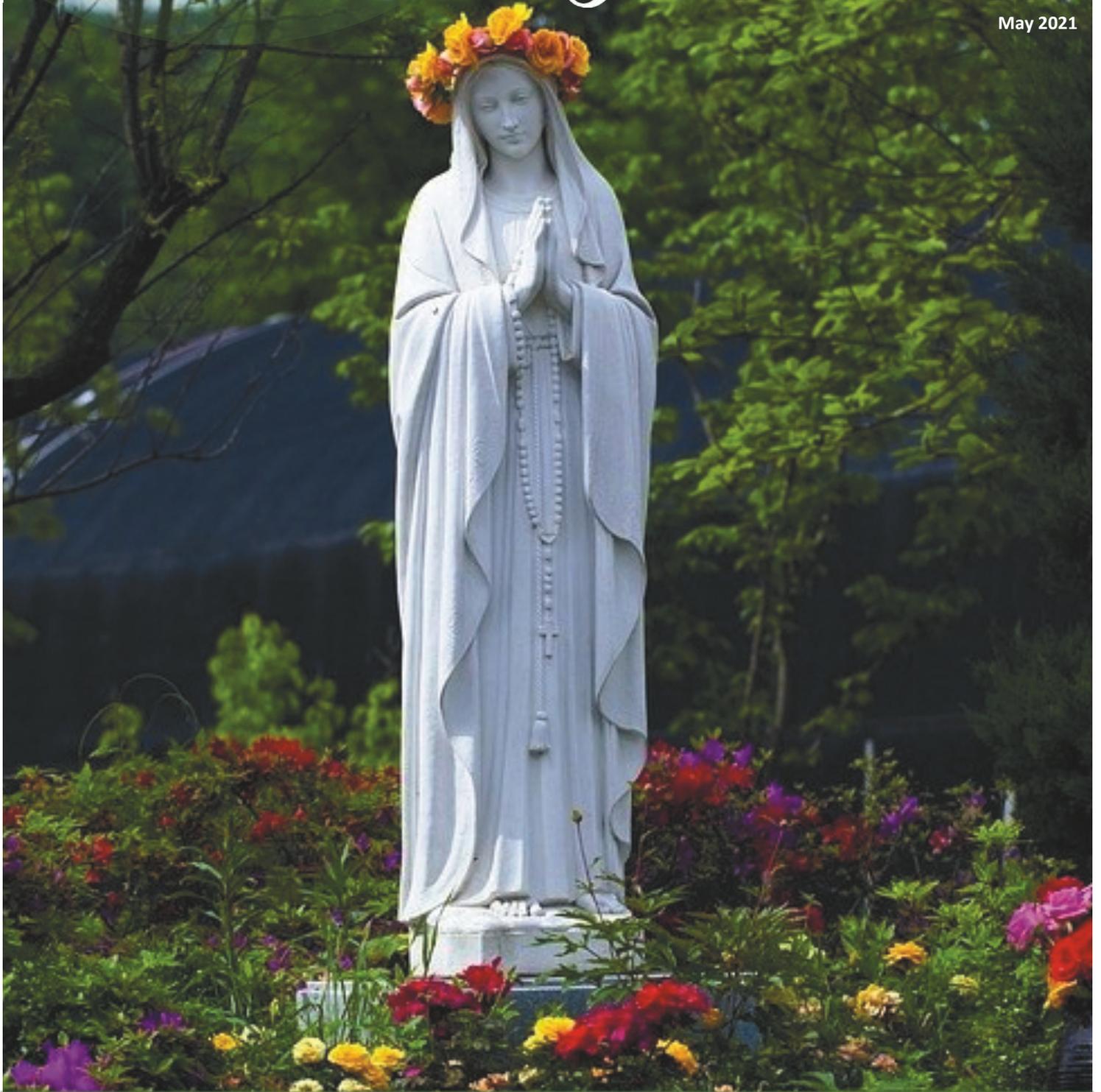


# Mary

*Mother of the Church* Area Catholic Community

May 2021



St. Joseph, Bertha | St. Hubert, Bluegrass | St. John the Baptist, Bluffton | Assumption of Our Lady, Menahga  
St. Michael, Motley | Sacred Heart, Staples | St. Frederick, Verndale | St. Ann, Wadena

# Mary

Mother of the Church

## Area Catholic Community

# Information

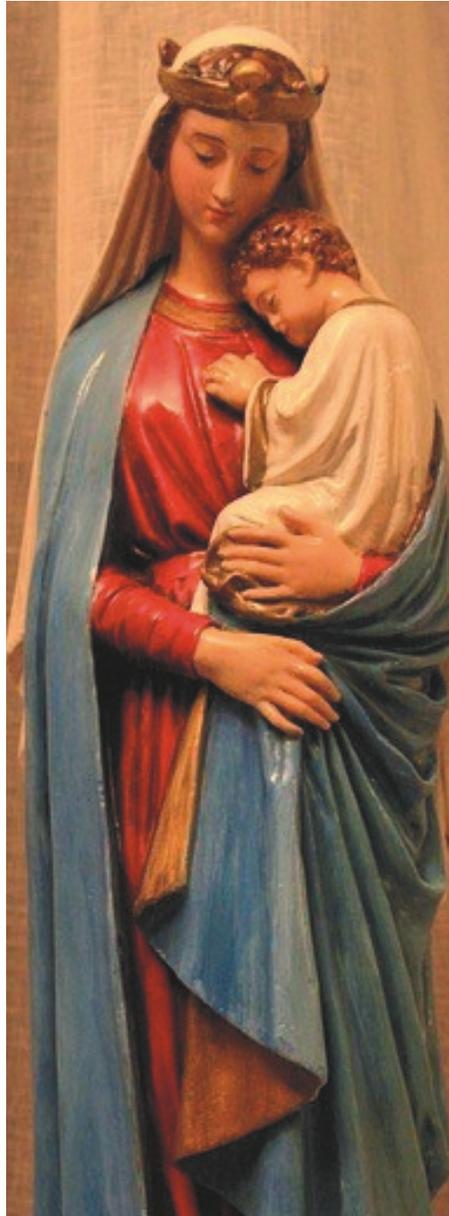
An update on our Area Catholic Community of Mary: Thank you, Lord, for those who serve us! This June, Father Lauren Germann will retire as pastor and Shirley Malone will retire as secretary of Assumption of Our Lady, St. Frederick and St. Hubert's parishes and Faith Formation Coordinator at St. Hubert's. Carmen Pederson will retire from her position as Faith Formation Coordinator at St. Frederick's. And Deacon Jerry Snyder will retire as deacon at St. Ann, St. Joseph, and St. John the Baptist parishes. These faithful people have given many years of their lives in service of Christ and His Church. Make sure to pray for them, write them a thank you, and show your support of them. May God bless them abundantly! This July will bring some changes for us. Bishop Kettler visited our ACC planning council in March to offer encouragement and guidance to the implementation of our plan. At that time, Bishop did not know if we will have three or two priests serving our eight parishes, but he asked us to be ready for either outcome.

To improve our communication, our plan includes having a joint-bulletin, website ([marysacc.org](http://marysacc.org)), social media, and MyParish App.

To improve the relationship with our priests, we will have a joint-schedule of Masses shared between them. Every parish will have a weekend Mass. Please invite them to events, the blessing of your home, or even a simple meal together.

To assist the pastor with some of his administrative burdens and help the

priests to be more available for the life of the people, the plan includes the hir-



ing of a business manager for the ACC and an executive assistant to the priests.

To better meet our parishes' organizational needs, our staff and planning

committees have been performing a long process to evaluate our staffing, administration, and faith formation structures. We know that in a perfect world every parish would have all of its needs met from within. But these days it will take us working together, sharing resources, finding creative ways to make things work, and having the courage to adjust to our changing needs. A plan takes patience and perseverance to evaluate what we have, formulate a strategy, implement it, make adjustments, and continue forward. The success of our planning process depends on God's grace and all of us working as a family of faith. Please pray that we do God's will.

Finally, and most important, we need your help to bring back to our parishes all those who have stopped worshiping with us. Certainly, the live-streaming of Mass has helped us keep connected when we have not yet been able to be at church, but there is a silent, growing number of Catholics who have walked away from practicing their faith, whether during the pandemic or before it. Well over 70% of Catholics are not worshipping as they ought, and often they are too afraid or ashamed to come back on their own. They need us to reach out to them, to invite them back, and to accompany them in the pew when they do. Be a witness of a living faith for them.

May God bless you, and may Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for us!

+ Fr. Aaron Kuhn



## Jesus Helps a Roman Soldier

The servant of a Roman soldier was sick in bed. The soldier loved his servant and took care of him. The soldier went to Jesus to ask for help. The soldier said, “Sir, my servant is very sick, he needs your help.” Jesus answered, “I am sorry to hear that. I will come and heal him.” The soldier knelt down saying, “Lord, I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof. Only say the word and my servant will be healed.” Jesus lifted the soldier to his feet and said, “You have great faith. As you have believed, let it be done for you.” The soldier answered, “Jesus, thank you.” I know that it will be done.” And at that very moment, the soldier’s servant was healed.

Adapted from Matthew 8:5 - 13

The story helps us to know how to prepare for Holy Communion.

### A Moment with Jesus

Think of the soldier’s words to Jesus:

“Lord, I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof.”

Tell Jesus the same thing in your own words. Jesus will be pleased with your prayer. Listen in your heart to what Jesus says to you. Then rest in His loving care.

Submitted by: Carmen Pederson

“JESUS GIVES US THE GIFT OF HIMSELF”

Growing up, our family loved fishing for 'northerns' on the lake near my grandparent's hometown of Miller-ville. The lake was plentiful with small Northern Pike, which made catching our limits a breeze, as we'd troll at an engine-stalling pace, the shorelines in five to ten feet of water, with spoons and lures in tow.

"I got one!" someone would shout. "Reel in so we don't get tangled," one of the elders would say. "Where's the net?" the angler would announce. And all would scramble to reel lines in to avoid entanglement as the motor was shifted into neutral to reduce tension for landing 'the big one.' "It's just weeds," the angler would bemoan, and with groans the crew of the mighty fourteen-foot boat would start the process of casting out all over again.

It felt like we caught more weeds than fish, but the stringers would fill to plenty and the boats would make for land with satisfaction more than not.

The cleaning of fish was a rite of passage: knives with razor edges, hands slimed and yet surgical, with the preservation of as much meat as possible in mind. Grandpa and dad tried to be patient with us butchering smaller ones to gain experience, stepping in to save the day when all hope seemed lost. They would clean two or three or four fish to my one, with an ease that impressed my confidence. I wanted to be like them.

Years later, I am grateful for what they taught me, the effort they made to coach a rookie to amateur and then proficient status in fishing and fileting. They chose to be encouraging, rather than derogatory

when I would be reckless in casting or entangle the lines while not paying attention to the turn of the boat. As I watched other families over the years, I have come to understand that the approach of kindness, patience, generosity, encouragement and self-control in coaching and teaching are not universal. In fact, it is much more normal to hear cursing, aggravation, slander, and talking down toward those less learned. I know that my parents and grandparents had many a moment of frustration and sins they confessed having said or done, but the words of encouragement outweighed them, which goes to show the value in fostering an environment of love in everyday life of the home, work, and leisure. What we say in small moments carries the memory through the big ones.

A few years ago, through the marvel of YouTube videos, I was able to master a technique of removing the Y-bones of the pike filets, a skill that my family had only spoken of in reverence. The meat next to those bones was a wasted portion of the protein that we tried to overcome by eating around their pointy stems at supper, often with bread to help swallow missed ones accompanied with complaint of a scratch in the throat. When I was able to teach the technique to my father and other anglers, it was humbling as I found myself having to express the same patience and encouragement, though temptation bid me otherwise.

Granting to others the opportunity to fail and learn with Christ-like coaching is a blessing, and it has the potential to pay forward for generations.

+ Fr. Aaron Kuhn

## Catch of the Day!





Submitted by: Deacon Jerry Snyder

# A “Second Childhood”

Risen to new life...salvation is ours... to live in His Kingdom on earth and to join Him in praise of the Father in Heaven.

I have heard it often said that old people have a second childhood. And I’m thinking, “That’s not so bad...” for Jesus said, “Unless you turn and become like children you shall not enter the Kingdom of heaven.” Mt 18:3.

Now we know that our bodies grow through a cycle that begins with birth and ends with death. That granted a full course of life, bodies are born, grow, mature, decline, and die. But is that the end?

We also know that each of us has a soul...a capacity for the spirit...for something of God in us to grow... that if cared for, that spirit seeks more and more to know God, to come to him, be with Him, find union with Him. This is just natural for human beings. But where does the spirit go when the body dies?

Our faith in Jesus provides a sufficient ending for both questions. That our limited body is called to glorification granted that the spirit finds union with God who is eternal and infinite.

Our faith in Jesus provides the Way. It is through Jesus we can live a human life progressing toward the divine by finding perfection in every way...in every dimension of life.

This is possible because Jesus Christ the God-man has made his saving grace available to those who follow Him. From the Cross He has made forgiveness possible for those who endeavor to enter into His life. This is the beauty of the incarnation... that Christ has put on flesh making it possible for flesh to be glorified as He was on his Resurrection...as He was on the “road to Emmaus”, as He was when He ascended into heaven.

Human life when it has devoided itself of its limits...its sinfulness... comes to glorification, new life in one with God.

Like a person is as a child once Baptized in the Lord...knowing no sin but open to wonder and spirit... simple in understanding and accepting of things beyond his intelligence but in union with the spirit... believing that anything is possible.

Consider how life works: Launched into life after childhood, the individual in his innermost self seeks to find what that life is about. Beset by

limits on all sides and tested to withstand temptation and sin, through the grace of the Man-God Jesus, the individual finds his place in communion with others in one with the Lord. That’s the scenario of human life successfully lived.

Why all this? Because the Lord God is a God of love who wants to love and be loved. That’s real, full existence. That’s what our life seeks. Eternal happiness with God. “In heaven all kinds of people although very different in their individuality share in God’s love while living among others who compliment them to perfection through God’s power. “ A perfect love among people found in union with the God of infinite love.

Dear Lord,  
grant that my  
second childhood is  
found through  
living my life in one  
with You. That  
from living in your  
Kingdom on earth, I  
may join you in the  
Kingdom of Heaven.

# HAIL MARY FULL OF GRACE...

MAY IS DEDICATED TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY



“April showers bring May flowers.” For Catholics around the world, May also brings many special observances, traditions and devotions to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary. Since medieval times, there has been a correlation between Mary and the month of May. May was considered the end of winter because new life was beginning everywhere. If we look around, we will see baby chicks, new born calves, tiny sprouts shooting up out of the ground.

The promise of spring and new life once again.

In the month of May, one of the traditional rituals is the “May Crowning”, recognizing Mary as Queen of heaven and earth. There is typically a procession of some sort and a statue of Mary is crowned with a wreath of flowers and herbs. A Marian hymn may be sung and perhaps a prayer to our Lady, begging her intercession. After Mary is crowned, others are invited to bring flowers to lay at her feet. This is a very real way to show our love and devotion to Mary, our Queen and our Mother.

As we honor our spiritual mother, we also honor our biological mothers during the month of May. We set aside a special day to honor them and express our love and gratitude for all that they have done for us.



May 13th is when Our Lady of Fatima first appeared in Portugal to the 3 shepherd children and asked for the Rosary to be recited daily for world peace and an end to the wars. Many parishes have the tradition of daily recitation of the Rosary during the month of May.



In 1964, Pope Paul VI declared that Mary was the “Mother of the Church” and in 2018, Pope Francis added a Memorial Mass to the Church’s Calendar on a fixed date, the day after Pentecost. Being that our Area Catholic Community has chosen this name, it will be a special day for us to celebrate each year!

I didn’t grow up with most of these traditions, certainly not the May Crowning or daily recitation of the Rosary. But as I observe my young children walking by the statue of Mary waving or running up to give her a hug, my heart glows and a smile spreads across my face. They are learning to love Mary. They will know the love of a perfect mother, one who comforts and guides them through this life, into the next. Wishing all of you a fruitful May and Happy Mothers Day!

# HONORING THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY WITH FLOWERS

When I was a young girl I remember trying to spot “Mary Houses” when we were out and about. A Mary house to my young mind was any house that had a Statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary. I always found a sense of peace when I would see them, I thought that if someone took the time to put a statue out they must love Mary and that could only be a good thing.

Several years ago, I attended a luncheon where each table was set with a theme. It was at that luncheon that I first learned about what a Mary Garden was and all those Mary houses finally made sense. The table was set with a beautiful Mary statue and surrounded by brilliantly colored bedding plants.

When I read the info provided on the plants and realized that all those flowers represented Mary I knew that one day I would make one.

What’s a Mary garden? A Mary garden is a specific flower garden that is dedicated to our Blessed Virgin Mary with plants that are named after or associated with the Virgin Mary. There are not many requirements when it comes to creating a Mary garden, they can be any size from itty bitty to a large space with a prayer bench. Traditionally someplace among your flowers or herbs there is a statue of the Virgin Mary as the focal point and groupings of flowers around her, however a statue is not required.



## The Flowers of Our Lady

Cornflower - Mary’s Crown

Lily of the Valley - Mary’s Tears

Petunia - Our Lady’s Praises

Forget-Me-Not - Eyes of Mary

Morning Glory - Our Lady’s Mantle

Snapdragon - Infant Jesus’ Shoes

Impatiens - Mother Love

Poppy - Christ’s Blood

Marigold - Mary’s Gold

In my research I have found that there are almost too many garden plants to list or even to include in a Mary garden. Generally, the plants represent some aspect of Mary’s clothing, home, or person. Some symbolize aspects of spiritual life. There are too many to list, here are a few that I love. Lilies are used because it is said that the Angel Gabriel was holding a Lily when he told Mary that she would be the mother of Jesus, the flower signifies purity and grace. Roses symbolize Mary as the Queen of Heaven. When Mary cried at the foot of the cross her tears turned to flowers called “Mary’s Tears”, or

“Lily of the Valley”. A couple more favorites of mine are impatiens which hold the meaning of mother love, and pansy’s which is also called the trinity flower or “Our Lady’s Delight”.

This past summer I started to carve out a small space for a Mary garden and I am looking forward to seeing what blooms come back up.

In addition to some of the perennials I like to add some pots of annuals to the mix and this year I learned that several herbs have meanings as well. Now the

challenge will be to pick which ones for this year.

There are countless resources available with a simple online search for Mary gardens. I encourage you to make space for Mary in your yard, a simple Mary garden is a great way to evangelize to those around you and to share that Mary holds a special place in your life.

Do you have a Mary Garden that you would like to share with our reader’s? Please email your pictures and a story of your beautiful garden to:

[stjoseph@marysacc.org](mailto:stjoseph@marysacc.org)



## Pysanky: Ukrainian Easter Eggs

“The highly symbolic patterns and colors of Ukrainian Easter eggs,” said Ted Masog, 86 year old parishioner of the Church of St. Frederick, “got me interested in attempting this art form in the 1980’s” Interested he was! Since then he has made hundreds of these beautiful eggs.

Ted said, “I don’t have a favorite color or design because, all of them are my favorites. Each has such special meaning. It’s such nice tradition. At the time he started doing Ukrainian Easter eggs, Ted was still teaching music at the Verndale School, a full time organist at his parish and accompanist for the Staples Area Men’s Chorus. He has not done any eggs in the past 9 or 10 years but, instead has passed all his supplies, patterns and designs on to his niece.

Ted’s Polish ancestry made it a natural for him. Ukrainian Easter eggs originated in the Slavic countries of Europe. Each region in Ukraine had its own symbols, meanings, and special formulas for dyeing eggs. This was passed down through generations and was carried abroad by Ukrainian emigrants where the custom took hold. At the same time, it was banished by the Soviet regime; but since Ukrainian independence in

1991, there has been a rebirth of this folk art.

The proper name for Ukrainian Easter eggs is pysanky (pronounced pie-san-kee), which means “to write.” There are many traditional folk designs and symbols, using a wax-resist method, each with its own meaning. Pysanky is made with non-edible dyes and the contents of the eggs have sometimes been removed.

Pysanky is an important part of the Easter celebration in the Ukrainian Catholic Church. These were taken to church on Easter Sunday to be blessed with holy water, and given away after Mass. One or two eggs were given to the priest, several were placed on graves of family members in the cemetery, some were given to children and godchildren, several were kept in homes as a sacramental to protect against fire and storms, and placed in various places around people’s property.

Wax-resist egg decorations probably date back to the pre-Christian era. With the advent of Christianity, the symbolism of the egg was changed to represent, not nature’s birth, but the rebirth of man. Christians embraced the egg symbol and likened it to the tomb from which Christ rose. With the acceptance of Christianity in 988, the decorated pysanky, in time, was adapted to represent Easter and Christ’s resurrection. Old symbols were repurposed and new Christian symbols were introduced.

Traditionally, young children would learn the basics of the process, such as drying times and squiggles and using traditional dyes to achieve the desired colors at the end of the process. Children were also taught traditional symbolism, and importantly, they learned how to keep from

starting fires from the candle’s open flame.

Creating pysanky is an involved process that requires a lot of initial planning to achieve specific results. Designs are planned step by step on paper. The egg is divided by straight lines into squares, triangles and other shapes. These areas are then filled with other forms and designs. The eggs are dyed in stages, starting with the lightest colors and in successively darker colors. The different colored dyes will act on the dyes from previous steps to create new colors. One needs to think backwards through the stage of dying to figure out where to begin and which colors to use.

Certain items and tools are needed to make the eggs, a pencil to mark the designs on the egg, a candle to provide heat for the process, beeswax and jars that contain the dyes and a small copper funnel with a wooden handle (a kistka). This funnel has a wide end to scoop up the beeswax and a narrow end which is a hollow stylus to do the designs.

Submitted by: Ted Masog & Vera Malone

The egg symbolizes:  
unending surface and eternal life.

Red - life-giving blood, martyrs  
Black - respect for souls of the dead  
Blue - sky and air  
White - purity and rejoicing  
Green - new life, nature, resurrection  
Purple - penance and sacrifice

Cross - suffering, joy of the Resurrection

White Dove - the Holy Spirit  
Wheat - dying to be reborn, new life  
Flowers - associated with children  
Ladder - prayers going to heaven  
Plants - new life  
Ripples - purification and Baptism



## “Sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit”

When I was a teenager and young adult I didn't have anyone that made me go to church, the only times I went was at Easter and Christmas. I always had it in my head to go and knew it was the right thing, but there was always something else that I would've rather been doing, so I just pushed church off to do what I wanted. About a year and a half ago, I grew a little older and hopefully a little wiser. Ha-ha. I started going back to Confession and Mass on Sundays. I thought a lot about getting Confirmed, but I just kept thinking "later, I'll do it later." I am not sure why I kept putting it off, maybe just nervous.

One day great news came, I was asked to be my nephew's Godfather. I went to get the proper paperwork; at that time I was informed that I needed

to be Confirmed. This was the little bump I needed, I didn't need to wait any longer. When do we start? Deep down this just feels right. I have been attending classes since last summer and I enjoy it. I feel like I'm learning a lot. I feel like I am taking it more serious now and I am getting more out of it than I would have been as a teenager. I'm thankful to be able to go through this process and I'm thankful for everyone that has been helping me along the way. The answer to the question, why do I want to get confirmed? Well, the simplest answer for me is, "it just feels right deep down inside."

Joshua Youngbauer

(Preparing for Confirmation on May 22, 2021 at the Cathedral)

## Jesus Heals a Blind Man

As he passed by he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him. We have to do the works of the one who sent me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work.

While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva, and smeared the clay on his eyes, and said to him, "Go wash in the Pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So, he went and washed, and came back able to see.

~John 9:1-7



Which would you choose and why?

Please consider sharing your choice with our readers.

Your responses are always welcome!

WOULD  
YOU  
RATHER...

**WATCH JESUS HEAL A BLINDMAN  
OR  
WATCH JESUS WALK ON WATER?**

Please send your responses to  
Karen Sakry at:  
[stjoseph@marysacc.org](mailto:stjoseph@marysacc.org)  
or give me a call at:  
218-924-2144

I look forward to hearing from you!



## Jesus Walks On Water

Then he made the disciples get into the boat and precede him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. After doing so, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When it was evening he was there alone. Meanwhile the boat, already a few miles offshore, was being tossed about by the waves, for the wind was against it. During the fourth watch of the night, he came toward them, walking on the sea. When the disciples saw him walking on the sea they were terrified. "It is a ghost," they said, and they cried out in fear. At once [Jesus] spoke to them, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid." Peter said to him in reply, "Lord, if it is you, command

me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus. But when he saw how [strong] the wind was he became frightened; and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" After they got into the boat, the wind died down. Those who were in the boat did him homage, saying, "Truly, you are the Son of God."

~Matthew 14:22-33

# In the

# Kitchen

# with the Saints!



**The feast day of St. Isidore is celebrated on May 15.**

He is the patron saint of farmers. St. Isidore was born to poor parents in Madrid,

Spain in the 12th century. As a young boy he worked for a wealthy farmer in Madrid. He married Maria de la Cabeza who also became a saint. They had one son who died as a child.

Isidore was very religious. He attended daily Mass before going to work in the fields. This sometimes caused complaints that he spent too much time in church. He prayed as he worked in the fields. It is said that angels sometimes helped him with his work. On holidays he would visit the many churches in Madrid. He loved the poor, often giving those more poor than himself food to eat. He also cared for animals. His concern that they be treated well was well known. He was kind and generous.

St. Isidore is a role model for everyone. He practiced his faith always and showed kindness and generosity to those he met.

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“No time is ever lost by prayer, for those who pray are workers together with God.”

~St. Isidore

## French Toast

- 4 eggs
- 2/3 cup milk
- 2 teaspoons of cinnamon
- 8 thick slices of 2-day-old bread (better if slightly stale)
- Butter (can sub vegetable oil)
- Maple syrup



### Make the egg mixture

In a medium bowl, whisk together the eggs, milk, and cinnamon. Whisk the mixture until well blended and pour into a shallow bowl, wide enough to place a slice of the bread you will be using.

Place each slice of bread into the milk egg mixture, allowing the bread to soak in some of it.

Melt some butter in a large skillet over medium high heat. Shake off the excess egg mixture from the bread, and place the bread slices onto the hot skillet. Fry the French toast until browned on one side, then flip and brown the other side.

Serve hot with butter, maple syrup, fresh berries, whipped cream and enjoy!

ST. JOSEPH  
BERTHA

ST. HUBERT  
BLUEGRASS

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST  
BLIFFTON

ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY  
MENAHA

ST. MICHAEL  
MOTLEY

SACRED HEART  
STAPLES

ST. FREDERICK  
VERNDALE

ST. ANN  
WADENA

Mary  
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## Did Adam and Eve Have Bellybutton's? (Cont'd)

Thank you to all who gave feed back from last months question, "Did Adam and Eve Have Bellybuttons?" It was so much fun talking with all of you and being able to listen to your thoughts on this.

Below are some of the responses:

"Well I think possibly they did. God created them and he needed some place to breathe life into them since they had no mother. I think he might have left them a belly button."

~Ella Olston



I'm 84 years old, I taught at St. Ann's for 24 years and I am a sacristan at St. Ann's on Tuesday mornings.

"Yes! I think Eve did have a bellybutton, she would need it in order for her to have children. As far as Adam is concerned he was created by God and he probably didn't have a need for one."

This was a fun question to think about!

~Nellie Wegsheid

I did a survey with some of my family, ages 5 - 64.

Five people said, "no bellybuttons" and two said, "yes they had bellybuttons". The "no" votes felt that Adam & Eve would not have needed an umbilical cord, so they did not have a bellybutton. The "yes" votes felt that God would make Adam and Eve to look just like their children. It was an interesting discussion!

~Tricia Kramer