

ST. CATHERINE CHURCH

www.saintcatherine51.org 5101 West Center Street, Milwaukee, WI 53210

Happily Ever After

“Happily, ever after” until death do them part is the dream for every couple when they get married. For some, the dream comes true; others end up with a painful divorce. The site, *lawyer.com*, *divorce statistics survey in Religion and Divorce* states: “If you’re an evangelical Christian adult who has been married, there’s a 26 percent likelihood that you’ve been divorced—compared to a 28 percent chance for Catholics and a 38 percent chance for non-Christians.”

You may wonder what happens to their first love and the vows the couple made. Many times when I meet with people who are struggling with their marriages, I ask them to go back and reflect on their marriage vows. “I, N., take you, N., for my lawful husband/wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish until death do us part” (Order of Celebrating Matrimony). On their wedding day, the couple is so excited about the ceremony that they may not reflect on the significance of their vows. When faced with difficulties, they are not able to persevere.

Today’s first reading from the book of Genesis states, “The LORD God said, ‘It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a suitable partner for him.’” From the beginning, God instituted marriage between man and woman and gave them authority to go and multiply. All of us are products of that union. The institution of marriage has become so challenging today, but so it was in Jesus’ time, as we hear in today’s Gospel: “The Pharisees approached Jesus and asked, ‘Is it lawful for a husband to divorce his wife?’” They were testing Jesus, but he never missed an opportunity to teach them. They said Moses permitted divorce, which he did because of their selfish interests, but Jesus told them, “But from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female inseparable.”

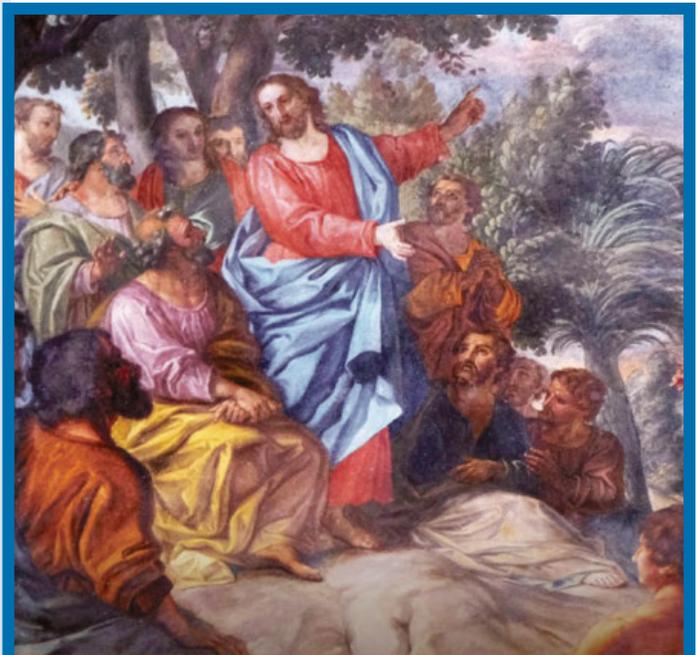
It doesn’t mean one should live in an abusive marriage that calls for a divorce, but this should happen after exhausting all possible avenues for restoring the marriage. One of the things that confuses people is the difference between annulment and divorce. A divorce is a legal matter. It is a declaration by the state that a marriage is ended. The Church does not grant divorce to end a marriage. The Church may grant an annulment after a marriage has broken up. It’s a statement that, after a serious investigation by the Church authorities, a couple is not obligated to each other under God because there was something seriously lacking in their commitment from the beginning.

As Christians, it is our duty to pray for all those who have divorced and their children, rather than judging them. It had been their wish to live happily ever after. Let us continue praying for all married couples and especially those struggling with their marriages and those who have gone through painful divorce.

Fr. Peter Patrick

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the vital and spiritual presence
of the Catholic Church
in Sherman Park and beyond.
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we welcome, learn, serve and celebrate.*



27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

He said to them in reply, “What did Moses command you?” They replied, “Moses permitted a husband to write a bill of divorce and dismiss her.” But Jesus told them, “Because of the hardness of your hearts he wrote you this commandment. But from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female.” - Mk 10:3-6

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCC.

GLP

Member of the Milwaukee Westside Catholic Parishes
with Saint Sebastian



Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 3, 2021

Parish Office ... 445-5115 ... Fax 445-5198
 9:00 am - 12:00 pm, Monday - Friday
 secretary@saintcatherine.org - ppkimani@saintcatherine.org
 cpoth@saintcatherine.org
 St. Sebastian Office ... 453-1061

Parish Staff

Rev. Peter Patrick Kimani, *Pastor*
 Ralph & Jane Kornburger, *Deacon Couple*
 Jon Metz, *Adult & Young Adult Formation Minister*
 Margaret Lee, *Youth Minister and Human Concerns*
 Joe Sheehan & Morgan Frank, *Child Formation Ministers*
 Doug Scott, *Music Director*
 Carole Poth, *Director of Administration and Operations*
 Joann Perleberg, *Director of Finances*
 Sister Pat Russell, *Parish Office Assistant*

Parish School 445-2846 Fax 445-0448
 Jade Cottrell, *Principal* Office Open 7:30 am - 3:30 pm

Parish Trustees

Toni Wagner, *Secretary* - Mary Brooks, *Treasurer*

Pastoral Council

Kathy Kent, James Napper, Lisette Quintanilla, Brenda Scharping, Bill Thorn, Becky Troy, June Wessa

The Week Ahead

Sunday, October 3	9:00 am Mass (Church)
	8:45 am Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (School Atrium)
Monday, October 4	5:00 pm St. Francis Animal Blessing (Playground)
	7:00 pm Pastoral Council (Virtual)
Tuesday, October 5	8:30 am Communion Service (C)
	9:00 am Alpha Program (FKCC)
	6:00 pm Alpha Program (St. Seb)
Friday, October 8	8:30 am Communion Service (C)
Saturday, October 9	9:00 am Trail Exper. Garden Club
	9:00 am Food Pantry (FKCC)
Sunday, October 10	9:00 am Mass (Church)

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Begins Today

Level 1 Catechesis of the Good Shepherd classes begin today at 8:45 am. If you know of any parents who are considering this Montessori-based faith formation for their young children, please invite them to contact the parish office to register.

Donations to Catholic Stewardship Appeal. . .

may still be submitted this week. Please donate to this yearly appeal that supports parishes, evangelization, religious formation and parish leadership.

St. Joseph Consecration Day & Holy Hour

Pope Francis designated this year, 2021, as "The Year of St. Joseph." A special celebration to honor St. Joseph, hosted by Arise MKE and St. Sebastian Parish, will be held at St. Sebastian on Friday, October 22, 7-8 pm. It will include praise and worship music, Eucharistic adoration, prayer and benediction.

Regular Contributions thru 9/26/21 - Week 13	\$39,174
Prior YTD Amount	<u>40,095</u>
Surplus/Deficit vs. Prior Year	\$ (1,321)

Mass Intentions & Scripture Readings

Sunday, October 3 Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am † Charles Thunander (Dolores Thunander)
 Gn 2:18-24/Ps 128:1-6/Heb 2:9-11/Mk 10:2-16

Monday, October 4 St. Francis of Assisi

8:30 am Communion Service at St. Sebastian
 Jon 1:1—2:2, 11/Jon 2:3-5, 8/Lk 10:25-37

Tuesday, October 5 St. Francis Xavier Seelos

8:30 am Communion Service
 Jon 3:1-10/Ps 130:1b-4ab, 7-8/Lk 10:38-42

Wednesday, October 6 St. Bruno; Bl. Marie Rose Durocher

8:15 am School Mass at St. Sebastian
 Jon 4:1-11/Ps 86:3-6, 9-10/Lk 11:1-4

Thursday, October 7 Our Lady of the Rosary

Mal 3:13-20b/Ps 1:1-4 and 6/Lk 11:5-13

Friday, October 8

8:30 am Communion Service

Sunday, October 10 Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am † Wallace & Mary Ann Wessa (Mike and June Wessa)
 Wis 7:7-11/Ps 90:12-17/Heb 4:12-13/Mk 10:17-30

Liturgical Ministers

Sunday, October 3 - Fr. Larry

Lectors Brendan Holahan & Harold Beal
 Acolyte Ron Ranallo

Sunday, October 10 - Fr. Herda

Lectors Mary Miller, Eliana Melendes
 Acolyte Mary Brooks

Reflections on this Sunday's Readings

Let me say a few words about relationships. Relationships are really important. Catholic Social Teaching tells us that God created people as social beings. The absence of this has been especially felt during COVID. This social aspect of life call us to a responsibility to care for one another and to engage and participate in our community. As humans, we do this in a special and intentional way in our intimate relationships. Our relationships are great gifts from God. They provide us companionship, comfort, stability and joy. God wants only the best for us. God wants us to be happy.

I know that today's gospel can be difficult, even hurtful, to some of us as Jesus addresses the topic of divorce. Statistics tell us that half of all marriages today end in divorce. I remember when my parents got divorced when I was in middle school. I was sad and angry. I remember asking my mom about this reading and her response was, "Of course marriage is the ideal. It was what I wanted, and it is what the Church holds up as the ideal, but that does not mean it always works that way." We do have plans and ideals, and it is ok to name those, but life is also just messy. It does not always go according to plan. Our job as people of faith is to lift each other up... especially when plans do not go the way we want or expect. Let us remember each other in the messiness of the human experience and do what we can to support each other, After all, God made us social beings so that we could lift each other up.

- How can you lift up a person who is suffering right now because things didn't go according to plan? - How can we as a Church do better to comfort those who feel alienated?

Pray for Our Sick

Fr. Dick Aiken, Maryl Barrett, Michael Barton, Carol & Joe Brien, Tom Cavanaugh, Annie Coleman, Chuck Cooney, Maureen Crowley, Ellie Cunningham, Barb Haig, Ernest Herre, Carla Jones, James Krutina, Evelyn Martinez, Carmen Napper, Bev Narus, Diane Neicheril, Steve O'Connell, Andréa Olds, Tom Plakut, David Pleskatchek, Ron & Trudy Ranallo, Don Richards, Margaret Schmidt, Sr. Mary Ann Schmidt, Doug Scott, Carmel Stage, Bill Steger, Larry Teufel, Nancy & Eduardo V., Kathy Zambo

School News

Sixth through eighth graders have been provided with Zoom links for high school fairs happening this week. Ms. Smith is set to rejoin the St. Catherine's staff as a 4/5 grade teacher. We welcome her back.

Senior Ministry

"Many years ago, I spent two years working with older adults isolated in the hills and hollers of Appalachia as part of a program, like the Peace Corps or Vista, where people were invited to make a short-term commitment to hopefully improve the lives of people in need. So, I was one of a long line of volunteers serving in this capacity. At the conclusion of my term, I spent a couple weeks visiting and saying good-bye to the people who I had come to know quite well. When I began to explain that this would be my last visit, one particular woman paused for a moment. Then she told me that she had met and become acquainted with several volunteers over the years, and that it was always so hard to see them go away. At one point, she began to wonder if it would have been better if they had never come in the first place. But then she concluded that if I had not come, she would never have had the chance to know me, and she was grateful for that. I learned an important lesson that day. People and opportunities come in and out of our lives throughout the lifespan, often for a very short period of time. We can either choose to resent the fact that they are gone, or we can savor the blessing that we experienced when they were with us."

Robert Best

Sustainability Tip

Buying local, in-season produce means healthier, riper, more environmentally-friendly food while supporting your local farmers and gardeners. Visit a farmers market near you. See: onmilwaukee.com/articles/farmers-markets-guide for hours, locations, safety guidelines and more information.

Facing Racism

As part of our parish's effort to identify and confront racism in our midst, we offer this reflection.

Racism and economic oppression are distinct but interrelated forces which dehumanize our society. Movement toward authentic justice demands a simultaneous attack on both evils." - *US. Catholic Bishops, Brothers and Sisters to US, 1979*

Recovery Groups-All groups meet in the Community Ctr.

AA: Sunday 11:00 am AAA: Thursday 7:00 pm
Tuesday 6:30 pm
Friday 6:30 pm

First Reconciliation Orientation ...

is Sunday, October 10, at 9 am at St. Sebastian or Wednesday, October 13, at 6:15 pm at St. Catherine. Registration packets can be found in the Gathering Area. Contact Joe Sheehan: jsheehan@saintsebs.org/ 453-7150, x122 with any questions.

How Are You Preparing?

As you think about your future, what plans are you making? A new job? A new baby? A move to a larger/smaller home? What are you doing to prepare for that next "stage?" How is God part of those plans? Send your thoughts for *Reflections of Faith* to secretary@saintcatherine.org The deadline is next week.

YOUR Soles for Education Walk

Because of COVID concerns, in this year's Soles for Education Walk, participants will create their own trail. So we have to support our school without the crowd support we enjoyed in the past. Write checks to Soles for Education and put them in the collection or donate online at catholicschoolswalk.org.

The Centennial Committee ...

Is preparing a 2022 Centennial Calendar highlighting events and people in the past and present who have built/are building our faith community. Please submit any photos you may have of past or current events to the rectory so we have a selection from which to choose to include in the calendar. The **September Trivia question** is: What was the "mother church" from which the three parishes that formed Blessed Trinity Parish was "born?" (Their parishioners joined St. Catherine's in 2011.)

The Women of Christ Conference

Catholic Women from over the state will gather on Saturday, November 6, at the Washington County Fair Park, 7 am - 4 pm. Join in this celebration of faith with camaraderie and inspirational speakers. Adoration and reconciliation will be available throughout the day. Mass celebrated by Archbishop Jerome Listekci. Register: at womenofchrist.net/2021



Eucharistic Liturgies are celebrated on Sundays at 9:00 am. Weekday Mass is at 8:30 am in church, T & F; at St. Sebastian, 8:30 am, M & W

For an **Infant's Baptism**, contact the parish office during the prenatal time to begin preparation.

Those discerning a call to **Marriage** should contact the parish office at least six months prior to the wedding date.

For **Non-Infant Baptisms, First Communion, First Reconciliation, Confirmation** and **Information about the Catholic Church**, call the parish office.

Confessions/Reconciliation - Schedule with Fr. Peter Patrick at 445-5115 for an appointment.

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