

JULY 8, 2018
14th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FROM THE PASTOR

FORMED

Last week we began introducing a new online program that Mother of God has subscribed to. It is called FORMED and includes a great deal of material for you to use to grow in your understanding of your faith and in your relationship with God and with Jesus Christ.

In order to access the website you will need to set up your own page by:

1. On your computer, tablet or phone, go to <http://motherofgod119.formed.org>.
2. Click register, and enter your name, email, zip code, and your preferred password.
3. You are ready to access the many resources offered by FORMED.

The main content page has four major sections—Study, Watch, Listen and Read. Go to **STUDY**. A scroll will come down offering a number of different options. The first is Faith Formation. Click on that, and a number of different study programs will be offered. You are still trying to get to know the site, so do not worry about picking one program. Just click on one or more that kind of interest you and explore.

You can go back to **WATCH**, and do the same thing. There you will find movies and documentaries. Again, just take time to explore. If you find something you want to watch do so. Continue with **LISTEN** and **READ**.

If you want to get started, I will make some recommendations but that is all they are. If you want to do something else, do it. Under **STUDY**, there is a two-part presentation entitled, *Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist*. Check it out. Also, the program entitled *Symbolon* is a much more extensive set of videos on the Catholic faith. I have seen many of them, and they are very good.

Go to **WATCH**. There is a movie on *Mother Theresa*. I recommend it. Under **DOCUMENTARIES**, I would recommend *Francis--The People's Pope*.

Next, check out **LISTEN**. Under **TALKS**, I recommend anything by Dr. Scott Hahn. He is an excellent teacher, and his talks are informative, fun and exciting.

Finally, go to **READ**. Go to non-fiction. I recommend the novel *Father Elijah*, by Michael O'Brien. A number of years ago, the Left Behind series of novels was very popular, and many Catholics were reading them and becoming confused about what the Church really believes about the last times. Our view is very different, as we do not believe in the Rapture. This novel is based on very solid Catholic theology as it deals

with the end times. I have read it a few times and really enjoy it. It is more of a book of ideas than the Left Behind series.

Take time to explore FORMED. You will find much that will benefit you.

ACUE COLLECTON

The annual collection for the ACUE (Alliance for Catholic Urban Education) schools is this weekend. I encourage everyone to be generous in your support of this important ministry of our diocese. Thank you for your contributions.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

One of the best ways to grow in prayer is to take time to pray before the Blessed Sacrament. You can do that at any time when you enter into a Catholic Church where the Eucharist is reserved in the tabernacle. But the Church also exposes the Blessed Sacrament on the altar to give us a greater sense of intimacy with Christ and to deepen our awareness of his presence.

At Mother of God we have Eucharistic Adoration on Thursdays, from after the 12:05 pm Mass until 5 pm. Please consider spending some time with Christ in this manner.

SAINT BENEDICT

On Wednesday the Church celebrates the feast of Saint Benedict, one of the truly pivotal figures in the history of the Church. Benedict was born in 480 AD and died in 547 AD in Nursia, which is in the territory of Umbria, in Italy. He had a twin sister named Scholastica, who helped found the female branch of the Order of Saint Benedict. He was sent to Rome for his studies but quickly became unhappy with the noisiness and the busyness of the city. So he left.

Eventually, he found his way to Mount Subiaco, which is south of Rome. There he began three years, living in a cave, the life of a hermit. Eventually, he would found 12 monasteries on Mount Subiaco. He then would move to Monte Cassino, further south, and found a monastery there.

Benedict's greatest legacy to the Church is not the monasteries that he founded but the Rule of Saint Benedict that he wrote for those monasteries, laying out the life that the monks were to live. It has greatly influenced the monastic life of the entire Church ever since.

As we celebrate the feast day of this great saint, let us pray for the Sisters of Saint Walburg, who are part of the Order of Saint Benedict. Also, we pray for our nearby neighbor parish of Saint Benedict. That parish was founded by members of the Benedictine Order and staffed by them for a long time. Today Saint Benedict Church is a diocesan parish and is staffed by Father Joshua Lange, a priest of the Diocese of Covington.

LAST SUNDAY'S HOMILY

I have had a couple of people express concern about my homily last Sunday. Specifically, they were concerned about my reference to the message on the jacket worn by the First Lady--"I Really Don't Care--Do You?" The concern was that I had attacked her and the President in my comments.

I want to say that I am sorry if I offended anyone and to say that I was concerned that I said what I did in a way that did not attack anyone. My specific words were, "I do not understand how anyone could wear such a jacket in that moment." I did not attack the First Lady or the President at all. I did not even mention the President. My point was that we do care, because we are dealing with sons and daughters of God and that they must be treated with respect and dignity. I stated very clearly that there are legitimate concerns about border security that must be addressed as well.

Although I referenced the jacket worn by Mrs. Trump, I neither named her, nor did I say anything about her. Actually, I like her very much, and I was encouraged and touched that she went to the border to meet with families there and to listen to their issues. That is why it was so difficult to understand why she wore the jacket that she did. I have also been encouraged by the comments and donations that she has made this week in regard to this issue.

It is not the place of the Church to take partisan sides in politics, but it is the Church's responsibility to speak to the moral issues of our day. I spoke about abortion, embryonic stem cell research and euthanasia, in addition to the immigration issue, and the treatment of refugee families.

I will always try to be fair and non-partisan in addressing these matters. I am not a Democrat or a Republican, a conservative or a liberal, or even a middle of the roader (I am not middle of the road on the issues that matter to me.) I seek to follow the teaching of the Catholic Church, especially in its teaching on economic and social matters, straight down the line. I know that if the Church is faithful to the Gospel, sometimes she will offend people on all sides, and if I try to be faithful to the Church, sometimes I will offend. Trust me, I have been criticized by Democrats and others on the Left, who were not happy with other issues that I have addressed even here at Mother of God. That is the job of the Church, and it is the job of one who preaches the Gospel.

Those who were critical of my comments stated this in a very kind and supportive way. I really appreciate that, as I believe that the incivility that we see between different sides in our country is frightening and bodes ill for the future of our nation. Even if we disagree with one another, we are to love one another as Christ loves us and show real respect for one another. Let us pray for

one another, especially those whom we see as ideological foes.

SAINT HENRY

On Friday, July 13, the Church honors the patron saint of another of our diocesan parishes—Saint Henry. Henry II was the emperor of the Holy Roman Empire from 1014 ad to 1024 AD. Unlike many of the other emperors of that age, he was a very devout Catholic who sought to support and strengthen the Church during his reign.

Let us pray for Saint Henry Church and for Saint Henry District High School as they honor their patron saint.

SAINT KATERI TEKAKWITHA

Saint Kateri Tekakwitha is the first Native American canonized by the Church. Her feast day is this Saturday, July 14. Kateri was a Mohawk Indian, who took the Christian name of Catherine at her baptism. She was known as deeply devout, spending a great deal of time in prayer and in fasting. She especially prayed for the conversion of her fellow Mohawks. She died at the age of 24.

In 2012, Pope Benedict XVI canonized Kateri as a saint of the Church.

Let us pray for all Native Americans this Saturday that each will know God's blessings and love and will come to know Christ as she did.

PARISH NEWS

NOTE: THE CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD during Sunday 11:30 am Mass will NOT meet in July. The program will resume in August.

NOTICE: Do you have someone who needs to see a priest or needs Communion brought to them at home or in a nursing home? If so, please call the office at 291-2288 so Father can arrange a visit to them.

*Dear Parishioners,
Please look at the back of our bulletin and see all the sponsors of our weekly bulletin which is then provided free for us. Also yearly we receive the Catholic Extension Calendars which are sponsored by James T. and David E. Middendorf Funeral Home. Please consider using these sponsors when you need the services they provide.*

We extend our sincerest sympathy to the family and friends of Pat Ruttle who passed away recently. We keep you in our prayers and may Pat rest in peace.

THE MESSENGER: If you are a registered parishioner at Mother of God Church and are NOT receiving the free Catholic newspaper, *The Messenger*, please call the office at 859-291-2288.

RCIA AND YOU! In just a few months, we will begin formal sessions of our RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults). Perhaps this is the year you will want to join us to become Catholic. We welcome all inquiries at any time, and we welcome all questions. If you are interested, please call Deacon Tom at 291-2288.

MOTHER OF GOD HISTORY AND TOURS:

Interested in history? Do you love our beautiful church? Then please consider joining an exciting new ministry in our parish—TOURISM! We are seeking interested parishioners to be trained to give regular tours of Mother of God to our many visitors and new parishioners. No experience needed! We will train you and give you all of the information you need to know. If interested, please see us in the back of church after Masses this summer at the New Parishioner registration table, call the parish office, or email Mary Ann Kelly at kellymaryg@fuse.net.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL QUARTERLY

COLLECTION: The quarterly collection for SVDP will be taken on Sunday, July 15. Envelopes will be available in the pews and the back of church. Collectors will be at the doors following each Mass on the 15th. Food stamps have been cut, and requests for food continue, but most noticeably, we have seen significant requests for assistance with utility bills. We had an exceptionally cold April, breaking records for measurable snow events, and a significantly hot May breaking some records for 90 degrees. This combination has impacted utilities in an adverse financial way. Folks on even billing have seen increases not budgeted for, and those expecting a few months of moderate weather bills have been overwhelmed. Fortunately, through your generosity, we have been able to help folks keep their utilities from being disconnected. We continue to listen to their stories, offer advice and referrals. All the SVDP volunteers are grateful for your prayers and financial support for this special outreach ministry from the Mother of God faith family to those within our parish boundaries. Your generosity makes this ministry possible.

VISUAL AND LITERARY ART FESTIVAL:

Sunday, July 29, Mother of God Church will host an opportunity for you to show your art and sculpture works as well as present literary works. If you would like to take part in this event, please contact Tanya Stager, 859-957-5556 by text or message. Please respond by TODAY.

CATHOLIC FAITH NIGHT AT FLORENCE

FREEDOM: Join parishes and Catholic organizations at the third annual Catholic Faith Night on Thursday, August 9. Florence Freedom vs. River City Rascals 6:35 pm; first pitch, 5:35 pm, gates open. Highlights of the night include “Thirsty Thursday” \$1 beers, musical performances by local Catholic choir members, “Split the Pot” benefitting local Catholic charities, zany in-between-inning games, opportunity to meet with priests from all over the diocese and much more! Tickets start at \$9. Bridget Kaiser has graciously volunteered to handle ticket sales. Please contact her at marybridgetkaiser@gmail.com.

ARE YOU A PARISHIONER?: Interested in becoming a parishioner of Mother of God? We’re interested in you! We will have registration available after all Masses throughout the summer in the back of church. Please stop by our table to fill out a registration form and have any questions answered. We’re glad you’re here!

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION is available at Mother of God Church every Thursday after the 12:05 pm Mass and concludes with Benediction at 5 pm. Would you be willing to spend time in prayer with Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament? Please call our parish office at 859-291-2288 if we can count on you for a regular time each Thursday afternoon. Or just come in to spend time with our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

VIRTUS: All volunteers, it's time to check your monthly Virtus bulletin. You will receive a new one each month, usually in the first week. Thanks for taking care of this each month.

NOTICE: Hearing-impaired devices available. Please see an usher if you need one.

SUNDAY COLLECTION FIGURES NOT AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME.

DIOCESAN NEWS

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE WITH FATHER

NIBY: Father Niby will be leading a pilgrimage to the Holy Land May 5-15, 2019. To see a sample daily itinerary, reservation application, and terms and conditions, contact Mary Queen of Heaven parish office at 859-525-6909. Visit www.pilgrimages.com/frniby or www.carmelmin.com for information.

HOSPICE CARE OF ST. ELIZABETH continually holds volunteer training sessions throughout the year. These sessions are held at the Carol Ann and Ralph V.

Haile, Jr. U.S. Bank Foundation Hospice Center, 483 South Loop Road, Edgewood, KY from 8 am–2 pm. The classes explore issues on death and dying, as well as developing an understanding of the Hospice concept of care. There is no cost or obligation to become a volunteer if you take the Hospice Training. **For upcoming dates and information, call Debbie Holloran, Hospice Volunteer Coordinator, at 301-4622 or email Debbie.Holloran@stelizabeth.com. Pre-registration is required.**

PROJECT RACHEL: “Each time we acknowledge our brokenness and bring it to God for healing, we have a new opportunity to experience God’s love and power.” Richard J. Hauser, SJ-- taken from *Moving in the Spirit*. Is there an abortion experience in your past? Do you want to begin healing your brokenness and come to the love and mercy that God has waiting for you? Let us help. Contact Project Rachel Ministry today by calling our confidential help-line 859-393-1547, or email projectrachel@covdio.org. All calls and emails are confidential.

PROJECT RACHEL MINISTRY INFORMATION AND TRAINING SESSION: Do you have the compassion and heart to work with women and men who have experienced abortion? The Diocese of Covington Project Rachel Ministry is hosting an information and training session on Saturday, August 4, from 8 am to 1:30 pm, at St. Anne Retreat Center in Melbourne, KY. The day will begin at 8 am with Mass, followed by breakfast. The training session will begin at 9 am. Lunch will be served at 12:30 pm, followed by a question/answer session. We will end the day with a Rosary dedicated to Our Lady and ask her guidance in our ministry. There is no charge for this training. To make reservations for the Project Rachel Ministry information and training, please contact Peggy Piccola at 859-392-1500, ext. 1546, or email ppiccola@covdio.org by Monday, July 30.

ST BERNARD’S MEN’S BREAKFAST WITH COACH RUTHSALTZ: State Champion Covington Catholic Head Coach Scott Ruthsatz will share a faith testimony at St Bernard’s Men’s Breakfast on Saturday July 14th, at 6:30 a.m. at St. Bernard’s Garvey Hall, 401 Berry St, Dayton, OH 41073. Mass will follow at 8:00 a.m. in church. All men are welcome to come and hear his inspiring testimony of faith! The breakfast is a free will offering. Please RSVP so we know approximately how much food to prepare: (859) 261-6172.

ST. BENEDICT SUMMER FESTIVAL: July 20 and 21 at 338 E. 16th Street, Covington. Fish Dinners on Friday and Chicken Dinners on Saturday beginning at 5 p.m. Arcade games for the kids, live music both nights. Catch the shuttle bus at the old St. Elizabeth Hospital at 20th and Eastern.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, July 8
ACUE Collection at both Masses
Tuesday, July 10
7 pm St. Vincent de Paul Mtg. (Hall)
Thursday, July 12
12:45 pm Eucharistic Adoration
Sunday, July 15
St. Vincent de Paul Collection after both Masses

MASS INTENTIONS

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|---------|----------|---|
| July 8 | 9:30 am | Jennie Wong Wiehoff |
| | 11:30 am | The Simpson/Moore Families |
| July 9 | 12:05 pm | Br. James Phelan, CFP |
| July 10 | 12:05 pm | Chuck Legner |
| July 11 | 12:05 pm | No Mass |
| July 12 | 12:05 pm | Rose Mary O’Brien 90 th Birthday |
| July 13 | 12:05 pm | Andrew Hagedorn |
| July 14 | 12:05 pm | Charles Fedders |
| July 15 | 9:30 am | Judy Stahl |
| | 11:30 am | Chuck Legner |

SCRIPTURE FOR JULY 8, 2018: Ezekiel 2: 2-5; Psalm 123; 2 Corinthians 12: 7-10; Mark 6: 1-6.

HYMNS FOR 9:30 A.M. MASS

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| 665 | Gather Us In |
| Response | Our eyes are fixed on the Lord, pleading for his mercy. |
| 568 | Lord of All Hopefulness |
| 572 | We Walk By Faith |
| 571 | Faith of Our Fathers |

LET US PRAY FOR OUR SICK

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Les Miley | Hannah Donoghue |
| Tom Heidrich | Trudy Koehling |
| Pam Neal | Ralph Kunkemoeller |
| Robert Gander | Margie Huesman |
| Shirley Hensley | Tom Donoghue |
| Fr. Ray Hartman | Jill Felix |
| Fr. Ralph Hartman | Becky MacIntyre |
| Kelly Bowman | Greg Scanlon |
| Ann Jurgens | Fred Stave |
| Nancy Salzer | Lou Brewer |
| Krista Kentley | Dan Lewin |
| Carolyn James | William Fredie |
| Ed Salzer | Jerry Shroat |
| Rachel Hub | Paige Kellam |