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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Brothers & Sisters in the Lord:

Praised be Jesus Christ! Now and forever!

It's that time of year again – preparations, anxieties and suspicions heighten about “how” will the festival be; “if” there will be this / that, or “who” will be working this year etc. etc. etc. For myself, after having lived outside of Cleveland for nearly twenty-five years, the worries and “talk” that I hear at this time of the year is the same as it was when I was a teenager working at the parish. Some of you may remember that it was in the late 70's when some terrible fights and gangs caused the festival to be shut down early on a Labor Day night. Over the years, we have learned, and our Festival Committee (Chairmen: *Andrew Philbin & Phil Wancata; Michelle Buhaley, Tony Raffin, Louise Raffin*) in collaboration with the Second District have been hard at work. For the last decade we have been blessed with pretty good crowds and terrific security provided by the CPD, the Guardian Angels and other Security Officers. We are blessed in being designated a “Councilmatic Event” which, thanks to our Councilwoman Jasmin Santana (*who is a great supporter of our efforts here*) it is because of her support we are supplied with Law-enforcement throughout our neighborhood; EMS & SWAT on call; Officers on the property in collaboration with the Security that the parish hires and many other benefits provided by the City of Cleveland offering our guests the safest and securest campus. In reality, the new school addition has “enclosed” our campus enabling our security parameters to be tightened. Of course, heaven forbid something should ensue, I am confident that the Police and Security Officers know how to “nip” it in the bud; also a mature and positive attitude among our visitors and workers helps create a healthy and safe atmosphere. Let us remember that fear and anxiety are the tools of the Devil: The Evil One. Lastly regarding the festival, although we have successfully orchestrated and benefited from having a Drive-Thru since Covid hit in 2020, this year, due to the new building and the unknown about WiFi access, we will **not** be providing a Drive-Thru at this year's festival. We will as we have always done, provide “take-out” for the meals sold in the Villa. Now, let's focus on God's Word.

When hunger overtakes you, the importance of what you were doing fades until you find the satisfaction of a filled stomach. Whatever you were doing, that day's pursuit, succumbs to the simple need for sustenance. A life spent primarily on the pleasures of food and drink is meanly lived, yet no one can go without eating. Wisely, we often combine caloric intake with the good of eating together, changing the meal into a communal repast of joyful conversation. We do well when the replenishing of the body is joined with true communion with others, the one thing really worth living *for*.

In the first reading the Israelites, wandering in the desert, are hungry and grumbling to Moses about it. Forgetting that the Lord is with them, they fear they will starve to death in the desert, and begin to long for the lush and fertile land along the Nile River in Egypt.

(continued on page 5)

**The Oldest Italian Parish on
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3205 Fulton Road
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www.saintroccocleveland.com

Administration

Rev. Fr. James W. Mayer, O.de M., S.T.L. Pastor

Fr. James Chia, O. de M.

Br. Matthew Levis, O. de M.

Ms. Michelle Buhaley

Mrs. Renee Cerny

Mrs. Beth Armbruster

Mr. Zachary Magistro

Mr. Frank Prado

Mr. Eric Hodgson

Parochial Vicar

Pastoral Assistant

Parish Office Manager

Principal

School Office Manager

Business Manager

Director of Music

Maintenance

Parish Office Hours

Monday—Thursday: 10:00AM — 4:00PM

Phone: 216—961—8331

Website: <https://saintroccocleveland.com/>

Facebook: St. Rocco's Church

Liturgical Life

Weekend Masses

Saturday: 4:00PM Anticipated Mass

Sunday: 7:30AM, 9:30AM & 12:00PM

*third Sunday of month, bi-lingual Italian & English @ 9:30AM

*Noon Mass each Sunday is Latin/Novus Ordo

Weekday Masses (Monday—Saturday) 6:45AM

(Monday—Friday) 6:30PM

Holy Days of Obligation

Consult the Bulletin

Penance (Confession) - before all Sunday Masses

To schedule Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals & Sick Calls please contact the Parish Offices

Devotions

Eucharistic Adoration

Tuesdays 9:00AM –6:30PM (Chapel)

Novena to Our Lady of Mercy

Tuesdays 6:30PM (Chapel)



GOD'S LOVE UNITES US

The dirtiest thing in the world is accumulated wealth, not a penny of which has been given to God or humanity. Jesus said again: “*It is more blessed to give than to receive.*” And the word blessed means happy without the hap. In giving there comes a joy which is not dependent upon chance.

Parish Offerings July 28, 2024

HOPE \$ 170.00

Collection \$ 4,376.00

Thank you for your loving support!



(continued from page 2)

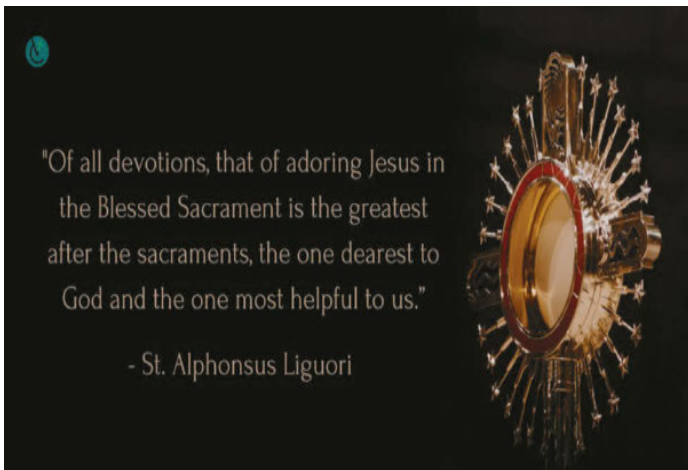
In the moment, they would accept a return to slavery if it meant a filled stomach each and every day. Their predicament symbolizes the spiritual choice we ourselves must make in choosing to live either for our bodies or for the Lord. We could prefer life in Egypt — that is, a life enslaved to the pursuit of being comfortably satisfied. Or we could risk embarking on a desert journey lived in obedience to God who will lead us to a life that already tastes of heaven. For in his mercy the Lord feeds his hungry people with a food unknown to them, described in the psalm as the bread of angels. He rains down from heaven *manna*, a word in Hebrew that perfectly captures the wonder and surprise they felt when they first discovered it: *what is it?*

As we heard in last week's Gospel, Jesus had just fed the multitude in a deserted place by multiplying a few loaves and fishes. When the crowd finally finds Jesus again the next day, Jesus discerns that they were looking for him because they had the satisfaction of filled bellies. Instead, they should desire the "food that endures for eternal life." As with the Israelites in the desert before God, the crowd faces the same spiritual choice before Jesus: self-satisfaction or the life that only God can give. This life, described here as eternal, and later in the chapter as life in the Son, is the gift of God and sustained by the true bread from heaven. God has authorized — set his seal upon — the Son to give this life. Jesus can give this life because God has sent him from heaven as the true living bread, the bread of life.

In this time of Eucharistic Revival, we also need to ask ourselves about our faith in Jesus as the true bread from heaven. With the Israelites, let us wonder about the Eucharist, the true *manna*, asking: *what is it?* This means a renewed embrace of the Church's faith, continuous from apostolic times, that the Eucharist is truly the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, under the sacramental sign of bread and wine. Simply, the Eucharist is Jesus, his personal reality hidden under the sensible appearance of bread and wine. He gives himself in this sacramental way so that we might receive him precisely as our true food and drink, and thus have eternal life, life to the full. No mere symbol could possibly be the true bread of heaven, for it is not meaning or significance that sustains us eternally, but only God.

But our asking *what is it* about the Eucharist must also include asking, *what is the Eucharist to me?* Do I find in the Eucharist the life I am looking for? Do I taste heaven when I receive it? When we receive the Eucharist, do we understand what Jesus meant in saying we will never hunger or thirst again? When Jesus hands himself over to us as our daily bread, do we find fulfillment in the divine life, the divine love, contained within it? We too face the same spiritual choice: do I live for self-satisfaction, or do I long for and seek the life only God can give when He sends the true bread from heaven? Am I willing to let God lead me beyond an enslaved life of comfort and security for a desert journey to the promised land?

Only by faith can we know Jesus in the Eucharist. But do we treat the Eucharist in the same way we would the risen Jesus? (continued on page 7)



CROWING OF OUR LADY OF MERCY

Holy Mother the Church has on many occasions asserted that it is lawful to venerate images of Christ, His Mother, and the saints and has often instructed the faithful on the proper understanding of such veneration. On Saturday, September 28th, Bishop Malesic, in a formal and solemn act will crown the image of the Christ Child and Our Lady of Mercy. The act of crowning is one form of reverence frequently shone to images of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In our case, with the Mother of God holding Her Son in Her arms, both images will be crowned and according to the Rite, the crown is placed on the Son's head first, then the Mother's. Both in the East and in the West, the practice of depicting the Blessed Virgin Mary wearing a regal crown came into use in the era of the Council of Ephesus (A.D. 431). Since this time, Christian artists have often portrayed the glorified Mother of the Lord seated on a throne, (as is the case of Our Lady of Mercy, seated on a throne of clouds) dressed in royal robes, surrounded by a court of angels and saints.

In the act of crowning the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Church proclaims Her as Queen; the Mother of the Son of God, the Messianic King. Mary is the Mother of Christ, the Word incarnate, in Whom "all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominations or principalities or authorities." She is the Mother of the Son of David and of Him the angels said in prophecy: "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High...."

PLAN NOW not to miss this historic event at our parish: The Coronation of Our Lady of Mercy. September 28th at 4:00pm.



LECTOR SCHEDULE

Saturday, August 3rd	4:00pm Alma Rodriguez
Sunday, August 4th	7:30am Barb Mazzone
Sunday, August 4th	9:30am Lenny Toth
Saturday, August 10th	4:00pm Linda Pavia
Sunday, August 11th	7:30am Barb Mazzone
Sunday, August 11th	9:30am Holy Family

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK



Let us remember in our prayers all our parishioners, family & friends who are ill, and all the faithful departed.

Saturday, August 3rd: First Saturday

4:00pm † Carl Polo

Sunday, August 4th: Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary

Time

7:30am Pro Populo

9:30am † Erminia & Antonio Berardi

† Pete & Santa Vallar

† Michele, Stella & Michael J. Gassi

† SCU

† Frank Sanovich & The Karn Family

12:00pm † Vincenzo & Antonia Abbattista

† Giovanin & Lina Basso

Monday, August 5th: Saint Mary Major

6:45am Gina Cristoffers

6:30pm † Carl Polo

Tuesday, August 6th The Transfiguration of the Lord

6:45am † Jim & Audrey Mayer

6:30pm † Carl Polo

Wednesday, August 7th: Saint Sixtus II

6:45am † Giovanna Carosielli

6:30pm † Sanchez Families

Thursday, August 8th: Saint Dominic

6:45am † Ray & Lora Bellflower

6:30pm † Leonard & Camille Paoletta

Friday, August 9th: Saint Teresa Benedicta

6:45am Donors of the Campaign

6:30pm † Anna Galizio

Saturday, August 10th: Saint Lawrence

6:45am † Fr. Jerome Laubacker O. de M.

4:00pm † Chester, Helen & Joyce Kuminski

Sunday, August 11th: Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary

Time

7:30am † Carl & Doris Ripepi

† Thomas Ripepi

† Guy & Madeline Caruso

9:30am Honor of St. Nicolo Polito

† Tony & Teresa Velotta

† Fr. Andrew Costanzo, O. de M.

† Sr. Ada Zappa

† Frank Sanovich

12:00pm Pro Populo

EUCCHARISTIC INTENTION

If interested in donating bread and wine for a week the requested donation is \$50.00.



PARISH FISH POND

Shortly after becoming Pastor here in 2016, I installed a small fish pond on the property between the rectory and church on Fulton Road, starting it with eight small Koi fish. Over the last eight years, the pond has suffered damage from intentional vandalism by individuals who are simply not mentally well. The location of the pond exposes it to a lot of litter from the carelessness of traffic and people on Fulton Road. At the present, we have about thirty-five Koi and they have out grown the size of the existing pond. We need a larger pond and for this reason we are preparing to re-locate the pond to behind the rectory making it more visible; a cleaner area and safer place... If anyone would like to help with the cost of the new pond, please contact me. I know many of you like to check in on the fish; our school children love to see them. No doubt, it is beautiful and relaxing to watch the fish. I am very happy to have created the fish pond here on the parish-campus and it is my hope that it can continue to be a source of joy for years to come. Thank you for your kind support – as always, *Fr. James, O.de M.*

HELP US UPDATE:

If you are seeking a spiritual home, we would be honored to have you join our spiritual family here at St. Rocco! To register or update your registration simply complete the information form below and drop it in the collection basket or mail it to the Parish Office. God bless you!

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

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PHONE _____

EMAIL _____



Capital Campaign

POWERFUL PRAYER TO THE INFANT OF PRAGUE

O Jesus, Who has said, "Ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find, knock and it shall be opened," through the intercession of Mary, Your Most Holy Mother, I knock, I seek, I ask that my prayer be granted. (Make your request)

O Jesus, Who has said, "All that you ask of the Father in My Name, He will grant you," through the intercession of Mary Your Most Holy Mother, I humbly and urgently ask your Father in your name that my prayer will be granted. (Make your request)

O Jesus, Who has said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away but My word shall not pass away," through the intercession of Mary Your Most Holy Mother, I feel confident that my prayer will be granted. (Make your request)



**O INFANT JESUS,
Have Mercy on Us!**

DONATE TO OUR NEW SCHOOL

Our Capital Campaign for our new school, hall and gym offers several "naming opportunities" to all our donors. All donor's names or businesses will be acknowledged (*unless there is a request to remain anonymous*).

Please consider helping us as we get closer to our goal. We need to raise a little less than \$500k at this point!!!!

Naming Opportunities:

Outdoor Spaces

2 Play-spaces - \$200,000 ea.

Indoor Space

Cafeteria /Hall \$500,000

Main School Building

Classrooms & Labs (@ \$50,000 ea.)

Pre-Kindergarten

Kindergarten

Grades 1st 2nd & 3rd

Grade 4th & ELA & Social Studies

Grade 5th Math & Science

Grade 6th ELA & Religion

Grade 7th Social Studies & Art

Grade 8th Math & Science

Intervention Room

Music Room

Technology

Main Office

Nurse's Office

Teacher's Lounge

Scoreboard in the Gym (2)

Stage in Gym

Bleachers in Gym

The "***Tree of Life***" from the former Day Care Building ***will "grow"*** with additional leaves and rocks:

Large Stone: \$25,000

Small Stone: \$10,000

Gold Leaf on Tree: \$5,000

Silver Leaf on Tree: \$1,000.

To make a donation a pledge, or for more information, kindly contact the Parish Office.

WE ARE PILGRIMS IN THIS WORLD

Yes, we are on a pilgrimage, a journey and as such, it is custom for Christians to walk-travel in pilgrimage to "holy sites" and "shrines" to remind us of what our life in this world is really about... We invite you to consider taking part in and or praying for some pilgrimages taking place at this time:

TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS

On Saturday, **August 17, 2024** the Institute of Christ the King, Sovereign Priest, will lead a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation in Carey Ohio. At 12:30pm a Solemn Mass in the Extraordinary Form will be offered at the main altar of the Basilica Shrine (315 Clay Street).

PILGRIMAGE TO CAREY OHIO

Pilgrimage to the Basilica & National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation in Carey Wednesday, **August 14, 2024**. Join the bishops, priests, deacons, consecrated religious, and lay faithful from across the state on Wednesday, August 14, beginning at 9 p.m. for a candlelight rosary procession with the Miraculous Statue of Our Lady of Consolation from the Basilica Shrine to the Shrine Park followed by Holy Mass at the outdoor Altar in the Shrine Park.



FESTIVAL 24'

Entertainment

We have a great line up of entertainment planned for this year's festival!

Our live-Bands this year are:

Thursday 7pm Disco Inferno Friday 7pm Medusa
 Saturday 3pm Queen Bees 7pm Bronx Country
 Sunday 3pm Cavalieri Reale 7pm Spazmatics
 Monday 3pm Billy Morris and the Sunset Strip
 7pm Old Skool

Place an Ad or message in our annual **Festival Ad Book**. Copies of these previous Booklets now share in the official archives of the Parish. The proceeds from this booklet help to cover the costs for our live entertainment. Our deepest appreciation to all of our patrons, past and present, for their support and helping to provide our live Cover-Bands. To sponsor a band the offering is: \$1,500.00

Raffle Tickets

Festival **Raffle Tickets are in the main vestibule of the Church!**

If you receive and use your monthly envelopes, there should be an envelope package with your name with the tickets inside. If there is not an envelope with your name on it, simply contact the parish office asap and we will get an envelope package for you. FOR EXTRA tickets, simply call the parish office. The highest Ticket SELLER will win a \$250 gift card to Johnny's Bar. Grand Prize: \$5,000.00, Second Prize: \$1,000.00, Third Prize: \$500.00.

Mantel of St. Rocco

We are now accepting donations for the mantel which is placed on the statue of St. Rocco for his Feast on Sunday of the Festival weekend, September 2nd. **We need a minimum of 500 dollar bills (could be singles, fives, tens etc.)** to make the mantel that covers the statue. To donate, simply mark a sealed envelope with the directions "For St. Rocco Mantel" and drop it in the collection, mail it to the parish office or contact one of the Friars at the parish.



Flowers for the floats & honors for the Saints

Donations are happily accepted for the flowers to decorate each of the floats for the procession on Sunday, September 2nd. The floats are (1) St. Rocco, (2) St. Potito, (3) Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, (4) St. Nicolo, (5) St. Anthony. For flowers or honor(money) to pinned to the statues, please place your offering in an envelope and write the directions/purpose for your offering on the envelope and drop it off in the collection, send it to the parish office or see one of the Friars.

Greasy Pole (La Cuccagna)

Climbers for the Pole need to contact the parish office or see Br. Matthew. Spread the word!!!! Teams of five persons (male /female), minimum 18 yrs. of age, can climb the pole!

Volunteers!

There is always room to welcome anyone who wishes to work. We can find a spot for you! ***To all our new parishioners – we hope you will come and get acquainted and find your "nitch" at the festival!*** To contact us, simply call the parish office and speak with Michelle, or see one of the Friars after Mass. Thank you!

PURCHASE IN ADVANCE!!!

Plan now and purchase your children/grandchildren's "RIDE WRIST BANDS in advance before the Festival, Labor Day weekend. We will have 15 rides on the property, and the Bracelets on site the weekend of the Festival will be \$30 per person with unlimited use for one day. YOU can purchase the WRIST BANDS NOW from the Parish Office for \$25 per person for the same unlimited use for one day of Rides at the Festival. See one of the Friars or contact the Parish Office. Your purchase in advance will give you a ticket which, when turned in at the Festival, will be redeemed with a Ride Wrist Band.

WHY DO CATHOLICS HAVE VIGIL CANDLES



As a child, one of the things my parents loved about coming to St. Rocco Church was the fact that there were votive candles that could be lit. In the 1970's many Catholic Churches did away with votive candles... part of the "renewal" of the times. Multitudes of visitors to our Church during the festivals would light candles anywhere for the same reason – their parishes in the sub-burbs didn't have candles. We are very blessed to have the opportunity to light votive candles. The light signifies our prayer, which is offered in faith, entering the light of God. It also shows reverence and our desire to remain present in prayer even as we continue on our day. Burning votive candles are a common sight in most Catholic churches. The vigil candle is a symbol of hope and faith. It represents the light of Christ that shines in the darkness, bringing comfort and peace to those who seek it. The votive candle is often used as a reminder to keep the light of Christ brightly burning in our lives, no matter what challenges we may face.

When you come to church for Holy Mass, take the time to make the offering and light a candle before the image of Our Lord, the Blessed Virgin or the Saints – it is a symbol of your prayer, your presence, your faith and hope!

SAVE THE DATES!

The following are upcoming events that everyone is invited to attend and share in:

- 7 Weekends of prayer to Our Lady of Mercy: begins the weekend of August 10/11
- Novena to St. Rocco: begins August 23rd
- Feast of St. Raymond Nonnatus with blessing of Sacramentals in honor of St. Raymond: celebrated here the weekend of August 25th
- 110th Annual Labor Day Festival: August 29th to September 2nd

**Solemn Mass in honor of St. Rocco Sunday September 1st at 10am with His Excellency, Bishop Anthony Spinosa, Chorbishop/Rector of Shrine Basilica of Our Lady of Lebanon, OH. Procession thru the streets immediately after the Mass.*

**Greasy Pole climb (La Cuccagna), Labor Day @ 2pm.*

- **Ribbon Cutting & Blessing of our New School with Bishop Woost: Saturday, September 7th**
- St. Rocco School Opens: Monday, September 9th
- **The Solemn Coronation of Our Lady of Mercy with Bishop Malesic and parish reception to follow: Saturday, September 28th**
- Annual Forty Hours Eucharistic Devotions: Monday, September 30 thru Wednesday October 2nd. Closing is on Wednesday, October 2nd with Monsignor Joseph Nicolo from Philadelphia PA as our Homilist.

(continued from page 5)

Do we love the Eucharist precisely as we love Jesus, or do we regard it as "Jesus lite"? If you heard that the risen Jesus would be appearing in a certain church at a certain time, would you not rearrange your entire schedule to be there for the encounter? Yet how great is our effort to meet the very same Jesus present in the tabernacle in every Church at any time of the day? How is it permissible to ignore the Real Presence in the tabernacle when we would never do that if the risen Jesus stood in our midst? When we receive the Eucharist, let us never just consume it without encountering the person. As he gives his very self to us, let us always give ourselves to him, sharing ourselves with him who shares his very life with us.

A blessed week to you all – **Fr. James, O.de M.**

SANCTUARY CANDLE

Church The candle this week is **In Memory of Anna Galizio.**

Chapel If you are interested in donating The Candle for a week, the donation will be \$15.00.



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