

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 2017**  
**21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**FROM THE PASTOR**

**TU ES PETRUS**

Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome is, like most churches, in the form of a Cross. At the meeting place of the main aisle and the two arms of the Cross is the Papal Altar. Standing around the altar, if you look up, you see the largest dome in the world, which was designed and installed by Michelangelo. Around the base of the dome, in huge letters, is written: "TU ES PETRUS ET SUPER HANC PETRUM AEDIFICABO ECCLESIAM MEUM ET TIBI DABO CLAVES REGNI CAELORUM." In English this is, "You are Peter, and upon this Rock I will build my Church, and to you I will give the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven".

The Gospel for this Sunday is the story of Peter's Confession of Faith ("You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God") and the institution of the papacy, as Jesus gives to Peter and to his successors the Keys to the Kingdom of Heaven. In giving the keys to Peter, Jesus is giving Peter his own authority to bind and unbind. Peter and his successors, the popes, will be the representatives, the Vicars of Christ, who will rule and teach and act in Christ's name, and with Christ's authority.

This Petrine ministry is the rock on which Christ has built his Church and is Christ's guarantee that the forces of evil and hatred will never be victorious over the Church.

Let us pray for Pope Francis, as he faithfully carries out this incredible responsibility that has been placed upon his shoulders. May he have the love and the support of the people of God throughout the world.

**LISTENING SESSIONS**

We have held two listening sessions in the past few weeks, and they have been incredibly helpful and informative for me. Actually, after the one last night my head is still swimming with all of the information that I received. It will take a while to process it all.

I would like to have a session with the deaf community on Sunday, September 10, immediately after the 11:30 a.m. Mass. And I would like to have the first general listening session on Monday, September 11, at 6:30 pm, in the church undercroft. This one will not be focused on any particular topic or area of concern and is open to anyone. If you cannot make this session, that is okay, because I will be holding more general listening sessions.

I look forward to hearing from you.

It is not necessary to wait for a listening session. You may call or text me at 859-816-3198, or email me at

mcomer@mother-of-god.org, if you wish to communicate with me.

**MUCH GRATITUDE!!!!**

Last Sunday was a wonderful day, with the celebration of my installation as pastor of Mother of God Church, and our parish picnic.

I am very grateful to Bishop Foys for assigning me to be your pastor and for being here to celebrate the installation itself. As he and I both noted, we have become good friends in the 15 years that he has been our bishop, and we enjoy being with one another greatly. He has been very good to me, and I truly appreciate this latest act of kindness, making me pastor of Mother of God. Thank you also to the priests who were here and Deacon Hudson Henry.

There were so many people involved in the liturgy, who I want to thank, that I am sure I will forget someone. If I do, please forgive me. The music group did a marvelous job, as they always do. Thank you to Teresa Bowman, our sacristan, our servers, readers, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, ushers, etc.

I also want to express my appreciation to all who were involved in putting together the parish picnic, which doubled as the reception for my installation. It was a lot of fun, and everyone was so affirming and supportive. Thank you to all who did the planning and set up and all who came out for the picnic.

**HATRED, VIOLENCE, TERRORISM, AND WAR**

Charlottesville. Barcelona. Afghanistan.

Wherever we look, we see that our world is deeply troubled and filled with hatred, violence, terrorism and war. Should we despair? No!!! That is not who we are as a people.

These terrible scourges have unfortunately been part of the human condition from the moment of the expulsion of our first parents from the Garden of Eden, and the murder of Abel by his brother Cain. Jesus has told us that there will be wars and rumors of wars until the end of time. The Book of Revelation shows us that even the final days of this world will be a time of great war and violence.

But God wins! Good wins! Love wins! This we must remember and cling to.

This past week we all experienced the eclipse. In this area we saw most of the sun disappear as it was eclipsed by the moon. Not too far to the south of us, the eclipse was complete. It looked as though the sun had been defeated, and the light had been extinguished. But it had not. The same is true for evil. Sometimes it appears that evil has been or will be triumphant, but that triumph will be illusory and temporary. As Easter followed Good Friday, so the victory of good will follow the apparent victory of evil.

I am always amazed at the lengths that some people will go to in order to inflict pain and suffering on others. Are good people, Christian people, Catholic people, willing to go to the same lengths to bring healing and compassion, forgiveness and love into the world? The victory over evil will be accomplished by holiness.

I have heard people (usually self-servingly) state that this is an age in which we must take sides (their side). In a sense, they are right. We must choose to be hot or cold for Christ. Remember what he said about those who are lukewarm. I will vomit you out of my mouth. We must choose to be people of mercy, compassion, forgiveness and love. We must choose the path of peace.

### **MAY THEY REST IN PEACE**

Please pray for the repose of Peggy Meadows and Lawrence Schell, who were buried from Mother of God Church this past week. Peggy's funeral was on Saturday, August 19, and Lawrence's funeral was on Tuesday, August 22. Pray also for the comfort and consolation of their families and friends.

### **SEMINARIAN FROM MOTHER OF GOD**

At the Masses this weekend, it was announced that Devin Hefferman, son of Steve and Jane Hefferman, has been accepted as a seminarian for the Diocese of Covington. Devin grew up here at Mother of God and received all of his sacraments here. We are very proud to have this young man representing our parish and preparing to serve God and the Church as a priest.

Devin will be attending Franciscan University in Steubenville, OH, this year, and then will transfer to the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus for the rest of his undergraduate studies.

Please keep Devin and all of our seminarians in your prayers.

### **SAINT AUGUSTINE**

Throughout the 2,000 years of the Church's existence, she has produced some incredibly brilliant writers, thinkers, and leaders. The two greatest of the Church's many brilliant theologians are Saint Thomas Aquinas and Saint Augustine. Their writings have been more influential on the development of the understanding of the faith than any other writings, except the Bible itself. This Monday, August 28, the Church celebrates the feast of Saint Augustine.

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

Tuesday, August 26, is the Feast of the Passion of Saint John the Baptist. John is one of only a very few saints who has more than one feast day (the Blessed Mother, Saint Joseph and Peter and Paul). His importance to the Gospel story is so great that the Church celebrates the feast of his birth and his death.

John's birth prepared the way for the birth of Christ, and John's death prepared the way for Christ's death. John's entire life was about Jesus. He even states at one point, "I must decrease, and he must increase." We could spend the rest of our lives meditating on that sentence and learning how to live it out in our own lives.

### **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, in the church hall. 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 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.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Confessions on **Tuesdays at 11:15 am**, and **Saturdays, from 11 am**, until time of Mass at 12:05 pm.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Monday, September 4, is Labor Day. There will be Mass at 10 am. The office will be closed.

**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.

**PARISH PICNIC PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS:**

First Place: Carol Fausz - "Colors"

Second Place: Linda Holland - "Harmony"

Third Place: Mark Manacyk - "The Journey Begins"

Best Use of Theme: Loving Life:

Kathy Menne - "Hanging Around with Friends"

Best of Show: Chuck Eilerman - "City Spires"

Peoples' Choice: Gary Menne - "Loving Nature and Loving Life"

The parish picnic was a good time, and we want to express thanks to all who helped put this event together. Thank YOU!

**BLOOD PRESSURES** will be taken today after both Mass in the hall.

**HEALTH AND WELLNESS:** Medicare Basics Class is for anyone who is new to Medicare or wants to learn more about Medicare benefits.

Wed. October 18 10 am-1 pm Lunch provided

Wed. October 25 10 am-1 pm Lunch provided

Brighton Center Board Room, 700 Ann St. Newport, KY  
Call 859-491-8303, ext. 2334 to register.

Class size limited

**STROKE & CARDIOVASCULAR SCREENING**

**VAN** will be in Mother of God east parking lot on Wednesday, August 30, from 9 am to 1 pm.

Registration is required. Call 859-301-9355. Cost is \$25 per screening.

**CATHOLIC PERSPECTIVE:** "A Catholic Perspective—Understanding and Preparing for End-of-Life Decisions," Wednesday, September 13, at 7 pm, at St. Agnes' Murphy Hall. The evening will be presented by Fr. Ray Enzweiler. Topics covered will be Living Wills, Advance Directives, Extraordinary vs. Ordinary Care. This evening is hosted by St. Agnes Pro-Life Committee. Free and open to the public. Reservation are encouraged by September 8, calling the Pro-Life Office at 859-392-1500, ext.1546, or emailing Peggy Piccola at [ppiccola@covdio.org](mailto:ppiccola@covdio.org).

**PARISH REGISTRATION:** If you have been attending or visiting Mother of God Church and wish to join our parish community, parish registration cards are available at the table in the back of church by the Pieta statue. You may fill out the card there or take it home and later drop it in the collection basket. Or to register via email, call the office at 291-2288.

**MASS INTENTIONS** are a wonderful way to remember a deceased or living loved one. The Mass stipend is \$10. You may stop at the table by the Pieta Statue to sign up for Mass intentions or call the office at 291-2288.

**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.

**SAVE THE DATE: Saturday October 28, 2017, at 4 pm.** Mass in German 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 you will be kept up-to-date with progress and most likely requests for your participation

*Dear Friends at Mother of God Church,  
On behalf of the Parish Kitchen and the guests who dine there each day, we want to offer you heartfelt thanks for your generous donation to the "Crop for the Kitchen." Your kindness in allowing us to host the event in the undercroft was much appreciated and helped us to have a wonderful event! The money we raised was very much appreciated by the folks at the Parish Kitchen, and we couldn't do it without the help of the fabulous people in our community like you!  
Thanks again for your kindness, Angie & Katie*

SUNDAY COLLECTION	AUGUST 20, 2017
Envelopes	\$8,366.00
Loose	\$431.00
Online Giving	\$501.55
<b>TOTAL COLLECTION</b>	<b>\$9,298.55</b>

**Feast of the Assumption Collection:** \$1,320.00

**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 helps 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.

**DR. SCOTT HAHN LIVE AT ST. CECILIA CHURCH, INDEPENDENCE, KY!** Join St. Cecilia Parish in Independence, KY, for a one-day speaking event with world-renowned speaker, Dr. Scott Hahn. The former Presbyterian minister, who once spoke against the Catholic faith, is now a prolific Roman Catholic author and professor at the Franciscan University of Steubenville OH, where he has taught for over 23 years. His conversion story and unique perspective as minister and scripture scholar have helped many to discover or re-affirm their faith with a new love and appreciation. Dr. Hahn's visit to Independence, KY, is currently the only one scheduled in the Tri-state area for his 2017-2018 appearances. Make plans now to join us on Saturday, September 9, from 10:30 am to 3:30 pm, (doors open at 9:30 am) for this special day! Admission tickets are \$20 pre-paid and include give-away materials and journals, boxed lunch w/deli sandwich, chips, cookie, and a drink. Additional snacks and drinks will be available for purchase throughout the day. Get your tickets online at: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/dr-scott-hahn-one-day-speaking-event-tickets...> or contact the church office for more details at [859-363-4311](tel:859-363-4311).

**PRO-LIFE NEWS:** Sunday, September 10, Northern Kentucky Right to Life is sponsoring its 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration for Life at The Gardens of Park Hills. Speaker this year is Meg Peez, regional coordinator for Silent No More Awareness Campaign. Doors open at 1:15 pm, and Pro-Life Film is at 1:30 pm. Refreshments and exhibits at 2 pm, and speaker at 2:30 pm. Tickets are \$10 available at the door. Free child care is available.

#### **CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK**

##### **Sunday, August 27**

9:30 am, Mass Ladies Altar Society  
Domestic Needs Collection  
St. Vincent de Paul Bundle Sunday Collection in west parking lot

##### **Thursday, August 31**

12:45 – 5 pm, Eucharistic Adoration

#### **MASS INTENTIONS**

Aug. 27	9:30 am	Bob & Shirley Pitts
	11:30 am	.Bernard & Marjorie Ralenkotter
Aug. 28	12:05 pm	Ian Willett
Aug. 29	12:05 pm	Jennie Wong Wiehoff
Aug. 30	12:05 pm	No Mass
Aug. 31	12:05 pm	The Santel Family
Sept. 1	12:05 pm	Ed Hunkemoeller
Sept. 2	12:05 pm	Tony & Mary Wirtz
Sept. 3	9:30 am	Jean Teipel
	11:30 am	Don Sigl

**SCRIPTURE FOR AUGUST 27, 2017:** Isaiah 22: 19-23; Psalm 138; Romans 11: 33-36; Matthew 16: 13-20

#### **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	Mertle Cann
Pat Ruttle	Fr. Ray Hartman
Bill Meyer	Bob Schroeder
Greg Dahlenberg	Rosa Maria Santos
Baby Eli	Joe Lawler
Becky MacIntyre	