
UPDATE

Mary Mother of the Church

Volume 43 Issue 6

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FROM YOUR PASTOR

Fr. Chuck Barthel 894-1373
cbarthel@marymother.org

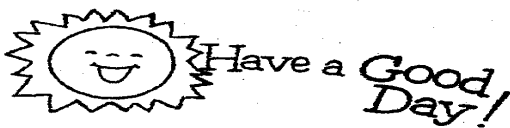
Whatever you do ...

Whenever we hear the words “the Corporal Works of Mercy,” we often think about feeding the hungry, offering shelter to the homeless, and clothing those who are naked. The seventh corporal work of mercy is to bury those who have died. As a parish, we have an opportunity to do just that during the month of September.

Nine St. Joe Sisters have died during this pandemic; and the community has not yet been able to have their funeral liturgies and burials. They are not able to bring outsiders to Nazareth Chapel. They also have limited capabilities to livestream the funeral liturgies to the sisters and residents both at Nazareth Center and throughout the province. Because of those, members of the Sisters’ pastoral care team asked if they could use our church for those nine funerals. After a few emails, we have all the details worked out.

Beginning **Tuesday, September 8**, there will be a funeral liturgy taking place on the Tuesday and Thursday afternoons of September and the first Tuesday and Thursday of October. The funerals will take place in our church at 1:00pm. These funeral services will not have an impact on any parish funeral we will need to schedule. As the dates for the deceased sisters’ funerals draw closer, I will post them in the bulletin.

The Sisters and the Nazareth Community are most grateful for our assistance in helping them pray their good-byes.



SPOTLIGHT ON STEWARDSHIP

We are blessed at Mary Mother to have a volunteer who keeps us informed on upcoming environmental education/ service opportunities through the Christian Service Commission and MCU. This lady also leads many of those service projects. She manages a busy work schedule, is a family caregiver and a wonderful steward of mother earth. Look on page 2 to find out who this steward is.

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

Gary Leiendecker
pcchair@marymother.org

There is nothing new to report from the Parish Council, since we did not meet in July. The August meeting is scheduled after this writing.

I thought I would share a brief synopsis of something I recently read. The ability to verbalize is an awesome privilege, granted only to those created in God’s image. It went on to say that when we speak carelessly or negatively, we can damage others, as well as ourselves. Be quick to listen and slow to speak. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you before you speak. I don’t want to sound preachy; but this is a reminder, as we have a tendency to grumble and complain during this pandemic. Look for the positives and God’s awesome beauty; and share His great gifts with others!

As always, please do not hesitate to relay your thoughts or comments.



If you want to attend Mass, you need to sign up for the particular date on which you want to attend. You can use Sign-Up Genius on the parish website. If you don’t know how to use Sign-Up Genius, call either Linda Licata or Ann Garavaglia in the parish office. If you do not have a computer or access to the internet, you can call Linda or Ann for that also. Because of the pandemic and restrictions, our parish can only have 80 people at Mass. Also, if someone who attended Mass became sick, the parish secretaries can contact those who had signed up to be at that Mass. The phone number to reach the parish is 314-894-1373. There is also other information on the parish website. Again, if you want to know if any event will be available, contact one of the secretaries. And, as always, wear your face mask if you attend Mass or other events in the parish building.



UPDATE STAFF

Managing Editor:	Jackie Wilson
Reproduction:	Trish Willmering
Post Office Delivery:	Marcia Dohack

**PARISH COUNCIL
VICE-CHAIRPERSON**

*Dave Baranski
pcveep@marymother.org*

Stewardship and the Saints

Stewardship is recognizing that everything we have and everything we are is a gift from God. It is living a grateful and generous lifestyle where we try to become more Christ-centered and less self-centered.

We are fortunate in St. Louis that our city’s patron saints are excellent examples of the gifts of prayer, participation and generosity.

St. Rose Philippine Duchesne was known as “the woman who always prays.” St. Rose said, “Do not look back at the past, nor forward to the future. Claim only the present, for it holds God’s will.”

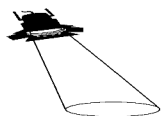
St. Vincent de Paul is well known for his charitable works. St. Vincent said, “Let us do our duty well, let us go straight to God; let us work to become very humble, very patient, very mortified and very charitable.”

St. Louis, King of France was known for his generosity with his wealth assisting those in need. St. Louis said, “Have a pitiful heart for the poor, and according to your ability, comfort and aid them with alms.”

Lord, help us to discern how you are calling us to use our gifts to build your kingdom on earth.

PARISH CALENDAR

The calendar for September is again not included in this Update. Look on the parish website at www.marymother.org to check the calendar. Some events may be on the calendar but may be cancelled. Meetings or prayer groups may be meeting by using Zoom. If you have a question about the calendar, contact Linda Licata or Ann Gravaglia in the office at 314-894-1373.



THE SPOTLIGHT’S ON.....

PEGGY GLASSCOCK

Thank you for blessing us!

Submitted by Rob Telthorst

FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE

*Michele Venable 894-1373
parishnurse@marymother.org*

I finally saw the movie, “*A Beautiful Day In The Neighborhood*,” which was in theaters in November, 2019. It is now on DVD. When it was over, I thought “Wow! We sure could use Mr. Rogers’ insight now.” Every one of us is struggling with some aspect of what is happening around us, perhaps wrestling with feelings. Mr. Rogers taught us so much about “feelings.” Although he was described by his wife as “inclusive,” not tending toward any particular religious teaching while on the air, surely Mr. Rogers was a *bold witness* to Our Lord’s loving kindness and forgiveness. It was a great movie! If you haven’t yet, please try to watch it. Mary, Mother of the Church parishioners remain *bold witnesses* to Our Lord’s loving kindness and forgiveness. I am grateful to be here. May I help in any way?



**DIRECTOR OF
FAITH FORMATION**

*Cheryl Degenhart 894-1373
cdegenhart@marymother.org*

PSR UPDATE: Welcome to this very unusual school year! As you probably know, many school districts have decided to begin the school year virtually due to COVID-19.

Because of the pandemic, Mary Mother of the Church PSR program is offering two options – in person or home school - to best accommodate our families. These options will also ensure a safe and healthy environment with social distancing in a limited space for all our children who will attend in person.

*Children in grades 1-5 will have the choice of attending PSR on Monday, Wednesday, or Home School.

*Children in grades 6-8 will have the choice to attend PSR on Sunday mornings from 10:10-10:50 between the 9:00 and 11:00 AM Masses or Home School.

*The PSR curriculum has been updated and modified to include online sessions and Home Guides for parents who choose to home school their children.

If you have not registered your child(ren) for the PSR program, you can pick up a registration form from the parish lobby or download the registration from the parish website. The projected starting date for PSR is on Sunday, September 13 for grades 6-8 and Monday, September 14 and Wednesday, September 16 for grades 1-5.



DIRECTOR OF LITURGY AND MUSIC

Nate Jackson 894-1373
njackson@marymother.org

FULL, ACTIVE, CONSCIOUS – We've heard these three words regarding our participation at Mass for almost 50 years, but what do they mean for us in these times of COVID-19? I think it is important for us to ask ourselves how well we're doing as many of us stay home and experience Mass online.

FULL – do we speak the prayers and sing the acclamations in a full voice or do we feel awkward and timidly respond?

ACTIVE – are we utilizing the full range of postures (sitting, standing, kneeling) even while watching Mass at home or do we passively watch?

CONSCIOUS – do we silence phone/computer notifications and create a quiet house so we can honor our time with the Lord on Saturday or Sunday, or is our participation at Mass interrupted?

The Church calls us to full, active, and conscious participation in our liturgies no matter where we experience them. Until that day we all come together in the house of the Lord again, keeping those three words in mind will help us all create a community of believers.

Prayer will Light up Your Life.

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMISSION

Mary Gudinas
adfin@marymother.org

Hello to all! Hope you are well and surviving another month of COVID-19.

I can report that several major projects have been completed. The installation of the new door operator by the office vestibule and two new security cameras (one at the back driveway and the other at the front of church) have been completed. The additional cameras will allow the viewer to see people as they approach the buildings. The old roof on the annex building was removed; and new shingles and ridge vent were installed. The restoration of the rectory deck was also completed. This included new deck boards, stair treads, new tread hanger brackets and a new pier for more support.

Ad/Fin will meet on Tuesday, August 18, via zoom.

As always, should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me.

Peace and Love!

YOUTH COMMISSION

Maura Clancy
youth@marymother.org

Hello Mary Mother,

Youth group has been gradually starting to do more during these times. We had our seniors of the youth group go individually into the youth room and sign the wall, which has all of the other seniors who have passed through the youth group. An adult went into the room as well to take their picture. We had our youth commission meeting for August and talked about what we would be doing the rest of the month. After discussing many options on what to do each Sunday, we took a vote. The second Sunday of August we had our spiritual movie night in the parish hall; and we watched "I Still Believe." I recommend this movie for anyone who wants to see an example of God being present in someone's life and Him changing their life. On the next Sunday, August 16th, we had a water balloon fight and other games involved with water balloons. On August 23rd, we made notes/drawings to the people in Nazareth homes and for our family members in other facilities for our service project.

*If I have not
Love,
I am nothing.*

SOCIAL COMMISSION

Becky McDonnell
social@marymother.org

CANCELLED- September 12: Sensational Senior Victorian Tea and Antique Eval. (Hope to reschedule in the future.)

Still on the calendar

October 11: Pasta Dinner

October 24: Trunk-or-Treat

October 30: Bunko

December 4: Advent Glow

December 13: Happy Birthday Jesus Party for Families

January 30, 2021: Progressive Dinner (50th Jubilee Kick-Off)

Thank you to the participants and contributors of our VBS-Home Edition. At Mary Mother, we were able to serve 86 households and 153 children! In addition, we were able to serve 62 households and 126 children through the St. Anthony Padua food pantry!

HEALTH MINISTRY

Mary Ann Schulte
health@marymother.org

This month I will start with a little push to participate in our blood drive which is scheduled for September 15th from 2 - 7 pm. The drive is in our parish hall under our church. No walk-ins are allowed due to COVID. To make an appointment, please call Mississippi Valley Regional at 1-800-591-8049. You may contact this organization via the web at www.bloodcenter.org. Since I've been on the Health Commission, I've donated my blood. For your donation, an Amazon gift card for \$10 is given to you for your participation in donating your precious blood. The term precious blood means more to me now more than ever. If you can't make our blood drive, there is a Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center in Crestwood, MO.

If you need a ride to a doctor please contact Mary Kay Spencer at 314-845-2679. I've used this service after a surgery. It meant so much to me that someone would take me to the doctor. People I knew could not take me to appointments as they were working full time. I've also asked for help with meals after a surgery. I was so grateful for that service also.

Take care and stay well.

*God bless you with
Health and Happiness.*

TITHING

July 2020 - 4 Sundays
\$1,052 each agency

- Feed My People** – Provides emergency food and many other social services to the poor in South County.
- Prison Performing Arts** - Program engages incarcerated youth and adults in the performing arts to inspire intellectual curiosity and personal development, and builds skills to support successful re-entry into society.
- Bakhita Spiritual Companions** – Provides spiritual guidance and support to survivors of human trafficking.
- Institute for Peace and Justice** – Provides alternatives to violence in family, school and community.
- St. Pius V Immigrant & Refugee Program** – Direct outreach to immigrants and refugees around St. Pius V parish, and services to the poor including medicine, rent, and clothing on an emergency basis.
- Sts. Teresa & Bridget Youth Program** - Supports parish youth program to pay for impoverished youth to attend a summer camp and retreat.

EVANGELISM COMMISSION

Jeanne Rothermel
evangel@marymother.org

I don't know about you, but for me, the word 'evangelization' is scary. The first thing that comes to my mind is, "No thank you." For the longest time, I didn't really hear that term much in the Catholic Church (perhaps I just ignored it!) but within the last several years I've seen it pop up more and more. As I've been doing some investigation about the word since, after all, it is the Commission I'm supposed to be leading, my fears are actually starting to lessen. I've discovered a resource titled "Go and Make Disciples: A National Plan and Strategy for Catholic Evangelization in the United States" and thought I would share just some very basics with you.

What is evangelization? Evangelizing means bringing the Good News of Jesus into every situation and seeking to influence (convert) individuals and society with the Gospel itself.

Why do we evangelize? We evangelize because Jesus told us to. Salvation is offered to every person in him. He's not here to share that, so we are charged with that responsibility.

How do we evangelize? Here's the shocking part...by the way we live our everyday lives! Loving your neighbor as yourself, helping those in need, treating all people with respect, keeping our judgement in check, all exemplify living in the likeness of Christ. When that is how we live our daily lives, we set that example for others. That, my friends, is the first step to evangelization and you don't have to knock on any doors to accomplish it.

***HAVE YOU
TOLD
SOMEONE
TODAY
THAT
YOU LOVE
THEM?***

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

*Kim Blackford
formation@marymother.org*

As we face the possibility of Covid restrictions staying with us to at least the end of the year, we need to look at how this might affect our faith. For some, it may be a time of deepening reliance on God as we realize we are *definitely* not in control. For others, we may be searching for where He is in all this uncertainty and turmoil. Some are back to Mass and others are not able to join us in person yet. Some may be enjoying Mass online in our PJs. Others find Mass on the computer very unsatisfying. And many have a mixture of these experiences that vary from day to day.

One positive coming from this is that many people, schools, businesses, and churches are finding new ways to keep life moving. The same must be true of our faith life. If we feel our practice of faith lagging due to the things we *can't* do, maybe we need to explore new things that we *can* do. If that sounds good to you, I have a suggestion.

“The God Minute” is a daily podcast led by Fr. Ron Hoye, a local Vincentian. He and his team use a combination of scripture, prayer, reflection, and music. You can access “The God Minute” in many different ways. Their website is www.thegodminute.org. You can also find them with a simple search on You Tube or Facebook. Or you can download the app on any smart phone. If the technology is confusing, ask your favorite young person to get you started!



***BRING A CHILD
UP IN THE WAY
OF THE LORD.***



LITURGY COMMISSION

*Carol Mason
liturgy@marymother.org*

First thought--Christmas is coming! I know it is September; but it is time to order poinsettias already! In the midst of preoccupations, I for one, am glad to have Christmas to look forward to. There are many Holidays and Holy Days before Christmas. But God waits for nothing; and He especially doesn't let COVID get in His way!

Secondly, I have shared with some of you my joy in receiving the book “Jesus Calling” from some friends here. Many of you have yourselves shared this book with someone in the past. It was a lovely gesture; and I encourage others to keep in the Spirit of sharing and evangelizing in this way. It is a big part of my day, everyday.

Lastly, I would like to make a correction to my Update article in August. I was thanking Jane Hackett for her service as Hospitality Coordinator, and I miswrote “Hacker” for her last name. Apologies Jane, and thank you for such a wonderful job as Coordinator! Despite COVID getting in our way of planning liturgies, we welcome people to participate with the Liturgy Team. There is a need for Hospitality Ministers, so please contact John Schumacker if you are interested in helping.

***YOU
are important
in
GOD'S PLAN.***

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

DO YOU KNOW?

Do you know SVdP has a food pantry? It is located in the basement of the Annex. Do not confuse this with our parish monthly donations to the Rock Church, which is a different ministry. When parishioners generously put food, paper products, laundry or personal care items in the large woven baskets at the church doors, those donations are taken to the pantry. Expiration dates are checked so food that is expired is not given out. The food is sorted and put on shelves. When Vincentians have a Neighbor-In-Need (NIN) of items from the pantry, the Vincentian picks out items for their NIN. Aldi and Walgreens gift cards are also provided for dairy and other perishable items. Some of the donations to SVdP are used to purchase these gift cards. The bulletin will announce if there is a need for certain items. The Vincentians deliver the items to the NIN. If you would like to know more about the pantry, you can contact Carol at 306-9195.

UPDATE

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St. Louis, MO 63128

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Page 6

UPDATE

BAPTISMS:

Vivian Isabelle Pikul

DEATHS:

Tony Slavik
Mary Walde
Michael Sweeney
Ginny Bippen
Pat Demuth
Janet Tafra

NEW PARISHIONERS:

David & Julie Welch
Dennis & Lisa Schneider
Sr Paulette Patritti OP

