

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



October 1, 2023 Twenty-Sixth Sunday In Ordinary Time MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Sat	5:30 PM - Rick Schaad
Sun	8:00 AM - People of the Parish
	10:00 AM - Troy Buckman
	12:00 PM - Jim Matheny, 44 th Anniversary
Mon	7:45 AM - Josh & Jamie Hamilton, 8 th Wedding Anniversary
	12:05 PM - Luada Wesel
Tue	7:45 AM - Richard Schneider & Joseph Wentzell
	12:05 PM - Regina Weinheimer
Wed	7:45 AM - Leo Hupp
	12:05 PM - Liv/dec'd of the Francis & Louise Schilling Family
Thu	7:45 AM - Souls in Purgatory
	12:05 PM - Ray Roberts, 42 nd Anniversary
Fri	7:45 AM - Martin & Kathryn Gallito, Wedding Anniversary
	12:05 PM - Lisa Wesel
Sat	9:00 AM - Cindy Heiss Bosner
	5:30 PM - People of the Parish
Sun	8:00 AM - Leo & Lacey Hupp
	10:00 AM - Louise Offenberger
	12:00 PM - Billy Matheny, 21 st 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

*My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord; I know them,
and they follow me.*

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY:

Is 5:1-7; Phil 4:6-9; Mt 21:33-43.

DONUT SUNDAY:

The first Sunday of each 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, October 1st to enjoy fellowship and donuts and coffee. These Sundays are great opportunities to spend time with fellow parishioners. Hope to see you there!

CHRISTMAS BOX OF JOY:

Box of Joy is an annual Christmas gift ministry. By packing boxes with toys and other gifts, you will bless children suffering from extreme poverty by sharing the joy of Christmas. Our Basilica will once again partner with Cross Catholic Outreach to impact the lives of thousands of poor children. Boxes are available at all entrances. Thanks to your compassion, last year over 500 children were blessed from our parish by a special token of God's love.

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 & Donuts following the 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM Masses in the social hall.
MON	6:15 PM	-	Our Lady of Perpetual Help Devotions.
	7:00 PM	-	RCIA in the Basilica Social Hall.
	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.
	6:00 PM	-	CWC Meeting in the Basilica Social Hall.
	6:30 PM	-	Grade School CCD in the Basilica.
THU	10:00AM	-	CWC using the Basilica Kitchen
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: \$ 14,521.00

Amount needed each week for the
Basilica Budget: \$ 14,225.00

God bless those who support our Basilica Parish!

SECOND COLLECTION

The first Sunday 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.

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. Our goal is to have One Million Dollars in the fund before using it.

ALTAR FLOWERS

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

SAINT MARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWS

The Scholastic Bookfair will be held in the Parish Center October 9th-13th, 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM. This is always a good place to start your holiday shopping!

St. Mary Catholic School Student Council is collecting pop tabs to help the Ronald McDonald House Charities beat the “team up North” and the Ann Arbor Ronald McDonald House. The pop tab contest runs through November 25th. The Student Council is collecting pop tabs from now until November 18th. Pop tabs can be turned in to the Parish Center entrance at the school, at the Basilica entrances or can be picked up by notifying the school office at 740-374-8181,

Fall Festival Holiday Cash Raffle tickets have been mailed to all parishioners. Each ticket is \$25.00 with a chance to win \$100-\$1,000 in the drawing on November 8th. Tickets and money can be returned in the envelope provided with your mailing or put in the Basilica collection basket or dropped off at the school office. Thank you for your continued support of St. Mary Catholic School and Good Luck!!

The Irish Booster Fall Back 5K is scheduled for Sunday November 5th. The link to register is
<http://runsignup.com/Race/OH/Marietta/FallBack5KStMarys>.

PRE-CANA

A Pre-Canasession is scheduled for Saturday, March 9, 2023. Couples planning marriage should register for this class by calling the Parish Office at 740-373-3643. Pre-Canasession is a requirement for marriage in the Diocese of Steubenville.

CCD CLASSES

CCD classes will NOT be held this weekend! Instead, this Wednesday, October 4th, students (and their parents) are invited to attend a presentation, prepared especially for CCD students by Father Mike, regarding relics and art within the Basilica. A question and answer session will follow. The one hour program will begin promptly at 6:30 PM. While the presentation will be held in the Basilica, students should be dropped off in the social hall, where they will join their teachers and classmates.

ROSARY RALLY IN MARIETTA

Catholics from across the nation are organizing Public Square Rosary Crusades to pray for the conversion of our nation. A Rosary Rally will be held locally on Saturday, October 14, at Noon at the Armory in Marietta (241 Front Street). Please join us in praying for our nation and for Ohio. Contact local coordinator, Sarah Laskowski, with any questions at laskowskifamily@hotmail.com or 440-897-2922.

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

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

JUBILEE OF MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARIES **A celebration of the Diocese of Steubenville**

Bishop Monforton will celebrate a Jubilee of Marriages here at the Basilica on Sunday, November 19th at the Noon Mass. This celebration is ONLY for Catholic couples celebrating their 10th, 20th, 30th, 35th, 40th, 45th, 50th, 55th, 60th and 60+ (every year thereafter) anniversary of marriage during 2022 or 2023.

Registration forms are available at the Parish Office. The form is to be completed by the parish staff and signed by the pastor.

Please Note: Families are welcome to attend. However, seating is reserved only for couples celebrating anniversaries. Family members will not be able to sit with the couples but may use whatever seating is available behind the reserved sections.

EMBRACE HOPE AND WALK FOR LIFE

The Women's Care Center in Parkersburg is hosting a walk on October 15th at 12:30 PM at Parkersburg City Park to support their Pro-Life and Pro-God programs. More information and entry forms are in the Divine Mercy Gift Shop.

HELP NEEDED! RCIA CLASS

We have had an overwhelming response to our RCIA Classes this year. We are in need of sponsors and prayer partners for this year's class. Sponsors attend class with a new inquirer and **MUST** be a confirmed practicing Catholic. It's a great way to strengthen your own faith and share your faith! Prayer partners pray for one of our new members and send notes of encouragement. If you would be interested in helping us, please contact Cathy Rauch at cathyrauch@stmaryscatholic.org or 740-896-2901. Classes are on Monday from 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM in the Basilica Social Hall.

BUS TRIP – Ohio March for Life

Reserve your seat and join the fight for Ohio's parental rights and Right to Life. The K of C is chartering a bus for the October 6th Ohio Right to Life March in Columbus. Bus transportation includes a bag lunch, thanks to the CWC. Contact Matt Miller at 330-243-5500 for more information.

WASHINGTON COUNTY RIGHT TO LIFE

The Washington County Right to Life Organization is coordinating the Life Chain this Sunday, October 1st. The Life Chain is a silent demonstration opposing abortion. Participants will stand and hold signs from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM along State Route 60 in front of Greenleaf Landscapes in Marietta, joining hundreds of thousands of pro-life believers across the nation. This is an opportunity for participants to pray and sing silently from their hearts for God to deliver us from the horrors of abortion. For those who are unable to stand, it is perfectly appropriate to bring a chair.

Parishioners from the Basilica generally make up the largest group of participants in our local Life Chain. Please consider donating an hour of your time to join us for this important event. If you have any questions, please contact Jim Humphrey at 740-629-4867 (cell).

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEKEND OF October 7 & 8

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Lectors

Altar Servers

Sat: Evelyn Potter (CAPT)
5:30 Sandy George (HOST) (swap req.)
 Jennifer Schenkel (HOST) (swap req.)
 Debbie Lazorik (CHALICE)
 Karen Schramm (CHALICE)

Teri Ann Pfeffer

Connor Richard
 Parker Crum
 Karter Lankford

Sun: Patti Finkel (HOST)
8:00 Nancy Funk (HOST)
 Theresa Huck (HOST)
 Gregg Black (CHALICE)
 Sheri Black (CHALICE)

Shelly Medley

Joe Flaherty
 Jerry Huck
 Greg Dickson
 Joyce Iaderosa

10:00 Cathy Rauch (CAPT)
 Deacon Lee (HOST)
 Sherry Payne (HOST) (swap req.)
 Pat Dickinson (CHALICE)
 John Towner (CHALICE)

Khadine Ritter

Bryson Black
 Elijah Erb
 Owen Krason
 Benedict Parlin

12:00 Joe Schmidt (CAPT)
 Jeannette Flowers (HOST)
 Elizabeth Tokodi (HOST)
 Stan Vanlandingham (CHALICE)
 Lisa Taylor (CHALICE)

Mary LaBarre

Evan Huffman
 Grant Huffman
 Nathan Soffian

Daily Servers- Not Filled

OUR LADY OF MERCY CWC is taking orders for homemade chicken pies, noodles, and angel food cakes through Wednesday, November 1st. Frozen chicken pies are \$13.00 each. Noodles are \$7.00 per bag and are available in wide or narrow width. Angel food cakes are \$8.00 each. To place an order, please contact Heather Peters at 740-350-6972 or Marilyn Peters at 740-350-1751.

FROM THE ROSARY CONGRESS COMMITTEE – ROSARY CONGRESS IS ONLY 8 DAYS AWAY

The Rosary Congress will open next Sunday, October 8th at 7:00 PM. The solemn “Akathist Hymn in Honor of the Holy Eucharist is beautiful! All are invited.

The Rosary Congress Adoration Hours are from 8:15 AM until 7:00 PM on October 11th, 12th and 13th. Sign-up sheets are at all Basilica entrances this weekend and will also be available at the Coffee and Donut gathering after the 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM Masses this Sunday.

Please visit Jesus in Adoration during these hours. There will be a rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet at the beginning of each hour. Prayers will be provided.
 God bless you and your families.

To sign up for the Rosary Congress call:

Amy Brockett , 740-516-4647
 Janet Schilling, 740-350-0887
 Debbie Lazorik – 740-434-3769
 Leslie Lupardus – 740-885-9378
 Shelly Medley- 740-525-6360
 Leanne Cooper – 760-774-0342



THE TWENTY- SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

OCTOBER 1, 2023

Jesus said to the Jewish leaders: "Tell me what you think about this story. There was a man who had two sons. Approaching the oldest son, the man told him, "Go work in my vineyard today." "I don't want to," the oldest son answered. But he changed his mind and went to work. Then, approaching the younger son, the man told him the same thing. "Yes, sir, I will," the younger son answered. But he didn't go to work. So," Jesus concluded, "which son did what his father wanted?"

"The older one," the leaders answered. "Then, listen!" Jesus said. "Sinners will go into God's Kingdom ahead of you. For John went to you and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and prostitutes did believe him. But you, having seen him and his activity, did not later change your minds and believe what John said."

To us, the story of the two sons presents a simple choice. Results are more important than appearances. The older son was the better son because he was honest with his answer. Yet, he relented and obeyed his father. The younger son lied to save face. His motives were dubious. The older son was moral. The younger was not.

To the audience of Jesus, the choice was not that easy. Their focus was not on the moral character of the sons but the honor of the father. In the small community atmosphere in Palestine, everyone knew everyone else's business. The choices of the sons would soon become public knowledge through gossip. The denial of the older son embarrassed the father while the lie of the younger son at least showed deference to his father's position. The older son dishonored his father's reputation. The younger son honored his father's standing in the community. In the mind of Jesus' contemporaries, the younger son was the better son.

Jesus did not ask the question of character to his audience. He asked the faith question. Who did the will of the Father? In a simple phrase, Jesus changed the focus of the debate. The social standing of the sons or the reputation of the father did not matter. The openness of the heart did matter. Everyone in Jesus' audience recognized that all were God's children. Some of God's children remained faithful, while others fell away in sin.

As Jesus unfolded the story, the father's question emphasized the work in the vineyard. Work in the vineyard meant harvest, preparing Israel for God's Kingdom. Repentance was key to such preparation. The older child embarrassed his father, but he did repent. He worked in the vineyard and prepared for the coming of the Kingdom. Only change of mind and heart toward God mattered, not social standing or moral background. That is why Jesus could say that tax collectors and prostitutes would enter the Kingdom with greater honor than Jewish leaders. This statement shocked Jesus' audience, for many Jewish rabbis held that these two Sinners who did the will of the Father would stand over those who paid lip-service to the Kingdom and put on a good religious appearance.

SPECIAL EVENTS AND PILGRIMAGES TO THE BASILICA

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)
Nov. - 30, - 7:00 pm. First Confession
Dec. - 3, - 7:00 pm. Handel's Messiah
Dec. - 12, - 11:00 am. Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration

LITURGICAL FEASTS THIS WEEK

Monday, October 2, The Holy Guardian Angels

This feast was observed in Spain since the 16th century. Pope Clement X assigned the Memorial in 1670 to the entire Church.

Wednesday, October 4, Saint Francis of Assisi

Francis was noted for his charismatic personality, deep compassion for all, and love of God's creation. He renounced wealth to follow "Lady Poverty". He was a deacon who founded the Franciscan Family which is made up of the Friars Minor Capuchins today numbering 10,350, the Conventuals numbering 4,100, and the Leonine Union numbering 12,750. He wrote the "*Canticle of the Sun*", he received the stigmata on Sept. 14, 1224, and was canonized two years after his death on October 3, 1226.

Thursday, October 5, Saint Faustina Kowalska (Virgin)

Faustina was born in Poland on August 25, 1905. In 1928 she professed first vows as a Sister of Our Lady of Mercy. In 1924, she began to have visions of Jesus and had conversations with Him. On February 22, 1931, she had a vision of Jesus presenting Himself as "King of Divine Mercy". He asked her to be an apostle of divine mercy. She died on October 5, 1938.

Friday, October 6, Saint Bruno (Priest)

Bruno was a celebrated teacher at Reims, and a close advisor to Pope Urban II. He founded the mother house of the Carthusians (today numbering 280).

Saturday, October 7, Our Lady of the Rosary

This Memorial was established by Pope Pius V in thanksgiving for the victory at Lepanto.



Perpetual Help Devotions

Perpetual Help devotions will be celebrated this Monday evening at 6:15 pm. Basilicas have particular devotions – ours is obviously Perpetual Help devotions. Since our basilica is dedicated to Mary, it is obvious that we offer devotions related to her.

PRAY FOR PEACE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD!

MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND MASSES FOR THE WEEK:

Monday, October 2,

7:45 am. - Mass
12:05 am. - Mass
6:00 pm. - Perpetual Help Devotions
Mass 7:00 pm. - RCIA

Tuesday, October 3,

7:45 am. - Mass
12:05 am. - Mass
7:00 pm. - Grief Support Meeting

Wednesday, October 4,

7:45 am. - Mass
8:30 am. - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
9:15 am. - School Mass (Gym)
12:05 pm. - Mass
6:45 pm. - Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursday, October 5,

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

Friday, October 6,

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, October 7,

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

Sunday, October 8

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

DECEASED PRIESTS OF THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH & OUR DIOCESE.



On Monday, we remember the 10th anniversary of the death of Msgr. George Adams, and the 8th anniversary of the death of Fr. John Holms. On Friday, we remember the 12th anniversary of the death of Msgr. David Reasbeck. On Saturday, we remember the 22nd anniversary of the death of Msgr. Robert Brown, and the 22nd anniversary of the death of Fr. William Patala. These served the Diocese of Steubenville to the best of their ability. May they rest now in the peace of the Risen Lord.

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

"Akathist Hymn in Honor of The Holy Eucharist". Plan to take an active part in these solemn days.



THE BASILICA OF SAINT MARY

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



October 1, 2023

Dear Parishioners,

The Gospel today deals with conversion of the heart. Change can only begin from the heart. When Jesus preached about repentance, He began with change of heart.

Conversion means rejection of the old life and living in hope for a new life. Burdened by regret and repugnance for past actions, the heart of the sinner turns toward the freedom and peace of God's mercy. Such a turn cannot happen without the initiative of God. God calls the sinner to change and empowers the sinner to affect change in his or her life. Change only occurs when the sinner allows God to take charge. Hence, the key to change is interior penance, an openness to God and his will.

The call of the Lord declares that everyone is a sinner in the need of change. All of us, saint or sinner, are asked one question. Are we doing the will of the Father? This question even silences the cynic. For the cynic knows in his heart he does not, and hides his head in shame. Conversion is the master theme of the entire Bible and the enduring message in salvation history. Every prophecy, every proverb, psalm, chronicle, law, commandment, parable, beatitude, and moral insight is proclaimed for the purpose of conversion: of the soul, of the heart, and of the mind.

The New Testament Church preached in continuity with it: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" Christianity is about conversion because our faith is something that is grown. Our work of participation in God's saving grace is a lifelong duty. Conversion is for everyone, because its fruits of faith, hope, and love are for everyone. Conversion comes from the Latin *conversio*, meaning "to turn around." Conversion involves both turning away from a past life and turning toward God, resulting in an interior transformation of the person. Conversion can mean turning from sin to repentance, from laxity to fervor, from unbelief to faith, from error to truth.

Just as a parent calls a child in a dangerous situation back to safety, so God, a loving Father, continually calls us away from what is harmful in our lives and back to communion and new life with him. Conversion is a daily choice to turn our eyes and hearts back to God in everything we do, say, and think. Conversion is not just an initial turning toward God, but a continual process of sanctification, leading the believer to perfection.

Sincerely,

Rev Msgr. John M. Campbell

The importance of religion in the lives of Americans is shrinking

Just 16% of Americans surveyed said religion is the most important thing in their lives, according to a new report by the Public Religion Research Institute. The importance of religion in the lives of Americans is on the decline. For people who do still attend religious services, they say they're optimistic about the future of their house of worship. Just 16% of Americans surveyed said religion is the most important thing in their lives, down from 20% a decade ago.

For Catholics and mainline Protestants, the importance of religion has declined somewhat in the last decade. Among those who've left a religion, more than one-third say they were formerly Catholic.

The COVID-19 pandemic appears to have influenced a larger trend. In 2019, 19% of Americans said they attended a religious service once a week. That percentage has now dropped to 16% attending weekly and 13% saying they attend "a few times a year." The report indicated that those still going are happy. Eight-two percent say they're optimistic about the future of their church.

Catholic Mass Intentions

Having a Mass celebrated for a person or a specific request has a long history in the Catholic Church. Requesting a Mass is not only a sign of your own faith and flourishing, but of your heart for those who say these Masses. The offering you make when requesting a Mass will go to support the work of the Church.

All Masses may be scheduled on a particular date, and offered in the Basilica. Any individual may request a Mass to be offered. Masses are usually offered for several reasons: for example, in thanksgiving, for the intentions of another person (such as on a birthday), or, as is most common, for the repose of the soul of someone who has died.

The Mass is the highest form of worship in the Catholic Church. Members of the faithful come together and enter into the celebration of Christ's Passion in which He becomes fully present in the Eucharist. The Mass is not merely a reenactment, but the same, real sacrifice taking place. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states:

"The victim is one and the same: the same now offered through the ministry of priests, who then offered himself on the cross; only the manner of offering is different." "In this divine sacrifice which is celebrated in the Mass, the same Christ who offered himself once in a bloody manner on the altar of the cross is contained and is offered in an unbloody manner" (CCC 1367).

The priest, acting in the person of Christ, offers the bread and wine on the altar and joins them to Christ's perfect sacrifice. Since the Mass is the most powerful form of prayer, it is a common practice to have it offered for a specific intention. Having a Mass offered for someone is a powerful way to intercede for them. A great gift for a loved one who has died, or a gift for an intention in your family is to offer Mass for them. You can schedule a Mass on a particular day by coming to the rectory and getting the intention into the Mass book.

Woman Arrested for Silent Prayer at UK Abortion Clinics Gets Police Apology



Isabel Vaughan-Spruce, the woman twice arrested for silent prayer outside U.K. abortion clinics, has received a police apology and confirmation that she will not face charges for violating a local “buffer zone” protection.

Though Vaughan-Spruce said she would return to the clinic to pray, she warned that her treatment has implications for the future of basic freedoms in the U.K. “I should never have been arrested or investigated simply for the thoughts I held in my own mind,” she said. Alluding to George Orwell’s dystopian novel. “Silent prayer is never criminal,” she said.

On March 6, Vaughan-Spruce was arrested for praying in a “buffer zone” outside an abortion clinic on Station Road, Birmingham. Local authorities had declared a Public Space Protection Order near the clinic, using a legal mechanism intended to prevent antisocial behavior. She was previously arrested Dec. 6, 2022, for silent prayer outside the same abortion facility, which was closed at the time. In February, the Birmingham Magistrates’ Court acquitted her of all charges related to the first case. Police apologized to Vaughan-Spruce for taking so long to close her second case. They said there would be no further investigation and no further action taken.

Vaughan-Spruce is the director of March for Life UK and helps support women in crisis pregnancies. She has regularly prayed near abortion clinics for 20 years. “Now that authorities have twice settled on the conclusion that silent prayer is not a crime — a conclusion also reached by the Home Secretary last week — I am thankful to resume my practice of praying silently for women in crisis pregnancies,” she said.

Vatican cardinal to make charity mission to Ukraine city hit by Russian drones

The head of the Vatican’s charity office is traveling to Ukraine to inaugurate a new home for displaced mothers and children in Lviv days after a warehouse containing aid burned to the ground following a Russian strike. According to a Sept. 20 press release from the Dicastery for the Service of Charity, papal almoner Cardinal Konrad Krajewski is in Ukraine this week to open the House of Refuge “in the name of Pope Francis, as a sign of support and closeness to the many people who were forced to flee because of the conflict, bringing the apostolic blessing.”

The shelter was built during the conflict with Russia and financed in part by the Vatican. It will provide temporary housing to women who have fled the bombing in other parts of Ukraine.

The visit follows Russian attacks in Ukraine that killed nine people Sept. 19, according to Reuters. In Lviv, a drone strike set on fire several industrial warehouses, including a warehouse used by the Catholic charity Caritas-Spes to store humanitarian aid.

Seton Shrine's new additions offer interactive encounter with first American-born saint



- The National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Emmitsburg, Maryland, is opening a new \$4 million state-of-the-art Seton Shrine Museum and Visitor Center on Sept. 22, offering visitors an interactive encounter with the first American-born canonized saint.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (1774–1821), opened one of the first free Catholic schools for girls in the United States and established the first order of women religious in the country — the Sisters of Charity — on the very grounds where her shrine and the new museum and visitor center are located.

The shrine includes St. Elizabeth Ann's original "Stone House" and "White House" as well as the basilica. With the addition of the museum and visitors center, pilgrims to the shrine now have the opportunity to immerse themselves in her life by walking in her footsteps where she lived and served. The museum is rich in American history and the history of the Catholic Church in America.

With the addition of the new museum and visitors center, the shrine anticipates a significant increase in pilgrims, which averages 60,000 visitors annually.

Zelenskyy honors Catholic bishop serving Ukrainians in the US for 'spiritual battle'



Metropolitan Archbishop Borys Gudziak of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia receives the Cross of Ivan Mazepa from Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Sept. 21. The Cross of Ivan Mazepa is an award of the President of Ukraine, established to honor citizens for a significant contribution to the revival of the national cultural-artistic,

As part of an address to honor those who have shown unwavering support of Ukraine throughout the war, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy honored Metropolitan Archbishop Borys Gudziak of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia on Thursday with a presidential award.



"If we manage to be with God in silence, we possess what is essential. Man does not live by bread alone, but by a word that comes from the mouth of God. The materialistic civilization that now prevails in the West favors nothing but immediate profit, economic success, and pointless leisure activities. In this domain of King Money, who could ever be interested in God's silence?"

— Robert Cardinal Sarah

Why Bats Don't Get Cancer, and How the Animals Could Advance New Treatments for Humans

Did you know bats rarely develop cancer? The winged mammals possess remarkable immunity when it comes to diseases, which is largely attributed to genetic adaptations. And while that's wonderful for them, we humans would love to harness that power too.

We are one step closer following a recently published study wherein researchers analyzed bats' disease resistance. The team of scientists examined the genes responsible for the rapidly evolving immune systems of bats. Their aim was to unravel the bats' unique ability to combat deadly viruses, potentially offering insights into new immunotherapies and pandemic prevention for humans.

Researchers analyzed the DNA of 15 bat species, sequencing the genomes of two and comparing them to humans, mice, and other susceptible mammals, per Popular Science. By generating these new bat genomes and comparing them to other mammals scientists find extraordinary new adaptations in antiviral and anticancer genes. These investigations are the first step towards translating research on the unique biology of bats into insights relevant to understanding and treating aging and diseases, such as cancer, in humans.

Spain: Diocese will only allow new baptisms if parents are convinced



Starting from the 2023-2024 academic year, parents who wish to have their children baptized (especially those with uncertain faith or who baptize "out of tradition") will be invited to follow a pathway to ensure that they make this decision with conviction and awareness. The Diocese of Getafe, located in the Madrid region of Spain, is implementing a new pathway for parents who want to baptize their children.

The new Directory for Christian Initiation of the Diocese of Getafe requires parishes in the region to offer this opportunity, which also becomes a condition for administering baptism.

To prevent this from becoming a mere formalism, the Directory emphasizes the need for a relationship to be established between the parish priest, the baptismal pastoral team, and the family. The baptism date is considered last in this process. If, during discussions with the parents, there is no assurance that the child will grow up in an environment that fosters the practice and teaching of the Catholic faith, the parents will be offered primary resources required for the reception of this sacrament.

In cases where parents do not accept, the diocese will offer them guidance to help them understand the need for this process before their child's baptism. If they still do not wish to proceed, the baptism may be postponed, and contact will be made with them later, possibly during the school years, concerning the baptism. The Directory places great importance on the preparation of parents, seeing it as a significant pastoral challenge, starting with the priests who must implement these new provisions.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

On Wednesday and Friday, Solemn Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place at the Basilica, in the Chapel of the English Martyrs from 8:15 am. until 7:00 pm. Jesus is waiting for us! Some quotes from recent Popes:

- 1.) “Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is also an important daily practice and has become an inexhaustible source of holiness.” (Pope John Paul II)
- 2.) “I heartily recommend to the Church’s pastors and to the people of God, the practice of Eucharistic adoration, both individually and in community.” (Pope Benedict XVI)
- 3.) “Curiously, the prayer of adoration – we have lost it. We have lost it, and everyone – priests, bishops, consecrated men and women, lay people – have to recover it. It’s to be in silence, before the Lord.” (Pope Francis)