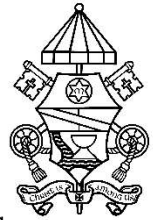


The Basilica of Saint Mary of the Assumption

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



August 06, 2023

The Transfiguration of the Lord

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Sat	5:30 PM - Preston John Huck
Sun	8:00 AM - Richard Crum
	10:00 AM - Tim Strahler
	12:00 PM - People of the Parish
Mon	7:45 AM - David Erb
	12:05 PM - Claude M. Daniels
Tue	7:45 AM - Carolyn Sue Powell, 24 th Anniversary
	12:05 PM - Mark Erb
Wed	7:45 AM - Edgar Walters
	12:05 PM - Ethel Rose Schoeppner
Thu	7:45 AM - Nick & Anna Medley, 9 th Wedding Anniversary
	12:05 PM - Deb Lang, 2 nd Anniversary
Fri	7:45 AM - Robert Lee Stollar
	12:05 PM - Maxine Best, 4 th Anniversary
Sat	9:00 AM - Mark Bradley
	5:30 PM - Kenneth Heiss
Sun	8:00 AM - People of the Parish
	10:00 AM - Bob & Catherine Dickson, 67 th Wedding Anniversary
	12:00 PM - Leo Antons

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

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased: listen to him.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY:

1 Kgs 19:9a,11-13a; Rom 8:1-5; Mt 14-22-33.

CONGRATULATIONS TO NEWLY BAPTIZED:

Archer Paul Gates Bertram and Arrow Marylee Jay Bertram.

REST IN PEACE:

Cindy Kay Heiss Bosner passed away July 19th. We extend our sympathy to her sister Teresa (Pat) Huck of this parish. Cindy's Funeral Mass was celebrated here this past Thursday morning. May God grant her eternal peace and happiness.

THIS WEEKEND'S ALTAR FLOWERS:

This weekend, the altar flowers are for the Ken and Julia Strahler family. 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 contact the florist of your choice to arrange for delivery.

VISITORS WELCOME! We welcome any visitors who are joining us for Mass this weekend. We hope your stay in Marietta is enjoyable. Any new parishioners at the Basilica are asked to please register with the parish office.

PARISH OFFICES are open from 1:00 PM until 4:00 PM on Mondays and from 9:00 AM until 4:00 PM Tuesday through Friday, with a lunch break from Noon until 1:00 PM each day.

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

MON	6:15 PM	-	Our Lady of Perpetual Help Devotions. (See announcement)
	7:00 PM	-	St. Vincent dePaul Society Meeting in the Conference Room.
WED	8:20 AM	-	7:00 PM – Eucharistic Adoration in the Chapel of the English Martyrs.
	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: \$ 13,875.50

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

God bless those who support our Basilica Parish!

SECOND COLLECTION

On the first weekend of each month there is a second collection for the maintenance of our Basilica. This collection will be taken up at all Masses this weekend, August 5th and 6th.

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.

K OF C ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

The K of C Annual Golf Outing is scheduled for August 13th, 2023, at Lakeside Golf Course in Beverly, OH. Registration starts at 7:30 AM. All members and guests T-off at 8:30 AM.

Members and their guests are invited to play in the 18-hole scramble and enjoy a luncheon. One Marietta K of C Member playing in each foursome will be required so please get your teams together now. Please contact Kenny Offenberger, 740-350-4967 or Pete Saliba, 304-494-6170.

SAINT MARY SCHOOL NEWS

St. Mary Catholic School 2nd grade teacher Job Posting: St. Mary Catholic School is seeking a second 2nd grade teacher due to enrollment numbers and needing to split the current class. The applicant should have an Ohio teaching certificate and a bachelor's degree from an Accredited college or university and teaching experience. For additional information, telephone the school office (740)374-8181, or email resume, three references, copy of teaching certificate, and college transcript to Ms. Elizabeth Tokodi, Principal at elizabethtokodi@stmaryscatholic.org

Back to school grounds clean-up is scheduled for Wednesday, August 23rd from 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM. Bring gloves and rakes to help clean and spread mulch in conjunction with our Partner in Education Greenleaf Landscapes. Rain date is scheduled for Thursday, August 24th.

Open House Monday, August 28th 5:00 - 7:00 PM.

Meet your teachers, see the classrooms, visit with school organizations, enjoy a cookout courtesy of the Irish Booster Organization and visit the Ice Cream Truck! Classes begin on Wednesday, August 30th.

Exciting News! The State of Ohio has increased the income qualifications for education in private schools. These amounts could cover 100% of tuition at St. Mary Catholic School. To learn more, email elizabethtokodi@stmaryscatholic.org. To schedule a tour of St. Mary Catholic School, please email Mrs. Bradley at tammibradley@stmaryscatholic.org

Congratulations to 2018 St. Mary Catholic alumni Abby Anderson and Ella Keffer who were the recipients of the Irish Booster Scholarships. Ella will be a Sophomore at Wheeling University where she plays on the golf team and is majoring in Exercise Science and Athletic training. Abby is a Sophomore attending the University of Charleston and is studying exercise science and runs track.

Congratulations to our alumni!

RCIA INQUIRY SESSION

Interested in learning more about the Catholic Church? Do you know someone who is interested in receiving the sacraments to join the church? Wednesday, August 16th at 7:00 PM there will be a gathering for anyone interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith and the practices of the Catholic Church. These sessions are open to anyone who would like more information about the church teachings and the RCIA program.

If you are a member of St. Mary Church and know of someone who is curious about the church or who might need to be confirmed, please invite them and come along to the session. Everyone is welcome!

DAILY BREAD KITCHEN

Each month since January 2023 The Daily Bread Kitchen has provided 300 meals weekly to those in need in our community. Expenses have been commensurate with increased numbers and rising costs of food and supplies.

Once again, we are asking for your prayers and support. Please place your donation in an envelope marked "DBK" and put it in the collection basket. Thank you and God bless you.

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, August 6th, to enjoy fellowship and donuts/coffee. These Sundays are great opportunities to spend time with fellow parishioners. Hope to see you next Sunday!

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

CCD CLASSES

CCD Classes will resume on Sunday mornings in the Basilica Social Hall from 8:45 AM to 9:45 AM, beginning Sunday, September 10. Children entering grades K-8 are eligible to attend. **Registration for classes will take place after all Masses next weekend, August 12th & 13th and the following weekend August 19 & 20 in the Basilica Social Hall.** Online registration via the parish website will also be available.

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 \$102,414.00 from our parish. This means that our parish has met 89% 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 online at www.Give.DioStaub.org.

BASILICA BOOK CLUB

AUGUST BOOK: Beneath A. Golden Veil: Melanie Dobson.

As elegant as the Sacramento residence she operates, Isabelle Labrie keeps her past concealed, like the treasure she hides under the Golden Hotel. It's 1853, the heyday of the California Gold Rush. Isabelle is full of hope, staking her claim on the city's refined clientele and her future on a sweetheart's promise to marry her when he returns from the gold fields. Then, unexpected guests-fugitive slaves seeking passage to the North – force her to confront her past and reconsider her path.

While Isabelle leans to trust God's provision, a law student in Virginia must confront his father's cruelty and rescue a young slave from his father's tobacco plantation. As the two escape to freedom. And Isabelle risks everything to harbor runaway slaves, the past and the present are set on an inevitable collision course – one that reveals hidden treasures of the heart. The August meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 23rd at 6:00 PM in the Social Hall.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEKEND OF Aug 12 & 13

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Lectors

Altar Servers

Sat: 5:30	Missy Deskins (CAPT) Jennifer Schenkel (HOST) Elizabeth Tokodi (HOST) Irene Cain (CHALICE) Karen Schramm (CHALICE) (sub req.)	Don Murray	Matthew Grueneberg (swap req.) Mary Tokodi Ruth Not filled
Sun: 8:00	Evelyn Potter (CAPT) (swap req.) Carol Antill (HOST) Marcia McCabe (HOST) Sharon Loken (CHALICE) Jean Tornes (CHALICE)	Shelly Medley	David Baker Suzanne Baker Kenny Offenberger Greg Dickson
10:00	Ken Masselli (CAPT) Cathy Harper (HOST) John Towner (HOST) Pat Dickinson (CHALICE) Gary Pitt (CHALICE)	Tom Hushion	Matthew Cunningham Kenzi Cunningham Carson Cunningham Griffin Erb
12:00	Joe Schmidt (CAPT) Stan Vanlandingham (HOST) Sandy Bickert (HOST) Lisa Taylor (CHALICE) Jeanette Flowers (CHALICE)	Mary Ellen Evans	Evan Huffman Grant Huffman Christopher Isaly

Daily Servers- Not Filled

SERVERS TRAINING: There will be servers training at 1:00 PM, (following the Noon Mass) on Sunday, August 6th and Sunday September 30th. This training is for students in grades 3-9. Anyone not able to attend but interested in serving, please email marytokodiruth@gmail.com.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS: Bulletin announcements must be in by Noon Wednesday in order to be included in the following weekend's bulletin. All announcements must be in writing. We are not able to take bulletin announcements by phone.

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 bring them safely home.



THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

AUGUST 6, 2023

Peter declared Jesus was the Messiah. Six days later, Jesus led Peter, James, and James' brother John up a mountain, so they could be alone. There, Jesus changed right in front of them. His face shined like the sun. And his clothes were as white as sunlight. Suddenly, the three followers saw Moses and Elijah talking with Jesus. Peter spoke up, "Lord! We're lucky to be here! If you want, I'll pitch three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

While Peter was speaking, suddenly a light-filled cloud covered them. Just as suddenly, a voice spoke from the cloud, "This is the Son I love. He pleases me. Listen to him." When they heard the voice, the three followers were so afraid, they fell down and put their faces on the ground. Jesus came up and touched them. "Don't be afraid. Get up!" Jesus said. When they looked up, they didn't see anyone else but Jesus. As they climbed down the mountain, Jesus gave them an order. "Don't tell anyone what you saw until God raises the Son of Man from the dead."

"Bright cloud" signified the presence of God. In Matthew's gospel, the mountain symbolized key moments in the life of Jesus. Jesus was tempted on a mountain (Matt. 4:1-11). He proclaimed the core of his teaching (the Beatitudes sermon) from a mount (Matt. 5:1-7:29). He prayed to the Father on high mountains (Matt. 14:23). He was betrayed by Judas on a mount (Matt. 26:30-56). A key moment on the mountain would change his relationship with these men.

Jesus' face showed his disciples who the Father really was. The words Jesus spoke were the words of the Father. The love shown in the face of Jesus revealed the Father's love. Jesus and the Father were one because Jesus was truly the Father's Son. The voice from heaven affirmed Jesus as the revelation of the Father when it said: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him."

Not only did the appearance of Jesus reveal who the Father was. The God of Israel was acting in the events of history. He differed from the gods of the pagans. The moment of transfiguration summed up all that God had done with the appearance of Moses (who represented the Jewish Law) and Elijah (who represented the prophets). The Law and the prophets" were code words for the Hebrew bible, Moses the Law-giver and Elijah the Prophet were living, breathing Scripture. Because Jesus stood with the two men, he stood at the core of the Bible's revelation. All of Scripture focused upon Jesus. The Transfiguration revealed Jesus as God's chosen, the Messiah.

The disciples fell prostrate when the shining cloud overshadowed them and the heavenly voice boomed like thunder. Living in semi-arid conditions, the Israelites needed the life-giving rain clouds brought. So, clouds represented the creative and powerful presence of God. Now a voice from the cloud identified Jesus as the Father's Son and commanded the disciples to hear him. The disciples could now find God's word, indeed His very presence.



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?

LITURGICAL FEASTS THIS WEEK

Monday, August 7, Saint Sixtus II (Pope)

Sixtus and four deacons were arrested on August 6, 258 while celebrating the Eucharist in the cemetery of Callistus by order of Valerian. They were decapitated on the same day.

Tuesday, August 8, Saint Dominic (Priest)

Dominic was born in Spain. He founded the Order of Preachers, today numbering 5,650 religious. The Order is devoted to study and preaching. He died in 1221.

Wednesday, August 9, Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross. (Virgin & martyr)

Edith Stein was born in Germany in 1891. She studied philosophy. In 1933, she joined the Carmelite Community. She was arrested in 1942 and was sent to Auschwitz where she was exterminated. she was a great opponent of Arianism, and she died in 317.

Thursday, August 10, Saint Lawrence (Deacon & Martyr)

Lawrence was a deacon who cared for the temporal welfare of the Roman Church. Four days after four other deacons and Pope Sixtus II were killed. He was burned alive on a gridiron in 258.

Friday, August 11, Saint Clare (Virgin)

Clare of Assisi was a disciple of St. Francis. She founded the Poor Clares, and was the abbess for forty-two years.

Saturday, August 12, Saint Jane Frances de Chantal (Religious)

Jane was the wife of Baron de Chantal, and the mother of six children. As a widow, she founded the Visitation nuns, and established 85 monasteries before her death in 1641.

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

Pope Francis' prayer intention for August 2023

Pope Francis' prayer intention for the month of August is for World Youth Day (WYD). "Let us pray that the World Youth Day in Lisbon will help the young people to set out on the journey, witnessing to the Gospel with our own lives."



Deceased Priests & Deacons of the Diocese

On Tuesday, we remember the 53rd anniversary of the death of Fr. Francis Schutz. On Friday, we remember the 27th anniversary of the death of Fr. Michael Helmer. On Saturday, we remember the 56th anniversary of the death of Fr. John Priest, the 54th anniversary of the death of Fr. Anthony Nickel, and the 25th anniversary of the death of Fr. Francis McCarthy. May these five priests who served our Diocese, rest forever in peace.

MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND MASSES FOR THE WEEK:

Monday, August 7,

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

Tuesday, August 8,

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

Wednesday, August 9,

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, August 10,

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

Friday, August 11,

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

Saturday, August 12,

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

Sunday, August 13,

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

SPECIAL EVENTS AND PILGRIMAGES TO THE BASILICA

Aug. - 16 - 7:00 pm. Inquiry Session
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



THE BASILICA OF SAINT MARY

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



August 6, 2023

Dear Parishioners,

In the series of events that led to the death of Jesus, the Transfiguration on Mount Tabor played a vital turning point. Three times during His public ministry, Jesus told His apostles and disciples that He must go to Jerusalem to suffer the painful death of crucifixion. Each time that He brought up the subject, His hearers rejected the idea as something that could never happen to their Lord and Master. Bewildered at these thoughts, Peter's response was "God forbid that any such things should happen to You."

To prepare the apostles for the scandal of the cross, Jesus took Peter, James and John to the top of Mount Tabor to pray and prepare them to witness to His violent death and resurrection. He was demanding faith. His Transfiguration was a hint of the glory that would come to Him after the Resurrection. They needed hope to see beyond the death of their Lord to the glory of His Resurrection and the birth of His Church. They needed faith to trust in resurrection and new life for Him and for all.

Saint Matthew tells us that "while He was praying, His face shone like the sun, and He was conversing with Moses - the great law giver and Elijah - a prophet from the Old Testament. A voice from the heavens spoke: "This is My beloved Son, listen to Him." The apostles were filled with awe and became silent in the presence of God.

Peter, James, and John wanted this experience to last forever. "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us make three tents - one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah. They wanted to stay on the top of that mountain far away from Jerusalem and the reality of the cross. They didn't want to risk the security they felt on the mountain because they knew the trip down the mountain meant the Passion for the Lord and well as for them.

Many times, in our relationship with the Lord, we desire mountain-top experiences (that's the attraction of the fundamentalists groups who say that to accept Jesus is to feel good and be happy.) They miss the message of the Transfiguration. It's easy to follow Jesus when He doesn't demand too much or when we are living the way we want to live our lives. We become secure on our own little mountain-tops, and we don't have to face what lies at the base of the mountain.

It is in these moments that the Father calls out to us as He cried out to Peter, James and John: "This is My beloved Son, Listen to Him." Jesus invites us to change the direction of our lives, and move to the direction of Jesus himself.

Sincerely,

Rev. Msgr. John M. Campbell

Rome announces major construction project in preparation for 2025 Jubilee Year



of Hope.”

In anticipation of the Catholic Church’s 2025 Jubilee Year, the city of Rome presented a major infrastructure project Friday that will create a pedestrian pathway from St. Peter’s Square to Castel Sant’Angelo.

The city’s mayor is calling the project an “embrace” between Italy and the Vatican. The infrastructure developments are in preparation for an estimated 35 million pilgrims headed to the eternal city for the yearlong “Jubilee

When the Vatican announces a Jubilee Year, the faithful are invited to take part in the spiritual benefits offered by the Church, including passing through the Holy Door at St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome — which only the pope himself opens — in order to receive an indulgence.

The proposed infrastructure developments will focus on the Piazza Pia, just down the road from Vatican City. The project will include the “redevelopment and pedestrianization” of the piazza, which will connect the Castel Sant’Angelo to the famous road leading to the Vatican, the via della Conciliazione, costing approximately 70 million euros, according to a press release from the Vatican’s Jubilee webpage. That translates to about \$77 million. Castel Sant’Angelo is a historic structure with a marble statue of St. Michael the Archangel atop it and is located on the edge of the piazza. It was formerly a mausoleum commissioned by the Roman Emperor Hadrian and later became a papal fortress connected to St. Peter’s.

Construction will begin in August. Rome’s Mayor Roberto Gualtieri said in the release that “the project we are presenting today is perhaps the most important from a symbolic point of view, because it aims to bring back together two fundamental sites in the city, which have always been a vital axis: St. Peter’s and Castel Sant’Angelo.”

Eugenio Patané, the city’s assessor for public mobility of Rome City Council, said that the new “pedestrian precinct” will ensure safety from traffic while allowing vehicles to be unimpeded.

Vietnamese Catholics welcome Holy See-Hanoi agreement

The permanent presence of an apostolic vicar will help the people of God in Vietnam feel concrete communion with the Holy Father, live out and bear witness to the Gospel among the nation more actively,” Archbishop Joseph Nguyen Nang of Ho Chi Minh City, president of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of Vietnam, said after an agreement between the Holy See and Vietnam that allows for a resident papal representative in the Southeast Asian nation.

Vietnam will allow a papal representative to reside in the country and open an office there to support Vietnam’s estimated 6.5 million Catholics in a sign of the country’s improved relations with the Holy See.

The “dog days of summer” are named after the star Sirius.

When things heat up around July and August, we inevitably hear the phrase “dog days of summer.” This doesn’t have anything to do with canines lying around panting in the heat — instead, the phrase is a celestial reference. Sirius, the brightest star in the night sky, is nicknamed the “dog star” because it makes up the “eye” of the constellation Canis Major (Latin for “Greater Dog.”)

The phrase “dog days of summer” actually refers to a specific period on the calendar, from July 3 until August 11. The ancient Greeks and Romans believed these “dog days” occurred when Sirius appeared to rise with the sun, which always occurred during the summer. The idea was that the immense luminosity of Sirius along with the sun’s heat somehow created summer’s scorching temperatures. The dog days of summer are relative to where you live on Earth.

Pope recalls 1993 bombing at St. John Lateran

Pope Francis sent a message of support to participants in a torchlight procession in Rome on July 28, marking the 30th anniversary of the bombing of the basilica of St. John Lateran and the church of San Giorgio al Velabro.

The bombings were part of a Mafia offensive, which also included bombs in the center of Milan and at the Uffizi Galleries in Florence. They were organized after the arrest of a Sicilian mob chieftain, Salvatore Riina, who was notorious for ordering the killing of law-enforcement officials and attacks on innocent women and children. Riina had been wanted on murder charges for more than twenty years before his arrest in January 1993.

In his message Pope Francis decried the bombings as a “cowardly gesture,” and said: “Today more than ever it is the duty of everyone to remember gratefully those who, in the fulfilment of their duty, sometimes risking their lives, devoted themselves to the protection of the community.”

Ukraine changes date of Christmas in move away from Russian tradition

Ukraine has moved its official Christmas holiday to December 25, breaking with the Russian Orthodox Church, which celebrates it on January 7 in line with the Julian calendar.

As

Canada prepares to expand assisted suicide, advocates warn of threat to mentally ill



Mental health and pro-life advocates are concerned that Canadians may soon be able to seek fatal treatments even if they are not suffering from a fatal affliction.

Canada first legalized assisted suicide in June 2016 for adults suffering from irreversibly deadly illnesses. In 2021 the Canadian government said it would wait an additional two years to extend those services to mentally ill citizens to “study how MAiD [medical assistance in dying] on the basis of a mental illness can safely be provided.”

Israeli extremists attempt to storm Catholic church and monastery in northern Israel



Extremist Israeli groups have on several occasions in recent weeks attempted to storm the Melkite Catholic Church and Monastery of St. Elias in the northern port city of Haifa, Israel, prompting Christians to take measures to protect the holy site.

After several attempts last week, intruders managed to infiltrate the outer courtyard of the monastery and disrupt the prayer session taking place, causing fear and anger among the Christian community.

In an effort by the church to deter any future attacks, work began the next day to install an iron fence around the monastery. The monastery was founded by the Carmelites, who have been practicing their faith from Mt. Carmel in Haifa since the 12th century, when hermits began to gather in a cave in imitation of the prophet Elijah. Tradition says that the prophet's cave is located underneath the altar of the church.

The repeated attacks in Deir Mar Elias are linked to a group of extremist Israelis' allegations that the Christian site contains the "tomb of the Prophet Elisha." The church has responded to the allegations with a categorical denial, stressing that the monastery's tomb contains only priests and monks.

Archbishop Pierbattista Pizzaballa, who was just named a cardinal by Pope Francis and serves as the Latin patriarch of Jerusalem, has raised concerns that Christians are increasingly enduring persecution in the Holy Land. He said the current administration of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has created a political climate in which acts of aggression are tolerated. "The frequency of these attacks, the aggressions, has become something new," Pizzaballa said during Easter week. The Islamic-Christian Committee for Jerusalem and its Holy Sites also condemned these provocations and stressed its intolerance toward repeated harassment and attacks on Christian sacred sites in the region, describing such actions as "barbaric."

In a statement, the committee expressed deep concern over the ongoing assaults on the monastery under the pretext of conducting prayers for the Jewish prophet who they say is buried there. The committee affirmed that claims of the existence of Jewish graves within churches are used as pretexts to seize sacred sites. It likened these actions to similar acts of aggression witnessed at the Al-Aqsa Mosque when Israeli troops raided the Muslim sacred site.

Shroud of Turin gets 'true crime' treatment in science-driven documentary

More sophisticated tests of the cloth's pollen, bloodstains, and its perfect three-dimensional imagery are producing mounting evidence that the Shroud of Turin was created in the first century by a "nuclear event" that can't be replicated by today's technology.

Recent scientific discoveries discussed in the film include the finding that the man on the shroud suffered head wounds caused by a "helmet" of thorns, something a medieval forger isn't likely to have imagined, since the Gospels refer only to a "crown of thorns."

Also, the man's right shoulder is lower than his left, which is consistent with a shoulder dislocation, likely from a fall. This would explain why Roman soldiers would have forced a bystander like Simon of Cyrene to help carry Jesus' cross.

Another compelling finding is that most of the pollen fossils left on the shroud come from northern Judea, not France or other places where the cloth is known to have been over the past 700 years.

Based on research over the years, investigators are convinced of the shroud's authenticity. They subscribe to the theory that "low-temperature spontaneous nuclear degeneration" of every cell in the crucified man's body created an incredibly intense burst of radiation that left behind physical evidence of the Resurrection.

Nicaraguan lawyer: 65 women religious have been expelled from the country since 2022



The dictatorship led by President Daniel Ortega in Nicaragua has expelled 65 nuns from the country between 2022 and 2023, a period of a year and a half, and six women from different religious congregations have been prohibited from entering, for a total of 71. There have been more than 500 attacks against the Church in the country since 2018.

A total of 10 religious congregations in the country have been affected, including Dominicans of the Annunciation, Missionaries of Charity, Trappist nuns, Women Religious of the Cross of the Sacred Heart, and Sisters of the Fraternity of the Poor Ones of Jesus Christ of Nicaragua. The nuns have been expelled for the most part with psychological violence.

Four priests from different dioceses and several women religious have pointed out that the number of 71 nuns who are victims of repression is higher than that recorded in a study "Nicaragua: A Persecuted Church?" where only 32 expelled nuns are mentioned. The Nicaraguan nuns who have wanted to return to the country, to take the place of the foreigners who were expelled, have been denied entry.

The latest repressive act of the state against a congregation occurred at the beginning of July, when the Nicaraguan dictatorship canceled the legal personality and confiscated the assets of the Sisters of the Poor Ones of Jesus Christ, whose convent the police entered to expel them.