



Nativity of Mary Church and School

Parish

Pastor: Rev. Robert Stone
Business Manager: Melissa Clancy
Administrative Assistant/Secretary: Sarah Gonterman
Director of Music & Liturgy: Maria Milazzo
Sacramental Prep & RCIA: Becky Winbinger
Youth Minister: Becky Winbinger
Sacristan: Mary Singer

Diocesan Victim's Advocate:

Kathleen Chastain
816.392.0011 or chastain@diocesekcsj.org
Ombudsman: Joe Crayon, 816.812.2500

School - 816.353.0284

Principal: Dr. Lisa Lauck
School Tours/Registration Info: Susie Addison

New Parishioners

If you are new to our parish and would like more information please contact the Parish Office.

Pastoral Care

Sacraments for the Sick
Rev. Bob Stone, 816.353.2184, ext. 404

Pastoral visits to the Homebound and Hospitals

Paula Cassity, 816.356.4467

Emergency Assistance

St. Mary's Outreach & Clothes Closet
816.252.8649

Parish Ministry Council

Danny Barnes, 816.507.5171
dfbarnes@gmail.com

Mass Schedule

Monday: 8:30 a.m. Communion Service
Weekday: 8:30 a.m. Tuesday - Friday
Saturday: 4:00 p.m.
Sunday: 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
Holy Day: 8:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Confessions

Saturday: 3:00 p.m.
Or contact Fr. Bob Tuesday through Friday for an appointment

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

As high as the heavens are above the earth,
so high are my ways above your ways
and my thoughts above your thoughts.

Isaiah 55:9

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2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 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2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 2680, 2681, 2682, 2683, 2684, 2685, 2686, 2687, 2688, 2689, 2690, 2691, 2692, 2693, 2694, 2695, 2696, 2697, 2698, 2699, 2700, 2701, 2702, 2703, 2704, 2705, 2706, 2707, 2708, 2709, 2710, 2711, 2712, 2713, 2714, 2715, 2716, 2717, 2718, 2719, 2720, 2721, 2722, 2723, 2724, 2725, 2726, 2727, 2728, 2729, 2730, 2731, 2732, 2733, 2734, 2735, 2736, 2737, 2738, 2739, 2740, 2741, 2742, 2743, 2744, 2745, 2746, 2747, 2748, 2749, 2750, 2751, 2752, 2753, 2754, 2755, 2756, 2757, 2758, 2759, 2760, 2761, 2762, 2763, 2764, 2765, 2766, 2767, 2768, 2769, 2770, 2771, 2772, 2773, 2774, 2775, 2776, 2777, 2778, 2779, 2780, 2781, 2782, 2783, 2784, 2785, 2786, 2787, 2788, 2789, 2790, 2791, 2792, 2793, 2794, 2795, 2796, 2797, 2798, 2799, 2800, 2801, 2802, 2803, 2804, 2805, 2806, 2807, 2808, 2809, 2810, 2811, 2812, 2813, 2814, 2815, 2816, 2817, 2818, 2819, 2820, 2821, 2822, 2823, 2824, 2825, 2826, 2827, 2828, 2829, 2830, 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2997, 2998, 2999, 3000, 3001, 3002, 3003, 3004, 3005, 3006, 3007, 3008, 3009, 3010, 3011, 3012, 3013, 3014, 3015, 3016, 3017, 3018, 3019, 3020, 3021, 3022, 3023, 3024, 3025, 3026, 3027, 3028, 3029, 3030, 3031, 3032, 3033, 3034, 3035, 3036, 3037, 3038, 3039, 3040, 3041, 3042, 3043, 3044, 3045, 3046, 3047, 3048, 3049, 3050, 3051, 3052, 3053, 3054, 3055, 3056, 3057, 3058, 3059, 3060, 3061, 3062, 3063, 3064, 3065, 3066, 3067, 3068, 3069, 3070, 3071, 3072, 3073, 3074, 3075, 3076, 3077, 3078, 3079, 3080, 3081, 3082, 3083, 3084, 3085, 3086, 3087, 3088, 3089, 3090, 3091, 3092, 3093, 3094, 3095, 3096, 3097, 3098, 3099, 3100, 3101, 3102, 3103, 3104, 3105, 3106, 3107, 3108, 3109, 3110, 3111, 3112, 3113, 3114, 3115, 3116, 3117, 3118, 3119, 3120, 3121, 3122, 3123, 3124, 3125, 3126, 3127, 3128, 3129, 3130, 3131, 3132, 3133, 3134, 3135, 3136, 3137, 3138, 3139, 3140, 3141, 3142, 3143, 3144, 3145, 3146, 3147, 3148, 3149, 3150, 3151, 3152, 3153, 3154, 3155, 3156, 3157, 3158, 3159, 3160, 3161, 3162, 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3329, 3330, 3331, 3332, 3333, 3334, 3335, 3336, 3337, 3338, 3339, 3340, 3341, 3342, 3343, 3344, 3345, 3346, 3347, 3348, 3349, 3350, 3351, 3352, 3353, 3354, 3355, 3356, 3357, 3358, 3359, 3360, 3361, 3362, 3363, 3364, 3365, 3366, 3367, 3368, 3369, 3370, 3371, 3372, 3373, 3374, 3375, 3376, 3377, 3378, 3379, 3380, 3381, 3382, 3383, 3384, 3385, 3386, 3387, 3388, 3389, 3390, 3391, 3392, 3393, 3394, 3395, 3396, 3397, 3398, 3399, 3400, 3401, 3402, 3403, 3404, 3405, 3406, 3407, 3408, 3409, 3410, 3411, 3412, 3413, 3414, 3415, 3416, 3417, 3418, 3419, 3420, 3421, 3422, 3423, 3424, 3425, 3426, 3427, 3428, 3429, 3430, 3431, 3432, 3433, 3434, 3435, 3436, 3437, 3438, 3439, 3440, 3441, 3442, 3443, 3444, 3445, 3446, 3447, 3448, 3449, 3450, 3451, 3452, 3453, 3454, 3455, 3456, 3457, 3458, 3459, 3460, 3461, 3462, 3463, 3464, 3465, 3466, 3467, 3468, 3469, 3470, 3471, 3472, 3473, 3474, 3475, 3476, 3477, 3478, 3479, 3480, 3481, 3482, 3483, 3484, 3485, 3486, 3487, 3488, 3489, 3490, 3491, 3492, 3493, 3494, 3495, 3496, 3497, 3498, 3499, 3500, 3501, 3502, 3503, 3504, 3505, 3506, 3507, 3508, 3509, 3510, 3511, 3512, 3513, 3514, 3515, 3516, 3517, 3518, 3519, 3520, 3521, 3522, 3523, 3524, 3525, 3526, 3527, 3528, 3529, 3530, 3531, 3532, 3533, 3534, 3535, 3536, 3537, 3538, 3539, 3540, 3541, 3542, 3543, 3544, 3545, 3546, 3547, 3548, 3549, 3550, 3551, 3552, 3553, 3554, 3555, 3556, 3557, 3558, 3559, 3560, 3561, 3562, 3563, 3564, 3565, 3566, 3567, 3568, 3569, 3570, 3571, 3572, 3573, 3574, 3575, 3576, 3577, 3578, 3579, 3580, 3581, 3582, 3583, 3584, 3585, 3586, 3587, 3588, 3589, 3590, 3591, 3592, 3593, 3594, 3595, 3596, 3597, 3598, 3599, 3600, 3601, 3602, 3603, 3604, 3605, 3606, 3607, 3608, 3609, 3610, 3611, 3612, 3613, 3614, 3615, 3616, 3617, 3618, 3619, 3620, 3621, 3622, 3623, 3624, 3625, 3626, 3627, 3628, 3629, 3630, 3631, 3632, 3633, 3634, 3635, 3636, 3637, 3638, 3639, 3640, 3641, 3642, 3643, 3644, 3645, 3646, 3647, 3648, 3649, 3650, 3651, 3652, 3653, 3654, 3655, 3656, 3657, 3658, 3659, 3660, 3661, 3662, 3663, 3664, 3665, 3666, 3667, 3668, 3669, 3670, 3671, 3672, 3673, 3674, 3675, 3676, 3677, 3678, 3679, 3680, 3681, 3682, 3683, 3684, 3685, 3686, 3687, 3688, 3689, 3690, 3691, 3692, 3693, 3694, 3695, 3696, 3697, 3698, 3699, 3700, 3701, 3702, 3703, 3704, 3705, 3706, 3707, 3708, 3709, 3710, 3711, 3712, 3713, 3714, 3715, 3716, 3717, 3718, 3719, 3720, 3721, 3722, 3723, 3724, 3725, 3726, 3727, 3728, 3729, 3730, 3731, 3732, 3733, 3734, 3735, 3736, 3737, 3738, 3739, 3740, 3741, 3742, 3743, 3744, 3745, 3746, 3747, 3748, 3749, 3750, 3751, 3752, 3753, 3754, 3755, 3756, 3757, 3758, 3759, 3760, 3761, 3762, 3763, 3764, 3765, 3766, 3767, 3768, 3769, 3770, 3771, 3772, 3773, 3774, 3775, 3776, 3777, 3778, 3779, 3780, 3781, 3782, 3783, 3784, 3785, 3786, 3787, 3788, 3789, 3790, 3791, 3792, 3793, 3794, 3795, 3796, 3797, 3798, 3799, 3800, 3801, 3802, 3803, 3804, 3805, 3806, 3807, 3808, 3809, 3810, 3811, 3812, 3813, 3814, 3815, 3816, 3817, 3818

SEPTEMBER 20, 2020

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, September 19

4:00 PM + Dale Divine + Terry Divine

Sunday, September 20, Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM For Peace

10:30AM + Salvatore Milazzo

Monday, September 21

8:30 AM Communion Service

Tuesday, September 22

8:30 AM Help for victims of natural disasters

Wednesday, September 23

8:30 AM For those burdened by any kind of difficulty

Thursday, September 24

8:30 AM For our local community

Friday, September 25

8:30 AM For people affected by wildfires

Saturday, September 26

4:00 PM + Virginia McMenamy

Sunday, September 27, Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM + Clarence and Jean Spiek

10:30AM +Fran Vitt Barchak + Salvatore Milazzo

WEEKLY READINGS SEPTEMBER 21-27

Monday: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13; Ps 19:2-5; Mt 9:9-13

Tuesday: Prv 21:1-6, 10-13; Ps 119:1, 27, 30, 34, 35, 44; Lk 8:19-21

Wednesday: Prv 30:5-9; Ps 119:29, 72, 89, 101, 104, 163; Lk 9:1-6

Thursday: Eccl 1:2-11; Ps 90:3-6, 12-14, 17bc; Lk 9:7-9

Friday: Eccl 3:1-11; Ps 144:1b, 2abc, 3-4; Lk 9:18-22

Saturday: Eccl 11:9 — 12:8; Ps 90:3-6, 12-14, 17; Lk 9:43b-45

Sunday: Ez 18:25-28; Ps 25:4-9; Phil 2:1-11 [1-5]; Mt 21:28-32

A MOMENT TO REFLECT
PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Karen Langer
Anna McNeil
Juan and Mary Perez
Susie Smith
Bernice and Norm Steffen

Larry Nauser
Ayden Wright
Mary Enyart
Linda Barrett
Lauren Winbinger

Michael Anthony
Marla Herbst
Marlene Irwin
Bladen Jones
Cynthia Jones
Dennis Jones
Deanna Kunzeiler
Maria Pace Jonas
Carol Byrd Weaver

Margaret Ault
John E. Cianciolo
Garry and Emily Ganon
Catherine Danna
Alice Zapien
Sharon Duschall
Cheryl Swinney
Kristiana Fahey
Phoebe Johns



NEW PARISHIONER INFORMATION

Please print your name and address below to receive registration information. Please drop in collection basket or mail to Parish.

Name

Address

City/State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Email _____

Giving Options

Not sure how to continue your offertory contributions? We have options:

- Online giving at www.nativityofmary.org
Find the Church tab and click on "Vanco - Donations/Tithes"
- Mail in or drop off checks to the Parish Office at 10017 E 36th Terrace, Independence, MO. 64052
- Offertory baskets in the Narthex of Church before and after each weekend Mass



We are called to return our gifts, with increase, to God.

Your parish stewardship matters now more than ever. Thank you for thinking of your parish family!

Altar Society Annual Membership

Dues Drive - October 2020 - 2021



It is that time of year again! Please be looking for Envelopes in the pews. We would LOVE for you to join our Faith Filled and FUN Ministry. Contact Janet or Donnie Duffey with any further questions. More information to come!

jswilkinson365@gmail.com
dduffey@citylighting.com

NATIVITY OF MARY CONTRIBUTION REPORT SEPTEMBER 5TH AND SEPTEMBER 6TH, 2020

Envelopes	\$ 11,548.00
Plate	\$ 166.00
Church Debt	\$ 440.00
Pisces Fund	\$ 170.00
Utility Fund	\$ —
EFT	\$ 370.00
Credit Card	\$ 176.50
Online Giving	\$ 2,625.39
Poor Box	\$ 60.00
Total	\$ 15,555.89

Tuition/Registration Fees 20-21 \$ 11,774.50

Thank you for supporting our Parish Community and Catholic Education!





The Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph is committed to combating sexual abuse in the Church. If you are a victim of sexual abuse, or if you *observe or suspect* sexual abuse:

1. Call the Missouri Child Abuse Hotline at 1.800.392.3738 (if the victim is currently under the age of 18), and
2. Contact your local law enforcement agency or call 911, and
3. After reporting to these civil and law enforcement authorities, report suspected *sexual abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult* to the Diocesan Ombudsman, Joe Crayon, at 816.812.2500, if the abuse involves a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph.

The Diocese has a sincere commitment to providing care and healing resources to victims of sexual abuse and their families. Please contact Victim Advocate, Kathleen Chastain, at 816.392.0011 or chastain@diocesekcsj.org for more information.

SEPTEMBER 20 – OCTOBER 10, 2020 CALENDAR

Sunday 20	Monday 21	Tuesday 22	Wednesday 23	Thursday 24	Friday 25	Saturday 26
8:00 AM Mass 10:30AM Mass	8:30 AM Communion service	8:30 AM Mass	8:30 AM Mass	8:30 AM Children's Mass Live-streamed on Parish Facebook Evening prayer Link sent via Email	8:30 AM Mass	3:00 PM Confession 4:00 PM Mass
27	28	29	30	October 1	2	3
8:00 AM Mass 10:30AM Mass	8:30 AM Communion service	8:30 AM Mass	8:30AM Mass	8:30 AM Children's Mass Live-streamed on Parish Facebook Evening prayer Link sent via Email	8:30 AM Mass 9 AM - Noon Eucharistic Adoration 2:30 PM Blessing of Animals 	3:00 PM Confession 4:00 PM Mass 5-7 PM Wine, Spirits and Brew Walk
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8:00 AM Mass 10:30AM Mass	8:30 AM Communion service	8:30 AM Mass	8:30 AM Mass 6PM- 8PM Eucharistic Adoration 	8:30 AM Children's Mass Live-streamed on Parish Facebook Evening prayer Link sent via Email	8:30 AM Mass	3:00 PM Confession 4:00 PM Mass

The Nearness of God

Kathy Bishop, Nativity of Mary Music Minister

Nativity Notes

This weekend's readings continue to reveal the themes of God's Kingdom: mercy, forgiveness, kindness, compassion, justice, and generosity. In the first reading we are reminded to "seek the Lord while He may be found." So, where do we look for God? Do we have to go somewhere else? Perhaps a beautiful church or shrine; or maybe a magnificent place in nature that reminds us of God's hand in creation? For sure, these places always help me to feel the nearness of God. But do we have to uproot ourselves and start living a different life to seek God? Do we have to be around different people? What if seeking the Lord is NOT searching somewhere else or among different people? Maybe we can seek the Lord where we are right now, tuning into our own surroundings wherever our daily lives take us. We can observe and contribute acts of mercy, kindness, compassion and generosity with those around us. God IS near. We CAN find God in all things if we seek Him. "The Lord is near to all who call upon Him."

As the gospel reminds us, even though we may be "late to the party" (or the vineyard in this story), it does not mean that we will be overlooked in God's kingdom because God is generous beyond our understanding, beyond our human sense of fairness. No matter where we are in our lives, it is never too late to seek Him or work in His vineyard.

In closing, I'd like to share a passage for reflection from "Pray As You Go" by Jesuit Media Initiatives: Your path to God is the one you are on right now, and there is no other. You cannot start, or move on, from anywhere but here. So perhaps now would be a good time to ask God for the help you need to get closer to Him.

I pray that we all may be more aware of the nearness of God in our own lives.

FALL FLU SHOT CLINIC

OUR ANNUAL FLU SHOT CLINIC
IS SET FOR
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21ST
3:00 - 5:00 PM
IN THE PARISH HALL.

WE WILL PROVIDE A SCHEDULE SOON
FOR YOU TO PRE REGISTER. WE WILL
ONLY BE ABLE TO SCHEDULE 5 PEOPLE
FOR A 10 MINUTE WINDOW.

THE OVER 65 FLU SHOT AVAILABLE
BUT YOU MUST REQUEST WHEN YOU
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AGES 5 YEARS OLD AND UP AND FOR
THOSE THAT ARE PREGNANT
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MORE DETAILS COMING SOON!

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October 10, 2020

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Donations needed for Blessing Bags

David Fisher makes Blessing Bags for local homeless people. Winter will be here soon and he is looking for donations. Please drop items by the Parish Office or contact David to arrange pick up.

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Totebags
Socks
Underwear
Pants
Shirts

Gift cards
Letters
Cards of encouragement
Prayer cards / Small Bibles
Rosaries
Batteries
Bottled water
Drink mix packets

Thermal underwear
Sweaters
Hats
Scarfs
Gloves

Gallon Ziploc bags
Small first aid kits
Band-aids
Triple antibiotic ointment
Chapstick
Small sewing kits
Manicure Kits

Snacks
Ramen
Beanie Weenies
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Pens Notebooks Envelopes
Stamps

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TO DONATE CONTACT:

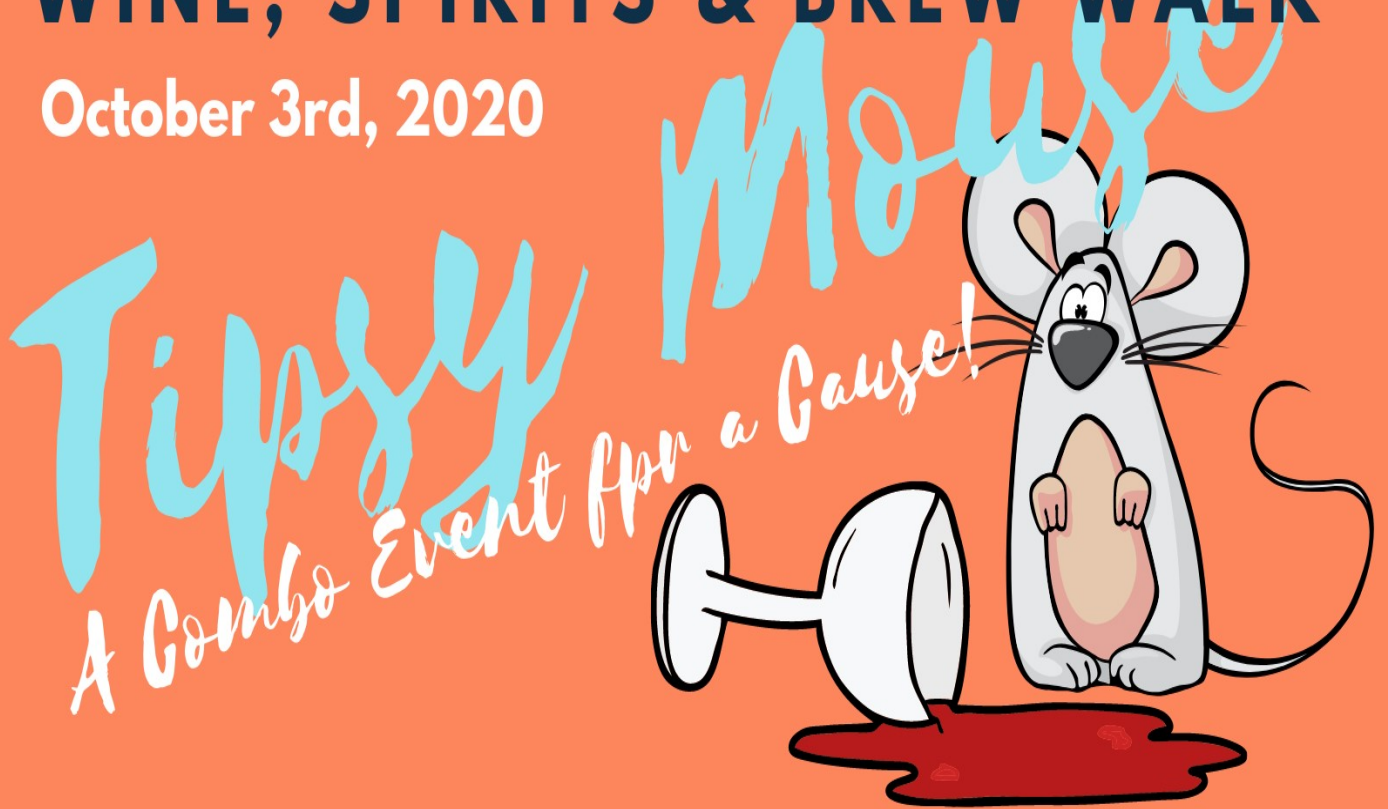
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October 3rd, 2020



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WHEN: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3RD FROM 5-7PM

TICKETS: \$50/ ADULT (21 AND OVER ONLY)

CONTACT:

CINDY MOSBAUER - MTMHOUSE@SBCGLOBAL.NET OR 816.520.3239

MARY VITT - MARYVITT0324@YAHOO.COM OR 816.520.1575

TERRY CARROLL - JRCAROLS@SWBELL.NET OR 816.718.2738

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Children are usually still quite young the first time they have occasion to shout, “That’s not fair!” At some point in our lives, we’ve probably all felt the bitterness of unfairness. Today’s readings agree that life isn’t always fair—yet, unexpectedly, invite us to rejoice! We rejoice because God’s mercy is totally unfair: God lavishes us with forgiveness and love even when we deserve less. Both the reading from Isaiah and the psalm praise the great mercy of God, mercy that forgives our sins over and over. In the Gospel parable, Jesus demonstrates that God longs to give good things to all of us, even to those who seem less worthy. When Saint Paul reflects on God’s goodness, embodied in Jesus Christ, he can hardly wait to enter his heavenly reward.

AN UNEXPECTED LESSON

Jesus’ parable depicts workers who “punch the clock” at various times throughout the long day: dawn, nine, noon, three, and five o’clock. Regardless of when they began working in the vineyard, the laborers all receive the same reward. The reward seems lavish to the latecomers, of course, and shockingly unfair to the long-faithful workers. The landowner soothes his most dutiful laborers, however, delighting in them as friends and transforming their bitter confrontation into a reflection on generosity. The laborers who arrived at five o’clock might have been late to the job, but those who began at the crack of dawn were last to understand the extravagant bounty of the landowner. Seen in this way, the parable discusses not only God’s generosity toward “unworthy” believers, but also the Lord’s inexhaustible patience toward those who thought they had nothing more to learn.

BEGINNING AGAIN

Today’s readings provide sweet refreshment to all of us who know the bitterness of discouragement. No matter how stubbornly we determine to improve ourselves, the human condition often leaves us in puddles of failure and regret. Jesus has a new plan for us. Today’s Gospel parable demonstrates the mercy of God, mercy that rejoices in fresh beginnings. We take comfort in knowing that God accompanies us in our labors—and works for us—whether we struggle with caring for our bodies, striving for patience, avoiding gossip, making time for prayer, being generous, overcoming addiction, remaining in recovery, or simply attending to our daily work. Jesus shows us that he actively engages with us each time we fall short. From dawn to dusk, the Lord seeks us out, calling us to join him in the vineyard. Now, today, right this moment, is our dawn. Or our nine o’clock. Or noon? Ignore the clock! Jesus invites us to forget past failures; divine mercy wipes them away. Today’s psalm insists that the “Lord is near to all who call upon him.” In hope, then, we begin again.

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SAINT PIUS OF PIETRELCINA (1887-1968)

September 23

Did the World War II American flyer really see Padre Pio in midair, preventing the bombing of his village below? Did Pio actually “bilocate” in Italy, the Holy Land, even America, as countless witnesses testified? Or “read hearts” before penitents spoke? What of the stigmata, Christ’s wounds imprinted on Padre Pio’s hands, feet, and side? John Paul II, who as a young man visited Pio, never mentioned these extraordinary elements at the canonization. Instead, the pope spoke of “trials accepted with love,” referring perhaps to sanctions restricting Pio’s faculties for hearing confessions and celebrating public Mass, imposed because of criticism, later discredited, sent to the Vatican; of Pio’s offering his sufferings in union with Jesus’ passion for a suffering world; of his continual availability to sinners seeking direction and absolution; of Padre Pio’s prayer that blossomed in charity, especially through his House for the Relief of Suffering, a healthcare facility that anticipated by decades today’s holistic partnering of medical science and spirituality. Finally, how comforting for us ordinary Christians, this extraordinary saint’s most frequent advice: “Pray, hope, and don’t worry!”

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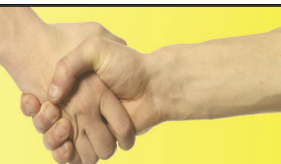


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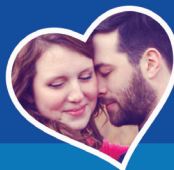
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