

# 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)



March 12, 2023  
 Third Sunday of Lent

## MASSES FOR THE WEEK

SAT	5:30 PM	- Helen Miller
SUN	8:00 AM	- Special Intention
	10:00 AM	- People of the Parish
	12:00 PM	- John Huffman
MON	7:45 AM	- Liv/dec'd of the Jim King Family
	12:05 PM	- I. D. Paul
TUE	7:45 AM	- Leo Hupp, 5 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary
	12:05 PM	- Joe & Kathy Wesel, Wedding Anniversary
WED	7:45 AM	- Sharon Heiss
	12:05 PM	- Helen Miller
	6:30 PM	- Evelyn Hawn
THU	7:45 AM	- Lou Ann Naylor
	12:05 PM	- Liv/dec'd of the Francis & Mary Strahler Family
FRI	7:45 AM	- Martin A. Gallito
	12:05 PM	- Jared Hoff
SAT	9:00 AM	- Richard Gillon
	5:30 PM	- Leo & Lena Henke
SUN	8:00 AM	- Richard Schneider, 21 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary
	10:00 AM	- Dora Revello
	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))  
 Permanent Deacon - Rev. Mr. Lee Weisend  
 Music Director - Mr. John Ontko (740-350-4224, [ontkotb@suddenlink.net](mailto:ontkotb@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))  
 K of C Grand Knight - Mr. Pete Saliba (304-494-6170)  
 Parish Council President - Luke Strahler - 614-309-8876  
 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

*Lord, you are truly the Savior of the world; give me living water, that I may never thirst again.*

## READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY:

1 Sm16:1b,6-7,10-13a; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41.

## REST IN PEACE:

**William "Bill" LaBarre** died February 25<sup>th</sup>. He was the father of Scott LaBarre of this parish. We extend our condolences to Scott and his family and will remember Bill in prayer. May he rest in God's eternal peace.

**Ryan Mark Offenberger**, the grandson of Mary Rita Offenberger of this parish passed away February 19<sup>th</sup> in Flower Mound Texas. We offer our deepest sympathy to Mary Rita and the Offenberger family. May Ryan now enjoy eternal peace and happiness in heaven, his eternal home.

**EASTER MEMORIALS** are once again available. Envelopes were provided with your envelope packet. Please PRINT the names of those you wish to remember on the back of the envelope. Names will be listed in our Easter weekend bulletin. If you contribute on-line, please send us the names of those you wish to remember as we do not receive them on-line.

**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.

### MEETINGS AND EVENTS

TODAY	6:30 PM	-	Crossfire Youth Group in the Basilica Social Hall.
MON	6:15 PM	-	Our Lady of Perpetual Help Devotions. See announcement.
	7:00 PM	-	RCIA in the Basilica Social Hall.
TUE	6:00 PM	-	Parish Council Meeting.
WED	8:20 AM	-	7:00 PM – Eucharistic Adoration in the Chapel of the English Martyrs.
	6:00 PM	-	Grade School Religious Education at Saint Mary's School.
	7:00 PM	-	Talk on Lent in the Basilica Social Hall. See announcement.
THU	8:30AM	-	Cleaning the Basilica.
	6:00 PM	-	Lenten Holy Hour. See announcement.
FRI	8:20 AM	-	6:45 PM – Eucharistic Adoration in the Chapel of the English Martyrs.
	5:00 PM	-	7:00 PM – Fish Fry at the Parish Center.
	7:00 PM	-	Stations of the Cross.
SAT	7:00 PM	-	Euchre Party at the K of C Hall. See announcement.

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

Total collection last weekend:           \$ 17,921.50

Second collection last weekend for  
the Maintenance of our Basilica           \$ 2,993.00

***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 One Million Dollars in the fund before using it.

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### LENTEN HOLY HOUR

A Lenten Holy Hour, dedicated to the Love of Family is held every Thursday during Lent, at 6:00 PM at the Basilica. The Holy Hour consists of prayer for families, the Rosary, and Adoration of Lord, Jesus Christ. All are welcome to attend.

### CLEANING THE BASILICA

Volunteers will be cleaning the Basilica Thursday morning at 830 AM. If you would like to help, please join us.

### SAINT MARY SCHOOL NEWS

**Calling all bakers!** The fish fry team is looking for desserts to add a variety of desserts for the Friday night fish fries. Desserts may be dropped off to the Parish Center on Friday mornings throughout the season of Lent. Thank you!

St. Mary Catholic School is spearheading a Pampered Chef fundraiser to support and raise funds for Vacation Bible School. The link to shop is <https://www.pamperedchef.com/party/stmaryvbs>. The online link is open March 1<sup>st</sup>-March 13<sup>th</sup>.

St. Mary Catholic Home & School Organization is once again doing the Sarris Candies Fundraiser for the spring season. Ordering is open NOW and will remain active until April 2. When you order, the shipment will be immediate. There is a \$5.00 shipping charge for each address. <https://www.sarriscandiesfundraising.com/Group.aspx?id=10-3985> our Group Number is 10-3985. Our group name is St. Mary Home & School. Student name is not necessary to place an order. Thank you.

Registration for the 2023-2024 school year is underway for in school families and Parishioners of the Basilica. Registration is all online this year. The link to register is <https://smry-oh.client.renweb.com/oa/?memberid+16585>. Tours are available by calling the school office, 740-374-8181 and asking for Mrs. Bradley.

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### BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

### **DIOCESAN/PARISH SHARE**

This weekend, March 11 & 12 is Pledge Weekend for the 2023 Diocesan/Parish Share Campaign. This year, our parish goal is \$115,639.21. This is an increase of \$4,381.21!

Through your participation in the DPSC, you share in work of the Diocese. Your gift to the DPSC helps to educate seminarians (your future priests), care for retired priests, offer administrative support for Catholic Schools, train catechists, fund youth ministry activities, provide a voice for news, evangelization and Church teaching (especially through the Steubenville Register), promote the sanctity of life, assist those most in need through Catholic Charities, and so much more. Our parish has always surpassed our goal. Please remember this as you graciously consider your contribution.

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### **TALK ON LENT**

This coming Wednesday March 15<sup>th</sup> and also on Wednesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> there will be a talk on Lent in the Basilica Social Hall at 7:00 PM (following Wed. evening Mass).

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### **DIVINE MERCY GIFT SHOP**

First Holy Communion is a special occasion for girls and boys as they receive Jesus in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. If you are looking for a special gift to cherish the moment, Divine Mercy Gift Shop will have that perfect gift for you. Stop in and check out the new line of items.

Do not forget Mom. Mothers' Day will soon here soon. There are also many special gifts for Baptism, Weddings, Memorial, and for any loved one. The gift shop is open in the social hall after all weekend Masses. If you prefer to shop during the week, please call Barb at 740-538-4733 to arrange a time.

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### **PEOPLE OF THE PASSION**

The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Performance of the People of the Passion will be held Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at St. Bernard's Church, 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Beverly, OH. This is a unique & powerful experience with Christ Jesus!

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### **EUCHRE PARTY**

Parish Couples and members are invited to a Euchre Party at the K of C Hall on March 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. Please bring a snack to share if you would like.

### **2023 BASILICA EASTER BUNNY BREAKFAST AND EGG HUNT**

Join us this year for something special with the in-person Easter Egg Hunt for children and grandchildren of the Basilica on Saturday, April 1 at 9:00 AM. A pancake breakfast will be served at 9:00 AM followed by an egg hunt.

Donations Needed: We are requesting small pre-wrapped candies that fit into eggs. Please leave them in the baskets at the Basilica Entrances by Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup>.

Help Needed: Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup>: Join us following Noon Mass in the basement of the rectory to fill eggs or join us Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 AM to hide eggs and help keep the kids safe from the road.

Interested in sponsoring, volunteering or making a donation towards the event, please call/text Lora Offenberger at 740-374-2126.

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### **FOOD FOR FAMILIES**

At the Saturday and Sunday Masses on March 25 & 26 the Knights of Columbus will be holding a food drive to benefit the Daily Bread Kitchen. The most needed items include canned peaches,, fruit cocktail, pineapple, applesauce, spaghetti sauce, pork and beans, canned chicken, canned beef, canned pork, sausage gravy, paper towels, and napkins. All parishioners are invited to participate. Collection bins for donations will be located on each of the side entrances to the Church.

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### **CWC LENTEN DAY OF SPIRITUALITY**

A Lenten Day of spirituality for all women of the diocese will be held on **Saturday, March 25, 2023** at St. Mary's Catholic Church in St. Clairsville, Ohio. Make reservations through your CWC president or by contacting DeDe Kidder, DCCW Treasurer, P.O. Box 31, Toronto, OH 43964, **The fee of \$25 is payable in advance.** Registration begins at 8:30 AM on Saturday, March 25.

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### **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ROSARY**

The Knights of Columbus will be praying the rosary a half hour before their March 21<sup>st</sup> meeting at the hall on Franklin Street. The rosary will begin at 7:00 PM. All are welcome.

## MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEKEND OF March 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>

	Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Lectors	Altar Servers
<b>Sat:</b>	Evelyn Potter (CAPT)	Irene Cain	Karter Lankford
<b>5:30</b>	Tony Huffman (HOST)		Mary Tokodi Ruth
	Debbie Lazorik (HOST)		Parker Crum
	Jean Tornes (CHALICE)		
	Missy Deskins (CHALICE)		
<b>Sun:</b>	Patti Finkel CAPT)	Dave Cech	Jerry Huck
<b>8:00</b>	Nancy Funk (HOST)		David Baker
	Carol Antill (HOST)		Ron Wesel
	Theresa Huck (CHALICE)		Greg Dickson
	Sharon Loken (CHALICE)		
<b>10:00</b>	Cathy Rauch	Tom Hushion	Carson Cunningham
	Ken Masselli (HOST)		Kenzi Cunningham
	Joel Erb (HOST)		Matthew Cunningham
	Elizabeth Tokodi CHALICE)		Caroline Krason
	John Towner (CHALICE)		Emilia Weltner
<b>12:00</b>	Stan Vanlandingham (CAPT)	Lisa Taylor	Christian Isaly
	Sandy Bickert (HOST)		Evan Huffman
	Gerald Cooke (HOST)		Grant Huffman
	Cheyenne Greenwood (CHALICE)		
	Karen Schramm (CHALICE)		

<b>Week of March 12</b>	Not Filled	<b>Saturday, March 18:</b>	Not Filled
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**BASILICA BOOK CLUB :** The next meeting will be March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 PM in the Social Hall. Remember: All are welcome, bring a friend. Snacks and drinks will be provided. The March book will be Left To Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust. Questions, information or if you want to be added to the Basilica Book Club email list, Contact Debbie Lazorik, [lazorikd@marietta.edu](mailto:lazorikd@marietta.edu) or 740-434-3769

**A JOURNEY WITH CHRIST:** The walk to Emmaus is an experience of Christian spiritual renewal and formation that begins with a three-day short course in Christianity. It is an opportunity to meet Jesus Christ in a new way as God's grace and love is revealed to you through other believers. **Emmaus is open to members of any Christian denomination, and we are currently seeking pilgrims for the upcoming walks.**

**Men's Walk: April 13-16.**

**Women's Walk: April 20-23.**

For more information or answers to questions, please call Carol or Johnny Wharf at 740-525-0668 or 740-525-2666

**LIVING JOY** Through a donation the book Living Joy by Chris Stefanick will be available for checkout in the library. Due to the content that asks for reflection, the book will be discussed at the June 28<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Basilica Book Club. There are plenty of copies and this will give everyone time to have the book read and have "food for thought."



## THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Jesus came to a city in Samaria, called Sychar, near the (plot of) land which Jacob gave to his son, Joseph. The well of Jacob was there. So, Jesus sat down at the well. A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me water to drink." The Samaritan woman said to him, "How could You, a Jew ask from me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" For Jews do not share dishes with Samaritans. Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God and who said to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would ask him and He would have given you living water." She said to Him, "Sir, you have no pail and the well is deep. Where do you have living water? Jesus answered and said to her, "Anyone drinking of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks from the water will never thirst again. The water I will give him will become a spring of water rising up into eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so I will not thirst again."

Jesus told her, "I am the Messiah!" For two days, Jesus stayed with the Samaritans, and many people trusted him because of what he said. In this short version of the woman at the well, Jesus used the symbolism of water to present the Spirit. In the process, He revealed himself to the woman. And she responded in faith.

The woman understood only in part. She desired eternal life, but only as a continuation of her present existence. She did not realize that the reception of God's gift required her to look to the giver. Here John answered the second question: Who is Jesus? Jesus said to her, "Trust me, woman, that the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. The hour is coming, and is now, when true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth. Jesus said to her, "I am the Messiah, the one speaking to you." He revealed Himself, so the believer could "know Him" (through experience). God's action was his saving activity, Jesus could say "salvation came from the Jews." "I AM" was one of John's titles for Jesus that could be woven into a discourse. It echoed the title God gave to himself on Mt. Sinai, "I AM WHO AM."

The Spirit was God's instrument of revelation. The Spirit sought believers to worship the Father. The Spirit empowered believers to worship the Father in Spirit and truth. In these two ways, the Spirit established a relationship between worshipers and the Father through revelation. Those who worship God can only do so through the Spirit. In other words, God the Spirit must live within the believer before he or she can truly worship God. The Spirit would be the inner dwelling spring of living water leaping up to eternal life. Only the Messiah could tell the woman "everything".

The Samaritans came to Jesus, and they believed because of His word. The woman came to faith along with others in the town. But, their faith ultimately did not rely on the witness of the woman. The people's direct experience with Jesus brought them to proclaim who he was and enjoy the gift he offered them.

# Adoration of Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes 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 provides an opportunity to reconnect with God on a personal level. Jesus remains in the Blessed Sacrament to refresh us.

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## PILGRIMAGES TO OUR BASILICA

Our Basilica of Saint Mary of the Assumption welcomes all visitors, encouraging them to come for a pilgrimage or visit. We are honored to host visitors and pilgrims to our Basilica.

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## Special Events & Scheduled Pilgrimages at the Basilica:

Mar. - 12, - 8:00 am. First Scrutiny  
Mar. - 19, - 10:00am. Second Scrutiny  
Mar. - 26, - 12:00 pm. Third Scrutiny  
Mar. - 29, - 7:00 pm. Lenten Penance Service  
Apr. - 4, - 7:00 pm. Diocesan Chrism Mass  
May - 7, - 2:00 pm. First Communion Mass  
May. - 21, - 2:00 pm. Confirmation Mass  
May. - 23, - 6:00 pm. St. Mary School Graduation  
Oct. - 27, - 8:45 am. Diocesan Teacher in Service Day



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## DECEASED PRIESTS OF OUR DIOCESE

Today, we remember the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Fr. William Young. On Monday, we remember the 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Fr. John Jackson. On Friday, we remember the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Fr. Ralph Salciccia. On Saturday, we remember the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Fr. Alexander Raab. 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 on 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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## MEETINGS & EVENTS FOR THE WEEK:

### Monday, March 13,

7:45 am. - Mass  
12:05 pm. - Mass  
6:15 pm. - Perpetual Help Devotions  
7:00 pm. - RCIA

### Tuesday, March 14,

7:45 am. - Mass  
9:15 am. - School Mass (2)  
12:05 pm. - Mass  
6:00 pm. - Parish Council Mtg.

### Wednesday, March 15,

7:45 am. - Mass  
8:20 am. - Adoration of the Eucharist  
9:15 am. - School Mass (3 & 5)  
12:05 pm. - Mass  
6:30 pm. - Mass  
6:45 pm. - Reposition of the Eucharist  
7:00pm. - Byzantine Liturgy – St. Henry

### Thursday, March 16,

7:45 am. - Mass  
9:15 am. - School Mass (4 & 6)  
12:05 pm. - Mass

### Friday, March 17,

7:45 am. - Mass  
8:20 am. - Adoration of the Eucharist  
12:05 pm. - Mass  
6:45 pm. - Reposition of the Eucharist  
7:00 pm. - Stations of the Cross  
8:00 pm. - Confessions

### Saturday, March 18,

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

### Sunday, March 19,

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

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## FEASTS OF THE WEEK

### Friday, March 17, Saint Patrick (Bishop)

Patrick was born about 389 perhaps in Wales. As bishop, he founded the metropolitan See of Armagh. He is known as the Apostle of Ireland. He is also the patron of Nigeria. He died in 461.

### Saturday, March 18, Saint Cyril of Jerusalem (Bishop & Doctor)

Cyril was a great pastor and teacher. He was ordained bishop of Jerusalem in 348. He was devoted to the liturgy and the sacraments. He was exiled three times by the Arians.



## ANNIVERSARY OF THE ELECTION OF POPE FRANCIS

On Monday, we celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the election of Pope Francis – the successor of Saint Peter. We ask the Lord to grant him good health, happiness, and peace as he guides the Church. May God grant him many happy years.



# THE BASILICA OF SAINT MARY

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



Dear Parishioners,

March 12, 2023

The Diocese of Steubenville, Ohio, became the center of controversy last year, when Bishop Monforton announced to his priests in October that the diocese would be merged with the neighboring Diocese of Columbus,

Some Priests of the diocese pushed back on the plan, arguing that they had not been consulted, and eventually a planned USCCB vote on the prospective merger was scrapped. But the possibility that Steubenville will be merged into Columbus is still a live one, and the diocese is now facing an audit meant to gauge its financial viability.

Some of Steubenville's diocesan challenges are specific to its recent financial history. During the summer of 2020, both former diocesan comptroller David Franklin and former diocesan vicar general Monsignor Kurt Kemo admitted in court that they had embezzled large sums from the financially struggling diocese.

Our Diocese of Steubenville is a small diocese with a declining population, and limited resources. It faces demographic and financial challenges that a number of small dioceses in the Midwest and North-east will face in coming decades. Analysts have argued that the diocese is just too small to remain sustainable.

When the Catholic population of a region grows, dioceses need sometimes to split, if they become just too populous to be governed by a single bishop. In fact, the Diocese of Steubenville is the product of one such split — it was carved from the Diocese of Columbus in 1944. When those dioceses were split, both local churches were of relatively similar size, and both were growing. In 1950, the Steubenville diocese contained 62,000 Catholics, while the Columbus diocese contained 106,000. But since that time, the Diocese of Columbus has grown to almost 300,000 Catholics while the Diocese of Steubenville has shrunk to 30,000.

Steubenville is the fourth-smallest U.S. Latin diocese by population. And like many of the country's smallest dioceses, its Catholic population is falling rather than rising. The Catholic population of most dioceses in the Midwest and Northeast has shrunk over the last 30 years, while many of those in the South and West have grown. Declining Catholic population is not an indicator of poor pastoral care in the Steubenville diocese. Steubenville is a small city whose growth had once been fueled by the steel industry, but is now among the regions of Ohio with a shrinking population. Columbus, home to the state government and the third-largest university in the nation, is the fastest growing region of Ohio.

Sincerely,

Rev. John M. Campbell  
(Rector)





## The Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross focus on events of Jesus' last day, beginning with His condemnation. At each station, the individual recalls and meditates on a specific event from Christ's last day. Specific prayers are recited, then the individual moves to the next station until all 14 are complete.

The Stations of the Cross are celebrated in the basilica every Friday evening at 7:00 pm, and at Saint Henry Church on Sunday mornings of Lent at 9:00 am. – prior to the 9:30 am. Mass.

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**“To do penance means above all to reestablish the balance and harmony broken by sin, to change direction even at the cost of sacrifice.”**

**—Pope St. John Paul II**

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## Today's Readings

The readings of the Third Sunday of Lent, form a triduum along with those of the Fourth and Fifth Sundays, emphasizing the baptismal themes of Water (the woman at the well), Light (the healing of the man born blind), and Life (the raising of Lazarus). These powerful readings remind those preparing for baptism, as well as all the baptized.

1. Jesus offers his gift of life with no regard to the false barriers that society sets up between people. “Jews have nothing to do with Samaritans.” Moreover, the disciples “were surprised to find him talking with a woman.” Jesus breaks through these false barriers that society had set up.

2. This gift of life comes through the Death and Resurrection of Christ. The rock in the first reading represents Christ. As Paul relates to the Corinthians (see 1Cor.10:4), the tradition was that the rock continued to follow the Israelites on the journey, and that the rock was Christ. The rock was struck, just as Christ was struck and crucified, and water flowed from his side. The second reading also emphasizes his Passion, death, and resurrection as the source of this new life, “poured into our hearts” like the water poured out of the rock.

3. To accept the gift, repentance is required. The woman had to go find her husband first, repenting of her multiple unions.

Finally, accepting Christ necessarily means repentance and conversion.

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**Please pray for the members of our two parishes who are ill.  
Pray also for their families and caregivers.**

# Rector reports more pilgrimages to Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine than before pandemic



Monsignor Salvador Martínez, rector of the Guadalupe Basilica in Mexico City, noted that after two years of pandemic restrictions the Marian shrine “has resumed the impetus it had before and sometimes with greater strength. Many people have returned after having been isolated for a long time or having had to refrain from coming to the basilica. Some pilgrimages had to be suspended for two years, some for up to

three years. Now they have regained great strength, and are very well organized. “Martínez, who was appointed rector of the Guadalupe Basilica said, that the archbishop primate of Mexico, Cardinal Carlos Aguiar, pointed out that after the pandemic and with the reestablishment of activities, “we are really happy and also challenged since the reorganization of the basilica to respond as best as possible to the expectation of encountering the Blessed Virgin.” In December 2022, with the reopening of the shrine to pilgrims, a historic figure of 12.5 million visitors was reached.

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## Pope Francis’ prayer intention for March

Pope Francis’s prayer intention for the month of March is for victims of abuse. “In response to the cases of abuse, especially to those committed by members of the Church, it’s not enough to ask for forgiveness. Asking for forgiveness is necessary but it is not enough,” the Holy Father said. “Asking for forgiveness is good for the victims, but they are the ones who have to be at the center of everything,” Pope Francis said.

“Their pain and their psychological wounds can begin to heal if they find answers — if there are concrete actions to repair the horrors they have suffered and to prevent them from happening again. The Church cannot try to hide the tragedy of abuse of any kind. Nor when the abuse takes place in families, in clubs, or in other types of institutions,” the Holy Father added. Pope Francis said the Church must serve as a model “to help solve the issue and bring it to light in society and in families.”

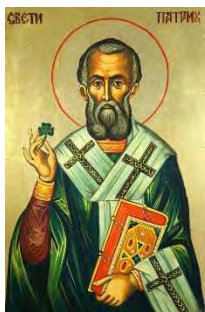
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## ‘Abortion Doula’ at Notre Dame Speaker Series

In the wake of the Dobbs Supreme Court decision overturning the pro-abortion rights *Roe v. Wade* ruling, several bodies at the University of Notre Dame are hosting an event series dedicated to “reproductive justice.” The series has attracted criticism for its decidedly pro-abortion slant.

Critics say the series conflicts with university policy requiring the presentation of Catholic teaching at such events. Is Notre Dame still a Catholic university?? Supporters need to be concerned about Catholic identity at the university. The series at the university, titled “Reproductive Justice: Scholarship for Solidarity and Social Change.”

## The Meat of the Matter: St. Patrick's Day and the Lenten Fast



St. Patrick died during Lent. Which year isn't certain. But for one of the leading candidates (A.D. 461), March 17 was a Friday. While Easter is a moveable feast, St. Patrick's Day is always during Lent — and sometimes on a Friday. Like this year, for instance. Friday is also a day of abstinence for Catholics, especially during Lent.

More than three-quarters of the country's diocesan bishops — 80 have said yes to a dispensation; Bishop Monforton is one of those bishops; therefore, on Friday, March 17, we are dispensed from the obligation of not eating meat.

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## Pope Francis mourns 'tragic' death of LA's Bishop David O'Connell

Archbishop José H. Gomez read a condolence message for Pope Francis at a memorial Mass for Bishop David O'Connell at St. John Vianney Church in Hacienda Heights March 1, 2023. In a telegram sent following the murder of Los Angeles Auxiliary Bishop David O'Connell last month, Pope Francis praised the late bishop's commitment to the poor and migrants, and offered his closeness to the local community.

In the telegram, signed by Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the pope said he was "deeply saddened to learn of the untimely and tragic death" of O'Connell, and offered his "heartfelt condolences and the assurance of his spiritual closeness to you, the clergy and religious and lay faithful" of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.



Pope Francis voiced gratitude for O'Connell's many years of "devoted priestly and episcopal ministry to the church in Los Angeles, marked especially by his profound concern for the poor, immigrants, and those in need, his efforts to uphold the sanctity and dignity of God's gift of life and his zeal for fostering solidarity, cooperation, and peace within the local community."

Offering O'Connell's soul to God, the pope prayed that those who honor the bishop's memory would be reaffirmed in their resolve to "reject the ways of violence and overcome evil with good."

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## West Virginia passes Religious Freedom Restoration Act

The West Virginia Legislature gave final approval last Tuesday to the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, which will now advance to the governor's desk to be signed into law.

The bill guarantees West Virginians' freedom from any state interference that may "substantially burden a person's right to exercise of religion." The act itself was created, Becket points out, after Oregon denied unemployment benefits to Native American counselors who were fired for using peyote in their religious ceremonies.

This is not a tool for discrimination, it is a shield to protect all people. The bottom line is, we shouldn't punish someone for practicing their religion unless there's a very good reason to do so.

## When the Miracle Doesn't Come

The absence of God's miracles does not signify the absence of his love. It's easy for us to read the Gospel accounts and see only the thread of one miracle story after another. But there are hidden golden threads that seem too often unnoticed, and it seems as if our Lord utters them in quiet desperation: "You seek me... because you ate your fill of the loaves," "Unless you see signs and wonders, you will not believe," and "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe."

The Lord tells us that His love is not measured simply in the physical, in the miracles and the healings, but perhaps even more so, in the absence of those. His love is shown, even more deeply, in the crosses, the trials and tempests of our lives, in the seeming absence of his power and love. That God permits sorrow and suffering for the very end of drawing us into himself, for an intimacy and sharing-in that could not be achieved any other way than through a share in his passion: "You seem, Lord, to give severe trials to those who love you, but only that in the excess of their trials, they may learn the greater excess of your love."

Many times, we hear, "Just sit back and wait and see what the Lord does!" as if a firework show awaits around every corner. St. Teresa of Ávila says, "They deceive themselves who believe that union with God consists in ecstasies or raptures, and in the enjoyment of Him. It consists in nothing except the surrender and subjection of our will – with our thoughts, words and actions – to the will of God."

The absence of God's miracles does not signify the absence of His love but the very presence of it, an offering of it and invitation to greater intimacy, a sharing in his life so efficaciously achieved by the stripping and fire of the cross.

God gives us this opportunity of love through the cross and sufferings, even more so than His miracles. As St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus prays, "O Lord, you do not like to make us suffer, but you know it is the only way to prepare us to know you as you know yourself, to prepare us to become like you... because you wish that my heart be wholly yours."

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## Exclusive: Harrison Butker's advice on how to be a saint

Super Bowl-winning Kansas City Chiefs kicker Harrison Butker is a champion on the field and in the spiritual life, where he says he wants nothing less than to become a saint. "If we want to be saints, we have to die to ourselves," Butker said.

"I think that was our Blessed Mother asking for the spotlight to be shown on her and reminding me that all the glory goes to God and to her," Butker said. That kick sailed through the goal posts, clinching the game for the Chiefs. He said it's important for Catholics to be open about their faith in their jobs even if it makes them appear "weird" or "different. We can't be ashamed of our faith because, if we are Catholic, we know of all the fruits that Our Lord has given to us. And if we hoard those fruits, and we don't open up those fruits to those that are around us, especially in the workplace, where God wants us to evangelize, then I think we're doing a disservice to Our Lord. And we're not being charitable with our time in sharing the Gospel with those around us," he said. "But I always say God's will is better than my own will."

