

SS. FRANCIS & JOHN CATHOLIC PARISH

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST
604 East Main Street
Georgetown, KY 40324

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES
4086 Frankfort Road
Georgetown, KY 40324

CARDOME CAMPUS
800 Cincinnati Road
Georgetown, KY 40324

13TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

JUNE 27, 2021

CONTACT US

Phone: 502.863.3404
parishoffice@ssfrancisjohn.org
Website: www.ssfrancisjohn.org
Parish Office Hours:
M-R, 9a-2p or by appointment

Follow SSFJ on 

PARISH STAFF:

Administrative Assistant: Teri Ward
(parishoffice@ssfrancisjohn.org)

Parish Bookkeeper: Emily Winski
(ewinski@cdlex.org)

Communications Coordinator: Gina Stewart
(gstewart@ssfrancisjohn.org)

PARISH LIFE:

Music Minister: Denise Whittington
(dwhittington@cdlex.org)

Baptismal Prep: Contact Parish Office
(parishoffice@ssfrancisjohn.org) or (502-863-3404)

RCIA Coordinator: Dan Elliot
(danmar614@roadrunner.com)

CCD (K-8) Coordinator:
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Rocio Canales (rociocanales@ymail.com)
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Youth Director & Confirmation Coordinator:
Katharine Coleman (kcoleman@cdlex.org)

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY:
5:30pm @ St. John Church

SUNDAY:
8:00am @ St. John Church
10:00am Outdoors @ Cardome
10:00am Online Broadcast on SSFJ Facebook Page
12:00pm (Spanish) @ St. John Church
5:30pm @ St. Francis Church

MONDAY:
5:30pm @ St. John Church

TUESDAY:
8:30am @ St. John Church

WEDNESDAY:
12:00pm @ St. John Church

THURSDAY:
7:00am @ St. John Church

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:
Every Thursday @ St. John Church
Beginning after 7:00am Mass & ending at 8:00pm

RECONCILIATION:
Thursday @ St. John Church from 6:00pm-7:00pm

PASTOR:

Rev. Mary Peter Linh Xuan Nguyen
(502-863-3404; fr.linh@ssfrancisjohn.org)

DEACONS:

Rev. Mr. John Calandrella
(jcalandrella@cdlex.org)

Rev. Mr. Skip Olson
(solson@cdlex.org)

Rev. Mr. Tim Stout
(tstout@cdlex.org)

Rev. Mr. Dallas Kelley
(dkelley@cdlex.org)

ST. JOHN CATHOLIC SCHOOL

106 Military Street
Georgetown, KY 40324
Phone: 502.863.2607 (x.101)
E-mail: office@stjohnschoolonline.org

SCHOOL STAFF:

Principal: Dan Mardell
(dmardell@stjohnschoolonline.org)

School Administrative Assistant: Jennifer Noffsinger
(502-863-2607; office@stjohnschoolonline.org)

Thirteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time

June 27, 2021

HYMN

Come, Now Is the Time to Worship /
Ven, es tiempo de adorarle

Come, now is the time to wor - ship;
Ven, es tiem-po de a - do - rar - le.

Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Ven, es tiem-po de dar tu co - ra - zón.

Come just as you are to wor - ship;
Ven tal co-mo es-tás ya - do - ra.

Come just as you are be - fore your God.
Ven tal co-mo es-tás an - te tu Dios.

Last time to Coda
Última vez a la Coda

Come. One day ev - 'ry tongue will con - fess
Ven. Un dí - a to - dos con - fe - sa - rán

you are God. One day ev - 'ry knee will bow,
que es - res Dios, y to - dos se a - rro - di - lla - rán. El

Still the great - est treas - ure re - mains for those who
más gran - de te - so - ro les guar - da - ras a

glad - ly choose you now.
los que te es - li - gen hoy.

GLORIA

Refrain

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth.

Verses

1. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
2. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
3. For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God, the Father. Amen! Amen!

Lectionary: 98

Reading I Wis 1:13-15; 2:23-24

God did not make death,
nor does he rejoice in the destruction of the living.
For he fashioned all things that they might have being;
and the creatures of the world are wholesome,
and there is not a destructive drug among them
nor any domain of the netherworld on earth,
for justice is undying.
For God formed man to be imperishable;
the image of his own nature he made him.
But by the envy of the devil, death entered the world,
and they who belong to his company experience it.

Responsorial Psalm 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11, 12, 13

R. (2a) I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.
I will extol you, O LORD, for you drew me clear
and did not let my enemies rejoice over me.
O LORD, you brought me up from the netherworld;
you preserved me from among those going down into the pit.
R. I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.
Sing praise to the LORD, you his faithful ones,
and give thanks to his holy name.
For his anger lasts but a moment;
a lifetime, his good will.
At nightfall, weeping enters in,
but with the dawn, rejoicing.
R. I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.
Hear, O LORD, and have pity on me;
O LORD, be my helper.
You changed my mourning into dancing;
O LORD, my God, forever will I give you thanks.
R. I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.

Reading II 2 Cor 8:7, 9, 13-15

Brothers and sisters:
As you excel in every respect, in faith, discourse,
knowledge, all earnestness, and in the love we have for you,
may you excel in this gracious act also.
For you know the gracious act of our Lord Jesus Christ,
that though he was rich, for your sake he became poor,
so that by his poverty you might become rich.
Not that others should have relief while you are burdened,
but that as a matter of equality
your abundance at the present time should supply their needs,
so that their abundance may also supply your needs,
that there may be equality.
As it is written:
Whoever had much did not have more,
and whoever had little did not have less.

Gospel Mk 5:21-43 or 5:21-24, 35b-43

When Jesus had crossed again in the boat
to the other side, a large crowd gathered around him, and he
stayed close to the sea.
One of the synagogue officials, named Jairus, came forward.
Seeing him he fell at his feet and pleaded earnestly with him, say-
ing, "My daughter is at the point of death.
Please, come lay your hands on her
that she may get well and live." He went off with him,
and a large crowd followed him and pressed upon him.

There was a woman afflicted with hemorrhages for twelve years.
She had suffered greatly at the hands of many doctors
and had spent all that she had. Yet she was not helped but only
grew worse. She had heard about Jesus and came up behind him in
the crowd and touched his cloak.
She said, "If I but touch his clothes, I shall be cured."
Immediately her flow of blood dried up.
She felt in her body that she was healed of her affliction.
Jesus, aware at once that power had gone out from him,
turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who has touched my
clothes?" But his disciples said to Jesus,
"You see how the crowd is pressing upon you,
and yet you ask, 'Who touched me?'"
And he looked around to see who had done it.
The woman, realizing what had happened to her,
approached in fear and trembling. She fell down before Jesus and
told him the whole truth. He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has
saved you. Go in peace and be cured of your affliction."

While he was still speaking, people from the synagogue official's
house arrived and said,
"Your daughter has died; why trouble the teacher any longer?"
Disregarding the message that was reported,
Jesus said to the synagogue official,
"Do not be afraid; just have faith."
He did not allow anyone to accompany him inside
except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James.
When they arrived at the house of the synagogue official,
he caught sight of a commotion, people weeping and wailing loud-
ly. So he went in and said to them,
"Why this commotion and weeping?
The child is not dead but asleep."
And they ridiculed him. Then he put them all out.
He took along the child's father and mother
and those who were with him and entered the room where the
child was. He took the child by the hand and said to her, "Talitha
koum," which means, "Little girl, I say to you, arise!"
The girl, a child of twelve, arose immediately and walked around.
At that they were utterly astounded.
He gave strict orders that no one should know this
and said that she should be given something to eat.

CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth of all that is seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, one in Being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation He came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit He was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered, died, and was buried. On the third day He rose in fulfillment of the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son He is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. *Amen.*

DIOCESAN

PRAYER

FOR

VOCATIONS

Creator God, life is your gift to us. Through Baptism, you invite us to share in the gifts of our lives in service to others. Be with us each day as we choose to show Your presence in the world. Give us the courage and generosity to respond to Your love, to Your call. We pray especially for those who serve you as priests, brothers, sisters, deacons, and lay ministers. We pray for holy matrimony. Keep them close to You. Open the minds and hearts of other men and women that they may accept Your challenge to build the Kingdom. *Amen.*

OFFERTORY

SING A NEW SONG

Dan Schutte

Refrain

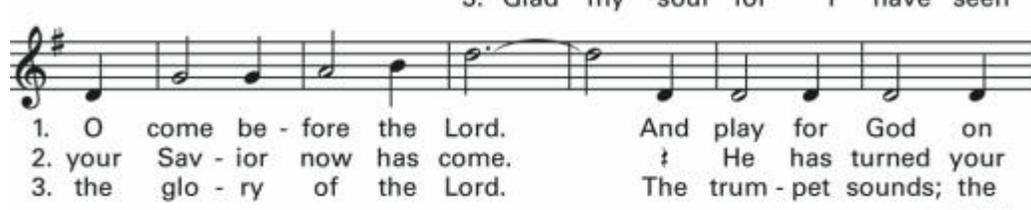


Sing a new song un-to the Lord; let your song be sung from mountains high. Sing a new song un-to the Lord, sing-ing

Verses



al - le - lu - ia. 1. Shout with glad-ness! Dance for joy!
2. Rise, O chil-dren, from your sleep;
3. Glad my soul for I have seen



1. O come be-fore the Lord. And play for God on
2. your Sav-ior now has come. He has turned your
3. the glo-ry of the Lord. The trum-pet sounds; the

to Refrain



1. glad tam-bou-rines, and let your trum-pet sound.
2. sor-row to joy, and filled your soul with song.
3. dead shall be raised. I know my Sav-ior lives.

COMMUNION

HYMN(S)

10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord, O My Soul)

Bless the Lord O my soul
 O my soul
 Worship his holy name
 Sing like never before
 O my soul
 I'll worship your holy name
 The sun comes up
 It's a new day dawning
 It's time to sing your song again
 Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me
 Let me be singing when the evening comes
 Bless the Lord O my soul
 O my soul
 Worship his holy name
 Sing like never before
 O my soul
 I'll worship your holy name
 You're rich in love and you're slow to anger
 Your name is great and your heart is kind
 For all your goodness I will keep on singing
 10,000 reasons for my heart to find
 Bless the Lord O my soul
 O my soul
 Worship his holy name
 Sing like never before
 O my soul

I'll worship your holy name
 Sing like never before
 O my soul
 I'll worship your holy name
 And on that day when my strength is failing
 The end draws near and my time has come
 Still my soul will sing your praise unending
 10,000 years and then forever more
 Bless the Lord O my soul
 O my soul
 Worship his holy name
 Sing like never before
 O my soul
 I'll worship your holy name
 Bless the Lord O my soul
 O my soul
 Worship His holy name
 Sing like never before
 O my soul
 I'll worship your holy name
 O I'll worship your holy name
 I will worship your holy name
 Holy name

Source: Musixmatch
 Songwriters: Matthew James Redman / Jonas Carl Gustaf Myrin
 10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord) lyrics © Worshiptogether.com Songs, Sixsteps

WORTHY IS THE LAMB

Ricky Manalo

Refrain

Wor-thy is the Lamb that was slain to re - ceive
 hon - or and glo - ry. Wor - thy are the ones who be - lieve
 to re - ceive the good - ness of God.

Verses

1. Wor - thy are you, O Pas - chal Lamb. Sal -
 2. Wor - thy are you, O Bread of Life.
 3. Wor - thy are you, O Ris - en Christ.

1. Wis - dom and strength be - long now to you. You
 2. va - tion and joy be - long now to us. By
 3. Won - ders and signs, re - veal - ing your might. Your

1. laid down your life and died up - on the cross: we've be -
 2. con - quer - ing death and ris - ing to new life, we've be -
 3. pow - er and glo - ry shine up - on our lives: we've be -

2 to Refrain

1. come a peo - ple of hope.
 2. come a peo - ple of praise.
 3. come your light for the world.

PRAYER TO
ST. JOSEPH

O Saint Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God, I place in you all my interests and desires.

O Saint Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession and obtain for me from your divine Son all spiritual blessings through Jesus Christ, Our Lord, so that having experienced here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of fathers.

O Saint Joseph, I never weary of contemplating you and Jesus asleep in your arms. I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Hold Him close in my name and kiss His fine head from me, and ask Him to return the kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, patron of departing souls, pray for me. *Amen.*

CLOSING
HYMN

SING OF THE LORD'S GOODNESS

Ernest Sands

Verses



1. Sing of the Lord's good-ness, Fa-ther of all wis-dom,
2. Pow-er he has wield-ed, hon-or is his gar-ment,
3. Cour-age in our dark-ness, com-fort in our sor-row,
4. Praise him with your sing-ing, praise him with the trum-pet,



1. come to him and bless his name. Mer-cy he has shown us,
2. ris-en from the snares of death. His word he has spo-ken,
3. Spir-it of our God most high; so-lace for the wear-y,
4. praise God with the lute and harp; praise him with the cym-bals,

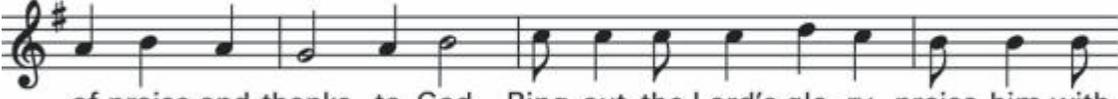


1. his love is for-ev-er, faith-ful to the end of days.
2. one bread he has bro-ken, new life he now gives to all.
3. par-don for the sin-ner, splen-dor of the liv-ing God.
4. praise him with your danc-ing, praise God till the end of days.

Refrain



Come, then, all you na-tions, sing of your Lord's good-ness, mel-o-dies



of praise and thanks to God. Ring out the Lord's glo-ry, praise him with



your mu-sic, wor-ship him and bless his name.

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Musical Credits and Permissions
For Ss. Francis and John Catholic Church
609 E. Fourth Street
Georgetown, Kentucky 40524
Sunday, June 27, 2021

Permission to reprint / podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from

Keep in your Thoughts & Prayers

Dan Rusch; Karys Durham, Granddaughter of Larry Oser; David Seay; Lisa Chambers; Russell Sapp; David Walls, son of Mary Alice Walls; Pat Manion; Patrick Willett; Joy Walker; Brody Jones; Donnie Putty; Lisa Sturgill; Ethan Munson; Susie Coughlin, Sister of Anne Dadds; Dan Elliott; Eileen Mills, Cousin of Verla Willett; Melissa Carver, Friend of Philip Cummins; Susan Schu, Sister-in-Law of Philip Cummins; Ronnie Roby, Brother of Karen Cash; Margaret Zielske, Mother of Anne Willett; Don Wethington; Jennifer Burns; George Kubach, Father of Jennifer Noffsinger; Carolann Crump, Daughter-In-Law of Jean Sparks; Andrew Kenneth Wilson; Jane Brock, Sister of Carol Kaulig; Jean Sparks; John Kenneth Wilson; Dorothea Wilson;
Pat Mudd; Dcn. John & Claudia

Pray for Those in the Military:

Matthew Silver; Elizabeth Schilder; Brad Nelson; William K. North; Mary Katherine Mulholland; Marckia Wilson; Matthew Brown; Stephen Carter; James Parker; Chelsea Carter; Alexandra & Anthony Walters; Matt Woods

This Week's Mass Intentions:

MONDAY, JUNE 28:
5:30p (SJC) (MI) *Alex Rabe*

TUESDAY, JUNE 29:
8:30a (SJC) (MI) *Elia Chavarria*

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30:
12:00p (SJC) (MI) *Dominic Bilotta / David Cervoni*

THURSDAY, JULY 1:
7:00a (SJC) (MI) *Pat Ewing*

SATURDAY, JULY 3:
5:30p (SJC) (MI) *Elia Chavarria*

SUNDAY, JULY 4: 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00a (SJC) (MI) *Edward Gripshover*
10:00a (Cardome) (MI) *Dominic Bilotta / David Cervoni*
12:00p (SJC) (MI) (Spanish) *Intentions of Ss. Francis & John*
5:30p (SFC) (MI) *Damien Langfels*

Did you know you can tithe online? It's safe, easy & only takes a minute. Go to the homepage of the SSFJ website (ssfrancisjohn.org) and give!

OTHER METHODS OF TITHING:

You can drop off your offertory through the slot in the Parish Office door if needed. Someone will be collecting them daily.

You may also mail contributions to the Parish Office: Ss. Francis & John Parish, 604 E. Main St., Georgetown, KY 40324

If you need help or have questions, please contact the Parish Office by email: parishoffice@ssfrancisjohn.org

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
May	\$48,290.47	\$56,414.17
YTD	\$573,676.40	\$620,555.83



A Great Place to Grow!

Come See the Great things happening at
St. John School

****CALL TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT****

We have openings in ALL grades (PreK-8th)
Be sure to ask about our move to the Cardome Campus!

CALL US TODAY FOR MORE INFORMATION!
502-863-2607



BE SURE TO STAY INFORMED!

SIGN UP FOR WEEKLY NEWSLETTERS & EMAIL UPDATES ON THE SSFJ

WEBSITE HOMEPAGE: www.ssfrancisjohn.org

BE SURE TO SAVE SSFRANCISJOHN.ORG AS A CONTACT SO THE EMAILS WILL NOT END UP IN SPAM!

If you need to update your email address or are having trouble receiving Parish Emails, please contact us at gstewart@ssfrancisjohn.org

IF YOU HAVE PARISH NEWS THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO PUBLISH IN UPCOMING BULLETINS OR NEWSLETTERS, PLEASE SUBMIT ENTRIES TO GINA BY EMAILING: gstewart@ssfrancisjohn.org



THANK YOU, MR. MARDELL!

We would like to thank outgoing Principal, Dan Mardell, for his many years of service and dedication in leading St. John School. Although we will miss his presence on the St. John Campus, his legacy will live on through those his service touched. His kindness and dedication to all will have a lasting effect on our Students, Parents, Teachers, and Staff. Please join us in praying for Mr. Mardell as he journeys into retirement. May God bless him abundantly with peace and joy. Mr. Mardell, you will be missed!



A Note from Mr. Mardell:

Greetings,

As my time as principal winds down, I am very excited about the new beginnings for St. John Catholic School at Cardome. I would like to thank everyone at St. John Parish and School for their generous gifts of time, talent, and treasure that has continued to make the school a fantastic place where the students grow not only academically, but also spiritually. God has truly blessed me with the opportunity to work in a Catholic environment with Fr. Linh, a very talented staff, wonderful students and parents, and a supportive parish. Thank you for a great eight years as principal at St. John Catholic School.

*God Bless and Take Care,
Dan Mardell*



**THANK YOU FOR CONNECTING YOUR KROGER PLUS CARD
TO OUR COMMUNITY REWARDS!**

Feb-2021 to May-2021

161 Households

\$ 1069.29 Total Donations

For more information on how you can connect your card,
visit their website: [https://www.kroger.com/i/
community/community-rewards](https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards)



If you have missed the updates on our future move to the
Cardome Campus, all the information is housed on our Parish

Website: ssfrancisjohn.org

If you have questions or feedback, please email us at
feedback@ssfrancisjohn.org

SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

EVERYONE HAS A PLACE.

Can You Help at Mass?

We are excited to begin our new mass schedule this weekend. It will be great to return to our regular five masses once again! With the return to indoor worship, we will once more need volunteers for the following ministries:

- Sacristans
- Greeters/Ushers
- Servers
- Lectors

As we transition back to a more normal schedule of worship, we will send out sign ups weekly via the parish email and will have a link on the homepage of our website. This will be effective until we can reconnect with our Ministry Coordinators and the traditional way we have scheduled ministries in the past. We will also have new ministry sign ups and training opportunities in the future.

We are thankful for your willingness to serve and can't wait to see you at Holy Mass!



There is a real critical need for blood donors at the Kentucky Blood Center in Lexington. Blood supplies are running low at this time. Due to the pandemic, many blood drives have been cancelled.

The Kentucky Blood Center (KBC) is giving away two Toyota vehicles this summer as well as several other incentives to blood donors.

If you are eligible to donate this month, please consider doing so. Donations

are being accepted at their Lexington locations.

There are no scheduled blood drives in Georgetown this month.

For an appointment,

please call 800-775-2522 or kybloodcenter.org



INVITE A FRIEND TO MASS NEXT WEEK!

NOW HIRING!

Now hiring a part time assistant to help in the cafeteria. Please contact Char Banta if you are interested. at cbanta@cdlex.org



The Men's Weekend is July 29 – August 1, 2021 at St. Joseph parish in Winchester. Cursillo is a short course in Christianity for lay people in the Catholic Church.

Cursillo provides tools for your prayer life, study to learn more about God and being a Christian in action in your daily life. Cursillo is an opportunity to retreat from your daily life by spending time with God on a three-day Weekend.

The Weekend begins on Thursday at 6:30 pm. and concludes on Sunday at 8 p.m. A priest and spiritual advisor are a part of the Weekend (normally a priest and 1 or 2 deacons).

Must be a Catholic to attend as Sacraments are provided (i.e., Reconciliation and Eucharist at Mass). The Men's Weekend is July 29 – August 1, 2021. Lodging, Meals, Snacks and Supplies are provided. The cost to attend is \$210 for a single room. Limited Scholarships are available for anyone needing financial assistance.

Each candidate will need a sponsor before and after the Weekend. A sponsor is someone who has already attended a Cursillo Weekend. The sponsor will be there for you before to answer any questions and after, so you can share what you learned during your Cursillo Weekend. We can find someone in your parish who will sponsor you when you are available to attend your Cursillo Weekend. To attend a sponsor will need to complete the sponsor application and a new candidate will need to fill out a candidate application.

Candidate and sponsor applications can be found @ <https://cdlex.org/cursillo>.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Lastenia at 859-806-2150 or Grace Wiemann at 859-351-5995 to discuss Cursillo or to register for a Weekend.

TOUCHING THE CLOAK OF CHRIST

Look to today's Gospel and you'll find one of the most arresting images in all of Scripture. Christ in a crowd, everyone clamoring for his attention, pressing against him. Several feet away, is a chronically ill woman, weak and desperate for help. She knows she doesn't have a chance of getting his attention. She has no connections. She has no strength. All she can do is lift up her hand.

So that's what she does. She reaches out.

There comes a time, or maybe several times, in each of our lives when we become this woman. We're tired and we're sick. Is it with sin? With fear? With anger? It doesn't matter. Whatever it is, it's made us weak, and we feel like we've run out of options. We've looked for help and

come up empty. We've consulted friends and gotten nowhere. We're lost in the crowd of life, unable to stick our heads above the pressing throng to wave for help.

And there is Christ, always passing by us. The hem of his cloak is never far from our grasp. We have no hope of a big miracle like the synagogue leader. We don't even bother asking for that. But that cloak ... we can touch that cloak. That's something we can do.

Do we do it, though? Do we have the confidence of that sick, beaten-down woman who knew so totally that healing was there for the taking? Or do we retreat back into the crowd, stumbling back home with our pain and our sinfulness? Reach out, friends. However, whatever, whenever — reach out. Christ will not fail you.

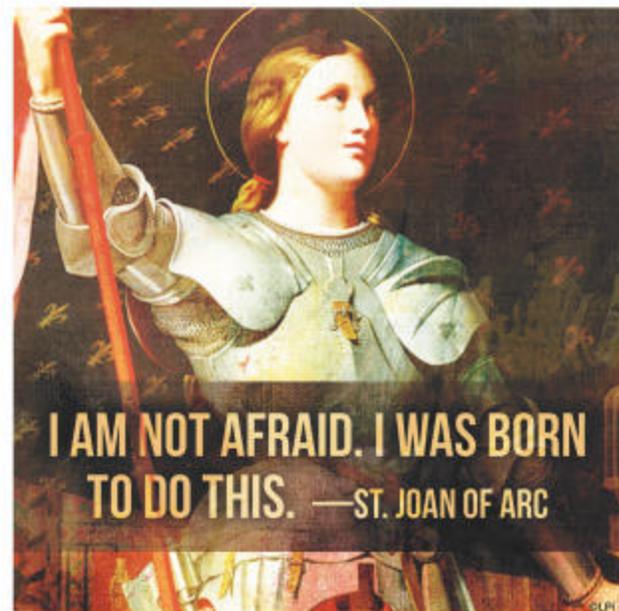
—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

WHAT IS THE "MIRACULOUS MEDAL" AND WHY IS IT CALLED THAT?

The medal of the Immaculate Conception that has come to be called simply the "Miraculous Medal" dates back to an apparition of Mary to Saint Catherine Laboure, who was then a novice sister with the Daughters of Charity. On November 27, 1830, Our Lady appeared to her standing on a globe, with shafts of light streaming from her hands and the words, "O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee," surrounding the image. In the same vision, Catherine saw a capital "M" with a cross above it and below two hearts. Catherine seemed to hear a voice telling her to have what she saw struck as a medal and a promise that those who wore the medal would have the protection and intercession of the Mother of God. The first 1,500 of medals were distributed in 1832. Many miraculous favors were attributed to the use of the medal.

Saint Catherine's "Miraculous Medal" is among the recognizable and popular symbols of modern Catholicism. Reflecting on its widespread use, the 2001 Vatican document, "Directory on Popular

Piety and Liturgy," observes that the medal "recalls the mystery of Redemption, the love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and of the Sorrowful Heart of Mary. It signifies the mediatory role of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the mystery of the Church, the relationship between Heaven and earth, this life and eternal life."





Life is truly a journey...and sometimes the way is rough. Whether it's a loss of employment, kids worrying the heck out of you, a spouse who is sick, or any other challenge or loss, sometimes it's helpful to have a companion. We naturally turn to trusted friends, but sometimes we worry about burdening a friend or feel that we might have to put life together in their way or time. Wouldn't it be nice to have an "ear" that doesn't judge – that has no agenda or timetable, someone who can keep a confidence – just to not be so lonely while working things out? Someone who trusts God – but also trusts you-- to work your situation out in your own time? That's what Stephen Ministers do – they respectfully join you in your journey, listening and offering confidential support and encouragement. Need a companion for your journey?

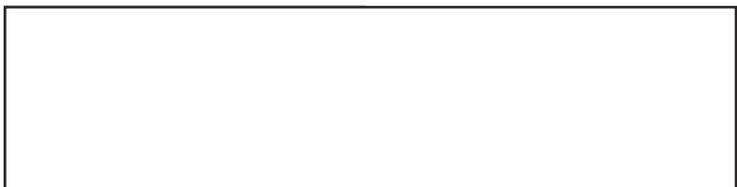
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