

# 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)



## 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.

**MAY 1, 2022**

## **PASTOR**

**FR. KENT OUELLETTE**

## **PAROCHIAL VICAR**

**FR. ALEX**

## **DEACONS**

Rev. Mr. Donald R. Clavette

Rev. Mr. Rodney Deschaine

## **CLUSTER 2 BUSINESS COORDINATOR**

Greg Cyr

## **Cluster 2 Website**

[www.sjvcatholics.org](http://www.sjvcatholics.org)

## **Cluster 2 Facebook Site**

St John Valley Catholics

## **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:StPeterChanelParish@portlanddiocese.org)

**Notre Dame du Mont Carmel Mass Schedule**

**Saturday, April 30**      **St. Pope Pius V**  
 4:00pm **ST: (LS)** Muriel St. Onge (1st Ann) by Mother  
 6:00pm **SG:** Eddie Bellefleur by Bob & Colette Bouchard  
**Sunday, May 1**      **3rd Sunday of Easter**  
 8:30am **ST:** Therese St. Onge by Lee St. Onge  
 11:00am **SD:** Scott B. Cyr by Conrad & Rachelle Beaulieu  
**Monday, May 2**      **NO MASS / St. Athanasius**  
**Tuesday, May 3**      **Sts. Philip & James**  
 6:00pm **ST: (LS)** Helen Cote by her husband & family  
**Wednesday, May 4**  
 8:30am **ST:** Jimmy Madore by Lester & Anne Ouellette  
**Thursday, May 5**      **NO MASS**

**Friday, May 6**  
 1:00pm **Ridgewood Estates:** Pauline Desjardins by Ridgewood Activity Dept. & Volunteers  
 6:00pm **SD:** Rosaire & Blanche Blanchette by family  
**Saturday, May 7**  
 4:00pm **ST: (LS)** Conrad Leonard (1st Ann) by wife & daughter  
 6:00pm **SG:** Lucien Guerrette by Rolande & family  
**Sunday, May 8**      **4th Sunday of Easter**  
 8:30am **ST:** For all living & deceased Mothers of NDMC Parish by Pastor  
 11:00am **SD:** Rolande Levesque by St. David Ladies of St. Anne  
**\*\* (LS) Livestream**

**Our Lady of the Valley Mass Schedule**

**Saturday, April 30**      **St. Pope Pius V**  
 6:00pm **SA:** Ronald Landry by Roland & Theresa Guerrette  
**Sunday, May 1**      **3rd Sunday of Easter**  
 10:30am **SL:** Joan Belanger by Lloyd & Judy Paradis  
 4:00pm **SJ:** For all the people of NDMC, OLV, & SPC by Pastor  
**Monday, May 2**      **NO MASS / St. Athanasius**  
 6:00pm **SA:**  
**Tuesday, May 3**      **NO MASS / Sts. Philip & James**  
 8:30am **SJ:**  
**Wednesday, May 4**      **NO MASS**

**Thursday, May 5**      **NO MASS**  
 6:00pm **SL:**  
**Friday, May 6**      **NO MASS**  
**Saturday, May 7**  
 6:00pm **SA:** Jeanne Chamberland by Lloyd & Judy Paradis  
**Sunday, May 8**      **4th Sunday of Easter**  
 10:30am **SL:** For all living & deceased Mothers of OLV Parish by Pastor  
 4:00pm **SJ:** Deceased family members of Walley & Emelia Dufour by Bob & Carol Chamberlain

**St. Peter Chanel Mass Schedule**

**Saturday, April 30**      **St. Pope Pius V**  
 4:00pm **SB/SR:** Leo James Cormier by Rudy & Nancy Ouellette  
**Sunday, May 1**      **3rd Sunday of Easter**  
 8:00am **SJ:** Fred St. Pierre by his wife Jean & Family  
 9:15am **SB/SR:** Clarence Violette (1st Ann 5/1) by his wife Stella & family  
**Monday, May 2**      **St. Athanasius**  
 6:00pm **SB/SR:** Janet McCoy (1st Ann 5/3) by Nicole & Family  
**Tuesday, May 3**      **NO MASS / Sts. Philip & James**

**Wednesday, May 4**      **NO MASS**  
**Thursday, May 5**      **NO MASS**  
**Friday, May 6**      **NO MASS**  
**Saturday, May 7**  
 4:00pm **SB/SR:** Mother's Day Spiritual Bouquets by their Families  
**Sunday, May 8**      **4th Sunday of Easter**  
 8:00am **SJ:** Mother's Day Spiritual Bouquets by their Families  
 9:15am **SB/SR:** Mother's Day Spiritual Bouquets by their Families

**EUCCHARIST ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS SCHEDULE**

**EUCCHARIST ADORATION**

**CONFESSIONS**

**MASS**

ST. BRUNO/ST REMI  
 ST. THOMAS AQUINAS  
 ST. DAVID

MONDAY 5:00 TO 6:00  
 TUESDAY 1:00 TO 5:45  
 FRIDAY 5:00 TO 6:00

5:00 TO 5:45  
 5:00 TO 5:45  
 5:00 TO 5:45

6:00PM  
 6:00PM  
 6:00PM



**Jesus is waiting!**



# NOTRE DAME DU MONT CARMEL PARISH CORNER

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

## Worship & Spirituality



### FOR OUR SICK

Quinn Soucy, Debra Levesque, Donna Neill, Carol Roy, Ken Bechard, Kim & Real Pelletier. 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 Zachary by Patsy Ayotte



### ST. DAVID SANCTUARY LAMP BURNS IN MAY FOR:



**ST. THOMAS AQUINAS SANCTUARY LAMP BURNS IN MAY FOR:** Deceased Relatives of M/M Albert Pelletier by JP

**ST. GERARD SANCTUARY LAMP BURNS IN MAY FOR:**

Lewis & Aurore Ouellette by Ouellette Family

Gabriel (Gabe) Sebastian by Family

### EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

**Tuesday, May 3rd / 1pm-5:45pm**  
at St. Thomas Aquinas Church



**INTENTION:** For all mothers, grandmothers, mothers-to-be and for all those who were like mothers in our lives, and for our area businesses and their workforces.



### WELCOME TO OUR FAITH COMMUNITY

**Sumit Ferdinand Daigle**

Son of Kurtis Daigle & Kara Nelson

**Skyla Rita Dionne**

Daughter of Chad & Kayla Dionne

### ††REST IN PEACE

Please pray for those who have died and for their families:

† **Anita Lajoie, 77**, who passed away on April 15. She is the wife of Roland of our parish.

### Please Pray for our Military Service Members



**PRAY**  
FOR OUR MILITARY

“Lord hold our Troops in your loving hands.

Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need.”

**Matt Charette, Alex Sirois, Kyle Blanchette, Erica Blanchette, Billy Blanchette, & Alyssa Nelson, Cody Belanger, Dominic Belanger & Ian Toussaint**

If you would like to have a Service Member listed,

contact **Charlie** at 207-316-3382.

**St. George, Patron of Soldiers, Pray for our Soldiers!**

## Finance & Administration

### Notre Dame du Mont Carmel Financial Update

Offertory: July 1, 2021 to April 17, 2022

**Budget:** \$277,038 **Actual:** \$281,026 **Over Anticipated:** \$3,988

	Amount given	Weekly goal
St. David	\$1,376	\$1,745
St. Gerard	\$1,065	\$1,032
St. Thomas Aquinas	\$3,463	\$3,819
Weekly Totals	\$5,904	\$6,596

**WeShare Online Giving:** \$397

**Rice Bowls:** \$1,253.96

**Church in the Holy Land:** \$1,462

**Clergy Health & Pension Program:** \$2,751.38

## Second Collection

### May 1 - Cemetery Collection

Do not be afraid to be saints.  
Follow Jesus Christ who is the source  
of freedom and light.  
Be open to the Lord  
so that He may lighten  
all your ways.

Pope John Paul II

**FATIMA ROSARY:** Recited every 13th of each month at 12pm (noon) at St. Gerard Church. All are welcomed.

## Parish Life

**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.**

**DAUGHTERS OF ISABELLA MEETING:** Monday, May 9, rosary at 5pm, meal at 5:15pm followed by meeting. We will have a pizza party (\$5.00). FMI call Rose at 728-6388.

## 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 May 18 from 8-10am . Senior boxes will be available on May 23 from 8-10am.** FMI call pantry at 728-7531.

**CHARLMAGNE CARD PARTY:** Thursdays starting May 5, from 12:30-2:30pm at Madawaska Senior Center. Come and meet your friends.

**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:** Ulric & Antoinette Ouellette  
by Ronald & Joan Ouellette

**St. Luce:** Mark Dumond by Kevin & Kim Lavoie  
**St. Joseph:** Phil Deschaine by Charlene & Family



*Faith makes things possible...not easy!!*

**Frenchville Senior Lunch**

**When:** May 2nd **Time:** 11:30am  
**Where:** Frenchville Community Center  
**Menu:** Hot Hamburg

**Second Collection**  
**May 1 - Cemetery Collection**



**WELCOME TO OUR FAITH COMMUNITY**

**Juliette Rose Theriault**  
Daughter of James & Kathy Theriault

*God grant me the serenity  
to accept the things  
I cannot change,  
courage to change the things I can,  
and wisdom  
to know the difference.*



**KNIGHTS  
OF COLUMBUS**  
IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

**May 3 - Family Rosary - 6:30pm at St. Agatha Church**  
**All are invited**

**Prayers for the sick of our parish**

**May 17 - Officer's meeting - 6:30pm at the basement of the St. Agatha Church. Come in from the back of the church.**

**All members are encouraged to attend**

**May 26 - Member's meeting and dinner. St. Agatha Church**  
Dinner served at 5:30pm - meeting at 6:30pm

**Bring your wives, friends, possible candidates, family members**

**Finance & Administration**

**Our Lady of the Valley Financial Updates**

**Offeritory:** July 1, 2021 to April 17, 2022

**Budget:** \$149,423 **Actual:** \$145,084 **Under Anticipated:** -\$4,339

	Amount Given	Weekly Goal
Weekly Totals	\$3,547	\$4,167
	This Year	Last Year
Average Collections	\$3,454	\$3,352

**WeShare Online Giving: \$180**

**Rice Bowls: \$139.66**

**Church in the Holy Land: \$938**

**Clergy Health & Pension Program: \$1,399.42**



Athanasius led a tumultuous but dedicated life of service to the Church. He was the great champion of the faith against the widespread heresy of Arianism, the teaching by Arius that Jesus was not truly divine. The vigor of his writings earned him the title of doctor of the Church.

Born of a Christian family in Alexandria, Egypt, and given a classical education, Athanasius became secretary to Alexander, the bishop of Alexandria, entered the priesthood and was eventually named bishop, himself. His predecessor, Alexander, had been an outspoken critic of a new movement growing in the East—Arianism.

When Athanasius assumed his role as bishop of Alexandria, he continued the fight against Arianism. At first, it seemed that the battle would be easily won and that Arianism would be condemned. Such, however, did not prove to be the case. The Council of Tyre was called and for several reasons that are still unclear, the Emperor Constantine exiled Athanasius to northern Gaul. This was to be the first in a series of travels and exiles reminiscent of the life of St. Paul.

After Constantine died, his son restored Athanasius as bishop. This lasted only a year, however, for he was deposed once again by a coalition of Arian bishops. Athanasius took his case to Rome, and Pope Julius I called a synod to review the case and other related matters.

Five times Athanasius was exiled for his defense of the doctrine of Christ's divinity. During one period of his life, he enjoyed 10 years of relative peace—reading, writing, and promoting the Christian life along the lines of the monastic ideal to which he was greatly devoted. His dogmatic and historical writings are almost all polemic, directed against every aspect of Arianism.

**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:

Shana (Farmer) Pelletier (Birthday 4/6 Anniversary 4/28)  
Love Mom & Dad

### SANCTUARY LAMP SPONSOR / IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Paul & Rolande Laplante by their Family

### 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.**

## Mother's Day Spiritual Bouquets

Are still available this weekend for purchase  
April 30 / May 1

There will be ladies in the back of the church to collect the requests for the Bouquets. This is a fundraiser for fuel for our two Churches and sponsored by the Van Buren Columbiettes.

Thank you for your support!!

**Prayer Line:** If you or a loved one is in need of prayer, the Daughters of Isabella Circle 464 are hosting a prayer line to offer prayers to our Lord Jesus for those in need.

Requests can be made by calling

**Anne at 868-2691 or Cecile at 868-3987.**

## SECOND COLLECTIONS / May 2022

April 30 / May 1st Cemetery Collection  
May 26th (Thursday) The Ascension

### DONATIONS / PARISH NEEDS / IN LOVING MEMORY:

Joseph & Albertine Madore (Wedding Ann. 4/29/46) by the Family

St. Peter Chanel Outreach Committee News

### Food Pantry News:

**Next Curbside Distribution:** May 26th, 1-3pm.

### For food extras/emergencies:

Nancy 868-5324, Bob 868-5623,

Harvey 868-5679 & Norman 498-9570.

### Come To The Well Woman's Group

**When:** Monday Evenings @ 6:30

immediately following the 6 pm Mass

**Where:** Meeting Room downstairs at St Peter Chanel Parish

### Cup of Joe Men's Group

**When:** Saturday morning from 7:15—8:30 a.m.

**Where:** Meeting room in the Parish Hall

All are welcome!!

## Finance & Administration

### St. Peter Chanel Parish Financial Updates

**Offertory:** July 1, 2021 to April 17, 2022

**Budget:** \$113,077 **Actual:** \$114,721 **Over Anticipated:** \$1,645

Amt. Given \$2,821

Weekly Goal \$2,692

This year \$2,731

Last year \$2,708

**WeShare: Online Giving: \$ 27**

**Rice Bowl: \$110.25**

**Church in the Holy Land: \$582**

**Clergy Health & Pension Program: \$1,543.43**



## Bulletin Memorials In Loving Memory of:



Marquis & Cyr Families  
by  
Ray & Judy Marquis

Prayers For Peace in  
The World  
by Glenn Madore

Fred St. Pierre  
by  
his wife Jean & Family

Madore & Rossignol  
Families  
by Carlene & Sheila

Ernestine & Edmond  
Doucette  
by Don, Mike & Alan

Patrick Thibodeau  
by  
Yolande & Family

Janet Michaud  
by  
Lorance Chamberland

Simone Vaillancourt  
by  
her Family & Friends

Gerald Morrow  
by Diane, Dan, Megan  
& Tiffany

Darold Pelletier  
by his wife,  
Gloria & Family

Antoine Levesque  
by  
his wife, Irene

Lajoie & Marquis  
Families  
by Mike & Marie Lajoie

Tardif, Parent &  
Young Families  
by  
Ron & June & Family

St. Pierre & Marquis  
Families  
by Paul & Helen  
St. Pierre

Edmond & Bella  
Pelletier & boys,  
David & Darold  
by Chris & Terry Berube

Kim & Bobbie Pelletier  
by  
John & Leslie Beaulieu

Deceased Members of  
the Chamberland  
Family by  
Lorance Chamberland

Leonhard Adam  
by  
Ella & Sharon

Martin & Deveau  
Families by  
Ron & Della Martin

Normande Rossignol  
by  
Yolande

Betty Paradis  
by  
her Family

Cyr & Gagnon  
Families  
by  
Joyce & Phil

Joseph Sytulek  
Love,  
his wife, Eileen  
& Family

Shana Farmer Pelletier  
B-day 4/6 & Anniv. 4/28  
Love  
Mom & Dad

A big **Thank You** for the people giving of their time to beautify our church for the Easter celebrations. **MERCI!**

## Thank You

To all the parishioners of St. Peter Chanel Parish, a big thank you for your support of our Spaghetti Fundraiser for fuel for the Churches.

Sincerely, ~Van Buren Columbiettes

### A Special Thank You to the following supporters:

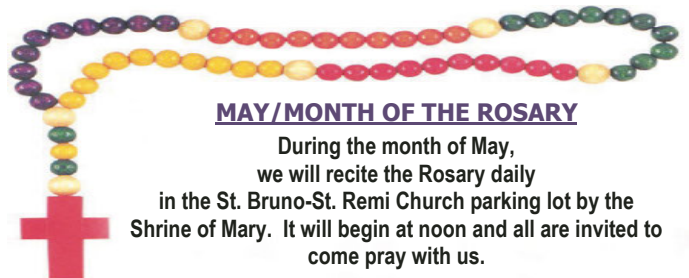
- Shurfine (food) Georgette Lebel (wreath)
- Van Buren KC (use of their hall) P & E (take out trays)
- Reno & Joyce Michaud (Chairpersons) Verna Ouellette (quilt)

**\$1,364.50 was raised and paid to Tulsa for Fuel for the Churches.**

## Knights of Columbus Mother's Day Breakfast

This event will be held on Sunday, May 8, 2022 from 7-11am. The cost is \$8 a plate.


Dine in or take out will be available.



## MAY/MONTH OF THE ROSARY

During the month of May, we will recite the Rosary daily in the St. Bruno-St. Remi Church parking lot by the Shrine of Mary. It will begin at noon and all are invited to come pray with us.

**Pastor's Corner**

 We should become apprehensive when we read the gospel for the Third Sunday of Easter. Peter and the others no longer knew what to do. They go back to their old ways. Elsewhere, and at another time, I have hinted that Easter is not a "graduation" from good Lenten practices. All too often, for example, someone who "gave up" something during Lent goes back to it after Lent. If this was a sin or bad habit, then this is very bad. If what was given up was to practice temperance, it was a noble and worthwhile penance. If, however, one returns to the thing given up with a lack of self-control, this too becomes a very bad thing, a sin. There is a tendency to fall back into things we feel comfortable with. So, it seems with Peter and the others. They had been called to a higher vocation. Now, not knowing what to do, they fall back to the avocation they had practiced for so long. For those who "took up" a good thing during Lent, like spiritual reading, volunteering for a ministry or something else of this form, this is not the time to step out of it to old habits and routines. This is a time to look more attentively for the Risen Lord. He is near. "If we could lift the veil and if we watched with vigilant attention, God would endlessly reveal himself to us and we should see and rejoice in his active presence in all that befalls us. At every event we should exclaim 'It is the Lord!' - Jean Pierre de Caussade. Our Lenten practices should have made us ready to see Him. Seeing Him we can listen to Him. Listening to Him we can hear Him ask: "Do you love me?" responding, "Lord you know I love you...let me follow you in this love." Our vocation is one of love and holiness in the new life of the Risen Christ.

With my prayers, *Fr. Kent*

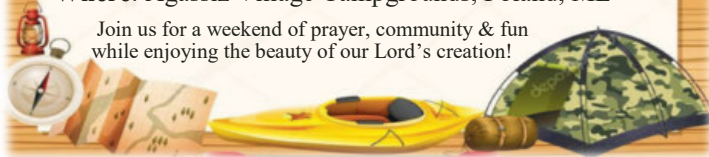
Attention all young men (18+)  
Are you striving to live out your faith  
and follow God's will in your life?

Men's 18+ Discernment Retreat

**When:** May 13-15

**Where:** Agassiz Village Campgrounds, Poland, ME

Join us for a weekend of prayer, community & fun  
while enjoying the beauty of our Lord's creation!



**Just a Reminder**

When making out checks for your  
weekly donation, make sure your check  
is properly filled out and signed!!

**PUBLIC ROSARY GROUP**  
(America Needs Fatima)

We meet every **Wednesday & Friday at 3:00pm** at the [St. Thomas Church for the winter months & Joan Ouellette's house at 11 Green Point Road](#). 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.

**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**

**"Regrets are a waste of time...when there's so much beauty  
and love and humor in this world."**

**BOOKLET: "My Latin Mass Prayer Book"**

Provides the complete Order of the Mass in Latin, with Latin and English text, rubrics and responses, prayers before and after Mass, and more. Only \$4.95

**GREETING CARDS:** Mother's Day & Graduation cards (also money holders) - \$1.00, \$1.79 & \$1.99. Beautiful assortment.

**CRUCIFIX: "12" Holy Trinity Wall Crucifix** Resin - Have all 3 on one Cross, God the Father, Jesus the Crucified, and the Holy Spirit. Only \$29.98 (B3724)

**VISOR CLIPS:** We have quite an assortment - Miraculous Medal - St. Michael/Guardian Angel - St. Christopher/Guardian Angel - St. Benedict - Angel for a Nurse - For Son, Daughter, Grandson, Granddaughter.

**NEW: St. Joseph Prayer Card with a LED Flashlight** Flashlight takes 3 AAA batteries which we included. Great idea for a gift for Mom/Dad or anyone! \$6.50

**STATUE: "12" St. Michael** Two different models, Beautiful colors, would be very nice in any home. \$36.98

**"12" St. Joseph holding Jesus** The Step Father of Jesus - The Care-taker of Mary, Jesus' Mother - what more do we want in our homes. He is always there to help us along with his Step-Son. Only \$32.95 (MS016) (This is now less than the price of an 8" statue!!)

**DVD: "No Turning Back"** The Conversion Story of Fr. Donald Calloway - This is the complete story of his conversion, as he's telling it to us! He will have you in tears and then laughing out loud!! Listening to him, you know that it is the work of the Lord, because no one else could have accomplished the change of life style. Wonderful and entertaining!! \$24.98

**BOOKS: NEW!! "St. Joseph Tender Father"** by: Louise Perrotta Forward by: Fr. Larry Richards His Life and His Care for Us Today Meet and learn from St. Joseph, a hard worker and a family man who was uniquely called to reveal God's glory to the world. An ideal role model for a life of faith and commitment to Jesus, St. Joseph is a saint to who you can turn for guidance in your life and in your work. \$11.95

**"10 Commandments Picture Book"**

Wonderful little book for your young. Only \$3

**KIDS: "Jesus Speaks to Me on My First Holy Communion":**

In this unique gift book, Jesus speaks warmly and lovingly to children who are receiving him in the Eucharist for the first time. In addition to twelve Bible scenes, there are pages to record memories, including photos, church programs, and space for children to write or draw. Ages 7 to 11 \$12.95

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

Also, Gift Certificates are always available!!

**The strong recommendation for wearing masks has  
been removed. Those wishing to continue wearing a  
mask are welcome to do so!!**

## May 1, 2022 3rd Sunday of Easter

Could it be that God's image has become so soiled and distorted that it is hard for us to see it? Our self-serving agendas have done a great job twisting God's image into what profits us. We want our agenda to be God's agenda and use prayer as the convincing leverage we need. Worse still, our success and egocentric agenda often erases God's image completely, replacing it with our own. St. Oscar Romero instructs us that the Son of Man "dies on the cross to cleanse God's image, which is soiled in today's humanity, a humanity so enslaved, so selfish, so sinful." Striving to preserve control of our destinies at all costs, we fail to see the risen suffering servant, the Christ, standing right beside us.

Jesus, who suffered and died on a cross and was raised from the dead, corrects our soiled image of God. He shows us God as God is, not who we want to make God to be. God is the God of the poor, the weak, and the marginalized. He is the God who tenderly caresses us when we are suffering and hurting, assuring us that all will be safe and well. He is the God of equity, peace, justice, and compassion who wants happiness for each of His children, desiring their wellbeing and success. God goes where men and women are afraid to go, sitting with the lost, the broken, and the sorrowing. St. Oscar Romero challenges us to illuminate with "Christ's light ... even the most hideous caverns of the human person: torture, jail, plunder, want, chronic illness. The oppressed must be saved." The resurrection calls us to be God's microphone, a messenger, and a prophet (St. Oscar Romero).

Using eyes that see beyond the limited constructs and desires of our world, we can see the true and real Jesus standing before us, calling us to transformation and change. Asking us more than once, "do you love me?" We are beckoned to give an answer. Answering in the affirmative, it is now our task to feed the sheep and the lambs who belong to God. In short, equipped with the power of the resurrection and a corrected image of God our task is to make things better, brighter, holier, more life-giving, and just for all of God's children. Considering our choices, our interactions, our philosophies, and aspirations, how can we do this?

## Gifts in Disguise

Have you ever opened a gift and wondered what the giver was thinking? I won't call out any of my family or friends here, but suffice to say, I think we have all been the confused recipient of a sweater that wasn't our size or a gift card to a store where we don't shop. But we smiled all the same and said how much it meant to us, because we know that when it comes to gifts, it's all about the gesture.

Suffering is a lot like that — the gift you never asked for, and don't really want to receive. Sometimes we look at suffering and, like the apostles who see Jesus as a stranger on the shore, we don't recognize it for what it can be. We don't appreciate the catalyst suffering can be for change, for growth, for grace.

What was the gift that you received in disguise? Was it a relationship that confounded and frustrated you? Was it a job that tested your spirit? An obstacle that stopped you dead in your tracks? A rejection that threatened to break your spirit?

If I go back and look at the worst gifts I've ever gotten, chances are that I didn't like them because I didn't know what to do with them — they were more fitted for someone else's interests, someone else's life. It's the same with suffering. We're tempted to cast suffering aside when it comes our way because it doesn't fit the person we are. Suffering is made to fit the person God knows we have the ability, with His grace, to become.

Hang onto that suffering. Unlike the misshapen sweater, it really will come in handy.

## Question:

Are Catholics allowed to donate their organs?

## Answer:

Yes, Catholics are allowed to donate their organs. In fact, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* praises this practice when it notes that, "Organ donation after death is a noble and meritorious act and is to be encouraged as an expression of generous solidarity" (no. 2296).

The Church has a series of guidelines for health care providers called The Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Services. This document helps us see organ donation as an act of charity, but it also reminds us that we have to be sure that donations of organs by living donors do not "sacrifice or seriously impair any essential bodily function and the anticipated benefit to the recipient is proportionate to the harm to the donor" (no. 30); trained medical professionals can help to make this assessment. In the case of organ donation at the end of life, we must be sure of the intentions of the donor or of their proxy are always respected, and that the dignity of the human body is always respected.

In the end, we can look to Pope Saint John Paul II and his encyclical *Evangelium Vitae*, where he noted that organ donation is a beautiful act of expressing the culture of life, when "performed in an ethically acceptable manner, with a view to offering a chance of health or even of life itself to the sick who sometimes have no other hope" (no. 86).

## Children's Corner

### PUZZLE

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

FISHING  
CATCH  
BOAT

JUMPED  
DRAGGED  
BREAD

CHARCOAL  
APPEARED  
RAISED

J E S U L B R E A D T  
R C A T C H A R T R O  
I H S D P L E A S A L  
N A G F I S H I N G H  
E R T S H O R S O G F  
L C K E J T I E B E R  
B O A T U O S D I D M  
N A P E M R T H O A S  
T L H A P N I L F R O  
M A P P E A R E D C A  
N J E S D N J O N H E

### MISSION

Invite a friend over to eat dinner with your family,  
so you can share food just like Jesus did.

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