



In Memoriam

THE MOST REVEREND ANTHONY M. PILLA

1932-2021



ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO HIM, O
LORD, AND LET PERPETUAL LIGHT
SHINE UPON HIM. MAY HE REST IN
PEACE. AMEN.

9TH BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF CLEVELAND
1980 - 2006

OUR MASS INTENTIONS/STIPENDS

Thank you for your generosity to the Blessed Sacrament Community for the Mass Intentions and requests for prayers. We speak aloud all we pray for at Mass, as you hear at each Mass. We mention these names with our regular intentions. Here is who we will remember this week:

Monday, October 4, 2021,

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI

(Jon 1:1-2:2, 11; Jon 2:3-5, 8; Lk 10:25-37)

9:00 a.m. MASS: + Leonard & + Geo DiNovo

11:30 a.m. MASS: + Robert Martin
(*Saint Ann's Shrine*)

Tuesday, October 5, 2021,

WEEKDAY

(Jon 3:1-10; Ps 130:1b-4b, 7-8; Lk 10:38-42)

9:00 a.m. MASS: + Owen P. Lowry
(*Wedding Anniversary*)

11:30 a.m. MASS: Special Intention (*Saint Ann's Shrine*)

Wednesday, October 6, 2021,

WEEKDAY

(Jon 4:1-11; Ps 86:3-6, 9-10; Lk 11:1-4)

9:00 a.m. MASS: + Grace M. Arth (Birthday)

11:30 a.m. MASS: + Hermino & + Aurora Polintan
(*Saint Ann's Shrine*)

Thursday, October 7, 2021,

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

(Mal 3:13-20b; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 11:5-13)

9:00 a.m. MASS: + Dolores Diiorio

11:30 a.m. MASS: Special Intention (*Saint Ann's Shrine*)

Friday, October 8, 2021,

WEEKDAY

(Jl 1:13-15; 2:1-2; Ps 9:2-3, 6, 8-9, 16; Lk 11:15-26)

9:00 a.m. MASS: + Dorothy Kramer

11:30 a.m. MASS: Souls in Purgatory
(*Saint Ann's Shrine*)

Saturday, October 9, 2021,

WEEKDAY

(Jl 4:12-21; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Lk 11:27-28)

9:00 a.m. MASS: + Katherine Oterson

4:30 p.m. MASS: + Ted Tonti

Sunday, October 10, 2021,

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

(Wis 7:7-11; Ps 90:12-17; Heb 4:12-13; Mk 10:17-30)

8:30 a.m. MASS: + John & + Bernadette Ungar

10:30 a.m. MASS: + Ester DeLaCruz

6:30 p.m. MASS: + Lois Carmosino
(*Anniversary of Passing*)

OUR VARIA

HEARING ASSISTANCE: If you need support and a listening device to hear better in our church, please see the musicians for a special device that you may wear in church.

LOW-GLUTEN HOSTS OR THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF CHRIST: If you wish to participate in Holy Communion with a low-gluten host, or to also receive the Blood of Christ during Mass, with your very own chalice, please come to the sacristy before Mass to let the priest or sacristan know and share with you the procedure.

SUGGESTIONS? Share them in the Fickel Narthex yellow suggestion box (under the prayer intention book), or by writing our ombudsmen, Tom Kelley, through an email: tjk12@case.edu.

VIDEOGRAPHERS NEEDED: One aspect of our evangelization efforts has been our livestream events, especially Masses. We have ten videographers who regularly rotate for our different events, including the Saturday 4:30 p.m. Mass and the Wednesday 9:00 a.m. Mass. We need additional videographers for the weekday events, such as evening concerts or workshops, held in the church. Especially, we would like to have parents and a child recruited, having our young people involved since they can handle a video game quite well, but supervised by their parents. Please contact George Peko at extension 108 or psr@saintpaschal.com.

OUR PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE...

27TH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME: Human Life Month – and Respect Life Sunday See Bishop Malesic's letter – for he echoes what I was going to write and does it so much better!

PHOTO: This week's photo is from a very windy day when our Knight Riders from our Helping Hands Ministry got our van ready to go downtown. We are grateful for their service on behalf of all of us. We appreciate your support of this outreach ministry of our parish's life. Please note that this church column was written on Sunday, September 19, due to production and travel schedules.



CHURCH ROOF UPDATE: For those who may have missed an earlier bulletin column this late summer, our church dome roof was complete. We were so blessed by your generous donations. We now have the last piece to do, which was the problem before the dome hemorrhaged: the gutters and their seams. This is the leaking you see from time to time. We appreciate your continued donations to the maintenance fund to support these projects. One company only does flat roofs – and another company only does

gutters and slanted roofs for a structure like ours. We have been on their schedule since we received the last bids and approval from our Finance Council. We are hoping for a slot earlier than November, but between parts and labor, work is backed up in NE Ohio and for us.

COMMUNITY @ PRAYER: We had a wonderful meeting two weeks ago to reorganize this important ministry in our parish's life. Thursday is the day of the Eucharist in the church's traditions, just like Friday is the day of the Cross. We invite you to look online at this spreadsheet to sign up for a slot after the 9:00 AM Mass. When we fill up this day, we will attempt other days. For questions or assistance, please contact our coordinator, Dick Kramer, at rkrum@aol.com. Please email Dick to receive the link to register and sign up for a day and time.

SOME OTHER EUCHARISTIC REMINDERS:

RECEPTION OF THE BLOOD OF CHRIST: We have a few parishioners who request the Precious Blood during Mass. We want to make sure you know that this is open to others besides those with gluten intolerance. Our parish, especially being a Blessed Sacrament Community, is dedicated to the importance of the Eucharist and wants to ensure that *both* species of the Body of Christ are available to all. Please do not hesitate to register before Mass with the sacristan or priest. You may always text me to let me know if you are running late.

KIND REMINDER ABOUT RECEIVING THE HOST: We had some questions about receiving the host for Mass. Please continue to make a "throne for our Lord" by placing one hand on top of the other. If right-handed, below the left, and if left-handed, below the right. Please do not "pick" or try to grasp the host from the Communion Minister. Please allow them to place it in the palm of your hand. Thanks for helping us not spread extra germs during the Communion Rite. And yes, you may bring your bulletin or hymnal forward with you to sing while you are in the Communion line.

WEATHER POLICY REMINDER: It's time to remember some weather items: if Mayfield City Schools are closed, so is SPB – both the school and all other parish events. This is because we need time to plow or cool down a building as we have had this August. If there is a separate reality here, such as we have no electricity, we will also announce on our parish email that we are shut down for the time being. **PLEASE – make sure you are receiving our weekly *Paschal Life* email** so that you and your group will not make a trip and be disappointed that the campus is closed for whatever reason! Our parish is in the Mayfield City School district and follows this weather schedule as much as possible. Next weekend, I'll be leading a retreat for the deacons and wives of the Diocese of Salt Lake City. Please pray for my retreat with them on the "Beatitudes and the Eucharist." Let's continue to pray for each other!

In Christ our Eucharist,



Reverend John Thomas Lane, SSS
Pastor

P.S. Don't forget:

- **BLESSING OF PETS:** Fr. Choy will bless your pet around the flag pole on Wilson Mills Road **Sunday, October 3, 12:30 PM**. Please park in the horseshoe lot, and do not forget to bring something to clean up after your pet.
- **PREPARING FOR HUMAN LIFE SUNDAY:** Our annual prayer vigil on Wilson Mills for Respect Life Sunday will be on Sunday, October 3, 1:00-2:00 p.m. Please plan to attend to pray and witness our faith – that we promote human life from conception until natural death and pray for our country to respect these important human rights. I am grateful to our parish Human Life Committee and the Benanders for leading us in prayer each year.

**OUR ADVENT AND
CHRISTMAS CALENDAR**

PREPARING FOR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS TIME: We continue to live in interesting new times and adventures. A new liturgical year and the celebrations of our faith in our LORD Jesus Christ are coming soon, and we know how you and your family prepare. We still hope for in-person celebrations at Holy Christmas. Please continue to follow our website and *Paschal Life* emails each Saturday to stay connected for the Christmas Mass schedule. **Below is tentative and subject to health reports.**

SPECIAL ADVENT DAYS:

- **Immaculate Conception:** Tuesday, December 7: Vigil Mass at 4:30 p.m. (like Sunday)
◦ Wednesday, December 8: 6:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 2:15 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
- **Taizé Advent Holy Hour:** Tuesday, December 7, 7:00 p.m. in the church & YouTube channel
- **Bambinelli Sunday:** Sunday Masses, December 12
◦ *Bring your baby Jesus statue from your manger to church for a blessing at any Sunday Mass*
- **Penance Services (Rite 2 – communal with individual Confessions):**
◦ Thursday, December 16: 7:00 p.m. (Saint Clare)
◦ Tuesday, December 21: 7:00 p.m. (here at SPB)

CHRISTMAS TIME MASSES:

- Friday, December 24: **NO 9:00 a.m. Mass**
◦ 4:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m.
Vigil Christmas Masses
- Saturday, December 25: 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Masses
(NO Evening Mass)
- Sunday, December 26: 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.,
Feast of the Holy Family
- Friday, December 31: 9:00 a.m. for the Christmas Octave
4:30 p.m. for the Vigil of Mary,
Mother of God

- Saturday, January 1: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
 - 8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
 - 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Masses
(NO Evening Mass)
- Sunday, January 2: Epiphany Masses: Home Blessing Kits Distributed
 - 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. & 6:30 a.m.
- Christmas Time ends on Sunday, January 9, with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

OUR CALENDAR

- **CHOIR PRACTICE:** Wednesday, October 6, 6:30 p.m. in the church.
- **COLUMBUS DAY HOLIDAY:** Monday, October 11: While there is school, this is a holiday, with the following:
 - 8:00 a.m., Morning Prayer
 - 8:30 a.m., Rosary
 - 9:00 a.m., Mass, the parish office and chapel closed
- **PASTORAL STAFF MEETING:** Tuesday, October 12, 10:00 a.m. in the Kazel Room.
- **BISHOP MALESIC PASTORAL VISIT:** Wednesday, October 13, 9:00 a.m. Mass and following in school. Please participate in the Mass by watching our YouTube channel.
- **SOCIAL ACTION COMMISSION:** Wednesday, October 13, 7:00 p.m.
- **LADIES GUILD MEETING:** Thursday, October 14, 7:30 p.m. in parish office parlor – all women of the parish are welcome.
- **INFANT BAPTISMS:** Saturday, October 16, 4:30 p.m. Mass/ Sunday, October 17, 12:30 p.m. Outside of Mass.
- **TRUNK OR TREAT:** Sunday, October 17, 3:00 p.m. Pray for great weather!
- **LITURGY COMMISSION:** Monday, October 18, a new time at 6:30 p.m. & a new place – in parlor.
- **FINANCE COUNCIL:** Tuesday, October 19, 7:00 p.m.
- **SCHOOL WALK-A-THON:** Friday, October 22, 1:00 p.m. in our neighborhood. (Pray for Good Weather!)
- **PSR NIGHT PRAYER: (IN CHURCH & BROADCAST):** Monday, October 25, 7:10 p.m.
- **SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL:** Tuesday, October 26,

6:30 p.m. in the Eymard Room.

- **PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY:** Sunday, October 31, 2021: PRAY for more men to hear the call to share their gifts and talents to serve the church as an ordained priest, especially in the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament.
- **NATIONAL VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK:** November 7-13. Due to our parish schedule, we celebrate Vocation Awareness on Monday, November 22 & 23. Details to come!
- **A (GREEN) KNIGHT TO REMEMBER GALA:** Friday, November 12, 6:30 p.m., La Vera Party Center – our annual benefit for our "Green Knights," our school students. Become part of the committee by calling Gigi! Baskets, gift cards and other donated items are most welcome for the auctions. Anniversary Raffle is coming soon!
- **BLOOD DRIVE:** Sunday, November 21 location in O'Brien Hall.
- **INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE THIS YEAR:** Tuesday, November 23, 7:00 p.m., at Messiah Lutheran Church – 5200 Mayfield Road, Lyndhurst.

OUR GREEN KNIGHT TO REMEMBER GALA

DONATIONS NEEDED: Our gala committee has started working hard on this wonderful event. The money raised goes directly to the school to help our SPB students. We are looking for cash donations, gift cards to restaurants, grocery stores and gas cards. Grab some friends and create a "theme basket" for our auction. If you have any questions or would like to be part of this committee, please call the parish office at 440-442-3410. Chris Hart or Kathy Zagar, our committee chairs, will reach out to you immediately.

OUR STEWARDSHIP

Thank you for placing SPB in your will or trust! We appreciate you leaving a legacy that will strengthen the ministries of our parish into the future!

We are so grateful for you and your participation in the life of our parish! **Our collections:**

First Collection	\$	12,118
Second Collection –		
Catholic Communication Campaign	\$	936

YOUR TITHING HELPS WITH OUR MONTHLY EXPENSES:

• Health benefits to our staff (one week's collection!)	\$ 23,450
• Pension to our staff	\$ 8,726.34
• Gas bill	\$ 2,370.91

Thanks for helping us catch up for the year, for we are \$20,000 behind so far in our income to meet our budget!

LOANS/PARISH DEBT (as of October 2021) –

Parking Lot Project	\$ 344,130.43
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WE COUNT ON ONE ANOTHER: View numbers on our YouTube Channel increase regularly. Please make sure you subscribe to our YouTube Channel to be notified of live events.

September 25/26

4:30 p.m. Saturday Mass – 174
8:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Prayer – 31
8:30 a.m. Sunday Mass – 16
10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass – 175 & YouTube Channel Views – 131
6:30 p.m. Sunday Mass – 125



JOIN IN USING MYEOFFERING: If you are not on this yet, see our website: www.church.saintpaschal.com. Call Michelle Mazza in the Business Office at 440-442-3410, ext. 101. We also appreciate those who mail in the envelope or drop off during or after office hours!! We are so grateful! The Business Office door mail slot has been working great! **PLEASE REMEMBER TO UPDATE YOUR CREDIT CARD INFORMATION – MANY ACCOUNTS HAVE OR WILL EXPIRE SOON.**

OUR PARISH LIFE

Catechetical Formation and Education: Learning and Living Our Faith

For assistance, please contact George Peko, psr@saintpaschal.com, (440) 442-3410, ext. 108.
Romans 12:12 – Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: Children's liturgy is on Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Mass. We invite you to join us for this special liturgy.

CONFIRMATION: The commitment pledge will take place on Sunday, October 10, during the 8:30 a.m. Mass, followed by session one beginning at 9:30 a.m.

FIRST COMMUNION: The commitment pledge for the First Communicants will be Monday, October 11 at 6:30 p.m. for the PSR students and Tuesday, October 12 at 6:30 p.m. for the day school.

INFANT BAPTISM CLASS: The next Baptism class is Sunday, October 17, at noon.

PSR: PSR night prayer will be Monday, October 25, at 7:10 p.m. in the church. Pick up will be from the church at 7:30 p.m.

RCIA (Becoming Catholic): If you or someone you know is interested in becoming Catholic, classes have started.

VOCATIONS TO RELIGIOUS LIFE & ORDAINED PRIEST? Discerning a future for community life and service to God and the Body of Christ? Contact Fr. Lane or Bro. Michael Perez. Interested in becoming an Associate of the Blessed Sacrament (lay branch founded also by Saint Peter Julian Eymard), Contact Mary Muehle mbmuehle@hotmail.com.

AWARD-WINNING SCHOOL

After pausing for a year due to COVID, the D.A.R.E. program is back in sixth grade this year! The D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program provides students with the skills necessary to recognize and resist pressures to experiment with drugs and to avoid gangs and violence. Lessons emphasize self-esteem, decision making, interpersonal communications skills, the consequences of drug abuse, conflict resolution, and positive alternatives to substance abuse. We are thrilled to have Sergeant Dennis McGrath back with us as our D.A.R.E. instructor, and we are very grateful for our partnership with the Highland Heights Police Department. Weekly classes will continue through October with D.A.R.E. graduation being the culminating activity.

Grace and blessings,

Diane Raguz, Principal

OUR MANNA MINISTRY

The COVID pandemic continues to cause uncertainty in our world. For some in our St. Paschal Baylon parish, there is a difficult reality due to illness, unemployment, or some other emergency. The Manna Ministry has helped many in our parish over the years with emergency situations. So far this year, 88 families have been helped. That is 134 individuals that have received some relief. Utility bills, medical bills, rent and car repairs have been paid. Food gift cards were given out at Easter and will be given at Thanksgiving and Christmas to those families in need so they can purchase the foods they enjoy at the holidays. Everyone helped have been extremely grateful. If you find yourself in need, please call the parish office. Leave your first name and phone number. Our client advocate will contact you. We preserve your privacy. There will be a second collection on October 9/10 for Manna Ministry. On behalf of all those you have helped; we thank you so much for your generosity.

OUR LADIES GUILD

LADIES GUILD MEETING: Please join us for our next monthly meeting on Thursday, October 14th, at 7:30 p.m. in the parish parlor. This is our normal meeting place. We meet the second Thursday night of each month. We hope to see you there. Bring a friend!

LIVING ROSARY: The month of October is dedicated to the Most Holy Rosary. All are welcome to join the SPB Ladies Guild as we pray the Rosary together, on Sunday, October 10th. We will be set up in the back of the parking lot near Jette Gym immediately following the 10:30 a.m. Mass. Come stand and be a "bead" as we pray together in a living Rosary. Bring the whole family!

OUR SPB TRAVELLERS

ATTENTION ALL SAINT PASCHAL BAYLON TRAVELLERS: We are once again ready to travel!!! A trip to Three Rivers Casino in Pittsburgh is scheduled for October 20, 2021. The BRT bus will arrive in the back parking lot at 7:30 a.m. and depart at 8:00 a.m. sharp, returning at 6:00 p.m. The cost is \$35 per person, snack bag provided, with a \$20 free play and \$5 food voucher perk for each traveler. Due to the confined space, only vaccinated people are invited at this time, but bring your masks for the bus ride, a bus company mandate. Masks are optional at the casino and new sanitizing equipment is in place at the casino. Register in person in the church office and pay at the time of registration. Bring a photo ID with you to receive your bonus free play and food voucher. Deadline to register is October 15!

OUR SPB CREDIT UNION

The Credit Union is offering competitive new car loans as low as 2.99% and used car loans as low as 3.25% as well as a dividend rate of 0.20% on share accounts over \$100. Call us at 440-646-0409 or email Maribeth at spbcu@sbcglobal.net or visit us on Sundays from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS

CLAMBAKE: Highland Heights Lions Club is having their 5th Annual Clambake on **Saturday, October 9th, 2021**, at Highland Heights Community Center, doors open at 6:00 p.m.

WE THE PEOPLE – WORKSHOP SERIES: Many of us have broken relationships over politics. Ouch! As Catholic Christians (and other faiths), we are called to be in dialogue with one another and form a communal body. But how can we listen and **how can we talk without tension**, without malice? Ted Wetzel will help us re-discover our American system of self-

governance and help us discuss conflicts in a safe environment. For five Tuesdays from October 19 to November 16, 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the SPB Eymard Room, we will learn that we still can love our country and our neighbors. **Just in time for Thanksgiving dinner, too!** Parishioners and non-parishioners are welcome. Please sign up at the parish office (8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. weekdays, or after Mass in the sacristy) and grab a copy of the book "Is America Broken?" by Ted. No cost. Feel free to call Ted at 330-607-6829.

**OUR PASTORAL STAFF
(440) 442-3410****CLERGY:**

- Rev. John Thomas Lane, SSS, Pastor, jtlanesss@gmail.com (ext. 100)
- Rev. Juancho (Choy) Ramos, SSS, Parochial Vicar, chomos45@yahoo.com, (ext. 215)
- Rev. Michael Arkins, SSS, Senior Parochial Vicar, mjasss@blessedsacrament.com, (ext. 110)

STAFF:

- Mr. Jon Detzel, Maintenance Supervisor, jondetzel@yahoo.com, (ext. 333)
- Mrs. Michelle Mazza, Business Manager, mmazza@saintpaschal.com (ext. 101)
- Ms. Evamarie Mickol, Youth Minister, emickol@saintpaschal.com (ext. 127)
- Mrs. Roberta Modica, Music/Liturgy Coordinator, robertamodica@juno.com (ext. 105)
- M/M George & Anna Peko, Catechetical Leaders & Evangelization, psr@saintpaschal.com (ext. 108)
- Mrs. Gigi Peko, Office Manager, parishoffice@saintpaschal.com (ext. 100)
- Ms. Diane Raguz, Principal, draguz@saintpaschal.com (ext. 310)

OUR BLESSED SACRAMENT COMMUNITY**BLESSED SACRAMENT COMMUNITY IN RESIDENCE (SSS):**

- Bro. Allen Boeckman, SSS (ext. 131)
- Rev. Roger Bourgeois, Saint Ann Shrine Chaplain, rbourgeois41@gmail.com (ext. 238)
- Rev. Ernest Falardeau, SSS, Efalar0@aol.com (ext. 233)
- Bro. Gary LaVerdiere, SSS (ext. 201)
- Rev. John Keenan, SSS, Provincial (ext. 230)
- Bro. Michael Perez, SSS, michaelangelsss@yahoo.com (ext. 239)

IN RESIDENCE AT REGINA HEALTH CENTER – (330) 659-4161:

- Rev. Paul Bernier, SSS, pbernier@earthlink.net
- Bro. Eugene Blee, SSS
- Dcn. Joseph Bourgeois, SSS, joeyappythec clown@yahoo.com
- Rev. Robert Chabot, SSS, robertchabot@me.com
- Rev. Robert Pittman, SSS

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 3, 2021

Gather 1171

October: The Month of the Holy Rosary

Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi: Blessing of Pets

Respect Life Sunday

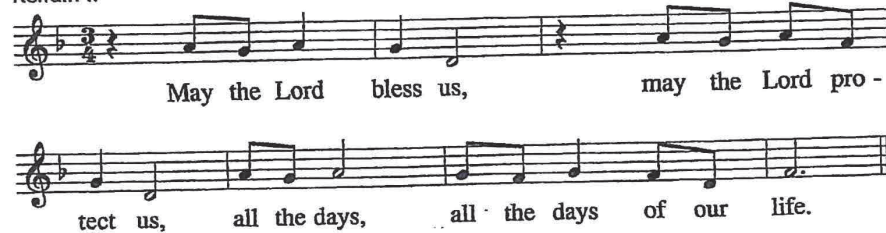
Prelude Choir Song for Quiet Prayer and Call to Worship: All Good Gifts by Kevin Keil

Processional: For the Beauty of the Earth Gather 633

Text: Folliot S. Pierpont, Tune: DIX, One License A-721444.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 128: Blest Are Those Who Love You (Ref II) Gather 86

Refrain II



CANTOR

1. Happy all those who fear the LORD, and walk in God's pathway;
you will find what you long for: the riches of our God.
2. Your spouse shall be like a fruitful vine in the midst of your home,
your children flourish like olive plants rejoicing at your table.
3. May the blessings of God be yours all the days of your life,
May the peace and the love of God live always in your heart.

Marty Haugen, @ 1987; GIA.. One License A-721444.

Offertory: **I Have Loved You** Gather 588

Michael Joncas, @ 1978, OCP. One License A-721444.

Communion: **Amen. El Cuerpo de Cristo** Gather 912

John Schiavone, @ 1995, OCP. One License A-721444.

Recessional: **Sing of the LORD's Goodness** Gather 610

Ernest Sands, @ 1981, OCP. One License A-721444.

YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH

Prayer with Saint Joseph for October 2021

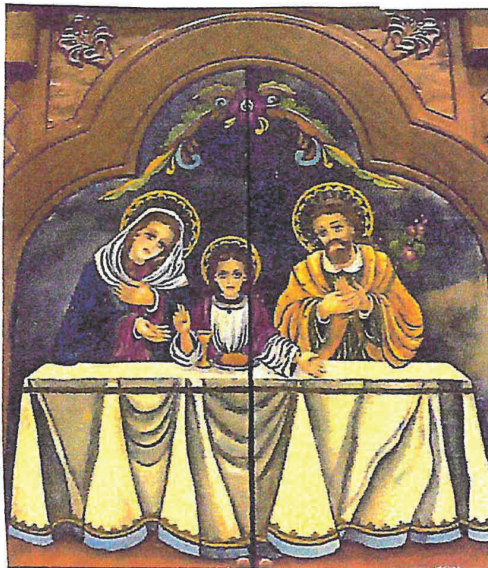
*Adapted by John Thomas Lane, SSS from the Roman Missal, Third Edition,
Votive Mass of Saint Joseph*

O God,
who in your inexpressible providence and joy,
were pleased to choose Saint Joseph
as spouse of Mary, the most holy Mother of your Son,
grant, that we who revere him as our protector on earth,
may be worthy of his heavenly intercessions,
especially for the needs we pray for at this time:

(Pray silently for 10 seconds)

We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our LORD,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God forever and ever.

Amen.



Jesus, Mary and Joseph: The Eucharist



Catholic Diocese
of Cleveland

Cathedral Square

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS

September 17, 2021

A message from Bishop Edward Malesic on October as Respect Life Month

All human life is precious, fragile and given directly to us as a gift by God. As such, we are brothers and sisters in our human family, made in the image and likeness of God. We are all called to live out our responsibility to care for, protect and defend the lives of our brothers and sisters.

Sadly, in our great country we focus so much on our individual freedoms that we sometimes forget about our corresponding obligations to be protective of life, respectful and caring to one another. Jesus reminds us to “Do to others as you would have them do to you.” (Lk 6:27-38) Consequently, we all have the obligation to defend life because it is the fundamental right from which all other rights flow. St. Pope John Paul II stated, “Above all, the common outcry, which is justly made on behalf of human rights – for example, the right to health, to home, to work, to family, to culture – is false and illusory if the right to life, the most basic and fundamental right and the condition for all other personal rights, is not defended with maximum determination.” (Christifideles laici, No. 38)

In our culture today, disrespect for life in the womb has spilled over to a general disrespect for the needs of others outside the womb. If life can be disregarded at its very beginning, why not be dismissive of it the middle and at the end, too? To be truly pro-life we must also respect life after a person is born. This includes striving to end all racism, protecting the environment that we all share together, lifting up the poor, helping the addicted, comforting those in prison, etc. In short, we are all called to practice the corporal works of mercy.

I am disturbed by images of people shouting at one another on airplanes, the disruptions at public board meetings, shootings in our city streets and the mean-spirited unproductive speech that sometimes comes from people who claim to follow Christ. As we go about our day, do we treat people – all of them – as made in God’s image, even if the image is tainted in them? We should want to help those in our society who are struggling to welcome new life, like moms who are pregnant or parenting in difficult circumstances, and seek healing for those parents who are struggling after the loss of a child, including those who regretfully lost their children through abortion. Instead of tearing people down, we must want to raise them up. This begins by praying for them, but it must not end there. Our love of others must be shown in our actions and in how we treat and value all human life. We seek to convert the minds and hearts of those who disregard life by our example of peaceful and steadfast defense of it.



Catholic Diocese
of Cleveland

Cathedral Square

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS

I wish we could recover the unity we all felt as a nation after the events of 9/11. And I believe we can. But as people of faith, we must lead the way in love. We may disagree with each other, but the correction we give must be gentle as well as steadfast in faith. We must take on the mind of Christ who did not come to condemn us, but to save us.

Every October, the Catholic Church in the United States celebrates Respect Life Month, and the first Sunday, Oct. 3, is observed as Respect Life Sunday. Let us use the month of October to see one another with the eyes of God, as part of his creation. As we focus on the right to life, let us not be neglectful of our obligation to support life in every stage from beginning to end. We can also use the time to ask for the Lord's forgiveness for our sins against life, both personal and corporate.

Because there are so many invaluable life issues, the diocesan Office for Human Life, in collaboration with the diocesan Social Action Office, will be highlighting different aspects of life each week throughout the month of October in order to help build and celebrate the culture of life. I urge you to click [here](#) for resource materials that will help us walk with each other in solidarity in the support and protection of all human life.

Let us pray:

We come to you, our God, the author and sustainer of every human life.

Grant us the courage and wisdom to protect your gift of human life from conception to natural death. Help us to defend our brothers and sisters both born and yet to be born with great love. Make us good stewards of every life.

May we live by the example of your Son, Jesus, who was always close to the weakest of the weak. Guided by your Holy Spirit, strengthen us to defend the most vulnerable among us, especially the unborn. Give us the grace to courageously live the Gospel of life with gentleness and joy. May our faithful witness soften the hearts and minds of those who reject the gift of life in any way. We entrust our prayer to you through Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

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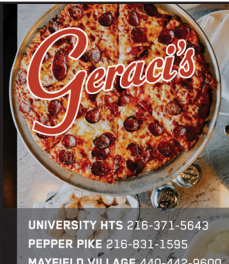


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