

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY

in Ordinary Time



*T*herefore, I say to you, the kingdom of
God will be taken away from you and
given to a people that will produce its fruit.

Matthew 21:43

Monday, October 9*Monday in the Twenty-Seventh Week of Ordinary Time*

8:00 am R Protection of the Unborn
 8:00 am R Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
 5:30 pm P **Religious Vocations**

Tuesday, October 10*Tuesday of the Twenty-Seventh Week in Ordinary Time*

7:00 am P † **Alta Walker**
 12:00 pm M Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
 5:30 pm M Vocations to the Priesthood

Wednesday, October 11*Wednesday of the Twenty-Seventh Week in Ordinary Time*

7:00 am P † **Rhea Ohl**
 8:30 am P † **Jim Liston**
 9:30 am P † **Richard Steele**
 9:45 am M Protection of the Unborn
 5:30 pm P **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**

Thursday, October 12*Thursday in the Twenty-Seventh Week in Ordinary Time*

7:00 am P † **Edward Graf**
 5:30 pm R † The Sick and Dying

Friday, October 13*Friday of the Twenty-Seventh Week of Ordinary Time*

8:00 am M The Sick and Dying
 5:30 pm P † **Marilyn Kurtzman**

Saturday, October 14*Vigil of the Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

4:00 pm M Parishioners of Our Tri-Parish Community
 5:00 pm P † **Rick Tober**
 6:00 pm R † Chuck and Brad Laisure

Sunday, October 15*Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

7:30 am P † **Catherine & Jim Liston**
 9:00 am R † Catherine Schroeder
 9:30 am P † **Benjamin Zirzow**
 11:00 am M † Nancy Pfeiffer
 11:30 am P † **Herbert Zirzow, Jr.**

The Sacrament of Penance will be available 30 minutes before every Mass. The Rosary will be said 30 minutes before weekend and most weekday Masses.

M—St. Mary | P—St. Peter | R—Resurrection



In our scripture readings this weekend, both from the prophet Isaiah and the Gospel of Matthew, we hear of the landowner with the vineyard. In each of these God is showing us the path to the fullness of life. As each of us knows, there are many distractions and temptations in this world that lead us off the path to the kingdom of God, which we call heaven. God knows this and so He

speaks to us, giving us inspiration and instruction to return to the pathway of heaven.

In the gospel, one of the points that Jesus makes is that physical violence and abuse of other people is completely contrary to who God is, and therefore everything that God has taught us. Jesus says, to His own astonishment, that people even close off their minds and hearts to good, collaborating with evil, to murder another person. Jesus makes clear in the Gospel that such actions are not the pathway to heaven but to eternal misery and self-inflicted punishment. Jesus gives us this parable because He wants none to perish, but all to have eternal life (cf. John 3:16). Jesus gives His life in order that we might have life.

In the first scripture reading, the prophet Isaiah wants us to reflect on why the vineyard is producing wild grapes instead of good grapes. God created the world good, overflowing with life, but our misuse of freedom has brought death upon us. So often our misuse of freedom is related to pride and selfishness. We were reminded at Mass last week "to have in you the same attitude that is also in Christ Jesus." In the same second reading, we were told to "do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory, rather humbly regard others as more important than yourselves."

Ohioans will decide in four weeks whether it is permissible to commit acts of violence and abuse against the most vulnerable in our society. We will decide if these should be written into our Constitution through issue 1. That proposed constitutional change would legalize and protect what King Herod did at Jesus' birth - the mass killing of the Innocent. People of decency and common sense rejected that evil then and we should still reject that evil today.

Going back to our scripture readings this weekend, we are told that the wild grapes are the work of the enemy, who is named Satan. Jesus says those who commit acts of violence and murder against the innocent are wicked and in need of conversion. Let us assist them in their conversion with fervent prayers and regular fasting, especially each Friday as we recall Jesus sacrificing Himself that others may have life.

On the topic of abortion, Pope Francis recently warned us not "to be poisoned by the toxins of selfishness, individualism, and indifference." St. Teresa of Calcutta said "any country that accepts abortion is not teaching its people to love but to use any violence to get what it wants." Violence and death are never the answer if a good outcome is desired. Please pray, fast, and work for the conversion of those who support abortion in any way.

Sincerely,
Fr. Miller

IN GOD'S ARMS

Please Remember to Pray for our
Beloved Dead

*IN
LOVING
MEMORY*

Editor's Note:

Unfortunately, the previous issue of our Sunday Bulletin (both in print and online) for last week, October 1, contained several errors. The Editor wishes to apologize to you and assure you that we will continue to strive for excellence in the production of this publication.

(In the meantime, we're planning on blaming the new guy who took on the bulletin earlier this summer! He seems a likely fallguy.)

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St. Peter Catholic Church

Physical Address: 60 S. Mulberry St.
Mailing Address: 104 W. 1st. St., Mansfield OH 44902-2199
Website: mansfieldstpeters.org/parish
Parish Office (419) 524-2572 x2101

Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday: 8:30 am – 5:00 pm
Wednesday: 8:30 am – 6:30 pm | Saturday & Sunday: Closed

New Parishioners:

Welcome to St. Peter Parish! We encourage you to register as a parish family as soon as possible. You can call the parish office or register on our website.

Sacrament of Baptism:

Please contact the Parish Center to begin plans for the baptism of your child.

Sacrament of Marriage:

Arrangements should always be made at the Parish Center office **at least twelve months** in advance of the ceremony.

Bulletin Deadline:

Monday at Noon, one week prior to publication date. All submissions must be in writing and/or print ready (JPEG and PDF only for illustrations and pictures). Send to: bulletin@myspartans.org.

A parish of the



Saint Juan Diego Deanery

PARISH NEWS

Your parishioners are invited to pray with other area parishes at the **2023 Public Square Rosary Crusade.**

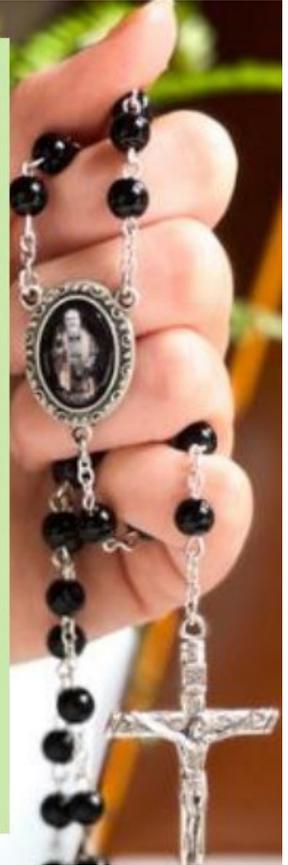
Our nation is in great need of public prayer, repentance, and conversion. We ask God to save America through the Rosary of His Most Holy Mother.

Please join us at Mansfield Central Park Gazebo on **October 14th, at Noon for the Rosary on the Anniversary of Fatima.**

Moni Massa: 419-709-2016

Elaine Ahles: 419-709-1548

Coordinators of the America Needs Fatima Rosary Rally



Sunday Stewardship As of August 2023

Sunday and Holy Day Collections

Sunday Collection & Holy Day Collection: \$140,607

Total Budgeted Sunday Collection: \$152,528

Sunday Collection Surplus/(Deficit) \$ (11,921)

School Collection

Total School Collection: \$22,750

Total Budgeted School Collection: \$19,904

School Collection Surplus/(Deficit) \$2,846

2023 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

Countless lives are touched by every contribution to the Annual Catholic Appeal. Children, seminary students, the sick and aged, the needy—they all depend on our generosity. Thank you for pledging today to help meet our parish goal and assure the continuation of these programs and services. For more information and to make your gift, visit: acatoledo.org.



St. Peter Parish Goal: \$59,068

Gifts/Pledges to Date: \$50,353.75

% of Goal 85.25%

Total Families Donated: 255

ANNUAL BEREAVEMENT MASS

Our annual Bereavement Mass will be on Sunday, Nov. 5, at 2:00 p.m. in the Church. Information will be mailed to families who have had a family member die since October 22, 2022. If you have had an immediate family member (father, mother, sister, brother, child or spouse) die in the last year but who was not buried through St. Peter Parish, we would like to include them and your family in the Mass this year.

Please call the Parish Center at 419-524-2572 with their name, their relationship to you, and their date of death by October 29th, 2023.

FEED THE HUNGRY (ST. PETER OUTREACH MEAL)

The next Feed the Hungry dinner will be October 22 from 3:00 to 4:30 pm at St. Peter. If you can volunteer, please arrive at 1:30 pm to the door at the back of the high school. If you would like to volunteer for this ministry, please email: nestor.paula@myspartans.org.

PERSONAL CARE ITEMS NEEDED

Thank you to all who continue to make donations of personal care items for distribution during our Feed the Hungry (St. Peter Outreach Meals). Items needed include:

- washcloths
- razors & shaving cream
- 3-in-one body wash
- shampoo & conditioner
- hair combs & brushes
- children's books

And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me. (Matt. 25:40)

THE vineyard OF THE LORD IS THE house of Israel.



walking with purpose

**Join us on Wednesday,
Oct. 18th for a video
discussion, "God-First
Place in All Things."
No registration
necessary.
9:30-11am or 6-7:30pm
at Resurrection Parish.
All women are
welcome.**

ANNUAL FEATHER PARTY KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



Friday Before Thanksgiving, November 17th, 2023, 7:00 PM at the Knights of Columbus Hall at 1114 Park Avenue West, Mansfield, OH, 44906

Funds raised from this event help support Council 687's charitable activities mission for the upcoming year.



Please contact a Knight to buy tickets (\$15 each or 2 for \$25) or call our hall at (419) 529-5532.

ONLINE GIVING PROVIDER FOR ST PETER HAS CHANGED

THANK YOU for your ongoing financial giving to St. Peter, whether through offertory envelopes or online giving. If you have already been using online giving for your contributions to St. Peter, please be aware that the provider has now changed. Please follow the instructions below to sign up for the new online giving.

TEXT 'GIVE' TO 419-518-5008

OR

**GIVE ONLINE AT
MANSFIELDSTPETERS.ORG**

OR

SCAN QR CODE:



If you have questions or need assistance, please call the St. Peter Finance Office at 419-524-2572

High School JESUS MOVEMENT

At Resurrection Parish 2600 Lexington Ave.

October	November	December
8th	12th	3rd
15th	19th	17th
22nd		
29th		

SEE FULL SCHEDULE: 

MIDDLE SCHOOL JESUS MOVEMENT

ALL MIDDLE SCHOOL TEENS FROM OUR TRI-PARISH AND BEYOND ARE INVITED

St Peter in the Franciscan Activity Center Atrium
111 W. First St. Mansfield, Oh 44902

Sundays 6:00PM - 8:00PM

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September 10 & 24
October 8 & 22
November 5
December 3
January 14 & 28
February 18
March 3 & 17
April 7

SINGING IS PRAYING TWICE! JOIN THE CHOIR!



So said, Sister M. Raphael Wand, OSF/J, many times during her service here as Music Teacher at St. Peter School. Some of our more venerable and mature members may yet remember hearing her say that.

But it's true. Singing is praying twice. Don't believe it? Why not give it a try and find out?

So please consider joining the St. Peter's Traditional Choir, Bell Choir, Contemporary Ensemble, and/or our Funeral Choir. The ability to read music is not required. You only need to be able to sing or ring a bell, or play a musical instrument. Rehearsal schedules and other information can be obtained by calling the Parish Music Office at 419-524-2572, ext. 2113. Please join us!

PRISON MINISTRY CORNER



Prison ministry has been an important part of our parish life for nearly 125 years! Fr. Ferdinand Schreiber became St. Peter's Pastor in 1898 and began ministering to the prison community at the Ohio State Reformatory on Olivesburg Road in 1899. When it opened, the Reformatory was the largest prison in the state and one of the largest in the country. It was touted as a shining example of effective rehabilitation programming. Younger, non-violent or first-time offenders made up the majority of the Reformatory's population. Fr. Schreiber's concern

was genuine and compassionate. Our Parish Sacramental records are full of notations about inmates celebrating the Sacraments. [Source: *A History of St. Peter's Church in Mansfield, 2023*] We'll continue our review of the history of our parish prison ministry in future bulletins.

Be mindful of prisoners as if sharing their imprisonment
- Hebrews 13:3

DAMASCUS DONATIONS NEEDED

Damascus middle and high school youth groups are looking for some generous souls to donate snacks and drinks for hungry teens. The Middle Schoolers meet at St Peter and the high schoolers meet at Resurrection on Sunday evenings. If you would like to donate to either youth group please bring those donations to either the St Peter, St Mary, or Resurrection Parish offices any Friday between 8:30 and 4. Examples of donated items may include pop, bottled water, cut up veggies, fruit, bags of chips, cookies, brownies, cupcakes, and any other desserts. Damascus missionaries and the teens will be very grateful for any donation. Monetary donations are always appreciated and accepted as well. If you have any questions please call St Peter Parish Office. 419-524-2572, ext 2101.

PIEROGIES!

New for the Fall: Ann Brown will be making perogies on Thursday, October 12th and is in need of volunteers. Sit down jobs are available. Please come to the high school cafeteria on Thursday, October 12th beginning at 8:00 AM if you are interested in helping make perogies. Contact Ann Brown at 419-756-6983 for more information.

Dunn Foundation Annual Meeting & Reception

The Msgr. Edward C. Dunn Foundation for Education will host its annual meeting and reception on Thursday, October 19 at the Franciscan Activity Center.

Doors open at 5:30 pm and program starts at 6 pm. Heavy appetizers will be served.

To RSVP, please contact Laurie McKeon at mckeon.laurie@myspartans.org or by phone at (419) 524-2572 x2135.

RECYCLING DAY: FRIDAY, October 13
10-11 a.m. & 2-4 p.m. — Franciscan Activity Center Parking Lot

H.O.P.E. PANTRY BLUE BARREL WEEKEND
October 14 & 15

FROM MR. NATHAN SIMS, DIRECTOR OF THEOLOGY AND STUDENT FORMATION

Starting a school year is interesting because you begin the year with many goals and wonder how successful and how many of these goals will be accomplished. But with the start of the year many great advancements have been made. I generally break up my strategic development into three categories: intellectual development, spiritual development, and physical development. We have had great developments in each of these categories which you will see below.

Intellectual Development

On the intellectual side of things we have been pushing our students to work with difficult content. Through the development of a new theology curriculum which relies upon reading of direct sources and a philosophical depth, the students are beginning to contemplate important topics that challenge our culture's understanding of living well. The addition of Mikayla Metzger as our theology teacher in the middle school has been a big win. Her depth of education and seriousness in the faith has been a blessing and she is quickly becoming a core component of Catholic Identity for St. Peter's. I have come to see that the vast majority of our students desire to develop a strong intellect and are not afraid of addressing difficult questions about God, life, and purpose. I work to develop a curriculum that allows students to partake in the rigors of true education while also forming their way of thinking to bring them closer to God.

Spiritual Development

The spiritual development has made leaps and bounds this year. To begin, Fr. Kevin is now present, nearly daily, in the high school and middle school. I cannot say enough about what that has done to strengthen our identity as a Catholic school. His presence is necessary and he is now able to work with students in the difficulties of their life. We have received the most amount of volunteers to become servers than at any time in the past. I credit this to Fr. Kevin's presence. Fr. Kevin, in the school, has also taken to teaching on Spiritual Formation Thursdays, which the students have become very fond of. Beyond this we are now planning retreats for the elementary school, which has not been done in the past. We have also had a group of students express interest in joining the Catholic Church. By working with Fr. Miller and the other priests, we have now been able to offer the students formation through their year at St. Peter's with the intention of them becoming confirmed this Easter.

Physical Development

The physical development of the students has taken some interesting but beneficial turns. We are rethinking our service program, and this will be incorporated into the high school and middle school soon. We are shifting the focus from the number of

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION



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Mrs. Ashley Rastorfer
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Mrs. Jennifer Jones
Director of Admissions & Enrollment
jones.jennifer@myspartans.org
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[Mr. Sims - Continued on Page 7]

(Mr. Sims...continued from Page 6)

hours accomplished to quality of service accomplished. This is being done in the hope that students will take their learning out into the world physically in a meaningful way without having to worry about meeting a quota. We have made positive progress in building a new weight room for St. Peter's and hope to have it done by the end of the semester.

The start of this year has been a successful one and God's blessing has followed us through this time of change. Thank you for all your prayers and support. We press on and continue to Ora et Labora.

NOTE: If you are interested in finding out more about any of our academic programs at St. Peter's School, contact Admissions Director Jennifer Jones at jones.jennifer@myspartans.org.



CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CLUB

The October meeting of The Catholic Women's Club of the Saint Juan Diego Deanery will be Wednesday, October 11, 2023 at the Ontario Event Center, 3985 Park Avenue West, Mansfield 44903. The luncheon will begin at 12:00 noon and a meeting and program will follow.



All Catholic women in the Saint Juan Diego Deanery are invited. If you are new, please call Valerie Mapes, President at 419-564-3034 or Sandy Trebonik, October Chairperson at 419-610-4380 before noon on Thursday, October 5, 2023, to make your reservation. We look forward to seeing current members and meeting new members.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS NEEDED

Do you or someone in your family or circle of friends have their substitute teaching license? We are in dire need of substitute teachers for grades preschool through twelfth. In addition to a substitute teaching license, applicants must be VIRTUS trained and must complete BCI and FBI checks. Please email Kelly Brown at brown.kelly@myspartans.org

CRAFTERS WANTED

Crafters wanted for the Christmas Bazaar at Most Pure Heart of Mary Parish in Shelby on Saturday, December 2, from 9 AM until 2 PM. If you would be interested in participating, please contact: Lynelle Boyce at 419-632-0821 or email her at: boycelynelle@yahoo.com

FIRE EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Most Pure Heart of Mary is hosting a night of adoration on Sunday, October 29 for youth, young adults, and families in the St. Juan Diego Deanery and beyond! Adoration will be from 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the church located at 29 West Street in Shelby. There will be a time of fellowship with light refreshments from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the school gym. We will begin the evening with a short explanation and catechesis of adoration at 5:55 p.m. Contact Kari Owens at kowens@stmaryshelby.org with any questions. We hope you can join us!



SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, January 13, 2024

SPARTAN BOOSTER BASH

Music, food, games, raffles, and lots of fun

More information will follow in November

Eucharistic ADORATION



Every Sunday
October 1 - November 5

5:30-7:00pm

Holy Trinity Church

760 Tiffin Street, Bucyrus



Please pray for the DEFEAT of this dangerous amendment.

Vote NO

Issue 1

Nov. 7

Issue 1 is an extreme amendment on the Ohio ballot this November that threatens the health and safety of women, the rights of parents, and the lives of preborn babies up to 9 months.

An extreme amendment is on the Ohio ballot in November that threatens the health and safety of women, the rights of parents and the lives of pre-born babies up to 9 months.



Join Catholics across Ohio in praying a 54-Day Rosary Novena beginning Friday, Sept. 15, for the defeat of this dangerous amendment.

Sign up for a daily email reminder with novena prayers here or at pray54ohio.org.



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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27TH
6:00-8:00P.M.
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7th grade-High School Volunteers are welcome!

**HALLOWEEN
COSTUME
CONTEST**



Donate Blood In Honor of **Micah Galuzny**



Micah is one of six kids, the second oldest in the family. He loves playing baseball, football, and tennis. He is also a Boy Scout. Last October, he was diagnosed with Alveolar Rhabdomyosarcoma, a rare soft muscle tissue cancer. He had a tumor in the bottom of his foot that had metastasized to the knee. During treatment and emergency hospital stays, Micah has needed platelets and blood transfusions. We are grateful for all those who donate blood and would like to encourage more people to do so.

Blood Drive
Resurrection Parish
Fellowship Hall
2600 Lexington Ave.
Lexington, OH 44904

Friday, October 20th, 2023
11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Fall into giving blood Oct 1 thru 20 and get a \$15 Amazon.com Gift Card by email! See rcblood.org/together

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) OR visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter Resurrection to schedule an appointment.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.



American Red Cross

redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767

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DIOCESAN, DEANERY & TRI-PARISH NEWS

ANNUAL ROSARY RALLY, SHELBY

You are invited to the annual Public Square Rosary Rally, to be held on Saturday October 14. It will be one of over 20,000 Rallies across America. This profession of faith is very dear to Mary's Immaculate Heart. Please mark your calendars to spend one hour. The rally will held at Roush Park beginning at noon.

SANCTUS: EUCHARISTIC FAMILY REVIVAL

Join us for SANCTUS...a day of Eucharistic Family Revival. This day long event will be held on Saturday November 4, 2023 at the Franciscan Center of Lourdes University at 6832 Convent Blvd. in Sylvania. The day will be guided by the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, with worship led by Seph Schlueter. See the Toledo Diocesan website for more information, including how to register, when to arrive, etc., lunch, child care, etc.

Go to: <https://toledodiocese.regfox.com/sanctus>



YCP TOLEDO

Member Happy Hour



OCT 12TH | 7:00-9:00
THE STUBBORN BROTHER PIZZA BAR

Looking for a community with a professional focus grounded in Catholic values? Your 20s and 30s can be a confusing and lonely time, but they don't have to be. Come and see.

Attend a Young Catholic Professionals event and join like-minded, mission-driven peers to find God in all things and seek excellence and joy in every area of your life.

Our next event is a Happy Hour at The Stubborn Brother Pizza Bar on October 12th, 7pm-9pm. Learn more and register at <https://www.youngcatholicprofessionals.org/chapter/Toledo>





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PARISH PRAYER LIST

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH

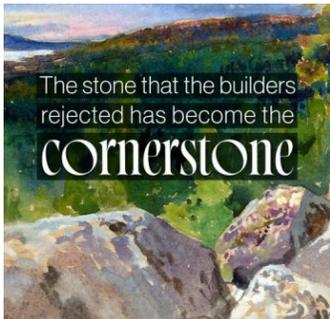
Names will only be listed for four (4) weeks. If you wish to have additional time, contact the Parish Center Office.



Lura Barnes
Holly Barnes
MaKaya Butler
Marianne Cappadonna
Christine Caudill
Caroline Clark
Betty Connolly
Paul Conry
Josephine Contra
Frederick Dale
Scott Darnell
Kathy Deckard
Cherrie De La Paz
Adrian DeLeon
David Donley
Jeffrey Downing
Mick Frye SPHS '71
Micah Galuzny
Rick Gasper
Alan Gleisenger
Bill Johnson

Danny Kiehl
Jeannine Klotz
Cindy Lassen
Susan Leach
John & Cindy Lloyd
Krista Marshall
Danny Marti
Rosemary Musille
Kathy Nash
Dr. Kimberly Nemeth
Carol Pittenger
Lynn Raque
Stephanie Reynolds
Barbara Riley
Bill Ruhl
Colleen Schambre
Joan Schonhardt
Larry Strauser
Linda & Cindy Thompson
Sandy Tebonik
Sharon Valdry

Genevieve (Jenny) Wala
Penny Wendland
Gwen Yockey
Don Yockey
Michael Yoha



The stone that the builders rejected has become the **cornerstone**

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Your Word is a lamp to my feet, a light to my path—Psalm 119:105

- Sunday** **Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**
Is 5:1-7; Ps 80:9, 12, 13-14, 15-16, 19-20; Phil 4:6-9; Mt 21:33-43
- Monday** **Saint Denis, Bishop, and Companions, Martyrs, and Saint John Leonardi, Priest**
Jon 1:1-2:1-2, 11; Jonah 2:3, 4, 5, 8; Lk 10:25-37
- Tuesday** Jon 3:1-10; Ps 130:1b-2, 3-4ab, 7-8; Lk 10:38-42
- Wednesday** Jon 4:1-11; Ps 86:3-4, 5-6, 9-10; Lk 11:1-4
- Thursday** Mal 3:13-20b; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 & 6; Lk 11:5-13
- Friday** Jl 1:13-15. 2:1-2; Ps 9:2-3, 6 & 16; 8-9; Lk 11:15-26
- Saturday** **Memorial of Saint Callistus I, Pope and Martyr**
Jl 4:12-21; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Lk 11:27-28
- Sunday** **Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time**
Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5-6; Phil 4:12-14, 19-20; Mt 22:1-14 or Mt 22:1-10

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament



Sign up here using QR Code & phone camera

or call the parish office



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Resurrection	St. Mary	St. Peter
8:00-Noon	Noon-5:30	5:30-9:00

POPE SAINT JOHN XXIII (1881 - 1963) FEAST DAY - OCTOBER 11



Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli was an ordinary man who achieved extraordinary things in the 20th century. Born into a farming family in northern Italy, he joined the Secular Franciscan order and served in Rome in various capacities following his ordination. During World War II, his diplomacy helped save an estimated 24,000 Jewish people. He was named a cardinal in 1953, and later elected pope, taking the name John after his father and St. John Lateran. Pope John soon became famous for his wit and he began meeting with world political and religious leaders. His writings include "Mother and Teacher" (1961) and "Peace on Earth" (1963). He enlarged the College of Cardinals, making it more international. He opened the Second Vatican Council and set the tone for it stating "...the Spouse of Christ prefers to make use of the medicine of mercy rather than that of severity." He is nicknamed "Good Pope John". May Pope Saint John XXIII encourage us by his teachings and example, to understand the Gospel better and to understand each other better. —Tami Urcia

