

# St. William Parish Community



Walled Lake, Michigan 48390

September 12, 2021

[www.stwilliam.com](http://www.stwilliam.com)



This Saturday we marked the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the terrorist attack that tragically took so many lives. Often at Mass here at St. William, some of the petitions we express during the General Intercessions are “for an end to terrorism”, and also for “an end to the culture of violence in our country”. We see violence everywhere we look: in our News, in the movies we watch, in the video games we play, and in the violence we inflict on others by our intolerance of any viewpoint but our own. We pray for a change in the hearts not only of terrorists, but of all others who have violence in mind. But while we pray for others, **we must remain peaceful ourselves**, else we will have succumbed to those who would inflict evil on us. While anguished over injustice and intolerance, we must always remember what the Scriptures teach us, that vengeance, wrath, and unforgiveness are ultimately self-defeating attitudes, which bind us in sin and keep us from real freedom. May God bless America, and all people throughout the world who seek freedom and justice.

Even though summer doesn't officially end for another week and a half, in most people's minds the “summer months” are over with last weekend's celebration of Labor Day. This is certainly true for families with school-age children as they return to classes, and now that many of the restrictions we have been enduring because of COVID have been lifted, it is also true for many of the other rhythms of parish life as well.

Our after-school religious education program will begin classes next weekend. (Call Kim Kaye, our

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Parish Picnic 2021

The Parish Picnic is THIS SUNDAY, September 12<sup>th</sup>!! Did you SAVE the date? We hope you did!

Plan on an afternoon of Food, Fun, and Fellowship! The Picnic starts **after the 12:30PM Mass**, approximately 1:30PM, running until 6:00PM! **Food service from 1:30 to around 4:00 PM.**

We'll have Kid's Games, a Cake Walk (YUMMY!), ICE CREAM for ALL. Food and Drinks from the Knights of Columbus and Dads' Club, and much more. Our Magician Bill Brang is bringing back his Magic Show! Hopefully we'll also have some Musical Entertainment!



## 24<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

He summoned the crowd with his disciples and said to them, “Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the gospel will save it.” - Mk 8:34-35

Illustration from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCB

DLR

Parish Mission: *“To live the Good News so joyfully, that we can't help but proclaim it!”*

## MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday 4:30 pm, .  
Sunday \*10:00 am (\*also Live-streamed)  
and Sunday 12:30 pm  
Tues., Wed. & Thur., 8:00 am



Follow us on Facebook,  
@stwilliamparishwalledlake

### Office Hours

Monday through Thursday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Many issues can be taken care of with a phone call, 248-624-1421.

### Registration

For many reasons it is important to be formally registered as a parishioner. Contact the rectory for friendly help. Ext. 341

### Baptism

To begin the preparation process for Baptism please call 624-1421. Baptisms are normally scheduled the first and third Sundays of the month.

### Marriage

To celebrate a valid marriage Catholics must have the help of a priest or deacon. Call at least six months in advance.

### Funeral

Please contact the parish office to make arrangements.

### Ministry To The Sick

We are happy to visit the sick and provide anointing. Please contact the Parish Office at 624-1421.

### RECTORY

Email: [Rectory1@stwilliam.com](mailto:Rectory1@stwilliam.com)  
531 Common Street (248) 624-1421

<b>Pastor</b>	Rev. Michael G. Savickas	Ext. 346
<b>Deacons</b>	Rev. Mr. Bob Dreyer	Ext. 345
	Rev. Mr. John Liddle	
<b>Pastoral Assoc.</b>	Mrs. Kim Kaye	Ext. 345
<b>Business Office</b>		Ext. 341
<b>Business Manager</b>	Mrs. Deborah Diviny	Ext. 349
<b>Administrative Asst.</b>	Mrs. Lisa Geoffrey	Ext. 342
<b>Pastoral Assistant</b>	Mrs. Karen Sommers	Ext. 344
	248-624-8870	
<b>Maintenance:</b>	(248) 669-5522	
<b>Supervisor</b>	Mr. Dave Colby	Ext. 312

### EDUCATION CENTER

135 O'Flaherty Street

<b>Office of Faith Formation</b>		(248) 624-1371
<b>Pastoral Assoc.</b>	Mrs. Kim Kaye	Ext. 345
<b>Youth Ministry</b>	Mrs. Karen Trojniak	Ext. 308
<b>Music Ministry Dir.</b>	Mr. Bill Richart	Ext. 310
<b>Administrative Asst.</b>	Mrs. Lisa Geoffrey	Ext. 342
<b>School Office</b>		(248) 669-4440
<b>Principal</b>	Mrs. Betsy Gabrish	Ext. 303
<b>Secretary</b>	Mrs. Samantha Wren	Ext. 302
<b>CYO Sports</b>		
<b>Athletic Director</b>		ad@saintwilliam.net

## Eucharistic Exposition

Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup>  
12:00 to 3:00 pm



### Contribution levels are still below average due to lower Mass attendance due to COVID concerns.

If you are in a position to help, automatic giving can be easily arranged online. Go to [Faithdirect.net](http://Faithdirect.net), or follow the link from our website, [www.stwilliam.com](http://www.stwilliam.com).



### Offertory Report

(The fiscal year begins July 1)

	Collected	Budgeted*	Over/(Under)
As of July, 2021	<b>*\$68,907</b>	\$85,413	<b>(\$16,506)</b>

\*This does NOT represent *needed* income, but only the amount we expected would actually come in.

Note: For clarity and accuracy, this report now shows reconciled month-end balances.

## The "One-Hour Challenge!"

To have a *happy, peaceful life*, it is important that we have our lives in order, with our grateful response to God for his gifts being our top priority. That is how a disciple responds in the areas of *prayer, family, finance, and service*.

If you need help to put balance in your life, take the "one-hour challenge": Each week, spend at least...

- One hour in prayer and worship.
- One hour, special, focused on your family or other important relationship.
- One hour's wage (if you have a job) for the Lord. No job? Then give what seems right for you.
- One hour in service. (Helping another, or working for some cause.)

It's important to be *specific* in what steps to take in order to ensure that each "hour" actually happens!

May God bless you!

*(Continued from page 1)*

new DRE, if you need to register your child.) I understand that we still need some volunteers to help, a catechist or two, but ESPECIALLY people who can help with support roles like hall monitors or catechist or office aides.

This weekend we will be signing people up for Adult Education opportunities—mostly Bible Studies. Some groups will be starting up very soon, but even if the particular course you are interested in doesn't begin until later, we want to know of your interest so we can plan ahead for materials and resources.

My Pastoral Advisory Team is meeting again after several weeks' hiatus, and the first item we're addressing is the reorganization of our Parish Council and Commissions. We want to better utilize the charisms of the members, not just for the sake of efficiency, but so that each person in the group will feel energized about their various roles in helping accomplish our mission.

The youth program hadn't actually stopped during the pandemic, as our Director of Youth Ministries has continued to meet with our young people "virtually", which is probably easier for teens than for our adults. Still, I know Zoom meetings are not the same as when our young people can gather, and they need to connect in person with other young people. Now that the restrictions are lifting, I'm really looking forward to the possibilities of much larger gatherings and programs that will happen within our "Family of Parishes". Although our "Family", in which we will be working more closely with certain neighboring parishes—St. Joseph, St. James, and Holy Family—won't officially be linked until next summer, we are already seeing areas where we can collaborate, and I think Youth Ministries is an obvious one.

Next weekend is "Catechetical Sunday", and at the 10:00 Mass we'll take a moment to "commission" and pray for our school teachers and afterschool catechists. But most especially, the first ones I'm going to invite to stand for the blessing are all the parents—who are the primary catechists of their own children. In our revised program for the afterschool, there will be monthly sessions for *the parents* to learn along with their children, and to give them the tools to better help their children. Ultimately, what parents share with their kids are not only "facts that

should be learned", but rather, they share their *Faith*. Catholicism is not primarily a "head-trip"; it's a "heart-trip", and faith is "caught, not taught". The job of parents is to help their children become disciples. In the process of encountering Christ and becoming better disciples themselves, the parents will be reinforcing what the kids are learning. I expect that with the parents taking a more active role and sharing their own faith with their children, the kids are going to learn better, because what they are being taught will make more sense to them, and it will be exciting rather than boring.

Welcome back!

In Jesus,  
Fr. Michael



### Legion of Mary

If you would like to enrich your spiritual life & would like to help others, we need you in Legion of Mary.

Meetings are in the St. Paul room every Tuesday evening after 6:30 PM rosary. Come join us and say the Rosary and see what we're all about.

Contact Sherri Szeptowski, 248-957-8244, if you have any questions.

### *Word of Life*

#### United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

*"By our baptism, we are members of Christ's body and sharers in his mission. Imitating Christ, we must care for all members of our communities, honoring each person as unique, sacred, and created in the image of God."*

USCCB, "Open Wide Our Hearts" Bulletin Insert

### Intercessory Prayers

Intercessory prayer boxes have been placed in the tower entrances. Our Intercessory Prayer Teams will lift your intentions up in prayer for two weeks. You may also email your prayer requests by clicking the link on our website, [www.stwilliam.com](http://www.stwilliam.com). All prayer requests are kept confidential.



## St. Vincent de Paul BUNDLE DAYS!

September 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>

### Bundle Days are Back Next Weekend!

Gently used clothing and household items.

We are sorry, but we can't accept toys.

Avoid the crowd at the drop-bin, bring your bundles to the SVdP truck in the main church parking lot next weekend!



### St. Vincent de Paul Society

In today's Gospel Jesus says "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me." The cross of Jesus and the crosses of his members can evangelize us; the sick, who bear illness with courage; the grieving, who hope against hope; the dying, who clearly trust in the resurrection; the suffering of our poor brothers and sisters who are hungry and homeless, but who still trust in God's love.

Is there a neighbor or friend of yours who is in temporary need because of a loss of a job or an illness? Please leave a message for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul...we want to help!

### SIGN UP SUNDAY IS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup>

Every year, we organize our many Bible Studies, Family Faith Formation and training sessions to allow for an easy sign up. We will have tables in the tower entrances for your convenience. Flyers and samples of some workbooks will be on display. After Mass, we will also have a Sign Up Sunday table in the picnic area. During this time, please stop by to meet the Bible study leaders and ask questions about the many offerings. These groups will also be listed in the bulletin. For more information, contact the parish office at 248-624-1421

### SIMPLE STEWARDSHIP: What have you done with my world?

For those who seek to be disciples of Christ by heeding Jesus' invitation, "Come, follow me", Christian Stewardship is an obligation, not an option. The 'fullness' of Christian Stewardship holds every individual accountable to God for personal care of His universe. For at the time of judgment, God will surely ask: *"What have YOU done with MY world?"*

Good Christian Stewardship, therefore, is a way of life that demands conversion prompted by an awareness and recognition that everything we have – material and spiritual – is a gift from a good and gracious God. It commands that personal "talent, time, and treasure" be applied in service to others and that stewardship is intolerant of "indifference" to anything in God's world. Like the Archbishop's pastoral letter states, there can be no one "on the sidelines."

In a recent "From the Pastor" column, Father Michael mentioned prayerful discernment regarding the structure of our parish as it pertains to the Pastoral Council and the Commissions. He wrote of greater application of the individual charisms - talents that the Spirit has given to various persons for the build-up of the parish. We all know that there is much to do here in the parish and now too few to do it all. In the next few weeks, the commissions and ministries will be ramping back up and you will be "called to serve" in alignment with whatever talents God has given you. We prayerfully ask that you answer His call, embrace the mantle of Christian Stewardship, so you might boldly answer God's question, *"What have YOU done with MY world"*

### Share your Faith with our younger parishioners



We need a few more people to assist our children and parents in Faith Formation this year. We begin on September 19<sup>th</sup> (offering classes on Sunday or Monday).

If you would like to share your faith, enjoy working with children and teens, and would like to join our ministry team approximately three times per month from September through April please call Kim Kaye – Pastoral Associate/DRE at 248-956-8236. We will provide guidance and love throughout the year as We grow together as a community. We follow the Walled Lake schools calendar.

## TEENS AND YOUNG ADULTS

Do you need **volunteer hours** for high school? Consider helping this month And during the school year in our religious education program.

Volunteer jobs Include:

- Preparing projects for special events
- Videography – producing special YouTube videos for parents and kids
- Office help
- Classroom assistant (this would be one to three times per month) Sunday or Monday

Parents, please connect with Kim Kaye – Pastoral Associate, at 248-956-8236 or email [kkaye@stwilliam.com](mailto:kkaye@stwilliam.com) if your teen is available.



## First Reconciliation & Holy Communion

To register your child in Sacrament Prep for First Reconciliation & First Communion, please contact Karen Sommers at 248-624-8870 or [ksommers@stwilliam.com](mailto:ksommers@stwilliam.com).

## Bottle and Can Drive for Youth Ministry

Let us help you clear out the bin at home! Please **SAVE YOUR BOTTLES AND CANS** for our Last Bottle and Can Drive for this year, to raise funds for Youth Ministry . Youth will be collecting your donations after all masses on the weekend of **September 11-12**. Please drop off your returnable cans and bottles at the trailer parked in the northeast corner of the main parking lot. The trailer will remain available thru Monday of this weekend, too! If you have a large stash of returnables at your home, and would like us to come and get them, please call Karen Trojniak at 248-624-1371 ext. 308 to arrange for a pickup.

## September 13<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>

<b>Tuesday Sept. 14<sup>th</sup></b>
8:00am Mass
6:30pm Rosary
7:00pm Legion of Mary, St. Paul Room
7:00pm Baptism Prep. Class
<b>Wednesday Sept. 15<sup>th</sup></b>
8:00am Mass
7:00pm Dad's Club Mtg., Lower Zepf
<b>Thursday Sept. 16<sup>th</sup></b>
8:00am Mass
6:30pm St. Vincent de Paul Oakland County District Mtg., Activity Center South
7:30pm AA Mtg., Lower Zepf
<b>BUNDLE DAY WEEKEND</b>
<b>Saturday Sept. 17<sup>th</sup></b>
10:00am Bible Study
4:30pm Mass
<b>Sunday Sept. 18<sup>th</sup></b>
10:00am Mass (also Livestreamed)
10:00am Religious Ed Classes
11:15am Religious Ed Parent Mtg., Upper Zepf
12:30pm Mass



## Be an Altar Server!

Altar Server Training on Sunday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm.

Parents, please RSVP so we can be prepared for the number of kids that attend. Call 248-624-1421 or email [lgeoffrey@stwilliam.com](mailto:lgeoffrey@stwilliam.com).

## A Family Perspective

By Bud Ozar

If we want to be happy at home we must commit ("lose ourselves") to our family. If we try to be independent from others ("save ourselves") we end up lonely and alone. Happiness is found in commitments. The gospel is true: We save our life by losing it!

## Parents, Did You Ever Wonder . . .

- What is Youth Ministry?
- Why should I have my kids involved?
- When do the youth meet?
- How can I help?

We invite all parents of youth in middle school (6-8<sup>th</sup> grades) and high school (9-12<sup>th</sup> grades) to an INFORMATIONAL MEETING on Sunday, September 19, at 7pm, in the Disciples Room of the Education Center. Youth Ministry programs are most successful when parents understand and support the youth on mission as disciples. Please contact Karen Trojniak at [ktrojniak@stwilliam.com](mailto:ktrojniak@stwilliam.com) or 248-624-1371 ext. 308 if you have any questions.

## Coming up in Youth Ministry

Sept 11-13, 2021 – Youth Ministry Bottle Drive

Sept 12, 2021 – Parish Picnic starting at 1:45p, all YM families

Sept 15, 2021 - Teen Topics on ZOOM, 4:30-5:30p, MS and HS youth

Sept 19, 2021 – HS Youth Leadership Meeting, 11:15a-12:25p

Sept 19, 2021 – PARENT MEETING for Youth Ministry Programs, 7-8p

Sept 22, 2021 - Teen Topics on ZOOM, 4:30-5:30p, MS and HS youth

## Can You Walk the Walk?

I've met and talked with enough people to feel confident that if you polled 100 fallen-away Catholics about why they didn't want anything to do with the Church, the term "accountability" would pop up in almost all of their answers.

And to be fair, a lack of accountability isn't just a Catholic problem. Talking the talk but not walking the walk has been a shortcoming handed down throughout the ages, across all creeds and nationalities.

Loving our neighbor, welcoming the stranger, clothing the naked, feeding the poor — it all sounds fantastic, especially when we're the ones saying it. But the doing — well, that's a different story, isn't it? We would do well to remember that Christ calls one of his best friends "Satan" when Peter tries to convince Jesus to stray from his destiny.

Have you ever been called Satan by one of your good buddies? I'll bet it's not a great feeling. But think about what Peter was doing. He had just said, "You are the Christ." And now, mere moments later, he's saying: "Don't say these things. Don't say you're going to suffer. Don't say you'll be killed."

He was telling Christ to squander what the Lord had given him. He was telling him that having faith was fine, but being faithful? It's just a little too hard. God has a destiny for you, too, and He's asking you to be open to it. Maybe it's not in your comfort zone. Maybe you don't think you can do it.

Lord, give us faith — but help us, also, to do the work.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



## Right to Life — Lifespan

### Day of Remembrance

Next weekend marks the annual Day of Remembrance for the Aborted Child. This national event serves as a reminder of all the lives touched by abortion. We meet to honor those lives lost and those whose lives will never be the same. Please join with LIFESPAN at White Chapel Cemetery on Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm to remember the little ones at the LIFESPAN gravesite and to pray for healing for those who may have forgotten them. For more information, please call the LIFESPAN office, 248-816-1546.



### OUR MISSION

“We exist to provide a school environment in which Christ is encountered and Discipleship is fostered through the teaching and practice of Catholic Tradition, values and doctrine, while challenging each student to academic excellence.”

#### Prayer for a New School Year

God of wisdom and might,  
We praise you for  
the wonder of our being,  
for mind, body and spirit.  
Be with our children as they  
begin a new school year.  
Bless them and their teachers  
and staff. Give them strength  
and grace as their bodies grow;  
wisdom and knowledge to  
their minds as they search  
for understanding and peace  
and zeal to their hearts.  
We ask this through  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

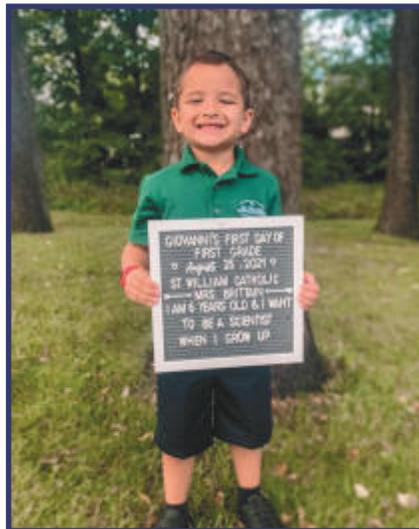
from ‘Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers’



### upcoming events

#### SEPTEMBER

- 20 School Lunches Begin
- 23 No School
- 24 First Crusader Day



### Back to School

We thank you for your continued support and prayers for our school family as we embark on this opportunity to learn and grow together!

### SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL

Kroger Community Rewards  
Go to [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com)  
Choose St. William School  
Our School ID is NS244

Box Tops for Education  
Clip Board  
NEW! Earn Box Tops via  
Phone App  
[www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com)

Amazon Smile  
Start each shopping session at  
<http://smile.amazon.com>  
Select St. William School as charity  
We will receive 0.5% of all  
eligible purchases

## Mass Intentions

**Tuesday, September 14<sup>th</sup>**

**8:00 am**

**Joseph Wanielista (D)** Copper Lane Friends; **Ryan Mele (D); Mr. & Mrs. C. Elliott & Family (SI, Wed. Anniv.)** D'Silva family

**Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>**

**8:00 am**

**Sharon Godfrey (D)** St. William Parish; **Tina Minas (SI); Baby Mason Duda (SI)**

**Thursday, September 16<sup>th</sup>**

**8:00 am**

**Mike Price (D)** Red Hat Cardinals; **Cyprian & Flory D'Silva (D)** D'Silva family; **Andrew Hailo (SI)**

**Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup>**

**4:30 pm**

**Dave Kozora (D)** wife; **Bill Junglas (D, B.Day)** family; **Emad Eslewa Jarbo (D), Amer Eslewa Jarbo (D), Fatin Joerbo Shamoun (D)** and **Eelewo Jabro (D)** Kirma family

**Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup>**

**10:00 am**

**Members of St. William Parish (L&D)**

**12:30 pm**

**Mary Lukasik (D)** family; **Anthony Troskey (D)** family; **Judith Woznicki (D, 5yr. Anniv.)** Roger; **Joseph & Charles Murabito (D)** sister; **Souls in Purgatory (D)** D'Silva family; **Tara Geoffrey (SI, B.Day)** family

## Readings for the week

**Sunday:** Is 50:5-9a/Ps 116:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [9]/Jas 2:14-18/Mk 8:27-35

**Monday:** 1 Tm 2:1-8/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17 [1Cor 11:26b]/Lk 7:1-10

**Tuesday:** Nm 21:4b-9/Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38 [cf. 7b]/Phil 2:6-11/Jn 3:13-17

**Wednesday:** 1 Tm 3:14-16/Ps 111:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [2]/Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35

**Thursday:** 1 Tm 4:12-16/Ps 111:7-8, 9, 10 [2]/Lk 7:36-50

**Friday:** 1 Tm 6:2c-12/Ps 49:6-7, 8-10, 17-18, 19-20/Lk 8:1-3

**Saturday:** 1 Tm 6:13-16/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5 [2]/Lk 8:4-15

**Next Sunday:** Wis 2:12, 17-20/Ps 54:3-4, 5, 6-8 [6b]/Jas 3:16—4:3/Mk 9:30-37

## Pray for the Sick of Our Parish

All-powerful and ever-lasting God, your Son accepted our sufferings to teach us the virtue of patience in human illness. Hear the prayers we offer for our sick brothers and sisters. May all who suffer pain, illness, or disease realize that they have been chosen to be saints and know that they are joined to Christ in his suffering for the salvation of the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

- ♦ Andrew Hailo
  - ♦ Baby Mason Duda
  - ♦ Betty Jo Weaver
  - ♦ Bonnie Barnes
  - ♦ Chris Bushaw
  - ♦ Cindy Cendroski
  - ♦ David Pfeiffer
  - ♦ Dorothy Sergus
  - ♦ Ellen Salter
  - ♦ Jeannette Nick
  - ♦ Joseph Sytniak
  - ♦ Lilian Ishaq
  - ♦ Marg Sawruck
  - ♦ Marian Clifton
  - ♦ Mary Kay Dreyer
  - ♦ Nancy Thomas
  - ♦ Norbert Koss
  - ♦ Pat Grams
  - ♦ Riley Bowen
  - ♦ Shannon Salter
  - ♦ Sylvia Martin
  - ♦ Trevor Monfette
  - ♦ Yvonne Lessard
- Residents of:**
- ♦ Bloomfield Villa
  - ♦ Brookdale
  - ♦ First & Main
  - ♦ Henry Ford
  - ♦ Maple Manor
  - ♦ Novi Lakes
  - ♦ Serenity
  - ♦ Sunrise Senior Ctr.
  - ♦ Waltonwood



*Happy are those who have died in the Lord;  
let them rest from their labors for their  
good deeds go with them—Rev. 14:13*

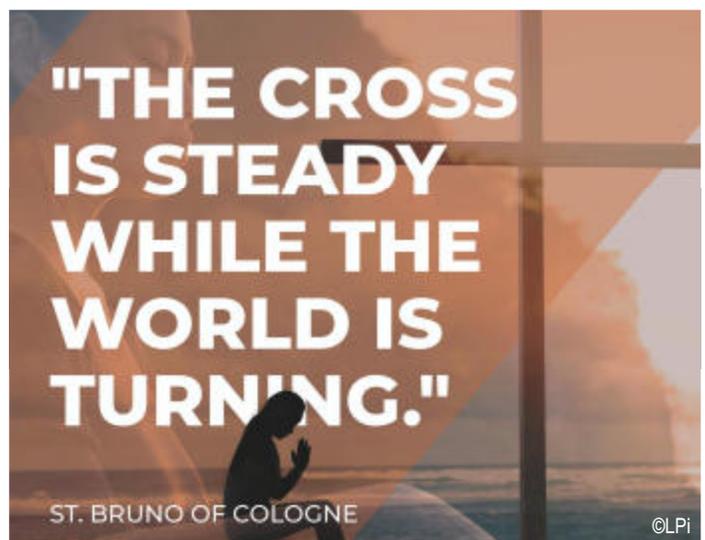
Vita Harter

Ryan Mele

Joan Marie de Albuquerque

Lou LaChance

Deacon George Posavetz



## Gospel Meditation

We need to get our bearings straight and properly lay life's cornerstone. Otherwise, the rest of our journey will be skewed, and our judgment clouded. We can recall Jesus' famous rebuke of Peter, "You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do." Even he, as one of Jesus' closest friends struggles with understanding things and grasping the big picture. Pierre Teilhard de Chardin (1881-1955) a renowned and learned French Jesuit priest often has these words attributed to him: "We are not human beings having a spiritual experience. We are spiritual beings having a human experience." Whether they were actually from his lips, they certainly mimic his thought. These wise words orient us and capture the essence of who we really are.

Many people consider spirituality an option. It is no wonder that they come to this conclusion when they predominantly define themselves using human terms and concepts. Immersed in this world view, they struggle finding any semblance of God because God does not work according to human expectations!



This is especially true when suffering and death enter life's picture. If we are only human beings having a spiritual experience, then we wrongly expect our spirituality to serve us as we desire. The human expectation is that my spiritual life is something that is useful in avoiding pain, hardship, and death, not something that gives the courage to live through it!

So, when we protest and get upset with God because our journey is becoming difficult, painful, treacherous, disappointing, and even pointing us toward death, Jesus rebukes us as he did Peter and gently reminds us how to see. It is God who inspires and opens

hearts to see truth and beauty. In God, the true meaning of things is understood, and we receive a depth of insight and understanding that is not found following purely human paths. It is not our task to understand God, as God is beyond human understanding. Ours is the joyful privilege of simply resting in God's presence simply because God is God and we are who we are. As spiritual beings having an exciting and adventurous human experience, it is in our DNA to do so. Through prayer we can let go and let be. This is how we lose our lives but then save them.

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## Live the Liturgy

Rest in the presence of God simply because God is God and you are you. This is all that is necessary. Out of this relationship will come inspiration, understanding, courage, constancy, truth, and virtues of all kind. We will find ourselves knowing the true meaning of things and developing a depth of insight that is not found following purely human venues. It is God who inspires and opens human hearts to see truth and beauty. In God, we understand all of our relationships with a richer appreciation and come to know who Jesus, who speaks of God's kingdom, really is. The trust that is fostered from resting with the Divine One allows us to see that God's ways are not our ways. There is something bigger going on in this picture of life. It is something mystical and magical that seeks to surprise us at every turn. It is not for us to cling to this world and its limitations. Our adventure is to dream bigger and brighter, realizing that it is even in suffering that the radiant light of the dawn will come. God's ways allow for our paths to be rocky, challenging, difficult, and even crippling at times. Purely human eyes cannot understand the 'why' of such experiences. The eyes and mind of God, however, reveal and detail a journey that ends in glorious resurrection joy. When we lose our axis and become too human in our thinking, Jesus rebukes us and gently reminds us how to see.

©LPI

### Sharing the Gospel

Jesus was the king, the Messiah that God's people had been waiting for. In today's Gospel reading, the disciples were confused. If Jesus was the king, why was he saying he would die soon? Jesus' friends did not understand yet that by dying on the cross, Jesus would save them from their sins.

### Prayer

Dear God, thank you for coming to save me from my sins.

### Something to Draw

Draw a picture of Jesus carrying his cross.

### Mission for the Week

With your family, talk about what you would enjoy if you were a king or queen. Tell how Jesus was different from other kings.

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