

# Leading the FLOCK

BY BISHOP DANIEL E. THOMAS



## ***"Go to Joseph"***

What a difference a year can make! If I had asked you last January about your plans for the upcoming year, you probably would have told me about expectations that were very different than what, in fact, actually took place in 2020. The pandemic has wreaked havoc on our normal routine and changed our plans for work, school, travel, shopping, holiday celebrations, socializing, vacation, and so many other areas of our lives. The challenges of 2020 were grave and many of the same stressors have spilled over into the new year.

Very providential then was the publication of Pope Francis' Apostolic Letter "*Patris Corde*" ("With a Father's Heart"), on December 8, 2020, with the announcement that the upcoming year would be specially dedicated to Saint Joseph. Through December 8, 2021, the Universal Church will focus on the holy example of Saint Joseph and seek his heavenly paternal intercession.

Saint Joseph certainly knew what a difference a year could make. After his betrothal to Mary, he had certain expectations for what would unfold in the upcoming months. We can imagine plans being made for a wedding celebration and plans to prepare a home to share with Mary after their wedding. As a carpenter, Joseph would have made plans for work projects to complete in the months ahead as well.

And then over the course of a year, everything changed. Mary was found with child by the power of the Holy Spirit. Then a government mandate forced Joseph and Mary to make the arduous journey to Bethlehem at a most inconvenient time. Then Mary gave birth in a stable, because there was no room in the inn. Then they were forced to flee to Egypt for the safety of their child.

One year prior, Saint Joseph could not have imagined any of these events unfolding in his life. Yet, with deep faith and courage, Joseph let go of his own plans and expectations. He did his best to accept God's will, diligently served the people God had entrusted to him, and prayerfully pondered what more God was asking of him.

There is much we can learn from Saint Joseph this year. His patience, his work ethic, his willingness to make sacrifices, his contemplative spirit, and his decisive action all have something to teach us. Most of all, his selfless dedication to Jesus, in the midst of turbulent times, stressful situations, and an uncertain future, provides a roadmap to guide us through the troubling times in which we are living.

During this year, I encourage everyone in the Diocese of Toledo to turn to Joseph in his role as foster father of Jesus; to pray each day for our local Church the simplest of prayers: "Saint Joseph, pray for us;" and to integrate Saint Joseph into your prayer habits and spiritual life. I invite you to participate in our diocesan novena to Saint Joseph from March 10-18, 2021, and in our diocesan celebration of the Solemnity of Saint Joseph on March 19<sup>th</sup>. To those who are able to do so safely, I suggest pilgrimage visits throughout the year to parishes in our diocese dedicated to Saint Joseph. Please pray with me that our spiritual practices will lead to many acts of charity in honor of Saint Joseph, especially towards unemployed workers, engaged couples, spouses, fathers, foster children, the unborn and their parents, refugees, the homeless, the dying, and all persons in need.

At the bottom the splendid stone statue depicting a strong and fatherly Saint Joseph at his shrine in our Rosary Cathedral, three simple words appear in Latin: *Ite ad Ioseph*, "Go to Joseph." These were the words of Pharaoh to the people of Egypt during the years of famine (Gen 41:55), and for centuries the same phrase has been used to encourage devotion to Saint Joseph. This is what we do together this year, we go to Joseph, confident that he will accompany us, and that we will know and experience his fatherly care as individuals and as members of the family of the Church.

Trusting in the graces being offered to us this year, we look forward to a deepening of our relationship with Jesus under Saint Joseph's fatherly care. Thanks to our renewed devotion to Saint Joseph and his loving paternal guidance, we can anticipate much spiritual fruit in the upcoming months. We will learn what a difference a year can make!

The Apostolic Letter "*Patris Corde*" of the Holy Father Pope Francis may be found here: [bit.ly/2YAJ2Ny](https://bit.ly/2YAJ2Ny)

For diocesan resources please visit our Year of Saint Joseph website: [yearofstjoseph Toledo.org](https://yearofstjoseph Toledo.org)



+ *Daniel & Thomas*

**The Most Reverend Daniel E. Thomas**  
**Bishop of Toledo**

February 28, 2021

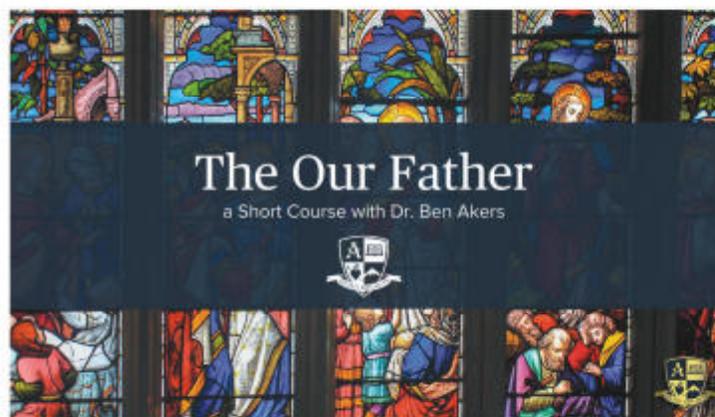
WATCH

### FATHER MICHAEL MCGIVNEY: AN AMERICAN BLESSED

In May 2020, Pope Francis approved a miracle attributed to the intercession of Fr. Michael McGivney, paving the way for his beatification. This new documentary highlights Fr. McGivney's fraternal charity, evangelization, and empowerment of the laity.



Father Michael McGivney  
An American Blessed



### The Our Father

a Short Course with Dr. Ben Akers



### JESUS: THE MODEL AND MASTER OF PRAYER

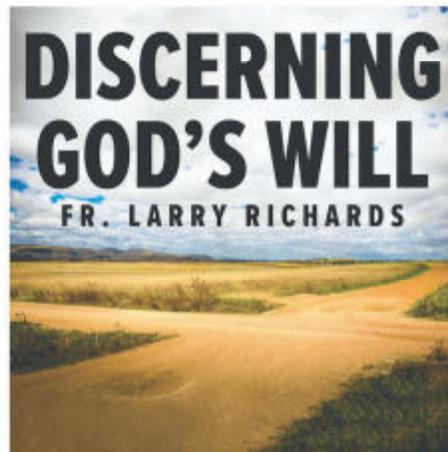
In this episode of his course on the Our Father, Dr. Ben Akers teaches us what we can learn from the perfect model and master of prayer: Jesus himself.

LEARN

LISTEN

### DISCERNING GOD'S WILL BY FR. LARRY RICHARDS

Discovering the will of God can be an intimidating challenge in the spiritual life. Join Fr. Larry Richards as he guides us in this task through practical advice and personal stories!



### DISCERNING GOD'S WILL FR. LARRY RICHARDS

Our parish has a FORMED subscription.  
To set up your free account visit [formed.org/signup](https://formed.org/signup) and select our parish.



We would like to thank all of our Parishioners who joined together in pledging their gift to the 2021 Annual Catholic Appeal. If you have not made your commitment, we encourage you to do so to help us reach our parish goal. Every gift is very important. Thank you for your generosity. For more information on the impact of your support for the appeal or to make a gift online, visit <https://www.acatoledo.org/>

Countless lives are touched by the ministries of the Diocese funded by the 2021 Annual Catholic Appeal. Seminary education and formation, children, the sick, the aged, the needy—they all depend on our generosity. Thank you to all that pledged today to help meet our parish goal and assure the continuation of these efforts.

Envelopes can be found at all three entrances of the church.

Thank you again for your support.

## FIRST SATURDAY

During the Lenten season, consider this an invitation from Jesus and our Blessed Mother to encourage us to pray for the conversion of our heart and our country's heart to come to know our Lord unconditionally.

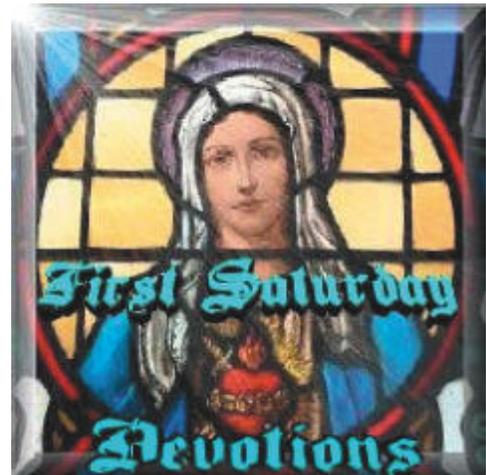
Please join us

Saturday March 6th

At St. John's—Mass at 8:00 am

Followed by video teaching,  
The Rosary and confession.

All are welcome!



### Weekly Collections:

February 14,  
2021

Sunday Collection: 2/14/2021	\$8,320
Compared To: 2/16/2020	\$7,516
Collections Yr To Date: 7/1/20 - 2/14/2021	\$269,391
Compared To: 07/01/19 - 2/16/2020	\$308,574
Year-to-date fiscal year decrease over prior year	-\$39,183

**CHRISTMAS & EASTER GIVING YTD  
UNCHANGED**

## REMINDER:

**THE PMC WILL BE  
CLOSED ON FRIDAY  
MARCH 5TH FOR A  
STAFF DAY!**

**Staff  
Appreciation**

He who waits to do a great deal of good at once,  
will never do anything S Johnson

## EASTER TIME AT THE FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry is once again making Easter Baskets for the children whose families utilize the pantry.

They are in need of:

- ◆ Baskets
- ◆ Grass
- ◆ Stuffed Animals
- ◆ Coloring Books & Crayons
- ◆ Easter Candy
- ◆ Chocolate Bunnies

Items can be dropped off at the office during business hours.

THANK YOU!



### REMINDER:

**St. Mary is still Livestreaming the Saturday 4 pm Mass on their Facebook page for all parishioners who cannot attend in person.**

### RCIA-CHURCH TODAY

**8:30 am Mass followed by Class Instruction**

This program is for people wanting to join the Church and for current parishioners who want to grow their faith. Growing our faith is necessary for all Christians followed by caring for their family, building their neighborhoods, appreciating the importance of hard work, and choosing entertainment that is beneficial to their well-being. We need to have people of interest to sign up now so that we can plan our program. We will use our masks and practice social-distancing at all times. If we have more people than we can accommodate in one session, we will schedule extra meetings to include everyone because growing our faith is so important.

Please call:  
Deacon George Newton  
419-782-2776  
With any questions.

**Interested in learning more about  
the Catholic faith?**



# RCIA

### BIBLE STUDY

Our Bible Study program is on the 1st Sunday of every month at 6 pm in the Fireside Room. Bible Study is important for everyone because Scriptures are the story of the Church.

We need to have participants sign up soon so that we can plan our program. We will all wear masks and practice social distancing per the Diocesan regulations. If we have more participants than we can handle additional sessions will be scheduled.

Please call:  
Deacon George Newton  
419-782-2776  
With any questions.

THANK YOU!!



## STATIONS of the CROSS



St. Mary  
Fridays at 6pm

St. John  
Mondays  
at 5:30pm



**Second Hour Information:**

Our schedule of classes resume this week - please contact us if you have any questions about Second Hour via email or Remind.

**This Wednesday, March 3:**  
**Grades 1, 3 - 7: Virtual Lessons offered (see Google Classroom for info)**

**Grades 2 - At Home lesson**

**Grades 8 & HS Youth - Virtual Lesson (see Google Classroom for info)**

Please continue to follow the Second Hour Facebook page for updates and sign up for Remind text alerts by texting @jwestsh to 81010

**Youth Group Activities:**

**Confirmation - Who, What, When, Why**

Join Jessica via Google Meet for grades 8 - 12 and we will be discussing and answering several of your questions about the Sacrament of Confirmation - what is this Sacrament about? Why do we prepare for it so greatly? What happens at that Mass that is different than a normal Mass? Why do we receive this Sacrament? How do we then evangelize others after receiving this Sacrament? Check the Google Classroom and your email for info to join in this virtual lesson this week. See you online soon!



**MEMORIUM:**

*Please keep the families and friends of MARY TEMPLE, JOHN SCHELLING and JANET HENCH in your prayers. May they know the peace and love of our Lord, Jesus Christ.*



**NOW ENROLLING FOR 2021-22**

Thinking about PreK or Kindergarten? Now is the time to explore HCCS!

Come visit Holy Cross and meet the staff of PreK, Young 5's and Kindergarten. After a brief introduction to HCCS, you will have an opportunity to tour the school, meet one-on-one with teachers and get an enrollment application. Each prospective student will receive authentic Knight Armour and have a great time exploring HCCS!

**SUNDAY, MARCH 7 10am-11am**  
**1745 S. Clinton Street, Defiance**  
**Participants must register in advance by calling 419-784-2021.**  
**To ensure COVID Safety measures, attendance is limited to prospective student(s) and two accompanying adults per family.**

**PRIVATE TOURS AVAILABLE BY APPOINTMENT**

**Can't make our Open House? Please call HCCS to arrange for a private tour at your convenience.**

**HCCS is HIRING A PART TIME COOK**

Join our Awesome Kitchen Staff preparing meals to nourish our students! We are looking for someone to assist with cooking daily 9am-1pm. Applicants must have relevant cooking experience. Experience with industrial kitchen equipment preferred. Successful candidate must pass a background check. To apply, go to <https://forms.gle/fNQTE6bHnu8r2amp8> Call 419-784-2021 for more info.

**AFFORDABLE PRIVATE EDUCATION AT HCCS**

There is now a Full Scholarship (FREE TUITION) available for those who meet the [income eligibility](#) on the provided chart and are entering Kindergarten-5th grade in the 21-22 school year. This scholarship is made available by the Ohio Department of Education and is referred to as the [EdChoice Expansion](#). For more information on the [EdChoice Expansion Scholarship](#) visit <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Other-Resources/Scholarships/EdChoice-Scholarship-Program/EdChoice-Scholarship-Information-for-Parents> or call the school at 419-784-2021

March 6-7	Saturday 4:00 pm	Sunday 8:30 am	Sunday 10:30 am
<b>Lector</b>	TBA	TBA	TBA
<b>Ushers</b>	Steve Jackson Mark Detter 2 Volunteers	Mike Bakle Ed Burger Tony Davis Volunteer	Ken Kregg William Ware Ernesto Jimenez Volunteer
<b>Greeters</b>	4 Volunteers	4 Volunteers	Vivian Kregg 3 Volunteers

Day	Date	Mass Times & Intentions	<b>Readings for the week of February 28, 2021</b>  Sunday: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19 [9]/Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10  Monday: Dn 9:4b-10/Ps 79:8, 9 11 and 13 [cf. 103:10a]/Lk 6:36-38  Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23 [23b]/Mt 23:1-12  Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20/Ps 31:5-6, 14, 15-16 [17b]/Mt 20:17-28  Thursday: Jer 17:5-10/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [40:5a]/Lk 16:19-31  Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/Ps 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21 [5a]/Mt 21:33-43, 45-46  Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12 [8a]/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32  Next Sunday: Ex 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [Jn 6:68c]/1 Cor 1:22-25/Jn 2:13-25 or Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 [8]/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42
<b>Sunday</b>	February 28, 2021	8:30 am Michael Racciato 10:30 am Ruth Ginsburg Mary Temple	
<b>Monday</b>	March 1, 2021	NO MASS	
<b>Tuesday</b>	March 2, 2021	8:00 am Madonna Deveaux	
<b>Wednesday</b>	March 3, 2021	<b>8:00 am COMMUNION SERVICE</b>	
<b>Thursday</b>	March 4, 2021	8:00 am Buss & Rita Berry	
<b>Friday</b>	March 5, 2021	8:00 am Pete Gonzales	
<b>Saturday</b>	March 6, 2021	4:00 pm Fr. Jim LaCrosse S.M. Carol Gable	
<b>Sunday</b>	March 7, 2021	8:30 am Raul Sanchez 10:30 am John Miller Tom Keller	

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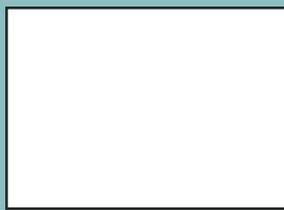
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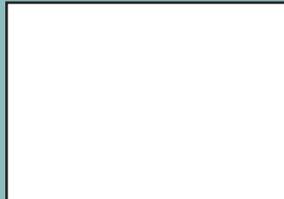
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