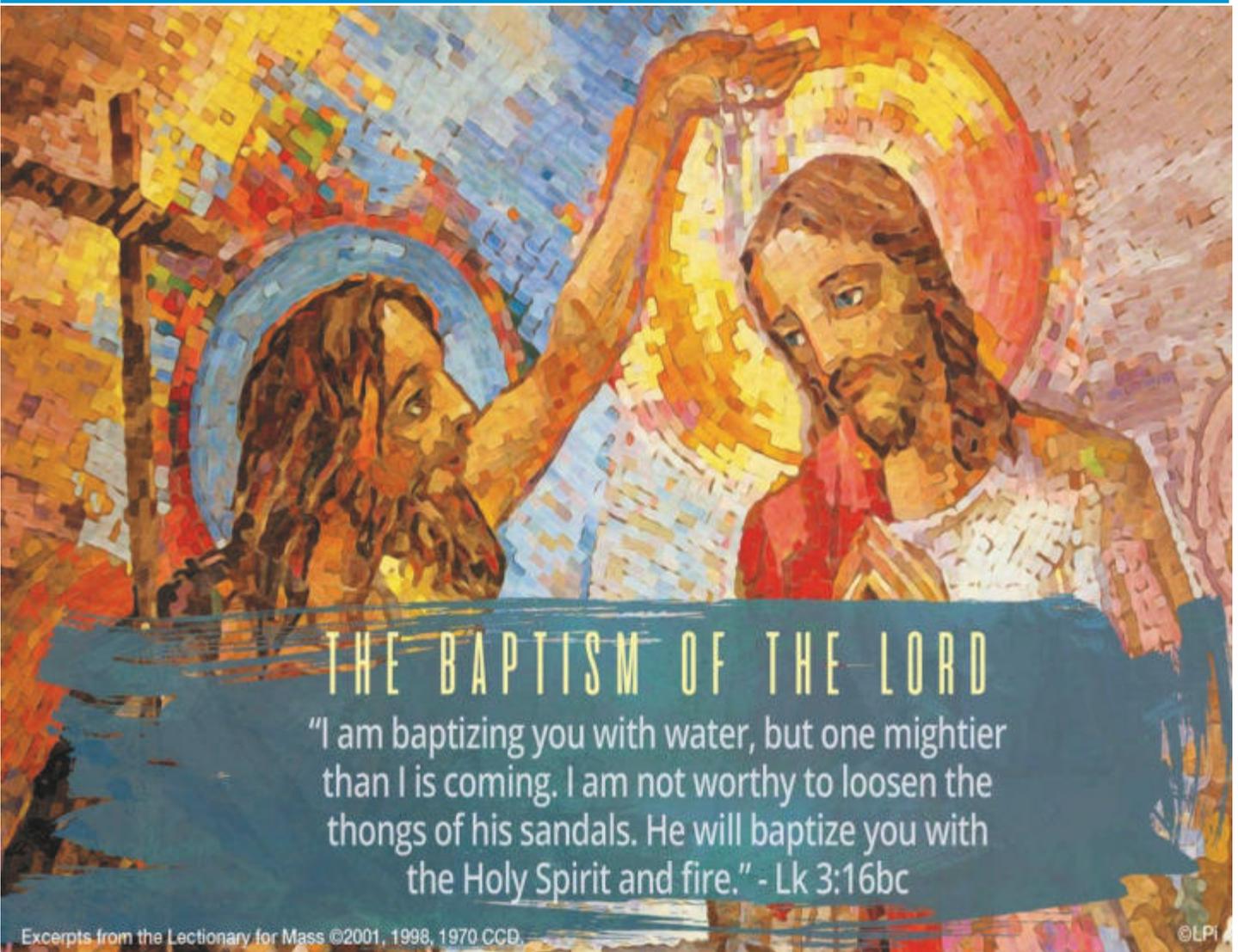




Our Lady of the Valley



JANUARY 9, 2022



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

"I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." - Lk 3:16bc

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD

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5514 DOUBLE OAK LANE, BIRMINGHAM, AL 35242

Welcome to Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church

All visitors and anyone interested in joining our parish family, are welcome to call the church office if you have questions.

Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday 8:00am - 4:00pm

205-991-5488 • Fax: 205-991-5181

www.olvchurchbirmingham.com

Email: olvchurch@olvsch.com

5514 Double Oak Lane, Birmingham, AL 35242

Staff Directory

Rev. Thomas M. Kelly, F.T.C.L. 205-991-5488
Pastor

Deacon Bob Martin, x 212
Or 205-960-2294; papamartin@aol.com

Deacon Robert Long, x 217 or cell
205-532-1966 deaconrobertolv@gmail.com

Deacon Dan Whitaker, x 215
..... danwhitaker383@charter.net

Karen Portante, **Admin Assistant** x 6
kportante@olvsch.com

Theresa Thienpont, **Director of Music** x 4
tltpiano@olvsch.com

Mark Woodard, **DRE & Youth Minister** x247
mwoodard@olvsch.com

Kathy Martin, **PSR Secretary** x216
olvccd@olvsch.com

Carol Cahill, **Admin Assistant, Controller, IT Tech and Webmaster** ccahill@olvsch.com

Andy Rothery, **School Principal** 205-991-5963 x 232
arothery@olvsch.com

Mike Bridges, **Facilities Coordinator**
205-991-5963 x239 mbridges@olvsch.com

Confessions : Saturdays at 3:00 P.M. in the cry room

DAILY Mass Schedule: Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 7:45 A.M.

Wednesdays at NOON

WEEKEND Mass Schedule: Saturday evenings at 5:00 P.M.

Sunday mornings at 7:00 A.M., 8:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

Mass Schedule & Intentions

MONDAY, JANUARY 10

6:20 A.M. MARTIN BOWER, SR. RIP

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11

7:45 A.M. MICHAEL CARLISLE RIP

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12

12:00 NOON KATHERINE DEMAY RIP

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13

7:45 A.M. IHS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 14

8:15 A.M. IHS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15

5:00 P.M. PRO POPULO

SUNDAY, JANUARY 16

7:00 A.M. IHS

8:30 A.M. IHS

11:00 A.M. IHS

*To schedule a baptism, please call the church office.

*For privacy reasons, when requesting pastoral care for the sick or dying, or to give notice of death, an immediate family member must notify the church office directly at 205-991-5488.

*Marriage preparations must be made at least six months in advance. Please call the church office.

Gift Shop Hours:

For your convenience, our gift shop is open 30 minutes before and after the 5:00 pm mass on Saturdays and the 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. masses on Sundays.

WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 9, 2022

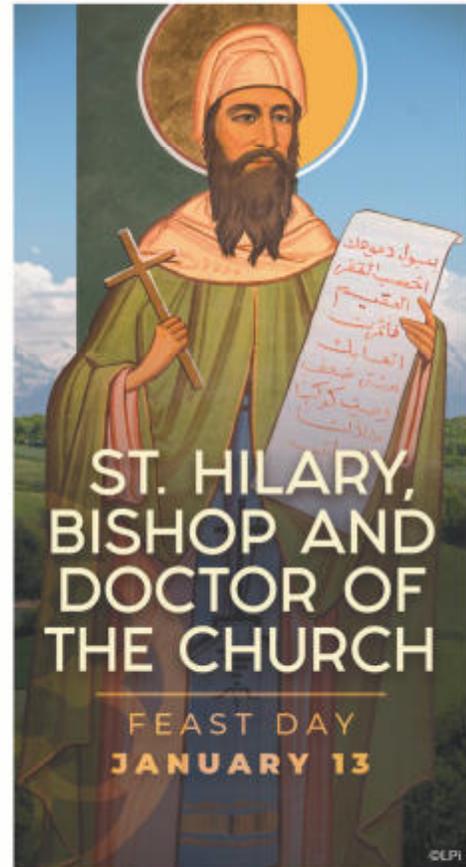
- Sunday:** Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b]/Acts 10:34-38/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22 or, Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30 [1]/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22
- Monday:** 1 Sm 1:1-8/Ps 116:12-13, 14-17, 18-19/Mk 1:14-20
- Tuesday:** 1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Mk 1:21-28
- Wednesday:** 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Mk 1:29-39
- Thursday:** 1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/Mk 1:40-45
- Friday:** 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19/Mk 2:1-12
- Saturday:** 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mk 2:13-17
- Next Sunday:** Is 62:1-5/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10 [3]/1 Cor 12:4-11/jn 2:1-11

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 9, 2022

- Sunday:** The Baptism of the Lord
- Thursday:** St. Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
- Next Sunday:** 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

LIVE THE LITURGY Inspiration for the week

Jesus stood in line with everyone else and was baptized. There is something incredibly humbling about how this must have played out. Then, God did something truly awesome and inspiring. Through a very gentle and simple action he let the world know about the special relationship He shares with Jesus. That's exactly what is so incredible about our baptisms as well! Through those holy waters God announces to the world the special place we also occupy in His heart. We no longer have to wonder about the purpose of our lives or struggle to find our way. We do not need to fumble around, tripping over ourselves and wondering why we are even here. The answer has been given. All we have to do is live out the vocation we have received, to live the Gospel in fidelity to our Creator. There is nothing to fear and worry has no place. Standing in line with other sinners, we have our anchor and God is very pleased.



SAINT OF THE WEEK

Born a pagan, St. Hilary (c. 315 – c. 367) studied philosophy and the meaning of life, eventually making his way through the bible. He became a convert and was appointed bishop of Poitiers in 353. Sometimes referred to as the Hammer of the Arians, St. Hilary defended the Nicene Creed against a popular heresy, Arianism. He was exiled to Phrygia for opposing Roman emperor Constantius II, who preferred the heresy which denies Christ's divinity. From Phrygia St. Hilary fought with his pen, zealously writing against the heresy.

Eventually he was allowed to return to Poitiers, but did so by a circuitous route, preaching against Arianism all the way. St. Hilary was likely the first writer of hymns in the West, his writings on the Trinity, Psalms and Gospel of Matthew survive today. St. Hilary was created Doctor of the Church, a title given to those who provided important contributions to theology and doctrine, in 1851 by Pope Pius IX.

PRAYERS



MARY'S CORNER

The Story of Absam:

In this small village, 6 miles east of Innsbruck, you can find a miraculous image of the Blessed Virgin Mary which dates from 1797. On a winter's night an 18 year old girl, Rosina Buecher, was sitting by her window sewing. Her father was working in the salt mines and she suddenly had a feeling that something was wrong—perhaps he had met with an accident. As she looked out her window, she was startled to see an image of a beautiful young woman on the window. She called out to her mother who also saw the image, and both instantly felt that it must be the Blessed Virgin Mary. Their parish priest and their neighbors all agreed with the mother's opinion. The priest had the window pane removed so that it might be tested. It was discovered that when it was submerged in water the image disappeared but when it was dried off the image returned. Scientific experts were unable to explain how the image was created on the glass. The priest felt it was indeed a miraculous image and returned it to the Buecher family. By now the image had become an object of veneration to those in the village and so the family decided to donate the image to the parish church. Before long people from all over Austria began making pilgrimages to the parish church and reports of miraculous healings began to spread. Many ex-votos were placed in the church thanking Our Lady for her intercession. Today you can still see the image in the parish church of Absam, Saint Michael the Archangel which has now been raised to a Minor Basilica. It measures 5"x7" and is enshrined on a side altar.



Gracious and Loving God, Help the men and women of the Diocese of Birmingham hear your call to serve. Our needs are great and our people thirst for your presence. Open the hearts of many, raise up faithful servants of the Gospel. Dedicated holy sisters, brothers, deacons and priests, who will give themselves for your people and their needs. Bless those who are serving now with courage and perseverance. Grant that many will be inspired by their example and faith. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who is the same, yesterday, today and forever. R. Mary, Mother of Vocations
V. Pray for us

Prayer Opportunities for all Parishioners:

Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help

All are welcome to join in prayer every Tuesday following 7:45am Mass in the Church for the Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help.

Rosary

Join in praying the rosary in honor of Our Lady at 7:15 am on Tuesdays and Thursdays prior to 7:45am Mass in the church.

Adoration

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is available to all, in the chapel, on the first Friday of each month from 7:00 a.m. until 12:00 a.m. (Midnight), and on the first Saturday from 7:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.



STEWARDSHIP & MUSIC NEWS

A **POOR BOX** has been placed in the chapel and church for acts of almsgiving - one of the Seven Corporal Works of Mercy. **Please donate generously.** Fr. Kelly will distribute these funds to assist the needy in our area.



Adult Choir:
 Wednesday, January 12, 2022
 6:30 p.m. Rehearsal : Church

Sunday, January 16, 2021:
 10:30 am – Rehearsal in the Chapel
 11:00 am – Adult Choir at Mass

Valley Worship Youth Band:
 *Rehearsals and Masses TBA

Children’s Choir:
 Wednesday, January 12, 2022
 3:30 p.m. Rehearsal : Church
 *Next Mass Scheduled:
 Sunday, January 23, 2022 @ 8:30 am

Your Sacrificial Offering

December 26, 2021

Offertory:
 \$21,651.00
RENEW OLV!
 (capital expenditures)
 \$3,615.00
Century Club:
 (repair & maintenance fund)
 \$1,500.00
Poor Box:
 \$6,027.00

On-Line Giving
 (12/22/2021–12/28/2021)

Offertory:
 \$19,251.00
RENEW OLV!
 \$2,779.00
Century Club:
 \$59.00

****Christmas 2021 ****
 \$28,553.00

A sincere thank you for your continued support and generosity to Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church. May God continue to bless each and everyone.

For Our Lady of the Valley Grief Support, please contact Judy Harder at 205-903-5414 or 205-995-0825

COMMUNITY NEWS

Combine Corporal Works with Cardio this January with an "It's Still Christmas" 5K to benefit the Fraternity Poor of Jesus Christ! There is a suggested donation of \$30 per runner for the Franciscans, but no one will be turned away. There will also be a fun run for younger runners. Details and sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904094DADA62BABF58-its1>



DO YOU HAVE A RELATIVE OR FRIEND WHO IS MENTALLY ILL? A support group for persons who have a friend, relative, spouse, children, or sibling suffering from a mental illness, will be meeting Monday, January 10, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. at the Hoover Library. **THIS IS A NEW TIME & LOCATION.** The group is intended to support the caregivers of those suffering from the following kinds of mental disorders: anxiety, depression, PTSD, mood, personality, or psychotic disorders. For further information, please contact Lisa Rowley at (860) 460-5396 or by email at lrowley0201@gmail.com or Susan Salin (205) 913-4785 or by email at srsalin@gmail.com before attending for the first time. Confidentiality is assured. Please come!

Hilltoppers Meeting The next hilltoppers meeting will be on Thursday, January 13, 2022. To make your reservations for lunch (for people not on the call list) or for more information, please call Bob Hiros 205-995-7921.

Annual Respect Life Mass and Witness for Life

Saturday, January 15, 2022

Respect Life Mass · Bishop Steven Raica

9:00 AM · Cathedral of St. Paul

2120 3rd Ave. N, Birmingham, AL

Prayer Vigil and Witness for Life

10:45 AM · Planned Parenthood

1019 1st Ave. North, Birmingham

205-447-8796

www.birminghammarchforlife.com

Requests for the OLV Prayer Chain can be submitted through the church website www.olvchurchbirmingham.com or by sending an email to Kirk Sanford k.sanford@bellsouth.net

COMMUNITY NEWS

Father/Daughter Dance 2022

The OLV Knights of Columbus will be hosting their annual Father/Daughter dance on Saturday, February 12, 2022. The dance will be held in the Social Hall from 6:00 to 8:30 PM. Pizza, soft drinks, and a valentine theme photo booth will be available. The admission fee is \$12/Dad and \$5/daughter payable at the door.

RSVP to John Gordon; gord7813@bellsouth.net or please text or call @205-410-3097.



EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

I Hope I Am Like Him

“Who is this Christ? Is he like you?”

Perhaps you’ve heard this story, often attributed to the life of St. Teresa of Calcutta. A sick man asked her this question, as he marveled at her tireless service to himself and others in the name of someone named Jesus Christ.

“He is nothing like me,” the saint is said to have answered. “But I hope I am like him.”

Though the authenticity of this exchange cannot be verified, its message rings perfectly true: all the value of our stewardship lies in its relativity to the one in whose name we perform it.

Consider the figure of John the Baptist — a magnificent, towering character even purely from a literary or historical perspective. A martyr who fed on wild locusts and boldly spoke truth to power — a man so great some mistook him for the Messiah.

But why is he great? Because he prepared the way. All his accomplishments and escapades mean nothing if they are taken out of the context of salvation history. He only makes sense relative to Christ — and this is exactly as he wanted it. “One worthier than I is coming,” he insists. And because of that humility and that total embrace of God’s will, he is given one of the greatest honors in the New Testament — he baptizes the Son of God.

Let’s examine our lives in the light of their relativity to Christ. How do we prepare the way? When Christ comes to us, what do we do? How do we leave ourselves open to be actors in God’s plan?

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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YOUTH NEWS

MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUPS BASKETBALL AND FELLOWSHIP

FOR ALL Youth 6TH to 12TH GRADE

SUNDAY, JAN 16TH

Drop Off at the Church 4 PM

We will have transportation to the Game

Pick Up at the Church 7 PM



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Come out and support Birmingham's New NBA G-League Basketball Team
RSVP by Wednesday, Jan 12th to OLVMiddleSchoolYouth@GMail.com OR
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MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUPS

FOR ALL Youth 6TH to 12TH GRADE

**BIRMINGHAM
MARCH FOR LIFE**

Date: Saturday, Jan 15th

Time: 8AM to 2:30PM

We will meet at OLV. Transportation will be Provided to the March.

RSVP by Wednesday, Jan 12th to

OLVMiddleSchoolYouth@GMail.com or MWoodard@OLVSCH.com

We will celebrate our own Mass for Life at St. Stephen's, learn more about Catholic Social Teaching on the Call for Family, Community, and Participation. We will walk to Planned Parenthood to join up with the Birmingham March for Life and return to St. Stephen's afterward. Light breakfast and lunch will be provided.

GOSPEL MEDITATION

The Baptism of the Lord

“We are called to live our baptism every day, as new creatures, clothed in Christ.”

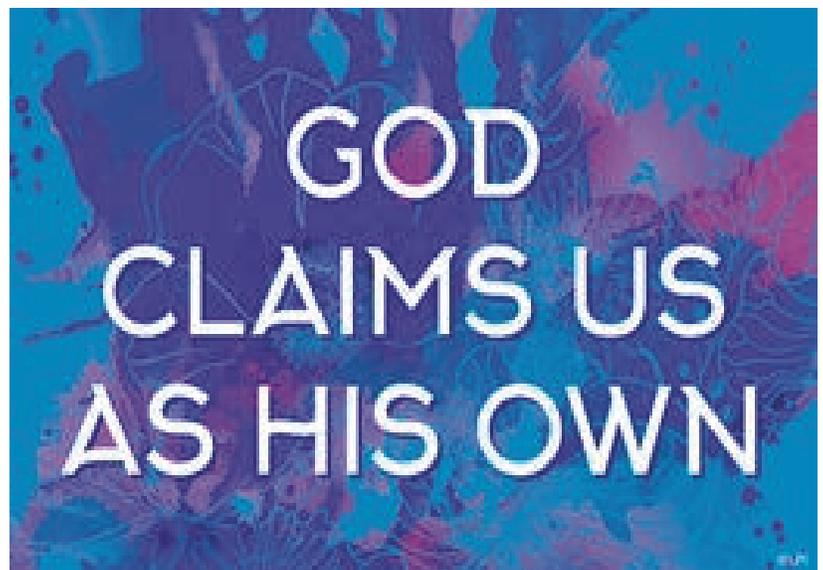
— Pope Francis

What reference point do you use when making decisions? Many times, impulse takes control and decisions are made based solely on emotion and desire. We all know that these types of decisions can often get us into trouble. When a person has a confident sense of who they are and a real understanding of what is important and of value, the likelihood of kneejerk impulsive choices diminishes. Baptism gives us what we need to make well informed and purposeful decisions. By this simple gesture, God claims us as His own and provides us with the identity and purpose we need to properly live life.

It is tremendously reassuring, when we truly embrace this revelation and realize that we no longer have to wonder about the purpose of our lives or struggle to find our way. The answer of who we are in God has been given to us. We no longer have to fumble around, trip over ourselves or walk aimlessly about. Issues surrounding the sacredness of life, the meaning of death, the protection of those most vulnerable, care for the weak and the poor, offering hospitality to those in search of a home, the purpose and proper place of work, how to create a just social order, caring for creation, and understanding our roles as heralds and stewards are just a few of the wonderful gifts baptism brings. When we make decisions based on things such as these core Gospel truths we really act as Christ himself, revealing to others the new creations that we are. This is how we live our baptism.

It is difficult to walk against the tide. Yet, that is precisely what baptism calls us to do. Although we are sinners, in need of mercy and far from perfection we are called to order our life and make decisions based upon the wisdom and guidance of Almighty God. He alone is the one who can claim us as His sons and daughters. Standing up for our principles will not make us popular. But who ever said Christianity is a popularity contest? Baptism calls us to stand up for that which goes against the grain of secularism. Standing in line with other sinners, we have our anchor to steady us in the tempests of life and God is very pleased. Forge ahead. There is nothing to fear.

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FORMED

Our Lady of the Valley is a partner in an exciting 24/7 online web-based digital formation platform called FORMED.org, produced by the Augustine Institute and Ignatius Press. It is fast, easy and free to register — just visit formed.org and sign up! Have you wanted to be able to share more with others but felt you were lacking in knowledge? Through this content you will be able to not only learn more about the Catholic faith but also go deeper and strengthen your own relationship with God.

FORMED is designed to help adults (and children!) grow in their faith at all levels — how we think, how we pray, and how we live. Better yet, access is **FREE** to all parishioners and their families or friends anywhere, anytime on computers, tablets, or phones.

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