

August 15, 2021



CHURCH OF THE
Blessed Sacrament

ALL GENERATIONS WILL CALL ME BLESSED.
- LK 1:48B

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

EXCERPTS FROM THE LECTIONARY FOR MASS ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LPI

2119 Stillwater Ave E St. Paul, MN 55119 651-738-0677 church@blessedsacramentsp.org
Mass Times: Saturday Anticipatory: 4 pm Sunday: 8:30 am & 11:00 am Daily, T-F 8:30am

Church of the Blessed Sacrament

Believing and Rejoicing

One of the most poignant moments in John's Gospel comes from the meeting between Jesus and Thomas the Apostle after the Resurrection. "Doubting Thomas" refused to accept the truth of Jesus' triumphant return until he had physically touched the wounds in His hands and side. In their exchange, we witness Jesus invite Thomas to "put your finger here, and see My hands; and put out your hand, and place it in My side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe."



Although not this week's Gospel reading, connecting moments in Scripture can help the faithful cultivate a more profound understanding from the blessing of, in essence, remembering the rest of the story. St. Elizabeth's words to Mary at the Visitation illustrate the faithful response to God's promises and the markings of true faith. She says of Mary, "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." Words Jesus will echo in His exchange with Thomas 30-plus years later.

Mary believed in God's promise of a Messiah before experiencing the miraculous Resurrection — truly blessed by not needing physical evidence in order to accept the truth. She trusted in the prophecies, in the promises of God, recognizing He is our ultimate salvation. Mary did not allow any obstacles to hinder her faith, and for that, she was blessed and rejoiced.

How easily we can falter to believe, looking for signs and wonders as caveats of believing. Obstacles against seeing and accepting the truth of God's promises fulfilled can mount daily if we fail to view the world with the eyes of a heart willing to see God at work and embrace Jesus' glorious victory over sin, death, and the trouble of this world.

Mary allowed grace to fill every ounce of her being — strengthening her to give a daily 'yes' to follow and believe. Before Jesus even explained to the disciples that the work of God is to believe in the One sent by God — Mary believed. As she stood before Elizabeth with the Fulfillment incubating within her, her Magnificat's bursts forth, "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."

We receive the same promises through the Eucharist; we see these Mysteries unfold with Jesus literally within us every time we receive the Eucharist. The grace that filled every ounce of Mary's being is available to us abundantly; we merely need to ask, accept, and cooperate with it. "Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you" (Matthew 7:7). What keeps us from asking? Although credited as doubting, Jesus did not withhold from St. Thomas what he asked for to help him believe.

Mary reminds us that God "has mercy on those who fear Him in every generation." Believing without seeing, however difficult, is not impossible. God would never ask the impossible. He is a loving God that works the impossible within us through cooperation

with grace. No one exemplifies the powerful results of allowing ourselves to be filled with the grace of God more than the Blessed Virgin Mary. May we turn to her intercession, especially today, so we too may be counted among the blessed who have not seen and yet believe.

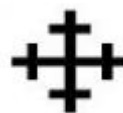
Allison Gingras

THANK YOU!

We received this beautiful thank you note from NET ministries founder and president after our parishioners made a generous donation. "Thank you and the good people at Blessed Sacrament for your generous gift. I was raised in my faith at Blessed Sacrament. My mom is still an active member. It is very meaningful for me to have your support!" Mark Berchem, NET Ministries

E TEAM

As an E-Team member, I make monthly reminder calls to our prayer warriors who have committed to Pray for the Pastor Daily for two months out of each year. At times I only reach a voicemail and leave a thank you message from Father Benny for their powerful past prayers along with the reminder they will begin their next month soon. Other times I have a chance to chat with one of our parishioners.



Recently I was privileged to talk with one of the original parishioners of Saint Thomas the Apostle Church. She and her family attended the very first Mass on October 17, 1954 in the basement of the local hardware store a few blocks down on Stillwater Avenue. Her vivid memory of that event, over 66 years ago, was so special. At St. Thomas the Apostle's first Mass her husband, whose name was Thomas, was asked to serve as an usher. Their son, Thomas Jr. was baptized by the celebrant and Pastor Thomas Robertson. She cherishes that day and many other memories this community has shared with her and her family. I learned she doesn't drive anymore so isn't able to "come back" and join us at Mass.

She did not need my call to remind her to pray! While we talked I was able to assist her with the opportunity to have her family added to the petitions for that week's Healing Mass and ideally filled a small part of a lonely day. Let's all consider the blessings we will receive by reaching out to an isolated neighbor, relative or fellow parishioner and to remember them in your prayers. *Maureen*

Healing God, we pray especially who those who are isolated, that they may know your love. Stay by their side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow. Amen.

WEBSITE UPDATES


The best way to know what's going on at your parish is to come to Mass. Listen to announcements, see promotional displays, and pray and talk with your fellow parishioners. During the weekdays, staff is happy to answer your questions, just give us a call. You can also find up-to-date info by visiting our website www.blessedsacramentsp.org. Look for what is new under "SYNOD", "UPCOMING", and "PARISH LIFE".

Practicing Faith/Question:
I'd like to make some new resolutions about practicing the faith in our family. Do you have any suggestions?

Answer:
 The family is the most essential space for the formation of values and character. Practicing your faith as a family can happen both internally and externally. Consistent prayer together builds habits that can last a lifetime. With younger children, praying together as a family in the evening or at dinnertime could be fairly doable most nights. In the evening, select a few common prayers such as the Our Father, Hail Mary, or Guardian Angel prayer. Ask each of your children to thank God for three things that day and include a time for children and adults alike to pray out loud for special needs in your family. This practice could be done with older children, committed to intentional efforts in the midst of increasingly busy schedules.

Look for other opportunities to practice the faith outside the home as well. Sunday Mass should already be part of your family's weekly routine. Consider setting other monthly goals as well. This could be a family service project in your city, attending the sacrament of Confession together, or hosting a hospitality night in your home. Get your children involved in the planning process. Ask them where they'd like to volunteer or who they think is having a hard time and might need a special night just for them. Rather than simply imposing new practices, your whole family can have a dynamic role understanding and integrating faith and life. ©LPI

Movement and Mediation Classes are set to Resume




The Fall Session is scheduled to start on September 13. This eight week session will last until November 1. Cost for the session is \$72. Classes will be held in the Robertson Room at 6:30 pm on Monday evenings and also via Zoom. To register, please call Carol in the parish office to let her know.

SOCIAL CONCERNS FOR AUGUST

Our August mission supports the Catholic social teaching that education liberates. The Carmen Pampa Fund helps children in marginalized populations in Bolivia to have an affordable opportunity for a college education. Click to read about SOCIAL OUTREACH opportunities at Blessed Sacrament. We will take a second collection at Masses on August 28 and 29, please mark your checks, "Pampa Fund."

ADORATION CHAPEL NEWS

What is Adoration? It is a quiet time spent in prayer before Jesus present in the Blessed Sacrament. A Consecrated Host is placed in the center of a sacred vessel called a Monstrance. This is placed on the altar where we can see and worship Jesus present in Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. By coming to Adoration we give Jesus great honor and act with humility by acknowledging our need for, and dependence upon Him. This is an extraordinary way to communicate with the Lord and find inner peace in the midst of everyday life. Won't you consider spending time with Jesus? We are currently expanding our hours on Tuesday from 2 pm until 11 pm. Please let us know if one of these hours would work for you. Contact Kathy at 651-247-5185 or the parish office.



S PARISH ADMINISTRATION 651-738-0677
T Rev. Benny Mekhatt, Pastor ext. 11
A John Florin, Business Administrator ext. 10
F Joy Hoffman, Administrative Coordinator ext. 12
F Deacon Jerry Saladin.....952-607-9636
D PASTORAL MINISTRY 651-738-0677
I Carol McKenna,ext. 15
R FAITH FORMATION & SAFE ENVIRONMENT 651-738-0677
E Connie Hill, Director ext. 14
C MUSIC
T Jan Meulemans, Director.....651-307-7865
O PRAYER LINE
R Please call Carol McKenna.....612-594-1290
Y CHURCH EMAIL: Church@blessedsacramentsp.org
PARISH COUNCIL: parishcouncil@blessedsacramentsp.org

S **BAPTISM** - Participation in the Baptism preparation program is a prerequisite for Baptism. Schedule with the Parish Office.
A **RECONCILIATION**— Saturday 3:00-3:45pm or by appointment on other days
C **MATRIMONY**- Make arrangements with the pastor at least six months before the date.
R **ANOINTING OF THE SICK** - Please call the parish office if you or a family member is going to be hospitalized. Also, if you are home-bound and wish to receive the Eucharist or a friendly visit, please call the parish office.
A **LOW-GLUTEN HOSTS ARE AVAILABLE**- Please come to the Sacristy before Mass to arrange to receive one.

P • Blessed Sacrament Adoration, M-F, Please see signage for hours.
R • The Rosary is said just prior to all weekend Masses.
A
Y

Sunday, August 15
The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 Rv 11:19a, 12:1-6a, 10ab/1 Cor 15:20-27/Lk 1:39-56
 8:30am † Bernard Bearth
 11am Parish Mass

Monday, August 16
Weekday of the Twentieth Week in Ordinary Time/St Stephen of Hungary
 Jgs 2:11-19/Mt 19:16-22

Tuesday, August 17
Weekday
 Jgs 6:11-24a/Mt 19:23-30
 Bernie & † Mary Lou Larson

Wednesday, August 18
Weekday
 Jgs 9:6-15/Mt 20:1-16
 † Barbara Luna

Thursday, August 19
Saint John Eudes, Priest
 Jgs 11:29-39a/Mt 22:1-14
 † Daniel Lauer

Friday, August 20
Saint Bernard, Abbot & Doctor of the Church
 Ru 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22/Mt 22:34-40
 † Al & Joan Bierwerth

Saturday, August 21
Saint Pius X, Pope
 Ru 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17/Mt 23:1-12(Morning Readings)
 4pm † Huey Henriksen

Sunday, August 22
Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Jos 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b/Eph 5:21-32 or 5:2a, 25-32/In 6:60-69
 8:30am Parish Mass
 11am † Ronald Murphy

Church of the Blessed Sacrament

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

August 15 - August 22

Sun, Aug 15:	9:30-10:45am Coffee & Donuts
Mon, Aug 16:	<i>Please note* Parish Offices Closed</i>
Tues, Aug 17:	6:30pm Parish Council Meeting
Wed, Aug 18:	Young at Heart after Morning Mass
Sun, Aug 22:	8:30am First Communion & Confirmation 9:30-10:45am Coffee & Donuts

FINANCE

Gifts of Treasure

August 7/8 2021

Sunday Envelopes & Plate:	\$ 5,791.20
Other:	\$ 295.00
Utilities:	\$ 110.00
Additional Operations:	\$ 140.00
Total :	\$ 6,286.20

ARCHDIOCESAN SYNOD UPDATES

Don't just believe in Jesus; follow Him! Make your voice heard at the Synod Small Group meetings beginning September 22 for every Wednesday through October 27. All teens and older should plan to attend either in the morning from 9-11 or evening from 6-8. Hearty refreshments will be served. Plan to discuss the Synod Focus Areas of :

1. **Forming parishes that are in the service of evangelization**
2. **Forming missionary disciples who know Jesus's love and respond to his call**
3. **Forming youth and young adults in and for a Church that is always young**

HOMECOMING FUNFEST

Homecoming Funfest Volunteers and Cash Donations needed!

We are still in need of many volunteers...it's fun, it's easy and greatly needed to help support our Parish event. Please consider signing up on the volunteer board that is found in the Gathering Space at church or call the parish office. We also need your money! There are a number of areas that need cash donations to help offset the expenses. Please mark your check or envelope with HOME COMING or FUN FEST. Thank you for your generous time and or donations, with your help this event will be a great success! Thank you, Homecoming Funfest committee



The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary



2021-2022 Classes begin September 12

Faith Formation classes will meet from 9:45 to 10:45 am most Sundays (off for holidays and school breaks.) Classes include CGS through age 12 and Confirmation prep beginning in 8th grade.

Registration is open online or in person. Plan to attend a parent and catechist orientation meeting on Sunday August 22 at approximately 9:45 am or 10:00 am (following Mass and refreshments). Read more on our website and contact Connie with questions. Registration closes on September 1.

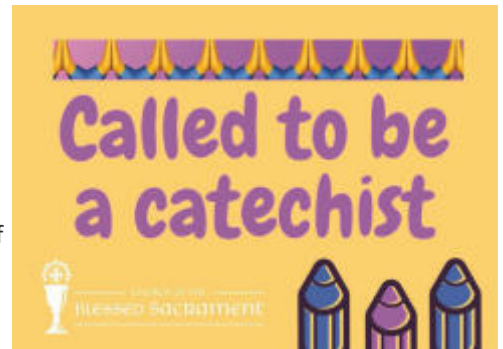


Our Confirmation students need you!

Our students are ready for you to walk with them on a journey of sacrament preparation.

Classes are planned for Sunday mornings with a few additional times of service and worship throughout the

year. No experience is necessary. VIRTUS E3 credentialing is required (about one hour online). All training is provided. You will give a lot and receive far more! If you or someone you know is living a vibrant Catholic life, connect with Connie about this rewarding ministry.



Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLW)

CLW begins September 12 and takes place during the 8:30 am Mass. Children hear the Sunday scripture proclaimed and explained at an age-appropriate level. Parents are welcome to join their children and assist with this ministry.

We are actively recruiting and training CLW leaders and assistants. All volunteers must be "Essential 3" compliant by completing an online VIRTUS training, a background check, and Code of Conduct. Contact Connie today to express interest.



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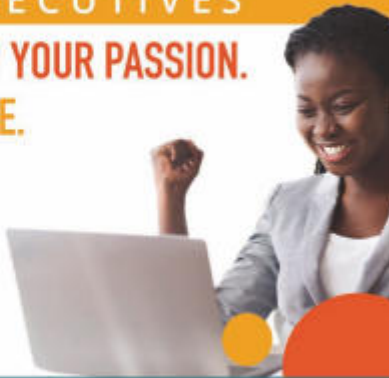
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