

AUGUST 5, 2018
18th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FROM THE PASTOR
GATHER THE PEOPLE

I have heard the Mass described as, "Gather the people. Tell the stories. Break the bread." Not a bad summary of what the Mass is all about. As we go through the Mass over these six weeks, we will begin with the beginning--the gathering of the people.

Please remember that the Second Vatican Council called for all of the faithful to be able to fully, actively and consciously participate in the liturgy and stated that this full, active and conscious participation is required if we are to truly enter into the Mass and receive the whole benefit that it provides. Recall also the four ways in which Christ is present in each Mass—in the assembly, in the priest, who acts in persona Christi, in the Word, and in the Eucharistic elements.

The Mass begins with the Introductory Rites. These are also called the Gathering Rites, or the Preparatory Rites. They are intended to gather us and to prepare us for that full, active and conscious participation in the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. I will be addressing each of these this Sunday.

These Introductory Rites include: 1) The Entrance Procession/Entrance Song, 2) The Greeting, 3) the Penitential Rite, 4) the Gloria, and the Opening Prayer (or Collect). Each has the responsibility to gather us from a bunch of individuals into a community and to prepare our hearts for full, active and conscious participation in the Liturgy of the Word and of the Eucharist.

I will probably wear out the phrase "full, active and conscious participation" over the next few weeks. That is by design. Although I told you last week that the Mass is not something that we do, but is something that Christ does, I also told you that we participate in this work of Christ. (The Greek word *liturgia*, which we translate as liturgy, means "work.") This takes work on our part, if we are to participate in a way that we find transformative, healing, and uplifting. No one who fully, actively, and consciously participates in the Mass will ever say, "The Mass is boring. I don't get anything out of it."

RCIA, FIRST RECONCILIATION, FIRST COMMUNION, CONFIRMATION, CCD

We will soon begin religious education classes for RCIA (for those interested in becoming Catholic), for First Reconciliation and First Communion (2nd grade), for Confirmation (7th and 8th grades), and for CCD (students in public school from 1st to 6th grades. If you are interested in any of these for yourself or for your children, please contact the parish office at 859-291-2288 as soon as possible.

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

This Monday, August 6, is the feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord. Jesus had already been preparing the Apostles for his death in Jerusalem, and this has created a terrible spiritual crisis for them. They believed that Jesus was the Messiah, but the Messiah was not supposed to die. Had they backed the wrong person? There had been other figures emerge who claimed to be the Messiah, but they were proven false when the Romans executed them. Now Jesus is telling them that he, too, would be executed. What were they to make of this?

It was within that context that Jesus took Peter, James and John up onto Mount Tabor. There he was transfigured, and they saw him in his glory—the same glory that they would see when he rose from the dead. They also saw Moses (the great Lawgiver, and Elijah, the great Prophet). What you and I call the Old Testament, the Jews called the Law and the Prophets. Their presence on the mountain, talking to Jesus, was confirmation that Jesus truly was the fulfillment of the Old Testament. Finally, there was the great cloud. This was the same cloud that led the Hebrews through the desert and was the cloud of glory that filled the Temple with the presence of God. From this cloud come the words of God the Father, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him."

Like the Apostles, we all would like a faith that spares us from the Cross. The Cross is all of those things that we fear—death, judgment, loss, sickness, pain, etc. We want God to promise that if we are faithful to him, then we will not have to go through that suffering. Pain and suffering can be a challenge to our faith, making us doubt God's love and his power. But Jesus never told us that he would carry the Cross so that we would not have to carry our own Crosses. In fact, he told us that we must be willing to take up our Crosses and follow him every day.

The Transfiguration is a promise that, if we faithfully carry our Crosses, in union with Christ, then we will share in the glory that was his. The saints tell us that no one becomes holy without great suffering. Those who accept the suffering that is part of everyone's life, in union with the sufferings of Christ, are made wise and virtuous by those sufferings. Saint Paul wrote, "I make up in my body what is lacking in the sufferings of Christ." So our suffering, with Christ, becomes redemptive for ourselves and others. Those who reject or try to run away from the necessary suffering of life are crushed and embittered by that suffering.

Jesus does not teach us how to avoid suffering. He teaches us how to suffer, in union with himself.

FORMED

I hope that many of you are signing up for and using the FORMED program. If you have not, simple instructions for doing so are found elsewhere in the bulletin.

Since I am doing a six-week teaching on the Mass, with a particular focus on the presence of Christ in the Mass, I recommend that you look at the series on the Mass entitled "PRESENCE." Go to STUDY, and then click on PRESENCE. There are three videos, plus other materials on the Eucharist. I think that these videos will be a good supplement to what I am doing on Sunday.

SAINT DOMINIC

Saint Dominic, the founder of the Order of Preachers, or Dominicans, was a contemporary of Saint Francis of Assisi. He was originally from Spain and was very involved in preaching against the heresy of the Cathars, which was very influential at that time. He gathered other men around him training them in preaching, but also in holiness.

His feast day is this Wednesday, August 8.

SAINT TERESA BENEDICTA OF THE CROSS

Edith Stein, a German Jewish philosopher, converted to Catholicism and became a discolced Carmelite.

Although she was raised in an observant Jewish family, she became an atheist by her teens. After becoming a scholar and a philosopher, she read the works of Saint Theresa of Avila, the founder of the Carmelite order. She was led to become a Catholic and a member of the Carmelites by the influence of Saint Theresa, even taking her name when she entered the convent.

As the Nazi threat began to grow in Germany, it became dangerous for Teresa and her sister (also a Carmelite sister), even though they had converted to Catholicism. They were sent by their order to a convent in the Netherlands. Of course, Germany also invaded the Netherlands and began a fierce persecution of the Jews there. They also commanded the arrest of Jewish converts to Christianity, who had until then been spared. Teresa and her sister were arrested and eventually taken to Auschwitz. They, along with many others, were killed in one of the large gas chambers there on August 9, 1942.

Teresa is recognized as a martyr of the Church and was canonized in 1998 by Pope John Paul II.

The Church honors Saint Teresa of Benedicta this Thursday, August 9.

SAINT CLARE OF ASSISI

Saint Clare was a young girl living in the city of Assisi. She was from a very well-to-do family. Saint Francis, in these early days of his new life, would come into the city and would sing and dance and preach about Christ. Several of the young men of the town left their homes and their fortunes to join with Francis in his life of

radical poverty and dedication to the Gospel. A very devout young woman, Clare, was very drawn to this life as well.

A few years later, Clare and Francis made arrangements for her to meet him and his brothers outside of town. There she dedicated herself to following the Rule of Saint Francis. He cut her hair, which was the outward sign of a woman giving up her life to become a bride of Christ. Because it was not suitable for her to live with the brothers, Francis had made arrangements for her to live in a nearby Benedictine convent. Other young women, including Clare's sister and mother, eventually joined the group.

Francis asked the local bishop to give his order a place in or near Assisi, where he could bring these first Franciscan sisters to live. He gave him the church of San Damiano and the adjoining buildings. San Damiano (Saint Damian) is the church in which Francis was praying when he saw the image of Jesus on the Cross come alive and speak to him: "Francis, see how my Church is falling into ruin. Rebuild my Church." The mother house for the Poor Clares, as they are known, is still there at San Damiano.

The Poor Clares live the same life of evangelical poverty as the Franciscan friars, but they are a contemplative order unlike the friars who live in the world and are involved in active ministry. They are cloistered, not leaving the convent except in extraordinary circumstances.

Clare was known for her dedication to the Eucharist, and perhaps the most famous story about Clare involves the Blessed Sacrament. There was a Muslim army that was marching onto Assisi, and Clare took the Blessed Sacrament, in a monstrance, to the roof of the convent and held it up toward the approaching army while the sisters gathered around her praying. For some unknown reason, but attributed to the power of Christ in the Eucharist, the army stopped its progress and left without attacking the city.

The Church honors Saint Clare on this Saturday, August 11, the anniversary of her death in 1253.

PARISH NEWS

NOTICE: Hearing Impaired Devices Available. Please see an usher if you need one.

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.

TODAY FAIR TRADE COFFEE AND TEA items will be for sale in the undercroft after 9:30 Mass from 10:30-11:30.

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!

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.

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.

ALL ARE WELCOME to our **Parish Picnic** on **Sunday, August 19**, 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. We hope you can join us!

2018 MOG PHOTO CONTEST – takes place at our Parish Picnic, August 19. It's time to start thinking about the **8th Annual Photo Contest**. This year's theme will be "**LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL!**" Deadline for entries is August 19 after the 11:30 Mass. Entry forms and contest guidelines will be available at the back of church Sundays after both Masses. **David Ziser: 859-250-8855** and **Dave Boyle: 859-426-9122** will be coordinating the event this year, so please give them a call with any questions. *Good Luck!*

STROKE & CARDIOVASCULAR SCREENINGS at Mother of God Church, from 8 am to noon, on Wednesday, August 8. Screenings are \$25 each. Registration is required. Call 859-301-9355 to schedule an appointment.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES NEEDS YOUR HELP! Parish members and volunteers from Catholic Charities will be in the back of church to promote their upcoming fundraiser by selling raffle tickets, August 12, after both Masses. The raffle tickets are \$20 each, and the Grand

Prize is 30 percent of total ticket sales. Tickets can also be purchased on line at www.covingtoncharities.org. All proceeds for this event benefit the clients being served through Catholic Charities. **Thank you for your support!**

MINISTRY MORNING PROGRAM: Sister Barbara Woeste has organized a Ministry Morning of Formation for liturgical ministers and parish volunteers on Saturday, September 8, at the Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium, 1125 Madison Ave., Covington, KY, from 9:30 am to noon. The presenter will be Mrs. Jeanne Hunt, and she will speak about Dorothy Day. This program counts for professional enrichment. Reservations are required by August 31. Please contact Trisha Brundage at 859-431-2060 or tbrundage@covcathedral.com

TAKE SOME TIME TO REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE AND WHY YOU'RE HERE. Theology professor and Bellarmine parishioner Gillian Ahlgren will be leading a spiritual immersion experience in Assisi this coming September 1-9, 2018. As we reconstruct the political turbulence and violence that impacted both St. Francis and St. Clare, we will gain both a deeper appreciation of their quest for simplicity and spiritual authenticity in challenging times and a new mirror in which to see ourselves and our world. Gillian is the author of *The Tenderness of God: Reclaiming Our Humanity*, and her spiritual immersions have had a deep impact on participants over the past 10 years. For more information, please call (513) 633-1842. A complete itinerary and other information is available at www.mysticallife.org.

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, or call the parish office, or email Mary Ann Kelly at kellymaryg@fuse.net.

We extend our sincere sympathy to the family and friends of Kevin Doll who passed away recently. We lift you up in prayer, and may God hold Kevin close to Him.

SUNDAY COLLECTION	July 29, 2018
Envelopes	\$6,641.00
Loose	\$ 401.00
Online Giving	\$ 180.00
TOTAL COLLECTION	\$7,222.00

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.
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.

Early on I mentioned the video series *Symbolon*. If you have not checked that out yet, I encourage you to do so. In short videos, this series provides a complete introduction to the Catholic faith. You can watch it from beginning to end, or find a certain topic that you would like to know more about and just watch that video.

Saint Paul tells us that Christ wants us to not only be disciples but competent disciples. Who of us can say that we are sufficiently equipped with an understanding of our Catholic faith to call ourselves competent? The reality is that the Catholic faith is the best kept secret from the Catholic people that there is.

CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOR 75TH JUBILEE:

Celebration dinner at 6 pm on Friday, August 24. Cost is \$30 per person in advance. RSVP by August 20. To make a reservation, please call Sr. Janet Bucher at 859-491-5872.

DIOCESAN NEWS

ROSARY RALLY: A national Rosary rally is coming to America! On October 7, Catholics will gather across the United States to pray the rosary for our country, wracked by moral decay and spiritual decline.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Burlington is one of the 400 prayer sites already registered, and the Rosary Coast-to-Coast at the Grotto of the Two Hearts begins at 4 pm. Bishop Roger Foys has given his permission for this event.

WOMEN'S RETREAT: September 21-23 at St. Anne Retreat Center in Melbourne, KY. All are welcome! Deacon Dave Profitt is leading the retreat, and the topic is "Upon This Rock, Why the Church Matters." Have

you ever struggled with how to talk about your Catholic faith to your friends and your family? "Upon This Rock" is a retreat to help explain the truth of the Catholic faith and perhaps help bring those who have left the Church home again. *The deadline to register is September 7.* To register, go to stanneretreatcenter.org or contact Laura Fagin at lfagin@covdio.org.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, August 5

Fair Trade and Coffee sale in Hall from 10:30 to 11:30 am

Wednesday, August 8

8 am to noon Cardiovascular van in parking lot

Thursday, August 9

12:45 pm Eucharistic Adoration

MASS INTENTIONS

August 5	9:30 am	Rev. William Neuroth
	11:30 am	Mary Silva
August 6	12:05 pm	Peter Laber
August 7	12:05 pm	Bob Imbus
August 8	12:05 pm	No Mass
August 9	12:05 pm	Kathryn Hagedorn
August 10	12:05 pm	Joan McClure
August 11	12:05 pm	David Burks
August 12	9:30 am	The Imbus Family
	11:30 am	Chuck Legner

SCRIPTURE FOR AUGUST 5, 2018: Exodus 16:

2-4,12-15; Psalm 78; Ephesians 4:17, 20-24;

Gospel: John 6: 24-35

HYMNS FOR 9:30 A.M. MASS

568	Lord of All Hopefulness
Response	The Lord gave them bread from heaven.
609	The King of Love My Shepherd Is
523	Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence
535	God, We Praise You

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	Nancy Salzer
Krista Kentley	Lou Brewer
Ed Salzer	Dan Lewin
Carolyn James	William Fredie
Rachel Hub	Jerry Shroat
Paige Kellam	Bob Imbus
Pete & Pat Wiedeman	Christy Egan
Elaine Fedders	