

St. John the Baptist CATHOLIC CHURCH

*Corner of E. Lincoln
and Hamlet Streets*

Church Mailing Address:
168 E. Lincoln Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215-1534

(614) 294-5319

Fax: (614) 294-4303

E-mail: info@sjbitaliana.org

**Msgr. Frank P. Lane,
Parochial Administrator**

*(National Italian Parish ~
Est. 1896)*

MASSES/MESSE:

Sunday: 9:30 a.m. at St. John the Baptist

Monday & Tuesday: 9:00 a.m. at St. John the Baptist

WEEKDAYS AND HOLY DAYS:

(See Mass Schedule inside Bulletin)

PARISH OFFICE/STAFF:

Aggie Howard, Bookkeeper, ahoward@sjbitaliana.org

Victoria Gammell, Secretary, St. John the Baptist

Office Hours, St. John the Baptist:

Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Administration of both parishes is done through the office at St. John the Baptist – 168 E. Lincoln Street. Requests for copies of sacramental records, scheduling of Masses and other sacramental celebrations, hall rental and other non-emergency needs should be made during regular office hours or email info@sjbitaliana.org. Please notify the Parish Office of any changes, such as address or telephone, etc., by calling during regular hours or email info@sjbitaliana.org.

BULLETIN DEADLINE:

Announcements must be submitted in writing by Tuesday at noon.

MUSIC MINISTRY:

Gina M. Bishop, Music Director

John C. Huffman, Organist

PARISH MEMBERSHIP:

We welcome you into our Parish Families.

Membership in the parish consists of two parts:

Registration: Please fill out form and return to Office.

Participation: As a member of the Church, you are accepting the responsibility of weekly worship as well as supporting God's work here through giving of yourself, your time and talents, and a worthy Sunday offering to show your love for God and your gratitude for His many favors.

RECONCILIATION/CONFESSIONE:

One half-hour prior to weekend Mass or by request/appointment.

BAPTISM/BATTESIMO:

Preparation is required for the reception of the sacrament.

Parents are encouraged to call the Rectory and set up an appointment before the birth of their child.

MATRIMONY/MATRIMONIO:

Arrangements should be made at least six or more months in advance. A marriage preparation program is required.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK/INFERMI:

In cases of emergencies, please call anytime. Please notify the Parish Office for Communion calls to the sick, shut-ins. Due to privacy laws, if parishioners wish to be visited in the hospital, they should contact the Parish Office directly and give the information regarding the hospitalization. **If you are scheduled for surgeries or other medical procedures**, please contact the Parish Office in advance so that a priest can administer Anointing of the Sick prior to the procedure.

A Night in Verona

Dinner and Dance

Monday, October 2, 2023

Additional information inside this bulletin



COLUMBUS ITALIAN FESTIVAL

Friday, **October 6**, 5:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m.

Saturday, **October 7**, 12:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m.

Sunday, **October 8**, 12:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Web Site: www.columbusitalianfestival.com

Adam Montemarano – Executive Director

Festival Information: 614-BY ITALY (614-294-8259)

ITALIAN FESTIVAL 2023

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Dear Friends in Christ,

We've begun the process of providing **Religious Education** for the children of **St. John the Baptist** and **Sacred Heart Parishes**. We are also prepared to initiate an **RCIA** program for adults who would like to learn more about the **Church** or have an interest in joining the **Church**. Anyone interested or if you know anyone who is interested, please check with **Sharon Curtin** at **Mass** this **Sunday** at **Sacred Heart** or call the **Office** at **614- 294-5319**.

Sharon Curtin was at **St. John's** last **Sunday** and will be at **Sacred Heart** this **Sunday** after the **11:00 a.m. Mass**. Please check in with her if you have children to enroll in **Religious Education**, are interested in **RCIA** or would be interested in being a catechist. There are **PSR** registration forms in the back of **St. John's** which are available to you this **Sunday** also.

This is a very important step for our **two parishes**. **Canon Law** mandates that a parish should provide **Religious Education** to fulfill its obligations to the local community. It is important for the children, interested adults and families that we live our parish lives more completely and continue to open windows into the deeper realities of our **Faith**. There is a great deal of false understanding and misunderstanding of **Catholicism** in popular culture. If we are well informed and deeply familiar with our faith, we become real disciples and faithful witnesses who offer the truth of the **Faith** to others.

Have a blessed week!
Msgr. Frank Lane

The **Mass** is available on **St. John's Facebook** page or **YouTube** channel, **Saint John the Baptist, Cbus**. Go to our **website** at **www.sjitaliana.com** under **Livestream Mass**.

MASSES AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Sunday 8/27	9:30 a.m.	+ Leo Santilli by Dr. Linda Records
Monday 8/28	9:00 a.m.	Special Intention for Florence (Squeo) Schillaci by Dr. Maria Regina Coccia
Tuesday 8/29	9:00 a.m.	+ Tony Caradonna by Rose Ann Graf
Tuesday 8/29	1:00 p.m. Padre Pio	Mary Lou Palma by Her Wonderful Friends
Sunday 9/3	9:30 a.m.	+ Laura Giammarco Cua by Michael Cua
Monday 9/4	9:00 a.m.	NO MASS LABOR DAY
Tuesday 9/5	9:00 a.m.	+ Mary Lou Palma by Her Wonderful Friends

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

Blessed Sacrament & Marian Lights Intentions:

Marian Lights: Joyce Tisone

by Carl Tisone

Blessed Sacrament: Danny LaPenna

by Joe Gioffre

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Sunday	Sunday, August 27, 2023, 9:30 a.m.
Lector 1 & 2:	Nick D'Alberto, Antonio D'Alberto
Eucharistic Minister 1 & 2: Eucharistic Minister 3, 4, 5:	Andrea Myers, Ed Pagnanelli, Sharon D'Alberto, AnnMarie Pastore, Pat Rossetti
Sunday	Sunday, September 3, 2023, 9:30 a.m.
Lector 1 & 2:	Landa Brunetto, Nick Sciarretti
Eucharistic Minister 1 & 2: Eucharistic Minister 3, 4, 5:	Antonio D'Alberto, Kurt Heininger, Al Iosue, Margaret Panico-Harn, Gretchen Heininger

**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, Laura Williams, Guy Williams, and John Contino.**

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. If you would like information on how to lead the Rosary, please contact **Kevin Koesters** at **937-902-7446** or via email **k.koesters32@gmail.com**. Leaders for **August** and **September** are:

August 27	Gary Bosco
September 3	Gary Bosco
September 10	Gary Bosco
September 17	Albert Iosue
September 24	Gary Bosco

Future Italian Festival Meetings for 2023

Date	Executive Board	General
August 28	6:00 p.m.	
September 18	6:00 p.m.	
September 25	5:30 p.m.	6:30 p.m.

"A Night in Verona" Dinner and Dance – Please join us as we "kick-off" the Start of our **Columbus Italian Festival** week by celebrating with a dinner and dance at **The Berwick on Monday, October 2, 2023**, from **6:00 to 10:00 p.m.** **\$50.00/person** includes a fabulous Italian dinner and spectacular Italian music by **Ray Massa's EuroRhythms!** ALL tickets **MUST** be purchased **IN ADVANCE!** You can reserve tables of ten (**10**) for **\$500.00**. For tickets, see **Margaret Panico-Harn** or **Carol Ristucci** after **Sunday Mass** in **Sala Hall** or by contacting **Aggie Howard** in the parish office during the week at **614-294-5319**. All tickets **MUST** be purchased by **Monday, September 25** as **NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR!** Each ticket purchased will also be good for a **ONE-DAY** free admission into the **Columbus Italian Festival**.

ITALIAN FESTIVAL NEWS

Dear Columbus Italian Festival LOVERS, we invite you to be part of the cultural tent presenters; it is open to all. IF you need demonstration ideas: **Risotto – Polenta** – or tales about **Prosecco**. Catch **Landa** at: **614:579-1150** or **Landa7@mac.com** **GRAZIE!**

125 YEAR COMMEMORATION OF OUR CHURCH – Sunday, September 17, St. John the Baptist Italian Catholic Church is celebrating **125 years!** Join us for a morning of festivities as we commemorate this milestone. More details to come!

Padre Pio Prayer Group: The Padre Pio Prayer Group Mass is returning to St. John’s starting Tuesday, August 29, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. in the Chapel. All are welcome! The Prayer Group will meet on the last Tuesday of the month. Please check the bulletin for upcoming dates and the time the Group will meet again.

EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

8/27 Sunday	SJB Mass – Msgr. Frank Lane 9:30 a.m. LeDonne Group Meeting – Marrapese Hall After 9:30 a.m. Mass KCC Mass – Fr. Francisco Kim – Meeting in Sala Hall – 12:00-3:00 p.m. San Giovanni Dancers Practice – Marrapese Hall – 3:30-5:00 p.m.
8/28 Monday	SJB – Mass – Msgr. Frank Lane 9:00 a.m. Rotary Club Luncheon Meeting – Marrapese Hall – 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Italian Festival Executive Board – Meeting – Marrapese Hall at 6:00 p.m.
8/29 Tuesday	SJB – Mass – Msgr. Frank Lane 9:00 a.m. SJB Padre Pio Prayer Group Mass 1:00 p.m. – Chapel
	Altar Guild Reminder – Every 2nd Sunday of the Month – Marrapese Hall at 10:45 a.m.
	Le Donne Group: Meetings are the last Sunday of each month after Mass in Marrapese Hall. There are no meetings in June or July.

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP AT ST. JOHN’S
August 20, 2023
Number of Envelopes used Sunday 33

Env:	\$ 1,520.00
Loose:	\$ 1,194.00
Holy Day:	\$ 25.00
Total	\$ 2,739.00
Less Diocesan 8% Assessment	\$ -(219.12)
	\$ 2,519.88
Votives	\$ 34.00
Capital Improvements	\$ 71.00
St. Anthony Bread	\$ 10.00
50/50 Drawing	\$ 10.00
Total	\$ 125.00

\$\$\$ HOW IS ST. JOHN’S DOING? \$\$\$
Budgeted Offertory for Fiscal Year (7/1/23-6/30/24)

	Budgeted	Actual	Difference (\$)	(%)
This Wk.:	\$3,000.04	\$ 2,739.00	-\$261.04	-9%
FYTD:	\$24,000.32	\$26,175.66	\$2,175.34	9%

SJB Collection Counters for Monday, August 28, 2023
Darlene Rauch and Aggie Howard
SJB Collection Counters for Tuesday, September 5, 2023
Maruja Paule and Aggie Howard



Office Hours: Parish office hours are Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The Office will be closed Monday, September 4, in Observance of Labor Day and resume Tuesday, September 5 at 9:00 a.m.

Altar Guild Announcement: The Altar Guild thanks everyone who signed up for the **2023 Ohio State** season football pool. The quick selling period allowed us to draw your **12-game** quarterly numbers after **Mass on Sunday, August 6**. Copies for all participants are available (see **Gary Bosco** after any **Sunday Mass in Sala Hall**). The first game at **Indiana** is **Saturday, September 2**. **Good luck to all and thanks for supporting the Altar Guild’s fundraiser that benefits our beautiful church.**

Parli Italiano? Have you ever wanted to learn to speak Italian? Are you planning a trip to **Italy**, or are you interested in learning the **Italian** language? Here’s your opportunity! Join us on **Sunday** mornings from **11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.** in **Marrapese Hall** for **Italian language** classes, taught by our very own **Maria Lucchin!** This fun-filled, eight-week session runs from **September 10** through **November 12** (no classes on **September 17** due to the Church’s 125th-anniversary celebration and **November 8** during the **Italian Festival**). These are basic conversational **Italian** language classes for **adults, 18** years and older. The cost is determined by the number of students. To sign up, contact: **Ida Shook** at shook4@gmail.com
Tania Wade at t.wade73@gmail.com
Come learn la Bella lingua Italiana... **Ciao!**

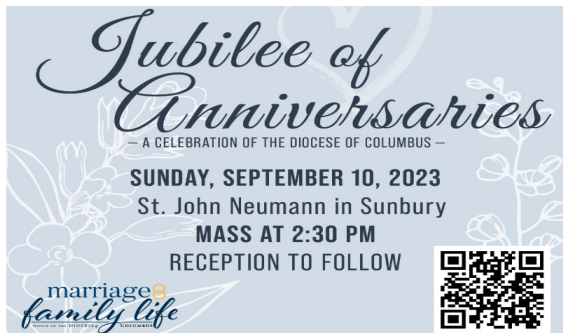
PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION: Registration for our newly formed **Sunday school classes** will be held during the weekends of **August 27, September 3, and 10**. All classes will be held at **St. John**. Forms can be found at the entrances of both **St. John** and **Sacred Heart** parishes (In time, forms will be posted on both parish websites). Please complete the form and drop it in the collection basket at either parish, or give it to **Sharon Curtin, DRE**, who will be on hand after the 11:00 a.m. Sunday Mass at Sacred Heart Church, to answer any questions. The first class will be **October 22** regardless of the number of students who are registered. Grandchildren of grandparents are welcome if the grandparents are registered at either parish. Class begins right after the **9:30 a.m. Sunday Mass** and will last **45** minutes. **Please meet me in Sala Hall.** If you are willing to assist as a teacher or an aide, please call **Sharon Curtin** at **614-563-8405**. We cannot have this program without teachers. Assistance with lesson plans, which are provided in the teacher’s manual, will always be provided, so please do not doubt yourself. The program needs you!

YOUR OFFERTORY IS A GIFT TO GOD: If your **Offertory** is not made electronically, please use your parish **Offertory** envelope to thoughtfully, prayerfully choose your gift. In addition, filling out an envelope or electronic statement helps us keep track of who is actively registered at our parish.

AROUND US

Liturgical Calendar: The entire month of **August** falls within the liturgical season of **Ordinary Time** and is dedicated to **The Immaculate Heart of Mary.**

The Holy Father's Intentions for the Month of August 2023: *We pray that political leaders be at the service of their own people, working for integral human development and for the common good, especially caring for the poor and those who have lost their jobs.*



BLUE MASS: Monday, September 11 at 5:00 p.m. at St. Timothy Church, 1088 Thomas Lane, Columbus, OH 43220. St. Timothy Church and St. Timothy Knights of Columbus Council 14345 will host The **Blue Mass**. The **Blue Mass** is an opportunity to honor and pray for all active, retired, and deceased police, firefighters, and emergency medical services. In addition, it is an occasion to remember the 2,973 who lost their lives in the **Sept. 11, 2001**, terrorist attacks. All active and retired police, fire, and emergency medical services in the greater **Columbus** area, and their families are invited. The **Celebrant** and **Homilist** for **The Blue Mass** will be **The Most Reverend Earl K. Fernandes, Bishop of Columbus**. The following is the live stream link for the **2023 Blue Mass** <https://www.sttimchurch.org/livestream-mass>. Let us all join to honor our police, firefighters, and emergency medical services, to ask for **God's** blessing, to keep them safe, and to guide them in their duties. Thank you.

Executive Speaker Series
DAVID KARAM

Detachment Amidst the Life of a Professional Career
7:00 PM | 8.16.23 | ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

Registration required at YPColumbus.org

Catholic Social Services: Call for Help: Disaster Response: Devastating wildfires on the island of **Maui** have killed over **one hundred** people and caused thousands more to evacuate. Please donate today to help bring relief to those suffering and displaced. To donate, go to: <https://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org>.

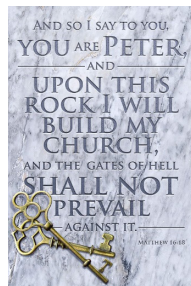
ST. MARY MAGDALENE CHURCH ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION: Notre Dame Football: St Mary Magdalene of Columbus is sponsoring a one-day bus trip to Louisville, Kentucky for the **Notre Dame vs. Louisville** football game on **Saturday, October 7**. Cost is **\$239.00 per person** which includes: Bus ticket, sandwiches, snacks, soft drinks. Children accompanied by a parent are welcome. Only fifty spots available. If you are interested, contact **Julius Palazzo** at Jmpalazzo@juno.com or 614-946-5729.

Birthright of Columbus, Inc.: Please join us at Mozart's, 4784 N. High Street, for lunch on **Saturday, September 23, 2023**, at 11:00 a.m. Lunch tickets are \$50.00 for adults and \$20.00 for children. There will be a silent auction and raffle. Please contact Sue Wilson for tickets at 614-313-5150. Columbusohmain@birthright.org Send checks to 5548 Parkshire Drive, Columbus, OH 43229. Thank you for your continued support of Birthright of Columbus.

CATHOLIC MEN'S LUNCHEON – The Catholic Men's Luncheon will be held on **Friday, September 1**, at St. Patrick Church in downtown Columbus. Speakers include **Attorney Don Brey & Dr. Michael Parker**. **Mass (optional) begins at 11:45 a.m. followed by lunch at 12:10 p.m.** followed by the speakers' presentation. No reservations are necessary. **\$12.00 covers lunch and the meeting**. Bring a friend! Our next luncheon is **Friday, October 6, 2023**, and will feature a presentation by **John Bradford**.



EARLY FALL RETREAT! Spend time this fall enriching your relationship. Experience a **Worldwide Marriage Encounter** weekend where married couples can get away from jobs, kids, chores, and phones and focus only on each other. Apply today! **The next weekend is September 8-10, 2023**, in the **Central Ohio area**. For more information or to apply, visit our website at WWMecolumbus.org or contact Paul and Marilou Clouse at 614-834-6880. Early registration is highly recommended.



Today's Gospel: The Gospel is from **St. Matthew 16:13-20**. **Jesus**, the true **Son of God**, became man to make all men **His** brothers and co-heirs to the eternal kingdom. To continue **His** divine mission on earth, **He** founded the **Church** on the twelve **Apostles**. It was to be made up of all races from all parts of the world. As its mission was to bring the message of salvation to all men, it was to go on until the end of time. In making **Peter** the foundation-stone of **His Church**, the guarantor of its stability in the symbol of the keys and the promise that all his decisions would be ratified in heaven, **Christ** gave him the power of freedom from error when officially teaching the universal **Church**.

"It's our responsibility to help eradicate hatred & violence from human hearts. Let's encourage arms to be set aside, that there be a reduction in military spending so that humanitarian needs can be provided for & so that instruments of death be turned into instruments of life."

@Pontifex

Prayer: *O God, who cause the minds of the faithful to unite in a single purpose, grant Your people to love what You command and to desire what You promise, that, amid the uncertainties of this world, our hearts may be fixed on that place where true gladness is found. 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*

WHERE DOES IT SAY THAT?



THIS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT...

THREATENS PARENTAL RIGHTS

By using “individual” instead of adult or woman, anyone under the age of 18 could have an abortion or make any other reproductive decision without their parents’ consent or notification.

PUTS WOMEN AT RISK

Current Ohio laws* require abortion providers to explain procedure risks and ensure access to hospital transfer if needed. These health and safety standards could be seen as a “burden” and be eliminated, making it even less safe for women seeking an abortion.

ALLOWS ABORTIONS THROUGH 9 MONTHS OF PREGNANCY

In U.S. law,** “health” includes age or physical, emotional, or psychological well-being. This means a woman’s age or emotional health could be cited to justify aborting a full-term baby. An abortion-providing physician would decide when a baby could survive outside the womb, leaving no clear protections for preborn children.

IS MISLEADING

Referring to “miscarriage care” promotes a myth that a “right to abortion” is necessary to preserve care for miscarriages and ectopic pregnancies. This is false. Catholic hospitals have always provided comprehensive miscarriage care and will continue to do so regardless of the outcome of this vote.

ARTICLE I, SECTION 22

*The Right to Reproductive Freedom
with Protections for Health and Safety*

1. Every individual has a right to make and carry out one’s own reproductive decisions, including but not limited to decisions on contraception, fertility treatment, continuing one’s own pregnancy, miscarriage care, and abortion.
2. The State shall not, directly or indirectly, burden, penalize, prohibit, interfere with, or discriminate against either an individual’s voluntary exercise of this right or a person or entity that assists an individual exercising this right, unless the State demonstrates that it is using the least restrictive means to advance the individual’s health in accordance with widely accepted and evidence-based standards of care.
3. However, abortion may be prohibited after fetal viability. But in no case may such an abortion be prohibited if in the professional judgment of the pregnant patient’s treating physician it is necessary to protect the pregnant patient’s life or health.
4. As used in this Section, “Fetal viability” means “the point in a pregnancy when, in the professional judgment of the pregnant patient’s treating physician, the fetus has a significant likelihood of survival outside the uterus with reasonable measures. This is determined on a case-by-case basis”; and “State” includes any governmental entity and political subdivision.
5. This Section is self-executing.

* Ohio Revised Code, Sections 2317.56 & 3702.303

** Based on Doe v. Bolton



Sunday, Aug 27, 2023

The value in variety

A founder of the NAACP, W.E.B. Du Bois knew the cure for racism wasn't simply telling the truth. It was inducing people to act on it. The first African American to receive a Ph.D. from Harvard in 1895, Du Bois dreamed broadly of a world of "valuable variety ... in height and weight, color and skin, hair and nose and lip.... Each effort to stop this freedom of being," he argued, "is a blow at democracy—that real democracy which is reservoir and opportunity.... There can be no perfect democracy curtailed by color, race, or poverty." Let us act on this truth.

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 22:19-23; Romans 11:33-36; Matthew 16:13-20 (121). *"I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven."*

Monday, Aug 28, 2023

The great romance

Saint Augustine is known as a great thinker—arguably the most significant Christian theologian after Saint Paul. But his writing is as much heart as head. He is also known for leaving behind a life of hedonism. But he remained a passionate man—only, after his conversion, passion for God alone. "Late have I loved you, O Beauty, ever ancient, ever new, late have I loved you!" he lamented. It's never too late to be swept away by what Augustine has to say: "To fall in love with God is the greatest romance; to seek him the greatest adventure; to find him, the greatest human achievement."

MEMORIAL OF AUGUSTINE, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5, 8b-10; Matthew 23:13-22 (425). *"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites. You lock the Kingdom of heaven before men."*

Tuesday, Aug 29, 2023

Prepare the way

Painting after painting shows John the Baptist pointing to Jesus. John knows it's not about him: "He who is coming after me is mightier than I" (Matthew 3:11) and "I am not the Christ, but I have been sent ahead of Him.... He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 2:28-30). Christian tradition also calls him John the Precursor and John the Forerunner, prepping us for the Messiah by being something of a prototype. Like Jesus, he's conceived miraculously. Both preach repentance, have disciples, and suffer in death. But as Saint Peter Julian Eymard knew, "The true secret of love consists in this—we must forget self like Saint John the Baptist and exalt and glorify the Lord."

MEMORIAL OF THE PASSION OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8 (426); Mark 6:17-29 (634). *"We drew courage through our God to speak to you the Gospel of God."*

Wednesday, Aug 30, 2023

Make a better choice

A mother of 11 foster children always had a gaggle of kids buzzing around her. They were happy and well cared for. When there was even a hint of one crossing the line from lively to obnoxious, she simply said, "Make a better choice." Amazingly, they did. Those are powerful words. How can you make a better choice today?

What will help you walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into his Kingdom and glory? This advice from Saint Francis de Sales might prove useful: "Never miss an opportunity to do good."

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13, Matthew 23:27-32 (427). *"We treated each one of you as a father treats his children, exhorting and encouraging you and insisting that you walk in a manner worthy of ... God."*

Thursday, Aug 31, 2023

Education for the whole person

As a school year begins anew, it's worth taking a moment to appreciate the proud tradition of Catholic education. In the United States, Catholic religious orders have built an extensive network of primary, secondary, and college level institutions whose shared mission has been education of the whole person: spiritual, intellectual, and human development. Millions have been positively impacted by these schools, including many poor people who have improved their quality of life. Offer a prayer of thanks for the educators and others who pour their energies into this holy and wholistic education.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Thessalonians 3:7-13; Matthew 24:42-51 (428). *"Stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come."*

Friday, Sep 01, 2023

Celebrate the season of creation

In Catholic culture we use the phrase "care of creation" in our work to protect the Earth and develop sustainable ways to live. This phrase is deliberate because it underscores the inherent connection between God and all that is. Pope Francis writes in *Laudato Si'*, "The ultimate destiny of the universe is in the fullness of God, which has already been attained by the risen Christ." On this World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, let us renew our commitment to care for one another, land and sea, all creatures great and small, as together we move into the fullness of God to which all are called.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Matthew 25:1-13 (429). *"Therefore, whoever disregards this, disregards not a human being but God, who also gives the Holy Spirit to you."*

Saturday, Sep 02, 2023

Talent contest

The parable of the Talents is about much more than money. It speaks of the gifts that God has given to each of us and how we choose to "invest" those gifts in the community. Are we seeking only the most limited return, for ourselves? Or are we sharing our gifts, doing our part to help build up the community? The questions are more than hypothetical, for one day, at an unexpected hour, we will be called to account. Invest wisely for a generous return!

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Thessalonians 4:9-11; Matthew 25:14-30 (430). *"Should you not then have put my money in the bank so that I could have got it back with interest on my return?"*

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



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