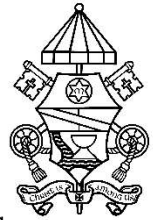


# The Basilica of Saint Mary of the Assumption

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)



April 16, 2023  
*Sunday of Divine Mercy*

## MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Sat	5:30 PM	- Francis "Junior" Arnold
Sun	8:00 AM	- People of the Parish
	10:00 AM	- Agnes Pouzide, Marie Pouzide Mugrage, Margaret Pouzide Cooke
	12:00 PM	- Preston John Huck
Mon	7:45 AM	- Liv/dec'd of the Jim King Family
	12:05 PM	- Tarcella Hendershot, 6 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary
Tue	7:45 AM	- Liz Strahler
	12:05 PM	- Helen Miller
Wed	7:45 AM	- Alma King, 13 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary
	12:05 PM	- Harry Way
Thu	7:45 AM	- Mary Agnes Augenstein
	12:05 PM	- Mel Baumgard
Fri	7:45 AM	- Charles Mayer, 49 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary
	12:05 PM	- Betty June Huck
Sat	9:00 AM	- Nate Heiss
	5:30 PM	- Bobbie Heiss
Sun	8:00 AM	- Anna Spindler
	10:00 AM	- Karen Offenberger
	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

***You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me,  
says the Lord; blessed are they who have not seen me,  
but still believe.***

## READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY:

Acts 2:14,22-33; 1 Pt 1:17-21; Lk 24:13-35.

## DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY:

This is Divine Mercy Sunday. We will have a Divine Mercy Holy Hour this afternoon (Sunday) at 3:00 PM.

## BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

## BASILICA BOOK CLUB:

The April Book for the Basilica Book Club is The Fisherman's Tomb, By John O'Neil. This is a true story of the Vatican's Secret Search. The Basilica Book Club will meet on Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM in the Basilica Social Hall. All are welcome to attend.

**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	3:00 PM	-	Divine Mercy Holy Hour.
	6:30 PM	-	Cross Fire 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.
	7:00 PM	-	St. Vincent dePaul Society Meeting in the Conference Room.
TUES	7:00 PM	-	Substance Abuse Support Group Meeting in the Basilica Social Hall.
WED	8:20 AM	-	7:00 PM – Eucharistic Adoration in the Chapel of the English Martyrs.
	6:00 PM	-	To 7:15 PM – Grade School Religious Education Classes at St. Mary School.
FRI	8:20AM	-	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:                 \$ 15,635.50

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

***God bless those who support our Basilica Parish!***

### **ONLINE GIVING**

Online giving is available at the Basilica. For more information, please visit this website:

<http://www.stmarysmarietta.org> and go to the left side of the web page. Click on the GIVE ONLINE button to see more information or to sign up.

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### **BASILICA FOUNDATION:**

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

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### **2023 DIOCESAN/PARISH SHARE CAMPAIGN**

If you have not yet contributed to the 2023 D/PSC please consider doing so. All parishioners should have received a pledge card from the Diocese and additional pledge cards are available at the Parish office.

This year our parish goal is \$115,639.21. This is an increase of \$4,381.21 over last year. We are so grateful to everyone who has contributed thus far. Our parish has always met and surpassed our goal. Please remember this as you prayerfully consider your contribution.

## **SAINT MARY SCHOOL NEWS**

Volunteer Appreciation Week is celebrated nationally April 16-22. St. Mary Catholic School thanks our many volunteers and invites you to join us for an evening of recognition April 20<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 PM until 7:30 PM in the Parish Center of the school. Please RSVP to Mrs. Bradley at [tammibradley@stmaryscatholic.org](mailto:tammibradley@stmaryscatholic.org).

Registration is well underway for the 2023-2024 school year. There will be an open house scheduled for Tuesday, April 25<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM for your personal opportunity to tour the school and acquire registration information. Please enter through the Parish Center doors. Questions? Please call the school office at 740-374-8181.

Save the date! The St. Mary Catholic School Spring Art & Music Show is scheduled for Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. Doors open at 5:30 PM for the Art exhibits and 6:30 PM for the music portion in the new gym.

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### **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. **Emaus is open to members of any Christian denomination, and we are currently seeking pilgrims for the upcoming walk.**

### **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.

### **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.

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### **SCHEDULING MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

Please check with the parish office before scheduling a meeting in the Basilica Social Hall, Conference Room or using the Basilica Kitchen. If you change the time or date of a previously scheduled meeting, please be sure the new time is available. All meetings and events must be put in the master book in the parish office.

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### **LIVING JOY**

Through a donation, the book Living Joy by Chris Stefanick will be available for checkout in the parish library. Due to the content that asks for reflection, the book will be discussed at the June 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"

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### **DCCW SPRING BI-ANNUAL MEETING**

The Catholic Woman's Club Spring Bi-Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at Christ Our Light Parish, St. Peter & Paul Church Hall, 136 High Avenue, Lore City, OH. A lunch will be served at a cost of \$8.00 per person

This is a very important meeting so it would be nice if everyone could attend. For reservations call DeDe Kidder at 740-632-3018 or email at [dede.kidder@gmail.com](mailto:dede.kidder@gmail.com).

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### **PRAY FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY**

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

### **VIRTUAL BABY SHOWER**

The Marietta Knights of Columbus Council #478 will once again be partnering with the Washington County Right to Life to host a Virtual Baby Shower to benefit the Woman's Care Center in Parkersburg, WV as well as Mary's House in Stockport, OH. The shower will be held before and after all Masses at the Basilica during the weekend of Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>. We will be collecting baby items for the Women's Care Center.

The following items are specific needs at this time: Baby Lotion, Crib Sheets, Diapers (Size Newborn), Hats (Size Newborn to 12 months for boys & girls), Hooded Bath Towels, Pajamas (Size 12 months and 18 months for boys & girls), Sleepers (size 0-3 months and 3-6 months for boys), Sleepers (Size 6-9 months for girls), Socks (Size 0-12 months for boys).

Please note that the Women's Care Center is only accepting new items at this time. Additionally, the Women's Care Center will NOT be accepting large items such as car seats and bouncers this year because of limited storage space.

Additionally, we will also be accepting monetary donations for Mary's House in Stockport, Ohio with the purchase of equipment for gardening and landscaping.

Questions about the Baby Shower, please call Jim Humphrey at 740-629-4867 (cell) or via E-mail at [super7@suddenlink.net](mailto:super7@suddenlink.net).

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### **5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY ROSARY**

Knights of Columbus will be praying the rosary before all Masses on Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup> (7:30 AM, 9:30 AM and 11:30 AM) All parishioners are welcome to join us,

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### **THIS WEEKEND'S FLOWERS**

This weekend, the roses and the flowers for the altar are in memory of Agnes Pouzide, Marie Pouzide Mugrage and Margaret Pouzide Cooke. There are also flowers for a special intention. If you would like to request flowers for a particular weekend, in memory or in honor of someone, please contact the parish office to reserve the date. You should contact the florist of your choice to arrange for delivery.

### MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEKEND OF April 22 & 23

	Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Lectors	Altar Servers
<b>Sat: 5:30</b>	Evelyn Potter (CAPT) (swap request) Debbie Lazorik (HOST) Joyce Huck (HOST) Sheri Black (CHALICE) Gregg Black (CHALICE)	Tina Thomas	Connor Bichard Braxton Kroft Brecken Kroft
<b>Sun: 8:00</b>	Beckie Arnold CAPT) Ron Arnold (HOST) Marcia McCabe (HOST) Theresa Huck (CHALICE) Jean Tornes (CHALICE)	Carol Wharff	Kenny Offenberger Joe Flaherty (swap request) David Baker Jerry Huck
<b>10:00</b>	Ken Masselli (CAPT) Debbie Karas (HOST) Sherry Payne (HOST) Pat Dickinson CHALICE) John Towner (CHALICE)	Tim Williams	Owen Krason Benedict Parlin Caroline Krason Henry Corcoran
<b>12:00</b>	Stan Vanlandingham (CAPT) Cheyenne Greenwood (HOST) Elizabeth Tokodi HOST) Karen Schramm (CHALICE) Jeannette Flowers (CHALICE)	Lisa Taylor	Evan Huffman Grant Huffman Christian Isaly

<b>Week of April 17, 7:45</b>	Karter Lankford Evan Huffman (swap request)	<b>Saturday, April 22, 9:00 AM</b> – Not Filled
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**STEAK FRY:** The Knights of Columbus, Council 478 will host a Steak Fry Benefit on **(Note Date Edited after Printing) Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup>**, from 5:30 PM until 7:30 PM. Meals will include steak (chicken), baked potato, salad, roll, and a dessert for only \$20.00. Reservations are required by April 25<sup>th</sup>. Text or call Matt at 330-243-5500, or e-mail [milom2210@gmail.com](mailto:milom2210@gmail.com). Proceeds will benefit Tony Offenberger for State Warden, State of Ohio.

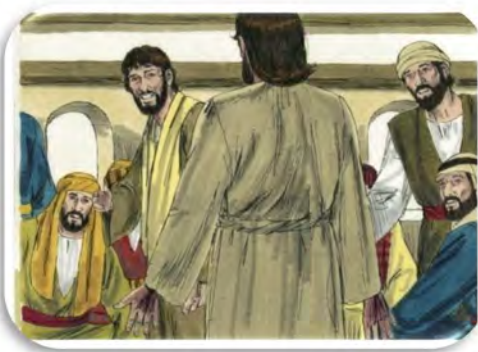
### **CATECHIST DAY OF FORMATION – Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, Ironton; Saturday, May 27, Carrollton**

A day of formation, fellowship and prayer, Diocese of Steubenville, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

Breakfast and Lunch will be provided. The event is designed to encourage and equip catechists so that they can better hand on the faith to your learners. The day will include the celebration of Mass, lunch and discussion groups and keynote speaker, Bill Keiming, Assistant Director of the Catechetical Institute.

RSVP: [BHUZOVIC@DIOSTEUB.ORG](mailto:BHUZOVIC@DIOSTEUB.ORG)

**BAKED STEAK BENEFIT DINNER:** Mary's House is having a Baked Steak Dinner on Friday, April 21, 2023. It will be held at St. James Catholic Church, 257 East Bell Avenue, McConnelsville, OH. Cost is \$15 per person. Hours are 4:30 PM to 7:00 PM.



## DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Peace is more than a lack of conflict. The gospel tells how He offers us the same peace despite our lack of belief. In this gospel, John related two resurrection stories. The first section focused upon the gift of the Holy Spirit, the second upon faith, and the third upon the reason for evangelization. Late Sunday evening, the followers of Jesus locked the doors where they met because they feared the Jewish leaders. Jesus appeared before them and said, "Peace be with you." Then He spoke, Jesus showed them the wounds in his hands and his side. They felt great joy when they saw the Lord. Again, Jesus said to them, "Peace be with you. Just as the Father sent me, I am sending you." Then, He breathed on them and said: "receive the Holy Spirit, if you forgive someone's sins, their sins are and are forgiven. If you don't forgive their sins, their sins are not forgiven."

Thomas the Twin was not with them when Jesus appeared. The other followers told him over and over, "We've seen the Lord!" Thomas replied, "I won't believe it until I inspect the nail scars in his hands and touch the scar in his side."

The next Sunday, the followers were inside along with Thomas. Jesus appeared in the locked room, stood before them, and said, "Peace be with you." Then He said to Thomas, "Take your finger and inspect my hands here. Take your hand and inspect my side. Give up your doubts and believe!" Thomas replied "You are my Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "You believe because you have seen Me. Those who haven't seen me and believe are really happy."

Jesus performed many other miracles that are not written down in this book. These miracles have been written down so you can still believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and, believing, you can have life in his name.

When his followers saw Jesus alive with his deadly wound, they realized the "Shalom" of Jesus, for they witnessed God's activity in the world. Fear left them, for now they believed. Joy entered their hearts. Again Jesus said "Shalom" with a command and a gift. The command: Go into the world. As the Father send Jesus into the physical world, Jesus would now send his followers into the cultural world. With the command came the gift: the Holy Spirit. With the Holy Spirit, the disciples could obey the missionary command to proclaim repentance and forgive sin. If the followers forgive, however, they must loosen the sinner from the guilt now and in the future. Sin was never to be brought up again.

John's gospel, then, was written to strengthening the believer. The peace Christ give us heals the fear and cynicism of the world. This peace builds bridges of trust and allows us to walk together to the Father. His peace allows us to continue to believe and to hold on to his very life. Let us, then, offer each other the peace of Christ, the Shalom of his Spirit.

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## HOLY HOUR TODAY

There will be a Holy Hour this afternoon at 3:00 pm. In honor of Divine Mercy. Parishioners are encouraged to attend.

# THE RISEN LORD JESUS

We do not know what Christ's risen body is like. On the one hand, the risen Jesus could be touched by his followers. His body still had the wounds of the passion. On the other hand, he entered locked rooms at will and appeared to his followers as he wished. His body was not limited by space and time. While his body possessed signs of his past, it was transformed to a new plane. The body of Christ now possessed the power of the Spirit.

The resurrection was at once a moment in history two millennium ago and a moment for all time. That which space and time bound was raised to the eternal. When we profess Christ is risen, we acknowledge our faith in a life beyond despite our present limitations. We can touch that very life through the Spirit.

And, because of the Spirit, our shortcomings that stand in the way of eternal life can be swept aside. Thomas was not present when Jesus came to the apostles on Easter night. The other disciples were saying to him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and thrust my finger into the mark of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe." After eight days, again the disciples were inside, and Thomas was with them. Jesus came although the doors had been locked, He stood in the middle of them and said, "Peace to you." Then He said to Thomas, "Take your finger here and inspect My hands; take your hand and thrust it into My side. Do not become unbelieving but believing." Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and My God!" Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen Me, you have believed. Happy are those not having seen and having believed."

History has called Thomas the "Doubter." Few have touched upon his cynicism. Over and over, Thomas heard the witness of the followers, but he wanted to inspect and touch," literally meant "to see and thrust." He stepped beyond skepticism into cynicism. Jesus answered the challenge of cynicism with the challenge of faith. Thomas responded with two titles for Jesus: Lord and God. Thomas finally received Christ's gift of Shalom. In contrast to Thomas, Jesus blessed those who believed without seeing him raised from the dead. Blessed were those who placed their personal trust in Christ; they do not need proof of his resurrection, for they know He is alive. But, even blessed are those who hold onto the truths of faith, for, with an open heart, they will experience the risen Christ.

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## Catechism of the Catholic Church: CCC 651-655

Without the Resurrection, Christianity would be nothing more than a school that taught the wisdom of a great teacher. With the Resurrection, however, Christianity became a road to intimacy with God. The Resurrection justifies the life, works, and teachings of Jesus. Through the lens of the Resurrection, we can see this life, these works and teachings in the context of Scripture and realize "Jesus is Lord." Faith in the Resurrection leads us to the conclusion Jesus is true God and true man. Through the Resurrection, we receive the gift of a new eternal life, free from evil. We become one with our Savior who died and rose for us. And, as he rose, Christ assures us that we, too, will rise on the last day.



## Special Events & Scheduled Pilgrimages at the Basilica:

April - 16 - 3:00 pm. Divine Mercy Holy Hour  
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  
Oct. - 29, - 12:00 pm. Women Religious celebration  
Dec. - 12, - 11:00 am. Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration



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### DECEASED PRIESTS OF OUR DIOCESE

Today, we remember the 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Fr. Thomas Graven. On Tuesday, we remember the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Fr. Herman Tague. On Saturday, we remember the 37<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Fr. Philip Baroni. These three 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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## 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. this week on Wednesday and Friday from 8:15 am. until 7:00 pm. Jesus remains in the Blessed Sacrament to refresh and love us.



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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.

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## Statue of Mary smashed at California Catholic church



A statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe was smashed in half at Corpus Christi Catholic Church in Corona, California, on April 1. "It was very heartbreaking, especially coming at the beginning of Holy Week," Maria Bravo, the parish office manager, said. "A lot of parishioners were very emotional about it. They brought flowers. Many offered to help in whatever way they could." The vandalism occurred at about 11:30 p.m. on the Saturday on the eve of Palm Sunday. The vandal, a male, was caught on security cameras walking up to the statue and pulling it down. The parish has a strong devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe.

## MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND MASSES FOR THE WEEK:

### Monday, April 17

7:45 am. - Mass  
9:15 am. - School Mass (7&8)  
12:05 pm. - Mass  
6:15 pm. - Perpetual Help Devotions  
7:00 pm. - RCIA

### Tuesday, April 18,

7:45 am. - Mass  
9:15 am. - School Mass (2)  
12:05 pm. - Mass

### Wednesday, April 19,

7:45 am. - Mass  
8:20 am. - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament  
9:15 am. - School Mass (3&5)  
12:05 pm. - Mass  
7:00 pm. - Reposition of the Sacrament

### Thursday, April 20,

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

### Friday, April 21,

7:45 am. - Mass  
8:15 am. - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament  
12:05 pm. - Mass  
7:00 pm. - Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament

### Saturday, April 22,

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

### Sunday, April 23,

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

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## Mexico ranks first in human trafficking and child abuse

A nun is fighting against human trafficking, lamented that Mexico holds “first place in human trafficking, child abuse, organ selling, sex tourism, child abduction, and child pornography.” The nun said that “trafficking is a crime” that uses “lies or force to take advantage of people,” violate their rights, and frequently transport them to unknown places. A January report that “Mexico ranks first in child sexual abuse; first in exploitation, homicides, and trafficking of minors; and first in creation and distribution of child pornography.”

In a June 2020 Mexican Senate bulletin, it was stated that Mexico was exporting 60% of child pornography worldwide and that the rate had shot up to 73% during the lockdowns. According to UNICEF, child pornography is one of the most lucrative businesses in the world after drug trafficking, with earnings estimated at \$7 billion a year.

The number of victims of human trafficking increased by 67.3% in Mexico from 2020 to 2021, according to a report by the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Traffickers see people as merchandise. Victims are warned not to provide strangers with details about yourself, friends, family or any information that puts you at risk. It is also recommended to be accompanied to interviews, not getting into a vehicle with strangers, not going to deserted places at night, and avoiding contact with strangers and avoid taking food or drinks from people you don't know.





# THE BASILICA OF SAINT MARY

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



**Divine Mercy Sunday, 2023**

**Dear Parishioners,**

Today the Church throughout the world celebrates “Divine Mercy Sunday”. When this Feast was established, Saint John Paul II described “Divine Mercy Sunday” saying: “In a special way, it is a Sunday of Thanksgiving for all the goodness and mercy that God has shown us in the whole Easter mystery.”

Divine Mercy Sunday is the summary of all the events of Holy Week, focusing on the light of the Risen Lord into a beam of merciful love and grace for the whole world. This Feast of Divine Mercy celebrates the abundance of grace available to us through our Lord’s victory over sin, death and the Evil One.

Divine Mercy Sunday has its roots in the Octave Day of Easter. St. Augustine called the Sunday after Easter “A day of mercy and pardon”. The forgiveness of Thomas in today’s Gospel, is the sign of Jesus’ Divine Mercy. The Risen Lord forgave Thomas of his lack of trust and belief, and gave him new hope and new life. The forgiveness and mercy of the Risen Lord was total and complete. “You believed Thomas, because you have seen Me; but more blessed are those people of Marietta who have not seen and yet believe”.

“Divine Mercy” fills the Scripture Readings of today’s Mass. “Divine Mercy” lies behind those encouraging words of Jesus, spoken to His disciples on that first Easter evening which are recorded in today’s Gospel: “Peace be with you.” The Risen Lord brought peace to His apostles that day, just as He wants to bring peace to us today.

We are called upon today to be a sign to the world of our faith and our commitment to Jesus Christ - just as the First followers of the Apostolic Church were.

God offers us the same life, mercy and forgiveness that He offered to the Apostolic Church through the celebration of the sacraments. Today as we recall Jesus’ appearance to the disciples on that first Easter evening, we are very much reminded of the Sacrament Confession - the Sacrament of Divine Mercy. Today in the Gospel, we discover a merciful Lord giving the Church the power to forgive sins to His apostles and to their successors. “Mercy Sunday” reminds us that Christ does not abandon us.

**In His Sacred Passion,**

**Msgr. John M. Campbell  
(Rector)**

# Wild West nun Sister Blandina



Sister Blandina Segale was an Italian immigrant who came to the Wild West town of Trinidad, Colorado, at the age of only 22. Amid her efforts to start schools and hospitals, she intervened against lynch mobs, conversed with outlaws, and lived such a life that she is now a candidate for sainthood.

Her life and the history of 1870s Trinidad have inspired a television series in development called "Trinidad," in which Sister Blandina will be the main character. Much of what we know about Sister Blandina's life comes from a series of letters she wrote to her sister, Sister Justina Segale, who lived in Ohio. The compiled correspondence, first published in 1941, spans the years 1872–1894.

Sister Blandina was born Maria Rosa Segale in the small town of Cigana near Genoa, Italy, on Jan. 23, 1850. At the age of 4, she and her parents emigrated to Cincinnati. She joined the Sisters of Charity at the age of 16. Six years later, in 1872, she was sent alone to Trinidad in southern Colorado four years before the territory became a state.

In the course of her life, she founded schools and built hospitals. She cared for orphans and the poor and advocated for the rights of Native Americans and other minorities. She even encountered the gunman Billy the Kid and members of his outlaw gang.

Among the most famous incidents of her life, she interceded on behalf of her student's father who had shot a man and was threatened with death at the hands of a lynch mob. Sister Blandina convinced the shooter to write a confession and convinced the shooting victim — who was dying from his wounds — to forgive the shooter before he died. She faced down the lynch mob. The murderer was given a regular trial, sentenced to life in prison, then released from prison after nine months so that he could care for his four children. Sister Blandina is an unsung hero of the West who never carried a gun, and never backed down and wore her habit like a superhero wears a cape.

Her faith played an enormous role. It was the sole motivating factor in everything that she did. She made an impact where she could ... She believed in justice, and in charity. She did this because she believed it was right, and she believed that it was necessary. And it was her vocation in life."

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

## **Holy Week attacks on Christian communities in Nigeria leave nearly 100 dead**

At least 94 people reportedly have died in a series of deadly attacks on Christian communities throughout Holy Week in Benue state in north-central Nigeria, an ominous sign of escalating violence blamed on Muslim militias in the country's Middle Belt region.

On April 2, armed men reportedly stormed a Palm Sunday service at a Pentecostal church in Akenawe-Tswarev in Logo county, killing a young boy and kidnapping the pastor and other worshipers. Three days later, on April 5, gunmen killed at least 50 people in the village of Umogidi, located in Utokpo county, a Catholic stronghold in western Benue, the Associated Press reported.

More recently, on the night of Good Friday, dozens were killed when Muslim gunmen raided an elementary school building in the village of Ngban that serves as a shelter for about 100 displaced Christian farmers and their families.

The April 7 attack left 43 people dead and more than 40 injured, according to Father Remigius Ihyula, who heads the Benue branch of the Justice, Development, and Peace Commission (JDPC), a Nigerian Catholic relief organization. Hours before the attack, Benue's outgoing governor, Samuel Ortom, warned residents to remain vigilant and criticized what he sees as a slow response on the part of police and army units to respond to his requests for help.

"Some of the survivors told me that police had fought the attackers and possibly killed some of them, but the marauding band retrieved their dead on their way out of the school compound, and the police told me the same," she said. "I doubt that the survivors of the attack on the primary school could go to church on Easter Sunday, as they need medicine and trauma counseling," Father Ihyula said.

While visiting with survivors of the April 7 attack in Ngban, Ortom said at least 134 people were killed in attacks in Benue over five days. Included in that tally is an April 3 raid in Apa that left 47 dead, according to a report by a Nigerian news outlet.

Benue State has an estimated 2 million displaced persons who cannot live on their traditional farm lands for fear of being killed. Some farmers venture back to cultivate their fields during the day and retreat to displaced person camps at night.

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## **Arrest made in connection with vandalism of Nebraska Catholic church**

An arrest has been made in connection with the vandalism of St. Paulinus Catholic Church in Syracuse, Nebraska, that occurred on Palm Sunday weekend. Travis Ross, 32, was arrested April 6 by the Otoe County Sheriff's Office after video evidence and witnesses led authorities to name him a suspect. Father Ryan Salisbury, St. Paulinus' pastor, said that when he walked into the church on April 1, he discovered that the altar had been tipped over, a statue desecrated, and several other objects damaged.

## Hyper-Realistic Exhibit Based on the Holy Shroud Is on Display in Spain

Last Week, Gaudix Cathedral in Granada, Spain hosted the recreation based on data obtained from the Shroud of Turin, an artifact that is believed to be the burial shroud of Christ. The sculpture, made of latex and silicone, weighs about 165 pounds. The posture portrays rigor mortis. The legs are somewhat bent. The hair that has been used is human and can be seen all over the body, from the feet to the head with all realism, without leaving out a detail.

When one approaches the figure — with hands behind one's back in accordance with exhibit rules for visitors — one can observe every pore of the skin, freckles, eyelashes and eyebrows. The back is slightly raised, making apparent the lacerations on the head, and there is a kind of small braid that ties the hair on the back of the head. Also seen are the bruises on the shoulders. On the skin you can see each of the tearing wounds, as well as the one between the fifth and sixth ribs on the right side. The nose is broken and the right eye bruised.

The hyper-realistic sculpture tries to present before the viewer a "body of human quality without artistic movement," without interpretation, made from multidisciplinary scientific data based on studies on the Holy Shroud.

