



SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
FEBRUARY 28, 2021

**THIS IS MY
BELOVED SON.
LISTEN TO HIM.**

MARK 9:7

THE ITALIAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY AT
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH

From the Deacon's Desk
Dear friends in Christ,

Did you do the **Disciple Maker Index survey** yet? I hope so. If not, go to www.sjbitaliana.com and help me with your thoughts about our parish.

What's so good about going to church? One would like to believe that for the tens of millions of **Catholics** in this country who define themselves as "practicing" their faith, engaging the identity of church has been a positive and powerful experience. Perhaps they have seen the church's authority wielded in the cause of justice on behalf of the disadvantaged. **Joyful** liturgies that deserve to be called celebrations and a vibrant, welcoming community attract them not just to attend **Mass**, but also to be church themselves. Bold proclamations of scripture have not reduced them to the level of "sinners in the hands of an angry God," but instead challenge them to rise to the responsibility of genuine discipleship. For these folks, the parish is "**Good News Central**," the place to get energized for a fuller, richer life.

Yet for other folks, including the millions of **U.S. Catholics** who don't attend **Mass** on **Sundays**, the experience of church has yet to prove its appeal. The very word may conjure up authority on the rampage; tedious, wordy rituals; a moralistic emphasis on the guilty side of human nature; frigid assemblies and pious posturing. In short, being church and going there have been disappointing episodes in too many lives.

What is the experience of our parish here at **Saint John the Baptist**? Are we more likely to shout, "**It's good to be here!**" or "**What am I doing here?**" May the **Eucharist** be a banquet thrown for honored guests, and not an hour of detention for bad behavior. Those who are delighted to embrace the identity of church have come to the realization, as **Abraham** did in **First Reading**, that our **God** is to be trusted. This **God is for us**, not against us; out to **save us** and not to condemn us, despite what some of us may have heard or been taught. There's a lot of painfully bad theology out there. May our parish proclaim the **Good News** and make it sound every bit as good as it is.

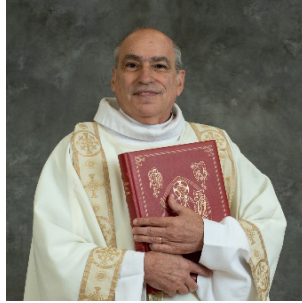
Saint John the Baptist pray for us!
Happy Lent!
Deacon Frank

Dear **St. John Parishioners**, join me periodically on **St. Brigid of Kildare Parish** livestream. If you missed it, the videos are available at **St. Brigid YouTube channel** and **St. Brigid of Kildare Facebook page**.

Celebrant for Sunday
9:30 a.m. Mass, March 7, 2021
Stations of the Cross at 10:45 a.m.
Msgr. Cody

Confessions Heard before Mass
Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

PAVERS: The front **Pavilion** of **St. John's Church** is covered with **Pavers**. These **Pavers** are available for purchase and engraving in remembrance of family members and loved ones. For more information, please call the office of **St. John's** at **614-294-5319**.



LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Sunday, February 28, 2021, 9:30 a.m.	
Lector:	Ed Pagnanelli
Euch. Min.:	Andrea Myers
Sunday, March 7, 2021, 9:30 a.m.	
Lector:	Landa Brunetto
Euch. Min.:	Pat Rossetti

PARISH INFORMATION

The Italian Catholic Community at St. John the Baptist
Corner of E. Lincoln and Hamlet Streets
Church Mailing Address: 168 E. Lincoln Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

(614) 294-5319 • Fax: (614) 294-4303

Livestream our 9:30 Sunday Mass on our St. John the Baptist Facebook page by visiting our website
www.sjbitaliana.com

Office Hours: 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Monday through Friday
Website: info@sjbitaliana.org

Deacon Frank Iannarino – Administrator
Msgr. John Cody – Weekend Assistant
Father Charles Klinger – Weekend Assistant
Father Charles Cotton – Weekend Assistant
Father Antonio Kim – Chaplain, Korean Catholic Community
Ms. Aggie Howard – Executive Assistant
Ms. Victoria Gammell – Secretary and Bulletin Editor
Mrs. Gina Bishop – Director of Liturgy
Mr. John Huffman – Organist and Musical consultant

Holy Sacrifice of the Mass – 9:30 a.m. each Sunday
Sacrament of Penance – 9:00 a.m. (before Sunday Mass or by appointment)

Sacrament of Baptism and Baptism preparation (by appointment)

Sacrament of Matrimony (you must be registered at **Saint John** at least 6 months prior to scheduling your wedding by Deacon or Priest)

Sacrament of Confirmation and Rites of Christian Initiation for Adults (please make an appointment with Parish Administrator)

Saint John Italian Festival (please visit our website for more information)

Sala Hall and Marrapese Hall (scheduled with approval of Parish Administrator)

Bulletin Deadline: Announcements must be submitted in writing by **Tuesday at noon**.

MASSES AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Sun. 2/28	9:30 a.m.	Robert W. Contino, Sr. by Teresa & Jim McCoy
Sun. 2/28	9:30 a.m.	Matthew Mongolier by Kara Cugini
Sun. 3/7	9:30 a.m.	Gerardo Cugini The Cugini Family
Sun. 3/7	9:30 a.m.	Cesidia Cugini by the Cugini Family

Blessed Sacrament & Marian Lights Intentions:
Marian Lights: **Joyce Tisone**
by Carl Tisone
Blessed Sacrament: **Tina Tarantelli**
by Andrea & Roger Myers

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Sun. 2/28	KCC Mass, Fr. Kim 12:00 Noon, Meeting after Mass in Sala Hall
Fri. 3/5	KCC Mass, Fr. Kim 7:00 p.m., SJB Church
Sat. 3/6	Diaconal Council Meeting – Italian Cultural Room 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARISH REGULAR MASS SCHEDULE

Catholic Churches	Saturday	Sunday
St. Patrick's	7:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:00 p.m.
Sacred Heart Church	4:00 p.m.	11:00 a.m.
St. Joseph Cathedral	5:15 p.m.	8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 5:15 p.m.
St. Mary, Mother of God GV	4:00 p.m.	9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.
St. Francis Assisi	No Mass	9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

2021 Liturgical Calendar & Mass Readings

February 28 – *Second Sunday of Lent*
Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Rom 8:31b-34/Mt 9:2-10

March 1 – *Lenten Weekday*
Dn 9:4b-10/Lk 6:36-38

March 2 – *Lenten Weekday*
Is 1:10, 16-20/Mt 23:1-12

March 3 – *Lenten Weekday – Saint Katharine Drexel, Virgin*
Jer 18:18-20/Mt 20:17-28

March 4 – *Lenten Weekday – Saint Casimir*
Jer 17:5-10/Lk 16:19-31

March 5 – *Lenten Weekday*
Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

March 6 – *Lenten Weekday*
Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

March 7 – *Third Sunday of Lent*
Ex 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17/1 Cor 1:22-25/
Jn 2:13-25

**Pray for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated religious life.*

PLEASE REMEMBER OUR KNOWN ILL AND ELDERLY IN YOUR PRAYERS**

****If you know of any additions or corrections, please call the parish office. Due to privacy laws, we depend on your input. For Vienna D'Alberto, who is residing at the Worthington Christian Village. Also, keep in your prayers Maria Lucchin, Laura Williams, and James Graf.**

The Rosary before Mass on Sunday: We begin the Rosary around 9:00-9:05 a.m., and it takes about 15-20 minutes to pray the Rosary. We need a volunteer to help schedule the Rosary for each month. At the present time, no one has signed up to lead the Rosary. If you would like to volunteer to lead the Rosary, please contact the office at 614-294-5319 for more information so we can put a schedule together and post in the bulletin. Thank you!



New Daily Mass and Confession opportunity: Sacred Heart Parish, located at 893 Hamlet Street, Columbus, is offering daily Mass, Monday through Thursday at 8:00 p.m. each week. Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with the Sacrament of Confession available will precede the daily Mass at 7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. during Lent.



CONGRATULATIONS!

To Michael Crum and Jacey Gelacek, who entered into the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony on February 20, 2021.

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP AT ST. JOHN

February 21, 2021

Number of Envelopes Used Sunday – 37

Env.:	\$ 1,450.00
Loose:	\$ 23.00
Total:	\$ 1,473.00
Less Diocesan 6% Assessment:	\$ (88.38)
	\$ 1,384.62
Votive:	\$ 40.00
Black & Indian Missions:	\$ 65.00
JOIN (Ash Wed):	\$ 25.00
St. Anthony Bread:	\$ 25.00
Capital Improvements:	\$ 62.00
Total:	\$ 217.00

\$\$\$? HOW IS ST. JOHN DOING? \$\$\$?

Budgeted Offertory for Fiscal Year (7/1/20-6/30/21)

	Budgeted	Actual	Difference (\$)	(%)
This Week:	\$ 2,885.00	\$ 1,473.00	(\$1,412.00)	-49%
FYTD:	\$98,090.00	\$88,575.65	(\$9,514.35)	-10%

SJB Collection Counters for Monday, March 1, 2021

Ed Pagnanelli and Aggie Howard

SJB Collection Counters for Monday, March 8, 2021

Darlene Rauch and Aggie Howard

The Disciple Maker Index Survey is Open from February 17 through March 21, 2021!

It's official! The Disciple Maker Index Survey opens this week and we need your help!

Please help us participate by completing a 10-15 minute survey as soon as possible. You will find a hard copy of the survey in today's bulletin. The survey will ask you to reflect on your own spiritual growth and enable you to provide feedback on our parish's efforts to help you grow. All responses will be confidential, and the parish will only receive information about the community. We will share with you a bit closer to the launch of the survey. The survey can be accessed online through our website: www.sjbitaliana.com There you will find a printable version of the PDF file The Disciple Maker Index survey or link <https://www.catholicleaders.org/columbusdmi>.

To submit the completed paper survey, please drop off in the Collection Basket. To make special arrangements for getting a paper copy of the survey, please contact Victoria Gammell or Aggie Howard at 614-294-5319.

Thank you for helping with this important project!

The Catholic Times: Thank you to all new and returning readers of *The Catholic Times* online and in print. It's not too late to subscribe for the upcoming year for a minimum donation of **\$17.00**. Sign up online at columbuscatholic.org/catholic-times under the subscription payments tab. You may also use the envelope provided in your **February** packet, or simply write your name and *The Catholic Times* on a plain envelope, make your check payable to the **Diocese of Columbus – Catholic Times** and drop it into the collection basket. Another option is to mail your **\$17.00** check payable to **Diocese of Columbus – Catholic Times** to our office at **197 E. Gay Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215**. You'll find *The Catholic Times* very useful to keep up on all of the news throughout the diocese and the **Catholic Church**.

St. John the Baptist Italian Catholic Church announces the **2021 Father Casto Marrapese Scholarship Program**. If you are a high school senior student of **Italian** descent, attending a **Central Ohio High School**, and accepted to an accredited **two or four-year College or University** in the **U.S.** for the **2021-2022** academic year, you are encouraged to apply for this scholarship opportunity. Application information has been sent to Central **Ohio** high school guidance counseling offices. Application information has been posted on **Saint John's website** www.info@sjbitaliana.com. All application materials (application form, activity listing, personal recommendation letter, school recommendation and transcript, and personal essay) must be received at **St. John's** no later than **2:00 pm, Monday, April 5, 2021**. For information, call **St. John the Baptist Catholic Italian Church** at **614-294-5319**.

Answering COVID Vaccine Concerns:

The Catholic Perspective:

There are many questions regarding the **COVID** vaccine. The **Columbus Diocese** recommends the following websites for guidance:

- 1. United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB):** <https://www.usccb.org/moral-considerations-covid-vaccines>.
- 2. The National Catholic Bioethics Center:** <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5e3ada1a6a2e8d6a131d1dcd/t/5fd3ce39e679895094dd1e49/1607716409962/NCBCVaccineStatementFINAL.pdf>.
- 3. The Ohio Catholic Conference:** <https://www.ohiocathconf.org/Portals/1/Bishop%20Statements/Ohio-Bishops-vaccine.pdf?ver=y7OHNpTaGQcG9qd-MaKqhQ%3d%3d>, Making Sense of Bioethics <https://columbuscatholic.org/making-sense-out-of-bionetics>.

AROUND US

Liturgical Calendar: The month of **February** is dedicated to the **Holy Family**. This year, the first **16 days** of **February** fall during the liturgical season known as **Ordinary Time**, which is represented by the liturgical color green. **Green**, the symbol of hope, is the color of the sprouting seed and arouses in the faithful the hope of reaping the eternal harvest of heaven, especially the hope of a glorious resurrection. The remaining days of **February** are the beginning of **Lent**. The liturgical color changes to purple – a symbol of penance, mortification, and the sorrow of a contrite heart.

It's Fish Fry Time: One of the great parts of **Lent** is the return of that wonderful **Catholic** institution, the **Friday Fish Fry**. **COVID** has allowed many parishes to move to carry-out only. But the fish is still excellent, and you do not have to cook! Please go to columbuscatholic.org for a complete list of the **Fish Fries** being offered throughout the **Columbus** area during **Lent**.

CRS Rice Bowl is a **Lenten** faith formation program for use in parishes, schools, religious education programs and by families and individuals in the home. **CRS Rice Bowl** serves the poorest among us through **Catholic Relief Services** work in over **100** countries. This year, the **25 percent** of the donations that stay in the **Diocese** has supported **25** grants for local hunger programs (totaling nearly **\$100,000.00**). For questions, contact **Social Concerns** at **614-241-2540** or socmailbox@columbuscatholic.org.

US Church Regulations Regarding Fasting and Abstinence

During Lent: Abstinence from meat (beast or fowl) is to be observed by all **Catholics** fourteen years and older on **Ash Wednesday** and on all **Fridays of Lent**. This obligation prohibits the eating of meat, but not eggs, milk products or condiments of any kind, even though made from animal fat. The law of fasting on **Ash Wednesday** and **Good Friday** applies to all **Catholics** from age 18 through age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. Those who are ill or pregnant may be dispensed from their obligation.

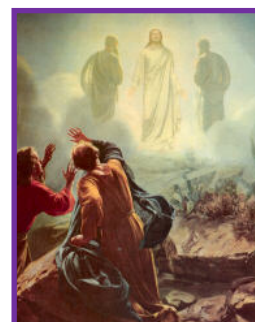
Reconciliation Monday

On **Monday of Holy Week, March 29th**, priests will be available in every church of the diocese between **4:00-7:00 p.m.** for the Sacrament of Reconciliation or Confession. Some parishes will make the sacrament available for a longer time that day. Churches, where the sacrament is available, will have a special notice outside to promote the event. **The special time for Confession is in addition to the parish's normal Lenten Confession times.**

40 Days of Adoration: Bishop Robert Brennan calls upon the **Diocese of Columbus** to celebrate **Jesus Christ's Real Presence in the Eucharist** in a special way this **Lent**. **40 Days of Adoration** started **February 17, Ash Wednesday**. Every day for **40 days**, a different parish throughout the diocese will host **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for Adoration** throughout the day. Please see the schedule on our website www.sjbitaliana.com – **40 Days of Adoration**.

"During Lent, let us find concrete ways to overcome our indifference."

~ Pope Francis



Prayer

*O God,
who have commanded us to listen to Your beloved Son,
be pleased, we pray, to nourish us inwardly by Your word,
that, with spiritual sight made pure,
we may rejoice to behold Your glory.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son,
who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen*



**Increasing the
presence of Christ
throughout the
Diocese and
upholding the
Faith for future
generations.**



We are re-imagining how the Church serves Her people. We'll start by listening to the needs of the people, and hearing your ideas, concerns, and desires.





**Real Presence
Real Future**

What is this?

Real Presence, Real Future is a two-year diocesan-wide consultative process that invites participation from clergy, lay ecclesial ministers, parish volunteers, and all the faithful.

By listening to the needs of our people and hearing your ideas, concerns and desires, this process will help determine the best path forward to increase the presence of the Church throughout the Diocese of Columbus.

The purpose is to:

- Reimagine how the Church serves her people throughout the diocese.
- Foster viable, sustainable, and vibrant parishes and schools that support the evangelizing mission of Jesus Christ and His Church.
- Ensure we are serving effectively and preserve the faith for future generations.

This exciting initiative looks to the future of our diocese in light of the unique needs of people today, the needs of the culture around us, and the desire to form and equip Catholics to fulfill their baptismal call to become missionary disciples of our Lord and His Church to those in their everyday lives.



When does this start?

This much anticipated initiative is already underway through prayer and preparation. Throughout Lent, we invite all Catholics to take part in **40 Days of Adoration** which began on Ash Wednesday, and to participate in **Reconciliation on Monday**, March 29, the Monday of Holy Week, by receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation available at most parishes from 4-7 pm.

We are also asking the diocese to join together to pray our *Real Presence, Real Future* Prayer found on prayer cards available at all parishes and on the *Real Presence, Real Future* website: www.RealPresenceRealFuture.org.

Our goal is to identify the needs of our diocese for the 21st Century and how we meet those needs, and to expand Catholic presence to all our people. We want to make the presence of the Lord, the experience of the Sacraments, the encounter with Christ – we want to make that more available to people.

Most Rev. Robert J. Brennan
TWELFTH BISHOP OF COLUMBUS





What focus-areas will be addressed?

We are looking at all facets of our diocesan and parish life including key areas such as:

Forming parishes to be centers for missionary discipleship.

Increasing our ministry presence through the use of lay missionaries.

Exploring creative ways to encounter the non-affiliated and those who no longer attend Mass through initiatives like a “soft-entry” center for evangelization.

Developing a comprehensive strategy for the use of social and digital communications throughout the diocese for evangelization, faith formation, and community-building.

Increasing our ministry presence on college and university campuses.

Supporting our Catholic school faculty and staff to become formators of missionary disciples for the families they serve in our Catholic schools..

Reviewing our diocesan structures to ensure we are operating efficiently to meet the needs of the future, to make best use of our priests and deacons, and provide the necessary support to all of our parishes, schools, and social outreach organizations.

How will this include all of the faithful?

This consultative process will generate feedback in a variety of ways:

RPRF Commission – Collaborating with Bishop Brennan and the diocesan pastoral staff, members of the Commission will serve as ambassadors of the RPRF initiative to their fellow parishioners in local planning areas or the diocesan specialty they represent. They also have the important responsibility of reviewing plans and feedback gathered from our priests, deacons, religious and lay faithful and submitting recommendations to Bishop Brennan. Initiated by Bishop Brennan in January 2021, the Commission consists of representatives from our different geographic planning areas and those who reflect our diverse gifts and talents to help guide this process.

RPRF Parish Leaders - This Spring, five (5) parishioners at each parish will be identified by their pastor as RPRF Parish Leaders to work with the RPRF Commission to consider new models of parish life that take into account the needs of their communities, material resources, and available clergy.

Regional Consultation Sessions - This fall, consultation sessions will take place in local planning areas and at every parish to provide feedback from our priests, deacons, religious, and lay faithful regarding the RPRF initiative.

Evangelization Subcommittees – Last Fall, Bishop Brennan established six (6) key subcommittees made up of laity and diocesan leaders to study and propose ways to evangelize in the primary areas of parish and school missionary discipleship formation, college and university outreach, social and digital communications, outreach to the non-affiliated or those who no longer attend Mass, and the use of lay missionaries throughout the diocese to promote evangelization and discipleship formation.

Discipleship Maker Index Survey – Throughout Lent, parishioners at every parish are being given the opportunity to participate in this Diocesan-wide survey that looks at all aspects of parish life from February 17 to March 22. This 75-question survey is available in hard copy at all parishes and digitally on all parish websites as a survey link (www.catholicleaders.org/columbusdmi). Please be sure to participate in this survey at your parish. This is a primary opportunity for you to provide feedback to this process.



How can you stay informed?

There are a variety of ways for you to stay informed about the progress of this initiative:

VISIT

Visit the *Real Presence, Real Future* website. This will be the primary source for information about this initiative and will be routinely updated to provide the latest information and opportunities for feedback and consultation.

ATTEND

Attend parish-level consultations in the fall, parishioners can hear first-hand how RPRF will impact their parish and grow the presence of the Church throughout the Diocese of Columbus.

READ

Read information in *The Catholic Times*, as well as other news sources such as St. Gabriel Radio, AM 820/FM 88.3, and additional regional news sources.

SUBSCRIBE

Subscribe to the monthly *Real Presence, Real Future* e-newsletter. This monthly email will provide updates about this initiative and keep people informed throughout our two-year journey. You can sign up for the e-newsletters on the RPRF website (below).



The Timeline

► January 2021

Establishment of the RPRF Commission

► Lent 2021

Prayer and preparation: 40 Days of Adoration, Reconciliation Monday (March 29), Discipleship Maker Index (Feb 17-March 22), and RPRF prayer begins to be prayed before every Mass in the diocese throughout the two-year duration of the initiative.

► Summer 2021

Data from the Disciple Maker Index survey will be tabulated and results made available to parishes. Based on this feedback, preparations will be made to begin local planning area and parish-level consultation sessions in the Fall.

► Fall 2021

Local planning areas and parish consultation sessions will be held to review findings, receive feedback, and continue the planning process into the next phase in 2022.

Sunday, Feb 28, 2021

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Go all in

Erin became a Roman Catholic in midlife. When asked why, she says she tried fiercely to make life work according to her plan. Erin told God many times how it should go, attempting to persuade the powers that be to see it her way. Then one day God replied: My plan for you is so beautiful, wonderful, elegant. Why not try it instead? When Erin celebrated the Rites for Candidates for Full Communion on a Lenten Sunday just like this one, she found the joy she was missing. Pray for this year's candidates—and for candidates for years to come.

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Romans 8:31b-34; Mark 9:2-10 (26). *"If God is for us, who can be against us?"*

Monday, Mar 01, 2021

LENTEN WEEKDAY

Mercy me!

Pope Francis called mercy the "beating heart of the gospel." Mercy is forbearance, divine favor, compassionate treatment of the distressed and undeserving. It's another word for God's love. Consider showing devotion to it by reciting the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, a rosary-based prayer that was received by Saint Faustina, a Polish nun in the 1930s, through visions of Jesus. Divine Mercy Sunday is celebrated the week after Easter, but many make the Chaplet part of their regular Lenten practice by reciting it every day at 3 p.m. (the traditional hour of Christ's death). You can find the Chaplet on the USCCB website.

TODAY'S READINGS: Daniel 9:4b-10; Luke 6:36-38 (230). *"Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful."*

Tuesday, Mar 02, 2021

LENTEN WEEKDAY

Celebrate humble history

Women's History Month celebrates well-known women but also unsung heroines. How appropriate, then, that today is the feast of Agnes of Bohemia, a lesser-known saint. First cousin of Elizabeth of Hungary—and descendent of Good King Wenceslaus—Agnes came upon her vocation naturally. She built a hospital for the poor, a Franciscan friary, and a monastery for Poor Clare nuns. When she also became a nun and was urged to become abbess, she referred to herself only as "senior sister." She continued to cook for her sisters and mend the clothing of lepers rather than live a royal life. Celebrate the unsung heroines in your life.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 1:10, 16-20; Matthew 23:1-12 (231). *"Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself will be exalted."*

Wednesday, Mar 03, 2021

MEMORIAL OF KATHARINE DREXEL, RELIGIOUS FOUNDER

We have work to do

Katharine Drexel (1858-1955) is a saint for our time. Born into a successful Philadelphia banking family, she used her wealth to improve the lives of others. Her Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament devoted their lives to education of Native and African Americans, building more than 100 schools in cities, rural areas, and on reservations. Though Katharine and her sisters at times faced criticism, endured racist taunts, and were threatened by the Ku Klux Klan, they remained steadfast in their mission. Patron saint of racial justice and philanthropy, Saint Katharine epitomizes the

sacrifice of the Blessed Sacrament. How will you commit your own life to making the world more just?

TODAY'S READINGS: Jeremiah 18:18-20; Matthew 20:17-28 (232).

"Can you drink the chalice that I am going to drink?"

Thursday, Mar 04, 2021

MEMORIAL OF CASIMIR

Grace under pressure

Saint Casimir seemed destined for riches and power, but this patron saint of Poland, called the Peacemaker, took a different path. Born in 1458 to the king and queen of Poland, he was a devout, ascetic child. At age 14 his father had him lead an army to install himself as king of Hungary, but with an overpowering enemy and troops beginning to desert, Casimir instead returned home. His furious father exiled him, but Casimir would never again take up arms. Rejecting violence when those around you embrace it can take great inner strength. Cultivate an inner compass that can pursue peace despite pressure.

TODAY'S READINGS: Jeremiah 17:5-10; Luke 16:19-31 (233). *"Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose hope is the LORD."*

Friday, Mar 05, 2021

LENTEN WEEKDAY; DAY OF ABSTINENCE

Pray for besieged people everywhere

Prayer is our life with God. Sometimes we carve out a particular time during the day, and sometimes there are specific words, images, or experiences that help us be more aware of or express our relationship with God. And so of course during Lent prayer is one of the pillars, along with fasting and almsgiving, that help us turn to God. On today's 2021 World Day of Prayer, an ecumenical observance, we are invited to "Build on a strong foundation." This theme comes from the women of Vanuatu, an island hit by Cyclone Harold in 2020. Despite the perils they faced—and we've all faced in a year of pandemic—the message of today's prayer is one of confidence in God's steadfastness and the rock of faith. Unite in prayer for healing and recovery.

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46 (234). *"The kingdom of God will be . . . given to a people that will produce its fruit."*

Saturday, Mar 06, 2021

LENTEN WEEKDAY

Sibling rivalry of biblical proportions

The Parable of the Prodigal Son could as easily be called the Parable of the Bitter Brother. The story might have ended with the celebration at the return of the repentant prodigal. But instead we are left to ponder the feelings of the "good son," the obedient one who followed all the rules but never got a party thrown in *his* honor. It's a very human story, reenacted in nearly every family in one form or another. "Mother always liked you best." "You were Dad's favorite." "All we ever did was bail you out of trouble." Will the bitter brother in the gospel story reconcile? Has bitterness or division in your own family been reconciled? Consider being the reconciler who brings it about.

TODAY'S READINGS: Micah 7:14-15, 18-20; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 (235). *"Look, all these years I served you and not once did I disobey your orders; yet you never gave me even a young goat to feast on with my friends."*

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time



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