PARISH OF ST. MARY

One parish serving God and Neighbor in three worship sites



St. Mary, Mother of the Church
140 Main St., Lee



St. Mary of the Lakes
72 North Main St., Otis



St. Joseph's
11 Elm St., Stockbridge

OCTOBER 6, 2024 | THE 27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 pm (Lee) 5:30 pm (Otis)
Sunday: 8 & 11 am (Lee) & 9:30 am (Stockbridge)
Weekday: 7:00 am (Lee)
Holy Days of Obligation: (please see inside)

PARISH OFFICE

40 Academy Street Lee, MA 01238
Hours: Mon. - Thu. 9 am - 12 pm or by appointment
Telephone: (413) 243-0275
Fax: (413) 243-1926
Rectory: lcsmchurch@gmail.com
Cemeteries: cemeteries101@gmail.com
Faith Formation: stmaryleeccd@gmail.com
Website: www.stmarylos.com
Prayer Line: (413) 243-1523 (Vicki)
Oratory: (413) 243-1337

PARISH PASTORAL STAFF

Fr. Brian F. McGrath - Pastor
Fr. Jacob Janczyk - Associate
Deacon Jim McElroy - Deacon Emeritus
Deacon Bob Digan - Deacon Emeritus
Ms. Leslee Durfee - Parish Secretary
Mr. Timothy Ryan - Faith Formation Coordinator
Mrs. Karen T. Vidoli - Cemeteries Manager
Mr. Jeffrey Simmons - Maintenance
Mrs. Holly Cusack - Bookkeeper
Ms. Sandy Cummings - Music Director (Lee)
Ms. Susan Aery - Music Director (Otis)
Mr. Michael Garrity - Music Director (Stockbridge)
Mrs. Brenda Bianco - Safe Environment

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

115 Orchard Street Lee, MA 01238
Telephone: (413) 243-1079
Fax: (413) 243-1022
Website: www.stmaryslee.org
Mrs. Cara Maiorano-Culver - Principal
Mrs. Linda Winters - Secretary
Mrs. Ann LaBier - School Board Chair

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Bill Fiske
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Lori Koperek
Richard Lacey
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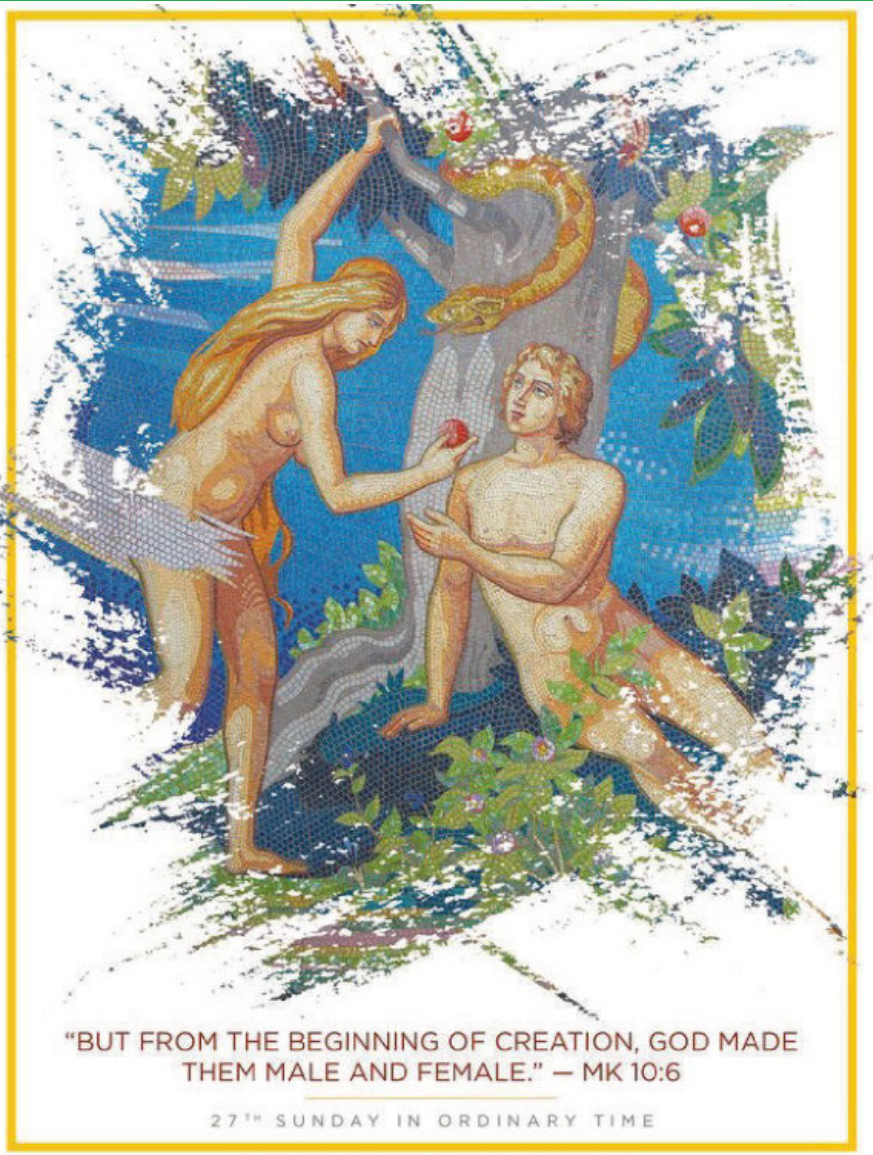


We are a Eucharistic community, finding strength in Jesus and His Church by living both Word and Sacrament. We minister to the needs of the People of God through Worship and living out the Gospel and the Teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.

WE STEWARD OUR TREASURE

Contributions	9/22	10/1
On Line	$860.00	$1090.00
Lee	$4,041.00	$5,093.00
Stockbridge	$1,298.00	$645.00
Otis	$351.00	$283.00
Mail	$295.00	$703.00



MINISTRIES ON THE ALTAR

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12

3:00 pm Confessions (Lee): Fr. Stanislaus

4:00 pm (Lee): Fr. Stanislaus | Lector: Elizabeth Sparks | AS: Sophie
E.M.s.: Donna Abbott, Elizabeth Sparks, MaryAnn Simmons

5:30 pm (Otis): Fr. Stanislaus | AS: Dylan & Logan
E.M.: Carol Lombardo | Lector: Dylan & Logan

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13

8:00 am (Lee): Fr. Brian | Lector: Charles Houff | AS: OPEN
E.M.s: Charles & Verna Houff, Roger Scheurer

9:30 am (Stockbridge): Fr. Brian | Richard Lacey

11:00 am (Lee): Fr Brian | Chad Klapes | AS: Cammy & Leo
E.M.s Holly Baccoli, Mary Jo Engles, Sue Scarpa

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Please pray for the men and women who have been activated to serve our nation, all our police officers, firefighters, first responders, and health care workers.

Let us also pray for our departed brothers and sisters, especially those who have passed recently:

Franklin Ripley

Barbara Davis Gore, Mary Cardarelli

May they rest in the loving arms of God in heaven.

Please contact the Rectory (413) 243-0275 for Mass Intentions, Candle Requests, or to add a name to our Prayer Intentions.

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARY'S

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5

9:00 am Blessing of Animals, Behind SMC
3:30 pm Andrij Stasiuk & Alexandra Klufas Wedding @ STJ

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6 27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9:15 am Faith Formation to visit the Shrine of Divine Mercy
11:00 am Grades 6-8 serving Mass @ SMC
12:00 pm Caleb Culver Baptism @ SMC
6:00 pm Confirmation Class @ SMS

MONDAY, OCTOBER 7

5:00 pm Knights of Columbus Rosary @ SMC Grotto
5:00 pm St. Mary's School Board Meeting @ SMS
6:00 pm St. Mary's School Family Supper @ SMS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11

3:00 pm Davis-Gizzi Wedding Rehearsal @ STJ

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12

2:00 pm Bingo @ SMS, Doors open at 12:30
4:00 pm KoC Refreshments after Mass @ SMC

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13 28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:00 & 11:00 am KoC Refreshments after Mass @ SMC
9:30 am Timothy McHugh Baptism at Mass @ STJ

Upcoming: 10/20 Confirmation Students Mass with Bishop Byrne and Retreat; 10/22 Diocesan Priest Convocation | New Directions Banquet at BountiFare, Adams; 10/26 Church & Cemetery Clean-Up; 10/27 12 Noon KoC Installation of Officers; 11/1 Solemnity of All Saints; 11/3 Mass of Remembrance; 11/7 SMS Veterans Program; 11/13 SMS Open House; 11/24 SMS Bazaar, 11 am Catechetical Mass; 11/27 Bread Baking; 11/28 Thanksgiving Mass; 12/1 First Sunday of Advent; 12/4 KoC Christmas Dinner; 12/9 Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is celebrated (not a day of Obligation this year); 12/15 Family Faith Formation Christmas Caroling at Laurel Landing Nursing Home | Communal Reconciliation Service

WWW.STMARYLOS.COM

SMC = St. Mary, Mother of the Church, Lee | SMS = St. Mary's School, Lee
STJ = St. Joseph's, Stockbridge | SML = St. Mary of the Lakes, Otis

We are live-streaming the 4 pm Mass from St. Mary's Church on our Facebook page: (St Mary Lee, Otis, Stockbridge). You can keep updated on the diocesan (diospringfield.org), parish (stmarylos.com) and school websites (stmaryslee.org) as well on Facebook.

TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

ARIMATHEAN MINISTRY: We have a powerful ministry of helping with funerals. Setting up, serving the Altar, helping with readings and cleaning up afterwards … we need your help. It is a great comfort to our families and a huge help to Father. Consider serving. Call the rectory if you are interested.

PARISH INFORMATION

REGISTRATION We welcome all new members to our parish family. To formally join the parish, please fill in the Parish Census form. Our parish census helps us keep track of who is a member of the parish. It is how we send parishioners the Catholic Mirror and parish mailings. If you want to be registered with us, simply fill in the Census Form (found at the entrances of the church or on our website) or stop by the Rectory.

BAPTISMS is the beginning of our Sacramental life in the Church. We welcome all infants, youth and adults seeking baptism. There is preparation that is necessary, so please call in advance. A baptismal information form can be found on our website. For questions or to schedule a Baptismal Class, please email Chris Bzduch at cb566428@gmail.com

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION & THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK are offered every Saturday from 3:00-3:45 pm at St. Mary's Church, Lee. These sacraments may be received any time by appointment.

SICK OR HOMEBOUND Kindly inform the Rectory if you or someone you know would like a visit at home, hospital or nursing home. We will gladly visit them.

MARRIAGE Congratulations to our newly engaged. Please contact the Rectory to begin the preparations. The process can take up to a year. God's grace lasts all the days of your life.

HOLY ORDERS If you feel the call to religious life or a vocation to the permanent diaconate or priesthood; contact Fr. Brian at the rectory or the Diocesan Vocations Director, Fr. Jon Reardon: (413) 248-7034 or email: vocations@diospringfield.org.

NEW DIRECTIONS CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTER Help Line is available 24/7 (413) 347- 8005

SAFE ENVIRONMENT Bishop William D. Byrne encourages anyone who has been a victim of sexual abuse by representatives of the Roman Catholic Church to come forward by contacting Michael Collins, Director, Office of Safe Environment & Victim Assistance, at (413) 452-0624, confidential toll free number at (800) 842-9055 or email reportabuse@diospringfield.org.

ST. JOSEPH HOSPITALITY We are now renting the rectory in Stockbridge through Air BnB & Vrbo. 5 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms, Living Room, Den, Kitchen & Dining Room. It is a great place to host your family or friends. We will be using the funds to cover operating cost and all the extra will go the ministry of St. Joseph's Church. For more info, call the Main Office (413) 243-0275.

OUR LADY'S ORATORY

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Visit the Oratory, located behind
St. Mary's Church in Lee.

Mon-Fri 8 am-11 pm | Sat & Sun 9 am-11 pm

There is grace in the sacrament. Come let us adore!

CANDLES THIS WEEK

Sanctuary:
Grotto Lamps:
Oratory Lamp:

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

SAT, OCTOBER 5 — ST. FAUSTINA KOWALSKA, VIRGIN, BLESSED FRANCIS XAVIER SEELOS, PRIEST

STJ 3:30 pm ♥ Andrij Stasiuk & Alexandra Klufas Wedding
SMC 4:00 pm † Deceased of the Donovan & Finnegan Families, by Eleanor
STJ 5:30 pm † Edward Storey, by the Carmelites

SUN, OCTOBER 6 — TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SMC 8:00 am † Marcel Brunell, by Bill & Becky Brunell
STJ 9:30 am † Mary McAllister, by Richard & Joanne Lacey
SMC 11:00 am † David Scarpa, love his Family

MON, OCTOBER 7 — OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

SMC 7:00 am † Henry Zukowski, by Don Zukowski
† Edward Gagne, by his siblings

TUE, OCTOBER 8

SMC 7:00 am PRAYER SERVICE

WED, OCTOBER 29 — ST. DENIS, BISHOP & COMPANIONS, MARTYRS

SMC 7:00 am PRAYER SERVICE

THU, OCTOBER 10

SMC 7:00 am PRAYER SERVICE

FRI, OCTOBER 11 — ST. JOHN XXIII, POPE

SMC 7:00 am PRAYER SERVICE

SAT, OCTOBER 12

STJ 2:00 pm ♥ Jacob Davis & Hannah Gizzi Wedding
SMC 4:00 pm † Richard Dupras, Birthday Remembrance by Family
STJ 5:30 pm † Carol McCall, by Maureen Tobin

SUN, OCTOBER 13 — TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SMC 8:00 am † Fred Lawrence, from Daughter Theresa
STJ 9:30 am † Laura Cummings, by Lynn Toole
SMC 11:00 am † Louis DiGrigoli. By Bill & Kathy Hall

To request Mass or Candle Intentions, please contact the Parish Office (413) 243-0275.

READINGS THIS WEEK

Sun., 10/6: Gn 2:18-24/Ps 128:/Heb 2:9-11/Mk 10:2-16 or 10:2-12
Mon., 10/7: Gal 1:6-12/Ps 111/Lk 10:25-37
Tue., 10/8: Gal 1:13-24/Ps 139/Lk 10:38-42
Wed., 10/9: Gal 2:1-2, 7-14/Ps 117/Lk 11:1-4
Thu., 10/10: Gal 3:1-5/Lk 1:69-70, 71-72, 73-75/Lk 11:5-13
Fri., 10/11: Gal 3:7-14/Ps 111/Lk 11:15-26
Sat., 10/12: Gal 3:22-29/Ps 105/Lk 11:27-28
Next Sun., 10/13: Wis 7:7-11/Ps 90/Heb 4:12-13/Mk 10:17-30

FROM OUR SCHOOL

115 Orchard Street Lee, MA 01238
Telephone: (413) 243-1079
Fax: (413) 243-1022
Website: www.stmaryslee.org
Mrs. Cara Maiorano-Culver - Principal
Mrs. Linda Winters - Secretary
Mrs. Ann LaBier - School Board Chair

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL BOARD meets this Monday, 10/7, at 7:00 pm (immediately following the school family dinner) in the Library at St. Mary's. Please pray for the leadership of our School.

BINGO: Join us next Saturday, 10/12, at St. Mary's School Gym for BINGO! Doors open at 12:30 pm, games begin at 2:00 pm. 11/9 and 12/14. Come for some excitement. Support the efforts of our School!

HOLIDAY BAZAAR: Sunday, November 24, 2024, from 9:00am – 3:00pm at SMS. There are still vendor tables available. Call the school.



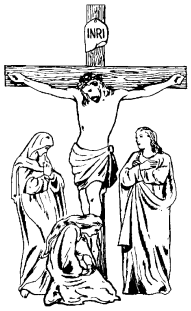
Fr. Brian and the Chef's Club!
(Mrs. Culver left with a beautiful, fresh salad after taking this photo!)

St. Mary's Drum & Bugle Corps marched in the Lee Founder's Weekend Parade!



FAITH FORMATION

"Love endures everything, love is stronger than death, love fears nothing." - *Saint Faustina*



FAMILY FAITH FORMATION: Faith Formation classes will be at the National Shrine of the Divine Mercy at 9:15 am today (10/6) to pray the Stations of the Cross. Grades 6-8 will Serve at the 11 am Mass.

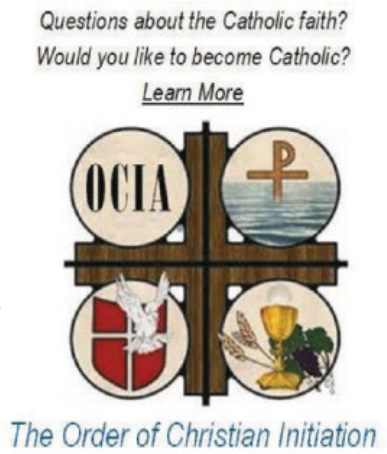
ADULT BIBLE STUDY We will return on Oct. 20th to continue the journey through the Gospel of Luke. ***All*** adults are welcome.

CONFIRMATION CLASS meets tonight (10/6) in St. Mary's School Library from 6-7:30 pm. Please see the link below if you have not yet registered

If you have not yet registered for Family Faith Formation, Adult Bible Study or Confirmation, you can sign up online at the Church's website, look for Faith Formation under "Ministries":

www.stmarylos.com

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS: This is a great time to think about becoming Catholic. If you are interested (or if you know someone who is), please contact Fr. Brian at the Rectory or Marlene Morris at ***mmorris0563@gmail.com*** or (413)281-7570. We call this a time of Inquiry. We have scheduled a "Tour of the Church" on Thursday, November 14th at 6:00 pm. Classes will resume in early December. But don't wait, give us a buzz and get things started.



We ask you to keep all our new students, teachers, staff, and volunteers in your prayers as we continue moving on our path to our Lord. Please contact **T.J. Ryan, our Faith Formation Coordinator** for further info at:

stmaryleeccd@gmail.com

CATHOLIC TRIVIA

Question: What was the first Native American language approved for translation for most parts of the Mass ?

Answer on page 7

FROM OUR PASTOR

This weekend we celebrate Respect Life Sunday! It is such a foundational Catholic principal that each and every human life has infinite dignity. That dignity doesn't change with age or mental capacity or social status or ethnicity. You are fearfully and wonderfully made in the very image and likeness of God. It is His love that brings you into existence, sustains you and gives you dignity.

Let us treasure life. Let us defend life. Let us work in our own lives and in our great nation for the protection of life from conception through natural death.

One life that has been a real blessing to our parish is Fr. Jacob. He has been with a month and seems to be settling in very well. Thank you to all who have made him welcome.

Before he was assigned here he had a retreat and vacation planned for this weekend through next. So you won't be seeing him around for a few days. He will be back on the 14th of October.

I have a Retreat this week too. I contemplated not going, but Deacon Jim and Elizabeth Sparks have agreed to cover the daily prayer on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. I go right from the retreat in Connecticut up to New Hampshire for my nephew's wedding on Saturday. Fr. Stanislaus Achu will be here on Saturday to hear confession and preside at the Masses. Please say a prayer for me as I take a few days to retreat from the busy life of a parish priest to pray, reflect and rest in God's love.

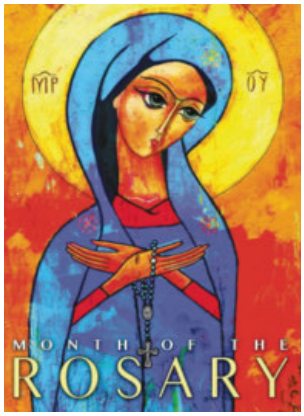
The first day of the retreat is October 7th, the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. How fitting is it that Mary will guide me into prayer and watch over the dozen or so diocesan priests who will be gathering for the week! I love praying the rosary. It is an inspiration as I contemplate the profound mysteries in each decade. It is a still point in an ever-busy world. It is a place of comfort and rest. It is a wonderful tool of intercession as I lift up people and intentions.

I hope you can join the Knights of Columbus as they lead the rosary at our Grotto on Monday. Even more, I hope you find this a good devotion you can pray each day. We have brochures on how to pray the rosary as well as rosaries in the main entrance of each of our churches. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.

I will be praying for you this week on retreat. Please pray for me. May God bless you.

Pax. Fr. b.

NEWS FROM THE PARISH

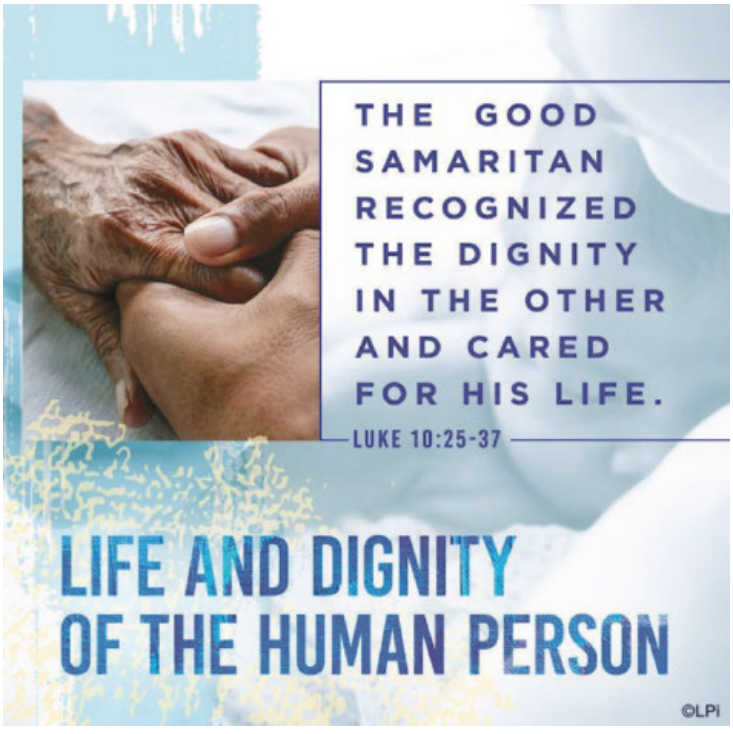


ROSARY: Join us on Monday, 10/7, at 5:00 pm in the Grotto behind St. Mary's Church, Lee (if the weather becomes inclement we will go inside the church) as the Knights of Columbus lead us in a rosary on the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. God has given us Mary as such a wonderful model and intercessor. He has given us this great prayer to invoke her protection now and the hour of our death. Holy Mary, pray for us!

THE FALL PARISH CHURCH & CEMETERY YARD CLEAN-UP will take place on Saturday, October 26th, 9:00 am until Noon. St. Mary's Church, St. Mary's Cemetery, St. Joseph's Cemetery … each could use some special TLC as we prepare for the long winter's nap.

OUR MASS OF REMEMBRANCE will be held on Sunday, 11/3, at 11:00 am to pray for and hold dear all those who have died this past year. Invitations are being sent to families we have dealt with over this past year. If we have missed you, please contact the rectory. We really want to pray for each and all who have gone before us this year. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God rest in peace.





DIOCESAN EUCHARISTIC ROSARY CONGRESS: The third annual Diocesan Eucharistic Rosary Congress will be held at the Shrine of Divine Mercy in Stockbridge this October 5-11. A Rosary Congress is the continual Adoration and hourly recitation of the Rosary before the Blessed Sacrament for seven days and nights in a particular parish or diocese, wrapping our country, our states, our cities, our dioceses, and our families within the protective Heart of Mary. Please prayerfully consider joining your neighbors from the Berkshires and beyond by signing up as an Adorer for this year's Rosary Congress in Stockbridge. For more information and registration, please call Marya at 413-298-2515 or go to www.adorationpro.org/rosarycongress

YOUTH GROUP FUNDRAISING DINNER: St. Ann Youth Ministry, which engages over thirty-five middle and high school students from Sandisfield to North Adams, invites you to their Italian Dinner on Saturday, October 12 at 6:00 pm in the St. Ann Family Center (134 Main St. Lenox). Tickets are $10 for adults and $5 for children 12 and under. Please purchase tickets in advance by calling Marya 413-440-9381.



PRO-LIFE

Pro-Life Reflection: From today's Gospel, Mark 10: "**Let the children come to me, do not prevent them for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."** God's goodness is mirrored in innocent life and perpetuated by its energies

40 DAYS FOR LIFE is an internationally coordinated 40-day campaign that aims to end abortion locally through prayer & fasting, community outreach, and a peaceful all-day vigil in front of abortion businesses. Since the 1st campaign in 2007, 40 Days has reached over 1,000 cities in 63 countries. **24,853** lives have been saved, **263** abortion workers quit, and **155** abortion centers have been closed. Praise God for the 1,000,000 volunteers and the **20,000** churches that participated in their **12,358** campaigns. This Fall's campaign will take place from Wednesday, Sept. 25 through Sunday, Nov. 3, 2024. Please do all you can to make this year's campaign one that will save many lives.

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

THE HARDNESS OF YOUR HEARTS: As far as I know, no one has ever woken up in the morning, looked out the window, and thought, "This is a beautiful sunrise. I'll have to be very careful not to let it make me happy."

But I'm certain that every day, lots of people — including, on not -infrequent occasions, myself — have woken up and remembered something that happened the day before. Something that made us feel upset or frustrated or insulted. And we thought to ourselves, "That makes me so, so angry." And we've pictured the face of the person who made us feel that way, and we have scoffed with disgust.

And we hold onto that anger because anger feels so much better than sadness. And deep within ourselves, in the place where we feel all the love and pain and confusion that is inherent in human existence, we harden.

Nobody ever intends to be hard-hearted. That's just the stuff of Bond villains and horror flicks. No, in real life a hardened heart isn't a conscious choice. It's a reflex. It's just us trying to protect ourselves, to be strong — or, at least, to embody the version of strength offered by a fallen world.

A heart of stone is not so easily scratched, you see. But it's also not so easily warmed or touched or moved.

A heart hardened by resentment and pain and anger is not just protected from injury. It is protected from the impact of the whole spectrum of tender feelings. It is not open to forgiveness, so it cannot feel the rush of life-giving mercy. It is closed off to new ideas, so it can never feel the awe of discovery.

There is a reason we are called to guard ourselves against hard-heartedness. God gave us hearts of flesh and blood. They are hearts that can be broken, yes — but also, they are hearts that can be made new.

©LPi

OCTOBER IS MISSION MONTH: As we begin the month of October, we enter a special period of reflection and action for our Church's missionary efforts worldwide. World Mission Sunday, which will be celebrated on 10/20, is a vital time for all Catholics to support the spread of the Gospel in mission territories.

This year's theme, chosen by Pope Francis, is "Go and invite everyone to the banquet,:" emphasizing our call to bring God's love and message to all corners of the world. The contributions collect on World Mission Sunday are crucial for sustaining the Church's mission in over 1,150 territories where the Church is still young or struggling.

Historically, the Church in the US was once a beneficiary of these missionary efforts, and now we have the opportunity to give back and support our brothers and sitters around the globe. Let us prepare our hearts and minds to engage fully in this mission through the month.

GOSPEL MEDITATION 7

As a young pastor years ago, I met with a middle-aged couple who had been divorced and civilly remarried. They were frustrated that an annulment had to precede a Church marriage. Sympathizing with their plight, I promised to walk with them along their journey. Once as we sat in my office, the man said to me, "Why is the Church so difficult on marriage?" I replied, "Actually, Jesus' teaching is what's difficult." He furrowed his brow and asked what I meant.

We opened the Bible and together read today's gospel passage from Mark 10:12 in which Jesus says, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another, commits adultery with her…" My two friends sat in silent astonishment. Surely Jesus understands the complexities of human life and sexual love. The words hung thick and heavy in the air. How could the merciful Lord be so seemingly unrealistic in his expectations, especially with so much divorce and remarriage in our world?

I didn't know what to say. So, we kept reading. Next, Jesus says, "Let the children come to me." The innocence of children allows them to receive and give love, to trust unconditionally, to believe in love that endures. Most children aren't yet jaded by statistics, broken hearts, or dysfunctional relationships. Children remind us of the world to come. The couple and I began to talk about child-like trust in Jesus and his teaching, and we continued to move forward. When it comes to the Church's demanding teaching on marriage, it's best to approach it as trusting children, whatever situations in which we find ourselves.

— Father John Muir ©LPi

CATHOLIC TRIVIA

Answer: Navajo.

Catholics and the Navajo people have a relationship that includes, support, Missionary work, Language study and Reconciliation







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