

OUR LADY OF THE LAKE

203 VAUGHN RD., BRANSON, MO | 417-334-2928 | OFFICE@OLLBRANSON.COM

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, 2025

21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



"People will come from the east and the west and from the north and the south and will recline at table in the kingdom of God. For behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last." - Lk 13:29-30



21st Sunday of Ordinary Time

August 23 - August 30

Events

SATURDAY Aug. 23

WELCOME Women Meeting

10:00 - 1:00pm - Faith Formation Room

Sacrament of Reconciliation

3:00 - 4:30pm - Confessional

TUESDAY Aug. 26

Centering Prayer

3:00-4:45pm - Heritage Room

OCIA

6:30-8:00pm - Heritage Room

WEDNESDAY Aug. 27

Stitchers

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

THURSDAY Aug. 28

OLL Games

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

FRIDAY Aug. 29

Spanish Charismatic Group

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

SATURDAY Aug. 30

No Morning Events

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

No Adoration,
will resume Sept. 16th

THURSDAY

No Adoration,
will resume Sept. 18th

Important Links

[Click Here For
PARISH CALENDAR](#)

[Click Here For
MASS INTENTIONS](#)

[Click Here For
FLOWER INTENTIONS](#)

Mass Intentions

Sat.	8/23	5:00pm	Jim Bounds +
Sat.	8/23	7:00pm	Taney County Parish Family (Living)
Sun.	8/24	8:00am	Vivian and Charles Fernando +
Sun.	8/24	10:30am	Teresa Bruneau +
Mon.	8/25	9:00am	Deceased family members of John & Margaret Casey +
Tue.	8/26	9:00am	Deceased Members of the Konzen Family +
Wed.	8/27	5:30pm	Barb Schultz +
Thu.	8/28	9:00am	Dr. Travis Sellers +





[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

Collection through August 17, 2025

Envelopes:		\$32,195.24
Plate:		\$3,400.00
Green Envelopes:		\$7,464.00
Total:		\$43,059.24

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA





Special Collection for the People of Gaza

Bishop Rice has sent a request to all of the parishes in the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau seeking financial aid and prayer for the people of Gaza. The following is an excerpt from Bishop Rice's letter.

"Pope Leo XIV and Catholic ambassadors around the world have highlighted with great concern the unfolding humanitarian crisis and mass starvation in Gaza, with the pope calling the situation "dire".

At the request of Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, president of the USCCB, I am joining bishops across the United States in asking parishioners to participate in a second collection for emergency humanitarian aid for the starving people of Gaza, a crisis that has reached catastrophic levels. There is terrible suffering of Christians and other innocent victims of violence in Gaza who are struggling to survive, to protect their children, and to live humanely in tragic circumstances.

All funds from the special collection will be used by Catholic Relief Services, which is on site in Gaza and partnering with local Church entities to provide food, shelter, financial assistance, hygiene supplies and trauma assistance; and the Catholic Near East Welfare Association, which is providing "vital emergency humanitarian relief and medical care for the sick, malnourished, and wounded."

A special collection will be taken in support of this request at all Masses Saturday, August 30 and Sunday, August 31.

If you will not be at the Masses next weekend, donations for Gaza can be dropped off at or mailed to the parish office. Simply mark your donation "Gaza" so that we can apply your gift properly. All forms of electronic giving are also available for this purpose. Again, indicate that your gift is for Gaza.

Thank you for your generosity and your prayers for the people of Gaza.

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.

Matthew 25:35-36



Thank You!

**To everyone
who pledged & prayed for
this year's DDF campaign.**



**Our parish goal was
\$79,163**

**As of Aug. 21st,
Our parish grand total
is \$82,647.62**

FAITH DIRECT®
by Ministry Brands®

We're excited to share that Faith Direct will soon be upgrading to ParishSOFT Giving—our new, secure giving platform. This upgrade will happen automatically and securely.

No action is required from you—your gift schedules and payment details will carry over seamlessly.

What's new about ParishSOFT Giving?

- **Weekly Giving:** If you selected weekly giving, your gifts will now be deducted each week instead of in one monthly batch.
- **More Flexibility:** Adjust your giving schedule to any date that works for you—
not just the 4th or 15th.
- **More Ways to Give:** Now you can donate using PayPal, Venmo, Apple Pay, or Google Pay.

We're committed to making this a smooth transition. You'll receive more information as we get closer to launch.



Resurrection Cemetery Fundraiser A Message from Bishop Rice

Each person is created in the image and the likeness of God. In Baptism we become a new creation, becoming children of God. In the Eucharist we are nourished for the journey of life. Through Confirmation we become temples of the Holy Spirit. And at the end of life's journey, Catholic cemeteries are an extension of the parish where we lived out our sacramental life.

Catholic cemeteries are a constant reminder that death is just a part of the journey that leads to eternal life in Christ. Therefore, Catholic cemeteries are sacred spaces for the mortal remains of our loved ones as we await the second coming of Christ.

To that end, the Springfield Catholic Cemetery Board has announced a capital campaign to address drainage issues, road repair and regular maintenance with a goal of \$165,000.

I encourage anyone who has a loved one at the cemetery or those planning to use Resurrection or St. Mary's in the future to support the Capital Campaign with a donation.

You can donate by visiting [Springfield Catholic Cemetery](#) and scroll down to the Improvement Campaign 2025. You may also call Russ Koeneman at 417-866-6720.

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord. May they rest in peace.

Amen

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.

Hey Deacon!

By Deacon Dan Vaughn

A look at Pope Leo XIV's first 100 days

I get it, stories about "the first 100 days" are standard fare at the beginning of a U.S. president's four-year term; news articles usually focus on how much the new president was able to accomplish and how quickly. But a pope is elected for life and without having promised voters anything or having presented a platform. But I'm going to do it anyway.

This past weekend, August 16, marked Pope Leo XIV's 100th day since he stepped out onto the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica as the new pope. Next month he will celebrate his 70th birthday on September 14. While the first 100 days of a pontificate may hint at what is to come, the initial period of Pope Leo's ministry seemed more about him getting used to the role, the crowds, and the papal protocol.

Like his predecessors, Pope Leo confirmed the heads of Curia offices on a temporary basis a few days after his election. Some major nominations are expected in September or early October, starting with his own replacement as prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops.

His inaugural words emphasized synodality, peace, and charity: "We want to be a synodal church... close especially to those who are suffering". Two days post-election, he set the agenda: a renewed commitment to the path of Vatican II through six pillars drawn from *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel) — primacy of Christ, missionary conversion, collegiality, embracing the faith, care for the marginalized, and dialogue with the modern world.

In these early days Pope Leo has avoided controversy. He emphasizes unity and crafted messages aimed at healing divisions, stressing Christ and peace above personal or political flare. Even his signature issue, artificial intelligence, has been handled in a way that garners broad, cross-spectrum consensus. He is emerging as a bridge-builder: blending respect for tradition with progressive sensibilities.

In one of his most significant theological gestures, Pope Leo named St. John Henry Newman, a 19th-century English convert from Anglicanism, a doctor of the Church — a rare title given to just 37 other saints. The title is granted in recognition of an already canonized saint's significant contribution to advancing the Church's knowledge of doctrine, theology, or spirituality.

Pope Leo has also warmly embraced public engagement. He presided over 16 public Masses in the first 14 weeks including Jubilee liturgies and solemn feast celebrations like Pentecost, Corpus Christi, and the Sacred Heart. He drew vast crowds, especially during the Jubilee of Youth, where an estimated 1 million young people gathered in Rome. He encouraged them to "study, work, and love according to the example of Jesus".

His multilingual fluency in English, Spanish, and Italian has bolstered his connection with diverse audiences. His ability to switch between the three languages effortlessly was on full display at the Jubilee of Digital Missionaries and Catholic Influencers and the related Jubilee of Youth. The young people roared with approval as he spoke to them in languages that most could understand. Observers note his approach as a "master class in listening before leading," balancing truth without arrogance and mercy without weakness.

At the heart of his papacy lies a quiet, attentive style: one that avoids personal spotlight while spotlighting Christ and unity. His foundational 100 days have set a tone of reflective leadership, bridging divides and building trust, suggesting that his papacy, though unflashy, could wield enduring influence through integrity and dialogue.



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!

Tuesday Morning Adult Bible Study

RESUMES - Sept. 9th

10:00am - Noon

Faith Formation Room

JOIN US FOR
Luke: The Story of
Salvation Fulfilled
8 sessions
beginning
Tues., Sept. 9th



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.

To register & order the workbook

(optional - \$27.95)

Please click on the link below

<https://ollbranson.flocknote.com/signup/221774>

DEADLINE TO ORDER WORKBOOK
TUESDAY, AUGUST 26th

For more information
contact Pat Schooley
at patjschooley@gmail.com

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



1:00-2:00pm

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

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

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



Our Lady of the Ozarks
(Forsyth)

Fall Rummage & Bake Sale

is scheduled for

Sept. 25, 7am - 4pm

Sept. 26, 8am - 4pm

Sept. 27, 8am - noon



Your donated items can be dropped off at

Our Lady of the Ozarks

during their set up hours starting on

September 8 - September 19

9am - 1pm

Please note that they will not be able to pick up items as they have in the past.

Any questions can be directed to
Barbara Peterson at 417-251-0041 or

barbsp@protonmail.com

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PSR~ Parish School of Religion RESUMES

Wednesday Sept., 10th

[Click Here
To Register
for PSR](#)

If you have any questions,
Please call, text, or email
417-251-1819 Cell
NickieRivera@ollbranson.com

OR
Visit the website:
OLLBranson.com
Click on the
PSR tab

Interested in joining the
PSR Team on
Wednesday evenings?

Opportunities Available:

Kitchen Team
Prayer Team
Safety Team
Small Group Leaders
Small Group Assistance

Please call, text, or email
417-251-1819 Cell

NickieRivera@ollbranson.com

SUNDAY YOUTH NIGHT

Starting
Sunday, Sept. 14th

Grades -10, 11 & 12

6:00 - 7:00pm

St. Michael Room

Food will be provided

PSR

WEDNESDAY-SEPT., 10TH
Kindergarten - 9th Grade

- 5:30pm - Mass
- Following Mass - Orientation Meeting with parents & students in the church
- Meet PSR teachers & see classrooms
- Food in Faith Formation Room

NEW PSR SCHEDULE

Starting - Wed., Sept. 17

Kindergarten - 9th Grade

Start time - 5:30pm - Mass

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

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

Class 6:00 - 7:00pm

Food provided during class

***No Pre-K class this year**

OLL Games



Join us on August 28th
OLL Game Day

Scores from August 14th

OLL Train - Harry and The Girls

BIG Winner is Julie J -324

Harry -336 Julie W -405

Lil' Winner is Karen -503



OLL Train - Not Playing with a Full Deck

BIG Winner is Joe -187

Remy -227 Eva -251

Judy E -260 Marty -314

Lil' Winner Ed -387

Swoop - Faithful Swoopers

BIG Winner is Dan -255

Margaret -316 Judy H -351 Sharon S -352

Butch -382 Kathy -444

Lil' Winner is Sharon A -503



Mahjong - Steve -75 Sharron -75

Joyce -50 Brenda -0

each game is worth 25 points and
only the winner receives points!

The table is open to ALL and we could start a second table.
Come try your luck!!!

Centering Prayer

Centering Prayer is a method designed to facilitate the development of contemplative prayer by preparing ourselves to receive this gift. It presents ancient Christian wisdom teachings in an updated form. Centering Prayer is not meant to replace other types of prayer, rather it casts a new light and depth of meaning on them. It is at the same time a relationship with God and a discipline to foster that relationship. This method of prayer is a movement beyond conversation with Christ to communion with Him.

You are invited to Centering Prayer Tuesday at 3:00pm in the Heritage Room. Come see if it is a type of prayer for you!

Spiritual Companioning 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 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

What is Spiritual Direction?



Spiritual Direction provides special help in discerning our path of holiness. Our Christian life is a journey to become closer to God.

In other words, spiritual direction helps us discern and pursue our unique callings from the Holy Spirit at each stage of our life. It involves three parties: the one receiving spiritual direction, the one giving spiritual direction, and, of course, the Holy Spirit.

It usually entails meeting up with a spiritual director for an hour roughly once a month

In spiritual direction, we consider how the Lord is speaking to us and what He is saying. The role of the spiritual director isn't to tell us what to do or not do. Rather, through the spiritual director's expertise and training, they help us discern how the Lord is working in our lives.

Spiritual direction invites us to confront and respond to questions prompted by the Holy Spirit. What does God want me to do or not do?

For someone beginning the spiritual journey, spiritual direction can offer us insight into the fundamentals of prayer and what it means to live a sacramental and communal life of faith.

For those a little more advanced, spiritual direction can deepen our life of prayer and help us discern how we're being called to use our gifts to serve God and His Church.

*Dorene Oesterreicher has openings for
those wanting Spiritual Direction*

*For more information, please contact the
Parish Office*

"How does St. Dominic travel?"



"He takes a **Greyhound.**"



St. Dominic is frequently depicted with a dog in art. When his mother was expecting, she had a dream about a dog with a torch in its mouth, inspiring the reflection that Dominic would be a great preacher (and he was)!

©LPi



Step out
of your
comfort
ZONE.

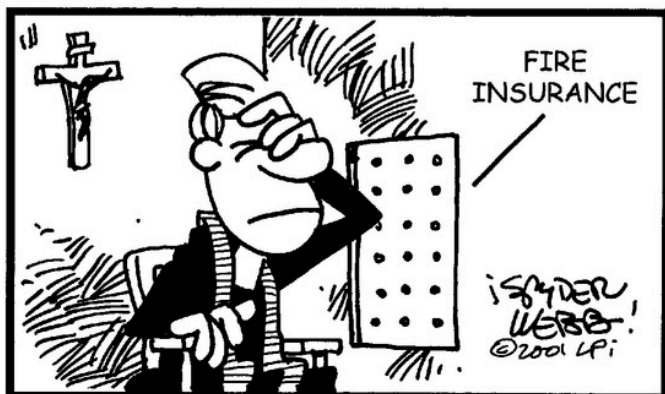
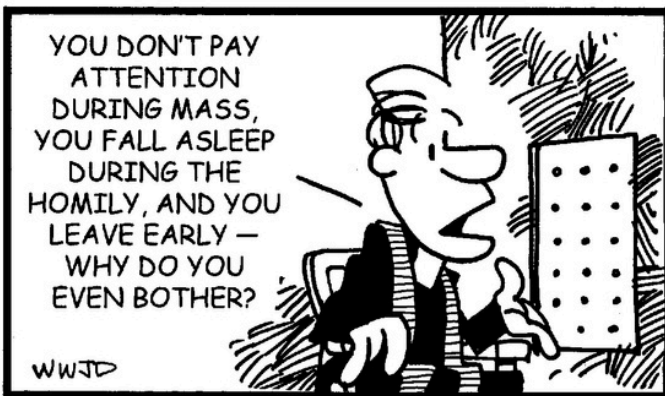
CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: According to the Gospel stories, who was the first person to encounter the risen Jesus?

Answer: Mary Magdalene.

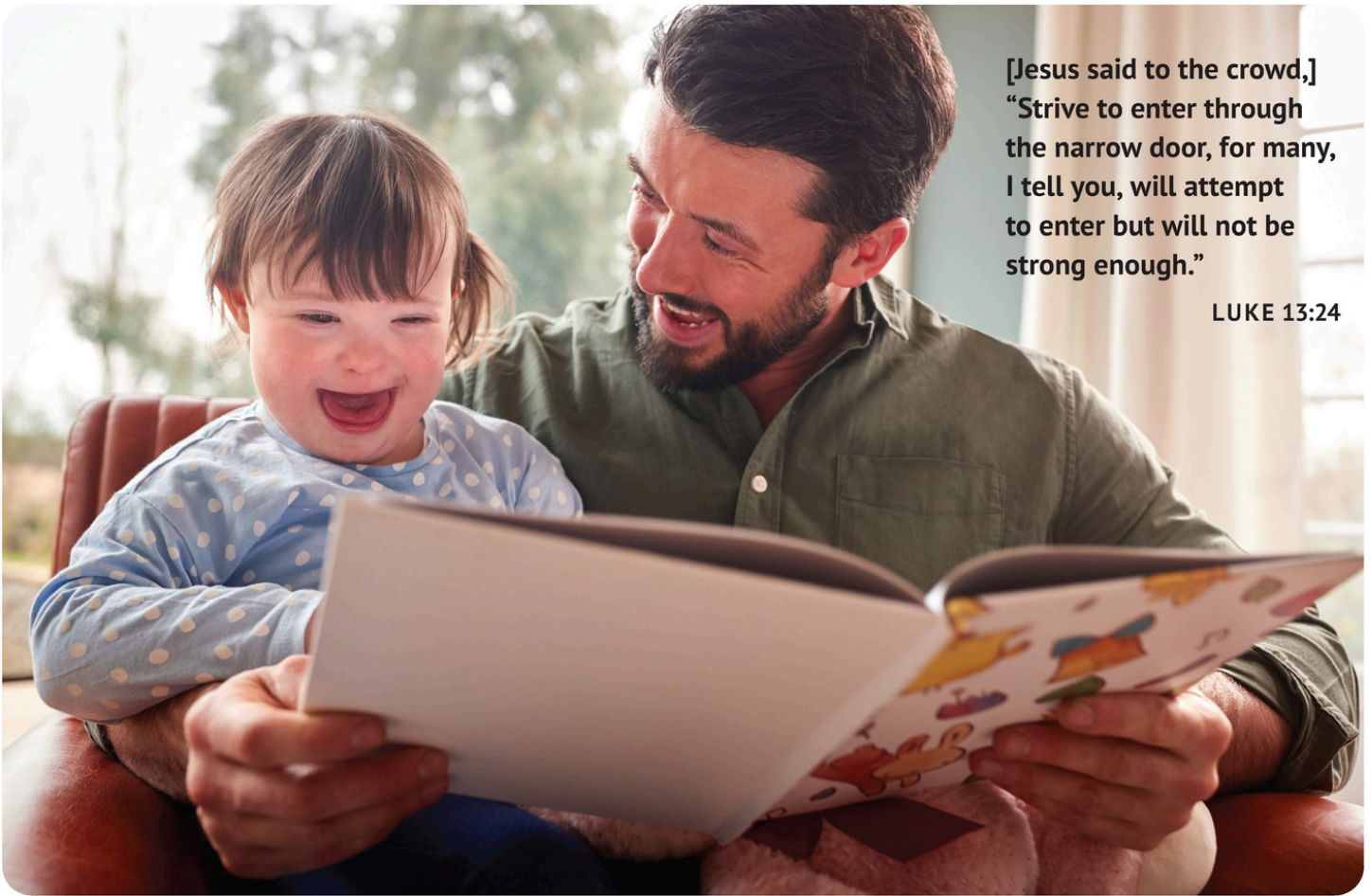
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21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME





[Jesus said to the crowd,]
“Strive to enter through
the narrow door, for many,
I tell you, will attempt
to enter but will not be
strong enough.”

LUKE 13:24

The Narrow Gate

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Some people find love in their lives; others complain of loneliness. Some find peace, while others seem to be perpetually angry. Some live comfortably amid human diversity, yet others insist that the rest of the world be like them. There are those who are able to forgive and compromise and offer compassion and those who cannot. The difference seems to be the ability to forgo one’s own desires for the sake of a greater good or the common good. Such may be the narrow gate through which some may not be strong enough to enter.

Phrases like *the kingdom of God* or *the kingdom of heaven* are not just references to places to which we go

but also ways of being or states of existence. They all refer to God’s presence, to life with God. You’ve heard people say they were so happy that they felt it was like heaven on earth. It wasn’t a place they went but an experience of being filled with joy and peace. It’s pure gift. No one ever finds it by focusing on oneself. It is the narrow gate by which we find our way into such a life. It is the doorway of caring for others. ●

Reflect

What is the “narrow gate” before me now—the most difficult challenge as a follower of Jesus?

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

I know their works and their thoughts,
and I come to gather nations of every language;
they shall come and see my glory. (Is 66:18)

Psalm:

Go out to all the world and tell the Good News. (Ps 117)

Second Reading:

So strengthen your drooping hands and your weak knees.
Make straight paths for your feet,
that what is lame may not be disjointed but healed.
(Heb 12:12-13)

Gospel:

For behold, some are last who will be first,
and some are first who will be last." (Lk 13:30)

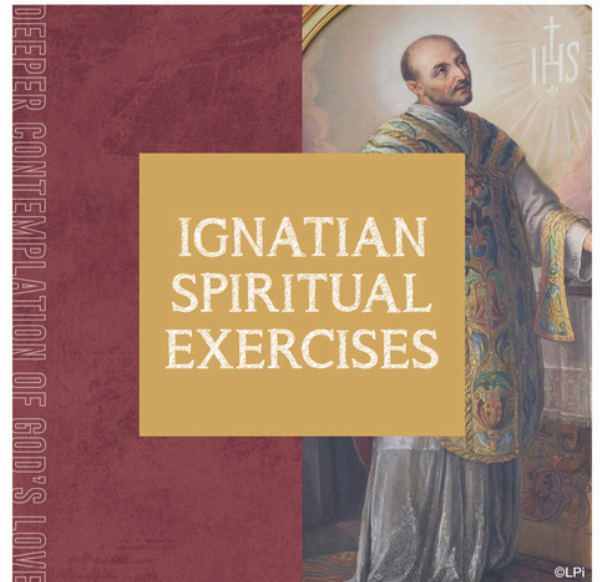
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

"Strive to enter through the narrow gate,"
Jesus tells us. "Many will attempt...but will
not be strong enough." So let us never be
so foolish that we rely on our own strength.
Narrow does not mean unpassable — not if
we ask for help.

Observances for the week of August 24, 2025

- Sunday:** 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday: St. Louis; St. Joseph Calasanz,
Priest
Wednesday: St. Monica
Wednesday: St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor
of the Church
Friday: The Passion of St. John the Baptist
Next Sunday: 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time



Devotions, *Explained!*

The Ignatian Spiritual Exercises are prayers and meditations which are meant to accompany souls on a journey toward deeper contemplation of God's love and a more meaningful understanding of His call to discipleship.

Prayer for Holiness

Good Shepherd,
Guide me through the
narrow gate. Remove from
me anything that distracts
me from You, Your love, Your
invitation, Your mission. Keep
me close to You, familiar at
every step.
Amen.

Readings for the week of August 24, 2025

Sunday:

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

Monday:

1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a
and 9b/Mt 23:13-22

Tuesday:

1 Thes 2:1-8/Ps 139:1-3, 4-6/Mt 23:23-26

Wednesday:

1 Thes 2:9-13/Ps 139:7-8, 9-10, 11-12ab/
Mt 23:27-32

Thursday:

1 Thes 3:7-13/Ps 128:1-2, 4-5/Mt 24:42-51

Friday:

1 Thes 4:1-8 (429)/Ps 97:1 and 2b, 5-6, 10,
11-12/Mk 6:17-29

Saturday:

1 Thes 4:9-11/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Mt 25:14-30

Next Sunday:

Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29/Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5
(1a)/Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a/Lk 14:1, 7-14



Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

I've been hiking Camelback Mountain in Phoenix, Arizona most of my life. It is a vigorous forty-five minutes to the top. Near the peak, the end suddenly appears much further away, and steeper. At that moment, a descending hiker often offers encouragement: "Keep going! The peak is right there. It's not as far as it looks. You can do it!" It usually works. After another five minute push, you summit and enjoy a glorious panorama of the Sonoran Desert in the Valley of the Sun.

When Jesus is asked about how many people are saved, he says: "**Strive to enter through the narrow gate**" (Luke 13:24). How many? Strive! Focus on your journey. What does heavenly census taking have to do with you or me? How would it help a hiker on a mountain to ask the others coming down, "How many people are going to make it to the top?" A normal response would be something like: "How is that a relevant question? Carry on!"

Jesus links one virtue directly to salvation: perseverance (cf. Matt 24:13; hypomone in Greek). Strive! Endure! Keep going! The one absolutely necessary virtue is perseverance, to not give up on our journey. The mountain we struggle to climb is often our own weakness, failures, and sins. Persevere in prayer. Keep celebrating the sacraments. Embrace daily duties. With God's grace, you are strong enough to keep going. Perhaps the peak is not as far away as you might fear. Keep going!

— Father John Muir



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(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: Jesus' whole thing was that you *can* sit with us, whoever you are, wherever you're from and whatever you've done. But there are a lot of lunch tables in the world, and not everyone wants to be at one with rules like "repent" and "be good to that person you really don't like."

Heaven and Regina George

There are certain phrases that serve as a kind of shibboleth for millennials, a dog whistle that only ears formed between 1981 and 1996 can discern. "You can't sit with us!" is one of those phrases.

It's from the movie *Mean Girls*, (which, I hear from my younger family members, has now become cool with the kids again, so maybe my point about it being niche is incorrect). The character Regina George, merciless ruler of the cool kids, is rejected from the ultra-exclusive lunch table she herself formed when her minions, tired of her cruelty, serve her the most devastating words a teenager can hear in public: "You can't sit with us."

So passes earthly glory, as they say.

At first blush, this Gospel gives "Mean Girls" vibes. We have an image of the unlucky masses clamoring for entry into the kingdom of heaven as God locks the door against them, saying, "I do not know where you are from."

Very "you-can't-sit-with-us."

But we need to remember that the people pounding on the door of heaven in today's Gospel aren't people who wanted a seat at God's lunch table — at least, not until it was the only lunch table left, because they had Regina George'd their way out of all the other ones.

Jesus' whole thing was that you *can* sit with us, whoever you are, wherever you're from and whatever you've done. But there are a lot of lunch tables in the world, and not everyone wants to be at one with rules like "repent" and "be good to that person you really don't like." It's not always an easy table to sit at, especially when there are so many other options.

We have to choose heaven before heaven becomes our only choice.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that?

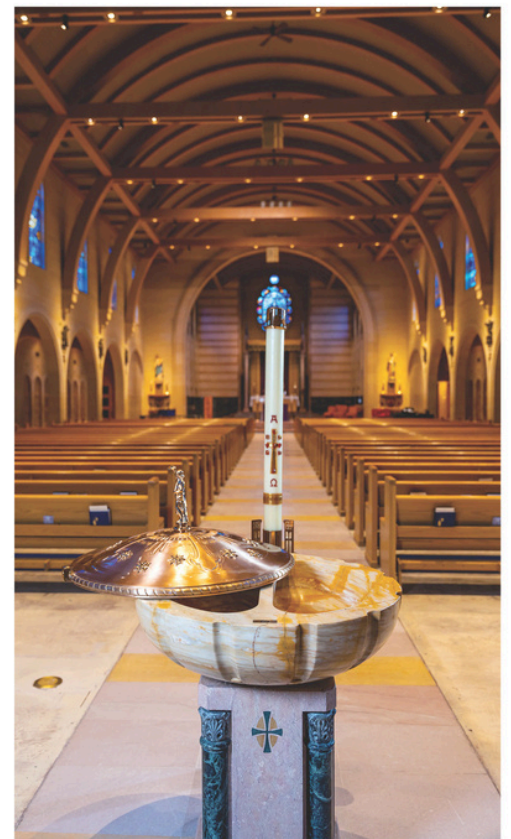
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MASS SCHEDULE

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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