

RESPECT LIFE MONTH

October 2025

respectlife.org/celebrate

160 Ridge Rd, Chadds Ford, PA 19317

Phone: (610) 459-2502 • Fax: (610) 459-3942

Web: www.saintcornelius.org

Email: stcorn1@comcast.net • Facebook: Like us on Facebook

Msgr. David Diamond, Pastor

Deacons: Harry Morris • John Todor (Ret.)

Parish Council Members

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Michael Brisgone

José Dominguez
Franca Felcher

Mary Jo Gordon
John Guest

Laurie Hays
Jon Lippard

Michelle Nardozi
David Ripsom

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Pastoral & Administrative Assistant: Marie McGuigan

Office Manager: Douglas Kitson

Parish Religious Education Program: Abbie McCusker

Director of Music: Margie Melchior

Directors of Parish Services: Thomas Bosch & Kelly Limmina

St. Cornelius Early Learning Center

Abbie McCusker, Director

Phone: (610) 459-8663

Website: www.scornelius.org

St. Cornelius Parish Office Hours

Monday thru Thursday 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

Friday 8:00 am to 12:00 pm Noon

Saturday: Confessions 2:30 - 3:30 Vigil Mass 4:00 pm

Sunday: 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am, 4:00 pm **Weekday Mass: 7:30 am**

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Friday after morning Mass to 4 pm

LiveStream <https://vimeo.com/user123448673>

Thoughts from the Second Floor Front XXVII Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 5, 2025

The readings from Sacred Scripture this weekend have a ring of the need for immediacy. This is not an unusual concept for us in our contemporary western society when the issue of immediate gratification is viewed by many to be a right; even an expectation based on a sense of entitlement. Don't believe it? Who among us working on a computer that suddenly freezes or does not respond quickly has not shaken the mouse and said something like: What's wrong with this thing? The line of cars at the drive through windows at fast food (an exalted name for that fare) restaurants does not seem to be shrinking. In our age people want what they want when they want it.

I remember reading David McCullough's book John Adams. In one passage he describes the beginning of a trans-Atlantic journey that marked an important diplomatic mission. Adams boarded the ship in Boston Harbor and then he and all the ship's company sat in Boston harbor for more than a week waiting for a favorable wind. Can you imagine being told at the airport that your plane will be delayed by a week? No one would stand for it.

Habakkuk's is a prophetic book based on two complaints that the prophet makes to God. Today's reading is the first complaint about the injustices visited upon the people of His day which apparently the prophet believed God was ignoring. The Lord's response is that God's justice will come but not on Habakkuk's timeline. The prophet's task, as is ours, is to wait for it to occur confident that it will. God has not and will not abandon His people. The old saying is true: God writes straight on crooked lines.

The apostles today ask for an increase in their faith. Would that be our prayer as well? Should we not instead ask to employ the faith that we now have and bring that faith to our life?

We can bring that life of faith to the work we do on a daily basis asking our Lord to bless our efforts and help us along. We can bring our confidence in God's concern for us and our loved ones on a visit to a sick friend or a relative who may need encouragement. And we are not to be concerned with the end result coming out the way we planned it. A line from the poem by Blessed John Henry Newman The Pillar of Cloud comes to mind:

*Lead, kindly Light, amid the encircling gloom,
Lead thou me on!
The night is dark, and I am far from home,
Lead thou me on!
Keep thou my feet; I do not ask to see
The distant scene, one step enough for me.*

As I write this, another shooting has taken place. This time in Michigan at a Mormon Church. Typical of these experiences, which are sadly becoming commonplace, early on in the reporting not much is known. What is known is that the death, destruction and disorientation that emerges only serve to demonstrate that evil is in the world. The prophetic words of Edmund Burke, an English Prime Minister from the 18th century continue to ring true: The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil, is for good people to do nothing. How to respond to yet another act of violent madness that is so unnerving. We may feel helpless when faced with the ferocity of the malevolence that people bring to the surface by their actions.

It seems unlikely that the people reading this would engage in such terroristic and maniacal actions. I encourage you to read Matthew 5: 21-22. Of course Jesus forbids murder but He does not start there. Anger leads to violence and sometimes that violence spills over to reckless actions.

We do not yet know and we may never know what caused the shooter in Michigan to kill. We have no control on the actions of others. But we can control our own actions – our own anger. As we walk through the days of this upcoming week, we can do so in a manner marked by Grace that has lead us to the Eucharist today and we pray will continue to lead us on.

Faithfully,

Msgr. Diamond



Join us for our Fall Program!

We come together each Wednesday morning at 6:00 am for coffee, light fare and fellowship. At 6:15 am, we begin our program with a video followed by discussion. The group then closes at 7:15 am in time for daily Mass at 7:30 am.

This year's theme: "The Light of Men"

If you were not available to participate previously, no worries! The program is designed to jump in when you can.

The 2025-26 schedule for our TMIY group can be found at:

<https://www.saintcornelius.org/that-man-is-you>

Our first gathering was **Wednesday, September 17th, 2025**, but you can join us at any time.

Scan the QR code to the right or copy the link below to join us!



<https://programs.paradisusdei.org/join/05E3A5>

All men are welcome to join us at any time during the program.

SCHEDULE: Each Wednesday, Parish Life Center (PLC)

6:00 am Coffee, light fare and fellowship

6:15 am Video and discussion

7:15 am Closing in time for 7:30 am Mass

All men are welcome to join this enriching formation experience.

All you need to do is show up Wednesday morning.



Monsignor's Thursday Email

Msgr. Diamond's weekly Thursday Email is a popular weekly newsletter for our parishioners. Currently there are **over 1,148** people who receive his email each Thursday afternoon. If you would like to be on our distribution list, please call the office at (610) 459-2502 or send your request to be added to our distribution at

Stcorn1@comcast.net.

Welcome to the Parish!



Linda Behan

Richard and Karen Cioll

Gilbert and Marianne Saunders

Tyler and Emily Vandegrift and family



Knights of Columbus®

Grow in Faith. Serve Your Parish & Community. Join the Knights of Columbus!

The Knights of Columbus is a dynamic organization of Catholic men dedicated to strengthening faith, protecting families, and building a better world. The St. Cornelius Council [Council 12391] invites you to become part of this vibrant fraternity.

Why Join?

Deepen Your Faith: Participate in programs and activities designed to enhance your spiritual life and connection to Jesus Christ.

Strengthen Your Family: Discover resources and support to become a better husband, father, and man of faith.

Make a Difference: Join with fellow Knights to support your parish, assist those in need, and volunteer for vital community initiatives.

Exclusive Benefits: Members receive access to a top-rated insurance program, a complimentary financial needs analysis, and other valuable benefits.

How to Join

If you are a Catholic man, 18 years or older, we encourage you to learn more. Members of the St. Cornelius Council will be available after each of the Masses during the week-end of October 4 & 5, in the narthex to answer your questions and help you sign up. Our council will hold its next meeting on Thursday, October 9, at 7 pm in the Parish Life Center. Come join us!

You can also join online at kofc.org/join and use our council number, [12391], to connect with us. New members may join for free using the promo code BLESSEDMC-GIVNEY in honor of the Founder of the Knights.

Come grow in faith, build lasting friendships, and serve our community as a Knight!

God bless you.



Eucharistic Adoration

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament flows from the sacrifice of the Mass and serves to deepen our hunger for Communion with Christ and the rest of the Church.

Join us for Adoration on Friday mornings after Mass. Please help by signing up for Adoration at least one hour each week. Your commitment will cover the same hour for each Friday.



You are welcome to visit anytime during the day until we repose the Blessed Sacrament at 4:00 PM.

If a funeral is scheduled for a Friday, there will be NO exposition.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK



When: Saturday, October 11 at the 4:00 pm Mass and Sunday, October 12 at the 11:00 am Mass.

Where: Please sit in the 6 front pews all around the front of the church. You may have one other person with you if you wish.

Who: Please let us know if you wish to receive this Sacrament by emailing the PLC at stcorn1@comcast.net or by calling the PLC at 610-459-2502. This will give us an idea of how many people wish to participate and help us to record who has received the Sacrament.

Why: When the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is given, the hoped-for effect is that, if it be God's will, the person be physically healed of illness. But even if there is no physical healing, the primary effect of the Sacrament is a spiritual healing by which the sick person receives the Holy Spirit's gift of peace and courage to deal with the difficulties that accompany serious illness or the frailty of old age. A person should not wait until they are at the point of death to receive this Sacrament.

Buildings and Grounds Committee



If you have any experience in the trades, the Buildings and Grounds Committee is looking for new members. As the pastor says: If you can hammer a nail in straight, you are over qualified. In reality we have a big campus, close to 60 acres, with a lot of moving parts. The Committee meets once month, discusses aspects of the temporal goods of the parish and make recommendations for the attention that is necessary. Please give it consideration and if interested talk to Msgr. Diamond.

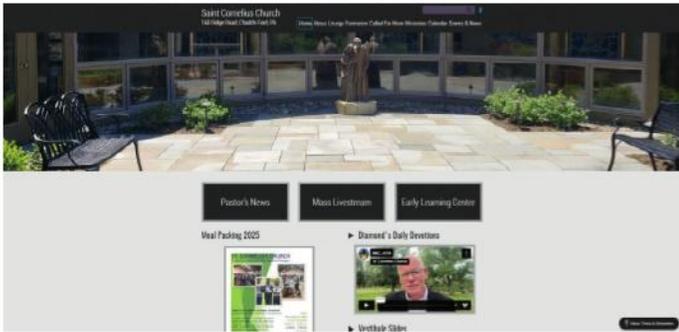
Annual Baby Bottle Drive



Our Pro-Life Group is partnering with Legacy of Life again this October to raise money to support the mission of helping pregnant women choose life. We will have baby bottles available after all the Masses on the weekends of October 11-12 and 18-19. We accept bottles with checks made out to Legacy of Life as well as cash, including coins. Please return the filled bottles on October 26 and 27.



DDD – The Triple “D”



Four days a week the pastor records *Diamond’s Daily Devotions*. It is basically a brief reflection on the Liturgy of the Word that day. Access to this is by way of our web site where you can find what the pastor can share in terms of a spiritual message for that day.



The Sunday collection is very important for us to maintain our fiscal responsibilities. So, if you are away on a Sunday, *ENJOY*; but remember *YOUR* church.

September 28, 2025

WeShare e Giving \$7,350.40
 Envelope Offering \$17,404.50
 \$24,754.90



“For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.”

Luke 12:34

St. Cornelius October Drive Benefitting...



A Philadelphia Ministry where homeless men find dignity, respect, nourishment and opportunities for new beginnings

Weekend of October 11 & 12, 2025

Drop donations off at the Parish Life Center (PLC) PRIOR to Mass

Suggested Donations
NEW TRAVEL SIZE

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Toothpaste | Shave cream |
| Toothbrush | Deodorant |
| Disposable razors | Combs |
| Shampoo | Hand Lotion |
| Powder | Lip Balm |
| Soap | Tissues |

ALSO

- **NEW White Athletic Socks: any size**
- **NEW Men’s underwear/undershirts: Any color/style. (Sizes: Large, Extra large, 1X, 2X, 3X)**
- **NEW/GENTLY USED Men’s pants (sizes 34W x 30-36L, sizes 36W x 30-36L)**
- **NEW/GENTLY USED Men’s sneakers (any size/color)**

For further information or to volunteer, please contact: Mary Allen (text 484-432-5098) or Colleen Zangla (colleenmz@hotmail.com)

ST. CORNELIUS CHURCH

In partnership with Rise Against Hunger



JOIN US TO FIGHT GLOBAL HUNGER
 PACKAGE MEALS FOR AFRICA WITH HELPING HANDS

Our goal is to package 50,000 meals to send to those who suffer food insecurity in Africa and other parts of the world. In addition, we hope to raise awareness of the growing needs of our brothers and sisters throughout the world.

DATE

November 8, 2025

TIME

8:30 am to 2:30 pm

LOCATION

St. Cornelius Church, PLC

CONTACT

Parish Office 610.459.2502

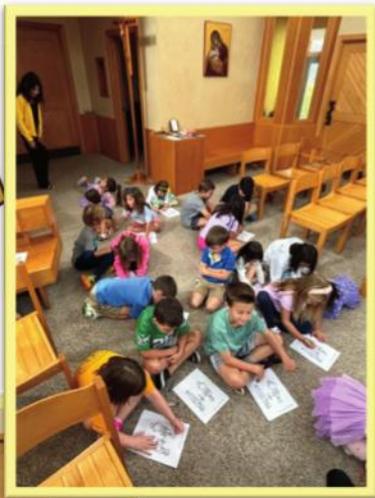
Register on line at saintcornelius.org/meal-packing-event and join your fellow parishioners to fight hunger.





St. Cornelius Early Learning Center

It was truly awesome to see so many of our little children participating in our Children’s Liturgy at Mass on Sunday! Their joyful presence reminded us of the beauty of coming together as a parish family to worship and learn. We hope this continues each week so that our little ones can grow in their faith, learn more about Jesus, and carry His love in their hearts. What a blessing it is to guide them on their journey with Christ!



OCT. 17 | 6:30 PM
 Saint Cornelius Parish Life Center
 \$45 for Dinner and Comedy Show

Clean, Christian comedy is hard to come by.
 Gordon Douglas is the answer.

Register here:



Helping Hands and Hearts

This ministry offers temporary help (meals, errands, etc.) to individuals and families in need! If you are aware of someone in need or would like to be a volunteer helper, please contact Marilyn Gustin at mgustin05@gmail.com (484) 947-7295.

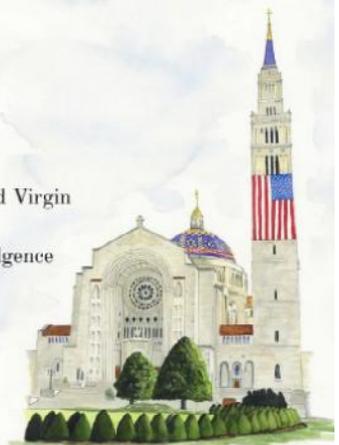
Pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

Where: From St. Cornelius to Washington, D.C.
 When: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 (Time TBA)
 Cost: Free

This pilgrimage will be led by Msgr. Diamond and will include:

- The Sacrament of Reconciliation
- The celebration of Holy Mass
- Devotions in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Opportunity for the Jubilee Indulgence
- Time for quiet prayer

RSVP:



CRS NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT



International humanitarian aid plays a critical role in funding global health programs, from providing vaccines and essential medical care to improving water and sanitation systems and preventing malnutrition. This assistance not only helps people live longer, healthier lives, it also stops the spread of infectious diseases, protecting both vulnerable communities and countries like the United States from future pandemics.

For decades, CRS has been a global leader in **maternal and child health**. But recent cuts to U.S. funding threaten to unravel decades of progress. Without intervention to maintain global aid efforts, as many as 1 million people could die from preventable illnesses in the coming year - a devastating setback for global health and human dignity. Please visit www.crs.org for more information and to see how you can help!

Let us pray for our Men and Women serving in the Armed Forces. Especially for:

SSG Ana Brunal
SPC Mike Canfield
Cpl Michael Castle
Lt. Connor Cleary
Fr. Joseph Coffey (Chaplain)
Maj Robert B. Cusick, Jr.
Capt Joshua deFreitas
SSGT Michael DiVernieri
Cadet Emily Fanning
Lt. Ryan Gallagher
SSG. Eric Gardner
Capt Matthew Gibbons
Ens Patrick Gibbons
Ens John Paul Gibbons
Maj Rachel Gonzalez
SPC Logan Hannum
Sgt Andrew Hart
Devin J. Hunt
PO1 Nathan R. Keller
1st Lt Lauren Kinnee
Sp. Andrew Koehler
Capt Daniel Kohli
Maj. Chris Love
Maj. Megan Love
Sgt Jason Lyons

2nd Lt. Kevin Malone
Sgt Alexander Marlow
PFC Zachary Marlow
CPT. Travis Mauer
Lt. Cmdr Daniel McCadden
Capt Jonathan McGrath
LT Molly K. McGuckin
LCDR Ryan A. McGuckin
Maj. Sean P. Noll
Lt. Col Brian J. O'Shea
Lt. Cmdr Inga O'Shea
Maj James O'Shea
Sgt. Maj. Justin Rogowski
PFC L Roland
LTJG Christian Samulewicz
1st Lt. Olivia Samulewicz
Capt. Neal F. Schubert
Ens Nicholas Spadaccini
MSG Thomas Stone
Cpl Mark Truex
Lt. Christopher Vish
Capt. Aidan Walsh
PFC Ellianna Welsh
Capt Jennifer Wynn

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL AND THOSE WHO CARE FOR THEM

Jim & Kathy Buckley, Brian Buckley, Judy & Ed Field, Eileen Talley, Tom Eno, Luke Post, Nancy Cunningham, Andrea Bateman, Bernice & Arthur Hindle, Joan Carrington, Edna Werwinski, Hayes Gonzalez



Mark Your Calendar!!!
American Red Cross
Blood Drive
St. Cornelius Church

Thursday – November 6, 2025
1PM to 6PM

Register today at redcrossblood.org using *St. Cornelius* as the sponsor code or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) Call Marilyn at 484-947-7295 leaving your name and phone number with any questions.

The need for blood is constant and only volunteer donors can fulfill that need in our community. Nationwide, someone needs a unit of blood every 2 to 3 seconds. Blood cannot be manufactured. It can only come from generous donors like YOU. Be a donor on November 6th !!!

Eligibility questions?

Call the Red Cross Donor Center @ 1-866-236-3276



The Ministry of Consolation

A St. Cornelius community response to the needs of people grieving the death of a significant person/persons in their lives, the ministry honors the words and example of the Lord Jesus:

"Blessed are they who mourn; they shall be consoled"

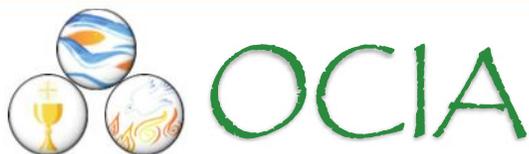
(Matthew 5:4).

A team of four St. Cornelius church members have been trained to set up and facilitate a Support Group for the Consolation Ministry.

On **October 18, 2025**, the Consolation Group will meet at the **Parish Life Center, Fr. Simon Room** from **2:30pm to 3:30pm**.

Contact Joan Holliday for any questions

dochollisv@aol.com or call (610) 717-2180.



Please help us pray for and extend an invitation to all of those whom God is calling into the Catholic Church.

- Are you married to a Catholic?
- Are you a Catholic who has not received the Sacraments?
- Are you someone seeking a spiritual home?

We will be meeting for all of those who are interested in looking into the Catholic faith or Catholics who have not received the Sacraments of Holy Eucharist and/or Confirmation.

This year I invite any and all members of the parish to consider joining the group as a means of Adult Education and ongoing Faith Formation. The sessions follow the United States Catholic Catechism. We usually meet on a Thursday evening in the Fr. Simon Room. They last for about an hour. There are no tests. The only books you will need are the Catechism and a Bible. Even if you do not believe you can commit to each week, please consider joining when you can.

Please contact the office at (610) 459-2502 to express your interest and be added to the distribution list.

**Thursday
Scripture Study
10:00 am - 11:00 am
Parish Life Center
with Msgr. Diamond**



Join us at any time!

All women and men are invited to join us each Thursday morning from 10:00 am to 11:00 am. If you weren't able to join us last year, do not let that deter you. The goal of this Scripture study will be to broaden our knowledge of Scripture, the Church's teaching regarding the Scriptures, and it will enhance our understanding and personal faith life. Please bring a bible.

saintcornelius.org/morning-bible-study

If you have questions, please call Nancy Todor - cell 609-234-1193.

*It is never too late to
pick up and read.*



walking with purpose

Ladies, we would love for you to be part of something special.

The Walking with Purpose Bible study

Whether you are just beginning to explore your faith or have walked with God for years, you will find encouragement, support, and meaningful conversation as we study God's word. Previous experience with Bible study is not necessary. Bring your Bible, bring a friend and consider joining us this fall for our next study:

Opening Your Heart

We meet weekly in the Parish Life Center starting Tuesday, October 7th through March of 2026, with breaks for the holidays.

For more information, an Open House will take place at the Parish Life Center on Tuesday morning September 30th from 10:00 am -11:00 am, and Tuesday evening from 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm.



To Register for the fall session, contact one of our Parish Coordinators for your preferred time:

Tuesday Mornings
10:00 am -12:00 pm - Agnes Arkus
agnesa324@verizon.net (302) 290-3486

Tuesday Evenings
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm - Beth Baldo
baldobetha@gmail.com (845) 558-7089

Information about WWP is available on the St. Cornelius parish website at:
<https://saintcornelius.org/walking-with-purpose>

Accompanying study guide for **Opening Your Heart** can be purchased at:
<https://shop.walkingwithpurpose.com>





PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM
(PREP)

Saint Cornelius Parish

You can contact Mrs. Abbie McCusker at
stcornprep@scornelius.org or by calling
the PREP office (610) 459-7723

We are happy to share that beginning this fall, September 21, our parish will be offering a Children's Liturgy of the Word during the 9:00 AM Sunday Mass. This special time allows our youngest parishioners to hear God's Word in a way that is age-appropriate and meaningful, helping them grow in their love for Jesus and understanding of the Gospel. The children will be invited to gather separately during the Liturgy of the Word and will return to their families for the remainder of Mass. We are blessed to have Abigail McCusker and Debbie Anderson leading this ministry, and we encourage parents to bring their children so they can take part in this wonderful opportunity to learn, pray, and grow in faith.

Holy Hour - Join Us!

Monday, October 6, 8:00 am

After the 7:30 Mass, the Pro-Life Group is hosting a Holy Hour. We will pray a rosary for the unborn, and an end to abortion. We will also pray the Miraculous Medal Novena for the unborn. There will be time for silent prayer. The hour will close at approximately 9:00 am.



Look for this event monthly on the first Monday of the month.

Sunday Mass Intentions

- 7:30 AM Raymond Kitson
- 9:00 AM Maria Cristaldi-Guenther
- 11:00 AM Deceased members of Walsh & Arbuckle families
- 4:00 PM Mary Lerario

**Weekly Mass Schedule
(Week of October 6 - October 10)**

Saturday Vigil / Sunday Morning

Intention: *Missa pro populo (Mass for the people)*
Reading: Hb 1:2-3; 2:2-4; Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9; 2 Tm 1:6-8, 13-14; Lk 17:5-10

Monday 7:30 AM

Intention: Mary Louise Noone
Reading: Jon 1:1-2:1-2, 11; Jon 2:3, 4, 5, 8; Lk 10:25-37

Tuesday 7:30 AM

Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary

Intention: Rose Marie Turcal
Reading: Jon 3:1-10; Ps 130:1b-2, 3-4ab, 7-8; Lk 10:38-42

Wednesday 7:30 AM

Intention: Eileen McGuigan Molz
Reading: Jon 4:1-11; Ps 86:3-4, 5-6, 9-10; Lk 11:1-4

Thursday 7:30 AM

Intention: Oliva Varacchi
Reading: Mal 3:13-20b; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6; Lk 11:5-13

Friday 7:30 AM

Intention: Mark Miller
Reading: Jl 1:13-15; 2: 1-2; Ps 9:2-3, 6 and 16, 8-9; Lk 11:15-26

PILGRIM STATUE



- 10 - 05 - 1015 Open
- 10 - 12 - 2025 Debbie Brisgone
- 10 - 19 - 2025 Open

The dates for August thru December are now available on the sign-up.

Call Carla Santoleri at (610) 361-8447 for more information.

HEED THE CALL



VOCATION OFFICE FOR
DIOCESAN PRIESTHOOD

Visit our website
WWW.HeedTheCall.org



Giving Hope to All



A LITTLE FAITH

Today our readings are about faith, frustration, and how much is enough. Habakkuk is a complainer having an argument with God. Timothy is encouraging a community challenged by cowardice and the apostles want more faith than they have. Things aren't happening fast enough for any of them or for us. All of them and we want God to do something sooner rather than later and we want God to give us a reason to believe that it will all work out. What does God do? God puts it back on them—and us—telling Habakkuk to describe the world he wants; telling the apostles to do more than the expected. Doing more with less is a familiar phrase today and a reminder that a little faith may be enough even for the most difficult times.

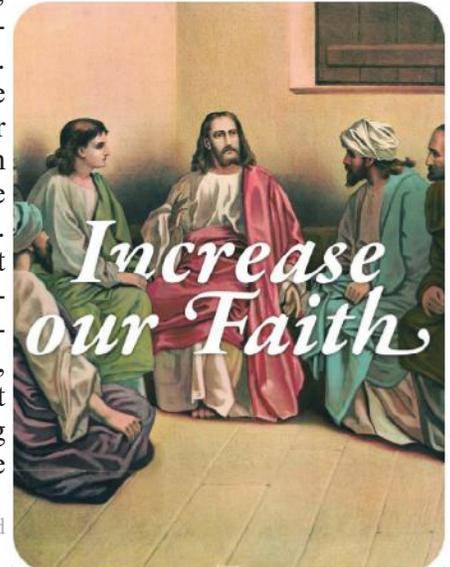
TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Sometimes human relationships go awry, but Christ's choice for us is irrevocable. In marriage celebrations, the Church always recalls God's faithfulness to help prepare married couples for enduring the inevitable rough spots. The Byzantine liturgy does this by adorning the couple with crowns that remind them of the martyr's crown. The couple therefore takes on a vocation of witnessing to the sacredness of life in all

of its suffering and joy, and of keeping their eyes fixed on the banquet of heaven.

In Eastern theology, people have a liturgical vocation to give God praise, and marriage fits within that plan. It is not so much saying prayers that counts, but becoming prayer. Interestingly, in this liturgy the couple never utters a word other than joining in the community's chants; there are no marriage vows as such. There is therefore not a hint of our Western Christian sense that marriage is a legal contract. Rather, it is all about living out one's baptismal vocation, embracing the cross, pouring oneself out in love, and opening to the grace of the Holy Spirit.

—James Field



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RESPECT LIFE

Prayer & Action

Prayer Guide | OCTOBER 2025

INTERCEDE



PRAY

Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be

REFLECT

There is perhaps no more beautiful celebration than when parents bring their newborn child to the waters of baptism. Parents, godparents, family, and friends share in this sacrament with incomparable joy. For in baptism, we share in Christ's death and resurrection, and through the outward signs of water and oil, are made *children of God* and given the hope of eternal life with Him.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven, death is overcome, and life is victorious. We are called to be signs of hope to all people, especially those whose goodness, value, and dignity are undermined. As members of the Body of Christ, we carry this hope with us as we continue Jesus' mission on earth.

Sadly, there is a devastating absence of hope today. We see this most profoundly in a sweeping disregard for human life in its most vulnerable forms and stages. Abortion and assisted suicide are products of hopelessness and despair. Yet even amid the increasing attacks on human life, we know that the "storms that buffet us will never prevail, for we are

firmly anchored in the hope born of grace, which enables us to live in Christ and to overcome sin, fear and death."¹

We have been entrusted with a message of hope for the woman who finds herself unexpectedly pregnant or for the man diagnosed with a terminal illness. At these challenging moments, we must bring God's presence, witnessing to His love, and inspiring a renewal of hope in those whose hearts are burdened. For "hope is born of love and based on the love springing from the pierced heart of Jesus upon the cross."² Confident of God's presence within us, may we share the Gospel of Life with those most in need of hope.

Reflection adapted from "Life: Our Sign of Hope" (respectlife.org/life-our-sign-of-hope).

ACT (choose one)

- Offer "A Prayer for Hope" for this month's intention (respectlife.org/prayer-for-hope).
- Visit a local parish and spend an hour adoring Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.
- Offer some other sacrifice or prayer that you feel called to do for this month's intention.

ONE STEP FURTHER

October is Respect Life Month! Pray for the protection of human life from conception to natural death by joining the novena from October 22-30: bit.ly/respect-life-month-novena.

¹ Pope Francis, *Spes non confundit*, 25.

² *Ibid*, 3.



Get monthly prayer guides at:
respectlife.org/prayer-and-action

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