DeSales family who have reached out to the Quinns with words and prayers and with practical gestures, such as providing food."

"Christ needed another angel in his communion of saints. I believe that's where Xavier is, and that he will be blessing us and looking out for us in years to come."

Quinn was a member of the football, basketball and track teams at St. James the Less School, which he attended from fourth through eighth grades. School principal Samary Cecchetti said Quinn was greatly admired by his fellow students.



**Xavier T. Quinn, 14, was fatally shot on Friday, July 26. He was to enter Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School as a freshman.**



**Quinn is pictured with his parents, Andrea and Kenyetietta Quinn. (Photos courtesy St. James the Less School)**

"Many of his peers looked up to him," she said. "He was quiet and kept to himself, not really seeking attention, but he often was surrounded by other students and definitely was a positive role model who made a huge difference, someone with a beautiful soul, whom I'll never forget."

"Kids his age sometimes have to be disciplined for not following school rules, and a lot of times it's more a case of guilt by association, but Xavier never tried to blame others. He took his punishment and took ownership of his and his friends' actions."

"He was not a Catholic, but that didn't keep him from being a participant at school Masses and prayer services. He was very reverent and very respectful."

Garrick said the DeSales football team and the school plan to honor Quinn in a suitable way during the coming academic year, which begins Wednesday, Aug. 21.

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## 19th Sunday of Ordinary Time

## Live the faith and treasure it

Wisdom 18:6-9  
Psalm 33:1, 12, 18-22  
Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19  
Luke 12:32-48

Father Timothy Hayes



Father Timothy M. Hayes is pastor of Columbus St. Timothy Church.

The Scriptures are full of words of comfort and challenge.

*Blessed the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.*

*Do not be afraid any longer, little flock, for your Father is pleased to give you the kingdom.*

These are comforting words. We are all saddened by the revelations of how our own members have distorted the truth of who we are by failings that become front-page news. We are often at a loss to know what to say. We are comforted hearing that the Lord has chosen us, and we are given hope by the knowledge that our entrance into the kingdom relies not on our power, but on His.

*Much will be required of the person entrusted with much,*

*and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more.*

These are challenging words. We have received so much from the Lord. We cannot deny the blessings. What has been given to us is undeserved, though at times we may fool ourselves into thinking it is our own doing. Much will be required of us, and more will be demanded of us, because the Lord has given us so much. How are we to respond to this challenge?

We are called to live by faith in a world that rejects faith. *Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen.*

We can be grateful that the Church always calls us to a deeper faith, to an acceptance of things that are beyond us, because we are reminded that we belong to God. Wisdom 1:2 tells us that *God is found by those who test*

*him not, and He manifests Himself to those who do not disbelieve Him.* In other words, the only way to find God is to live in faith, which we share by belonging to His Church.

In response to faith, we are invited to invest in the future. *Where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.* Where is your treasure?

We are materially rich, no matter how much we may feel financial burdens. Our experience of poverty is real enough to us, but there are always others who have far less than we do around the world and close to home. For us, however, the spiritual riches should be the most important. We are a nation and people that has much material wealth, but we don't always know what to do with our spiritual abundance.

How are we to respond to the *much* and the more we have been given?

*We are to treasure it.* Faith must be the center for us.

*We are to deepen our understanding of it.* Study is not just for children and not just for our school days, especially in faith. Remember, we still are preparing for the final exam, the one that really does go on our permanent record.

*We are to share it.* How do we invite others to respond to the faith we have received? Who are the people around us who are watching us and who may respond to Christ if we choose to share Him with them?

The Lord invites us to get our priorities straight: God is first. He calls us to grow in faith and to share it.

## 20th Sunday of Ordinary Time

## Christ lights the fire; don't put it out

Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10  
Psalm 40:2-4, 18  
Hebrews 12:1-4  
Luke 12:49-53

It is evident that a fire has been set upon earth. Divisions are present in every sphere of our lives. There is a purpose to this reality: to establish the kingdom. Jesus shares the anguish, the longing of His heart. He reveals to us that suffering freely embraced is

the price for our redemption. Salvation is offered to us. Jesus speaks the truth, calling us to relationship with the living God.

Human experience of family life and life with friends always has two sides. There is an ideal, something we all wish for: a life that is peaceful, quiet, pleasant, unified, easy, and characterized by love, understanding and acceptance without struggle. Then there is the reality: the life that is chaotic,

THE WEEKDAY  
BIBLE READINGS  
8/12-8/17

MONDAY  
Deuteronomy 10:12-22  
Psalm 147:12-15, 19-20  
Matthew 17:22-27

TUESDAY  
Deuteronomy 31:1-8  
Deuteronomy 32:3-4b,  
7-9, 12 (Ps)  
Matthew 18:1-5, 10, 12-14

WEDNESDAY  
Deuteronomy 34:1-12  
Psalm 66:1-3a, 5, 8, 16-17  
Matthew 18:15-20

THURSDAY  
Revelation 11:19a;  
12:1-6a, 10ab  
Psalm 45:10bc, 11-12ab, 16

1 Corinthians 15:20-27  
Luke 1:39-56

FRIDAY  
Joshua 24:1-13  
Psalm 136:1-3,  
16-18, 21-22, 24  
Matthew 19:3-12

SATURDAY  
Joshua 24:14-29  
Psalm 16:1-2a, 5, 7-8, 11  
Matthew 19:13-15

THE WEEKDAY  
BIBLE READINGS  
8/19-8/24

MONDAY  
Judges 2:11-19  
Psalm 106:34-37,  
39-40, 43ab-44  
Matthew 19:16-22

TUESDAY  
Judges 6:11-24a  
Psalm 85:9, 11-14  
Matthew 19:23-30

WEDNESDAY  
Judges 9:6-15  
Psalm 21:2-7  
Matthew 20:1-16

THURSDAY  
Judges 11:29-39a  
Psalm 40:5, 7-10  
Matthew 22:1-14

FRIDAY  
Ruth 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22  
Psalm 146:5-10  
Matthew 22:34-40

SATURDAY  
Revelation 21:9b-14  
Psalm 145:10-13ab, 17-18  
John 1:45-51

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION  
MASS SCHEDULE: WEEKS OF AUG. 11 & 18, 2019

## SUNDAY MASS

10:30 a.m. Mass from Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at [www.stgabrielradio.com](http://www.stgabrielradio.com).

Mass with the Passionist Fathers at 7:30 a.m. on WWHO-TV (the CW), Channel 53, Columbus, and 10:30 a.m. on WHIZ-TV, Channel 18, Zanesville. Check local cable system for cable channel listing.

Mass from Our Lady of the Angels Monastery, Birmingham, Ala., at 8 a.m. on EWTN (Spectrum Channel 385, Insight Channel 382, or WOW

Channel 378). (Encores at noon, 7 p.m., and midnight).

Mass from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee at 6:30 a.m. on ION TV (AT&T U-verse Channel 195, Dish Network Channel 250, or DirecTV Channel 305).

Mass from Massillon St. Mary Church at 10:30 a.m. on WILB radio (AM 1060, FM 94.5 and 89.5), Canton, heard in Tuscarawas, Holmes, and Coshocton counties.

DAILY MASS  
8 a.m., Our Lady of the

Angels Monastery in Birmingham, Ala. (Encores at noon, 7 p.m. and midnight). See EWTN above; and on I-Lifetv (Channel 113 in Ada, Logan, Millersburg, Murray City and Washington C.H.; Channel 125 in Marion, Newark, Newcomerstown and New Philadelphia; and Channel 207 in Zanesville);

8 p.m., St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at [www.stgabrielradio.com](http://www.stgabrielradio.com).

We pray Weeks III and IV, Seasonal Proper, Liturgy of the Hours.

## PRAYER TO THE VIRGIN

Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of heaven, blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in necessity. Oh, star of the sea, help me and show me herein, you are my Heaven and Earth. I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to secure me in this necessity. There are none who can withstand your powers. Oh, show me herein you are my Mother. Oh, Mary conceived without sin, pray for us, who have recourse to thee. (Repeat three times) Oh, Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hand. (Repeat three times) Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads that I can obtain my goals. You gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me, and in all instances in my life, you are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. MAS

noisy, bitter, divided, hard, characterized by hatred, misunderstanding and rejection, and often full of strife. In human experience, families are of two kinds: those that cluster and those that scatter like popcorn.

Faith tells us that we are surrounded by a "cloud of witnesses" who lived for

truth: the prophets and saints who have gone before us, the wider family that shares in the unity won by Jesus Christ. They accepted the sufferings that accompanied their response to the word.

## Extraordinary coincidence, contemporary lesson

Forty years after Pope St. John Paul II bent the course of the 20th century in a more humane direction during his first pilgrimage to his Polish homeland in June 1979, new information continues to emerge about what happened behind the scenes, shedding further light on those epic events. The latest surprise involves a hitherto unremarked (and evidently impromptu) meeting of the Polish episcopate with the Polish pope in the middle of what has become known as the “Nine Days.” Polish scholars recently discovered and published a transcript of that encounter, and kindly shared a translation with me while I was teaching in Krakow last month.

A bit of background helps set the scene for a powerful reminder that what may seem mere coincidence or randomness can, in fact, be providential – and instructive for the present.

Warsaw, Poland’s political capital from 1596 until the Third Polish Partition in 1795 erased “Poland” from the map of Europe, was absorbed into the Russian Empire after the Congress of Vienna in 1815. The Russian authorities immediately began an intense and often brutal program of Russification, which included banning use of the Polish language in public administration and the courts. One physical expression of this determination to eradicate Polishness in Warsaw was

the Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, built in city center on Saxon Square between 1894 and 1912.

Speaking at Warsaw’s Royal Castle, the Russian czar had told Poles to abandon all hope of recovering their independence, and the new Russian Orthodox megachurch – with a bell tower designed to be the highest point in the city – was meant to underscore this brutal *diktat*. At the cathedral’s dedication in 1912, the local Russian Orthodox archbishop said, “The creators of this cathedral had nothing hostile in their thoughts towards the unorthodoxy that surrounds us: coercion is not in the nature of the Eastern Orthodox Church.” This was, of course, poppycock. The Nevsky Cathedral was nothing but a hostile politico-nationalistic act; the Russian Orthodox Church had long been an instrument of Russian state power and, as Archbishop Nicholas himself admitted (however clumsily), the cathedral was intended to juxtapose Russian Orthodoxy to the “unorthodoxy” of recalcitrant Poles who clung to their heretical Catholicism.

In the aftermath of Poland regaining its independence in 1918, the Nevsky Cathedral was demolished, to restore

### THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

Geroge Weigel

*George Weigel is the Distinguished Senior Fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.*



a great public space while removing an affront to Polish sensibilities. After Hitler destroyed Warsaw in 1944, Saxon Square was recreated in the rebuilt capital, although Poland’s communist overseers renamed it “Victory Square.” And it was there, on June 2, 1979, that John Paul II celebrated Mass before hundreds of thousands of Poles and famously called on the Holy Spirit to “renew the face of the earth ... of this land.” It was an electric rhetorical moment with consequences as great as Winston Churchill’s 1940 declaration “We shall never surrender!” And its providential character was identified in poignant remarks by Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński, the heroic primate of Poland, when John Paul met with the Polish bishops on June 5, 1979.

“I was raised in Warsaw schools,” the primate recalled. “I know Warsaw from before World War I. ... In the exact spot where the Holy Father stood was the apse of a huge czarist church,

placed there on orders of the czar, to serve as the ultimate defamation of Poland and the (Catholic) Church. ... So the Holy Mass (in Victory Square) was a huge experience for me, a huge shock, because I was sitting in the very same spot where once had stood that czarist church and I was looking at the Pope celebrating the Holy Mass where the ... main ceremonies of the czarist power were once celebrated; and everything (in my memory) disappeared (because) the Pope was celebrating a Mass in that exact spot. ...”

Like many others, I’ve been thrilled by that epic moment as captured in films and documentaries, but I had missed the extraordinary, providential coincidence: John Paul’s great homily took place precisely where a simulacrum of piety had been built to underscore the religious subjugation of a people and their alleged “unorthodoxy.” God is not without a sense of ironic humor, it seems (although this particular exercise in the divine irony may not be well-appreciated in Vatican circles where the memory of Russian Orthodoxy’s historic aggressiveness toward “unorthodox” Catholicism seems to have been erased).

Catholics may, and indeed must, forgive. But we should also remember. Because forgetfulness can lead to something worse: like a dangerous falsification of reality.

### CHRIST, continued from Page 14

Jesus shares His zeal to accomplish all that the Father has entrusted to Him to accomplish. He longs to light the fire. He pours out His life for us and calls us to persevere in faith.

The challenge set before us is to be willing to stand for truth, realizing that it opens us to eternity. As followers of Christ, we must accept the price. We experience struggles and pain, but this is real living.

Our faith also teaches us to expect help from beyond our own resources,

from the “cloud of witnesses” who have come before us and from those outside the circle.

With their example and friendship in the communion of saints, we discover a new strength that comes from within. We become free to open our hearts to the fire that has been set.

The prophetic word that we proclaim by living in faith strengthens us to face the fact that sometimes, the truth hurts. There is a collective response as well as an individual re-

sponse.

Our “job” as members of the Church is to hear and respond to the word together. The saints who have walked this journey spur us on to victory. They encourage us to believe that we too are going to make it.

Jesus’ ministry is still alive in the Church. Our God has created a world that must look beyond itself. Our baptism points to eternity. The fire is the purification, stripping away all that does not correspond to truth. Our experience

of division calls for decision, commitment and witness, even unto death.

Life is difficult. We struggle, facing death and experiencing the pain of division. That is only part of the story. The whole story includes what we will discover through perseverance. We feel in our own hearts a longing for more and share Jesus’ zeal to accomplish God’s will.

What is the fire you are to light? Where do you see it being kindled? What motivates you to keep going?

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# PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

**ADKINS, Brian, 49, Aug. 1**

Immaculate Conception Church, Columbus

**ALLEN, Catherine (Bocook), 104, July 28**

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Buckeye Lake

**BARBER, William G. Jr., 82, July 27**

St. Dominic Church, Columbus

**BENNETT, Paul D., 89, July 24**

St. Anthony Church, Columbus

**DALLAS, Kerma L. (Wiseman), 73, July 28**

St. Margaret of Cortona Church, Columbus

**DAVIDSON, Theodore E., 92, Aug. 1**

St. Matthew Church, Gahanna

**DAVIS, Don, 83, July 13**

St. Aloysius Church, Columbus

**DENNY, Sarah L., 25, July 21**

St. Bernard Church, Corning

**FISHER, Betty J. (Riley), 91, July 26**

St. Rose Church, New Lexington

**GRAVES, Benito, 48, July 28**

St. Dominic Church, Columbus

**GREEN, Kevin, 52, July 21**

St. Joseph Church, Dover

**GROOMS, William J., 92, Aug. 1**

St. Matthias Church, Columbus

**HOLLAND, Michael F., 56, July 28**

St. Andrew Church, Columbus

**IMBER, Jane A., 62, July 28**

St. Timothy Church, Columbus

**JAMES, Sheilah (Baker), 83, July 20**

St. Andrew Church, Columbus

**KRIER, Vernon C., 86, July 23**

St. Brigid of Kildare Church, Dublin

**MILLER, Robert L., 85, July 28**

St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, Pickerington

**MOCKUS, Vladas "Walter," 83, May 11**

St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

**NOLAN, Mary H. (Debitetto), 98, July 23**

Resurrection Cemetery Chapel, Lewis Center

**ODDI, Elaine C. (Relyea), 70, July 29**

Our Lady of Victory Church, Columbus

**ORTMAN, Christopher J., 65, July 25**

Church of the Resurrection, New Albany

**REED, Patricia A. (Dougherty), July 27**

St. Anthony Church, Columbus

**SCHUSTER, Waneta H. (Root), 89, July 29**

St. Timothy Church, Columbus

**SESTITO, Mary E. (Berry), 95, July 21**

Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

**SEYMOUR, Della L. (Kean), 79, July 5**

St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

**STANULONIS, Cecilia M. (Grondeski), 101, July 31**

St. Matthew Church, Gahanna

**THEADO, Kathleen T. (Griffith), 92, Aug. 2**

St. Andrew Church, Columbus

**TIMLIN, Rita A., 94, July 22**

St. Mary Magdalene Church, Columbus

**TOTH, Eleanor M., 86, July 30**

Resurrection Cemetery Chapel, Lewis Center

**TRELL, Dr. Eugene F., July 30**

St. Andrew Church, Columbus

**TYLKA, Becky, 69, July 26**

St. Joseph Church, Dover

**WALKER, Eleanor (Keserich), 85, July 26**

Our Lady of Peace Church, Columbus

## Barbara J. Sharpe

Funeral Mass for Barbara J. Sharpe, 67, who died Thursday, Aug. 1, was celebrated Thursday, Aug. 8 at Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church. A burial service will take place later.

She was born April 20, 1952, to the late Frank and Julia (Kosmyrna) Czajka and was a 1970 graduate of Columbus Bishop Watterson High School.

She was employed at St. Pius X

School for 20 years as a teachers aide and also was a member of the church's choir and served the parish in several volunteer capacities.

Before the birth of her children, she worked in the corporate office of The Limited.

Survivors include her husband, Bill; sons, Michael (Rachel) and Richard; and sisters, Krystyna (Tom) Moroney and Helen.

## Joanne D. Statt

Funeral Mass for Joanne D. Statt, 77, who died Wednesday, July 24, was celebrated at Columbus Holy Family Church. Burial was at the cemetery of the Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity in Stella Niagara, New York.

She was born Oct. 31, 1941 in Rochester, New York to Edward and Bernadette (Scheg) Statt.

She was a longtime employee of Holy Family Church and traveled fre-

quently to Stella Niagara to visit and attend Mass with the sisters.

She was preceded in death by her parents and by sisters, Christine Cregan and Lorraine.

Survivors include brothers, Gerard (Lona) and Bernard (Theresa Greth-Statt); and sisters, Dolores (John) Dudinyak, Elaine Sullivan, Marilyn (Steven) Powell, Dobna (Gary) Ehinger and Rosemary (Michael) Hanscom.

## Sister M. Christina Kraus, OSF

Funeral Mass for Sister M. Christina Kraus, OSF, 91, who died Tuesday, July 30, was celebrated Saturday, Aug. 3 at the chapel of the Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity in Stella Niagara, New York.

Sister Christina was a pastoral minister in southeast Ohio from 1970 until the fall of 2018, when she became a resident of the sisters' health center in Stella Niagara.

She established the St. Francis Center in McArthur as a pastoral evangelization and outreach center and ministered there from 1979 until retiring in 1995. After retirement, she continued to volunteer in various ways in Vinton, Jackson, Perry and Fairfield counties.

The Chicago-based Catholic Extension Society presented her with its Lumen Christi award in 1995 for bringing the light of Christ to the communities she served.

In the Diocese of Columbus, she also was a teacher at Columbus Holy Rosary School (1954-56) and New Lexington St. Aloysius Academy (1961-62, 1965-66). She also taught at schools in the Diocese of Buffalo, New York.

She was born Barbara Kraus on May 25, 1928, in Columbus to the late Anthony and Florentia (Schwik) Kraus.

She was a graduate of St. Aloysius Academy and received a bachelor of arts degree from Rosary Hill College (now Daemen College) in Amherst, New York in 1965 and a master of arts degree in catechetics from the Catholic University of America in 1969.

She entered the Stella Niagara Franciscan order on Aug. 17, 1950, and professed her first vows on Aug. 18, 1952, and her final vows on the same date in 1957.

She is survived by a sister, Shirley Irish, and nieces and nephews.

## Sister Mary Kathryn McFerrin, SC

Funeral Mass for Sister Mary Kathryn McFerrin, SC, 90, who died Monday, July 29, was celebrated Wednesday, Aug. 7 in the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati. Burial was in the sisters' cemetery.

She was born Dec. 30, 1928, in Chillicothe to Charles and Florentine (Stein) McFerrin. She graduated from Chillicothe Catholic Central High School in 1947 and received a bachelor of science degree in education from the College of Mount St. Joseph in Cincinnati in 1957 and a master's degree in education in 1967 from the University of Detroit.

She was a member of the Sisters of Charity for 71 years and took the name of Sister Mary Gregory when

making her religious vows.

In the Diocese of Columbus, she was a teacher at Marion St. Mary School from 1954 to 1959, returning to Marion to teach at St. Mary and then at Marion Catholic High School from 1976 to 1981.

She also taught or was a principal at schools in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and the Diocese of Toledo and in Colorado, Michigan and Kentucky. After her teaching career ended in 1981, she served in various roles at schools in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and the Diocese of Covington, Kentucky, and at the Motherhouse.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a sister, Dorothy Fogle. She is survived by nieces and nephews.

To have an obituary printed in the Catholic Times, send it to:  
[tput@columbuscatholic.org](mailto:tput@columbuscatholic.org)

# H A P P E N I N G S

## CLASSIFIED

**ST. ELIZABETH CHURCH  
ANNUAL FESTIVAL**  
6077 Sharon Woods Blvd., Columbus  
Friday, August 9, 6 p.m.-12 a.m.  
Saturday, August 10, 5 p.m.-12 a.m.

- Car show on Friday
  - Live band (both nights) KC and the Moonlighters
  - Silent auction, children's games, adult games of chance, great food.
- Come and join us for a great time!

## AUGUST

### 10, SATURDAY

#### Diocesan Young Adult Retreat

9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Sts. Peter and Paul Retreat Center, 2734 Seminary Road S.E., Newark. "Spirit at Work" retreat for young adults (ages 18 to 39) on prayerful decision making. Sponsored by diocesan Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry and Charis Ministries, which conducts retreat experiences in the Jesuit tradition. Cost \$25 for day; option to stay Friday night at additional cost available. **614-241-2565**

#### Life and Mercy Mass in Plain City

9 a.m. Mass, St. Joseph Church, 140 West Ave., Plain City. Saturday Life and Mercy Mass, followed by rosary and confession.

#### St. Mary High School Class of 1949 Reunion

4 p.m., St. Mary, Mother of God Church, 672 S. 3rd St., Columbus. St. Mary High School Class of 1949 70th anniversary reunion, beginning with Mass and continuing at parish festival.

#### Frassati Society Kayak/Canoe Trip

4:30 p.m., Scioto Audubon Park, 400 W. Whittier St., Columbus. Columbus St. Patrick Church Frassati Society for young adults takes 1.6-mile kayak or canoe trip around the heart of downtown. Cost \$25 for kayak or \$50 for two-person canoe. **614-224-9522**

### 11, SUNDAY

#### Reception Honoring Sister Marie Shields

3 to 6 p.m., St. Matthias School, 1566 Ferris

Road, Columbus. Reception to honor Sister Marie Shields, SNDdeN, who is retiring after 28 years as pastoral associate at St. Matthias Church and 51 years in Columbus. **614-267-3406**

#### Prayer Group Meeting at Christ the King

5 to 7 p.m., Christ the King Church, 2777 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus (enter at daily Mass entrance). Weekly parish prayer group meets. For praise, worship, ministry and teaching. **614-886-8266**

#### Spanish Mass at Columbus St. Peter

7 p.m., St. Peter Church, 6899 Smoky Row Road, Columbus. Mass in Spanish. **706-761-4054**

### 12, MONDAY

#### Rosary at St. Pius X

6:30 p.m., St. Pius X Church, 1051 S. Waggoner Road, Reynoldsburg. Recital of Rosary for the sick of the parish and all who are ill. **614-866-2859**

#### Bethesda Post-Abortion Healing Ministry

6:30 p.m., support group meeting, 2744 Dover Road, Columbus (Christ the King convent, first building west of church). **614-718-0227, 614-309-2651, 614-309-0157**

#### Our Lady of Peace Men's Bible Study

7 p.m., Our Lady of Peace Church, 20 E. Dominion Blvd., Columbus. Bible study of Sunday's readings.

### 13, TUESDAY

#### Calix Society Meeting

6 p.m., Panera restaurant, 4519 N. High St., Columbus. Monthly meeting of the Calix Society, an association of Catholic alcoholics. Preceded by 5:30 p.m. Mass at Our Lady of Peace Church, across street from meeting site.

#### Frassati Society Kickball at Commons

6:15 p.m., Columbus Commons, 160 S. High St., Columbus. Columbus St. Patrick Church Frassati Society kickball game. Minimum four men and four women needed. Maximum 10 total players for game. Cost \$5. **614-224-9522**

#### Holy Hour at Columbus St. Francis of Assisi

St. Francis of Assisi Church, 386 Buttles Ave., Columbus. Monthly Holy Hour following 6 p.m. Mass. **614-299-5781**

#### Rosary for Life at St. Joan of Arc

Following 6:15 p.m. Mass, St. Joan of Arc Church, 10700 Liberty Road, Powell. Recital of Rosary for Life, sponsored by church's respect life committee.

#### EnCourage Ministry Monthly Meeting

6:30 p.m., EnCourage, an approved diocesan ministry for families and friends of persons who experience same-sex attraction. Confidentiality is maintained. Call for site. **614-296-7404**

#### Abortion Recovery Network Group

7 p.m., Pregnancy Decision Health Center, 665 E. Dublin-Granville Road, Columbus. Abortion recovery network group meeting for anyone interested in recovering from abortion or who has been through a recovery program, and wants to stay connected. **614-721-2100**

### 14, WEDNESDAY

#### Turning Leaves and Tea Leaves

2 to 3:30 p.m., Martin de Porres Center, 2330 Airport Drive, Columbus. Turning Leaves and Tea Leaves book club with Dominican Sisters Marialein Anzenberger

and Colleen Gallagher.

### 614-416-1910

#### Divine Mercy Chaplet at St. Pius X

6 p.m., St. Pius X Church, 1051 S. Waggoner Road, Reynoldsburg. Recital of Chaplet of Divine Mercy. **614-866-2859**

#### Lancaster Theology on Tap

7 p.m., Bob's Backyard BBQ, 157 W. Main St., Lancaster. Monthly meeting of Theology on Tap discussion group for anyone ages 18 to 39. Contact Cindy Goss at [cynthia.goss@outlook.com](mailto:cynthia.goss@outlook.com).

### 15, THURSDAY

#### Frassati Society Mass and Dinner

6:30 p.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Columbus St. Patrick Church Frassati Society for young adults attends Mass for Solemnity of the Assumption, followed by dinner at Pat and Gracie's restaurant. **614-224-9522**

### 16, FRIDAY

#### Catholic Singles On Fire for Christ

6 p.m., Chapel, Church of the Resurrection, 6300 E. Dublin-Granville Road, New Albany. Monthly meeting of Catholic Singles On Fire for Christ, for anyone older than 35 who is single in the eyes of the Catholic Church and seeks to grow in faith, bring hope to others and share the love of Christ. Begins with prayer and Adoration, followed by dinner at a restaurant. **614-855-1400**

### 17, SATURDAY

#### Life and Mercy Mass in Plain City

9 a.m. Mass, St. Joseph Church, 140 West Ave., Plain City. Saturday Life and Mercy Mass, followed by rosary and confession.

#### Centering Prayer Group Meeting

10:30 a.m. to noon, Corpus Christi Center of Peace, 1111 E. Stewart Ave., Columbus. Centering prayer group meeting, beginning with silent prayer, followed by Contemplative Outreach DVD and discussion. **614-512-3731**

### 17-18, SATURDAY-SUNDAY

#### Frassati Society Weekend Campout

Noon, Columbus St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Parish Frassati Society for young adults leaves for overnight campout at A.W. Marion State Park, 7317 Warner-Huffer Road, Circleville, which will include an outdoor Mass. Food provided; bring your own tent. Cost \$8. Registration deadline Aug. 12. **614-224-9522**

### 18, SUNDAY

#### St. Christopher Youth Choir Meeting

10 a.m., Cry room, St. Christopher Church, 1420 Grandview Ave., Columbus. First 2019-20 practice for parish youth choir, for parochial and public school students in second to eighth grades from northern and northwest Franklin County. No auditions. **614-306-0342**

#### Blessing of St. Gerard Majella at Holy Family

After 11 a.m. Mass, Holy Family Church, 584 W. Broad St., Columbus. Blessing of St. Gerard Majella, patron of expectant mothers, for all women who are pregnant or wish to become pregnant. **614-221-1890**

#### Angelic Warfare Confraternity at St. Patrick

Following noon Mass, St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Monthly meeting of Angelic Warfare Confraternity, with talk on chastity-related issues followed by Holy Hour. **614-224-9522**

#### Kateri Prayer Circle at St. Mark

1 p.m., Aranda Center, St. Mark Church, 324 Gay St., Lancaster. Kateri Prayer Circle meeting to honor St. Kateri Tekakwitha and promote Native Catholic spirituality.

### St. Padre Pio Secular Franciscans

1 to 5 p.m., St. John the Baptist Church, 720 Hamlet St., Columbus. Fellowship and ongoing formation followed by adoration and prayer, Liturgy of the Hours, and initial formation with visitors. **614-282-4676**

#### Polish Mass at Holy Family

2 p.m., Holy Family Church, 584 W. Broad St., Columbus. Monthly Mass in Polish. **614-221-4323**

#### Taize Evening Prayer at Corpus Christi

4 to 5 p.m., Corpus Christi Center of Peace, 1111 E. Stewart Ave., Columbus. Evening Prayer in the style and spirit of the Taize monastic community, with song, silence and reflection. **614-512-3731**

#### Prayer Group Meeting at Christ the King

5 to 7 p.m., Christ the King Church, 2777 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus (enter at daily Mass entrance). Weekly parish prayer group meets. For praise, worship, ministry and teaching. **614-886-8266**

#### Spanish Mass at Columbus St. Peter

7 p.m., St. Peter Church, 6899 Smoky Row Road, Columbus. Mass in Spanish. **706-761-4054**

### 19, MONDAY

#### Rosary at St. Pius X

6:30 p.m., St. Pius X Church, 1051 S. Waggoner Road, Reynoldsburg. Recital of Rosary for the sick of the parish and all who are ill. **614-866-2859**

### 20, TUESDAY

#### Frassati Society Kickball at Commons

6:15 p.m., Columbus Commons, 160 S. High St., Columbus. Columbus St. Patrick Church Frassati Society kickball game. Minimum four men and four women needed. Maximum 10 total players for game. Cost \$5. **614-224-9522**

#### Rosary for Life at St. Joan of Arc

Following 6:15 p.m. Mass, St. Joan of Arc Church, 10700 Liberty Road, Powell. Recital of Rosary for Life, sponsored by church's respect life committee.

### 21, WEDNESDAY

#### Abortion Recovery Network Group

9:30 a.m., Westerville Area Resource Ministry, 150 Heatherdown Drive, Westerville. Abortion recovery network group meeting for anyone interested in recovering from abortion or who has been through a recovery program, and wants to stay connected. **614-721-2100**

#### Divine Mercy Chaplet at St. Pius X

6 p.m., St. Pius X Church, 1051 S. Waggoner Road, Reynoldsburg. Recital of Chaplet of Divine Mercy. **614-866-2859**

#### Young Catholic Professionals Speaker Series

7 to 9 p.m., Jubilee Museum, 57 S. Grubb St., Columbus. Monica Flynn, executive director of Mommies Matter support group for single mothers, talks at Young Catholic Professionals organization's monthly executive speaker series. Information at [www.ycpcolumbus.org](http://www.ycpcolumbus.org).

### 22, THURSDAY

#### Women's Evening of Reflection

6 to 9 p.m., St. Therese's Retreat Center, 5277 E. Broad St., Columbus. Evening of reflection for women, sponsored by diocesan Catholic Laywomen's Retreat League, led by Father Stephen Dominic Hayes, OP. Theme: "Matters of the Hearts: Finding the Depths of Love Through the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary." Cost \$25, including dinner. **614-866-1611**

#### Cenacle at Holy Name

6 p.m., Holy Name Church, 154 E. Patterson Ave., Columbus. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, with prayers in the Cenacle format of the Marian Movement of Priests.



# Festivals promote parish unity, spur evangelization

Summer is the season for festivals throughout the Diocese of Columbus. The festival calendar published in *The Catholic Times* at the beginning of May lists more than 40 such parish events between May and October, with most during the school vacation period from June through August.

Festivals raise money for parish needs, but equally important is the opportunity they provide to strengthen parish unity by allowing parishioners to get together in an informal setting to enjoy food and music, play games and take part in other activities. They also provide former parish members who have moved with a chance to return and reconnect with old friends.

Additionally, they serve as an evangelization tool, giving parishes an op-

portunity to reach out to the community at large. This occasionally results in a positive impression that leads a non-Catholic to inquire about Catholic beliefs and ultimately to enter the RCIA process and become a member of the Church.

Seth Walker of Worthington St. Michael Church is one such individual. He and his wife, Kelly, and their daughter, Ellie, then 1 year old, moved to central Ohio from Tennessee in 2014. The couple now has three children, ages 6, 3, and 3 months.

"My grandmother was a Southern Baptist and my mom was a Unitarian, so I was exposed to religion growing up," Seth Walker said. "Kelly grew up as a Catholic but was not active in the faith when we moved, and I did not

have a strong feeling toward a particular church."

He said that as new parents, he and Kelly began thinking about their responsibilities to their daughter and the values they wanted her to learn. This led to a search for a church home for the family.

"We tried many different denominations for more than a year and never could find the right place," Kelly Walker said. "For my birthday on Sept. 4, 2015, we went out to dinner, and then took Ellie to the St. Michael parish festival. We had an unbelievable time. We danced to a Beatles tribute band, and Ellie rode rides and played games. Most importantly, we talked to the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist who teach at St. Michael School and to the parish priests.

"As the conversation continued, we felt something that was missing in our other church visits. It just felt like home. It felt right. The community and the friendly presence of the sisters and clergy was something we'd never felt anywhere else.

"Seth visited the RCIA booth and chatted with Father Matthew Morris (St. Michael's parochial vicar at the time). He committed at that time to begin the process which leads to becoming a member of the Catholic Church. He went through RCIA for the next few months and joined the Church at the Easter Vigil in 2016."

One of the first parishioners Seth Walker met was Brett Gissel, who is active in state and local Knights of Columbus organizations. Gissel, a past festival chairman, recruited him to be a Knight and join the festival committee. Soon after officially becoming a parishioner three years ago, Walker became the festival's sponsorship chair, and this year he became festival chairman.

Sponsorships by local businesses play a critical role at most festivals, some more so than others. "In a few cases, the amount raised through sponsorships covers all festival expenses," Walker said. "Here, it's around 20 to 25 percent. Usually, we have five or 10 major sponsors and 40 or 50 smaller ones."

He said the event is not an official Knights of Columbus activity, but the Knights play the biggest role in organizing the festival. "We don't have outside vendors, other than for the rides," he said. "The food's all our own, done mostly by Knights with grills and fryers, and that helps it maintain a neighborhood atmosphere.

People's favorites include our pizza, funnel cakes, lemon shake-ups and Tony Schera's special Italian sauce for meatball subs."

This year's festival will include a Mario Kart tournament for the first time. "That's scheduled for Sunday night," Walker said. "We have plenty of games for the younger children and activities for the adults, but felt we needed something to engage the middle group of kids – the ones in middle school and high school – so we're giving this a try."

He said many of the wooden booths the festival has been using for years are being replaced. "We have 20 new booths that look like the originals. They're also of wood, but are easier to put together because they fold up rather than having to be taken apart and put together each year," Walker said. About 40 people were able to put the new booths together in an afternoon of work.

The St. Michael festival has been a fixture on Labor Day weekend for many years and is the only event listed on the *Times* festival calendar for that period. It will take place from 7 to 11 p.m. Friday, Aug. 30 and 5 to 11 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 31 and Sept. 1. Because of the Monday holiday, it's one of the few festivals that extends into Sunday night.

"This is the 43rd year for the festival," Walker said. "It started as a parish family picnic and evolved over the years into something for families all over the area. I'm not sure when it was moved to Labor Day."

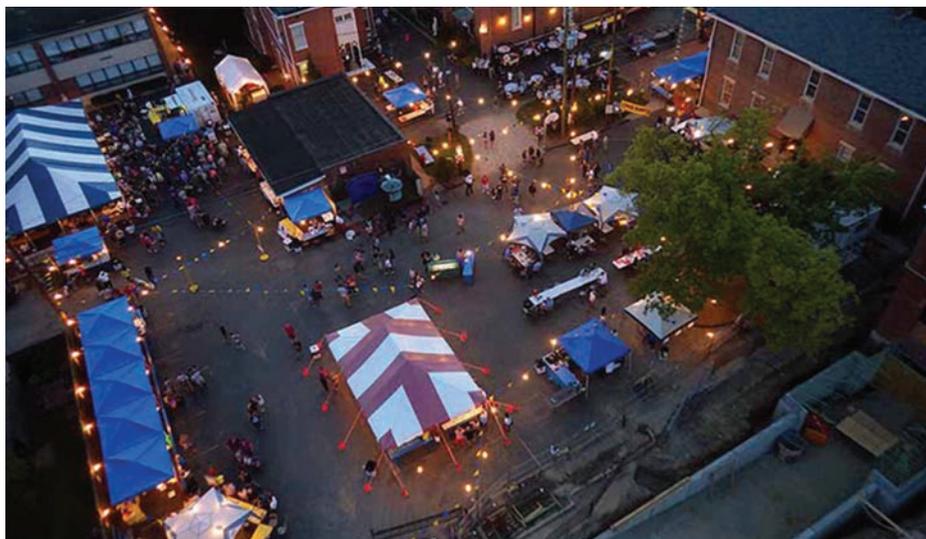
One of the diocese's oldest festivals takes place this weekend and is sponsored by St. Mary, Mother of God Church in Columbus' German Village neighborhood. It has been known as the parish Homecoming since it began in 1925, but has a new name this year to recognize a renewed parish and a new focus.

"We're renaming it to 'Home Again – the St. Mary Community Festival,'" said festival chairwoman Chris Davis. "It's an appropriate change because we are back home in our parish church and because we want to emphasize that it isn't just a chance for former parishioners to return and renew friendships, but is an outreach activity which all of our neighbors and friends are invited to share."

This year's festival returns to the parish and school grounds after being at a temporary site for two years



Food, fun and games are part of the annual Labor Day weekend festival at Worthington St. Michael Church. The festival, now in its 43rd year, begins Friday, Aug. 30 and runs through Sunday, Sept. 1. (Photo courtesy St. Michael Church)



A view from on high of the parish festival at Columbus St. Mary, Mother of God Church in the German Village area. The festival returns this year to the parish and school grounds after two years at an alternative location while the church was undergoing extensive renovation. (Photo courtesy John Rees)

**FESTIVALS, continued from Page 18**

to allow St. Mary Church to undergo an \$8 million renovation following a lightning strike in late August 2016. The church was closed in October of that year once the extent of damage was determined. The building was re-opened this past April 13.

“The festival was almost canceled after the church was closed because we couldn’t find a suitable site,” Davis said. “At the last minute, Sue Gall of the Hey Hey Bar and Grill offered her building and grounds to us, so the festival was able to continue on a limited basis.”

There wasn’t room to put up rides at the alternate site, also in German Village, but there was space for food areas, a beer trailer and some children’s games and spin-the-wheel games, including the popular cake wheel, with cakes instead of money as prizes.

“Now we’re back, and we’re eager

to have everyone see our new, brighter church, our re-landscaped grounds and our redone parking lot,” Davis said. “St. Mary’s is once again the centerpiece of Third Street and the hub of a vibrant community. I don’t know how it started, but there’s a saying we’ve used for years to describe the role of the parish: ‘Not everybody belongs to St. Mary’s, but St. Mary’s belongs to everybody.’”

Fittingly for a parish with a strong German heritage, German food is one of the festival’s highlights. “Everybody loves our bratwurst from Falter’s,” the city’s last meat packing company, which has been in operation since 1890, Davis said. “A brat and one of Sue Gall’s famous sauerkraut balls (the Hey Hey’s signature food item) make a great pairing.”

This year, the festival is adding a farmers market on Saturday. Davis is

hoping fresh, locally grown corn will be among the offerings.

Davis has been chairwoman since 2014 and has been involved with the festival since 2000. She said it takes about 180 to 200 people to run the event, with planning meetings starting in January and becoming more frequent as the festival gets closer.

Because the church is landlocked and was built long before the automobile became the principal method of transportation, on-site festival parking is limited, with shuttles taking festivalgoers to and from the nearby Grange Insurance lot and other locations. Gall said cooperation with the city and German Village groups allows the festival and regular neighborhood activities to go on while limiting street closures to one block.

The Home Again festival will take place from 5 to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Aug. 9 and 10.

The Hilliard St. Brendan Church festival will be on the same dates from 6 p.m. to midnight. There will be special family hours from 3 to 6 p.m. Saturday, with rides and several other activities opening early to encourage families with young children to come at that time.

“Between 1,500 and 2,500 people come every year, a lot from out of town,” said Mike Lynch, serving as festival chairman this year for the first time after about 12 years as a volunteer.

“One of our biggest draws is music,” he said. “On Friday night, we have karaoke, and on Saturday, probably from around 10:30 p.m. to midnight, we’ll feature a local band called The Navigators, who have come here for about 15 years and have a good-sized following.”

See **FESTIVALS, Page 20**

**WE’RE READY FOR SOME**

**FOOTBALL**

The next edition of The Catholic Times will focus on football. Readers will find schedules, 2018 results, photos and a season preview for each of the 10 Catholic diocesan high school teams, as well as Ohio Dominican University and Ohio State. If you own a business or are a fan and would like to advertise in the football section, contact Editor Doug Bean at [dbean@columbuscatholic.org](mailto:dbean@columbuscatholic.org) or 614-224-5195.



**WHEN:**  
Friday, August 23 | **6 PM-11 PM**  
Saturday, August 24 | **5 PM-11 PM**

**WHERE:**  
@ St. Anthony Of Padua Catholic Church  
1300 Urban Drive, Columbus Ohio 43229

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**ADMISSION IS FREE**

ENJOY A GREAT TIME WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS



Fishing at the duck pond is one of many games enjoyed by young children at the Worthington St. Michael Church Labor Day festival. This year, in an attempt to attract and entertain middle schoolers and high schoolers, festival organizers are sponsoring a Mario Kart tournament for the first time. (Photo courtesy St. Michael Church)

FESTIVALS, *continued from Page 19*

“They don’t do many shows. Mostly they play at charity events like ours. Most of the guys in the band have day jobs as American Electric Power executives or are retired from AEP, but you’d never know it when they get into classic rock music.

“Our other big attraction is our silent auction,” Lynch said. “A lot of businesses contribute to it, putting together packages which include event tickets, golf, sports memorabilia, purses, and condo stays. We’ll have casino games for adults, probably blackjack and Texas Hold ‘Em, plus kids games to go with the food and rides.”

Lynch isn’t sure when the parish festival started. He said one of the event’s biggest promoters was Msgr. William Maroon, pastor of the parish from 1978 to 1982 and from 1993 to 2001. Msgr. Maroon was known for his Lebanese cooking and encouraged the growth of festivals both at St. Brendan and at Portsmouth St. Mary Church, where he served between his two pastoral terms at Hilliard.

“The committee always is looking for ways to make the festival better, but there aren’t many changes this year, other than having a few more rides for young children,” Lynch said. “We have a huge turnout of kids every year, and that’s a great encouragement because they bring their families with them. The festival is a big fundraiser, but from the committee’s perspective, it’s as important to see everyone have a good time, enjoy fellowship and good food, and just be together as a parish.”

Amy Minser, this year’s principal festival chairman at Gahanna St. Matthew Church, says organization and experience are the keys to a successful event.

“Nearly all the festival captains are

parents who have children either in the parochial school or the Parish School of Religion,” she said. “My husband and I have been involved with the festival for six years. At least two-thirds of the captains have been part of it for at least that long, and many for much longer. That makes for a solid core.”

Minser has been one of three co-chairs for the festival for the past three years. A new co-chair is selected each year, and that person’s responsibilities increase each year until he or she becomes overall chairman for a year. Minser’s term in that role ended with the close of this year’s festival on July 20, but she will continue next year as captain for purchasing, a position she has held since becoming involved with the event six years ago.

“We have captains for everything,” she said. “Spreading responsibility so widely avoids having a few people be overwhelmed and makes it easier for the whole parish to feel a sense of involvement.” She said there are captains for purchasing, the children’s area, the beer garden, carnival-style games, casino-style games, the outdoor grill, the indoor kitchen, the snack area, hospitality, the raffle, ticketing, finances, sponsorships, social media, advertising, and volunteers.

The festival usually has a sit-down dinner featuring a different item each night. But the school cafeteria is being remodeled this year, so the only full-course meal offered for 2019 was a Friday fish fry, with the Knights of Columbus doing the cooking outdoors, as they do every year during Lent. In other years, the festival features chicken on Thursday, pulled pork on Friday and spaghetti and meatballs on Saturday.

St. Matthew’s also is one of the

few festivals with a designated Kid-land, with separate areas for rides and for activities such as face painting, hair painting, balloon artistry and T-shirt tie-dyeing. Separate admissions are charged for the activities area and for the rides.

Minser said one of the festival’s most popular features is Showdown, a blackjack-style game in the beer garden featuring giant-sized cards. She said having Square credit card readers now available for payments means people don’t need to bring much cash to the festival. For those who do need

cash, there’s an on-site ATM.

“All of us who are involved in the festival put in a ton of work, but it doesn’t feel much like work,” she said. “The parish has a requirement that parents of parochial school students do volunteer work so they can pay the parish rate for school tuition, but most people who work the festival would do it without the requirement. It’s great to help the parish earn money, but the friendships you make and the closeness you gain with others, the sense of coming together as a parish, are just as important.”



**AUGUST 16 & 17 • 5 p.m. to MIDNIGHT  
CORNER of REED and McCOY ROADS**

**RAFFLE!**  
**\$5,000**  
**\$2,000**  
**\$1,000**

Tickets available both nights.  
Drawing will take place  
Saturday, 10 p.m.

**EAT** great food including bahama mamas, corn on the cob, pulled pork and homemade pizza. On Saturday, enjoy a sit down dinner by BERWICK MANOR.

**SHOP** for a variety of unique gift items, vacation and golf packages in the Silent Auction. Place bids Friday and Saturday until 10 p.m.

**PLAY** games of chance for kids and adults. Win a cake. Have fun on the rides and inflatables.

**ENJOY** live music with Central Ohio favorites: THE ROGER SEMER BAND followed by CONSPIRACY on Friday night, and on Saturday night, THE BUZZARD KINGS. Also on Saturday, check out your favorite animals during The Columbus Zoo visit at 6 p.m.



An international festival is an annual event at Portsmouth St. Mary Church. Food from Ireland, India, Mexico, Germany and Asia will be among the ethnic specialties available this year, in addition to American classics. (Photo courtesy St. Mary Church)

For more information, visit [www.standrewparish.cc](http://www.standrewparish.cc) or call (614) 451-4290.