

**JULY 28, 2019**  
**17<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**FROM THE PASTOR**

**DIOCESAN PARISH ANNUAL APPEAL**

In the latest report for this year's DPAA (Diocesan Parish Annual Appeal), Mother of God parishioners have pledged \$101,938.36—the first time we have gone over \$100,000 in pledges. That is \$56,038.36 above the goal for the diocese. Also, this week we received a check from the DPAA for over \$45,000.00 in rebates. That means that the vast majority of those who have pledged have paid up your pledge already.

I am very grateful to all of you who have been so generous in your support of the ministries funded by the DPAA and your generosity to Mother of God Church.

This is the final official report of this year's DPAA but you can still donate to the DPAA. Remember, every cent that you donate, now that we have reached the diocesan goal, comes back to the parish.

**KNOW YOUR FAITH--AN RCIA FOR CATHOLICS**

Why should anyone belong to the Catholic Church, especially given the scandals and problems that we all recognize? This is an extremely important question. So what is the answer?

We should want to belong to the Catholic Church because it is true! I know that this is not considered politically correct to say today. Our culture does not believe in objective truth. One thing is true for you, and something else is true for me. This is especially so when it comes to religion.

Imagine a math teacher who told his or her students, "It does not matter if you think that 2 plus 2 is 4, or that it is 5, or that it is 87, as long as you believe 2 plus 2 adds up to something." How long would we put up with such a teacher for our children? Or if a history teacher said to his or her students, "World War II was fought between Mexico, Ghana and India. As long as you believe World War II was fought by different countries, that is all you need to know. Truth is not 'out there.' It is only 'in here.' Inside our minds. Truth is whatever we want it to be."

When we talk about math or history, this attitude about truth is clearly nonsense. But when we begin to talk about religion, even believers buy into this idea about truth. Does God exist? "Well, if he exists for you, then God exists. But if he doesn't exist for me, then God does not exist." In other words, there is no God out there for us to discover and believe in. There is only the God that exists in our own minds. What this means is that God does not exist. Only we exist, and we create reality from within ourselves.

This is what Pope Benedict XVI called the Dictatorship of Relativity. It is the idea that there is no

such thing as objective truth. Nothing is really true, because whatever anyone believe is true. The Holy Father identified this as the greatest enemy to the truth in our age. Other ages argued about what actually constituted the truth, but this age denies such a thing exists. For a religion based on truth, this is a great threat.

Pontius Pilate asked Jesus, "What is truth?"

Elsewhere in the Gospels, Jesus had said, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life." If there is no truth, then the teaching of Jesus is meaningless. We might as well be Buddhists or Muslims or people of any other religious belief. Then it does not matter if we are Catholic or Protestant or Orthodox. It is just a matter of taste.

As Catholics we believe that truth does exist and that religious truth matters. Either Jesus is God made human or he is not. Either the Eucharist is really and truly his Body or Blood or not. Either we are saved by the death and resurrection of Jesus, or we are not. There is no middle ground here.

So what does the Catholic Church believe and teach? Why does it teach what it does? And what do those teachings matter in our lives?

Beginning on Thursday, August 22, at 11 am, and at 6:30 pm, we will begin a study of the Catholic faith, in a series that I am calling: Know Your Faith—An RCIA for Catholics.

I hope that you will be there to learn more about what your Church teaches and how to live that truth in your life.

**SAINT PATRICK STATUE**

As I noted last week, I would like to add a statue of Saint Patrick to Mother of God Church in honor of those members of Saint Patrick Church, which is one of the mother churches of Mother of God.

Some of my information in last week's bulletin about Saint Patrick Church was inaccurate. The church was in the location of the parking lot of the Radisson, not the IRS location.

We have received \$3,000 to cover the cost. We need \$4,000 more to complete the purchase. I really hope some of you will help out with this.

**SAINT MARTHA**

Last Sunday we had the Gospel of Martha and Mary and we reflected on poor Martha's misplaced values, and her worries and anxieties. This Monday, July 29, is the feast of Saint Martha so the Church recognizes that she, seemingly, heard what Jesus was telling her and learned to sit at his feet and listen to his teaching.

In addition to the story of Martha and Mary, we are told in the Gospel of John, of the death of their brother, Lazarus. Martha learns that Jesus is coming to their home and meets him at the edge of town. Her words to him are a lament, but sound almost like an accusation. "Lord, if you had been here my brother would not have died." Jesus told her that her brother would rise again,

and she expressed her faith that he would indeed rise on the last day. He told her that he was the Resurrection and the Life, and she makes a statement of faith in Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God who has come into the world.

Martha should not be reduced to her worst moment—her anger at Mary and Jesus. She makes a remarkable act of faith in Jesus before his Resurrection from the dead. Even at her worst moment, she is demonstrating her hospitality and hard work. We should honor her for these attributes.

Martha is the patron saint of cooks and servants.

### **SAINT IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA**

On Wednesday, July 31, the Church celebrates the feast of Saint Ignatius of Loyola. Ignatius was born in a well-to-do family in the Basque country of Spain. Growing up, he read the lives of many great heroes such as El Cid, the Knights of the Round Table, and others, and so he wanted to be a military man. He joined the army and received a serious leg injury in a battle. He had to be returned to his father's home, where he underwent surgery to correct the injury. His injured leg would be shorter than the other for the rest of his lives.

While convalescing from his surgery, he read the Lives of the Saints. As the earlier books had inspired him to military glories, now these stories set his heart on fire with a desire to be a soldier for Christ. After a few years of study and spiritual growth, Ignatius, with two friends, began the Jesuit Order. This new order was known, and is known, as the Society of Jesus.

Sometime later, Ignatius, who was recognized as a remarkable spiritual director, put together what is known as the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius. They are the basis for the spiritual life of the members of the Jesuit Order, and they became the basis for most of the retreats that were given in the Church over the next four or five hundred years. Today they are offered for men and women, and for the laity, as well as those in religious life.

### **SAINT ALPHONSUS LIGUORI**

St. Alphonse was an Italian priest, bishop, spiritual writer, and composer, who lived in the 18th century. Many of his writings are still popular, especially his Way of the Cross, which is used in many, if not most, of the parishes of the world (including Mother of God).

The Church celebrates his feast day on Thursday, August 1.

### **PARISH NEWS**

**NOTICE:** If you have a child of the age (7 +) to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and First Eucharist, please call the office at 291-2288. Plans will be made for instruction and reception of these sacraments.

**BLOOD PRESSURES** taken today in the hall after both Masses.

**FAIR TRADE COFFEE, TEA AND COCOA SALE:** Next Sunday in the hall between the Masses.

**GREETERS NEEDED!** Are you willing to share your Sunday morning smile? Please consider becoming a greeter at either Sunday Mass. If interested in joining this important and fun ministry, please email Lisa Wetterich (the ministry schedule coordinator) with your information at [lisawetterich@gmail.com](mailto:lisawetterich@gmail.com) to be added to the schedule.

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL BUNDLE SUNDAY** will take place here at Mother of God on Sunday, Sept. 8, before and after both Masses. Save your clothing and household items and bring them with you when you come for Mass.

**THE MOTHER OF GOD EDUCATION COMMITTEE** will meet Tuesday, August 6, at 7 pm in the undercroft. We are encouraging parishioners who might be interested in this endeavor to join us. For more information, call Dave at 513-315-9527.

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL** meeting minutes are now posted on the parish website (<http://www.mother-of-god.org>). On the home page, click on "Parish Life" and then go down the menu to "Parish Pastoral Council News." Find out what's happening in your parish and how you can get involved. If you have questions, concerns or ideas, contact the council members listed on the page. We are here to listen and to serve.

**SERVICE SATURDAY:** Are you a young adult (18-35) looking for ways to serve your community and help people in need? Meet others like you on Saturday, August 10; 8 am, coffee and donuts; 9 am to noon, service opportunities; 12:30 pm, lunch at Braxton Brewery. Meet at Mother of God Church. Please register by emailing [nkycatholicservice@gmail.com](mailto:nkycatholicservice@gmail.com).

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

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS** for our **PARISH PICNIC** on Sunday, **August 18**, at the Villa Madonna picnic shelter from 4–7 pm. Fried chicken and beverages will be provided. Please bring a side dish (e.g., appetizer, salad, vegetable, dessert) to share. More information will be forthcoming. It is a wonderful time to meet our new parishioners and to catch up with old friends and acquaintances. We hope to see you there!

**2019 MOG PHOTO CONTEST:** Hey everybody, it's time to start thinking about our **MOG 9th Annual Photo Contest with prizes.** Can you believe it's been 9 years running? We need everyone to participate to make this year our biggest year ever! This year's theme will be **"Everyday Blessings"** Deadline for entries is August 18, after the 11:30 Mass. Entry forms and contest guidelines will be available at the back of church all Sundays after both Masses. **David Ziser: 859-250-8855** and **LaDawn Ziser: 859-250-8833** will be coordinating the event this year, so please give them a call with any questions. **Good Luck!**

**MOTHER OF GOD MEMORIAL TRUST FUND:**  
In your kindness please consider making any bequests or financial donations to the Mother of God Memorial Trust Fund. These funds are used only for the preservation of the Church.

**HOMEBOUND?** 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.

**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.

**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 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!

<b>SUNDAY COLLECTION</b>	<b>7-21-19</b>
Envelopes	\$5,826.00
Loose	\$ 502.00
Online Giving	\$ 664.18
<b>TOTAL COLLECTION</b>	<b>\$6,992.18</b>

**ACUE COLLECTION: \$2,290.00**

**DIOCESAN NEWS**

**LIVING WITH ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE: 5<sup>TH</sup>** Annual Caregivers Conference on Saturday, August 10, at Beechwood School, 54 Beechwood Rd. Ft. Mitchell, KY 41017. Registration 8:30 am with continental breakfast; two speakers, and panel discussion at 11:30 am. Free admission. Register online at [www.aloiszheimerfoundation.org/education](http://www.aloiszheimerfoundation.org/education) or call [513-605-1450](tel:513-605-1450).

**WOMEN'S RETREAT: MARY IN THE SACRED SCRIPTURES & CATHOLIC TRADITION:** Friday, Sept. 13, to Sunday, Sept. 15, at St. Anne Retreat Center, 5275 St. Anne Drive, Melbourne, KY 41059. Retreat presenters: Msgr. William Cleves, Dr. Ceil Dorger, artist, Holly Schopker. The weekend will include time for prayer and reflection as well as group discussion. Friday: Doors open at 4 pm. Retreat begins with 5:30 pm dinner. Sunday, Mass and noon departure. Cost is \$170. Please remit check to St. Anne Retreat Center, Attn: Karen Little. Registration deadline is August 31.

**PROJECT RACHEL:** Come back to God, who is LOVE and MERCY. Life is a gift from God, and so is His mercy. Tens of millions of Americans have been directly touched by abortion and have feelings of regret, guilt and grief. God's healing love and mercy are always possible. Many Catholics want to help women and men who have experienced abortion, but some don't know how to begin. The Diocese of Covington, in accordance with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, offer the Project Rachel Ministry, a confidential, compassionate journey to healing. Project Rachel help line (859) 392-1547 or [projectrachel@covdio.org](mailto:projectrachel@covdio.org)

**RETROUVAILLE PROGRAM** helps couples restore and rebuild a loving relationship. It is for couples with marriages that are struggling, not communicating well, and those who are considering marriage separation or divorce. Retrouvaille of Cincinnati/Tri-State 2019 Weekend: September 6-8. For more information contact: [www.cincyretrouvaille.org](http://www.cincyretrouvaille.org); [helpourmarriage.com](http://helpourmarriage.com) or call 1-513-456-5413.

**WAIT NO MORE:** Tuesday, August 20, at Florence Baptist Church. Foster, adopt, support. Did you know there are thousands of children in need of help? The Diocese of Covington is joining together with thousands of churches in Kentucky in this effort. Now is the time to mobilize. All are invited to this free evening event that will help you understand God's heart for the vulnerable children in foster care. Learn about foster care and adoption and practical ways you can support foster and adoptive families. Engage with experts who will answer your questions. God has given a clear call for Christians to take care of his children in need. Discover your role in God's plan—whether you are considering fostering a child, adopting or supporting a family who does, this "Wait No More" event will help you explore the part you can play in fulfilling God's command. This "Wait No More" event runs from 6-8 pm, on Tuesday, August 20, and is held at Florence Baptist Church, 642 Mt. Zion Rd. Florence, KY 41042.

**COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY INFORMATION:** For information on campus ministry at Thomas More University, email

Andrew Cole at [Andrew.cole@thomasmore.edu](mailto:Andrew.cole@thomasmore.edu). For information on Catholic ministry at Northern Kentucky University, email Donna Heim, [heim2@nku.edu](mailto:heim2@nku.edu).

Visit TMU's website:

[www.thomasmore.edu/campus\\_ministry](http://www.thomasmore.edu/campus_ministry).

Visit Newman Center website:

[www.nkunewmancenter.org](http://www.nkunewmancenter.org).

**CINCINNATI CATHOLIC ALUMNI CLUB** invites single Catholic men and women to its picnic, Sunday, August 11, at 2 pm, at Pavilion #3. Entrances to park off Delhi Pike and Foley Rd, Delhi. For more info, contact Don at 513-574-8573

**SCHOOL CAFETERIA MANAGERS:** The Diocesan School Food Services Office is interviewing for full-time positions at Blessed Sacrament Elementary School in Ft. Mitchell, St. Therese Elementary School in Southgate, and Covington Catholic High School in Covington. Primary responsibilities involve overall supervision of the program; managing employees; ordering, receiving, and managing inventory; preparing and serving meals; operating a point-of-sale system; and interacting with school staff, students, and their parents. Interested individuals may request an application from Stephen Kopllyay, SPHR by emailing [skopllyay@covdio.org](mailto:skopllyay@covdio.org)

#### SUMMER FESTIVALS:

**St. Joseph, Cold Spring**, 4011 Alexandria Pike

Friday, August 2, 6 pm-11:30 pm

Saturday, August 3, 5 pm-11 pm

**St. Joseph, Crescent Springs**, 2470 Lorraine Ct.

Friday, August 9, 6 pm-12 am

Saturday, August 10, 6 pm-12 am

Sunday, August 11, 3 pm-9 pm

#### CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

##### Sunday, July 28

9:30 am Mass Ladies Altar Society

Blood pressures taken after both Masses

Hawaiian Shirt Sunday – Celebrate Summer!

##### Sunday, August 4

Fair Trade Coffee, Tea and Cocoa Sale in the hall between the Masses (10:30 to 11:30)

**SCRIPTURE FOR JULY 28, 2019:** Genesis 18: 20-32; Psalm 138; Colossians 2: 12-14; Luke 11:1-13.

#### MASS INTENTIONS

July 28	9:30 am	Ed Foltz
	11:30 am	Alice Heath
July 29	12:05 pm	Rev. Joseph Jomula
July 30	12:05 pm	Tom Heidrich
July 31	No Mass	
Aug. 1	12:05 pm	Mary Lida Comer
Aug. 2	12:05 pm	Bill Meyer
Aug 3	12:05 pm	P. Joseph & Ruth Helmer
Aug. 4	9:30 am	Louise Dickman
	11:30 am	Mary Silva

#### LET US PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Les Miley	Hannah Donoghue
Shirley Hensley	Margie Huesman
Fr. Ray Hartman	Tom Donoghue
Fr. Ralph Hartman	Jill Felix
Robert Shircliff	Greg Scanlon
Rachel Hub	Connie Gillum
Nancy Salzer	Ed Salzer
Pat Wiedemann	Jack and Rilla Kerns
Trudy Koehling	Mary Lou Wilson
Carolyn James	Jim White
Paula Schwarte	William Fredie
Marcia Arnett	Bessie Plymesser
Rusty Erpenbeck	Michael Carter
Wilma Brown	Archie Williams
Terry	Ebry Erdman
Abby, Nick and Baby Arlo	Jamie Igo
Lois Knochelmann	Uriah Searp
Mary Estelle Roesel	Angela Casanova
Courtney Thurman	Joe Legner
Spencer Carr	Bill Lonneman
Bob Schroeder	Special Intention
Ralph and Gloria Kunkemoeller	Christopher Mackay
Shirley O'Reilly	Lily Kolb

#### HYMNS FOR 9:30 A.M. MASS

Prelude: Piano: *Allemande* (JS Bach, BWV 812)

313 Gather Your People

Response: "Lord, on the day I called for help,  
You answered me."

192 Soul of My Savior

333 O Sacrament Most Holy

402 Lord of all Hopefulness

Postlude: Postlude on SLANE (P. Manz)