

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



September 3, 2023
*Twenty-Second Sunday
In Ordinary Time*

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Sat	5:30 PM - Clarence Bauerbach, 3 rd Anniversary
Sun	8:00 AM - William & Betty Erb
	10:00 AM - Jim Archer
	12:00 PM - People of the Parish
Mon	9:00 AM - Labor Day
	Ethel Rose Schoeppner
TUE	7:45 AM - Liv/dec'd of the Richard & Clare Kremer Family
	12:05 PM - Liv/dec'd of the Vince & Shelly Stollar Family
Wed	7:45 AM - Dale Eugene Cox
	12:05 PM - Mary Agnes Augenstein, 2 nd Anniversary
Thu	7:45 AM - Tom Morrow
	12:05 PM - Mary Lang Huck
Fri	7:45 AM - Catherine Schneider
	12:05 PM - Karen Offenberger
Sat	9:00 AM - Liv/dec'd of the Schoeppner Family
	5:30 PM - Harry Way
Sun	8:00 AM - David Erb
	10:00 AM - People of the Parish
	12:00 PM - Perina Johnson, 15 th Anniversary

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

*May the Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten
the eyes of our hearts, that we may know what is the
hope that belongs to our call.*

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY:

Ex 33:7-9; Rom 13:8-10; Mt 18:15-20.

REST IN PEACE:

Regina Weinheimer passed away August 24th at Marietta Memorial. She is survived by her children, John Weinheimer, Jane Miller and Donna Moore. Regina's Funeral Mass was celebrated here at the Basilica this past Tuesday morning. May God grant her eternal peace and happiness.

LABOR DAY:

There will be a Mass at 9:00 AM on Monday, September 4th, Labor Day. There will not be a 7:45 AM or 12:05 PM Mass that day. We will not have Our Lady of Perpetual Help that evening.

THE PARISH OFFICES will be closed on Labor Day and until 1:00 PM on Tuesday, September 5th.

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

TUE	9:30 AM	-	Daily Bread Kitchen Meeting in the Basilica Social Hall.
WED	8:20 AM	-	7:00 PM – Eucharistic Adoration in the Chapel of the English Martyrs.
	6:30 PM	-	CWC Meeting in the Basilica Social Hall.
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: \$ 9,931.60

Amount needed each week for the
maintenance of our Basilica: \$ 14,225.00

God bless those who support our Basilica Parish!

SECOND COLLECTION

The first weekend of each month we have a second collection for the maintenance of our Basilica. This collection will be taken up at all Masses this weekend, September 2nd and 3rd. 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.

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 to enjoy fellowship and donuts and coffee.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

SAINT MARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWS

We are so happy to be back to school! We wish our teachers and students the best school year!

St. Mary Catholic School Fall Festival Auction, Moonlight Masquerade will be held on Friday, October 6th, at the Adelphia. Tickets for the auction are \$50 each and are available in the school office or from Tammi Bradley at

tammibradley@stmaryscatholic.org, Rebecca Soffian, rsoffian@gmail.com or Teresa Domico at teresatokodi@gmail.com. We do have the Venmo option for tickets available again this year.

Sponsorship and Auction items are being collected. We rely on generous individual and local businesses to help make this event a success.

FALL MUM SALE

It's that time of year again! Please help support St. Mary's by ordering your fall mums through Home & School by September 8th. Choice of an 8 in. pot (bronze/orange, pink, purple, red, white, yellow) for \$6.50 each or a 12 in. single color pot for \$20; 12 in, tri-color for \$22. Mum pick-up will be Sunday, September 17th (1:00 PM – 4:00 PM) and Monday, September 18th (4:30 PM to 7:30 PM) at Huck's Greenhouse in Devola. Place an order by contacting any St. Mary student/family or Megan Bauer, 740-525-7608. As always, thank you for your continued support of St. Mary Home and School.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP REMINDER

Those who have registered for the grief support group meeting will begin this Tuesday, September 5th at 6:30 PM until 8:00 PM in the Parish Rectory. Attendance is by registration only. For questions, please call Debbie Brown at 740-525-9012 or Mary LaBarre at 740-236-7102.

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

We pray for all of those serving in the military, especially friends and relatives of parishioners. May God watch over them and keep them safe.

CCD CLASSES TO RESUME

CCD Classes will resume on **Sunday Mornings in the Basilica Social Hall from 8:45 to 9:45 AM, beginning Sunday, September 10th**. Children entering grades K- 8 are eligible to attend.

Check the parish website for online forms. Registration forms and fees can be returned to the rectory.

Cost is \$30.00 each (\$5.00 discount per each added child in the family.) Fees can be waived, contact the rectory. **CCD teachers are needed for grades 1 and 4.** If you are available, please call Melanie Fouss at 740-525-8733 as soon as possible. Substitutes are also needed.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Last weekend and this past week the roses and flowers for the altar were in memory of Francis "Junior" Arnold, 2nd Anniversary of Death.

This weekend the roses and flowers for the altar are in memory of Maxine Best. If you wish to request flowers for a particular weekend, please call the parish office to reserve the date. You should call the florist of your choice to arrange for delivery.

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Through a generous donation our church library has added a number of new books for children. The books and a current book list have been approved by our church. We encourage parents and kids to browse the children's book shelves, located on the right (on the bottom) when you walk in the library. Take advantage of this great resource for your children, grandchildren, family member or friend. If you would like to view the current book list to purchase books or donate books, contact Debbie Lazorik at lazorikd@marietta.edu or 740-434-3769.

YOUTH GROUP

Cross+Fire Youth Group kick off will be September 17th from 6:00 PM until 7:30 PM in the Basilica Social Hall. All 7th-12th graders are invited to attend. Bring a friend! Any adults who are interested in working with the youth are invited to attend as well as we are looking to expand our team.

DAILY BREAD KITCHEN

Each month since January 2023, the Daily Bread Kitchen has provided 300 meals each week 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.

HELPING HANDS MINISTRY

We are the Body of Christ. With love for our neighbor, we help those in need. This is by God's design. As part of the parish community, our Helping Hands Ministry provides meals to those going through a difficult time, whether it be due to illness surgery, death of a loved one, a new baby, or simply being overwhelmed with life's challenges. We are blessed with many volunteers who provide and deliver these free meals on a short-term basis. We need your help in identifying those who might benefit from a few prepared meals and a friendly smile.

Please call Debbie Murray (740-516-9460) or Cheryl Nau (740-516-1319) if you know of someone who could benefit from this ministry or if you are interested in becoming a volunteer. God bless you and God bless the many volunteers who have been assisting this ministry for over 20 years. Thank you!

2003 DIOCESAN/PARISH SHARE

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 \$108,133.00 from our parish. This means that our parish has made 94% of our goal.

Thanks once again to those who participated in this year's campaign, If you have not yet turned in a pledge card, 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 envelope provided with your pledge card.

Our parish has always surpassed our goal. Money over and above our goal will be returned to our parish. Please make this happen again.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEKEND OF September 9 & 10

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Lectors

Altar Servers

Sat:	Amy Brockett (CAPT)	Irene Cain	Drew Heiss
5:30	Jean Tornes (HOST)		Gavin Kunz
	Debbie Lazorik (HOST)		Liam Long
	Karen Schramm (CHALICE)		
	Jennifer Schenkel (CHALICE) (swap req.)		
Sun:	Suzanne Baker (CAPT)	Shelly Medley	David Baker
8:00	John Douglass (HOST)		Ron Wesel
	Babs Douglass (HOST)		Joe Flaherty
	Sharon Loken (CHALICE)		Kenny Offenberger
	Nancy Funk (CHALICE)		
10:00	Gary Pitt (CAPT)	Stan Vanlandingham	Henry Corcoran
	Cathy Rauch (HOST)		Jonah Corcoran
	Carol O'Grady (HOST)		Nico Marasco
	John Towner (CHALICE)		Grant Palmer
	Kaelly Erb (CHALICE)		
12:00	Tammy Bradley (CAPT) (swap req.)	Eric Fitch	Evan Huffman
	Elizabeth Tokodi(HOST)		Grant Huffman
	Dennis Nau (HOST)		Nathan Soffian
	Jeanette Flowers (CHALICE)		
	Cheyenne Greenwood (CHALICE)		

Daily Servers- Not Filled

54 – DAY ROSARY NOVENA:

Beginning Friday, September 15th, Catholics across the State of Ohio will be joining in prayer for the protection of human life and dignity and the defeat of the dangerous constitutional amendment on the Ohio ballot this November. A 54-Day Rosary Novena will be prayed from September 15th through Election Day, November 7th. Visit www.pray54ohio.org for more information.

BASILCA BOOK CLUB NEWS:

The next meeting of the Basilica Book Club will be September 27th at 6:00 PM in the Basilia Social Hall. The September Book: **Left To Tell: The Beautiful Little Things. Melissa Hill.** The book is available to check out at the Parish Library.

Remember: **All** are welcome, bring a friend. Snacks and drinks will be 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.

A JOURNEY WITH CHRIST: The walk to Emmaus is an experience of Christian spiritual renewal and Formation that begins with a three-day short course in Christianity. It is an opportunity to meet Jesus Christ in a new way as God's grace and love is revealed to you through believers. **Emmaus is open to members of any Christian denomination, and we are currently seeking pilgrims for upcoming walks.**

Men's Walk: September 28-October 1

Women's Walk: October 5-8.

For more information or answers to questions, please call Carol or Johnny Wharff at 740-525-0668 or 740-525-2666.



THE TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SEPTEMBER 3, 2023

Peter declared that Jesus was the Messiah. From that point on, Jesus began to show his disciples that it was necessary for Him to go to Jerusalem, to suffer at the hands of the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, to be killed, and, on the third day, to be raised up. Peter began to reprimand Him, "May this not happen to You!" Then Jesus said to Peter, "Go away, Satan! You are My stumbling block because you do not think in the (ways) of God, but in the (ways) of men!" Then Jesus told his followers, "If anyone wants to follow Me, he must pick up his cross, and follow Me.

When Peter reprimanded Jesus, he challenged the Master's authority. Jesus responded with a strong rebuke, invoked the name of evil. From Jesus' point of view, anyone who did not accept God's will was in league with the devil, whether the subject knew it or not.

This section from Matthew's gospel follows upon last week's reading. Simon declared Jesus the Messiah. And Jesus empowered Simon with a new name and new authority. Now, Jesus explained what he meant by "Messiah:" death and resurrection.

With his new authority, Peter took Jesus aside to challenge Him. Peter had a different view of the Messiah: God's Spirit would lead Jesus and his cohort into Jerusalem so they could sweep the Romans into the sea. Jesus would cleanse the Temple from corruption and restore true worship. Jesus would establish a rule that would last 1000 years! Talk of suffering and death diminished the status of Jesus, His group, and Peter's authority in the group. Peter figured it was time to talk some sense into his Teacher. Jesus would have none of it. He sharply rejected Peter's comments. Turning to his followers, he described the cost of discipleship: to do as he did.

Then, JESUS said to HIS disciples, "If anyone wants to come after ME, let him completely renounce his self-interest, pick up and carry his cross, and follow me. For, whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever gives his life for my sake will find it. For what does a man benefit if he should gain the entire world, but he should lose his life? Or, what will a man exchange for his life? The follower of Christ must be a person for others, just as the Master was.

Jesus compared two ways of life, the way to true life and the way to death. This analogy was popular in the early Church. The road to life traveled through suffering and death. To follow him meant looking beyond what the disciple possessed at the present moment, even at the risk of losing it all. In fact, physical death meant total loss, possessions, power, and relations. Jesus wove the notion of the Christian life with the ethical life. The Christian life was based upon sacrifice, just as the Master sacrificed Himself on the cross. Such self-giving also grounded the ethical life. In other words, Matthew held one's righteousness can only be measured by sacrifice made for others, in the name of Jesus.



Deceased Priests & Deacons of the Diocese

Today, we remember the 46th anniversary of the death of Fr. Robert Glynn, Er.Cam. (Camaldolese Hermit). On Tuesday, we remember the 31st anniversary of the death of Fr. Ronald Griffith. May they rest in the peace of Christ forever.

SPECIAL EVENTS AND PILGRIMAGES TO THE BASILICA

Sept. - 24 - 9:30 am. Confirmation – Saint Henry Church
Sept. - 24 - 12:00 pm. Respect Life Mass - Bishop
Oct. - 27, - 8:45 am. Diocesan Teacher in Service Day
Oct. - 28 - 9:00 am. Mass of Remembrance (Bishop)
Oct. - 29, - 12:00 pm. Women Religious celebration
Nov. - 19, - 12:00 pm. Diocesan Marriage Anniversary Mass (Bishop)
Dec. - 12, - 11:00 am. Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration

LITURGICAL FEASTS THIS WEEK

Friday, September 8, - The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

This 5th century feast marks the anniversary of the dedication of a basilica in Jerusalem built, according to tradition, on the location of the home of Saint Anne, the mother of Mary.

Saturday, September 9, Saint Peter Claver, (Priest)

Peter was a Catalonian Jesuit who served in the Columbian mission in Cartagena. For 38 years, he devoted himself to caring for African slaves. He baptized over 300,000 slaves, and called himself "Slave of the slaves".

Pope's Prayer Intention for September

For people living on the margins

We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE MEMBERS OF OUR BASILICA PARISH AND SAINT HENRY PARISH -OUR SISTER PARISH, - WHO ARE ILL AND FOR THEIR FAMILIES AND CAREGIVERS! MAY THEY BE RESTORED TO THE FULLNESS OF HEALTH.



LABOR DAY 2023

Labor Day is a national holiday which sadly means that summer is coming to a close, but it's also a day that holds so much meaning. For one, it's just another excuse to enjoy all the fun things to do on Labor Day such as eat our favorite grilled foods, host pool parties. And while it's certainly a day worth celebrating for all those reasons, there's a bit more history behind the meaning of Labor Day, too.

Labor Day celebrates the women and men who campaigned tirelessly for workers' rights in the labor movement of the late 19th century. Their hard-fought wins are the reason for many of the rights we enjoy and take for granted today, such as a 40-hour work week, safe work conditions, paid time off, and sick leave.

Those workers saw that there could be no freedom and liberty in this country without economic freedom for the working class. The holiday honors the source of this nation's strength—American workers, unions, and labor leaders. No matter how you decide to celebrate Labor Day 2023, take some time to reflect and pay tribute to all the laborers, past and present, who helped build America and make it the country it is today.

Labor Day is one of those holidays that falls on a specific day of the week rather than a calendar date. Labor day will take place this Monday, September 4, 2023! Though the holiday specifically falls on Monday, everyone celebrates it the entire weekend.

Labor Day became a U.S. federal holiday in 1894, but by that time thirty states already officially celebrated the holiday. Labor Day was created by members of the labor movement, who organized strikes and rallies to fight for better working conditions amid the Industrial Revolution.

On September 5, 1882, New York City union leaders organized what is now considered the country's first Labor Day parade. On that day, 10,000 workers took unpaid time off to march through the streets of New York City, in an event culminating in a picnic, fireworks, and dancing. Organizers declared the day "a general holiday for the workingmen of this city." Their idea spread across the country, and many states passed legislation recognizing the workers' holiday.

It wasn't until 1894, however, that Congress legalized the holiday following the Pullman strike, a nationwide railroad boycott that turned fatal and shined a national spotlight on workers' rights. Amid this massive unrest, Congress sought to make peace with American workers by passing an act making Labor Day a legal holiday. President Grover Cleveland officially signed it into law on June 28, 1894. Strangely enough, The Department of Labor was created *after* Labor Day became a holiday, and it was the first department to be led by a woman: Francis Perkins.

MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND MASSES FOR THE WEEK:

Monday, September 4,

9:00 am. - Mass

Tuesday, September 5,

7:45 am. - Mass

12:05 pm. - Mass

Wednesday, September 6,

7:45 am. - Mass

8:30 am. - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

12:05 pm. - Mass

6:45 pm. - Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursday, September 7,

7:45 am. - Mass

12:05 pm. - Mass

Friday, September 8,

7:45 am. - Mass

8:25 am. - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

12:05 pm. - Mass

6:45 pm. - Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday, September 9

9:00 am. - Mass

3:30 pm. - Confessions

5:30 pm. - Mass

Sunday, September 10,

8:00 am. - Mass

9:30 am. - Mass (St. Henry)

10:00 am. - Mass

12:00 pm. - Mass



Perpetual Help Devotions

Because of the Labor Day holiday, we will not have devotions on Monday evening. Perpetual Help Devotions will resume next Monday evening at 6:15 pm.

Pope Francis calls grieving mother of son who died at World Youth Day

Luca Re Sartù, 24, died after contracting a bacterial staph infection during his World Youth Day pilgrimage. Auxiliary Bishop Luca Raimondi of Milan said at the young man's funeral that the Pope had called his mother to console her.

"What the mother said to me," Bishop Raimondi said, "was, word for word, 'When you see him [the Pope], thank him for me, because he was exquisitely kind. He grieved with me, he cried with me, and above all, he was like a father. He consoled me as if he were my dad.'"



Sunday, September 10th, Is the Eleventh Anniversary of the Episcopal Ordination & Installations of Bishop Monforton

We offer our prayers for him, and wish him many happy years! He is a good bishop who cares for all of us and for his Diocese of Steubenville. May God grant him many happy years.



THE BASILICA OF SAINT MARY

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



September 3, 2023

Dear Parishioners,

"Live for today." Many people use that phrase as a motto. Our material culture uses it as a mantra. Enjoy life today and postpone pain until tomorrow. Doesn't that sound familiar?

Sometimes this attitude seeps into our prayer life. We ask God with expectation, and if He doesn't deliver, we are tempted to abandon prayer. Prayer sometimes demands the pain and suffering of patience. Sometimes we need to wait, even if that means "hanging by a thread."

Jesus took that spiritual fact one step further. The Christian life means life postponed for the good of others. That's what Jesus did as he walked to Jerusalem and to the cross. He called us to do the same. We American Christians have so many material possessions to acquire and maintain, yet so much to give up in the name of Christ. How can we walk the road of loss, when our desires want more and more? How can we live for Christ when we are tempted only to live for today? This is the challenge Jesus gave us.

The distinguishing mark of the Christian life is to live in faith in union with Jesus Christ. This union is not our own doing; it is the gift of God. Faith in Jesus Christ changes one's life, beginning the process of a life of faith. We live the teachings of Jesus and of Scripture, based on love for God and others. A Christian lives for Christ because of God's love, not in order to earn God's love. Instead of being changed by the world, the Christian is changed by Christ and then changes the world.

God calls us to faithfully endure life's challenges and even to rejoice in them as they help increase our endurance in living for Christ. The Christian life is one of service. Jesus came to serve others and calls His followers to do the same. This involves loving one's neighbor as yourself, helping those in need, making disciples of all nations, and sharing the reason for the hope. The Christian life is not easy, nor was it intended to be. However, it is the source of abundant life as well as eternal life – it is a life of faith, love, and hope (1 Corinthians 13:12-13) that reflects the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.

Sincerely,

Rev Msgr. John M. Campbell
(Rector)

THE RELIC OF THE TRUE CROSS

In 313 with the Edict of Milan, the Roman Emperor Constantine the Great granted legal status to Christianity. As a new convert, his mother St. Helena went on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem in search of the sacred places where Jesus was crucified, died, and was buried.

Many of those sites had been covered over and desecrated with pagan temples. As one of those temples was excavated, the site of Jesus' crucifixion was revealed, three crosses were discovered in a rock cave along with a plaque with the inscription "Jesus Nazaranus Rex Iudaeorum" (Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews). When the empress beheld the place where Jesus suffered, she immediately ordered the idolatrous temple, which had been erected there, to be destroyed, and the very earth on which it stood to be removed. When the tomb, which had been so long concealed, was discovered, three crosses were seen buried near the Lord's sepulcher. All held it as certain that one of these crosses was that of our Lord Jesus Christ, and that the other two were those of the thieves who were crucified with Him. The wise and holy Macarius, the president of the city, resolved this question in the following manner. He caused a lady of rank, who had been long suffering from disease, to be touched by each of the crosses. The instant the cross of Jesus was brought near the lady, she was immediately healed. With the Cross were also found the Holy Nails, which Helena took with her back to Constantinople.



Over the centuries, this cross has been venerated and celebrated through the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross celebrated on September 14. Our Basilica parish is honored to have a small piece of this cross, given to Fr. Mike by Cardinal Laurent Rugambwa - the first Cardinal of Africa.

We venerate the relic of the True Cross because it was the instrument on which our Lord made His supreme sacrifice for our salvation. It was soaked in His most precious Blood. And through this we recognize that the cross of Christ has become the Tree of Life.

The assembled faithful venerate the relic of the Cross with a kiss on Good Friday each year. The Church has attached a plenary indulgence to this act of faith when all the usual conditions are met.

On the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross the assembled faithful receive a solemn blessing with the relic of the Holy Cross. All are welcome to come and pray at the Basilica and venerate the relic of the Cross whenever the church is open throughout the year.

The relic of the Cross is located in a reliquary in front of the crucifixion shrine on the left side of the Basilica sanctuary.



California's new abbey is inspiring young men to join the priesthood



Just outside the City of Angels lies St. Michael's Abbey. Outside of Los Angeles in Orange County, the abbey opened in 2021 and is one of the newest abbeys in the world.

"It's sort of the perfect distance between the busyness of the city, where we need to be doing our apostolic work, and the quiet of the desert, where we need to find Jesus in contemplation,"

Father Ambrose Criste, a priest at the abbey said.

The Very Rev. Chrysostom Baer, prior of St. Michael's Abbey, shared that it is like "heaven on earth. It's filled with the Catholic truth and the solemn celebration of the liturgy. It's a place to work out your salvation, to grow in virtue, to overcome your vices, and help lead people to heaven," he added.

Despite the recent decline in religious vocations in many parts of the world, St. Michael's Abbey has 42 men studying for the priesthood and many more waiting to enter. "We say our prayers; we wear our religious habit; we live according to the charism of our order and the traditions of our order, and we've never really given any of that up," he said. "And that's why young people want to come and be a part of it." The abbey follows the canons of the Norbertines, which was founded in 1121 by St. Norbert in France.

The order's mother abbey is called the Abbey of Csorna, which is in Hungary. In 1950, the police warned the Norbertines in the country that they would be taken away under the Communist regime and never be allowed back into Hungary. A small group of priests then sought and received permission to leave the country in order to keep the order alive elsewhere. Today, St. Michael's Abbey has 70 men living in it, half of whom are priests and the other half who are seminarians. "Those religious communities and those seminaries that represent authentic, full-bodied traditional Catholicism — the young people are flocking to it because it's exactly what the young people want," Criste explained. "It's what the world needs."

Baer said he hopes, first and foremost, that the abbey will "save souls and be a beacon of light and hope in a very strange land, a land that thinks that it's gone beyond God and doesn't need him anymore. We're trying to fill that gap in the human heart with the truth of Christ and the love of the Holy Spirit," he said.

Fr. Ryan Gray, who was assigned to our Basilica parish several years ago, has become a Norbertine, and is presently assigned to St. Michael's Abbey.

Texas nuns may have excommunicated themselves with defiant letter

Bishop Michael Olson of the Diocese of Fort Worth, Texas, said a Carmelite prioress and several other nuns at a Texas monastery may have excommunicated themselves by publishing a statement challenging his authority and banning him from setting foot on monastery grounds.

Bishop Olson said that because the Monastery of the Most Holy Trinity's prioress, Mother Teresa Agnes Gerlach, "issued a public statement by which she publicly rejected my authority as diocesan bishop and pontifical commissary," he felt compelled to "inform the faithful of the Diocese of Fort Worth that Mother Teresa Agnes, thereby, may have incurred upon herself *latae sententiae*, (i.e., by her own schismatic actions), excommunication." Besides Gerlach, Olson said that "depending on their complicity in Mother Teresa Agnes' publicly, scandalous, and schismatic actions," other nuns at the monastery "could possibly have incurred the same *latae sententiae* excommunication."

In the monastery's statement referenced by Olson, the nuns declare themselves independent of Olson's authority and appear to want to cut all ties with the bishop. "Because the salvation of our souls is our first duty before Almighty God, in order to protect the integrity of our monastic life and vocation from the grave dangers that the continued abuse to which we are being subjected threaten, we hereby state that, in conscience, we no longer recognize the authority of, and can have no further relations with, the current bishop of Fort Worth or his officials," the statement said. The nuns further "forbid" the bishop and diocesan officials "to enter our monastery property or to have any contact or relations with the monastery or any of its nuns or novices. No one who abuses us, as has the current bishop of Fort Worth, has any right to our cooperation or obedience," the nuns' statement said.

Excommunication is the separation of an individual from communion with God and his Church and ultimately removes the possibility of the promise of heaven until one repents. *Latae sententiae* excommunication means that rather than a bishop or ecclesial authority formally declaring a person excommunicated, the individual automatically excommunicates himself or herself by his or her actions.

ROSARY CONGRESS

The seventh annual Rosary Congress will be held this year from October 7-13. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will take place at the Basilica for three days, as well as in other local parishes in our area. Because of the Eucharistic Revival this year, it is important that we participate in these sacred days. The rosary will be prayed each hour. The Congress will begin on Sunday, October 8, at 7:00 pm. With exposition of the Holy Eucharist, a presentation on the Holy Eucharist, and the solemn Easter prayer of the Akathist Hymn In Honor Of The Holy Eucharist. Plan now to take an active part in these solemn days.



"The spirit of prayer gives time back to God; it steps away from the obsession of a life that is always lacking time; it rediscovers the peace of necessary things and discovers the joy of unexpected gifts."

—Pope Francis