IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

"A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust"

August 7, 2022

| 19th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg



SACRAMENTS

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

The sacrament is available during Confession hour and after each Mass per request.

MATRIMONY

Couples wishing to celebrate the Sacrament of Matrimony must contact a priest of the parish one year in advance of the wedding. Diocesan regulations require that couples begin to work with the parish at least one year prior to a wedding.

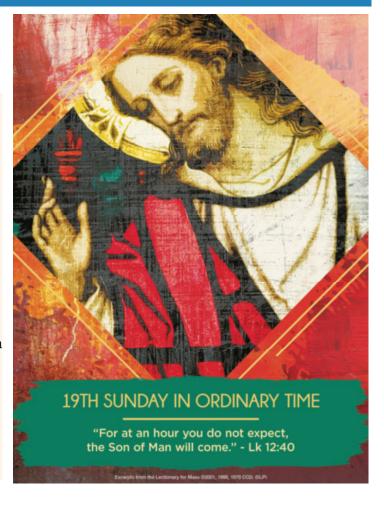
BAPTISM

Families of our parish who wish to have their child baptized should call the parish office to register for Baptism Prep. Please call well in advance of birth of your child.

CONFESSION

Anytime by appointment

Tuesday: 5:15 - 6:15 p.m.; Saturdays: 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.



MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, August 6

4:30 p.m. Betty McConnell (Sherry) **Sunday, August 7**

8:00 a.m. Daniel W. McCarthy

3:00 a.m. Daniel W. McCarthy (Dan & Joan)

10:00 a.m. Margaret DeLaney (Family) 11:30 a.m. Jack & Karoline Jollie (Family)

Monday, August 8

7:45 a.m. Our Parish Family

Tuesday, August 9

7:45 a.m. Leo Peta (Family) 6:30 p.m. John "Jack" O'Connell (Javor)

Wednesday, August 10

7:45 a.m. Pat & Wally Carlson (Druschel)

Thursday, August 11

7:45 am Marie Salopek (Children) **Friday, August 12**

7:45 a.m. Cecelia Uhron (Family)

Saturday, August 13

8:00 a.m. Mary Lou Holder (Lisa & Mike)

4:30 p.m. Frank Rinella (Nick & Toni) **Sunday, August 14**

8:00 a.m. Bob Brackney (Kurt&Janet) 10:00 a.m. Anthony & Therese Sciulli

(Family)
11:30 a.m. Marty McHugh
(Denise & Children)

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19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

WWW.ICIRWIN.ORG

Parish Office
724-863-9550 • ww.icirwin.org



Parish Staff Pastor Fr. John Moineau icfatherjohn@gmail.com

Parochial Vicar

Rev. Roniel Bantugan Duenas rduenas@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Business Manager

Courtney Ruby cruby@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Human Resources/Event Coordinator

Sharyn Gesmond sgesmond@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Director of Faith Formation

Susan Cheplic skcheplic@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Middle School Formation Coordinator

Lisa Stough lstough@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Regional Sr. Youth Ministry Coordinator

Jennifer Henry Wilson jnwilson@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Director of Music Ministry

Tyler Randolph trandolph@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Operation Safe Mode (OSM)

Sunday 8:00 am Mass www.YouTube.com/operationsafemode

Queen of Angels Catholic School

Jennifer Filak, Principal One Main Street North Huntingdon PA 724-978-0144 jfilak@queenofangelssch.org www.queenofangelssch.org

Diocese of Greensburg

www.dioceseofgreensburg.org

Catholic Charities 724-837-1840

St. Vincent DePaul www.svdpgreensburg.org 724-691-3711

IC's On The Corner Event Planner

Theology on the Vine Schedule 2022

August 18th Tom Jacobsen – President of Diocesan Central Council Society of

St. Vincent DePaul

September 29th Bishop Barron movie on St. John Neumann

October 13th Relic of St. John Neumann (program will be held in Church)

December 1st TBD

Christian Mother's/Women's Group

➤ Board Meetings **Thursdays** at 5:30pm:

August 25th October 27th November 17th

> General Membership Meetings **Tuesdays** following 6:30pm Mass:

→ August 16th – Election of Officers - New Date

September 6th – Installation of Officers and New Members

November 15th

December 4th – Christmas Party

Registration for Matthias Project (7th and 8th grade formation) is now available!



If QR code does not work, please go to: https://tinyurl.com/matthiasproject

8th Grade has a mandatory parent/child meeting on Sunday August 21st at 6:30 PM at Immaculate Conception Church. Join our 8th grade remind text thread! Text @8mp22 to 810-10

7th grade has a mandatory parent/child meeting on Monday September 12th at 5:30 PM. Join our 7th grade remind text thread! Text @7mp22 to 810-10

Any questions for Matthias Project Contact Jen Wilson at JNWilson@dioceseofgreensburg.org

412 Youth Ministries Fall Events!

Color War - Sunday August 14 - 6:00 pm Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Rain Date Sunday Aug. 21st

Kick-off Fall Mass and Family Meeting - Sunday Aug. 28th 6:00 pm Queen of Angels Auditorium

Glow in the Dark Kickball Night - Sunday Sept. 11th 6:00 pm Youth Building

Follow us on Instagram! @412YouthMin Email Jen Wilson at JNWilson@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Interested in volunteering. We have many opportunities to become involved: If you are interested in volunteering or planning to resume volunteering for our parish ministries and parish activities please contact Sharyn Gesmond at **sgesmond@dioceseofgreensburg.org** or 724-863-9550 to update and/or obtain your clearances.

This Week on the Corner



Eucharistic Procession

August 14th/2:00 pm

Please join us for the Second Annual Eucharistic Procession to be held at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. Once again, all servers are asked to participate. A sign up sheet is available in the narthex. This year, Fa-

ther John is also requesting that our First Communicants walk in the procession wearing their finest. This is such a beautiful event you will not want to miss it!

Christian Mother's/Women's Guild



General Membership Meeting Tuesday - August 16th /Following the 6:30 pm Mass - PLEASE NOTE THE NEW DATE

Please plan to attend this important meeting for the election of officers. The meeting will be held in Our Lady's Plaza.

The Christian Mother/Women's Guild will be accepting nominations for the new Board of Officers. A ballot box and ballot sheets will be in the Hall of Memories. Nominations will be accepted through August 15th. Voting for the new officers take place at the General Membership Meeting scheduled on August 16th at 7:00 PM in Our Lady's Plaza. Join us for 6:30 PM Mass.



Donations of pop and water appreciated. Please drop off donations at the Parish Office.

Volunteers needed to help work the picnic and for help in setting up and cleaning up are needed. Please contact the Parish office at 724.863.9550

412 Youth

All high schoolers are invited to attend our Summer Events before our year kicks off!

♦ Mark your calendars for our kick-off event, our COLOR WAR on August 14th at 6 PM at Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton! All are invited to attend. You will receive a white t-shirt, and be given the chance to COLOR IT in a battle of color! Rain Date is August 21.

Burger Bash Sponsorship/Donations

People often ask if there is a way that they can help. Many have donated beverages in the past.

However, at the drive thru burger bash we are not able to sell beverages.

Please consider making a monthly monetary donation to offset the cost of the burger bash expenses.

You can be a member of the "French Fry Family" or "Hotdog Club".

- "French Fry Family" Sponsorship donations for \$49.00& under
- "Hotdog Club" Sponsorship donations for \$50.00 & over

Your donations can be mailed, dropped off to the parish office, or dropped in the offertory basket.

Please write attention "Burger Bash Sponsorship" on the envelope. Or if you prefer you can donate online at:

https://osvhub.com/icirwin/funds/burger-bash.

Thank you in advance for your support of the "Almost Famous" corner burger and our parish family!!

Name:	
Donation Amount: \$	
Would like to sponsor:	
☐ French Fry Family	☐ Hot Dog Club
Barry Barry	Let's do the Hot Dog Club Dance



19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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Thoughts from the Pastor

THE SAINTS: COMMPANIONS OF THE JOURNEY TO HEAVEN

By definition a companion is:

A wayfarer that travels with you. They are possibly the most important part of the journey. The sojourner may encounter others like them, known as companions, while exploring the life of faith in the journey. These companions may help the sojourner but cannot hinder them along the path.



Jesus reminds us that it is a narrow path that leads to eternal life. We know that the journey is hard and long and it must not be traveled alone but shared with true guides of Faith and Example. In the book by John Bunyan "The Pilgrims Progress" this path is laced with many temptations, fears and choices that is hard to navigate without a companion. We know that Jesus shows us the way (the cross) and our earthly friends and families and priest guide us to keep our eyes on Christ. But our greatest companions and guides are the ones who have completed the journey and have entered through the narrow gate. **These are the Saints!** They have run the good race and won the crown of the true victors and they desire, for all eternity, to help us accomplish the very same goal!

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton: "Companion on my Journey"



It was September of 1975, I was a freshman in High School and very nervous about starting a new school. I was comforted by the very fact that we started our first day with a school Mass in the church of Saint Joseph. I remember the day clearly because the priest, Father Henne, was excited to share the news of the upcoming canonization of the very first American born Saint! He told us about the life of Mother Seton and her humble beginnings in the valley of Saint Joseph of Emmitsburg, MD. Being that she was the foundress of the first Catholic School in the country made it a great segway into a new school year that was upon us.

I remember thinking about the possibility of a "new" saint and how peculiar it seemed to me when all the saints that I was familiar with seemed to be from Jesus' time or from other countries long ago. I was intrigued by this newness and excited about having our own Saint to intercede for us. I asked about her when I got home and my dad was more than glad to share the stories that he had come to know about Mother Seton and said that one day we should visit Emmitsburg, Maryland to reverence her relic and see the place for which she lived. My mom mentioned that the Sisters of Charity in Greensburg were founded by the Sisters from Emmitsburg where Mother Seton had begun the order. I was always amazed (even before the internet) how much my parents were aware of the events within the Church. It was as always just a matter of fact reality for those who believed so deeply in God's gifts of love that comes to us through such examples of the Saints.

It was not until the summer of 1981 that I had my first opportunity to visit Emmitsburg, Maryland and the National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton. I have

to admit that the pilgrimage to Emmitsburg left me much more enamored with the Sacred Mountain of Mary, which overlooked the valley of Saint Joseph, the place of Mother Seton. In the grotto that day, I felt a peace that was unreal and very holy. I told my mom I would love to just stay there and never leave. Mary heard my prayer and two summers later I would take up residence on the Holy Mountain as a seminarian. As I mentioned, in my first article of this series, Mary would lead me to my second spiritual mother who would be my companion through my years as a student and priesthood and more intensely in the past five years as the pastor of a parish under her watchful eye.



Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton's life was weaved into the mystery of the Holy mountain, her own love of the Blessed Virgin Mary and one of the seminary's founding father (Father Simon Brute) as her spiritual guide. Saint Elizabeth's relationship with Father Brute, just a few years her junior, reveals her playful spirit, her spiritual maturity, and her personal suffering. There is a consistent freedom and spontaneity here that, while present in most of her correspondence, reaches its zenith as she challenged him in his own spirituality and perseverance as a priest. I found my life in the years at the seminary becoming, as well, weaved into the mystery of the mountain, the Holy founders and the life of Mother Seton. I treasured the letters of Mother Seton and the depth of the spirituality that was shared in those correspondences with Father Brute. I recognized how Sacred and holy the

moment must have been for Father Brute as he helped her in the hour of death and brought to her the holy Sacraments of the Church. To be a spiritual guide of a Saint and a friend of such a lover of Christ, the Church and Blessed Virgin Mary must have deepened his priesthood which lead him to becoming a bishop. These desires to become the kind of priest Mother Seton encouraged Father Brute to become was a constant prayer to her intercession.

I believe, as I reflect on those days, the Blessed Mother extended her love to me by inviting me to love Mother Seton as a spiritual guide. Yes, another wonderful companion on the journey towards that narrow gate through life as a priest. This friendship starting that day at the opening school Mass; the visit with my parents and the four years of living in Emmitsburg solidified the beginning of a great friendship! It would not be until much later in my priesthood that I would reach out my hand to her again with the familiarity of old friends beginning a new chapter of life together in the Lord.

Assignment to Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton: The completion of the circle of a Spiritual Life!

When Bishop Malesic called me into his office some five years ago I have to admit I thought I was going to be transferred and lose the greatest love of my priesthood as the pastor of Immaculate Conception. Instead he stunned me by extending an invitation to become the pastor of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton as well! I cannot tell you how united my heart felt that day knowing that what started 35 years earlier in Emmitsburg had come full circle! Our Lady of Lourdes ("I am the Immaculate Conception) grotto nestled in the mountain and Mother Seton's home in the valley of Saint Joseph was recreated for me here in our Norwin community. I remember going to the nursing home to share the news with my father and he grabbed my hand and just cried tears of Joy! He was no longer able to talk but his eyes and tears showed me he knew and believed in the Divine providence of this assignment. Home again, at last with my two spiritual mothers!



I quickly made plans to travel to Emmitsburg with my friends to consecrate myself once again to our Lady of Lourdes and Mother Seton. I gave thanks for their companionship in those formative years of my life and for now the chance to promote my love for them as spiritual mothers to all of my parishioners. I stopped in the gift shop at the Mother Seton shrine to buy a Medal of mother Seton. The one that I chose depicted Mother Seton on the front and the miraculous medal on the back. As you probably know that Our Lady appeared to Saint Catherine of Laboure (a daughter of Charity) to give her the miraculous medal to promote her Immaculate Conception!! I have worn this medal daily for the past



five years. It is a constant reminder of my companions on this journey as a disciple of Christ!

"As I walk through valley of the shadow of death I fear no evil"

Little did I know that Mother Seton would walk hand in hand with me in the darkest days of my greatest challenge and cross! How significant she would be as a companion and intercessor through my participation in cancer!

STAY TUNED NEXT WEEK FOR THE REST OF THE STORY!

Save the Dates!!!

The Christian Mothers of The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mother Parish have extended an invitation to Christian Mothers throughout the diocese to participate in a discussion group on August 25th at 6:00 PM at the Visitation Parish Community Center, 740 W. Walnut Street, Mount Pleasant, PA 15666. The focus is to share ideas for spiritual, social and intellectual activities, as well as fundraising and recruiting ideas. If anyone is interested in attending contact Jan Brooks (724-547-5356) by August 5, 2022 to register.

The Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton & Immaculate Conception CASH BASH will be held on Saturday, October 22, 2022 in Mack Hall.

Tickets will be on sale beginning Labor Day Weekend. Tickets will be \$30 each and includes food, beer, soda AND the chance to win cash prizes with two numbers per ticket!!!!! There are 250 seats available for the event so be sure to indicate if you will be attending or not. First Come/First served on seating availability. Winner need not be present to win.

Donations needed: If anyone has tickets to a **Steelers or** Penguin game tickets (scheduled after Oct 22nd) that they would like to donate for an auction basket item, please contact the parish office.

Also needed are Auction baskets (\$75-\$100 value) and/or gift cards or lottery tickets which can be used to create an auction basket.

If you are interested in volunteering please contact Sharyn Gesmond at Immaculate Conception 724.863.9550 or Julie Henry at Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton 724.864.6364.



Hoagie Sale!

Noah Kelly will be selling hoagies after the 4:30 mass on Saturday, August 27th. Stay tuned for further information and details.





19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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Candles

Sanctuary Candle: In Memory of Margaret DeLaney by Family

Easter Flame Candle: In Memory of Jeanne Porter

Divine Mercy Candle: In Memory of Bob Brackney by Irwin

Lodge #236

St. Peregrine Candle: In Memory of Daniel Miller

Altar Candles for the Month of August:

In Memory of the Langer & Raspotnik Families by Sandy

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

August 7th - 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wisdom 18:6-9 Hebrews 11:1-2; 8-12 Luke 12:35-40

August 14th - 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 38:4-6; 8-10 Hebrews 12:1-4 Luke 12:49-53

Prayers and Sympathy

Prayers and sympathy for all of our departed. May they rest in peace.

Eucharistic Adoration



is held every Tuesday beginning after morning Mass. If you need to leave and there is no one else in the church during Adoration, please call the church office at 724-863-9550 and someone will come over. Thank you

Join us for the Divine Mercy Chaplet Monday through Friday at 3:00 PM.

Stewardship Corner

Weekly Offering	
Sunday Offertory Week of July 31, 2022	\$17,183.41
OSV Online Giving for July 2022	\$18,049.09

SIGN UP FOR ONLINE GIVING

Our Sunday Visitor Online giving is easy & convenient

Visit our website at: https://www.icirwin.org/giving/

Angels Corner



CHEERLEADING SIGN UPS

at Queen of Angels Catholic School are now underway! Deadline is Friday, Aug. 26. Students interested must be in Kindergarten – 8 th grade and attend Queen

of Angels School or be an active member of one of the local Catholic Churches to be eligible for CYO programs. Cheerleaders practice the last Wednesday of each month after school until 5 p.m. in August, September and October and cheer at two games each month in November, December, and January. Registration fee is \$30 per student payable to Queen of Angels. Safety Training (required by Diocese) fee is a separate \$20 fee payable to Xtreme Cheer upon arrival in August. Contact Coach Jen at

<u>jmiele@dioceseofgreensburg.org</u> for more information. We welcome your cheerleader!

YWCA offers Tutoring for Reading and Writing

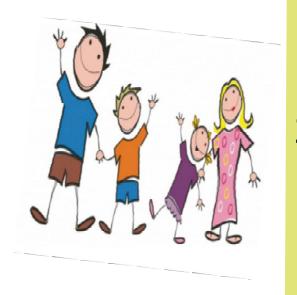
The adult basic literacy program at the Greensburg YWCA offers one-on-one tutoring for individuals who may need help with reading and writing skills. The YWCA is looking for students who, after an initial assessment, will make a commitment to the program, and is also seeking volunteer tutors, who must complete training modules before tutoring. For information, contact Paula Egnot at 724-834-9390, ext. 106, or literacy@ywcawestmoreland.org.

Cancer Support Group meets Monthly at St. Barbara Parish, Harrison City

The St. Peregrine cancer support group meets monthly (usually the third Wednesday at 7 p.m.) at St. Barbara Parish, Harrison City. All cancer survivors and caregivers are welcome, or a mix of both. Meeting dates for 2022 are Aug. 17, Sept. 21, Oct. 12, Nov. 16 and Dec. 21.

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IMMACULATE CONCERTION PARISH PIGNIC



DATE: AUGUST 20TH

5:30 pm to 8:00 pm

Join us for lots of:

- * Fun music & games
- * Food chicken, hot dogs, kielbasa & sourkraut, pasta salad, baked beans, cup cakes & cookies, pop and water
- * Fellowship

Donations of pop and water appreciated. Please drop off donations at the Parish Office.

Volunteers for setup and clean up are needed. Please contact the Parish office at 724.863.9550

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

Irwin, Pennsylvania
Office of Liturgical Music Ministry

THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

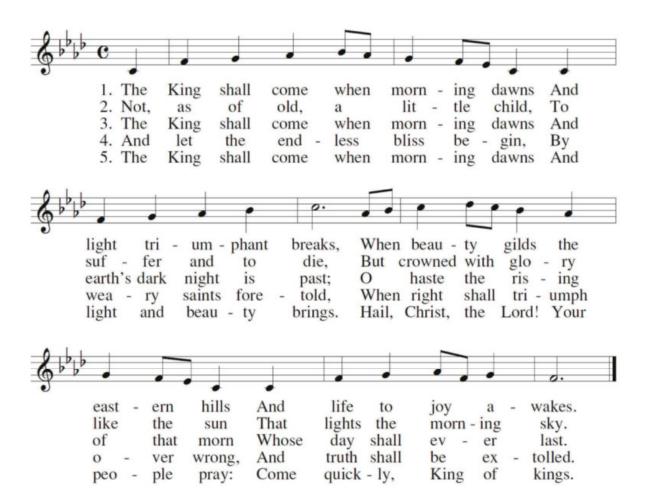
August 7, 2022 - Order of the Mass

VOCATIONS PRAYER

Lord Jesus, raise up from our homes those called by the Father: courageous and humble men to the Priesthood, generous servants to the Permanent Diaconate, faithful people to Consecrated Life, and holy men and women to the Sacrament of Marriage. Holy Spirit, help us to live our universal vocation to holiness by listening to the Father's voice and responding with a sacrificial love. Holy Mary, Model of vocations, pray for us.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns



Text: John Brownlie, 1857-1925, alt.

Tune: MORNING SONG, CM; Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813; arr. by Robert J. Batastini, b.1942

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless, you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Wisdom 18:6-9

The night of the Passover was known beforehand to our fathers, that, with sure knowledge of the oaths in which they put their faith, they might have courage. Your people awaited the salvation of the just and the destruction of their foes. For when you punished our adversaries, in this you glorified us whom you had summoned. For in secret the holy children of the good were offering sacrifice and putting into effect with one accord the divine institution.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 33 Howard Hughes

Blessed the people the Lord has chosen to be his own, to be his own.

SECOND READING Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-12

Brothers and sisters: Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen. Because of it the ancients were well attested. By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; he went out, not knowing where he was to go. By faith he sojourned in the promised land as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs of the same promise; for he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and maker is God. By faith he

received power to generate, even though he was past the normal age —and Sarah herself was sterile for he thought that the one who had made the promise was trustworthy. So it was that there came forth from one man, himself as good as dead, descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sands on the seashore.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 12:35-40

Jesus said to his disciples: "Gird your loins and light your lamps and be like servants who await their master's return from a wedding, ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival. Amen, I say to you, he will gird himself, have the servants recline at table, and proceed to wait on them. And should he come in the second or third watch and find them prepared in this way, blessed are those servants. Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour when the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PREPARATION OF GIFTS

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light



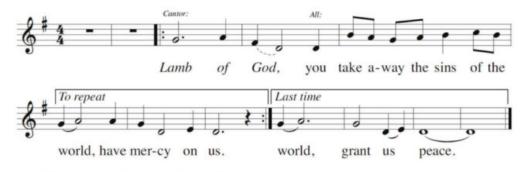
THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

EUCHARISTIC ACCLMATIONS

Jubilation Mass James Chepponis

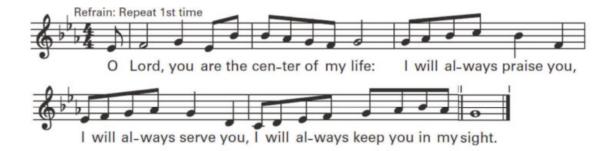


Music: Jubilation Mass, James J. Chepponis, © 1999, GIA Publications, Inc.



COMMUNION HYMN

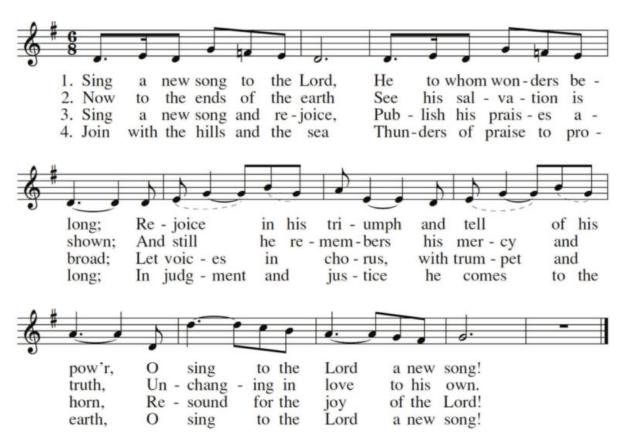
Center of My Life



Verses text: Psalm 16:1–2, 7–11, alt., © 1963, The Grail (England). All rights reserved. Used with permission of GIA Publications, Inc., agent. Music and refrain text © 1985, Paul Inwood. Published by OCP. All rights reserved.



Sing a New Song to the Lord



Text: Psalm 98; Timothy Dudley-Smith, b.1926, © 1973, Hope Publishing Company
Tune: CANTATE DOMINO (ONSLOW SQUARE), Irregular; David G. Wilson, b.1940, © 1973, The Jubilate Group
(admin. by Hope Publishing Company)

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Growing in Faith™

August 2022

Discerning God's will

Do you have a big decision to make? It can be difficult to hear God's voice just when you need it most. Asking the right questions and looking for signs you are on track can help you make the right choice.

"Will it help me get to Heaven?" Answering this question first will weed out extraneous options quickly. Then, when deciding between two good choices, consider which one makes best use of your strengths, gifts, and your state in life.

Deep peace. In heartfelt prayer, you'll likely

experience a deep peace for one of your options. Only God gives this kind of peace (John 14:27). It's a good sign when that peace lasts throughout the decision process. Lack of peace is usually God saying, "no."

> Good fruits. These are easiest to see after you have taken steps toward your decision. If you see spiritual fruits like generosity, joy, patience, and self-control growing in your soul, you're on the right track. Anxiety, turmoil, anger, tension are signs that you made a misstep.

from cripture

Luke 14:1, 7-14, Unreciprocated kindness

Jesus was under close and careful scrutiny by the Pharisees who were watching for a misstep in order to discredit him. They were afraid that his "radical" ideas would undermine the religion and tradition they protected. Nonetheless, he never let this critical scrutiny by his opponents keep him from saying and doing the right things.

As Christians, we must never succumb to pressure to do what is politically or socially correct at the expense of our spiritual beliefs and obligations. For example, there is a cultural value to

"networking" - entertaining people who can further our personal or

professional goals. There is usually an exchange of favors implied in this kind of a relationship, "you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours."

In this parable, however, Jesus urged us to forget about obtaining benefit or admiration and instead serve people in need. He said that doing favors

for and being kind to the disadvantaged can be very rewarding and will bring blessings to the host. The guests won't be able to reciprocate, but God will certainly repay the kindness.



Q What does Mary's & Assumption mean A for us?

On November 1, 1950, Pope Pius XII infallibly declared that, "having completed the course of her earthly life," the Blessed Virgin Mary was taken up, body and soul, into heavenly glory.



Although this doctrine was declared relatively recently, the Church's belief in it isn't new. Sacred Scripture and Tradition repeatedly emphasize Mary's

sinlessness and holiness (Luke 1:28), and her deep involvement in the mysteries of Christ's life. Given this, we believe Jesus preserved her body from decay and raised her to heavenly glory.

For us, the Assumption, is a "sneak preview" of what our ultimate destiny can be if we are faithful to Christ, as Mary was - having our glorified bodies, sinless and perfectly happy. What she is now, we hope someday to be. Moreover, the Assumption reveals the value of our bodies in God's plan. When God created us in His image, He created us body and soul and said it was "very good" (Genesis 1:31). It's so good, that He intends to raise us, bodily, into His glory.

Feasts &

August 2 - St. Peter Julian Eymard (1868). Born in France, Peter was ordained in 1834 and earned a reputation as a preacher. He was friends with St. John Vianney. He founded the Congregation of the Priests of the Blessed Sacrament to increase devotion to the Holy Eucharist.

August 9 - St. Edith Stein (1942). Born Jewish, she was a brilliant atheist intellectual in Germany. Edith converted to Catholicism after studying St. Teresa of Avila, and became a Carmelite nun. Although her order tried to shelter her

from the Nazis, she was arrested and executed at Auschwitz.

August 15 - Solemnity of the Assumption. Declared a dogma of faith in 1950 by Pope Pius XII, the Assumption celebrates Mary's being taken up into Heaven body and soul at the end of her life.

Aug. 24 - St. Bartholomew the Apostle (1st Century). Bartholomew is thought by some scholars to be the apostle, Nathanael (John 1:46). After Jesus's Ascension, Nathanael spread Christianity to India and Armenia, where he was martyred.

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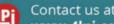
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