

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



FEBRUARY 11, 2024
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

| | |
|-----|--|
| Sat | 5:30 PM - Karen Offenberger, 8 th Anniversary |
| Sun | 8:00 AM - Dale & Norma Gerken |
| | 10:00 AM - People of the Parish |
| | 12:00 PM - Larry Steinel |
| Mon | 7:45 AM - David Erb |
| | 12:05 PM - Nadi Elsibai |
| Tue | 7:45 AM - Mary Lou Binegar |
| | 12:05 PM - Marie Devol |
| | ASH WEDNESDAY |
| Wed | 7:45 AM - Lee Bryant |
| | 12:05 PM - Mark Bradley |
| | 6:00 PM - Tom Paguirigan |
| Thu | 7:45 AM - David Davis |
| | 12:05 PM - Mass of Thanksgiving – The Rajakaruna Family |
| Fri | 7:45 AM - Antoinette DiBello |
| | 12:05 PM - Francis Huck, 11 th Anniversary |
| Sat | 9:00 AM - Edith Lauer, 6 th Anniversary |
| | 5:30 PM - Mary Lazorik |
| Sun | 8:00 AM - Dale & Norma Gerken |
| | 10:00 AM - Karen Kuba |
| | 12:00 PM - People of the Parish |

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 - Rusty Nesmith (304) 488-1167

Parish Council President - Luke Strahler (614) 309-8876

CWC President - Debbie Lazorik (740) 434-3769

Hibernians - Charles W. Farley (740) 706-1434

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

A great prophet has arisen in our midst, God has visited his people

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY:

Gn 9:8-15; 1 Pt 3:18-22; Mk 1:12-15.

ASH WEDNESDAY:

Wednesday, February 14th is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. Masses will be celebrated at 7:45 AM and 12:05 and 6:00 PM. The 12:05 PM Mass will be an All School Mass. Ashes will be distributed at all Masses. Note: Ash Wednesday is a day of fast and abstinence.

2025 MASS BOOK:

The 2025 Mass Intention Book should arrive by the end of February, for scheduling Masses, Weddings, Meetings and Flower Intentions. Given the size of our parish, many parishioners were not able to have even one weekend Mass in 2023. Therefore, **we must limit requests to 4 weekend Masses per family**. Just a reminder that we do not have altar flowers during Lent.

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

| | | | |
|-------|---------|---|---|
| SUN | 8:45AM | - | 9:45 AM – CCD Classes in the Basilica Social Hall. |
| MON | 6:15 PM | - | Our Lady of Perpetual Help Devotions. See announcement. |
| | 7:00 PM | - | RCIA in the Basilica Social Hall. |
| WED | 8:15 AM | - | 7:00 PM – Eucharistic Adoration in the Chapel of the English Martyrs |
| THURS | 8:30 AM | - | Cleaning the Basilica. See announcement. |
| FRI | 8:15 AM | - | 7:00 PM – Eucharistic Adoration in the Chapel of the English Martyrs. |
| | 5:00 PM | - | 7:00 PM - Fish Fry in the Parish Center. |
| | 7:00 PM | - | Stations of the Cross and Benediction. |

The Lord Will Never Be Outdone In Generosity!

Total collection last weekend: \$ 17,610.00

Amount of second collection last
Weekend: \$ 1,789.00

God bless those who support our Basilica Parish!

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.

DAILY BREAD KITCHEN

Each month the Daily Bread Kitchen provides around 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!

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bulletin announcements must be in by Noon Wednesday in order to be included in the following weekend’s bulletin. They must be in writing.

SAINT MARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWS

Registration for the 2024 – 2025 Academic year will be open on Monday, February 12th for Preschool 3 through 8th grade. Visit the school website at St. Mary Catholic School and click the admissions tab to begin the registration process, request information or re-enroll. There are scholarship opportunities available. The Ed Choice application can be found on the school website, and questions can be mailed to edchoice@stmaryscatholic.org.

Tours can be scheduled by calling the school office at 740-374-8181 or emailing Mrs. Bradley at tammibradley@stmaryscatholic.org.

Kindergarten Screening is scheduled for Thursday, March 14th beginning at 9:15 AM. In-house students will be scheduled by the office, for new inquiries you can call the school office (740) 374-8181.

Lenten Fish Fry begins Friday, February 16 – Friday, March 22 from 5:00 PM until 7:00 PM. We look forward to this delicious event and invite all to dine in, carry out or utilize the drive-thru option for Friday night dinners! There is a flyer in this week’s bulletin with pricing and meal options.

ST. MARY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL REUNION

The next reunion for St. Mary Catholic High School Alumni is scheduled for July 13, 2024. Mark your calendars now.

NEW ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBER

If you have a new address or phone number, please let the parish office know as we want to keep our parish roster current.

CLEANING THE BASILICA

Volunteers will be cleaning the Basilica Thursday morning at 8:30 AM. If you would like to help, please join us.

K of C NEWS

K of C Meetings are held at the K of C Hall, 312 Franklin Street, Marietta. They are held the first and third Tuesday at 7:30 PM. The rosary will be prayed at 7:00 PM before the third Tuesday meeting.

CHURCHTOWN CWC BREAKFAST

A Dine in or Drive-thru Breakfast will be held at the Churchtown K of C Hall on Sunday, February 25th from 8:00 AM until 10:00 AM. An adult meal consisting of eggs, bacon, home fries, biscuit/sausage gravy and a drink is \$10.00. A kids meal consisting of pancakes, bacon, eggs and a drink is \$5.00. There will be a bake sale sponsored by the Churchtown Busy Bunch 4 H Club. Mark your calendars now to attend. All are welcome.

DCCW LENTEN DAY OF SPIRITUALITY

A Lenten Day of Spirituality for all women of the diocese will be held on Sat., March 16, 2024, at The Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption in Marietta. The program includes these topics:

The Eucharistic Revival
The Eucharistic Rosary Congress

Make reservations through your CWC President or by contacting DeDe Kidder (DCCW Treasurer), P.O. Box 31, Toronto, Ohio 43964
Cell Phone: (740)632-3018
Email: dede.kidder@gmail.com. The fee of \$25.00 is payable in advance. Registration: 8:30 – 9:45 AM, Saturday, March 16th, 2024.

PRE-CANA

A Pre-Cana Session is scheduled here at the Basilica on Saturday, March 9, 2024. Couples planning to be married any time this year should register for this session by calling the parish office at 740-373-3643. Note: Pre-Cana is a requirement for marriage in the Diocese of Steubenville.

RITE OF ELECTION HELP NEEDED

The RCIA Rite of Election will take place in our parish on Sunday, February 25th at 1:30 PM. We are in need of servers, ushers, and a lector. Please consider signing up.

HOLY FAMILY PRAYER

Before each of the Masses this weekend, the Knights of Columbus invite all parishioners to recite a prayer to consecrate themselves to the Holy Family.

2023 CONTRIBUTIONS

If you would like a complete record of your church contributions for 2023, please call the parish office and we will mail them to you. If you wish to pick up your statement, please call at least two days ahead. Please Note: your contribution record includes donations to the St. Vincent de Paul Society. It does not include donations made to the D/PSC. This information will be mailed directly from the Diocese.

SCHEDULING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Please check with the parish office before scheduling a meeting or event in the Basilica Social Hall, Conference Room, Library or using the Basilica Kitchen. **All meetings and events MUST be put in the Master Book in the Parish Office.**

PRAY FOR OUR SERVICEMEN

We pray for all of the men and women who are serving our country in the military. We especially remember those from our parish and friends and relatives of our parishioners. May God watch over them and bring them safely home.

YOUNG ADULT GROUP

A Young Adult Group is starting up! Please contact Leslie Lupardus with any questions or details, (740) 885-9378.

BASILICA BOOK CLUB

February's book is: **On the Other Side of Fear-How I Found Peace**, by Hallie Lord. What happened to that girl who was not afraid to climb to the top of the waterfall and jump? Who backpacked across Europe? You wouldn't recognize her –she's become a woman paralyzed by fear, scared to death to trust God & trying to manage her family's hectic life. Asking always, "Does God truly love me?"

Next meeting: February 28th at 6:00 PM in the Basilica Social Hall. Join us for a glass of wine, light appetizers and lively discussion. All are welcome. If you have any ideas for books, they will be added to our book list. Contact Debbie Lazorik at 740-434-3769 or email lazorikd@marietta.edu.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 17 and 18

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Lectors

Altar Servers

| | | | |
|--------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Sat: | Evelyn Potter (CAPT) | Terri Ann Brockett | Drew Heiss |
| 5:30 | Tony Huffman (HOST) | | Liam Long |
| | Jennifer Schenkel (HOST) | | Anna Combs |
| | Debbie Lazorik (CHALICE) | | |
| | Irene Cain (CHALICE) | | |
| Sun: | Suzanne Baker (CAPT) | Carol Wharff | Joe Flaherty |
| 8:00 | Patti Finkel (HOST) | | Greg Dickson |
| | Theresa Huck (HOST) | | Ron Wesel |
| | Dave Baker (CHALICE) | | Mike Iaderosa |
| | Sharon Loken (CHALICE) | | |
| 10:00 | Ken Masselli (CAPT) | Tom Hushion | Annie Tokodi-Ruth |
| | Cheyenne Greenwood (CAPT) | | Mary Tokodi-Ruth |
| | Kaelly Erb (HOST) | | Aamon Harper |
| | Cathy Rauch (CHALICE) | | Dave Payne |
| | Elizabeth Tokodi (CHALICE) | | |
| 12:00 | Stan Vanlandingham (CAPT) | Mary LaBarre | Evan Huffman (swap req.) |
| | Sandy Bickert (HOST) | | Grant Huffman |
| | Jeanette Flowers (HOST) | | Nathan Soffian |
| | Dennis Nau (CHALICE) | | |
| | Lisa Taylor (CHALICE) | | |

JOHN & BLANCHE MUSSIO SCHOLARSHIP:

Awards under this program are for the first year of college work at any Catholic College or University currently Listed in the "Newman Guide" by the Cardinal Newman Society at <https://cardinalnewmansociety.org/college>. Applicant must be a high school senior who will be a member of the graduating class of 2024 AND whose residence is located within the boundaries of the Diocese of Steubenville. Applicant must be a participating member of a Roman Catholic parish in the Diocese of Steubenville and meet the enrollment standards of the College/University they are planning to attend. More information and applications are available at the Parish Office.

BAG & BASKET BINGO: a Bag & Basket Bingo will be held at St. Bernard Social Hall on Sunday, February 25, 2024. Doors open at 1:00 PM; games begin at 2:00 PM. There will be 20 games for \$20.00. Tickets will be sold at the door only. There will be a 50/50 drawing, concession stand, and a raffle. For questions call: 740-960-9944. Proceeds benefit Mary's House. Mary's House serves expectant mothers as they learn to care for themselves and their newborn child. Follow us at: <https://www.facebook.com.maryshousesoutheastern>. Visit our website at: maryshouseoh.com



THE SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
FEBRUARY 11, 2024

A leper approached Jesus, fell to his knees, and pleaded, "Jesus, if you want to, you can make me whole again." Jesus reached out and touched the man. "He said to him, "I do wish it: Be cleansed." Immediately, the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. The disease the leper had was a serious skin disorder that caused the community to reject him.

The leper recognized Jesus had the power not only to cure him. In the eyes of the leper, Jesus could make him "kosher," ritually clean. Jesus could restore him to an honorable place in society and in Judaism. This leper believed Jesus had a power greater than that of the Temple priest. The priest could act as an official witness that declared a leper cleansed; his role was passive. Jesus, on the other hand, had an active role as he who cured and restored. Since only God had the power to make someone truly clean, the leper recognized God's power in Jesus. Jesus could bring the man back into the community. The man believed that Jesus could do only what God could do: make the man "normal" again.

Jesus cleansed the man: by touching him. To touch the unclean made one unclean. When Jesus touched the diseased man, he "took" the disease upon himself. He changed the status of the "unclean" to "clean" and became polluted. He made himself rejected, so the leper could become accepted. Mark foreshadowed Jesus' ultimate act of accepting death upon Himself, so all might have eternal life with God.

Having clearly warned him, He immediately threw him out. He said to him, "See (that) you do not say anything to anyone. But, go away, show yourself to the priest, and make an offering for your cleansing that Moses commanded, as a witness to them."

Jesus had deep feelings for the man and his condition. Jesus fulfilled the request of the leper, but the cured man did not return the favor. Jesus commanded the cured leper to fulfill the Law. He was to present himself to the priest so he could be declared "clean." In other words, Jesus could cure, but only the priest could declare the man "cleansed". The declaration of the priest would stand as a witness to God's power. Those who opposed Jesus, Sadducee or Pharisee, would have to recognize the effects of the cure. Through the word of Jesus, the unclean was now clean. The cured man, however, did not fulfill Jesus' request. He spread the Good News in other ways, so that it was no longer possible for Jesus to be able to go openly into a town. Jesus could not travel in the open for fear of a mob. Yet, they came to him from every point in Galilee. Jesus continued His ministry despite restrictions placed on him. But he could not visit new territories and preach.

MEN'S DAY OF RENEWAL

The Diocese of Steubenville is hosting its annual Men's Day of Renewal on Saturday, March 9 at St. Stephen Church in Caldwell, Ohio. Doors open for registration at 8:00 am. The day consists of a Holy Hour, two presentations, a penance service, lunch, and concludes with Mass celebrated by Bishop Paul Bradley at 2:30 p.m. The speaker this year is Dr. Alan Schreck, Professor Emeritus of Theology at Franciscan University, and the theme is: *Living in the Power of The Holy Spirit*. You can register online at <https://athenscatholic.org/steubenville-mens-day> or watch for a paper registration form

Deceased Priests of our Diocese

On Monday, we remember the 35th anniversary of the death of Msgr. Paul Richter. On Wednesday, we remember the 59th anniversary of the death of Msgr. William Hayes, the 31st anniversary of the death of Fr. James Dirker, and the 19th anniversary of the death of Msgr. Donal O'Carroll. On Thursday, we remember the 62nd anniversary of the death of Fr. Charles Ryan. On Saturday, we remember the 11th anniversary of the death of Fr. Adam Stromski. May these priests rest in the peace of the Risen Lord.



PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTIONS - MONDAY

Perpetual Help devotions will be celebrated this Monday evening at 6:15 pm. Since our basilica is dedicated to Mary, it is obvious that we offer devotions related to her. These devotions are a sign of our devotion to our Catholic Faith. Why not come to experience these devotions?

PILGRIMAGES TO OUR BASILICA

Our Basilica of Saint Mary of the Assumption welcomes all visitors, encouraging them to come, pray, and enjoy our beautiful church. If you are a member of a group who would like to tour our Basilica or make a spiritual pilgrimage, please let us know how we can be of assistance. We are honored to host visitors and pilgrims to our Basilica.



ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

On Wednesday and Friday of this week, Solemn Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place at the Basilica, in the Chapel of the English Martyrs from 8:15 am. until 7:00 pm. We need to be grateful to the Lord for His presence among us in the Eucharist, and we need to spend time with Him in adoration. The Eucharist is the source and summit of all Christian life. In the Eucharist, the sanctifying action of God reach their high point. The Eucharist contains Christ Himself.

SPECIAL EVENTS AND PILGRIMAGES TO THE BASILICA

Feb. - 15, - Rite of Election
Mar. - 9, - Marriage preparation program
Mar. - 16, - Diocesan Woman Day of Spirituality
Mar. - 19, - Tour – St. Joseph Church, Massillon, Ohio
Mar. - 26, - 2:00 pm. Diocesan Chrism Mass
Apr. - 23, - Pilgrimage - Johnstown, P.A.
Apr. - 28, - 2:00 pm. Confirmation with Bishop Bradley
May, - 8, - Pilgrimage – Assumption Church, Burnsville, Ohio
May, - 29, - Pilgrimage – St. Philip Church, Pittsburgh, P. A.
Aug. - 23, - U.S. Tours

LITURGICAL FEASTS THIS WEEK

Wednesday, February 14, Ash Wednesday

The penitential season of lent begins today. It is a day of universal fast and abstinence in the Church. Today, ashes are blessed and imposed as a mark of penance.

Saturday, February 17, The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order

The Servites were founded by seven Florentine merchants in 1223. Today the Order numbers 785 members. They popularized devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows.

In what U.S. state is it illegal to dress up as a priest on Halloween?

If you live in the U.S. state of Alabama, you cannot dress like a priest on Halloween or any other day. According to Alabama law, you may be arrested or fined if you dress up as a priest, rabbi, pastor, or any other clergy member of any religion. The state code is clear 'Whoever, being in a public place, fraudulently pretends by garb or outward array to be a minister of any religion, or nun, priest, rabbi, or another member of the clergy, is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding \$500.00 or confinement in the county jail for not more than one year, or by both such fine and imprisonment.'

**“It is not enough to love the young:
they must know that they are loved”**

—Saint John Bosco



What is Lent?

Wednesday, February 14, 2024 –

Thursday, March 28, 2024

Lent is a 40 day season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday. It's a period of preparation to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection at Easter. During Lent, we seek the Lord in prayer by reading Sacred Scripture; we serve by giving alms; and we practice self-control through fasting. We are called not only to abstain from luxuries during Lent, but to a true inner conversion of heart as we seek to follow Christ's will more faithfully. We recall the waters of baptism in which we were also baptized into Christ's death, died to sin and evil, and began new life in Christ.

Many know of the tradition of abstaining from meat on Fridays during Lent, but we are also called to practice self-discipline and fast in other ways throughout the season. Contemplate the meaning and origins of the Lenten fasting tradition in this reflection. In addition, the giving of alms is one way to share God's gifts—not only through the distribution of money, but through the sharing of our time and talents. As St. John Chrysostom reminds us: "Not to enable the poor to share in our goods is to steal from them and deprive them of life. The goods we possess are not ours, but theirs." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 2446).

In Lent, the baptized are called to renew their baptismal commitment as others prepare to be baptized through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, a period of learning and discernment for individuals who have declared their desire to become Catholics.

[Papua New Guinea announces papal visit; Vatican counters visit is 'under study'](#)

Justin Tkatchenko, the foreign minister of Papua New Guinea, announced that the government has received official notice from the Vatican of a three-day papal visit in August. Bishop Anthony Randazzo of Broken Bay (Australia), the president of the Federation of Catholic Bishops Conferences of Oceania, welcomed the news.

In response to the announcement, Matteo Bruni, director of the Holy See Press Office, said that the trip is only "under study," with planning in the "very preliminary" stages.

Pope Francis said in a recent interview that he was considering trips to Argentina and Polynesia this year.

MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND MASSES FOR THE WEEK:

Monday, February 12,

7:45 am. - Mass
12:05 pm. - Mass
6:15 pm. - Perpetual Help Devotions
7:00 pm. - RCIA

Tuesday, February 13,

7:45 am. - Mass
12:05 pm. - Mass
7:00 pm. - Pre Cana Team Mtg.

Wednesday, February 14,

7:45 am. - Ash Wednesday Mass
8:20 am. - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
12:05 pm. - Ash Wednesday Mass
1:30 pm. - Ash service at Marietta Memorial
6:00 pm. - Ash Wednesday Mass
6:45 pm. - Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament
7:00 pm. - Ash Wednesday Mass – St. Henry

Thursday, February 15,

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

Friday, February 16,

7:45 am. - Mass
8:20 am. - Adoration of the Sacrament
10:00 am. - Mass at Glenwood
12:05 pm. - Mass
6:45 pm. - Reposition of the Sacrament
7:00 pm. - Stations of the Cross

Saturday, February 17,

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

Sunday, February 18,

8:00 am. Mass
9:00 am. Stations at St. Henry's
9:30 am. - Mass – Saint Henry
10:00 am. - Mass
12:00 am. - Mass

Mourn With Those Who Mourn:

How to Support a Grieving Friend

The main message is simply that you have not forgotten them or the person they love. Earth is the vale of tears. This side of heaven, we will most certainly encounter loss, as will the people around us. When the death of a loved one comes to our own lives, it can leave us frozen in our tracks and unsure of how to proceed. It can be difficult to know what to say to a friend or family member who is suffering from the loss of a loved one.

On the flip side, we experience the ache of when friends or family withheld support because of their own discomfort. Contrary to what one might think, how uncomplicated comforting words could be. Whether sent by a text, written in a card or spoken in person, our words and concern are important in moments of grief.

Grief is many things, but one thing it can be is isolating. Telling a friend that you're uniting your suffering to theirs is a reminder that we are all on the journey together. While we might be afraid to say the wrong thing to a grieving friend, it is far more concerning to say absolutely nothing.



SAINT MARY BASILICA

506 Fourth Street
Marietta, Ohio 45750



February 11, 2024

Dear Parishioners,

"Heal the sick!" (Matthew 10:8) Illness was no longer to be seen as a curse, but as a chance for faith, a time for healing. Jesus brought compassion and service to his ministry among the sick. And, as Jesus did, he instructed his followers to do. Hence, the Church has a duty and a charism to act as an agent of God's healing power. In the name of Jesus, the Church prays for healing among the sick. But, by invoking the name, the Church remembers who really heals and serves: God himself.

From Scripture and Tradition, the Church exercises a ministry to the sick. The Anointing of the Sick sums up the Church's ministry: a sign of the community's care and a prayerful anointing for healing. The sacrament, administered by a bishop or priest, binds the sick to Christ. In this sense, the sacrament forgives sin and "raises up" the sick. No matter whether the result of the anointing is physical or spiritual healing, the sacrament points toward the general resurrection, when all the faithful will be made whole, just as Christ's resurrection restored him.

What hope has God given you in times of illness? How have fellow Christians helped you when you were ill? Did their help or prayers help you through the effects of your illness? How?

Mark wrote of healing, ejection, and evangelization. When we feel Christ's healing touch, we want to stay near, to feel intimate union with the Master. Yet, when he withdraws, do we withdraw? Or do we invite others to the Lord?

God calls us to wholeness. But we cannot stay in the Lord's house forever. We need to get back to our daily routines and relationships. It is not a return to the status quo. It is a chance to proclaim and to serve.

In Christ,

Rev. Msgr. John M. Campbell