



Daughter, your
faith
has saved you.
Go in peace
and be cured
of your affliction.
Mark 5:34

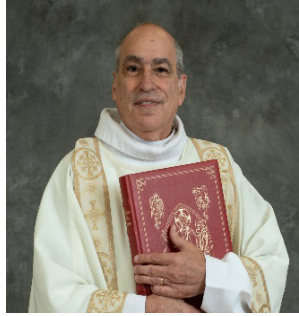
June 27
13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

THE ITALIAN CATHOLIC
COMMUNITY AT

ST. JOHN THE
BAPTIST CHURCH

From the Deacon's Desk**Dear friends in Christ,**

Today, we welcome **Bishop Robert Brennan** and **Mr. Adam Dufault, Episcopal Moderator and Superintendent of Catholic Schools and Education**, to **Saint John the Baptist**. Following Communion at our **9:30 a.m. Mass**, we will be honoring this year's **2021-2022 Marrapese Scholars and the Quaranto Family Scholarship** from some of our **Catholic** and local high schools. I would like to congratulate this year's award winners:



Vigo Bertoli – St. Francis DeSales High School
Lucy Bishop – Bishop Watterson High School
Carmela Cua – St. Francis DeSales High School
Olivia Frisone – Bishop Watterson High School
Sophia Iosue – Hilliard Darby High School
Giovanna Kistner – Upper Arlington High School
Marco Landolfi – Upper Arlington High School
Erika McCague – Worthington Kilbourne High School
Melina McSweeney – Saint Francis DeSales High School
Garrett Nerone – Saint Charles Preparatory School
Grace Sabo – Saint Francis DeSales High School
Sofia Sivilotti – Upper Arlington High School
Taylor Stanton – Fisher Catholic High School
Hope Uptegraph – Bishop Watterson High School
Skylar Everett – Grandview High School

It is very appropriate that we honor these fine graduates and their families, not only on this, the **13th Sunday of Ordinary Time** but also around the **Feast of Saint John the Baptist** that took place on **Thursday, June 24th**. We are very proud of our young people and we thank all who have contributed to the **Marrapese Scholarship** throughout the years by your donations and the proceeds from the **Columbus Italian Festival**.

May good **Saint John the Baptist** continue to intercede and pray for all of us and this year's scholarship recipients.

Have a blessed week,
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,
July 4, 2021, Msgr. Cody

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

Blessed Sacrament & Marian Lights Intentions:
Marian Lights: Sandy Mundini
by Andrea & Roger Myers
Blessed Sacrament: Robert W. Contino, Sr.
by Patty Clifford

LITURGICAL MINISTERS**Sunday, June 27, 2021, 9:30 a.m.**

Lector 1:	John Snoad
Lector 2:	Davide Cugini
Euch. Min.:	Pat Rossetti
Sunday, July 4, 2021, 9:30 a.m.	
Lector 1 & 2:	Antonio D'Alberto, Nick D'Alberto
Euch. Min 1 & 2.:	Sharon D'Alberto, Pat Rossetti

MASSES AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Sun. 6/27	9:30 a.m.	Rina Tiberi by Anthony & Rosie DiPasquale
Sun. 6/27	9:30 a.m.	Joe Pishitelli by Ed & Sandy Pagnanelli
Sun. 7/4	9:30 a.m.	Lucian Susi by Mike and Kerree Susi
Sun. 7/4	9:30 a.m.	George Paesano by Joanne Paesano

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 a.m. Sunday Mass on our
St. John the Baptist Facebook page by visiting
our website www.sjbitaliana.com

Office Hours: In Observance of Independence Day the office will be closed Monday, July 5th. Office hours will resume on Tuesday, July 6th through Friday, from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. 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.

**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, James Graf, and Rick Brunetto.**

ROSARY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Have you been challenged with finding volunteer opportunities? What about finding a few extra minutes a week to pray? To give yourself to God. We tend to find time for the things we love. How much do you love God? Would you consider serving your parish with this all-in-one opportunity to pray the Rosary before Mass? Please sign at the back of the church or contact **Kevin Koesters** at your convenience. k.koesters32@gmail.com or 937-902-7446.

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Sun. 6/27	KCC Sunday Mass – Fr. Kim 12:00 Noon – Meeting after Mass in Sala Hall Marrapese Scholarship Awards Reception – After 9:30 a.m. Mass
Mon. 6/28	Executive Board of the Columbus Italian Festival Request all Committee Chairs to attend Meeting 7:00 p.m. – Marrapese Hall
Fri. 7/2	KCC – Mass – Fr. Kim 7:00 p.m. SJB Church

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP AT ST. JOHN'S

June 20, 2021

Number of Envelopes used Sunday 22

Reg. Env:	\$ 1,620.00
Loose:	\$ 244.00
Total:	\$ 1,864.00
Less Diocesan 6% Assessmen	\$ (111.84)
	\$ 1,752.16
Votive:	\$ 66.00
Capital Improvement	\$ 2.00
Total:	\$ 68.00

? ? ? ? HOW IS ST. JOHN'S DOING? ? ? ? ?

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

	Budgeted	Actual	Difference (\$)	(%)
This Week:	\$ 2,885.00	\$ 1,864.00	(\$ 1,021.00)	-61%
FYTD:	\$147,135.00	\$132,755.22	(\$14,379.78)	-10%

SJB Collection Counters for Monday, June 28, 2021

Ed Pagnanelli and Aggie Howard

SJB Collection Counters for Tuesday, July 6, 2021

Darlene Rauch and Aggie Howard

50/50 Winner: Congratulations to **Miss Raffaella Leggieri**, winner of the 50/50 drawing for the month of **May**. Thank you for your support!

St. John's Altar Guild UPDATE: 2021 Football OSU Football Pool – Please see **Gary Bosco** after **Mass** to reserve your squares on this year's OSU football pool. Cost per square is \$60.00, which covers all 12 season games and provides 48 chances to win up to \$100.00 per quarter (\$400.00 paid out per game)! Proceeds go to the **Altar Guild** whose focus is on purchasing the needs of everything on the Altar at St. John.

2021 Columbus Italian Festival
sponsored by Catholic Church News:

Deacon Frank Iannarino and the Executive Board of The Columbus Italian Festival have been meeting every month to insure a safe and successful Festival happens this year.

We are excited to share an update with all. Considering current State guidelines, as well as optimistically anticipated City of Columbus permit approval, the Board is enthusiastically formulating the 2021 Festival look. We are additionally requesting all Committee Chairs to attend our June 28th meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the Church Hall. Please stay tuned for our progress. We look forward to seeing everyone at the Festival!!!! We thank everyone for their past and continued support in this wonderful event.

Bishop's Annual Appeal: Your gift to the 2021 Bishop's Annual Appeal is vital to the success of this diocesan wide campaign. As of June 21, St. John's has received pledges of \$15,560.00 towards our goal of \$16,108.91, which brings our new parish goal to \$548.91. Thank you to all those families that have made a gift or pledge. If you have not yet made your gift to this year's appeal, please consider doing so in the days ahead. Your gift will help to continue the vital work of the various ministries and services that reach so many in need. Please pray for the success of the Appeal and remember, no amount of giving is too small. Together we can bring hope that can change lives.

Thank you for your support to the Bishop's Annual Appeal

- Mark Agriesti
- Mrs. Marge Contino
- Mr. Paul Cosentino
- Mr. Michael Cua
- Mr. and Mrs. Antonio D'Alberto
- Chester & Anne DeBellis
- Mr. and Mrs. Joseph DiCesare
- William & Sally Finissi
- Elinda Gastaldo
- Mr. and Mrs. James Graf
- Deacon Frank and Peggy Iannarino
- Kevin Koesters
- Ms. Betty LaPenna
- Raffaella Leggieri
- Mr. and Mrs. Samuel McCreary
- Mr. and Mrs. Reynold Molino
- Roger & Andrea Myers
- Mr. and Mrs. Edward Pagnanelli
- Mr. and Mrs. Charles Paule
- Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Persichetti
- Darlene Rauch
- Brian and Donna Rigg
- Mr. Al Roehrenbeck
- Dale Romick
- David & Michelina Ross
- Patrick Rossetti
- Irene Solazzo
- Amalee Soteriades
- Jeffrey Squeo
- Mr. and Mrs. Mike Susi
- Mr. Carl Tisone
- Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas A. Valentine
- Patricia Weimer
- Mr. and Mrs. David West
- Guy & Laura Williams
- H. James & Yancey Zimmer



Disciple Maker Index Results

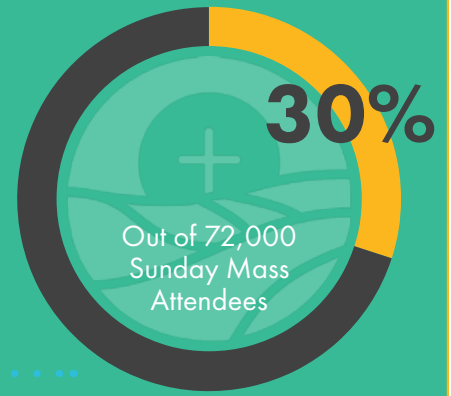
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Thank you to the more than 21,000 Catholics from all parts of the Diocese of Columbus who completed the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) Survey during Lent. The results are in, and the Diocese wanted to share some of the highlights.

The DMI is a 75-question survey designed to provide an opportunity for parishioners to reflect on their individual spiritual growth and overall parish effectiveness. Almost 300,000 Catholics at more than 1,500 parishes throughout 40 dioceses have taken the DMI since 2013, providing not just valuable data for each parish, but for the Church nationally, as well. Now the Diocese of Columbus can be counted among these national benchmark dioceses.



Total Surveys:
21,462



■ Survey Participants
■ Non-Participants

Over a five-year period, the Diocese of Columbus has averaged 72,000 Catholics attending Mass on a weekend. **Almost 30% of the individuals** completed the Disciple Maker Index this Lent. This is above the national average for other dioceses who have taken the DMI nationwide.

Reviewing the Results

Phase I (May - June)

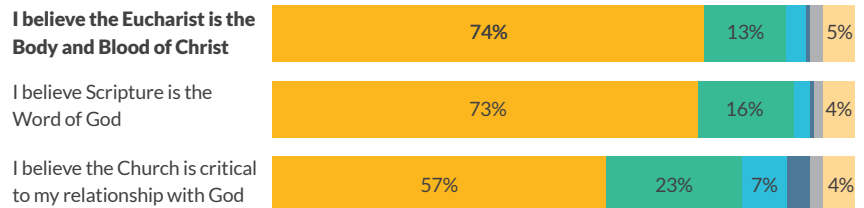
The DMI parish-specific results were sent to each parish to be reviewed by the pastor and his RPRF parish representatives, all of whom attended an information webinar in May to learn how to read and interpret the DMI data for their parish. They met to review the outcomes together and to draw meaningful conclusions from the data. The information generated from the DMI survey is quite extensive and required time, patience, and focus to understand it in its proper context. Thank you to pastors and RPRF representatives for your generosity in serving your parish in this way. Diocesan-wide results that reflect the collective responses from the more than 21,000 respondents are included here.

Phase II (late June - July)

Parishes will share their parish-specific results of the DMI with parishioners, along with information about the context of the survey and some initial conclusions reached by the pastor and his RPRF representatives.

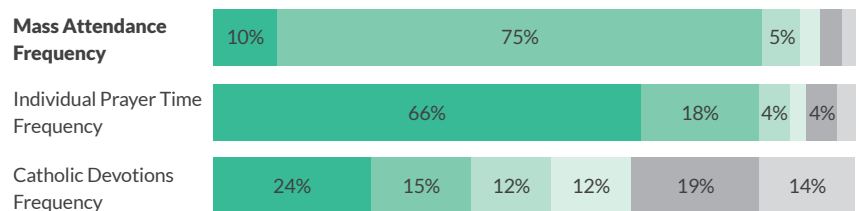
Strengths

► Among the belief questions, survey respondents indicated the strongest belief in the following areas:



Legend
 ■ Strongly Agree ■ Agree ■ Neither Agree/Disagree ■ Disagree ■ Strongly Disagree ■ I Do Not Know

► With respect to faith practices, survey respondents indicated they most frequently engaged in the following activities:

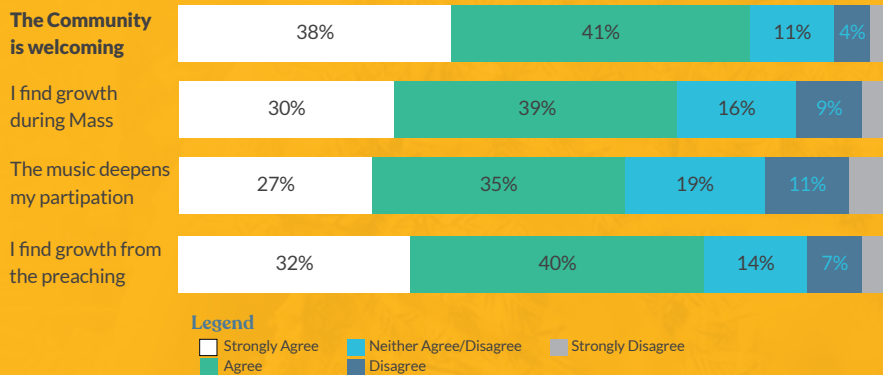


Legend
 ■ Daily ■ Weekly ■ Monthly ■ Quarterly ■ 1-2x per year ■ Never

The Sunday Experience

While the pandemic has forced us to do things a little differently over the past year, parishioner perceptions on the Sunday experience in their parish remain relatively in alignment with parishioner perceptions from around the country pre-pandemic. Welcome and hospitality as well as music that helps deepen participation will be especially important as restrictions are removed and worship resumes some normalcy.

How I personally view the Sunday Mass

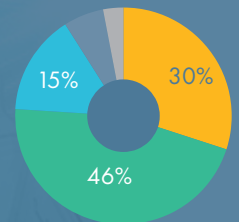


Fostering Spiritual Growth

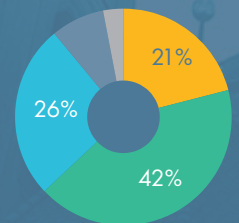
One of the main goals of *Real Presence, Real Future* is to help Catholics grow in their prayer life and their relationship with the Lord. Several different evangelization subcommittees have been working for the past year to develop strategies and resources to assist clergy and lay leaders with helping their people grow. As the Disciple Maker Index results from across the diocese show, the Church in Columbus is starting on a strong foundation.



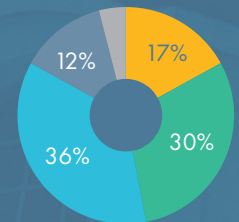
The Parish helps me grow spiritually



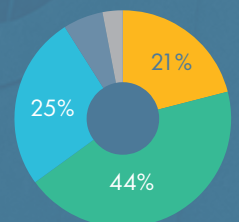
The Parish helps me grow my prayer life



The Parish helps me grow through small groups

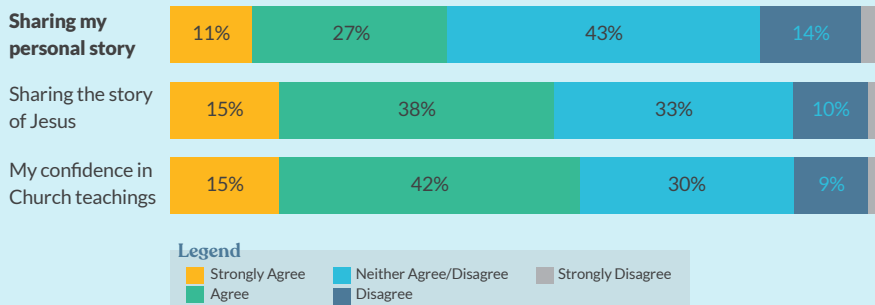


The Parish helps me grow through formation as a disciple

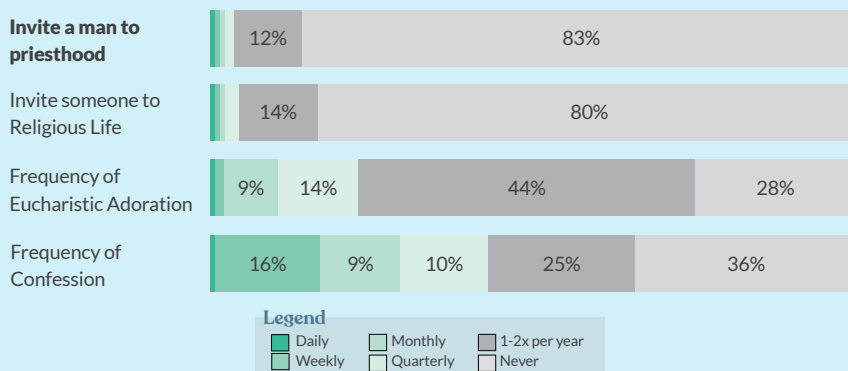


Opportunities

With respect to the areas in which survey respondents felt they needed the most support from their parishes, the most significant were:



With respect to the faith practices that survey respondents indicated they were doing the least, the most significant were:



What's Next?



Opportunities for Growth

As disciples, we have both the responsibility to come and to go. Not unlike the rest of the country, some of the biggest areas of growth for the Diocese of Columbus are based in our confidence in sharing the good news and inviting others whom we love into a deeper relationship with the Lord.

Especially as the *Real Presence, Real Future* initiative examines how best to serve our diverse diocese with fewer priests, our need to invite young men to consider the priesthood grows every year. Recently, many more women and men religious have accepted the invitation to serve our diocese. Through their presence, it is hoped that many more young women and men will be invited to consider religious life. As important as our priests, deacons, and religious are, the work of evangelization is not on their shoulders alone.

Similar to the rest of the country, the faithful in Columbus are looking to grow in confidence in sharing the richness of what the Church has to offer as well as our own personal stories of faith. The strategies and resources being researched and implemented as part of *Real Presence, Real Future* will seek to support parishes to equip their people for this important work.

5 Questions You Might Have

1. How will this, or can this, information be used by the parish or the diocese?

With any journey, you have to know your destination as well as where you are starting from in order to get there. While our journey as disciples and a Church is lifelong, the *Real Presence, Real Future* initiative wants to assist the entire Diocese of Columbus to take the next giant step toward our Lord. The Disciple Maker Index provides one snapshot of a large portion of our worshipping population. You are essential to the work of evangelization, in order to reach those who have not been practicing their faith. At a diocesan level, this information will help guide some of the research and resourcing that Bishop Brennan hopes to offer parishes and parish leaders in the future. At the parish level, it is the hope that by growing in understanding of where we are starting from, each community can help provide input and direction as to where we need to go. It is also a hope that several years from now, we can retake this index for another snapshot and see the progress we make together.

2. Who didn't we hear from?

The Disciple Maker Index intentionally focuses on those "in the pews." It gives a parish a sense of where their worshipping parishioners are in order to be able to discern strategies to build up this core group of Catholics and send them out on mission.

Of the 17,909 individuals who indicated their age, almost 10% indicated that they were age 35 or younger. While this is two points higher than Catholic Leadership Institute's national database of over 300,000, reaching out to our young adults will be an essential area of growth for all parishes in the next decade.

Of the 17,856 individuals who indicated their ethnicity, 11% were non-Caucasian with half of those individuals (5%) indicating a Latino/Hispanic. According to projected Census information, about 3% of the total population in the counties that comprise the Diocese of Columbus are Latino. However,

we know this is a growing segment of the Catholic population in Central Ohio.

3. What effect does COVID-19 have on these perceptions?

Catholic Leadership Institute has been administering the Disciple Maker Index since 2014. Interestingly, parishioner perceptions in the aggregate were not dramatically different pre-pandemic and during the pandemic. Further qualitative research shows that parishioners have been extremely grateful for the efforts their parishes have made during these difficult times in many cases boosting positive feedback if anything. Of course, time and the fruit of our current and future outreach efforts will tell us what the long-term effects might be from the pandemic.

4. What if my parish's results are better or worse than these diocesan averages?

This feedback is one lens through which we can grow in understanding of where we are as a Catholic community. There are many lenses through which to look. As was previously mentioned, the Disciple Maker Index gave us a snapshot of our starting place in 2021. While the diocesan results are a helpful benchmark, the most important thing is where we go next in service to God's people.

5. Where do we go from here?

The conversation continues. Key parish leaders from every parish have been reviewing this information and have been asked to share parish-specific thoughts over the summer. This Fall, there will be extensive consultation with all parishioners around strategies and models for the future based on this feedback as well as sacramental, financial, and socio-economic trends throughout the diocese. Be sure to stay connected by signing up for more information at www.RealPresenceRealFuture.org and through your local parish.



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** at **614-294-5319**.

Altar Guild Membership – Interested in becoming a member of the **Altar Guild**? Join us on the **second Sunday** of each month at **11:00 a.m.** in **Marrapese Hall**. Cost to join is **\$15.00** for an annual membership. We would **LOVE** to have some new members that could help us raise funds to support all needs on the **Altar**. Our first meeting will be **Sunday, July 11, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.** Questions? See **Margaret Panico-Harn** or **Patty Weimer**.



Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: **Daily Masses** at **Sacred Heart** will be offered at **8:00 p.m.** on **Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays**. **Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**, will start at **7:00 p.m.** **Confessions** will be heard during the time of **Adoration**. **There is No Mass July 5, 2021.**



Passionist Mission Vietnam: The **Passionist Mission Vietnam** began in **2005** with **three Passionist missionaries**, quietly, nervously, arriving in a war-torn country run by the communists, hoping to be of service to the brave local church, the church of martyrs. Around the world, the **Passionists** sit by the **Cross of Jesus**, and in their spiritual mission bring hope and joy to many suffering people, the crucified of today. Few places on earth have known persecution, war, and oppression like **Vietnam**, surely the land of the **Cross**.

The mission is most grateful to **Bishop Robert Brennan**, **Sister Zephрина** in the **Columbus Mission Office of the Propagation of the Faith** and **Pastor, Father Adam Streitenberger** and **Deacon Frank Iannarino**, **Administrator at St. John the Baptist**.

Fr. Jeff Foale CP, is working in **Communist Vietnam** training native missionaries under the very eyes of officials, in difficult conditions. They bravely go out to uplift the poor in remote regions of the country. Wonderful things are happening and worth supporting. He has trained **13 native priests** and is caring for **35 seminarians**.

Vietnamese Catholics, young and old, rise above their hostile environment with courage and generosity. **Passionist** missionary **Fr. Jeff Foale** has a story to tell of how **God's** call to love and life inspired them as they build beautiful communities of compassion and hope.

Next weekend, there will be a special collection taken up at **St. John's** at our **9:30 a.m. Sunday Mass**, and the **4:00 p.m.** and **11:00 a.m.** Masses at **Sacred Heart** for **The Passionist Mission Vietnam**.

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.

AROUND US

The Holy Father's Intentions for the Month of June 2021: *Let us pray for young people who are preparing for marriage with the support of a Christian community: may they grow in love, with generosity, faithfulness, and patience.*



Saints of June: Saint Anthony, called the **Wonder Worker** because of the numerous miracles attributed to him while he was living and since his death. He is one of the most popular saints in the **Catholic Church** and is implored as the patron of lost things and a hundred other causes. He was a preacher and theologian and was declared a **Doctor of the Church by Pope Pius XII**.

The Trinity – Why Catholics Make the Sign of the Cross: When we pray “in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,” we are invoking the **Trinity**. While many religions teach belief in **God**, **Christianity** is unique in its belief that the one **God is a Trinity of Persons**. This is a great mystery that not even the most intelligent theologian or the holiest saint could ever fully comprehend. We only know that **God is a Trinity** because **God** revealed this to us. The **sign of the cross**, in words and in action, reminds us of the two central realities of our faith: who **God is (the Trinity)** and what **God** has done for us. These are the core reasons why **Catholics** do the sign of the cross.

God knows that the only way to save us, to heal us, from within, is by loving us. He knows that we become better only by accepting His unfailing love, an unchanging love that changes us.

~ From the Twitter account of Pope Francis



Prayer

O God, who through the grace of adoption chose us to be children of light, grant, we pray, that we may not be wrapped in the darkness of error but always be seen to stand in the bright light of truth. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever. Amen

Sunday, Jun 27, 2021

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

God is the champion of life

We're made for immortality. Christianity celebrates that death has no sting and life has no end. Our tenacious possession of the lives we're given is a sign of our refusal to accept death as the last word on the subject of our lives. We're impatient with limitations, reject gloom-and-doom projections, and insist on second opinions when the news is grim. We relentlessly cling to hope despite the odds of our predicament. God is on our side in this stubborn grip we have on life. God intends for death itself to pass away. Put your resources at the service of life.

TODAY'S READINGS: Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24; 2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15; Mark 5:21-43 (98). *"God did not make death, nor does [God] rejoice in the destruction of the living."*

Monday, Jun 28, 2021

MEMORIAL OF IRENAEUS, BISHOP, MARTYR

We're part of the Lord's great chain of being

It's fun to consider "six degrees of separation"—the theory that everyone on Earth is connected to any other person by a chain of five acquaintances. Perhaps you even know how you are connected to someone famous. Imagine being only three degrees separated from Jesus! Saint Irenaeus is known for that claim. He studied under Polycarp, who had been a disciple of the apostle John. We may be countless more degrees removed than Irenaeus, but all Christians are part of the chain that goes back to our Lord because we're the beneficiaries of what's been passed down the links along the way—as well as being links ourselves to the future. Keep those connections strong.

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 18:16-33; Matthew 8:18-22 (377). *"Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go."*

Tuesday, Jun 29, 2021

SOLEMNITY OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES

Call me by my new name

Before Jesus, they were Simon and Saul; afterward, Peter and Paul. In the great biblical tradition, both experienced a name change to signify God's call to a new and greater destiny. They became the two pillars of the church. Jesus gave Peter the "keys" to unlock the "kingdom of God," on Earth as it is in heaven—the Kingdom Jesus preached about for three years. Paul received a "sword," the "sword of the Spirit" that's the word of God—which Paul used as he spread the gospel to new lands. Is there something new you can do for God today?

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 12:1-11; 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18; Matthew 16:13-19 (591). *"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."*

Wednesday, Jun 30, 2021

You are part of God's agenda

Prayer has many forms and many expressions: It turns our hearts and minds to God with a desire to praise, to request, to give thanks, or to intercede on behalf of others. Prayer is conversation with God; sitting in silence with God; sharing with God every hope and fear we carry. But as Saint Thomas Aquinas reminds us, "We set forth our petitions before God, not in order to make known to Him our needs and desires, but rather so that we ourselves may

realize that in these things it is necessary to turn to God for help." Go ahead, place your concerns on God's desk. There's always space.

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 21:5, 8-20a; Matthew 8:28-34 (379). *"When the poor one called out, the LORD heard."*

Thursday, Jul 01, 2021

MEMORIAL OF JUNÍPERO SERRA, PRIEST, RELIGIOUS, MISSIONARY

Man on a mission

Today the church honors Saint Junípero Serra, the Spanish Franciscan missionary who tirelessly evangelized native peoples in California in the late 1700s, founding the first nine of 21 missions in the region. His sainthood is not without controversy since missionaries were enmeshed in the brutal Spanish conquest of the Americas, but Serra's record also shows he endured many hardships late in life for the sake of the gospel, genuinely loved the indigenous people, and defended their rights against the worst Spanish abuses. His memorial is a good time to learn about and pray for greater justice for Native Americans and all Indigenous Peoples.

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 22:1b-19; Matthew 9:1-8 (380). *"He then said to the paralytic, 'Rise, pick up your stretcher, and go home.'"*

Friday, Jul 02, 2021

Pray for us sinners

Sometimes denial, shame, and fear keep us from recognizing the harmful effects of our sin. Pope Francis encourages us to give even our sin over to God. As he put it in a 2013 homily, "In my own life, I have so often seen God's merciful countenance, his patience; I have also seen so many people find the courage to enter the wounds of Jesus by saying to him: Lord, I am here, accept my poverty, hide my sin in your wounds, wash it away with your blood. And I have always seen that God did just this—he accepted them, consoled them, cleansed them, loved them." Draw close to Jesus and be comforted.

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 23:1-4, 19; 24:1-8, 62-67; Matthew 9:9-13 (381). *"Go and learn the meaning of the words, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."*

Saturday, Jul 03, 2021

FEAST OF THOMAS, APOSTLE

Let doubt deepen your faith

We have come to know today's saint as "Doubting Thomas," but in terms of his legacy, it was the missionary zeal that grew out of his doubt that endures. According to tradition, Thomas traveled far, reaching the Malabar Coast of southwest India, where he established a community still known today as "Saint Thomas Christians." A more diverse mix could not be found: the Nazranis, as they are called, are said to be "Indian in culture, Christian in faith, and Syrian in liturgy," with a dash of Jewish and Hindu influence for good measure. Your doubt can be the catalyst to a faith that endures and leaves a rich legacy. Ask God to help your unbelief!

TODAY'S READINGS: Ephesians 2:19-22; John 20:24-29 (593). *"You are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the holy ones."*

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



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