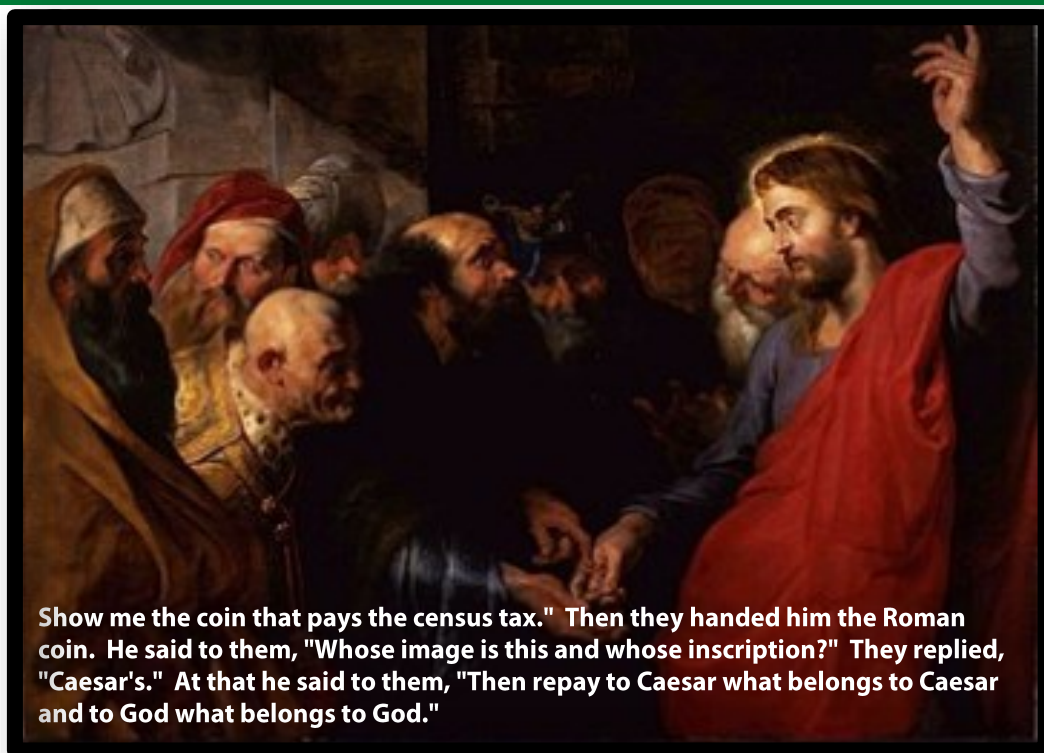


# SAINT PETER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

## OCTOBER 18, 2020



Show me the coin that pays the census tax." Then they handed him the Roman coin. He said to them, "Whose image is this and whose inscription?" They replied, "Caesar's." At that he said to them, "Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God."

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. Kevin Moebius, *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*

### Acting Parish Business Manager:

Mrs. Paula Nestor

### Director of Development:

Mr. Jason Crundwell

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

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Monday, October 19 *Memorial of Saints John de Brebeuf &  
Isaac Jogues, Priests, & Companions, Martyrs*

5:00 pm Rosary

5:30 pm Marilyn Kurtzman

Tuesday, October 20 *Weekday*

7:00 am Sydney Foltz

Wednesday, October 21 *Weekday*

7:00 am Parish

Thursday, October 22 *Weekday*

7:00 am Parish

Friday, October 23 *Weekday*

5:00 pm Rosary

5:30 pm Marilyn Kurtzman

Saturday, October 24 *Vigil of the Thirtieth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time*

5:00 pm Rose Anne and John Rozic

Sunday, October 25 *Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

7:30 am Parish

9:30 am Frank Edward Brucato

11:30 am George Berick

I need you back. Where have you been?

It is kind of lonely here without you.

At Mass tonight we took our fourth trip to the bathroom and there was no one there to wave at who was heading in the same direction, possibly for the second, fifth or first time.

When our little one got crazy and tried to escape from the pew, and we had to escape to the "box" as I like to call it so we didn't disturb the entirety of the church, there were no other parents in there looking as frazzled as I felt to share that commonality of experience.

I didn't see the mom who is dressed up to the nines, because it might have been the only occasion that week for her to do so, crawling under a pew to retrieve a dropped toy or an escaped cheerio.

I need you.

I need to hear the hurried rustling through a bag as you trying to find the one thing in there that might quiet a little one down, hoping the whole church is not looking at you. Rest assured, we are all looking at you in your frantic mess. We see you, we empathize with you, and right now we miss you.

I need to see the hands of a parent reaching back to pull a kid into standing position, attempting to teach them the right thing to do. I need to hear a kid screaming at the top of their lungs, "I promise to be good" as mom or dad hurriedly carries them out of the church making us all wonder what the kid did and what will become of him.

I need someone else's kids to make more noise than mine to take the heat off of our family's disruptive nature.

I know some of you are not back because of the virus, and that is perfectly fine. I do need to know, however, that you are back while at home, sharing in that spiritual communion with me.

I know some of you are not back because it is so much easier not to be. I get it. It seems like half of the day I am packing the snacks, packing the diaper bags, making sure the envelopes are in there, assuring that everyone has the "right" mask even though you have eight thousand at your disposal, and someone's sock is always not right. I understand how when you announce it is time to get ready for church, the eye rolls start because they hoped for just one week you would forget about it. I can hear you saying from your kitchens and hallways and living rooms, sometimes wondering if you are only saying it to yourself, "Jesus only asks for one hour a week from us." I get how hard it is, but let me tell you, it is so much harder not to see you there.

I know some of you are not back because in the months of not being back, you might have come to think that you don't really miss it all that much. It is very easy to sit on your couch with your morning coffee, choosing which Mass to watch and how late you want to watch it, and knowing that no matter what Mass you choose, chances are it is about half the time it would take if you went to Mass, and that lets you get on with your Sunday plans.

**ST. PETER'S RESTART SMART COMMITTEE MESSAGE**

St. Peter's Restart Smart Committee would like to thank the community for their prayers as we continue to safely reopen campus. Opening those doors to students in the midst of a pandemic is an overwhelming effort that requires the support of the whole community. From purchasing PPE, developing new cleaning protocols and gathering supplies, investing in remote learning technology, reconfiguring classrooms, installing a new restroom, training faculty to teach remotely, opening buildings to provide for social distancing, and the myriad of sweeping changes we have made to create a safe learning environment for our children, St. Peter's has made unprecedented investments in our school. In keeping with the mission and ministry of our parish to answer the Gospel's call to model the teachings and evangelizing of Jesus, we ask our faith community to consider supporting our schools during this challenging time.

**Donations of any amount will help us ensure those doors stay open to students and to allow us to continue to heed Jesus' call in Matthew 28 to "teach them to carry out everything I have commanded you."**

*Continued on page 3*

*Continued from page 2*

Some of you might find it is easier just to skip the whole Mass experience altogether, reminding yourself that someday in the future, when things get back to normal, you will come back. I am here to tell you however you feel about it, that we miss you and need you back.

My fear is that although this is a temporary situation, I will never experience a noisy church again, never see a confetti cloud made of cereal tossed into the air, never again hear a little one noisily proclaim, "there's Jesus" while pointing at the priest, and never see our pews filled with teenagers slumped down, halfheartedly paying attention, experiencing the only sense of quiet that they may have had the entire week that is so badly needed in their lives.

I need moms that hush way too loudly and dads that grab their kids and hold them tightly to try to prevent them from making too much noise. I need grandparents who are slipping their grandchildren forbidden fruit snacks because they think it will help. I need a Church that is alive, and only you can provide that.

I need you back, not only for my own selfish reasons, but because without you, the Body of Christ just isn't quite complete.

I need you back.

Elizabeth Wurm, Director of Religious Education

## SAINT PETER'S PARISH MASK POLICY

Richland County is now under a **"Red Level"** for the COVID-19 Virus, but the State of Ohio is still under mandatory mask wearing orders.

We respectfully ask that all who come to worship with us **WEAR A MASK OR FACIAL COVERING, USE HAND SANITIZER, AND RESPECT SOCIAL DISTANCING OF 6 FEET.**

If you are not comfortable wearing a mask, we ask that you please watch Mass in the church basement.

Thank you for your consideration.

Please pray for all during this time of pandemic!

## SACRAMENTS

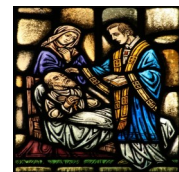
Students who will be receiving the Sacraments of First Eucharist or Confirmation are expected to attend all of the classes for their sacraments. First Eucharist generally takes place in the second grade while those preparing for Confirmation start the preparation process in the seventh grade. If you have a child who is anticipating these sacraments, please contact Elizabeth Wurm at [wurm.elizabeth@myspartans.org](mailto:wurm.elizabeth@myspartans.org) to register them today.

**For all of the current important information about St. Peters Parish operations during these troubled times, please visit our website at:**

**[MANSFIELDSPETERS.ORG](http://MANSFIELDSPETERS.ORG)**

**There you will also find devotional materials for use at home for you and your family.**

## ANOINTING MASS POSTPONED



We are sorry to announce that we have postponed our annual Mass with the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick until further notice. This liturgy offers anointing to the sick of our Parish, along with the elderly, those with chronic diseases, pain, and other debilitating conditions. Those who would normally attend this Mass are also those who are, largely, vulnerable to the COVID-19 virus. Once this pandemic is under control we will reschedule the Anointing Mass to allow our parishioners to take advantage of this sacrament of healing. In the meantime, if you or a member of your family should require the sacrament, especially those in danger of death, please call the Parish Center at 419-524-2572 to arrange anointing. Please remember that area hospitals, convalescent centers, and nursing homes are all still restricting access to their facilities and patients. In those places anointing can only be provided to those who are in immediate danger of death. We pray with all our brothers and sisters for a swift and complete end to this pandemic. Mary, Health of the Sick, pray for us!

## HIGH ALTAR TABERNACLE

You may have noticed that there is a temporary tabernacle on the high altar in church. We are using this tabernacle while we have copies made of the key to our own tabernacle. Previously we only had one key. We will resume use of our own tabernacle once the original key and its copies are returned to us.

## PSR CLASSES

PSR classes have now begun! If you have a student who is in preschool through the eighth grade. To register please contact Elizabeth Wurm at [wurm.elizabeth@myspartans.org](mailto:wurm.elizabeth@myspartans.org) for class sign up today!

Registrations are also now being accepted for First Eucharist and Confirmation!

## 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, Dorothy Trinter, JoAnn Marbaugh, Gwen Yockey, 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, Jill McMillen, Gary Caldwell, Jeffrey Davis, Willie "Frank" Williams, Catherine R. Liston, Pius Schell, Krista Marshall, Maggie Caldwell, Michael Davis, Michael Krempel, Marilyn Miller, Rose Saul, Charlene Arthur, Alan Gallaway, Marty Moritz, Logan Page, Maxine Shannon, Gracie Shannon, Pam Schopieray, Jacob Randall, Joe Mollica, Beverly Strauser, Thomas Caldwell, Dennis Caldwell, Mark Hawkins, Barb Jefferies, Lucille Thompson, Myrna Bohr, Patrick and Judy Boyer, Mike Fisher, Ardis Steggall, John Doty, David Donley.

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...

Marlene Fesler Thomas Bair William Rickert

Rosemary Frisbee Robert Godwin

**ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM, O LORD.**



## PARISH AND SCHOOL MINISTRIES

Did you know that there are many ways in which you can become more involved at St. Peter's? We are always looking for volunteers for the various ministries provided by both the parish and school. The complete list can be found on our website at [mansfieldstpeters.org](http://mansfieldstpeters.org) or by contacting the Parish Center office at 419.524.2572.

## PRISON MINISTRY CORNER



Please continue to keep in prayer all who are incarcerated and all who work in the prisons. This message from one of our RiCI brothers is representative of the letters we receive: "Thank you for taking the time to reach out to us. It is very much appreciated. It means a lot! Even though we don't have the fellowship like we used to, I continue to pray for all of you. I continue to renew my mind every day with the Word of Christ. It keeps me safe and pushing through this time as well as keeping all of you from the ministry in my prayers. Psalm 91. Continue to stay safe. We will meet soon again. 1 Peter 5:7 Your brother in Christ"

## OUR ALL SOULS' MASS WILL BE ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, AT 2:00 P.M.

Information has been mailed to families who have had a family member die since October 01, 2019. If you have had a family member (especially father, mother, sibling, child or spouse) pass away in the last year who was not buried through St. Peter's Parish, we would like to include them and your family in our All Souls' Mass this year.

Please call Kristi at [419-524-2572](tel:419-524-2572) with their name, their relationship to you, and their date of death by October 22.

## PLEASE REMEMBER TO SUPPORT THE MINISTRIES OF ST. PETER'S PARISH

**By mailing in your offering envelopes, OR**

**By visiting the website at [www.mansfieldstpeters.org](http://www.mansfieldstpeters.org), to learn about opportunities for electronic giving.**

**We greatly appreciate your generosity and support during these difficult days!**

## SCHOOL MASSES

Our students will be attending Mass every other week during this school year. Because of the need for social distancing only students and teachers will attend. **At this time we cannot accommodate additional people in the High School auditorium.** Please keep all students and teachers in your prayer during this challenging school year.



**RECYCLING—NEXT DATE: NOVEMBER 13, 2020**

## FOOD COLLECTION: November 14 & 15

### SUNDAY OFFERING



Year to Date  
September 30, 2020

#### Sunday and Holy Day Collections

Sunday Collection & Holy Day Collection:	\$202,963
Total Budgeted Sunday Collection To Date:	\$213,000
<b>Sunday Collection Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>(\$10,037)</b>

#### School Collection

Total School Collection To Date:	\$23,546
Total Budgeted School Collection To Date:	\$36,000
<b>School Collection Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>(\$12,454)</b>



## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES



### BUSINESS MANAGER

Reporting to the Pastor, the business manager provides leadership and day-to-day supervision of the temporal affairs of the parish and school. Essential duties include financial responsibilities, personnel responsibilities, and administrative responsibilities. Must have BA/BS in Business, Finance or Accounting with at least five years of business management experience. Requires a high level of expertise in QuickBooks and Microsoft Office products including Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Outlook. Practicing Catholic preferred. *Candidates must also complete the Diocese of Toledo VIRTUS training and pass an FBI/BCI background check.*

Send resume to Finance Council Chair  
jjkastelic40@gmail.com.

### ELEMENTARY PART-TIME TITLE I READING TEACHER

St. Peter's elementary school is seeking a part-time Title I reading teacher. The preferred candidate must hold a valid Elementary teaching license. Candidates must also complete the Diocese of Toledo VIRTUS training and pass an FBI/BCI background check.

Interested candidates should send their resumes to Ashley Rastorfer at [rastorfer.ashley@myspartans.org](mailto:rastorfer.ashley@myspartans.org).

### SUBSTITUTE SECRETARY & CLASSROOM SUBSTITUTE

St. Peter's Elementary is in need of substitute teachers and substitute secretaries for the 20-21 school year. Must have Bachelor's degree, substitute/teaching license, and have BCI, FBI checks completed as well as VIRTUS requirements. Send resumes to [rastorfer.ashley@myspartans.org](mailto:rastorfer.ashley@myspartans.org). The secretary subs do not need a degree/license...they just need FBI, BCI, and VIRTUS. Thanks! *All candidates must also complete the Diocese of Toledo VIRTUS training and pass FBI/BCI background check.*

### RCIA - RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Do you know someone who is seeking to learn about the Catholic Church? Are YOU an inquirer searching for a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ through the fullness of the Catholic Church? If you answered YES, please consider joining us for the RCIA process. We're here to journey with you.

Contact Lynne this week: [lukach.lynne@myspartans.org](mailto:lukach.lynne@myspartans.org) / 419-524-2572

### ASK FOR HELP

Ask Our Lady to help you. Ask her to entreat her Son to let you know what you should do. —Bl. Marie Rose Durocher

## FEED THE NEEDY

Jesus said, "I do not want to send them away hungry, for fear they may collapse on the way." (Mt. 15:32)

Do you want people to collapse along the way? NO!

Of course not!

Which is exactly why you should consider helping our Feed the Needy program this Sunday, October 18 from 3:00—5:00 P.M.! St. Peter's will again be handing out a boxed dinner, either pick up or drive through, to all of those hungry people Jesus calls us to feed and love. Yea Buddy!

Please contact Fr. Kevin, if you haven't already at [moebius.kevin@myspartans.org](mailto:moebius.kevin@myspartans.org) or 419.524.2572 x 2102.

Blessings!



## 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](http://Toledodiocese.org/ACA). Your pledge may be sent to: Annual Catholic Appeal, Diocese of Toledo, 1933 Spielbusch Avenue, Toledo, Ohio, 43604.

Our parish goal is \$55,00.00 so far we are at \$42,643.10 with pledges from 321 households or 77.53%. 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. Through your generosity, 4 men were ordained to the priesthood on June 27, 2020, and we **WELCOME FR. KEVIN MOEBIUS** to our parish. **YOUR PLEDGE** to the Annual Catholic Appeal helped to make this possible! We are still within reach of our goal with only \$13,307 to go! Thank You!

## 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.**



We invite you to join in the diocesan-wide initiative to reconnect with our faith and one another during the months of September, October, and November. Each month will focus on a pillar of the Christian life with a specific intention from our diocesan prayer.

In October, we will fast for the intention of holy families. More information will be shared in the bulletin and social media. You can also visit [ReconnectToledo.org/October](https://ReconnectToledo.org/October).

## **HOW TO PARTICIPATE**

### **Third Week of October**



**Fast**

You might choose other works of charity or exercises of piety to take the place of fasting and abstinence. This week do extra household chores, or tackle some of the chores that you dislike the most.



**Pray**

Visit Jesus in Adoration. When was the last time you visited the Adoration Chapel? When was the last time you went to Adoration as a family? If it's been a while, this fall would be a wonderful time to visit Jesus together. If you are worried about your kids being too noisy and rambunctious during this time of prayer, try to find a local children's Adoration hour. These types of hours are specifically geared towards young children, and involve vocal prayer, songs, and guided times of silence.  
-from *FamilyRosary.org*



**Reflect**

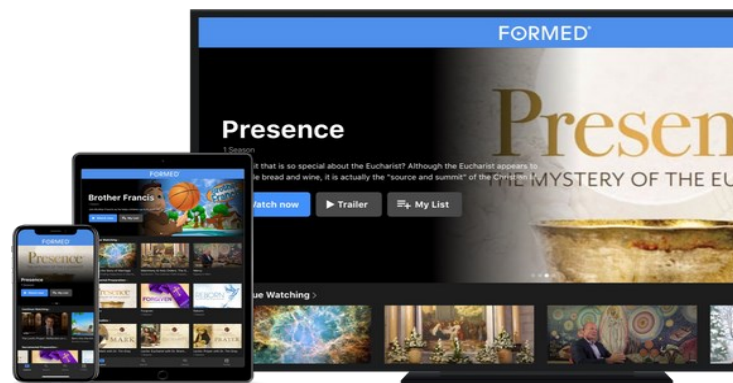
A virtue is a habitual and firm disposition to do the good. Mary and Joseph would have taught the Christ Child how to pray and act. In the home, he learned generosity and kindness. The home of Nazareth reminds us that families have the responsibility of teaching their children the Faith and to model the virtues. How can you model the virtues in a deeper way in your home?



**Read**

For Mom: *The Handbook for Catholic Moms, Nurturing Your Heart, Mind, Body, and Soul* by Lisa M. Hendey  
For Dad: *BeDADitudes, 8 Ways to Be an Awesome Dad* by Gregory K. Popcak  
For Kids: *Saintly Rhymes for Modern Times* by Meghan Bausch  
For Kids: *Sitting Like a Saint* by Dr. Gregory and Barbra Bottaro

*Reconnect*  
navigating Catholic life through a pandemic



We hope you are enjoying getting acquainted with FORMED online at home. Our next parish-wide event will be Saturday, Nov. 7 after 5:00 Mass. All are welcome! We will watch "What Is the Kerygma?" presented by Fr. John Riccardo and Dr. Tim Gray followed by discussion and hospitality.

If you have any questions on signing in to FORMED or recommendations on particular topics, please call the Parish Center- 419 -524-2572 - and ask for staff members Bill Johnson, Angie Dillon, or Lynne Lukach.



Thanks to a generous donor, the Diocese of Toledo is offering FORMED free to every parish! FORMED offers outstanding Catholic content through thousands of videos, audio, books, faith enrichment series, children's programming and more! We encourage all our parishioners to take advantage of this amazing resource.

**It's easy to begin: Go to [formed.org](https://formed.org). Click on Sign Up. Click "I belong to a Parish or Organization." Type "St. Peter's..." and a list will instantly appear. Be sure to choose our parish - listed as St. Peter's Catholic Church, 104 West First Street, Mansfield.... Then type your name and email address and you're done.** There are no passwords or codes. Enjoy looking over the range of materials. Watch the bulletin and the announcement screen before Mass for special programs, including plans to gather at the parish, view a video together, and have discussion and hospitality (observing distancing guidelines). More to come!



## 40 DAYS FOR LIFE CAMPAIGN

Catholic Charities is hosting the ecumenical 40 Days for Life campaign in Northwest Ohio from September 23 through November 1. You can participate in three ways: prayer and fasting, community outreach and peaceful vigil. We invite you to pray for an hour in front of Capital Care of Toledo, located at 1160 W. Sylvania Avenue. To learn more or to sign up for daily prayer intentions, hours of prayer and information on upcoming events visit: [www.40daysforlife.com/toledo](http://www.40daysforlife.com/toledo). Since the international 40 Days for Life Campaign began in 2007, over 1 million volunteers in over 61 nations have stood in prayerful witness at abortion clinics to witness to the dignity of human life. Through these prayerful campaigns, over 17,226 lives have been saved, 206 abortion workers have quit their positions, and 107 abortion facilities have shut down! To learn more, email Peter Range at [prange@toledodiocese.org](mailto:prange@toledodiocese.org) or Veronica Leguire at: [vleguire@gmail.com](mailto:vleguire@gmail.com). Join the movement, and help us end abortion in northwest Ohio!

## WORLD MISSION SUNDAY 2020

TODAY IS WORLD MISSION SUNDAY. We celebrate this day by remembering our baptismal call—to bring the Gospel to all! The collections today for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith supports the work and service of the mission Church, as it provides for priests, religious, and lay leaders who offer the Lord's mercy and concrete help to the most vulnerable communities in the Pope's missions. Thank you for your generosity.

## ANNUNCIATION RADIO

Please plan on joining us for the Annunciation Radio Fall Sharathon October 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. Now in our tenth year, we are committed to continue providing Catholic programming to listeners throughout our Toledo Diocese. In these tumultuous times, we need to make sure we are prepared for the year ahead. Can we count on your support?

Please listen in as host Debbie Georgianni welcomes our diocesan priests and special guests, and be sure to call in your pledge during the Sharathon at [888-214-0624](tel:888-214-0624), or make a secure online donation on the Annunciation Radio mobile app, or at [www.annunciationradio.com](http://www.annunciationradio.com). 89.7 Toledo, 88.1 Sandusky, 89.9 Bryan, 89.5 Mansfield, 90.9 Willard.



## EVERY SATURDAY AT PLANNED PARENTHOOD

**Saturdays give us time** to do things we don't have time for during the week. Saturdays are also a great chance to spend time in prayer such as the Rosary. A gathering of "pray-ers" takes place every Saturday morning at 10:30 A.M. in front of Planned Parenthood. Prayers are so necessary in the effort to end abortion. Your prayers will aid in that cause. Please join us.



## CRESTLINE ST. JOSEPH PARISH KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FISH FRY

Crestline St. Joseph Parish is pleased to announce: ***Our Knights of Columbus Fall Fish Fry Friday! Drive-thru only on Friday, October 23, from 5:00 until 7:00pm.*** Drive-thru and pick up the area's best deep fried or baked fish, served with a baked potato, two sides, and a dinner roll, all for just \$10! Cash or Credit Card accepted. Come to the St. Joseph Catholic School Convocation Center at 333 N Thoman Street in Crestline. We will have two drive-thru lines, one in the parking lot in front of the Convocation Center and one behind the Convocation Center. Proceeds benefit St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School.





# Leading the FLOCK

BY BISHOP DANIEL E. THOMAS



## “Fratelli tutti”

With these very first words of his third and newest Encyclical Letter, signed by Pope Francis in Assisi and published on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, the vigil of the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, the Holy Father quotes his namesake in an address to all his brothers and sisters, proposing to them “a way of life marked by the flavor of the Gospel.” In the introduction, the Pope mentions how he has taken his inspiration from the saint of fraternal love, simplicity and joy; how the issues of human fraternity and social friendship have always been a concern of his; and how, in this Encyclical, he has sought to bring together reflections he has spoken of repeatedly and in other contexts, situating them in a broader context of reflection.

This Encyclical represents a summation of the underlying vision that the Holy Father has proclaimed throughout his papacy: “It is my desire that, in this our time, by acknowledging the dignity of each human person, we can contribute to the rebirth of a universal aspiration to fraternity. Brotherhood between all men and women” (n. 8).

In the current worldwide situation in which we find ourselves, strained by the effects of a pandemic, and the resulting polarization,

isolation and division, it is not hard to see why Pope Francis strives to offer a message of concord instead of discord, turning to the Gospel Parable in which Jesus tells of a man assaulted by thieves and lying injured on the wayside. He writes: “The parable eloquently presents the basic decision we need to make in order to rebuild our wounded world. In the face of so much pain and suffering, our only course is to imitate the Good Samaritan. Any other decision would make us either one of the robbers or one of those who walked by without showing compassion for the sufferings of the man on the roadside. The parable shows us how a community can be rebuilt by men and women who identify with the vulnerability of others, who reject the creation of a society of exclusion, and act instead as neighbours, lifting up and rehabilitating the fallen for the sake of the common good. At the same time it warns us about the attitude of those who think only of themselves and fail to shoulder the inevitable responsibilities of life as it is” (n. 67).

It is Pope Francis’ conviction that the practice of social friendship, whether it be between nations, peoples or individuals, is one where each person knows and maintains his or her identity, but is also able to know and respect the

identity of others and work toward “coming up with shared goals that transcend their differences and can thus engage in a common endeavor” (n. 157). Further, the way forward to a new political future based on fraternity and social friendship begins with “moving beyond ourselves” which requires dialogue: “Authentic social dialogue involves the ability to respect the other’s point of view and to admit that it may include legitimate convictions and concerns” (n. 203). And it is religion which can play such a significant role in helping the dialogue of social friendship which leads to a greater sense of fraternity in our political world. Touching as he has before on topics of import in the realm of the Church’s social teaching, Pope Francis highlights that the religions of the world are called to the service of fraternity.

In receiving this new Encyclical Archbishop Jose Gomez, President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, wrote: “In analyzing conditions in the world today, the Holy Father provides us with a powerful and urgent vision for the moral renewal of politics and political and economic institutions from the local level to the global level, calling us to build a common future that truly serves the good of the human person. For the Church, the Pope is challenging us to overcome the individualism in our culture and to serve our neighbors in love, seeing Jesus Christ in every person, and seeking a society of justice and mercy, compassion and mutual concern.”

As we receive this new Encyclical, we affirm that among Catholics, among other Christians and

those of other religions, “the effort to seek God with a sincere heart, provided it is never sullied by ideological or self-serving aims, helps us to recognize one another as travelling companions, truly brothers and sisters” (n. 274). And we understand more deeply that “The Church has a public role over and above her charitable and educational activities. She works for the advancement of humanity and of universal fraternity. She does not claim to compete with earthly powers, but to offer herself as a family among families, this is the Church, open to bearing witness in today’s world, open to faith, hope and love for the Lord and for those whom he loves with a preferential love. A home with open doors. The Church is a home with open doors, because she is a mother” (n. 276).

In releasing this new Encyclical, the Holy See concluded: “Faced with those injured by the shadows of a closed world and still lying by the roadside, we are invited by Pope Francis to make our own the world’s desire for fraternity, starting with the recognition that we are all ‘*Fratelli tutti*,’ brothers and sisters all.” May this be the starting point for us all.

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The Pope’s Encyclical Letter *Fratelli tutti* (On Fraternity and Social Friendship) may be found at [bit.ly/fraternity2020](https://bit.ly/fraternity2020).



Most Rev. Daniel E. Thomas  
Bishop of Toledo  
October 9, 2020

**ENCYCLICAL LETTER  
FRATELLI TUTTI  
OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS  
ON FRATERNITY AND SOCIAL FRIENDSHIP**

1. *"FRATELLI TUTTI"*.<sup>[1]</sup> With these words, Saint Francis of Assisi addressed his brothers and sisters and proposed to them a way of life marked by the flavour of the Gospel. Of the counsels Francis offered, I would like to select the one in which he calls for a love that transcends the barriers of geography and distance, and declares blessed all those who love their brother "as much when he is far away from him as when he is with him".<sup>[2]</sup> In his simple and direct way, Saint Francis expressed the essence of a fraternal openness that allows us to acknowledge, appreciate and love each person, regardless of physical proximity, regardless of where he or she was born or lives.

2. This saint of fraternal love, simplicity and joy, who inspired me to write the Encyclical *Laudato Si'*, prompts me once more to devote this new Encyclical to fraternity and social friendship. Francis felt himself a brother to the sun, the sea and the wind, yet he knew that he was even closer to those of his own flesh. Wherever he went, he sowed seeds of peace and walked alongside the poor, the abandoned, the infirm and the outcast, the least of his brothers and sisters.

**WITHOUT BORDERS**

3. There is an episode in the life of Saint Francis that shows his openness of heart, which knew no bounds and transcended differences of origin, nationality, colour or religion. It was his visit to Sultan Malik-el-Kamil, in Egypt, which entailed considerable hardship, given Francis' poverty, his scarce resources, the great distances to be traveled and their differences of language, culture and religion. That journey, undertaken at the time of the Crusades, further demonstrated the breadth and grandeur of his love, which sought to embrace everyone. Francis' fidelity to his Lord was commensurate with his love for his brothers and sisters. Unconcerned for the hardships and dangers involved, Francis went to meet the Sultan with the same attitude that he instilled in his disciples: if they found themselves "among the Saracens and other nonbelievers", without renouncing their own identity they were not to "engage in arguments or disputes, but to be subject to every human creature for God's sake".<sup>[3]</sup> In the context of the times, this was an extraordinary recommendation. We are impressed that some eight hundred years ago Saint Francis urged that all forms of hostility or conflict be avoided and that a humble and fraternal "subjection" be shown to those who did not share his faith.

4. Francis did not wage a war of words aimed at imposing doctrines; he simply spread the love of God. He understood that "God is love and those who abide in love abide in God" (1 Jn 4:16). In this way, he became a father to all and inspired the vision of a fraternal society. Indeed, "only the man who approaches others, not to draw them into his own life, but to help them become ever more fully themselves, can truly be called a father".<sup>[4]</sup> In the world of that time, bristling with watchtowers and defensive walls, cities were a theatre of brutal wars between powerful families, even as poverty was spreading through the countryside. Yet there Francis was able to welcome true peace into his heart and free himself of the desire to wield power over others. He became one of the poor and sought to live in harmony with all. Francis has inspired these pages.

5. Issues of human fraternity and social friendship have always been a concern of mine. In recent years, I have spoken of them repeatedly and in different settings. In this Encyclical, I have sought to bring together many of those statements and to situate them in a broader context of reflection. In the preparation of *Laudato Si'*, I had a source of inspiration in my brother Bartholomew, the Orthodox Patriarch, who has spoken forcefully of our need to care for creation. In this case, I have felt particularly encouraged by the Grand Imam Ahmad Al-Tayyeb, with whom I met in Abu Dhabi, where we declared that "God has created all human beings equal in rights, duties and dignity, and has called them to live together as brothers and sisters".<sup>[5]</sup> This was no mere diplomatic gesture, but a reflection born of dialogue and common commitment. The present Encyclical takes up and develops some of the great themes raised in the Document that we both signed. I have also incorporated, along with my own thoughts, a number of letters, documents and considerations that I have received from many individuals and groups throughout the world.

6. The following pages do not claim to offer a complete teaching on fraternal love, but rather to consider its universal scope, its openness to every man and woman. I offer this social Encyclical as a modest contribution to continued reflection, in the hope that in the face of present-day attempts to eliminate or ignore others, we may prove capable of responding with a new vision of fraternity and social friendship that will not remain at the level of words. Although I have written it from the Christian convictions that inspire and sustain me, I have sought to make this reflection an invitation to dialogue among all people of good will.

7. As I was writing this letter, the Covid-19 pandemic unexpectedly erupted, exposing our false securities. Aside from the different ways that various countries responded to the crisis, their inability to work together became quite evident. For all our hyper-connectivity, we witnessed a fragmentation that made it more difficult to resolve problems that affect us all. Anyone who thinks that the only lesson to be learned was the need to improve what we were already doing, or to refine existing systems and regulations, is denying reality.

8. It is my desire that, in this our time, by acknowledging the dignity of each human person, we can contribute to the rebirth of a universal aspiration to fraternity. Fraternity between all men and women. "Here we have a splendid secret that shows us how to dream and to turn our life into a wonderful adventure. No one can face life in isolation... We need a community that supports and helps us, in which we can help one another to keep looking ahead. How important it is to dream together... By ourselves, we risk seeing mirages, things that are not there. Dreams, on the other hand, are built together".<sup>[6]</sup> Let us dream, then, as a single human family, as fellow travelers sharing the same flesh, as children of the same earth which is our common home, each of us bringing the richness of his or her beliefs and convictions, each of us with his or her own voice, brothers and sisters all.

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## CHAPTER ONE—DARK CLOUDS OVER A CLOSED WORLD

9. Without claiming to carry out an exhaustive analysis or to study every aspect of our present-day experience, I intend simply to consider certain trends in our world that hinder the development of universal fraternity.

### SHATTERED DREAMS

10. For decades, it seemed that the world had learned a lesson from its many wars and disasters, and was slowly moving towards various forms of integration. For example, there was the dream of a united Europe, capable of acknowledging its shared roots and rejoicing in its rich diversity. We think of "the firm conviction of the founders of the European Union, who envisioned a future based on the capacity to work together in bridging divisions and in fostering peace and fellowship between all the peoples of this continent".<sup>[7]</sup> There was also a growing desire for integration in Latin America, and several steps were taken in this direction. In some countries and regions, attempts at reconciliation and rapprochement proved fruitful, while others showed great promise.

11. Our own days, however, seem to be showing signs of a certain regression. Ancient conflicts thought long buried are breaking out anew, while instances of a myopic, extremist, resentful and aggressive nationalism are on the rise. In some countries, a concept of popular and national unity influenced by various ideologies is creating new forms of selfishness and a loss of the social sense under the guise of defending national interests. Once more we are being reminded that "each new generation must take up the struggles and attainments of past generations, while setting its sights even higher. This is the path. Goodness, together with love, justice and solidarity, are not achieved once and for all; they have to be realized each day. It is not possible to settle for what was achieved in the past and complacently enjoy it, as if we could somehow disregard the fact that many of our brothers and sisters still endure situations that cry out for our attention".<sup>[8]</sup>

12. "Opening up to the world" is an expression that has been co-opted by the economic and financial sector and is now used exclusively of openness to foreign interests or to the freedom of economic powers to invest without obstacles or complications in all countries. Local conflicts and disregard for the common good are exploited by the global economy in order to impose a single cultural model. This culture unifies the world, but divides persons and nations, for "as society becomes ever more globalized, it makes us neighbours, but does not make us brothers".<sup>[9]</sup> We are more alone than ever in an increasingly massified world that promotes individual interests and weakens the communitarian dimension of life. Indeed, there are markets where individuals become mere consumers or bystanders. As a rule, the advance of this kind of globalism strengthens the identity of the more powerful, who can protect themselves, but it tends to diminish the identity of the weaker and poorer regions, making them more vulnerable and dependent. In this way, political life becomes increasingly fragile in the face of transnational economic powers that operate with the principle of "divide and conquer".

### The end of historical consciousness

13. As a result, there is a growing loss of the sense of history, which leads to even further breakup. A kind of "deconstructionism", whereby human freedom claims to create everything starting from zero, is making headway in today's culture. The one thing it leaves in its wake is the drive to limitless consumption and expressions of empty individualism. Concern about this led me to offer the young some advice. "If someone tells young people to ignore their history, to reject the experiences of their elders, to look down on the past and to look forward to a future that he himself holds out, doesn't it then become easy to draw them along so that they only do what he tells them? He needs the young to be shallow, uprooted and distrustful, so that they can trust only in his promises and act according to his plans. That is how various ideologies operate: they destroy (or deconstruct) all differences so that they can reign unopposed. To do so, however, they need young people who have no use for history, who spurn the spiritual and human riches inherited from past generations, and are ignorant of everything that came before them".<sup>[10]</sup>

14. These are the new forms of cultural colonization. Let us not forget that "peoples that abandon their tradition and, either from a craze to mimic others or to foment violence, or from unpardonable negligence or apathy, allow others to rob their very soul, end up losing not only their spiritual identity but also their moral consistency and, in the end, their intellectual, economic and political independence".<sup>[11]</sup> One effective way to weaken historical consciousness, critical thinking, the struggle for justice and the processes of integration is to empty great words of their meaning or to manipulate them. Nowadays, what do certain words like democracy, freedom, justice or unity really mean? They have been bent and shaped to serve as tools for domination, as meaningless tags that can be used to justify any action.

### LACKING A PLAN FOR EVERYONE

15. The best way to dominate and gain control over people is to spread despair and discouragement, even under the guise of defending certain values. Today, in many countries, hyperbole, extremism and polarization have become political tools. Employing a strategy of ridicule, suspicion and relentless criticism, in a variety of ways one denies the right of others to exist or to have an opinion. Their share of the truth and their values are rejected and, as a result, the life of society is impoverished and subjected to the hubris of the powerful. Political life no longer has to do with healthy debates about long-term plans to improve people's lives and to advance the common good, but only with slick marketing techniques primarily aimed at discrediting others. In this craven exchange of charges and counter-charges, debate degenerates into a permanent state of disagreement and confrontation.

16. Amid the fray of conflicting interests, where victory consists in eliminating one's opponents, how is it possible to raise our sights to recognize our neighbours or to help those who have fallen along the way? A plan that would set great goals for the development of our entire human family nowadays sounds like madness. We are growing ever more distant from one another, while the slow and demanding march towards an increasingly united and just world is suffering a new and dramatic setback.



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Their mission was to New France, but these missionaries found in present-day New York State and the province of Ontario a world wildly different from the homes they left behind. Six Jesuit priests, Fathers Isaac Jogues, John de Brébeuf, Anthony Daniel, Gabriel Lalemant, Charles Garnier, and Noël Chabanel—and Jesuit lay volunteers René Goupil and John LaLande—shared the gospel with the Native Americans they met, in languages they painstakingly learned, and through images they creatively adapted to the indigenous cultures (for example, John de Brébeuf's " 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime: the Huron Carol"). But their evangelization was caught up in turmoil beyond their control: a smallpox epidemic, battles between French and English trading interests—the traders united only by their willingness to exploit the Native Americans—and conflict among the tribes themselves, Huron, Mohawk and Iroquois. The missionaries' perseverance despite exhausting hardships, their steadfast courage in facing unspeakable tortures, and undaunted love even for those who martyred them, bore fruit immediately in Saint Kateri Tekakwitha's sanctity, eventually in the Catholicism that still flourishes in the United States and Canada.

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

### IN GOD ALONE

Isaiah speaks to us today of Cyrus, King of Persia, anointed by the Lord. God calls Cyrus by name and leads him in service to the Israelites. In this passage we hear that it is the Lord who gives Cyrus his title, who arms him against his enemies, and who opens doors and unbars gates before him. And God does all of this so that the people will know that "I am the LORD," and that "there is none besides me" (Isaiah 45:6).

Paul opens his letter with essentially the same notion—that in God alone we find our grace and peace. Paul also gives thanks to God on our behalf, calling to mind our work of faith, hope, and love. And in the familiar Gospel reading, Jesus tells the Pharisees to give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



### TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — The LORD said to Cyrus, his anointed, "I am the LORD, there is no other" (Isaiah 45:1, 4-6).

Psalm — Give the Lord glory and honor (Psalm 96).

**Second Reading** — Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy to the church of the Thessalonians: We thank God always for all of you (1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b).

**Gospel** — Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's (Matthew 22:15-21).

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### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

**Monday:** Eph 2:1-10; Ps 100:1b-5; Lk 12:13-21

**Tuesday:** Eph 2:12-22; Ps 85:9ab-14; Lk 12:35-38

**Wednesday:** Eph 3:2-12; Is 12:2-3, 4bcd-6; Lk 12:39-48

**Thursday:** Eph 3:14-21; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 11-12, 18-19; Lk 12:49-53

**Friday:** Eph 4:1-6; Ps 24:1-4ab, 5-6; Lk 12:54-59

**Saturday:** Eph 4:7-16; Ps 122:1-5; Lk 13:1-9

**Sunday:** Ex 22:20-26; Ps 18:2-4, 47, 51; 1 Thes 1:5c-10; Mt 22:34-40