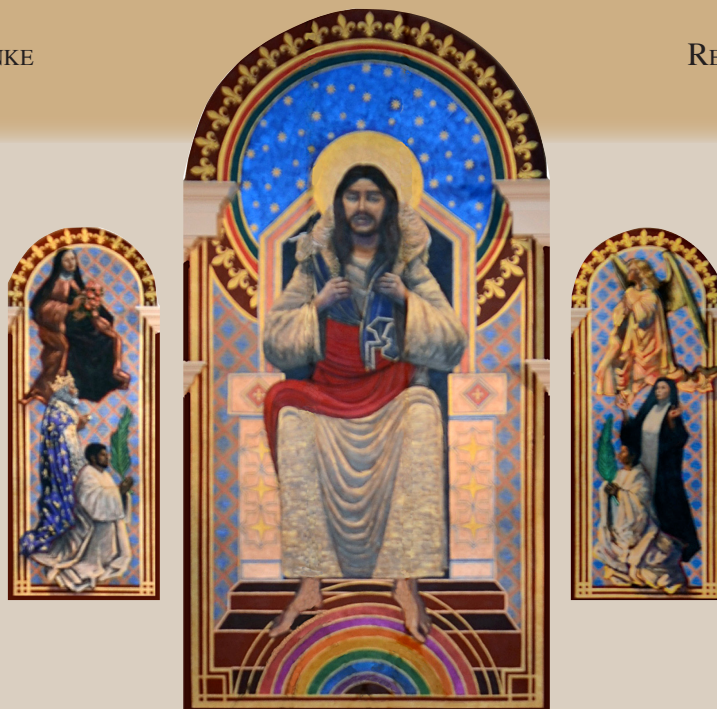


Church of Saint Edward the Confessor



PASTOR:
MSGR. PAUL P. ENKE

DEACON:
REV. MR. JOHN BARBOUR



COME NOW, KING OF HEROES! DO NOT
DELAY TOO LONG! WE HAVE NEED
OF MERCIES! THAT YOU WILL FREE US!

785 NEWARK-GRANVILLE ROAD • GRANVILLE, OHIO 43023 • WWW.SAINTEDWARDS.ORG

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**BAPTISMAL CLASS:
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**MARRIAGE PREPARATION
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DCN. JOHN AND
CINDY BARBOUR 740-587-3254

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PRAYER CHAIN
CINDY KENDRICK 740-366-2871
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Mass Schedule

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE:

SATURDAY: 5:00 P.M.
SUNDAY: 8:15 A.M.
10:45 A.M.

HOLY DAY MASS SCHEDULE:

TBA IN BULLETIN

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE:

MONDAY, TUESDAY,
WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY: 9:00 A.M.

ADORATION:

MONDAY: 9:30 A.M.-12:00 NOON
FRIDAY: 9:30 A.M.-12:00 NOON

CONFESSIONS:

SATURDAY: 4:00-4:30 P.M.

BULLETIN SUBMISSION

DEADLINE:

MONDAY NOON

E-mail: church@saintedwards.org



MASSSES THIS WEEK

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday, June 27

8:15 a.m. Living & Deceased Members
of St. Edward Parish

10:45 a.m. Helen Reding (RIP)
by Mark & Marianne Devenny

Monday, June 28 – St. Irenaeus, Bishop & Martyr

9:00 a.m. Nancy Davis (RIP Anniversary)
by Family

Tuesday, June 29 – STS. PETER & PAUL, APOSTLES

10:00 a.m. Funeral Mass

Wednesday, June 30 – First Martyrs of the
Holy Roman Church

9:00 a.m. Living & Deceased Members,
Gaul/Behan Families
by David & Patricia Gaul

Thursday, July 1 – St. Junipero Serra, Priest

No 9:00 a.m. Herman Leo (RIP)
Mass by Dale & Linda Panko

Friday, July 2

9:00 a.m. Helen Reding (RIP)
by Mark & Marianne Devenny

Saturday, July 3

5:00 p.m. Deceased Members,
Shafer/Montgomery Families
by Maxine Montgomery

Sunday, July 4 – Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:15 a.m. Living & Deceased Members
of St. Edward Parish

10:45 a.m. Intentions of Kendall Carpenter
(Birthday) by Maggie Barno

Participate in weekend Mass from your home via
Online Mass at the parish website
www.saintedwards.org

13TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JUNE 27, 2021 – YEAR B

Music and readings are printed in the worship aid
for this weekend's Masses.

CANTORS

5:00 p.m.: Beth Spieles
8:15 a.m.: Dave Conway
10:45 a.m.: Kevin Skinner



NOTES FROM THE LOFT

*"Sing to the Lord, all the earth.
Sing to the Lord, bless his name."*

Psalms 96

♪ Psalms have long been the foundation of liturgical music. In the many centuries since their composition, they have been sung by Jewish, Catholic, and other Christian communities gathered in prayer. All three of our hymns today are paraphrases of Psalms. "From All That Dwell Below the Skies" and "O Bless the Lord, My Soul" are eighteenth-century settings of Psalm 117 and Psalm 103, and "O God, You Search Me" is an arrangement of Psalm 139 composed in 1992. As Scripture – the Word of God – the Psalms speak anew to every generation. May they be on our lips and in our hearts today.

♪ Now that the restrictions on choirs have been lifted, our volunteer funeral choir will soon resume singing. In the days prior to each funeral Mass, I call choir members to inform them of its date and time (usually 10:00 a.m. on weekdays). If they are able to sing, they come to the loft shortly before the Mass. There are no scheduled rehearsals. If you are interested in joining, please contact me (Paul) at music@saintedwards.org or 740-587-3254.

~ Paul Radkowski, Music Director
music@saintedwards.org, 740-587-3254



*"I rejoiced when they said unto me,
let us go into the house of the Lord."*

Psalms 122:1

We welcome all visitors and parishioners who have come to worship at St. Edward Church today. To our visitors, you may have come as a stranger to us, yet you are known to Our Lord, Jesus Christ. In His name, we pray you will find peace, hospitality, and friendship with us.

SUPPORTING ST. EDWARD CHURCH

*"Each one must do as he has purposed in his heart,
not grudgingly or under compulsion,
for God loves a cheerful giver."*

2 Corinthians 9:7

**Thank you for your generous support
of St. Edward Church.**

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Offertory for the week of June 20 \$ 5,836.06
Online Giving was \$ 10,742.00

DIOCESAN COLLECTION

June 27 – Holy Father Peter's Pence

***If you no longer need envelopes, please contact
the Parish Office.***

Online Offertory and donating to SVdP is easy to do.
Go to the St. Edward website www.saintedwards.org
and click on the "DONATE ONLINE" button.

Note: With any changes to your credit card, please
log in to update your online account for making
online contributions. As a safeguard, the program
automatically suspends your contributions if changes
have occurred to your card. For help, contact Cheryl
Bogges at the Parish Office.

MEN OF THE EAST

Men of the East will meet at St. Edward on Thursday, July 8 at 7:00 p.m. for a Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration. All men of the parish are invited to attend. Men of the East is a Catholic Men's Laity Ministry, comprised of practicing Catholic men who attend one of the 12 parishes in Knox, Licking, or Muskingum counties. The group exists to support, strengthen, and help maximize the spiritual growth of Catholic men. It is part of the Men's Laity Ministry of the Diocese of Columbus, Ohio.

LIVING I DO



One way to grow in friendship with your spouse is to pursue a common goal. Maybe this means discerning a call to serve together. Is there something God is asking you to do as a couple? Pay attention to the needs of your church; the church bulletin is a good point of reference for you to discover ways to serve. Pray for God's guidance; He will show you.

Mary, who had the world's most perfect marriage, is always ready to help you.

WITH SYMPATHY



The parish extends deepest sympathy to the family of June Plute, beloved mother of parishioner David Plute. May she rest in the eternal presence of God.

A WORD FROM YOUR PASTOR

1. We're officially pulling the curtain on the 2021 Bishop's Annual Appeal. ***Thanks so much to all who made this year's campaign an outstanding success!*** As of last Tuesday, our pledges stood at \$210,502.00. Wonderful! (late pledges always welcome.)
2. I'm happy to announce that Greg Lombardi, of our parish, has been selected to serve as an assistant in our PSR office. He will begin his training in July. We thank all those who expressed an interest in the position.
3. We are still searching for a replacement for our full-time position of Parish Youth Minister. We have placed a notice in *The Catholic Times*, but I'm told the field is not overflowing with candidates. Please pray that a good candidate surfaces soon.
4. **Fireflies** – you may recall that, last week, I spoke at Mass about the arrival of lightening bugs/fireflies in the backyard – a sure sign of summer! The following is taken from Hal Borland's book, *Twelve Moons of the Year*:

In daylight, they are small, drab, soft-bodied beetles that annoy nobody and are seldom noticed. Then darkness comes and the warm summer night is filled with winking lights of mystery. Those inconspicuous little beetles take to the air over suburban lawns and rural meadows and the darkness comes alive and glowing with a special kind of fantasy.

All we really know is that fireflies make a special magic of the warm summer night. We go out in the darkness and there they are; like a host of twinkling stars come down to spangle the night and create that incredible ballet of soft light. That is enough, really – to see, to know, to marvel. That night should have its own secrets, even such a haunting one as the luminous mystery of the firefly.

SCHEDULE A MASS

The parish office will now begin to schedule Masses **for the first six months of 2022 – January through June only**. To schedule a Mass, contact Maggie at the Church Office. As there are always many parishioners who want to schedule Masses, each family will be limited to three weekend Masses and three weekday Masses in the six-month period. To comply with Diocesan Finance Office policies, the \$10.00 stipend is asked to be received at the time of the request. Drop an envelope marked "Mass Request" in the collection basket, mail it to the Church, or pay online within one week of scheduling a Mass.

YOU ARE NEEDED PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING OUT


"It is in giving that we receive" ~ St. Francis of Assisi



FUNERAL LUNCHEON TEAM MEMBERS NEEDED!

St. Edward's always prepared an after-funeral luncheon for families and friends of a deceased parishioner. This meal provided the bereaved a beginning in the healing process as they come together. COVID-19 restrictions kept us from these meals, but now we can resume funeral luncheons. However, for health reasons, etc. our teams are now sorely depleted. **To continue this important ministry, YOU are needed! With six teams, your time commitment would be minimal.** Please contact the Church Office at 740-587-3254 to volunteer. Thank you!

USHERS NEEDED FOR ALL MASSES

Would YOU help and become an usher?  **Ushers**
Please sign up at the table in the Gathering Space or call Ginny at 740-344-3885.



LECTORS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS NEEDED

Would you serve as a Lector or Eucharistic Minister? Please sign up at the table in the Gathering Space.



PSR TEACHERS NEEDED

Contact the PSR office to volunteer.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM



"No one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit."

John 3:5

BAPTISM PREPARATION

Congratulations on the upcoming birth of your child! To prepare for a Baptism, expectant parents attend the Baptismal Preparation Class and choose godparents for their child. Godparents are models of faith for their godchildren. A godparent must be a fully-initiated Catholic who is *actively* living a life of faith and is at least 16 years old. For information about Baptismal Preparation and godparents, contact Cheryl Boggess in the Parish Office at 740-587-3254.

This Week at St. Edward

Sunday, June 27 ~ Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass – 8:15 a.m.

Mass – 10:45 a.m.

Monday, June 28

Mass – 9:00 a.m.

Adoration after Mass until noon.



Tuesday, June 29

Funeral Mass for June Plute – 10:00 a.m.

Parish Council – 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, June 30

Mass – 9:00 a.m.

Friday, July 2

Mass – 9:00 a.m.

Adoration after Mass until noon.



Saturday, July 3

Confession – 4:00-4:30 p.m.

Mass – 5:00 p.m.

Participate in Online Mass via the parish website at www.saintedwards.org.

RCIA



"Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you to give the reason for your hope."

1 Peter 3:15

Are you thinking about becoming Catholic and have a lot of questions about the faith? RCIA is the process by which non-Catholics learn about the teachings of the Church and the tenets of the Catholic Faith before entering the Catholic Faith. If you are curious about the Catholic Faith, but are unsure about becoming Catholic, please feel free to attend RCIA classes. Are you already a Catholic who wants to deepen your faith or take a "refresher" course on your faith? Would you be interested in supporting someone in the process of becoming Catholic? If you said "yes" to any of these questions, then RCIA is for you! For more information, please contact:

~ Deacon John Barbour, RCIA Director
barfamilybour@yahoo.com



Disciple Maker Index Results

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

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



Reviewing the Results

Phase I (May - June)

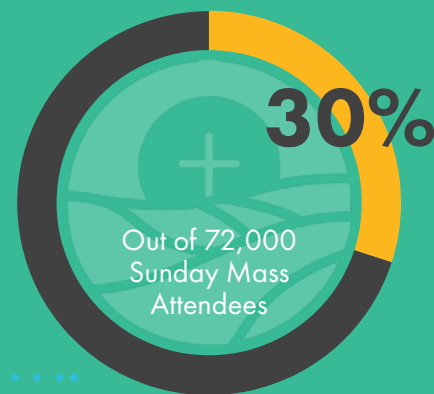
The DMI parish-specific results were sent to each parish to be reviewed by the pastor and his RPRF parish representatives, all of whom attended an information webinar in May to learn how to read and interpret the DMI data for their parish. They met to review the outcomes together and to draw meaningful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

Phase II (late June - July)

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

Total Surveys:
21,462

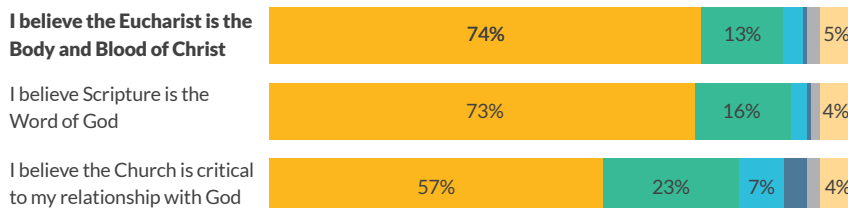
■ Survey Participants
■ Non-Participants



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

Strengths

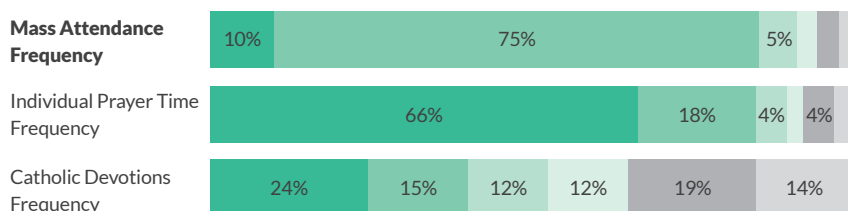
► Among the belief questions, survey respondents indicated the strongest belief in the following areas:



Legend

Strongly Agree (Yellow), Agree (Green), Neither Agree/Disagree (Blue), Disagree (Dark Blue), Strongly Disagree (Grey), I Do Not Know (Orange)

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



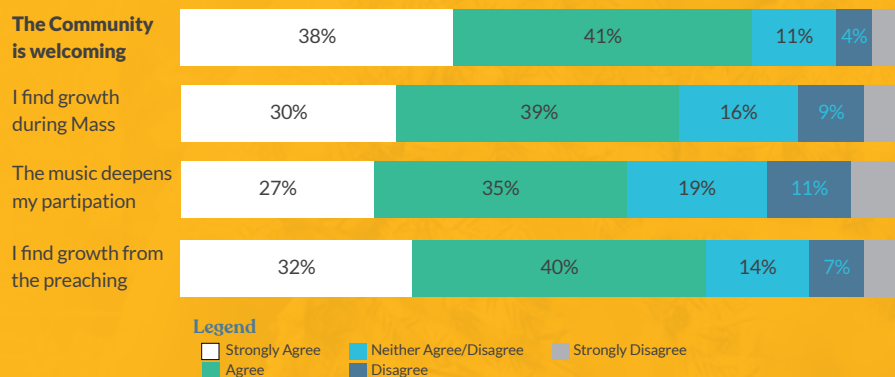
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Daily (Dark Green), Weekly (Light Green), Monthly (Medium Green), Quarterly (Light Blue), 1-2x per year (Grey), Never (Dark Grey)

The Sunday Experience

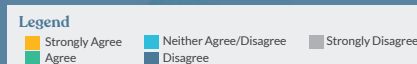
While the pandemic has forced us to do things a little differently over the past year, parishioner perceptions on the Sunday experience in their parish remain relatively in alignment with parishioner perceptions from around the country pre-pandemic. Welcome and hospitality as well as music that helps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

► How I personally view the Sunday Mass



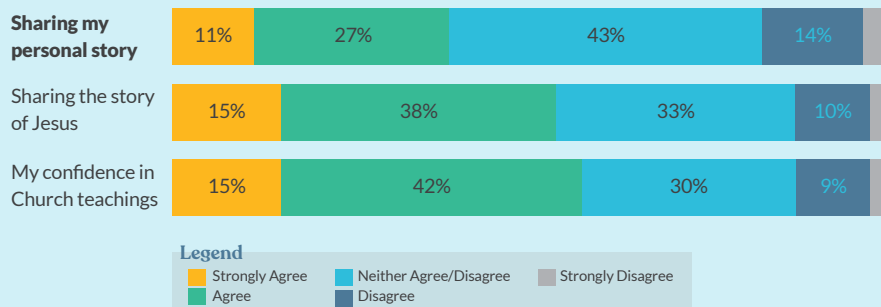
Fostering Spiritual Growth

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

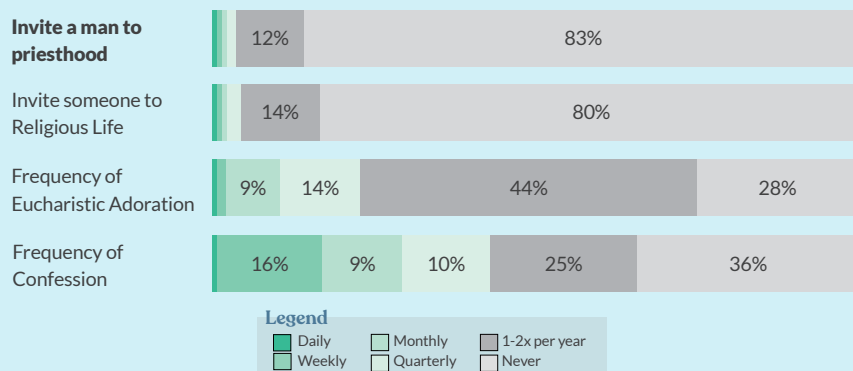


Opportunities

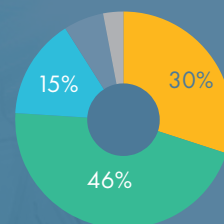
► With respect to the areas in which survey respondents felt they needed the most support from their parishes, the most significant were:



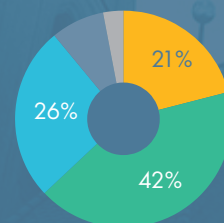
► With respect to the faith practices that survey respondents indicated they were doing the least, the most significant were:



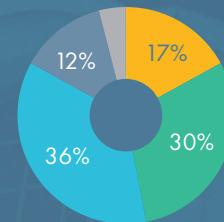
The Parish helps me grow **spiritually**



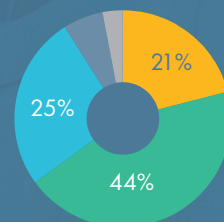
The Parish helps me grow my **prayer life**



The Parish helps me grow through **small groups**



The Parish helps me grow through **formation as a disciple**



What's Next?



Opportunities for Growth

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

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

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

5 Questions You Might Have

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

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

2. Who didn't we hear from?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5. Where do we go from here?

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



Lectio Divina

SCRIPTURE READING + MEDITATION + PRAYER + CONTEMPLATION

“What page, what passage of the inspired books of the Old and New Testaments is not the truest of guides for human life?” ~Saint Benedict, from the *Rule of Saint Benedict* (73:3)

Month of June ~ Dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

"Our Christian destiny is, in fact, a great one: but we cannot achieve greatness unless we lose all interest in being great. For our own idea of greatness is illusory, and if we pay too much attention to it we will be lured out of the peace and stability of the being God gave us, and seek to live in a myth we have created for ourselves. And when we are truly ourselves we lose most of the futile self-consciousness that keeps us constantly comparing ourselves with others in order to see how big we are."

~EXCERPTED FROM *NO MAN IS AN ISLAND* BY FATHER THOMAS MERTON, OCSO

Monday, June 28 ~ Thirteenth Week of Ordinary Time

Saint Irenaeus, Bishop and Martyr

Holy Gospel: Matthew 8:18-22 When Jesus saw a crowd around him, he gave orders to cross to the other shore. A scribe approached and said to him, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go." Jesus answered him, "Foxes have dens and birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to rest his head." Another of his disciples said to him, "Lord, let me go first and bury my father." But Jesus answered him, "Follow me, and let the dead bury their dead."

Meditation: When the Lord Jesus calls us to follow him, he invites us into a personal relationship of love and friendship. That relationship also involves the commitment of our entire lives to Jesus as Lord and Master, Teacher and Healer, Messiah and Savior. To follow Jesus is the greatest of all calls. What an awesome privilege and an awesome responsibility to be a disciple of Jesus Christ! What does it cost to be a disciple? For the first disciples, they paid the ultimate price for being a follower of Jesus by not renouncing Christ as Lord, Savior, Messiah; by not renouncing Christ's teachings; by being steadfast disciples of Christ. A disciple must be willing to make sacrifices, even the sacrifice of his own life to follow Jesus as his Master and Lord. Notice how another would-be disciple responded by saying that he must first bury his father, that is go back home and take care of his father until he died. Jesus appealed to the man's heart and told him to detach himself from whatever might keep him from following as his disciple.

Prayer: O God, who called the Bishop Saint Irenaeus to confirm true doctrine and the peace of the Church, grant, we pray, through his intercession, that, being renewed in faith and charity, we may always be intent on fostering unity and concord. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: What can keep us from giving our all to God? Fear, anxiety, self-concern, pre-occupation and attachment to other things, to name a few. Even spiritual things can get in the way of having God alone as our Treasure if we put them first. Detachment is a necessary step if we want to make the Lord our Treasure and Joy. It frees us to give ourselves without reserve to the Lord and to his service. There is nothing greater we can do with our lives than to place them at the service of the Lord and Master of the universe. We cannot out give God in generosity. Jesus promises that those who are willing to part with what is most dear to them for his sake "will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life" (Matthew 19:29). Is there anything holding you back from giving your all to the Lord?

Tuesday, June 29 ~ Thirteenth Week in Ordinary Time

Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles

Holy Gospel: Matthew 13:16-19 When Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

Simon Peter said in reply, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus said to him in reply, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the Kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

Meditation: Today the Apostles Peter and Paul are commemorated. Both were martyred in Rome in the first century. They tirelessly worked for the spread of the gospel, not only to the people of Israel, but to all the nations as well. They risked their lives in the process and gladly poured out their blood in loyalty to their Master, the Lord Jesus Christ. As Paul so eloquently stated in his second epistle to Timothy: "they courageously fought the good fight, finished the race, and kept the faith" (2 Timothy 4:7). So it is worth asking: How firm is your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ? At an opportune time Jesus tested his disciples with a crucial question: Who do men say that I am and who do you say that I am? (Matthew 16:13). Jesus was widely recognized in Israel as a mighty man of God, even being compared with the greatest of the prophets, John the Baptist, Elijah, and Jeremiah. Peter, always quick to respond, exclaimed that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God. No mortal being could have revealed this to Peter; but only God. Jesus then conferred on Peter authority to govern the church that Jesus would build, a church that no powers could overcome. Jesus played on Peter's name which is the same word for "rock" in both Aramaic and Greek. To call someone a "rock" is one of the greatest of compliments.

Prayer: Grant, we pray, O Lord our God, that we may be sustained by the intercession of the blessed Apostles Peter and Paul, that, as through them you gave your Church the foundations of her heavenly office, so through them you may help her to eternal salvation. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: When Jesus asks: "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" he poses that question to each of us. Our response is twofold – one by word, and the other by action. We can proclaim Christ as our Lord and Savior, and share in his saving mission through word by sharing the message found in sacred scripture. But most important is to put the teachings of sacred scripture into action in our daily lives. If you are firm in your faith, this is something that occurs naturally. If you find yourself hesitating out of "fear" or "embarrassment" then there is work to be done in making sure that when you proclaim to be a Catholic, a Christian, a disciple of Christ, that you mean what you say and say what you mean. Don't insult Jesus with mere lip service – prove to him and to the world that you are a true disciple by living the Word day in and day out. Be a doer of the Word.

Wednesday, June 30 ~ Thirteenth Week in Ordinary Time

First Martyrs of the Church of Rome

Holy Gospel: Matthew 8:28-34 When Jesus came to the territory of the Gadarenes, two demoniacs who were coming from the tombs met him. They were so savage that no one could travel by that road. They cried out, "What have you to do with us, Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the appointed time?" Some distance away a herd of many swine was feeding. The demons pleaded with him, "If you drive us out, send us into the herd of swine." And he said to them, "Go then!" They came out and entered the swine, and the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea where they drowned. The swineherds ran away, and when they came to the town they reported everything, including what had happened to the demoniacs. Thereupon the whole town came out to meet Jesus, and when they saw him they begged him to leave their district.

Meditation: There are many times throughout our lives when we feel compelled by forces that seem to be beyond our strength to repel. In today's Gospel, two men driven mad by the force of many evil spirits found refuge in the one person who could set them free. The Gospel describes this force as savage, which connotes wild and unmentionable atrocities. Our age has certainly witnessed untold crimes and mass destruction at the hands of possessed rulers and their armies. What is more remarkable—the destructive force of these driven and possessed men, or the bended knee at Jesus' feet imploring mercy and release? God's word reminds us that no destructive force can keep anyone from the peace and safety which God offers to those who seek his help. In times of trouble, let us remember the words of the Psalmist: *A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand; but it will not come near you. ..Because you have made the Lord your refuge, the Most High your habitation (Psalm 91:7,9).*

Prayer: O God, who consecrated that abundant first fruits of the Roman Church by the blood of the Martyrs, grant, we pray, that with firm courage we may together draw strength from so great a struggle and ever rejoice at the triumph of faithful love. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Jesus took pity on these men who were overtaken by a legion of evil spirits. The destructive force of these demons is evident for all who can see as they flee and destroy a herd of swine. After Jesus freed the demoniacs the whole city came out to meet him. No one had demonstrated such power and authority against the forces of Satan as Jesus did. They feared Jesus as a result and begged him to leave them. Why would they not want Jesus to stay? Perhaps the price for such liberation from the power of evil and sin was more than they wanted to pay. Jesus is ready and willing to free us from anything that binds us and that keeps us from the love of God. Are you willing to part with anything that might keep you from his love and saving grace?

About the First Martyrs of the Church of Rome: There were Christians in Rome within a dozen or so years after the death of Jesus, though they were not the converts of the "Apostle of the Gentiles" (see Romans 15:20). Paul had not yet visited them at the time he wrote his great letter in A.D. 57-58. There was a large Jewish population in Rome. Probably as a result of controversy between Jews and Jewish Christians, the Emperor Claudius expelled all Jews from Rome in A.D. 49-50. Suetonius the historian says that the expulsion was due to disturbances in the city "caused by the certain Chrestus" [Christ]. Perhaps many came back after Claudius's death in A.D. 54. Paul's letter was addressed to a church with members from Jewish and gentile backgrounds. In July of A.D. 64, more than half of Rome was destroyed by fire. Rumor blamed the tragedy on Nero, who wanted to enlarge his palace. He shifted the blame by accusing the Christians. According to the historian Tacitus, a "great multitude" of Christians were put to death because of their "hatred of the human race." Peter and Paul were probably among the victims. Threatened by an army revolt and condemned to death by the senate, Nero committed suicide in A.D. 68 at the age of thirty-one. Wherever the Good News of Jesus was preached, it met the same opposition as Jesus did, and many of those who began to follow him shared his suffering and death. But no human force could stop the power of the Spirit unleashed upon the world. The blood of martyrs has always been, and will always be, the seed of Christians.

Thursday, July 1 ~ Thirteenth Week in Ordinary Time **Saint Junipero Serra, Priest**

Holy Gospel: Matthew 9:1-8 After entering a boat, Jesus made the crossing, and came into his own town. And there people brought to him a paralytic lying on a stretcher. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Courage, child, your sins are forgiven." At that, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." Jesus knew what they were thinking, and said: "Why do you harbor evil thoughts? Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"— he then said to the paralytic, "Rise, pick up your stretcher, and go home." He rose and went home. When the crowds saw this they were struck with awe and glorified God who had given such authority to men.

Meditation: *Question:* What cripples the mind and heart and stifles the healing power of love? *Answer:* Sin and an unforgiving mind and heart! You should not be amazed at the fact that sin cripples us more than any physical ailment can. Sin is the work of the kingdom of darkness and it holds us in eternal bondage. There is only one solution to sin – the healing, cleansing power of Jesus' forgiveness. Jesus' treatment of sinners upset the religious teachers of the day.

Prayer: O God, who by your ineffable mercy have been pleased through the labors of your priest Saint Junipero Serra to count many American peoples within your Church, grant by his intercession that we may so join our hearts to you in love, as to carry always and everywhere before all people the image of your Only Begotten Son. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: The crippled man in today's Gospel had been crippled not only physically, but spiritually as well. Jesus freed him from his burden of guilt and restored his body. It would be time well spent for each of us to look deeply and honestly at how we, too, may be crippled by our own sinfulness, and where we turn to for healing. It is all too easy to fall into the habit of letting society redefine what sin is and is not. Truth is truth, and sin is sin, as defined by God the Father (not civil or secular laws [e.g. abortion, same-sex marriage, etc.]); the timeless teachings of Jesus Christ (not a talk show host, newspaper or editorial columnist, or politician) and the one, true church – the Catholic Church – founded by Jesus Christ. Yes, we are sinners. And yes, all are welcome in the Catholic Church. But all are called to convert from sin, to humbly and lovingly submit ourselves to God, and to live our lives according to the will of God – not have God submit to us or to impose our will upon God. In this topsy-turvy world, there are many who place themselves and their wants, desires, lifestyle, et cetera, above God and, in doing so, recreate and relive the sin of Adam and Eve. When we search for the truth, when we search for answers, for

guidance and direction, for healing and reconciliation, it is the Lord in his infinite love and mercy who is every ready to bring us healing of mind, body, and soul. His grace brings us freedom from the power of sin and from bondage to harmful desires and addictions. A first step – primary action – is receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation with a priest, who has the power to absolve you of your sins and to get you back on the road to follow Jesus Christ. What is holding you back?

**Please say daily prayer for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.
Your prayers and those of all who are faithful truly matter!**

SERRA PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

O God, Who wills not the death of a sinner but rather that he be converted and live
grant we beseech you through the intercession of the Blessed Mary, ever Virgin,
Saint Joseph, her spouse, Saint Junipero Serra and all the saints
an increase of laborers for Your Church,
fellow laborers with Christ to spend and consume themselves for souls
through the same Jesus Christ Your Son Who lives and reigns with You
in the unity of the Holy Spirit one God forever and ever. Amen.

SERRA VOCATION PRAYER

Lord Jesus, Son of the Eternal Father and Mary Immaculate, give to our young people the generosity
necessary to follow Your call and the courage to overcome all obstacles to their vocation in life.

Give to parents that faith, love, and spirit of sacrifice which will inspire them to offer their children
to God's service and to rejoice whenever one of their children is called to the
priesthood or the religious life.

Let your example and that of our Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph
encourage both young people and parents, and let Your grace sustain them. Amen.

Friday, July 2 ~ Thirteenth Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Matthew 9:9-13 As Jesus passed by, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the customs post. He said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him. While he was at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat with Jesus and his disciples. The Pharisees saw this and said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" He heard this and said, "Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. Go and learn the meaning of the words, I desire mercy, not sacrifice. I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."

Meditation: We live in a world where Jesus constantly invites each of us to follow him. And yet, on this day when we celebrate our country's birth, there are many reasons to celebrate the blessings that God has bestowed on our country, and causes for concern about the freedoms we exercise. Does Christ invite us to follow him to view pornography? Does Jesus invite us to follow him by participating in any way in having an abortion? Does Jesus invite us to participate in same-sex marriage? Of course not, as these are contrary to God's laws and the teachings of Jesus Christ. And yet so many Americans – including those who call themselves Christian – regularly participate in these sinful acts and, in doing so, choose not follow Christ. On this day when we celebrate the birth of the United States of America, let us pray that our fellow citizens – men and women of all ages, walks of life, and religious faiths – will turn away from all that separates us from the love of God, and in doing so simply take up Jesus Christ on his personal invitation to each and every one of us when he says: "follow me."

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

Contemplation: What is God's call on your life? When Jesus saw Matthew sitting at his tax office – no doubt counting his day's profit – Jesus spoke only two words – "follow me." Those two words changed Matthew's life forever, from a self-serving profiteer to a God-loving God-serving apostle who would bring the treasures of God's kingdom to the poor and needy. Jesus says "follow me" to every man and woman on this earth. How do you respond to Jesus' invitation to follow him? Take Christ up on his personal invitation to "follow me," and in doing so let your life be forever changed.

Scripture passages (NAB translation) courtesy of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops;
prayers are from *The Roman Missal*, Catholic Book Publishing, 2011;
information about saints, solemnities, feasts and memorials courtesy of Catholic Culture.

Know Your Saints

Sts. Peter and Paul ~ June 29 is the Feast Day of Sts. Peter and Paul. As early as the year 258, there is evidence of the tradition of celebrating both saints on the same day. Together, the two saints are the founders of the See of Rome, through their preaching, ministry and martyrdom there. Simon was a fisherman of Galilee and was introduced to the Lord Jesus by his brother Andrew, also a fisherman. Jesus gave him the name Cephas (Petrus in Latin), which means “Rock,” because he was to become the rock upon which Christ would build His Church. Peter was a bold follower of the Lord. He was the first to recognize that Jesus was “the Messiah, the Son of the living God,” and eagerly pledged his fidelity until death. In his boldness, he also made many mistakes, however, such as losing faith when walking on water with Christ and betraying the Lord on the night of His Passion. Despite his human weaknesses, Jesus chose Peter to shepherd God’s flock. The Acts of the Apostles illustrates his role as head of the Church after the Resurrection and Ascension of Christ. Peter led the Apostles as the first Pope and ensured that the disciples kept the true faith. St. Peter spent his last years in Rome, leading the Church through persecution and eventually being martyred in the year 64. He was crucified upside-down at his own request because he claimed he was not worthy to die as his Lord. He was buried on Vatican hill, and St. Peter’s Basilica is built over his tomb.

St. Paul was the Apostle of the Gentiles. Through his letters in the New Testament, we learn much about his life and the faith of the early Church. Before receiving the name Paul, he was Saul, a Jewish pharisee who zealously persecuted Christians in Jerusalem. Scripture records that Saul was present at the martyrdom of St. Stephen. Saul’s conversion took place as he was on his way to Damascus to persecute the Christians there. As he was traveling along the road, he was suddenly surrounded by a great light from heaven. He was blinded and then heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, why do you persecute me?” He answered: “Who are you, Lord?” Christ said: “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.” Saul continued to Damascus, where he was Baptized, and his sight was restored. He took the name Paul and spent the remainder of his life preaching the Gospel tirelessly to the Gentiles of the Mediterranean world. Paul was imprisoned and taken to Rome, where he was beheaded in the year 67. He is buried in Rome, in the Basilica of St. Paul, outside the walls.

from Catholic News Agency

St. Irenaeus ~ was involved in Church controversies in the 2nd century. He was a student of apostolic teachings. As bishop of Lyons, he was concerned with the Gnostics (who took their name from the Greek word for “knowledge”) who claimed access to “secret knowledge” imparted by Jesus to only a few disciples. Their teaching attracted and confused many Christians. After investigating the various Gnostic sects and their “secret,” Irenaeus showed to what logical conclusions their tenets led. These he contrasted with the teaching of the apostles and the text of Holy Scripture, giving us, in 5 books, a system of theology of great importance to subsequent times. His work, widely-used and translated into Latin, gradually ended the influence of the Gnostics. His Feast Day is June 28.

from Franciscan Media



A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR OF SVDP CENTER: ST. VINCENT DE PAUL TO OPEN ANOTHER THRIFT STORE

St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP) was gifted with a building for a second Thrift Store by the Evans Foundation. It is located at 202 East Main Street in Newark. Volunteers have been working hard to prepare the store for opening.

The store is ready to open, but presently, there are not enough volunteers to open it. Proceeds from the Thrift Store are used to fund SVDP programs for those who are experiencing homelessness in Licking County. Are YOU able to help? ANY amount of time you can offer is helpful. Whatever amount of time that fits your schedule is perfect – from one hour any day of the week/month to more time than that. And you can select the area where you would like to work, or you can be directed to work where help is most needed when you come in. The bottom line is this: You are needed! Please prayerfully consider helping at the SVDP Thrift Store. Call 740-340-1600 and leave a message to let me know when you can volunteer. Together, we can help our homeless neighbors in Licking County. Blessings to each of you,

Barb Scholten, Director,
SVDP Center, 740-340-1600



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CONFERENCE

Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to me."

Matthew 25:40



SVdP Food Collection is June 26 & 27.

Hamburger Helper is always needed at the Food Pantry.

Please help those who are less fortunate by volunteering at St. Vincent de Paul.



Jesus said, "I am among you as one who serves."

Luke 22:27

The Haven needs meal preparation on June 29.

Could you step in to prepare a meal?

Contact Barb Scholten at 740-258-3230.

FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



- **COOKING TEAM** – Join a team to cook dinner for the Haven



- **STOCK SHELVES** – Mondays and/or Thursdays



- **ASSIST FOOD PANTRY GUESTS** – Tuesday p.m. or Saturday a.m. – only one time per month



- **CLEAN FOOD PANTRY** – Your choice of day and time

Can you help? For more information, call Barb Scholten at 740-258-3230.



"Give me a person of prayer, and such a one will be capable of accomplishing anything."

~ St. Vincent de Paul

Is there someone in your life who is in need of prayer? Members of the St. Edward PRAYER CHAIN are ready to pray for you, a family member or a friend. Contact Cindy Kendrick at 740-366-2871 or email cck1@att.net to be covered in prayer. Would **you** like to pray for others? Please contact Cindy for information.

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WIS 1:13-15, 2:23-24; PS 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11, 12, 13;

2 COR 8:7, 9, 13-15;

MK 5:21-43 OR 5:21-24, 35b-43



Our readings today remind us that our God is a tender and loving God. In our Gospel, Jesus heals an ill child. An anxious and loving father sought after Jesus so that his daughter might be cured of her illness. As Jesus was traveling to heal her, they got word that the daughter had died. In that deeply painful moment, a moment no parent wants to experience, Jesus turned and said, "Do not be afraid; just have faith." Recall a moment when you felt like you hit rock bottom. Maybe you received devastating news, someone died, you lost your job, you were fighting addiction, or you were suffering mentally, spiritually or physically. Maybe you are living that moment or maybe that moment is yet to come. In that time, imagine Jesus looking at you and saying, "Do not be afraid; just have faith." Remember this verse. May it bring you peace and comfort. Recall that in our First Reading, God does not rejoice in our suffering and death. He rejoices in our faith and our trust in His glorious plan for our lives. Whether we are healed like the little girl in our Gospel in this life, or we carry our suffering with us until we reach the next, if we remain faithful, Jesus will one day say to us, "Little girl or little boy, I say to you, arise!" Today, let us reflect on how much our Good and Gracious God loves us. Remember that whatever we are suffering in this life, do not be afraid; God is right there with us.

— Stewardship Reflections by
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