

# *The* CATHOLIC TIMES

THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS' INFORMATION SOURCE

MARCH 23, 2025 | THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT | VOLUME 74:6



**PREPARING TO ENTER  
CATHOLIC CHURCH,**  
PAGE 3

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE



### MENTORING COUPLES

The diocesan Office of Marriage and Family presented its first Mentor Couple Day of Reflection on March 8 at Hilliard St. Brendan the Navigator Church. Mentors assist engaged couples preparing for marriage, Page 10



### STATE CHAMPIONS

Columbus Bishop Watterson High School, led by individual champions Mitchell Younger and Michael Boyle, won its first state wrestling championship and Columbus St. Francis DeSales took second in Division II, Page 17



## Ash Wednesday Mass in Ohio Union on Ohio State campus draws record attendance



Just over 1,000 students gather for an Ash Wednesday Mass celebrated by Bishop Earl Fernandes in the Ohio Union ballroom at the Ohio State University in Columbus on March 5.

*Photos courtesy William Keimig*



Students come forward to receive ashes, distributed by Julia Reichert, during the Ash Wednesday Mass in Ohio State University's Ohio Union organized by Buckeye Catholic.



Daniel Novoa kneels before Bishop Earl Fernandes to receive the Eucharist during Ash Wednesday Mass at the Ohio State University's Ohio Union on March 5.

## Columbus St. Patrick parishioners burn palms for Ash Wednesday



Fathers Paul Marich, O.P. (Order of Preachers), pastor at Columbus St. Patrick Church, and Albert Dempsey, O.P. (right), a parochial vicar at the parish, lead a palm burning ceremony on Sunday, March 2 in the church courtyard in preparation for Ash Wednesday.

*Photo courtesy Father Juan Macías Marquez, O.P.*



Father Paul Marich, O.P. assists Columbus St. Patrick parishioners in burning their palm branches from the previous year outside in the parish courtyard on Sunday, March 2. Parishioners brought in palm branches throughout February that were used to make ashes for Ash Wednesday.

*Photo courtesy Father Juan Macías Marquez, O.P.*

## Ash Wednesday Mass offered at OSU hospital



Approximately 200 people attend an afternoon Ash Wednesday Mass in the auditorium of Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center's Ross Heart Hospital on March 5. *Photos courtesy Father Michael Lumpe*



Father Sudekahr Reddy Thirumalareddy, CFIC (Congregation of the Sons of the Immaculate Conception) celebrates an Ash Wednesday Mass at the Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center's Ross Heart Hospital.



*Front page photo*

### PREPARING TO ENTER CATHOLIC CHURCH

The diocese's annual Rite of Election brought catechumens to the St. Thomas More Newman Center at Ohio State University in Columbus on March 9. A Spanish Rite of Election was held earlier in the day at Columbus Our Lady of Guadalupe, Star of the New Evangelization Shrine.

*CT photo by Ken Snow*

**The CATHOLIC TIMES**

Copyright © 2025. All rights reserved. *Catholic Times* (USPS 967-000) (ISSN 745-6050) is the official newspaper of the Catholic Diocese of Columbus, Ohio. It is published every other week throughout the year. Subscription rate: \$26 per year, or call and make arrangements with your parish. Periodical Postage Paid at Columbus OH 43218.

**Bishop Earl K. Fernandes:** President & Publisher  
**Doug Bean:** Editor (dbean@columbuscatholic.org)  
**Hannah Heil:** Reporter (hheil@columbuscatholic.org)  
**Emma Noel:** Layout/Design (enoel@columbuscatholic.org)  
**Mailing Address:** 197 E. Gay St., Columbus OH 43215  
**Editorial/Advertising:** (614) 224-5195  
**Subscriptions:** (614) 224-6530  
 (subscriptions@columbuscatholic.org)

Postmaster: Send address changes to  
**Catholic Times 197 E. Gay St., Columbus OH 43215.**  
 Please allow two to four weeks for change of address.



## Catechumens participate in Rite of Election

The diocese's annual Rite of Election was held this year at two locations in Columbus, Columbus Our Lady of Guadalupe, Star of the New Evangelization Shrine at the former Holy Name Church and at the St. Thomas More Newman Center adjacent to Ohio State University.

The diocese's Department of Evangelization estimated that 900 people attended the two Rites, which included Masses with Bishop Earl Fernandes as the principal celebrant. There were 300 catechumens, including 225 at the Newman Center and 75 at Our Lady of Guadalupe, Star of the New Evangelization Parish.

Catechumens, who varied in age from young people to adults, had their names entered into the Book of the Elect by a representative of their respective parish. The catechumens are preparing to receive the sacraments of initiation, baptism, confirmation and Holy Communion in the Catholic Church on Holy Saturday during Easter Vigil Masses on April 19.

After their names were entered into the book during the Rite of Election, the catechumens were declared by the bishop to be the elect. Each of the elect are accompanied a sponsor who provides support while progressing through the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults instructional

formation process.

"You have been called here precisely because of your hope that the promise of forgiveness and, with it, salvation are real," Bishop Fernandes said in his homily at St. Thomas More Newman Center. "But who has called you? In the first place, it is God who has called you. It is not you who chose me, but I who chose you. It is also the Church who calls you, manifesting your 'election' by God in and through the Church, not only through the bishop, but also through your sponsors who testify on your behalf."

"God calls you to belong to Him through baptism, and we, the Church, the family of God, call you to belong to our family. You are called and chosen – you are elected, and this election, there are only winners!"

"Sometimes the Elect are also called 'co-petitioners' because together they strive or petition to receive the sacraments of Christ and the gift of the Holy Spirit. They are also called the 'enlightened' because Baptism is itself called Enlightenment."

"But to be called and chosen is also to be sent. You will eventually be sent into the world to make new disciples, and the preparation for that mission begins today with an intense commitment to take Lent seriously as the celebration of the Pas-

chal Mystery approaches."

The catechumens in attendance came from 46 parishes representing 40 with English and six with Spanish as the primary language.

Among the parishes were: Lancaster Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Newark Blessed Sacrament Church, Columbus Christ the King, Johnstown Church of the Ascension, Columbus Holy Spirit, Canal Winchester Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Marysville Our Lady of Lourdes, Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Columbus Our Lady of Victory, Chillicothe Our Lady Queen of the Apostles, Kenton-Ada Our Lady the Immaculate Conception, West Jefferson Ss. Simon & Jude, Columbus St. Agatha, Columbus St. Andrew, Lancaster St. Bernadette, Hilliard St. Brendan the Navigator, Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare, Washington Court House St. Colman of Cloyne, Granville St. Edward the Confessor, Newark St. Francis de Sales, Columbus St. Francis of Assisi, Columbus St. James the Less, Sunbury St. John Neumann, Portsmouth St. John Paul II Scioto Catholic, Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, Worthington St. Michael, Circleville St. Joseph, Columbus St. Josephine Bakhita, Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona, Columbus St. Mary German Village, Colum-

bus St. Mary Magdalene, Marion St. Mary, Cardington Sacred Hearts, Gahanna St. Matthew, Zanesville St. Nicholas, Zanesville St. Thomas Aquinas, Columbus St. Patrick, London St. Patrick, Westerville St. Paul the Apostle, Columbus St. Peter-Powell St. Joan of Arc, Reynoldsburg St. Pius X and Columbus St. Thomas More Newman Center.

Spanish-speaking catechumens came from Our Lady of Guadalupe, Star of the New Evangelization Shrine; Columbus St. Thomas the Apostle; Columbus St. Agnes; Columbus St. James the Less; St. Peter-St. Joan of Arc and Columbus St. Stephen the Martyr.

"My dear friends, as your Bishop, I want to say, along with your sponsors, how proud we are of you who have made this journey, some at great personal cost," Bishop Fernandes said. "We pledge to you our prayers and support as you approach the Easter mysteries, and we promise you that we will not abandon you."

Also entering the Church at the Easter Vigil will be individuals who are called candidates. Already baptized, the candidates will receive the sacrament of confirmation and their First Holy Communion on Holy Saturday.



Catechumens stand while their names are called during the Rite of Election at Columbus Our Lady of Guadalupe, Star of the New Evangelization Shrine on Sunday, March 9.

CT photos by Ken Snow



Catechumen Santos Rodriguez (right) is joined by his sponsor, Rosa Tellez, before the Rite of Election.



Manuela Tacubal stands when her name is called during the Rite of Election at Our Lady of Guadalupe, Star of the New Evangelization Shrine. CT photo by Ken Snow

## Latinos find their way to Catholic Church

Everyone has a unique story to tell about their journey into the Catholic Church.

The catechumens who attended the diocese's annual Rite of Election on Sunday, March 9 came from diverse backgrounds and different countries and spoke several languages, but they shared one desire – to become full-fledged members of the faith.

This year, the diocese's Department of Evangelization split the Rite of Election between two locations – one with Spanish as the primary language at Columbus Our Lady of Guadalupe, Star of the New Evangelization Shrine and one with English as the main language at Columbus St. Thomas More Newman Center near the Ohio State University campus.

At Our Lady of Guadalupe, Star of the New Evangelization, approximately 75

catechumens from six parishes participated in the Rite of Election. Bishop Earl Fernandes served as the principal celebrant for a Mass in Spanish.

At the Mass, catechumens had their names entered into the Book of the Elect and were then declared by the bishop to be part of the elect, who will receive the sacraments of initiation, baptism, confirmation and Holy Communion.

Two of the catechumens in attendance shared a portion of their stories with *The Catholic Times*.

Manuela Tacubal, 43, is from Guatemala. She was not Catholic and came from another denomination that actively attacked the Church.

She met her fiancé in Ohio and they fell in love. Her fiancé wished to marry in

the Catholic Church, which is the faith he shares with his family.

Manuela was not immediately on board but was open to learning more. They both slowly began to attend a parish and Bible study sessions.

Soon after, she knew she wanted to become Catholic and began her journey through the Order of Christian Instruction for Adults (OCIA). The process has not been easy because her primary language is a native dialect and she reads only a little Spanish, but her OCIA coordinator has used alternative methods to ensure she would learn all of the concepts of the faith.

Santos Rodriguez, 16, is from Mexico. He lost both of his parents at a young age. His older siblings couldn't take care of

him, so his aunt took him in.

Santos suffered bullying when at school, and this only created more problems and trauma for him. After moving in with his aunt, he started to attend Mass regularly with her, and one day during Mass, he felt called to become Catholic (his parents were not Catholic).

At that point, he began attending OCIA prep classes and Bible study. He also volunteers in any parish ministry that allows him.

Catechumens, who have not yet been baptized, and candidates, who have been previously baptized, will enter the Catholic Church at their respective parishes during the Easter Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday, April 19.

See LATINOS, Page 4



## Catechumens include four sheriff's deputies

By Tim Puet

For The Catholic Times

Among the 300 catechumens taking part in this year's diocesan Rite of Election were four Franklin County sheriff's deputies being instructed by Father Joseph Yokum, sheriff's office chaplain and pastor of Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church.

The four are from three parishes and because their work schedules differ, they are meeting with Father Yokum at a time convenient for all.

Two of them, brothers Ryley and Tyler Mullins, "grew up sort of Catholic but were never baptized," Ryley said. Deputy Garret Owens said he had a family that "went to a Protestant church but only on big days like Christmas and Easter." Detective Mike Raven said he grew up in a single-parent home that was "spiritual but not religious."

All four said they wanted more of a faith dimension in their lives and that when Father Yokum invited deputies to form an Order of Christian Initiation class, they were ready to respond to the invitation.

"Tyler and I often went to Mass at (Columbus) St. Mary Church in German Village," said Ryley Mullins, 30, a deputy for 12 years who joined the sheriff's office after being medically discharged from the U.S. Marine Corps during training at Parris Island, South Carolina.

"Our dad and a grandmother were strong Catholics but never asked us about baptism and we never mentioned it to them. Then I got older, life got in the way and I never got close to God."

Mullins said he went to a Catholic church when he was in the Marines "and I began to feel a sort of peace there and started praying more," but didn't investigate Catholicism further until meeting Father Yokum.

"Sometimes he'd ride on patrol with me, we'd get to talking and praying together and he felt more like a brother than a priest," Mullins said. "When he talked about an OCIA class of deputies, I knew I wanted in."

He said what has touched him most in learning about Catholic doctrine is the full realization that God has given human beings free will.

"You see some of the things you do as deputies and say to yourself, 'Why does God let things happen this way?'" he said. "Discovering what the Church teaches has made me realize that it's not God that causes bad things, but it's human beings,

because He has let us determine things while at the same time, He ultimately has a plan for everything."

Tyler Mullins, 27, a deputy for almost seven years, said, "Even though Ryley and I had all this exposure to the Catholic Church while growing up, I had no idea how much God and Jesus love people and care for them. You hear about this idea of an angry God, but everything I've learned has shown God loves me to an extent I could never have realized."

Tyler and his wife, Megan, a "cradle Catholic," attend Our Lady of Perpetual Help, have been married for a few months and are expecting their first child. Ryley and his wife, Danielle, were married in late 2023 and have a six-month-old son. They live in Sunbury and he anticipates becoming a parishioner at St. John Neumann Church there and joining the Knights of Columbus.

Raven, 54, a 31-year sheriff's office veteran, was born in England, came to the United States as an infant and was raised by a single mother in Grandview Heights. He became a U.S. citizen at age 17 and served for six years in the Marine Corps, mostly in the Reserves. During his active duty, he was part of Operation Desert Storm, "but we stayed on a ship the whole time and never made it to land," he said.

He has been married to his wife, Nyla, for 10 years. They have an 8-year-old son, Jax, and attend the New Albany Church of the Resurrection.

Raven said his becoming Catholic is a process that has evolved over several years. "I'd always believed in a higher power without being more specific than that," he said. "I felt I was being called to serve by whatever that power was, so I joined the Marines and got into law enforcement."

"After I met Nyla, I started going with her to (now-closed Columbus) Holy Rosary-St. John Church and it opened my eyes. The priest and people there were very approachable, not like the stuffy holier-than-thou image I had of church people. It got me to thinking more about maybe becoming Catholic."

"Then my wife's parents invited me to a dinner where I met Father Joe and I found him to be very outgoing. I'd also see him at crime scenes and on ride-alongs, so I was glad to take him up on his offer to learn more about the Church. I had a lot of questions for him because I wasn't going to blindly go into things, and he's answered them all to my satisfaction."

"I've seen many things in three decades



Father Joe Yokum (center), pastor at Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, stands with (from left) Garret Owens, Mike Raven, Tyler Mullins and Ryley Mullins, four of the new Elect who are deputies in the Franklin County Sheriff's Department. Father Yokum serves as a chaplain for the department.  
CT photo by Ken Snow

with the sheriff's office that are not natural and have bothered me greatly," he said. "One thing that always amazed me is how often people are forgiving in those kind of cases."

"I can't tell you how many scenes I've been to and asked why people lived or died, and how often people have said they forgive whoever is responsible for a crime. Forgiveness is a hard thing. It's one of the most selfless things I can think of, and yet many times people are willing to do it."

He said that in his faith journey, "one thing that has stood out for me is something I learned at homicide investigation school from a New York detective who has worked more than 800 cases. He said, 'Remember, we work for God.' I've kept those words in mind ever since. It's as though God has provided a crutch for me by giving me the coping skills and the compassion you have to have in a job like mine."

Tyler Mullins said he had gained some knowledge of Catholicism by occasionally going to Mass while staying overnight at a friend's house during his childhood and by going to Catholic weddings and funerals.

"I grew up around the Catholic Church and began wanting to know more about it, and after one wedding in particular,

I realized I wanted to take religion seriously and it seemed the best way was through the Catholic Church," he said. "I think part of it is that I'm a sucker for tradition and the Church has 2,000 years of history behind it."

"I live in Grove City and know Karen Cook (adult faith formation director at Our Lady of Perpetual Help). She told me about Father Joe's class for deputies, and I knew Father from seeing him at the police academy, so I jumped in feet first to join the class."

"I had no idea that no matter where you are around the country or the world, every Catholic church has the same Mass," he said. "The language may be different and there may be different forms, but no matter where I go, I know there will be a Liturgy of the Word, Scripture readings, and a Liturgy of the Eucharist and that I'll be able to receive Christ in the Eucharist once I'm baptized. That's really beautiful."

Owens, who is single, has been a deputy for a year and a half after working at the Kenworth truck manufacturing plant in Chillicothe.

"I'm blessed by a great extended family and they're delighted I'm joining the Church," he said. "They're 100 percent fully supportive and that helps me know I'm doing the right thing."

### LATINOS, continued from Page 3

The following is Bishop Fernandes' homily in Spanish presented during the Rite of Election Mass at Our Lady of Guadalupe, Star of the New Evangelization:

Queridos Hermanos en Cristo,

Les doy la bienvenida al Iglesia de Santo Nombre de Jesús en el Santuario de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe para el Rito de Elección de este año. Doy la bienvenida a nuestros catecúmenos, quienes

pronto serán llamados "Elegidos", así como a sus padrinos, familiares y amigos, catequistas y miembros de los equipos RICA parroquiales. Hemos comenzado nuestro camino cuaresmal durante este Año Jubilar en el que somos "peregrinos de esperanza", y San Pablo nos recuerda que "la esperanza no defrauda". Nuestros catecúmenos han estado en sus caminos particulares hacia el bautismo y la

entrada a la Iglesia mucho antes de esta Cuaresma, pero al poner un pie delante del otro, han llegado a esta etapa de su camino, en la que sus nombres serán inscritos entre los que serán bautizados y recibirán los sacramentos en Pascua.

En Su mensaje para la Cuaresma 2025, el Santo Padre Francisco, reflexionó sobre el viaje de todos nosotros que estamos en el camino juntos y la continua llamada a

la conversión. Reflexionó sobre el viaje de los israelitas a través del desierto, y a veces, como su viaje, el nuestro puede estar lleno de dudas y contratiempos. Preguntó: "Cada uno puede preguntarse: ¿cómo me dejó interpelar por esta condición? ¿Estoy realmente en camino o un poco paralizado, estático, con miedo y fal-



# OSU Newman Center continues to draw young people into Church

By Hannah Heil  
Catholic Times Reporter

The Columbus St. Thomas More Newman Center, located adjacent to Ohio State University (OSU) campus, is expected to have another record high number of students and individuals enter the Catholic Church at Easter this year.

Between 40 and 50 individuals are predicted to be baptized or enter full communion with the Church at the Newman Center near Ohio's largest university. The nearly 50 individuals preparing for entry into the Church are currently in the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA) program.

The class is roughly split between candidates, those previously baptized in other Christian traditions and now seeking full communion with the Catholic Church, and catechumens, those who have not been baptized and are preparing to receive all three sacraments of initiation: baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation. The cohort also includes some baptized Catholics who will receive final sacraments – the Eucharist and Confirmation.

Katy Bryant of Dayton is a catechumen preparing to be baptized into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil Mass at the Newman Center. She came one step closer to entering the Church during the Rite of Election Mass celebrated by Bishop Earl Fernandes on March 9.

During the Rite of Election, the Church formally designates catechumens in the diocese as part of the “elect,” or those chosen by God and His Church to be baptized in the celebration of the sacraments of initiation at Easter. A “Call to Continuing Conversion” is traditionally celebrated for candidates.

“It is God who has called you,” Bishop Fernandes explained in his homily. “It is also the Church who call(s) you, manifesting your ‘election’ by God in and through the Church, not only through the bishop, but also through your sponsors who testify on your behalf. God calls you to belong to Him through baptism; and we, the Church, the family of God, call you to belong to our family.”

Bryant, who had connections to OSU's Newman Center and opted to enter the Church there, has been making the commute from Dayton to Columbus each weekend for Sunday OCIA classes.

The journey through OCIA has been a positive experience for her. Bryant said she appreciates the classes, finding them informative and interesting. She also established several relationships with individuals at the Newman Center.

“I’m honestly surprised about how kind everyone has been, and even people in my personal life,” she noted. “I’m very blessed that I don’t really have anyone that is telling me I shouldn’t do this, or really giving me that much grief for it,



Deacon Dan Hann of London St. Patrick Church adds names to the Book of the Elect as Bishop Earl Fernandes watches from the altar during the Rite of Election Mass on Sunday, March 9 at the St. Thomas More Newman Center.

because I know that’s the case for a lot of people.”

Bryant grew up attending a Baptist church but was never baptized. By the time she was around 8 years old, her family reduced attending services to a couple times a year. Eventually, Bryant said, she stopped attending church services altogether.

In January 2024, she attended her first Catholic Mass. The experience could be described as love at first sight.

Bryant’s love for the Catholic Mass led to regular Sunday Mass attendance and a deep dive in research on the Church and its history. She said she felt compelled to start researching. She was also inspired by the witness of her boyfriend, a practicing Catholic.

Bryant appreciated learning about the Church’s sacraments, especially the Eucharist, and knowing that the sacraments were instituted by Christ. She said she felt that it was “the truth.”

“I started watching, like, YouTube videos from priests, and I almost got a little bit into the online stuff, like reading stuff on Reddit and people’s kind of testimonies and things, and then I bought the ‘Catechism (of the Catholic Church).’ I started reading that,” she said. “It was just like, the more things I learned, it just made sense.”

Bryant especially appreciated Church tradition. She said she loves following tradition, which the Catholic Church has continued for thousands of years since its founding.

“If I were to go back to my old (Baptist) church now, it would feel watered down,” she admitted. “Almost like, it wouldn’t feel like I was doing enough.”

Bryant’s love for Church tradition led to an appreciation for traditional Catholic churches.

“I especially appreciate the old parishes that were built in like the 1800s,” she said. “They’ve got beautiful stained glass, and they have the older sounding

music with organs, and I just loved that.”

Her conversion to Catholicism also inspired some of her family members.

Bryant said she took her nieces to Mass with her, and they have since gained an interest in learning more. She said they also acquired Bibles that they now read.

In his homily, Bishop Fernandes noted that sharing the faith is a key part of a person’s conversion.

“To be called and chosen is also to be sent,” he told the catechumens gathered for the Rite of Election. “You will eventually be sent into the world to make new disciples, and the preparation for that mission begins today with an intense commitment to take Lent seriously as the celebration of the Paschal Mystery approaches.”

Will Kuehnle, who is teaching OCIA at the Newman Center this year, described students in the “Introduction to Catholicism” class as “bold and curious.” He said many linger for an hour or more after class to continue discussing the evening’s lesson.

“They’ve also really impressed me each session with their ability to ‘see around the corner,’ which is exactly the kind of habit I believe catechesis should inspire,” Kuehnle said. “We have a good challenge at Buckeye Catholic in OCIA, which is that we’re leading forward while the catechumen and candidates are often already running ahead.”

Kuehnle attributed the large number of students preparing to enter the Church again this year primarily to God’s grace.

He also recognized Buckeye Catholic’s leadership. He noted that it takes considerable effort to bring catechumens, candidates and sponsors together. Student leaders must first be empowered by Buckeye Catholic, he explained.

It appears many students are empowered and eager to hand on the Catholic faith to their peers.



Catechumen Katy Bryant stands as her name is called during the enrollment of names during the Rite of Election at the St. Thomas More Newman Center on March 9.  
CT photos by Ken Snow



Preston Knox kneels during the intercessory prayers as his sponsor, Carson Espinal, places his hand on Preston's shoulder during the Rite of Election Mass

“I see young people who are more desirous than ever for something real,” Kuehnle said of the catechumens and candidates. “As Pope Francis likes to say, ‘reality is greater than ideas,’ and I see students coming to ‘Introduction to Catholicism’ (class) because mere ideas floating around in the culture, whether they be social ideas or spiritual ideas or political ideas, have left them wanting reality.”

“They see in the Catholic faith an occasion to enter a real community, experience God through real and physical sacraments, and to have a real encounter with Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.”



## Exploring the wilderness of our hearts this Lent

In our women's Lenten book study at my parish, we are exploring *The Wilderness Within* by Sister Josephine Garrett, CSFN. This book presents a reflection for prayer and meditation and space to journal about what Jesus is doing in our hearts.

First, I love the imagery of our hearts being a wilderness. That the heart is a place that is vast, wild, open, free and offering much to explore resonates with me. I am a person who prefers to be outdoors, and in the wilderness, as my husband and I enjoy visiting a remote area of Montana often.

For many of us, God feels so close to us when we are in outdoors and in nature in the quiet and the stillness. Oddly enough, Sister Josephine explains in one of her videos that she does not enjoy being outdoors — and in fact she had a funny experience of helping a formation director with some gardening projects that confirmed that understanding of herself preferring to be indoors!

Sr. Josephine emphasizes that in this wilderness within us, we are not alone; Jesus is there in our hearts. He is walking with us this Lent and He is offering us an invitation to receive His love — perhaps in a new way — and to respond to His love perhaps in a new way.

She states, "This journey into the wilderness of the heart is not for the purpose of egotistical navel-gazing." Ouch! Isn't this often true? We get so caught up

### HOLY AND HEALTHY | Lori Crock

Lori Crock is a SoulCore Rosary prayer and exercise leader and a St. Brendan parishioner. Lori is online at [hollyandhealthycatholic.com](http://hollyandhealthycatholic.com), where she shares her passion for faith and fitness.



in what we are "doing" for Lent that we can miss the point of Jesus loves us and walking with us in this season. We can become almost obsessed with our Lenten "objectives" that we miss the point of allowing Him to transform us through His love.

She continues, "Rather, by the end of Lent, this journey will help you gather more of your heart up into your hands and offer it to Jesus to enter into, to reign in, to be used for the service of the kingdom."

This season is about Jesus and letting him work on the wilderness within us. He invites us, loves, moves us, lifts us up into new and wild places that perhaps we've never gone to before so we can become a new creation.

I am pleased by Sister Josephine's openness to how Jesus might invite us to change what we are doing throughout Lent as I've never done that. I am already sensing that Jesus is asking me to explore fasting in different ways during this time. I've been reading more about fasting and how ancient Christians developed

a rhythm to fasting throughout the year -- not just in Lent where there is some fasting, some feasting that varies by day, week, month and season.

Sister Josephine challenges us to use Thursdays as a mental health check-in day. (She is a mental health professional.) Thursday is the day the Lord celebrated the Last Supper, and her invitation is to keep a focus on the Eucharist, body, blood, soul and divinity, especially on this day — and to reflect on how we are making the love of Jesus incarnate by answering His call to live Eucharistically.

Finally, I was struck by how she used the word "rend," meaning "to tear" — to tear open our hearts to reveal a spirit of acceptance and curiosity about the wilderness within us.

From Joel 2:13. "Rend your hearts, not your garments, and return to the LORD, your God for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting in punishment."

So, as we enter into the vast and perhaps unexplored wilderness of our hearts this Lenten season, where there may be entanglements and areas that are overgrown, untended, and unexplored, we are called to move there with joyful expectation, with courage and with a holy desire to grow closer to Jesus on this journey of becoming more like Him.

## The Henry J. Hyde Federal Building, please

DuPage County is one of the collar counties bordering Chicago. For years, it had the great good sense to send to the U.S. House of Representatives a man the late Cokie Roberts, no liberal, once described as "the smartest person in Congress": Henry J. Hyde, undisputed leader of congressional pro-life forces and author of the Hyde Amendment, which banned virtually all federal funding of abortion. Three years after Hyde's death in 2007, DuPage County — then rather red — named its courthouse the Henry J. Hyde Judicial Facility. It was a fitting salute to a distinguished public servant who had once chaired the House Judiciary Committee with eminent fairness.

But that was then, this is now, and DuPage County today is a very blue jurisdiction, replete with suburbanites apoplectic over the current administration: suburban women who consider abortion-on-demand the first of constitutional rights; suburban activists who display their virtue by braying loudly about sheltering illegal immigrants and then, when those poor souls arrive, put them on the first buses and trains to Chicago. So last month, the DuPage County Board voted 10-5 to strip Hyde's name from the courthouse, renaming it the DuPage County Judicial Office Facility. Thus did

### THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

George Weigel

George Weigel is the Distinguished Senior Fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C. George Weigel's column 'The Catholic Difference' is syndicated by the Denver Catholic, the official publication of the Archdiocese of Denver.



the county board members underscore that Democrats have learned virtually nothing from the 2024 elections.

I had the privilege of working with Congressman Hyde for over 20 years. From my memory bank of those stirring days, two episodes stand out for their sharp contrast to the rancid condition of our politics today.

In January 1995, Henry was chairing a meeting of the Judiciary Committee for the first time. The now-minority Democrats were still gobsmacked from losing control of the House after a 40-year suzerainty dating to the first Eisenhower Administration. Chairman Hyde did not, however, rub the minority's nose in its defeat. Rather, he spoke about the meaning of justice:

In our American system, justice is not an abstraction. Like all the virtues, justice is a moral habit; we become a just society by acting justly. The duty to "promote

justice," which we lay upon ourselves when we pledge to defend the Constitution, is a duty we exercise through the instrument of the law. For the "rule of law" distinguishes civilized societies from barbarism ...

What we do here we ought to do as a matter of vocation: as a matter of giving flesh and blood to our convictions about justice — our moral duty to give everyone his due ...

The two ranking mi-

nority members of the committee, John Conyers and Patricia Schroeder, who lived on a different political planet than Henry Hyde, were so moved that they reached across the dais to shake the chairman's hand.

Some years earlier, Jim Wright, the hyper-Democratic Speaker of the House, indulged himself in a spasm of bipartisanship and invited Congressman Hyde to address a luncheon Wright was hosting for newly elected Members of Congress. After displaying the wit that made him one of the great joke-tellers of all time, Henry got serious:

You are basking in the glow of victory, and that is entirely understandable. But permit me to suggest, on the basis of long experience, that if you don't know what you're willing to lose your seat for, you're going to do a lot of damage up here. You have to know what you're willing to lose everything for if you're going to be the kind of Member of Congress this country needs.

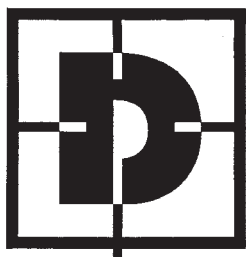
Might today's congressional bobbleheads, terrorized by social media mobs, ponder that?

Henry Hyde, one of the most influential Catholics in public life in modern times, was not only a pro-life leader of great consequence. As a close student of history, he was a prudent, skillful legislator who was no more moved by ideologues of the right than by ideologues of the left. He thought the notion that minors had a constitutional right to own assault weapons ridiculous. A World War II veteran, he was a staunch internationalist who understood that isolationism was no option in a world where "there be dragons" (as ancient sea charts used to describe potential danger zones). He fought for the human rights of dissidents behind the Iron Curtain as forcefully as he fought for the right to life of the unborn; he would have been appalled at attempts to appease the new Russian imperialism of KGB-Man Incarnate, Vladimir Putin.

So here is a suggestion for the Trump Administration and the Congress: name a federal courthouse in the Land of Lincoln after Henry J. Hyde.

Lincoln would have approved. So would St. Thomas More, whose portrait Henry prominently displayed in his congressional office.

Compliments of



DEE PRINTING, INC.

4999 Transamerica Drive  
Columbus, Ohio 43228

777-8700

the Murnane Family

Specializing in Catholic Church Sunday bulletins and  
Serving Columbus Diocese and others since 1974



# Why don't priests wear pink more?

Dear Father,  
I recall that the priest wears pink sometime during Lent. I wonder why we don't see priests wearing pink more throughout the year. It would kind of help break up all that green. I think you should suggest this to them from your liturgy office. Thanks.  
-Frank

Dear Frank,  
It's not actually pink that priests wear as vestments at Mass (though some of them have more of a Pepto Bismol shade). We refer to the color as rose. Rose, apparently, sits between red and pink on the color wheel. It is supposed to be a muted color that, as one website puts it, adds "a touch of sophistication."

You're right: Priests only wear rose vestments twice a year. You'll see it soon on the fourth Sunday of Lent. You already saw rose vestments in December on the third Sunday of Advent.

Rose-colored vestments bespeak our joy. Both the third Sunday of Advent and the fourth Sunday of Lent are about halfway through the respective seasons and indicate that we will soon celebrate what they lead up to: Christmas and Easter.

The third Sunday of Advent is known as "Gaudete" Sunday. Gaudete is the Latin word meaning "rejoice." The name of the Sunday is taken from the Entrance Antiphon that begins "Rejoice (Gaudete) in the Lord always."

Similarly, the fourth Sunday of Lent, known as "Laetare" Sunday, takes its name for that day's Entrance Antiphon that begins "Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her."

In places where rose-colored vestments are not available, the priests and deacons continue to wear the

## SACRAMENTS 101

Father Paul Jerome Keller, OP, S.T.D.

*Father Paul Jerome Keller, O.P., S.T.D., director of the diocese's Office of Divine Worship, is a priest of the Dominican Province of St. Joseph. His doctorate is from Rome in sacramental theology. He currently assists at Columbus St. Patrick Church.*



Lenten violet color.

"Why have various colors at all?" you may ask. The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (no. 345) explains that the diverse colors show the beauty of the Mass and especially highlight the character of the various mysteries we celebrate through the course of the year. (I wrote about other vestment colors in an article that can be found at <https://catholictimescolumbus.org/news/father-paul-keller-op-s-t-d/why-not-wildly-colored-vestments-at-mass>.)

How very human it is to use colors to denote attitudes and moods. It's no wonder that the Church takes up this human quality and transposes it onto our divine worship. The colors at Mass are meant to make us ponder God's insistent involvement in our lives. We exult in the power of the Resurrection and divine life with white. We mourn, with violet, that we have often blocked divine life by our sins.

The wearing of rose-colored vestments is somewhat new. The practice began in the late 16th century when only the pope and cardinals wore rose on Gaudete and Laetare Sundays.

It wasn't until 1729 when bishops were allowed to wear rose vestments on those two Sundays, and seemingly only in Rome. Then, in the 19th century, priests began to use rose-colored vestments outside of Rome. The custom took root when, after the Second Vatican Coun-

cil, the option to wear rose vestments has continued.

Whether the vestments are rose or violet on Laetare and Gaudete Sundays, the theme of rejoicing prevails. Throughout the Scriptures, we find that rejoicing is our strength. That's because an attitude of joy and thanksgiving, whether in our voluntary penances or involuntary crosses, is the way to overcome evil in our lives.

We already know that God is on our side. All the sorrows of life, even those caused by our own sins, are overcome through the love and mercy and grace of God. He alone is able to bring great good out of the worst evils in our lives. This is the constant beginning point of all our prayers, all our worship.

It is only when we forget, or even refuse, to praise God for our crosses, including those interior crosses of shame and habitual sin, that the devil is able to prevail. Rather than curse our crosses and weaknesses and disorders, if we keep our eyes on Christ, we will rejoice that He transforms these things into gems to be set in the crowns of glory we will wear in heaven.

The use of the sacraments, especially penance and the Holy Eucharist, bring us the transforming power from heaven into our lives. There is always reason for rejoicing because the diabolical lies about our unworthiness are dispelled.

Rejoice in the Lord always, commands St Paul (Phil 4:4). This is not advice. It is the way to conquer all manner of darkness in our lives and in the world.

When Laetare Sunday comes, smile at the rose vestments, especially if they look like Pepto Bismol. Smile, not at the oddity of the color but at the meaning of it. Remember that your salvation is near at hand and make every effort to develop and an attitude of constant praise of God in every situation of life.

# Fight scenes and getting back up

I've never been one for action movies, but lately, I have reels of them running through my head as Lent moves full steam ahead. I'm a character in every scene, preparing myself physically and spiritually for the battle.

The training scenes speak to me. I love feeling prepared. My prep might not look like hundreds of situps, punching bags and running up flights up steps, but it is my personal training plan necessary for the battles waiting for me around every corner throughout my day. This preparation gives me a sense of comfort and calm as I know each day will have its own challenges.

The reality is that there are seasons in life when we are faced with "opponents" around every corner. This is especially true for those of us parenting older children. There are some days we have fought so many battles that we go to bed battered, emotionally beaten and bloody, but like the Karate Kid or Rocky Balboa, we get back up again because the fight is worth fighting.

One week into Lent and I found myself walking into my husband's arms the other day, needing shelter from a mental storm outside our control. I whispered through tears, "Must it be so hard sometimes? I know it to be worth it. I know God is working! I know He is sheltering us, but if we are under the umbrella now, Lord, thank you for your mercy, for to step outside it would surely break me."

I'm pondering the practical for my fight scene redemption arc. What might it look like? How do we get back up when we are struck down? I think of Calvary; how brutally Christ fell and got back up. I think of the saints who suffered for what they knew to be right. I ponder what it truly means to love as a parent, to be bold like the saints and speak for truth, to lead with love but be firm

## ALL THAT WE HAVE

MaryBeth Eberhard

*MaryBeth Eberhard writes about marriage, life experiences of a large family and special needs. She attends Sunbury St. John Neumann Church.*



and fierce.

And that pondering? I am putting it all into my prayer time. I'm keeping myself in constant conversation with the Lord. He is fortifying me.

I'm asking Mother Mary to hold my hand when I have to do hard things. I am finding myself pulling into grottos at churches and sitting with her, asking for a hug like a little child.

Writing it feels like so little, but I think it's absolutely right. It's a fierce rebellion against self-apathy and a clinging to a faith that has withstood the test of trials bigger than mine. I visualize my anchor of faith grounding me in truth, and I breathe in grace, mercy, and gratitude and turn my face to the sun.

It's the paradox of the Christian life to walk through Lent embracing our crosses and joyfully calling "Here I am Lord, send me!" well knowing that where we are benignly sent is purgative. Yet how beautiful it is to know how we are being refined.

I go back to my fight scene reels

and think that Rocky Balboa did not become a champion by dodging punches. Jesus Himself, immediately after His baptism, was led into the desert to face the devil's temptations. I am noticing that Lent calls me into my own temptation to wonder why such suffering? And yet the truth is that Lent is about our mortality, our dying to ourselves, and our need for transformation. Embracing these crosses that come our way, no matter how difficult, draws us closer to the heart of Jesus.

There will be days when we stumble, when we feel like we are losing, but as St. Paul reminds us, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith" (2 Timothy 4:7).

Perhaps Lent is our training ground, our time to step into the spiritual ring with Christ as our coach and our guide, trusting in His wisdom and plan.

## The CATHOLIC TIMES

Subscribe or renew your subscription to the print edition of *The Catholic Times*. Visit [www.catholictimescolumbus.org](http://www.catholictimescolumbus.org)



and click the Subscribe Now tab or scan the QR code.







# VIRTUE IN MEDICINE

APRIL 5, 2025 | 8:45 AM – 7:00 PM | IN PERSON AND ONLINE

PONTIFICAL COLLEGE JOSEPHINUM  
7625 N HIGH ST., COLUMBUS, OH 43235

## PRESENTATIONS

The Primacy of Virtue and the Dignity of the Human Person  
Deacon Michael J. Deem, PhD

Moral Cooperation in Health Care  
Elliott Bedford, MA, PhD

The Witness of Hippocratic Medicine in a Secular Culture  
Ashley K. Fernandes, MD, PhD; Paul W. Hruz, MD, PhD; and more!

Addressing Disparity in Health Care  
Rev. Columba Thomas, OP, MD

A Catholic Response to Depression and Suicide  
Anthony Isacco, PhD

Restorative Reproductive Medicine and Care for Infertile Couples  
Panelists TBA

Approaching Gender Dysphoria with Mercy and Charity  
Paul W. Hruz, MD, PhD

Continuing education credits for healthcare professionals will be offered.

REGISTER  
HERE



For more information, contact  
Ellen Santoro  
ellen@forlifeandfamily.org  
832-779-1070

PRESENTED BY



THE CATHOLIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION  
OF CENTRAL OHIO  
A CHARTERED GUILD OF THE CATHOLIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

CONVERGINGROADS.COM/COLUMBUS

Converging Roads™ is an initiative of the St. John Paul II Foundation.





# Now hear this! Thanks be to God, ear surgery was a success

By Michele Williams

I've been out of my comfort zone and out of commission for two weeks. As a result, they have become two of the most God-focused weeks of my entire prison life. Never before have I had a reason to be so still and truly experience God's amazing graces. I've also learned some important lessons in patience and healing.

The reason is: I'm recovering from ear surgery. I began this journey on New Year's Day 2024 when my hearing loss had become drastic and unmanageable. An unfortunate truth is that medical care in prison is categorically bad, so I was scared to seek help. However, I promised God I would do whatever it takes to hear well again if He would keep me safe through it all. Three days later, I had an unexpected appointment with the doctor. That was God saying, "I promise too!"

My first road trip to Columbus for a hearing test was in May 2024, the day before my birthday. That beautiful, sunny day was the first time I saw the Jesus billboard that proclaimed "Who the Son sets free is free indeed." I remember thinking, "What a perfect message. Amen!" That billboard became my favorite landmark through six more road trips over the next six months for various tests and consultations.

Eventually, the stars aligned and surgery was scheduled. I wasn't allowed to know the date because of security policies, but I signed a consent/transport form in February that designated a 30-day timeframe. I was so excited, I practically levitated to and from the scheduler's office!

God's timing was so perfect that I received the Anointing of the Sick exactly one week before surgery (although didn't know it at the time). After our regular Thursday Mass, with the entire congregation surrounding us, Father Joseph Trapp, the Ohio Reformatory for Women's chaplain, administered the sacrament, placing holy oil on my head and hands. We all prayed together and I could feel warmth and healing power coursing through me. I was now completely ready. And incredibly grateful.

At 4 a.m. the next Thursday, I was awakened by the transportation officer telling me, "Get ready, we're leaving at 4:30." I sprang into action! Fueled by the Holy Spirit's adrenaline, I was ready by 4:12.

All that was left to do was get chained and shackled -- a

necessary evil of prison travel -- and shuffle out to the van.

I've not been outside at 4:30 a.m. in decades, and it was shockingly dark. But stars were shining so brightly, I could see a gazillion of them. On the highway, it was way too dark to see the Jesus billboard, yet I knew it was there and I could read the message in my mind's eye. What a stunning start to this long-awaited day!

The rest of the drive to the Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center was peaceful, with the radio on my favorite Christian music station, The River 104.9. My officer escorts enjoy Christian music too, and it helped me settle down a little.

When we pulled on to W. 12th Avenue, my focus was on The Horseshoe, which was on the left, and the hospital was on the right. The brilliantly beautiful, scarlet and gray "Ohio Stadium" sign lit up my whole world. Incidentally, when I was a student in 1988, my dorm was farther east on West 12th Avenue, so I felt like I was almost coming home.

My feet physically touched the ground on the Ohio State University campus. What a feeling! I didn't care that inmates and deliveries use the same back loading area; the steps I took, walking to the doors, were among the slowest and best of my incarceration. I was overwhelmed and my officers just let me have that special moment.

The intake process probably took longer than usual because, never having had surgery before, I had many, many questions. God bless each and every doctor, nurse, intern, student, and orderly who answered them -- sometimes twice -- and calmed my anxiety. What shined through most was their dedication and compassion. I am just an inmate, but they treated me like a real person. They ignored my shackled feet and concentrated on the rest of me.

At last, I was in the operating room! Dr. Schoo and his team were assembled and, oh, Lord, the time had come! As the anesthetic was swallowing my consciousness, the last coherent thought I had was: "Wow, I wonder if Heaven is this bright and shiny, because this is REALLY bright and shiny!" I may have said it out loud because I remember laughter, but I don't know from whom -- me or them.

When I woke up three hours later, Dr. Schoo was talking to me and I could hear him clearly! I almost wept with relief. He said the surgery took much longer than expected, but it was a success. I didn't want to know the details. He added that my hearing would get worse before it got better; swelling, bandages, bleeding and other

icky post-surgery components were in my immediate future, so go slow and trust the process.

A friend of mine had warned me to not sneeze, cough or blow my nose for as long as possible because of the pressure it puts on the inner ear. And I've seen enough Tom and Jerry cartoons to know exactly what would happen. My eardrum would fly out of my ear followed by an entire marching band (in this case, TBDBITL, of course). Well, I certainly didn't want that, so the Holy Spirit squashed every urge for four days. On the fifth day, I sneezed, but everything stayed in place, thank God.

He has continued to keep His promise and helped me become an uncharacteristically patient patient!

Robin, my roommate, was ecstatic to get me settled back in our room. Simon, my cat, didn't leave my side. Robin fixed my coffee and snacks; Simon meowed for an hour, telling me how much he missed me.

For a week, the only exercise I got was walking a quarter mile to and from the infirmary for meds twice a day. I was dizzy and disoriented, and I slept more than a toddler.

As part of the recovery process, my daily life is now completely opposite to my normal active, chatty and stubbornly independent existence. This has been quite an adjustment -- slowing down and being still. On the other hand, I have had more time to read the Bible and reflect, which is perfect timing for Lent!

I made it to Mass on Thursday (for our Ash Wednesday) and used music I'd prerecorded for just such an occasion. During Fr. Trapp's homily, I realized what my Lenten sacrifice would be this year. I would offer up the pain, discomfort and control of my recovery to Jesus. I would be patient and forgiving of my temporary weakness. I would trust Him like never before.

This is the third Sunday of Lent, and it's getting easier to "let go and let God," which I didn't expect was completely possible of myself.

God has His own timelines, so by infinitesimal increments, my hearing is being restored and it is truly miraculous. I believe I will hear our Easter music better than ever before and Easter Mass will have blessings beyond imagination. I have HOPE, and as we all know, hope does not disappoint!

*Michele Williams is incarcerated at the Ohio Reformatory for Women.*

## LATINOS, continued from Page 4

ta de esperanza; o satisfecho en mi zona de confort? ¿Busco caminos de liberación de las situaciones de pecado y falta de dignidad?"

En segundo lugar, señala que viajamos juntos. La Iglesia está llamada a caminar unida. Los cristianos están llamados a caminar al lado de otros, y nunca como viajeros solitarios. El Espíritu Santo nos impulsa a no permanecer ensimismados, sino a dejarnos a nosotros mismos atrás y seguir caminando hacia Dios y con nuestros hermanos y hermanas. Dios nos pide que comprobemos si en nuestra vida, en nuestras familias, en los lugares donde trabajamos, en las comunidades parroquiales o religiosas, somos capaces de caminar con los demás, de escuchar, de vencer la tentación de encerrarnos en nuestra autoreferencialidad, ocupándonos solamente de nuestras necesidades. Esta es una segunda llamada a la conversión.

En tercer lugar, viajamos juntos en esperanza, y una esperanza que no defrauda. El Papa Benedicto XVI escribió:

"el ser humano necesita un amor incondicionado. Necesita esa certeza que le hace decir: 'Ni muerte, ni vida, ni ángeles, ni principados, ni presente, ni futuro, ni potencias, ni altura, ni profundidad, ni criatura alguna podrá apartarnos del amor de Dios, manifestado en Cristo Jesús, Señor nuestro'. Jesús, nuestro amor y nuestra esperanza, ha resucitado, y vive y reina glorioso. La muerte ha sido transformada en victoria y en esto radica la fe y la esperanza de los cristianos, en la resurrección de Cristo. Esta, entonces, es la tercera llamada a la conversión: una llamada a la esperanza, a confiar en Dios y su gran promesa de vida eterna. Preguntémosnos: '¿poseo la convicción de que Dios perdona mis pecados, o me comporto como si pudiera salvarme solo? ¿Anhele la salvación e invoco la ayuda de Dios para recibirla?'"

Han sido llamados aquí precisamente por su esperanza de que la promesa del perdón y, con ella, la salvación, son reales. ¿Pero quién los ha llamado? En primer lugar, es Dios quien los ha llamado. No son

ustedes los que me eligieron a mí, sino yo quien los elegí a ustedes. También es la Iglesia quien los llama, manifestando su "elección" por Dios en y a través de la Iglesia, no solo a través del Obispo, sino también a través de sus padrinos que testifican en su nombre. Dios los llama a pertenecer a Él a través del bautismo, y nosotros, la Iglesia, la familia de Dios, los llamamos a pertenecer a nuestra familia. Son llamados y elegidos -- son elegidos, y en esta elección, ¡solo hay ganadores! A veces, a los Electos también se les llama "co-solicitantes" porque todos juntos piden y aspiran a recibir los tres sacramentos de Cristo y el don del Espíritu Santo. También se les llama los "iluminados" porque el Bautismo mismo se llama Iluminación.

Pero ser llamado y elegido es también ser enviado. Eventualmente serán enviados al mundo para hacer nuevos discípulos, y la preparación para esa misión comienza hoy con un compromiso intenso de tomar en serio la Cuaresma a medida que se acerca la celebración del Mis-

terio Pascual. Significa prepararse para los Escrutinios para ser hallados bien preparados para el viaje de la esclavitud y el pecado a la nueva vida en el Espíritu. Al igual que la Samaritana en el pozo, pueden dejar atrás su cántaro de agua y sus pecados debido a una nueva amistad con Cristo. Al igual que el hombre nacido ciego, pueden dar testimonio de Jesús y decir: "Una vez estuve ciego, pero ahora veo". Cristo rompe la ceguera del pecado y el error y nos ayuda a ver las cosas a la luz de la fe. Pueden escuchar la voz del Señor que le dijo a Lázaro: "Sal fuera", y pueden pasar de la muerte a la verdadera vida, debido a la Palabra.

Mis queridos amigos, como su Obispo, quiero decir, junto con sus padrinos, lo orgullosos que estamos de ustedes que han hecho este viaje, algunos a un gran costo personal. Les prometemos nuestras oraciones y apoyo a medida que se acercan a los misterios de la Pascua, y les prometemos que no los abandonaremos. Hoy, los llamamos, los elegimos, los electos en nombre de Dios, quien los ha elegido para ser Sus hijos.



# Mentors prepare to help engaged couples in marriage formation

By Hannah Heil  
Catholic Times Reporter

The diocesan Office of Marriage and Family offered its first Mentor Couple Day of Reflection on Saturday, March 8, at Hilliard St. Brendan the Navigator Church.

The event was open to all mentor couples who assist engaged couples in the diocese preparing for marriage. Fifteen diocesan mentor couples gathered for the occasion.

The morning event included Mass celebrated by Bishop Earl Fernandes and a presentation by the bishop. Mentor couples were given time to discuss and learn from each other's experiences.

"This is just the start of many other initiatives that we're hoping to do for marriage and family," said Jason Spoolstra, associate director for the Office of Marriage and Family.

Offering a Day of Reflection earlier this month, the office wanted to give mentor couples time for fellowship.

"They assist so much in the parish with the engaged couples, and whenever we're volunteering and doing ministry work, sometimes it can feel a little isolated," Spoolstra said. "We wanted to provide an opportunity for them to come together so they know that they're not alone."

In Bishop Fernandes' presentation, he told the mentor couples that, working alongside parish pastors, they are attempting to shape and form the hearts of engaged couples. By educating couples, mentors help them not to conform to the forces of society but to seek true happiness in Christ.

"It is my hope that, through authentic education, those preparing for the sacrament may, through your guidance and leadership, find happiness – satisfaction and perfection – in this life and the next," the bishop said.

He explained that the "goal" of forming and educating couples is helping future generations grow in humanity, meaning intelligence and goodness as well as justice and solidarity. He said it means couples being open to and desiring to receive Christ.

The bishop also noted the importance of a mentor couple's witness.

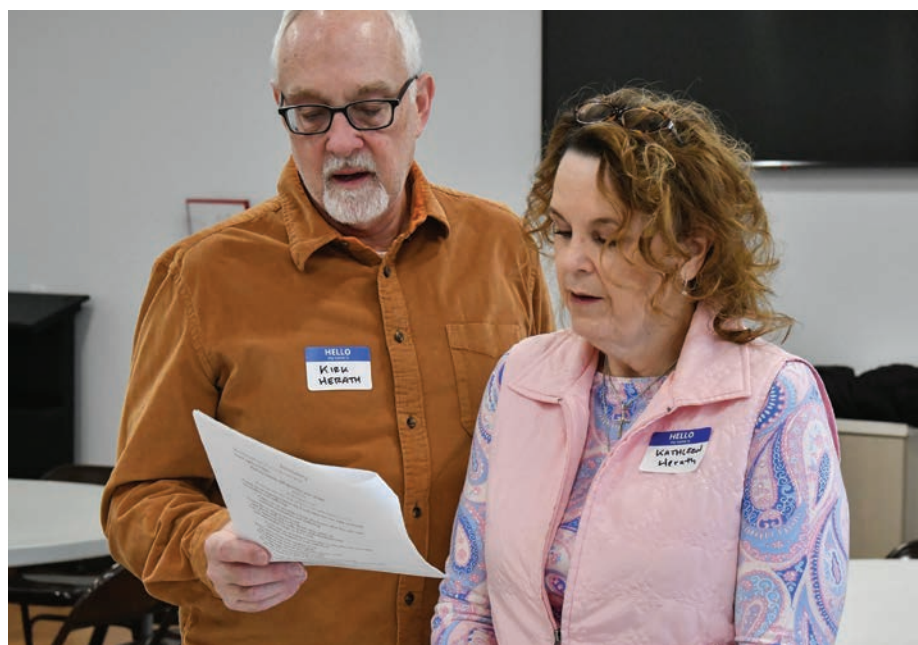
"Young people do not expect the clergy, teachers or mentor couples to be perfect people. God alone is perfect," he said. "Nevertheless, they do expect that there would be a correspondence between the faith we profess with our lips and our lives and actions. If we are not rooted ourselves in the faith and offer poor witness, then the coherence of the faith as a whole will appear to fall apart in the eyes of young people."

Going forward, the office will offer a day of reflection for mentor couples annually.

In 2023, the Office of Marriage and Family implemented the Fully Engaged premarital program. The Mentor Couple Day of Reflection gave couples time to dive deeper into the new materials they



Bishop Earl Fernandes talks with marriage mentor couples who participated in the diocese's first Mentor Couple Day of Reflection on Saturday, March 8 at Hilliard St. Brendan the Navigator Church.  
CT photos by Ken Snow



Marriage mentors Kirk and Kathleen Herath pray Morning Prayer, part of the Church's daily Liturgy of the Hours, during the Mentor Couple Day of Reflection.

will cover with engaged couples.

"This allows us that chance to unpack it and to make them feel even more confident in how to utilize the materials and utilize Fully Engaged, and then ... providing that opportunity for the couples to have roundtable discussion, to have conversations with each other, so they can learn from each other, to grow in wisdom and experience and everything that they can share," Spoolstra explained.

He said the office chose the program in an effort to enhance centrality among engaged couples in the diocese. "Wherever an engaged couple is planning to get married in the Diocese of Columbus, they're getting the same program no matter where they're at," he noted.

The program's inventory, or questionnaire, for engaged couples corresponds to meetings with their mentor couple.

"We wanted to bring something that is catechetical, that's also tying in the evangelization, sharing their witness of their

mentor couple," Spoolstra explained.

For mentor couples, he said, the program "does a wonderful job really guiding them through the process of discussing the content, discussing the inventory to be able to draw out very insightful questions from the engaged couple, to get the engaged couple to speak to each other, to grow deeper, not only, and hopefully, in love with each other but also in their relationship with Christ."

Fully Engaged offers training and education for mentor couples.

Couples in the diocese interested in serving as mentor couples must go through a one-time training that lasts about four hours. Trainings in the diocese are offered in English and Spanish.

The Office of Marriage and Family offered trainings this month at Lancaster Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption on March 1 and at St. Brendan the Navigator on March 8 after the Mentor Couple Day of Reflection.

Next month, new mentor couples can participate in a two-part online training offered April 1-2 via Zoom.

Trainings in Spanish will be offered to mentor couples on April 5 and June 7. Both Spanish trainings will be offered online.

"We walk them through the process of from the time that they make that initial phone call to the engaged couple to schedule the first meeting all the way to the end, where they're celebrating, having a dinner with them and then providing feedback to the pastor on how the meetings went," Spoolstra said.

He explained that a mentor couple's role is not only to share their experience as a married couple but to hand on the truth, beauty and goodness of the Catholic faith. Unlike other premarital programs that might use a video to convey Church teaching, engaged couples learn through deep conversations with their mentors.

"Something that I've seen more and more, especially from engaged couples, they are craving for actual personal conversation with people," he said.

"They want to be in a room with people to engage, to laugh, to share, to pray over, to pray with. Those experiences of interpersonal communication have been something that I've seen the demand has gone up."

Along with the implementation of a new marriage preparation program, the diocese is restructuring marriage preparation as a "second catechumenate." The steps a couple takes in preparing for marriage align with the catechumenate process of an individual preparing for baptism in the Catholic Church.

The intermediate phase, or reception of candidates, includes an inquiry and assessing a couple's readiness. It is followed by a "ritual of welcome."

A couple then begins the catechumenal phase. The first stage, proximate preparation, includes the Fully Engaged premarital program and Natural Family Planning (NFP) training.

"We now are asking couples to go through a full training – one-on-one training with an NFP instructor – and so, that way, they're well equipped and educated on their body, on charting and where to go to find resources if they're needing to seek fertility care or anything further in conception," Spoolstra said.

Engaged couples also attend a one-day Pre Cana formation event run by the diocese. They can choose to attend before or after the ritual of welcome. Eight Pre-Cana events were scheduled in the diocese for this year.

The Rite of Betrothal, a sign of entry into the subsequent stage of final preparation, is held after proximate preparation is complete.

Final preparation, the second stage, includes a final intake or interviews, liturgy

See MENTORS, Page 11



# Honoring Women's History Month from Catholic perspective

By MaryBeth Eberhard

Women's History Month in March is a time to celebrate the contributions of women from all backgrounds. Still, for those of us who walk in faith, it's also a time to remember and celebrate the powerful witness of Catholic women saints. These holy women — our sisters in Christ — have been visible vessels of God's grace, living out their calling with courage and conviction. Their lives, marked by humility, strength and unwavering faith, continue to inspire and challenge us today.

## Pioneers of faith and service

Catholic female saints have profoundly shaped history, bringing Christ's light into the darkest corners of the world. Consider St. Teresa of Calcutta, who poured out her life in love for the poor and dying. She saw Jesus in every face, from the streets of Calcutta to the halls of power, always reminding us that we are called to serve the least among us with a mother's tender heart.

In her Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech in 1979, she ended with: "And so, my prayer for you is that truth will bring prayer in our homes, and the fruit of prayer will be that we believe that in the poor, it is Christ. And if we really believe, we will begin to love. And if we love, naturally, we will try to do something. First in our own home, our next-door neighbor, in the country we live, in the whole world." When we live out our vocation fully as wife and mother, we have the opportunity to change the world in small ways with great love.

## MENTORS, continued from Page 10

preparation, and the couple receives the sacrament of reconciliation.

"The reason why these have become maybe a little bit more thorough is because we understand the importance of the sacrament and the necessity to make sure that everything is covered and everything is fully understood for the bride and the groom," Spoolstra said.

"The beauty of the sacrament, or what's so unique of the sacrament of matrimony, unlike the other sacraments where it's the priest or the bishop that is conferring and we're recipients of it, only in the sacrament of matrimony it's the bride and the groom that are conferring to each other. They're still being receptive to the grace; they're still receiving it, but they are proactive also in conferring the grace to each other.

"As a parish and as a diocese, we must do a thorough job on behalf and support of the bride and the groom. So when they're standing up there, they know what they're saying 'I do' to."

Accompaniment is offered during the third and final stage: the first years of married life. Couples will receive fol-

low-ups and access to enrichment opportunities.

Then there's St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, a wife, mother, widow and foundress who laid the foundation for Catholic education in America. She knew suffering intimately, having become a convert and a widow at a very early age, but found her strength in Christ.

Her belief that a solid Catholic education was the surest means to cultivating the Catholic faith in America led to the founding of hundreds of Catholic schools. Like a loving mother, she nurtured the faith of children, shaping generations to come. So many lives have been changed because she said yes to God's call!

## Champions of justice and reform

It is important to me as a mother to remind my children that saints are not merely quiet figures in history. They are bold witnesses to truth.

St. Joan of Arc, clad in armor but armed with faith, stood firm in obedience to God's voice, challenging the expectations of her time. With great courage, she led the French army to victory in the Hundred Years War.

Her bravery speaks to every woman who believes she is too young, too weak or too insignificant to make a difference. In her obedience, we see a reflection of Mary's own fiat — her willingness to say yes to God's plan, no matter the cost.

Likewise, St. Katharine Drexel, the second American-born saint, was born in Philadelphia. She, who could have lived a life of wealth and comfort, chose instead to pour her inheritance into schools, missions and opportunities for those society had cast aside at the time, particularly

Native Americans and African Americans.

St. Katherine reminds us that true wealth is found in giving, in lifting others up, and in using our gifts for the glory of God.

## Mystics and theologians

The Catholic Church is rich with the wisdom of women who sought God's heart and shared their insights with the world.

One doctor of the church, St. Teresa of Ávila, with her passionate love for Christ, teaches us the beauty of deep prayer, much like Our Lady, who pondered all things in her heart.

St. Therese of Lisieux transformed our thinking with her philosophy of The Little Way, showing us that our little acts of love have great merit, making a relationship with God more approachable.

St. Hildegard of Bingen, another mystic and deep woman of prayer, shows us that a fierce faith and intellect are not at odds but rather complement each other in the pursuit of truth.

Their wisdom, like that of a nurturing

mother, continues to guide us toward a deeper understanding of God's love.

## Role models for today's women

The saints do not belong to the past; they walk with us now, urging us forward. Their stories remind us that holiness is not for a select few but for each of us.

They were mothers and daughters, teachers and warriors, servants and scholars. They loved fiercely, prayed deeply and lived boldly. Above all, they imitated the Blessed Mother, whose life was a perfect model of surrender, courage, and love.

What examples they give us to press on with faith and fervor!

During Women's History Month, look to these remarkable women not just as figures in history but as sisters in Christ who call us to greater holiness. May their witness remind us that, in every moment, we are called to be saints, too, embracing our role as spiritual mothers, intercessors and bearers of Christ's light to the world.



Beautifully Handcrafted Memorials

*From Our Family to Yours*



**MODLICH**  
Monument Company

614-276-1439

modlich-monument.com



# OH WOW!

## NEW TO MEDICARE?

Ohio's choice for Medicare Advantage gives you a lot of ways to save on your health coverage.

Mount Carmel MediGold Health Plan (HMO/PPO) is a faith-based, not-for-profit health plan that's focused on serving our community with compassionate care.

**The \$0 premium Mount Carmel MediGold Health Plan** gives you so many valuable benefits in one plan — and saves you money, too!

- ✓ **\$161 cash back** in your monthly Social Security check on select plans
- ✓ **Large network** of trusted providers that you can see with no referrals
- ✓ **Generous Flexible Benefit Card** for use on covered vision and hearing expenses
- ✓ **And much more!**



MOUNT CARMEL MediGold  
Health Plan

A Member of Trinity Health



Scan to call

**Call to see if you qualify!**

**888-415-9456 (TTY: 711)**

8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week\*

**Or visit:**

**MountCarmelMediGold.com/OH18**

\*Speak with a licensed sales agent during call center hours: April 1 to September 2, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday; September 3 to March 31, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week.

Mount Carmel MediGold (HMO/PPO) is a Medicare Advantage organization with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in Mount Carmel MediGold depends on contract renewal. Benefits vary by county. To file a grievance, call 1-800-MEDICARE to file a complaint with Medicare. Not all plans have \$0 Premium or Cash Back (\$1,942.80 per calendar year, which is \$161.90/month). Other pharmacies, physicians or providers are available in the plan's network.

ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 888-546-2834 (TTY: 711). 注意:如果您使用繁體中文, 您可以免費獲得語言援助服務。請致電 888-546-2834 (TTY: 711)

Y0164\_OPROPOH25\_M

25\_PC\_OH\_OPROP\_02725

11234(01/25)ROP-OH-CT



Catholic Man of the Year receives award



Christopher Grieb is joined by his wife, Mal-lory, and their four children after Bishop Earl Fernandes presented him the Catholic Man of the Year Award at the Catholic Men's Luncheon Club meeting on Friday, March 7 at Columbus St. Patrick Church. Grieb, 39, is a theology teacher and campus minister at his alma mater, Newark Catholic High School, and he also coaches middle school football, youth softball and basketball. Outside of school, Grieb is an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist and a teacher for the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults and the Root family catechesis program at Newark Blessed Sacrament Church. He was chosen for the honor from 16 nominees. Photo courtesy St. Patrick Church

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

FISH FRY

**Fridays of Lent**  
March 7 through April 11  
5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.  
in Marian Hall

**Meal options:**

- Fish (fried or baked)
- Adult and children's options
- Various free drink options
- Homemade desserts
- \$16 Adult / \$6 Child

Our dine-in is Green, utilizing reusable plateware & utensils, and recycling all waste.

414 E North Broadway  
Columbus 43214

**LUNCH**  
11am to 1:30pm  
Drive-thru & carry-out:  
3-piece fish, fries, coleslaw  
OR Veggie Lo Mein | \$14

**DINNER**  
4:30pm to 7:00pm  
Dine-in & carry-out:  
Adult dine-in | \$16  
Senior dine-in | \$14  
Kids (4-10) dine-in | \$10

**Drive-thru:**  
3-piece fish, fries, coleslaw  
OR Veggie Lo Mein | \$14

**March 7, 14, 21 & 28**  
**April 4 & 11**

**CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION**  
6300 E. Dublin-Granville Rd.  
New Albany, OH 43054  
614-855-1400

For more information, to pre-order drive-thru meals and to view the full menu use the QR code or visit:  
[www.cotrna.org](http://www.cotrna.org)

**SAINT GABRIEL CAFÉ**

**LIVE AND LOCAL!**

**WEEKDAYS AT 8AM**

ST. GABRIEL CATHOLIC RADIO

**AM 820**  
COLUMBUS

**FM 88.3**  
SCIOTO COUNTY

**FM 106.7**  
ATHENS



# FIND *a* FISH FRY *or* LENTEN DINNER

The following is an updated list of fish fries and Lenten dinners compiled by *The Catholic Times* from information supplied by parishes and schools in the diocese. Check parish or school websites for additional information about menus, times, dates and cancellations due to weather or other factors.

**COLUMBUS NORTH**  
**OUR LADY OF VICTORY CHURCH**  
1559 Roxbury Road, Columbus  
Fridays, 3/7-4/11, 4:30-7 p.m.

**ST. CHRISTOPHER CHURCH**  
1420 Grandview Ave., Grandview Heights (Trinity School cafeteria)

Pasta Dinner  
Fridays, 3/7, 3/14, 3/21, 4/7, 5-7 p.m.  
Hispanic Dinner  
Friday, 3/28, 5-7 p.m.  
Polish Dinner  
Friday, 4-11, 5-7 p.m.

**OUR LADY OF VICTORY CHURCH**  
1559 Roxbury Road, Columbus (Parish

Life Center)  
Soup Supper and Bible Study  
Wednesdays, 3/12-4-9, 6-7:30 p.m.

**ST. JOAN OF ARC CHURCH**  
10700 Liberty Road, Powell  
Fridays, 3/7-4/11, 5-7 p.m.  
Stations of the Cross, 7:30 p.m.

**ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH**  
386 Buttles Ave., Columbus 43215  
Pasta Dinner  
Saturday, 3/1, noon-7 p.m.  
Lenten Soup Suppers  
Mondays, 3/10-4/7, 6-8 p.m.

**ST. MARGARET OF CORTONA**  
1600 N. Hague Ave., Columbus

Fridays, 3/7-4/11, 4:30-7:30 p.m.

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH**  
414 E. North Broadway, Columbus (Marian Hall)  
Fridays, 3/7-4/11, 5-7:30 p.m.

**ST. MICHAEL CHURCH**  
5750 N. High St., Worthington  
Fridays, 3/7-4/11, 5-7:30 p.m.

**ST. BRENDAN CHURCH**  
4475 Dublin Road, Hilliard (school)  
Fridays 3/7-4/4, 5-7 p.m.

**www.BESTFISHFRY.com**

Baked or **Hand Battered** Fish, Cole Slaw, Mac n' Cheese, Green Beans, \*Fries  
\*dine in only

Dining Room | Online TO GO  
ALL YOU CARE TO EAT OR FOR FASTER PICKUP

**KIDS EAT FREE**  
Visit our website for details and pricing

March 7, 14, 21, 28 April 4, 11

**Stations of the Cross**  
7:00pm St. Joan of Arc  
7:30pm-Spanish St. Peter

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**  
www.bestfishfry.com  
**FISH FRY**  
Council 10765  
**AT SAINT JOAN OF ARC**

5-7pm | **ST. JOAN OF ARC** | Powell  
**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 10765**

**Our LADY of PERPETUAL HELP CATHOLIC PARISH**

**FISH FRY**

Fridays during Lent | 4:30-7 pm  
March 7, 14, 21, 28, April 4, 11

Sponsored by  
Perpetual Help Council 4603

**ST. CHRISTOPHER LENTEN DINNERS 2025**

Trinity School Cafeteria  
1440 Grandview Avenue  
Columbus, OH 43212

**5-7PM**

**\$15 for ADULTS**  
**\$10 for CHILDREN (12-6)**  
**CHILDREN UNDER 5 eat FREE**

*Dessert and pop/water included with each meal*  
*Adult beverages available*  
*Carry-out available*

		
<b>PASTA DINNERS</b> March 7, 14, 21 & April 4	<b>COMIDA LATINA</b> March 28	<b>POLISH DINNER</b> April 11
Rigatoni with red sauce, bowtie pasta with alfredo sauce, macaroni & cheese, green beans, salad, bread & butter	Cheese stuffed chiles, rice, and salad OR shrimp tacos, soup, and salad	Pierogi, crepe, coleslaw salad

**FISH FRY FRIDAY**

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**  
St Jude Council - 5801

**ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 8TH GRADERS ATTENDING A CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL**

**www.kofc5801.Org**

**ST. MATTHEW THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC PARISH**  
807 Havens Corners Road, Gahanna, Ohio 43230  
Every Friday from March 7th - April 11th | 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm  
SOCIAL DINING WITH LIVE ENTERTAINMENT in the HUTTA GYM  
Featuring **Homemade Sides & Desserts**

**SOCIAL DINING MENU (ALL YOU CAN EAT)**

3 - Pieces of Cod (Baked or Deep Fried) French Fries or Baked Potato Arkansas Green Beans or Mac and Cheese Coleslaw and Dessert Lemonade, Punch, and Coffee	<b>PRICE - \$20.00 / PERSON</b> Family of 3 - <b>\$51.00</b> / Family of 4 - <b>\$68.00</b> Family of 5 - <b>\$85.00</b> / Family of 6 - <b>\$102.00</b> Senior (65 & above) - <b>\$15.00</b> Children 8 under are free
--	---

**PIZZA DINNER MENU**  
2 - Pieces Three Cheese Pizza | Choice of two sides: Mac and Cheese, Coleslaw, Green Beans, and French Fries  
Lemonade, Punch, or Coffee | **\$10.00**

**SOCIAL DINING MENU (ONE PLATE ONLY)**  
3 - Pieces of Cod (Baked or Deep Fried) | French Fries or Baked Potato | Arkansas Green Beans or Mac and Cheese  
Coleslaw and Dessert  
Lemonade, Punch, or Coffee **\$15.00**

**BASIC TAKE-OUT ORDERS MENU & DRIVE THRU BASIC MENU (NOT ALL YOU CAN EAT.) PLACE YOUR ORDER, GO TO THE PAC ENTRANCE.**  
3 - Pieces of Cod (Baked or Deep Fried) (Extra piece of fish will be 1.00/piece.)  
French Fries | Coleslaw  
**\$12.00**

**Cash, Check, and Credit/Debit Card.**  
**Credit/Debit Card subject to a 1.00 expense charge per transaction.**



### CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

6300 E. Dublin-Granville Road, New Albany (Ministry Center)  
Fridays, 3/7-4/11, 4:30-7:30 p.m.  
Lunch, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

### ST. JOSEPHINE BAKHITA PARISH

6077 Sharon Woods Blvd., Columbus  
Fridays, 3/7-4/11, 5-7 p.m.

### ST. JOHN NEUMANN CHURCH

9633 E. State Route 37, Sunbury (Faith and Family Center)  
Fridays, 3/7-4/11, 4-7 p.m.

### ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE CHURCH

313 N. State St., Westerville (Miller Hall)  
Fridays, 3/7-4/11, 5-7:30 p.m.

### ST. ANDREW CHURCH

1899 McCoy Road, Columbus (Nugent Parish Hall)  
Fridays, 3/21, 4/4, 4/11, 4:30-7 p.m.

### ST. TIMOTHY CHURCH

1033 Thomas Lane, Columbus  
Pasta dinner  
Sunday, 3/2, noon-6:30 p.m.

### COLUMBUS CENTER

#### HOLY FAMILY CHURCH

584 W. Broad St., Columbus  
Friday, 3/7-4/11, 5:30-7 p.m.  
Stations of the Cross 7 p.m.

### ST. PATRICK CHURCH

280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus  
Fridays, 3/7-4/11 5-7 p.m.  
Stations of the Cross, 7 p.m.

### ST. DOMINIC CHURCH

455 N. 20th St. (Parish Center)  
Saturday, 3/29, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

### COLUMBUS EAST

#### HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH

4383 E. Broad St., Columbus  
Fridays, 3/14, 3/28, 4/11, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

### ST. CATHARINE CHURCH

500 S. Gould Road, Columbus  
Fridays, 3/7, 3/21, 4/4, 5-7:30 p.m.

### ST. MATTHEW CHURCH

807 Havens Corners Road, Gahanna  
Fridays, 3/7-4/11, 4:30-7 p.m.

### ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON PARISH

600 Hill Road N., Pickerington (Activity Center)  
Fridays, 3-7-4/11, 4:30-7 p.m.

### ST. PIUS X CHURCH

1051 S. Waggoner Road, Reynoldsburg (Parish Center)  
Fridays, 3/7, 3/21, 4/4, 5-7:30 p.m.

### COLUMBUS WEST

#### OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP CHURCH

3752 Broadway, Grove City (Parish Center)  
Fridays, 3/7-4/11, 4:30-7 p.m.

### SS. SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH

9350 High Free Pike, West Jefferson  
Lenten Pasta Dinners  
Fridays, 3/28, 4/4, 4/11, 5-7 p.m.

### ST. CECILIA CHURCH

434 Norton Road, Columbus  
Fridays, 3/7-4/11, 5-7:30 p.m.

### ST. JOSEPH CHURCH

670 W. Main St., Plain City  
Fridays, 3/7-4/11, 5:30-8 p.m.

### ST. PATRICK CHURCH

226 Elm St., London (School)  
Fridays, 3/14, 3/28, 4/11, 4:30-7 p.m.

### OUTSIDE METRO COLUMBUS

#### ST. MARY CHURCH

66 E. William St., Delaware (Commons)  
Fridays, 3/7-4/11, 5-7 p.m.

### ST. MARY CHURCH

1232 E. Center St., Marion (K of C Hall)  
Fridays, 2/28-4/11, 5-7:30 p.m.

### ST. PETER CHURCH

379 S. Crawford St., Millersburg  
Fridays, 3/7-4/11, 4-7 p.m.

### SACRED HEART CHURCH

139 Third St. NE, New Philadelphia  
Fridays, 3/7-4/11, 4-7 p.m.

### CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

555 S. Main St., Johnstown  
Fridays, 3/7-4/11, 4:30-7 p.m.

### ST. EDWARD THE CONFESSOR

785 Newark Road, Granville  
Fridays, 3/7-4/11, 4-7 p.m.

### CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

1835 Dover-Zoar Road, Bolivar  
Fridays, 3/7-4/11, 4-7 p.m.

### SACRED HEART SCHOOL

39 Burt Ave., Coshocton  
Friday, 3/7, 5-7 p.m.

### ST. JOHN PAUL II SCIOTO CATHOLIC PARISH

1518 Gallia St. Portsmouth (Knights of Columbus Hall)  
Fridays, 3/7-4/11, 5-8 p.m.

### SACRED HEARTS CHURCH

4680 U.S. Highway 42, Cardington  
Friday, 4/4, 5-7 p.m.

### HOLY TRINITY SCHOOL

225 S. Columbus St., Somerset  
Fridays, 3/7-4/4, 4:30-7 p.m.

### ST. COLMAN OF CLOYNE CHURCH

219 S. North St., Washington Court House  
Fridays, 3/7-4/11, 4:30-7 p.m.

### BISHOP FLAGET SCHOOL

285 W. Water St., Chillicothe (St. Peter Parish Hall)  
Fridays, 3/7-4/11, 4-7 p.m.

### ST. LUKE CHURCH

7 W. Rambo St., Danville  
Fridays, 3/7-4/11, 5-7 p.m.

### ST. FRANCIS DE SALES CHURCH

38 Granville St., Newark  
Fridays, 3/7-4/11, 4-7 p.m.



**St. Margaret of Cortona**  
1600 N. Hague Ave. • 614+279+1690

Fried ocean perch or baked cod dinner with choice of two: french fries, baked potato, Sweet potato, macaroni & cheese, cole slaw, or applesauce. Roll & butter & free drink & homemade dessert included!

**FRIDAYS DURING LENT**  
MARCH 7 - APRIL 11 | 4:30 - 7:30 PM

- \$17.00 Adults
- \$16.00 Seniors
- \$40.00 Families
- \$7.00 Children (10 & under)
- \$4.00 Beer
- Free (3 & under)
- Carry-outs, seconds, & adult beverages available

**BEST FISH FRY DINNER IN TOWN!**



### Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church

1559 Roxbury Road, Columbus 43212  
(Parish Life Center)

## FISH FRY DINNERS

**Fridays, 3/7 through 4/11 | 4:30 - 7:00 pm**

Fresh Ocean Perch (fried);

Baked Potatoes, French Fries or Rice;

Salad or Cole Slaw; Complementary Beverages, Dessert included

\$15 Adults, \$8 Kids - Carryout available





## FISH FRIES AT ST. PATRICK

Downtown Columbus | 280 N. Grant Ave.  
Park east side of church

**MARCH 7, 14, 21 & 28 | April 4 & 11**

**5 pm to 7 pm (Stations of the Cross 7 pm)**

<p><u><b>Menu (Dine-in or carryout):</b></u></p> <p>Fried Cod or Baked Fish Baked Potato or Sweet Potato, or Fries Mac 'n Cheese Cole Slaw Desserts, Beverages Included</p>	<p><u><b>Cost (cash or credit/debit card):</b></u></p> <p>Senior (65+): \$10 Adult (13-64): \$12 Children (5-12): \$6 (Includes 1 piece of fish and pancakes if desired) Family: \$45   Children 4 and under FREE</p>
---	---

Sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council #11207  
To see the mission of our Council go to [www.kofc11207.org/about-us](http://www.kofc11207.org/about-us)  
To join our Council, go to [www.kofc.org/join](http://www.kofc.org/join)







# ESTATE PLANNING: What All Women Should Know



**Wednesday, April 2 at 6:00 PM**  
The Catholic Foundation, 257 East Broad Street

Will & Trust  
Preparations  
Including How To  
Avoid Probate Court

Catholic Perspective  
On Healthcare Power  
Of Attorney

Planning Your Catholic  
Retirement and Leaving  
A Charitable Legacy

**ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME TO THIS FREE EVENT!**

Refreshments will be served  
Scan the QR Code to register online



**Nikki S. Mesnard, Esq.**  
Mesnard Law Office

*presented by:*

Register today!



Questions? Contact Christy at  
csteffy@catholic-foundation.org or 614-443-8893

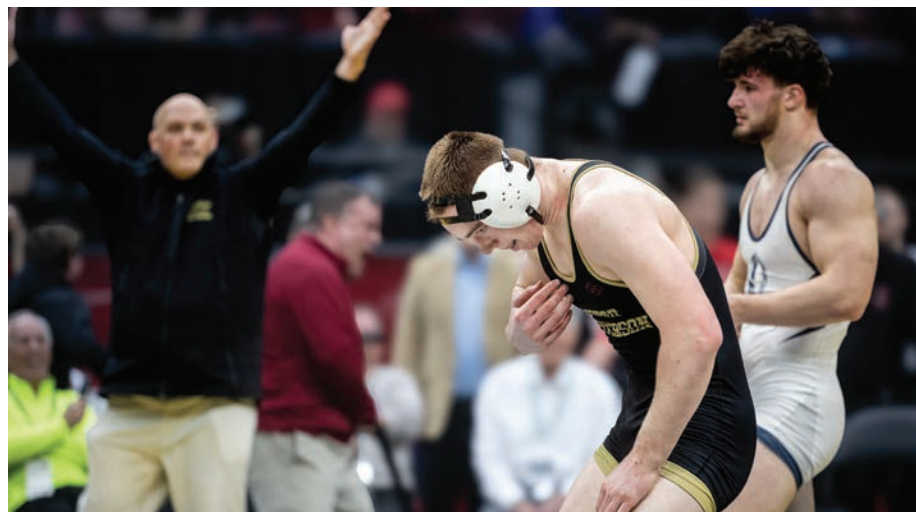


**Christy Steffy**  
The Catholic Foundation





Hartley's Aiden King celebrates his 18-0 win over Watterson's Tommy Rowlands at 138 pounds in the Division II state wrestling championship final.



Watterson's Michael Boyle makes the sign of the cross after the 215-pound final with Akron Hoban's Braydon Feister at the state tournament on March 6. Photos courtesy John Hulkenberg



Watterson's Mitchell Younger claims his third state title with a 5-3 win over Steubenville's Cooper Smith at 144 pounds in Division II.

## One diocesan team, three individuals win state wrestling titles

By Tim Puet

For The Catholic Times

The 2025 state high school wrestling tournament was the most successful in years for Columbus diocesan schools.

Columbus Bishop Watterson and Columbus St. Francis DeSales finished 1-2 in the Division II team standings on Sunday, March 9 at the Schottenstein Center, with Watterson totaling 108 points and DeSales 74.5.

It's Watterson's first state crown, the fifth for a Central Catholic League school and the league's first in 35 years. Other CCL state champions were DeSales in 1971 and 1974 in the combined Class A-AA category and 1977 in Class A, and Columbus Bishop Ready in 1982 in Class A and 1990 in Division III.

Winning individual championships were Watterson's Mitchell Younger (144 pounds) and Michael Boyle (215) and Columbus Bishop Hartley's Aiden King (138). The 138-pound match was an all-CCL affair with King, who finished with a 41-2 season record, defeating Watterson's Tommy Rowlands by technical fall 18-0 for his second consecutive state title.

Besides Rowlands, Watterson's James Lindsay (150) and DeSales' Joel Welch (165) and Andrew Barford (175) made it to championship matches before losing.

Younger won his third Ohio title, all at 144, in four years. He finished fourth last year when he moved up to 150. His 5-3 victory over Steubenville's Cooper Smith completed a 36-match undefeated season.

His three championships allow his picture to be placed in the Hall of Fame of three- and four-time state champions located in the tunnel wrestlers run through on their way to the Schottenstein Center arena.

Other wrestlers from diocesan schools who have earned the honor are four-time champions Mark Zimmer of DeSales, who won titles from 1976 to 1979, Ken Ramsey (Lancaster Fisher Catholic 1984-1985; Bishop Ready 1986-1987) and C.P. Schlatter (DeSales 2000-2001, St. Paris Graham 2002-2003) and three-time title

winners Dominic DiSabato (Ready 1989-1991) and Luke Fickell, the current University of Wisconsin and former University of Cincinnati and Ohio State football coach (DeSales 1990-1992).

Boyle (25-2 for the year), who won at 165 last year as a freshman, bulked up this year to take the crown at 215 and has the potential to be the fourth four-time champion with CCL ties. His 2-1 championship victory over Akron Hoban's Brayton Feister was considered an upset. He helped the Eagles win the 2024 state football championship as a nose guard.

"Mitch has been dominant this year and set the bar for every one of his teammates by passing down an expectation of excellence," Watterson coach Felix Catheline said. "Michael, on the other hand, had to claw his way through the tournament to get a shot at the guy from Hoban. He's an example of persistence. There's no doubt he will be a Division I football player in two years. He already has offers from about 15 schools."

Watterson's success is all the more remarkable because the school dropped wrestling in 2016-17 and 2017-18 because of lack of interest. The school hired Catheline, who had coached football and wrestling at West Salem Northwestern, Columbus South and Columbus West high schools, to revive the program in the fall of 2018 and it has been on an upward climb since then. Catheline also has been Watterson's defensive line coach in football but resigned that post to concentrate on wrestling.

"You need interest from wrestlers in many weight classes for a successful program," he said. "Several former Watterson teams had one or two good wrestlers, then they would leave and interest in the sport would wane until it reached the point where the school didn't have enough wrestlers for even a partial team." The sport has 14 weight classifications and most teams have at least one competitor in a majority of them.

Program depth, as much as individual success, is what wins team championships in wrestling. Watterson had six

state qualifiers, with Thomas Lindsay at 132 scoring team points by making it to the semifinals and winning a consolation match. Greyson Conyers at 120 was the Eagles' other wrestler in the tournament.

Catheline credits the school's success on the mat in recent years to the Eagle Wrestling Club formed by former Watterson wrestler Phil Anglim and Rowlands' father, also named Tommy, a two-time state title winner at Ready and a two-time NCAA champion at Ohio State. "That's what turned things around," Catheline said. "They got enough kids interested so the program could be revived, it started having some success and soon others wanted to join."

"From having to struggle to field a team, we're now at a point where it's reasonable to set goals every year to win the CCL and the Central District and state championships."

"We really thought we had a good shot at winning the state this year from the start because Graham dropped to Division III for at least the next two years because of declining enrollment. I don't think we could have done it if we had Graham to compete with because they're just always so strong and deep," Catheline said.

Graham, located in rural Champaign County, is one of Ohio's two dominant wrestling programs and won this year's Division III title, its 26th overall. Graham had won 23 state championships in a row and 25 overall in Division II or Class AA from 1982 to 2024. There was no tournament in 2020 because of COVID. The other powerhouse, Lakewood St. Edward, has won 37 titles, including the last 10 in a row, in Division I or Class AAA.

"These are the programs we want to compare ourselves against. I want to schedule dual meets against St. Ed's and Graham every year as long as I'm coach so we can compete with the best," Catheline said. "This is our first championship, but I don't want it to be the last. With what we've started here, I think we can be championship contenders for at least the next seven or eight years."

Catheline, a graduate of The College of Wooster, wrestled and played football at Youngstown Ursuline High School. "I was a three-time sectional qualifier, but that's as far as I got," he said. "But being educated in Catholic schools played a big part in making me want to coach young people. I wouldn't be doing this today without the example of Dick Angle, who was a coach at Ursuline from 1979 to 1997. The way he treated me was the way to treat young athletes. Trying to be like him inspires me every day."

Catheline said another role model for him and his team is Deacon Tom Rowlands of Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona Church. Deacon Rowlands is the grandfather of the current team member and father of the wrestling club founder with the same name and coached wrestling and football at Lancaster Fisher Catholic High School before turning to a business career.

Like Watterson, DeSales had a deep roster for the tournament, with Josh Sheets (120) and Lincoln Shulaw (190) also scoring points. Eddie Vitu (126) was the Stallions' other state qualifier.

"We felt this was going to be a rebuilding year, but knew we had the firepower to be among the top five teams in the tournament if Welch and Barford stepped up, and that's what they did. They were the team leaders, but this was really a team of 15 wrestlers who led each other, and their results showed it," said Stallions coach, Collin Palmer, whose picture is on the Schottenstein Center wall as a four-time champion from 2006 to 2009 for St. Edward.

Palmer, who operates a wrestling academy, has been at DeSales since 2019 and assisted the wrestling program at Summit Station Licking Heights after graduating from Ohio State. There has been at least one state placer on each of his DeSales teams, with the Stallions finishing fifth, second, third and second, respectively, from 2022 through this season.

See WRESTLING, Page 19



# EDUCATION JOB FAIR



THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS

*Discover a Fulfilling Career in Catholic Education!*

Whether you're a recent graduate, a seasoned educator, or seeking a career change, we invite you to learn more about the many job opportunities available in Our Catholic Schools!

**April 5, 2025**

9 a.m. - Noon

**Newman Center @ OSU**

64 W. Lane Avenue, Columbus

**LEARN MORE**

**On-site interviews available!**



Office of Catholic Schools

[education.columbuscatholic.org/careers](https://education.columbuscatholic.org/careers)



# St. Pius School's 'Harmony Night' integrates art, tech, culture

By Hannah Heil  
Catholic Times Reporter

Students, parents and clergy were invited to participate in a night of art, technology and culture at Reynoldsburg St. Pius X School on Tuesday, March 4.

The event, "Kaleidoscope: Art, Tech & Culture in Harmony Night," was intended to foster culture and community at the school. The celebration coincided with Mardi Gras, the final day before the beginning of the Church's Lenten season, traditionally a day of feasting and festivities.

St. Pius X school parents were asked to share their cultural heritage during the evening. Each family determined how to present their native customs.

Families could share their culture through interactive displays of their native country, including history, geography, food, music and dance, explained the school's Spanish teacher, Paulette Nedeau.

"Our school community prides itself on our diversity," she said. "We wanted to provide an opportunity for our families to come together, share their heritage and build stronger, more inclusive relationships."

Nedeau, a native of Guatemala, led the multicultural portion of the "Kaleidoscope" event.

As a foreign language teacher, Nedeau explained, she wants students to learn and appreciate differences and similarities between cultures. She said that by doing so students can develop a greater sense of empathy and respect for others.

Fifteen countries were represented that



Father Tesfaye Petro Botachew (right) takes the microphone from Father Patrick Watikha, AJ, pastor of Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church, at the parish school's multicultural heritage night.

evening: Netherlands, Indonesia, Ireland, Puerto Rico, Philippines, Sicily, Guatemala, Venezuela, Mexico, Colombia, Ghana, Eritrea, Cameroon, Congo and Vietnam.

The parish's pastor, Father Patrick Watikha, AJ, a priest of the Apostles of Jesus, represented his native country of Uganda. He brought a number of individuals to the event and performed a dance for attendees.

Technology was another significant part of the event. Students' technology projects were on display for members of the St. Pius X community to view or interact with.

The projects showcased students' work in technology class, explained technology coordinator and teacher Katy Kister.

"I curated and featured (a) project from every first through eighth grade student that they completed in technology class so far this year," she said.

Students' projects included coding, animation and 3D printing. Each grade level had a different project featured at the event.

First grade students used coding to customize digital characters. The second grade learned about Canva, an online graphic design platform, and images created by artificial intelligence. Third grade made trading cards of saints.

The fourth and seventh grades shared "Minecraft for Education" projects from the popular 3D game. Fifth grade made animation videos, and sixth grade created videos of robots that they coded to dance.

Eighth grade students printed 3D images of devices they designed. They were tasked with creating devices to solve problems relating to natural disasters.

For the art portion of the evening, a piece of each student's artwork was

hung outside classrooms throughout the school.

Before the "Kaleidoscope" event, artist Joel Schoon-Tanis of Holland, Michigan, visited art classes. Students participated in painting a 4x30-foot mural "from a simple sketch to an absolute masterpiece," said the school's art teacher, Adam Sharpe.

Schoon-Tanis' works are intended to "unlock a sense of childlike wonder about God's world," according to his website, and his murals are found in schools, churches and children's hospitals in several countries.

He helped students create a mural inspired by three Bible stories.

"It was fun to work alongside and I learned a great bit," Sharpe said. "I think it was very beneficial for the kids to see how another artist thinks."



Uganda natives, known as the Bankema Dancers, perform for St. Pius X students and their families during the school's multicultural event.  
Photos courtesy William Keimig

## WRESTLING, continued from Page 17

"Success breeds success," Palmer said. "This year, we were rebuilding and still did well. The 2025-2026 season will be a reloading year, with four to six good freshmen and maybe a couple more ready to keep the DeSales tradition going. That's the kind of thing that makes coaching a lot of fun."

Two of this year's DeSales wrestlers earned scholarships to college, with Barford going to VMI and Shulaw to Virginia in the fall.

Hartley's King, who will join Shulaw at Virginia, had what his coach, Kevin Petrella, described as "one of the most dominant runs in state tournament history," outscoring his four opponents 64-0 in winning three matches by technical fall and one by a pin in 1:52.

"He's one of the most decorated wrestlers in state history – a four-time placer, three-time finalist and two-time champion, and he's earned it all with a great work ethic," Petrella said. "Every wrestler has a unique skill set and with Aidan, he's especially talented in the 'top' position, making him very difficult to wrestle."

"There were some significant rule changes in high school and college wres-

tling this season related to near-falls and Aidan figured out quickly how to use them to his advantage. That helped him to three quick technical falls in the tournament, and his final was his best performance of the weekend."

The Petrella name is synonymous with Hartley wrestling. Kevin, one of five brothers who have wrestled for the Hawks, has coached the team for 15 years, holding a position once occupied by the brothers' father, Paul.

One of the brothers, Michael, is a two-time NCAA Division III champion for Baldwin Wallace University near Cleveland, where Paul was a national champion in the 1970s. Michael had a 112-match winning streak entering this year's NCAA meet.

Kevin said he's grateful for the opportunity to lead the wrestling program at a Catholic school. "It's a huge part of the program," he said. "Being able to pray together as a team before all practices and meets, just being able to share your personal faith experiences, is something you're unable to do at secular institutions, and I think it does a lot in bringing team members closer together."

Besides King, Hartley had one other state qualifier, senior Malik Tufts, who finished seventh at 215. The Hawks totaled 33.5 points to place 15th in the team standings.

"Obviously, we lose a lot with Aidan

and Malik leaving," Petrella said. "We expected to have a couple more guys at state this year, and I anticipate they'll be doing the work in the off-season that will make them ready to go when practice starts up again."

## TOUR TO ITALY

**OCTOBER 14-28, 2025**

**15 DAYS, \$4750 ALL INCLUSIVE**

See Sicily, Calabria, Abruzzo, Amalfi, Pompeii and celebrate the historic "Year of Jubilee" in Rome

[www.italianheritagetours.com](http://www.italianheritagetours.com)  
italiantours@aol.com | 614-833-5716



Third Sunday of Lent, Year C

# Repent, convert, change, believe

Exodus 17:3-7

Ps. 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9

Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

John 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

The Gospel reading for today's celebration is very clear. Jesus repeats, "I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!" The verse before the Gospel has also prepared for it: "Repent, says the Lord; the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 4:17). It is the same call given to us at the beginning of Lent that is repeated often, something much needed given our ability to get easily distracted.

The term here translated as "repent" is the verbal form of the Greek word *metanoia*, a word that is also translated as "conversion." The related Hebrew term is *shuv*, which means "to turn back or return," emphasizing a return to God and His ways (Strong's H7725).

The first reading is key to understanding the process to which God invites us. God wants His people to live in freedom. But we need to be honest. Quite often, what we call freedom is simply our fancied whims, our desire to make our will prevail no matter what or whose rights may be affected. On top of that, we do not want to take responsibility for our "free" actions. In fact, the *Liturgical Ordo* indicates that "the purpose of the first part of Lent (which ends this coming Saturday) is to bring us to compunction. "Compunction" is etymologically related to the verb "to puncture" and suggests the deflation of our inflated egos, a challenge to any self-deceit about the quality of our lives as disciples of Jesus. By hitting us again and again ... the Gospel passages are meant to trouble us, to confront our illusions about ourselves" (p. 70).

Fourth Sunday of Lent Year C

Joshua 24:14-18

Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

We all admire the Roman Empire for its art, sculpture, paintings, architecture, diplomacy, warfare, engineering – aqueducts, roads, spas and legal system. All the Western legal systems are based on the Roman law. We would easily say "that was something," the golden age of humankind or the apex of culture. They must have been happy people! Were they?

Looking at the sculpture of the first century, the time of Jesus, they show a deep sadness. If you look at the eyes, they express sadness, a sort of "desperate numbness." (J.P. Milliet, *Les Yeux hagards*, in *Melanges Nicole*) These points are results of simple observation by many scholars.

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

Father Ervens Mengelle, IVE, SSL  
Father Ervens Mengelle, IVE, SSL, is an Assistant Professor of Scripture and Dean of Men in the School of Theology at the Pontifical College Josephinum. He holds a licentiate in biblical exegesis from the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome with further biblical studies at the Toronto School of Theology.



So, what does the first reading teach us? At a crucial moment in the history of Israel, when all hope was seemingly wiped out, God intervened to rescue them in a fully unexpected way. As the second reading points out, "these things happened as examples for us." By His salvific intervention, God displays His power to rescue humankind from what is otherwise a totally hopeless situation. The display of His power is given in the Paschal Mystery of Christ.

The defeat of death through Jesus of Nazareth gives us the certainty we need to convert our hearts to the living God Who is the God of the living. In a discussion with the Sadducees who denied the resurrection of the dead, Jesus answered by precisely quoting today's passage of Exodus. He said, "That the dead will rise even Moses made known in the passage about the bush, when he called 'Lord' the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob; and he is not God of the dead, but of the living, for to him all are alive" (Lk 20:37-38).

The call is out: "Convert," which means change your mind and look for the God of the living so that you may live, as the Israelites were also called to do: "Choose life, then, that you and your descendants may live, by loving the Lord, your God, obeying his voice, and holding fast to him" (Deut 30:19-20).

The Responsorial Psalm encourages us

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

Father Robert Jager, Ph.D.  
Father Robert Jager, Ph.D., is pastor of Columbus St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church.



Take, for example, the epitaphs (tomb inscriptions). The most widespread: I was not. I came to be. I am no longer. It amounts to nothing. The Roman writer Livy writes we can no longer bear either our vice or their cures (*History of Rome*).

Despite the great achievements in every way, they were people who had no hope! Listen carefully to the Pandora myth: When the jar was opened and all the evils fled, it was closed just before hope could leave. It was held in the jar, so hope could get to the world! The lack of hope is one of the characteristics of the culture of that time. The Greek *elpis* (hope) meant "to wait for." For the people

## THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS

3-24/3-29  
MONDAY  
2 Kings 5:1-15b  
Psalm 42:2-3; 43:3-4  
Luke 4:24-30

TUESDAY  
Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10  
Psalm 40:7-11  
Hebrews 10:4-10  
Luke 1:26-38

WEDNESDAY  
Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9  
Psalm 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20  
Matthew 5:17-19

THURSDAY  
Jeremiah 7:23-28  
Psalm 95:1-2, 6-9  
Luke 11:14-23

FRIDAY  
Hosea 14:2-10  
Psalm 81:6c-11b, 14, 17  
Mark 12:28-34

SATURDAY  
Hosea 6:1-6  
Psalm 51:3-4, 18-21b  
Luke 18:9-14

3-31/4-5  
MONDAY  
Isaiah 65:17-21  
Psalm 30:2, 4-6, 11-12a, 13b  
John 4:43-54

TUESDAY  
Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12  
Psalm 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9  
John 5:1-16

WEDNESDAY  
Isaiah 49:8-15  
Psalm 145:8-9, 13c-14, 17-18  
John 5:17-30

THURSDAY  
Ezekiel 32:7-14  
Psalm 106:19-23  
John 5:31-47

FRIDAY  
Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22  
Psalm 34:17-21, 23  
John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

SATURDAY  
Jeremiah 11:18-20  
Psalm 7:2-3, 9b-12  
John 7:40-53

## DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION: Mass Schedule: Weeks of March 23 and 30.

### SUNDAY MASS

10:30am Mass from Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on St. Gabriel Radio AM820, Columbus, FM88.3, Portsmouth, and FM106.7, Athens., and at [www.stgabrielradio.com](http://www.stgabrielradio.com) and diocesan website, [www.columbuscatholic.org](http://www.columbuscatholic.org).

Mass from St. Francis de Sales Seminary, Milwaukee, at 7:30 and 10 a.m. on WWHO-TV (the CW), Channel 53, Columbus. Mass with the Passionist Fathers at 10:30 a.m. on WHIZ-TV, Channel 18, Zanesville. Check local cable system for cable channel listing.

Mass from Our Lady of the Angels Monastery, Birmingham, Ala., at 8 a.m. on EWTN (Spectrum Channel 385, Insight Channel 382, or Breeze-line Channel 378). (Encores at noon, 7 p.m., and midnight).  
Mass from the Archdiocese of

Milwaukee at 6:30 a.m. on ION TV (AT&T U-verse Channel 195, Dish Network Channel 250, or DirecTV Channel 305).

Mass from Massillon St. Mary Church at 10:30 a.m. on WILB radio (AM 1060, FM 94.5 and 89.5), Canton, heard in Tuscarawas, Holmes, and Coshocton counties.

### DAILY MASS

8 a.m., Our Lady of the Angels Monastery in Birmingham, Ala. (Encores at noon, 7 p.m. and midnight). See EWTN above; and on I-Lifetv (Channel 113, Ada, Logan, Millersburg, Murray City, Washington C.H.; Channel 125, Marion, Newark, Newcomerstown and New Philadelphia; Channel 207, Zanesville); 8 p.m., St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at [www.stgabrielradio.com](http://www.stgabrielradio.com).  
12:05 p.m. weekdays, 8 a.m. Satur-

days, Mass from Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at [www.stgabrielradio.com](http://www.stgabrielradio.com) and diocesan website, [www.columbuscatholic.org](http://www.columbuscatholic.org). (Saturdays on radio only).

Videos of Masses are available at any time on the internet at these and many other parish websites: Mattingly Settlement St. Mary ([www.stannstmary.org](http://www.stannstmary.org)); Columbus St. Patrick ([www.stpatrickcolumbus.org](http://www.stpatrickcolumbus.org)); Delaware St. Mary ([www.delawarestmary.org](http://www.delawarestmary.org)); Sunbury St. John Neumann ([www.saintjohnsunbury.org](http://www.saintjohnsunbury.org)); and Columbus Immaculate Conception ([www.iccols.org](http://www.iccols.org)). Check your parish website for additional information.

**We pray the seasonal propers for Weeks III and IV of the Liturgy of the Hours**

to strive for the change we need to make by quoting a verse with huge resonance in the history of Israel. Ps 103:8 says, "Merciful and gracious is the LORD, slow to anger and abounding in kindness." This quote comes from Exodus 34:6-7, which is Moses' reaction after God was willing to forgive the sin committed by Israel when worshipping the Golden Calf (see Ex 32). This same verse is used in Joel 2:13, which was read on Ash Wednesday.

What is the aim? The aim is to arrive at the Easter season with hearts fully disposed and prepared to receive and enter into the power of the new life that the Ris-

en One is living. In fact, next week the liturgy will shift its lens, as the *Liturgical Ordo* makes clear: "The readings for the second half of Lent, beginning on the Monday of the fourth week of Lent, are a presentation of the mystery of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, of whom John says that all who believe in him will have eternal life" (p. 70).

But for us to be able to receive it, we need to prepare the ground, as the parable of the sower makes clear: "as for the seed that fell on rich soil, they are the ones who, when they have heard the word, embrace it with a generous and good heart, and bear fruit through perseverance" (Lk 8:15).

# Hope changes everything

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

Father Robert Jager, Ph.D.  
Father Robert Jager, Ph.D., is pastor of Columbus St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church.



Take, for example, the epitaphs (tomb inscriptions). The most widespread: I was not. I came to be. I am no longer. It amounts to nothing. The Roman writer Livy writes we can no longer bear either our vice or their cures (*History of Rome*).

Despite the great achievements in every way, they were people who had no hope! Listen carefully to the Pandora myth: When the jar was opened and all the evils fled, it was closed just before hope could leave. It was held in the jar, so hope could get to the world! The lack of hope is one of the characteristics of the culture of that time. The Greek *elpis* (hope) meant "to wait for." For the people

of the Roman empire, there was nothing to wait for. Therefore, St. Paul writes we do not want you to live like the pagans, who have no hope (1 Thess 4:13).

How much this mirrors our own culture and society! For how many there is nothing to wait for! Many found their solution, inspired by the Roman culture: *carpe diem* – seize, enjoy the day for there is nothing more. The pressing questions of life are dealt with by enjoying the present moment. Some do it through drugs, alcohol, endless sex, etc. Why? For the pressing questions of life do not get answers. Others are into work and achieving. The smartest make their way up and act as if they were God, doing whatever they want. Changing the world as they are pleased, manipulating, lying, cheating, betraying ... There is a danger for Christians as well. The danger is to re-

duce faith to church membership. I come here, I support, I volunteer ... social club mentality. What else should I do? Why? You can see this from the anonymous online survey: 80% of Catholics do not think that the teaching of the Church is crucial for their decisions.

But we are people of hope! St. Paul proclaims, whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come. And all this is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17) and he says elsewhere we have this steadfast anchor, the hope, that enters behind the curtain (Hebrews 6:19).

Hope in Hebrew and Biblical Greek is something else than in secular usage of the day. While the secular usage means

*See HOPE, Page 21*



HOPE, continued from Page 20

“waiting for something,” the Biblical one “entrust oneself to someone,” “find shelter at,” “have recourse to,” “wait with certitude,” “find refuge.” This changes everything! The pagans of St. Paul’s time were amazed what kind of certitude and hope these people have! St. Peter encourages the disciples to share and explain the hope they have (1 Peter 3:15).

Let us ask the question: What is my hope? Jesus shows us who is our true hope. It is the Father from the parable we heard today. He is reconciling us with himself through his son Jesus. He can fix my heart, soul and my entire life. Usual-

ly, we focus on the prodigal son. But the main character is the father who forgives the one that squandered all the heritage as well as the one that did not do any transgression, but his heart is hard as a rock. Jesus tells us this parable to recognize our hope is no one else but God the Father!

He respects the freedom of an individual. He is close and not distant. Even when the prodigal runs away, the Father awaits him. He is looking out for him. Therefore, he recognizes the returning son, when he was far away still. God has the same attitude toward you as well! You are not ex-

empt from his tenderness, closeness and mercy! You take one step toward him; he makes three toward you. Recognizing the returning son, he feels compassion. He runs to him. He throws literally himself around the neck and shoulders of the son with tenderness and kisses him. Not one kiss – but the father was tenderly kissing him (v. 20).

The son, after running away and living his way (v. 12-13), runs into trouble. He spent all he had. He ran out of money! However, things became worse. Not only does he have no means to sustain himself, but there is also famine in the whole country. A severe, catastrophic famine (v.14). Resources are gone. Opportunities are gone. But he still does everything my way. The Greek original tells us that “he cleaved to” -- firmly glued himself to a citizen. The impression is that the son is convinced “this citizen will save me.” The verb used (ekollêthê) is in perfect tense, meaning the decision and attitude is absolute, unchangeable. The son has made the absolutely firm decision to stick himself to this guy, for only he can save him. Nevertheless, he ends up herding pigs and still starving. The “big brother” betrayed him! After a while, he realizes he is hardly surviving. This is not life. This is

a struggle to survive. Then he remembers what he lost: there is abundance in my father’s house and the servants live a better life far beyond what I have now! (v.17).

The prodigal son “reenters himself.” This awkward expression is translated “came to senses” (v. 17). However, the meaning of the original is “to turn into one’s heart and face the reality” as it is. Without any filters. Without making things better than they are.

The first step to experience God’s mercy is to recognize what I have lost doing things my way. Where did I end up by sinning? He simply compares the state before sinning and afterward. Everything starts with this reflection.

Second, recognizing what we have done and returning to God. It is much easier for us, since we know God loves me. We know Jesus paid the price! One of the hymns of the Byzantine Matins says: You welcomed me back, when you stretched your arms on the cross. Returning to God the Father through the healing sacrament of confession, taking the path of the prodigal son’s repentance! We can truly experience that we are new creation in Christ, whenever we take seriously the prodigal son’s example! Let us “take shelter at” this amazing sacrament!

CATHOLIC WORD SEARCH

LITURGICAL OBJECTS

www.wordgamesforcatholics.com

P	E	C	N	A	R	T	S	N	O	M	K	Y	Z	X
A	E	M	M	W	H	X	E	F	V	Z	Z	M	E	Y
L	A	L	T	A	R	A	K	Z	R	U	T	T	Y	P
L	A	F	N	O	L	E	C	A	N	D	L	E	W	P
R	E	Q	Q	M	A	A	Q	L	J	P	J	H	H	L
I	E	J	V	Q	E	C	R	W	N	Z	F	M	U	U
A	E	S	D	Z	R	C	A	O	H	F	I	W	T	Y
D	Z	H	N	O	S	I	I	R	P	S	Y	P	Z	A
M	N	E	S	E	H	Q	W	L	S	R	H	B	S	Q
G	W	S	D	Q	C	S	H	A	A	P	O	T	B	C
W	D	H	F	A	L	E	L	Q	W	H	E	C	V	N
C	I	B	O	R	I	U	M	S	E	U	C	I	P	E
L	U	N	A	Y	D	Q	T	H	R	K	U	R	D	T
O	X	D	K	O	R	D	O	C	A	B	B	U	O	A
X	H	M	Q	R	P	Y	R	X	G	O	S	C	U	P

- ALTAR  
CANDLE  
CENSER  
CHALICE  
CIBORIUM
- CORPORAL  
CROSS  
CRUETS  
LUNA  
MISSAL
- MONSTRANCE  
ORDO  
PALL  
PATEN  
PYX

Words of Wisdom

by Pat Battaglia, aka Dr. Fun

Draw a path from letter to letter to spell the words given in capital letters that completes the wisdom statement. Move one square at a time, up, down, right, left or diagonally until all letters are used once. Ignore any black squares.

Talk is cheap because the supply is ...

D	A	M	D	H
N	E	E	T	E
R	E	A	T	N
G	T	R	A	H

GREATER THAN THE DEMAND

© 2023 International Puzzle Features

LANDSCAPING

OAKLAND NURSERY

VOTED BEST IN THE U.S.

Now is the best time to plan and design your landscape, patios, pools, walk-ways, retaining walls, and sprinkler systems.

614-268-3834

MUETZEL

SINCE 1967

- PLUMBING
- HEATING
- COOLING

614-299-7700

MUETZEL.COM

IGEL

Since 1911

GEORGE J. IGEL & CO., INC.

2040 ALUM CREEK DRIVE . COLUMBUS, OHIO

614.445.8421 . www.buildwithigel.com

SITE DEVELOPMENT . EARTHWORK . UTILITIES  
CONCRETE . STABILIZATION . EARTH RETENTION  
ROLLER COMPACTED CONCRETE . ASPHALT PAVING

SHERIDAN

FUNERAL HOME

740-653-4633

222 S. COLUMBUS STREET  
LANCASTER, OHIO 43130

WWW.SHERIDANFUNERALHOME.NET

INTERIOR/EXTERIOR PAINTING:

Insurance • References

40 years' experience

Senior discount

Fair prices • Free estimates

DICK LIBERATORE • 614-488-8842



PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

<b>ADAMS, Luke R., 22, Feb. 16</b> St. Brendan the Navigator Church, Hilliard	<b>CLARK, Hugh E., 77, March 5</b> St. Patrick Church, Junction City	<b>McNAMARA, Roger T., 86, Feb. 19</b> Holy Trinity Church, Jackson	<b>SEXTON, Shirley Ann, 75, Jan. 24</b> St. John Paul II Scioto Catholic Parish, Portsmouth
<b>BALLANTYNE, Donald, 84, March 6</b> St. Joseph Church, Dover	<b>FALA, Clara, 99, Feb. 26</b> St. Paul the Apostle Church, Westerville	<b>MUHS, Charles, 86, Feb. 28</b> St. Joseph Church, Dover	<b>SKUNZA, Maria G. (Schintu), 83, March 3</b> St. James the Less Church, Columbus
<b>BLOCK, Edward A., 87, March 1</b> St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Zanesville	<b>FLANAGAN, Mary Elizabeth, 98, Jan. 10</b> St. John Paul II Scioto Catholic Parish, Portsmouth	<b>NIXON, Mary Jean, 77, Feb. 25</b> Sacred Hearts Church, Cardington	<b>SMITH, Joan (Hyland), 94, March 1</b> St. John Paul II Scioto Catholic Parish, Portsmouth
<b>BORDERS, Aaron Michael, 35, Feb. 28</b> St. John Paul II Scioto Catholic Parish, Portsmouth	<b>FREITAG, Sharon (Browne), 73, formerly of Columbus, Feb. 26</b> St. Mary of the Woods Church, Russells Point	<b>POMPEY, Vincent M., 86, March 6</b> St. Bernard Church, Corning	<b>SULLIVAN, Kelly M., 63, formerly of Columbus, Feb. 26</b> St. Michael Church, Fernandina Beach, Fla.
<b>BOYD, Mary A., 92, Feb. 27</b> Church of the Resurrection, New Albany	<b>GIBBONS, Mary C., 74, March 9</b> St. Cecilia Church, Columbus	<b>POSTON, Lowell W., 88, Jan. 27</b> Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Lancaster	<b>TALLARICO, Ralph, 91, March 2</b> St. Aloysius Church, Columbus
<b>BOZYMSKI, Edward R., 91, March 4</b> St. Paul the Apostle Church, Westerville	<b>GLASS, Alma L. (Rocco), 95, March 3</b> St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg	<b>PRICE, Donna M. (Prendergast), 87, March 2</b> St. Paul the Apostle Church, Westerville	<b>VAN QUILL, Phyllis, 87, Feb. 20</b> St. John Paul II Scioto Catholic Parish, Portsmouth
<b>BURKLEY, Martha, 94, Feb. 25</b> St. Margaret of Cortona Church, Columbus	<b>GRIGGS, Nancy L., 80, Jan. 29</b> Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Lancaster	<b>RAYL, Matthew A., 52, Feb. 21</b> St. Andrew Church, Columbus	<b>WARTON, John F., 74, Feb. 27</b> St. Timothy Church, Columbus
<b>BURNS, Cheryl (Simon), 68, Feb. 27</b> St. John Paul II Scioto Catholic Parish, Portsmouth	<b>HARRIS, Larry W., 73, Jan. 30</b> Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Lancaster	<b>SAGONE, Dr. Arthur L. Jr., 87, Feb. 25</b> St. Andrew Church, Columbus	<b>WENGER, Dorothy (Quick), 82, March 8</b> St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, Pickerington
<b>CAVINS, Gilbert Allan "Skip," 90, March 1</b> St. Paul the Apostle Church, Westerville	<b>HILDEBRAND, Frances Eileen, 87, Feb. 7</b> St. John Paul II Scioto Catholic Parish, Portsmouth	<b>SAVARIMUTHI, Jeyasudan, 50, March 4</b> St. Brigid of Kildare Church, Dublin	<b>WOLFE, Bryan K., 65, Oct. 29, 2024</b> St. Francis of Assisi Church, Columbus
<b>CLAPP, Carol A., 89, March 11</b> St. Joan of Arc Church, Powell	<b>LITTLE, Judy A. (Skunza), 78, March 1</b> St. James the Less Church, Columbus	<b>SCHUDEL, Michael W., 66, Feb. 27</b> Church of the Resurrection, New Albany	

Molly A. Marcelain

Funeral Mass for Molly A. Marcelain, 86, who died Thursday, March 6, was celebrated Thursday, March 13 at Columbus St. Agatha Church. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, St. Louisville.

She was born on May 21, 1938, to David and Anne (Patterson) Evans and was a 1956 graduate of Newark High School.

She served as a secretary at Newark Catholic and Columbus Bishop Watterson high

schools and was a member of the Hetuck Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Guy; and a brother, David. Survivors include sons Thomas (Leslie) and Andrew (Jennifer); daughters Elizabeth Stiens and Christin LeMaster; 11 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Mary K. Hummel

Funeral Mass for Mary K. Hummel, 84, who died Thursday, Jan. 23, was celebrated Wednesday, Jan. 29 at Pond Creek Holy Trinity Church. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

She was born on April 1, 1940 in Columbus to the late Lawrence and Hester (Moore) Hummel, was a 1958 graduate of Columbus St. Joseph Academy and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Ohio State University in 1962 and a Master of Divinity degree from the Methodist Theological School in Delaware.

She was co-founder of a retreat center and religious community known as Anawim House at Otway in rural Scioto County. She worked with the area's Span-

ish community through the Immigrant Worker Project, helped operate the Born Again clothing store in Otway and hosted and cooked for service groups.

She was a religion teacher at Portsmouth Notre Dame High School and religious formation director at Holy Trinity and the former Otway Our Lady of Lourdes and West Portsmouth Our Lady of Sorrows churches, now part of the St. John Paul II Scioto Catholic Community.

While living in Columbus, she worked for Head Start Community Action and taught as an adjunct professor at Ohio State and at St. Joseph Academy.

She is survived by her sister, Loretta (Sam) Mammen, two nieces and a nephew.

Van R. Stewart

Funeral Mass for Van R. Stewart, 76, who died Wednesday, Feb. 26, was celebrated Monday, March 10 at Powell St. Joan of Arc Church.

He was born on September 6, 1948 to Rolland "Dick" and Mary Lou (Kessler) Stewart, was a graduate of Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School, earned a Bachelor's degree in education from Ohio Dominican College (now University) and a Master's degree in education from Xavier University in Cincinnati and served in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve.

He was a biology and Latin teacher and football, basketball and baseball coach, serving at St. Charles, Bishop Ready and Franklin Heights high schools, all in Columbus. He also was principal at Columbus St. Anthony School.

After leaving the education field, he became an underwriting executive at Nationwide Insurance and Motorists Insurance in Columbus. Following his retirement from Motorists, he became a grounds crew member at Safari Golf Club in Powell.

He and his wife, Mary Martha "Marty" (Raphael) Stewart, were longtime members of the former Columbus St. Anthony Church. He was a lector and extraordinary minister of the Eucharist at St. Joan of Arc.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Anna Marie. Survivors include his wife; sons Todd (Madonna) and Matthew (Betsy); two grandsons and three granddaughters.



**EGAN RYAN**  
FUNERAL SERVICE

*Our Family Serving Yours...*

NOW FOR 5 GENERATIONS,  
OVER 150 YEARS



L-R Funeral Directors, Kevin, Andy & Bob Ryan  
with spouses, Gini, Khristy & Mary Ginn Ryan

Our family of Funeral Directors has expanded to include Bob Ryan's son, Kevin.

Kevin's great-great-grandfather Patrick Egan established the company in 1859.

Our commitment to Central Ohio families has never changed.

*Personal, dignified, quality services at a reasonable cost*

NEW NORTHWEST  
4661 KENNY RD.  
614.451.5900

CENTRAL  
403 E. BROAD ST.  
614.221.6665



## LOCAL NEWS AND EVENTS

# St. Colman presents special Evening Prayer service

Washington Court House St. Colman of Cloyne Church, 219 S. North St., will present a special service of Evening Prayer at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 23, with prelude music beginning at 2:40. It will feature the parish choir, with soloist Jennifer Marcellana of Kenyon College accompanied by a string quartet.

Evening Prayer, sometimes called Vespers or Evensong, is part of the Liturgy of the Hours, the Church's official daily prayer. The Sunday version of it often is made more elaborate with music.

St. Colman has made a tradition of presenting a special treatment of the service for the Fourth Sunday of Lent, one of two Sundays in the liturgical year, along with the Third Sunday of Advent, when the liturgical color of rose is specified. This color reflects the more joyful nature of those days because they are more than halfway through a penitential season when purple is the standard color for vestments. This is also the only Sunday in Lent when altar flowers are permitted.

The primary Scripture reading for the day is from the Letter of Peter and quotes

from the prophet Isaiah concerning the Messiah. Those words are paraphrased in the second part of Handel's "Messiah" and for that reason the first section of that work is used as the special music of the day. This is in addition to sung Psalms, the "Gloucester Magnificat" of Herbert Howells, Gardner's "Evening Prayer" and Coleman's "Jesu, Lover of My Soul," all to be performed by the choir.

## Fatica to speak to men's club at April luncheon

Justin Fatica of Hard As Nails Ministries will be the speaker at the Catholic Men's Luncheon Club's meeting on Friday, April 4 after the 11:45 a.m. Mass at Columbus St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant St.

Fatica has spoken to more than two million people at more than 1,500 live events in four nations and 46 states. He grew up in Erie, Pennsylvania, where he was influenced by Father Larry Richards, who has spoken in the Diocese of Columbus on several occasions.

No reservations are necessary. A \$12 donation is asked to cover costs. The program is being sponsored by The Joseph Group. Learn more about the organization at <https://josephgroup.com/>. If you are interested in sponsoring a luncheon, contact David Kilanowski at [dkilano@aol.com](mailto:dkilano@aol.com).

The club's next luncheon will be on Friday, May 2 and will feature a talk by Deacon Steve Petrill titled "Called to Serve: The Role of Deacons in the Church."

## Father Tuscan to present mission at Holy Family

A parish mission led by Father Joseph Tuscan, OFM Cap, will take place from Sunday to Tuesday, March 23 to 25, at Columbus Holy Family Church, 584 W. Broad St.

Father Tuscan will hear confessions and the Rosary will be prayed at 6:30 p.m. each day, followed by his mission talks at 7. Subjects will be: Sunday, "The Greatest Threat

to Holiness"; Monday, "Pray, Hope and Don't Worry" (on raising faithful Catholics and encouraging the return of those who left the Church); and Tuesday, "The Solution: Forgiveness and the Holy Eucharist." Confessions will be heard after the Sunday and Monday talks and Mass will be celebrated after the talk on Tuesday.

Father Tuscan is national director of the Archconfraternity of Christian Mothers and in full-time preaching ministry for the Capuchin Province of St. Augustine, offering retreats and reflection days for parishes, religious and priests.

A Tenebrae service, designed through the use of Scripture to re-create the sense of betrayal, abandonment and agony related to Good Friday, will take place at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 16. The parish's annual Vigil with the Sorrowful Mother will begin after the 7 p.m. Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, April 18 and end at 10 a.m. the following day.

## Susan K. Marion

Funeral Mass for Susan K. Marion, 77, who died Monday, Feb. 10, was celebrated Wednesday, Feb. 19 at the Lancaster Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption.

She was born on Feb. 16, 1947 in Columbus to Welford and Dorothy Slotter.

She was a 1965 graduate of Columbus West High School, received a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education in 1969 from Capital University and was a teacher for six years at Scottwood Elementary School in Columbus.

She began playing the organ in 1985 at what then was Lancaster St. Mary

Church, remaining there as organist and later director of sacred music until her retirement in 2012. She later began playing the organ at Lancaster St. Mark Church and accompanied the St. Mark Emerald Choir. She also sang with the Lancaster Community Choir.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a brother, Ronald; and a granddaughter.

Survivors include sons Christopher (Kelly) and Andrew (Athena); two grandsons and three granddaughters.

## Sister Joan Marie Harper, CDP

Funeral Mass for Sister Joan Marie Harper, CDP, 87, who died Monday, March 10, was celebrated Wednesday, March 19 in the Kearns Spirituality Center, Allison Park, Pennsylvania. She was buried in a family plot in Forest Glen, Maryland.

She was born on Sept. 27, 1937 in the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. to Roy and Mildred Harper.

She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in English literature from Neuman College in Aston, Pennsylvania in 1969 and a Master of Pastoral Studies degree from Loyola University of Chicago in 1980.

She entered the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia on Sept. 8, 1956 and transferred in the mid-1970s to the Sisters of the Congregation of Divine Providence.

In the Diocese of Columbus, she served as associate director of the diocesan family life office from 1981 to 1987 and episcopal vicar for religious from

1987 to 2005 and as a pastoral associate at Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare Church from 2005 to 2017. She also was on the diocesan board of consultors and was a catechist for the RCIA program at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral.

In 1992, she received the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice decoration from the Holy See for distinguished service to the Catholic Church.

She lived in her congregation's motherhouse in Allison Park after 2017 and served for several years as a volunteer advocate for the Tribunal of the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

She also was a teacher, principal and administrator at schools in North Carolina, Maryland and Delaware, assistant development director at LaRoche College (now University) in Allison Park and a parish minister in Pennsylvania and the Diocese of Youngstown.

## Sister M. Alice Metzger, OSF

Funeral Mass for Sister M. Alice Metzger, OSF, 94, who died Friday, March 7 at the Stella Niagara (New York) Health Center, was celebrated Wednesday, March 12 at New Lexington St. Rose Church. Burial was at St. Patrick Cemetery, Junction City.

She was born Elaine Metzger on April 11, 1930 to John and Alice (Boley) Metzger and grew up in Perry County.

She was a 1948 graduate of Columbus Rosary High School and received a Bachelor of Science degree in 1975 from Rosary Hill College (now Daemen College) in Amherst, New York.

She entered the Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity on Sept. 1, 1948 and professed her first vows on Aug. 17, 1951 and her final vows on Aug. 18, 1954.

In the Diocese of Columbus, she

served as a teacher at Columbus St. Peter (1959-1960), Columbus St. John (1960-1962), Lancaster St. Bernadette (1975-1981) and New Lexington St. Rose (1981-1982) schools and a tutor at Columbus St. Matthias School (1982-1985) and in the Logan public schools (1986-1988). She also taught at schools in New York, New Jersey and West Virginia.

In addition, she was on the staff of Columbus St. Charles Seminary (1964-1966) and New Lexington St. Aloysius Academy (1966-1969) and worked with the New Straitsville St. Mary Church outreach program. She cared for her parents from 1990 to 1993, retired in Ohio in 1999 and moved to the Stella Niagara Health Center in 2022.

She was preceded in death by his parents and her brothers, Father John Metzger and Brice.



**PREFERENTIAL CARE**  
YOUR SERVICES. YOUR WAY.

Preferential Care Home Health Services provides personal care, home making, light housekeeping, errands, shopping, transportation, meal prep, med reminders and companionship. Private pay and Long Term Care Insurance accepted.

1660 NW Professional Plz. | Suite B  
Columbus Ohio 43220  
**1-380-243-9927**  
**[www.preferential.care](http://www.preferential.care)**





# YOUR PATH TO BETTER BREATHING STARTS HERE.

At Mount Carmel, we prioritize your respiratory health with state-of-the-art diagnostics and personalized treatment plans. Our expert team of pulmonologists are dedicated to providing compassionate care tailored to your unique needs.

From asthma management to lung cancer screenings, we cover all aspects of pulmonary health because here, we're committed to providing **more care for all of you**. Schedule your appointment today and experience the difference our pulmonary care can make.



EXPERT CARE FOR ALL OF YOU. | [mountcarmelforyou.com](https://mountcarmelforyou.com)





# Carmelite sister makes final vows

Sister Philomena Anne of Divine Mercy, O. Carm. made her final profession of vows with the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm on Saturday, March 1.

She serves in the diocese at the Villas at Saint Therese and Mother Angeline McCrory Manor, located on the east side of Columbus. Mother Angelina McCrory Manor is a non-profit health care facility sponsored by the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm. The Villas at Saint Therese, also sponsored by the sisters, is a non-profit community providing assisted and independent living services.

The Carmelites for the Aged and Infirm are dedicated to caring for the elderly in mind, body and spirit. The order's sisters ensure that the elderly's lives are filled with love and that they are cared for with respect and dignity.

Sister Philomena Anne of Divine Mercy, a native of Lynchburg, Virginia, entered the congregation in 2015 and made her first profession of vows in 2018.

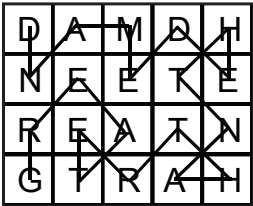
"She has a very joyful spirit of service in witness of Christ Who 'came to serve not to be served,'" said Father Michael Lumpe, chaplain at Mother Angeline McCrory Manor and the Villas at Saint Therese. "We are very blessed to have her joyful spirit of service in the Diocese of Columbus."

Sister Philomena Anne of Divine Mercy, the oldest of three children, recalled being interested in religious life since age 13. She had an interest in caring for the elderly and desired to be in an order with that charism.

She first visited the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm in 2011 at their St. Teresa's Motherhouse in Germantown, New York, on the state's east side. She attended various discernment retreats with the community in the following years.

She noted that her father's support during religious discernment also significantly helped in her vocation.

The Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm were founded in 1929 by Mother Angeline Teresa, born Bridget Teresa McCrory. In 1931, the community became affiliated with the Order of Carmel.



WORDS OF WISDOM  
SOLUTION

In the marriage case styled JIMMY ROGER PECK, JR and MONYA GABRIELA CONSTANTINESCU PECK AMALLIA, the Tribunal of the Diocese of Columbus, Ohio is currently unaware of the present address of MONYA GABRIELA CONSTANTINESCU PECK AMALLIA. The Tribunal herewith informs her of the case and invites her to contact REV. ROBERT KITSMILLER, M.Div., JCL., no later than - 7 APRIL 2025, or call phone (614)241-2500 Extension 1. Anyone who knows of the whereabouts of MONYA GABRIELA CONSTANTINESCU PECK AMALLIA, is herewith asked to make this Citation known to her or to inform the Tribunal of her current address.

Given this 23 March 2025;  
REV. ROBERT KITSMILLER, M.Div., JCL | Judge    KAREN KITCHELL | Notary



## Faith and Education Meet Here

Your Catholic University in the Heart of Central Ohio

- 42 high-demand majors
- Early acceptance into medical and graduate school
- Honors Program and study abroad opportunities
- Minutes from downtown Columbus
- 100% of full-time undergrad students receive financial aid



Discover ODU Today | [ohiodominican.edu](http://ohiodominican.edu)

Central Ohio's Catholic University • Founded by the Dominican Sisters of Peace.

1216 Sunbury Rd. | Columbus, OH 43219 | 614.251.4500

# Abbey Caskets

A WORK OF SAINT MEINRAD ARCHABBEY

For over 25 years, Abbey Caskets has been crafting beautiful and affordable wooden caskets and urns, each reflecting the sacred traditions of the monks of Saint Meinrad Archabbey.

By choosing an Abbey Casket you are honoring your loved one while supporting the prayer and work of the monks of Saint Meinrad Archabbey.

Learn more at [abbeycaskets.com](http://abbeycaskets.com).



**Prepay Now, Save Through April!**  
Receive a **10% discount** when you prepay for your Abbey Casket now through April 30, 2025.

200 Hill Drive  
St. Meinrad, IN 47577  
800.987.7380  
[info@abbeycaskets.com](mailto:info@abbeycaskets.com)  
[abbeycaskets.com](http://abbeycaskets.com) |



# Thank You!

**for your generosity and support!**

**Let them give thanks to the Lord for His unfailing love and His wonderful deeds for mankind.**  
- Psalm 107:21

Your contributions to the Catholic Women's and Men's Conferences this year helped us bring Christ to more than 5,500 women and men at the conferences, and thousands more who will benefit from the resources provided to support parishes and programs that help our sisters and brothers along their faith journey!

## Our Blessed Mother (\$20,000 +)

St. Gabriel Catholic Radio AM820

Anonymous

## St. Joseph (\$10,000 - 19,999)

John and Linda Mackessy

Kurtz Brothers Mulch and Soils

The Hamrock Family

Kimball Midwest/The McCurdy Family

Lisa and David Karam

Donor Advised Fund

## St. Faustina (\$5,000 - 9,999)

Bob-Boyd Auto Family

Kitty and Jim Soldano

Rick and Kathleen Gummer

The Riat Family

Church of the Resurrection

Michele &amp; Cole Ellis

The Catholic Foundation

Kevin &amp; Anita Schroeder

Mr. &amp; Mrs. David C. Bianconi

The Joseph Group

## St. John Paul II (\$2,500 - 4,999)

Jim and Susan Hackbarth

Kris and Bruce Fraser

St. Peter St. Joan of Arc Parish

Westerville Panera

Jones-Schlatter Flooring, LLC

Panera Bread

St. Paul the Apostle

Tuesday Morning

Bible Study

## St. Francis of Assisi (\$1,000 - 2,499)

Able Printing Co.

Diocesan Publications, Inc.

Meyers Wealth Management

St. Brigid of Kildare Church

Anonymous

Focus Logistics Solutions

Miracle Motor Mart

Ted and Ellen Amland

APPS Paramedical

Fr. John S. Hannan Council

Mount Carmel Foundation

The Dentist, Jeffrey C. Kirian,

Braun Bookkeeping &amp; Consulting

5297 Circleville

Mr. &amp; Mrs. Jeffrey H. Walker

DDS

Catholic Cemeteries of

Immaculate Conception

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas K. Lindsey

The McGinley Family

Columbus

Church

Niermeyer/Gatterdam Families

Charitable Fund

David and Trish Ciesinski

Joe &amp; Kathy Urquhart

PW Partners LLC

Tom &amp; Kathy Mignery |

Decker Vonau &amp; Carr, LLC |

John Schechter

St. Andrew Parish

Burgess &amp; Niple

Jim and Chris Vonau

Louise and John Hummel

St. Brendan the Navigator Church

## St. Theresa of Calcutta (\$500 - 999)

G &amp; J Pepsi

K of C Council #11187 - Seton Parish

Sirna &amp; Sons Produce

Gilles Smith Purdum Insurance

K of C Council #10941 - New Albany

St. Francis DeSales Church - Newark

In Memory of Timothy V. Luckhaupt

K of C Council #4603 - OLPH

St. John Neumann Catholic Church

James &amp; Barbara Flaherty

Layton Services

St. Margaret of Cortona Church

Kathleen and John Hodges

Marc &amp; Tonya Hawk

St. Mary Catholic Church, Delaware, Ohio

K of C Council #5776 - Westerville

Michael &amp; Judith Lisi

St. Matthew Catholic Parish

K of C Council #11275 - St. Andrew

Mike and Karen Szolosi

Sts. Simon &amp; Jude Women's Group

K of C Council #1056 - St. Mary

Philanthropia Fundraising

Texas Roadhouse - Neal &amp; Michele Niklaus

Delaware

Consulting/Jessica Schmitt

Thomas and Amy Merry

K of C Council #11445 - St. Michael

Seton Parish

## St. Vincent DePaul (\$250 - 499)

Anonymous

Michele Gardner Brown

Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Lancaster

Paul and Theresa Mascia

Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm

Paul Wills CPA

Church of the Blessed Sacrament and School

Peggy and Bill Keller

Columbian Martyrs Assembly 2380

Penske Trucks of Columbus

Jake and Erin Neal

K of C Council #5429 - Pope John Paul XXIII

Jim and Molly Nester

Premier Produce

Josephine and Eric Yang

Saint Mary's Church German Village

K of C Council #11311 - St. Agatha

St. Michael Church

K of C Council #11354 - St. Catharine of Siena

St. Patrick Church/The Dominican Friars

K of C Council #11208 - St. Brendan the Navigator

Susie Kloeb

K of C Council #5253 - St. Pius X

Sysco Foods

K of C Council #3727 - Assumption

The Gilmore Group - Red 1 Realty | Teri Gilmore

K of C Council #1016 - Lancaster

Tricord Wealth Advisors

K of C Council #11216 - St. Peter



**COLUMBUS CATHOLIC  
WOMEN'S CONFERENCE**



**CATHOLIC MEN'S MINISTRY**  
CENTERED ON CHRIST • CALLED TO BE SAINTS • INSPIRED BY ST. JOSEPH



# BEYOND THE MEN'S CONFERENCE LENTEN CHALLENGE



**How will you *Continue the Conversation* after the Men's Conference?**  
Lent provides the opportunity to reflect on this year's Conference presentations and the challenges each speaker gave.

## 2025 Marks the Final Year of the Eucharistic Revival - THE YEAR OF MISSION YOUR PERSONAL INVITATION TO GO ON MISSION

- ✚ Commit to the veneration of the Blessed Mother and the saints, especially those who exemplify Eucharistic living.
- ✚ Pursue ongoing formation in the faith, particularly in small group settings.
- ✚ Embrace the communal dimension of the Catholic life by deeper engagement in your parish and other Catholic institutions.
- ✚ Unite personal sufferings to the suffering of Christ to participate in His ongoing plan of redemption for the world.
- ✚ Become a foot washer. Enter into Christ's act of self-oblation in the Eucharist, continuing His work in concrete practices of love for your neighbor.

CLICK THE LINKS TO THE CONFERENCE PAGE FROM OUR PARTNER



### Mark Hartfiel

LISTEN TO MARK'S PRESENTATION ▶



What are your top three missions in life?  
How is God calling you personally to become a Terror of Demons on behalf of your family, the Church and society?  
What 'weapon of man' do you hear God calling you to purge as he said to Peter, "Put your sword into its sheath."  
What specific spiritual weapons will you deploy to crush the head of the serpent?



### Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers

LISTEN TO THE DYNAMIC DEACON ▶

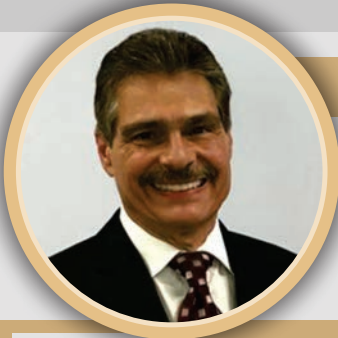


**Scripture: Luke 24:30-32; 35**  
Ask yourself, "What are the obstacles in my life that prevent me from following Jesus?"  
*Be honest.*  
What is holding you back from recognizing the power of Christ in your life?  
**Scripture: John 1:1, 14**  
Is the Word of God truly a priority in my life? Why not?  
How will reading and engaging God's word daily transform my life?



### Dr. Ray Guarendi

LISTEN TO DR. RAY'S PRESENTATION ▶



How can you better back up your wife in her decisions regarding the children and grandchildren?  
What is the best way for you to take a spiritual lead in your family?



◀ SUBSCRIBE  
ONLINE!

STAY TUNED AS CONFERENCE VIDEOS WILL BECOME AVAILABLE SOON  
...SIGN UP TO LEARN MORE!

**www.CatholicMensMinistry.com**

#CatholicMensMinistry





# Without His Cross There is No Crown

with St. John's Passion Reading

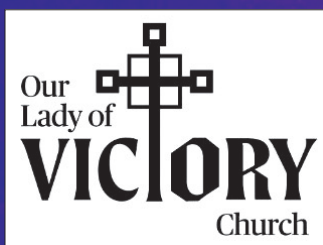
**Palm Sunday Sacred Concert**  
**Sunday, April 13, 2025 | 7 pm**

Featuring Our Lady of Victory  
Holy Week choir and chamber orchestra  
Director, Mark Voris

Join us for a profoundly moving concert  
on Palm Sunday evening, designed  
to usher in the spirit of Holy Week.

Experience a sacred evening as our talented  
choir and chamber orchestra present a  
selection of powerful choral anthems  
intertwined with the poignant readings  
of St. John's Passion.

This FREE concert will deeply enrich your Holy Week  
journey with stirring pieces such as *Echoes of Golgotha*,  
*He Is Wounded*, *Without His Cross There Is No Crown*,  
and many more. Don't miss this opportunity to reflect and  
prepare your heart for the sacred days  
ahead at Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church.



Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church  
1559 Roxbury Road • Columbus, OH 43212 • 614-488-2428