

# 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 19, 2023  
*Fourth Sunday of Lent*

## MASSES FOR THE WEEK

SAT	5:30 PM	- Leo & Lena Henke
SUN	8:00 AM	- Richard Schneider, 21 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary
	10:00 AM	- Dora Revollo
	12:00 PM	- People of the Parish
MON	7:45 AM	- Tim Strahler
	12:05 PM	- Steve Parman (Birthday)
TUE	7:45 AM	- Terry Arnold
	12:05 PM	- Clarence Roesch
WED	7:45 AM	- Tom Chalfant
	12:05 PM	- Liv/dec'd of the Gary & Theresa Thomas Family
	6:30 PM	- Charles & Marie Rose
THU	7:45 AM	- Amy Turney Barrows
	12:05 PM	- Mary Huck Zwick
FRI	7:45 AM	- Carolyn Sue Powell
	12:05 PM	- Lucille Henry
SAT	9:00 AM	- Helen Newsad
	5:30 PM	- Corey Parman (Birthday)
SUN	8:00 AM	- Katherine Binegar, 24 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary
	10:00 AM	- Liv/dec'd of the Paul & Jeanne Offenberger Family
	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

*Whoever keeps the word of Christ, the love of God is truly perfected in him.*

## READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY:

Ez 37:12-14; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO NEWLY BAPTIZED:

Klaire Brown, Liam James Brown and London Voisin.

## REST IN PEACE:

**Phyllis Meseroll**, a former parishioner, passed away March 8<sup>th</sup> in Columbus, Ohio. Her Funeral Mass was celebrated here at the Basilica on Saturday morning. We extend our deepest sympathy to the Meseroll family and will remember Phyllis in our prayers. May God grant her eternal peace and happiness.

**Judith Dickinson** sister of Linda Caldwell and Pat Dickinson of this parish, died March 10<sup>th</sup> at Marietta Memorial Hospital. Our prayers are with her family and we offer them our condolences. May Judith rest in peace.

**BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS** must be in by Wednesday morning in order to be included in the following weekend's bulletin.

**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

MON	6:15 PM	-	Our Lady of Perpetual Help Devotions. See announcement.
	7:00 PM	-	RCIA in the Basilica Social Hall.
	7:00 PM	-	St. Vincent dePaul Society Meeting in the Conference Room.
TUE	7:00 PM	-	Addiction Support Group Meeting in the Basilica Social Hall.
	7:00 PM	-	K of C Rosary followed by a meeting at 7:30 PM.
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.
	6:00 PM	-	Basilica Book Club Meeting in the Basilica Social Hall.
	7:00 PM	-	Talk on Lent in the Basilica Social Hall. See announcement.
THU	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.

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

Total collection last weekend:           \$ 13,948.00

Amount needed each weekend for  
the Maintenance of our Basilica           \$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 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.

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### K OF C ROSARY

Knights will be praying the rosary at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup>. All are invited to attend. The meeting is at 7:30 PM.

### SAINT MARY SCHOOL NEWS

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. Combine orders to save!

<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.

### SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS.

St. Mary Catholic School is taking nominations for the Local Education Advisory Council (LEAC), our school board. The Council is a consultant and advisory board to the Principal and Pastor in the area of policy and guidelines for the school and staff and meets once a month. The Council is looking to fill two (2) seats for three (3) year terms. If you are interested in being nominated for the LEAC board, please email Tammi Bradley at [tammibradley@stmaryscatholic.org](mailto:tammibradley@stmaryscatholic.org) or call 740-350-0858.

### **MY DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS**

I want to express my personal gratitude to those of you who responded to the 2023 Diocesan/Parish Share Campaign – either through your financial support or through your prayers. Our parishes and ministries throughout the Diocese of Steubenville rely on your generosity to continue the Mission of the Church. Your generosity is a sign of your love for your Church and for one another.

For those who were unable to complete their pledge for the DPSC last weekend, additional pledge cards are available -in the pews or at the parish office. You can drop your pledge in the collection basket or mail it directly to the diocese. You may also contribute on line at [www.Give.Diosteub.org](http://www.Give.Diosteub.org).

May the Lord continue to bless you and our beloved Diocese of Steubenville.

Bishop Monforton

### **TALK ON LENT**

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

### **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 be here. 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.

### **EASTER MEMORIALS**

Easter Memorial envelopes were included with your envelope packet. Please PRINT the names of those you wish to remember on the back of the envelope. These names will be listed in our Easter bulletin. If you contribute online, please send us the names of those you wish to remember, as we do not receive them online. The deadline for memorials is Monday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **K of C GOLF LEAGUE**

The K of C Golf League will have its 2023 organizational meeting Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at the hall. All 2022 teams are requested to have one member present. New teams need to contact Ken Offenberger, 740-374-2943 or 740-350-4967 prior to the meeting. The league will begin play on Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>.

## MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEKEND OF March 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>

	Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Lectors	Altar Servers
<b>Sat: 5:30</b>	Sandy George (CAPT) Missy Deskins (HOST) John Coty (HOST) Cathy Harper (CHALICE) Irene Cain (CHALICE)	Tony Huffman	Parker Crum Matthias Grueneberg Not Filled
<b>Sun: 8:00</b>	Suzanne Baker CAPT) Nancy Funk (HOST) David Baker (HOST) Ron Arnold (CHALICE) Sharon Loken (CHALICE)	Shelly Medley	Beckie Arnold Charles Kremer Mike Iaderosa Joyce Iaderosa
<b>10:00</b>	Cathy Rauch (swap req.) Gary Pitt (HOST) Carol O'Grady (HOST) Ken Schilling CHALICE) Mary Tokodi Ruth (CHALICE)	Khadine Ritter	Henry Corcoran Jonah Corcoran Nico Marasco Valentina Marasco Grant Palmer
<b>12:00</b>	Joyce Huck (CAPT) Cheyenne Greenwood (HOST) Lisa Taylor (HOST) Jeannette Flowers (CHALICE) Dennis Nau (CHALICE)	Mary Ellen Evans	Evan Huffman Grant Huffman Taylor Wescott

<b>Week of March 19</b>	Karter Lankford Annie Tokodi Ruth	<b>Saturday, March 25:</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 is 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 Wharff at 740-525-0668 or 740-525-2666

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS GROUNDS CLEANUP** around the Basilica for Easter will be Tuesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, from 4:00 PM until 6:00 PM. We will be doing mulching, parking lot cleanup, etc. All parishioners are welcome. Just show up or call 740-525-0053.

**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 FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

**March 19, 2023**

Through the cure of a man born blind, John's gospel presents sight in a metaphorical sense. Sometimes a person can look, but not see. Here the blind man

received not only the ability to use his eyes but the gift to see the truth.

As Jesus walked by, he saw a beggar who was born blind. Jesus spat on the ground, mixed the spit and dirt together to make mud, and rubbed the mud into the man's eyes. "Go wash your eyes in Siloam Pool," Jesus told him. The man left and washed the mud off. Now he could see!

Then, they brought the beggar to religious leaders called Pharisees. When the leaders found out Jesus made mud and healed the man on the Sabbath, they questioned him. "How did you get your sight back?" the Pharisees demanded. "This man came by and put mud on my eyes. I washed it off," the beggar replied. "Now I can see." The Pharisees then accused Jesus of breaking the Sabbath Law for working (curing) on the Sabbath.

A group within the Pharisees began their attack with a point of the Law. Since Jesus cured on the Sabbath, this group charged, he violated the Third Commandment. As a violator, he sinned. (As a sinner, he stood outside the Jewish community.) So, Jesus and his disciple would have to be excommunicated. The cured man could plainly see his reputation hinged on that of Jesus, so the cured man had no choice but to associate Jesus with God. Hence, he declared Jesus was a prophet.

In John's Gospel, Jesus cured a blind man. In the ensuing controversy, the man defended Jesus but lost his place in the community. In the end, however, he found a new place before the Lord.

In the end, the man questioned the sight (i.e., wisdom) of those in judgment. In other words, he questioned their authority to judge Jesus. The Pharisees rebuked the man, claiming he was born in sin, and, so, unfit to question their authority. [9:34] Whether they referred to the man's own sinfulness or the sinful condition of the world (what we call "Original Sin") is unclear.

"Since you were born in sin..." (that is, born with a blindness caused by sin). The Pharisees implicitly equated the man's blindness to his own immorality or that of his parents. Jesus rejected this notion. In doing so, they implicitly acknowledged Jesus' power to cure the blind man and to forgive sin. If one truly cured the illness (blindness), then he must have eliminated the cause of the illness (sin).

Since the Pharisees excommunicated him, the man now stood alone. Without membership in the synagogue, he was no longer a Jew; he would be shunned by his friends and neighbors alike. For his defense of Jesus, all he had left was Jesus. So Jesus sought him out and asked him the question of faith: "Do you believe in the Son of Man (i.e., Messiah)?" The man's answer was a question: "Who is he, Lord, so I might trust...him." Jesus then seemed to say: "Open your eyes. The Messiah is talking to you now." With this revelation, the man professed his trust in Jesus and worshiped him.





# THE BASILICA OF SAINT MARY

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



March 19, 2023

Dear Parishioners,

When Jesus cured the blind man, he gave him a choice to change, and trust in God. Jesus invited the man to faith.

Faith is a gift of God, a supernatural virtue infused by Him. We cannot obtain faith by our own efforts or merit. Faith in God comes from God; he initiates the faith relationship and every step in that relationship. But faith always remains a choice we make. When we choose to trust in God and believe in what He reveals to us, we exercise our freedom. Our minds and wills freely cooperate with God's grace. Faith is not and can never be an act coerced by God or others.

Faith and understanding are compatible because Faith is certain. We have complete trust God will help us through times of doubt. Faith seeks understanding. In faith, we seek reasonable answers to life's problems and the troubles of the world. We also seek a deeper awareness of God acting in the world.

Faith and science are compatible. Since science and revelation have their source in the same God, scientific study carried out in an ethical manner cannot conflict with faith. Indeed, study can cause the same awe and humility in the scientist as reflection on creation causes in the believer.

It is impossible to have a relationship with God without faith. In the same vein, we cannot grow closer to God without perseverance; just as in human relationships, trust can never be lax. With perseverance, we have hope, for we are supported by others and we see the goal of faith. We can look to the witness of others for inspiration in times of trial. And, as we are drawn closer by God, we can see the goal of faith, to see God "face to face" "as He truly is.

John's gospel presents us with a challenge. Are we willing to be changed for the sake of faith? Are we willing to see things as they are, not as we wish them to be? The man born blind gained true sight, simply because he was willing to be changed. Like the man born blind, we, too, must have open eyes and an open heart, a willingness to let God change us.

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.

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

## FEASTS OF THE WEEK

Monday, March 20, Saint Joseph Spouse of Mary

Joseph has been honored on March 19<sup>th</sup> since the end of the 10<sup>th</sup> century. He was declared Patron of the Universal Church in 1870 by Pope Pius IX, and Guardian of the Redeemer in 1989 by Pope Saint John Paul II.

Thursday, March 23, Saint Turibius of Mogrovejo (bishop)

As a layman, Toribio was the chief judge of the Inquisition at Granada. He became the Archbishop of Lima. He established the first seminary in the Americas, and sought to alleviate poverty among the native population.

Saturday, March 25 690 Kern Rd, Waterford, OH 45786-5192 - reported in January 2020

(1 .. The Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord

This Feast recalls the announcement of Gabriel to The Blessed Virgin Mary that she was chosen by God to become the mother of the Redeemer.



## DECEASED PRIESTS OF OUR DIOCESE

On Tuesday, we remember the 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Fr. Ambrose Schilling, and the 8<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Msgr. John Cymbor. On Thursday, we remember the 24<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Fr. Richard Battocletti. Next Sunday, we remember the 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Fr. Stephen Pekalla, and the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of deacon Lawrence Meagher. May they rest in the peace of Christ.

## COVERING THE CROSSES AND STATUES

In diocese of the United States, from this Sunday until Easter, crosses and statues may be covered until the end of the celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday.

## Effective immediately, Bishop bans Latin Mass at Franciscan University



Students, faculty, staff, and others who attend the Traditional Latin Mass at Franciscan University will need to venture off campus to worship in the more ancient form of the Mass following their bishop's decision to ban the campus' monthly celebration. Bishop Jeffrey Monforton of the Diocese of Steubenville, Ohio, ordered an immediate end to the Latin Mass on Franciscan

University's campus.

"The Diocese of Steubenville is seeking to meet the pastoral needs of the faithful in accord with the norms, including the recent rescript, issued by the Holy See," a spokesman for the diocese said.

Bishop Monforton is seeking a dispensation for the Mass at St. Peter's, where the weekly Latin Mass has been held for years. The Latin Mass will still be offered weekly at St. Peter's Church in Steubenville, which is a parish church about a mile from campus. The parish offers the Latin Mass weekly, which includes a High Mass usually once per month, on the first Sunday. Even though the campus' Latin Mass is canceled, the Latin Mass at St. Peter will be allowed to continue while the bishop seeks a formal dispensation from the Vatican for that church.

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## THE PIETA

Michelangelo was known for being selective about the marble used to chisel his sculptures. He was commissioned to sculpt the Pietà in the late 1490s. As he was just 24 years old at the time, it was one of his earliest projects, and a piece that helped launch him into the spotlight. The sculpture, which was created as a funeral monument for French Cardinal Jean de Bilhères, depicts the Virgin Mary holding the body of Jesus following the Crucifixion.



The young artist sculpted the piece from one cut of marble and finished the job in under two years. According to fellow Renaissance artist and friend Giorgio Vasari, Michelangelo's statue initially bore no indication of its creator, but the artist supposedly changed his mind after overhearing his work credited to a rival; he snuck back to chisel his name prominently onto the sash across Mary's chest.

Shame at the rash decision likely kept Michelangelo from signing his future works of art, though the artist did find other ways of inserting his likeness into his work. In the Sistine Chapel, Michelangelo imposed his own features onto St. Bartholomew — who was skinned alive — possibly as a joke meant to share his disdain for the physically grueling project.

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## ST. MARY DPSC GOAL

This year's goal for Saint Mary's DPSC is \$115,639.12. Thank you for help in achieving the goal.



# Notre Dame Cathedral to open in December 2024



Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, whose spire and roof were destroyed by an April 15, 2019, fire, is expected to be rebuilt within the five-year deadline set by the French government. As confirmed by the head of the construction site, French Army Gen. Jean-Louis Georgelin, in an interview with the Associated Press, the faithful and tourists should have access to the site again by the end of 2024.

Reconstruction work only began some 24 months after the tragic incident occurred, with the first phase consisting of cleaning and securing the site, involving more than 200 different companies. Although the beloved cathedral will not be ready for the Olympic Games to be held in the French capital in July and August 2024, it should have regained its former shape by then, with the reconstruction phase of its emblematic spire to begin in April.

Before the end of the year, therefore, it should reappear in the Parisian sky as it was originally designed by the architect Eugène Viollet-le-duc in the 19th century, contrary to the initial wish of French President Emmanuel Macron, who had called for a “contemporary architectural gesture” in the restoration of the spire.

In a Dec. 1, 2022, communiqué issued by the Public Establishment in Charge of the Conservation and Restoration of the Cathedral, Georgelin had already announced “major advances” in the progress of the project. “The completion of the reconstruction of the first of the collapsed vaults marks an important step, while the interiors are already regaining their beauty,” he said.

After the spire and transept, reconstruction of the large roof of the nave and of the choir, whose frameworks date back from the beginning of the 13th century, will take place. The wood that will be used to rebuild the frame was blessed by the rector of the cathedral, Bishop Olivier Ribadeau Dumas, on Dec. 15, 2022. The beams were entirely handmade in the medieval manner. The blessing was perceived as the real kickoff of the effective reconstruction of Notre-Dame’s roof after several months of study and preparatory work. The project officials have estimated that approximately 1,000 people throughout France are working daily on the restoration process.

Georgelin expects the exterior restoration of the blaze damage will cost about 550 million euros (\$580.5 million), 150 million euros (\$158 million) having already been spent to secure the building. In 2021, several observers expressed their concern over the additional costs incurred during this preliminary phase, wondering if the available funds would be sufficient for the completion of the work.

According to the director of the Cathedral Fund, the 800 million euros (\$844 million) collected from more than 300,000 donors around the world will be enough money to entirely restore the framework and the roof, and to redo the spire. “It will be enough to repair the consequences of the fire. But there will not be enough money to repair the whole cathedral,” he said in an interview, estimating that a total of 1 billion euros (\$1.5 billion) would probably be needed to repair the north and south facades of the building, which are not included in the current rebuilding project.

## Boston prelate grateful for reappointment to pope's 'kitchen cabinet'



Boston Cardinal Seán Patrick O'Malley, head of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, speaks at a press conference at The Vatican, Friday, April 29, 2022, after meeting with Pope Francis.

After finding out yesterday morning that he would remain a member of Pope Francis' Council of Cardinal

Advisors, Cardinal Seán O'Malley of Boston called the reappointment an honor, and commended the Holy Father for leading with a shepherd's heart for the past decade.

"As we approach the 10th anniversary of Pope Francis' election on March 13, we are reminded of the gift of the Holy Father's spiritual and pastoral leadership for the more than 1 billion Catholics across the globe," O'Malley said in a March 7 statement.



These appointments were made as the period of the previous Council expired. After the period expired for which they were appointed, made known on Tuesday, March 7, was the appointment of the new members of Pope Francis' Council of Cardinals. The Council is a consultative body whose mission is to advise the Holy Father in the government of the Church. Pope Francis instituted it on April 13, 2013. It has been called colloquially the Pope's G8. Four groups have preceded it (2013-2014; 2014-2018; 2018-2020 and 2020-2023). The new group is made up of:

- Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Secretary of State
- Cardinal Fernando Vérgez, LC, President of the Governorate of Vatican City State
- Cardinal Fredolin Besungu, OFM Cap., Archbishop of Kinshasa
- Cardinal Seán O'Malley, OFM Cap., Archbishop of Boston
- Cardinal Juan José Omella, Archbishop of Barcelona
- Cardinal Gérald Lacroix, Archbishop of Quebec
- Cardinal Jean-Claude Hollerich, SJ, Archbishop of Luxembourg
- Cardinal Sergio da Rocha, Archbishop of San Salvador de Bahia, Brazil

The new Council is made up of four Religious of three Congregations (two Capuchins, a Jesuit and a Legionary of Christ), and four ecclesiastics from the diocesan clergy. The Pope's new Council will meet this coming April.

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## China's new 'Smart Religion' app requires faithful to register to attend worship service

A human rights group active in China is reporting that religious believers in a populous Chinese province are now required to register on a government app in order to attend worship services. The religious department of the provincial government of Henan is rolling out a system whereby all believers must make online reservations before they can attend services in churches, mosques, or Buddhist temples.

The reservations are to be made through an app called “Smart Religion” developed by the Ethnic and Religious Affairs Commission of Henan Province. According to “China Aid”, applicants must fill in personal information, including their name, phone number, government ID number, permanent residence, occupation, and date of birth before they can make a reservation. Those who are allowed into a place of worship must also have their temperature taken — suggesting the app may be related in some way to COVID-19 restrictions — and show a reservation code.

The Chinese government technically recognizes Catholicism as one of five religions in the country, but there exists an underground Catholic Church, which is persecuted and loyal to Rome. Government-approved Catholic churches, on the other hand, have comparatively more freedom of worship but face other challenges, including pressure from the government to censor parts of Catholic teaching, while including Chinese nationalism and love for the party in preaching. Religious believers of all stripes are surveilled in China.

There are concerns that less tech-savvy elderly people might be isolated from signing up for religious services, but officials said staff would assist them in doing so. The development and rollout of the app is part of the communist government’s efforts to “strictly manage religion in a comprehensive way,” in part by gathering data about religious believers. The group also expressed concern that the introduction of this additional barrier will turn people away from the practice of religion.

The Standing Committee of the Henan Provincial Party Committee and head of the United Front Work Department, went to the Provincial Ethnic and Religious Committee to investigate and pointed out that it is necessary to strictly manage religion in a comprehensive way, unite and guide the majority of religious believers to follow the Chinese Communist Party unswervingly.”

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## Pope Francis says imprisonment of Nicaraguan bishop reminds him of Hitler’s dictatorship

Pope Francis called Nicaragua’s Daniel Ortega “unstable” and likened Nicaragua’s Sandinista government to Nazi Germany in an interview published Friday. Speaking about Nicaragua’s Bishop Rolando Álvarez, who was sentenced to 26 years in prison by Ortega’s dictatorship last month, Pope Francis said: “It is something out of line with reality; it is as if we were bringing back the communist dictatorship of 1917 or the Hitler dictatorship of 1935.” “They are a type of vulgar dictatorships,” he added, also using the Argentine word “guarangas,” meaning “rude.”

Pope Francis said: “With much respect, I have no choice but to think that the person who leads [Daniel Ortega] is unstable. Here we have a bishop in prison, a very serious man, very capable. He wanted to give witness and did not accept exile,” he said, speaking of Álvarez, whose imprisonment deeply grieved the pope.



## Mexican bishops condemn police pursuit, violent arrest of migrants on cathedral grounds



The bishops of Mexico roundly condemned the intrusion of Ciudad Juárez municipal police onto cathedral grounds in order to violently arrest a group of migrants.

The Ciudad Juárez Cathedral and its facilities have long been one of the places where migrants are received, as the city sits on the opposite side of the Rio Grande from El Paso, Texas.

Among the people served by the cathedral are those who are waiting for appointments to

regularize their immigration status in Mexico or those who seek to reach the United States because they see no future in their country of origin.

In a March 2 statement, the Mexican Bishops' Conference's migrant ministry strongly criticized the police for charging into the cathedral's dining facilities to pursue some migrants, "using violence to physically and psychologically harm the people," leaving at least one person injured. The conference also strongly condemned these types of events where police act arbitrarily and without adherence to legal protocols, violating people's human rights. Given what happened, the migrant ministry announced that it will file "the corresponding complaints to the competent authorities and against whoever is responsible. It is inadmissible for the authorities of any level of government to enter humanitarian assistance facilities for migrants and violate said places, which are also places dedicated to religious worship," the statement stressed.

The bishop of Ciudad Juárez, José Guadalupe Torres Campos, also noted, in another statement, his "dissatisfaction with the way in which they acted" and asked "that this type of situation not be repeated neither at the cathedral or in any other shelter in our city."

Torres explained that a meeting was held on March 2 with the secretary of municipal public security, César Omar Muñoz Morales, in order to prevent these violent acts from being repeated. In his statement Torres said that Muñoz "promised that similar situations would not be repeated, giving precise instructions for collaboration and monitoring of respect for human rights. Trusting that we can all work together in all social work for the good of those most in need, I raise my prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of our cathedral and Empress of America, to help us all to see ourselves as children of the same God and brothers among us," the bishop concluded.

According to Mexican news reports, the city police tried to stop and check the IDs of a group of foreign migrants. However, only the National Migration Institute's agents have the authority to check migrants' IDs. The migrants fled and the police pursued them into the cathedral's dining area, where they were violently arrested.