

**AUGUST 26, 2018**  
**21<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**FROM THE PASTOR**  
**LETTER FROM POPE FRANCIS**

As we have watched the new and deeply troubling revelations of sexual abuse and cover up of crimes by leaders and high ranking officials of the Church, we have all hoped for and needed some word from Pope Francis. This past Monday he released a powerful letter addressed to all Catholics throughout the world. I am sure that some of you have read this message from our Holy Father online, but I wanted to make it available to anyone who is interested.

At the exits of the church this weekend are hard copies of the letter for those who would like to take it home to read for themselves. I am also asking that it be put on our website.

Other than expressing my own sadness and anger at these revelations, I am not sure what to say at this point. This situation is absolutely inexcusable, and those who are guilty should be removed from ministry. This includes those who have perpetuated the abuse and those who enabled or covered up their crimes.

Some have stated that they are considering leaving the Church over this, and I certainly understand that. But I ask that you remember that the Church is not primarily the priests or the bishops or even the Pope. It is primarily the laity. This is your Church, and in this time of crisis, I beg of you to claim it more firmly than ever before. Insist that your leaders deal with this effectively and transparently, and insist that laity be intimately involved in the solution.

Pray for your Church and for your priests and bishops, especially those who have not abused anyone or covered up the crimes of others. It is still only a small percentage of priests (less than 5 percent) who are the guilty ones. The vast majority of your priests are good, celibate and dedicated shepherds of God's people.

If any of you wish to speak to me about these matters, please contact me.

**THE LORD'S SUPPER**

Last week in my sermon, I spoke of the Sacrifice of the Mass. In this Sunday's sermon, I will address the Mass as a Sacred Meal, the Lord's Supper. Much of Jesus' ministry took place at meals. In fact, he was accused of being a glutton and a drunkard because of how much time he spent eating and drinking with others. It is very fitting then, that he gave himself to us as food and drink and that it was at a meal (the Passover Seder) that he did so.

The Passover was a very specific type of meal. The lamb that was served had been sacrificed. It had been offered to God. But, it was to be eaten by those taking part in the meal. By eating what had been sacrificed, a

"communion" was created between those who participated and God. This was especially true when what was being shared was a covenant meal. A covenant was a sacred contract or agreement. It was not a written contract, as we would do. Rather the covenant was "cut." It would often involve sacrificing an animal, and then putting some of the blood on each of the participants in the covenant. This created a blood, or family, relationship between the participants.

When one entered into a covenant with God, some of the blood was put on the person, and some of the blood was put on the altar, which represented God. In the Sinai Covenant, after the Ten Commandments and the rest of the Law of Moses was read out, bulls were sacrificed, and the blood was sprinkled on all of the people.

When Jesus gives the cup to the Apostles, he says, "This is the blood of the new and everlasting covenant." When we receive the Eucharist, we enter into Communion with God, and we renew the Covenant of Salvation which Jesus has accomplished for us.

**THE GOSPEL OF LUKE**

This Thursday, August 30, at 11am and at 6:30 pm, we will begin our study of the Gospel of Luke. This Gospel is the first half of a longer work that includes the Acts of the Apostles. After the first of the year, we will resume with a study of the Acts of the Apostles.

Luke is the author of about one-eighth of the entire New Testament. In his Gospel, we learn of the stories of Jesus' birth that we most associate with Christmas—the Annunciation of the birth of Christ to Mary, the birth in a stable in Bethlehem, and the angels appearance to the shepherds. It is often known as the Gospel of the Poor, as Luke tells the story of Jesus from the perspective of the "anawim," or little ones of Israel. Rather than a Sermon on the Mount, we are given a Sermon on the Plain, which contains much of the same material.

As we go through the Gospel, we will study the life and teachings of Jesus and see how they speak to our own time.

I hope that many of you will join us.

**RCIA/CCD**

Are you interested in becoming Catholic? If so, we have begun the convert instruction classes which are commonly known as the RCIA. They meet at 6:30 pm on Tuesdays in the Saint Aloysius Center. You can call the parish office to learn more or just show up at the class.

Do you have a child attending public school in need of religious instruction? Please call the parish office at 859-291-2288.

**SAINT MONICA**

Saint Monica is the mother of Saint Augustine, so it is fitting that we celebrate her feast a day ahead of her

brilliant and important son. She was born in North Africa (Algeria), and was raised as a Catholic. She married a man named Patricius, who was a Roman pagan and a man of violent temper. He resented her devout faith, as did his mother, who was very unkind to Monica. They refused to allow her to have Augustine baptized or raised in the Catholic faith.

Augustine (see the next item) was famously a bit wild in his youth, fathering a child and joining a pagan religious cult of that day. She prayed for him continually and eventually saw him become Catholic, a priest, a bishop and a saint. She is a very popular saint of parents, and especially mothers who are worried about a son or daughter who has fallen away from the faith and who is living a sinful life.

Monica's feast day is this Monday, August 27.

### **SAINT AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO**

On Tuesday, August 28, the Church celebrates the feast of Saint Augustine of Hippo, one the most brilliant and important thinkers and theologians the Church has ever produced. His only peer is Saint Thomas Aquinas. He is the son of Saint Monica (above) and Patricius, a Roman pagan. Not baptized or raised as a Christian, he lived a fairly wild young life. He was brilliant and became a great teacher of rhetoric in his time.

Augustine, as a young man, embraced the teachings of a religion known as Manichaeism. It was a set of beliefs based on the idea that there were two gods—one good and one evil. Eventually, due to the prayers and example of his mother (his own explanation), he met and was instructed by Saint Ambrose and was converted to Christianity. Quickly, his talents were recognized, and he was ordained a priest and a bishop, becoming bishop of Hippo, a city in Northern Africa, which is where he was from.

Saint Augustine is one of the great Fathers of the Church whose writings laid out the philosophical and theological explanations of Christianity that are still the foundation of our faith. His works are voluminous—so much so that it is said that anyone who claims to have read all of Augustine's writings is a liar. He is most famous for the book entitled, *The Confessions of Saint Augustine*, which tells the story of his life and his conversion.

### **THE PASSION OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST**

Saint John the Baptist played such a significant role in the salvation won for us by Christ that he is one of the very few New Testament figures who has more than one feast. We celebrate his birth on the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist and his death on this feast, the Passion of Saint John the Baptist. The birth of John was preparation for the birth of Jesus, and the death of John was preparation for the death of Jesus. Jesus' teachings took a much darker turn after he learned of the

martyrdom of John. It seems that it became very clear to him how his own mission and ministry would end.

John, of course, was the great fiery preacher, in the spirit of Elijah, who challenged King Herod because of his marriage to his sister-in-law Herodias. Strangely enough, Herod was fascinated by John and would sneak down into the dungeons to hear John preach. His heart was moved, but he did not have the strength to repent and turn back to God. Herodias loathed John and wanted him dead. One night she had her opportunity. Her daughter, Solome danced (most likely very provocatively) before a drunken Herod and his guests. Herod was so caught up in his lust that he promised anything, up to half of his kingdom, as a gift for the girl. Her mother prevailed upon her to ask for the head of John the Baptist on a platter. (Personally, I think I would have gone with the half of the kingdom thing.) Although he regretted doing so, he could not back down without losing face with his guests. He ordered John beheaded, and his head was brought to the girl who gave it to her mother.

### **FORMED**

I have heard from a few people that they are having problems getting onto FORMED. If you are having a problem, call Judy at the office, and she can give you a number for tech support, where hopefully they can help you.

If you have not watched the series *Presence*, which is on the Eucharist, I again want to recommend it. Also there is a series entitled *The Bible and the Virgin Mary* that appears to be very good, though I have not watched much of it.

If you are looking for some spiritual reading, the book *Abandonment to Divine Providence* is one that I have read many times. The simplicity and profundity of this book is truly amazing. Go to READ, scroll down to Prayer and Devotion, and scroll over to this book. I highly recommend it.

## **PARISH NEWS**

**FAIR TRADE COFFEE, TEA AND COCOA SALE** next Sunday in the hall between 10:30 and 11:30 am.

**BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP:** For those who have lost a loved one, a bereavement support group is being formed at Mother of God Parish. This will be a nine-week program held on Saturday mornings starting September 8 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 materials is \$10.

**PARISH PICNIC PHOTO CONTEST:** Thanks to all who participated in the Parish Picnic Photo Contest. Fifty-nine photos were submitted, a record number. Here are the winners:

“**People’s Choice**” popular-vote: Aaron Duesing, \$25 Graeter’s gift card.

“**Adult**” category, judged photos:

First place, Aaron Duesing, \$25 gift certificate from Mpix photo-print service.

Second place, Carole Johnston, \$20 gift card from MacKenzie River Pizza.

Third place, Aaron Duesing, \$10 gift card from Carrabbas.

“**Youth**” category (age 15 and under), judged photos:

First place, Adair Dooley, \$25 gift card from LaRosa’s.

Second place, Adair Dooley, \$20 gift card from MacKenzie River Pizza.

Third place, Adair Dooley, \$10 gift card from Carrabbas.

The photos will be on display in the church hall for the next two Sundays. Photographers can take their photos home after Mass on Sunday, Sept 2.

Thanks to the judges, Joan Miley and Bob Stevie. They had a hard job. Thanks to the photo-contest organizers: David Ziser, LaDawn Ziser, David Crotty, Dave Boyle.

**SVdP BUNDLE SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 9, 2018:**

Clean out those closets. Say goodbye to those old clothes and unused items. St. Vincent de Paul Society will have a truck in the west parking lot on Sunday, September 9, before and after both Masses, for you to deposit all those unwanted items. And please keep us in mind when you are buying those growing kids’ new clothes, shoes, and other items for the upcoming school year. Bring us all the “too small” and “can’t use” gently used items. There are lots of families in the area who depend on your generosity to get their children ready for school. We can also accept small pieces of furniture and household items and clothing. Microwaves, luggage, lamps, end tables, dishes, bedding, towels, etc. Sorry, we cannot accept large appliances, TVs or computers.

**PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS.** Wednesday, October 17, 2018. Join your friends of Mother of God parish and spend a day at Keeneland Race Track in Lexington, Kentucky. Bus will board from Mother of God Parking Lot at 9:45 am so we can be on the road by 10 am. Snacks and refreshments will be available on the bus. Reserved seats in Grand Stand section. Just \$60 per person. Return home after last race and dinner in Lexington. More details to come.

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

**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! If interested, please see us in the back of church after Masses this summer at the New Parishioner registration table, or call the parish office, or email Mary Ann Kelly at [kellymaryg@fuse.net](mailto:kellymaryg@fuse.net).

**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 859-291-2288 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 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.

<b>SUNDAY COLLECTION</b>	<b>August 19, 2018</b>
Envelopes	\$7,841.00
Loose	\$ 616.00
Online Giving	\$ 517.20

<b>TOTAL COLLECTION</b>	<b>\$8,974.20</b>
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**Holy Day 8-15-18 Collection \$1,305.00**

**FORMED**

Recently, we began subscribing to a wonderful online program, entitled FORMED, that provides a wide range of Catholic materials. There are video programs, including Bible studies and studies of the Catholic faith, movies, books and audio programs. This is free for our parish members. It is easy to sign up for FORMED:

1. On your computer, phone or tablet, go to [motherofgod119.formed.org](http://motherofgod119.formed.org).
2. Click register, and enter your name, email, zip code, and your preferred password.
3. You are now ready to access the many options provided by FORMED.

## DIOCESAN NEWS

**TODAY DOMESTIC NEEDS COLLECTION:** The Catholic Campaign Human Development helps fund groups that create lasting change to our poor in the United States. Our poorer parishes in our diocese are classified as Home Missions. Many dioceses right here in the United States do not have enough priests to serve poorer parishes and cannot provide for the needs of their parish communities. These parishes are helped through our Catholic Home Missions Appeal. The Catholic Communication Campaign is how we get the *Good News* to you through various means of networking. The collection for the Black and Indian Missions help our Black Americans with tuition aid and registration fees for school and helps to maintain a Catholic presence within our Black faith community. The Catholic University and Thomas More College bring success and experience while educating students in the spirit of faith. Please give to the Domestic Needs Combined Collection. Your prayers and generosity will help your brothers and sisters throughout the United States. Remember your one gift supports six Collections.

**CASA FOR KIDS:** Court-appointed special advocates for children. CASA is seeking volunteers to provide advocacy for abused and neglected children who are under the jurisdiction of the Kenton, Campbell and Pendleton County Family Court System. Our organization trains, supervises, and supports volunteers in this important work. Join us for an informational meeting on Thursday, September 13 at 5:30 pm at 303 Court Street, Room 410, Covington, KY. For more information or to sign up, please contact Jennifer Houser at 859-392-1792 or [Jennifer@casaforkidsnky.org](mailto:Jennifer@casaforkidsnky.org).

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PRAYER

**BREAKFAST:** September 8, at the Southgate Community Center. Mass at 8:15 am, at St. Therese Church, 11 Temple Place, Southgate, KY. Prayer breakfast at 9 am at Southgate Community Center, 301 Walnut St., Southgate, KY. Theme is "Keeping the Mercy of Christ in Governance." RSVP by Sept. 2 by contacting Jim Hamberg at 859-781-1658. Cost is \$15 at the door or \$12 in advance.

**SCRIPTURE FOR AUGUST 26, 2018:** Joshua 24: 1-2a, 15-17, 18b; Psalm 34; Ephesians 5: 21-32; Gospel: John 6: 60-69.

## CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

### Sunday, August 26

9:30 am Mass Ladies Altar Society  
Domestic Needs Collection  
Blood pressure taken in Hall after both Masses

### Tuesday, August 28

6:30 pm RCIA (SAC)  
7 pm St. Vincent de Paul Mtg. (Hall)

### Thursday, August 30

11 am Bible Study (Church)  
12:45 pm Eucharistic Adoration  
6:30 pm Bible Study (Church)

### Sunday, September 2

Fair Trade Coffee, Tea and Cocoa Sale  
10:30 to 11:30 am in Hall

## MASS INTENTIONS

August 26	9:30 am	Pete Laber
	11:30 am	Joseph Schulte
August 27	12:05 pm	Frank & Helen Wilbers
August 28	12:05 pm	LaSalette Class of 1953 65 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary (L)
August 29	12:05 pm	No Mass
August 30	12:05 pm	Thelma Foltz
August 31	12:05 pm	Joseph H. Legner, Sr. Charles Kallmeyer, Sr.
Sept. 1	12:05 pm	Wilbur Turney
Sept. 2	9:30 am	Jennie Wong Wiehoff
	11:30 am	Chuck Legner

## HYMNS FOR 9:30 AM MASS

568	Lord of All Hopefulness
Psalm	Taste and see the goodness of the Lord
736	You Satisfy the Hungry Heart
727	Let Us Break Bread Together
525	Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

## LET US PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Les Miley	Hannah Donoghue
Tom Heidrich	Trudy Koehling
Pam Neal	Ralph Kunkemoeller
Shirley Hensley	Margie Huesman
Fr. Ray Hartman	Tom Donoghue
Fr. Ralph Hartman	Jill Felix
Kelly Bowman	Becky MacIntyre
Ann Jurgens	Greg Scanlon
Ed Salzer	Nancy Salzer
Rachel Hub	Dan Lewin
Paige Kellam	William Fredie
Elaine Fedders	Jerry Shroat
Pete & Pat Wiedemann	Bob Imbus
Jack Kearns	Christy Egan
Richard Kearns	Brent Garten
Robert Shircliff	Connie Gillum