

# 21<sup>st</sup>

*Sunday in  
Ordinary Time*



## Resting in the Holy Spirit

Saturday nights at Steubenville are famous for their Eucharistic Adoration, because it is a very powerful experience where many people have intense encounters with Jesus. I had been looking forward to this moment, until I went to confession beforehand. The priest had said something that didn't sit right with me, and it made me feel down. I talked to a group leader right before we went to Adoration, but it didn't calm me. My heart was heavy, and I couldn't keep myself from crying. I was filled with devastation – all I wanted was for God to fix it, so I told Him what was on my heart. The music then began playing as Adoration started, and it's such a powerful moment – the band plays as Jesus is brought in, and you are surrounded with hundreds of kids your age, singing along with their hands outstretched, praising God.

I stood there with my hands out and repeated the phrase "Come Holy Spirit, come now, come as you wish." I watched as the Blessed Sacrament passed down our aisle and I could feel myself shaking, specifically my right hand. I wondered – "Is this my doing or the Holy Spirit's?" I believe I was in this state for a little bit, but the next thing I remember was my weight shifting forward and falling to the ground. It was a very weird state to be in because I couldn't move, but I still knew where I was and that the group leaders were praying over me. When I was first being prayed over, I actually started screaming and couldn't do anything about it until a group leader said, "God, take away her fears." My screams subsided to chattering teeth before turning into absolute stillness. I noticed I was still mumbling the Holy Spirit prayer, and stopped saying it because the Holy Spirit was definitely present.

I asked God to reveal to me what He wanted to show me, and He then showed me two different settings. One had complete darkness and golden rings coming in and out of focus, where I could hear His voice. The second was under a willow tree with God, Jesus and Mary. The first thing I heard God say to me was, "Thank you." He thanked me for giving my heart and body completely to Him. He said it isn't an easy thing to do because it requires so much trust. Since I fully trusted Him with myself, He told me I would be blessed in the future since He would be the one guiding me.

At this point, I could feel again and was aware of how God was in my body and controlling it. God said, "Much like how My grace will bring My children back to Me, you will help bring them back to Me as well." He then started talking about college, which has been a major concern on my mind. God asked me, "Why are you giving your future so much control over your life? It is the one thing you think about constantly, and you are giving it more importance than Me. Don't worry about what school to go to. It is My job to worry about it, not yours. Instead, live your life in the present moment and enjoy it. When the time is right, I will reveal to you and guide you to where you are meant to go."

A paramedic then came to check on me. I was told to open my eyes and they sat me in a chair. It was such a peaceful state, being in God's control. When I was fully out of resting in the Holy Spirit, it felt like my whole encounter had been 15 minutes long, but in reality, 2.5 hours had passed.

*He said to them,  
"But who do you  
say that I am?"  
Simon Peter said  
in reply, "You are  
the Messiah,  
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.*

*Matthew 16:15-18*

**St. Mary Parish | August 27, 2023**



## Liturgy Schedule

**Monday, August 28th • St. Augustine**  
8:15 AM Conversion of sinners

**Tuesday, August 29th • The Passion of St. John the Baptist**  
8:15 AM Pope Francis

**Wednesday, August 30th**  
7:00 PM †John & Marie Martin

**Thursday, August 31st**  
8:15 AM †Reynold N. Thelen, including living & deceased family members

**First Friday, September 1st**  
6:15 AM †Deacon Ted Heutsche  
8:15 AM Special Intention

**First Saturday, September 2nd**  
4:30 PM People of the Parish

**Sunday, September 3rd • Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
8:00 AM †Dickie & Eunice Wirth, including living & deceased family members  
10:00 AM †Margaret & Harold Fedewa, Frank Simon, including living & deceased family members  
6:00 PM Bishop Boyea



The Sanctuary Lamp for the week of August 20th was in loving memory of *Carolyn Wirth*

The Sanctuary Lamp for this week is in loving memory of *Larry Keilen*

## Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

**ARE YOU SOMEONE OR DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO...**



- Has expressed an interest in becoming Catholic?
- Has a child over the age of seven who has not been baptized?
- Was baptized Catholic as a child, but has not celebrated the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist?

We offer an opportunity to come together in a small group to learn more about our faith. Sessions focus on the teachings and experience of Church and prepare individuals to celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist during the Easter season. There are separate sessions for children or youth. You are welcome to participate in the process with your questions, your insights and your faith story in a warm accepting setting. **Sessions begin Thursday, September 14th at 7:00 PM in the parish office. For more information please contact Barb Spitzley at 989.587.4201.**

## Happy Birthday Mother Mary!

Please join us **Wednesday, August 30th** for an early celebration of Mary's birthday (September 8th) and as we ask for Mary's powerful intercession for our new school year. **A school-wide Rosary will begin at 2 PM on the playground; the Rosary balloon launch will follow.**



## Religious Education and Sunday School Registration are now Open

Registration for **The Well** (high school CCD classes), **7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade religious education** and the **Mary Program** are now open, and forms can be picked up in the main entrance of the church. **Please return all registration forms to the parish office by Friday, September 15th.** Contact Austin Fox at [afox@stmarychurch.net](mailto:afox@stmarychurch.net) with any questions you may have.

**Sunday School** will begin on **Sunday, October 8th**, and registration forms are also available in the main entrance of the church. **All Sunday School forms should be returned to the parish office no later than Friday, September 22nd.** We are also in search of high school students to help out (community service hours would be given) – if you are interested in volunteering, please contact either Brooke Platte at 517-526-2324 or Paige Platte at 517-526-1293.



## Week at a Glance

### Monday, August 28th

5:45 AM	Eucharistic Adoration (Until 6:45 AM)
5:30 PM	Reconciliation
6:00 PM	Holy Hour with Rosary

### Tuesday, August 29th

7:00 PM	Lost Sheep Holy Hour
7:30 PM	AA (Office Basement)

### Wednesday, August 30th

5:45 AM	Eucharistic Adoration (Until 6:45 AM)
5:30 PM	Reconciliation

### Thursday, August 31st

5:45 AM	Eucharistic Adoration (Until 6:45 AM)
2:00 PM	Reconciliation

### First Friday, September 1st

9:00 AM	Eucharistic Adoration (Until 10:00 PM)
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### First Saturday, September 2nd

8:15 AM	Marian Devotions
3:00 PM	Reconciliation

## Weekly Contribution Totals

### August 15, 2023

Assumption .....	\$776.01
Number of Envelopes.....	23

### August 20, 2023

**Total Amount Received.....\$17,630.00**

Weekend Collection .....	\$10,075.00
Number of Envelopes.....	102

Assumption .....	\$318.00
Number of Envelopes.....	12

EFT & MARS.....	\$2,523.00
Transactions .....	48

We Share .....	\$4,714.00
Transactions .....	54

**Weekly Amount Needed \$25,000.00**

### Special Parish & Diocesan Donations:

Sr. Myra Educ. Scholarship .....	\$185.00
Building Maintenance .....	\$50.00

### Altar Servers Needed

We would like to bring back the third server to our weekend Masses, like we had prior to COVID. To do this we will need additional volunteers to fill these times. If you are a high school or elementary student and would like to learn what serving at Mass is all about please call the parish office at 989-587-4201. We will teach you to serve and schedule you at the Mass that is most convenient for you and your family.



## Weekend Ministry Schedule

### September 2nd • The Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:30 PM Mass

Rosary	Dan Witgen
Readers	Kevin Schafer, Lynette Witgen
EMC	Kevin Schafer, Bernice Thelen, Dan Witgen
Servers	Ryan Schafer, Jackson Smith
Ushers	Kurt Bengel, Lee Klein, Ryan Thelen, Brock Thelen

### September 3rd • The Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM Mass

Rosary	Kevin Fox
Readers	Kevin Fox, Mitchell Feldpausch
EMC	Troy Hagen, Dean & Valerie Thelen
Servers	Tyler Huhn, Damon Huhn
Ushers	Neil Koenigsnecht, Andy Theis, Dale Schmitt, Bill Keilen

10:00 AM Mass

Rosary	Gary Schafer
Readers	Gary Schafer, Ryan Pung
EMC	Ron Arens, Charlene Keilen, Ryan Pung
Servers	Bennett Thelen, Grant Thelen
Ushers	Gene Pline, Brett Thelen, Lee Schrauben, Jason Fox

6:00 PM Mass

Rosary	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Readers	Jon Thelen
EMC	Jon Thelen
Servers	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
Ushers	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>

**\*\*We still need Rosary leaders, Altar Servers and Ushers for the 6:00 PM Mass. Please contact the parish office to volunteer!**

## St. Mary School Job Opportunity

St. Mary School is accepting applications for a part-time secretary. For more information regarding this position please call the school principal. Interested candidates send resume and cover letter to [principal@stmaryschool.us](mailto:principal@stmaryschool.us). **Deadline for application submission is end of the day, Wednesday, August 30th.**

We would like to thank Sue Thelen for her 21 years of service to St. Mary School. She will be retiring October 31st.

# Prayer Corner

This week we pray for the people who are on the list for our prayer network, those listed in our bulletin and those included in The Book of Intentions located near Our Lady of Westphalia.

*If you would like your name or a loved one's name added to our bulletin for prayer please call the parish office at 989.587.4201*



Linda Anderson	Ray Hart	Rachel Mauren	Jim Ricci	Sandy C. Smith
Brooke Badgero	Colleen Heiden	Hunter Meyers	Sharon Rock	Leroy Spitzley
Gladys Bengel	Mary Hengesbach	Viola Meyers	Jess Sanchez	Ruth Spitzley
Joe Bengel	Mark Hengesbach	Don Miller	Adeline Schafer	Christian Teachworth
Bill Bengel	Fr. Dennis Howard	Sharon Miller	Aurelius Schafer	Dave Thelen
Brad Bierstetel	Kevin Howard	Justin Norton	Stanley Schafer	Jason Thelen
Jillian Chapman	Michelle Huhn	Rose Nurenberg	Steve Schmitz	Luke G. Thelen
Helen Cook	Leone Hufnagel	Tom Nurenberg	Hilda Schmitz	Philip Thelen
Bob Droste	Lisa Koenigsknecht	Brad O'Dell	Nancy Schueller	Suzanne Thelen
Marilyn Fandel	Rose Kolp	Gemma Paintner	Nick Schrauben	Tom Thelen
Sister Joanne Fedewa	Jude Kramer	MaKenzie Patrick	Jane Scollon	Dane Van Ells
Elinor Feldpausch	Kendall Kramer	Bev Platte	Jeffrey Sillman	David Walker
Mabel Feldpausch	Barb Kurkowski	Mark Platte	John Sillman	Sarah Weber
Marie Feldpausch	Mary Lou Lehman	Laura Pline	Rosalie Simon	Tony Wirth
Sue Fox	Dan Martin	Josie Pohl	Jeanne Sleight	David Witgen
Rachelle Gladding	Ed Martin	Mary Pohl	Brody Smith	
Mary Theresa Gross	Luke Martin	Darin Pung	Carolee Smith	
Lisa Grove	Quincey Martin	Frank Rademacher	Gerry Smith	
Pam Haan	Bill Mattila	Ofelia Ramereiz	Mary Smith	

## Healing Prayer Ministry

The healing prayer team will be available after the 10:00 AM Mass on the following dates:

**September 10**, October 8, November 12, & December 10. If you would like to make an appointment, please call Vicki Noeker at 587-4211



**In Remembrance**  
**Linda Pivarnik**  
**Richard Ryals**

Eternal rest grant unto them  
O Lord and let perpetual  
light shine upon them. May  
they rest in peace.

## Prayer Network members will pray for your intentions:

If you or a loved one are in need of prayer please call the prayer network: 587-4132 • 587-6624 • 517-285-3783 or email [btrierweiler@gmail.com](mailto:btrierweiler@gmail.com)

## Pictorial Directory Update: Last Chance for Pictures!

**We have added the final following dates to get your pictures taken: November 14th-16th.**

To schedule your photography appointment:

- go to the Universal website, [www.ucdir.com](http://www.ucdir.com), click on the scheduling login box to the right of the page,
- enter **mi1764** in the **Church Code** field, enter **photos** in the **Church password** field,
- follow the prompts to schedule your family's appt. time,
- if you have 5 or more in your family, please use 2 consecutive time slots,**
- if you would like the parish office to assist you please call or visit during business hours: 989-587-4201, Monday –Thursday 9:00 AM-4:00 PM; Friday 9:00 AM-3:00 PM.**

## St. Mary's Family Fest Updates:

### Family Fest is September 22nd & 23rd and needs your support!

It's time to purchase Family Fest money raffle tickets and sign up to volunteer! You can support the parish's festival AND enter to win money by purchasing tickets at <http://bidpal.net/familyfest2023> or by scanning this QR code, which takes you to the website. You can also purchase money raffle tickets via check or cash using the form that is included in the bulletin and in the back of the church. That form, along with payment, can be completed and returned to the parish office, who will enter the purchase online so that you are entered into the drawing.



One Money Raffle ticket can be purchased for \$50, two for \$75 or three tickets for \$100. Each parish family is encouraged to purchase at least \$50 in raffle tickets in support of the festival, however, you can purchase as many tickets as you would like and are welcome to share the link outside of our parish community. There will be one grand prize winner of \$5,000, two prizes of \$1,000, and two prizes of \$500.



The drawing will take place on **Saturday, September 23rd at approximately 8:30 PM**. You do not need to be present to win; **winners will be contacted by September 26th**. A credit card must be used to purchase the tickets through the OneCause website, however no fees will be added to your purchase. If you already have a OneCause account from a previous St. Mary Parish or School event, you can use that same login information.

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### St. Mary 5 Mile Run, 5K Run/Walk, Kids Run

As part of St. Mary Parish Family Fest 2023, we are pleased to welcome back the 5 Mile Run, 5K Run/Walk, and Kids Run on **Saturday, September 23rd**. Registration is now open! Register online at:

<https://runsignup.com/Race/MI/Westphalia/StMaryFamilyFest>.

Paper registration forms are available for download at this site or will be available in the back of church. Sponsors and Volunteers needed! We will be accepting high school volunteers and will sign for community service hours. Volunteers, sponsors, or anyone with questions - please contact Darren & Becky Kramer at (517) 626-2098 or at [stmaryrunwalk@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryrunwalk@gmail.com). Thank you in advance for your support. See you at the starting line!



\*\*\*\*\*

**VOLUNTEER SIGN UP --** The event is not possible without volunteers so we need your help! Please go to <https://tinyurl.com/volunteerFF2023> to sign up! If you have any questions at all, please contact [familyfest@stmarychurch.net](mailto:familyfest@stmarychurch.net) and we will help you through the process. Thank you in advance for your support!!

#### Men's Softball Tournament

**When:** Saturday, September 23rd

**Where:** Droste Park **Cost:** \$180

\*3 game guarantee, ASA rules, 4 hour limit\*

**Contact Steve Eklund at 989-292-1176 to sign up!**

#### Family Fest Volleyball Tournament

**When:** Saturday, September 23rd; Check in at 8:30 AM start play at 9 AM

**Where:** St. Mary's School Playground **Cost:** \$80 per team

**(\$20 late registration fee if after 11:59 PM on Thursday, September 21st)**

Outdoor, grass, 4v4, Co-ed

T-shirts awarded for champ and runner-up for each division (competitive and recreational). To sign up go to: <https://tinyurl.com/FamilyFestVolleyball2023>

#### Knights of Columbus Family Picnic

**Sunday, September 10th from 12:00 - 5:00 PM**

**at Droste Park.** There will be a children's bounce house, penny scramble, volleyball and games.

There will also be a 50/50 raffle along with food, refreshments and Bingo. Please come join us for an afternoon of family fun!

#### Baptism Preparations

**Pick up your Baptism Packet  
at the Parish Office.**

**Do not delay as some of these  
forms are time sensitive!**

**Next Baptism Class:  
September 19th  
at 7:00 PM in the school  
library. Call the parish  
office to register  
989-587-4201.**

# St. Mary's Catholic Church

201 N. Westphalia St.  
Westphalia, MI 48894  
Tel: 989.587.4201  
office@stmarychurch.net  
[www.stmarychurch.net](http://www.stmarychurch.net)

**Mailing Address:**  
PO Box 267  
Westphalia, MI 48894

## Office Hours

Monday-Thursday: 9:00 AM—4:00 PM  
Friday: 9:00 AM—3:00 PM  
Closed for lunch: 12:30-1:00 PM

**Rev. Fr. Eric Weber, Pastor**  
father@stmarychurch.net

**Father Peter Lawrence,**  
Associate Pastor (RCIA)  
pjlawrence@stmarychurch.net

## Parish Office Staff

**Julie Trierweiler,** Business Manager  
jltrierweiler@stmarychurch.net

**Beth Markel,** Office Manager  
bamarkel@stmarychurch.net

**Barb Spitzley,** Secretary, Baptism, RCIA  
baspitzley@stmarychurch.net

**Vicki Noeker,** Evangelization &  
Discipleship Coordinator  
vsnoeker@stmarychurch.net

**Brian Flynn,** Music Director  
bdflynn@stmarychurch.net

**Austin Fox,** Director of Religious Ed. &  
Youth Minister  
afox@stmarychurch.net

**St. Mary School Office**  
Tel: 989.587.3702

**Helen Hengesbach,** Principal  
principal@stmaryschool.us

**Holly Feldpausch**  
hjfeldpausch@stmaryschool.us

**Sue Thelen**  
smthelen@stmaryschool.us

**Amy Cook**  
ascook@stmaryschool.us

**Bulletin Article Submissions:**  
Please send your bulletin article as  
an attachment to:

[office@stmarychurch.net](mailto:office@stmarychurch.net)  
by Monday morning - 9:00 AM.

**St. Mary's Church Gift Shop**  
Open by appointment. Please call  
**Cindy Miller 989.640.5533** or  
**Cindy Fedewa 989.640.5332**

## Surviving Divorce Sessions

St. Mary's Parish is pleased to announce that we will be offering **Surviving Divorce** sessions which bring hope and healing to anyone who has experienced the pain and loneliness of a broken marriage. Surviving Divorce will help you work through the emotional upheaval of separation and divorce, gain wisdom and comfort from experts and others who share your experiences. The program will help you to navigate new concerns like custody, court hearings, and finances.

This program is for the newly separated and divorced and those still struggling with issues many years later. **Surviving Divorce will be held every Monday starting September 11th to December 11th, from 7 to 8:30 PM in the Parish Office Library.** There will not be a meeting on November 20th for Thanksgiving. The **program fee is \$20** to cover the cost of the Personal Guide. To register please go to <https://goo.gl/forms/kITjVnkMxEv0mtAI3> or contact St. Mary's Parish at **989-587-4211 by September 8th.**

## 2023 Westphalia Knights of Columbus Grillin' & Chillin' Barbecue "Throwdown"

This year's event will be held on **Saturday, September 9th at Droste Park at 12:00 PM.** The cost is \$15.00/person; Children 7-12 \$10.00; 6 and under are free  
50/50 raffle— 7 for \$5.00 and 15 for \$10.00

**Please contact any of the names listed with questions:**

Brent Pohl (616)240-5129, Jack Smith (989)292-2320,  
Cliff Hengesbach (517)743-1178, Mitch Bierstetel (989)640-3249  
Doug Nurenberg (517)930-2189, Lee Pung (989)640-0169,  
Brandy Pung (989)640-5595.

**RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE**  
**Monday, September 11th**  
**St. Mary Parish Hall**  
**11:30 AM – 5:15 PM**



Please join us for the September blood drive. To schedule an appointment, scan the QR code with your phone's camera, visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) (sponsor code: Westphalia) or call 1-800-REDCROSS. Walk-in donors are also welcome if there are open slots.

## Thank You

Thank you for the cards,  
flowers, prayers, visits and  
meals during my hospital stay  
and return home. My family  
and I appreciate everything.  
*Maureen Spitzley*

## Scripture Readings for the Week of August 27th

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Memorial of Saint Augustine</b> 1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10; Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a & 9b; Mt 23:13-22
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Memorial of the Passion of Saint John the Baptist</b> 1 Thes 2:1-8; Ps 139:1-3, 4-6; Mk 6:17-29
<b>Wednesday</b>	1 Thes 2:9-13; Ps 139:7-8, 9-10, 11-12ab; Mt 23:27-32
<b>Thursday</b>	1 Thes 3:7-13; Ps 90:3-5a, 12-13, 14 & 17; Mt 24:42-51
<b>Friday</b>	1 Thes 4:1-8; Ps 97:1 & 2b, 5-6, 10, 11-12; Mt 25:1-13
<b>Saturday</b>	1 Thes 4:9-11; Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9; Mt 25:14-30
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Jer 20:7-9; Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9; Rom 12:1-2; Mt 16:21-27





## Hope Grows Here:

Every last weekend of the month, a collection box is placed in the back of church for Shared Pregnancy and PCIS donations. They are currently in need of all baby items: clothing newborn to age 4T, diapers, wipes, cribs, strollers, shampoo, dressers, pack & plays, diaper cream and formula. Any questions or large donation items can be dropped off by contacting Shirley Manning at 989.587.6914.

## Westphalia Historical Society News:


St Mary's Cemetery Walk will be **Sunday, September 17th at 2:00 PM**. Rain date will be **Sunday, September 24th at 2:00 PM**. One of our chosen descendants will be Theresia Knoop Pohl, a local historian and story teller. She will be portrayed by great granddaughter Judith Pohl. This event is a family friendly, FREE event. Of course donations are happily accepted. Chances are you may be related to one of the five ancestors we will present. Sweet cider and homemade cookies will be give out after the presentations. Hope to see you there. Any questions call Margie Wirth 989-640-4437 or 989-587-6984.

**\*\*\*Bus trip to Firekeepers Casino and Cornwell's Turkeyville** for lunch and a show (Forever Plaid). The bus will leave Westphalia at 7:45 AM and return 5-5:30 PM. Cost is \$90 includes transportation, meal, show ticket and bus driver tip. **The Date is Wednesday, October 11th. Sponsored by Westphalia Historical Society. For reservations, contact Chris Piggott 989-587-6558.**

 <b>FAMILY FUNERAL HOMES</b> 1112 W. Ionia St., Fowler • 989-593-2484		<b>Goerge CHAPEL</b> Our family, Serving yours. St. Johns   Elsie   Ovid   Fowler   Ithaca   St. Louis		
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**"BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO SEE GOD IN EVERY PERSON AND STRIVE TO MAKE OTHERS ALSO DISCOVER HIM." - POPE FRANCIS**



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