### "That I may come to the altar of God"

Bishop McKnight anointed a new altar built by a parishioner in Queen of Peace Church in Ewing.

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The ATHOLIC MISSOURIAN

Newspaper of the Diocese of Jefferson City

## Lent: "Now is a very acceptable time"



Father Jason Doke, pastor of St. Martin Parish in St. Martins and St. Michael Parish in Russellville, traces ashes in the form of a cross on the head of a St. Martin School student on March 5, Ash Wednesday. The ashes symbolize mortality and repentance. Ash Wednesday begins the 40-day penitential season of preparation for Easter.

— Photo by Jay Nies

### Renewed Salisbury church, altar consecrated

A radiant symbol of hope for the Jubilee Year

By Jay Nies

For some, the roadway to heaven is paved with stones.

Rough-cut stones, quarried from a Chariton County farm 120 years ago, dragged by horses and formed into a house for the Almighty.

"My brothers and sisters, although the people are the true Church of God, this physical structure is a necessary means of evangelization," Bishop W. Shawn McKnight told the people of St. Joseph Parish in Salisbury Feb. 23.

"In a very real sense, this church building speaks loudly of our faith, especially its beauty and as a place of quiet prayer and devotion," he said.

The aroma of freshly baked cinnamon rolls from the near-

by kitchen melded with fragrant oil and incense as Bishop McKnight consecrated the 1905-vintage church and its new altar during Mass on Feb. 23.

The celebration marked the completion of extensive repairs and renovations to the building, known for its soaring, vaulted arches, dramatic stained-glass windows and resilient acoustics.

Concelebrating priests at the Mass included: Father Jeremy Secrist, pastor of the Salisbury, Wien and Brunswick parishes; Father Benjamin Armentrout, who grew up in St. Joseph Parish; Father Gregory Oligschlaeger, dean of the Central Deanery; Father Boniface Nzabonimpa, former pastor of St. Joseph Parish; and Father Louis Nelen, Father Joseph Luzindana and

By Jay Nies

Trying to celebrate Easter without observing Lent can be like visiting a museum without knowing the value of any of the art or artifacts on display.

"You can't appreciate anything because you don't know what it is," Father Jason Doke told students of St. Martin School during an all-school Mass on Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. "It's like if somebody's speaking a foreign language to you, and you don't understand."

"But once you have a lesson about it, once you learn something about those paintings, those statues, those artifacts, you can begin to appreciate them meaningfully," he said.

That's exactly what Catholics are called to do during Lent.

"We turn back to Christ so we can fully or better appreciate what he did for us as Easter, at the resurrection, how he saved us," said Fr. Doke.

Three important ways to do that are praying, fasting and giving alms.

These three activities are year-round hallmarks of any Christian but are given extra emphasis throughout Lent.

Fasting involves willfully giving up food or something else that's good.

"Food is important," Fr. Doke noted. "Food helps make us healthy. But when we learn to control our appetite for something that's good, when we say 'You know what? I'm going to deny myself something GOOD,' it teaches us how also to deny ourselves of things that are BAD." Almsgiving involves giving sacrificially of oneself to people in need, out of a sense of charity.

Prayer, including private prayer in the silence of one's home and heart,

See ASHES, page 19



MOVING? If you are moving or changing parishes, please fill out information below. Clip and mail to THE CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN, 2207 West Main Street, Jefferson City, MO 65109-0914. Or complete the online form at diojeffcity.org/update-information. Allow two weeks. **NEW ADDRESS** NAME ADDRESS CITY, STATE, ZIP \_ OLD PARISH\_

### **Pray for deceased priests**

Mar. 10 — Fr. Eugene J. Robl, Chaplain, Veterans Administration Medical Center, Columbia (2002)

Mar. 11 — Fr. Jerome W. Jaworski, St. Anthony of Padua, St. Anthony (1979); Fr. William D. Savage, St. Joseph, Slater (1996) Mar. 13 – Fr. Edward J. Donohue, St. Joseph, Palmyra (1999)

Mar. 14 — Fr. Michael J. Knecht, St. Joseph, Westphalia (1965) Mar. 15 – Fr. Edmund B. Purcell, Assumption, Morrison (1976)

Mar. 18 — Fr. Joseph T. Nolan, St. Patrick, Sedalia (1965)

Mar. 19 — Fr. Fred J. Barnett, St. Patrick, Laurie; and St. Philip Benizi, Versailles (2011)

### **Development Coordinator, Catholic Charities**

Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri is looking to fill the position of Development Coordinator. The Development Coordinator ensures Catholic Charities' long-term sustainability by generating revenue and building relationships with donors, volunteers, parishes and the community. By integrating donor relations, volunteerism and parish engagement, the Coordinator creates a cohesive strategy that maximizes support and resources, advancing Catholic Charities' mission. All interested applicants are encouraged to

visit diojeffcity.org/aboutus/employment/ for the full job description and to complete an application.





**Database Manager** 

Job descriptions and links for applying can be found at diojeffcity.org/about-us/employment

### **Adoration with** First Tuesday Masses in Starkenburg

For the Jubilee Year of Hope, activities have been expanded for the Second Tuesday Masses at the Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows in Starkenburg.

An hour of Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament has been added to the praying of the Rosary, the availability of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the celebration of Mass and the serving of lunch.

03/07/25

This will help ensure visitors of all the graces that come with visiting a dedicated site for pilgrimage.

Adoration will begin at 10 a.m. on the Second Tuesday of each month.

Reconciliation will be available at 11 a.m. The Rosary will be prayed communally at 11:40 a.m. Mass will be at noon.

The norms issued by the Vatican state that an indulgence will be given to those pilgrims who participate in Mass and/or Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament, concluding with an "Our Father," the Profession of Faith and prayer to the Blessed Mother at a desig-

Those seeking an indulgence should also participate, either directly or spiritually, in corporal works of mercy and perform an act of penance.

risensavior.diojeff city.org for information.

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— Bishop Joseph M. Marling C.P.P.S., July 7, 1957

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight Publisher

Jay Nies, Editor editor@diojeffcity.org



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### **Notice** of Appointments

I am pleased to announce that the Most Reverend W. Shawn McKnight, Bishop of Jefferson City, has recently made the following appointments to provide the most effective pastoral care of the Diocese of Jefferson City:

#### **PRIESTS**

Reverend Monsignor Marion J. Makarewicz, to residence at St. Stephen, Indian Creek, and parish ministry as he is able, effective March 1,

Very Reverend Brad T. Berhorst, JCL, JV, to Parochial Administrator of Our Lady of the Lake, Lake Ozark, continuing as Judicial Vicar and Bishop's Master of Ceremonies, effective March 1, 2025, and until June 30, 2025.

Reverend Martin Masiisa, newly arrived from the Diocese of Kampala, Uganda, to residence at the rectory of St. Thomas the Apostle, St. Thomas, effective Feb. 21, 2025.

From the Office of the Chancellor,

Mr. Benjamin Roodhouse, JD, JCL

### J.C. St. Peter parish mission on joy, beauty, March 9-11

Patty Schneier (pattyschnei er.com) of the St. Louis archdiocese will lead a parish mission from Sunday through Tuesday, March 9-11, in the Proto-Cathedral of St. Peter, 116 Broadway in Jefferson City.

She will lead talks from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each evening on prayer, the Eucharist and living without fear.

The theme will be "See the Beauty! Discover the Joy!"

Mrs. Schneier is a lifelong Catholic, a homemaker and a mother of three children.

For the past 21 years, she has been speaking at parishes and Catholic conferences across the United States. She has been a guest on EWTN and various Catholic radio shows.

Currently, she hosts a weekly radio show, called "The Pearl of Great Price," to foster holy vocations and a podcast called "The Daily Dose of Encouragement," both of which can be heard on the Covenant Radio Network.

### FREE EVENT

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March 6 2025

St. Gertrude Krakow, Mo.

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### We welcome...TONY MELENDEZ

Born in Nicaragua with no arms and a club foot, Melendez taught himself to play guitar with his toes at age 16. In 1987, he was asked to play for Pope John Paul II. Melendez travels with his brother Jose, sharing a message of hope, encouragement and faith through music and life stories. Melendez's travels have taken him to all 50 states and 45+ foreign countries. He has been the recipient of many acco-



lades, and was a keynote speaker and performer at the 2024 Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis.

# Bishop lays out timeline for revised process for initiating unbaptized adults into the Church

Calls for yearlong catechumenate; a year of ongoing formation opportunities for newly initiated Catholics; additional formation for those who lead the process in parishes

By Jay Nies

Father Daniel Merz recently heard a college-age parishioner refer to herself disparagingly as a "cradle Catholic."

As if to say, "I grew up Catholic and never learned about that. I didn't know any better."

"It's sad that we sometimes have that sense that if you grew up Catholic, then you didn't really understand what was going on. You just did what you were told," said Fr. Merz, pastor of St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish in Columbia, diocesan vicar for the Diaconate and chairman of the diocesan Liturgical Commission.

That perception reflects a need for the Church to do a better job of one of its most important responsibilities: helping people become lifelong followers of Christ.

"That is to say, if we do a good job with this process of making new disciples, they become lifelong learners, lifelong disciples," Fr. Merz stated.

That's one of the main objectives of

the newly revised Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA).

Bishop W. Shawn Mc-Knight recently signed a decree and a letter outlining how the OCIA will be implemented in this diocese over the next two years.

Notable changes include providing substantial formation for the people who carry out the OCIA in parishes; requiring that people who have each person ideally will be invited to receive the Sacraments whenever they're ready," he said.

The basic elements of the catechumenate portion of the OCIA are: pre-evangelization, evangelization, catechesis, cele-

to "know" their faith and have answers to questions.

"That's important," Fr. Merz stated, "but formation is much more than just learning answers."

#### **Getting there**

The U.S. Catholic bishops approved major revisions to the OCIA in phases over the past four years.

Church officials in the Vatican approved the revisions last year.

Bishop Mc-

Knight's letter of Feb. 20 sets the timeline for gradually implementing the updated process in this diocese.

Beginning by Lent 2027, a year-round catechumenate model must be implemented in all parishes.

"Unbaptized individuals hoping to receive sacraments at the Easter Vigil in 2028 must have celebrated the Rite of Entrance into the Catechumenate by Feb. 10, 2027 — Ash Wednesday," Bishop McKnight wrote.

By Easter Sunday of 2027, parishes and/or deaneries must provide newly baptized Catholics through the OCIA opportunities for mystagogy throughout their first year in the Church.

"I invite all of us to spend the coming months meditating on how we might all enter into mystagogy, the ability to

See OCIA, page 19

Notable changes include providing substantial formation for the people who carry out the OCIA in parishes; requiring that people who have not been baptized spend a full year in formation — known as the catechumenate — before receiving Sacraments of Initiation; and calling for a year of ongoing formation opportunities for newly baptized adults.

not been baptized spend a full year in formation — known as the catechumenate — before receiving Sacraments of Initiation; and calling for a year of ongoing formation opportunities for newly baptized adults.

"OCIA teaches us the whole idea that when we make Catholics, we should expose them to an entire liturgical year, to the whole community, to all the gifts and charisms of the Spirit, and teach them that 'this is an ongoing process for you to grow and learn for the rest of your life,'" said Fr. Merz.

#### **Making disciples**

The work of the OCIA (previously referred to as the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, or RCIA), is one of the most important works of the Church.

"Because it is essentially proclaiming the Gospel, fulfilling the commandment of Jesus to make disciples of all nations," said Fr. Merz.

The requirement of a yearlong catechumenate applies only to people seeking to become Catholic without having previously been baptized.

Baptized Christians who are seeking full communion with the Catholic Church — known as candidates — are understood to have already experienced Christian living and community.

"What they may need is to be caught up on things that are specifically Catholic ways of living and thinking," said Fr. Merz.

"That need is likely to vary from person to person, and bration of the Sacraments, and then mystagogia.

Catechesis is the process of spiritually and intellectually forming people in the faith.

Mystagogia is the lifelong process of joyfully pondering eternal mysteries that can never be fully understood.

Namely, "savoring the mystery — a reality that's too big to wrap my mind around — and going ever-deeper into it — getting insights that never end, like a mine that never runs out," said Fr. Merz.

Another new development with the revised OCIA is the understanding that formation has primacy over catechesis.

"By that, we mean that we really want to form people to become pray-ers, for them to have a deep prayer life, and to be formed in what it means to be a disciple, to serve others, to be a part of the community," Fr. Merz stated.

Not that people don't need

### Bishop McKnight's March prayer intention for our Local Church

For a spirit of humility and repentance, that we may confess our sins and seek reconciliation in preparation for the Easter feasts. May our hearts be purified and opened to the grace of God. We pray to the

### Intención del mes de marzo del Obispo McKnight por nuestra Iglesia Local

Por un espíritu de humildad y arrepentimiento, para que confesemos nuestros pecados y busquemos la reconciliación en preparación para las fiestas de Pascua. Que nuestros corazones sean purificados y estén abiertos a la gracia de Dios. Roguemos al Señor.

Please be so kind as to make this a part of your group and private prayer.



#### **MARCH**

Mar 7 Teachers' Professional Development Day Mass, Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School, 9:30 am, Columbia

Mar 8 Confirmation Ceremony, St. Vincent de Paul Parish, 11 am, Sedalia

Mar 9 Rite of Election, Cathedral of St. Joseph, 3 pm, Jefferson City

Mar 10 Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate Board of Directors meeting, 11 am, virtual

Mar 15 Cohort 2029 presentation, Theology of the Diaconate 2, 9:30 am, Chancery

Mar 16 Confirmation Mass, Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish, 10 am, Jefferson City

Mar 19 Solemnity of St. Joseph School Mass, Cathedral of St. Joseph, 8 am; Priests' Personnel Board meeting, 1:30 pm, Chancery

Mar 20 St. John Vianney Center Advancement Committee meeting, 1 pm, virtual

Mar 21 Missouri Catholic Conference public policy meeting, 10 am, Virtual

Mar 23 Confirmation Mass, Holy Rosary Parish, Monroe City, St. Stephen Parish, Indian Creek and the Mission of St. Frances, Paris, 10 am, St. Stephen Church, Indian Creek
 Mar 25 Solemnity of the Annunciation Confirmation Mass,

Mar 25 Solemnity of the Annunciation Confirmation Mass St. Francis Xavier Parish, 6:30 pm, Taos

Mar 26 Confirmation Mass, St. Joseph Parish, Westphalia and St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Folk, 6:30 pm, St. Joseph Parish, Westphalia

Mar 27 St. John Vianney Center Board of Directors meeting, 1 pm, virtual

### Bishop consecrates new altar in Queen of Peace Church, Ewing

The bishop sent the people forth with a blessing that included:

"May he who gathers you at one table and renews you with one bread make you of one heart and one soul."

Bishop W. Shawn Mc-Knight had just finished consecrating the ornate new altar and celebrating Mass in Queen of Peace Church in Ewing.

Father Boniface Nzabonimpa, pastor of the Ewing, Edina and Canton parishes, thanked everyone who had a hand in building the altar and setting it into place, and Bishop McKnight for traveling to Ewing to consecrate it.

'My dear bishop, the parishioners of Queen of Peace are very loyal to the Church," the priest stated. "They have strong faith and they are ready to work with you and do their best, in whatever way you direct us and guide us.'

"Father, your words are





LEFT: Bishop W. Shawn McKnight anoints the new altar in Queen of Peace Church in Ewing with Sacred Chrism while offering Mass there on Feb. 22. RIGHT: Darren and Jennifer Neisen place the altar linens on the newly consecrated altar, with help from their pastor, Father Boniface Nzabonimpa. Mr. Neisen built the altar in his workshop. — Photos by Jay Nies

very well taken," the bishop replied. "You reminded me of the authentic and true faith of the people here in this parish. I pray that you and I will never forget that."

### The Lord will provide

Neisen built an altar with his own son in mind.

Gage Neisen spent a month fashioning about 150 boardfeet of elaborately grained cherrywood, topped with a polished marble slab, into the new altar for Queen of Peace Church.

"With Gage being in the Like Abraham, Darren seminary, it's kind of a hope that maybe someday, if it's what God wants him to do, The father of seminarian he'll be able to say Mass, and I

wanted to have something really special for that," said Mr. Neisen, a lifelong Queen of Peace parishioner.

Bishop McKnight consecrated the altar the afternoon of Feb. 22, blessing it with holy water, anointing it with Sacred Chrism, burning incense in a brazier upon it, and using the altar to offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

"The things that are most meaningful in life require a great sacrifice," Bishop Mc-Knight noted in his homily.

"And so, in our celebration of Mass at this altar, soon to be consecrated, we shall make a sacrifice of praise to God with hearts full of gratitude lifted up to him."

Fr. Nzabonimpa concelebrated the Mass. Deacon Kenneth Berry of Edina proclaimed the Gospel reading and assisted at the altar.

Bishop McKnight emphasized the importance of people carrying out what they receive

See ALTAR, page 17



### Don & Ruth Ann Schnieders Annual Pro-Life Event Tuesday, March 25, 2025

Luncheon & Program Noon - 1:30 p.m., \$50 Dinner & Program 6:30 - 9 p.m., \$100

Capitol Plaza Hotel | Jefferson City, MO

**Seth Dillon** is the CEO of *The Babylon Bee*. Taking on the tone of a traditional news media publication, The Bee satirizes real-world events and public figures. Dillon's experience with censorship and deplatforming has placed him on the front lines of the battle for free speech in the public square. He now speaks across the country about the effectiveness of humor and the dangers of censorship.

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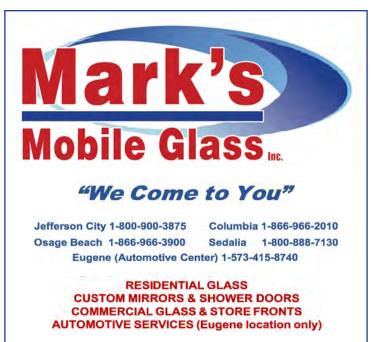
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### Women's retreat presenter to speak from experience about finding hope in suffering

DATE: April 5 TIME: 9:30 am - 3:30 pm

By Jay Nies

Mary Lenaburg agrees that life is like a box of chocolate.

Bittersweet chocolate that — her favorite kind.

"It has some bitterness, a little bite to it, before you taste the sweet," said Mrs. Lenaburg, award-winning Catholic author and guest speaker for this year's the Women's Ministry Spring Pilgrimage on April 5 in Starkenburg.

The retreat will be from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Valentine Hall on the grounds of the Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows, 197 State Highway P in Starkenburg.

The theme will be "Finding Hope in Suffering."

You have joy and sorrow hand-in-hand every day," said Mrs. Lenaburg. "The majority of our lives are spent in Holy Saturday position, kind-of quiet waiting.

"It's bittersweet," she said. "You're waiting for something to happen. You're anticipating some good thing."

In an event guaranteed to bring tears and abundant laughter — sometimes at the same time — Mrs. Lenaburg will share the story of her family, a story that's intense but full of joy.

"There is sweetness in this life, even when it's hard," she insisted. "The pain doesn't win. Our Lady shows us that. Her life most certainly did not end when Jesus expired on the

"If Our Lady can weep at the foot of the cross, can bury her son, can know that life on this planet is just a very limited period of time and that eternity is for eternity, and she can go out and love, then why can't I? Why shouldn't I?" said Mrs. Lenaburg.

### Gifts in disguise

Mrs. Lenaburg, has served her local parish in many capacities including as liturgist, a youth ministry core team member and a catechist for the Sacrament of Confirma-

Now, she travels the country speaking to all age groups,

She is author of two books: Be Brave in the Scared and Be Bold in the Broken.

She insists that sorrow isn't something to be avoided, hidden or buried.

"It doesn't define you, it refines you," she stated. "It narrows your focus to what is important. And what is important today is how you love today."

She said the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary — Jesus's Agony in the Garden, the Scourging at the Pillar, the Crowning with Thorns, the Carrying of the Cross, and the Crucifixion and Death of Jesus — are "all about love."

"Yes, the Lord will ask you to carry a cross, a burden," she said. "There are going to be challenges in marriages and in finances and families and jobs, in being a parent or in not being a parent."

Yet, Mrs. Lenaburg insisted, God walks that difficult walk with people who turn to him.

### By way of the cross

Mrs. Lenaburg and her husband Jerry brought four souls into the world: two lost to miscarriage, a healthy son, and a daughter who was plagued with numerous daily grand mal seizures and severe disabilities until her body gave out at age 22.

Courtney, their daughter, had her first seizure on the day of her Baptism.

Doctors could never figure out the cause of the violent seizures, which often interrupted her breathing.

She was wheelchair-bound, nonverbal and cortically blind, which meant she could only see shapes and shadows," said Mrs. Lenaburg.

Courtney could do nothing for herself. Medical treatments to ease her suffering didn't help and in some cases made matters worse.

Mr. and Mrs. Lenaburg battled addictions while dealing with the trauma and daily grind.

The family attempted to shoulder the grief, anger and frustration of Courtney's con-

sharing laughs and building dition alone before gaining a semblance of peace and acceptance.

> We pretty much came to an understanding that every life has great value and that everyone has a mission," Mrs. Lenaburg recalled. "God gave Courtney an important mission, and she needed us to be her hands and feet."

They were living their own version of the Sorrowful Mysteries.

We were face-down in the garden, asking God to take this cup from us," said Mrs. Lenaburg. "And like Jesus, we said, 'But if it is your will, we will walk this walk and walk it as well as we can, with Jesus as our example."

They began noticing the unexpected, whelming ways God showed up in their lives.

And they began to change.

"Courtney changed us," said Mrs. Lenaburg. "We are simply not the same people who got married in the Chapel at the Naval Academy in 1988. We learned to love as God loves us.'

Courtney's only job, they grew to understand, was to receive love and give it.

"Only God would write this kind of story," said Mrs. Lenaburg. "Her life was bookended and defined by the cross. And yet, you can't find another other person more filled with joy and peace. Her smile would take over the room. Her laughter would give you strength and courage to laugh for weeks."

### Work left to do

In times of fear and helplessness, especially during Courtney's seizures, Mrs. Lenaburg turned instinctively to the Blessed Mother for intercession.

"I call Our Lady of Sorrows the cause of my joy," she said.

Mrs. Lenaburg's own "Pieta" moment helped her relate as a mother to Mary's utterly bittersweet experience of her Son's passion, death and resurrection.

Presenting Courtney back to God at the end of her earth-



**Mary Lenaburg** 

ly life proved to be as difficult as helping her stay alive.

Her kidneys were failing, so she and her doctors agreed to place her in hospice and comfort care.

"In 2014, during the season of Advent, while the world was preparing for a Baby to be born into this world, we were waiting for our daughter to be born into heaven," said Mrs. Lenaburg.

No more doctor's appointments or physical therapy. Only love, given and received, every single day.

"When I held her at 1:51 a.m. on Dec. 27 of that year, she simply exhaled and left this life with a smile on her face," Mrs. Lenaburg recalled.

Through the grieving, God helped Mr. and Mrs. Lenaburg understand that their lives had not ended.

"If there's breath in your body, you still have work to

do," said Mrs. Lenaburg. 'Our Lady shows us that. Her life did not end when Iesus died on the cross."

### **Nothing wasted**

Mrs. Lenaburg said she hopes to help the women who attend the retreat rediscover a truly Catholic appreciation for the suffering they experience.

She encourages every woman to make time to attend the retreat.

'It's going to be a powerful day," she stated. "It's always beautiful to be able to sit in community for a day with a room full of women who believe as you do and are striving for holiness as you are, and see yourself as God sees you."

She emphasized the power of hope in suffering.

"God did an amazing work on our marriage and our family, through a child who could never walk and never talk and barely see," said Mrs. Lenaburg. "We continue to live these lessons, even though Courtney has been home with the Lord for 10 years."

It's all about trust, she add-

"Trusting that God is God and I'm not, and that he loves me and wants what is good and what is for his glory, and that not one thing in this life will be wasted," she said.

The \$15-per-person cost for the retreat includes lunch.

For information or to register, visit:

diojeffcity.org/womensministry-upcoming-events





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2025 Distinguished Graduate Award recipients: Leah Pickering, Immaculate Conception School, Jefferson City; Katie Neuner, Sacred Heart School, Rich Fountain, presented by Father William Debo, pastor; Tammy Tyree (second from left) and Brianna Monroe (third from left), St. George School, Linn, presented by Lisa Grellner, principal, and Father Colin Franklin, pastor; Janice (Wansing) Wieberg, Visitation Inter-Parish School, Vienna, presented by Maggie Rush, principal.

### Catholic Schools honor distinguished graduates

Each year during Catholic Schools Week, Catholic schools throughout the country, in cooperation with the National Catholic Education Association (NCEA), honor graduates that exemplify the schools' values and ideals.

The Distinguished Graduate Award honors graduates of Catholic schools who have significantly contributed to American life or the Catholic Church

Here are some of this year's honorees from the Jefferson City diocese:

### **FREEBURG**

Holy Family School honored Sara Henderson.

'Sara is an excellent role model for our students when it comes to being a good steward of the parish," said Debbie Reinkemeyer, principal.

Mrs. Henderson gives her time and talent to the parish

and school in so many ways.

"She is kind to all that she meets and always greets people with a smile," Mrs. Reinkemeyer stated.

#### **JEFFERSON CITY**

Immaculate Conception School honored Leah Pickering of the Class of 1999.

"Mrs. Pickering is a great asset to our school and parish," said Heather Schrimpf, principal. "We thank her for her faithful witness and continued support of Catholic education.

"Mrs. Pickering is faithful in her service to Immaculate Conception School and Parish as a first-grade teacher, volunteering for many school activities, including being the Home and School co-chair, coaching for our athletic teams, and assisting with various activities of the parish," said Heather Schrimpf, principal.

Mrs. Pickering is quick to

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offer a helping hand with the meals for funeral services and various fundraisers and school activities that happen during the school year.

She and her husband Jeff have three children who attend the school.

"Their love for Catholic education and the Catholic faith is evident," said Mrs. Schrimpf.

St. Peter School honored Catherine and the late Jim Haake, "whose lives exemplify the values of faith, service and perseverance cherished at St. Peter'

"Married in 1962, Mr. and Mrs. Haake built a multifaceted legacy through their dedication to family, faith and community," stated Gayle Trachsel, principal.

Their work included operating beloved local businesses — the Haake Hobby Shop and the Big Dipper — and providing essential transportation and delivery services for children, individuals with special needs and community members.

They actively served St. Peter Parish, with Jim as an usher and Catherine as a devoted volunteer, including as a Eucharistic adorer.

Mrs. Haake remains an active presence in the parish and community, preparing

supporting various outreach efforts.

Mr. Haake served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War, worked as a Jefferson City firefighter, and was a dedicated public servant as a city councilman and Lions Club leader. Following his death, Catherine carried on his legacy, serving the community with kindness and resilience.

They sent their children to St. Peter School.

Mrs. Haake's acts of kindness endure through meal deliveries, organizing luncheons, and providing support to family and friends in need.

"Jim and Catherine Haake's legacy is one of unwavering faith, selfless service, and enduring love for their family, church, and community," said Mrs. Trachsel.

St. Joseph Cathedral School honored Elisa (Rackers) Brenneke of the Class of

"Elisa has definitely lived out the Stewardship Way of Life in our parish," said Gina Bailey, principal.

Mrs. Brenneke is currently a member of the parish finance council and is a past treasurer for the Home and School Association.

She also helps coach volleyball and track at the school.

Some of Mrs. Brenneke's fondest memories of SJCS are of playing sports, which motivated her to volunteer to coach at the school.

"Watching students grow as players and gain confidence in themselves has been so rewarding," Mrs. Brenneke stat-

The school was scrambling last year to find a track coach, and Mrs. Brenneke stepped up to the challenge and is planning to continue in that role again this year.

She holds a master's degree in accounting from the University of Missouri.

She worked for Williams Keepers for 14 years, and then took a job as the CFO of Industrial Warehouse and Distribution group, where she has been for the past seven years.

She also serves on the YMCA finance committee and is a member of the Helias Catholic High School Advisory Council.

She and her husband Tony have two children: a sophomore at Helias Catholic and a seventh-grader at SJCS.

St. George School honored Tammy Tyree of the Class of 1984 and Brianna Monroe of the Class of 2000.

Tammy and Brianna have made invaluable contributions to St. George School, exemplifying the values instilled in them through their Catholic education," said Lisa Grellner, principal.

She cited Ms. Tyree's dedication to the school's program for 3-year-olds and Ms. Monroe's unwavering commitment to the school community.

"St. George School congratulates both recipients on this well-deserved recognition, acknowledging their Christ-centered and faith-directed lives," said Mrs. Grellner.



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See DISTINGUISHED, page 16

### Rest in peace, Lake Ozark pastor Father Michael Penn, 68

### **Combined humor, candor** and spiritual depth

By Jay Nies

Father Michael Penn counseled a brother priest who was in the late stages of a debilitating illness, despondent that he could no longer minister.

"The way you've been preaching with your life has made you a good priest, a good servant," Fr. Penn told him. "When you're away, you don't get to see the good influence you've had on other people. But mark my words: you're still being remembered and loved."

Years later, Fr. Penn made his own advance through the dark valley of life-threatening illness, alternating between time in and away from his par-

"It was both heartbreaking and inspiring watching him say Mass at Our Lady of the Lake, even though he was obviously not feeling well and in pain," said parishioner Mike Schmidt. "Such a love of his faith and the good Lord. He knew he was in good hands, being Christ's hands to all of

Fr. Penn, 68, pastor of Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Lake Ozark, died on Feb. 14 in Jefferson City, of complications from brain cancer.

He had previously served in Columbia; Glasgow and Slater; Monroe City and Indian Creek and Palmyra; Canton, Ewing and LaGrange; Shelbina and Clarence; and Taos.

He had been pastor of Our Lady of the Lake Parish since 2022 and the bishop's delegate for the Cause for Canonization of Venerable Father Augustus Tolton since 2011.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Feb. 21 in the Cathedral of St. Joseph, with Bishop W. Shawn McKnight presiding and Father Gregory Meystrik, Fr. Penn's former pastor and long-time friend, preaching the homily. The priests of the diocese concelebrated.

In his homily, Fr. Meystrik thanked Bishop McKnight for allowing Fr. Penn to remain the pastor of Our Lady of the Lake during his illness and

"His hope was always to get better, but if he didn't get

better, he wanted to be the pastor of Our Lady of the Lake when he died," said Fr. Meystrik, pastor of Holy Family Parish in Hannibal. "That was his dream, to die with his boots

### Among the people

Friends, priests and current and former parishioners remember Fr. Penn as a gregarious and driven pastor who used humor and sports talk — with a special passion for the Kansas City Royals and with people and to segue into deeper ministry.

"He believed big-time in the power and potential of people," said Fr. Meystrik. "And others believed in him."

Fr. Meystrik emphasized that Fr. Penn had discovered his priestly calling "in the marketplace," among the people.

He was working at the customer service counter at a Hen House grocery store in Kansas City and picked up extra hours at Kelly's, a bar in the city's Westport neighborhood.

"He would say that really, the source of his vocation, in terms of hearing it, listening to it, responding to it, came from the people and the patrons and his coworkers at Hen House and Kelly's," Fr. Meystrik noted.

Fr. Penn was born on March 15, 1957, in Kansas City, a son of Claggett and Margaret Penn, who are now deceased.

His parents and friends, especially priests and religious sisters, began encouraging him at a young age to consider the Priesthood.

He spent time in and out of a high school seminary before studying at a community college and then going to work as a parish liturgical and pastoral ministry director in Kansas

He moved to Edina in 1993 to help care for his father, who had moved there with his mother after retiring.

His Knox County family connections were extensive, with numerous ancestors at rest in the St. Joseph Parish



Father Michael Penn (1957-2025) holds a portrait of Venerable Father Augustus Tolton while standing outside St. Peter Church in Brush Creek, which stands at the place where Chiefs — to connect Fr. Tolton was baptized in 1854. - Photo courtesy of Rural Life magazine

Cemetery.

Fr. Penn began actively discerning Priesthood after his father died, attending Conception Seminary College in northwestern Missouri and Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in St. Louis.

His mother died a month before he graduated from Conception in 1999.

Fr. Penn once said that his life experiences helped him develop a more human, less idealized notion of the Priesthood.

"I hope to bring a stability to the people who come to me, not just with their religious problems, but with secular problems as well," he stated before his diaconal ordination in 2002. "I want to be as available to them as I can be."

priest means more than being a functionary dispenser of the Sacraments. Bishop John R. Gaydos ordained him a priest in 2003 at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City.

"As a priest, you gather the people at the Lord's table," he said right before his priestly ordination. "You feed the people with the Lord's Body and the Lord's Blood. But, you are also the one who points his community in the direction of God and leads them there."

#### Like M&Ms

Fr. Meystrik said it was appropriate for Fr. Penn to find his calling among the people, because that's where he tended

"He was a person of the He emphasized that being a marketplace. He was kind of involved wherever people were," he said.

He said Fr. Penn had a lot in common with M&Ms, his favorite candy — "hard on the outside, soft on the inside."

"Actually, he was kind of like a marshmallow wrapped in barbed wire!" Fr. Meystrik. "But that barmed wire was made out of the thinnest possible pasta that you could find. The second you touched it, it fell apart."

Longtime friend Father Philip Niekamp said Fr. Penn was 'a normal guy who

became a priest."

"Mike was also one who always saw the good in everybody," said Fr. Niekamp, pastor of the Hermann, Rhineland, Owensville and Belle parishes. "He was one who knew how to 'dish it out' but also how to

Father Jeremy Secrist, pastor of the Brunswick, Salisbury and Wien parishes, knew Fr. Penn from their high school seminary days and served with him for many years as a master of ceremonies for diocesan liturgical functions under Bishop Gaydos.

He noted that Fr. Penn cultivated a sometimes-rough and brusque persona, "but I came to know and appreciate him as

See FR. PENN, page 21



### **QUESTION CORNER**

## Is non-alcoholic church wine valid for consecration?

By Jenna Marie Cooper OSV News

Q: I'm a parish priest and recently, when I went to order hosts and sacramental wine for my parish, I noticed the company I usually shop from was offering something called "non-alcoholic church wine." I told the lady on the phone that I imagine this isn't valid matter for consecration at a Mass, and



advised her to look further into this. She said some priests have been asking for it. I've been doing a bit of my own research now, but it doesn't sound like that question has been faced before. Maybe I am wrong? Is a wine that has been produced using the normal fermentation procedure, but then has its alcohol removed, valid matter for consecration? (Ireland)

A: The short answer is that it depends on exactly what the church supply company is referring to as "non-alcoholic church wine."

As you know, for sacraments to be valid — that is, for them to "work" — there must be both a valid formula (i.e., the words of the prayer to be said) and valid matter (the physical "stuff" used in a sacrament).

Canon 924 of the *Code of Canon Law* discusses the valid matter for the celebration of the Eucharist, noting that "the wine must be natural, made from grapes of the vine, and not corrupt" (with "not corrupt" in this context meaning "not spoiled"). In a nutshell, Canon 924 is telling us that the wine, which is to become the blood of Christ, must be something which can truly be considered "wine" in a strict sense.

To start with an obvious example, even though some people use ginger ale or sparkling apple juice as a non-alcoholic wine substitute in some social situations, these are not "made from grapes of the vine" and therefore cannot validly be used as wine in the Eucharistic celebration. Likewise, a wine-flavored beverage that was chemically engineered in a laboratory with artificial flavors also could not be used for the Eucharist as it clearly is not "natural." And a beverage that was wine-based, but contained other non-wine additives like flavorings or preservatives, would not be considered valid matter for the Eucharistic celebration.

Furthermore, for wine to be truly "wine," there must be at least some level of fermentation and thus alcohol content, however minimal. So even though grape juice is made from the same basic ingredient as wine, it cannot be used in place of wine at Mass. Unlike wine where the grapes are crushed, grape juice is usually made by boiling grapes down, which prevents any fermentation. Typically, the grape juice you would find in grocery stores is pasteurized and possibly made from a concentrate, which makes it insufficiently "natural" in the sense that it is of a fundamentally different nature than true wine.

In a similar vein, boiling wine, or using some other process to remove the alcohol from the wine after it was already fermented and bottled, would alter the nature of the beverage to the point where it would be technically something other than wine, and hence would not be valid matter for the Eucharist.

But there is one acceptable form of what could be called "non-alcoholic wine," which is something called "mustum." Mustum is the juice of grapes which have been crushed in the manner of wine-making, but which has not yet fermented to the point where it would have the alcohol level of normal table wine.

As Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger (the future Pope Benedict

See QUESTION, page 23

### **Mary: The perfect Lenten companion**

By Robert Fastiggi OSV News

The season of Lent directs us to recall our own baptism and prepare for the celebration of the paschal mystery of the passion, death and resurrection of Christ. It is a time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, and it helps us grow closer to Jesus.

In celebrating Lent and in every season of the liturgical year, it is good to recall the teaching of the Second Vatican Council, that the "Church honors with special love the Blessed Mary, Mother of God, who is joined by an inseparable bond to the saving work of her Son."

"In her," the council fathers wrote, "the Church holds up and admires the most excellent fruit of the redemption, and joyfully contemplates, as in a faultless image that which she herself desires and hopes wholly to be" ("Sacrosanctum Concilium," No. 103).

Mary is the perfect companion for Lent, and Lent is a perfect time to deepen our love, knowledge and veneration of the Mother of God. Lent is also a season of conversion, and here, too, we receive great help from Mary who, as the Mother of Mercy, points us to her divine Son, Jesus Christ, who came into the world to reconcile sinners to himself (cf. Luke 5:31-32).

In his general audience on Ash Wednesday in 2014, Pope Francis highlighted the special protection and help of the Blessed Virgin for the journey of Lent: "On this journey, we want to invoke with special trust the protection and help of the Virgin Mary: May she, who was the first to believe in Christ, accompany us in our days of intense prayer and penance, so that we might come to celebrate, purified and renewed in spirit, the great paschal mystery of her Son."

These words of Pope Francis help us to appreciate one reason why Mary is the perfect companion for Lent: She is the model of the perfect disciple because she entrusted herself completely to God.

At the Annunciation, Mary tells the angel: "I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38). In 1974,



Michelangelo's "Pietà" is seen in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican in this 2023 file photo.

— CNS photo by Lola Gomez

Pope Paul VI taught that Mary is "worthy of imitation because she was the first and the most perfect of Christ's disciples" ("Marialis Cultus," No. 35).

In his Angelus address for the second Sunday of Lent in 2006, Pope Benedict XVI highlighted Mary as the model of believers who listen attentively to God: "The Virgin Mary herself, among all human creatures the closest to God, still had to walk day after day in a pilgrimage of faith, constantly guarding and meditating on in her heart the Word that God addressed to her through holy Scripture and through the events of the life of her Son, in whom she recognized and welcomed the Lord's mysterious voice. And so, this is the gift and duty for each one of us during the season of Lent: to listen to Christ, like Mary. To listen to him in his Word, contained in Sacred Scripture. To listen to him in the events of our lives, seeking to decipher in them the messages of Providence."

At the wedding feast of Cana, Mary told the servers: "Do whatever he tells you" (John 2:5). In a similar way, Mary directs us all to be faithful to Christ, her divine Son. If we wish to draw closer to Christ during Lent, there is no better way than by entrusting ourselves to Mary, our spiritual mother.

As our spiritual Mother, Mary not only leads us to Christ, but she also protects and guides us from sin. Lent is a perfect time to renew our devotion to Mary as our spiritual mother who cares for us in the midst of challenges and difficulties.

One of the oldest known prayers to Mary is known as the "Sub Tuum Praesidium" ("Under Thy Protection"), which goes back to the third or fourth century. One translation of it reads: "We fly to Thy protection, O Holy Mother of God; Do not despise our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us always from all dangers, O Glorious and Blessed Virgin. Amen."

Because Lent is a time to turn away from sin, it is also an ideal time to recognize the gift that Our Lord himself gave us, giving us his own mother as our mother while he was dying on the cross (John 19:25-27).

Pope St. John Paul II recognized that Jesus gave Mary as mother not only to the beloved disciple but to all of the faithful.

Mary's spiritual motherhood is the basis for the "Marian dimension" of the life of each of the disciples of Christ. John Paul II wrote in 1987: "The Marian dimension of the life of a disciple of Christ is expressed in a special way precisely through this filial entrusting to the Mother of Christ, which began with the testament of the Redeemer on Golgotha. Entrusting himself to Mary in a filial manner, the Christian, like the Apostle John, 'welcomes' the Mother of Christ 'into his own home' and brings her into everything that makes up his inner life" ("Redemptoris Mater, "No. 45).

Lent is a time to deepen our prayer life, and Mary provides the best example of prayer in her canticle, known as the Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55).

See MARY, page 23

The Catholic Missourian March 7, 2025 **VIEWPOINT** 

### Listening as loving: moving beyond 'good job'

By Christina Capecchi



I am a compliment-er by nature. Giving sincere, spontaneous compliments feels as comfortable to me as remarking on the weather — and brings me more joy.

In high school, my catchphrase

friends would quote my catchphrase "way to be." On my wedding day, I relished the chance to compliment guests on how nice they looked. If I'm thinking a favorable thought about the person I'm talking to, I almost always say it.

So the contemporary parenting advice to avoid excessive praise gave me pause.

What? Hold off on the "good job"? Dial back the compliments?

It felt counterintuitive.

I decided to dig deeper.

Sure enough, there is solid logic behind the advice. Excessive praise can make a child reliant on external validation versus intrinsic motivation. What seems to grease the wheels best is to emphasize effort, not outcome. Rather than compliment the perfect score on a spelling test, praise the decision to study every day. Instead of gushing over how realistic a drawing is, credit the amount of time it took to complete

the background.

The former sparks panic. "Can I recreate this excellent drawing or was it a one-hit wonder?" The latter feels like something that can be replicated. "Yes, I can control how much time I spend shading in this sketch."

I accepted this bit of advice. I still say, "It looks great!" But now I'm quick to shift the focus. "I love how you took your time on the grass." Or, "You chose such interesting colors."

It wasn't until this month, when I read an article quoting a clinical psychologist on the topic of praise, that it finally clicked — and I began to see it in a new light.

Saying "good job" — my go-to

two-syllable compliment — is a conversation ender, explained Dr. Becky Kennedy. It teaches kids to "gaze out" for acceptance rathe than "gaze in" on the process they used to accomplish the feat. Over time, Dr. Kennedy said, it can lead to "fragile" and "anxious" kids.

Replacing a conversation-ending compliment with a conversation-starting question builds confidence, she said. "How did you come up with that topic?" "What was it like drawing that?" These questions encourage a child to gaze in and evaluate a process that was, hopefully, enjoyable in its own right — regardless of the outcome.

See CAPECCHI, page 23

### The power of a 'nudge' to pray

By Laura Kelly Fanucci



During my husband's years in business school, he learned about the power of the "nudge": how to form a new habit by connecting it to a habit you already have. This practice

changed my life, because (apologies to my dentist) the nudge is the only way I started flossing regularly.

He explained the nudge as we stood in our bathroom staring at the tooth-brush holder. Since I was already in the habit of brushing my teeth twice a day, I simply needed to put the flosser in the space where I usually kept my toothbrush. That way, when I would automatically reach for the brush, I'd remember the nudge to floss first.

Miracle of miracles, it worked! So last night as I was flossing, I started to wonder: What if we carried over this nudge practice to our prayer lives, too?

Think about what already nudges you to pray: the daily news, a friend's request, the sound of church bells or an ambulance racing by. Then think about the routines you do without thinking. What could you pair with prayer, to give yourself an easy-to-remember nudge at work or home?

When you open the fridge, say a quick prayer of thanks for the gift of food. When you leave the house, bless yourself with holy water by the door. When you pass a hospital, pray for the patients and caregivers. When you hug your kids or grandkids, thank God for the gift of their lives. Daily life offers us a thousand simple ways to pray.

Many people love to make New Year's resolutions, but studies estimate that only 9% keep them. Learning about the power of the nudge can help

us make — and keep — new habits. Friends have told me about laying out their workout clothes at night to remind them to exercise in the morning. Some families say a prayer in the car every time they drive past a church or cemetery. What if you looked at your daily habits and added one nudge to pray?

If you brew coffee first thing in the morning, you could pray for the workers who picked the beans — or pray for the spouse who shares the coffee pot with you. If you're quick to click on a certain app, set your Bible next to your phone — or change the wallpaper on your home screen to remind you to pray.

I've made myself a few nudges like this over the years. During one season when several friends were going through difficult pregnancies, I decided to pray every time I picked up a laundry basket, to remember those who were carrying heavy burdens. Once when I got exasperated with tripping over piles of kids' shoes by the back door, I realized I could turn my annoyance into a sneaky prayer: to pray for each child as I straightened their shoes (and reminded them to straighten their shoes in turn).

This year I'm taking a nudge from my husband again. During one Lent he started reading the Mass readings via email every day, and it's still the first thing he does when he picks up his phone each morning. Lately I've been more likely to scroll through the news or social media, neither of which nudge me to pray the way that Scripture does. So I'm trying to build a new habit by putting my prayer book on top of my phone at night, to remember to pick it up first in the morning.

How can you change your prayer habits with an easy, unmistakable reminder? If you need a visual cue, stick a note on your mirror. If you prefer an alarm, set a reminder on your phone. Notice where your strongest habits are, and build on a nudge to pray.

And who knows: you might even start flossing every day, too.

Laura Kelly Fanucci is an author, speaker and founder of Mothering Spirit, an online gathering place on parenting and spirituality.

### **REFLECTION**

### **Keep in touch**

By Mark Saucier

They were sitting in front of me. I happened to see when she grabbed her husband's hand and held it between them.

It could have been a fleeting pain, though she didn't appear to stiffen or wince. It could have been a wave of grief from a recent loss, but I saw no tears.

It could have just been one of those moments when we realize how blessed we are to have that other in our lives.

For his part, there were no words, only a single glance, as if he knew her reason and just holding her hand was the best way to respond.

A little later, I noticed their hands were uncoupled. The need, it seemed, had not passed, but had been met.

Such a natural gesture, yet such an intimate act.

Touch is our superpower from birth. Think of a baby grabbing your finger. Babies can only see a few inches from their face, but they explore their world with grasping hands.

It only gets better for adults. Holding hands lowers blood pressure, reduces pain and buffers stress.

Scientists have found that holding hands calms the part of the brain responsible for vigilance and emotional response.

But I knew that.

Many years ago, my grandfather was in a coma before he died. He was restless, even agitated at times. Family members would try to calm him, but the only time he really relaxed was when his wife of 50-plus years held his hand.

Somehow, her touch could go where words could not, penetrating that veil of darkness and terror, assuring him that he was not alone and that things would be okay.

Yes, he died. But he did not die alone, and things were okay.

Nurses know the power of touch.

When I was in the hospital for my cancer surgery, the nurses would either hold my hand or place their hand on my arm when they spoke to me.

Just by doing that, they were personally part of my healing, modulating my pain.

Jesus knew. He touched Peter's mother-in-law to take away her fever, touched the leper to make him clean, touched the ears and tongue of a deaf mute.

Deep inside most of us, there is a need for relationships and interdependence. The human touch assures us of this connection, without which our fear and suffering would be unbearable.

A simple touch, a hand held, expresses all that we are for one another. As the psalmist says, we are "wonderfully made."

# Stories of Hope from Family Immigration Services AT CATHOLIC CHARITIES



By Marissa Flores Madden

For over a decade as a high school campus minister, I had the opportunity to accompany students on a number of immersion retreats featuring lessons on U.S. immigration and Catholic Social Teaching.

On one such retreat, one of our leaders likened the journey of migrants all over the world to a pilgrimage, often replacing the terms migrants and immigrants with pilgrims as he spoke with us.

I am not an immigrant, but I have journeyed on a variety of pilgrimages, everywhere from Loyola and Rome to Lourdes and Santiago de Compostela.

All these official pilgrimages have helped me understand my life as a pilgrimage — a sacred journey on my way to returning to myself and my God.

St. Ignatius of Loyola, a 16th-century mystic and founder of the Society of Jesus, wrote his autobiography in the third person, referring to himself as "the pilgrim."

Five hundred years later, another Jesuit, Pope Francis, has recently proclaimed a Year of Jubilee and encouraged us to be "pilgrims of hope."

Both of these men call us to recognize life as a pilgrimage.

As we begin to celebrate the Jubilee Year, we might keep in mind the unique pilgrimages of migrants which are often journeys of survival rooted in a bold hope.

Hope is not optimism, not delusional thinking, not even the belief that everything will be alright.

Hope is an inherent virtue gifted to each of us.

It can be expressed as the confidence that God is with us on our journeys and that God sees us and accompanies us not only in our joy, but in our pain, sorrow and distress too.

When I study U.S. immigration law, it is challenging to find hope within the processes and limitations placed on immigrants.

But when I encounter migrants in my office, my church community, and my family, hope abounds.

In February of 2022, immediately following the Russian invasion of Ukraine, our Family Immigration Services office was flooded with calls from Ukrainians currently in the U.S., worried and wondering how they could help friends and family members still in Ukraine

Our office had worked with



Ukrainians under a special program authorized by Congress, which for over three decades had provided refugees from the former Soviet Union the opportunity to reunite with family members in the U.S..

Many of these former refugees have made their homes in mid-Missouri and they were the ones to reach out to us initially.

Our first response was not hopeful.

There was no law or policy in place that could provide instant support to Ukrainians fleeing the violence.

But then came glim-

Some have started new families here in the U.S., with couples tying the knot and welcoming children

Others have launched their own businesses or found work in various professions, building on the skills, education, and successes they brought with them — or, in some cases, learning entirely new trades.

Some have even begun college, pursuing new opportunities for growth.

Meanwhile, young children quickly enroll in school upon arrival, giving them the chance to learn English and often becoming fluent far more quickly than their parents.

Ukrainians are enriching our communities and supporting the most vulnerable.

Many are active members of their church communities.

It is almost a daily occurrence that Ukrainians will offer either rides or interpretation services for other neighbors in need.

And we are lucky enough to have Ukrainians on staff at Catholic Charities who care deeply for our clients, and it is evident that their work is per-

Whereas, so much of U.S. immigration law is not in line with Catholic Social Teaching, the U4U program got it right.

It has provided us with the legal immigration processes that uphold our moral responsibility to welcome the stranger, and we are not only a better department, agency and Church for it, but a better country as well.

In this Jubilee Year, may we continue our life pilgrimages not only offering hope to those we encounter on our journeys, but also by recognizing the hope that uniquely sustains those who are journeying to survive.

# US-based evangelization project prepares people to become disciples

OSV News

Los Angeles

"I Am 73" is a program of consecration to Jesus Christ launched by El Sembrador-New Evangelization, a Catholic media network known as ESNE, which seeks to bring people closer to the Word of God and strengthen their relationship with Christ.

For 33 days, participants read the Gospels, pray the rosary, fast weekly and attend virtual formation sessions.

At the end, they participate in a Mass of consecration.

The project, born from the heart of the founder of the El Sembrador apostolate, was driven by the need to bring people closer to the

Word of God, and gained momentum during the COVID-19 pandemic, when many Catholics sought a community of faith in the midst of the crisis.

Its name refers to a passage from the Gospel of St. Luke in which Jesus sends 72 disciples to preach, inviting the participants to be the "73rd disciple" in the evangelizing mission.

Toward the end of 2024, Pope Francis received ESNE representatives at the Vatican, praised the "I am the 73rd" initiative, and stressed the importance of evangelizing through new media.

Rosie Sayes, executive director of content for ESNE TV, said the project has had a great impact, transforming lives and leading many to a profound encounter with God.

The U4U program allowed Ukrainians to be sponsored by people living in the U.S. for a period of two years with an option for an additional two years

mers of hope as Uniting

for Ukraine (U4U) was an-

nounced.

as the war continues.

As of now, Ukrainians who entered the U.S. after the war began to either qualify for the continuation of the U4U program or temporary protected status (TPS), both of which provide them the opportunity

While these statuses are not permanent, they have given Family Immigration Services the ability to submit applications on behalf of our Ukrainian clients to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

to live and work in the U.S. for

a restricted period of time.

Thanks to these programs that have looked favorably on the plight of Ukrainians, for almost three years we have been able to encourage hope in the local Ukrainian community.

I witness this hope every day in my Ukrainian clients, who have left behind family, friends, communities, language, culture and homes to start anew, safe from the threat of war.

Many have been joyfully reunited with family members and spouses they hadn't seen in

### Sedalia Sacred Heart students learn about city's ragtime legacy

Several young students of Sacred Heart School in Sedalia bobbed back and forth to the bouncy beat of Scott Joplin's "Maple Leaf Rag."

They couldn't help it. The music and hypnotic beat were having the same effect they'd had nearly 130 years ago Mr. Joplin first performed the piece in 1899.

He did so in Sedalia's Maple Leaf Club, forever cementing his legacy as the King of Ragtime and the city's as the Cradle of Ragtime.

"How many of you have heard the word Ragtime?" internationally renowned ragtime pianist Adam Swanson asked the rows of children seated on the floor of the school's Fr. Hoying Gymnasium.

Most hands shot up.

"Nearly all of you!" said Mr. Swanson. "I'm not surprised, because you live in Sedalia, Missouri."

He told them that their hometown was very instrumental in the history of American music.

"What most people don't know is that ragtime is the first truly original American music," Mr. Swanson stated. "And all other types of music came from ragtime in one way or another."

Blues, jazz, rock 'n roll, virtually every American musical genre can be traced back to ragtime.

"And the greatest ragtime composer, Scott Joplin, lived here in Sedalia, and he made that piece, the 'Maple Leaf Rag' at the Maple Leaf Club," the performer stated.

Mr. Swanson was the Scott Joplin International Ragtime Foundation's 2025 artist in residence.

He spent a week in town, visiting and performing at numerous schools and several homes for older adults.

'Let's get the music going!" he said as he launched into virtuosic renderings of piano pieces by Joplin and his contemporaries.

Joplin, who was African American, was trained in classical European musical theory and composition, allowing him to meld provocative melodies and beautiful chords

More photos and video clips from this will be posted with the online version of this story at cathmo.com.

with African-style syncopated rhythms that give ragtime its signature "bounce."

'You're all a great audience!" Mr. Swanson told the children at Sacred Heart, reminding them that "it's equal-



Internationally renowned ragtime piano scholar and performer Adam Swanson plays Scott Joplin's "Maple Leaf Rag" before a group of young students at Sacred Heart School in Sedalia. The famous piece was composed in Sedalia.

as it is to play it."

The kids delighted in belting out the phrase "Hold that tiger!" with admirable pitch and volume as Mr. Swanson played "The Tiger Rag."

That piece gets frequent play by the University of Missouri marching band during Mizzou Tiger athletic events.

"I've done that song many times this week," said Mr. Swanson. "The kids all love it."

Having performed at his first Scott Joplin International Ragtime Festival in Sedalia 20 years ago at age 12, Mr. Swanson told the children that

ly important to listen to music he'd been playing piano longer than they'd been alive.

> He told them how he heard the "Maple Leaf Rag" when he was 11, making him an instant fan of the upbeat music with its sophisticated rhythm.

> With syncopation, the rhythm systematically overlaps the melody the way bricks overlap each other on a wall.

"And then I got to meet all these famous piano players who helped teach me how to do it," he said.

There are many things he loves about playing ragtime piano, "but one of my favorite things about it is that I get to go all over the world, and I have traveled all over the country," he said.

He's performed in all 48 states in the continental United States, done four tours of Europe and given concerts in Australia.

"And so, by playing the piano, I get to meet amazing people and go all over the world," he said.

Another thing he loves about the music is that "it's very happy and joyful and it makes you feel good," he said.

It would be too hard for him to identify one favorite piece of music, because he can play between 850 and 900 pieces flawlessly from memory.

See RAGTIME, page 27



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### **Communal reconciliation services for Lent**

Lent is a good time for an examination of conscience and to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in preparation for Easter. Here is a partial list of Lenten communal reconciliation services in the Jefferson City diocese. The listings will be updated in upcoming issues of *The Catholic Missourian* and in our online edition. Most services will include a short prayer service followed by individual Confessions. Extra priests from neighboring parishes are typically present to help out.

**Brunswick** — Thurs., March 20 at 6:30 pm, St. Boniface Church

**Columbia** — Thurs., April 3 at 7 pm, Our Lady of Lourdes Church

 Tues., March 18 at 6:30 pm, St. Thomas More Newman Center

**Fayette** — Thurs., April 3 at 6:30 pm, St. Joseph Church

**Fulton** — Wed., March 26 at 6 pm, St. Peter Church

**Glasgow** — Wed., April 2 at 6:30 pm, St. Mary Church

**Holts Summit** — Wed., March 26 at 6:30 pm, St. Andrew Church

Jefferson City — Fri., March 7 from 4:30-5:30 pm and 7 to 8 pm; Sat., March 8 from 4:30-5:30 pm and 7 to 8 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph

Marshall – Thurs., March 27 at 6:30 pm, St. Peter Church

**Mexico** — Wed., April 2 at 6:30 pm, St. Brendan Church

Moberly – Wed., March 19 at 6:30 pm, St. Pius X Church

**Mokane** — Thurs., March 27 at 6 pm, St. Jude Thaddeus Church

**Monroe City** — Wed., April 9 at 6:30 pm, Holy Rosary Church

**Montgomery City** — Thurs., April 10 at 6:30 pm, Immaculate Conception Church

**Osage Bend** — Wed., March 19 at 6:30 pm, St. Margaret of Antioch Church

**Russellville** — Thurs., March 27 at 6 pm, St. Michael Church

**St. Clement** — Thurs., April 3 at 6:30 pm, St. Clement Church

**St. Martins** — Wed., April 9 at 6 pm, St. Martin Church

**St. Thomas** — Tues., April 1 at 7 pm, St. Thomas the Apostle Church, St. Thomas

**Salisbury** – Tues., April 8 at 6:30 pm, St. Joseph Church

**Taos** – Wed., April 2 at 6 pm, St. Francis Xavier Church

**Wardsville** — Thurs., March 20 at 6 pm, St. Stanislaus Church

**Wien** – Wed., March 26 at 6:30 pm, St. Mary of the Angels Church

# U.S. bishops' Lenten message to those grieving an abortion: Jesus' love is unconditional

OSV News

Washington, D.C.

In sharing the U.S. bishops' Lenten message this year, their pro-life chairman used it "to speak to all who carry the unbearable sadness and guilt of an abortion experience" and remind them that Jesus' love knows no bounds.

"Be assured that Jesus keeps on loving you, no matter what," Bishop Daniel E. Thomas of Toledo, Ohio, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, said in the Feb. 19 message.

"The blessed ashes distributed on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday remind us that we are all sinners; broken, imperfect, yet very precious in the eyes of God and so well loved by Him," he said. "The ashes are both a reminder of our need for repentance and the graces that flow from our Lord's death and resurrection."

Ash Wednesday marked for the Latin Church the beginning of Lent, a 40-day period of fasting and prayer.

Most Eastern Catholic

churches, which together with the Latin Church headed by the bishop of Rome make up the global Catholic Church, typically mark Lent beginning a few days earlier on Monday, which some call "Clean Monday." The Catholic Church has long used ashes as an outward sign of grief, a mark of humility, mourning, penance and morality.

Bishop Thomas said this Lent, he wanted to "personally invite" all those suffering from an abortion "to come home to Jesus, who eagerly awaits your return, and come home to the Church."

"Some stay away from the Church because they fear judgment of past sins," he said. "Yet as Pope Francis reminds us in his letter announcing the Jubilee of Hope, (God's judgment) 'is meant to bring us to

a definitive encounter with the Lord's Lord." abortion. This Lent, the Lord's mercy awaits you. Allow Him

"Jesus's voice is calling out to you as His beloved daughters and sons," Bishop Thomas said, "and He is waiting to meet you in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. He desires a relationship with you."

"God's gift of hope allows you to expect His comfort as you grieve for the loss of your aborted children," he continued, and, quoting from St. John Paul II's 1995 encyclical "Evangelium Vitae" ("The Gospel of Life"), he added that this hope "also provides assurance that 'you can with sure hope entrust your child' to the Father and His mercy."

Bishop Thomas prayed that "God plants a seed of hope in every heart that is overwhelmed by sadness and despair from participation in

abortion. This Lent, the Lord's mercy awaits you. Allow Him to heal you and lift your sadness into joy."

He also highlighted the "nonjudgmental, compassionate help" that is available to those grieving an abortion "from experienced clergy and laypeople through the Church's diocesan abortion healing ministry, most often called Project Rachel Ministry."

The ministry's websites, in English and Spanish, are *HopeAfterAbortion.org* and *EsperanzaPosAborto.org*, and they have a "Find Help/Busca Ayuda" link to find a local arm of the ministry.

Through this ministry, Bishop Thomas said, "all who suffer from abortion can find a listening ear, comfort, and help."



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## Vatican dicastery adds St. Teresa of Kolkata feastday to General Roman Calendar

OSV News

Washington, D.C.

The leader of the nation's Catholic bishops has commended Pope Francis' move to extend to the universal Catholic Church the feast of a beloved saint and "contemporary witness" of faith.

On Feb. 11, the Vatican's Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacra-

ments published a decree announcing that the feast day of St. Teresa of Kolkata has been added to the General Roman Calendar, with her optional memorial to be celebrated by the Church each year on Sept. 5.

Previously, the observance was limited to the liturgical calendars for the Missionaries of Charity and Catholics in India.

### CONSECRATE

### From page 1

Father Joshua Duncan, pastors of nearby parishes.

The sanctuary of the church includes a newly built altar, an intricate, antique pulpit, an equally historical table for the tabernacle, and a restored crucifix.

Jay Thompson of Glasgow, who was commissioned to construct the new altar, also built and donated the new, larger cross for the crucifix.

Artisans from Autenrieb Church Painting, who redecorated the walls and ceil-

ing, repaired and repainted the antique image of Christ on the crucifix.

"Every time I look up at it, I'm reminded of the bleeding wounds of parishioners that can only be healed in and through the cross and the wounds of our Savior," said Fr. Secrist.

Bishop McKnight pointed in his homily to Jesus's message in John 12 that when God's Son would be lifted up from the earth, he would draw all people to himself.

"For us Catholics, therefore, the crucifix is an essential image for our place of worship," the bishop proclaimed. "Only through the death and resurrection of our Lord do we have access to the Father and are given the Gift of the Holy Spirit.

"We are not a church of the 'gospel of prosperity,' but disciples of the Suffering Servant," the bishop insisted. "We are not afraid to make sacrifices for our good and the good of others."

The newly acquired pulpit and tabernacle stand, came from out-of-state churches that had closed.

The new altar of sacrifice, where the Eucharist is celebrated, is fashioned of oak, topped with polished granite.

The front of it is adorned with the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, eluding to Jesus's words in Revelation 22: "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

Train whistles echoed in the





<u>LEFT:</u> Bishop W. Shawn McKnight preaches the homily at a Mass on Feb. 23 to bless and consecrate the recently renovated St. Joseph Church in Salisbury. <u>RIGHT:</u> Bishop McKnight, Father Jeremy Secrist and concelebrating priests venerate the newly consecrated altar at the end of Mass.

- Photos by Jay Nies

distance as Bishop McKnight blessed the sanctuary fixtures, reverently placed relics of St. James the Greater, one of the Twelve Apostles, and St. Thérèse of Lisieux, a 19th-century contemplative mystic, under the altar stone.

He lavishly anointed the new altar with Sacred Chrism, the consecrated oil that is used in the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation and to anoint priests and bishops at their ordination.

The bishop prayed: "May the Lord by his power sanctify this altar and this house, which by our ministry we anoint, so that as visible signs they may express the mystery of Christ

More photos from this event will be posted in The Catholic Missourian's online edition, cathmo. com. Select "Photo Galleries" from the "Multimedia" tab on the menu bar.

and the Church."

Fr. Secrist and Fr. Oligschlaeger anointed the walls with Chrism, tracing the shape of a cross under the candle sconces on facing walls in the front and back of the church.

In prayer, Bishop Mc-Knight beseeched the Lord to "graciously pour forth from heaven your sanctifying power upon this church and upon this altar, to make this forever a holy place with a table always prepared for the Sacrifice of Christ."

He placed a large quantity of incense into a brazier with burning charcoal on the altar, filling the church with aromatic smoke.

"Let our prayer rise, O Lord, like incense in your sight," the bishop prayed, "and as this house is filled with a pleasing fragrance, so let your Church be fragrant with the aroma of Christ."

Fr. Secrist and Fr. Oligschlaeger then incensed the people and the walls of the church.

Theresa Armentrout and Shelley Meissen, whose sons are priests who grew up in

the parish, reverently wiped down the altar and set the new altar linens in place.

Priests and altar servers lit all the candles in the church for the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

After Holy Communion, everyone knelt down as the Most Blessed Sacrament was placed in the tabernacle and the vigil lamp was lit, indicating Christ's abiding presence.

The people adjourned to the parish hall after Mass for a soup and chili cook-off, featuring more than 30 recipes.

#### "If it be asked"

The mural depicting Christ and the Seven Sacraments on the gothic arch above the sanctuary was created in 2000.

The church was built in 1905 under the leadership of Father Joseph Lubeley.

Joseph Conradi, a nationally-renowned architect from St. Louis, designed the church and convinced the parishioners to build it of stone, rather than brick.

He envisioned a 110-by-40foot gothic edifice with seating for 300 people and a spire as high as the building is long.

Each Sunday, parishioners went to Mass in their old church, then spent all afternoon hauling stones that had been quarried on a farm south of the construction site.

Bishop Maurice F. Burke of the former Diocese of St. Joseph presided at the Dedication Mass.

Archbishop John J. Glennon of St. Louis preached the homily in English.

"If it be asked, 'Why is this temple reared?'" the archbishop proclaimed from the pulpit, "let the cross, pointing heavenward, be the answer. It stands as the emblem of peace and hope. Beneath it every tribe and race may gather, every word of God shall stand, and only truth as taught by Jesus is to be the object of the teaching from this sacred altar."

#### Out of exile

Over the decades, heat and moisture seeping in through the church's roof and stones had damaged the ceiling and the plaster on the walls.

The building was no longer safe.

Masses were offered in the school gym while the parish worked with Brad Copeland, diocesan director of buildings and properties, on options for repairing and restoring the church.

Fr. Secrist became pastor of the Salisbury, Brunswick and Wien parishes in September 2023.

One of the readings at Mass shortly after he arrived was about the Israelites returning home after their 70-year captivity in Babylon.

"The rebuilding of Jerusalem and the Temple was only part of the equation," Fr. Secrist noted. "The big part was rebuilding that sense of purpose for the Lord's people."

The reading had a familiar feel.

"One thing we were hoping and praying for was to be able to get back into our church," he said.

On the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ last June, parishioners took part in a procession of the Most Blessed Sacrament from the gym back to the church.

"There were no altar or pews," Fr. Secrist recalled. "But, as we were entering the church and singing, I could tell in that acoustic, in the amplification of all their voices and how they were responding to it, that this is where we need to be."

It was a moment of great hope — "that sense that we have to see past the current challenges to the promises God has made and which he will fulfill if we are faithful," the priest said.

See SALISBURY, page 15





# J.C. parish to host evening on spirituality of St. Francis of Assisi

DATE: March 12 TIME: 6:30 - 8 pm

St. Francis has always been



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a favorite within the Catholic faith tradition.

What is it about the life and faith of St. Francis that stirs the hearts of many and calls them to conversion?

Now is an opportunity this Lent to uncover the depth and wisdom of this most influential saint.

Immaculate Conception Parish in Jefferson City is sponsoring an evening on the Spirituality of Saint Francis: "a reflection on our journey through Lent as seen through the lens of Franciscan Spirituality."

It will be on Wednesday, March 12, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in Pleus Hall, next to the church rectory on East McCarty Street.

No registration is required. The presenter will be Bill Yarbrough. Mr. Yarbrough has a strong commitment to living simply based on the spirituality and example of St. Francis.

As Director of Las Americas/Sub-Saharan Africa at Mission to the World from 2003-2019, he ministered in many countries with developing economies.

He has also served on the pastoral staff of New City Fellowship in University City and has been a mentor and spiritual director to many — both young and old and of many denominations.

His educational background includes: a Doctorate of Ministry from Covenant Theological Seminary, Franciscan Studies at University of Saint Francis, and Spiritual Direction program at Aquinas Institute of Theology.









### SALISBURY.

From page 13

A series of unexpected gifts and providential occurrences throughout the planning and restoration reinforced that point again and again.

"I am fully aware that St. Thérèse of Lisieux has come through for us and that the saints have been providing intercession for this whole endeavor," said Fr. Secrist.

The work continues, with portions the 1905-vintage Pfeffer organ case being restored and enlarged, repainted and re-gilded, with pipes being prepared to be installed by the Christopher Soer Pipe

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'One on hand, we are preserving a visual connection to the past, but having it speak with a renewed voice," the priest stated.

#### "Tangible signs"

At the Rededication Mass, Bishop McKnight described the Liturgy as "a dance between the Incarnate Word of God and our earthly, human reality."

"The sacramental character of our Catholic faith is

built upon our belief that God can and does interact with us, even now, through tangible signs to convey invisible realities of grace," he said.

That is why it is necessary for Catholics to have a sacred place, a consecrated edifice,

set aside from profane use for the interactions between God and Man.

people of St. Joseph Parish to bless other people in their community.

'What we are celebrating today is not simply the blessing of a physical structure, but OUR renewal of dedication to God through our belief in the teachings of the Catholic Church, through our charita-

ble works, and through our sacramental life," he said.



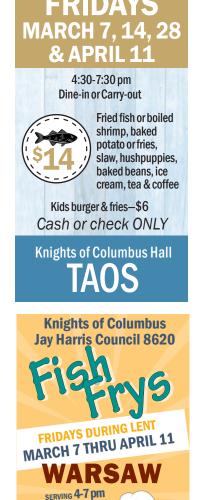












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### **DISTINGUISHED**

From page 6

#### **MEXICO**

St. Brendan School honored Robert O. Slater Ph.D. of the Class of 1962.

Dr. Slater is currently professor and chairman of the Department of Educational Leadership and Foundations at the University of Louisiana in Lafavette.

He holds a doctorate in education from the University of Chicago, and a Master of Education degree from Harvard University.

He has also been selected as a national Fulbright Scholar three different

occasions: once to Greece, to Peru, and once to Bolivia, where he helped developed these countries educational systems.

A research author of over 60 publications and book chapters, he was senior research associate with the U.S. Dept of Education in Educational research and Improvement in Washington D.C.

Dr. Slater has also been recognized for his outstanding teaching excellence at LSU-Baton Rouge and at Texas A&M







2025 Distinguished Graduate Award recipients: Elisa (Rackers) Brenneke, St. Joseph Cathedral School, Jefferson City; Sara Henderson (center), Holy Family School, Freeburg, presented by Debbie Reinkemeyer, principal, and Father William Debo, pastor; Catherine Haake, honored with her late husband, Jim, St. Peter School, Jefferson City.

University, where he previously was taught.

He is an active member of Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Lafayette.

He and his wife, Maria, who also teaches at LSU, have two

### **RICH FOUNTAIN**

Sacred Heart School honored Katie Neuner.

'Katie uses her gifts of creativity and enthusiasm to help the parish and school continue to grow and thrive," said Debbie Reinkemeyer, principal.

"She's always willing to help wherever there is a need," Mrs. Reinkemeyer stated. "She is a true asset to our parish community."

#### **VIFNNA**

Visitation Inter-Parish School honored Janice (Wansing) Wieberg of the Class of 1964.

'Janice is truly the model of Christ-like service to others and the community," said Maggie Rush, principal.

Mrs. Wieberg is the current volunteer school librarian at Visitation School.

dents each day and has built relationships with them throughout her time as librarian.

She cleans Visitation Church on a volunteer basis without expecting any praise or pay in return.

"She is the type of person who volunteers and serves the surrounding parishes and the community without any desire for thanks or praise," said Mrs.

Mrs. Wieberg has been very involved in her parish, and has previously served as the parish secretary at St. Aloysius in Ar-

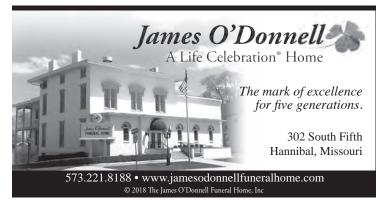
She raised her children in the She enjoys seeing the stu- Catholic faith and has continued to be an example to her grandchildren and now great-grandchildren of what it means to be a devout Catholic and a servant to others and Christ.

"We could go on and on about the many wonderful things that Janice does!" said Mrs. Rush. "She is truly a light to the world."

#### **WESTPHALIA**

St. Joseph School honored Megan Markway.

"She is our current eighthgrade teacher and has a very long list of valuable things that she does to keep our school running smoothly," said Jeremy Horvath, principal.



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### Pope, from hospital, writes about 'blessing' hidden in frailty

By Cindy Wooden Catholic News Service

**Vatican City** 

Pope Francis' condition remained "stable" March 2, and he "did not require non-invasive mechanical ventilation, but only high-flow oxygen therapy," the Vatican said in its evening medical bulletin.

The 88-year-old pope did not have a fever, it said, but "in view of the complexity of the clinical picture, the prognosis remains guarded."

In the morning, the Vatican said, Pope Francis participated in a Mass "together with those who are caring for him during these days of hospitalization, then alternated rest with prayer."

The pope had what his doctors described as an "an isolated crisis of bronchospasm" Feb. 28, which caused him to vomit and to inhale some of it, leading to concern that he could contract another infection. Signs of an infection could have included a fever and an elevated white blood cell count, neither of which was present, a source said.

The crisis also forced doctors to employ "non-invasive" mechanical ventilation using a mask; by the next day, he could alternate the mask and high-flow oxygen therapy administered through a nasal cannula.

As he continues to receive treatment in Rome's Gemelli hospital, Pope Francis sent written thanks for people's prayers, but he did not go to his hospital window as some people had hoped.

Young people and members of the House of Mary, both groups associated with the Pontifical Academy of the Immaculate Conception, led the recitation of the Angelus prayer March 2 around a statue of St. John Paul II below the pope's hospital window.

A couple dozen other people and many photographers and TV correspondents joined them.

The Vatican press office released a message from Pope Francis with a brief reflection the day's Gospel reading, but also with a reflection

See POPE, page 18

### ALTAR .

### From page 4

and experience at Mass, out into their daily lives.

"There is a link between our sacramental worship of God and our relationships with one another," he proclaimed. "God wants to bless other people in our community through you today in this very parish.

'He wants to bless the whole world through you through your parish community, by your devotion 'to the teaching of the Apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers," the bishop said, echoing Acts 2:42.

"And so, let us not delay our celebration of this community of faith by giving thanks to the Father for all the blessings he has bestowed upon us and will continue to bestow upon us through the various sacramental celebrations that will take place here," he stated.

After Bishop McKnight offered a prayer, the whole congregation knelt down as the choir and people chanted the Litany of Saints, asking God's holy men and women in heaven to pray for everyone present in the sight of God's divine majesty.

Bishop McKnight then placed a relic of St. Barbara, a third-century Greek martyr, below the altar top.

The tradition of including relics in altars dates back to when Mass was celebrated above the burial places of martyred Christians in the early Church.

Bishop McKnight poured Oil of Sacred Chrism, which he had consecrated during the Chrism Mass in the week leading up to Easter last year, into the shape of a cross in the marble altar top's center and four corners.

The same oil is used in the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation and to anoint priests and bishops at their ordination.

Bishop McKnight then used his right hand to spread the fragrant oil carefully throughout the entire altar

"Mercifully accept our pe-"" the hishop titions, O Lord," the bishop prayed, "through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the Saints, so that this altar may be a place where the great mysteries of salvation are accomplished and where your people offer you gifts, make known their desires, pour out their prayers, and bring forth every sentiment of worship and devotion."

He then burned a large quantity of incense in a brazier on top of the altar, filling the church with white, aromatic smoke.

Mr. Neisen and his wife, Jennifer, then reverently wiped down the altar and set the new altar linens in place.

Bishop McKnight and Fr. Nzabonimpa then stood at the altar and called upon God to consecrate unleavened bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ.

#### Here to eternity

Darren Neisen was thinking about his son and also his late father while making the new altar.

Dale Neisen moved to Ew-

More photos from this event will be posted in The Catholic Missourian's online edition, cathmo. com. Select "Photo Galleries" from the "Multimedia" tab on the menu bar.

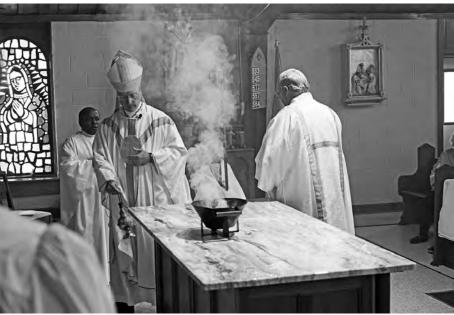
Queen of Peace parishioner for the rest of his life.

"He passed away 12 years ago, and I wanted to do something to dedicate to his memory," said Darren.

Darren had built the side altars that hold votive candles and statues of the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph 17 vears ago.

"So, I wanted to keep the design for the main altar the same, with the arches and the pillars," he said.

"We talked to the parish council about it," he stated. "Everybody was in favor of it. So, I drew something up, and



Bishop W. Shawn McKnight incenses the newly consecrated altar in Queen of Peace Church in Ewing. Photo by Jay Nies

we sent in the drawing to the bishop to get it all approved before I built it."

The marble altar top came from a company in St. Louis.

He noted that cherrywood is easier to work with than oak, "and the grain is absolutely beautiful.'

It also darkens over time, "so a year from now, it's probably going to be a couple of shades darker, which will match the rest of the woodwork," he said.

He used a lathe to handturn six pillars for the front of the altar, to complement the six candles that are set upon the altar for Mass.

The cross on the front of the altar is also cherrywood, but with a somewhat different grain, so it stands

Six men carried the marble altar top into church, ing in 1979 and became a and four carried the wooden

> "Altogether, it weighs about 700 pounds," said Darren.

He pointed out that people often leave something to their parish after they die.

"I wanted to be able to do something for the Church and be able to be here to enjoy it and see everybody else enjoy it," he said.

### A look back

The people gathered after Mass for a celebratory meal in the parish hall.

The event stirred many memories for lifelong Queen of Peace parishioner William Kroeger.

His father helped build the previous Queen of Peace Church in 1918.

"When he was in France during World War I," Mr. Kroeger recalled, "292 men in his company got caught behind the railroad tracks, and the Germans kept shooting.

"Out of those 292 men, 13 came back," said Mr. Kroeger. "My Dad was one of them."

The younger Mr. Kroeger helped build the current church.

"I worked in the basement, doing the concrete, setting in the concrete after it was poured, so it would fill out the forms," he said.

He also worked for the lumber yard where the knotty cedar planks for the walls and ceiling were purchased.

"I unloaded carloads of that particular red cedar paneling," he said.

Another long-time parishioner reminisced about the summer of 1957, when the parish's annual picnic was about to get rained out.

"They moved everything – games, tables, everything into the new church. It wasn't finished yet, and we still had the picnic there," he recalled.

"Nothing was moved in there yet," he noted. "Nothing but plywood on the floor."

He said the new altar is a nice addition to the church.

When I started being a server in the old church, everything was far away from the people," he recalled. "You

didn't see the people at all. It was quite a different world."

The ornate reredos from the 1918 church was moved to the back wall of the sanctuary of the current church in 1957 and remains there.

#### A venerable visitor

Queen of Peace Parish traces its beginning to 1887, when a priest offered Mass in a railroad caboose nearby.

The town of Ewing grew up around the original Queen of Peace Church that was built a few years later.

Franciscan priests from Quincy, Illinois, came to offer Mass for several years until a resident pastor was assigned to the parish.

A 1919 article in the Lewis County Journal newspaper included recollections of Emmett Boudreau, who moved to the area in 1884.

He said German Catholics and Irish Catholics didn't always get along well at the beginning.

"When an Irish priest was sent out here, the German people were unhappy, and vice-versa," he recalled.

One Sunday, the visiting priest from Quincy turned out to be Father Augustus Tolton (1854-98), a former slave from Monroe County who had become the Roman Catholic Church's first recognizably Black priest in the United States.

"Needless to say," Mr. Boudreau recounted, "the congregation was amazed and asked how long he would be coming.'

Fr. Tolton's reply: "Until you settle your differences."

Fr. Tolton, now under serious consideration for being declared a saint, came back to Ewing 1889 to sing the Mass at the laying of the cornerstone for the parish's first church, and ministered there on several other occasions.

Mr. Boudreau said it only took the venerable cleric about two weeks to help parishioners become of one heart and one soul.

### **POPE**

From page 16

on being hospitalized since Feb. 14 with breathing difficulty and a diagnosis of double pneumonia.

In his message, the pope thanked his doctors and all the medical professionals assisting him.

But he also told people, "I feel in my heart the 'blessing' that is hidden within frailty, because it is precisely in these moments that we learn even more to trust in the Lord; at the same time, I thank God for giving me the opportunity to share in body and spirit the condition of so many sick and suffering people."

Pope Francis expressed his

gratitude "for the prayers, which rise up to the Lord from the hearts of so many faithful from many parts of the world: I feel all your affection and closeness and, at this particular time, I feel as if I am 'carried' and supported by all God's people."

The pope assured people he was praying for them, too, and said, "I pray above all for peace. From here, war appears even more absurd. Let us pray for tormented Ukraine, Palestine, Israel, Lebanon, Myanmar, Sudan and Kivu" in eastern Congo.

Giuseppe Perazzo was one of the first to arrive outside the Gemelli hospital for the mid-

day prayer. At the time, hospital security staff were re-arranging the flowers, votive candles and cards people have been leaving for the pope at the foot of the statue.

Perazzo held a big sign encouraging Pope Francis to listen to and obey his doctors.

"He's not just the pope," Perazzo said, "he is also a man like us. He is one of us, so when he is released, I will feel better, too."

A couple from India working in Rome, who identified themselves only as Alice and

MISERAN DO ATQUE ELIGEN DO

Tommy, said, "Today we have the day off, so we came to pray for the pope. He is a great person."

Miguel Nascimento, an older gentleman wearing a large cross around his neck, stood tall as he recited the rosary for Pope Francis.

Pope Francis's Coat of Arms is depicted in a stained-glass window in the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City.

"I am here because I am a believer," he said. "I used to be an altar server when I was a boy in Cape Verde."

As people were praying at the hospital, Matteo Bruni, director of Vatican press office, confirmed that Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Vatican secretary of state, and Archbishop Ed-

gar Peña Parra, the substitute for general affairs in the secretariat, had paid their second visit to the pope in the hospital.

Cardinal Konrad Krajewski, prefect of the Dicastery for the Service of Charity, was scheduled to lead the rosary for Pope Francis in St. Peter's Square.



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### **ASHES**

#### From page 1

opens people up to a deeper relationship with God.

"These are ways that we begin to prepare for Easter, to celebrate Christ's resurrection," Fr. Doke stated. "And that's important for us, because if we don't prepare ourselves for it, we could totally miss it and it won't be important to us."

Catholics take up these practices year after year in Lent, with the intent of growing closer and closer to God.

The Scripture readings for the day give clear guidance.

In the reading from the Book of Joel, God's prophet tells his Chosen People to "Rend your hearts, not your garments."

Fr. Doke noted that to rend means to tear apart, and that when people in Biblical times were angry or very upset about something, they would tear their garments as a sign of mourning.

"And Jesus tells us, 'Don't give us a show," the priest explained. "He says, 'It's not about changing what people can see on the outside. It's about changing what's in your heart.'

"And that's what we do during Lent," said Fr. Doke. "We change our hearts. We grow closer and closer to Christ."

He pointed out that receiving the Body of Christ in the Eucharist provides a glimpse

of what's significant about Easter, about Jesus freely giving up his life and then rising from the dead.

"And it's through the Eucharist that he gives us the knowledge and the grace to recognize the things in our lives that we need to change to grow closer to him," he said.

Fr. Doke blessed the small bowls of ashes that had been made from burning dried-up palms from past Palm Sundays.

"O God," he prayed, "who are moved by acts of humility and respond with forgive-

Father Jason Doke preaches the homily at Mass on Ash Wednesday in St. Martin Church in St. Martins.

ness to works of penance, lend your merciful ear to our prayers and in your kindness pour out the grace of your blessing on your servants who are marked with these ashes, that, as they follow the Lenten observances, they may be worthy to come with minds made pure to celebrate the Paschal Mystery of your Son."

Everyone in church then came forward to have ashes traced in the shape of a cross on their forehead by Fr. Doke or one of the deacons who assisted him.

To each person, they said "Repent and

believe in the Gospel" or "Remember that you are dust and unto dust you shall return."

The ashes are a symbol of each person's inevitable death due to sin, as well as a heartfelt desire to do penance and turn away from sin.

### **OCIA**

### From page 3

see the mystery which is made present in the visible signs of our faith," Bishop McKnight wrote.

"Christian initiation is not merely a transaction but an opportunity for an entire community to enter more deeply into the mystery of God's eternal love," he stated further.

### Time to prepare

Fr. Merz has been meeting with the leaders of the diocesan Offices of Evangelization and Faith Formation and Religious Education to help develop resources and guidance toward implementing the new OCIA in this diocese.

This Lent, the new texts are to be used in all rites for the OCIA in this diocese.

Workshops and formation opportunities will be provided this fall and next spring to clergy and lay leadership to present the updated vision for Christian Initiation.

"What the bishop wants is for us to put together a real process to form the formators — priests included — so that we can all do this process well," said Fr. Merz.

Next year, parish and deanery leaders will create plans for implementing the new vision for OCIA collaboratively, with support and resources from the diocese.

Parishes will begin planning

for a year-round process of invitation, formation and mystagogy for the catechumenate.

Each of the diocese's five deaneries will create plans for collaboration among parishes to make the best use of resources for the various stages of initiation.

"It would be a great opportunity for three or four or five neighboring parishes to collaborate on the OCIA," said Fr. Merz.

"Maybe some leaders in one parish can take the lead on the evangelization part," he said. "Leaders in another parish could take on the catechesis. One could take the lead on mystagogia."

He said there's something powerful about catechumens from one parish traveling to another for some of their formation.

"Because, then you get a sense of the universal Church, which is bigger than my parish," said Fr. Merz. "And sometimes, that sense of making a pilgrimage, even a little one to a neighboring parish, brings with it a sense of importance and a call to conversion."

### "Most important thing"

Fr. Merz clarified the difference between an order and a rite.

"An order refers to the way the Church goes about making disciples," he said. "A rite is a liturgical action that is a part of that order — the rituals that go into making disciples.

"The order is bigger than just the rite," he stated. "Because there are lots of things that happen outside of liturgical rituals that go into making a disciple.

"So, with the OCIA, you have the whole order, the whole instruction, the whole process, and within that process, there are certain rites," he said.

Fr. Merz pointed out that the goal of OCIA is to help people "form a whole-Christ mindset."

"That's what St. Paul says in Philippians 2: 'Have the mind of Christ,' and in Romans 12, 'Be transformed by the renewal of your mind," he noted. "The renewal of your mind means being formed into the mind of Christ — thinking as Christ thinks as opposed to what the world thinks."

Fr. Merz likened the revised catechumenate portion of the OCIA to "boot camp" for aspiring Catholics.

"Because we're all born under the dominion of Satan and in an increasingly secular culture, we need to detox all of that and break it down and form an intense community that can then establish a new identity in Christ," he said.

#### More than worth it

Fr. Merz is certain that the benefits of the revised OCIA will be well worth any extra time and effort.

"Coming to know Christ is the most important thing you can do in your life," he said. "And it will be the most joyful thing you can experience. It will transform everything about your life.

"And something that life-changing requires a big process, a big effort," he said. "We take it seriously and we want everyone to take it seriously."

He was quick to point out that all of this isn't just "more hoops for people to jump through" before receiving the Sacraments they desire.

"We're not saying it has to be a many-years-long process," he said. "But, at the same time, we want it to be a lifelong process — a process of learning, experiencing and taking delight in the eternal mysteries through which salvation is given.

"Because we love Christ, and we want heaven to be full!" he said. "We want this world to be transformed. Because we love truth, goodness and beauty."

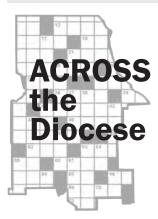


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### By Father Donald Antweiler ACROSS

- At the time of Jesus, most areas of non-arable lands were set aside for shepherding. Although these areas were dry, different kinds of \_\_\_\_\_ grew in abundance.
- 6. Sheep were valuable but \_\_\_\_ animals; they required constant vigilance.
- 13. Mother of Timothy (2 Timothy 1:5).
- 15. "Yesterday is dead, tomorrow hasn't \_\_\_\_\_ yet. I have just one day, today, and I'm going to be happy in it," \_\_\_ Groucho Marx.
- 16. Letters for Northern Ireland, where St. Patrick is buried.
- 17. There are seven parishes/chapels/missions in our diocese named for the Sacred \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus (e.g., parishes in Columbia, Rich Fountain and Eldon).
- 19. He had several identifications (\_\_\_\_) in his wallet (e.g., driver's license, insurance card, SSN, etc.).
- 20. January in Madrid.
- 23. Companion to OT.
- 24. "...it is no harm to bark, if one stops there, and does not bite, and it is no harm to be an \_\_\_\_\_, if one is content to bray and not kick," \_\_\_Personal Recollections of Joan of Arc, by Mark Twain.
- 26. The life of a shepherd was a hard one. Although some \_\_\_\_ were small, numerous shepherds cared for as many as 1,000 sheep no small task. And, most of the year, the fields were hot during the day and quite chilly at night.
- 28. Letters for Salvation Army; a Protestant Christian church and charitable org. founded in London in 1865; focus: bringing salvation esp. to the poor and destitute; 1.7 million members, present in 133 countries; offshoot of Methodism.
- 29. "Farewell, my dear child, and pray for me, and I shall

- for you and all your friends that \_\_\_\_ may merrily meet in heaven," —St. Thomas More in his last letter to his daughter before his death.
- 31. \_\_\_\_-GYN.
- 33. Laugh out loud, in text.
- 34. Sheep could easily saunter off and be killed by a wolf, bear, lion, hyena, panther or \_\_\_\_\_. Shepherds often had to fight directly with these predators.
- 36. Although shepherds provided a valuable \_\_\_\_ for the community (e.g. meat, wool, animals for sacrifice), they could not keep the many detailed religious ritual laws and were accordingly looked down on.
- 38. "The shadow of death is little more than twilight for those who look on it \_\_\_\_ the light of the Lamb," Hugh Benson in *Literary Converts*, by Joseph Pearce.
- 39. "You are our letter...written not in \_\_\_\_ but by the Spirit of the living God..." (2 Corinthians 3:3).
- 40. "(They say) the American boy is not capable of hate... but you can't have \_\_\_\_ killed without hating the men who did it," —*Up Front*, by Bill Mauldin.
- 44. "The only \_\_\_\_\_ that is not for sale is character," —talk at a religious retreat by Antonin Scalia.
- 47. "And then you may turn Catholic against Protestant and Protestant against Protestant and try to \_\_\_\_\_ your own religion upon the mind of man," —from "Inherit the Wind," a 1955 play based on the 1925 Scopes trial.
- 48. Letters for Extended Play, a musical recording with more tracks than a single but fewer than an album; esp. important format for a new artist.
- 49. Japanese money.
- 50. Original 12-step group.
- 51. "Thanking you is what I want to do now, the last thing I want to say, the \_\_\_\_\_, as it were, on the cake," —Pope Francis, Sports Field of St. Mary's School, Nairobi, Kenya.
- 52. "That is why the Son of Man is lord even of the \_\_\_\_\_," (Mark 2:28).
- 54. Assets minus liabilities equals your \_\_\_\_ worth.
- 56. Stomach muscle.
- 57. "We remember the fish we used to eat without cost

- in Egypt, and the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the \_\_\_\_\_, and the garlic," (Numbers 11:5).
- 62. Besides tending the sheep in the field and battling off predators, shepherds also had to take care of sick sheep, \_\_\_\_\_ sheep, and newborn lambs.
- 66. "The President reportedly enjoyed the play so much that he sent a note back\_\_\_\_ offering an interview with the leading performer (John Wilkes Booth), who ducked the request," —Lincoln's Sanctuary, Abraham Lincoln and the Soldiers' Home, by Matthew Pinsker.
- 67. "The U.S. gov't. founded in 1789 had been little more than a centralized coordinating body; in 1862, it began to exercise \_\_\_\_ power," Ways and Means, Lincoln and His Cabinet and the Financing of the Civil War, by Roger Lowenstein.
- 68. Water, in Paris.
- 70. Letters for District Attorney, important prosecutor in the criminal justice system.
- 71. The Granite State; home of Mt. Washington, said to have the worst, most dangerous weather in the world holds world wind record of 231 m.p.h. (abbr.).
- 72. Shepherding in Israel was a hard life that came with very little \_\_\_\_\_ standing.
- 77. "In the local militia, the command came, 'Fall in,' but small groups which were chatting together did not let themselves be disturbed \_\_\_\_ all in their conversation by this command," —Longer Than a Man's Lifetime in Missouri, by German immigrant Gert Goebel.
- 79. Letters for Saint Louis University, oldest univ. west of the Mississippi (established in 1818); second oldest Jesuit univ. in the entire country; in mid-town St. Louis.
- 81. My uncle got very claustrophobic if he couldn't get \_\_\_ \_\_ seat in a movie theater or on an airplane (2 wds.).
- 82. For shepherds in Israel, family life was a rather \_\_\_\_ thing; they were close to home only during the cool winter months.
- 83. Letters for Rheumatoid Arthritis.
- 84. Newsman Bradley or actor Asner.

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#### **DOWN**

- . "In contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, \_\_\_\_, faithfulness..." (Galatians 5:22).
- 2. "Those who want to be rich are falling...into many foolish and harmful desires, which plunge them into \_\_\_\_ and destruction," (1 Timothy 6:9).
- In medical diagnoses, letters for Anorexia Nervosa, an eating disorder.
   "Laudato \_\_\_\_\_\_" (Italian for
- "Laudato \_\_\_\_\_" (Italian for "Praise be to You"); Pope Francis's 2015 encyclical on the environment.
- 5. Shepherds in Israel had to live out on the land a great deal, in outlying areas. As a result, they had little \_\_\_\_ and lacked the refinements of those living in towns and villages.
- 6. No nonsense English dictator Oliver Cromwell reportedly told his portrait painter to depict him with all his imperfections, "\_\_\_\_ and all."
- 7. "The key to the executioner's \_\_\_\_ is not how hard they whip a man but the effort with which they yank the whip's metal and bone-flected tendrils away from the flesh after each blow. This is when the primary damage is done," —*Killing Jesus*, by Bill O'Reilly.
- 8. 52 wks.
- 9. \_\_\_\_-Fi; wireless fidelity; use of radio waves to connect devices to the internet.
- 10. Car rental company.

- 11. Mo. has more than 20 species of oak trees. While \_\_\_\_ oaks and black oaks abound, white oaks are the banner species. This popular, attractive, long-lived shade tree has forested Mo. for 300 years.
- 12. Letters after the name of a dentist.
- 14. Wide shoe size.
- 18. Though he was released, he had to wear a court-ordered \_\_\_\_ monitor to keep track of his movements.
- 21. 6th letter.
- 22. In education, letters for Reading Level.
- 24. A King of Judah who was a Godly reformer (see 2 Chronicles 15).
- 25. A pouch within an animal or plant often containing a fluid.
- 27. "...I say to you, the \_\_\_\_ will not crow before you deny me three times," (John 13:38).
- 29. In order to be able to get some sleep while out in the fields, shepherds would often corral their sheep together in sheepfolds or fenced off areas to prevent them from \_\_\_\_\_ off.
- 30. First part of the name of Israel's airline.
- 32. "Stephen Gardiner was a man over sixty before he learned the lesson which all ultimately learnt that there can \_\_\_\_ no Catholicism without the Pope," —*Characters of the Reformation*, by Hilaire Belloc.

CLUES continued on page 21

### **CLUES**

### From page 20

- 34. One of the world's earliest settlements, continuous back to 9,000 B.C.; first city captured by the Israelites after their exodus from Egypt (see Joshua 6).
- "I know that they would have had me throw the treasure into the Thames rather than let it go to kith or \_ of Sholto or Morstan," -The Sign of Four, by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.
- 37. Letters for Vehicle Identification Number on your car.
- 40. Fee-Fi-\_\_\_-Fum.
- 41. Informal for "to some extend;" "somewhat;" proximate" (e.g., How old are you? Forty\_
- 42. Summer on the Seine.
- 43. "He studied the cliff the way a \_\_\_\_ would, assessing the odds in a no-win situation," — The Bourne Treachery, Brian Freeman.
- 45. "In one sense John Vianney was very gentle and very pacific. But \_\_\_\_ was above all things challenging," —The Secret of the Cure of Ars, by Henri Gheon.
- 46. "Always be a first-rate version of yourself \_\_\_ a second-rate version of somebody else," —Judy Garland.
- 47. Letters for Federal Aviation Administration; the part of the Dept. of Transport. that regulates civilian aviation.
- 50. "...you received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry, '\_\_\_\_, Father!" (Romans 8:15).
- 53. In 2014, journalists in Britain exposed the practice of

- 27 hospitals of incinerating aborted and miscarried babies as medical waste to help heat their buildings, 15,500 burned over a twoyr. period. The Gov't. issued an immediate \_\_\_\_ on the practice.
- 54. National Public Radio
- 55. "I will have my revenge \_ I depart this house," —Lord Cornwall in Shakespeare's "King Lear."
- 58. Letters for Nova Scotia, Canada's second smallest Province.
- 59. "We are about to have another visit from some noble -all (who) can't tell his axe from his adze," -Catherine and the Sybil, by Sharan Newman.
- 60. "Jonah went no further toward home than the desert where he had encountered God's voice," — Jonah, by Ellen Gunderson Traylor.
- 61. Dir. from St. Peter parish in Marshall to St. Peter parish in Jeff City.
- 63. Mo. State law prohibits -bottled beverages on Mo. streams in easily tipped vessels such as canoes, kayaks, float tubes, etc.
- 64. The OT prophet (abbr.) after Ezra.
- 65. A Teaching Asst. (\_\_\_\_) is typically a grad student who helps a prof with instructional responsibilities.
- 69. Letters for United States Navy.
- 71. "How I became Catholic is a treasured memory that

- began when I bought a bingo ticket from a \_\_\_\_. How Catholic is that?" —Jan McCarthy in "Why I Love Being Catholic"; Dynamic Catholic.
- 73. Rowboat propulsion.
- 74. "We can't follow the money because it was paid through \_, in a foreign country. We'd have more chance of finding Bigfoot," —The Secret, by Lee Child and Andrew Child.
- 75. "At supper in Owain's hall there was good food and plenteous mead and and harp music of the best," —Summer of the Danes, by Ellis Peters.
- 76. "In 1936, a citizen-\_ group put on the ballot an amendment to Mo.'s constitution to create a Mo. Conservation Commission The voters approved it by one of the largest margins of any amendment ever passed in the State.
- "Time cannot go on to infinity precisely because it is time and not eternity; \_\_\_ it had a beginning so it must have an ending," — The End of the World? A New Look at an Old Belief, by Reginald Stackhouse.
- 78. Tea, in Tijuana.
- \_\_, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me," (Malachi 3:1).
- 81. The second part of the name of Israel's airline.

See ANSWERS, page 23

### Founder says sober St. Patrick's Day puts saint at center of celebrations

#### **New York**

An annual celebration of St. Patrick's Day is looking to recenter the observance on Ireland's patron saint, and the spiritual strength that enabled him to live life fully and freely.

While the March 17 feast day has long been an occasion for vaguely themed celebrations of Irish culture, with alcoholic drinks figuring prominently in the mix, Bill Reilly, founder of Sober St. Patrick's Day, has been working to change that for well over a decade.

Now in its 14th year, the 2025 Sober St. Patrick's Day gathering, which follows New York City's iconic parade in honor of the saint, will take place March 17 at the Church of Our Saviour in the city's Murray Hill neighborhood, part of the Archdiocese of New York.

The fifth-century saint's life story and profound faith, which led to him to become the apostle of Ireland, speaks to the soul, said Reilly.

In particular, St. Patrick's forgiveness of those who enslaved him as a teen helped spread the faith throughout the Emerald Isle, he said.

Another aspect of the saint's legacy that Reilly's celebration highlights is the bond among

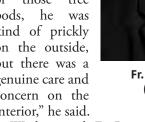
"It's the notion of the communal," he explained. "It's really about the interrelationship among human beings.

"That sense of great craic" — an Irish word for "fun" — "and that sense of great community is really at the core of what happens at our event," he said.

### FR. PENN

seminarian and as a brother priest as one who genuinely loved the Lord, loved being a priest and loved his brother priests."

"Just like one of those tree pods, he was kind of prickly on the outside, but there was a genuine care and concern on the interior," he said.



Working with Fr. Penn and diocesan Masses and celebrations of the sacraments helped Fr. Secrist recognize Fr. Penn's gift for "winging it." "Whether it was at ordina-

tions or at the Chrism Mass or all those diocesan ceremonies that Fr. Penn and I worked, it was always that sense of, 'Hey, we have to keep going, and sometimes you have to improvise," said Fr. Secrist. "If someone gets sick or something breaks, you just figure out how to keep going."

Fr. Secrist believes that's how Fr. Penn lived his life and Priesthood.

"I don't know if part of that came from his previous life experiences, but no matter what has come apart or what has been handed to you, you just have to pick it up and offer your very best to the Lord," said Fr. Secrist. "Imperfections included."

Fr. Secrist said Fr. Penn tended to mitigate his sometimes-brutal honesty with a well-timed sense of humor.

"He had a manner of expressing true realities in life that weren't always neatly packaged," said Fr. Secrist.

### "He prayed for us"

In the midst of his own battle with illness, Fr. Penn administered the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick to people in need of it on the World Day of the Sick in 2023.

He noted in his homily that the sacrament bestows a gift and distinct vocation on the people who receive it, and it is meant to be shared with everyone in the Church.

"This anointing is setting YOU aside for a sacred pur-



Fr. Michael Penn (1957-2025)

pose," Fr. Penn preached that day. "And the purpose is this: to unite yourselves in a more special and a perfect more way with the suffering, the death and the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

"When you receive this Sacrament, because

you are seriously sick, you are set aside to experience the healing love and comfort of God, the Father, as Jesus experienced during his passion and during his death," he said.

Fr. Penn was undergoing treatment and hoping to return to parish work in February of this year when it was found that his cancer had spread ex-

With his friends and care team, he decided to enter hospice and comfort care. Bishop McKnight expressed his sincere gratitude for the parishioners in Taos and at Lake Ozark, as well as diocesan Wellness Coordinator Danielle Freie, for caring for Fr. Penn during this

"I know how important it was for him to have this goal to get better, so that he could come back to you," Bishop McKnight told the people of Our Lady of the Lake Parish at the visitation service there. "Know that he very much loved you and enjoyed being your pastor."

Fr. Niekamp said it will be easy to pray for the repose of the soul of his friend, Fr. Penn, "because he prayed for us."

Bishop McKnight called to mind Fr. Penn's passion for the sainthood cause of Venerable Father Augustus Tolton (1854-97), a Missouri native who went from slavery to becoming the Roman Catholic Church's first recognizably Black priest in the United States.

"We can only imagine where he has gone now and what he has seen, and where he has helped lead the way for us," the bishop stated.

Fr. Penn was buried at St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery in

### **Fundraisers & Social Events**

Mar. 7

Eldon, K of C fish fry, 5-7 pm, Eldon Catholic Center: Fulton, K of C fish fry, 4-7 pm, St. Peter School gym; Hannibal, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm; Holts Summit, K of C fish fry, 4-7 pm, St. Andrew Parish's Veit Hall; Jefferson City, Bishop McAuliffe K of C/Boy Scout Troop 104 fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph's Cana Hall; Linn, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, St. George Parish; Morrison, Assumption Parish fish fry, 4:30-7:30 pm; Owensville, Immaculate Conception Parish fish fry, 3:30-6:30 pm; Russellville, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, St. Michael Parish Hall; St. James, K of C fish fry, 4:30-6:30 pm; Taos, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7:30 pm; Tipton, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7:30 pm: Versailles, St. Philip Benizi Parish fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, church basement; Warsaw, K of C fish fry, 4-7 pm

#### Mar. 9

St. Thomas, St. Thomas the Apostle Parish country ham & sausage breakfast, 8-11:30

### Mar. 14

California, K of C and Ladies Altar Society fish fry, 4-6:30 pm, Annunciation church basement: Chamois, Most Pure Heart of Mary Parish seafood buffet, 4-7:30 pm, parish hall; Eldon, K of C fish fry, 5-7 pm, Eldon Catholic Center; Fayette, K of C fish fry, 5-7 pm, St. Joseph Parish Hall; Hannibal, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm; Holts Summit, K of C fish fry, 4-7 pm, St. Andrew Parish's Veit Hall; Owensville, Immac-

ulate Conception Parish fish fry, 3:30-6:30 pm; Rich Fountain, Sacred Heart Parish fish fry, 4:30-7:30 pm, school cafeteria; St. James, K of C fish fry, 4:30-6:30 pm; St. Martins, St. Martin Parish fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, school gym; St. Thomas, K of C

fish fry, 4:30pm; Taos, K of C fish frv. 4:30-7:30 pm; Sedalia, K of C fish fry, 4-7:30 pm; Warsaw, K of C fish fry, 4-7 pm

St. Philip Benizi Parish fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, church basement; Wardsville, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, Wardsville/Osage Bend Community Center; Warsaw, K of C fish fry, 4-7 pm

### **Faith Formation &** Spiritual Renewal

**Every Tuesday** 

Jefferson City, "Tuesday With Faith," small group discussions, 6:30-8 pm, Immaculate Con-

To get your event listed here and the diocesan calendar AND/OR to request advertising, go to:

### **DIOJEFFCITY.ORG/EVENT-LISTING**

#### Mar. 16

Bonnots Mill, St. Louis of France Parish chicken dinner, noon-6 pm; Starkenburg, Church of the Risen Savior Parish men's organization breakfast, 7-11 am, Valentine Hall

#### Mar. 17

Mexico, St. Brendan Parish corned beef & cabbage dinner, 4:30-7:30 pm

#### Mar. 21

Columbia, Sacred Heart K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School; Eldon, K of C fish fry, 5-7 pm, Eldon Catholic Center; Fulton, K of C fish fry, 4-7 pm, St. Peter School gym; Hannibal, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm; Holts Summit, K of C fish fry, 4-7 pm, St. Andrew Parish's Veit Hall; Jefferson City, Bishop McAuliffe K of C/Boy Scout Troop 104 fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph's Cana Hall; Owensville, Immaculate Conception Parish fish fry, 3:30-6:30 pm; Russellville, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, St. Michael Parish Hall; St. Elizabeth, K of C fish fry, 4-7 pm; St. James, K of C fish fry, 4:30-6:30 pm; Versailles,

### **Meetings &** Conferences

**Every Tuesday** 

Divorced Jefferson City, Catholics group, 6:30-8 pm, Immaculate Conception Parish's Emmaus Room

**Every Wednesday & Saturday** Jefferson City, 12-Step Meetings, 7-8 pm, Immaculate Conception Parish's Emmaus

#### Mar. 9

Camdenton, Ultreya for Cursillo, 2-4 pm, St. Anthony Parish

### Mar. 13

Camdenton, "Catholics Returning Home" meeting, 6:30-8 pm, St. Anthony Parish Education Building; Jefferson City, "Seasons of Hope," grief support group meeting, 6:15 pm, St. Peter Parish

#### Mar. 20

Camdenton, "Catholics Returning Home" meeting, 6:30-8 pm, St. Anthony Parish Education Building

### Mar. 25

Jefferson City, Vitae Foundation's Don & Ruth Ann Schnieders annual pro-life event, with keynote Seth Dillon, luncheon & program noon-1:30 pm, dinner program 6:30-9 pm, Capitol Plaza Hotel, for info or to register, visit vitae foundation.org/events

8 pm, St. Anthony Parish Edu-

#### Mar. 31 & Apr. 1

Parish activity building

ception Parish's Pleus Hall, for info, call 573-645-2478 or email jimkemna@gmail.com

#### **Every Friday**

**Jefferson City**, Centering Prayer Group, 2-3 pm, Emmaus Room, Immaculate Conception Parish

#### Mar. 9

Jefferson City, Diocesan Rite of Election, 3-5 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph

### Mar. 14-15

Jefferson City, "Living in the Trinity with Mary" marriage retreat led by the Marianist Retreat Center presenters, Cathedral of St. Joseph, to register visit diojeffcity.org/ marriage-retreat

#### Mar. 16

Krakow, Lenten Mission with Tony Melendez, 1-4 pm, St. Gertrude Parish

### Mar. 21-23

Conception, MO, Encountering Christ silent retreat for women, for info visit concep tionabbey.org/guests/up coming-retreats

#### Mar. 22

Jefferson City, "A Taste of Silence...Finding Quiet in Our Lives," morning retreat led by Fr. Matthew Flatley, 8-10:45 am, with Mass, fellowship, Scripture exploration and reflection

#### Mar. 23

Wardsville, "HerStory" women's day of reflection, hosted by Arise Women's Ministry of Jefferson City, 1-:430 pm, St. Stanislaus/St. Margaret Community Center, for info or to register visit tinyurl.com/3vz rwbd8 or email registerarise event@gmail.com

#### Mar. 28-30

Florissant, RENEW retreat for Catholic singles, Pallottine Renewal Center, for info or to register visit RenewRetreats.

org, email renewretreat.stl@ gmail.com or call 314-703-1002

### Liturgical

#### Mar. 7

Columbia, Mary's Way of the Cross, sponsored by Mid-Missouri Cursillo, 7-8 pm, Our Lady of Lourdes Church

#### Mar. 9

Jefferson City, Diocesan Rite of Election, 3-5 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph

#### Mar. 11

Starkenburg, Second Tuesday Mass, with the Sacrament of Reconciliation at 11 am, Rosary 11:40 am, Angelus and Mass at noon, Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows, followed by luncheon in Valentine Hall

#### Mar. 28-29

Laurie, 24 Hours for the Lord in the Jubilee Year of Hope, opening Mass Fri. 9 am, Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament, closing Mass Sat. 9 am, St. Patrick Parish's St. Michael Chapel, for info visit mothersshrine.com

### Youth & **Young Adults**

First Wednesdays each month Jefferson City, Rooted/Connected/Searching in Community young adult group, 5-8 pm, Immaculate Conception Parish's Pleus Hall, for info visit icangels.com/youngadults

### Jun. 8-12

Union, MO, Camp Lolek Session 1 for junior high boys, for info or to register visit diojeff city.org/youth-ministry

### Jun. 15-19

Union, MO, Camp Lolek Session 2 for junior high girls, for info or to register visit diojeff city.org/youth-ministry

### Jul. 13-18

Camdenton, Camp Maccabee Session 1 for high school boys, for info or to register visit diojeffcity.org/youth-ministry; Shelbina, Camp Siena Session 1 for high school girls, for info or to register visit diojeffcity. org/youth-ministry

### Jul. 20-25

Camdenton, Camp Siena Session 2 for high school girls, for info or to register visit diojeff city.org/youth-ministry; Shelbina, Camp Maccabee Session 2 for high school boys, for info or to register visit diojeff city.org/youth-ministry

### Vatican decree on 19th-century doctor's canonization leaves Venezuelans rejoicing

**OSV News** 

### Caracas, Venezuela

Venezuelans celebrated with Masses and processions Feb. 26 after Pope Francis approved the canonization of Blessed José Gregorio Hernández, a revered 19th-century doctor known for his medical innovations and devotion to the poor.

He will be the Caribbean nation's first saint.

Blessed José Gregorio, who founded Venezuela's first bacteriology lab, dedicated his life to providing free consultations to the needy.

He was beatified in 2021 after

a girl's miraculous recovery from a gunshot wound in 2017 was attributed to his intercession.

Blessed José Gregorio's sainthood, long awaited by Venezuelans, recognizes his exceptional service to humanity and faith.

While the exact canonization date is still pending, the announcement was met with joy in Caracas, where Massgoers celebrated with fireworks and patriotic songs.

Father Gregory Lobo, a Caracas priest, led a procession to celebrate the news of Blessed José Gregorio's accession to sainthood.

#### Mar. 27

Camdenton, "Catholics Returning Home" meeting, 6:30cation Building

Columbia, "Signs From God: Miracles and Their Meaning,' presentation by Tim Francis, 6:30 pm each evening (same presentation), Sacred Heart To submit items for the PEOPLE PAGE, including **Baptisms**, **Birthdays** for ages 90 and older, **Anniversaries** of 10+ years in increments of 5 ONLY (e.g., 15, 25, 45 years, etc.), **Marriages**, **Deaths**, **Elections**, **Honors and Appointments**, please go to:

diojeffcity.org/update-information

### **Anniversaries**

Boonville, Ss. Peter & Paul Randy & Lauralyn Fry, 40 years Harry & Esther Enderle, 25 years Josh & Danielle Lorentz, 10 years Sam & Brooke Smith, 10 years

**Dixon, St. Theresa** Gene & Phyllis Nelson, 65 years

Jefferson City, Cathedral of St. Joseph Michael & Anita Stansfield, 40 years

Jefferson City, St. Peter Lawrence & Anna Mae Redel, 60 years

Palmyra, St. Joseph Frank & Connie Burch, 45 years Chuck & Susan Chamber, 35 years

Wien, St. Mary of the Angels Ches & Peggy Niemeier, 65 years

### **Baptisms**

Mary's Home, Our Lady of Snows — **Bennett Daniel Kirkweg,** son of Logan & Brittany Kirkweg

Salisbury, St. Joseph — Ty "Oliver" Hinkle, son of Kyle Hinkle & Shelby Clark; Rhyse Marie Schieni, daughter of Whitney Schieni

Wardsville, St. Stanislaus — Porter Alan Buschjost, son of Justin & Cassidy Buschjost; Wyatt David Vanderfeltz, son of Justin & Madison Vanderfeltz

Westphalia, St. Joseph — **Josephine Marie Cox**, daughter of Dustin & Lisa Cox

### **Deaths**

Columbia, Our Lady of Lourdes — David Bemboom

Eldon, Sacred Heart — Bonnie Talbott; Pauline Whitten

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception — Bernard J. Groner; Mary Alice Thater

Lake Ozark, Our Lady of the Lake — Margaret Ziegler

Westphalia, St. Joseph — Patrick Steele

### **QUESTION**

From page 8

XVI) wrote in a 2003 letter from the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith: "Mustum, which is grape juice that is either fresh or preserved by methods that suspend its fermentation without altering its nature (for example, freezing), is valid matter for the celebration of the Eucharist."

So, if the "non-alcoholic church wine" your church supply company is offering is actually mustum, it would be valid matter for the Eucharist. Anything else would be invalid matter and therefore should be avoided.

Jenna Marie Cooper, who holds a licentiate in canon law, is a consecrated virgin and a canonist whose column appears weekly at OSV News. Send your questions to CatholicQA@osv.com.

### **CAPECCHI**

From page 9

Dr. Kennedy's final point resonated the most. She applied the approach to adults. Would you like your boss to simply say "good job" after a strong month of sales or would you prefer an open-ended question inquiring about what had worked well that month? Imagine visiting a friend's house who just redecorated. "I love it! Good job!" initially sounds positive but ends the conversation. How much more fun would it be for your friend to hear: "I love it! How did you choose that paint color?" There's likely a story about that paint color, and an open-ended question shakes it out in a way that a straightforward compliment never will.

Suddenly, a question like that, posed with genuine interest, struck me not only as an effective reporter's tool but as an innately Catholic response.

As Catholics, we believe in the inherent dignity of each person. Everyone, all walks of life, made in the image and likeness of God. This is a bedrock belief.

What we do with that belief is the interesting part — where we can exercise creativity and boost confidence. How we can make a difference.

When we ask about someone's process or uncover their thinking, we dignify them. We tell them they are worthwhile. We aren't tossing out a quick compliment and moving on. We're getting to know them better — and, perhaps, helping them recognize something in themselves.

Listening is indistinguishable from loving. It works with your child, your cashier, your great aunt and your barista. A tilt of the head, a twinkle in the eye and a three-word request: "Tell me more."

### **MARY**

From page 8

This canticle expresses the attitudes of praise, gratitude and humility that are at the heart of all authentic prayer to God. St. Paul VI speaks of Mary as "the virgin in prayer" who "praises the Lord unceasingly and intercedes for the salvation of the world" ("Marialis Cultus," No. 18). As our spiritual mother, Mary not only teaches us how to pray, but she prays for us "now and at the hour of our death."

In the Gospel of Luke, Simeon told Mary that her heart would be pierced so that "the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed" (Luke 2:35). This prophecy was fulfilled during Christ's passion when Mary stood beneath the cross witnessing her Son's crucifixion (John 19:25-27). Vatican II tells us that Mary "faithfully persevered in her union with her Son unto the cross, where she stood, in keeping with the divine plan, grieving exceedingly with her only begotten Son, uniting herself with a maternal heart with His sacrifice, and lovingly consenting to the immolation of this Victim which she herself had brought forth" ("Lumen Gentium," No. 58).

Lent, along with the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, Sept. 15, is also a special time for venerating Mary as our sorrowful mother. This is done in the Stations of the Cross, which often includes the singing of parts of the medieval hymn the "Stabat Mater," whose most memorable verses are: "At the cross her station keeping, Stood the

mournful Mother weeping, Close to Jesus to the last. Through her heart, his sorrow sharing, All his bitter anguish bearing, Now at length the sword had pass'd. Oh, how sad and sore distress'd. Was that mother highly blest, Of the sole-begotten One!"

Because Lent points to Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil, Mary as Our Lady of Sorrows assumes particular importance. But even under the cross, Mary remains a teacher and a model. She shows how all of the faithful, like her, can unite their sufferings to the passion of Christ for the redemption of the world.

Mary's "unique contribution to the Gospel of suffering" (described by St. John Paul II in "Salvific Doloris") shows us that suffering is not meaningless. Lent is a special time to remember the sorrows of Mary and to join ourselves to her in offering her divine Son "in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world" (Chaplet of Divine Mercy).

There is no better companion for the journey of Lent than Mary. As she leads us closer to Jesus, she will serve — as we pray in the "Salve Regina" — "our life, our sweetness, and our hope."

Robert Fastiggi, Ph.D., is a professor of systematic theology at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit. He is former president of the Mariological Society of America.

### Walk alongside the Sorrowful Mother

While the Stations of the Cross are well known, there is the parallel pious exercise known as the "Via Matris" or "way of Mary."

This devotion centers on the seven sorrows (or dolors) of Mary, which have a sure Scriptural foundation: 1. The prophecy of Simeon (Luke 2:34–35); 2. The flight into Egypt (Mattew 2:13): 3. The loss of Jesus in the Temple (Luke 2:43–45); 4. The meeting of Jesus and Mary on the way to Calvary (Luke 23:27); 5. The crucifixion of Jesus (John 19:25); 6. The descent of Jesus from the cross (Matthew 27: 57–59); and 7. The burial of Jesus (John 19: 40–42).

The Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy, issued by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments in 2002, states that the "Via Matris" harmonizes

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well "with certain themes that are proper to the Lenten season." It also notes that the "Via Matris" provides "stages on the journey of faith and sorrow on which the Virgin Mary has preceded the Church, and in which the Church journeys until the end of time."

### 

### Young people in Martinsburg 'let the good times roll'





The St. Joseph Catholic Youth Organization in Martinsburg met March 2 for a Mardi Gras celebration. They learned about the history of Mardi Gras and tried some traditional New Orleans food — green beans, shrimp boil, red beans and rice, and King Cake. Layne Rohan and Rylan Arens were the recipients of the royalty coins hidden in the king cakes. Father Derek Hooper, parochial administrator of the Martinsburg and Vandalia parishes and the Laddonia mission, talked to the group about the importance of Lent and taking the time for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The young people wrote down their own expectations for Lent and put them in a fire pit at the end of the session.

— Photos by Patty Fennewald

### Playing with donated food



One of the teams of students in grades kindergarten through 12 at Sacred Heart School in Sedalia gather around their entry in a schoolwide contest for creating the most creative displays of food collected during this year's Catholic Schools Week food drive to support Open Door Food Pantry. The students collected 1,467 pounds of food for Open Door — 1,142 pounds of canned goods and 325 pounds of boxed cereal.

— Photo from the Sacred Heart School, Sedalia, MO Facebook page

### "Give them something to eat"



Students of Ss. Peter and Paul School in Boonville display the 690 items totaling 699 pounds of food that the students and staff donated to the local food pantry during Catholic Schools Week.

— Photo from the Ss. Peter and Paul Catholic School Facebook page

### A visit to the Capitol

Sixth-graders from St. Peter School in Jefferson City gather for a photo with Governor Mike Kehoe and Missouri Capitol Police Chief Zim Schwartze and other members of the Capitol Police, after presenting baskets of treats to them Feb. 2 in appreciation of Missouri law enforcement

— Photo from the Missouri Capitol Police Facebook page



### **Bible** Accent

One of the synagogues in which Jesus taught was in his hometown of Nazareth.

In Luke 4:16, we read that one day, Jesus was in the Nazareth synagogue on the Sabbath. He read aloud a passage from Isaiah:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord."

"Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing," Jesus said.

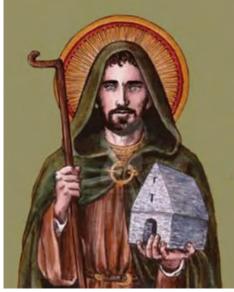
"Isn't this the son of Joseph?" the people in the synagogue asked each other.

"Amen, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own native place," Jesus said. "Indeed, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah when the sky was closed for three and a half years and a severe famine spread over the entire land. It was to none of these that Elijah was sent, but only to a widow in Zarephath in the land of Sidon. Again, there were many lepers in Israel during the time of Elisha the prophet; yet not one of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian."

The people were infuriated by Jesus' words and drove him out of town.

### St. Enda

According to legend, St. Enda (d 530) was an Irishman who asked his brother-in-law, who was a king, for some land on the Aran Islands. Enda founded a religious community and built a monastery and smaller houses on the land. To test his followers for sinfulness, it is said that he would place each one in a



wicker canoe that was not watertight. If the boat stayed afloat in the water when the person was in it, the person was considered to be free from sin. St. Enda is credited with starting monasticism in Ireland, and we honor him on March 21.

### The devil tries but fails to tempt Jesus

By Jennifer Ficcaglia Catholic Courier

After Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River, he was filled with the Holy Spirit.

Afterward, the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the desert for 40 days. Jesus did not eat anything while he was in the desert, and he was hungry at the end of his time there.

At the end of the 40 days, Jesus was tempted by the devil. The devil knew Jesus was hungry, so he decided to tempt Jesus using food.

"If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread," the devil said to Jesus.

But Jesus was not so easily tempted. He refused to turn the stone into bread.

"It is written, 'One does not live on bread alone,'" Jesus replied.

The devil didn't give up.

He took Jesus up to a high place and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a single instant.

"I shall give to you all this power and glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I may give it to whomever I wish," the devil said. "All this will be yours, if you worship me."

Jesus was not tempted by the devil's offer of power and glory.

"It is written, 'You shall worship the Lord, your God, and him alone shall you serve," Jesus said.

Then the devil led Jesus to Jerusalem and made him stand on the Temple's parapet, which is a low wall or railing at the edge of a roof.



"If you are the Son of God," the devil said, "throw yourself down from here, for it is written: 'He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you,' and: 'With their hands they will support you, lest you dash your foot against a stone."

"It also says," Jesus replied, 'You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test."

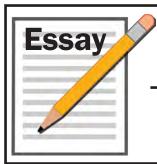
When the devil had finished every temptation, he departed from Jesus for a time.

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Holy Spirit, and news of him spread throughout the whole region.

Jesus began to teach in the synagogues, and he was praised by all.

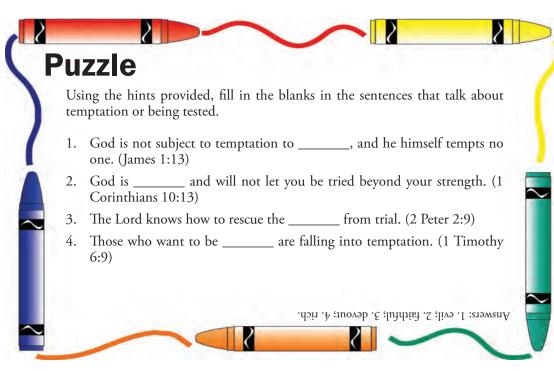
### Read more about it... Luke 4

- 1. Who led Jesus into the desert?
- 2. How many ways did the devil try to tempt Jesus?



Reading for March 9, 2025: Luke 4:1-13

Describe a time when you resisted temptation.





### **Biblical Tales Old and New**

By Kurt Jensen **OSV News** 

Vintage biblical sprout like daffodils during Lent, which began with Ash Wednesday on March 5.

But one of the most visible of those re-blooming buds over the years, Cecil B. DeMille's 1956 "The Ten Commandments," is taking Easter weekend off this year. It's still available on streaming platforms after being an ABC-TV staple of Holy Week and Passover for more than half a century, beginning in 1973.

The acting is over the top, but that's the fun. Who wants to see nuance from Yul Brynner as Ramses II, Charlton Heston as Moses, Anne Baxter as Nefertari, and Edward G. Robinson as Dathan snarling, "Where's your Messiah now?"

Classic! Quotable! And when Heston spreads his arms wide to part the thundering Red Sea what more could you want?

### **Up-close and personal**

Like "The Ten Commandments," Scripture-based epics with big-name actors are mostly a thing of the past — think Gregory Peck and Susan Hayward in in 1951's "David and Bathsheba" and Victor Mature

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and Hedy Lamarr in 1949's "Samson and Delilah" as well as Jeffrey Hunter as Jesus in 1961's "King of Kings."

One of the last big-screen attempts, Richard Gere in "King David" in 1985, was a notorious bomb. Mel Gibson's 2004 "The Passion of the Christ" inspired many but also stirred controversy.

Yet the TV series "The Chosen," with Jonathan Roumie as Jesus, has been a long-running success since its 2017 pilot and first season two years later. The newest episodes, dealing with the Last Supper, will have a three-part theatrical release beginning March 28.

Two other new productions downplay epic elements to focus on intimate narratives. They also take on the challenge of inserting non-biblical elements to flesh out the scriptural accounts.

The directors of both "House of David," a miniseries on Amazon Prime that became available on Feb. 27, and "The Last Supper" (Pinnacle Peak), in theaters beginning March 14, put great effort into making their settings realistic and developing three-dimensional characterizations.

Mauro Borrelli, an Ital-

ian Catholic and former altar server, began to paint at age 7, instructed by a monk, and studied classical painting at the Academy of Fine Arts in Venice. His art design for movies has included "Batman Forever" (1995) and Tim Burton's "Planet of the Apes" in 2001.

His recreation of events surrounding the Last Supper, a gathering of such significance that it's described in all four Gospels, has Jamie Ward as Jesus, Robert Knepper as Judas and James Oliver Wheatley as St. Peter.

Of the script, co-written with John Collins, Borrelli told OSV News, "I don't know that you can really improve Scripture, but you could add something.'

He enjoyed filling in spare details: "What did these people eat? Who served? I wanted to be accurate. I didn't want it to be an interpretation."

The film is told from the standpoint of Peter who, in a moment of weakness, denied ever knowing Jesus.

"As a human being, we can't always think that we're strong," Borrelli commented.

As for the portrayal of Jesus, "I wanted to keep him on a pedestal. I didn't want to humanize him too much," he

Having Jesus manifest "a spiritual aura all the time," Borrelli thought, kept the story faithful to the Gospel narratives.

Judas "is much weaker" than Peter, he observed, "and sensitive, intelligent. But he

### **Movie Ratings**



Paddington in Peru (PG)



Dog Man (PG)



Back in Action (PG-13) Captain America: Brave New World (PG-13) Flight Risk (R) I'm Still Here (PG-13) Last Breath (PG-13) Love Hurts (R) You're Cordially Invited (R)



Heart Eyes (R) The Monkey (R)

Ratings are supplied by OSV News Service.

was being targeted by Satan." Peter "overcomes his struggle, but Judas does not."

Reflecting on the institution of the Eucharist, Borrelli commented, "'This is my body, this is my blood.' You hear it (at Mass) all the time. But so familiar, It loses its meaning, you know?"

So he felt he had to make a direct connection in the script. By doing so, he gained a new insight into the meaning of Jesus' words.

"Jesus' blood now is replacing that lamb's blood (of Passover). Here Jesus came to pay all the debts (for human sin) with his sacrifice. I never really realized that before. A payment for the full debt. It was a revelation for me."

### **Sticks and stones**

The story of David, the shepherd boy and future king of Israel who slew the Philistine giant Goliath, takes up only one chapter of the First Book of Samuel. Its staying power is built on David's strong faith while Goliath is not only taunting David but also flouting God's authority.

David, a country lad and unheralded warrior, needed only one stone in his sling to kill the giant. The story is so familiar that it's often regarded as material most easily appreciated by children — almost all of whom can likely relate to the tale of an underdog standing up to a mocking bully.

There have been three film versions, notably one from 1960 in which Orson Welles played King Saul, David's father-in-law who united the Hebrew tribes into a single nation, as sort of a hammy King Lear.

It's one of the Bible stories that makes an easy transition to film, with a substantial cast, prophecies, kings, hardcharging desert battle scenes with javelins and shields, and the "six cubits and a span," i.e., nine-foot, nine-inch, Goliath of Gath — terrifying to Saul and his army, but not to David.

Michael Iskander, of late a cast member of the Broadway musical "Kimberly Akimbo," is the brooding David anointed by the prophet Samuel (Stephen Lang). Israeli actor Ali Suliman is Saul and sixfoot, eight-inch bodybuilder-turned-actor Martyn Ford, through special effects, towers even higher as Goliath.

See BIBLICAL, page 27



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### 3 months into reopening, Notre Dame witnesses record crowds, confessions

By Caroline de Sury OSV News

A mere three months after Notre Dame Cathedral reopened, some Catholics in France worry the massive influx of tourists has overshadowed its religious essence.

But the auxiliary bishop of Paris told OSV News it's the opposite — with a large flow of people, more strangers are exposed to the Catholic faith, with their hearts touched by God's presence in renovated interiors.

With 29,000 visitors a day, up from 23,500 a day before the fire in 2019, Notre Dame's guest rates are comparable to those of the Louvre Museum, even though the museum's surface area is considerably larger.

Auxiliary Bishop Emmanuel Tois of Paris, whose office is just about 60 feet from the cathedral, told OSV News that the number of tourists flooding the cathedral doesn't bother him. It's a chance to meet the Lord, he said.

Bishop Tois said that the rector and chaplains of Notre Dame often circulate among the visitors in the aisles of the cathedral. "And they are regularly approached by people who ask for explanations, and who sometimes explicitly ask them how they can be baptized."

Bishop Tois often celebrates Mass at Notre Dame himself, and regularly goes there on Saturday mornings to hear confessions.

"People come to me for confession even if

they had not thought of it when they walked in," he recounted. "Some tell me it is the first time they have been to confession in 40 years! Others are not baptized and know nothing about faith. But they come and sit next to me and ask me lots of questions," he said of the conversion power of the place.

"They have come to visit a historic place, which had to be seen, given its notoriety. But in the course of the visit, they are surprised by metaphysical questions that sometimes touch explicitly on faith," Bishop Tois said.

When asked about criticism by Alain-Marc Plasman in the French Catholic paper La Croix that the cathedral "locked in its status as a monument ... loses its primary function," Bishop Tois said that "Notre Dame has been offering visitors works that speak of God for 900 years, and that intrigues them."

He explained that "visits do not stop during Masses and liturgical services. Visitors are interested in what is going on. They are respectful. They lower their voices and watch. They see that this heritage has been handed down and is still alive today. Many are impressed."

"The cathedral is always full, whatever the time, and it is true that when you enter it, you can be surprised by the noise and tourist bustle there," Bishop Tois told OSV News. "It is also true that many visitors are moved by the aesthetic beauty of the cathedral, just as one might be when visiting a fine museum."

### RAGTIME -

From page 11

"I have a good memory for some things but not for other things!" he acknowledged.

He didn't learn to play by ear like some keyboard wizards.

"I took piano lessons from very good teachers for many years," he said.

He performed for them a rollicking version of W.C. Handy's "St. Louis Blues," after which that city's NHL hockey team is named.

Sacred Heart was one of the last schools in Sedalia Mr. Swanson got to visit as an artist in residence.

"It's been a very interesting experience for me to try to figure out how to explain this music to young children basically getting back to the basics.'

He noticed how well behaved and attentive his audience of young Gremlins were.

"I'm very impressed, and they seemed to love it," he said.

For those who get bitten by the ragtime bug, he suggested

attending concerts and listening to recordings of the music.

Some might want to take up piano themselves.

piano lessons, which maybe isn't as much fun," he said. "But if you find a good teacher with an open mind, they might "And I had to take classical let you do some ragtime, too!"

### BIBLICAL

From page 26

The series avoids anything that can be described as a reference to contemporary Middle East politics and stays focused on one boy's challenge.

Showrunner Jon Irwin, who co-directed with Jon Gunn, told OSV News he regards the biblical David as similar to the fictional Luke Skywalker, Frodo Baggins and Harry Potter all of them underestimated before they were heroes. Early on, David is told, "You have the heart of a lion."

Quite a bit of attention went into Goliath's appearance, Irwin said. "What would a giant have to look like to have an army frozen in fear for 40 days?" he asked. Fortunately, he said, Ford's appearance 'really is unbeatable.'

Close consideration also was paid to the sling and the stone, in order to make it believable that such a weapon was all it took to kill Goliath. A specialist in ancient warfare was called in to make sure the stone was flung with enough realistic force so that it "embedded itself in his brow, and he fell on his face to the ground" (1 Sam-

Irwin, an Alabama Protestant who has co-directed other faith-based fare, including 2020's "I Still Believe" and "Jesus Revolution" (2023), said he had "wanted to tell this story since I was 16 years old"

Lk. 4:1-13 Monday, Mar 10 Lv. 19:1-2, 11-18 Ps. 19:8, 9, 10, 15

<u>Sunday, Mar 9</u> FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Tuesday, Mar 11

Mt. 25:31-46

Dt. 26:4-10

Rom. 10:8-13

Ps. 91:1-2, 10-15

Is. 55:10-11 Ps. 34:4-7, 16-19 Mt. 6:7-15

Wednesday, Mar 12

Jon. 3:1-10 Ps. 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19 Lk. 11:29-32

Thursday, Mar 13

Est. C:12, 14-16, 23-25 Ps. 138:1-3, 7c-8 Mt. 7:7-12

Friday, Mar 14

Ez. 18:21-28 Ps. 130:1-8 Mt. 5:20-26

Saturday, Mar 15

Dt. 26:16-19 Ps. 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8 Mt. 5:43-48

> The Holy Father's prayer intentions for March:

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

**Daily Readings** 

SECOND SU SUNDAY OF **LENT** Gn. 15:5-12, 17-18 Ps. 27:1, 7-9, 13-14 Phil. 3:17-4:1 or 3:20-4:1 Lk. 9:28b-36

Monday, Mar 17

St. Patrick, bishop Dn. 9:4b-10 Ps. 79:8-9, 11, 13 Lk. 6:36-38

Tuesday, Mar 18

St. Cyril of Jerusalem, bishop and doctor of the Church Is. 1:10, 16-20 Ps. 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23 Mt. 23:1-12

Wednesday, Mar 19 ST. JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16 Ps. 89:2-5, 27, 29 Rom. 4:13, 16-18, 22 Mt. 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk. 2:41-51a

Thursday, Mar 20

Jer. 17:5-10 Psalm 1:1-4, 6 Lk. 16:19-31

Friday, Mar 21

Gn. 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a Ps. 105:16-21 Mt. 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday, Mar 22

Mi. 7:14-15, 18-20 Ps. 103:1-4, 9-12 Lk. 15:1-3, 11-32



when, during a family trip to the Holy Land, he visited King David's tomb in Jerusalem.

The production, financed by Amazon MGM Studios, has the resources "to really do it justice." He calls it "a testament" to earlier biblical epics, but not one that owes anything to other film versions of the David and Goliath story: After all, "There's not really a definitive (screen) version of that event."

Like most scriptural tales, the passage in First Samuel is a spare account, requiring some elaboration and a lot of non-biblical dialogue. Irwin said the goal was to "do the story that justified the events that are on the page. It's a love letter to the source material."

He points out that the psalms of the mature David are the most relatable words you've ever seen. A man wrestling with himself and his feelings, frustrations and regret."

Kurt Jensen is a guest reviewer for OSV News.



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### Arise Women's Ministry of JCMO Presents A Women's Spiritual Day of Reflection HerStory

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Doors open at 12:30pm



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and God's ways are perfect. **RUTH** Step out in faith and trust God to bring beauty from life's challenges.

asked of him." **ESTHER** God grants us the courage to do the right thing.

HANNAH "May the God of Israel grant me what I have

MARY

"Do what He tells you to do."

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Get tickets online by Mon. March 17 at eventbrite.com, search for "HerStory -- Arise Women's Ministry." For questions please contact LeAnn at 573-690-2882 or Mary at 573-690-5284.

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