



ST. PETER'S CHURCH

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Liberty, NY 12754

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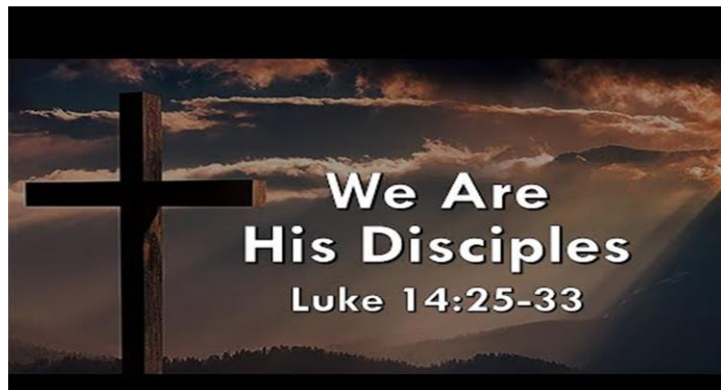
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September 4, 2022

**Twenty-third Sunday in
Ordinary Time**



LIVING OUR FAITH

Imagine how strange it must have felt for Jesus' disciples to hear him say, "*Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.*" Not only is this horrifying in itself, but this is the second time in St. Luke's gospel where Jesus speaks of taking up one's cross. The disciples will soon realize, if they already haven't, that the cross is not something to be avoided but embraced.

The cross is an image of complete self-gift. Jesus gives himself totally for us through his death on the cross. We are also called to share the gift of ourselves, even when we might not be literally called to die for our faith. We practice self-gift when we give our time to others, listening attentively instead of always checking our phone. We practice self-gift when we make decisions that benefit the good of others instead of ourselves. We practice self-gift when we recognize that we do not exist as isolated individuals and all of God's creation does not revolve around us. Our faith helps us to see the cross as much more than something that meets the eye. Instead of death, we see life. Instead of rejection, we see glorification. So we follow Jesus' command to carry our cross after him that we too might know the joy in living for others.

Questions for the week: *What is the hardest part about following Christ? Do you ever plan your methods of being a better Christian? How might you plan your own spiritual improvement?*



There's no shortage of ways to engage faith online

U.S. Catholic readers share how they live their faith on social media.

NATHANIEL HUNTER

Talk of social media seems to be almost inescapable at this point. During the COVID-19 pandemic, social media became one of the last lifelines connecting many people to their communities as they shifted to spending most of their lives indoors. Yet this was hardly the beginning of our societal hyper-focus on the topic.

Long before coronavirus and social distancing entered the mainstream vocabulary, hordes of books, essays, and documentaries spent countless words and hours debating the effects of social media on the world at large. Many of these evaluations did not come to positive conclusions: Sites such as Facebook and Twitter are at best useful but highly dangerous tools that need to be carefully managed, they determined, and at worst a social blight that does little besides foster division, distraction, and exploitation.

But, if you ask U.S. Catholic readers, reports of society's oncoming demise at the hands of social media have been greatly exaggerated. Contrary to the hand-wringing and worrying found in documentaries like Netflix's *The Social Dilemma* or many a *New York Times* opinion piece, 85 percent of those who responded to our survey say that social media is generally a good thing. A whopping 75 percent even agree that social media adds something valuable to their life.

In fact, most respondents believe that social media is not only positive in general, but also helps them grow in their faith. Fifty-four percent of respondents say their time on social media has improved their faith life, while only 4 percent say it has degraded it.

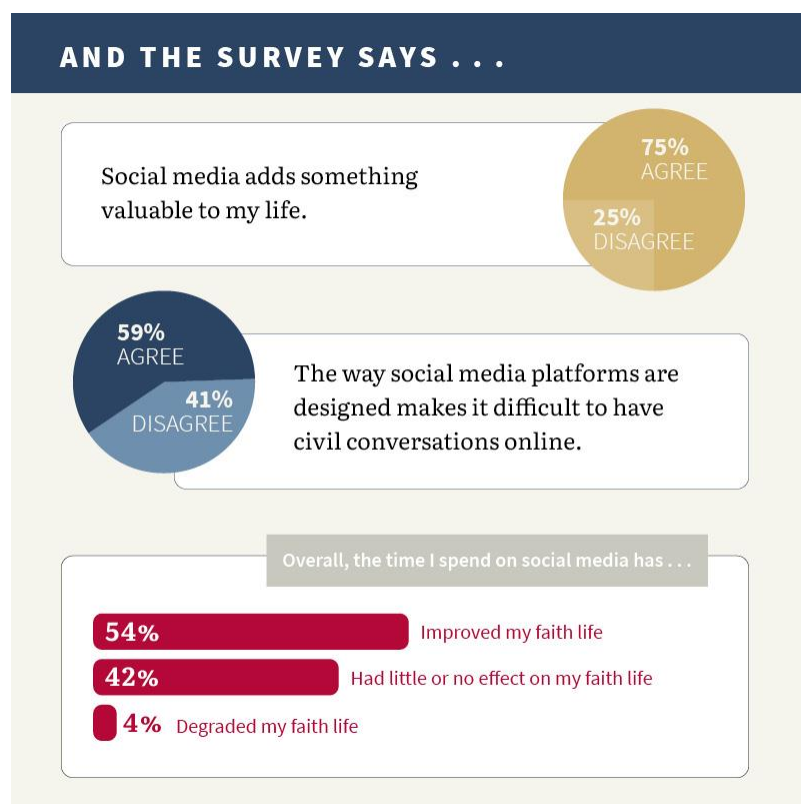
"If St. Paul were alive today, he would be using social media," says Robert Lucien Robinson of Vanier, Ontario. "It's an invaluable tool."

Coming together

One oft-discussed concern about social media use is that it creates more isolation than connection and that it can become a substitute for real community and face-to-face human interaction. Some survey respondents voice a similar concern, including Tom Rinkoski of Minneapolis, who writes, "Social media, for all its color and glitz, seems empty to me. It's too easy to just arrange images and words as if you were a marketer, instead of engaging in face-to-face time."

However, based on this survey, many find that social media can be just as easily used to supplement real-life communities. Eighty percent of readers say they use social media to stay in touch with family and friends: This is far and away the most popular reason for being on social media platforms. The next most common use, chosen by 54 percent of readers, is connecting with people in their parishes or faith communities.

“I need to use social media to keep up with family and friends,” says Robert Moore of Germantown, Maryland. “But I rarely post publicly. I just read.” Ron Signore of El Paso, Texas agrees, saying that his favorite thing about social media is having “instant contact with family in Chicago and Florida and getting up-to-date pictures of my 6-year-old grandson.”



This use of social media as a tool to stay in touch with real-life communities is reflected by the platforms survey respondents say they use: Seventy-eight percent are on Facebook, whose functionality emphasizes connecting with people you’ve met in real life and joining local community pages. Meanwhile, only 25 percent of readers use Twitter, a platform more suited to following celebrities and influencers and brimming with anonymous users.

YouTube is also a very popular platform, used by 66 percent of respondents. This might have something to do with the shift to viewing livestreamed Masses during the COVID-19 pandemic. This is the case for Mary Smith of Rochester, New York, who writes, “As an elderly person, I appreciated having YouTube so I could get access to Mass at home.”

Most respondents say they make every effort to remain civil on social media. Ninety-six percent say they try to be intentional about not getting into arguments on social media, even though 59 percent say that the way social media platforms are designed makes it difficult to have civil conversations online.

Despite this, respondents list numerous strategies to turn these platforms into places where peace and community can thrive. Some, like Adele Berthelot of Gramercy, Louisiana, note that the most important thing is “always responding in

charity.” Patty Amato of Claremont, California adds that even “if I say something mean, I go back to change or delete it.”

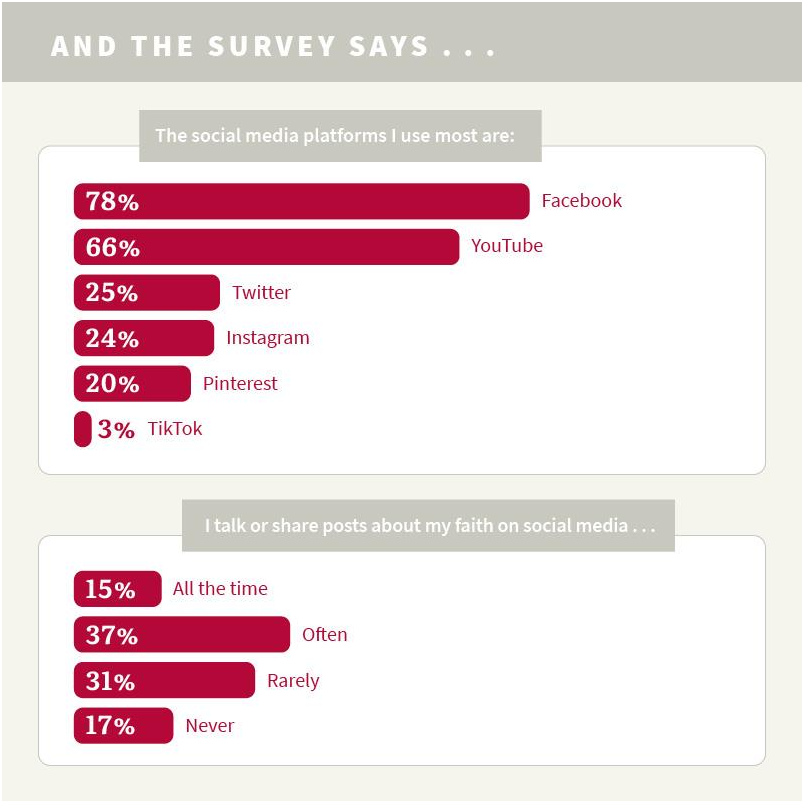
Others simply do their best to avoid known hotbeds for controversy. “Stay out of conflict and political conversations,” says Deb Keenan of Hamburg, New York.

“Avoid hyper-negative and dogmatic sites that are not life-giving,” adds Mary Dean Lesher of Grand Junction, Colorado.

Seeking the truth

It’s safe to say that survey respondents have no shortage of ways in which to interact with their faith online: Seventy-seven percent follow faith-based social media accounts. It is interesting to note, however, that much of this faith sharing seems to be lay led. When asked which Catholics they pay the most attention to on social media, the most popular answers—even beating out Pope Francis himself—are lay influencers, writers, and theologians, which 65 percent of respondents cite (60 percent selected the pope’s accounts, so he’s not too far behind).

The most frequently followed lay-run resource was the *National Catholic Reporter*, but readers also commonly mentioned smaller blogs such as *Blessed Is She*, *Where Peter Is*, and *the Pillar*.



Despite this preference for lay-led social media, when asked to name their absolute favorite Catholic social media account, one priest stood above all the rest: Jesuit Father James Martin. “I love Father Martin, because he is truthful, Christian, and pastoral,” says Linda Tuttle of Poughkeepsie, New York.

“I especially like Father James Martin,” agrees Ruth Hroncich of Brookfield, Illinois. “I think the Jesuits in general study things thoroughly and then present them in a way I can understand.”

Most readers surveyed were also very confident in their ability to avoid fake news and excessive bias online: Eighty-two percent of readers say they know how to

find out if a news source is truthful, and the same percentage say they read news from differently biased perspectives.

When asked about their strategies for checking the veracity of stories, many listed websites such as snopes.com, factcheck.org, and mediabias.com as important resources. Katherine LeDuc of Escanaba, Michigan says, “I always look for more than one source for something before I post.”

While respondents have an easy enough time finding helpful and truthful places to learn about and grow in their own faith online, their propensity to share those resources with others on social media is comparatively muted.

Although 79 percent of respondents say that social media is an effective tool for evangelization, only a slim majority commonly take advantage of the opportunity. When asked how often they talk about their faith or share posts related to it on social media, 52 percent replied with “all the time” or “often,” while 48 percent said “rarely” or “never.”

This shouldn’t be seen as a cause for alarm but rather as room for growth. If we can gather anything from this survey, it’s that U.S. Catholics have been able to form remarkably healthy communities online—and ones with a strong emphasis on lay involvement to boot. It’s easy to be hopeful that, after a period of growing together, these communities may soon begin to blossom outward into the world at large with much greater fervor.

“Social media is good in moderation. You need filters to keep people out that you haven’t invited into your world. I only socialize with sites, groups, and people that are like-minded and that make me feel proud to be Catholic and not afraid to tell everyone.”

— CHRISTINE PITTEROFF, PORTLAND, MAINE

“I keep pushing myself into the world of social media, even though I do so grudgingly. I do appreciate being able to hear from a wide variety of sources, which social media allows, though finding time and energy to follow up on the piles of information is difficult.”

— TOM RINKOSKI, MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

“Social media is here to stay in an evolving form. The answer to abuses of freedom is to get more people involved in expressing their views and not to leave platforms to the haters.”

— ROBERT MOORE, GERMANTOWN, MD.



Hymns for this Weekend – September 4th – 10:00AM Mass

- # 272: Take Up Your Cross
- # 235: Come to Me
- # 257: Gather Us In
- # 331: Crown Him with Many Crowns

Readings for this Weekend – September 4th

- Wisdom 9: 13-18
- Philemon 9-10,12-17
- Luke 14: 25-33

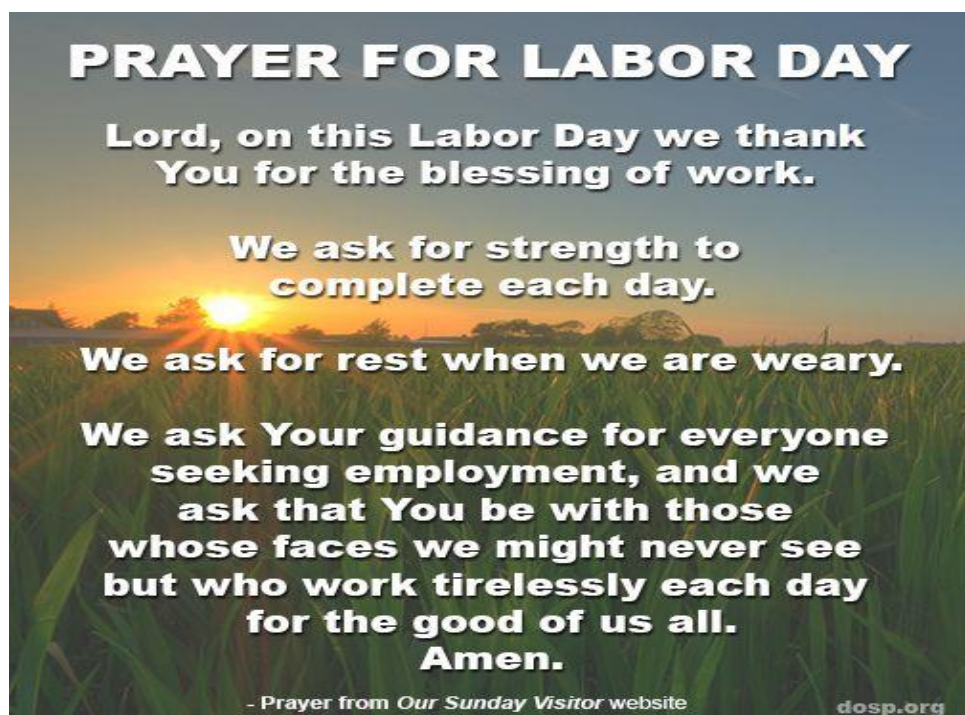
Readings for next Weekend – September 11th

- Exodus 32: 7-11
- 1Timothy 1: 12-17
- Luke 15: 1-32

Donations

Weekly Offering for August 28th: \$3,416

THANK YOU!!



BEST WISHES, KAY AND PAUL! WE WILL MISS YOU!

Over the course of the next week or two, our Parish family will bid farewell to a wonderful couple who have been an integral part of our Parish community for many, many years! Kay and Paul Murphy will be leaving the snowy winters of NY behind and will be relocating to the sunny state of Florida.

Kay and Paul have been faithful parishioners and have shared their time and talent in many capacities around the Parish throughout these many years – including, but not limited to, our RCIA Program, CCD Program, our Food Pantry and Clothes Closet Ministries, Stewardship Committee, Social Committee, Parish Council, and the list goes on and on...

Kay and Paul, your legacy of loving commitment to your Parish will live on long after you leave. Please know that you will always have a home here at St. Peter's. We will save "your seat" (on the left side next to the Nativity window) for you whenever you wish to return for a visit!

God bless you both!



PARISH CHILDREN'S SHOP ACCEPTING DONATIONS

Our Parish Children's Shop has been very busy lately! The Shop offers clothing, toys and other children's necessities to our community. Due to the very high demand, we are accepting ongoing donations of children's clothing.

Donations can be dropped off on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9:00am – 12:00pm. The Shop is located downstairs in the old St. Peter's School building and is accessible via the back door of the building.

On behalf of the children of our community, thank you!



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Our "Kick-Off" for the 2022-2023 school year of Religious Education will take place on Sunday, September 18th.

If you have not yet registered your child, please contact Christy at the Parish office as soon as possible.

Registration will remain open until September 15th.

PARISH MINISTRIES

Just a reminder that our Clothes Closet, Food Pantry and Children's Shop are open each Wednesday and Saturday from 9:00am -12:00pm. All three ministries are located in the downstairs of the old St. Peter's School building.

HELP FOR ADDICTION IS AVAILABLE!

Do you know someone who has a problem with drugs, and wants to stop using? The Corona Self-Help Center is available to offer help. For information, please call 845-482-2486 or visit www.daamerica.org.

THE WALL THAT HEALS: VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL REPLICA AND MOBILE EDUCATION CENTER

Council #16519 of the Knights of Columbus of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish in Middletown invite you to a very special event. The Wall that Heals, the three-quarter scale traveling replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. will be on display in Middletown, NY from September 15-18, 2022. The exhibit consists of the Wall replica and the mobile Education Center. The exhibit is open to the public day and night throughout the visit.

*Wishing all of our students, teachers, school administrators and school staff a
blessed and fruitful school year!*



Back to School Prayer

*We thank you for the fragrance of a new box of crayons, Lord,
The rainbow in each perfect row;
Thank you for each bundle of snowy white notebook paper,
Awaiting fresh possibilities.
May they remind us that you make all things new and bless us with abundance.
Thank you for this ruler; for every eraser that tops every pencil.
May they help us remember to measure our blessings ,
But never your boundless love for us;
To allow for the making of mistakes as a normal part of human learning.
As we lay out our new clothes for these first days of school,
Help us remember to put on Christ each day, too,
And to "clothe the naked" as He asked us.
But mostly, God, help us remember
that Jesus is always our best and most devoted teacher—
That we never outgrow all his lessons on how you want us to live and to love.*

By HomeFaith editor Mary Lynn Hendrickson

THE PALLOTTINE TEENAGE FEDERATION
INVITES ALL TEENS FROM 8TH - 12TH
GRADES AND FAMILIES TO OUR

CAMPFIRE DAY

SPONSORED BY THE PALLOTTINE SISTERS

OCTOBER 1 • 2 PM
THE VINCENT PALLOTTI CENTER
LAWN GAMES • S'MORES

We look forward to you joining us
for an afternoon of friends, faith,
fellowship, and fun!

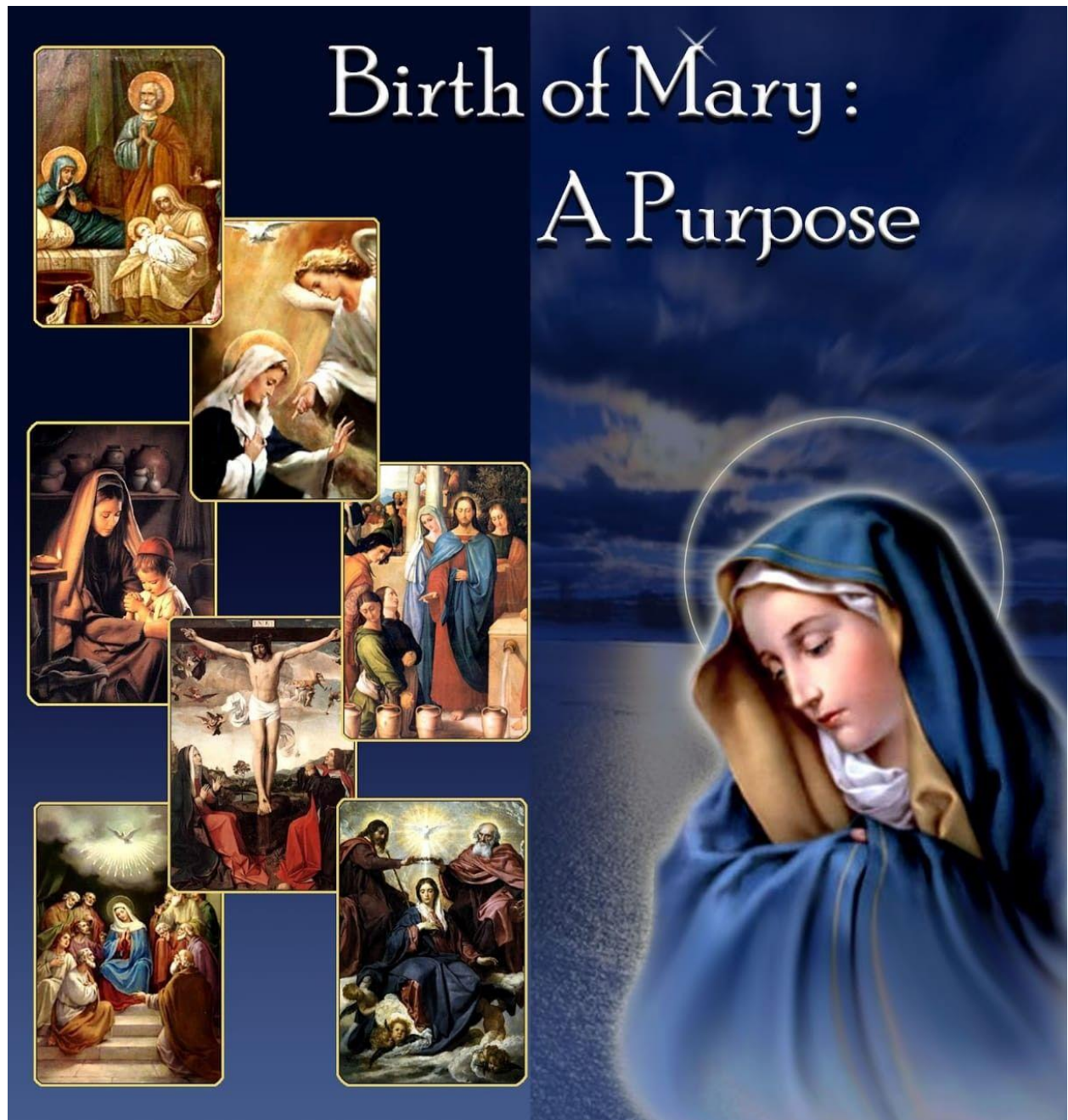


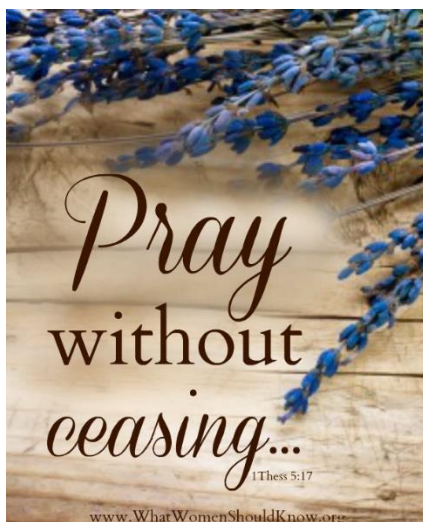
For more information contact Ashley Zaccardo (917)-576-9466
The Vincent Pallotti Center: 23 Residents Road Monroe, NY

The Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary

September 8th

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us!





LET US PRAY...

We continue to pray for peace in the troubled areas of our world, and in particular, we pray for the people of the Ukraine and all those affected by the
We join our Holy Father in his prayer intentions for September 2022 –

Abolition of the Death Penalty

We pray that the death penalty, which attacks the dignity of the human person,
may be legally abolished in every

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK AND THOSE IN NEED

If you would like to add a name to our prayer list, contact the Parish office.
We kindly ask that you do not request a name to be included without the express consent of the person for whom you are requesting prayer. While the request may be very well-intentioned, we want to respect people's right to privacy.

We ask for prayer for Charles Thomas and his ministry, Betty and Robert Friedland, Kathryn Jones and her family, Brian and Maria Cosgrove, Richard Rakin, Andrew Mikulski, Rod Baumert, Todd Conklin

PRAYERS FOR THE DEARLY DEPARTED

We lovingly remember in prayer all our deceased family members, friends, and parishioners and in particular: *Bobby Smith, Anthony Lanza, Juliana Frangipane, Robert Dubas, Nestor Mir, Jarred Doughty, Donald Hendrickson, Adalberto Santiago, Carl Belfiore, Darlene Henry, Elenore Whitney Pirrota, Steve Nicoli, Nubia Quintero-Edwards, Stanley Jacobs, William Cardone, Vincenza Siciliano, Louisa Butler, Judith King, Bernard Jones, Viola DiMarzio, Robert DeStefano, Jr., Raymond Collins, Lorraine Rakin, Wilson DeMyer, Peter Cosentino, Nadine Gallagher, Tim Rogers, Joan Davis, Debbie Huggler, Amara Campbell, Barbara Taylor, Thomas Hasbrouck, Francisco Dueno, Daniel Downes, Alberto Quirindongo, Patricia Mullen Smith, Edwin Fancher, Jr., Russell Jackson, Mary Stubits, Peter Gozza, Michael Stubits, Margaret Rapenske, Claire Delaney, Emilia Symanski, Christa Somers, Gerardo Contreras, Jesse Kinney, Lorena Alvarado, James Forshay, John Hannon, Alice La Chance, Adele Henderson, Alexa Gabby Rodriguez*

JOIN US
FOR MASS



OUR REGULAR WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday evenings at 7 PM:

Mass in Spanish

Sunday mornings at 10 AM:

*Mass in English ***

Sunday evenings at 5:30 PM:

Mass in English

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 8:30 AM (Mass in English)

******We will continue to livestream our Sunday morning Mass on Facebook.