

St. John of the Cross Catholic Cluster

NOTRE DAME du MONT CARMEL

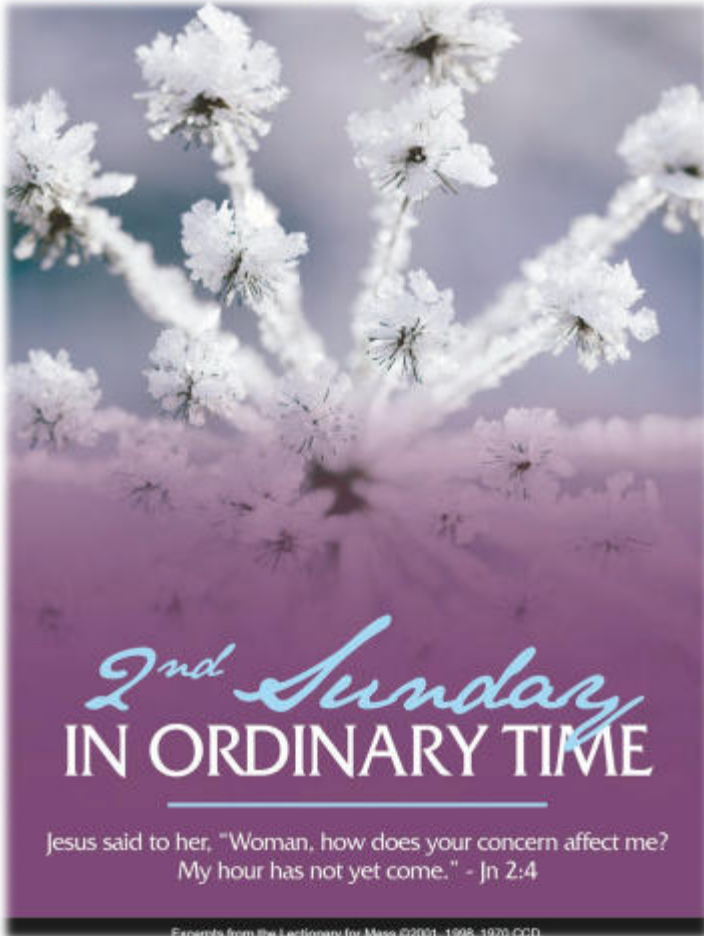
St. David
St. Gerard-Mt. Carmel
St. Thomas Aquinas

OUR LADY OF THE VALLEY

St. Agatha
St. Luce
St. Joseph (Sinclair)
St. Michael (Summer Months)

ST. PETER CHANEL

St. Bruno - St. Remi
St. Joseph (Hamlin)



JANUARY 16, 2022

PASTOR

Fr. Kent Ouellette

DEACONS

Rev. Mr. Donald R. Clavette

Rev. Mr. Rodney Deschaine

CLUSTER 2 BUSINESS COORDINATOR

Greg Cyr

Cluster 2 Website

www.sjvcatholics.org

Cluster 2 Facebook Site

St John Valley Catholics

SACRAMENTAL & PASTORAL CARE

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Please call your parish office for appointment.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday before 4pm Mass or by appointment.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Please call your parish office at least 6 months prior to date.

SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please call your parish office.

FUNERALS

Please contact the Cluster 2 business office.

NEW PARISHIONERS

If you are new to the parish or have an address or phone number change, please contact your parish office.

NOTRE DAME DU MONT CARMEL

309 St. Thomas Street, Suite 103

Madawaska, ME 04756

Parish Office / Cluster 2 Business Office - 728-7531

notredamedumontcarmel@portlanddiocese.org

Faith Formation Office - 728-7135

OUR LADY OF THE VALLEY

379 Main St./PO Box 10, St. Agatha, ME 04772

Parish Office - 543-7447

ourladyofthevalley@portlanddiocese.org

Faith Formation Office - 543-6119

ST. PETER CHANEL

174 Main St., Van Buren, ME 04785

Parish Office - 868-2718

StPeterChanelParish@portlanddiocese.org

Notre Dame du Mont Carmel Mass Schedule

Saturday, January 15

4:00pm **ST: (LS)** Donat Picard by Dick & Lorraine & Real Picard

6:00pm **SG:** Memorial Mass

Sunday, January 16 **2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

8:30am **ST:** Real Daigle (1st Anniv.) by Family

11:00am **SD:** Aline Corriveau (1st Anniv.) by Family

Monday, January 17 **St. Anthony, Abbot**

8:30am **ST:** **NO MASS**

Tuesday, January 18

6:00pm **ST: (LS)** Deceased Relatives of Gerard & Noella Soucy

Wednesday, January 19

8:30am **ST:** Deceased Relatives of Armand & Venette Lagasse

Thursday, January 20

NO MASS / St. Fabian & Sebastian

Friday, January 21

NO MASS / St. Agnes

Saturday, January 22

4:00pm **ST: (LS)** Rosaire Blanchette (1st Ann) by Family

6:00pm **SG:** Clifford Gendreau by Ray & Judy Marquis

Sunday, January 23 **3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

8:30am **ST:** Francis McDermott by Fred Michaud

11:00am **SD:** Claude Dube (1st Ann) by Fern Dube

**** (LS) Livestream**

Our Lady of the Valley Mass Schedule

Saturday, January 15

6:00pm **SA:** Tom Chamberland by Family

Sunday, January 16 **2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

10:30am **SL:** Robert Chamberland by Clarence & Betty Roy

4:00pm **SJ:** Deceased relatives of James & Kathryn Harris

Monday, January 17 **St. Anthony, Abbot**

6:00pm **SA:** Paul Collins by Mike & Pat Jalbert

Tuesday, January 18

8:30am **SJ:** Deceased relatives by Serge & Laura Roy

Wednesday, January 19 **NO MASS**

Thursday, January 20

Sts. Fabian & Sebastian

6:00pm **SL:** Christian & Carmen Guerrette by Phil & Linda Dumais

Friday, January 21

NO MASS / St. Agnes

Saturday, January 22

6:00pm **SA:** Noella Bouchard by Mike & Doreen Daigle

Sunday, January 23 **3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

10:30am **SL:** Ronald Landry (1st Ann.) by Diane Landry & Family

4:00pm **SJ:** Gerald Pelletier by SJMC

St. Peter Chanel Mass Schedule

Saturday, January 15

4:00pm **SB/SR:** Josie Violette (1st Ann) by her Family

Sunday, January 16 **2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

8:00am **SJ:** Leonhard Adam (1st Ann) by his wife, Ella & Family

9:15am **SB/SR:** Leo Cormier by Bob & Kathleen Beaulieu

Monday, January 17 **St. Anthony, Abbot**

6:00pm **SB/SR:** **NO MASS**

Tuesday, January 18 **NO MASS**

Wednesday, January 19

5:00pm –6:00pm **SB/SR:** Adoration/Confession

6:00pm **SB/SR:** Joey R. Ouellette (1st Ann 1/20) by Mom & Dad & Family

Thursday January 20

NO MASS / St. Fabian & Sebastian

Friday, January 21

NO MASS / St. Agnes

Saturday, January 22

4:00pm **SB/SR:** Gilbert Soucy by Rochelle & Family

Sunday, January 23 **3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

8:00am **SJ:** Alban Roy by his wife, Noelle & Family

9:15am **SB/SR:** Jackie Derosier by Rudy & Nancy Ouellette



St. Sebastian | January 20

Not much is known about the life of St. Sebastian (256 – 287), except that he was a Roman martyr whose name has been mentioned throughout history since early 350.

We see St. Sebastian many times in art, especially from iconic paintings from Guido Reni, Andrea Mantegna and Hendrick ter Brugghen. Historical scholars now agree that a spiritual story has the beloved saint entering the Roman army because only there could he assist Christian martyrs without arousing suspicion on himself. Eventually he was found out, brought before Emperor Diocletian and delivered to Mauritanian archers to be shot to death. Pierced with arrows, he was left for dead, but managed to survive. He recovered from his wounds but still refused to leave.

One day, St. Sebastian took up a position near where the emperor was to pass. He confronted the emperor, condemning him for his cruelty to Christians. This time the sentence of death was carried out; St. Sebastian was beaten to death with clubs.

Today he is the patron saint of athletes.

St. Sebastian, Pray for us!!

NOTRE DAME DU MONT CARMEL PARISH CORNER

St. David, St. Gerard-Mt. Carmel/Grand Isle, St. Thomas Aquinas/Madawaska

Worship & Spirituality

PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Quinn Soucy, Debra Levesque and Donna Neill. FMI please call 728-7135. **Please note that after 1 month on the list we will remove the name. You must call back if you want to be put back on. Thank you.

LAMP FOR THE UNBORN BURNS FOR:

St. David - for the Unborn by a Parishioner

St. Gerard - for Kate by Leona Roy

ST. GERARD SANCTUARY LAMP BURNS IN JANUARY FOR:

Deceased Relatives by Therese Cyr

ST. DAVID SANCTUARY LAMP BURNS IN JANUARY FOR:

Special Intention by Parishioners

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS SANCTUARY LAMP BURNS IN

JANUARY FOR: George Dugal by Ginette & Family



EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Tuesday, January 18th / 1pm-5:45pm
at St. Thomas Aquinas Church



INTENTION: For an end to abortion and all sins against human life, and for our area businesses and their workforces.

Mass Scheduling: Anyone coming into the office to schedule a Mass needs to know that the Mass request will be booked immediately but not scheduled unless it is a 1st Anniversary Mass. The dates that Masses are scheduled will be listed in the bulletin weekly. Thanks for your understanding in this. God Bless.



**The office will be closed on
Monday, January 17
in observance of
Martin Luther King Jr.**

MEMORIAL MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 15 - 6:00pm St. Gerard

Dorothy & Dean Pelletier	by Friends of the Family
Scott B. Cyr	by Gerald & Karen Cyr
Herman J. Fortin	by Gerald & Joan Baron
Herman J. Fortin	by Geraldine & Paul Brideau
Herman J. Fortin	Dorine Martin
Herman J. Fortin	Gilberte Jouvin
Herman J. Fortin	by Aldrie & Marietta Fortin & Family
Herman J. Fortin	by Jean Paul & Huguette Rioux
Herman J. Fortin	by Michael & Ester Tolleson
Raoul Chasse	by a friend
Scott B. Cyr	by Claude & Claudette Gendreau
Ken Soucy	by Richard & Jackie Snell
Favor obtained	by a Parishioner
Deceased Relatives	of Philip Beupre
Deceased Relatives	of Robert & Verna Beaulieu
Deceased Relatives	of Claude Lavertue
Deceased Relatives	of Gerald & Angela Soucy
Deceased Relatives	of Herman & Lucienne Lavoie

Finance & Administration

Notre Dame du Mont Carmel Financial Update

Offertory: July 1, 2021 to January 2, 2022

Budget:\$178,096 **Actual:**\$183,124 **Over Anticipated:**\$5,028

	Amount given	Weekly goal
St. David	\$1,046	\$1,745
St. Gerard	\$ 980	\$1,032
St. Thomas Aquinas	\$2,305	\$3,819
Weekly Totals	\$4,331	\$6,596
	This Year	Last Year
Average Collections	\$6,782	\$6,561

WeShare Online Giving: \$649

Solemnity of Mary: \$897

Heating: \$2,858

Second Collection

January 23rd - Church of Latin America

Parish Life

DAUGHTERS OF ISABELLA MEETING: Monday, February 14th; Rosary at 5pm, meal at 5:15pm followed by meeting. Please bring something for the Pregnancy Care Center. FMI call Rose at 728-6388.

ST. DAVID LADIES OF ST. ANNE MEETING: Tuesday, January 18th at 2:30pm in the St. David Rectory downstairs.

DAUGHTERS OF ISABELLA PRAYER LINE: If you are in need of prayers for you or a loved one, the Daughters of Isabella can help through the Prayer Line. This is open to anyone – not only for members. To add a name to the prayer line, call **Lucy Cyr at 436-9673.**

Community Events

YOUR ST. THOMAS FOOD PANTRY IS HERE FOR YOU: If you are struggling and need food in these difficult times, we are here for you. Applications available at Frenchville and Madawaska Town Offices. You can also pick one up when you come pick up a box. Drive by St Thomas Aquinas Church parking lot, wear mask & open trunk of your car. **Food boxes will be available on January 19th from 8-10am.** FMI call pantry at 728-7531.

GRAND ISLE SENIOR LUNCHEON: Thursday, January 20 at the Community Center. Until further notice the meals will be **TAKE OUT ONLY!! MENU: Meatballs on Noodles**

Grand Isle KC Breakfast: Sunday, January 16, 2022, 7:30 to 10:00am at the Community Center. Eat in or take out. Advance sale \$8.00 or \$9.00 at the door. Mask and social distancing recommended inside. Mill delivery for 7:30am. Advance tickets available from Gerald 895-6949 Bob 895-2287; George 227-1177; Gary 316-6060; or Grand Isle General Store.

Grand Isle Kitchen Party: Sunday, January 16, 2022, 1:00 to 3:00pm in the gym at the Community Center. Plenty of room for social distance. Wearing a mask is recommended and encouraged. Everyone is invited. Bring your friends. Free admission. Free snacks and refreshments. Donations always appreciated. Join us for a few hours of fun and entertainment by local talent. Sponsored by the Greater Grand Isle Historical Society.

OUR LADY OF THE VALLEY PARISH CORNER
 St. Agatha, St. Joseph/Sinclair, St. Luce/Frenchville, St. Michael Chapel

Worship & Spirituality

PRAYER LINE CONTACTS

St. Joseph: Cecile Ouellette 543-6073

SANCTUARY LAMP: Burns for:

St. Agatha: Joan Belanger by Family

St. Luce: Martine, Denis, Harold, Donald, Gerry & Donald Shields by Family

St. Joseph: Jeannette & Adrien Ouellette by Family

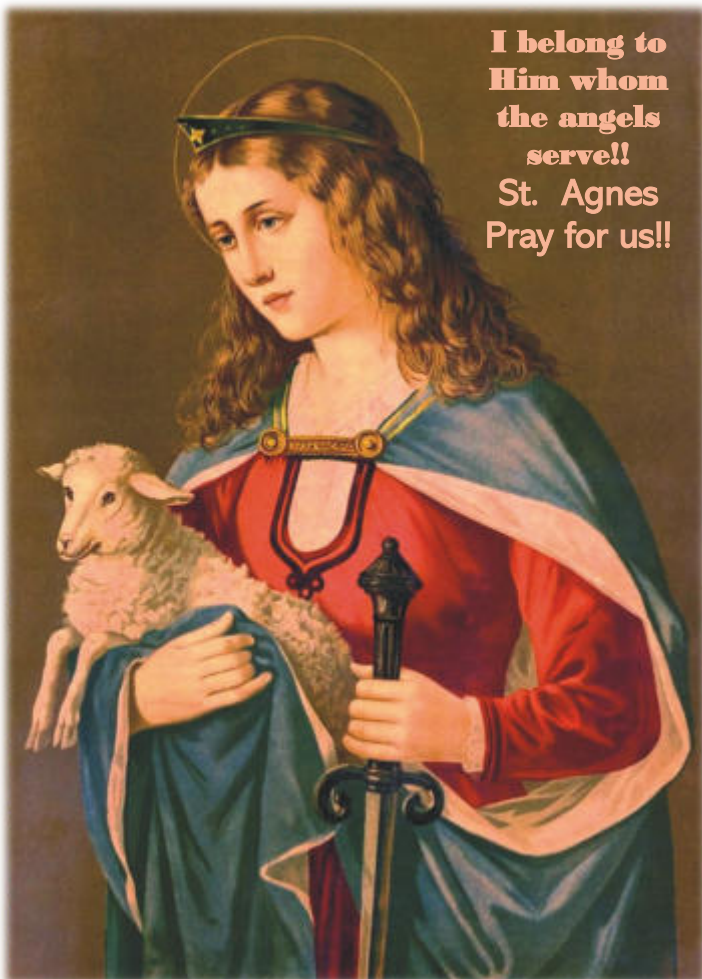


ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Monday's 5:00-6:00pm with Mass at 6:00pm at St. Agatha
 Thursday's 5:00-6:00pm with Mass 6:00pm at St. Luce

Masks are strongly recommended for all persons attending Mass!!

Mass Scheduling: Anyone coming into the office to schedule a Mass needs to know that the Mass request will be booked immediately but not scheduled unless it is a 1st Anniversary Mass. The dates that Masses are scheduled will be listed in the bulletin weekly. Thanks for your understanding in this. God Bless.



**I belong to Him whom the angels serve!!
 St. Agnes Pray for us!!**

Finance & Administration

Our Lady of the Valley Financial Updates

Offertory: July 1, 2021 to January 2, 2022

Budget: \$96,058 **Actual:** \$95,996 **Under Anticipated:** -\$62

	Amount Given	Weekly Goal
Weekly Totals	\$2,941	\$4,167
	This Year	Last Year
Average Collections	\$3,555	\$3,352

WeShare Online Giving: \$270

Solemnity of Mary: \$568

Heating: \$ 1,639

Second Collection

January 23rd - Church of Latin America

2022 Contribution Envelopes: Please pick up your new contribution envelopes in the entrance of the church. If you know someone who cannot pick up their envelopes, please pick them up for these parishioners. If you have not yet registered, please stop by the parish office. Thank You.

PRAYER FOR THE UNBORN



"Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Your Power and Grace transcends all time and space. Cast now Your compassionate glance upon all life in the womb from the moment of conception until the moment of birth. Caress these innocent souls in Your Merciful Love. Protect this life from any marauder. Bestow upon each soul You create a spiritual baptism, in Your Name, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen."

Community Events

ST. JOSEPH FOOD PANTRY IN SINCLAIR

Serving St. Agatha, Sinclair and Cross Lake

If you are in need of food in these difficult times, we are here for you. If you are a senior you may qualify for a senior box and food box every month.

Food is given every first Tuesday of every month also senior box and this is a drive thru pick up, just open trunk and we will load the box of food for you. Pick up time is 1-3pm.

Please wear a mask!

FMI call Cecile Ouellette @ 543-6073 or 543-5057

Monday thru Friday from 1-4pm

Application will be completed over the phone due to COVID-19

ST. PETER CHANEL PARISH CORNER

St. Bruno-St. Remi Church/Van Buren, St. Joseph Church/Hamlin & Borderview Nursing Home

**ST. BRUNO-ST. REMI CHURCH SPONSORS
BREAD & WINE SPONSOR / IN LOVING MEMORY OF:**

JOEY R. OUELLETTE (1ST ANNIVERSARY)
BY SANDY & DAVE LAPLANTE

SANCTUARY LAMP SPONSOR / IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

JOE, JOAN & SUE DUMOND
BY DON & CARMEN OUELLETTE

**Masks are strongly recommended for
all persons attending Mass!!**



Christmas Flower Donations / Part 2

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Raymond & Marcella Lajoie	by Mike & Marie Lajoie
Jeanne Guerrette	by loving husband, Ross
George & Constance Bard	by loving daughter, Sandra Pitre
Wayne Martin	by Denise Martin & Mike Violette
Gerard & Isabel Parent	by Denise Martin & Mike Violette
Gabriel & Gerri Violette	by Denise Martin & Mike Violette
M/M Leonard Ouellette	by Mike & Rachel Ouellette
Diane Brady	by Mike & Rachel Ouellette
Boy & Therese Saucier	by Mike & Rachel Ouellette
Ouellette Family	by Chou & Claudette Castonguay
Castonguay Family	by Chou & Claudette Castonguay
Len Adam & Page Family	by Ella Adam
Deceased Members of the Cyr & Ayotte Families	by Fred & Colette
Claudette Roy	by Clayton & Family
Alban Roy	by his Wife & Children
Otto & Violet O'Hara	by Beo & Patsy Charette
Roland & Claire Charette	by Beo & Patsy Charette
Albina Y. "Miss" Marquis	by her Nephew
St. Pierre & Marquis Families	by Paul & Helen St. Pierre
Paul & Rolande Laplante	by their Family
Bee & Omerine Doucette	by Karen, Don & Family
Conrad & Gladys Gendreau	by Don, Karen & Family
Deceased Chasse Family Members	by Sue Chasse
Jimmy & Irma Franck	by Harvey & Arlene Beaulieu
Lawrence & Alfreda Beaulieu	by Harvey & Arlene Beaulieu
Mom, Dad, Matante Julie, Tom & Linda	by Lisa
Walsh & St. Pierre Family	by Jackie & Family
Perreault & Lavoie Families	by Conrad & Pauline
St. Pierre & Gagnon Families	by Pauline & Conrad
Lajoie & Madore Families	by Steve & Marilyn Lajoie
Isidore Dumond	by Jim & Irene Dumond
Louis Bellefleur	by Jim & Irene Dumond
Mattie Dumond	by Jim & Irene Dumond
Elizabeth Bellefleur	by Jim & Irene Dumond
Pat & Hub Pelletier	by Rudy & Nancy Ouellette
Noel & Cecile Ouellette	by Rudy & Nancy Ouellette
Martine Pelletier	by Rudy & Nancy Ouellette

Thank You to all who contributed!

SECOND COLLECTIONS/JANUARY

22/23 Latin American Missions

Finance & Administration

St. Peter Chanel Parish Financial Updates

Offertory: July 1, 2021 to January 2, 2022

Budget: \$71,692 **Actual:** \$77,420 **Over Anticipated:** \$4,728

Amt. Given	\$2,727	Weekly Goal	\$2,692
This year	\$2,867	Last year	\$2,708

WeShare: Online Giving: \$54

Solemnity of Mary: \$628.97



Bulletin Memorials In Loving Memory of:



Marquis & Cyr Families by Ray & Judy Marquis	Love you Aunt Mildred by your Nephew	
Janet Michaud by Lorance Chamberland	Claudette Rossignol by Joan & Richard	
Tardif, Parent & Young Families by Ron & June & Family	Simone Vaillancourt by her Family & Friends	Madore & Rossignol Families by Carlene & Sheila
	Antoine Levesque by his wife, Irene	Patrick Thibodeau by Yolande & Family
Paula Pelletier by Mom, Cecil & Family	St. Pierre & Marquis Families by Paul & Helen St. Pierre	Deceased Members of the Chamberland Family by Lorance Chamberland
Gervaise Lapierre by Bob & Family	Deceased relatives of Allan and Karie Ouellette	Leonhard Adam by Ella & Sharon
Ron J. Cyr by Ken & Lorraine Fongemie	Claudette Rossignol by her husband, Percy	Betty Paradis by her Family
Deceased Members of the Madore Family by Glenn Madore		Martin & Deveau Families by Ron & Della Martin
Joseph Sytulek by Susan Swantek	Joey R. Ouellette by Jamie Parent	Gilman Grandmison by Esther, Rachel, Edna, Karen & Boy

St. Peter Chanel Outreach Committee News

Food Pantry News:

Next Curbside Distribution: January 27, 1-2:30pm.

For food extras/emergencies: Nancy 868-5324, Bob 868-5623,
Harvey 868-5679 & Norman 498-9570.

Bread & Wine & Sanctuary Lamp Sponsors:

There are currently available dates for the 2022 new year for Bread & Wine (\$25) and Sanctuary Lamp (\$15) sponsors. Please consider coming into or calling the office to reserve your dates to memorialize a family member while helping to defer Parish costs.

Thank you for your consideration. God Bless.

PARISH NEEDS / IN LOVING MEMORY:

Simone Vaillancourt	by her Family & Friends
Simone Vaillancourt	by Jeanne Marquis
Simone Vaillancourt	by Mike & Marie Lajoie

KC PARISH NEEDS / IN LOVING MEMORY:

Simone Vaillancourt	by Rudy & Dinah Parent
Simone Vaillancourt	by James Levasseur

Community Events

**Knights of Columbus/Chicken Stew To Go
Saturday, January 29, 10:30 until we run out
\$7 for stew, roll and dessert**

Pastor's Corner



Wednesday, March 2 of this year is the start of Lent. The Christmas Season just ended and I'm looking forward to Lent and Easter Seasons?! There should be no separation of these celebrations in time or thought.

Celebrating the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time on this Sunday, we can connect back to the Epiphany of the Lord. The fathers of the Church show Epiphany, Baptism of the Lord, and the Canaan story as one story with three parts. Each reveal who Jesus is and more. Particularly important are the truths that relate to us as Catholic Christians. From the story of Epiphany, we learn that Jesus offered salvation to all nations, not just for the people of Israel—although they are included. This is our salvation as well. From Jesus' baptism by John we learn that Jesus makes holy the waters into which he enters. From the wedding at Canaan we learn that Jesus transforms the water into wine. Something good is transformed into something better. In these revelations there are transformations from one good to a greater one. At Epiphany we saw a transformation of salvation for one nation to all nations. At the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan we see a transformation of baptism of repentance to baptism that forgives sins, with the offer of the gift of the Holy Spirit. At the wedding feast in Canaan we see the transformation of water into wine. These should prepare us to accept other transformations. We can more readily rejoice that bread and wine are transformed into the body and blood of Christ. We have this at every Eucharist. We will enter into it more intensely in Lent and Easter. With all this in mind let us allow every part of our lives to be transformed by the Eucharist.

With my prayers, *Fr. Kent*

PUBLIC ROSARY GROUP (America Needs Fatima)

We meet every **Wednesday & Friday at 3:00pm** at the **St. Thomas Church for the winter months**. We begin with Divine Mercy Chaplet followed by the Rosary. Pray for pandemic situation and for the restoration of our country facing evil forces that is prevalent right now.

BAPTISMAL PREP CLASS: Saturday, January 22nd at 9:30am at the St. Thomas Center. To register for the class, please call the office at 728-7531.



Respect for the dignity of persons is a Principle of Catholic Social Teaching and one ignored by traffickers who treat persons as commodities. Join us in abolishing this horrific crime. U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking is a 501 c (3) organization, 203 N. Geyer Road, St. Louis, MO 63131.
sistersagainsttrafficking.org

ST. THOMAS GIFT SHOP

St. Thomas Aquinas Church Basement

HOURS: Mon. - Thurs. 9am - 3pm & Friday 10am - 3pm
or by appt., Call 728-4346/316-8062 Lee

"I choose to focus on the good for a simple reason: There's far more good in the world and in people than there is bad!"

STUFFED BEARS: 9" tall, only \$11.50 or with gift box \$13.00

BAPTISM - in white, pink or blue.

GUARDIAN ANGEL - this one has wings, comes in white, pink or blue.

CONFIRMATION - is red with a Holy Spirit on it.

FIRST COMMUNION - in white with a Chalice & Host on it.

FIRST RECONCILIATION - in purple & white.

BLESS THIS CHILD - in pink or blue.

IT'S A BOY OR IT'S A GIRL - in pink or blue.

JESUS LOVES ME - in white.

I LOVE JESUS - this one is a Holy Lamb.

GODCHILD - in pink or blue.

I LOVE YOU - in red & white.

SPECIAL GRANDDAUGHTER OR GRANDSON - in pink or blue & white.

BOOKLET: St. Michael Manual for Spiritual Warfare

Helping readers to be spiritual warriors in their homes, places of work and other area of influence. Only \$4.95

HOLY WATER FONT: We have various models, sizes and prices! Have Holy Water available for your use at different places in your home. Come see our assortment!!

SWAROVSKI CRYSTAL ROSARIES & BRACELETS: They come in birthstone colors but you can get the color you prefer! We have them w/beads in one color or color of month alternating with a clear bead. We received a new supply so we do have all of the month available. These make a wonderful gift for a loved one, or for yourself!! Hand crafted with wonderful craftsmanship & quality and will last for MANY years!!

PENDANTS: Beautiful Variety of Crosses - Crucifixes - Miraculous Medals, Various Saints - + Others. All very reasonably priced. Come in and see what we have.

BOOKS: "Baltimore Catechism - Four"

A wonderful book to help those teaching children or for adults who want to deepen their knowledge of our Catholic faith. \$19.95

KIDS: "GOD KNOWS IT'S MY BIRTHDAY"

Children love celebrating their birthday. What better way to celebrate than with a book that reminds them of how much God loves and cares for them! Birthday traditions are linked to Bible stories such as creation, the annunciation, the birth of Jesus, the visits of the Magi, and Pentecost. Children will have fun writing, drawing, and answering questions about themselves and their families in the boxes placed throughout the book. This is a beautiful gift book to enjoy with that special child in your life. For children ages 4 to 8. \$14.95

THE BEST THING YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR CHILD IS READ ALOUD TO HIM/HER!

Also, Gift Certificates are always available!!

*Life is a Gift that
God has given us.
That life is present
even in the unborn.*



January 16, 2022 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

God delights in you. How do you feel when you hear that? Delight usually comes with an exuberant flow of joy that seemingly arises from one's toes with the expression of great glee. Reflecting upon the deep measure of joy God has in us can be a source of joy for ourselves. Delight is infectious. A very young brother and sister were playing on the beach when the all too familiar ice cream truck made its daily rounds. The boy shook with excitement and delight as he took his sister's hand and exclaimed, "The ice cream man is here, isn't it great!" As they ran off toward the truck, one could hear the girl reply, "Yeah, I can't wait!" The experience of a child's delight in something so simple as ice cream, lifts our spirits from our burdens and transports us to the lighter, more innocent side of life.

Life is not meant to be a burden. Believe it or not, God actually wants us to be happy! In fact, the wedding feast at Cana shows us that God even puts His blessing on our happiness. It is okay to celebrate the wonder of ourselves and others. Life is good. It is always interesting to note that Jesus saves the good wine until last. You would think it would be the other way around. The superb quality of Jesus' wine points to the superior quality of life we find in Christ. It is not a life of burdens but a life of wonder and delight! In Christ, we are lifted from the superficial and mundane to a life of purpose, hope, and love.

God is with us through the long haul, through the challenges and sorrows as well as the successes and accomplishments. In spite of the fact that we often wander from the path, God's celebratory delight in us remains. As spouses are asked to remain faithful to each other through whatever life brings, God remains faithful too. This promise remains through this life and into the next. All we have to do is take the advice of Jesus' mother to heart when she says, "Listen to him." This wisdom saves us from foolishly giving in to the illusion that we can make better wine than Jesus.

It Takes All Kinds

"If every flower wanted to be a rose," wrote St. Therese of Lisieux, "spring would lose its loveliness."

Who is God asking you to be today? There is an obvious answer that springs to mind right out of the gate. God wants me to be a good person (a good father, a good husband) today; today, God wants me to be a saint.

But this answer fails to get to the heart of the question. We are all striving today to serve the same Spirit, but we are given different gifts to do so. The one who has the gift of knowledge may fail if today he decides he wants to be a healer. The one who has the gift of "varieties of tongues" might falter in the expression of wisdom.

Think about the wedding at Cana and the players in the scene: the servers, the guests, the bride and groom. They all have a unique role to play, and though it is to the servers that Mary gives the instruction, "Do whatever he tells you," her words apply to all.

Today, are we called to be the servers — do we wait on God's instruction and carry it out, no matter how foolish or impossible it may seem to our human ears? Are we asked to be the disciples, to bear witness to a miracle and to give our testimony? Are we called to imitate the Blessed Mother herself and give encouragement to follow God's word?

Let us examine our gifts and listen in the silence of our hearts to the direction of the Spirit. Then and only then, let us do whatever He tells us.

Faithful Departed

Question:

How can we pray for the dead throughout the year?

Answer:

We commemorate the faithful departed on November 2nd each year. However, we can and should continue to pray for the dead. Our growth in Christian perfection takes a long time. At the time of our death, many of us might not be saints yet. But God, in His mercy, allows for those who love Him to experience purification after death. Our word for that state is Purgatory. It's the antechamber of heaven, so to speak. We know we're getting in the house, but we're not quite ready to go all the way in. There's rain to shake off our coats and dirt that's clogging our shoes.

Here on earth, we can pray for the souls in Purgatory. One way is to request that your parish offer a Mass for the intention of a specific loved one. We can also remember the departed in our daily prayers. Just as we have special intentions for family and friends here on earth, we can pray for those who have died. It's also a good act of Christian charity to pray for the forgotten, those who have no one else to pray for them. God knows who they are!

Children's Corner

PUZZLE

Find the two identical jars.



MISSION

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