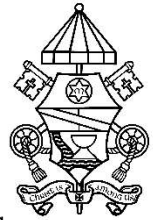


The Basilica of Saint Mary of the Assumption

PARISH OFFICE: 506 Fourth Street, Marietta OH 45750 PHONE: 740-373-3643
WEBSITE: www.stmarysmarietta.org www.facebook.com/stmarysmarietta EMAIL: info@stmarysmarietta.org



May 28, 2023
Pentecost Sunday

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)

Parochial Vicar - Rev. Edward Maxfield Jr. (emaxfield@dioceseub.org)

Permanent Deacon - Rev. Mr. Lee Weisend

Music Director - Mr. John Ontko (740) 350-4224 (ontkotb@suddenlink.net)

St. Mary School - 320 Marion St. (740)-374-8181 (www.stmaryscatholic.org)

School Principal - Elizabeth Tokodi (elizabethtokodi@stmaryscatholic.org)

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

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Sat	5:30 PM	- Linda Marshall, 19 th Anniversary
Sun	8:00 AM	- Francis "Junior" Arnold
	10:00 AM	- People of the Parish, Celebrating All High School Graduates
	12:00 PM	- Francis Huck Memorial Day
Mon	9:00 AM	- Richard Gillon
Tue	7:45 AM	- Virginia Huck
	12:05 PM	- Sheila Howlett
Wed	7:45 AM	- Sharon Heiss
	12:05 PM	- Preston John Huck
Thu	7:45 AM	- Francis Strahler
	12:05 PM	- Beverly Hartlage, 17 th Anniversary
Fri	7:45 AM	- Edgar Harrell
	12:05 PM	- Tiffany Kay Martin
Sat	9:00 AM	- Geraldine Pouzide, 90 th Birthday
	5:30 PM	- Harry Way
Sun	8:00 AM	- John Schoeppner, 17 th Anniversary
	10:00 AM	- Dave & Cathy Rauch, Wedding Anniversary
	12:00 PM	- People of the Parish

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY.

Ex 34:4b-6,8-9; 2 Cor 13:11-13; Jn 3:16-18.

REST IN PEACE:

Carol Sarver passed away May 19th. We offer our sincere condolences her sons and family. May Carol now enjoy eternal peace and happiness in heaven, her eternal home.

MEMORIAL DAY MASSES:

There will be one Mass on Monday, May 29th, Memorial Day. This Mass will be celebrated at 9:00 AM in New Saint Mary's Cemetery, weather permitting. Those attending are asked to bring a lawn chair if you would like to sit during the Mass. In case of rain, the Mass will be celebrated in the Basilica.

There will also be a Mass at St. Henry's Cemetery at 11:00 AM on Memorial Day. All parishioners are invited and encourage to attend one of these special Masses in remembrance of our beloved dead.

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

WED	8:20 AM	-	7:00 PM – Eucharistic Adoration in the Chapel of the English Martyrs.
FRI	8:20 AM	-	7:00 PM – Eucharistic Adoration in the Chapel of the English Martyrs.

The Lord Will Never Be Outdone In Generosity!

Total collection last weekend: \$ 10,412.00

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

God bless those who support our Basilica Parish!

SECOND COLLECTION

The first weekend of each month there is a collection for the maintenance of our Basilica. This collection will be taken up at all Masses next weekend, June 3rd and 4th. Envelopes were provided with your packet.

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.

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.

WEeping WILLOW CHURCH SOFTBALL LEAGUE

The Basilica will once again be fielding a team in the competitive division of the Weeping Willow Softball League. The team, which is co-sponsored by the Basilica and the Knights of Columbus Council #478 of Marietta, is the five-time defending league champion.

Any parishioner (age 16 and older) interested in playing should contact Jim Humphrey at 740-629-4867 (cell) or via E-mail at super7@suddenlink.net. League play is tentatively scheduled to begin on Monday, June 5th.

SAINT MARY SCHOOL NEWS

The Irish Booster Scholarship application for two St. Mary Catholic School Alumni is open for submission. The scholarship application can be found on the school website home page at stmarys.k12.oh.us. Applicants must be of a sophomore status or higher in a college program. Deadline to apply is July 14, 2023.

Congratulations to our May Students of the Month recognized for the Christian Citizenship theme of Value Self: Penelope Taylor, Addie Needs, Isaac Beardmore, Maddy Birge and Anna Knaus.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, Vacation Bible School previously scheduled July 10-14 is postponed until July 2024.

Have a great summer!

CONGRATULATIONS!

We congratulate our Parish Graduates from all area high schools. May God watch over them and continue to bless them as they begin this new chapter of their lives.

DEAR FELLOW PARISHIONERS

I am writing to you today to announce my departure from St. Mary's. It has been a privilege to serve you and the people of our community. Elizabeth Tokodi will be managing MSP going forward. God bless you as you continue to serve Him and his people.

Sincerely,
Deb Coty

FATHER'S DAY FISH FRY

K of C Council 4671 is sponsoring a Fish Fry on Father's Day, June 18th, from 12:00 PM until 3:00 PM. Cost is \$15.00 each. STAG – Open to gentlemen of the public and K of C members! All you can eat fish-fries-coleslaw and drinks. There will be a 50/50 and tool raffle at the door! Questions? Call Scott Wells at 740-516-3279.

DONUT SUNDAY

Our next Donut Sunday will be June 4th. Please join us in the Social Hall after the 8:00 AM or 10:00 AM Mass to enjoy fellowship and donuts/coffee. Everyone is welcome, hope to see you there.

ALTAR FLOWERS

This weekend, the roses and flowers for the altar are in memory of Rich Gillon. If you would like to request flowers for a particular weekend, in memory or in honor of someone, please call the parish office to reserve the date. You should call the florist of your choice to arrange for delivery.

DIVINE MERCY GIFT SHOP

Looking for a special gift? Divine Mercy Gift Shop may have that perfect gift for you. Stop by and check out the new line of items after Mass today.

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.

MARY'S HOUSE- GOLF OUTING

Mary's House Golf Outing is Saturday, June 24 at Lakeside Golf Course in Beverly, Ohio. Cost is \$70.00 per person. Cost includes 18 holes of golf, cart, mulligan, food, and drink. Hole sponsor is available for \$100.00. Call Jordan Welch to sign up your team and hole sponsor, 740-538-9901.

CHICKEN BARBEQUE

St. Michael's Carlisle, Ohio is having a Chicken Barbeque this Sunday, May 28th, from 11:30 AM until 1:30 PM. Dine-In and Drive Thru are available. There will be Bingo in the afternoon and music from 7:00 PM until 10:00 PM.

ST. JOHN'S GOLF OUTING

St. John Golf Outing is scheduled for Saturday, June 3, at Lakeside Golf Course in Beverly. Four Man Scramble - \$65/person, \$260, team. 18 holes with cart, dinner and raffle. Contact Kristin Pottmeyer, 304-989-0792 to register your team, or to sponsor a hole. Please come out and support St. John's Athletic Program.

2023 DIOCESAN/PARISH SHARE CAMPAIGN

This year our parish goal is \$115,639.21. This is an increase of \$4,381.21 over last year. So far, the Diocese has received \$80,336.00 from our parish. This means that our parish has only met 69% of our goal.

Thanks once again to those who participated in this year's DPSC. If you've not yet turned in your pledge, please do so. You can place your pledge in the collection basket, or you can mail it directly to the diocese using the pre-addressed DPSC envelope. Additional pledge cards are available at the parish office. You can also contribute to the campaign on line at www.Give.DioSteub.org.

Our parish has always met and surpassed our goal. Please help us to do so again this year.

BASILICA BOOK CLUB NEWS

Living Joy: Thanks to a donation, the book "Living Joy" by Chris Stefanic is available for check out in our parish library. Due to the content that asks for reflection, the book will be discussed at the June meeting of the Basilica Book Club.

Remember: ALL are welcome, bring a friend. Snacks and drinks are provided. If you are not able to read the book, a summary is presented, and you can participate at whatever level is comfortable for you. Any questions, information or if you want to be added to the Basilica Book Club email list: contact Debbie Lazorik, lazorikd@marietta.edu or 740-434-3769.

PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY

Join Father Tom Nelson on a Pilgrimage to Italy, January 1-12, 2024. Stops include Assisi, Norcia, Cascia, Loreto, Lancia, San Giovanni Rotondo, Monte San Angelo, Montecassino, and Rome. The discount price of \$4,989.00 per person is enjoyed by those paying with Cash or Check (based on a minimum of 30 participants with double occupancy). For full itinerary visit: <https://catholicfaithjourneys.com/>. For more information contact Maggie McDaniel: email: maggie@catholicfaithjourneys.com or phone: (419)290-8782.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEKEND OF June 3 & 4

	Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Lectors	Altar Servers
Sat:	Missy Deskins CAPT)		Connor Bichard
5:30	Sandy George (HOST)	Teri Ann Pfeffer	Braxton Kroft
	Evelyn Potter (HOST)		Brecken Kroft
	Sheri Black (CHALICE)		
	Gregg Black (CHALICE)		
Sun:	Patti Finkel CAPT)	Dave Cech	Greg Dickson
8:00	Marcia McCabe (HOST)		Dave Baker
	Carol Antill (HOST)		Suzanne Baker
	Theresa Huck (CHALICE)		Joe Flaherty
	Ron Arnold (swap req.)		
10:00	Cathy Rauch (swap req.)	Tim Williams	Elijah Erb (swap req.)
	Par Dickinson (HOST)		Griffin Erb
	Gerald Cooke (HOST)		Owen Krason
	Janet Schilling (CHALICE)		Liam Long
	Ken Schilling (CHALICE)		
12:00	Joyce Huck (CAPT)	Mary LaBarre	Anthony Discini
	Dennis Nau (HOST)		Karter Lankford
	Stan Vanlandingham (HOST)		Ben Pfeffer (swap req.)
	Lisa Taylor (CHALICE)		Dominic Spencer.
	Jeannette Flowers (CHALICE)		

Sat., June 3 –Evan Huffman
(swap req.)

CALL TO CONVENTION: All Women of the Diocese are cordially invited to the 78th Anniversary Catholic Woman's Club Convention. It is scheduled for Wednesday June 7, 2023, at Holy Family Church, 2608 Alexander Avenue, Steubenville, OH. Registration will begin at 8:15 AM at Holy Family Church Social Hall. The theme of this year's convention is "Wherever You Go, I Will Follow." For more information, please contact our CWC President, Jen Tinkler. Information is also available at the Parish Office.

CEMETERY COLLECTION: Each year during the months of May and November, there is a collection for the care of our two parish cemeteries. Envelopes were provided with your packet and may be put in the collection basket or mailed to the parish office any time this month.



THE FEAST OF PENTECOST

May 28, 2023

Late Sunday evening, the followers of Jesus locked the doors of the place where they met because they feared the Jewish leaders. Jesus appeared in the middle of them and said, "Peace be with you." After 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, Jesus breathed on them. "Receive the Holy Spirit," Jesus said. "If you forgive someone's sins, their sins are and will ever be forgiven. If you don't forgive their sins, their sins are not forgiven."

By the time John wrote his gospel, Jewish Christians had been excommunicated for their belief in the Messiah. Ostracized and socially persecuted, some Christians reacted in fear, while others boldly proclaimed the gospel. Early Christians needed a sense of stability, a sense of divine peace. Through the words of Jesus, "Peace" was John's prayer for his readers. With the sight of Jesus, fear turned into great joy. Anxiety turned into relief. Desperation turned into vindication.

From Jerusalem, Jesus sent his followers out as missionaries to the known world. They would testify to the Risen Christ as the Good News of salvation. And the Good News would start the journey home for both Jews and Gentiles.

Jesus gave His followers the Holy Spirit. The breath and command to "Receive the Holy Spirit". As Jesus breathed the Holy Spirit out, the text inferred, his follower would breathe it in, just as Jesus commanded. God's Spirit was a life-giving, and life-taking power. Once the followers breathed in God's Spirit, they shared in the Messiah's power of judgment with the power to declare sins forgiven.

Forgiveness began in the past, continues into the present, and trails off into the indefinite future. In other words, once forgiven, always forgiven. The forgiveness of all sin began with Christ on the cross. The apostles and their successors proclaimed a forgiveness that flows from Christ's death and resurrection; the sinner partook in that forgiveness at the point of repentance, of turning one's life over to God.

Christ continually calls the Church to never ending conversion, just as the Christian life is a constant road back to God. The sacrament is a celebration of God's forgiveness in which the priest represents God and Church to the penitent. The priest proclaims the Good News of divine mercy to the penitent, advises him or her in spiritual counsel, and declares the penitent forgiven. In response, the penitent prays or performs an act of justice that symbolizes an openness of heart to God and neighbor ("penance"). The sacrament harkens back to Baptism (which is the original context for this verse) and, so, derives its power from Baptism. The Sacrament of Penance, then, continues the process of repentance Baptism put into place.

Catechism Themes: Pentecost

With the power of the Spirit revealed at Pentecost, the activity of the Trinity was made known. God the Father sent his Son to share his very life, his very Spirit, with his followers. Now, disciples would carry on the work of the Son. They would celebrate the Spirit in their daily lives as they followed in the footsteps of their Lord.

God calls everyone to repentance, even second chances. Pentecost revealed the power of God's forgiveness, his Spirit. The Spirit of God is personal. The Spirit establishes a link between the believer and the person of the Father through the person of the Son. And the Spirit makes that link personal. It is a link of love, hope, and joy based upon personal forgiveness.

Special Events & Scheduled Pilgrimages at the Basilica:

June - 19, - 4:00 pm. Priest Jubilee Mass – St.Clairstville
Sept. - 24 - 9:30 am. Confirmation – Saint Henry Church
Oct. - 1, - 10:00 am. Espect Life Mass - Bishop
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



No Perpetual Help Devotions This Monday

Because of the Memorial Day holiday, there will not be Perpetual Help Devotions this evening at 6:15 pm. The devotions will be offered next Monday evening at 6:15 pm. Parishioners are encouraged to participate in this devotion celebrated next Monday evening in our Basilica. We ask Our Lady to guide and protect our Basilica, all visitors, and each one of us.

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.

Diocesan Catholic Woman's Convention

The 78th Anniversary DCCW Convention will take place on June 7, 2023 at Holy Family Church in Steubenville. The theme of the convention is "Wherever You Go, I Will Follow." All women of the Diocese are invited to the convention. There will be a Basket Raffle for the benefit of our seminarians.

Deceased priests of the Diocese of Steubenville & the Universal Church



On Thursday, we remember the 33rd anniversary of the death of Fr. Jack Costlow. On Saturday, we remember the 60th anniversary of the death of Saint John XXIII (Pope). We thank God for these priests who served the Church well.

MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND MASSES FOR THE WEEK:

Monday, May 29,

9:00 am. - Cemetery Mass - St. Mary's
11:00 am. - Cemetery Mass - St. Henry's

Tuesday, May 30,

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

Wednesday, May 31,

7:45 am. - Mass
8:20 am. - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
12:05 pm. - Mass
7:00 pm. - Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursday, June 1,

7:45 am. - Mass
12:05 pm. - Mass
1:00 pm. - Basilica tour

Friday, June 2,

7:45 am. - Mass
8:20 am. - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
12:05 pm. - Mass
6:00 pm. - Wedding rehearsal
7:00 pm. - Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday, June 3,

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

Sunday, June 4,

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



friends who are buried in our cemeteries.

MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day is more than just a great excuse for a cookout and a day off from work. The holiday was created to honor the many American men and women who died in military service. The day focuses on those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of our country. We also remember the members of our families and our

Mass will be offered at Saint Mary Cemetery on Memorial Day at 9:00 am., and at Saint Henry Cemetery at 11:00 am. Both of these cemeteries are very beautiful so it is fitting that we have Mass in these two cemeteries to remember all who are buried in them. We also recall all those who have died in the service of our country.



THE BASILICA OF SAINT MARY

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



May 27, 2023

Dear Parishioners,

This weekend. We celebrate Memorial Day. Over 100 years ago, in Columbus, Mississippi, a group of women carried flowers to a small cemetery on the edge of their town, to honor those who had died in the battle of Shiloh. They decorated the graves of both Confederate and Union dead. This gesture became an act of congress that in 1868 was made official by an act of congress; it was called Memorial Day.

Memorial Day each year provides a unique opportunity to pause and reflect, on the heroic sacrifices that have been made by so many men and women in the service of our country. These brave men and women, whose memory we recall, with thanks and prayers, gave their lives or suffered terrible wounds so that we could be free. But through the passing of the years, the wars in which they fought have become distant memories, or mere stories in history books. We need this Memorial Day to remember their ultimate sacrifice, lest we forget!

There are also others we need to remember on this Memorial Day weekend; the first victims of the nuclear age, whose lives were taken on Hiroshima and Nagasaki; those who died in prison camps throughout the world; the six million Jews who were exterminated by Hitler, and the other thousands of Poles and Czechs who we do not hear about -who were exterminated in Dachau, Buchenwald, and Auschwitz because of their Catholic Faith, and their opposition to Communism. We need to remember all those who have died in the senseless violence on the streets of cities and towns in America. We need to remember those innocent victims of September 11th. We need to remember the millions of Americans whose lives have been snuffed out through the atrocity of abortion, and the lives of those who have been sacrificed on the altars of prejudice, hunger, and hatred. We need to remember those whose lives have been destroyed by drugs and alcohol. We need to remember the blood of the martyrs – the countless saints who suffered death for the sake of Jesus Christ and his Church – Catholics who are still being martyred for seeking out the truth in matters of justice – especially bishops, priests, and religious in South American countries and throughout the world..

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. John M. Campbell
(Rector)

LITURGICAL FEASTS THIS WEEK:

Monday, May 29, The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church

The Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments issued a Decree implementing Pope Francis' decision that the Memorial of the 'Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church' be inscribed in the General Roman Calendar and observed on the Monday after Pentecost.

Wednesday, May 31, The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

With hospitality and affection, Elizabeth greeted her cousin Mary, the bearer of the Son of God.

Thursday, June 1, Saint Justin Martyr

Justin died in 165 under Marcus Aurelius. He was a layman and apologist who gave one of the earliest descriptions of the Mass.

Friday, June 2, Saints Marcellinus and Peter (Martyrs)

Marcellinus was a priest, and Peter was an exorcist. Under the order of Diocletian, they were both beheaded in the year 303.

Saturday, June 3, Saint Charles Lwanga and Companions, (Martyrs)

Charles and 21 Ugandan companions from 1885-1887 were martyred. They are the protomartyrs of Black Africa. Over 100 young men were martyred in this period.

France's Catholic clergy to carry ID cards proving they are in good standing

Catholic clergy in France will soon carry a standardized identification card linked to a national database that shows whether they are currently in good standing and can celebrate Mass and hear confessions. It aims to prevent impostors [false priests or deacons] from continuing to act to the detriment of the faithful and the sacraments. Clergy have always carried a document showing they are approved to celebrate Mass, called a "celebret." The document, issued by a bishop or a religious superior, is valid for one year. It shows a priest is authorized to celebrate Mass and to hear confessions. Clergy credentials are to be verified by those who supervise a religious event or gathering, including pilgrimages or Masses. If the ordained minister refuses to present his card, he will not be able to celebrate.

Director of Religious Education – Mrs. Debora Cody

Last week, Mrs. Debora Cody our DRE informed the parish that she could no longer complete her duties as DRE in order for her to help take care of her father who is ill. She and her husband came to Marietta to be near him and assist him in his illness. Because his condition has become more difficult, Deb will be more involved in assisting him. We pray for their family, that God will assist them in their need.

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

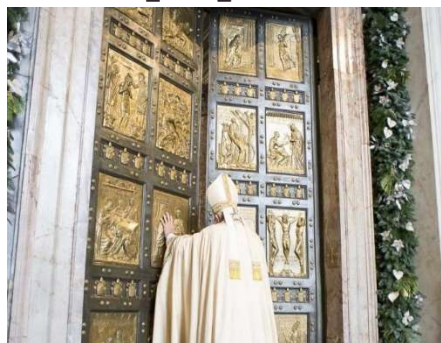
Blaze set at iconic Mexican church; Eucharist stolen from another

The Diocese of Irapuato in the Mexican state of Guanajuato expressed its “profound consternation” over a fire deliberately set at Santiaguito (St. James) Church and called it a “sacrilege.” The fire was set on the exterior by a male person who arrived outside the church at 1:04 a.m. and left at 1:26 a.m.

Silva pointed out that the Church of Santiaguito, whose origins date back to the 17th century, is one of the most important churches in the region. The pastor said that the church was totally damaged by smoke throughout its complex.

In another sacrilege, the Eucharist was stolen from the tabernacle of the Lord of the Harvest chapel, administered by St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in the Progreso neighborhood of the town of Jiutepec, about 60 miles south of Mexico City. The bishop “strongly” urged the faithful to “celebrate the Eucharist in their communities and perform other liturgical and pious acts they deem appropriate in reparation for this unfortunate incident.”

Rome prepares for 35 million pilgrims during 2025 Jubilee Year



The Vatican and the city of Rome are expecting an estimated 35 million people to flock to the Eternal City for the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope — the first ordinary jubilee since the Great Jubilee of 2000. A jubilee is a special holy year of grace and pilgrimage in the Catholic Church. It typically takes place once every 25 years, though the pope can call for extraordinary jubilee years more often, such as in the case of the 2016 Year of Mercy or the 2013 Year of Faith.

A central part of any jubilee are the Holy Doors. These doors, found at St. Peter's Basilica and Rome's other major basilicas, are sealed from the inside and only opened during a jubilee year. In 2016, Catholic dioceses also had their own Holy Doors.

The opening of the Holy Door symbolizes the offering of an “extraordinary path” toward salvation for Catholics during a jubilee. Pilgrims who walk through a Holy Door can receive a plenary indulgence under the usual conditions. Jubilees are planned years in advance, with the 2025 Year of Hope being no exception. The theme was announced in January 2022. Now, the city of Rome is preparing to launch a number of infrastructure projects to make the experience better for pilgrims.

The Vatican said an estimated 20.4 million people attended Year of Mercy events at the Vatican over the course of 2016. For the 2025 Jubilee, Rome has allocated approximately \$2.5 billion to go into 87 public works projects, though this may increase to \$4.3 billion.

The city is planning to improve its public transport and public bathroom facilities, repave roads, build underground parking and pedestrian under passages, and clean up the area around the central Termini train station. The city also worked hard to make the ancient city a little bit more accessible for people in wheelchairs by adding sidewalk ramps and ramps at church entrances.



Feast of Blessed Bishop-Martyr Basil Hopko

Basil Hopko was born on April 21, 1904 in the Rusyn Village of Hrabske near Bardejov, Eastern Slovakia. In 1922 young Basil enrolled into the eparchial seminary in Presov. Following his second year, he was drafted into the army. There he would gather all the Rusyn soldiers together and take them to Sunday services. Upon completing his military service, he completed seminary studies in 1928. He was ordained to the holy priesthood by Bishop Paul P. Gojdich. Fr. Basil served his pastoral assignments faithfully displaying a great love for the poor, workers and Rusyn youth. Foreseeing a political overturn in Czechoslovakia in the autumn of 1946, Bishop Godjich petitioned Rome that Father Hopko serve as his auxiliary bishop. Bishop Hopko was imprisoned and tortured. He became chaplain to the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate who also took care of him. On Friday, July 23, 1976 following a light lunch, and being helped in an easy chair, he gave up his spirit to the Lord whom he loved and faithfully served. Pope St. John Paul II beatified him on September 14, 2003. His Feast Day is May 11.

Praying for Pope Francis



Ten years ago, the 266th Peter walked out for the first time onto the Balcony of Blessing in the center of the façade of St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. He led the crowd in prayer for the recently retired Pope Benedict XVI. Before he gave his first blessing as the new Bishop of Rome, he asked us a "favor." He humbly implored, "I ask you to pray to the Lord, that he will bless me," and he bowed his head in silence, and after several minutes, he said, "Pray for me."

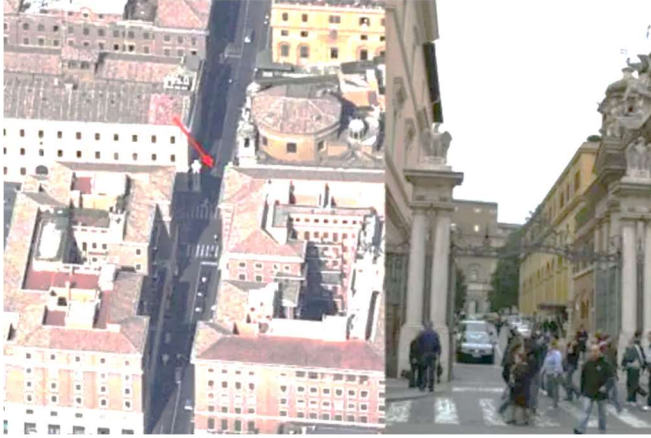
The Church prays for the Pope in every Mass. With 407,000 priests in the world, celebrating daily, Sunday, funeral and nuptial Masses, the Pope likely has 600,000 to 1 million Masses a day offered for him, a prayer meant to bring us into greater communion.

Many people can naively think that the Pope doesn't need prayers. Devout prayers for the popes began to increase in regularity and intensity two centuries ago, when Napoleon kidnapped Pope Pius VI in 1798 and brought him to live and ultimately die in Valence, France, preventing his body from being buried for five months or returned to the Vatican for more than two years.

Many people are tempted to view the pope less as a spiritual figure than as the civil monarch of the Papal States. But when the Pope was seized, maltreated and imprisoned by a dictator, Catholics throughout the globe began to pray for his safety, health, release and intentions.

To pray for the pope implies a recognition that the pope, like everyone, needs them, and with his responsibilities very likely needs them more, since Satan continuously seeks to sift the pope like wheat. In every papacy, there are some who are better at complaining about the pope than praying for him. It's a good practice to challenge those who criticize the pope whether they pray for him as much as they protest. Prayers aren't supposed to come just from cheerleaders, but from every loyal spiritual son and daughter. Prayers for the Pope can ask God to give him the wise and understanding heart, so that he might govern God's people wisely.

Guard opens fire as man drives car into Vatican; suspect in custody



An unidentified man is in custody after driving a car at high speed through a gate at the Vatican Thursday, the Holy See press office said.

A guard stationed at the Santa Anna entrance fired his weapon in the direction of the vehicle's front tires, hitting the left front fender, but the vehicle proceeded onto the Vatican grounds until the driver got out at the San Damaso Courtyard, the main courtyard of the Apostolic Palace, the press

office said. There the man was blocked and placed under arrest by the Gendarmerie Corps, the press office said.

The incident happened after 8 p.m. at one of the main entrances to Vatican City by car. It is located north of St. Peter's Square and next to the Swiss Guard barracks. The press office said the man initially approached the entrance in his vehicle and was turned away because he lacked the proper authorization.

"Regardless of the indications provided to him by the Pontifical Swiss Guard, which prevented him from entering the State without the relative authorizations, he temporarily left the entrance and, after having maneuvered, returned at high speed, forcing the two control gates, of the Swiss Guard and of the Gendarmerie of the Vatican City State," the press office said.

"The man, aged about 40, was immediately subjected to a visit by the doctors of the Directorate of Health and Hygiene of the Vatican City State, who found a serious state of psychophysical alteration," the statement said.

"Currently the person is in a prison cell in the new premises of the Gendarmerie Barracks, at the disposal of the Judicial Authority," the statement added.

Blessing of the statue of Mary at school

Last Tuesday, the 100-year-old statue of Mary was blessed at our St. Mary. The image of Mary was produced by the Rohn Company of Pittsburgh. The statue is a wonderful addition to our Basilica parish property, and it is fitting that we have this statue of Mary at our school. It is a fitting profession of our Faith.

