

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



July 2, 2023

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Sat	5:30 PM - Nancy Spear
Sun	8:00 AM - Liv/dec'd of the Frank & Jennifer Zide Family
	10:00 AM - Carol Sarver
	12:00 PM - People of the Parish
Mon	7:45 AM - Special Intention of the Stapleton Family
	12:05 PM - Mary Lang Huck
	Independence Day
Tue	9:00AM - John Schoeppner, 7 th Anniversary
Wed	7:45 AM - Liv/dec'd of the Rick & Shelly Medley Family
	12:05 PM - Dr. Jesse Ada
Thu	7:45 AM - Liv/dec'd of the Francis & Mary Strahler Family
	12:05 PM - Liv/dec'd of the Paul & Dorothy Rauch Family
Fri	7:45 AM - Mary Lou Wesel, 30 th Anniversary
	12:05 PM - Link Milsark
Sat	9:00 AM - Dale Gerken
	5:30 PM - Jim & Karen Amrine, 50 th Wedding Anniversary
Sun	8:00 AM - Francis & Mildred Noll
	10:00 AM - Liv/dec'd of the Paul & Jeanne Offenberger Family
	12:00 PM - William Grosel

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@diosteub.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

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation; announce the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY.

Zec 9:9-10; Rom 8:9,11-13; Mt 11:25-30.

INDEPENDENCE DAY:

There will be one Mass on Tuesday, July 4th, at 9:00 AM. The parish offices will be closed on Tuesday in celebration of Independence Day,

REST IN PEACE:

Roger Waterman, brother of Ray Waterman of this parish, passed away recently. We offer our condolences to Ray and his family and will remember Roger in prayer. May he rest in peace.

Robert Crum, brother of Lloyd Crum, died June 15th. He was from Caldwell, Ohio. We will ask God to grant Robert eternal peace and happiness and in heaven, his eternal home. We extend our deepest sympathy to Lloyd and the Crum Family.

CONGRATULATIONS TO RECENTLY BAPTIZED:

Fiadh Heightland.

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			Coffee and Donuts after the 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM Masses, in the Social Hall.
MON	6:15 PM	-	Our Lady of Perpetual Help Devotions. (See announcement)
WED	8:20 AM	-	7:00 PM – Eucharistic Adoration in the Chapel of the English Martyrs.
	6:00 PM	-	Catholic Woman's Club Meeting in the Basilica Social Hall.
THU	8:30 AM	-	Cleaning the Basilica. See Announcement.
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: \$ 12,635.00

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 we have a collection for the maintenance of our Basilica. This collection will be taken up at all Masses this weekend, July 1 & 2.

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.

SCHEDULING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Please check with the parish office before scheduling a meeting in the Basilica Social Hall, Conference Room, library, or using the Basilica Kitchen. All meetings and events must be put in the master book in the parish office.

NEW ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBER?

If you have recently moved, please call the parish office to give us the new address. Also, if you are just using a cell phone number, please let us know.

SAINT MARY SCHOOL NEWS

St. Mary Catholic School summer office hours are in effect. The school office is open on Wednesday's from 10:00AM – 2:00PM. The office will be closed the week of the 4th of July.

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 Deadline to apply is July 14, 2023.

St. Mary Catholic School has the following job opportunities available for the 2023-2024 school year:

Talented and Gifted Teacher (part time)
Technology Teacher (part time)
Middle School Social Studies Teacher (part time)
Director of Religious Education (Full time between School and Basilica)

More information about each job can be found on the school website at stmarys.k12.oh.us and by emailing Principal Elizabeth Tokodi at elizabethtokodi@stmaryscatholic.org

DONUT SUNDAY

The first Sunday of every month is Donut Sunday in our parish. Please join us in the Basilica Social Hall after the 8:00 AM or 10:00 AM Mass this Sunday, July 2nd to enjoy fellowship and coffee and donuts. These Sundays are a great opportunity to spend time with fellow parishioners. Hope to see you there!

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bulletin announcements must be in by Noon on Wednesday in order to be included in the following weekend's bulletin. All announcements must be in writing. We are not able to take announcements by phone. Thank you for your cooperation.

PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY

Join Father Tom Nelson on a Pilgrimage to Italy, January 1-12, 2024. Stops include Assisi, Norcia, Cascia, Loreto, Lanciano, 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.

FREE HELP FOR PARISHIONERS

If you need a ride to and from Mass, a doctor's appointment, or need help with errands, like picking up groceries. etc., please call or text Anne-Marie at 609-471-5294. Twenty-four hours' notice is appreciated, but not necessary.

SERVICE MEN

Please pray for all of the young men & women who are serving our country in the Military. We especially remember those from our own Parish & friends & relatives of our parishioners. May God watch over them & keep them safe.

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 \$97,161.00 from our parish. This means that our parish has only met 84% 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.

This is My Body

Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is my body". He took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them saying, "Drink of it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sin". **Matthew 26:26-28**

In his book, Bishop Barron offers a threefold analysis of the Eucharist as sacred meal, sacrifice, and Real Presence, helping readers to understand the sacrament of Jesus' Body and Blood more thoroughly so that they might fall in love with him more completely.

A complimentary copy is available at the basilica side entrances (one copy per family). Discover the profound truth flowing out of Jesus' words at the Last Supper.

TRAVEL TO ENGLAND WITH FATHER TIMOTHY HUFFMAN

May 17-26, 2024

Book Now: www.proximotravel.com.

ALTAR FLOWERS

This weekend, the roses and flowers for the altar are in honor of our troops. May God watch over them and bring them safely home. If you would like to request altar flowers for a particular weekend, in honor of or in memory of someone, please call the parish office to reserve the date. You should contact the florist of your choice to arrange for delivery.

PARISH LIBRARY

Our parish library is accessible from the Basilica Social Hall. It is always open and ready for use. Our library is a wonderful resource to learn more about the Catholic faith, or to feed your souls with prayers, reflections and devotions.

HOLY FATHER COLLECTION

The Annual Holy Father Collection will be taken up at all Masses this weekend, July 1 & 2. Envelopes were provided with your packet and contributions should be put in the regular collection. Please be generous in this special collection for the Holy Father.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEKEND OF July 8 & 9, 2023

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Lectors

Altar Servers

Sat: Amy Brockett (CAPT)
5:30 Greg Black (HOST)
Sheri Black (HOST)
Jean Tornes (CHALICE)
Sandy George (CHALICE)

Teri Ann Pfeffer

Drew Heiss
Gavin Kunz
Liam Long

Sun: Suzanne Baker (CAPT)
8:00 Sharon Loken (swap req)
Babs Douglass (HOST)
David Baker (CHALICE)
John Douglass (CHALICE)

Dave Cech

Charles Kremer (swap req)
Ron Wesel
Kenny Offenberger
Greg Dickson

10:00 Gerald Cooke (CAPT)
Sherry Payne (HOST)
Deacon Lee (HOST)
Cheyenne Greenwood (CHALICE)
Kaelly Erb (CHALICE)

Tim Williams

Henry Corcoran
Jonah Corcoran
Nico Marasco
Valentina Marasco
Grant Palmer

12:00 Jeanette Flowers (CAPT)
Dennis Nau (HOST)
Karen Schramm (HOST)
Stan Vanlandingham (CHALICE)
Joe Schmidt (CHALICE)

Lisa Taylor

Alexis Wescott
Olivia Wescott
Taylor Wescott

Sat., July 8 – Not Filled



THIRTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR JULY 2, 2023

Jesus said to the followers he sent out: "Whoever loves his father or mother more than Me is not worthy to be My follower. Whoever loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy to be My follower.

Whoever does not carry his cross and follow Me is not worthy to be My follower. Whoever finds his life only in this world will lose it. But whoever loses his life in this world because of Me will truly find it.

Whoever welcomes you, welcomes me. And whoever welcomes me, welcomes God, the One whose sent me. 0Whoever welcomes someone because they are God's messenger will receive the gift God gives his messengers. Whoever welcomes someone because he is good will receive the gift God gives good people. Whoever gives a drink of cold water to anyone because he is My follower will not lose the gift God offers him."

In Matthew's gospel, Jesus presented two themes: the priority of faith and the virtue of hospitality. Jesus stressed the sense of authentic self, the inner place of character and values. The priority of faith demanded radical consequences for early Christians. Since extended, closely-knit families formed the basis of ancient society, a choice for Christ could mean a rejection of the family's faith and values. And, ultimately, excommunication by the family. Outside of one's extended family, a person could easily slide into homelessness.

Jesus reminded his followers that the Christian life involved such risks (a cross to carry in 10:38). And one could not compromise these risks away. A believer could not placate his or her family if the cost threatened faith. No, faith could involve an extreme choice. Either the relationship with family took priority ("...finding life in this world") or the relationship with Jesus took the number one slot.

What happened if the follower suffered the worst from his or her declaration for Christ? Fellow Christians would create a new extended family. Here, Christ stressed hospitality. Whoever welcomed the Christian, welcomed Christ and his Father. Whoever welcomed those who lived the consequences of radical choice (the traveling missionary and the "good" person who lived God's will), received the same gift of grace God gave to those in ministry. Even in the smallest kindness, God rewarded the minister and the host equally. Jesus, then, took a popular virtue and turned it into a ministry on par with the missionary.

Faith demands great risks. But it gives great rewards. One could lose his or her family, but the person gains so much more in return.

DEATH OF MSGR. JERRY CALOVINI

Msgr. Jerry Calovini, pastor of Holy Family Parish I Steubenville, died last Saturday evening, just two days before his birthday. We pray for the repose of his soul, and ask the Risen Lord to receive him into the Liturgy of heaven.

Special Events & Scheduled Pilgrimages at the Basilica:

July - 24 - 7:00 pm. RCIA Inquiry Session
Aug. - 6 - 4:00 pm. St. Henry Parish Picnic
Sept. - 24 - 9:30 am. Confirmation – Saint Henry Church
Oct. - 1, - 10:00 am. Respect 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



Perpetual Help Devotions This Monday

Perpetual Help Devotions will be celebrated this Monday evening at 6:15 pm. Parishioners are encouraged to participate in this devotion celebrated every 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 this week in our Basilica's Chapel of the English Martyrs - on Wednesday and Friday from 8:15 am. until 7:00 pm. Jesus remains in the Blessed Sacrament to refresh and love us. Why not come for a visit and sit in His presence?



Deceased priests & deacons of the Diocese

On Wednesday, we remember the 45th anniversary of the death of Fr. Ashley Pettis.

FEASTS THIS WEEK

Monday, July 3, Saint Thomas (Apostle)

Thomas gave way to faith when he saw the Risen Lord. He is associated with the founding of the Church in India.

Wednesday, July 5, Saint Anthony Zaccaria (Priest)

Anthony was a popular preacher who founded the Clerics Regular of Saint Paul in 1530. Today they number 345.

Thursday, July 6, Saint Maria Goretti (Virgin & Martyr)

Maria died in 1902 at the age of 12. She was stabbed to death, preferring to die rather than be raped. Her mother was present in 1950 at her canonization.

MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND MASSES FOR THE WEEK:

Monday, July 3,

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

Tuesday, July 4,

9:00 am. - Mass

Wednesday, July 5,

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, July 6,

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

Friday, July 7,

7:45 am. - Mass
8:20 am. - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
10:00 am. - Mass at Glenwood
12:05 pm. - Mass
7:00 pm. - Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday, July 8,

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

Sunday, July 9,

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

Germany: Pectoral Cross That Benedict XVI Gave to a Parish in Traunstein Is Stolen



On Monday, June 19, thieves stole the pectoral cross that Benedict XVI gave a church in Traunstein. According to the local press, quoting the Criminal Police Office of the state of Bavaria (LKA), the thieves broke a cabinet built into the wall where the cross was displayed. A spokesman of the Police said that "We cannot rule out that it was a directed act. The theft was noticed on Monday and the LKA took charge of the investigation." The robbery would have occurred in broad daylight, between 11:45 in the

morning and 5:00 in the afternoon.

The readings of today are all about life and welcome, and the relationship between the two. As a result of welcoming Elisha, the holy man of God, the woman of Shunem is given the gift of a child. As a result of welcoming Christ, the Holy One of God, we are all given the new life of which the second reading speaks. These readings have immediate application to the theme of welcoming the representatives of God who come preaching his word. Yet the theme of welcome extends likewise to every human being. Christ is the one who welcomes us into the life he shares with the Father, and therefore the only appropriate response for us -- as individuals and as a community -- is to extend welcome to all whom Christ welcomes, that is, to every human life. It would be a contradiction to accept the welcome of Christ but to reject another human life.



THE BASILICA OF SAINT MARY

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



July 2, 2023

Dear Parishioners,

Many people in our nation claim to believe in God. Many would classify themselves as Christians. Before the virus, attendance at weekly Mass was better in America than in any other Countries of the world; yet our religious values do not seem to affect the life of our society. We have the worst sex and violence rate, the worst substance abuse rate of any other country in the world, and there are more murders in one average American city then in all of the most countries.

Why is this the case? Could it be because we Catholics and other Christians wring our hands and keep our mouths closed. We are intimidated by the world – a world which denies the reality of sin and evil. We allow evil to triumph, and we fall for the rhetoric of those who say that everyone must be free to do whatever he or she wants to do – regardless of the consequences.

Today's Mass speaks to us about social silence and its effect on the world in which we live. Our first readings comes from the Prophet Jeremiah who was called to be a prophet when the nation of Israel had become so corrupt that nothing cold be done to reform it.

Jeremiah didn't want to be prophet. He wanted to sit on the side lines, and be silent and indifferent. He wanted to be un-involved. He was afraid, so he tried to talk his way out of his vocation – his call from God. Ultimately, he accepted his role and began to speak out against sin and corruption, and called his people to religious and moral change. Because of his message, Jeremiah was treated as an outcast and was taken to consecration camps in Babylon.

In the second reading, Saint Paul speaks of Original Sin, and the sin that has entered into the world. He exhorts us to speak up for the truth - even though we might be ridiculed.

In today's Gospel, we reminded not to trust in the false, empty, hopes and promises that the world offers. The liturgy today encourages us to be strong and not intimidated by the world or anybody in it. We can change the world and make it a batter place, but action is necessary to make this possible. The question is "are we willing to make the necessary change?"

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. John M. Campbell

Relic of St. Thomas More Faces Destruction – Unless Anglican Church Opens Vault



CANTERBURY, England — The need to properly preserve the remains of St. Thomas More's head and to be able to properly venerate the first-class relic has taken on an added urgency as it continues to deteriorate in an underground vault in an Anglican church in Canterbury. Ever since St. Thomas' devoted daughter Margaret Roper daringly rescued her martyred father's head from London Bridge in 1535 and had it buried with her in their family vault, the relic has rested under a side chapel of St. Dunstan's Church, which was once Catholic but has belonged to the Anglican church since the Reformation. The relic has always been hidden from view, covered and sealed by a memorial floor plaque.

Two openings of the vault, in 1978 and in 1997, revealed that the condition of St. Thomas' head had considerably deteriorated, first due to suspected vandalism in the 19th century, but also by being exposed to damp air and not being hermetically sealed.

St. Thomas More was famously beheaded for treason by King Henry VIII on July 6, 1535, owing to his refusal to take the Oath of Supremacy and swear allegiance to the monarch as the Supreme Governor of the Church of England. The oath formalized Henry's break with Rome.

Pope Pius described More and fellow martyr St. John Fisher, who shares his memorial day, as "bright champions and the glory of their nation," and recalled how, when St. Thomas saw how "the doctrines of the Church were gravely endangered," he renounced high office and other temptations and sacrificed his life "in witness to the unity of the Church."

St. Thomas More is a sign to us that the Truth never changes. It doesn't matter how many people are in favor of a lie, it doesn't make it the Truth. That is a tremendous witness for us.

Pope Francis advances the sainthood cause of Fatima's Sister Lucia



Pope Francis has advanced the sainthood cause of Sister Lucia dos Santos, the eldest child to witness the Fatima apparitions. In a decree signed on June 22, the pope recognized Lucia's heroic virtue and declared her "venerable." The Church will now need to approve a miracle attributed to her intercession before she can be beatified.

Pope Francis already canonized the two other Fatima visionaries, Jacinta and Francisco Marto, in 2017. The two shepherd children, who died at 10 and 11 respectively, are the youngest non-martyr saints in the Church's history.

Lucia, who was 10 years old at the time of the 1917 Marian apparitions, outlived the other visionaries by decades, surviving until age 97. She spent the final 50 years of her life in a Carmelite convent in Coimbra, Portugal. As the only Fatima visionary who spoke with the Virgin Mary during the series of apparitions, her written memoirs have provided an important account of the Fatima message. Lucia's canonization cause opened in 2008, three years after her death, after Benedict XVI granted a dispensation for the usually required five-year waiting period. More than 15,000 letters, testimonies, and other documents were collected during the diocesan phase of her cause, which concluded in 2017.

Pope Francis is planning to visit Fatima this summer when he travels to Portugal for World Youth Day. The pope will spend the morning of Aug. 5 at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima.

Mother Mary Lange, founder of first African American religious congregation, declared venerable

Pope Francis has advanced the sainthood cause of Mother Mary Elizabeth Lange, a Black religious sister who founded the country's first African American religious congregation in Baltimore in 1829. The recognition of her cause from servant of God to venerable was announced by the Vatican in a decree signed on June 22. The Church will now need to approve a miracle attributed to her intercession before she can be beatified.

Elizabeth Lange, as she was named, immigrated to the United States from Cuba in the early 1800s. Recognizing the lack of education for the children of her fellow Black immigrants, with a friend she established St. Frances Academy in her own home and with her own money to offer free schooling to Baltimore's African American children. With the support of Baltimore Archbishop James Whitfield, she founded a school for "girls of color" and then the Oblate Sisters of Providence, the first religious community for women of African descent.

400-year-old church emerges from the waters in Mexico



Due to an intense heat wave and drought that has spread in various parts of Mexico, a more than 400-year-old Catholic church has completely emerged from the waters in the state of Chiapas. The church of the disappeared town of San Juan Quechula, dedicated to the apostle James the Greater and built by Dominican friars who evangelized the region headed by friar Bartolomé de las Casas in the 16th century, was flooded in 1966 with the construction of a hydroelectric dam, also known as the Malpaso Dam.

In recent years, the upper part of the church had remained visible and tourists could approach it using boats. However, this year's drought has allowed the centuries-old Catholic church to be visible in its entirety.

It is estimated that the church was built between 1564 and 1606, although "it was abandoned in 1776 due to a series of plagues that affected the surrounding communities. In the last two months due to the lack of rain in our region. In the current heat season, which according to Mexican authorities extends from March 19 to October of this year, close to 500 people have been affected, with ailments ranging from a sudden increase in body temperature to loss of consciousness. In addition, eight deaths have been reported due to the excessive heat.

Religious persecution threatens 5 billion people, report finds

In its annual report on Religious Freedom in the World, Aid to the Church in Need, an international Catholic charity serving the persecuted Church, reports violations of religious freedom in 61 countries, affecting nearly 5 billion people. The ACN report classified 28 countries as dangerous and persecuted.



TUESDAY IS THE FOURTH OF JULY

Tuesday is the Fourth of July, celebrating our Declaration of Independence, and the document upon which the nation's founding principles were established. But July 4 wasn't the day that independence was declared. Nor the day that the Declaration was officially signed.

What this holiday commemorates is the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, by delegates from the 13 colonies. On the 4th, the Continental Congress approved the final wording of the Declaration of Independence. This is the day we celebrate the birth of the United States of America.

April 19, 1775 was the start of the American Revolution. During the Battles of Lexington and Concord (Mass.), the first shots were fired between colonists and British troops. After these first military conflicts, tension between Britain and her American colonists continued to mount.

On July 2, 1776, the Second Continental Congress voted for independence from Britain. Two days later, on July 4, 1776, the Congress approved the final draft of the Declaration of Independence, which had been drafted by Thomas Jefferson (back in June) and edited by John Adams and Benjamin Franklin. On July 8, the first public reading of the Declaration took place at the Pennsylvania State House (now Independence Hall) in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It wasn't until August 2, 1776, that the Declaration was officially signed. John Hancock, president of the Congress, was the first of 56 delegates who signed this enlarged version, writing in big, bold letters. On August 4, 1776, after delegates of the Continental Congress had signed the document, the Declaration of Independence was made official.

John Adams envisioned the celebration to be one filled with fun, games, and fireworks—not an occasion for displaying military strength as one might expect! On July 3, 1776, he wrote these words to his wife Abigail, describing the way that he hoped future Americans would celebrate their independence. Have a great celebration with family and friends!



“Place all your trust in the heart of Jesus...Never abandon your faith and renew it always. Faith has never abandoned any man, and far less so will it forsake a soul that yearns to love God.”

—St. Padre Pio

[Pope to American Catholics: The Eucharist Isn't a Symbol, It's the Real Presence of Christ Among Us](#)