

**SUNDAY, JULY 2, 2017**  
**13<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**FROM THE PASTOR: INDEPENDENCE DAY**  
**Happy 4th of July!**

Like so many of our national holidays, it is all too easy to enjoy a day off work, a day of getting together with family and friends for a cookout, and perhaps to watch some fireworks, and give little or no attention to the real meaning of what we celebrate. This is unfortunate, because what we celebrate is so dear and is always so fragile.

What we celebrate is freedom!!! In 1776 our Founding Fathers decided that the time had come to separate from England, and to become a sovereign nation. And so they declared our independence in one of the most beautiful and powerful political statements that the world has ever seen—the Declaration of Independence.

The 13 colonies declared themselves free, and in that moment, they were, in fact, free. But they would have to fight a terrible war in order to hold on to that freedom. But they did fight, and they were triumphant. A few years later, they had to go to war with England again (the War of 1812), and the freedom of this Union was again very fragile. But again they were triumphant.

The most terrible war fought by our nation was the Civil War, in which we went to war with each other. The primary cause of the Civil War was, of course, the issue of slavery. In spite of having founded our nation on the essential principle of freedom for all, the reality was that millions of men and women and children were denied freedom. And so another war was fought, and over 600,000 Americans died, and unimaginable suffering was felt in the lives of millions more. But slavery was defeated, and freedom's promise became more fully realized.

There have been many more wars that our nation fought to preserve freedom here and throughout the world. This includes World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and the wars in the Middle East. Also, here in the United States, people of color and other minority groups have had to struggle to be included in the fullness of our nation's promise of freedom. This struggle continues and will continue until the end of time, because freedom will always be fragile, and there will always be those within our own nation, and outside enemies, who wish to take freedom away from others.

The great struggle of our own time is to guarantee the rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness (proclaimed in the Declaration of Independence) to the unborn. Without life, no other right or freedom has any meaning.

Another area of life in which freedom is threatened has to do with addiction. Addicts may be free in the sight

of the law, but the reality is that they have become slaves and are no longer running their own lives. The terrible opioid crisis is destroying people all around us—including our sons and daughters, our neighbors and friends, and I dare say—some of us. Adding in other forms of drug addiction and alcoholism, gambling, spending, and eating addictions, and addictions to pornography and sex, the number of people who lack genuine freedom is shocking.

Freedom is never free. Sometimes the price is war, sometimes it is standing up to the surrounding culture, and sometimes it is seeking healing and treatment for oneself or one's loved ones. Freedom is hard fought and can be easily lost or thrown away.

As we celebrate with family and friends, let us remember what this day is really all about. We celebrate the victories that have given us freedom, and we commit to fight those battles that must be won if freedom is to be preserved.

**BEGINNING TO READ THE BIBLE**

I will be presenting a series of talks on Beginning to Read the Bible, beginning on Thursday, September 7, at 6:30 pm. Each session will be one hour long. After a few weeks, we will begin to study the Book of Genesis, with its stories of Creation, the Fall, Cain and Able, Noah and the Flood, and the Tower of Babel. These stories tell us what God intended for his creation, and how everything got so very messed up.

We may also include a morning session at 11 am, but I am still working that out.

I hope that many of you will join us for these sessions. I have been doing this type of teaching for many years and will be inviting people from throughout the Diocese to join us.

**INTERESTED IN BECOMING CATHOLIC?**

We will begin our convert instruction classes for those interested in becoming Catholic in September. If you are interested, please call me at 859-816-3198. I would like to get to know you and the story of you and God. Also, I need to determine if there are any particular needs that each person might have.

I am also looking for people who would be interested in being part of a team to present these classes. If you would like to do this, please give me a call.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES**

Do you have a son or daughter attending public school who is in need of religious education? If so, call me at 859-816-3198. Historically we have only offered sacramental prep for those getting ready for First Confession, First Communion and Confirmation. If your child needs this, I especially need to hear from you.

I know that many of you live in outlying areas of Northern Kentucky and Ohio. I will try to work with

parishes that are nearer to you, to have your child go through their classes, if that is more convenient for you. Your child could still receive their sacraments here at Mother of God.

If you would like to help out with these classes, your support would be greatly appreciated.

### **EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

We have Eucharistic Adoration on Thursday, from 12:45 pm (after the 12:05 Mass) until 5 pm. There do not seem to be many people who are taking advantage of that opportunity, so I hope that you will consider making a visit to Christ in the Blessed Sacrament on that day.

### **FEAST OF SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS**

On Monday of this week, the Church honors one of the greatest minds that the world has ever known. Saint Thomas Aquinas, who was a brilliant philosopher and theologian, set out an understanding of our Catholic faith that is still the foundation for understanding the Church today. The only other figure who has had as much influence on Catholic thought would be Saint Augustine.

**NOTICE:** No Children's Liturgy in the month of July. We will resume in August.

**PLEASE NOTE:** There will be no 12:05 pm Mass on Tuesday, July 4. The office will be closed. Have a Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July!

**ST. VINCENT de PAUL:** Mother of God parishioners have been instrumental in helping the poor, sick, and the challenged with food, clothing, rent, household items and utilities. Because of your generosity and support, people have been able to stay in their home and not fallen through the cracks. You will find St. Vincent dePaul envelopes in the pews of church today and next Sunday. We will be collecting your donation on Sunday, July 9. You make good works possible. Thank you.

### **PRINCE OF PEACE SUMMER expl-ART-ation:**

Prince of Peace Montessori is offering Art Exploration and Enrichment, focusing on famous artists and creating own original artwork inspired by Impressionists. One week session for 5-8 yr. olds: July 17-21, from 10 am to 11:30 am. One-week session for 9-12 yr. olds: July 24-28 from 10 am to 11:30 am. Each session is \$40 per student (includes all materials). \$20 is to be paid as registration, then \$20 on first day of class. Checks or cash is payable to Diana Daniels or Amy Hamant. Email Diana ([ddaniels@popcov.com](mailto:ddaniels@popcov.com)) or Amy ([hamant@fuse.net](mailto:hamant@fuse.net)) for more information and for payment.

*Congratulations to our newly married:  
Tim and Stephanie (Ward) Heffernan  
We wish you much happiness in your married life.*

<b>SUNDAY COLLECTION</b>	<b>JUNE 25, 2017</b>
Envelopes	\$3,985.00
Loose	\$493.00
Online Giving	\$635.85
<b>TOTAL COLLECTION</b>	<b>\$5,113.85</b>

### **2017 PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION:**

#### **Be a Witness of CHARITY**

Thank you for your generous support of the essential work of the Holy Father and his charitable acts through the Peter's Pence Collection. Our contributions will be combined with those of our brothers and sisters around the world to help Pope Francis reach out to those in need. Your generosity will help you to *Be a Witness of CHARITY*. **Peter's Pence Collection: \$1,371.00**

### **PRESENTATION MINISTRIES BIBLE**

**INSTITUTE: 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Bible Institute, Friday, July 21, to Friday, July 28, at Xavier University Campus.** *God's Love and Light Lead the Way!* is the theme for the 2017 Bible Institute. There are daytime seminars and Mass, plus evening healing services and weekend general sessions. Cost is a free-will donation. Online registration is available at [presentationministries.com](http://presentationministries.com) or call 513-922-0923.

**INTERNAL AUDITOR:** The Diocese of Covington invites individuals with a degree and background in accounting to apply for the position of internal auditor within the Diocesan Finance Office. This position reports directly to the Chief Financial Officer and will be responsible for an Audit Program whose goal will be scheduling, performing, and reporting on parish and school audits on a three-year cycle, with additional exceptions for special requests. Minimal requirements include an undergraduate degree in accounting with at least two years of experience (to include audit experience) in a public accounting firm. Candidates must be practicing Catholics in good standing with the Church. Interested individuals may submit a cover letter, resume, compensation history, and a list of references with email contacts to Stephen Kopyay at [skopyay@covdio.org](mailto:skopyay@covdio.org).

**FULL-CHARGE BOOKKEEPER:** The Department of Catholic Schools seeks a Full-Charge Bookkeeper in the Diocesan School Food Services (SFS) office. The SFS office oversees all aspects of the food services operations of our participating Catholic schools. The bookkeeper's responsibilities include: A/P data entry, reconciliation, and check-writing; banking transaction

data entry, reconciliation, and cash-flow monitoring; payroll submission, data entry, and review; and monthly close of general ledger, including journal entry creation and posting, trial balance preparation, and balance sheet reconciliations. Interested individuals may submit a cover letter, resume, compensation history, and a list of references with email contacts to Stephen Koplyay at [skoplyay@covdio.org](mailto:skoplyay@covdio.org).

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES** is offering a weekly walk-in clinic for substance use disorders, counseling and evaluations. Clinic open every Wednesday, 8:30 am to 11 am, at the 3629 Church Street office in Latonia. Please check out our website for more info. [www.covingtoncharities.org](http://www.covingtoncharities.org). Or call Lesley Duggan at 859-581-8974 ext. 119

**DISCERNMENT DINNER:** On the first Sunday of each month, Bishop Foys and Fr. Andrew Young will be hosting a discernment dinner at the Cathedral Rectory (1140 Madison Avenue, Covington, KY) for any men (high school age and older) who are discerning a vocation to the priesthood, open to the possibility of a vocation, or who simply would like to have questions answered about the priesthood or the seminary. These dinners begin at 6:30 pm and usually last an hour to an hour and a half.

The discernment dinners give men an opportunity to meet others from our area who are discerning, build up fraternity among themselves, and also provide an informal atmosphere to have any questions attendees may have about discernment, the seminary, or the priesthood answered.

For ease of planning and to assist any men who may want to mark their calendars, here are the dates for these dinners over the next few months: Aug. 6; Sept. 3; Oct. 1; Nov. 5; and Dec. 3.

<p><b>CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK</b>  <b>Tuesday, July 4 – INDEPENDENCE DAY</b>  <b>No 12:05 Mass</b>  <b>Office Closed</b>  <b>Thursday, July 6</b>          12:45 – 5 pm, Eucharistic Adoration          7 pm Social Concerns Mtg. (SAC)  <b>Sunday, July 9</b>          St. Vincent de Paul Collection</p>
--

**MASS INTENTIONS**

July 2	9:30 am Bo Strategier 11:30 am J J’s Special Intentions
July 3	12:05 pm Steve Horton
July 4	12:05 pm No Mass
July 5	12:05 pm No Mass
July 6	12:05 pm Cyril & Florence Hicks
July 7	12:05 pm Tony & Mary Wirtz
July 8	12:05 pm Philip Schambach
July 9	9:30 am Parishioners & Memorials 11:30 am Joseph Rebel

**HYMNS FOR 9:30 AM MASS**

Processional Hymn:	#760 “We Gather Together”
Responsorial Psalm:	“Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.” Psalm 89
Offertory Hymn:	#667 “God is Here! As We His People”
Communion Hymn:	#727 “Let Us Break Bread Together”
Recessional:	#762 “My Country, ‘Tis Of Thee”

**SCRIPTURE FOR JULY 2, 2017:** 2 Kings 4: 8-11, 14-16 a; Psalm 89; Romans 6: 3-4, 8-11; Matthew 10: 37-42.

**LET US PRAY FOR OUR SICK**

Les Miley	Hannah Donoghue
Tom Heidrich	Dan Ries
Jerry Bergfeld, Jr.	Beth Redwine
Mary Estelle Roesel	John Bowling
Rose Sketch	Susan Hodge
Richard Kerns	Trudy Koehling
Darius Sheffield	Ralph Kunkemoeller
Pam Neal	Margie Huesman
Robert Gander	Barry Price
Shirley Hensley	Greg Scanlon
Richard Kerns	Robert Schroeder
Michael Carlson	Audrey Manning
Father Ralph Hartman	Makayla Borg
Mary Jo Schwartz	Liz Enzweiler
Carol Jenkins	Mertle Cann
Antonio Revis	Pat Ruttle
Bill Meyer	Greg Carr