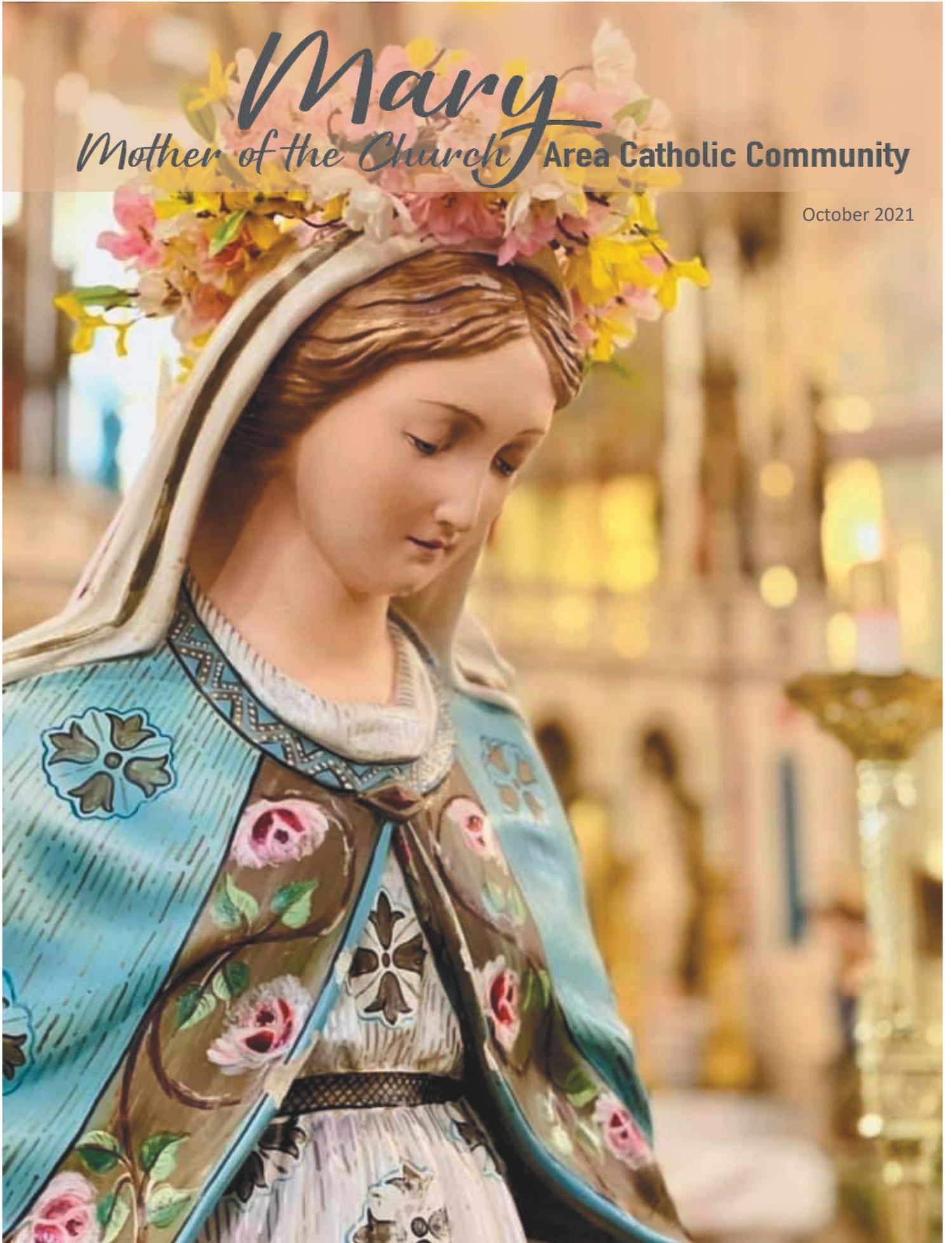


Mary

Mother of the Church Area Catholic Community

October 2021





DO YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW, HAVE POSSESSION OF CREMATED REMAINS?

Do you know someone with cremated remains of a family member that have not been laid to rest in a sacred place? The death of a loved one can be a confusing time. Perhaps the weather or time of year was not conducive to having a burial and time has passed by faster than expected? Or maybe you inherited the remains from someone else? Whatever the reason, our Area Catholic Community of Mary wants to offer you the opportunity to provide your family member a proper burial.

Proper burial helps us grieve and find closure while showing respect for the life and remains of our beloved dead. Burying the dead is a *Corporal Work of Mercy*, for when we do so we are showing respect for the dignity of God's created "image and likeness" (Genesis 1:27). We are embodied souls, souls with a body given to us by God, and our baptized body is to be treated with dignity, even in death. "My son, shed tears for one who is dead, with wailing and bitter lament; As is only proper, prepare the body, and do not absent yourself from the burial" (Sirach 38:16). Our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit; they deserve to be buried, interred or inurned at a sacred space like a church crypt or cemetery. "Or 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" (Romans 6:3-4).

We should never keep portions of cremated remains, make them into keepsakes, or spread them in locations that are not approved by the Church. The Lord will give back to us our bodies in a resurrected form for all eternity, so what we do with cremated remains matters to God. In the Catechism of the Catholic Church, we read,

"The bodies of the dead must be treated with respect and charity, in faith and hope of the Resurrection. The burial of the dead is a corporal work of mercy; it honors the children of God, who are temples of the Holy Spirit" (CCC 2300).

As a free service to our community and those who have died, our Area Catholic Community of Mary, Mother of the Church is offering to collect cremated remains of deceased family members who have not been buried. Our parishes will absorb the cost of burial, so this service is free to you.

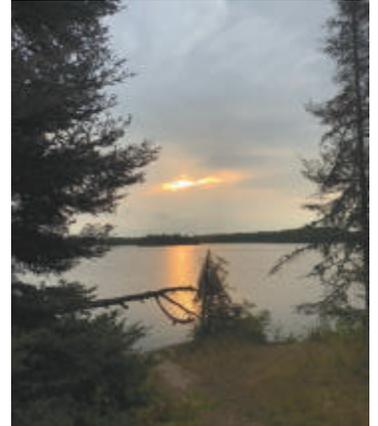
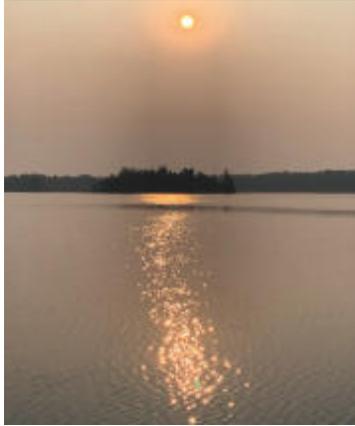
The month of November is often held as a season of memorial for those who have died. On November 2nd, feast of All Souls, we will have two Masses of Commendation of the Dead: 8:30 a.m. at the Church of St. Ann, Wadena and 6:00 p.m. at the Church of Sacred Heart in Staples. At each Mass, names of those who have died from our parishes in the last year will be read aloud, and any cremated remains given to us will be commended to God, with a private burial to be held after the Mass. This will provide a sacred resting place that you can visit to pray and a marked location for others to find in the future. Cremated remains must be more than 18 months past date of death, need not be Catholic nor from the area, and must be accompanied with paperwork.

If you have questions or would like more information, contact Barb Piecek at the Church Office in Wadena: 218-632-7309 or bpiecek@marysacc.org

+ Fr. Aaron Kuhn

SUNLIGHT

Sunlight became a constant theme of my time in the boundary waters this year. Without electricity, our days began and ended with the coming or departure of the sun's light (apart from a few late-night card games with flashlights). On one particular day, the sun rose a deep red color. On that particular morning I was observing the sunrise while reading a book, when three of my priest friends took a canoe and a kayak across the reflection of the sun on the still surface of the waters. The resulting ripples stretched the otherwise perfectly reflected sphere of red into a long "dancing" line from the far shore of an island across the lake to my own shore. This reminded me of a day long ago.



On October 13th we celebrate the anniversary of the final apparition of the Lady of Fatima to three small children. On October 13, 1917, tens of thousands of people—including many skeptics—witnessed the "Miracle of the Sun" promised by the Lady to the children. It was far more than a rippling reflection of the sun on the surface of a lake; on that day those tens of thousands of people witnessed a super-natural "dancing" of the sun in fulfillment of Mary's promise to the children. Mary had comforted the people at Fatima with the assurance that World War I would soon end. But she also warned that an even more deadly war would begin unless her message was heeded. She called for the consecration of Russia to her immaculate heart, or else Russia would spread her errors across the world. Through devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus through the Immaculate heart of Mary all were asked to pray for peace throughout our world. The message of Mary to the people at Fatima just over 100 years ago might be summarized as a call to repentance from sins for the sake of our love of God and to offer God prayer and penances in reparation for the salvation of souls.

The beauty of a sunrise can help to remind us of the goodness of our loving God. Never be content to love the gift more than the Giver. In this month of October, I hope you'll join me in heeding the words of the Lady of Fatima: let us offer our prayer and penances in reparation for sins and ask that peace might come to our world.

+ Fr. Gabriel Walz



SEPTEMBER SONGS & OCTOBER PRAYERS

It is Autumn...the Season brings change...September cool is a harbinger of what is to come as Fall arrives before Winter. Our humanness leads us to seek warmth ...the warmth of love, of safety, and protection. The annual time of days growing shorter parallels the life we live with its years passing by.

September songs are filled with longing and hope for dreams to be realized. For September brings us closer to a time of reckoning - for each of us Judgment approaches ...and the Last Judgment for all.

How powerful the songs of September can be. There are so many, each with its own message.

Rosanne Cash with the aid of her husband, John Leventhal, wrote a song for her famous father, Johnny Cash, in 2002 when he was severely ill. Rosanne's love for her father sought expression before his "September" would pass and he would be lost to her. Knowing...realizing his mortality, Johnny Cash after reviewing his daughter's song, agreed to sing it with her: "September Coming Down". The memorable lyrics include:

"I watch the clouds go sailing,
I watch the clock and sun.
Oh, I watch myself depending on
September when it comes.
(I know how much my father
and I want to express our love.)

When the shadows lengthen
And burn away the past (September is a
time of reckoning.)

They will fly me like an angel to
A place where I can rest.

When this begins, I'll let you in
September when it comes.

This song of a daughter's love and her father's acknowledgment, proved so very timely. Its release in Spring 2003 was soon followed by Johnny Cash's death on September 12th that same year.

Many are the songs of September about fear of love unrequited ... of dreams unfulfilled. In all of this we can find meaning for our relationship with God.

As we move into the days of October it is good to ask our Lord, "Grant that I may express my love for you in its greatest depth, lest my "September" coming passes with my love withheld." Oh...what a tragedy that would be."

In October we turn to the Blessed Virgin Mary whose great love for us is stirred by her Seven Sorrows through which she participated in her Son's suffering and death...out of which her love for us, her children overflows. Her great Loss has become our great Hope. In October, the Month of the Rosary, we turn to her for help in expressing our love. We look to Mary in seeking the Lord's graces that we may overcome the fears of September with its warnings of time gone and reckoning coming...and make known our great love for Our Father.

Mary
Mother of the Church Area Catholic Community



WELCOME TO THE TEAM

DEACON **RANDY** ALTSTADT

NEW BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR
FOR MARY, MOTHER OF THE CHURCH ACC

Deacon Randy grew up in Perham, MN and married his high school sweetheart, Janel Schmelz in July of 1980. Janel and Randy have two children, Andrea Vanderbeek married to Josh, who live north of New York Mills with their two children Aubrie and Croix. Their son Andrew lives in Minneapolis and does accounting for a privately owned company and also has a teaching degree as a High School Math teacher.

Deacon Randy, after graduating high school, went to school to learn to be a meat cutter and worked in the retail grocery business for many years. For the last 8 years, he has been the parish administrator for St. Henry's Catholic Church in Perham, MN. He enjoys cutting wood, hunting and fishing. Janel and Randy own land 3 miles north of Bluegrass where they get away to a one room cabin where they relax, do gardening, and hunt the elusive whitetail deer. They love spending time with their children and grandkids making memories.

Deacon Randy was ordained a permanent deacon on June 2, 2012 by Bishop John Kinney. He is assigned as deacon to St. Henry's in Perham and Holy Cross in Butler and serves at St. Lawrence, Rush Lake and Sacred Heart, Dent, MN. They currently reside in Perham, MN.

CELEBRATE OCTOBER

PRAY THE ROSARY



Each month has a special *Catholic* dedication, and the month of *October* is dedicated to the Rosary! The history of the Rosary mostly consists of legend and tradition. There is evidence that beads were used to count Our Fathers and Hail Marys in the Middle Ages. Fittingly, bead is derived from the Old English word for prayer. The word Rosary derives its meaning from the word *rosarium*, or rose garden, Saint Louis de Montfort wrote in his book, *The Secret of the Rosary*. The word Rosary means “Crown of Roses,” that is to say that every time people say the Rosary devoutly they place a crown of... roses upon the heads of Jesus and Mary. Being heavenly flowers these roses will never fade or lose their exquisite beauty.

“One day, through the Rosary... Our Lady will save the world.”

Saint Dominic’s words have proven themselves true countless times. The Rosary has been a sign of hope and a source of many graces. There is a tradition that in 1214, Our Lady appeared to Saint Dominic and gave him the Rosary as we know it today. She offered it as a way to convert hardened sinners.

“The rosary is the weapon for these times.”

These words spoken by Saint Padre Pio ring true in every age. The Rosary is a powerful weapon in our times just as it was in his. The simplicity and repetitiveness of the Rosary does not take away the power it contains. When Our Lady of Fatima appeared to the three shepherd children on May 13, 1917, her message was clear, “Pray the Rosary every day in order to obtain peace for the world.” Her message reaches into our times as well, and serves as a valuable reminder.

The Family That Prays Together, Stays Together

Praying the Rosary as a family is a highly encouraged practice. When children are young, there is a prayer parents can pray for their children after each decade: *With this Rosary I bind my children to the Immaculate Heart of Mary for her guidance and protection.*

Whether praying together or individually there can be many distractions to overcome. Praying the Rosary takes patience and perseverance, even after years of routine. There are some days you may fall asleep, are busy or the kids complain, but keep striving to make praying the Rosary a part of your daily routine. You will become grateful for this prayer time.



“Recite your Rosary with faith,
with humility, with confidence,
and with perseverance.”

-Saint Louis de Montfort

HOW TO MOVE A CHURCH



Thank you Vera Malone for the article in the September newsletter. It was interesting to learn the details of St. Hubert Church's beautiful grotto. It's also inspiring for parishioners in other churches to share parts of their history.

So, with that in mind and noting that this is the year of St. Joseph, here's a little bit about Bertha's church. St. Joseph Church doesn't have a grotto, but it does have a tie to Bluegrass and it has a unique story of parishioners moving a church building.

St. Joseph's parish was founded on July 15, 1914, as a mission by Crosier priests from Bluegrass and Butler. Several Catholic families in Bertha met in homes to celebrate Mass until they built a small wood-frame church with simple pews made with 2x4s. In 1941 the St. Cloud Diocese assigned them their first priest, Fr. Norbert Hinnenkamp. A home was purchased for the rectory and three lots were purchased from the city for \$5,000 in 1942.

Fr. Leo Brandl became the first resident pastor in 1948, and with a growing congregation came the need for a bigger church.

And so it came about, the old church needed to be moved out.

This is how parishioner Herman Hammel (1919-2016) recalled it.

The first week of August 1951, Fr. Leo Brandl announced that on Sunday that the men of the parish should come and help move the church across the street.

Lowell Swanson of Clarissa was hired to pull the (28- by 32-feet.) church to its new location, where Lew Bottemiller would convert it into his residence (currently, an apartment building kitty-corner from the church).

Big timbers were in place and large 3-by 12-inch, 16-foot planks were laid on the ground under the timbers. There were no wheels of any kind. Wooden rollers were placed every 2-feet. apart between the planks, to slowly roll the building along. As a roller fed out the back, the building was carried and placed in front to keep the process going. The big planks also had to be carried forward again. It was hard work but we loved watching the big tractor slowly inch forward with its 50-ton load.

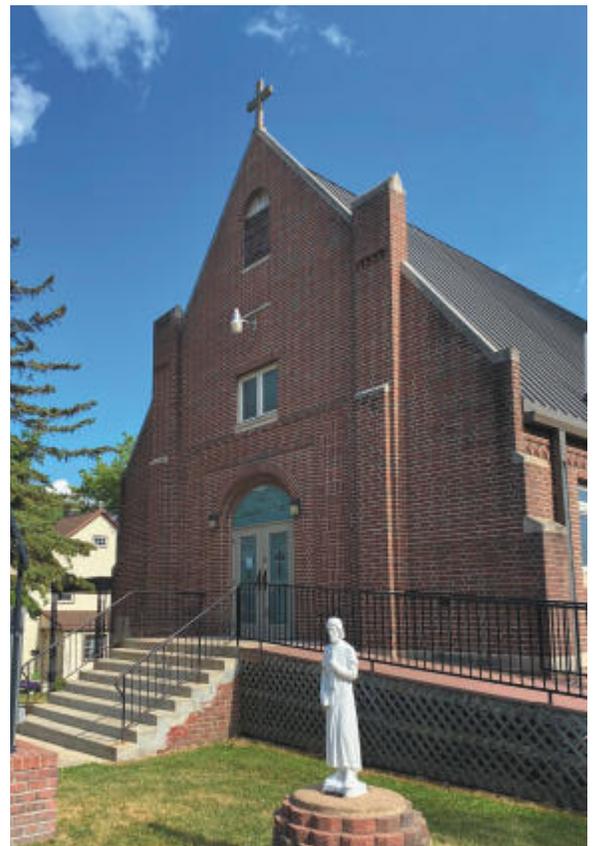
Mr. Swanson was very calm and kept warning everybody to be careful. By the middle of the afternoon, right in the middle of the street, we stopped for a break. The ladies had set up card tables for lunch. We visited and felt like heroes as we'd gotten very efficient at our new jobs.

The cornerstone of St. Joseph's current brick church building was laid in 1951, and once again parishioners pitched in where they could, to help contractor John Zvagil of Alexandria, who had recently finished the church in Parkers Prairie with the same design.

Fr. Brandl helped shingle the roof with other parishioners. Total cost of the church was \$46,000.

There have been many additions and renovations since the first Mass in 1952. One of them is a good example of how good works and paying it forward are important. In 1984 parishioners Zeph Marsh (1916-2005) and George Lipinski (1942-2009) coordinated volunteers and built the church's first wooden ramp. The reason? Herman Hammel's wife, Lois, had a stroke and when possible he brought her to church on Sundays. She couldn't walk and he struggled to get her up the church steps. The ramp made it easier as he was able to take her up the ramp in a wheelchair. The ramp was used until 2010 when it was replaced with more modern materials — thanks to another generation of volunteers.

Submitted by: Dee Hendershot



NO MATCH FOR JESUS

“Now the synagogue, there was a man who had a spirit of an unclean demon. And he cried out with a loud voice, saying, let us alone! What have we to do with you, Jesus of Nazareth? Did you come to destroy us? I know who you are - The Holy One of God!” (Luke 4:33-34)

Make no mistake about it, demons are real. The Bible pictures them as powerful, malevolent, evil spirits who oppose God and His Holy Work. Scripture, “unclean” to refer to their wicked, vile nature.

In the New Testament, it records many accounts of demons inhabiting the bodies of unbelievers and causing all sorts of serious problems, such as making people mute [see Luke 11:14], epileptic [see Matthew 17:15; Mark 9:18], and self-destructive [see Mark 5:5]. Satan is the leader of the demons, and they do his bidding [see Matthew 12:24].

The Bible also makes it clear that Jesus Christ and Satan are enemies. After Adam and Eve sinned, God put Satan on notice that One was coming who would crush him: “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed;

He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel” [see Genesis 3:15]. Ever since, war has raged between God and Satan; God and evil, light and darkness - and also between their followers.

KNOW THIS: when you are God’s friend, you are Satan’s enemy (and vice versa). There will be no compromise, no negotiation. Jesus will never turn from his purpose to crush Satan’s head and Satan will never turn from his lust to bruise Jesus’ heel.

Frequently throughout his earthly ministry, Jesus demonstrated His superiority over the demonic realm. Once when the Lord cast a demon out of a man, the crowd who watched the incident “were all amazed and spoke among themselves, saying, “What a world this is. For with authority and power He commands the unclean spirits, and they come out!” [see Luke 4:36] All demons respect and fear Jesus Christ. In fact, whenever they met Jesus when He was on earth, they affirmed His authority. Mark writes, “And the unclean spirits whenever they saw Him, fell down before Him and cried out, saying, “You are the

Son of God!” [see Mark 3:11]. Curiously, however, Jesus never welcomed these demonic endorsements. More than once, we are told that He commanded the demons to be quiet, “for they knew that He was the Christ.” [see Mark 1:34 & Like 4:41]

It should not surprise us, then, to realize that the demons and even the devil himself -are neither Atheist no Agnostic. They believe in the existence of God. They believe in the deity of Jesus Christ. They believe that the Bible is the very Word of God. They believe that Jesus is coming back again. In fact, in a very limited sense, you could say, that demons and the devil are quite Orthodox in their beliefs. Yet, they are far from Followers of Jesus!

James tells us that the demons believe and “tremble” [see James 2:19]. This verb, occurring only here in the New Testament, means “to bristle” and pictures, what happens when some unspeakable horror causes one’s hair to stand on end.” “Why do the demons tremble?” Because, they do not only believe in the person of Christ, they also recognize His power and authority.



**The LORD is my strength and my shield;
my heart trusts in Him, and He helps me.
My heart leaps for joy, and with my song
I will praise Him.**

~Psalm 28:7

“PUT ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD...”

- EPHESIANS 6:11 -



When I was a young Christian at the Augustinian Missionary, the convent I once belonged to, I remember someone saying, “Let us pray...” for Satan’s conversion”. Even as someone with a thimbleful of Bible knowledge, I knew this was crazy. The devil will never turn to God. Scripture is clear about his origin, agenda and destiny. The devil recognizes Christ’s power over him, but his “faith” does not transform his character or improve his conduct. The devil and his demons are headed for everlasting destruction.

More than that, Satan and his demons know their day of judgement is coming. When Jesus was about to cast demons out of a man, the demons cried out, “Have You come to torment us before the time?” [see Matthew 8:29]. Luke adds that the evil spirits “begged Jesus not to order them to depart to the abyss”. [Luke 8:31].

What is the “abyss?” It may be the place mentioned in [2Peter 2:4] where the Apostle writes, “God did spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into the chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment.” Some demons apparently committed such heinous offenses that God sent them into a special

“holding tank” until the final Day of Judgement. The word translated “hell” in this verse is the Greek word “Tartarus” a term describing a horrible place where Divine Punishment is meted out.

The devil knows and fears the Divine Judgement awaiting him – but he does not fear mere humans. In the book of Acts, it tells us about some itinerant Jewish Exorcists who tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those with evil spirits, saying, “I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches.” When the seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish high priest tried to do this, the evil spirit said to them, “Jesus I recognize, Paul I know, but who are you? The possessed man beat them up and forced them to flee, naked & wounded” [verse 16]. Fear fell upon the Jews and Greeks who lived in Ephesus, and the name of Jesus was held in great esteem, and the word of the Lord continues to spread with influence and power.

This shows us the considerable supernatural power of Satan and his demons and the absolute futility of trying to fight them in our own strength. Our friend Warren Wiersbe said, “the Christian life is not a

playground, but a battlefield, and from the day you committed yourself to follow Christ, you entered the battle. So, you need to put on your armor.”

The Battle against Evil – Apostle Paul tells us about the various types of armor we need to survive and even win in the spiritual battle. In verse 11, “Put on the armor of God so that you may be able to stand firm against the tactics of the devil, include the helmet of salvation, the breastplate of righteousness, the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God, hold Faith as a shield, to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one”, and Paul reminded us to “be strong in the Lord and in the power of His Might.” [Ephesians 6:10-17]

As believers, we need a healthy respect for our adversary, the devil. But more importantly, we need a total dependence on our God. We want to stay as close to Jesus as possible for there is “No Other.” In His most Holy Name, there is “No Match for Jesus.”

FOOD - BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

Food is a great unifier. Throughout the Gospels we see Jesus using food to bring people together.

When He wanted to get through to Zacchaeus He went to his house for a meal. When He wanted to explain what the kingdom of God is like, He did it using a meal; and told us to carry on that practice.

Jesus came from a tradition that also used meals to signify certain things. In the Jewish tradition they celebrated feasts such as Passover, Pentecost, Yom Kippur and Tabernacles; handing on the wisdom to the next generation.

The same is true for every civilization. Food acts as a central point that people gather around. It was a place where stories were told and wisdom was passed down. It was a place that fostered community and developed family, because we all need food to survive.

We are moving further and further away from the origins of our food. The food we consume is more heavily processed and perfectly cleaned than ever before. We expect it to look uniform and as a result so much food is wasted.

We have also moved further away from the table. Congregating around the television with food trays on our laps.

To listen; to truly listen is becoming more and more difficult as we attempt to make sense of the noise that we are subjected to on a daily basis.

The art of conversation is a dwindling form, interrupted constantly by noise and lights.

Our faith is about relationship. The incarnation reminds us that relationship matters. It is far more important than wealth, status, or entertainment. Anything worth having takes effort, and it is the same for our relationships.

As a society we are more divided than ever. Yet we still have food in common. Let us get back to the table. Let us continue to share and learn together, let us always remember what Jesus has done for us.



CREAMY CABBAGE SOUP

Ingredients

- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 small head cabbage, chopped
- 1 small potato, chopped or grated
- 2 cups chicken stock
- 1 bay leaf
- 1/2 teaspoon dry thyme
- 2 cups milk
- 1/4 cup cream
- 2 teaspoons lemon juice
- salt and ground black pepper
- For Topping: bacon, croutons, red pepper flakes, Parmesan cheese (optional)

Instructions

1. In a large saucepan or pot, sauté onion in butter.
2. Add cabbage, potato, chicken stock, bay leaf and thyme. Cook until cabbage is soft.
3. Remove from heat. Puree the soup using a regular blender or immersion blender. Add milk, cream and lemon juice. Season with salt and pepper to taste and boil for a minute more.
4. Top with bacon, croutons, red pepper flakes and Parmesan cheese before serving, if desired.



God's Invisible Breath

The man whispered, "God, speak to me."
And a meadowlark sang.
But the man did not hear.

So the man yelled, "God, speak to me!"
And the thunder rolled across the sky.
But the man did not listen.

The man looked around and said, "God, let me see you."
And a star shone brightly.
But the man did not notice.

And the man shouted, "God, show me a miracle!"
And a life was born.
But the man did not know.

So, the man cried out in despair.
"Touch me God, and let me know that you are here!"
Whereupon God reached down and touched the man.
But the man brushed the butterfly away and walked on.

~anonymous

MORAL: Don't miss out on a blessing because it isn't
packaged the way you expect.



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

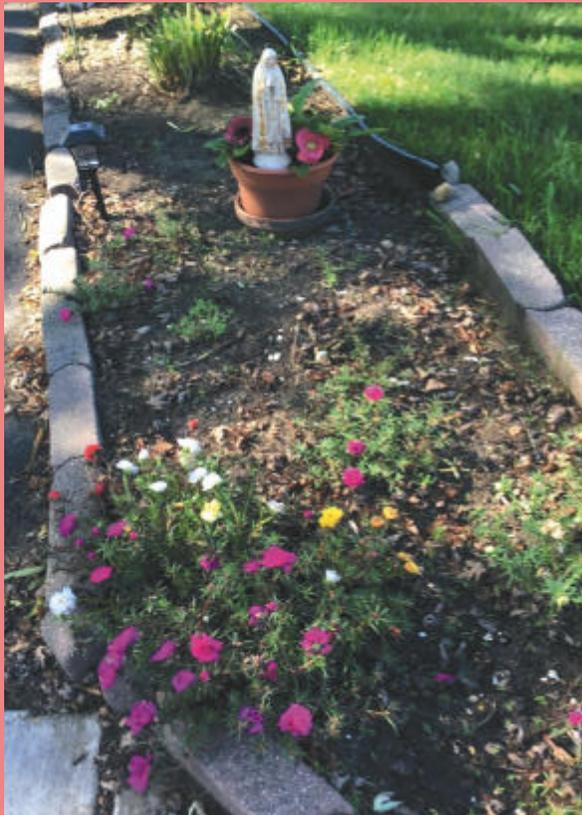
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THE MEMORARE

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary,
that never was it known
that anyone who fled to thy protection,
implored thy help,
or sought thy intercession,
was left unaided.

Inspired by this confidence
I fly unto thee,

O Virgin of virgins, my Mother.

To thee do I come,
before thee I stand,
sinful and sorrowful.

O Mother of the Word Incarnate,
despise not my petitions,
but in thy mercy hear and answer me.
Amen.