



OUR LADY OF THE LAKE

203 VAUGHN RD. BRANSON, MO 65616 | 417-334-2928 |

OFFICE@OLLBRANSON.COM



20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



"There is a baptism with which I must be baptized, and how great is my anguish until it is accomplished! Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. From now on a household of five will be divided, three against two and two against three." - Lk 12:50-52



20th Sunday of Ordinary Time

August 16 - August 23

Events

SATURDAY Aug. 16

Our Lady Cares Second Collection

Sacrament of Reconciliation

3:00 - 4:30pm - Confessional

SUNDAY Aug. 17

Our Lady Cares Second Collection

TUESDAY Aug. 19

Centering Prayer

2:15-4:00pm - Heritage Room

WEDNESDAY Aug. 20

Stitchers

9:00am - 12:00pm - St. Francis Room

Music Practice

6:15 - 7:30pm - Music Room

THURSDAY Aug. 21

OLL Games

1:00 - 3:30pm - Faith Formation Room

FRIDAY Aug. 22

Spanish Charismatic Group

6:00 - 9:00pm - Faith Formation Room

SATURDAY Aug. 23

WELCOME Women Meeting

9:00 - 11:00am - Heritage Room

Mass Times

SATURDAY

5:00pm

7:00pm (Spanish)

SUNDAY

8:00am

10:30am

MONDAY

9:00am

TUESDAY

9:00am

WEDNESDAY

5:30pm

THURSDAY

9:00am

Adoration

TUESDAY

9:30am - 3pm - Chapel

THURSDAY

9:30am - 7pm - Chapel

Important Links

[Click Here For
PARISH CALENDAR](#)

[Click Here For
MASS INTENTIONS](#)

[Click Here For
FLOWER INTENTIONS](#)



*Flower Intentions
available for August*

Mass Intentions

Sat.	8/16	5:00pm	Larry Schloss +
Sat.	8/16	7:00pm	Taney County Parish Family (Living)
Sun.	8/17	8:00am	Rita Sarris + (Birthday Deceased)
Sun.	8/17	10:30am	Dan O'Sullivan +
Mon.	8/18	9:00am	Jim Bounds +
Tue.	8/19	9:00am	Sarah Buzzard (Living)
Wed.	8/20	5:30pm	Sarah Buzzard (Living)
Thu.	8/21	9:00am	Deceased Members of the Konzen Family



Flower Intentions Aug. 16th-22nd
for
Pauline Krueger+ & Anna Bartek+



[Click Here
to Make a
Prayer
Request](#)

[Click Here
to Donate
Online](#)

[Haga clic
aquí para
el boletín
en español](#)

[Click Here
to Contact
Parish Staff](#)

WORSHIP WITH US



Click [here](#) for Mass Times & Sacrament of Reconciliation



CLICK [HERE](#) FOR
DAILY MASS READINGS

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Collection through August 10, 2025

Envelopes:		\$27,574.24
Plate:		\$1,230.00
Green Envelopes:		\$5,324.00
Total:		\$34,128.24

Our Lady of the Lake is committed to helping those in our community who find themselves in difficult situations. This includes our own parishioners and those in our surrounding community through the helping agencies in our area. Outreach ministries that are active in our parish include Our Lady Cares, Give Five and “Father’s Left Pocket”.

Our Lady Cares

was initially established on Ash Wednesday 2010 in an effort to help organizations that ‘help the least of these.’ We currently support several area agencies on a regular basis: Christian Action Ministries, Elevate Branson, Free Medical Clinic of the Ozarks, House of Hope and Salvation Army with a monthly gift and Options Pregnancy Center with a gift semi-annually. We also support a number of other area helping agencies with financial support and offering use of our facilities for special events at not cost. Funds for Our Lady Cares primarily come from the special collection for outreach on the third Sunday of each month.



Give Five

is a program seeking to connect retired individuals with volunteer possibilities in the various helping agencies in our area. Education is provided to assist in choosing a volunteer position as well as understanding the needs in our area and how each agency helps the community. Give Five is supported by a grant from the Senior Age Area Agency on Aging. Expenses incurred to provide Give Five educational experiences are offset by the grant. Parish Outreach ministry members (including parish staff) assist in providing the training for Give Five. The compensation that these individuals receive is redirected to Our Lady Cares to go back into the community outreach programs.

“Father’s Left Pocket”

Many of you may have heard of “Father’s Left Pocket”. Last summer, our pastor, Father J, began a special appeal to help the working poor in Branson, specifically to assist with housing projects through Elevate Branson. Nearly every week a request is made to our congregation, both parishioners and parishioners-for-a-day, to help with the needs of the working poor in our area. “Father’s Left Pocket” is for this purpose. Elevate Branson has two projects that Our Lady of the Lake has committed to helping fund.

- 1. The purchase and renovation of the hotel adjacent to Elevate Branson’s property into suitable housing for families who are currently living in the “weekly rentals” in Branson.
- 2. Cost of one Tiny House to provide housing for one couple currently living in “weekly rentals” in Branson.

Both of these projects are a helping hand and a step-up to a better living situation. It is especially important to Our Lady of the Lake to assist in these projects to help provide a safer living environment (especially for the children) and to alleviate some of the housing shortages in our area.

This is a recap of our Outreach endeavors for the most recent fiscal year, July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

Income:	
Our Lady Cares Monthly Collection:	\$ 59,977.12
Give Five Grant Funds Received:	\$ 32,738.66
Father’s Left Pocket Appeal:	<u>\$113,857.76</u>
Total Income:	\$206,573.54
Expenses:	
Monthly Agency Support:	\$ 36,000.00
Semi-Annual Agency Support:	\$ 1,000.00
Other outreach support to Agencies:	\$ 5,470.00
Other outreach support to Individuals:	\$ 2,472.79
Give Five Expenses: (offset by grant)	\$ 17,761.32
Elevate Projects:	<u>\$109,663.76</u>
(Variance due to funds collected in June paid in July.)	
Total Expenses:	\$172,367.87

As a “special need cushion”, we maintain a positive balance in the Outreach funds. These funds could be accessed in the case of natural disaster, fire or other significant event.

Hey Deacon!

By Deacon Dan Vaughn

The Dormition of the Virgin Mary: Did she die or was she merely asleep?

During that same trip to the Holy Land in June 2023, I visited the Basilica of the Dormition, where we were told the Blessed Virgin Mary died. There is also a Catholic theory that she didn't die but was only asleep. Whether she died or simply fell asleep prior to being assumed into Heaven is an open question. In the Latin Catholic Church tradition says Mary did die; in the Eastern Catholic Churches tradition has said she fell asleep and did not die. Either way, we have no solid historical evidence to prove a position.

In 1950 Pope Pius XII solemnly defined the dogma of the Assumption. He said, "the Immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory." That seems to leave open the question of whether Mary died first. Some theologians feel that since death is a consequence of sin, Mary would not have had to die. But others say that, since Jesus himself chose to die, wouldn't it be fitting for his mother to have shared the same fate?

The first full stories of Mary's end-of-life narrative appear not in the canonical Bible but in apocryphal texts from the 4th to 6th centuries, often called *Transitus Mariae* -- "Passing of Mary". These include Greek, Syriac, Coptic, and Latin versions, each with variations. The common storyline is that Mary is told by an angel that her time has come, the apostles are gathered to her bedside (often miraculously transported), she "falls asleep," Christ receives her soul, and her body is placed in a tomb which is later found empty. Some versions are explicit about her death before assumption; others are vague. In other words, we really have no factual evidence.

Why "Dormition" Instead of "Death"?

In the ancient Christian world, "sleep" (*koimēsis* in Greek) was a common euphemism for the death of the righteous. For example, Jesus says of Jairus's daughter, "She is not dead but sleeping" (Mark 5:39); Paul writes of those who "have fallen asleep in Christ" (1 Thess. 4:14). The term softened the idea of death and emphasized hope in resurrection. For Mary, "sleep" also underscored that she died without corruption, in peace, and was taken to heaven.

It was around the 6th century that the Dormition feast was widely celebrated in Jerusalem and spread to the Byzantine Empire. And by the 8th century, St. John of Damascus preached on the Dormition. It was his theological explanation that became the standard within the Church: 'Mary died like her Son, but her body did not see decay; soon after, she was bodily assumed.'

Over time Western devotion shifted away from the Dormition toward the Assumption - emphasizing the glorification of Mary's body and soul in heaven. When Pope Pius XII defined the Assumption in 1950 (*Munificentissimus Deus*), he purposely left open the question of whether Mary died first.

Official Catholic teaching doesn't define it, but the vast majority of saints, theologians, and liturgy writers assumed she did die and was assumed into heaven. No matter what actually transpired so long ago, we know that Our Blessed Mother was taken into heaven body and soul after passing from this life.

"By her complete adherence to the Father's will, to his Son's redemptive work, and to every prompting of the Holy Spirit, the Virgin Mary is the Church's model of faith and charity." CCC 987

Tuesday Morning Adult Bible Study

10:00am - Noon

Faith Formation Room

UPCOMING DATES

Aug. 19th

Will not meet

Aug. 26th

Will not meet

Sept. 2nd

Will not meet

Sept. 9th

**Luke: The Story of
Salvation Fulfilled**



The Gospel of Luke takes you on a journey that begins with the foretelling of John the Baptist's birth and culminates in Jesus' ascension into heaven. Along the way, you will witness key moments in salvation history, including the Annunciation; the Nativity; Jesus' baptism; his public ministry; the Last Supper; and Jesus' suffering, death, and glorious Resurrection.

JOIN US FOR

**Luke: The Story of
Salvation Fulfilled**

8 sessions

beginning

Tues., Sept. 9th

**To register & order the
workbook,**

(optional -\$27.95)

Please click on the link below

**[https://ollbranson.flocknote.com
/signup/221774](https://ollbranson.flocknote.com/signup/221774)**

UPDATED

**DEADLINE TO ORDER WORKBOOK
TUESDAY, AUGUST 26th**



Welcome Back!

Coffee and Christ

RESUMES - Sunday, Sept., 7th

9:15am to 10:15am - Faith Formation Room



Lectio: Mary

**"The Bible and the Mother of God"
with Dr. Brant Pitre**

Dr. Brant Pitre examines what the Old and New Testaments, the life of Christ, and the early Church fathers reveal about the life and identity of Mary.

Why is Mary so important to Catholics, and why have so many people been devoted to her over the centuries?

Sunday, Sept., 7th

Session 7: The New Rachel

The Old Testament story of Joseph prefigures the life of Jesus and his salvific role in the New Testament. Likewise, the life of Benjamin, Joseph's younger brother, has parallels with the life of John the beloved disciple. Rachel, the mother of Joseph and Benjamin, prefigures Mary, the mother of Jesus and spiritual mother of John, and, thus, she can be seen as the New Rachel.

Sunday, Sept., 14th

Session 8: Question & Answer

As the study concludes, Dr. Pitre takes time to answer questions that surfaced over the course of the video sessions. We are reminded that a deeper understanding of Marian teachings, illuminates even more fully the beauty and love of Our Lord!

Reminder

OCIA - Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (previously RCIA) Begins Tuesday, August 26 6:30-8:00pm Heritage Room

Want to get involved with OCIA?

Check out: OLLBRANSON.COM/OCIA
Under QUICK LINKS
Join OCIA as a Team Member



Adorers Needed

"Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you." – Jeremiah 29:12

Tuesday
10:00-11:00am



2:00-3:00pm

Thursday
3:00-4:00pm



5:00-6:00pm



We will not have the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for the week before, the week of, and the week after a holiday.

If you are available for one of these time slots please contact Julie Johnsonbaugh
julie.johnsonbaugh@gmail.com

CONNECT

LEARN

HELP

Give 5 is a local program that invites active retirees to connect with local nonprofits, learn more about their community, and decide where their unique talents can be utilized for five hours per month to help non-profits in our area.

Classes are **FREE** for residents of Stone and Taney Counties!



OLLBranson.com/Give5
Or Call 417-334-2928

REGISTER TODAY NEXT SESSIONS

TANEY COUNTY
Oct 7, 14, 21 & 28, 2025
April 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2026

STONE COUNTY
Sept 3, 10, 17 & 24, 2025
March 3, 10, 17 & 24, 2026
June 3, 10, 17 & 24, 2026

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS



Father J. would like to apologize for the confusion with the Mass assignments this past Wednesday, Aug. 13th

OFFICE OF CHILD & YOUTH PROTECTION

Safe Environment Requirements for:

Clergy ♦ Employee ♦ Adult Volunteers*

*(which include the following ministries)

Knight of Columbus

OCA

PSR

Welcome Women

Hospitality

Safety & Security

Ushers

Young Adult

Music Ministry

Help Desk

Hispanic

Eucharistic Ministers

Parish Office Volunteers

Homebound

Bible Study Leaders

Sacristans

Gift Shop Volunteers

Lectors

Funeral Ministry



Before engaging in diocesan, parish and school-sponsored activities for minors and vulnerable adults, all clergy, employees and adult volunteers are required to be in compliance with the diocesan Safe Environment Requirements which include:

1) A Background Screening

2) Safe Environment Training

3) Code of Conduct - *must be completed annually*

The Code of Conduct is **required annually** and is made available at the beginning of each fiscal year, **July 1**.

The Code of Conduct can be accessed through the diocesan webpage

<https://dioscg.org/child-youth-protection/>

Scroll down - towards the bottom of the page there's a **RESOURCES SECTION**

Select the **Prevention and Protection tab**.

The documents may be found there.

or through

VIRTUS: <https://www.virtusonline.org/virtus/>

Select: Springfield-Cape Girardeau, MO (Diocese)

The Code of Conduct is to be read, signed, and submitted to the local Safe Environment Coordinator at the parish - Nickie Rivera

- For **new employees and volunteers**, to begin the process, an account must **first be created in VIRTUS**.
- There the Background Screening Application will be prompted and is now completed online through their VIRTUS account.
- The training, which includes **"Protecting God's Children"** and **"Mandated and Ethical Reporting"**, are accessible through their VIRTUS account and are also completed online.

If you need assistance, please contact

Nickie Rivera

Please call, text, or email

417-251-1819 Cell

NickieRivera@ollbranson.com

Director of Formation

Any questions may be directed to the Associate Safe Environment Coordinator,

Shelly Ferry, **sferry@dioscg.org** or

the Director of Child and Youth Protection, Bill Holtmeyer,

billholtmeyer@dioscg.org

or at The Catholic Center, (417) 866-0841.



Interested in joining the PSR Team on Wednesday evenings?

Please call, text, or email

417-251-1819 Cell

NickieRivera@ollbranson.com

or

**Come to the PSR Team meeting
August 21st at 6:30pm
St. Lucy Classroom**



Opportunities Available:

Kitchen Team

Prayer Team

Safety Team

Small Group Leaders

Small Group Assistance



NEW PSR SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAYS

Kindergarten - 9th Grade

Start time - 5:30pm - Mass

***Attendance will be taken in the
Gathering Space as you enter the Church***

**Parents are *very encouraged* to
attend Mass with their children**

Class 6:00 - 7:00pm

Food provided during class session

No Pre-K class this year



SUNDAY YOUTH NIGHT

10th, 11th & 12th Grades

Sundays - 6:00 - 7:00pm

St. Lucy Room

Food will be provided

Spiritual Companionship with Doreen Oesterreicher

*Welcome to all
young and old adults!!*

We will learn how to share and help each other based on St. Ignatius Exercises to become more intimate with Christ. We can share our joys, loss, or trauma in a safe place. We will look to see where God is, using our five senses in all these events. We will call on the Holy Spirit to guide us. We will help each other grow in our faith. On Thursdays, we will start with reading the Daily Readings to start our discussions. How did the readings touch me? What is the Holy Spirit saying to me? This is open to both men and women, in my experience, it is good to see each other's insight on how we love God. Please note that this is not Spiritual Direction.



**We will meet
on the**

**2nd and 4th Thursdays
of the month at 6:30pm,
Starting - September 11th**

**St. Ignatius Room
(Resource Room)**

on the lower level of the Church

Dear Heavenly Father,

**We come before You as
the academic year begins
anew.**

**We ask for Your grace to
envelop students,
teachers, and parents as
they adjust to the
demands of a new school
season. Just as Jesus grew
in wisdom and stature, we
pray that students may
embrace learning with
open hearts and focused
minds. Grant teachers the
patience, creativity, and
energy to guide their
students effectively.**

Amen.

catholicshare.com

Springfield Resurrection Cemetery IMPROVEMENT CAMPAIGN

*Donations are needed to raise \$165,000
for a survey, road repairs, and the correction
of water drainage issues.*

Remembrance. Connection. Hope.

Since the first burial in March of 1873*, **St. Mary's Cemetery** and, later, **Resurrection Cemetery** have served the parishes of Springfield. Their message is that of hope in the sure knowledge of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection—and His promise to us of eternal life in Him.

The Springfield Catholic Cemeteries Board, which oversees both cemeteries, is composed of one pastor and a lay member from each parish. Their stewardship includes responsible care of the grounds and fixtures and maintaining a sacred space that fosters consolation, prayer, dignity, hope, and peace.

The board also works in concert with Church officials and others to ensure judicious application of the time, talents, and treasure of contributors. Financial support comes from parish assessments, private donations, sales from lots and niches, plus burial/inurnment-related fees.

As before, the Catholic Cemeteries plans for future growth. A second columbarium is such a future addition to Resurrection Cemetery. Again, our Catholic community deserves the same level of care for those whom we honor and for those who need a prayerful space for God's hope, consolation, and peace.

*Sally Lyons McAlear, *South of the Tracks, A Centennial of St. Agnes Parish, Springfield, MO 1908-2008*, Walsworth Publishing Co., Appendix D.



Please Donate Today!



Scan the QR code to make a one-time donation of:

- \$25
- \$50
- \$100
- \$250
- \$500
- \$1000
- \$5,000

THANK YOU for your support in making these vital repairs to our infrastructure!

If you would like to set up a **RECURRING PLEDGE** to support this campaign, please reach out to Springfield Catholic Cemeteries and someone from the diocese will follow up with you.

Springfield Catholic Cemeteries

Russ Koeneman c/o Sacred Heart Church
1609 N. Summit Ave.,
Springfield, MO 65803 | (417) 866-6720
catholiccemeteriesofspringfield@outlook.com

Springfield Catholic Cemetery

Board Members:

Tony Wand, **President**
Jim Landewe
Ralph "Skip" Shannon
Tony Beier
Pat Samek
John & Peggy Kubicek, **Treasurer/Secretary**

Springfield Pastors:

The Very Rev. Shoby Chettiyath, JCL, V.G.*
The Very Rev. Lewis Hejna The Very Rev.
David Hulshof* The Very Rev. Thomas
Kiefer, JCL The Very Rev. Patrick
Nwokoye** Rev. Joseph Stoverink Rev.
Pompeyo Tan, Jr.

*beginning July 1, 2025 **leaving Springfield July 1, 2025

FOR MORE INFORMATION, go to dioscg.org/springfield-catholic-cemetery

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NATIONWIDE INVITATION to PRAYER



St. Joseph, defender of life,
pray for us!

A Prayer to St. Joseph, Defender of Life

Dearest St. Joseph,
at the word of an angel,
you lovingly took Mary into your home.
As God's humble servant, you guided
the Holy Family on the road to Bethlehem,
welcomed Jesus as your own son
in the shelter of a manger,
and fled far from your homeland
for the safety of both Mother and Child.
We praise God that as their faithful protector,
you never hesitated to sacrifice

for those entrusted to you.
May your example inspire us also
to welcome, cherish, and safeguard
God's most precious gift of life.

Help us to faithfully commit ourselves
to the service and defense of human life
—especially where it is
vulnerable or threatened.
Obtain for us the grace
to do the will of God in all things.
Amen.

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To order this card (English, #2115 / Spanish, #2116), call toll-free 866-582-0943. www.usccb.org/prolife



vitae
foundation

Friday, August 22, 2025

Social 6 - 7p.m. | Dinner 7 - 9p.m.

\$75 per person

White River Conference Center

600 W. Sunshine St. | Springfield, Missouri



Keynote: Seth Dillon
CEO of *The Babylon Bee*

Seth Dillon is the CEO of *The Babylon Bee*, “fake news you can trust.” Taking on the tone of a traditional news media publication, *The Bee* satirizes real-world events and public figures. Seth now speaks on college campuses and at conferences across the country about the effectiveness of humor, the moral imperative of mockery and the dangers of censorship.

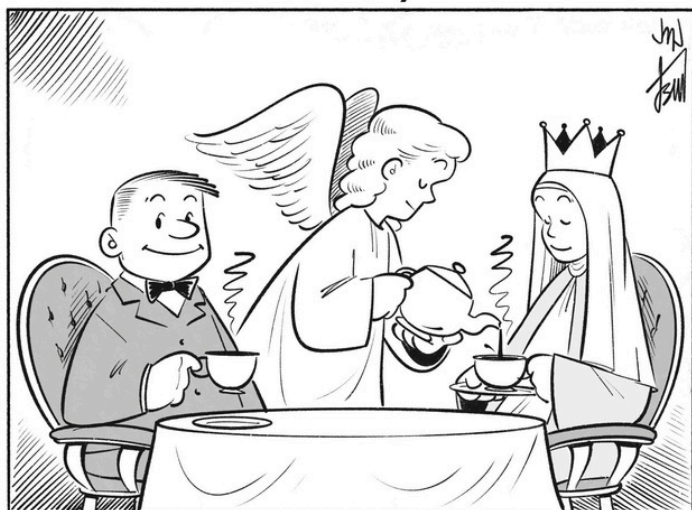
All proceeds benefit Vitae Foundation.

BISHOP RICE'S AUGUST PRAYER INTENTION



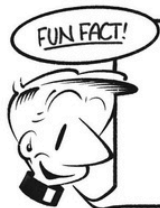
*May the Assumption of Mary inspire us
to see holiness in this life so that we
might be with Jesus and eternity. May
Our Lady be with all immigrants as
they seek a better life*

"What kind of tea do you drink with Mary?"



THE FAITHFUL FUNNIES

"Royal Tea!"



August 22 is the feast of the "Queenship of Mary," a day we honor Mary as Queen of Heaven!

©LPI



**BEST
TEACHER
EVER** ♥ ♥



CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: In what form did the Holy Spirit appear to the Apostles during Pentecost?

Answer: Tongues of fire.

©LPI



20th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

WHO CAN TELL US WHY THE PROPHET JEREMIAH WAS PUT IN A DEEP HOLE IN THE GROUND?

JER 38:4-6, 8-10



He ANNOUNCED A SECOND COLLECTION!

©LPI ANDG



Where I Stand

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

One day, as I was walking in a local nature preserve, I came across what someone had written in the sand: “It’s time to take a stand.”

Though the person never suggested what we should take a stand on, all of us take stands in life. In many ways, those stands define our lives: Republican or Democrat, pro-life or pro-choice, NRA and guns, save the whales, vax or anti-vax, ecology. As we all know so well, where we stand on any given issue can become divisive among friends and even family.

The Scriptures this weekend tell of the prophet Jeremiah, who took a stand of faith against the king who trusted in military arms rather than in God. The Letter to

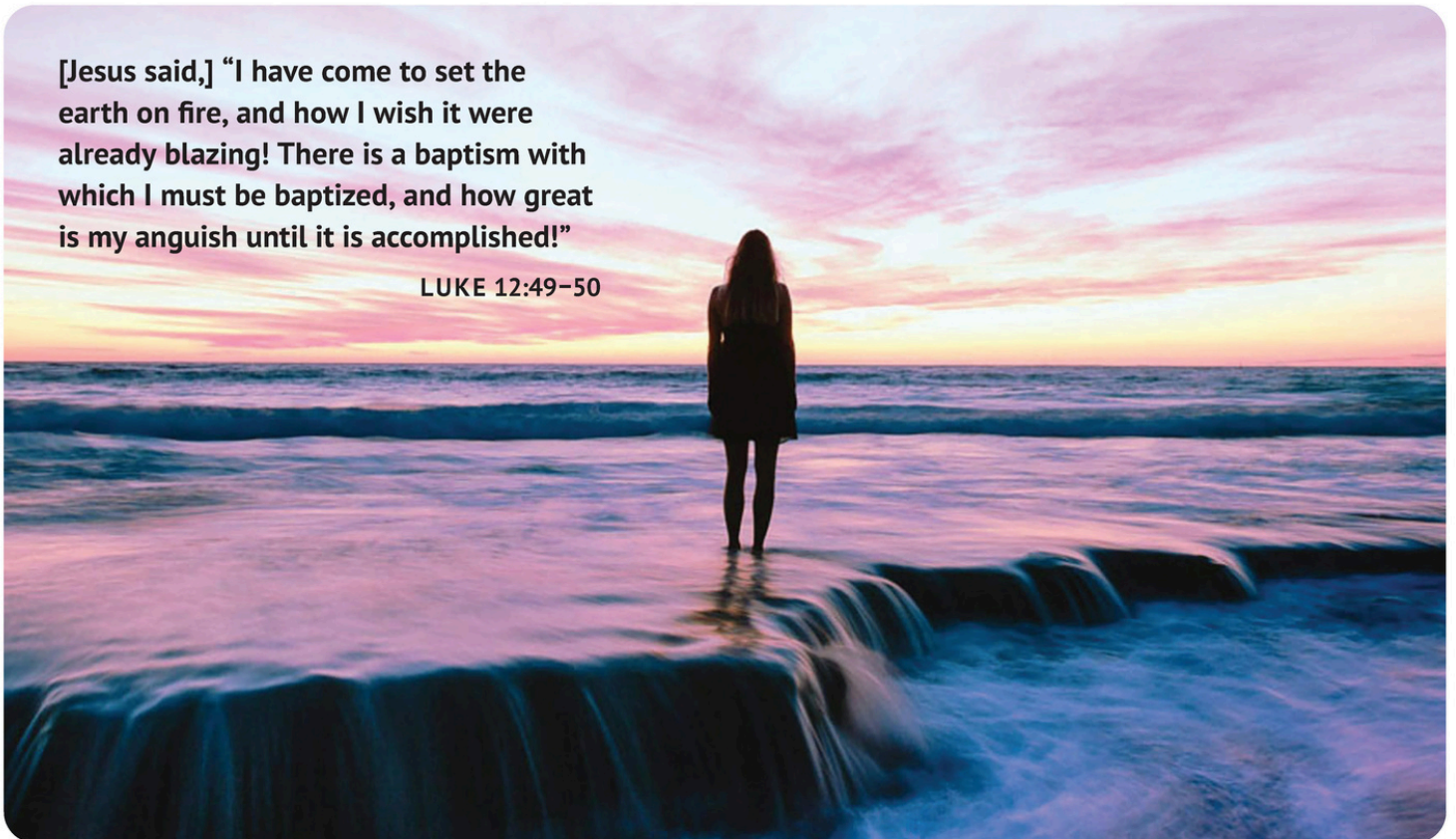
the Hebrews mentions an Old Testament “cloud of witnesses” who placed faith in God without knowing where that would take them. And, Jesus himself recognizes that those who place their faith in him and the vision of life he proclaimed would find themselves in conflict with others. For every person who professes faith in Jesus Christ, the question becomes how this faith affects all the other stands we take. To “keep our eyes fixed on Jesus” influences the lifestyle we choose, how we spend our time and our money, who our friends are, and even who we vote for. At some point, faith insists we take a stand. ●

Reflect

How does my faith affect all my other beliefs and practices?

[Jesus said,] “I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing! There is a baptism with which I must be baptized, and how great is my anguish until it is accomplished!”

LUKE 12:49–50



Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Then the king ordered Ebed-melech the Cushite
to take three men along with him,
and draw the prophet Jeremiah out of the cistern
before he should die. (Jer 38:10)

Psalm:

Lord, come to my aid! (Ps 40)

Second Reading:

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,
let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin
that clings to us
and persevere in running the race that lies before us. (Heb 12:1)

Gospel:

Jesus said to his disciples:
"I have come to set the earth on fire,
and how I wish it were already blazing!" (Lk 12:49)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.
The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997,
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Jesus tells us that he has come to set fire to
the earth. What can we give him as kindling?
Let us look into our souls and see where the
fire of Christ can be ignited, and pray that
our souls may be consumed by its life-giving
flames.

Observances for the week of August 17, 2025

Sunday:	20th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Tuesday:	St. John Eudes, Priest
Wednesday:	St. Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church
Thursday:	St. Pius X, Pope
Friday:	The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Saturday:	St. Rose of Lima, Virgin
Next Sunday:	21st Sunday in Ordinary Time



Devotions, Explained!

Defined by a monophonic (meaning a single melody without harmony or chords), unaccompanied song, Gregorian chant is a form of sacred music used in liturgical settings and prayer. It has been synonymous with Catholic musical worship since the first millennium.

Prayer for Bravery

Dear God,
In the moments when my faith
is met with others' disdain or
ridicule, give me the grace to
be grounded in You. Remind me
that Your mission matters, and
that You alone bring comfort,
healing, and salvation.
Amen.

Readings for the week of August 17, 2025

Sunday:

Jer 38:4-6, 8-10/Ps 40:2, 3, 4, 18 (14b)/
Heb 12:1-4/Lk 12:49-53

Monday:

Jgs 2:11-19/Ps 106:34-35, 36-37, 39-40,
43ab and 44/Mt 19:16-22

Tuesday:

Jgs 6:11-24a/Ps 85:9, 11-12, 13-14/
Mt 19:23-30

Wednesday:

Jgs 9:6-15/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mt 20:1-16

Thursday:

Jgs 11:29-39a/Ps 40:5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/
Mt 22:1-14

Friday:

Ru 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22/Ps 146:5-6ab, 6c-7,
8-9a, 9bc-10/Mt 22:34-40

Saturday:

Ru 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17/Ps 128:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/
Mt 23:1-12

Next Sunday:

Is 66:18-21/Ps 117:1, 2 (Mk 16:15)/
Heb 12:5-7, 11-13/Lk 13:22-30



Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.
The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for
Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in
the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.



Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

During my baseball career, my best coach often said, “You shouldn’t be worried if I yell at you. Be worried if I don’t. If I stop pushing you, it means I don’t think you have any more potential.” He demanded a lot, and I knew it meant he saw that I could be something special on the baseball field.

Jesus says some demanding words to us this week. **“Do you think I have come to establish peace on the earth?” he asks, “No, tell you, but rather division” (Luke 12:51).** He wants you and me—in fact, all the earth—to participate in the luminous glory of God. That’s why he speaks of himself as a divine arsonist. Divine fire is like a good coach: it demands the removal of all that obstructs the achievement of the lofty goal.

How is your life demanding right now? That inconvenient family situation, the unfair boss at work, the kids who reject their parents’ wishes, the nagging health issue? Maybe things would be more peaceful devoid of these seemingly arbitrary difficulties. But for us who believe in the one who comes to set the earth of fire, we should be much more worried if he stops demanding so much from us. In fact, let’s thank him for it. He sees how glorious we can become.

— Father John Muir

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: If we let Christ set fire to our lives, what would that fire burn away? What dead and festering undergrowth in our souls would be consumed by the flames? What promise of future holiness would sprout from beneath the ashes?

The Fire

This past week I have been reading a biography of St. Francis of Assisi. I admit I didn't know much about Francis going into the book, but I always had this image of him as a hippie — an easygoing nature-lover who sang about peace and let animals climb on him.

I'm not sure where that caricature of Francis came from, but since I've been reading this book I've come to see that it's not true at all. He was a lover of nature, yes. A poet who sang of God's peace, yes. And I'm sure he let a few animals climb on him from time to time (he did live in a hut in the woods).

But St. Francis of Assisi wasn't the lost fourth member of Peter, Paul and Mary. He was a man on fire. He was a man burning.

Francis walked around barefoot and slept on the ground. He abandoned a life of wealth to embrace the material poverty that Christ experienced. He embarrassed his family and they disowned him. When his father would encounter Francis in the streets of Assisi, he would curse him.

Sometimes we get this idea that Christianity is a comfortable, cozy thing. We give our lives to Christ, and we expect to feel instantly satisfied, happy, safe and warm. But the saints knew better.

The saints knew that Christ had not come to wrap us in a warm blanket. Christ has come to set us on fire. And though fire is often seen as a sign of death and destruction, it is also the precursor of new life.

Think of a field of native plants and how it benefits so richly from a controlled burn — an action that clears away detritus and releases nutrients back into the soil.

If we let Christ set fire to our lives, what would that fire burn away? What dead and festering undergrowth in our souls would be consumed by the flames? What promise of future holiness would sprout from beneath the ashes?

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Why do we have a feast for the Queenship of Mary?

Answer:

For many of us, the language of kings and queens may seem like they belong to history or a medieval movie. Royalty have absolute authority over a kingdom and their subjects, a concept that is foreign to many of us today. While Jesus doesn't rule a political kingdom, we honor and recognize him as the King of Kings, Lord of Heaven and Earth. To God alone belongs absolute authority over all of existence.

We may think of queens as the spouse of the king, but there is another key relationship: the king's mother. In Biblical history, we see instances where the mother of the king is given due as a queen herself, complete with a throne! Mary's guiding influence over her Son is seen most notably in the Wedding Feast at Cana. Mary is not Queen on her own merit. She is "full of grace" and "blessed" in "all ages" because of the reign of her Son.

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MASS SCHEDULE

WEEKEND

Saturday 5:00 pm & 7:00 pm (Spanish)

Sunday 8:00 am & 10:30 am (Live-Streamed)

WEEKDAY

Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday 9:00 am

Wednesday 5:30 pm

1st Friday 10:00 am

Holy Day of Obligation

Noon and 7pm (Bilingual)

RECONCILIATION

Saturdays from 3:00 - 4:30 pm

or by Appointment (417-334-2928)

ADORATION

Tuesday 9:30 am - 3:00 pm

1st Wednesday of the month. After Mass -

Adoration, Exposition, and Benediction until 7:30pm

Thursday 9:30 am - 7:00 pm

- We will not have the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for the week before, the week of, and the week after a holiday.
- All Adorers, please sign in when you come to pray before the Blessed Sacrament.
- Please get in touch with the office if you need a door code or are having trouble with your own.

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