

# The Basilica of Saint Mary of the Assumption



PARISH OFFICE: 506 Fourth Street, Marietta OH 45750 PHONE: 740-373-3643  
WEBSITE: [www.stmarysmarietta.org](http://www.stmarysmarietta.org)  [www.facebook.com/stmarysmarietta](https://www.facebook.com/stmarysmarietta) EMAIL: [info@stmarysmarietta.org](mailto:info@stmarysmarietta.org)



October 23, 2022

*Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

## MASSES FOR THE WEEK

SAT	5:30 PM - Rick Schaad
SUN	8:00 AM - People of the Parish
	10:00 AM - Richard Crum
	12:00 PM - Larry Steinel, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Anniv
MON	7:45 AM - Mary Ellen Lerch
	12:05 PM - Mike Kern
TUE	7:45 AM - Liv/dec'd of the Jim King Family
	12:05 PM - Lee Bryant
WED	7:45 AM - Special Intention
	12:05 PM - Helen Miller
THU	7:45 AM - Andrew Surella
	12:05 PM - Elroy & Olive Schroeder
FRI	7:45 AM - Mark Bradley
	12:05 PM - Samuel Harper
	5:30 PM - Rick Schaad
SUN	8:00 AM - People of the Parish
	10:00 AM - David Brown
	12:00 PM - Rosemarie Gill, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Anniversary

SUNDAY MASSES - Saturday 5:30 PM; Sunday 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 12:00 PM  
CONFESSIONS - Saturday 3:30-5:00 PM (or anytime by appointment)  
BAPTISMS - Contact Parish Office  
WEDDINGS - Contact Parish Office *six months* in advance

Rector - Rev. Msgr. John Michael Campbell ([fatherjmike@gmail.com](mailto:fatherjmike@gmail.com))  
Parochial Vicar - Rev. Edward Maxfield Jr. ([emaxfield@diosteub.org](mailto:emaxfield@diosteub.org))  
Retired - Rev. Dale Tornes  
Permanent Deacon - Rev. Mr. Lee Weisend  
Music Director - Mr. John Ontko (740-350-4224, [ontkob@suddenlink.net](mailto:ontkob@suddenlink.net))  
St. Mary School - 320 Marion St, 740-374-8181 ([www.stmaryscatholic.org](http://www.stmaryscatholic.org))  
School Principal - Elizabeth Tokodi ([elizabethtokodi@stmaryscatholic.org](mailto:elizabethtokodi@stmaryscatholic.org))  
DRE - Mrs. Deborah Coty - ([dmcoty22@gmail.com](mailto:dmcoty22@gmail.com))  
Parish Council Chairman - Larry Hawn (740) 373-9095  
K of C Grand Knight - Mr. Pete Saliba (304-494-6170)  
CWC President - Jenn Tinkler  
Hibernians - Mr. Tom Binegar, President (740-374-4559)  
Prayer Line - & Eucharistic Adoration, Mrs. Shelly Medley (740-525-6360)  
Health Ministry - Mrs. Janet Jaeger (740-374-6768)  
Daily Bread Kitchen - Mrs. Carol Henshaw (740-885-1181)  
St. Vincent De Paul - Help Line (740-376-1334)  
Welcoming Committee - Jim Naylor (740) 350-5510  
Divine Mercy Gift Shop - Barb Ritchie (740) 538-4733

**God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ and entrusting to us the message of salvation.**

## READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY:

Sir 35:12-14,16-18; 2 Tm 4:6-8,16-18; Lk 18:9-14.

## PRAYING THE ROSARY:

Knights of Columbus will be praying the rosary one half hour before each of the Masses the weekend of October 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> – 4:30 PM Saturday and 7:30, 9:30 and 11:30 AM on Sunday. All parishioners are welcome.

## ADVENT CANDLES & WREATHS

Advent candles and holders/wreaths are now available in the Gift Shop. There are many other beautiful gifts also. Please stop in soon and check them out. Divine Mercy Gift Shop is located in the lower level of the the Basilica and is open after all weekend Masses.

**VISITORS WELCOME!** We welcome any visitors who are joining us for Mass this weekend. We hope your stay in Marietta is enjoyable. Any new parishioners at the Basilica are asked to please register with the parish office.

**PARISH OFFICES** are open from 1:00 PM until 4:00 PM on Mondays and from 9:00 AM until 4:00 PM Tuesday through Friday, with a lunch break from Noon until 1:00 PM each day.

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## MEETINGS AND EVENTS

TODAY	12:00 PM	-	Women Religious Celebration at the Noon Mass.
MON	6:15 PM	-	Our Lady of Perpetual Help Devotions.
	7:00 PM	-	RCIA in the Basilica Social Hall.
TUE	7:00 PM	-	Grief Support in the Basilica Social Hall. See announcement.
	7:30 PM	-	K of C Meeting – Rosary will be prayed at 7:00 PM.
WED	8:20 AM	-	7:00 PM – Eucharistic Adoration in the Chapel of the English Martyrs.
	6:00 PM	-	Religious Education at Saint Mary School.
	6:00 PM	-	Basilica Book Club Meeting in the Basilica Social Hall
THU	8:30 AM	-	Cleaning the Basilica.
FRI	8:30 AM	-	7:00 PM – Eucharistic Adoration in the Chapel of the English Martyrs.

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**The Lord Will Never Be Outdone  
In Generosity!**

Total collection last weekend:           \$ 12,701.00

Amount needed each week for the  
Basilica budget:                           \$ 14,225.00

*God bless those who support our Basilica Parish!*

### ONLINE GIVING

Online giving is available at the Basilica. For more information, please visit this website: <http://www.stmarysmarietta.org> and go to the left side of the web page. Click on the GIVE ONLINE button to see more information or to sign up.

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### BASILICA FOUNDATION:

A fund has been established by the Marietta Community Foundation for the maintenance and repairs of our Basilica. This fund is separate from the monthly maintenance collection. Our goal is to have at least One Million in the fund before using it.

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### PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

We pray for all of those serving our country in the military. We especially remember those from our own parish and friends and relatives of our parishioners. May God watch over them and keep them safe.

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### THIS IS WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

This annual collection will be taken up all Masses this weekend. Envelopes were provided with your monthly packet and should be put in the regular collection. Please be generous.

### ST. MARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWS:

The Fall Festival is quickly approaching! Parishioners were mailed cash raffle tickets for a chance to win \$100.00-\$1,000.00. Tickets are \$25.00 each and can be returned in the Basilica collection or mailed to the school. The winning raffle tickets will be drawn at the Catholic Woman's Club Italian Dinner on November 6<sup>th</sup>. Please email Tammi Bradley [tammibradley@stmaryscatholic.org](mailto:tammibradley@stmaryscatholic.org) with any questions or to obtain tickets for the Friday auction or the CWC Italian Dinner.

The State of Ohio has recently announced that school substitutes no longer require a bachelor's degree as a prerequisite. St. Mary Catholic School welcomes parishioners to consider being a substitute within our school. The individual will still need to complete the FBI/BCI background check and complete our Diocesan Safe Environment training. Individuals interested can email Principal Elizabeth Tokodi at [elizabethtokodi@stmaryscatholic.org](mailto:elizabethtokodi@stmaryscatholic.org) or call the school office at 740-374-8181.

St. Mary Catholic School is selling Chocolate Advent Calendars for \$5.00 each. Please call the school office to order: 740-374-8181. These will make fun gifts in our preparation for Christmas!

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### PLEASE JOIN ST. MARY NOVENA

October 28 thru November 4<sup>th</sup> to pray the patriotic rosary for the upcoming election. We ask God to direct our Country. The Novena will start Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. For more information please call 740-629-2115.

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### CLEANING THE BASILICA

Volunteers will clean the Basilica Thursday morning at 8:30 AM. If you can help, please join us.

## **BE SOMEONE'S MIRACLE**

Poverty-stricken children often miss the joy of Christmas. You can ensure that a child's face lights up this Christmas by packing a **Box of Joy**.

Boxes are available at the entrances of the Basilica. Gift suggestions are in the box. Please return your filled box back to the bins at the doors.

If you do not wish to shop, or are not able, we will do it for you. It costs \$25-\$30 to fill one box. Checks can be made payable to Basilica of St. Mary and placed in the collection basket. There are just two weeks left to make this happen. **Let's light up those faces!**

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## **CALLING ALL BAKERS!**

CWC is in need of donations of cakes, pies, brownies, etc. for the upcoming **School and Parish Italian Dinner** on Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup> at the school parish center, serving 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM. If you are able to bake for us, please drop off your desserts any time after 10:00 AM at the school on the 6<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to all our wonderful bakers. Please bring your whole family and enjoy a delicious meal.

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## **OUR LADY OF MERCY NEWS**

Our Lady of Mercy, Lowell, Ohio, CWC is taking orders for homemade chicken pies, noodles, and angel food cakes through Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, Frozen chicken pies are \$13 each. Noodles are \$7.00 per bag and are available in wide or narrow width. Angel food cakes are \$6.00. To place an order, please contact Heather Peters at 740-350-6972 or Marilyn Peters at 740-350-1751.

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## **DAILY BREAD KITCHEN**

Families are struggling to make ends meet with higher prices. As a result, the number of people we serve at the Daily Bread Kitchen continues to increase. We are currently serving 250 +meals each Wednesday and believe that the number will continue to rise.

We are asking for your prayers and support. Please place your donation in an envelope marked "DBK" and put it in the collection basket. Thank you and God bless you.

## **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 4<sup>TH</sup> DEGREE**

Bishop Hartley Assembly 840 will be meeting at the K of C Hall, Marietta, on October 30<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM. This will be the first meeting since 2019; therefore, there will be several items on the agenda to discuss. All 4<sup>th</sup> Degree members are encouraged to attend.

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## **JUBILEE OF MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARIES**

Bishop Monforton will celebrate the Jubilee Mass for our area on Sunday, November 6, at the Noon Mass.

This year's celebration will be offered for couples celebrating their 10<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 35<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 45<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 55<sup>th</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup> and 60+ (every year thereafter). The anniversary is (or was) during 2022.

Qualifying couples may register for this Jubilee of Marriage Mass by calling the parish office at 740-373-3643.

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## **BASILICA BOOK CLUB NEWS**

Our next meeting is October 26 at 6:00 PM in The Basilica Social Hall. Our October book is **Ripped at the Root, An Adoption Story – Based on True Events** by Mary Cardaras. The book is available in the Parish Library. Remember: All are welcome. Snacks and beverages are provided.

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## **REST IN PEACE**

We extend our sincere condolences to Theresa Nida on the death of her husband, Wes. We will remember Wes in prayer and ask God to grant him eternal peace.

Ellen Heiss died October 9<sup>th</sup> at her home. Her Funeral Mass was celebrated this past Wednesday morning. Ellen will be missed by many but most of all by her children and grandchildren. May God now welcome her into heaven, her eternal home and grant her peace.

Elizabeth "Liz" Strahler passed away October 15<sup>th</sup> in Cleveland, Ohio. We celebrated her entrance into heaven at her Funeral Mass this past Thursday morning. "Liz" was so devoted to her family We offer our deepest sympathy to them and ask God to grant her eternal peace and happiness.

**MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEKEND OF October 29 & 30**

	Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Lectors	Altar Servers
<b>Sat:</b> <b>5:30</b>	Amy Brockett (CAPT) Missy Deskins (HOST) Cheyenne Greenwood (HOST) Jennifer Schenkel (CHALICE) Debbie Lazorik (CHALICE)	Tina Thomas	Madelyn Birge (swap req.) Mylee Lang (swap req.) Liam Long
<b>Sun:</b> <b>8:00</b>	Patti Finkel (CAPT) Marcia McCabe (HOST) Sharon Loken (HOST) Cory Marshall (CHALICE) Dennis Nau (CHALICE)	Eric Fitch	David Baker Suzanne Baker Mike Iaderosa Joyce Iaderosa
<b>10:00</b>	Ken Schilling (CAPT) Joel Erb (HOST) Carol O'Grady (HOST) Janet Schilling (CHALICE) Pat Dickinson (CHALICE)	Tim Williams	Henry Corcoran Matthew Cunningham Nico Marasco Jonah Corcoran Valentina Marasco
<b>12:00</b>	Not Filled (CAPT) Lisa Taylor (HOST) Elizabeth Tokodi (HOST) Sherry Hill (CHALICE) (swap req.) Jeanette Flowers (CHALICE)	Mary LaBarre	Evan Huffman Braxton Kroft Karter Lankford

**Saturday, October 29– 9:00 AM - Anthony Discini & Ella Steyn.**

**CWC ITALIAN DINNER**

**Advance Dinner Reservation & Ticket Drawing**

Sunday, November 6, 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM  
(at St. Mary School)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

**\$9.00 Adult, \$5.00 age 5 -12 yrs., Children 4 & under are free**

Total Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Adults \_\_\_\_\_ Children \_\_\_\_\_

All advance purchase tickets will be entered into a \$100 drawing at 6:00 PM on the day of the dinner. You do not have to be present to win. Please place this ticket and money in an envelope and place in the collection basket. Take-out meals available. Deadline for advance reservations is October 31<sup>st</sup>

**Price at Door: \$10.00**



# **THE THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

October 23, 2022

## **Notes on the Gospel**

Jesus told a parable to those people who thought they were the only ones pleasing God and who hated everyone else. Once, a Pharisee and a tax collector went up to the Temple to pray. The Pharisee stood out in front of everyone. "Thank you, God," the Pharisee prayed silently. "I'm not like other people who are liars, sinners, cheaters, or even like this tax collector. I usually fast twice a week. And I usually give money to charities from everything I earn."

But the tax collector stood alone and stared at the floor. He was very sorry for what he did. He kept saying "God, have mercy on me. I'm a sinner." I tell you the tax collector went home at peace with God, not the Pharisee. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the one humbling himself will be exalted."

Inside this parable, Jesus turned the notion of righteousness upside down. Against common wisdom, religious lifestyle, as important as it is, does not (and cannot) measure a relationship with God. We cannot make progress to God, who is infinite. Only a heart that is open to God can grow close to him, because the open heart lets God come close. We can't grow close to God by ourselves. But God can come close to us. Because he is God.

In the prejudice of the Pharisee, Jesus divided the world into the self-righteous and the everyone else who needed God's mercy. Jesus would use this logic against the Pharisee in his moral. The Pharisee bragged of behavior that stood above and beyond the Law. In the rabbinic traditions, such fasting and tithing were the norm. The Pharisees were clearly concerned with a strict lifestyle as the norm for all Jews. For them, such matters had more weight than questions of doctrine.

In Luke's gospel, Jesus described two men with vastly different outlooks: a self-righteous Pharisee and a humbled tax collector. Jesus used community status, physical location, and body language to paint the differences between the men.

Because of their intricate knowledge of the Law, Pharisees functioned as civic and religious leaders within the Jewish community. People depended on them for rulings on civil law and for spiritual comfort. So, Pharisees had status and power in the eyes of the community.

With status came power and the temptation to abuse that power. It was easy to use a position to satisfy one's own needs for fame and power, and then criticize others for their lack. Jesus painted an unflattering image of the Pharisee as a foil for his teaching against this abuse of status. The Pharisee was the ultimate insider, the tax collector was the ultimate outsider. Jesus ended the parable with a moral about true Christian spirituality. The parable simply used the image of a self-centered Pharisee to preach against the abuses of a "me-first" spirituality.



## Adoration of Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament

On Wednesday and Friday, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will take place in our Basilica's Chapel of the English Martyrs. Adoration takes place on these two days from 8:15 am. until 7:00 pm. every week. Eucharistic Adoration allows us to clear our minds and just pray in the presence of the Lord. Adoration is an opportunity to reconnect with

God on a personal level. If you have five minutes, 10 minutes, that's all it takes – stop in for a visit. Jesus remains in the Blessed Sacrament to refresh us in mind, in heart and in spirit.

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## PILGRIMAGES TO OUR BASILICA

Our Basilica of Saint Mary of the Assumption welcomes all visitors, encouraging them to come, pray, and enjoy our beautiful church. If you are a member of a group who would like to tour our Basilica or make a spiritual pilgrimage, please let us know how we can be of assistance. We are honored to host visitors and pilgrims to our Basilica.



## Perpetual Help Devotions This Monday Evening

Perpetual Help Devotions will be celebrated this Monday evening at 6:15 pm. Parishioners are encouraged to participate in this devotion celebrated in our Basilica. We ask Our Lady to guide and protect our Basilica, all visitors, and each one of us. Since 1866 the Redemptorists have spread devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary under the icon and title of Our Mother of Perpetual Help.

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## Special Events & Scheduled Pilgrimages at the Basilica:

- Oct. - 23, - Celebration for Religious Women (Bishop)
- Nov. - 6, - Marriage Anniversary Mass (Bishop)
- Dec. - 16, - Decorate Basilica for Christmas
- Dec. - 18, - Christmas Appreciation Dinner



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## GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

On Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, we will continue our grief support group sessions at 7:00 pm. There have been several deaths earlier in the year, and it is beneficial to share our thoughts and grief. The death of a child or a spouse is a very difficult journey – sharing with others who are going through the same process gives us support. Transforming loss into living again with faith, hope and love and moving toward healing and growth.

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**PRAY FOR ALL OF THE BISHOPS OF THE UNITED STATES WHO WILL HAVE THEIR FALL MEETING IN NOVEMBER. THEY WILL BE VOTING ON THE PROPOSED MERGER OF OUR DIOCESE WITH THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS. IF THE VOTE IS POSITIVE, THE RESULTS WILL BE SENT TO ROME FOR A FINAL DECISION AND FOR DIRECTIONS ON THE PROCEDURES FOR THE MERGER.**

## Feast days this week

Monday, October 24, Saint Anthony Mary Claret, (Bishop)

Anthony was from Catalonia. He was a vigorous reforming bishop of Santiago, Cuba. In 1849 he founded the Missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (Claretians) today numbering 3,000 members.

Friday, October 28, Saints Simon and Jude (Apostles)

Simon was called the "Canaanite", and the "Zealot. He preached in Egypt and Persia. He was martyred in the first century. Jude, or Thaddeus (Courageous) preached in Palestine and Persia. He is the patron of despair or hopeless situations (perhaps because of the similarity of his name with that of Judas Iscariot, who betrayed the Lord.)

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The Most Rev. Jeffrey M. Monforton, Bishop of our diocese, has announced at a meeting recently with all the priests and deacons of the diocese, that we will begin to look at the merging of the Diocese of Steubenville back into the Columbus diocese. This will be a process over time, which will include making inquiry into the thoughts of the faithful of the diocese, for which a survey will soon be valuable. You are encourage to take the survey to make your thoughts known. Bishop Monforton asks your faithful and diligent prayer as we engage in this process.



### DECEASED PRIESTS OF OUR DIOCESE

On Tuesday, we remember the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Fr. Frank Patala and the 26<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Fr. Richard Truzcsynski. Next Sunday, we remember the 54<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Fr. Joseph Sands. We thank God for the work that these priests accomplished in their lives. We also pray for the priests of the Diocese of Columbus who have died, and we ask God to grant them eternal life, happiness and peace.



Bishop Earl Kenneth Fernandes was born on September 21, 1972, in Toledo, Ohio. His father worked as a physician, being granted a green card in part due to the need for doctors in America during the time around the Vietnam War. His mother was a teacher. Fernandes has four brothers, one of whom is a deacon in the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church. The family attended St. Thomas Aquinas Church on the east side of Toledo. He earned a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Toledo in 1994. He was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, and in 2016, served as a secretary to the Apostolic Nuncio in Washington, DC. He served as the pastor of St. Ignatius Loyola Church in Cincinnati from 2019 until his appointment as bishop of Columbus in 2022. Fernandes was appointed bishop of the Diocese of Columbus by Pope Francis. He is the first Indian

American bishop to serve in the Latin Church in the United States, as well as the first person of color to serve as head of the Diocese of Columbus.

## EVENTS AND MEETINGS FOR THE WEEK

### Monday, October 24,

7:45 am. - Mass  
9:15 am - School Confessions (3,4,5)  
12:05 pm. - Mass  
6:15 pm. - Perpetual Help Devotions  
7:00 pm. - RCIA

### Tuesday, October 25,

7:45 am. - Mass  
9:15 am. - School Confessions (6,7,8)  
12:05 am. - Mass  
7:00 pm. – Grief Meeting

### Wednesday, October 26,

7:45 am. - Mass  
8:20 am. - Adoration of the Eucharist  
10:00 am. - Funeral Mass  
12:05 pm. - All School Mass  
7:00 pm. - Reposition of the Eucharist

### Thursday, October 27,

7:45 am. - Mass  
12:05 pm. - Mass

### Friday, October 28,

7:45 am. - Mass  
9:15 am. - 8:15 am. - Adoration of the Eucharist  
12:05 pm. - Mass,  
7:00 pm. - Reposition of the Eucharist

### Saturday, October 29,

9:00 am. – Mass  
3:30 pm. - Confessions  
5:30 pm. - Mass

### Sunday, October 30,

8:00 am. - Mass  
9:30 am. - Mass - Saint Henry Church  
10:00 am. - Mass -  
12:00 pm. – Mass

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## TODAY WE CELEBRATE THE RELIGIOUS WOMEN'S ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Today at the Noon Mass, Bishop Monforton will be present with us to celebrate and honor the significant anniversaries of religious women serving in our Diocese. Following the celebration of Mass, there will be a luncheon for all the Religious who come to the Basilica to celebrate these anniversaries. Franciscan Sister Jean Daugherty is celebrating her 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Religious Life. We thank God for her years of service to the work of the Lord.

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## What happened to the wooden seats used during Vatican II?

The images from the Second Vatican Council are iconic: the nave of St. Peter's Basilica photographed rows and rows of stadium-style wooden seating filled by bishops in white or magenta-colored vestments.

The Second Vatican Council met in four sessions from 1962–1965, gathering more than 2,500 council fathers to discuss the Church and its role in the modern world. When it was all over, what happened to the wooden seats used by the world's bishops and hundreds of other experts? Twenty-four seats can still be found today in the Church of Saints Michael and Magnus, an easy-to-miss parish sitting right outside St. Peter's Square. The Church of Saints Michael and Magnus dates back to the eighth or ninth century.

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**PRAY FOR THE MEMBERS OF OUR PARISHES WHO ARE ILL.**





# THE BASILICA OF SAINT MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION

506 4TH STREET • MARIETTA OH 45750 • 740-373-3643



October 23, 2022

Dear Parishioners,

Let's face it. We all brag at times. And we all act humble at other times. The context can make each inappropriate. The prayer of the self-focused is unheard, because it is simply self-talk. But, even the selfish can have a glimmer of hope, when his prayer finds its root in humility.

Jesus highlighted the hearts of the proud and the humble in today's parable. In spite of our Catholic experience, and our knowledge of prayer, we do not know how to approach God because we are creatures. Yet, because of faith, we dare to approach and ask; because of humility, we are open to receive prayer as a gift.

God gives all good things to us, even prayer. This might be a good time to look upon our prayer lives and reflect on God's goodness to us. We must ask ourselves: "How have our prayers, our prayer habits, our insights from prayer, even our urges to pray gifts from God? How has prayer and the need for prayer humbled us? How has prayer brought us closer to God?"

Who's in charge of the heart? This question cuts to the heart of spirituality. That which stands at the very core of the person becomes the battleground. Are we in charge? Or is God?

If we believe God is in charge, how do we know God is close? We cannot know (or brag) through our own efforts. We can only know when we allow God in. When we open our hearts to him. And his love.

Opening the heart is a life-long process. We progress one moment and one issue at a time. We can take a quick measure by looking on our priorities. Is it one focused on God and others? Or, is it focused on the self?

Sincerely,

Rev. Msgr. John M. Campbell

## **Steubenville diocese faces prospect of union with Columbus**

Because of the continued decline in the Ohio Valley population and how it adversely affects the future sustainability of our Diocese, and how the population of our diocese is aging as well, the Bishop said: "In my discussion with the Ohio bishops it appears a merging of the Diocese of Steubenville with the Diocese of Columbus would be the best solution."

Our Steubenville diocese comprises 13 counties in southeastern Ohio, and the Columbus diocese, which borders it to the west, includes 23 counties in south-central Ohio. The Steubenville diocese was erected out of the territory of the Diocese of Columbus in 1944. All the Ohio bishops approved the merger about a year ago."

Bishop Earl Fernandes of Columbus, who was appointed in April, said "prior to my arrival, the Ohio bishops discussed the matter of the viability of the Diocese of Steubenville. The Ohio bishops were unanimous that the situation in Steubenville couldn't continue much longer and referred the matter to the Congregation for Bishops." The matter will now need the approval of the USCCB. There will be a discussion of this during the November Plenary Assembly. Bishop Monforton has had contact with Bishop Fernandes "on several occasions about the merger."

Bishop Monforton noted that the area's population has been in decline since at least the 1980s, and there has been a 45% decline in the number of persons attending Sunday Mass between 1990 and 2019. The Diocese of Steubenville was established by Pope Pius XII in 1944 when Steubenville had a population of around 37,000 people. Today, there are just under 18,000. Central to Monforton's position are statistics on the priests in the diocese and number of parishioners. With priests, the bishop is looking at their ages. Six diocesan priests are 70 or older, 12 are 60-69, and five are 50-59. Four priests are 40-49, seven are 30-39, and two are 20-29. That means 23 priests are over the age of 50, whereas 13 are 49 and younger.

While the Steubenville area's steel industry once employed tens of thousands, "neither the steel nor the coal industries are of any significant economic asset today. "If local employment opportunities through the diocesan pastoral footprint are not declining, they are stagnant. Maintaining decline is not an evangelization initiative, nor a goal."

Bishop Monforton explained that the possibility of a merger became apparent about a year and a half ago when the Holy See expressed concern over the declining numbers. The two sides agreed that something had to be done, and that merging dioceses looked like the best option. Then, about a year ago, after the Holy See meeting, the Ohio bishops met and unanimously voted that a Diocese of Steubenville and Diocese of Columbus merger was the best path forward.

"Until after the November meeting of the USCCB, it is useless to speculate or worry; rather, let us pray that the Lord shows us the path forward," Bishop Fernandes said. Diocese mergers are rare. The last U.S. diocese merger was in 2020, when the Diocese of Juneau, Alaska, was merged with the Archdiocese of Anchorage to create the Archdiocese of Anchorage-Juneau.

As for Steubenville, Monforton said his understanding of the process is that if the merger were to happen Fernandes would be the bishop of the larger diocese because Steubenville is the one being absorbed. Beyond that, he said "that's the Holy Father's decision when it comes to me." How the merge is manifested – the name of the diocese, number of chanceries, etc. – have yet to be discussed.

# The Journey of the Holy Shroud of Turin



Six months after a group of Italian scientists made a **breakthrough discovery** using new X-ray dating techniques to show the Holy Shroud of Turin dates back to around the time of Christ's death and resurrection, the scientists have now used the same experiments to determine the probable geographical route of the priceless relic.

The six-member research team estimated the natural aging for different localities where the Shroud was kept before its European history, and then compared the result with the experimental value obtained by X-ray.

The researchers then found that the most likely route that best matched the X-ray measured natural aging of the Shroud was Jerusalem-Beirut-Constantinople-Lirey-Chambéry-Turin. The findings were published in a paper on Sept. 28. In an interview, chief researcher Liberato De Caro of Italy's Institute of Crystallography of the National Research Council in Bari discussed the findings in more detail. He also contends that, according to their research, the Holy Shroud of Turin is currently being preserved in conditions in Turin cathedral not ideal for the visible image on the fabric, and that a much lower temperature should be used for the controlled atmosphere of the reliquary. The Turin Shroud's fabric is made of linen. Natural aging of linen is influenced by temperature and relative humidity. A small increase in temperature causes a big increase in the linen aging.

## Prayerful Attendance at Mass Is How We Give God Perfect and Proper Thanks



The question at the heart of the Gospel is best expressed in the Book of Psalms: "What return shall I make to the Lord for all the good he has done for me?" The same Psalm goes on to answer the question in this way: "The cup of salvation I will take up and call on the name of the Lord" (Psalm 116:12).

How can we possibly thank the Lord for all the good he has done for us? The Psalm points to the Eucharist in saying, "The cup of salvation I will take up ..." We cannot thank God our Father adequately, but Jesus can. In every Mass, through the priest, Jesus takes up the cup of salvation and shows it to us at every Mass. This is the perfect and superabundant thanks to the Father that only Jesus can offer. In every Mass, Jesus joins us to His perfect sacrifice of thanks. That is how we give thanks to the Father.

The Mass is the perfect thanksgiving, the perfect "Eucharist." We gather, and the Lord draws near. In the person of the priest, Jesus walks the aisle of our church just as he walked those ancient roads. The lepers cried out for mercy, just as we do at every Mass. Lord, have mercy! Jesus, Master, have pity on us!

In the Liturgy of the Eucharist, we kneel and thank Jesus, and along with him, we give thanks to the Father. The word "Eucharist" comes from the Greek and means "thanksgiving." Here is the perfect thanks rendered to the Father. Those who claim that they can stay home and give adequate thanks to God are wrong, and should be reminded of what is happening at the Mass. Only Jesus can give perfect thanks to the Father, and we can only give adequate thanks by following Jesus' command, "Do this in memory of me." We must be at Mass in order to do so.

Finally, Jesus sends us forth to bring the good news to all we encounter. "The Mass is ended. Go in peace." Send us out to bring Jesus Christ into the world. If you want to give proper thanks to God, the right place to do it is at Mass. Only at Mass is perfect and proper thanks given to God.

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### EWTN Poll: U.S. Catholics have strong belief in angels, but Eucharistic devotion lags

Angels cannot fully understand the incarnation and death on the Cross, and they cannot fully comprehend the mystery of the Eucharist - they can only prostrate themselves before this mystery and simply adore it.

Though Catholics are called to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation, only about one-third of respondents report Mass attendance weekly or more often. About 24% attend Mass once a week, 7.5% attend more than once a week, and 1.% attend daily. Another 26% attend only "a few times a year," 10.4% attend once or twice a month, and 4.6% attend once a year. About 12% attend less than once a year, while 14% never attend. Only about 23% go to confession once a year or more. What has happened to our Faith???????