

You prepare a table for me, O Lord



CELEBRATE THE LORD'S DAY MASSES:

LITURGY SCHEDULE

August 23, 2020

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday, August 24, at St. John's

10:00a.m...No Mass

Tuesday, August 25

No Mass

Wednesday, August 26, at St. John's

12:00noon...No Mass

Thursday, August 27, at St. Mary's

5:30p.m...No Mass

Friday, August 28, at Holy Family

9:00a.m...No Mass

Saturday, August 29, at St. Mary's

5:00p.m...Don Martin

Sunday, August 30

9:00a.m...Herminia & Owee Sulit at St. John's

11:00a.m...Parishioners of St. Mary's, St. John's and Holy Family at Holy Family

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen

"Where there is no obedience there is no virtue, where there is no virtue there is no good, where there is no good there is no love, where there is no love, there is no God, and where there is no God there is no Paradise."

— St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina

Salutations from Arizona. I did not expect to send my first pastor's note from here, but due to the untimely death of my dad's wife, Melanie, I am here to assist him in his transition back to Indiana. Thank you for your prayers for him and my family and even more so for your patience in this time of transition. We also thank Fr. Paul and Fr. Christopher for their work here in our pastorate and wish them continued success in their future endeavors. Also, special thanks to Fr. Ted Dudzinski and Fr. Dominic Petan for their help in providing support for us all in our time of need. Normally, I'd have a longer intro about myself, but that'll wait for a future column. We will be united by the holy sacrifice of the Mass until I return soon. For now, I am working on a timeline for coming back to Indiana as swiftly as possible, but please know of my prayers for all of you.

In Christ, Fr. Hurley

PRAYER INTENTIONS OF POPE FRANCIS FOR AUGUST:

The Maritime World

We pray for all those who work and live from the sea, among them sailors, fishermen and their families.

Weekly Prayer Corner:

YOUR WILL BE DONE

Govern all by your wisdom, O Lord, so that I may always be serving you as you desire and not as I choose. Do not punish me by granting what I wish or ask, if it offend your love. Let me die to myself that I may serve you. Let me live to you who in yourself are the true life.

--St. Teresa of Avila

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TEACHER NEEDED

St. John's is looking for a 4th/5th grade teacher for religious education classes. There are 7 students greatly in need of YOUR help to instruct them in the Catholic faith. Classes meet Sunday after 9am morning Mass till 11am. Contact Claire Aulbach or the office if interested.

FROM DEATH TO NEW LIFE

Please remember in your prayers John Bonvillian, parishioner of St. John's, who passed to eternal life this week. May his family be comforted by your prayers.

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

St. Mary's

Sunday Collection: \$474.00

Food Pantry: \$15.00

Needed Weekly: \$887.87

St. John's

Sunday Collection: \$1,610.00

Food Pantry: \$85.00

Building Fund: \$70.00

Church in Africa: \$25.00

Needed Weekly: \$3,225.23

In today's readings, St. Paul reminds the Romans - and us - that all things come from God: "For from Him and through Him and for Him all things are." Good stewards understand that all is gift and share generously the gifts of time, talent, and treasure with which they've been blessed.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

Aug. 24: [St. Bartholomew, apostle] Rv 21: 9b-14; Jn 1: 45-51

Aug. 25: [St. Louis; St. Joseph Calasanz, priest] 2 Thes 2: 1-3a, 14-17; Mt 23: 23-26

Aug. 26: 2 Thes 3: 6-10, 16-18; Mt 23: 27-32

Aug. 27: [St. Monica] 1 Cor 1: 1-9; Mt 24: 42-51

Aug. 28: [St. Augustine, bishop & doctor of the Church] 1 Cor 1: 17-25; Mt 25: 1-13

Aug. 29: [The Passion of St. John the Baptist] 1 Cor 1: 26-31; Mk 6: 17-29

Aug. 30: Jer 20: 7-9; Rom 12: 1-2; Mt 16: 21-27



In last edition's column, I wrote about "change." A "change" is any event that can shake up our understanding of the world and our old priorities. A "transition," on the other hand, is a three-phase psychological reorientation process that people go through when they are coming to terms with a "change." In a "transition" there is an ending, a neutral zone and a new beginning.

The neutral zone is an area of great discomfort. These are the days after the funeral, the job loss, the resignation, moving from one parish to another or after a divorce. These are the pain-filled days when there is a temptation to want to return to the familiar for relief. The secret of success in the neutral zone is to "stay the course" and "get through" it.

I have spent so much time in the neutral zone phase that I wrote a book about it. Sometimes change simply "happened" to me. Later, realizing there was no rescue party out looking for me, I learned to "induce the labor pains" of change.

One of my very favorite "neutral zone" stories from that book happened a few weeks after my ordination fifty years ago. This "change" was unwelcomed.

All through seminary, after spending years in rural areas, my heart was set on an urban assignment. I had a fabulous chance of seeing that dream come true because newly ordained priests typically became associate pastors in large urban parishes.

When the call came from the Priest Personnel Board, I was told that I was being assigned to the "home missions" of our diocese, in Appalachia, down along the Tennessee border. The area was what the Glenmary Fathers called "No Priest Land."

Unable to change their minds, I went into a depression, angrily packed my bags, bought a map and drove toward my hated assignment. Halfway there, I had a conversion experience. I learned something about all unwanted "changes" - I could change my mind! I started telling myself, "If you don't get what you want, you can always want what your get!" Because of that mind change, it became a great assignment, better than I could have ever imagined.

In the next and final segment of this series we will talk about managing a new beginning.

Father Knott, a priest of the Archdiocese of Louisville, was a weekly columnist for his archdiocesan paper, *The Record*, for fifteen years. He spent fifteen years doing ongoing priest formation in ten countries.

GOSPEL REFLECTIONS:

[IS 22:19-23; PS 138:1-3, 6, 8; ROM 11:33-36; MT 16:13-20](#)

In our Gospel passage, from Matthew, Jesus poses a question to the disciples: “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they offer varying responses. Then, Jesus gets personal with them. “But who do you say that I am?” Peter gets the answer right: “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Jesus is getting personal with us today. He poses the same question to each of us who call ourselves His stewards and modern-day disciples.

But do our lives truly reflect this? If we really believe that Christ is the Son of God, sent to save us from our sins and lead us to Heaven, then we must say so, not just with words but with our actions. Do my ambitions and priorities in life say that Christ is my Savior and I am His disciple? Does my budget, my family life, my entertainment say so?

The gifts and blessings God has given us — our time, our talents, our material possessions — are meant to be used in a manner that says “Christ is my Savior and I am His disciple.” The most eloquent praise we can offer Him is a life lived in grateful response to His unfathomable love. This is the beauty and power of a stewardship way of life.

Weekend Mass Schedule as of August 22/23:

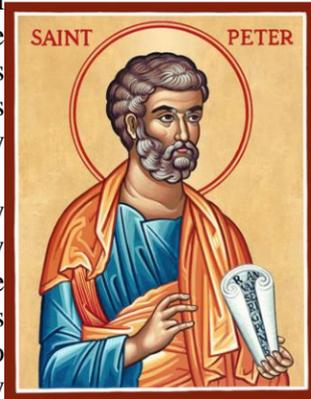
Saturday Vigil Mass 5:00pm at St. Mary’s, Dunkirk

Sunday Mass 9:00am at St. John’s, Hartford City

Sunday Mass 11:00am at Holy Family, Gas City

As has been the practice over the past 15 or so years with the cluster of St. Mary’s and St. John’s, if you participate in Mass at one of our three pastorate locations, your collection envelopes will be delivered to your home parish for processing.

Please continue to pray for our diocesan leadership, our priests, and each of us as parishioners as we embark on this Uniting in Heart 2030 Pastorate Plan. May we truly unite in hearts to share the Gospels and the love of Christ Jesus.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SET TO BEGIN

This weekend St. John’s begins religious education classes. Classes will run from roughly 10-11am. Coffee and donuts will be available. All are invited to stop over after Mass to welcome back the kids and teachers.

Sunday Morning Bible Study set to return Sept 13

(more info. Soon on bible study & book club)

Our Catholic Book Club

New members are always welcome. Pick the Catholic author’s book you want to read and get it ordered.

YOUTH GROUP KICKOFF BONFIRE

We are planning a local meet-and-greet with Bethany at the Kitterman’s with a bonfire and hotdogs and s’mores. All youth and their families are invited. This will take place on Saturday, August 29th, beginning at 6pm.

PRAYER PETITION TO END RACISM:

For an end to the subtle racism of economic oppression which permeates our society’s structures and resides in many hearts, we pray:

Bind us together, O God of love.

MASK REQUIREMENTS ENHANCED

Face coverings will be required in all our buildings at St. Mary’s and St. John’s. If you are unable to wear a facial covering for any reason, please participate in the Mass from your home.

DISPENSATION EXTENDED TO NOV. 1

The Indiana bishops have decided to extend the dispensation from the obligations of Sunday Mass attendance until November 1, 2020, unless further developments determine otherwise.”

Bishop Doherty explained that he was confident local parishes would continue to practice social distancing and safety protocols so that public Mass and the sharing of the spiritual gifts of the Church may continue.

“To be dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass does not mean people should stay away from Church or fail to keep holy the Lord’s Day. We continue to invite each of you to prayerfully consider attending Mass with your parish family. In this way you may more fully experience the gift that Jesus gives us in the Eucharist and the life of grace.”



21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Contact the parish office about preparation. The sacrament is normally celebrated with the community during Mass.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confessions are available by appointment as well as: St. Mary, by appointment; St. John, the first Saturday at 4:00pm; Gas City, by appointment

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Contact the parish office to begin the preparation at least six months in advance.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

Generally, Fr. Hurley is available after Mass for anointing, or you may contact the parish office to arrange a time.

RELIGIOUS FORMATION

Sessions for children and youth (grades K-12) are available on Sunday morning. Contact the parish office for details.

St. Mary, Dunkirk

St. John the Evangelist, Hartford City

Holy Family, Gas City

A Pastorate of

The Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana

Pastor, Fr. Kevin Hurley

PARISH OFFICES

e-mail: stmaryjohn@att.net

St. Mary, Dunkirk

P.O. Box 286, Dunkirk, IN 47336

Parish Office: 765-348-3889

Church Basement: 765-768-1283

St. John the Evangelist, Hartford City

213 S. Spring St., Hartford City, IN 47348

Parish Office: 765-348-3889

Fax: 765-348-4399

PARISH REGISTRATION

Visitors are always welcome. Residents are invited to join the community by calling the parish office.

RCIA

People interested in knowing about the Catholic faith and way of life meet each week. Contact the parish office for information