

SAINT PETER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

JUNE 7, 2020



104 WEST FIRST STREET • MANSFIELD, OHIO 44902
419.524.2572 | MANSFIELDSTPETERS.ORG

Mass Schedule:

Saturday: 5:00 P.M.
Sunday: 7:30 A.M., 9:30 A.M., 11:30 A.M.
Monday & Friday 5:30 P.M.
Tuesday - Thursday 7:00 A.M.

Spanish Mass:

Resurrection Parish, Lexington

All Masses are cancelled until further notice.

Parish Office Hours:

Monday - Friday: 9:00 A.M.- 2:00 P.M.
Saturday and Sunday: Closed

Pastoral Care Contacts:

Ms. Kristi Reindl 419.524.2572
Hospital & Follow-up
Nursing Homes/Assisted Living &
Prayer Pipeline
Deacon John Reef 419.529.3694
Shut-ins/Homebound

Sacrament of Baptism:

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

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday: 3:00 - 4:30 P.M.
Other times by appointment.

Sacrament of Marriage:

Arrangements should always be made at the **Parish Center office at least eight months** in advance of the ceremony. A wedding date is confirmed after the initial meeting with a priest.

Bulletin Deadline:

Friday, 12:00 noon. All requests must be submitted in writing or email and must receive prior approval.

Parish Administrative Assistant:

Ms. Kristi Reindl 419.524.2572 ext.2122

Pastoral Staff:

Fr. Gregory R. Hite, *Pastor*
Fr. Austin Ammanniti, *Parochial Vicar*
Mr. Bill Johnson,
Director of Music & Liturgy
Ms. Lynne Lukach, *Pastoral Associate*
Mrs. Elizabeth Wurm, *Director of*
Religious Ed. & Youth Minister

Deacon:

Mr. John Reef

St. Peter's School:

Mr. Jonathan Cuttitta
High School, Jr. High School
Mrs. Ashley Rastorfer
Elementary School and Montessori

Parish Business Manager:

Mr. Evan Mumea

Director of Development:

Mr. Jason Crundwell

A PARISH OF THE SAINT JUAN DIEGO DEANERY, DIOCESE OF TOLEDO

**“Statement of Bishop Daniel E. Thomas on
The Death of George Floyd and the Resulting Aftermath”**

“I can’t breathe.” The harrowing plea of George Floyd as he was violently robbed of his life, now seared into our minds, hearts and souls; and the chanting of that phrase in protests, many tragically marked by violence and vandalism, are a stark reminder that hatred, racism and injustice are alive and well. Attacks on human life cannot be tolerated because each human life has inherent dignity and all human life is sacred. The right to life is the first and most fundamental principle of human rights that leads us actively to work for a greater respect for human life and a greater commitment to justice and peace.

United with Catholics throughout the Diocese of Toledo and together with all people of good will, we denounce in the strongest terms immoral actions which are the poison fruit of racism; and we denounce immoral actions which are born of hatred and result in unbridled violence. “Love compels each of us to resist racism courageously. It requires us to reach out generously to the victims of this evil, to assist the conversion needed in those who still harbor racism, and to begin to change policies and structures that allow racism to persist” *Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call To Love, A Pastoral Letter Against Racism* (USCCB, Nov 2018, p. 18).

While it might be easy to denounce racism and violence in a written statement, in a catchphrase on a poster, or in a political call for systemic change; it is far from easy to stop and examine where they have their roots: in one’s own heart, thoughts, intentions, speech and attitudes. It is never easy for anyone to identify any sin or vice and work courageously to eradicate it, never easy to work to replace it with goodness and virtue. Only such an examination leads to a “genuine conversion of heart, a conversion that will compel change, and the reform of our institutions and society” (p. 7). Only personal ongoing conversion from evil and sin can lead to the healing so desperately needed today.

Pope Francis exhorts us: “My friends, we cannot tolerate or turn a blind eye to racism and exclusion in any form and yet claim to defend the sacredness of every human life. At the same time, we have to recognize that the violence of recent nights is self-destructive and self-defeating. Nothing is gained by violence and so much is lost...let us implore the national reconciliation and peace for which we yearn.”

As we pledge our prayers for the repose of George Floyd, for all who have lost their lives, and for their grieving loved ones, we pray together for our broken and wounded nation. Most of all do we pray that every person so disturbed and outraged by the events of these last days will work to promote and protect that peace and justice which is the right of all citizens, no matter their race. We cannot condone the brutality of some in law enforcement which led to the horrific death of George Floyd; we cannot condone the violence of some protesters which brutalizes and ruins the livelihoods of ordinary citizens.

“If one member of the body suffers, all suffer together” (1Cor 12:26). In this moment we are all suffering, united in particular with the suffering African American community. In this moment, we cannot lose sight of George Floyd’s struggle to breathe, nor be deaf to the “I can’t breathe” of the countless voices of those for whom there is no one to speak. Nor can we be blind to those who try to manipulate this moment of suffering to promote an agenda of hatred and foment division to pit us one against the other.

As members of the human race, in this moment, it feels difficult to breathe. The violence we have all witnessed has left us breathless. We look forward to that day when, moved by the Holy Spirit, the Breath of God, we can stand united as one human family in a society moving toward hope and healing. We look forward to that day when the harrowing plea “I can’t breathe” has been transformed into a full throated “I can breathe freely!”; where each human person can breathe deeply of the pure air of mercy, love, harmony, peace, justice, understanding and respect for each human person!

POPE SAINT JOHN PAUL II
GENERAL AUDIENCE
Wednesday 31 May 2000

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

1. The Christian Pentecost, a celebration of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, presents various aspects in the writings of the New Testament. We will start with the one we have just heard described in the passage from the Acts of the Apostles. It is the most obvious one in everyone's mind, in the history of art and in the liturgy itself.

In his second work, Luke situates the gift of the Spirit within a theophany, that is, a solemn divine revelation, whose symbols refer to Israel's experience at Sinai (cf. Ex 19). The roar, the driving wind and the lightening-like fire exalt the divine transcendence. In reality, it is the Father who gives the Spirit through the intervention of the glorified Christ. Peter says so in his address: Jesus, "being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, has poured out this which you see and hear" (Acts 2: 33). At Pentecost, as the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches, the Holy Spirit is "manifested, given and communicated as a divine Person.... On that day, the Holy Trinity is fully revealed" (CCC, nn. 731-732).

2. The whole Trinity, in fact, is involved in the inbreaking of the Spirit, who is poured out upon the first community and upon the Church in every age as the seal of the New Covenant foretold by the prophets (cf. Jer 31: 31-34; Ez 36: 24-27), to support its witness and as a source of unity in plurality. In the power of the Holy Spirit, the Apostles proclaim the Risen One, and all believers, in the diversity of their languages and thus of their cultures and historical events, profess the same faith in the Lord, "telling ... the mighty works of God" (Acts 2: 11).

It is significant to note that a Jewish commentary on Exodus, recalling chapter 10 of Genesis, which sketches a map of the 70 nations which were then thought to comprise humanity as a whole, leads them back to Sinai to hear the word of God: "At Sinai the Lord's voice was divided into 70 languages, so that all the nations could understand" (Exodus Rabba' 5, 9). So too in the Lucan Pentecost, the Word of God is addressed to humanity through the Apostles, in order to proclaim "the mighty works of God" (Acts 2: 11) to all peoples even with their differences.

3. In the New Testament, however, there is another account that we could call the Johannine Pentecost. In the fourth Gospel, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit actually takes place on the very evening of Easter and is closely connected to the Resurrection. In John we read: "On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you!'. When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you'. And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.

If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained'" (Jn 20: 19-23).

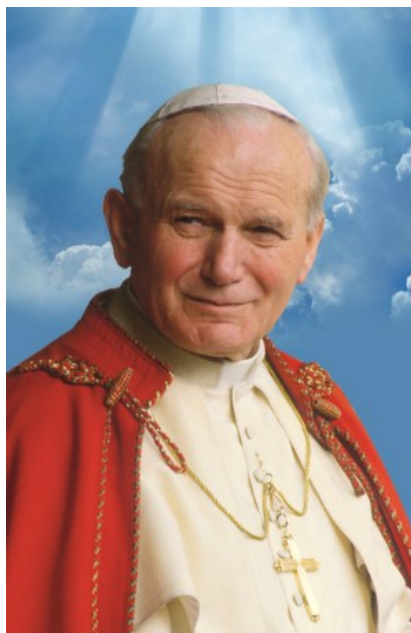
The glory of the Trinity also shines out in this Johannine account: the glory of the risen Christ who appears in his glorious body, of the Father, who is the source of the apostolic mission, and of the Spirit poured out as the gift of peace. This fulfils the promise which Christ had made between these same walls in his farewell discourse to the disciples: "But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you" (Jn 14: 26). The Spirit's presence in the Church is intended for the forgiveness of sins, for remembering and carrying out the Gospel in life, for the ever deeper achievement of unity in love.

The symbolic act of breathing is meant to recall the action of the Creator who, after forming man's body from the dust of the ground, "breathed into his nostrils" to give him "the breath of life" (Gn 2: 7). The risen Christ communicates another breath of life, "the Holy Spirit". Redemption is a new creation, a divine work with which the Church is called to collaborate through the ministry of reconciliation.

4. The Apostle Paul does not offer us a direct account of the outpouring of the Spirit but describes its fruits with such intensity that one could speak of a Pauline Pentecost, which is also marked by the Trinity. According to two parallel passages in the Letters to the Galatians and to the Romans, in fact, the Spirit is the gift of the Father, who makes us his adoptive children, giving us a share in the very life of the divine family. Paul therefore says: "For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the spirit of sonship. When we cry, "Abba! Father!", it is the Spirit himself bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ" (Rom 8: 15-17; cf. Gal 4: 6-7).

With the Holy Spirit in our hearts, we can address God with the familiar name abba, the name Jesus himself used with his heavenly Father (cf. Mk 14: 36). Like him, we must walk according to the Spirit in profound inner freedom: "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control" (Gal 5: 22).

Let us end our contemplation of the Trinity at Pentecost with an invocation from the liturgy of the East: "Come, peoples, let us adore the Divinity in three Persons: the Father in the Son with the Holy Spirit. For the Father begets from eternity a coeternal Son who lives and reigns with him, and the Holy Spirit is in the Father, glorified with the Son, one power, one substance, one divinity.... Holy Trinity, glory to you!" (Vespers of Pentecost).



SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY**JUNE 15/16, 2019****DEACON BOB YERHOT, DIOCESE OF WINONA, MN**

We all experience God in some way and we desperately want to understand Him. God has given us the ability to see, hear, smell, taste, touch, remember, and imagine through which we perceive God's presence. God has given us our minds to ponder Him, to try to understand Him, and He has given us our wills to choose and want Him who is the greatest good in life, and our passions to love Him. Throughout the many centuries of human history, God revealed Himself more and more to humankind and we have gradually grown in our understanding of who God is. Yet, God remains mysterious. Today's feast of the Holy Trinity is a celebration of the mystery who is God.

With the coming of Jesus and the Holy Spirit into the world, God has shown us that He is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; that He is a mystery too deep for us to understand, but a mystery we can know in ways words cannot express. We know God as our Father; we know Him as our brother and Lord Jesus Christ the Son of the Father, and we know Him as the Holy Spirit the fire of love. He is one God, and three Persons. We know Him even if our words are too weak to fully explain Him. God is a perfect and eternal flow of Divine Love, of Divine Charity: Father loving the Son and the Son loving the Father so perfectly that the Holy Spirit, the bond of their Love, is God. The Father loves the Son and the Son goes forth to do the Father's will in the power of the Holy Spirit, so that we, his people, may enter into God's love and life.

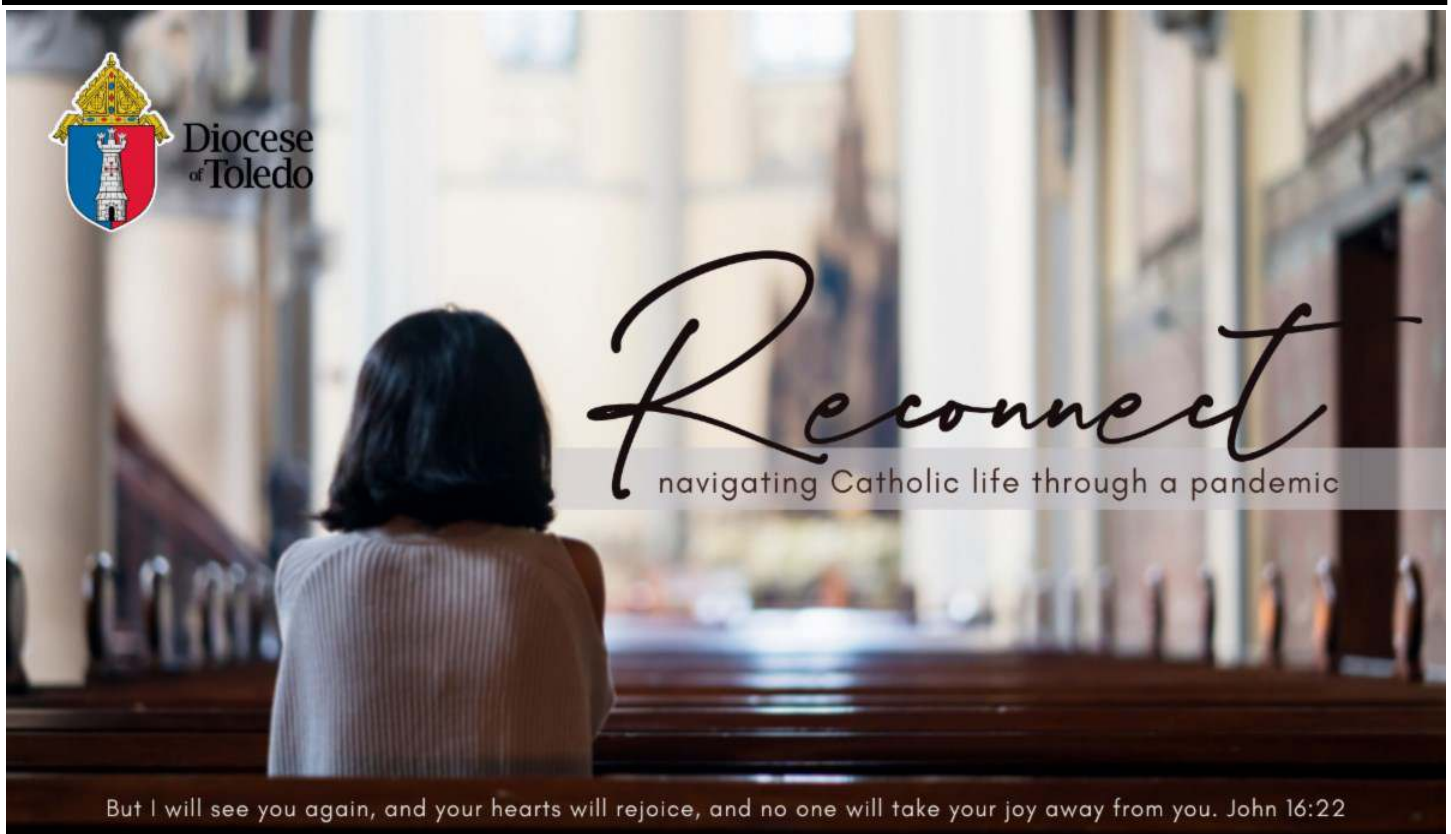
Yes, God also reveals himself to us in the Church. He shares Himself with each human being He creates, and He calls each of us into the Church. God says, "I want you to know Me. I am here. Listen and look and you will find Me. Look for me within yourselves! Look for me in my Body the Church." I've met God in the depths of my heart, and in the Church. I have met him when alone, and I have met Him in this community of faith, and so have you; we all have met God whether we realize it or not, whether we recognized Him or not. He has been here for us in good times and bad. At every moment we are sustained us by His love. If He were not love, we would cease to exist.

Even though we cannot fully explain Him, we know Him, and have known Him throughout our lives and He wants us to enter more deeply into the mystery and live in love just as He lives as Love.

That is the astounding thing to me. God is a cycle of perfect love. We, mere human beings, are drawn into the love of God Himself. We are drawn up into this flow of Divine Charity which is the Holy Trinity. We are caught up in it, and must remain in it forever. God wants to pull us in to Himself. He is like a strong current in the ocean that we don't see, but we feel. The ocean current pulls us away from the shore and into the depths of the sea, just as God pulls us from the smallness of this life into the infinite and unknown depths of His life. Yes, we can resist His pull with our sins, exhausting ourselves, but in the end we have to let go of this world and live in the next world for all eternity where we will either experience the rest and peace we all need and want in heaven, or we will painfully feel separation from God's life. God's pull on us is strong, stronger than the pull of evil and He made us to want Him. He made us to be vulnerable to Him. He made us to love Him and to be with Him, but He won't force us into heaven. We must choose.

So, on this Solemnity of the Holy Trinity, may we once again rest in God's love for us. May we rejoice in the mystery of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

May we not resist Him with our sins, but be swept away by His love.



Introducing the Reconnect Campaign & Website

We are launching a campaign called *Reconnect* to assist parishes and the faithful as we continue to navigate Catholic life during COVID-19 and through the next phases of re-opening. One part of the campaign is a website with resources for parishes and the public. ReconnectToledo.org has resources to help the faithful, including spiritual resources and good news stories. Another portion of the website is resources for parishes. These will continue to be populated with information in the upcoming week.

If you have any questions about the Reconnect campaign, website, or general social media/Communications questions, please contact alust@toledodiocese.org.

MASS INTENTIONSMonday, June 8 *Weekday*

5:00 pm Rosary

5:30 pm Fred Wiecher, M.D.

Tuesday, June 9 *Weekday*

7:00 am Parish

Wednesday, June 10 *Weekday*

7:00 am Rev. James Steinle

Thursday, June 11 *Saint Barnabas, Apostle*

7:00 am Parish

Friday, June 12 *Weekday*

5:00 pm Rosary

5:30 pm Parish

Saturday, June 13 *Vigil of the Body and Blood of Christ*

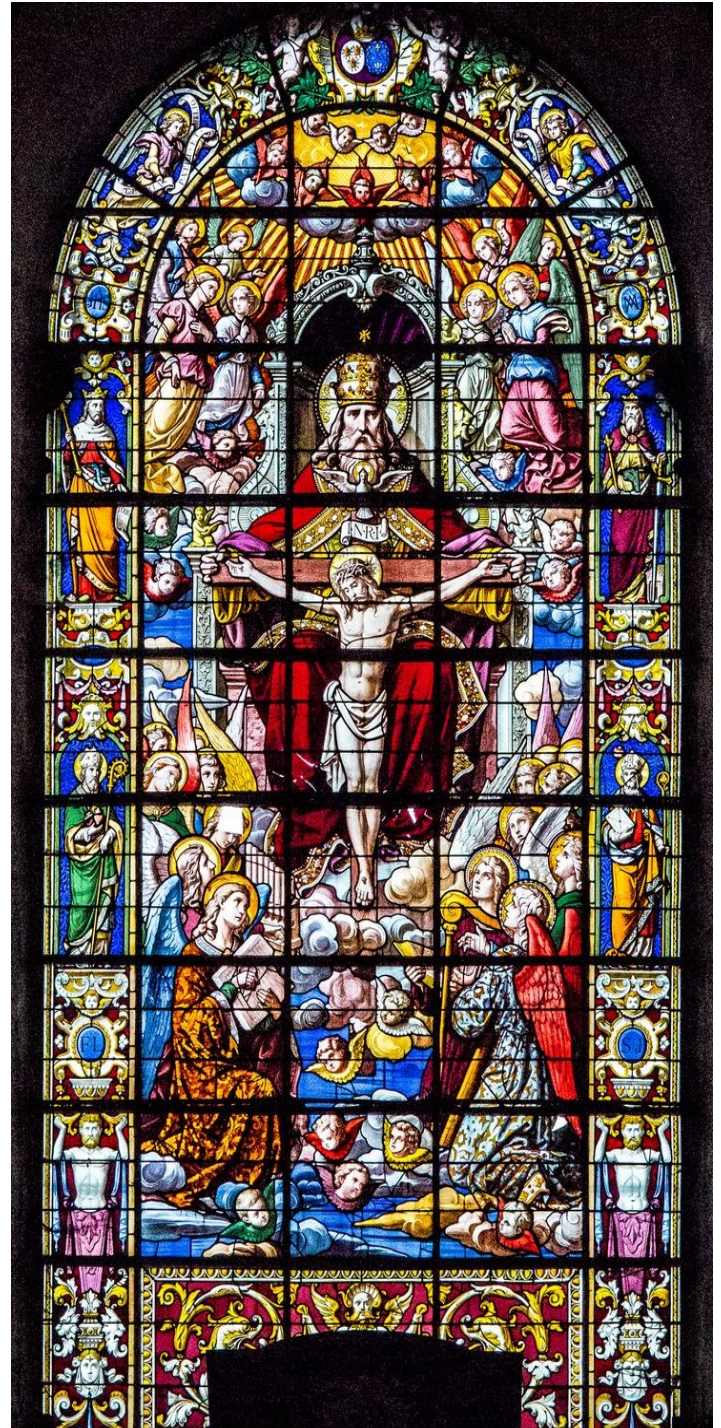
5:00 pm James Ross

Sunday, June 14 *Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ*

7:30 am Parish

9:30 am William Cruz

11:30 am Paul and Virginia Ludwig

**MASS ON THE 4TH OF JULY**

With the 4th of July falling on a Saturday this year, we will not be having Mass at 9:00 AM, as we usually do on a holiday. Mass on July 4 will be at 5:00 PM, per our regular Mass schedule.



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH

Bill Ruhl, Jeannie Burkhalter, Aaron Blank, Cindy Lassen, Dina Riley, Eliana Nelson, MaKaya Butler, Sharon Valdry, Maria Loschinkohl, John Ziegler, Marlene Ziegler, Kim Rucker, Dorothy Trinter, Marti Selby, JoAnn Marbaugh, Baby Greyden Jack, Gwen Yockey, Mary Ann and Mel Switzer, Louise Steggall, Tammy Dudley, Keith Combs, Mady Ziegler, Elaine Johnson, Cindy Jasnek Cartier, Jeannine Klotz, Marilyn B. Williamson, Tom Powell, Chief Master Sergeant Joseph Basting, Peggy Basting Taylor, Kathy Carcione, Carol Pittenger, Charlie Henrich, Jill McMillen, Gary Caldwell, Jeffrey Davis, Willie "Frank" Williams, Catherine R. Liston, Pius Schell, Krista Marshall, Maggie Caldwell, Michael Davis, Michael Krempel, Marilyn Miller, Annette Togliatti, Rose Saul, Charlene Arthur, Alan Gallaway, Marty Moritz, Logan Page, Maxine Shannon, Gracie Shannon, Pam Schopieray.

Names will only be listed for 4 weeks. If you wish to have additional time, contact the Parish Center at 419.524.2572.

IN GOD'S ARMS...

Elizabeth Risacher

ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM, O LORD.



FOR ALL OF THE CURRENT IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT ST. PETERS PARISH OPERATIONS DURING THESE TROUBLED TIMES, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:

WWW.MANSFIELDSTPETERS.ORG

THERE YOU WILL ALSO FIND DEVOTIONAL MATERIALS FOR USE AT HOME FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY.

ADULT FAITH ENRICHMENT

ALL ADULT FAITH CLASSES ARE ON HOLD UNTIL "NORMAL" PARISH CENTER HOURS AND OPERATIONS RESUME.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES ASSISTANCE

We continue to provide our client assistance to individuals in Richland County. Anyone seeking assistance with housing, food, medical bills or prescriptions, please contact us at 419.524.0733.



RECYCLING—NEXT DATE: JUNE 12, 2020

FOOD COLLECTION: June 13 & 14

PRISON MINISTRY CORNER

All Catholic services and programming at ManCI and RiCI are suspended for now. Please keep our brothers in prayer. Fortunately, many of them are able to watch Mass on WMFD, just as we are. They expressed their gratitude and greatly enjoyed being able to see the interior of our beautiful church.

FIRST COMMUNION RETREAT

The First Eucharist Retreat for all young people who prepared to receive their sacrament this year will be taking place on Saturday, July 11th, from 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. in the church. Please contact Elizabeth Wurm at wurm.elizabeth@myspartans.org or 419.524.2572 ext. 2114 for more details.

PARISH CENTER OFFICE HOURS

Regular Parish office hours will be from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Monday through Friday. We respectfully request that all business that can be done by phone continue in that manner, and ask, as well, that all visitors to our parish offices demonstrate social distancing guidelines.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School has been cancelled for this year. We do look forward to seeing you next summer! Thank you for all who donated to VBS... those donations, barring the perishable food items that might expire, will be kept until next year's event. We look forward to seeing you soon!

THANK YOU

Thank you for your continued generosity to our parish during this pandemic. Every sacrificial gift is accepted in the Lord's eyes.

Please remember to include our parish in your estate planning.

SUNDAY OFFERING

*Year to Date
May 31, 2020*

Sunday and Holy Day Collections

Sunday Collection & Holy Day Collection:	\$770,164
Total Budgeted Sunday Collection To Date:	\$780,285

Sunday Collection Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$10,121)
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School Collection

Total School Collection To Date:	\$126,033
Total Budgeted School Collection To Date:	\$132,000

School Collection Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$5,967)
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PSR CATECHIST NEEDED

Are you looking for an amazing way to serve your parish and the future Church? Look no further! We are looking for someone to become a catechist in our PSR program for the 2020- 2021 school year. The commitment is minimal... once a week for about two hours from September- April. . The requirements include someone who is willing to share their faith with our younger disciples and also complete the requirements of our safety program for children. If you are interested or need more information, please contact Elizabeth Wurm at wurm.elizabeth@myspartans.org. We would love to have you as a part of our amazing ministerial team! You have so much of your faith to share... please share it with us!

PLEASE REMEMBER TO SUPPORT THE MINISTRIES OF ST. PETER'S PARISH BY MAILING IN YOUR OFFERING ENVELOPES OR VISITING THE WEBSITE, WWW.MANSFIELDSTPETERS.ORG, TO LEARN ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES FOR ELECTRONIC GIVING. WE GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR GENEROSITY AND SUPPORT DURING THESE DIFFICULT DAYS!

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL - ST. PETER'S CONFERENCE

Our Conference members pray this finds you safe and well during these challenging times. We are committed with our ongoing mission in serving individuals and families during this pandemic. We continue to receive calls from our community of those in need and we invite you to pray for our Conference that we may assist our brothers and sisters, to offer some relief in financial emergencies, as well as offer comfort and hope through our love through HIM. We anticipate having a significant increase in requests for help in the upcoming months and our Conference members are prayerfully working to contemplate how we can adapt to meet this demand. We invite you to consider, if able, to support our Conference with a financial donation to assist in our mission. If you receive Parish Envelopes, donations can be made on the green bordered "My Special Gift" envelope with delegating donation to St Vincent de Paul and/or mailed to our Conference to St. Peter's Parish. We are a 501(c)3 recognized charitable organization. Thank you so very much for your ongoing support of our ministry which was established in this Parish in 1932 and remains committed in our vision to serve our fellow brothers and sisters.

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL UPDATE

The 2020 Annual Catholic Appeal Campaign is underway with a campaign goal of \$3 million. We can assure the continued existence of many important programs that help tens of thousands in our Diocese each year; education of our seminary students, care of the sick and needy are among them. We ask you once again for your help; we have to work together. Please respond generously when you are asked to make your pledge. Thank you for your attention and thank you for being my parish family. For more information, visit the Diocesan website at Toledodiocese.org/ACA.

Our parish goal is \$55,00.00 so far we are at \$31,688.10 with pledges from 243 households or 57.61%. Thank you for your support of our diocesan ministries and the help you provide to our seminarians and deacons who are in formation to serve our parish's future.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

We want to recognize and say a special prayer for the parishioners celebrating birthdays in June, especially those who are 85 years of age and above:



Josephine German, Maria Loschinkohl, Mary Hoffer, Eleanor Shaffer, Portia Perl, Elizabeth Pattillo, Marie Layacona, Margaret Kromer, Frances Corbett, Jo Ann Steele, Helen Vrabel, Rosemary Qutter, C. Thomas Sertell, Donald Tacik, William Brooks, Norbert Glowski, Geraldine Emsberger, and Carole Dinger.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES FOOD COLLECTIONS

We will resume Food Collections for the H.O.P.E. pantry at Catholic Charities on the second weekend of the month. We encourage donations of non-perishable canned and boxed food and personal care items. You can also donate with cash or a check to Catholic Charities. You can place in the weekend collection or mail to our parish center office and we will make sure it goes to Catholic Charities (or you can mail a check directly to them at Catholic Charities 2 Smith Ave. Mansfield, OH 44907) The collection weekends for the remainder of 2020 are: June 13-14, July 11-12, August 8-9, September 12-13, October 10-11, November 14-15, and December 12-13.

Everything is a grace, everything is the direct effect of our Father's love - difficulties, contradictions, humiliations, all the soul's miseries, her burdens, her needs - everything, because through them, she learns humility, realizes her weakness. Everything is a grace because everything is God's gift. Whatever be the character of life or its unexpected events - to the heart that loves, all is well.

St. Therese of Lisieux

Daily Prayer



Sunday, June 7, 2020

Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

✠ Blessed the people the Lord has
chosen to be his own.

Psalm 118

page 416

Reading

John 3:16–18

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

Reflection

The Scriptures reveal that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit cannot be understood apart from their unity. To be in a relationship with God is to enter a relationship with all that God is and all that God does. Our union with God is a union of concern for all God has created. We are initiated into that union at Baptism, and at that moment we no longer exist in isolation but are joined with the communion of saints; we become members of a body that we dare to name the Body of Christ. Every time we invoke the Trinitarian God we affirm this truth.

Prayers

others may be added

On this holy feast, we pray:

◆ **Faithful God, hear our prayer.**

For the whole world that has received the saving power of God, we pray to the Lord: ◆ For the Church that has received the help of the Holy Spirit, we pray to the Lord: ◆ For teachers and catechists who lead others to faith, we pray to the Lord: ◆ For ourselves, that today we renew our commitment to be faithful disciples, we pray to the Lord: ◆

Our Father . . .

God our Father,
you have sent your Son into the world for
the salvation of all people;
and through the power of the Holy Spirit,
you have lifted up all nations to your glory.
Grant that every believer bear this good
news to the ends of the earth.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

✠ Blessed the people the Lord has
chosen to be his own.

GRACE AND ETERNAL LIFE

Moses is a man after our own hearts, for haven't we all dealt with more than our share of stiff-necked people? Indeed, haven't we all gotten a little stiff-necked ourselves at times? Complaining . . . impatient . . . quick to anger. How lucky for Moses—how lucky for all of us—that God is exactly the opposite! And we don't even have to guess about it. The Lord tells us so directly. Accordingly, Moses does what we all need to do. Even with the tablets in hand, he bows down and asks for God's forgiveness and grace.

Encouraging us to live together in peace—and in God's favor—the Apostle Paul knows all about this grace, joyfully invoking Christ's grace on us along with God's love and the Holy Spirit's. "Rejoice," he says. And when it comes to rejoicing, John offers us the gladdest words of all: the assurance of eternal life through Jesus.

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SAINT BERNADETTE SOUBIROUS (1844-1879)

April 16

With Immaculate Mary's "Ave Maria" for its refrain, Andy Williams' "Village of Saint Bernadette" peaked at #7 on Billboard's Top 40 at Christmas 1959, airing on radio stations all over America. Imagine! April 16 marks the feast of Bernardette Soubirous, the teenager who, combing a refuse heap for firewood, saw a "beautiful lady" who identified herself in words Bernadette faithfully reported to the bishop, though she did not understand their meaning: "I am the Immaculate Conception." Relentlessly interrogated, she never wavered in her story or sweetness. Chronically ill all her life and dead at thirty-five, Bernadette left behind the shrine at Lourdes where healing waters still flow from the spring that her "beautiful lady" pointed out to her.

—Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

**TODAY'S READINGS**

First Reading — The LORD, merciful and gracious, rich in kindness and faithfulness (Exodus 34:4b-6, 8-9).

Psalm — Glory and praise for ever! (Daniel 3).

Second Reading — Brothers and sisters, rejoice. Live with one another in peace, and the God of peace will be with you (2 Corinthians 13:11-13).

Gospel — God did not send the Son to condemn the world, but to give it abundant life (John 3:16-18).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Kgs 17:1-6; Ps 121:1bc-8; Mt 5:1-12

Tuesday: 1 Kgs 17:7-16; Ps 4:2-5, 7b-8; Mt 5:13-16

Wednesday: 1 Kgs 18:20-39; Ps 16:1b-2ab, 4, 5ab, 8, 11; Mt 5:17-19

Thursday: Acts 11:21b-26; 13:1-3; Ps 65:10-13; Mt 5:20-26

Friday: 1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-16; Ps 27:7-9abc, 13-14; Mt 5:27-32

Saturday: 1 Kgs 19:19-21; Ps 16:1b-2a, 5, 7-10; Mt 5:33-37

Sunday: Dt 8:2-3, 14b-16a; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; 1 Cor 10:16-17;
Jn 6:51-58