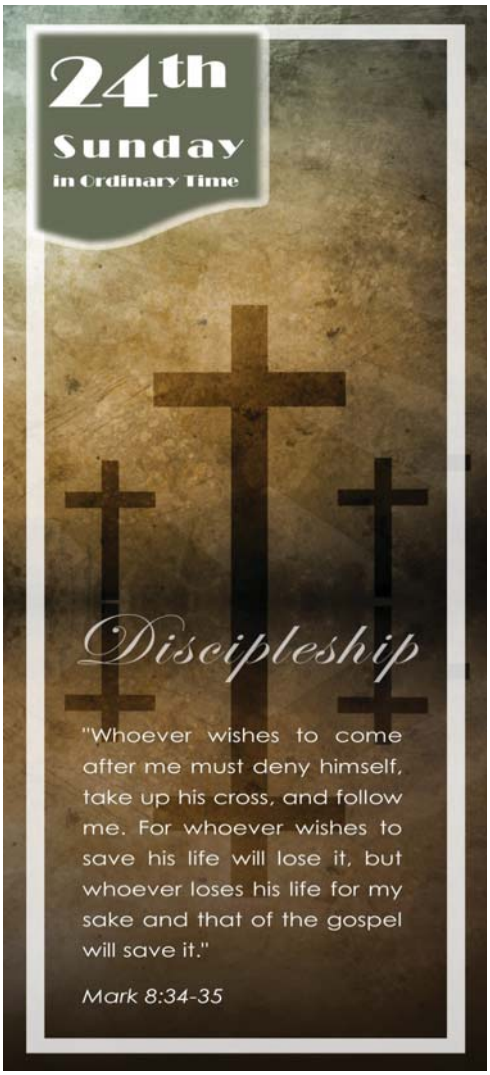
Saint Luke the Evangelist

A Roman Catholic Community
Serving the People of Westborough Since 1870

TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME SEPTEMBER 12, 2021



In Word & Deed

During halftime, the high school basketball coach was trying to motivate his team as they struggled to stay in the game. "You're not really trying," he said, "you're just going through the motions. Your bodies are here, but your minds and hearts are a million miles away. Where's your commitment? Get in the game! Focus on what you are doing. Give it 100% or we are sure to lose."

Jesus wants to know what the Apostles are thinking about Him. He asks and it is Peter who answers for them all. Ironically, it is Peter who tries to spare Jesus from the cross, and later, Peter will deny even knowing Jesus. His body was there, but his mind and heart were elsewhere. Peter's faith wavered because of his fear and uncertainty. But once He recovers and is strengthened by the Holy Spirit, Peter will be the first to proclaim the Gospel and the first to lead the Church,

People struggle with faith. Our minds want to understand what we believe; we look for insight into what our hearts desire; we want to be more certain about our values, morals and choices. If you struggle, you are on the right path. Don't worry about 'spiritual' trends in society or how loudly others may speak out against all that is holy. Let your life witness answer the question of faith: who do you say that He is?

James Gaffney

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM
Please contact the Rectory for information

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
Saturday from 4:00 to 4:45PM ~ also by personal request
Reconciliation Room is handicapped accessible

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE
Please contact a Priest at least six months in advance

VISITATION OF THE SICK
Our extraordinary ministers are always pleased to bring the Eucharist to parishioners who are unable to join us for weekly worship. If you or a family member would like to receive Communion, please call the Rectory. If you know of someone from the parish who is in the hospital, please let us know.

LORD'S DAY MASSES
Saturday: 5 PM, in Spanish 7 PM
Sunday: 7:30AM, 9:00AM, 11:00AM,

Weekday Masses
Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM

RECTORY
70 West Main Street, Westborough, MA 01581
Telephone: 508-366-5502
www.stlukes-parish.org

PARISH CENTER
1 Ruggles Street
508-366-8509

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, September 11
5:00pm **John Miller**
by Joanna Donahue

Sunday, September 12
7:30am **Evelyn Richardson**
by Jim & Peggy Killeen
9:00am **Maria Barretti**
by her family
11:00am **John Matthews**
by Hon. John McCann

Monday, September 13
9:00am **Joanne Cole**
by Mary & Tom Burke

Tuesday, September 14
9:00am **Sarah Monteleone**
by St. Luke's Parish family

Wednesday, September 15
9:00am **Pat & Paul Dempsey**
by their family

Thursday, September 16
9:00am **Francis P. Reilly**
by Mike & Marlene Blaney

Friday, September 17
9:00am **Bob Malone (16th Anv)**
by his family

Saturday, September 18
5:00pm **Rita & Paul Smith**
by their family

Sunday, September 19
7:30am **Micheal Gillis**
by Forever Young Senior Adults
9:00am **Paul Dempsey (5th Anv)**
by his family
11:00am **Stephen Sullivan**
by his family

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT & ADORATION
TUESDAY 9:30AM TO 1:00PM
BENEDICTION AT 1:00PM

Interested in becoming Catholic?

RCIA ...a journey in faith
Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

For more information...contact St. Luke's Rectory at 508-366-5502

We invite you to pray the Rosary everyday after the 9am weekday Mass Monday through Friday

Please pray for...

Ann Martin, Alyssa Bloom, Bob Grady, Neil Kenny
Donna Rene', Carol Aloisi, Mickie Aylward, Kathleen Farrar
Tuyen Tran, Mary Mahan, James Wright, Evelyn Croteau, Beth Lambert,
Shirley DePalma, Cheri McGee, Agnes Limberger, Zachary Collins,
Michelle Weil, Elise Renee, Ann Tisbert, Patrick, Christine, Robert Coutinho,
Nancy Santory, Haron Beaulieu, Toby Claufon, Becky Rawson, Paul Fallon,
Teresa Putnam, Carmelia Potenti, Elisa Korb, George Beecher,
Leanne McCann, Ellie Carlson, Jane Burke, Hayleigh Scott,
Kellan Keough, Dorothy Clinton, Sr. Pamela Philbin, Karen Mooney,
Elizabeth Power, Luis Ferreria, Helen Galica, Erik Olsen, Vicki Foley,
Richard Kane, Grace Roche, Jack Curtin, Jim Bennett,
Kirolos Gergis, Carole & Pam Laino, Gregg Merloni, Tome Valadao,
Maryann Bisco, Susan Garry, Melvin Boucher, T.J. Bautz, Joan Fallon,
Marie Wilson, David Perry, Lucia Engdahl, John Durnan, Linda Darby,
Beverly Taylor, Judy Melfa, Claire Kennedy, Maria Matejko,
Debbie Giroux, Peter Rose, Kevin & Donna Brennan, Luz Chavez,
Pamela Meehan, James Thomas, Christina Narensky, Lynn St. Jean,
Michael Berthuime, Trisha Suzi, Norman Beland, Margaret Markert,
Hailie McLatchey, Barbara Auger, Barbara Barnes, Doris Biedermann,
Joan Bunnell, Joan Finnerty, Jeanne Amendola, Jack Walker, Daniel Baker
Rebecca Coax, Robert Trant, Michael McAndless, Michael Del Pozzo,
Susanne Ollman, Lucy Hamburger, David Carrera, Joel Rivera,
Pat & John Lusek, Michael Zancewicz, John Lynch, Kristy Cautello,
Joseph Malzone, Lois Kerbel, Carol Guarino, Michael Turpin,
Elise Ollman-Kahle, Patricia Amorelli, Connor Blaney, Debbie Krikler,
Kim Evans, Austin Tomalewski, Gary Shults, Erin Magrane

Let us remember to pray for all the men and women and their families who are serving in Iraq and Afghanistan

We remember those who have died
Ann Price

PARISH STAFF:

Fr. Walter Riley, Pastor
e-mail frriley@stlukes-parish.org
Fr. Enoch Kyeremateng (Priest in Residence)
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Maria Gasser, Parish Secretary
e-mail office@stlukes-parish.org
Pam Vaccari, Parish Ctr. Secretary
e-mail religiousedoffice@stlukes-parish.org
Linda Underwood, Bookkeeper
e-mail financeoffice@stlukes-parish.org
Beth Salsman, Housekeeper
Lawrence Orlando, Building and Grounds

INFORMATION MEETING FOR TRIP TO POLAND

Fr. Riley will be holding an information meeting for his April-May 2022 trip to Poland. The meeting will be held on Tuesday evening, September 21 at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. We invite anyone interested in the possibility of joining us for this wonderful pilgrimage/ historical/cultural trip to the country of Pope St. John Paull II to attend this information session with the chance to ask questions. Hope to see you there.

Would your children like to serve at the altar?

Any parents of altar servers or potential altar servers who would like their children to begin serving, please call or email Julie Basque, our pastoral associate (508-366-8509, ext 4 or email: pastoralassociate@stlukes-parish.org) Members of the same household serve any given Mass, be it one server or more than one sibling. Training or re-training is provided, and the schedule will be made on a monthly basis, based on your family's availability.

Thank you and we look forward to having even more dedicated servers join this most beautiful ministry.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet Tuesday September 14th from 1:00 – 2:30 PM in Room 23 of the Parish Center. This ministry is open to any person interested in knitting or crocheting prayer shawls, lap robes, afghans or baby blankets for the sick and suffering. If you would like to participate but can't make the monthly meetings, please e -mail/call Carol Mulcahy at cmmulcahy@live.com/508-898-0409 for more information about patterns and yarn. We would love to have new members since there are many requests for the handmade items. Yarn is available at the Parish Center.

Wednesday Webinars for Respect Life

The Respect Life Office of the Diocese of Worcester invites you to join our "Wednesday Webinars"! The webinars will be held on three consecutive **Wednesdays. Sept 15 - 29 at 3:00 p.m.** Dates and topics include: Sept. 15– *Respect Life Ministry in the Parish: The Church's Vision*; Sept. 22 – *Models for Parish Respect Life Ministry*; and, Sept. 29 – *Preparing for Respect Life Month*. Whether you have been involved in Respect Life Ministry for many years, are considering starting or joining a ministry in your parish, or would simply like to learn more, there is something for everyone! Pre-registration is required to receive a login link. To register, send an email to aledoux@worcesterdiocese.org with your name, parish, email address, and date(s) for which you are registering; include the words "Webinar Registration" in the subject line. To download a flyer with more detailed webinar descriptions visit www.worcesterdiocese.org/respect-life.

St. Luke's Adult Studies
Fall 2021
Time to reconnect and grow in your faith!

Here are a the new Fall study group topics for both Adults and Young Adults. Find evening or daytime options as well as remote (Zoom) or in person meetings. Classes start mid-to late - September.

- ***Living in the Father's Love***
  Women's small group bible study
- ***He Leadeth Me*** by Father Walter Czycek
  Book Discussion Group
- ***The Mass*** Bishop Barron video series
- ***In the Beginning***
  A Practical Exploration of the Book of Genesis
- ***In the Beginning for YOUNG ADULTS***
  (ages 18-30)
- ***Fellowship and Faith*** Faith-based playgroup
  for moms of young children
- ***Seven Deadly Sins, Seven Lively Virt***ues
  Bishop Barron video series
- ***The Book of Acts — Spreading the Kingdom***
  Jeff Cavens video teaching.

For details about programs, class schedules, and registration, visit the St. Luke Adult Studies web page or call the rectory at 508-366-5502.

Are you Grieving?

St Luke's offers a bereavement series for those who have lost a loved one. It begins Wednesday October 6th and runs every other week and ends in early December. If you or someone you know might be interested, please contact our pastoral associate Julie Basque at 508-366-8509, Ext 4.

Traveling Holy Hour for Vocations

Join us for the traveling holy hour for vocations on **Wednesday, Oct. 6 at 7:00 pm** at Saint Rose Parish in Northborough. All are welcome to attend and pray for vocations to priesthood and religious life in our diocese.

LEGACY OF HOPE CAMPAIGN

The Diocesan capital campaign, Legacy of Hope, will be taking place in our Parish beginning in September and ending by the end of the year. More information will be forthcoming in the weeks ahead.

(From the Pastor...Continued from page 6)

what kind of perfume she was wearing. Let's just say it wasn't rose-scented perfume, if any at all. Many of us believe that the scent of roses in a religious setting, be it Church or home, tells us of the close proximity and presence of Blessed Mary. It seems like a nice Marian birthday gift and grace extended to the lovely, faithful Jeannine Gemme on the day of Our Lady's birthday in a Church setting during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Jeannine has since passed on to eternal life, finding out in the process of the authenticity of Mary's presence that day in the form of scented roses. Just a nice story I thought I'd share.

Mary's role in salvation history is, of course, unique in the teachings of our faith. Gabriel didn't have to go looking elsewhere for another potential mother for Jesus. He couldn't anyway because there was no one else he could turn to. Mary alone was the only creature conceived without sin, with God creating in her the perfect body, the perfect human tabernacle, to carry within her the Source of all Perfection, His Son and her Son our Lord Jesus Christ. He is the one who "does all things well." But Mary was the perfect "aircraft carrier" whose Yes allowed the Word to be carried from heaven to earth for our eternal benefit. Without her Yes, well, God would find another way to save us eventually. But I suspect 2026 years later (if Mary was 15 years old when Gabriel appeared) the Lord would still be saddened if a negative response was given to Gabriel. But it wasn't. Mary gave the holy response that revealed her oneness with the God she worshipped, adored, prayed to, and loved with all her Jewish being.

For any of us to either die on a feast day in the Church, or have our Funeral Mass on one, is a grace from heaven. Not that all who do so have an automatic ticket through the gates guarded by St. Peter. Most of us need some level of purgation, although heaven is always the goal. But religious timing means something. At least I think so. We may not know all the details about the graces that benefit us from religious timing, such as not being able to nail down the exact year of Mary's birth. But we can take an educated, sometimes historical guess and be really close. With the twofold combination of death and religious timing, death and a feast day, or a Funeral Mass and a feast day, there are some heavenly things going on beyond mere human understanding that we cannot capture in full. Such as the strong scent of roses and where it came from. I do wish Jeannine would let me know now that she knows.

Trying to figure out Mary's age… "How old is she?" … is fun. But the adult question… "What is Mary's role in salvation history?" is a question that addresses our forever nature. Either way, we can trust that Mary's recent birthday was, as is always, a joyful occasion in heaven.

Fr. Riley

PROPOGATION OF THE FAITH COLLECTION THIS MONTH

The once a year Propagation of the Faith collection will take place this year in our parish the weekend of September 26. Under normal conditions, a priest or lay person would come to speak at all Masses on that Sunday. Because of the continuing concerns of the virus this year, that will not be the case. Fr. Riley has been in contact with Fr. Celestine Byekwaso from the Diocese of Kasana-Luweero in Uganda, who would have been the representative speaker at all Masses for the Mission Weekend. From information passed on from Fr. Celestine, his Diocese is the youngest in the nation of Uganda, celebrating soon 25 years since it was formed in 1997. He passed on the information that one of the major projects the diocese is working on in view of its silver jubilee is to build a seminarian's dormitory. This building is the major focus of this year's Propagation of the Faith mission appeal. A second purpose is the continuous need to provide clean water for people in their diocese. Many people have no access to clean water, nor running water. The lack of clean water, Fr. Celestine said, has claimed many lives of children. Their hope is to drill wells around the diocese so many more people may have clean water, which will save many lives. Fr. Celestine has sent our Parish envelopes that may be used for this Mission Appeal. For any parishioner who chooses to use an envelope placed in the back of our Church, we ask that you please place it in the collection basket. Please do not mail it in, for all donations need to go through our Diocese for the Propagation of the Faith. Thank you for your consideration and generosity for this important annual appeal that addresses major needs of other Catholic Churches and ministries both in our nation and throughout the universal Church.

If you or your loved one become hospitalized and would like prayer, please let us know by calling or emailing Julie Basque, our pastoral associate (508-366-8509, ext 4 or email pastoralassociate@stlukes-parish.org.) Thank you

SAFE ENVIRONMENT

Here at St. Luke's, we follow the guidelines of the national charter for the Protection of Children and Young People approved by the US Bishops and the policies of the Worcester Diocese in screening those who work with children in our care and in helping victims of abuse find healing. For questions, information or help please contact Judy Audette, Victim Assistance Coordinator for the Diocese of Worcester at 508-929-4361 (direct line and confidential voicemail is available).
If you are **a brand new volunteer**, please stop by the parish center to fill out cori, code of conduct, and proof of the one time safety training. A certificate is given to all those who complete it. Please give a copy to Gloria. **Every five years all volunteers** must fill out another cori form.

THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

"The marriage vows - promises made by the partners before God in the community to be faithful to each other in good times and bad - are foundational to the spiritual lifestyle of married Christians. One is sensitized to the comprehensive nature of the vows, or as some characterize them, unconditional promises. Cost is not calculated. They are open-ended. The vows also distinguish marriage as a covenant. Contracts deal with an exchange of things or moneys; covenants deal with personhood. Because of the element of respect and rationality implicit in healthy marriage, there are limits to what can be included in unconditionality. For instance, anything requested that will harm either partner or the relationship cannot be subsumed into Christian marital life. God never wills the destruction of the person. That there will be sacrifice, hard and difficult challenges, and even suffering for the other is not ruled out when these result in the building up of the couple and each individual. Like life in general, the paradox of the gospel mystery of death yielding life is not to be overlooked. There is room for the cross in marriage, not as a masochistic or sadistic part of marriage (and this is not unheard of in marriage), but as an expression of generous love that may exceed the ordinary boundaries of expectation or justice."

From *The New Dictionary of Catholic Spirituality*

Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass

Bishop Robert J. McManus will celebrate the Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass on **Sunday, October 31 at 3:00 p.m**. at the Cathedral of St. Paul, Worcester. This liturgy of thanksgiving to God for many years of faithful witness to the sacredness of Christian marriage honors couples who are marking significant anniversaries (25th, 40th, 50th, etc.) this year. A light reception will follow downstairs in the Cenacle. Family and friends are welcome! Couples wishing to attend should **pre-register no later than October 18** so that commemorative certificates may be issued. To register, complete the registration form at www.worcesterdiocese.org/wedding-anniversary-mass, or contact the Office of Marriage and Family at 508-929-4311 or email aledoux@worcesterdiocese.org to request that a copy of the registration form be sent to you.

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me." (MARK 8:34) Living a stewardship lifestyle means not only being responsible for my own life, but for the lives of others as well. We realize that our gifts are not intended for ourselves, rather they are meant to be shared with others. "Taking up my cross" means doing things when someone else needs me and not when it's convenient for me.

RCIA Inquiry Sessions

Although we welcome and meet with inquirers all year, **we will be starting weekly Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) inquiry sessions on Tuesday September 28 at 7:30 PM in room 23 of the Parish Center.** This is an opportunity for people to learn about the Catholic faith tradition, and if one feels so called, to start a path that will lead to becoming a Christian in the Catholic faith tradition. All are welcomed, and folks are invited to attend as many sessions as they like without any obligation to "become Catholic."

RCIA was designed as a means for people to become Christians (through the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation), if they feel called to do so. It is also a path for Christians from other faith traditions to learn about the Catholic faith tradition and enter into full communion with the Catholic Church, if so choose. We have also had people participate who were baptized Catholic but for one reason or another never received First Communion and Confirmation. Regardless of your background, we welcome you to attend our Tuesday September 28 session, when we will talk about what the RCIA faith formation process is about. Or if you are a confirmed Catholic, please consider referring anyone you know that may be interested in learning about RCIA.

The pandemic limited us to virtual sessions for a number of months. We are cautiously optimistic that September 28 will be the start of safe in-person sessions for us. Nevertheless, we try to be responsive to any special needs and are amenable to a virtual option as necessary or upon request.

There is no need to register – just go to the parish center and walk into room 23! We will look forward to meeting you! For more information on RCIA in general or the September 28 inquiry session in particular, please contact Bob Thompson via phone at 508-341-7677 or via email at bob_thomps@hotmail.com.

Thank you for your support

Sunday Ordinary Collection:

Month of August, 2021	**$59,208**
Month of July, 2021	**52,277**

Home Communion Visits

If you are unable to attend Mass and would like a home communion visitor, please contact Julie Basque our pastoral associate at 508-366-8509, ext 4.

This Photo

All St. Luke parishioners have **full access** to all *Word on Fire* content **free of charge**, including the complete digital library and all premium content. If you are subscribed to receive Flocknote messages you can view at your own pace, on your own schedule, on any device.

From the Pastor:

This past Wednesday in the Church, we celebrated the Feast of the Birth of Mary. Doing the religious math on a 12-month calendar, when Mary was conceived without sin, better known as the Immaculate Conception, on December 8, and was carried in the womb of her mother St. Anne for 9 months, then her birthday would fall on September 8, this past Wednesday. I'm sure Mary and Joseph, along with their Son Jesus, had a small – or large – piece of cake in heaven, even though there are no official dates or time in heaven.

A good question a child may ask who was told it was Mary's birthday last Wednesday is, "How old is Mary?" We all know how inquisitive children are when they hear about the birthday of someone who is somewhat old. Trying our best to answer this curious child-like question is, well, not so easy. At least not if we search for a pinpointed, accurate answer, which is almost impossible. We can certainly come somewhat close to Mary's present age based on historical facts concerning Jesus' birth and when it occurred. Scholars today teach us that Jesus was likely born between the years 4-6 B.C. These years are connected to the death of Herod the Great, who was obviously alive when he tried to kill the newborn King and all boys in Bethlehem under the age of 2 after realizing he was deceived by the Three Wise Men who returned to their home by another route. Herod the Great died in the year 4 B.C. Combining 4 B.C. with the two-year-olds he had killed in Bethlehem because of his violent rage from jealousy that stemmed from the competition of "a newborn King," Jesus' birth is accurately calculated between 4 and 6 B.C., and not the year 1.

With this accurate historical understanding, we can conjecture on Mary's age when the angel Gabriel, who stands before God, appeared to her somewhere in the vicinity of Nazareth, be it within the boundaries of the town or just over the line in an unknown village. Thus, Mary's age, taking into account the average age of a woman in Palestine in the 1st century as to when they married, would likely have placed Mary between the ages of 14-17. Mary and all others from antiquity would consider someone today getting married for the first time at the age of 35 to be rather old and odd. Mary would likely ask, "Why are they waiting to marry at an age that is older than the death of my Son?" Either way, that's another conversation for another day. But Mary was very likely in her mid-teens when the Angel who stands before God appeared to her, asking if she would become the mother of the world's Savior.

So, if we say Mary was 15 years old when Gabriel appeared to her for the express purpose of saving us from ourselves by way of the Word becoming flesh, and with Jesus being born between the years 4-6 B.C., the math computes to Mary having been conceived (becoming the Immaculate Conception) around the year 20 B.C, and born 9 months later in either the year 20 or 19 B.C, since the year numbers go backwards before the birth of our Lord. In the slightly bigger picture, considering the three possible years of Jesus' birth (4-6 B.C.), Mary's birthday would have taken place somewhere between 18 and 23 B.C. If we take the average of those dates, we'll say that Mary was born in the year 20-21 B.C., but only if we add in the average age of a woman to be married in ancient Palestine. We're pretty certain that Mary did not marry Joseph when she was 35, or even 25, but likely when she was around the age of 15. So, to answer the child's inquisitive question about how old is Mary, and we settle on the year 20 B.C. for her birth, we can say Mary, if still alive today in the body that will die, is 2041 years old. Of course, if we say to a child of 6 years old that someone is 2041 years old, even a 6-year-old will probably make a funny face and think, "Are they telling me the truth?" And you would answer, "I would never lie about anything connected to the life of Blessed Mary."

The birthday of Mary is an important date in my family because it was the date and day of our mother's Funeral Mass in 2008. Trying to figure out how old Mary would be today is actually lots of fun, as can be seen above. She is probably laughing upstairs as we here attempt to zero in on her age. We do know one thing; however old Mary happens to be, and whatever year she was born, we know for certain that she is the essence of beauty beyond beautiful in her role as Mother of God and intercessor for her Son. The Saints who were graced beyond all telling attested to her beauty as they looked on her in their respective apparitions. What they witnessed was as close one could get to what Peter, James, and John witnessed in the Transfiguration of Jesus on Mt. Tabor. The Transfiguration of our Lord, and all the apparitions of our Blessed Mother, tell the story of the immeasurable peace, joy, and unending beauty found in that place we call heaven, even though heaven is not really a "place," as St. John Paul II once wrote, driving many theologians crazy in the process.

Mary's age is, again, fun to consider. Doing the math, or as close as we can come, is a bundle of joy, just like the child born in Bethlehem, as well as every child who is born should be considered. Every life is a gift, period. But the greater part of the Feast of Mary's birthday, much greater, is what her life led to a few short years down the road. We can only imagine what her life was like, how she spoke to her parents, what tone did she use, how respectful she was, how her heart beamed with love and pure grace in a house that, just like her own later on, consisted of three Saints, with her Son being the Saint of saints. Mary's life led to, not the curious child's question of "How old is she?", but to the adult's question of "What is Mary's role in salvation history?" And when this question begins to be answered in truth, then having one's mother's Funeral Mass on the birthday of Mary takes on much greater meaning and purpose.

As an aside, on the day of my mother's Funeral Mass at St. Bernard's Church in Worcester, the home Parish of yours truly and Fr. Joe Rice (I wonder how he's doing in the Brookfield's?), a dear friend from my first assigned Parish of Christ the King in Worcester, Jeannine Gemme, was present in a filled Church. Jeannine, like Mrs. Riley, had a deep devotion to Blessed Mary. Some days after the Funeral Mass, Jeannine would tell me she had the strongest scent of roses at one point during the Mass. The scent was so strong, she said, that she asked the woman sitting next to her (before social distancing)

(Continued on page 4)

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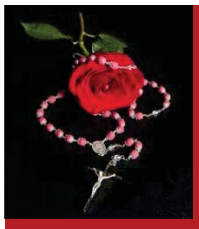
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