



SEPTEMBER 10, 2023 | 23TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

HOLY FAMILY PARISH

312 Tazewell Avenue, Tazewell, VA 24651

(276) 988-4626 | parishoffice@holyfamilyswva.org | facebook: search Holy Family SWVA

ST. THERESA'S

312 Tazewell Ave.
Tazewell, VA 24651

ST. ELIZABETH'S

160 Merrick Lane
Pocahontas, VA 24635

ST. MARY'S

1122 Farmer Street
Richlands, VA 24641

ST. JOSEPH'S

1007 Independence Rd.
Grundy, VA 24614

Hail Mary, full of grace...and mercy!

“**H**ail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you, blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.”

The Angelical Salutation or the Hail Mary comes from three sources. The angel Gabriel gave one part, namely: “Hail, full of grace the Lord is with you, blessed are you among women” (Lk 1:28). The other part is given by St. Elizabeth, namely: “Blessed is the fruit of your womb” (Lk 1:42). The Church completed the prayer by adding the rest of the text.

It is most fitting that the Church added a petition and an invocation to the most holy Mother of God in the Hail Mary. This is to impress upon us the need to have recourse to the Blessed Virgin Mary in order that by her intercession she may reconcile

God with us sinners and obtain for us the blessings necessary for this life and for life eternal. Even during the early times of Christianity, the Church has always invoked Mary especially in times of perils and in all kinds of need. This attitude of Christians towards Mary clearly indicates that they are looking at Mary as the merciful Mother of God.

Mary is the merciful mother, who continually intercedes before her Son, and by her maternal charity she cares for all of us who still journey on earth surrounded by dangers and difficulties. One good example in the scriptures portraying Mary as merciful is found in the Gospel of John 2: 1-11. In that Bible passage, Mary appears prominently when at the marriage at Cana, moved with pity, she brought by her intercession the beginning of the miracles of Jesus. Jesus at that time was not ready to start His public ministry, but because it was His mother who implored to Him, He conceded. Mary is Jesus’ beloved mother and closest to Him, hence, Jesus could not but also grant our requests through her intercession. Mary, for her part, would not fail to help and intercede for us for she also loved us so much. Likewise, she is our mother in the order of grace. She is both Jesus’ mother and ours. Saint John Mary Vianney ventured to say that not even in heaven can Mary enjoy paradise in peace; for she is like a good mother with children away from home who is

watching out for their return. Her care will cease only at the end of time when her last child enters the Father’s house and she, having at last her children about her, can enjoy paradise in peace.

In the Beatitudes, Jesus taught that, “Blest are those who show mercy; mercy shall be theirs” (Mt 5: 7). Mary fits perfectly in that teaching of Jesus. Knowing Mary as our most beloved mother, we could readily agree that she is the best model for a merciful human being. Fr. Stefano M. Manelli said, “Mary’s heart is so loving toward us that the hearts of all mothers taken together are no more a match to hers. She is so kind that she always treats us affectionately and never punishes us. The Son wields justice, while the Mother wields nothing but love.” There could never be a person living now and before who could have surpassed Mary’s practice of love and mercy. Truly, as a loving mother, Mary will always show mercy to all her sons, both sinners and saints alike. She intercedes for us before her Son unceasingly and persistently. It is possible that if only Mary will be obeyed, all of us without the exceptions of sinners will go to paradise.

Mother Mary, Pray for us! Amen.



Fr. Renier Supranes

The Blessed Virgin Mary: A saint for mothers

By Thomas Craughwell, *simplycatholic.com*

As Christ hung dying on the cross, he placed his Blessed Mother under the care of his apostle, St. John the Evangelist. “Behold your mother,” Christ said to John, and by extension, Jesus said the same to us. Mary is our spiritual mother — the most loving mother the world has ever known because she counts as her children all of humankind.

The Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen once said, “Every person carries in his heart a blueprint of the one he loves.” And among Catholics and Orthodox Christians, no saint is more beloved than Mary.

I suppose all mothers both know and yet do not completely know everything about their children—this was especially the case for Mary. That God chose her from among all women to be the mother of the savior was a mystery that, during her earthly life, she never entirely understood. In his Gospel, St. Luke tells us that Mary pondered, or meditated upon, this mystery in her heart. To look at him, her son Jesus was in every respect fully human, except that unlike us he never committed any sin. Yet he was also fully God, which he first revealed at a wedding at Cana when, at his mother’s request, he spared the bride and groom embarrassment by changing water into fine vintage wine.

We can imagine Mary’s pride when Jesus began his public ministry and by his teaching showed the world the way to salvation, and by his miracles showed God’s compassion and mercy to a sick, suffering world. We can also imagine her intense emotional agony as she followed her son as he was humiliated, tortured and crucified. There is no more poignant image of Mary than the Pietà—the heartbroken mother holding in her arms the body of her lifeless child. Any parent who has lost a child knows exactly how Mary felt at that moment.

Today in the great shrines of Lourdes, Fatima and Guadalupe, in parish churches, chapels and oratories, in some silent corner of the heart, millions call on Mary for help. She is, as Blessed Pope Pius IX said in 1851, “the best of mothers, our safest confidante ... the very motive of our hope.”

In addition to being the patron of mothers, Our Lady is the patron saint of women in childbirth, nuns, religious vocations and of countless cities, towns and countries, including the United States, under her title the Immaculate Conception.

PRIEST ADMINISTRATOR

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OFFICE MANAGER/ BOOKKEEPER

Lydia St. Peter

OFFICE HOURS

Mon–Fri 9:30AM – 2:30PM

Please call the parish office to make arrangements for the **Sacraments of Baptism, Anointing of the Sick or Holy Matrimony** as well as funerals. **Reconciliation** is available from 30 minutes before a scheduled Mass.

MASS TIMES

SATURDAY

4PM – St. Joseph’s
6PM – St. Mary’s

SUNDAY

9AM – St. Elizabeth’s
11:30AM – St. Theresa’s

TUESDAY & FRIDAY

10AM – St. Theresa’s

Cover image:

Gustav Dore (1832–83), *Jesus Preaching on the Mount*

The Gift of Presence: St. Mother Teresa's Example for Life

By Jacob Heidel, wordonfire.org

"Hey, CO!" yelled the inmate clothed in an orange county smock from behind the thick glass of the cell door between him and the young corrections officer making his rounds. "What's up?" asked the officer as he paused on the walkway. "I need to talk to you . . . somebody . . . anybody. You see, CO, I have things weighin' on me—dark things. Things that bother me. No one listens. I feel angry inside at people and at myself. I don't know what to do." The officer looked at the inmate and simply asked, "Would it help you if I listened to what it is that is bothering you? I can only spare a few minutes, but I will try and offer to you what I can if it would help." The inmate gestured with the nod of quiet desperation. The officer did a quick scan of the cellblock and leaning on his law enforcement training and even more on his Catholic faith, he stood opposite the inmate at the thick cell door and listened as the broken man—wounded from the awful crimes he had done and the sinful life he had chosen—poured out his heart and lamented those things and where they had inevitably brought him.

The first several seconds seemed like an eternity, but the young officer persevered through all the things weighing the man down. The long back-to-back shifts in the jail, the fatigue from being on constant high alert and ready to go at any minute to protect and maintain security, the inmates always badgering him for something or trying a game of manipulation, the heartache of being away from his dog and his family, the fact that he would not be able to go to Sunday Mass because the jail was in dire need of shift coverage—oh yes, the officer had his own woes to lament too. And yet, he found himself before this inmate—a man justly sentenced for crimes he had knowingly committed—listening to him pour out his heart.

The officer's mother's words in many sacrificial situations came to mind, "There, but for the grace of God, go I!" Suddenly, he became keenly aware of another individual who had often done

the same in her life and religious vocation, someone now in heaven among that blessed communion of saints. The memory of her and her incredible example suddenly flooded the young officer's mind. He found he was not so weary and fixated on his troubles, but sensitive to the ones of the man before him. He looked to this saintly woman of faith—this small but zealous nun in a white and blue saree, holding her Rosary beads and repeating in the most genuine and heartfelt of ways, "I will pray for you!" This young corrections officer in a navy-blue sheriff's uniform and duty belt made the decision to take up the example of St. Mother Teresa of Kolkata and enter the slums—not of India but of a jail and into the heart of the criminal standing before him. With Mother Teresa's example, this young officer made the resolve to show the love and mercy of Our Lord Jesus Christ by simply being present and offering what he could to this troubled and tormented man in a jail cell. As St. Mother Teresa reminds us, how often have Jesus and his mother been there to hear us, comfort us, love and encourage us? The answer: always.

The gift of presence is the game-changer. Mother Teresa knew this, for she learned from the best of the best—Our Blessed Lord. Jesus is the prisoner found in every tabernacle and monstrosity of the world, so madly in love with us and bound to us in the Blessed Sacrament—His Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity in the Most Holy Eucharist. Jesus knows how starved we are for his divine presence, and this is why he utters from the altar-wood of the cross on Calvary, "I thirst!"—the very words St. Mother Teresa heard in the cries she could not and would not ignore from the poorest of the poor.

I was that young corrections officer once upon a time. All of this occurred, and St. Mother Teresa was fast in my heart and mind, beckoning me to learn from her and be Christ to one of his poor ones. She begged me to present the priceless treasure of Jesus' love to a tormented

soul in the sure and certain hope that he might know peace one day. When I go before Our Eucharistic Lord in Adoration, I cannot help but think and reflect on the quote from the film *A River Runs Through It*: “The poor without Christ are of all men the most miserable. But the poor with Christ? Princes and kings of the earth!”

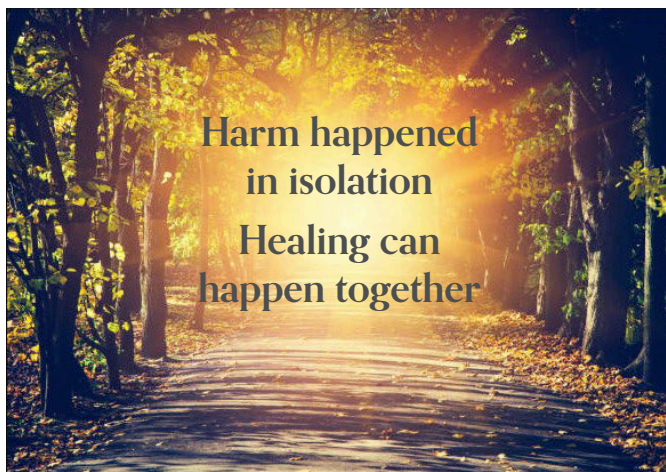
I ask you, how will you respond to Christ’s call to be present to others? Will you simply share a smile on the sidewalk? Maybe utter a “hello” to a stranger in the supermarket? Not lose your temper when someone on the road cuts you off or takes your spot in the crowded parking lot? Or offer a heartfelt “I will pray for you” to someone in dire need of Christ’s loving presence as St. Mother Teresa of Kolkata often did?

Let us learn from Mother Teresa, for she is a great teacher. She knew that the slums of the poor dwell all around us—those souls burdened by physical poverty, bodily illness, loneliness, addiction, indifference, slavery to immorality, and spiritual drought. Like that great saint who gave everything up so that others might know the Kingdom of God, strive to be present to each soul placed before us with the same love and attention he shows us. For if the poor—all of us—have Christ, they then become as kings!

I leave you with these words of St. Mother Teresa:

Let us ask Our Lady to be with us; let us ask her to give us her heart: so beautiful, so pure, so immaculate—her Heart! So full of love and humility—that we may receive Jesus in the Bread of Life. That we might love Him as she loves Him, and serve Him in the distress and disguise of the poor. Let us ask Our Lady to be with us!

St. Teresa of Kolkata, pray for us!



As a community, we strive to support survivors of child sexual abuse on their journey toward healing and wholeness. For those who have suffered abuse by clergy residing in the Catholic Diocese of Richmond, we invite you to join virtually on September 21 at 7PM. Spouses and affected community members are also welcome.

These gatherings, led by an independent facilitator, will offer a safe environment for participants to connect, share experiences, support, and heal.

If you would like more information, or the virtual meeting link, please call the Victim Assistance Coordinator at (877) 887-9603 or email dana@atreeplanted.org

mass intentions

Date Intention

9/9 SATURDAY

4PM Donna Green Petro by Doug Vance

6PM

9/10 SUNDAY

9AM

11:30AM Don Shawver ☩

stewardship of treasure

Donations Received as of September 3 (Week 10)		
CHURCH	ATTENDANCE	OFFERINGS
St. Joseph's	5	\$150
St. Elizabeth's	25	\$1,605
St. Mary's	17	\$200
St. Theresa's	42	\$1,041
Total	89	\$2,996
Outside Donations		\$500
Year to Date Received		\$31,055
Goal		\$28,270
Ahead/Behind Goal		+ \$2,785

OUTSIDE DONATIONS—THANK YOU!

Private donor, Newport News, VA: \$500

BUILDING FUND

St. Elizabeth's: \$500

please pray for

Louise Serreno*
Gerry Hankins
Clarence Moore
Lexi Cox
Sarah Wall
Tammy Bennett
Margaret Wasilewski
Nic Ulate
Frannie & Rayburn Minton
Sue Bailey
Christian Lambert
Shane Neal
Pete Belcher
Lucas Boyd
Ralph Heldreth
Chris Jessie
Leo Brown
Carolina Ferrare
Junior Aiken
Jeanne Hash
Lara Marshall
Carol & Jim Shumate
Andrew Satmary
Donna Petro
Christian Marshall
Tina Rocchetti
Alice Godin
Bryan Gunter
Michael Beavers
Natalie Dodge
Roger Empson
Dreama Ritter
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Cindy Lambert
Helen Petro
Clinard Coleman
Joan Harrison
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Amelia Proffit
Maurice Law
Zac Carter
Dennis & Frances Savage
Nancy Jo Testerman
Josh Cornwell
John Shumate
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Russ Hatfield
Connie Pace
Jody Hamilton
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Mary Gobble
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The Dalton family
Allen & Melody James
Betty Tabor
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Thank you to Maddy Ricca from St. Michael's in Glen Allen for the baskets of handmade rosaries. Her gifts of time and talent are cherished all over Southwest Virginia!



Fr. Renier and St. Joseph parishioners spent Labor Day cleaning and organizing the church. Afterward, they toured the Breaks State Park and had lunch.

WALKING WITH PURPOSE: Fall 2023 Sessions

Calling all women interested in a Catholic Bible Study! **Walking with Purpose** is a unique way for women to gather and study sacred scriptures through the heart of our Catholic Faith.

Join the ladies of St. Michael's in Glen Allen in *Touching the Divine*, a 22-lesson study focused on the many qualities of Jesus revealed through the Gospel of John. This study draws us into a deeper, loving relationship with Jesus as we reflect on his life and personality. Meets virtually on Thursdays, 7–8:30PM starting September 28. Cost is \$45 (includes book).

Register at: <https://www.wesharegiving.org/App/Form/ff21351b-3319-44bc-88cc-18c3403f8a80>

birthdays & anniversaries:

SEPTEMBER 10: Kim Lewis, Karl & Kim Lewis (anniversary)

14: Stephanie Santos, Rocco Tester, Frannie Minton

“God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.”

–2 Cor 5:19



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