

St. John the Evangelist-St. Charles Borromeo Sunday Bulletin

The **FOURTEENTH SUNDAY** *in* **ORDINARY TIME** ∞

St. John the Evangelist

31 E. Main Street

Pawling, NY 12564

Weekday Mass

M-F 8:00 AM

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 PM

Sunday 7:30, 9:30, and 11:00 AM

Holy Days of Obligation: TBA

St. Charles Borromeo

62 Mill Street

Dover Plains, NY 12522

Wednesday: Noon

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 PM

Sunday: 9:00 AM *Misa en español*

Holy Days of Obligation: TBA

Full-Time Clergy

Rev. John F. X. Palatucci, Pastor

Rev. Clifford N. Aniefuna, Parochial Vicar

Deacon Jerry Cartwright

Weekend Associate Clergy

Rev. Miguel de la Torre, LC

Trustees

Mr. John Canevari

Mrs. Lorraine Oaks

PREP-Religious Education

Ms. Nan Kramer, Program Coordinator:

sjescbprep@gmail.com

(845) 289-0055

Parish Secretary and Bulletin Coordinator

Kristin M. Stevens

Penance and Reconciliation

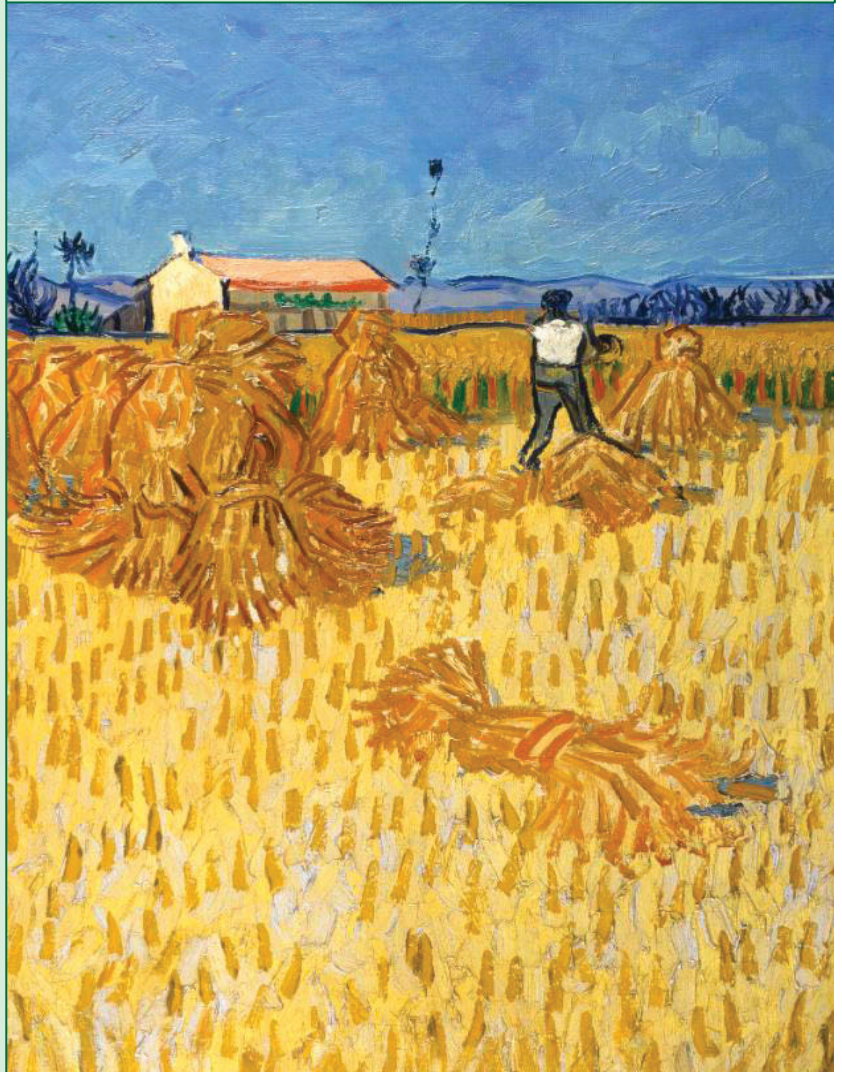
St. Charles: Sat. 2:30-3:30 PM, Gagnon Hall

St. John: Sat. 3:30-4:30, the Confessional

You may also call for a confession by appointment.

House calls for the homebound are available upon request.

July 6th, 2025



Harvest in Provence; Vincent Van Gogh, 1888

**He has changed the sea into dry land;
through the river they passed on foot;
therefore let us rejoice in him.**

He rules by his might forever.

Ps 66:6-7

Parish House and Main Office

39 East Main Street • Pawling, NY 12564

Phone Number: (845) 855-5488

Sacramental Emergency Line: (845) 855-1273

Website: www.sjescb.org • Email: sjescb@protonmail.com

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9 AM – 3 PM, Friday 9 AM – 2 PM

Closed 12 PM – 1 PM for lunch. Closed Saturday and Sunday, national public holidays, and Holy Days of Obligation of the Church.

Devotions

Divine Mercy Chaplet - St. Charles every Sunday prior to the 9:00AM Mass.

Holy Rosary - St. John after each 8 AM daily Mass. St. Charles before 4 PM Saturday vigil Mass.

Miraculous Medal Novena - St. John every Monday morning immediately after the 8:00AM Mass.

Litanies

Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary- Tuesday

Litany of St. Joseph—Wednesday immediately following daily Mass at both churches.

Litany of the Holy Name Of Jesus- Thursday

Litany of the Sacred Heart Of Jesus- Friday after Exposition Of The Blessed Sacrament

Mass Book

The 2025 Mass book is now open! Only one intention will be accepted per Mass. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** The stipend offering is \$15 per Mass.

O.C.I.A.

The Order of Christian Initiation for Adults is a program for those wishing to become Catholic or complete their Sacraments. Please contact the Rectory Office for more information.

Baptisms

Sunday, June 29th 2025

Danna Gissel Garcia Agosto

Joseph Peter Jannicelli

Memorials

The Eucharistic Gifts this week are offered in the loving memory of:

Mildred Whalen

as requested by The Connor Family


Banns III

Saturday, July 19th 2025

Tralee McElroy & Nicholas Saltarelli

Mass Intentions

Saint Charles Borromeo

Saturday, July 5th **FIRST SATURDAY** 
4:00 PM William Anthony Delvescovi
(Suzanne Reid)
Mildred Whalen
(The Connor Family)


Sunday, July 6th
9:00 AM Missa Pro Populo

Wednesday, July 9th
12:00 PM Intentions of the Maduemezia Family
(Margaret Maduemezia)

Saturday, July 12th
4:00 PM Sloan and Meegan McEnroe
(Tara Meunier & Paige Falcon)

Sunday, July 13th
9:00 AM Missa Pro Populo

Saint John the Evangelist

Saturday, July 5th **FIRST SATURDAY** 

9:00 AM Joseph Elluzzi
(Jeanne Elluzzi)

5:00 PM Vincent Dalrymple
(Carol Dalrymple)

Sunday, July 6th
7:30 AM Robert Owens
(Heidi & Kevin Owens)

9:30 AM Patsy Venus
(Ann Kurchack)

11:00 AM Gracia Maria Muller
(Barbara Dallas)

Monday, July 7th
8:00 AM The Holy Souls in Purgatory
(Dr. Martha Bouchard)

Tuesday, July 8th
8:00 AM Margaret Johnson
(Joan Vaughan)

Wednesday, July 9th
8:00 AM Margaret Johnson
(Mary-Alice McCrann)

Thursday, July 10th
8:00 AM Mary Ann Panzer
(Mimi Panzer)

Friday, July 11th
8:00 AM Intentions of our Weekday Mass Family
(Bob Ball)

Saturday, July 12th
5:00 PM Jean Brown
(The Baresich Family)

Sunday, July 13th
7:30 AM Margaret Johnson
(Kristin Stevens)

9:30 AM Charles Gardner
(Sherry Swick)

11:00 AM The Holy Souls in Purgatory
(Dr. Martha Bouchard)
Camille Coraci
(Joe Coraci)

Please Remember in Your Prayers..

The deceased clergy of St. Charles Borromeo and St. John the Evangelist, Mary Ellen Albano-Richardson, Thomas Baranowski, Virginia Ann Barberesi, Joan F. Boscardin, Baby Karolina Calderone, William Chapman, Marie L. Cooney, Janice Day, Ross Daniels, Betty J. Dearborn, Margaret Dolan, James K. Donohue, Joseph Elluzzi, Br. Marcel Ezanwafor, Alfred "Chet" Federighi, Charles Gardner, Mary Lou Garon, Dennis J. Gasparro, Norma Gaytan, Ann Mary Godesky, Daniel Hamilton, Geraldine A. Hartigan, Thomas Heinchon, John Francis Jasmin, Margaret Mary Johnson, James A. Legg, Pedro Martin, Joseph Mastropolo, Margaret "Peggy" McElroy, Patricia Ann Miller, Deborah Mills, Stephen L. Monica, Pamela Ann Moore, Dolores Musella, Rev. Godfrey Oparaekwe, William Norman Ring, Willem Salcius, Joan Lauricella Smith, Richard Stevens, Alyson Nicole Wade, Bishop Gerald Walsh: Auxillary Bishop, Archdiocese of New York, Mildred Whalen, Ray Zelazny.

THE INFIRMED: Edmundo Alonzo, Bob Cuthbert, David Bloom, Mary Boscardin, Peter Cris, Adam Deliso, Peter Federighi, Joseph Guagliano, Sara Hall, Miles Lagstein, Adam Laiso, Alissa Macchia, John Paul McNiff, Pete Muroski, Joe Palatucci, Bill Pollinger, Brandon Rojas, Brian Rojas.

THOSE WHO DEFEND US: Sr. Airman Abigail Blake, Airforce; STS Benjamin Burdick, Navy; PVT Dylan Christian USMC; Ryan Christian, Airforce; Tech Sergeant Ashley Carey, Air Force; MAJ Robert Dugan, Marine Corps; LTC Joseph Luchetta, Army; Paratrooper Connor Maile, Army; Lance Corporal Savion Newman, Marine Corps; Cpl Luis M. Panzer, Marine Corps.; LCpl. Wyatt T. Panzer Marine Corps; CH (CPT) Fr. Peter Pomposello, Army; LTC Kevin Smith, Army; SCPO Kevin Walsh, Navy; Christopher Warren, Army Ranger; Staff Sergeant Mathew Warren, National Guard.

To add or remove a name from our prayer list, please call or e-mail the Rectory office at sjescb@protonmail.com.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK/LAST RITES

Please contact the Rectory office to request the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick for those who are ill, homebound, or dying. In an emergency, please do not hesitate to call the Rectory office 24/7 to request this vital Sacrament at (845) 855-1273.

EUCCHARISTIC HOLY HOURS

Fridays at St. John the Evangelist immediately following the 8 AM Mass until 4:00 PM. Please contact the Rectory office if you are interested in being an Adorer in our Adoration program, or if you are available to be on our sub list.



July Month of the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

MEMORIAL + JULY 11th

St. Benedict + Abbot

"Idleness is the enemy of the soul; and therefore the brethren ought to be employed in manual labor at certain times, at others, in devout reading."



Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Isaiah 66:10-14c

Isaiah instructs the people of Jerusalem to rejoice, because God would restore her prosperity. The people will better understand God's power through their homeland's restoration.

Second Reading: Galatians 6:14-18

Paul describes the sign of the cross of Jesus as all that is significant. Following the old laws is unimportant. Instead, being baptized in Christ and adhering to his ideals is what matters most.

Gospel: Luke 10:1-12, 17-20

Jesus sent forth seventy-two disciples to preach his good news, telling them "the harvest is rich, but the workers few." He also gave them detailed instructions on how to act towards the people. Jesus then reminded them not to be happy because of their power over evil, but to rejoice in the salvation they would achieve.

Decimocuarto Domingo en Tiempo Ordinario

Primera Lectura: Isaías 66:10-14c

Isaías instruyó al pueblo de Jerusalén a regocijarse, porque Dios les devolvería su prosperidad. La gente entendería mejor el poder de Dios de esta manera.

Segunda Lectura: Gálatas 6:14-18

Pablo describe el signo de la cruz de Jesús como lo más importante. De acuerdo a la Ley Antigua eso no tiene importancia. En vez, ser bautizado en Cristo y adheriéndose a sus ideales es lo que importa más.

Evangelio: San Lucas 10:1-12, 17-20

Jesús envió a setenta y dos discípulos a predicar las buenas nuevas, diciéndoles: "la cosecha es mucha, pero los trabajadores son pocos". Les dió instrucciones detalladas de cómo actuar con la gentes. Jesús les recordó no estar contentos para no caer en tentación, sino regocijarse en la salvación que alcanzarán.

Weekly Readings

Monday: Gn 28:10-22a; Mt 9:18-26

Tuesday: Gn 32:23-33; Mt 9:32-38

Wednesday: Gn 41:55-57, 42:5-7a, 17-24a; Mt 10:1-7

Thursday: Gn 44:18-21, 23b-29, 45:1-5; Mt 10:7-15

Friday: Gn 46:1-7, 28-30; Mt 10:16-23

Saturday: Gn 49:29-32, 50:15-26a; Mt 10:24-33

HELP IS AVAILABLE

JOB LOSS. GRIEF. LIFE TRANSITIONS.
MARITAL ISSUES. PARENTING CHALLENGES.

The Parish Counseling Network: ***a Path Towards Emotional Wellness***

A collaboration between Droste Mental Health Services, Inc and Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York

Call 866-962-7487

The Parish Counseling Network (PCN) supports parishioners in need by providing low-cost, short-term counseling. PCN offers :

- Access to six counseling sessions at a cost of \$10 per session for those without health insurance, or connection to a therapist who accepts your health insurance.
- A network of licensed, experienced therapists many of whom are bilingual.
- Telehealth options, as well as convenient locations throughout the NY Archdiocese.

For more information, visit our website



Eligibility

You must be a parishioner of a church in the NY Archdiocese.

Referrals can be made by pastors or designated parish staff. Parishioners reaching out directly must provide their parish code (a 3 digit number parish staff can provide).



SUMMER BBQ

HOSTED BY: Gather Round the Table, Inc. (GRT)

When: Sunday, August 24th 2025

Where: The Lathrop Center at Lakeside Park

Time: 2:00 PM

If you or someone you know is experiencing food insecurity, social isolation, is homebound or a senior, we welcome you.

GRT provides FREE, hot, healthy prepared meals for individuals and families when it matters most.

Registration Deadline: August 13th 2025

For details and registration information, go to gatherroundthetable.org



listen.accompany.heal

The Beginning Experience® Ministry is a peer led ministry that serves those grieving the end of a spousal relationship due to death, divorce, or separation. Men and women of all ages and faiths are welcome to attend.

Healing Weekend- an in-person overnight weekend retreat at **Linwood Spiritual Center Rhinebeck, NY** from **October 24 to 26, 2025**. For information or to register please call **Phyllis** at 914 261 5812 or **Gloria** at 646 281 4790

In the Beginning...Coping with Life Alone- one day remote via **Zoom program** held on **Saturday, June 28, 2025** from 9AM to 4PM EDT or 8AM to 3PM CDT. For information or to register, please call **Jim** at 845 220 7883 or **Denise** at 845 325 3147.

Ushers Needed!

Father is looking for men and women to volunteer as ushers at our parish. It's easy work. The usher has two primary functions: to help people find pew seats when necessary and to help take up and bag the weekly collection. We could use at least 8 more to help. *If interested, please contact the Rector at sjescb@protonmail.com.*

Stop Physician-Assisted Suicide in New York

New York is on the brink of legalizing physician-assisted suicide. Bill A136 has already passed the Senate and Assembly. **The only thing standing in its way is Governor Hochul's veto – and she needs to hear from you.**

This bill would allow doctors to prescribe lethal medication with the sole purpose of ending a patient's life. It puts the most vulnerable among us – the elderly, people with disabilities, and those facing emotional or financial despair – at even greater risk. **Suicide is not healthcare.**

We must speak out to protect the dignity of every human life. Assisted suicide is a dangerous and deadly path – one we must not go down.



Take Action!



Contact the Governor's office now to oppose this deadly practice! Visit bit.ly/veto-pas or use the QR code.

The New York State Catholic Conference represents the Bishops of New York State in public policy matters.
www.nyscatholic.org • 518-434-6195 • info@nyscatholic.org

Second Collection

Weekend of July 13th
Catholic Missions Among
Black & Indian People
Thank you for your generosity!

The Black and Indian Mission Collection supports Catholic missions among Black and Native American communities in the United States. Established in 1884, it funds evangelization efforts and provides resources for these communities.

Eucharistic Revival

“Jesus made Himself our food in order to assimilate us to Himself, to make us live His life, to make us live in Him, as He Himself lives in His Father. The Eucharist is truly the Sacrament of Union and at the same time it is the clearest and most convincing proof that God calls us and pleads with us to come to intimate union with Himself.”

- Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, OCD

EucharisticRevival.org



TAKE CATHOLIC THEOLOGY COURSES

AT ST. JOSEPH'S SEMINARY

Semester Dates:

September 2 through December 19

Courses are:

- Open to qualified lay men and women, clergy, and consecrated religious
- Offered in person or online - Zoom in from any location to join a class
- Reasonably priced - Affordable tuition rates!
- 50% tuition discount for new students, alumni auditors, diocesan and parish employees
- Taught by world-class faculty

To learn more about our schedule of classes for fall, go to <https://dunwoodie.edu/fall-2025-classes>,

email: sjs.academics@dunwoodie.edu or call 914-367-8145

YOU ARE CALLED! JOIN TODAY!

Scan the QR code or visit KofC.org/JoinUs

Join online today for FREE
Use Promo Code
BLESSEDMCGIVNEY



Priest Schedule for next 15th Sunday in Sunday, July 13th Ordinary Time

*Schedule is subject to change without notice

St. John the Evangelist

Saturday

5:00 PM Fr. Clifford N. Aniefuna

Sunday

7:30 AM Fr. Clifford N. Aniefuna

Dcn. Jerry Cartwright

9:30 AM Fr. Clifford N. Aniefuna

11:00 AM Fr. John F.X. Palatucci

St. Charles Borromeo

Saturday

4:00 PM Fr. John F.X. Palatucci

Sunday

9:00 AM Fr. John F.X. Palatucci

Bi-lingual



Wednesday September 17, 2025 at The Centennial Golf Club Carmel, NY

10:30 AM REGISTRATION • 11:00 AM LUNCH
12:30 PM SHOT GUN START • 6:00 PM COCKTAILS
6:30 PM POST GOLF RECEPTION & AWARDS

\$195 PER GOLFER INCLUDES:

SCRAMBLE FORMAT, GOLFER'S CARE PACKAGE, GREENS FEES
& CARTS, LUNCH, COCKTAILS & RECEPTION

\$85 DONATION FOR RECEPTION ONLY

AWARDS FOR CHIPPING CONTEST, BEST GOLF SHOTS AND SCORES! PRIZE DRAWINGS!

HOLE IN ONE PRIZE!*

*Hole in one for prize must be 165 yards or greater.

Go to <https://cgc-2025stjohnskoc.golfgenius.com>

To Register! Or scan the QR code ➤



**SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE!
DONATIONS APPRECIATED!**

For questions or to make a general donation
please email the Golf Committee
KofC545GolfOuting@gmail.com

If paying by check make payable to:
Knights of Columbus Council 545
39 East Main Street
Pawling, NY 12564



High School Senior Scholarship Opportunity 2025 Invitation to Apply St. John the Evangelist/ St. Charles Borromeo Parish



The Catholic Daughters, Knights of Columbus, and the St. John the Evangelist/ St. Charles Borromeo Parish are happy to announce that they will again be awarding scholarships to a number of parish high school seniors who will be entering their Freshman year of college this Fall.

We invite and encourage all eligible students to apply.

Requirements are as follows:

The student parishioner must be a current graduating senior, attending college this Fall.

The following must be submitted along with the application/cover sheet (that may be found on the Parish website, sjescb.org):

1. An essay of approximately 500 words answering the following question:
"How has Your Catholic Faith Influenced Your Life?"
2. Secondly, please provide a brief description of the parish, school, and community activities in which you have, or are currently, participating.

All entries should be emailed to: CatholicDaughters18@gmail.com
Entries should be received no later than **Sunday, July 13, 2025.**
Notification of the scholarship award will be made by **July 27, 2025.**



Access the application cover sheet in the QR code:

DEFUND PLANNED PARENTHOOD

The U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill stripping Planned Parenthood of major funding from the government. We pray that the U.S. Senate also approves this bill. We need to end the billions of tax dollars that go to support the major abortion business in the U.S.

The Senate is rewriting parts of the "Big, Beautiful" Budget Bill and is now looking to defund Planned Parenthood for only one year instead of the 10 years originally in the bill. Please reach out to **Senate Majority Leader John Thune** at (202) 224-2321. Ask him to restore the 10 year defunding in the budget bill. Also contact our two NY Senators - **Senator Schumer** at (202) 224-6542, and **Senator Kirsten Gillibrand** at (202) 224-4451 to request their support.

It's a travesty that U.S. taxpayers – many of whom can barely afford to buy groceries right now – are forced to hand over **\$800 MILLION to Planned Parenthood abortionists every year!** If pro-lifers can ramp up enough pressure on the Senate to finally DEFUND PLANNED PARENTHOOD, it will immediately become a political paper tiger, opening the floodgates for the passage of life-saving laws across the country! If you agree we must END the flow of tax dollars to Planned Parenthood abortionists, **please eSign your DEFUND PLANNED PARENTHOOD! Petition right away.** So, after you sign your name, **please be sure to SHARE this petition** on your social media and with your pro-life family and friends!

SIGN THE PETITION VIA THE LINK BELOW:

<https://act.studentsforlifeaction.com/poll-lander/defund-planned-parenthood-petition/>

*** * * * Jericho March 2025 * * * ***

MONDAY, JULY 7th beginning at 7 PM

On the 7th day of the 7th month at the 7th hour of the afternoon (7:00 PM) in obedience to the Lord's instruction to Joshua to win the battle of Jericho, we will prayerfully march around Planned Parenthood 7 times praying for the walls of the abortion industry to come tumbling down.

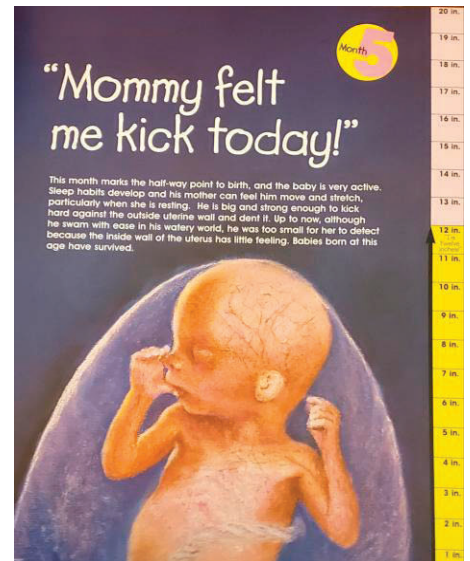
Our march will begin at 17 Noxon Street, Poughkeepsie

Join the Lord's Army in the battle for Life !!

If you are unable to march the 7 laps

stand vigil in front of Planned Parenthood during the march.

For more info, call/text 845-853-6529



Spiritual Adoption

During January, we started our Spiritual Adoption nine month cycle. Please continue to pray for the baby you have adopted.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph

I love you very much.

I beg you to spare the life

Of the unborn child that I

*have spiritually adopted who is
in danger of abortion.*

- Venerable Fulton J. Sheen

Baby Bottle Drive

Thank you to all who returned their baby bottle with donations for Gianna's House. **Anyone who still has their bottle, please return it as soon as possible,** so

we can deliver them to Gianna's House for counting. Kindly hand the bottle to an usher at a weekend mass. Thank you for your generous donations.

There will be NO July Respect Life meeting.

Creciendo en la Fe

Descubriendo **esperanza** y **gozo** en la fe católica.

Julio de 2025

St. John the Evangelist-St. Charles Borromeo

Meditaciones breves

Santa Isabel de Portugal

Santa Isabel siguió los pasos de su tía abuela y tocaya, Santa Isabel de Hungría: nació en una familia real, practicó una espiritualidad fervorosa, gran generosidad y penitencia. Se casó con el Rey Dionisio de Portugal. A pesar de un matrimonio difícil y conflictos familiares, permaneció paciente y caritativa. Es conocida por su atención a los pobres y enfermos, y por resolver conflictos políticos de forma pacífica. Después de la muerte de su esposo, ingresó en la Tercera Orden de San Francisco.

La oración es una respuesta al Amor

Dios quiere una relación con nosotros. Esta es una verdad central de nuestra fe. "El Dios vivo y verdadero llama incansablemente a cada persona a ese misterioso encuentro llamado oración. En la oración, la iniciativa de amor de Dios fiel siempre viene primero; nuestro propio primer paso es siempre una respuesta" (Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica, #2567). Así que, la próxima vez que sientas el llamado a orar, di como Samuel: "Habla, Señor, que tu siervo escucha" (1 Samuel 3:10).

"Por misericordia nos has lavado en la Sangre, y por misericordia deseas conversar con tus criaturas... ¡Loco de Amor! ...Tu misericordia te obliga a darte aún más a los mortales, es decir, a dejárselos como alimento." Santa Catalina de Siena

Sal de la barca y deja que Cristo te encuentre donde estás

Cuando llega la tentación, la primera línea de defensa suele ser simple: decir "no" o evitar la situación por completo. Pero cuando eso no basta, existen estrategias más profundas y comprobadas que pueden ayudarnos a responder con gracia y fortaleza.

Primero, piensa en la tentación como una oportunidad para la santidad. Dios siempre nos da una opción, y cuando le decimos "sí" a Él y "no" al pecado, Él responde con aún más gracia. Si hay otra persona involucrada, ora por ella. Ese pequeño acto de caridad no solo agrada a Dios, sino que desarma al enemigo. Como dice la Escritura: "Resistan al diablo, y huirá de ustedes" (Santiago 4:7).

Segundo, no te limites a resistir la tentación — reemplázala. Tratar de no pensar en el pecado a menudo nos lleva de nuevo a él. En cambio, sigue el consejo de Filipenses 4:8: concéntrate en lo verdadero, lo honorable y lo

bueno. Por ejemplo, sustituye el chisme por palabras que edifiquen a los demás, o reemplaza un mal hábito por uno santo.

Finalmente, no subestimes las pequeñas victorias. La fidelidad en lo

«¡Ánimo! Soy yo. No tengan miedo» (Mateo 14:27).

pequeño nos fortalece para las batallas mayores. Decir la verdad en una situación de presión, mostrar paciencia en el tráfico o cumplir una promesa entrenan el alma para los momentos más difíciles. "Puesto que fuiste fiel en lo poco, te confiaré lo mucho" (Mateo 25:23). La gracia se construye sobre el esfuerzo. Aprovecha bien cada momento.

¿Por qué hacen eso los católicos?

¿Por qué los católicos creen en el Purgatorio?

La Iglesia enseña que muchas almas, aunque destinadas al Cielo, pasan por una purificación después de la muerte — un proceso llamado Purgatorio. Es como limpiar una ventana sucia para poder disfrutar plenamente de la vista; el Purgatorio nos prepara para ver a Dios con claridad. La Escritura respalda esto: Judas Macabeo ofreció oraciones por los difuntos (2 Macabeos

12:43-46), y Jesús menciona pecados que serán perdonados en la otra vida (Mateo 12:32).

El Purgatorio no es un castigo, sino misericordia. Las almas allí se benefician de nuestras oraciones — y ellas oran por nosotros a su vez. Es parte del plan amoroso de Dios para prepararnos verdaderamente para Su presencia.



Discovering **hope** and **joy** in the Catholic faith.

July 2025

St. John the Evangelist-St. Charles Borromeo

One Minute Meditations

St. Elizabeth of Portugal

St. Elizabeth followed the footsteps of her great-aunt and namesake, St. Elizabeth of Hungary: she was born to royal parents, practiced fervent spirituality, great generosity and penances. She married King Denis of Portugal. Despite a difficult marriage and family conflicts, she remained patient and charitable. She is known for her care for the poor and sick, and for resolving political conflicts peacefully. After her husband's death, St. Elizabeth entered the Third Order of St. Francis.

Prayer is a response to Love

God wants a relationship with us. This is a central truth of our faith. "The living and true God tirelessly calls each person to that mysterious encounter known as prayer. In prayer, the faithful God's initiative of love always comes first; our own first step is always a response" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #2567). So, next time you feel called to pray, say, like Samuel, "*Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening*" (1 Samuel 3:10).

"By mercy you have washed us in the Blood, and by mercy you desire to converse with your creatures... Loving Madman! ...Your mercy constrains you to give even more to mortals, namely, to leave yourself to them in food."

St. Catherine of Siena

Step out and let Christ meet you where you are

"Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water" (Matthew 14:28). St. Peter showed remarkable courage when he stepped out of the boat in the middle of a storm. While God may sometimes call us to follow Him in dramatic or difficult moments, more often He invites us in the quiet, ordinary circumstances of daily life — to step out of what's comfortable and meet Him in our prayer, our relationships, and our service.

Prayer: The greatest challenge in deepening your prayer life is often just beginning. Start with a Gospel passage, read slowly, reflect, respond, and rest in God's presence. Light a candle. Sit in front of an icon. Play sacred music. Let beauty draw your heart to God. Ask the Holy Spirit to renew your desire, focus, and love for God. Step out of the boat — and you'll find Christ waiting.

Relationships: The virtues — patience, self-control, fidelity, honesty — aren't just about personal growth; they're about

loving others well. Show kindness to someone who frustrates you. Have a real conversation with someone with whom you disagree. Forgive, even if it's undeserved. These small choices shape us into Christ's likeness.

Service: "...the Son of Man came ... to

"Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid" (Matthew 14:27).

serve" (Matthew 20:28). Loving service doesn't require grand gestures. True holiness is forged in everyday acts: give away a piece of clothing you love but don't need. Help with the dishes, even when it's not your turn. Offer a break to a tired parent by watching their children. When service flows from love, it transforms both the giver and the receiver — and conforms our hearts to Christ's.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

The Church teaches that many souls, though destined for Heaven, undergo purification after death, a process called Purgatory. Purgatory prepares us to see God clearly.

Scripture supports this: Judas Maccabee offered prayers for the dead (2 Maccabees 12:43-46), and Jesus mentioned sins forgiven in the next life (Matthew 12:32). St. Paul described a

Why Do Catholics Believe in Purgatory?

judgment in which a person is saved, but their works are tested by fire. This fire isn't Hell (since they are saved), but a purifying fire, which aligns with the idea of Purgatory (1 Corinthians 3:13-15).

Purgatory is mercy. The souls there benefit from our prayers — and they pray for us in return. It's part of God's loving plan to make us truly ready for His presence.



Flower Memorials

Help us beautify our church in honor of the memory of your loved one. Please contact the Rectory office for more information. The offering is \$50 for two floral bouquets for the week. The memorial will also be featured in our weekly bulletin.

The Crucifix
Blessed Mother St. Joseph



**Be our shelter, Lord,
when we are at home,
our companion when
we are away, and our
welcome guest when
we return, and at last
receive us into the
dwelling place you
have prepared for us in
Your Father's house,
where You live forever
and ever.**

Amen.

The Catholic Cartoon by Joshua Masterson: <https://www.the-catholic-cartoon.com/>



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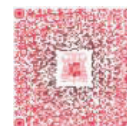
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