

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 13, 2017**  
**19<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**FROM THE PASTOR**  
**PARISH LISTENING SESSIONS**

As I mentioned last week, I am holding some listening sessions, in order to get to know more of you and to learn what are your concerns and hopes and dreams for Mother of God Church.

Mother of God Church has been involved in serving the poor and the needy in Covington for quite some time. Such organizations as Welcome House, Parish Kitchen, the Cold Shelter, and many others have seen the parishioners of Mother of God step up and give generously of themselves. This is an important tradition that we want to continue.

On Monday, August 21, at 6:30 pm, I would like to have a gathering of all who are involved in any type of service ministry or program or justice and peace work. This would include those groups mentioned above, as well as Pro-Life activities, Saint Vincent de Paul, and any others, some of which I may not even be aware of. That is why I want to meet.

Please help me, as I am beginning my time as your pastor, to understand where and how you want me to lead you.

**SAINT PAUL'S LOVE FOR THE JEWISH PEOPLE**

In the second reading for Mass this week, we hear a very touching expression of deep grief and sorrow from the heart of Saint Paul. He is writing to the Romans, who were a Jewish Christian church, who certainly must have shared his deep sadness.

Paul was a Jew through and through. He loved his Jewish heritage. It was his almost fanatical commitment to that heritage that led him to fiercely persecute the early Christians, for he saw them as a distortion of the Jewish faith. He was himself a Pharisee, and, in fact, called himself the best of the Pharisees, more committed to the law than anyone else. He loved the promises that God had given to Abraham and Moses and David. He loved the Jewish people and the Promised Land itself.

And his great sorrow was that this people, whom he loved so much, had rejected the Messiah when he came. He states in this reading that "I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh." Imagine this. He is saying that he could wish himself to spend eternity in hell if it would save his beloved people.

Tragically, throughout the 20 centuries that Christians and Jews have co-existed, there has not always been great love and affection demonstrated towards those who Pope John Paul II has called "our elder brothers and sisters in faith." Anti-Semitism is an ugly blotch on the

Church in every generation. Only in the recent past has the Church begun to recognize and to confess her sins against those whom the Scriptures call the Chosen People, the people from whom came not only Saint Paul, but Jesus Christ himself, his Blessed Mother, and all of the Apostles and Saints named in the New Testament.

When we see the hatred for the nation of Israel by her neighbors, and the rise of a new anti-Semitism in Germany and France and other European nations, we must pray that there will be a collective conversion of heart, but also recognize the ongoing repentance of the Christian Churches, including the Catholic Church.

**THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

This Tuesday, August 15, is the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses at Mother of God will be at 12:05 pm and 5:30 pm.

The two front Western windows in Mother of God Church tell the story of the death (the Orthodox call it the Dormition, or the Falling Asleep) and the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin. In the smaller window, we see the death of Mary, as she is surrounded by the Apostles. In the larger window we see the Blessed Mother being taken up into Heaven. Beneath her we see the Apostles gathered around her tomb, looking upward at her.

Tradition tells us that during the last days of her life, word was sent out to all of the Apostles that the Mother of the Lord, and their Mother, was dying. Each began making his way to Ephesus, where she lived. Saint Thomas had the farthest to travel, as he was ministering in India. When Mary died, all of the Apostles except Thomas had arrived. She was buried in a tomb. When Thomas arrived a few days later, he asked that her tomb be opened so that he could see her one last time. The tomb was opened, and the body of Mary was not there. Instead, the tomb was filled with flowers.

The Apostles came to understand that Mary had been taken to heaven, body and soul. Because her body had been the Ark of the New Covenant and had borne the Son of God, it was not allowed to know the decay of death. Mary's Assumption into Heaven is a promise to us that we, too, will know a bodily Resurrection. In the Creed we proclaim, "We believe in the Resurrection of the Body."

We will not spend eternity as angels—purely spiritual beings. We will be fully human, with a body and a soul. A body without a soul is a corpse, and a soul without a body is a ghost. In death, human beings are radically incomplete, and it will be the Resurrection of the Body that will restore us to our full humanity.

What kind of body will we have? We do not know for sure, but we are told that we shall be like Christ, for we will see him face to face. Our presumption is that we

will possess a glorified body, like that of Jesus after he rose from the dead.

### **SAINT MAXIMILLIAN KOLBE**

On Monday of this week, August 14, the Church celebrates the memory of Saint Maximilian Kolbe. Maximilian was a Polish Franciscan priest who died at Auschwitz on August 14, 1941. He had founded a group, known as the Knights of the Immaculata, to promote devotion to the Blessed Mother, and especially to her Immaculate Heart. This organization continues today. He also founded a Franciscan monastery in Poland that became a major publishing center. Later he would found a Franciscan monastery at Nagasaki in Japan.

On February 17, 1941, Father Kolbe was arrested, along with four of his Franciscan brothers, and sent to Auschwitz. In late 1941, three prisoners escaped from the camp. In order to make sure that no one else would try to do this, 10 other prisoners were chosen who would be starved to death in an underground bunker. One of these was a man named Franciszek Gajowniczek, who cried out, "What will happen to my wife and my children?" Maximilian volunteered to take this man's place.

After two weeks in the bunker, only Kolbe was still alive. The guards then gave him a lethal injection of carbolic acid, and he died.

Pope John Paul II canonized Maximilian Kolbe on October 10, 1982. In the congregation in Saint Peter's Basilica that day was Franciszek Gajowniczek, the man whose life was spared because Father Kolbe offered to die for him.

### **INSTALLATION**

Next Sunday, August 20, Bishop Foys will be here to officially install me as pastor of Mother of God Church. This will take place at the 11:30 am Mass.

Usually there is a reception after the installation ceremony, but we had already schedule the parish picnic for that afternoon. The picnic will serve as the reception for the installation.

### **ACUE COLLECTION**

Each parish in the Diocese of Covington is asked to take up a special collection each year for the support of the ACUE (Alliance for Catholic Urban Education) schools. These include Prince of Peace, Holy Trinity, Holy Family, Saint Augustine, Holy Cross and Saint Anthony Schools.

A few years ago, Bishop Foys was informed that the diocese in the United States that has the largest percentage of its children in Catholic schools is the Diocese of Covington. That is a remarkable fact, and it shows the dedication to Catholic school education that generations of the people of our diocese have demonstrated.

Perhaps the most remembered moment from Bishop Foys' installation as Bishop of Covington was his statement, "There are alternatives to Catholic education, but there are no substitutes." This summarizes his great commitment to Catholic schools. As one who did not attend a Catholic school, but who has been involved in Catholic schools throughout my priesthood, I agree. That is not to say anything bad about families, like my own, who for good reasons have chosen to send their children to the public schools. But Catholic schools offer a holistic environment of faith that cannot be replaced.

The ACUE collection at Mother of God will take place at the Masses this Sunday, August 13. Please be generous.

### **CONVERT INSTRUCTION CLASSES**

Are you interested in joining the Catholic faith or in learning more about the Catholic Church? We will begin our Convert Instruction Classes (RCIA) on Tuesday, September 5, at 6:30 pm, in Saint Aloysius Center. If you are already Catholic but did not get a good education in the faith as you were growing up, these classes would be very helpful to you as well.

Call me (Father Comer) at 859-816-3198.

### **CCD—RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES**

The religious education classes for students attending public school are known as the Confraternity of Catholic Doctrine or CCD. Has a worse name that conveys less information ever been devised? I think not. We will be looking for a better name.

We will begin classes for students K-8 in September. The day of the week and the time have not yet been decided. But I would like to hear from you if you have a child in one of these grades. The two grades that most parents are very concerned with are second and eighth grades. Second grade is when most students make their First Confession and First Communion. Eighth grade is the traditional year for the Sacrament of Confirmation. If you have a son or daughter that missed those Sacraments, please let me know so that we can figure out what we need to do to catch them up.

Call me at 859-816-3198.

### **BEGINNING TO READ THE BIBLE**

On Thursday, September 7, we will begin a series of session on Beginning to Read the Bible. These sessions will be presented twice—once at 11 am, and again at 6:30 pm. I have always done two sessions because I find that there are many people who can make one time but not the other.

The first sessions will focus on understanding the Bible itself, and then we will move into looking at specific parts of the Bible. We will look at the first 11 chapters of Genesis, which are a prologue to the entire Bible, laying out the problem of the Fall and the effects

of sin on the human race. They set up the stories that make up the rest of the Bible and which are collectively known as Salvation History.

When we get to the Advent season, we will look at the Infancy Narratives in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. There is no registration. Come to as many of the sessions as you can. Bring your Bible.

**FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION** is Tuesday, August 15 and is a holy day of obligation. Masses will be at 12:05 and 5:30 pm. Office will be closed

**PLEASE NOTE:** Confessions on Saturday from 11 am until time of Mass at 12:05 pm.

**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.

**GIFT OF THE MONTH:** Prince of Peace School needs: Crayola fine line markers, Crayola broad-line markers, glue sticks, wide-rule notebooks, wide-rule loose-leaf paper or cash donations are gratefully accepted. Please place your donations in the bins by the church doors. Thank you.

**TODAY FAMILY PROMISE:** Mother of God Church has been very active for many years as a support church with Family Promise. Volunteers are needed in several capacities. Please come to the church hall today between the 9:30 and 11:30 Masses to learn more.

*Vicki & Frank David*

**MOTHER OF GOD PICNIC** is Sunday, August 20, at 4 pm, with dinner served between 5 and 5:30 pm at the Villa Madonna picnic grounds. This year's picnic will be an extra special celebration. Father Comer will be officially installed as our pastor on that day, and he has requested that, in lieu of a cake and punch reception after Mass, we celebrate with him at our annual picnic. Fried chicken, soft drinks, water, plates and utensils will be provided. Participants are asked to bring either an appetizer, salad, side dish or dessert to share. *Loving Life* is this year's photo contest theme and certainly is apropos for our picnic theme. Join the parish fun and help give Father Comer a Mother of God welcome.

**BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP:** For those who have lost a loved one, a bereavement support group is being formed at Mother of God Church. This will be a 9-week program held on Saturday mornings, starting on

September 9, at 10 am. For information or to sign up, please call Bill Rice at 859-331-1930. Bill has been a hospital chaplain for 25 years and is no stranger to grief. Cost of material is \$10.

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL BUNDLE SUNDAY:** On Sunday, August 27, the St. Vincent de Paul truck will be in the east parking lot, from 9 am to 1 pm. Bring any clothing, kitchen items, like pots and pans, dishes, flat ware or serving dishes, bed linens, bath towels, furniture and lamps to drop off to the truck. It will save you a trip to one of the SVDP stores. You can even bring winter coats, which will be put back for the colder weather.

**NOTE:** The Mother of God Conference of St. Vincent de Paul was the first in NKY and celebrated 93 years on July 21.

**SAVE THE DATE: Saturday October 28, at 4 pm.** German Mass and Oktoberfest. Last year's event during the 175<sup>th</sup> celebration was so popular, with requests to offer it again, that it has been decided to do just that. It is early on in the planning stages, but we will keep you up to date with progress and most likely requests for your participation

SUNDAY COLLECTION	AUGUST 6, 2017
Envelopes	\$6,957.00
Loose	\$647.00
Online Giving	\$189.35
<b>TOTAL COLLECTION</b>	<b>\$7,793.35</b>

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES NEEDS YOUR HELP!**

Today after both Masses, parish members and volunteers from Catholic Charities will be in the back of church promoting their upcoming fundraiser, the CaSSba, and selling raffle tickets. The raffle tickets are \$20 each. The grand prize is 30 percent of total ticket sales. Last year the winners received over \$11,000! All proceeds for this event benefit the clients being served through Catholic Charities. You can also purchase tickets on line at [www.covingtoncharities.org](http://www.covingtoncharities.org). Thanks for your support of Catholic Charities. For more information, call Vicky Bauerle, BA, institutional advancement manager, at 859-581-8974, ext. 116.

**2017 HEALTH MINISTRIES ASSOCIATION NATIONAL CONFERENCE** will be held on September 11-13, at St. Elizabeth Technical and Educational Center in Erlanger, Kentucky. We are blessed to have this excellent ministry opportunity so close to home. The conference promises to offer networking with individuals from across the nation whose work occurs at the intersection of faith and health, best practice models related to the sacred art of caring,

and unique approaches of working together for healthier communities. Everyone is welcome. Whether you are involved in health ministry or faith community nursing now or would just like to learn more about it, please consider attending. Visit [HMAssoc.org](http://HMAssoc.org) for more information or to register. Or contact Marlene Feagan, health ministries coordinator for St. Elizabeth Healthcare and the National President for Health Ministries Association at: [Marlene.Feagan@stelizabeth](mailto:Marlene.Feagan@stelizabeth) or 859-572-3679.

**HOLY CROSS HIGH SCHOOL FESTIVAL AND TASTE OF LATONIA:** Holy Cross High School's 28th Indian Summer Festival & Taste of Latonia will be on Friday, August 25, from 6 pm to midnight and Saturday, August 26, from 5:30 pm to midnight on the Holy Cross grounds, 36<sup>th</sup> & Church Streets, Latonia. Live music on Friday by The Rusty Griswolds and on Saturday by Gee Your Band Smells Terrific. Taste of Latonia, beer, wine, inflatables, games, booths, prizes, kiddieland and grand prize raffle of \$10,000 or a 2-year lease on a Chevy Cruze. All profits benefit Holy Cross High School. For grand prize raffle tickets or more information, visit [www.holycrossfest.com](http://www.holycrossfest.com) or call [859-291-8588](tel:859-291-8588).

**SECRETARY** – The Stewardship and Mission Services Office of the Diocese of Covington, KY. invites qualified individuals to apply for the position of secretary. The secretary's primary role involves providing supporting duties related to planning and implementing the Diocesan Parish Annual Appeal. Other duties include support for the Mission Cooperation Program, the ACUE Summer Mission Collection, and Brother and Sister Missionaries, and planning assistance for the Seminary Ball and the Picnic for Women Religious. Candidates must be actively practicing Roman Catholics who relate well to others, are extremely detail- and confidentiality-oriented, are comfortable with a team approach to projects, and can manage deadlines under a full workload. Interested individuals may send a resume with a cover letter, compensation history, and at least three references with contact email addresses to Stephen Kopyay, SPHR to [skoplyay@covdio.org](mailto:skoplyay@covdio.org) or fax to 859-392-1589.

**CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK**

**Sunday, August 13**

ACUE Collection  
Catholic Charities CaSSbaTicket Sale after Masses  
Family Promise in Hall between 9:30 and 11:30 Masses

**Monday, August 14**

7:30 pm – Knights of St. John (Hall)

**Tuesday, August 15**

**Feast of the Assumption – Office Closed**

Holy Day Masses 12:05 and 5:30 pm

**Thursday, August 17**

12:45 – 5 pm, Eucharistic Adoration

**Sunday, August 20**

11:30 am Mass – Installation of Fr. Comer as pastor

4 pm – Parish picnic at Villa Madonna

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Aug. 13	9:30 am	Jeff Bowling
	11:30 am	Julie Rice
Aug. 14	12:05 pm	Joseph Gehler
Aug. 15	12:05 pm	Parishioners & Memorials
	5:30 pm	Parishioners & Memorials
Aug. 16	12:05 pm	No Mass
Aug. 17	12:05 pm	The Safety of David Sperry
Aug. 18	12:05 pm	Trevor Getty
Aug. 19	12:05 pm	David Mather
Aug. 20	9:30 am	Marie Bitter
	11:30 am	Ed Hunkemoeller

**SCRIPTURE FOR AUGUST 13, 2017:** 1 Kings 19: 9a, 11-13a; Psalm 85; Romans 9: 1-5; Matthew 14: 22-33.

**LET US PRAY FOR OUR SICK**

Les Miley	Hannah Donoghue
Tom Heidrich	Dan Ries
Rose Sketch	Beth Redwine
Pam Neal	Susan Hodge
Robert Gander	Trudy Koehling
Shirley Hensley	Ralph Kunkemoeller
Fr. Ralph Hartman	Margie Huesman
Barry Price	Greg Scanlon
Mary Jo Schwartz	Makayla Borg
Carol Jenkins	Liz Enzweiler
Pat Ruttle	Mertle Cann
Bill Meyer	Fr. Ray Hartman
Greg Dahlenberg	Bob Schroeder
Baby Eli	Rosa Maria Santos