



# St. Michael

CATHOLIC CHURCH

310 S. Wheaton Avenue, Wheaton, IL 60187

July 2, 2023

**Most Rev. Ronald Hicks, Bishop**

**Rev. Daniel E. Hoehn, Pastor**

**Rev. Jacob Kolawole, Parochial Vicar**

**Deacon Dan Aderholdt**

**Deacon Dan Simmet**

#### PARISH OFFICE

(630) 665-2250 (630) 510-8891 (Fax)

Website [www.stmichaelcommunity.org](http://www.stmichaelcommunity.org)

Email: [churchoffice@stmichaelcommunity.org](mailto:churchoffice@stmichaelcommunity.org)

#### Hours

Monday - Thursday .....8:30 am ~ 4:30 pm

Friday.....8:30 am ~ 1:00 pm

#### SCHOOL OFFICE

(630) 665-1454.....(630) 690-1491 (Fax)

314 W. Willow Ave, Wheaton

#### FAITH CENTER

**Religious Education Office**

(630) 682-3650.....(630) 690-3324 (Fax)

317 W. Willow Ave, Wheaton

#### MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil for Sunday .....5:00pm

Sunday.....7:15am, 9:00am, 10:45am

Monday-Friday.....6:30am, 8:00am

Saturday.....8:00am

Rosary recited after all daily Masses

#### Holy Days of Obligation

Vigil for Holy Day.....5:30pm

Holy Day.....6:30am, 8:00am

12:15pm, 7:00pm

#### ADORATION CHAPEL

Open Daily .....4:00am~10:00pm

Access only with a key fob. Call Parish Office at 630-665-2250 to obtain a key fob.

#### CONFESSIONS

Tuesday.....4:00pm~5:45pm

Saturday.....8:30am~9:30am

Or by appointment



4 TH OF JULY

INDEPENDENCE DAY

God Bless America



On Tuesday of this week we will celebrate our nation's independence. We sing of our great nation as "...the land of the free...", but, interestingly, democracy has in itself no inherent guarantee of freedom. This is how Venerable Bishop Sheen put it:

"The essence of Americanism is not revolution, but the recognition of the sacredness of human personality, and the inherent inalienable rights which every man possesses — independent of the State. That is why, when our country began, our Founding Fathers were most anxious to find some basis for human rights, some foundation of human liberties, some guarantee of human personality which would be above encroachments of tyranny and abuse. But where [does one look to] find the basis for the right of a man to be his own master, captain of his own soul, free in his right to pursue his ultimate end with a free conscience? Where root and ground the right to own property as the extension of personality? Where find the rock of all liberties which would be strong enough to withstand governments and powers and States which would absorb them as the monarchies did then, and as certain dictatorships do now?"

For such a foundation the Fathers looked first to England. There, the theory was advanced that our liberties and rights are rooted in Parliament. This theory they rejected on the ground that if Parliament gives rights and liberties, then the Parliament can take them away.

Next they looked to France, where it was held that the liberties and rights of man are rooted in the will of the majority. The Fathers equally rejected this on the ground that if the rights of man are the gift of the majority, then the majority can take away the rights of the minority.

Where find the source of the liberties and the rights of man? On what stable foundation are they to be reared? What is their source? The answer they gave was the right one. They sought the foundations of man's rights and liberties in something so sacred and so inalienable that no State, Parliament, no dictator, no human power could ever take them away, and so they rooted them in God. As the Declaration of Independence reads: 'All men are endowed by the Creator with certain inalienable rights,' and among them are 'life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.' Note that the word used is 'inalienable'; that means that rights belong to the sacredness of human personality, and are not the gift of the State, or a dictator, either Fascist, Nazi or Communist.

Man has rights and liberties previous to any constitution. And because they are God-derived, and not man-derived, it follows that no State can ever take them away. That is why our government recognizes that the rights of man are broader than the Constitution, as is stated in Amendment 9 of the Constitution: 'The enumeration in the Constitution of certain rights shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.'

In other words, man's right to own private property, man's right to educate his own family, man's right to adore God according to the dictates of his conscience, come not from the Constitution, the government, parliament, nor the will of the majority, but from God. Therefore no power on earth can take them away. This is the essence of Americanism. Now, if the essence of Americanism is the sacredness of human personality as a creature of God, who is doing most to preserve that Americanism? The schools that never mention His name? The universities and colleges that dissolve the Deity into the latest ultimate of physics and biology? The professors who adjust their ethics to suit unethical lives? The answer obviously is that the forces that are building constructive Americanism are those that recognize the existence of God. It is the non-religious schools which are out of the tradition of Americanism: they are on the defensive. In the beginning of our national life, practically all of our schools and colleges were religious schools. It was assumed by our Constitution and by its spirit that they would be religious. The reason was obvious. If human dignity and liberty come from God, then it follows that loss of faith in Him means loss of faith in those liberties which derive from Him. If we wish to keep our forests we must keep our trees; if we wish to keep our perfume we must keep our flowers; if we wish to keep the light we must keep the sun, and if we wish to keep our rights, then we must keep our God. It is just as vain to try to keep triangles without keeping three-sided figures as to try to keep liberty without the spirit which makes man independent of matter and therefore free.

Democracy has within itself no inherent guarantee of freedom; these guarantees are from without. That is why I say our Declaration of Dependence on God is the condition of a Declaration of Independence of Dictatorship."

~Venerable Bishop Fulton

## Weekly Prayer

### Sunday's Readings

#### First Reading:

"I know that Elisha is a holy man of God. Since he visits us often, let us arrange a little room on the roof and furnish it for him with a bed, table, chair, and lamp, so that when he comes to us he can stay there." (2 Kgs 4:9-10)

#### Psalm:

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord. (Ps 89)

#### Second Reading:

Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life. (Rom 6:3-4)

#### Gospel:

"Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me." (Mt 10:40)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

### Observances for the week of July 2, 2023

- Sunday:** 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Monday:** St. Thomas, Apostle
- Tuesday:** Independence Day
- Wednesday:** St. Anthony Zaccaria, Priest; St. Elizabeth of Portugal
- Thursday:** St. Maria Goretti, Virgin and Martyr
- Next Sunday:** 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time



### PRAY THE ANGELUS AND THE ROSARY

Join your fellow parishioners each day at noon in the Marian Grotto to pray the Angelus and Rosary to honor our Blessed Mother.

Feel free to bring a chair, if needed. In inclement weather, the group meets in the Church.

All are welcome.

### POPE FRANCIS' JULY PRAYER INTENTION For a Eucharistic Life

We pray that Catholics may place the celebration of the Eucharist at the heart of their lives, transforming human relationships in a very deep way and opening to the encounter with God and all their brothers and sisters.

### VOCATIONS PRAYER CALENDAR

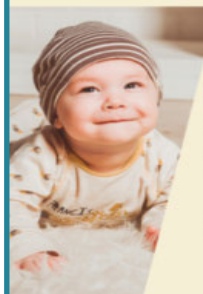
July 2 — July 9

- 7/2 Seminarian Frank Perrotta
- 7/3 Sr. Dorothy Birk OSF  
Sr. Toby Marie Bonny OSF
- 7/4 Sr. Alice Drewek OSF  
Sr. Martha Friedman OSF
- 7/5 Fr. Eusebius Martis OSB
- 7/6 Deacon Patrick Lombardo  
Deacon Jose L. Lopez  
Deacon Marco Lovero  
Deacon Ronald Madsen  
Deacon David Mahoney  
Deacon Frederick Maier
- 7/7 Sr. Colette Murawski PCC
- 7/8 Fr. Robert Basler O.S.A.  
Fr. Thomas Osborne O.S.A.  
Fr. Anthony Pizzo O.S.A.
- 7/9 Seminarian Josh White



### Spiritual Adoption

WEEK 13-15



Your baby already possesses mature taste buds. She can detect strong flavors in the amniotic fluid and will increase her swallowing in response to sweet tastes. Your baby's facial expressions resemble the parents.

# Prayer Ministry

## PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL:

John Adamek	Dale Foreman	Joan Peters
Elaine Adamek	David Fountain	Victoria Holmen
Eleanor Agan	Connor Giles	Peterson
Dan Bates	Brice Grudzien	Vicki Piccolo
Josu Beruete	Giancarlo Herrera	Tony Pisciotta, Sr.
Peg Birt	Robert	Jack Quinn
Steve Blagaich	Hoppenstedt	Ray Reynertson
Marianne Bluhm	Dawn Jacobsen	Rita Richards
Yecenia Bosley	Miki Kern	Margaret Riggs
Brandon "Bubba" Brewster	Barbara Krzyzewski	Mike Sambo
David Brummett	Margaret Kuhn	Steve Schultz
Kathy Brummett	Al Liskey	Anne Marie
Michael B. Calamia	Andja Lozancic	Schneider
Joan Carter	George Lozancic	Tobias Siennetts
Althea G. Dades	Wilma Mabilangan	Ann Smith
DePratt Family	Julia Morrow	Stroner Family
Jack Dshida	Robert Mucerino	Dominic Thomas
Joe Duckworth	Cathy McGuire	Andrew Valadka
Carol Ferri	Fr. Don McLaughlin	Carole Weber
Frank Ferri	Joanne Metoyer	The Wulffe Family
Teresa Fillman	Nancy Mackowiak	Sr. Mary Clarine
Theresa Fogarty	Bernadette	Young, SND
	Nevsimal	Greta Zilch

To inform us of an illness or hospitalization of a parishioner or family member, call the Parish Office at (630) 665-2250 to add or remove a name. Due to privacy laws and family preferences, the names of the sick and the deceased can only be published in the bulletin with specific consent and request of the patient or their immediate family.



**Connie Diemling**

*Eternal Rest grant unto them O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon them, and may the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

## MASS INTENTIONS

### Mass Offered For

### Requested By

#### SUNDAY, July 2

7:15AM St. Michael Parishioners  
 9:00AM + Kathy Schmitt  
 10:45AM + Mary & Denise Piombo

Philip & Maribeth Spittler  
 Mario, Loretta & Carla

#### MONDAY, July 3

6:30AM + Michael Kammes  
 8:00AM + Kris Messitt

John Kammes  
 Rosemary McNeely

#### TUESDAY, July 4

**6:30AM—No Mass  
 No Confessions**

8:00AM For Our Nation

#### WEDNESDAY, July 5

**6:30AM—No Mass**

8:00AM + Charles Marron

Family

#### THURSDAY, July 6

6:30AM + Carmella & Dan DeLeo  
 8:00AM + Pearl Owczarek

Judy Augustine  
 St. Michael  
 Prayer Shawl Group

#### FRIDAY, July 7

6:30AM Coffey Family  
 8:00AM + Joan Cleary

Marge Donovan  
 Challenger Family

#### SATURDAY, July 8

8:00AM + Mildred Koziatek  
 5:00PM + Herb Wehling

Laurie Winter  
 Suzanne Baugnet

#### SUNDAY, July 9

7:15AM + Leon Dudzik  
 9:00AM St. Michael Parishioners  
 10:45AM + Joseph Napoli

Kathy & Bruce Dudzik  
 Michael & Annamarie  
 Boyle

For information regarding recently departed parishioners and others, please consider subscribing to email notifications from local funeral homes.

*W-K* <https://www.williams-kampp.com/obituaries/obituary-listings>

**H** <https://www.hultgrenfh.com>

# Around the Parish

*St. Michael Women's Faith Group*  
**SUMMER BOOK CLUB**

**SAINT JOHN PAUL THE GREAT  
HIS FIVE LOVES  
BY JASON EVERT**

**FRIDAY, JULY 14TH**  
9:30AM to 11:00AM  
Faith Center  
Chapters 9 & 10

**Register Now!**  
**Religious Education  
2023-2024**

Online registration is available through the St. Michael Church website at:  
[www.stmichaelcommunity.org](http://www.stmichaelcommunity.org)

**Questions?**  
Call the RE Office at  
630-682-3650

  
: **LOOKING FOR A JOB?** :  
EXPLORE OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF JOLIET  
VISIT THE WEBSITE OR CLICK BELOW:  
:  
[HTTPS://WWW.DIOJOLIET.ORG/OFFICES/CAREERS](https://www.diojoliet.org/offices/careers)

## Celebrating Vacation Bible School

Thank you to the 165 campers and 120 student volunteers who made VBS 2023 an amazing success!

*Celebrating God's Monumental Greatness*



Learning about Joseph, the famine in Egypt, Jesus, & God's great protection.

Donating 360 items to PRC to help Joseph's people survive the famine in Egypt.

**Save the Date!**

**ST. MICHAEL PARISH ANNUAL PICNIC**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 12TH  
AFTER THE 5PM MASS  
IN THE CHURCH PARKING LOT**

Join your fellow parishioners for plenty of food, drink & fun!

# Around the Parish

St. Michael Parish is inviting  
Persons with Disabilities and their families  
to join a special Mass Celebration



Sunday, July 30, 2023  
9:00 am  
St. Michael Catholic Church  
310 S. Wheaton Avenue  
Wheaton, IL 60187

*Fellowship and refreshments to follow after Mass*

To learn about upcoming events and available resources for Persons with Disabilities and to be included in our diocesan notification list please email: [richowicz@dioceseofjoliet.org](mailto:richowicz@dioceseofjoliet.org)

## Formerly Known as The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)



- \* Are you thinking of becoming Catholic?
- \* Are you a Catholic who has been away from the Church or has never received the Sacrament of Confirmation?
- \* Are you a committed Catholic with a hunger to deepen your understanding of the faith?

The Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA) is the process by which one becomes a fully initiated member of the Catholic Church.

Participants can be those who are unbaptized and have no Christian background, those who were baptized and raised in other Christian communities, or even Catholics who have not completed their Sacraments of Initiation (Confirmation and/or Eucharist).

The process is one of a total conversion of self to the person of Jesus Christ.

Contact Colleen Brodhead at 630-462-5043 or email [cbrodhead@stmichaelcommunity.org](mailto:cbrodhead@stmichaelcommunity.org)

## Back to School Fair

Preparing students from low-income households in DuPage County for a successful new school year!

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2023**  
**11:00AM - 6:00PM**  
**DUPAGE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS**  
**2015 MANCHESTER ROAD, WHEATON**

- Participants will drive thru to receive backpacks and school supplies.
- Online pre-registration is required at [catholiccharitiesjoliet.org](http://catholiccharitiesjoliet.org)

**TO REGISTER FOR THE FAIR:**

If you need help with the online form, please call 630-495-8008.

**DUPAGE COUNTY DENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IS HOSTING A SPECIAL DENTAL CLINIC FOR BACK TO SCHOOL FAIR PARTICIPANTS. CALL 630-682-7400 TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT!**

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet is a faith-based organization providing service to people in need and calling others of good will to do the same.



## Holy Name Society

The Holy Name Society is looking for Dads who are willing to get involved with service to the parish community once a month. We host the parish picnic, the Pasta Dinner, Donut Sundays, the Disabilities Mass, Cougars game and many other events needing manpower.

Most of our Holy Name members have enjoyed working for the parish for decades, and we could use some help from the next generation, to supplement our efforts. Holy Name Societies started in response to the persecution of Catholics by the Ku Klux Klan in the 1920's. We exist to honor the name of Jesus and to serve the parish community at social and religious events.

Please come join us the first Sunday of each month during the school year. We promise not to overwhelm you. Please contact [briandiamond14@yahoo.com](mailto:briandiamond14@yahoo.com)

# Around the Parish

St. Michael Ministry of Pastoral Care offers:

## Holy Communion for the Sick and Homebound

Parishioners who are homebound, in the hospital or a nursing home, find it a comfort and source of healing to have Holy Communion brought to them.



Ministry of Care is one of the oldest ministries of the church. In bringing Communion to the sick and homebound, the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC) represents Christ and demonstrates faith and charity on behalf of St. Michael Parish.

Bringing Holy Communion to the homebound is a rewarding experience for both the Extraordinary Minister and the communicant.

To have someone contact you, please complete the form below and return it to the Parish Office.

.....●.....

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to have Holy Communion brought to me. \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in becoming an EMHC. \_\_\_\_\_

I am already an EMHC and would like to learn more about the Ministry of Care. \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to bring Communion to a friend or family member. \_\_\_\_\_

## Attention Eucharistic Ministers

MarianJoy Hospital is seeking additional Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to join our team of volunteers to distribute Holy Communion to Catholic patients.

Volunteers should be trained and commissioned by St. Michael parish. Those interested must be a practicing Catholic over the age of 16, who have been confirmed.

MarianJoy asks that the volunteers distribute communion one day per week between the hours of noon and 2pm. Currently, MarianJoy is seeking volunteers for any of the following days: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. (Additional training specific to MarianJoy Hospital will be provided by the Staff.)


If interested, please call the Parish Office at 630-665-2250




# Around the Diocese

Adoration - Confession - Praise & Worship - Prayer - Community

# COMMUNIO



Please join us for our next Communion on  
**July 7, 2023**



**Fr. Mark Bernhard**  
Avoiding Burnout

**First Fridays 7-8:30pm**  
St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church in Naperville, IL

# BE FORMED

SEPTEMBER 10 THROUGH DECEMBER 8 2023

- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- Fellowship
- Prayer
- Scripture
- Small Groups
- Weekly content videos to help you gain a deeper understanding of Catholicism

Join a small group and reignite your zeal for living the virtuous life!

USCCB Small Group  
Material will be included as it becomes available

REGISTRATION OPENS JULY 11!

## SEASON 7 EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL

Interested in facilitating a Be Formed Small Group?  
Contact Katie [katie@sijhinsdale.com](mailto:katie@sijhinsdale.com) to have your group added to registration!



**CATHOLIC MAN NIGHT**  
Lincoln-Way

HERE WE ARE: ANSWERING GOD'S CALL IN TODAY'S CULTURE

**AUTHENTIC ITALIAN DINNER PROVIDED**

Hosted by St. Jude's New Lenox in Cooperation with St. Mary's Mokena



**WEDNESDAY, JULY 19TH**  
**ST. JUDE CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
**241 WEST 2ND AVE**  
**NEW LENOX**  
REGISTRATION BEGINS 5:45  
EVENING CONCLUDES 8:15

Featured Speaker:  
Kevin O'Brien  
Founder, Men of Christ

**MEN OF CHRIST JOLIET**



ADORATION - CONFESSION - FOOD - FELLOWSHIP

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO |  | DIOCESE OF JOLIET | 

# QUO VADIS DAYS

Sunday, July 30 – Wednesday, August 2, 2023  
Mundelein Seminary, Mundelein, IL

A 4-day/3-night camp at the Mundelein Seminary. Young men ages 13 to 18 will participate in powerful discussions, outdoor activities, sports, daily Mass and Liturgy of the Hours.

Sunday, July 30 — Wednesday, August 2, 2023  
Mundelein Seminary, Mundelein, IL

Please click on the links below to register and pay early. Spots fill up quickly! If you have any questions, please contact [dcamp@dioceseofjoliet.org](mailto:dcamp@dioceseofjoliet.org).

Thank you so much for giving your son this wonderful opportunity to grown in his faith.

The forms and payment are due in the Vocation Office **no later than Wednesday, July 26, 2023.**

<https://files.constantcontact.com/92b4c919701/8cde039e-3052-4760-bde4-883599c00877.pdf>

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/quo-vadis-2023-tickets-602809448287>



# Parish Support

## Stewardship Report

As of 6/26/23

	June
Offertory Budget	\$140,000
Offertory Actual	\$131,911
Total Over (Under)	<\$ 8,089>

July 2, 2023  
13<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time

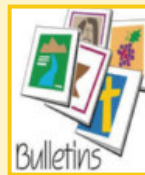
*"...whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me." Matthew 10:38*

Pope Benedict XVI said "The world offers you comfort. But you were not made for comfort, you were made for greatness". "Comfort" puts me first. "Picking up your cross and following Jesus" puts God and others first. Why settle for comfort when you can achieve greatness! Pick up your cross, ask Jesus for guidance on using your gifts and live the life God intended for you!



Thru 6/25/2023	2023	2022	Inc/Dec	2022 (Final)
Goal	\$176,900	\$171,600	\$5,300	\$171,600
Amount Pledged	\$238,584	\$216,997	\$21,587	\$267,594
Amount Paid	\$208,505	\$181,988	\$26,517	\$263,709
Balance Due	\$30,079	\$35,009	(\$4,930)	\$3,885
Donor Count	538	550	-12	626
2023 Rebate	\$22,124			

**PARKING** In an effort to accommodate our seniors and members with special needs, we ask you to refrain from parking in the main parking lot adjacent to the church/school and the parish office parking lot during Church services.



**Never Miss A Bulletin!!**  
Sign up to have our weekly parish bulletin emailed to you at [www.parishesonline.com](http://www.parishesonline.com)



*Donating Made Easier!*

Enroll in WeShare on our website at

<https://www.stmichaelcommunity.org/donate>

or by scanning the QR code with your phone's camera. Tap on the pop up link which will bring you to our website for one-time or recurring online donations to St. Michael Parish.



### Bulletin Submission Deadline & Requirements

July 16th Bulletin Deadline:  
Friday, July 7

Send items to:



[communications@stmichaelcommunity.org](mailto:communications@stmichaelcommunity.org)

Please send content that can be used in a 1/4 and 1/2 page format, as full-page space availability is limited.

## St. Michael Parish

So that we might better serve your needs, please fill out this form and drop it in the collection basket or mail it to us at:

310 S. Wheaton Avenue, Wheaton IL 60187

[www.stmichaelcommunity.org](http://www.stmichaelcommunity.org)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ New Parishioner \_\_\_\_\_ Returning to Parish

New Parishioner Form On Website  
Please complete and return to Parish Office.

\_\_\_\_\_ New Address \_\_\_\_\_ Interested in becoming Catholic

## *This is My Body* by Mark Galli

I remember the day Ted decided I was no longer his friend. We had been best friends for years—biking, baseball, football, playing army, exploring construction sites, swimming at the neighborhood pool, and getting in trouble every month or so for passing notes to one another in class. This friendship is one of my fondest memories of boyhood. And one of the saddest.

One Saturday, I rode my bike to his house and knocked on his door. He opened it, and I asked if he wanted to do something. It was a rare day he turned me down. This day he said he couldn't because he had chores to do. So I turned around and walked back to my bike on the driveway, but thinking that something hadn't seemed right between us for a couple of weeks.

As I was about to leave, another of our friends, David, rode up. He also wanted to see if Ted wanted to do something for the afternoon. I was about to tell him what Ted told me, but I wanted to test a theory. I told David to knock on the door and ask if Ted wanted to do something. I would hide just around the corner to hear what happened. When Ted opened the door, he said, "Has Galli left? Come on in." It was the first time, but not the last, when I was betrayed by a close friend.

Betrayal of friends, colleagues, teammates, and even family is a sad commonplace of life. And if we're honest, sadly we've sometimes been the betrayer.

Some, hoping against hope, find a special relationship they believe will last. And some do last, until death parts them. But that departure grieves one much more deeply than the short term, serial relationships we've seen come and go—as any widow or widower will attest.

Leary of another disappointment with people, some instead do a deep dive into career or hobbies or a cause. Some give themselves to charity work, and even the Church. Anything but trust another person. But disappointments chase them here as well. The career feels like a rat race or simply falls apart. Hobbies lose their luster. Causes come and go.

And then there's the Church. One hardly knows where to begin: church politics can be as nasty as what goes on in Washington D.C. It doesn't take long to see serious signs of hypocrisy among some members. Church splits rend the heart and many a friendship. And for Catholics, there is the

horror story that never goes away. Recently another report came out that detailed the extent of the abuse scandal in our home state of Illinois.

No wonder so many of the faithful put God on hold and refuse to darken the doors of the Church.

Strangely enough, Jesus—knowing very well how broken the Church would become—said he would be with it always, even to the end of the age. And so, in the very center of the broken Church, we see and hear this startling reality: "This is my body, given for you."

Suddenly a thin stream of light breaks in. It doesn't take away the harsh reality of life's disappointments, but this light helps us recognize other startling truths that forestall despair.

This event—the Eucharistic moment—is not dependent on our fluctuating feelings. We are not told that this is Christ's body if we're feeling particularly religious, or if our faith

contains no doubts or questions, or if we're so despondent we hardly have the strength to stand up and walk forward.

*This is my body....* We're dealing with something specific, concrete, and near.

In particular, it is a reference to the bread of the Eucharist, a solid, physical item. Not an idea. Not a truth. Not something vague and intangible, like a feeling or a spiritual experience, but something solid and real that you can see with your eyes and touch with your hands.

It is also an intimate moment. Not *that* bread over there, but *this* bread right here. It's the difference between pointing to someone across the street and saying, "*That* is my best friend," versus introducing the person right next to you with, "*This* is my friend." But Jesus ups the ante by completely identifying with the bread: "*This is my body.*"

The little word *this* opens the door to what the Church has been saying for two millennia, that here, with *this* Bread, we find something, *someone* we can trust in the very midst of broken institutions, failed relationships, and yes, even as we come with fractured hearts, because truth be told, we too are responsible for the great sadness of the world.

*This is the One we can count on, this body, given for us.*

*Mark Galli is a member of St. Michael Parish, Wheaton, Illinois. This is part of an occasional series on the national Church effort called Eucharistic Revival.*



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