

# 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)



January 8, 2023  
*The Epiphany of the Lord*

## MASSES FOR THE WEEK

SAT	5:30 PM	- Patricia J. Sayers
SUN	8:00 AM	- David Erb
	10:00 AM	- Rick Schaad
	12:00 PM	- People of the Parish
MON	7:45 AM	Robert Lee Stollar, 15 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary
	12:05 PM	- Cecil & Liz Strahler
TUE	7:45 AM	- Helen Miller
	12:05 PM	- Anne Gruber, 1 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary
WED	7:45 AM	- Clem Biedenbach
	12:05 PM	- John & Mary Anne Ley, 59 <sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary
THU	7:45 AM	- Mildred Arnold
	12:05 PM	- Norma Jean Adams
FRI	7:45 AM	- Charles Spindler
	10:00 AM	- Funeral Mass – Fran Potter
	12:05 PM	- Juliette Milsark
SAT	9:00 AM	- Vincent & Alice Lang
	5:30 PM	- Ellen Heiss
SUN	8:00 AM	- Andrew Surella
	10:00 AM	- Marita & Eugene Oxender
	12:00 PM	- People of the Parish

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. William Rathbone (740) 374-5492  
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

***THE KINGS OF TARSHISH AND THE ISLES SHALL OFFER GIFTS:  
THE KINGS OF ARABIA AND SEBA SHALL BRING HIM TRIBUTE.***

## READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY:

Is 49:3,5-6; 1 Cor 1:1-3; Jn 1:29-34.

## 2022 CONTRIBUTION RECORDS:

If you need a complete record of your 2022 church contribution records for tax purposes, please call the parish office, 740-373-3643 and we will mail them to you. If you wish to pick up your contribution record, please call ahead. Please Note: Your record will not include donations made to the 2022 Diocesan Parish Share Campaign. That information is mailed directly from the Diocese.

## REST IN PEACE:

Former parishioner, Fran Potter, passed away last week. Her Funeral Mass will be celebrated here at the Basilica this coming Friday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00. We offer our deepest condolences to her husband Bob and the Potter family. May God grant Fran eternal peace and happiness, in heaven, her eternal home.

**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

MON	6:15 PM	-	Our Lady of Perpetual Help Devotions. See announcement.
	7:00 PM	-	RCIA in the Basilica Social Hall.
TUE	7:00 PM	-	Grief Support Meeting in the Rectory. See announcement.
WED	8:20 AM	-	6:45 PM – Eucharistic Adoration in the Chapel of the English Martyrs.
	6:00 PM	-	Religious Education at Saint Mary Catholic School.
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:           \$ 16,926.00  
(Includes Solemnity of Mary)

Second collection last weekend for  
the Basilica maintenance:               \$ 3,070.00

*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 Dollars in the fund before using it. To donate, contact the Marietta Community Foundation.

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### SCHEDULING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Before scheduling a meeting or event in the Basilica Social Hall, Conference Room or using the Basilica Kitchen, please check with the parish office to be sure the time and date are available. Also, let us know if you change the time or date of a meeting. All meetings and events must be put in the Master Book in the parish office.

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### PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

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

**ST. MARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWS**  
**HAPPY NEW YEAR!** We look forward to good things happening in the new year.

The 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Foundation Dinner Drawing is scheduled for Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup> to cap off Catholic Schools Week. Tickets are \$125, the ticket admits two people. The Grand Prize is \$2,000.00. Tickets are available by calling the school office At 740-374-8181, the Basilica office at 740-373-3643 or from any Foundation member. More information will be shared in the coming weeks.

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### PRE-CANA

A Pre-Cana Session is scheduled for Saturday, March 11, 2023, here at the Basilica. If you are planning to be married within the next year you should register for this session by calling the parish office, 740-373-3643. Pre-Cana is a requirement for marriage in the Diocese of Steubenville.

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### SAINT MARY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL REUNION

Our next reunion will be in two years. It has been scheduled for July 13, 2024. Also, a reminder about our upcoming sports memorabilia display – if you have any items that you would like to donate, Jerseys, numbers, letters, articles, etc., please contact Dave Archer at 740-896-2755 or Ken Strahler at 740-373-4529.

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### BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bulletin announcements must be in by Wednesday morning to be included in the following weekend's bulletin. All announcements must be in writing. We do not accept announcements by phone.

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### EUCHRE PARTY

Parish couples and members are invited to a Euchre party at the K of C Hall on Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. Please bring a snack to share if you like.

## **BASILICA BOOK CLUB**

The January book is **The Butterfly and the Violin** by Kristy Cambron. In 1942 a darling of the Austrian aristocracy, talented violinist, and daughter of a high-ranking member of the Third Reich, Adele Von Bron risks everything when she begins smuggling Jews out of Vienna. In a heartbeat, her life of prosperity and privilege dissolves into a world of starvation and barbed wire.

As Sera untangles the secrets behind a painting, she finds beauty in the most unlikely places: the grim concentration camps of Auschwitz and the inner recesses of her own troubled heart.

“Cambron expertly weaves together multiple timelines, and perspectives to produce a poignant tale of the power of love and faith in difficult circumstances.”

The book is available to check out at the Parish Library. Since it is the holidays and this book is 335 pages long, we will have this as our January book giving everyone time to read it. Check out time is 4 weeks or sooner if you finish. Please return the book within the time frame so it will be available to others.

Remember: All are welcome, bring a friend. Snacks and drinks will be provided. Thoughts, questions, or if you would like to be added to the BBC email list, contact Debbie Lazorik at 740-434-3769 or [lazorikd@marietta.edu](mailto:lazorikd@marietta.edu).

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## **ALTAR FLOWERS**

This weekend, the roses and the flowers for the altar are in memory of Josephine Medley (48<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Death). If you would like to request flowers for a particular weekend, please call the parish office to reserve the date. You must call the florist of your choice to arrange for delivery.

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## **ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBER?**

If you have recently moved, please contact the parish office and give us your current address. Also, many families have done away with their landline and are just using cell phones. Please let us know so we can update our parish roster. Thank you for your cooperation.

## **DAILY BREAD KITCHEN**

Families are struggling to make ends meet with higher prices going up each day. As a result, the number of people we serve at the Daily Bread Kitchen continues to increase. 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 for your help.

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## **St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Baskets 2022**

The members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society of The Basilic of St. Mary of the Assumption prepared and distributed Christmas food baskets for those in need in the community. The baskets provided food for 144 family members. This would not have been possible without the help of so many others in the parish.

The food was provided by St. Mary’s parishioners and the students at St. Mary Elementary School, Marietta and St. John’s Elementary School, Churchtown.

Several local businesses and individuals donated milk, orange juice, apples and bread. For the children of those families receiving baskets, stuffed animals were donated.

The St. Mary’s Knights of Columbus provided many hours of volunteer effort to help collect food and prepare the baskets.

We have been blessed to have the opportunity to help others have a brighter Christmas and welcome the Lord in a spirit of Joy, and we have been blessed by the generosity of the whole parish in support of this ministry!

Thanks to all!

The Saint Vincent de Paul Society

## MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEKEND OF January 14 & 15

	Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Lectors	Altar Servers
<b>Sat:</b> <b>5:30</b>	Evelyn Potter (CAPT) (swap req.) Debbie Lazorik (HOST) Karen Schramm (HOST) Missy Deskins (CHALICE) Cathy Harper (CHALICE)	Irene Cain	Matthew Grueneberg Mikhal Grueneberg Christian Isaly (sub req.)
<b>Sun:</b> <b>8:00</b>	Patti Finkel (CAPT) Marcia McCabe (HOST) Carol Antill (HOST) John Douglass (CHALICE) Babs Douglass (CHALICE)	Dave Cech	Greg Dickson Joyce Iaderosa (swap req.) Jerry Huck Ron Wesel
<b>10:00</b>	Ken Schilling (CAPT) Jennifer Schenkel (HOST) Elizabeth Tokodi (HOST) Ken Masselli (CHALICE) Gerald Cooke (CHALICE)	Tom Hushion	Carson Cunningham Kenzi Cunningham Matthew Cunningham Annie Tokodi Ruth
<b>12:00</b>	Shelly Medley (CAPT) Jeannette Flowers (HOST) Sandy Bickert (HOST) Stan Vanlandingham (CHALICE) Not Filled (CHALICE)	Eric Fitch	Anthony Discini Ben Pfeiffer Dominic Spencer

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 14: 9:00 AM:**

Jonathan Schmidt, Drew Heiss

# THE FEAST OF THE EPHIPANY



As the Christmas season comes to an end, we turn to Matthew's story of the Magi - the wise men who traveled from Persia to seek the newborn King of the Jews.

Jesus was born in Bethlehem during the reign of Herod, King of Palestine. After his birth, wise men (astrologers, religious leaders, and royal advisers in

Persia), arrived in Jerusalem from the East. Ancient religions saw divine will written in the night sky. Astrologers would study and interpret the stars to advise kings and aristocracy. What the night sky revealed, they held, would occur on earth.

They began to ask, "Where is the child who is to be King of the Jews? We saw the star that pointed to him in the East, and we came to worship him. When King Herod heard they were asking about a new king, he summoned the Temple priests and teachers of the Jewish Law together and asked them, "Where will the Christ be born?"

"He will be born in Bethlehem of Judea," they answered, "because God said through one of his prophets: And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are not the least among the leaders of Judah; for from you will come out a leader who will shepherd my people Israel. Herod called the men together in a private meeting. "When did the star first appear?" he asked them. After they discussed the star, Herod sent them to Jerusalem with this request: "Go and ask everyone about the child. When you find him, come and tell me, so I can honor him, too."

When they heard the king's request, they left. Ancient people believed the stars and constellations revealed the will of the divine. The connection between the stars and the affairs of humans produced a class of astrologer-sages, wise men who studied the stars. The presence of these stargazing, foreign sages in the Jewish capital caused consternation. Why were these unclean foreigners present? What did they want?

Then, the star which they saw in the East led them and stood over the place Jesus was. When they saw this, they were full of great joy. When they entered the place where Jesus was, they saw the child with Mary, his mother. They bowed before Jesus, like he was a king. Then they opened their treasures and offered him three gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Later, God warned them in a dream not to return to Herod. So they went home on a different road.

In the end, the Magi followed their calling. According to ancient protocol, they approached, bowed, and honored the young king and his mother with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Gold was the international currency. Frankincense was a pricey, imported incense made from the sap of a tree. And myrrh was the sweet-smelling resin of an Arabian scrub that was used for medical uses and for the preparation of a body for burial. Since God had revealed his will in the stars to them, he also warned them of Herod's intent through a dream, another ancient avenue to receive divine will.

## Adoration of Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament



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

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## PILGRIMAGES TO OUR BASILICA

Our Basilica of Saint Mary of the Assumption welcomes all visitors, encouraging them to come, honored to host visitors and pilgrims to our Basilica.

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## Special Events & Scheduled Pilgrimages at the Basilica:

Jan. - 8, - St. Henry Pot-luck  
Jan. - 21, - Eucharistic Congress Mass (Bishop)  
Jan. - 31, - Catholic School Week  
Feb. - 4, - Bethlehem Christian Families Items  
Feb. - 22, - Ash Wednesday  
Mar. - 5, - Rite of Election (Bishop)  
May. - 21 - Confirmation

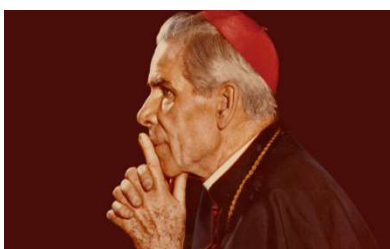


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## GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

On Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, we will continue our grief support group session at 7:00 pm. in the rectory. There have been several deaths and it is beneficial to share our thoughts and grief. The death of a loved one 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.

The death of one we love - a child or spouse – is a very difficult journey. When we have the support of others who are experiencing the same kind of loss, we can begin to put our lives back together and begin and transform our loss into living again with faith, hope and love and moving toward healing and growth.



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“Sometimes the only way the good Lord can get into some hearts is to break them.”

—Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

## DECEASED PRIESTS OF OUR DIOCESE



On Thursday, we remember the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Msgr. William Cornelius. On Friday, we remember the 68<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Father William Riley. On Saturday, we remember the 12<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Fr. Eugene McLaughlin. These priests served our Diocese to the best of their ability. May they now rest forever in the Kingdom of our Father.

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## Perpetual Help Devotions This Monday

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 on Monday evening. 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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## Bishop's Dinner last Wednesday

Last Wednesday evening, Bishop Monforton had his annual dinner for nineteen priests and the Bishop. It was a wonderful meal catered by the members of Saint Henry CWC. We are grateful to those ladies who stepped up to prepare and serve the dinner.

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## MEETINGS FOR THE WEEK

### Monday, January 9,

7:45 am. - Mass  
12:05 pm. - Mass  
6:15 pm. - Perpetual Help Devotions

### Tuesday, January 10,

7:45 am. - Mass  
12:05 pm. - Mass  
7:00 pm. - Grief Support Mtg.

### Wednesday, January 11,

7:45 am. - Mass  
8:20 am. - Adoration of the Eucharist  
12:05 pm. - Mass  
6:00 PM. - LEAC meeting  
6:45 pm. - Reposition of the Eucharist

### Thursday, January 12,-

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

### Friday, January 13,

7:45 am. - Mass  
8:20 am. - Adoration of the Eucharist  
12:05 pm. - Mass  
6:45 pm. - Reposition of the Eucharist

### Saturday, January 14,

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

### Sunday, January 15.

8:00 am. - Mass  
9:30 am. - Mass - St. Henry  
10:00 am. - Mass  
12:00 pm. - Mass





## **FEASTS OF THE WEEK**

**Monday, January 9, The Baptism of the Lord**

Jesus is the beloved Son of the Father, the light of the nations and Lord of all creation. His Baptism by John inaugurated His public Ministry, and the voice of the Father proclaimed "This is My Beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased". After the Feast, Ordinary Time begins.

**Friday, January 13, Saint Hilary, (Bishop & Doctor of the Church)**

Hilary was a convert from paganism. He was a leading opponent of Arianism in the West

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## **Ordinary Time**

Christmas Time and Easter Time highlight the central mysteries of the Paschal Mystery, namely, the incarnation, death on the cross, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ, and the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The Sundays and weeks of Ordinary Time, on the other hand, take us through the life of Christ. This is the time of conversion. This is living the life of Christ.

Ordinary Time is a time for growth and maturation, a time in which the mystery of Christ is called to penetrate ever more deeply into history until all things are finally caught up in Christ. The goal, toward which all of history is directed, is represented by the final Sunday in Ordinary Time, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. The word "ordinary" means regular or plain but it also means "counted." Ordinal numbers are 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and so on; and this is the meaning of "Ordinary Time" since we count the weeks between the Church's seasons in ordinal numbers.

Each year during Ordinary Time we read through one of the Gospels. One year we read cycle A which concentrates on readings from the Gospel of St. Matthew. God's divine plan for mankind is revealed in the two Testaments and that is why we read and relive the events of salvation history contained in the Old and New Testaments in the Church's Liturgy. It is on this harmony of the two Testaments that the Paschal catechesis of the Lord is built, and then, that of the Apostles and the Fathers of the Church. The Liturgy reveals the unfolding mystery of God's plan as we read the Old Testament in light of the New Testament.

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**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE MEMBERS OF OUR  
TWO PARISHES WHO ARE ILL!**





# THE BASILICA OF SAINT MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION

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



January 8, 2023

Dear Parishioners,

The feast of Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Christ to the pagan nations. And it points to Israel's place as the source of God's revelation. The Magi came to seek the newly born King, the one who would be a light to the nations. Their encounter foreshadowed the evangelization success Christianity would have among pagan people who hungered for God's truth. Their encounter also acknowledged Israel as God's chosen people. They would be the source of God's blessing, a living fountain of God's revelation for all people. In the feast of the Epiphany, we rejoice in the worship of the first seekers. And we are reminded to honor God's people who gave us the great gift of Jesus, our Lord.

As we look back on the story of the Epiphany, we remember who called, guided, and revealed himself to the Magi: God. The story was God-driven from the first verse. Let us not forget God himself calls us from the surface experience of daily living to seek something higher, something better. He is the one who turns us from those who expect experience into those who receive grace, pure gift, at every turn. In God, we find someone to give our hearts, our minds, and our lives to. We find the goal of our quest.

Epiphany is about "revelation" and "manifestation," and that, of course is what Christ does. Not only does he reveal the Father to us, but he reveals us to ourselves. He shows us that this human nature of ours, that can be so troublesome and burdened, has in fact been renewed. As an older Epiphany prayer says, it is a promise that God will draw us "to the life where your Spirit makes all life complete." Death is no longer the final word for the human family, and this gift is shared not only by one nation or one people, but by all humanity.

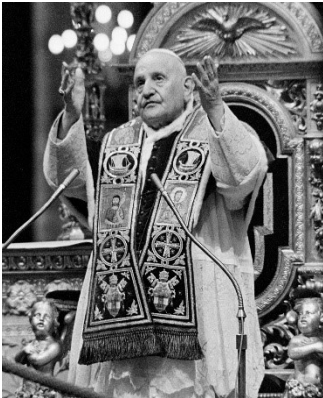
The Magi were intelligent men. They read the signs of the times – they listened to the voice of the Sacred Scripture, and they endured the hardships and trials to make that journey to Bethlehem 2023 years ago.

The Magi are part of the Christmas story for one reason: they are the leaders in a long procession of which you and I are part of the Christmas story of which you and I have a part. They sum-up in themselves what our Christian vocation is about - the blessed journey of all pilgrims whose quest is union with Jesus Christ. With Melchior, Casper, and Balthazar, may we come one day to the end of our journey, discovering what they discovered – the embrace of the Child of Bethlehem.

Sincerely,

Rev. Msgr. John M Campbell

# Pope John XXIII and Vatican Council II



What was the Second Vatican Council all about? We have celebrated the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the council's opening in Rome. In his opening address to the bishops gathered in St. Peter's, delivered October 11, 1962, Pope John stated the objective like this. "The Church must once more reaffirm that teaching authority of hers." And lest there be any doubt: "That was our reason for calling this most authoritative assembly."

Sixty years later, there is still resistance to the teachings of the Council, who prefer that the teaching of the Catholic Church be forever in flux.

Many people do not believe that the doctrine does not change, but remains the same. There is, however, much unfinished business from Vatican II—things the council said needed to be done but we haven't gotten around to doing yet. Something yet to be done is the neglected teaching that the universal call to holiness extends to the laity. Christians in any state or walk of life are called to the fullness of Christian life and to the perfection of love, and by this holiness a more human manner of life is fostered also in earthly society".

It's often said people leave the Church because it asks too much of them. This usually prefaces a call to relax some doctrine or other. But I suspect many leave because the Church asks too little. Pope Francis's call for a Synodal Church isn't just ecclesiastical talk, but a Church of sinners all of whom are called to be saints.

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## Christmas Day attack: Vandals carved '666' on doors of Pennsylvania cathedral

Father Jeffrey Tudgay, pastor of the Cathedral of Saint Peter in the Diocese of Scranton, Pennsylvania, discovered on Christmas evening that the historic church had been vandalized. The numbers "666" were carved into three separate front doors of the cathedral.

"I am hoping the individual responsible for the vandalism will come forward and allow me to have a conversation with them," Tudgay said in a Dec. 26 press release from the Diocese of Scranton. "We are a people of prayer who minister in a troubled world but the mission and message of Christ's Church is one of forgiveness and reconciliation," he said. "While we are upset at the actions that took place, we also understand the need to forgive and be forgiven." Police were notified of the vandalism and the cathedral's security cameras will be checked for information on the perpetrator. It's unclear what time the crime was committed. "The vandalism discovered at our Cathedral, especially as we celebrated the Nativity of Our Lord, saddens me greatly," Bishop Joseph Bambera of Scranton said in the press release. "The doors of our Cathedral have been used countless times to bring people closer to God and it is my hope that the person who did this will regret his or her actions. I am offering my prayers for whoever did this and for their reconciliation to God," he said. The diocese is asking anyone with information on the vandalism to contact Scranton police.

# Former Pope Benedict was buried last week



Pope Benedict, the 95-year-old former pontiff who resigned from the post nine years ago died early in the morning on December 31. Pope Emeritus Benedict sustained the Church in his silence and prayer. In 2013, Pope Benedict XVI shocked the world by making the almost unprecedented decision to resign from his position, citing “advanced age.”

Benedict’s announcement marked the first time a pope had stepped down in nearly 600 years. The last pope to resign before his death was Gregory XII, who in 1415 quit to end a civil war within the Catholic Church in which more than one man claimed to be pope. Several months ago, Benedict wrote: “in the slow waning of my physical forces, inwardly I am on a pilgrimage toward Home.”

Since resigning Benedict has been living in a former convent inside the Vatican gardens, with his secretary, Archbishop Georg Ganswein, and a few other aides and medical staff.

Benedict, the first German pope in 1,000 years, was elected on April 19, 2005 to succeed the widely popular Pope John Paul II, who reigned for 27 years.

For nearly 25 years, as Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, he was the powerful head of the Vatican's doctrinal office, then known as the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF).

During his pontificate, Benedict visited 24 countries on six continents. He was one of the closest collaborators of St. John Paul II, whom he succeeded as pope. He loved cats and had two as pets when he was pope. One of them was a stray cat that he found in Rome.

Widely recognized as one of the Catholic Church's top theologians, Benedict’s pontificate was marked by a profound understanding of the challenges to the Church in the face of growing ideological aggression, not least from an increasingly secular Western mindset, both within and outside the Church. He famously warned about the “dictatorship of relativism” in a homily just before the conclave in 2005 that elected him pope.

His death was announced in Rome on Dec. 31. Benedict XVI’s body was lying in state in St. Peter’s Basilica beginning on Tuesday and Wednesday. His funeral Mass was held on Thursday in St. Peter’s Square with Pope Francis presiding.

Ordained a priest with his brother on June 29, 1951, Ratzinger finished his doctoral studies in theology and became a university teacher and vice president at the prestigious University of Regensburg in Bavaria. In 1977, Pope Paul VI named him archbishop of Munich and Freising and, later that same year, gave him the cardinal’s red hat. Just four years later, in 1981, Pope John Paul II appointed Ratzinger as prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. In his retirement, he dedicated himself to a life of penance and prayer. His zuchetta is preserved in our Basilica Archives down stairs.



## Baptism

One of the earliest descriptions of Baptism is *vitalis spiritualis ianua*, which means “the door to the spiritual life.” To grasp the full meaning of this is to understand something really decisive about Christianity.

For Christianity is not primarily about “becoming a good person” or “doing the right thing”. To be a

Christian is to be grafted on to Christ and hence drawn into the very dynamics of the inner life of God. We become a member of his Mystical Body, sharing in his relationship to the Father.

It is so important that we are baptized “in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” For Baptism draws us into the relationship between the Father and the Son, which is to say *in* the Holy Spirit. Baptism, therefore, is all about grace—our incorporation, through the power of God’s love, into God’s own life.

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## Here Are the Last Words Spoken by Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

The last words of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI as he lay on his deathbed were “Lord, I love you!” according to the late Pope’s longtime personal secretary Archbishop Georg Gänswein.

Gänswein recounted that Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI “in a soft but clearly distinguishable voice said in Italian, ‘Lord, I love you!’” Gänswein said: “I was not there at the time, but the nurse told me shortly afterwards. Those were his last comprehensible words because after that he was no longer able to express himself.”

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## Benedict XVI to be Buried in First Tomb of Pope John Paul II

St. John XXIII was also previously buried in the same place, which is fewer than 100 feet from the tomb of St. Peter the Apostle, the Catholic Church’s first Pope.



Benedict XVI was interred in the Vatican crypt in the same spot where Pope John Paul II was buried before his beatification.

Benedict XVI’s coffin will be carried to the crypt under the central part of St. Peter’s Basilica for interment after his funeral Mass on Jan. 5. St. John Paul II’s tomb was in the crypt from the date of his funeral April 8, 2005, until April 29, 2011,

when his casket was moved to the upper part of St. Peter’s Basilica a few days before his beatification ceremony. St. John XXIII was also previously buried in the same place, which is fewer than 100 feet from the tomb of St. Peter the Apostle, the Catholic Church’s first Pope.

Pope emeritus, Benedict XVI, has passed into eternity. the former pope was like a bright light and a ringing-bell, a clarion call of truth, in an age whose light had dimmed.

How many times have we emphasized through the years the need for clarity about the Catholic Faith as our means of combatting the confusion of our spiritually disoriented society? In fact, it seems that the “devil is alive and well on the planet earth.

Benedict has left us with voluminous many writings of both a spiritual and doctrinal nature. To bring us to the truth. We have his legacy of pure truth to fall back on as we march forward in our mission of living our Faith to the fullest, and recognizing the unchangeable Faith, untarnished and pure, handed down from the Apostolic times to this present day. This Faith, protected by Pope Benedict, which alone is the answer to the problems of our world.

With the rest of our universal Church, we mourn the loss of a truly Good Shepherd, but our mourning is tempered with the Hope and the assurance of the Gospel which Pope Benedict preached with such eloquence.

Joseph Aloysius Ratzinger sanctified, and governed the Father’s flock, and eventually as the Vicar of Christ on earth. He was an especially gifted teacher of the Catholic Faith with a particular appreciation of the highest and most perfect expression of the Faith through Sacred Worship. His sound teaching, especially regarding the Sacred Liturgy, remains a lasting and living heritage.

He truly served according to the inspired words of his episcopal motto as one of Our Lord’s “cooperatores veritatis” [“fellow workers in the truth”. Thank you Benedict, be at rest in the house of the Father, and pray for us as we complete our pilgrimage home.