

Church of the Incarnation

240 Main Street, Mantua, NJ 08051

Parish Office 856-468-1314 * PREP Office 856-468-7566

Visit us at www.incarnation-church.org



Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time * August 31, 2025

We come together as a Christian community to minister the Gospel of Christ

PARISH STAFF

Reverend Stephen J Rapposelli
Pastor

Reverend Shaji Muttathottil
Parochial Vicar

Thomas F. O'Brien
Deacon

Peter Traum
Deacon

Phil Curran
Deacon

Mr. & Mrs. Casey Corigliano
Directors of Music

Mr. Gerald Voltura
Director of Faith Formation

Mrs. Patricia Houwen
Business Manager

PARISH MEMBERSHIP

Welcome!

Please register at the parish office or online by visiting our website at www.incarnation-church.org.

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday - Friday.....7 a.m. and 8:30 a.m.

(No 7 a.m. Mass from Memorial Day through early September)

Saturday.....8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Vigil Mass)

Sunday.....7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m..

Holy Days.....5 p.m. (Vigil Mass)

7 a.m., 8:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Holy Day

Eucharistic Adoration.....Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

BAPTISM

Baptisms are held every Sunday and some Saturdays at 1:00 pm. Baptism Preparation Sessions are held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month via Zoom. Please call the office for an appointment.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confessions are heard Monday through Saturday following the 8:30 A.M. Mass and on Saturdays from 4:00 P.M. to 4:30 P.M. in church or by appointment.

CARE OF SICK

Arrangements should be made through the parish office for home visits with the Eucharist for the sick and elderly. The office should be contacted for the Sacrament of the Sick.

SACRAMENTAL SPONSORSHIP

Sponsors for Baptism or Confirmation must:

Be a registered member of a Catholic parish

Be at least 16 years of age

Received Sacraments of Initiation:

Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation

If married, according to the laws of the Catholic Church

Sunday, August 31 ***Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time***

Luke 14:1, 7-14

Jesus went to share a meal with one of the leading Pharisees when he noticed other guests competing for places of honor at the table. He warned that a guest who takes the place of honor may be asked to move to the lowest place. Yet a guest who takes the lowest place is honored when a better position is offered by their host. He then added, "He who humbles himself will be exalted."

Mass Intentions

Saturday, August 30

8:30am Terry Gannon r/b Gannon Family
5:00pm Dominic Quattrocchi r/b Bob & Rita Hale

Sunday, August 31

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30am Marie & Thomas Collins
r/b daughters Betty & Brenda
9:30am Rita Caltabiano r/b Grace Romeo
John Gillespie r/b Lisa Nardello
Frank & Marie Anello (70th Wedding Anniversary)
r/b Bill & Diane Kelly
Roy Reddy r/b Vangala Family
Richard White
r/b Incarnation Priests, Deacons & Staff
Kenneth Zane
r/b Brenna Murphy, Adam & Patrick Baals
11:30am Len McCarron r/b Rita & Bob Hale

Monday, September 1

World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

8:30am Living & Deceased Members of the Parish

Tuesday, September 2

8:30am Joseph Daubert r/b Kathy Dougherty

Wednesday, September 3 – St. Gregory the Great

8:30am Frank Cristaudo r/b daughter Lucy

Thursday, September 4

8:30am Anna Colonna r/b sons Nick & Frank

Friday, September 5

8:30am Bernice Jones r/b Lucille & Paul Jones Jr.

Saturday, September 6

8:30am Mary D. Trautwein r/b Paul & Shannon Franke
5:00pm Cathy Daily r/b Christina McNasby

Sunday, September 7

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30am Tom Dougherty r/b wife Rose
9:30am Anna Gandini (28th Anniversary)
r/b daughter Grace
11:30am Gabriel DiMeo r/b daughter Marie Mannino
Alexandra Conway Selfridge
r/b Paolo & Joseph Alacqua
Charles Melara r/b Shirley Melara & Family
William Kesselring r/b Diane O'Connor
Geraldine Medalla r/b Zeny Manzano
Anna Colonna r/b sons Nick & Frank

Readings for the Week

Monday, September 1	1 Thes 4:13-18; Lk 4:16-30
Tuesday, September 2	1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11; Lk 4:31-37
Wednesday, September 3	Col 1:1-8; Lk 4:38-44
Thursday, September 4	Col 1:9-14; Lk 5:1-11
Friday, September 5	Col 1:15-20; Lk 5:33-39
Saturday, September 6	Col 1:21-23; Lk 6:1-5

Prayer for Religious Vocations

Priest: Let us pray for vocations

All: O God, we earnestly beseech you to bless the Church with many priests, deacons, seminarians and religious who will love you with their whole strength, be faithful to their vocation and gladly spend their entire lives to teach your truths, serve your Church and make you known and loved.

Priest: Bless our families, bless our children.

All: Choose from our homes those who are needed for your work.

Priest: O Mary, Queen of the clergy,

All: Pray for us. Pray for our priests, deacons, seminarians and religious. Obtain for us many more. Amen.

Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise You. We bless You. We adore you. We glorify You. We give You thanks for Your great glory. Lord God, heavenly King, O God almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only-begotten Son. Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father: you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. You take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. You are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord, You alone, are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Reading 1 - Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29

My child, conduct your affairs with humility and you will be loved more than a giver of gifts. Humble yourself the more, the greater you are and you will find favor with God. What is too sublime for you, seek not into things beyond your strength search not. The mind of a sage appreciates proverbs and an attentive ear is the joy of the wise. Water quenches a flaming fire and alms atone for sins.

Responsorial Psalm - Psalm 68:4-5, 6-7, 10-11

God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the poor.

Reading 2 - Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a

Brothers and sisters: You have not approached that which could be touched and a blazing fire and gloomy darkness and storm and a trumpet blast and a voice speaking words such that those who heard begged that no message be further addressed to them. No, you have approached Mount Zion and the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and countless angels in festal gathering, and the assembly of the firstborn enrolled in heaven, and God the judge of all, and the spirits of the just made perfect, and Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and the sprinkled blood that speaks more eloquently than that of Abel.

Gospel - Luke 14:1, 7-14

On a sabbath Jesus went to dine at the home of one of the leading Pharisees, and the people there were observing him carefully. He told a parable to those who had been invited, noticing how they were choosing the places of honor at the table. "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not recline at table in the place of honor. A more distinguished guest than you may have been invited by him, and the host who invited both of you may approach you and say, 'Give your place to this man,' and then you would proceed with embarrassment to take the lowest place. Rather, when you are invited, go and take the lowest place so that when the host comes to you he may say, 'My friend, move up to a higher position.' Then you will enjoy the esteem of your companions at the table. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted." Then he said to the host who invited him, "When you hold a lunch or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or your wealthy neighbors, in case they may invite you back and you have repayment. Rather, when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven: and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

**To everything there is a season and a time
for every purpose under heaven.**

Ecclesiastes 3:1

“...a time to be born...”

“...a time to welcome...”

Janet Palumbo, Joseph Danner,
Matthew Fontanez

“a time to be married...”

...a time to be healed...”

Sam Amaradio, Bernadette Andrews, George Austin, Edward Boyd, Joseph Brickley, Rita Bruno, Charli Burke, Christine Cassell, Colleen, Krista Collings, Bob D'Alessio, Roxanne Day, Robert Deegan, Alberta & Tony DiFabio, Lucyna Dinces, Mirenda Donnian, Rich Donofrio, Kristine Ebright, Ellie & Les Edwards, Barbara Facchine, Agnes Flood, Anna Forsman, Keith & Linda Franchetti, Marylou Furfari, Linda Gerwatoski, Jay Gigante, John Gilmore, Dave Griffith, Michael Groody, Ben Groves, Donovan & John Gura, Kathy Heisinger, Karol Hennessey, Carol Iannotti, Jason, Adalynne Johnson, Susan Kane, Karen, Carol Taylor-Kearney, Caroline Keenan, Marilyn Angelotti-Kelly, Fred Krumm, Steffanie Lerch, Judy Longo, Joe Lumpkin, Richard Maloumian, Richard Marcantonio, Michelle Marhefka, Barbara Marker, Elwood Martz III, Dorothy McKeever, Anne McMenamin, Barbara & Ira McManus, Christina McNasby, Tim McSorley, Hannah McStay, Joan Morlachetta, Katie Mutek, Peter Myers, Frank Nowak, Lorene Newman, Nicole P., William Pappernek, Lee Peters, Giovanni Poloney, Helen Powell, Rose Quigley, Janet Rainier, Teri Reed, Joan Reilly, Mary Reilly, George Rein, Pete Richman, Patti Roberts, Jim Roche, Ivey Caruso Rupert, Marguerite Sadler, Caterina Saya, Santi Saya, Loretta Scardino, Nicholas Simeo, Sr., Linda Sesko, Eda Shannon, Jason Shipman, Frank Smith, Chris Stalker, Nick Stansbury, Janie Talemale, Jason Tallarida, Evelyne & Tom Tull, Lou Underwood, Rosemarie Villari, Kathy Voelmle, Darlene & John Voll, William Walsh, John Werner, Shannon Whyte, Nancy Taylor-Williams, Dianne Williamson, Richard Wilson, Theresa Woods, Lois Worthington, Lori Wotypka, Lois Wunsch, Maria Wyzykowski, Catherine Zabrodski, Francesco Zarzycki, their caregivers, all others in need of our prayers.

“...a time to die...”

Mary Hess
Joan Wnek

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION

Come and spend some time with Jesus at First Friday Adoration – Friday, September 5 from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

7:00 AM MASS

The 7:00 AM Morning Mass will resume on Monday, September 8 – The Solemnity of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

What a comfort it can be to have a concerned person willing to stay with you through trouble. A Stephen Minister can be that person. To request a Stephen Minister or to talk to a Stephen Leader, please call 856-468-5536.

FORGOT YOUR ENVELOPES?

If you forgot your envelopes, are new to the parish or are visiting the parish and would like to make a donation. You can do so here. **Be sure to select one-time gift – as recurring is default.**



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - WE NEED YOU!

Fall PREP is coming quickly and we are in the planning stages. Classes are 1 hour and 15 minutes. We still need catechists in the following sessions/grades:

Tuesdays 4:15, grades 6
Tuesdays 5:45, grades 3,5
Wednesdays 5:45, grades 3,4,5

OCIC (Order of Christian Initiation for Children), helping students catch up in grades 3-6 who have missed some PREP years. Some may be preparing for sacraments.

All catechists must be cleared through the diocese to work with children. The process is simple. It involves being fingerprinted for a background check and attending an in-person *Virtus Protecting God's Children* session.

If you are interested or have any questions, feel free to contact the PREP office at 856-468-7566.

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!

Attention all kids! Our parish youth choir kicks off Saturday, September 6 in church at 9:10 AM. This is open to grades K-8. Youth choir leads song the 1st and 3rd Sunday 9:30 AM Masses each month.

Are you a musical teen ready to take it to the next level? Our Teen Band is looking for more singers and instrumentalists (guitar, bass, drums). Open to grades 8-12, Teen Band leads song the 2nd and 4th Saturday 5:00 PM Masses of the month. Rehearsals are at 4:00 PM on the days they sing.

For more information on either group please email Jen Drees jendrees@yahoo.com.

Out of high school and want to share your musical gifts join our Contemporary Ensemble. Guitar and piano players as well as singers are encouraged to participate. The Contemporary Ensemble leads song at the 2nd and 4th Sunday 9:30 AM Masses each month. Rehearsals are Thursdays from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM in church.

For more information email Peter at peterghouwen@gmail.com.

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION

Interested in becoming Catholic? Catholic, but need to complete Sacraments? Catholic and want to know more about the faith?

Prayerfully consider joining our OCIA Program. OCIA will begin on Sunday, September 7. Interested inquirers seeking to enter the Catholic faith, should attend the 9:30 AM Mass and the first session will follow immediately after Mass. The meeting will take place in the Kernan Center's Father Salerno room and end at about 11:45 AM. This will be the same process for each week, Mass followed by meeting.

PERMANENT DIACONATE INFORMATION SESSION

The Office of the Diaconate is holding a meeting to provide information and answer questions concerning the life and ministry of a permanent deacon. If you, or someone you know, believe that Christ is calling you to serve the Church as a deacon please attend this meeting:

When: Tuesday, September 16 from 7:00 PM–8:30 PM
Where: The Diaconate Center (133 N. 3rd St., Hammonton)

Who: Any man ages 30 – 55

Please confirm your attendance by calling the Diaconate Office (856-583-2858) or emailing Linda.decosta@camdendiocese.org.

SEPARATED AND DIVORCED SUPPORT GROUP

The Separated and Divorced Ministry of Mary, Mother of Mercy Parish is starting their Fall/Winter Session on Wednesday, September 10 at 6:30 PM. Meetings are held every other Wednesday at Our Lady of Lourdes Mercy Hall, 500 Greentree Road, Glassboro.

This ministry provides support, comfort and spiritual guidance to those dealing with separation and divorce. We invite everyone who is going through or has recently gone through these difficult situations to join us, regardless of religious affiliation. For more information, please contact Denise Ciocco at 856-404-7009, Jean Carson at 609-504-0416 or email us at divorce.separated.ministry@gmail.com.

MENTAL HEALTH HELP

On September 12 at 12:00 PM, the Mullica Hill branch of the Gloucester County Library System will be hosting an event titled *"Mental Health Spotlight: Finding Help in Gloucester County."* It will feature three back-to-back presentations from Gloucester County agencies on youth internet safety, suicide prevention services, and addiction services.

To register please call 856-223-6050 or online at <https://gcls.librarycalendar.com/event/gcls-adult-program-36603>.

WALKING WITH PURPOSE: WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

All women of the parish are invited to join us for this year's Walking With Purpose Bible Study, running September through May. We meet weekly on Tuesdays at 9:30 AM or Thursdays at 6:30 PM.

Walking With Purpose combines personal study with small group discussion, helping us connect life's everyday challenges to the wisdom of Scripture.

If you are seeking to grow in faith and friendship within a supportive community of Catholic women, we would love for you to join us!

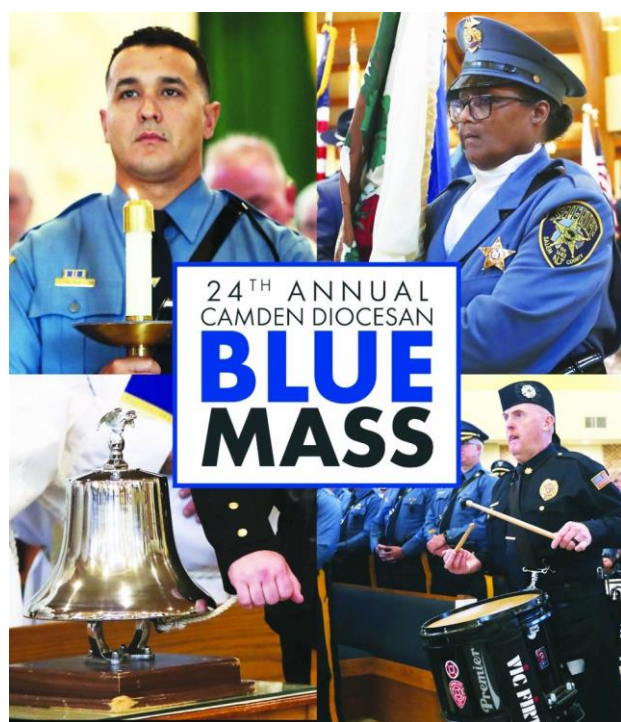
For more information about our morning meetings, please email Elizabeth Iannelli at eiannelli@comcast.net

For more information about our evening meetings, please email Alex Jatzke at alex.jatzke@gmail.com

LIVING AS MISSIONARY DISCIPLES

Our scripture passage for this Sunday comes from the Gospel of Luke 14:1, 7-14. In this passage, Jesus is once again in the home of a Pharisee and sharing a meal. At the dinner, Jesus notices how people were competing with one another so they could be seated in privileged places. In doing so, they were claiming honor for themselves and hoping that others would admire them because of their position at the table. Jesus then instructs the guests to seek a place of lower status and thus be “honored” when they are called to a higher place. Remember: true honor is not that which we claim for ourselves but that which is given to us by another, namely God. Our Lord is instructing us in what God finds honorable; the humility to put others first. Humility is the remedy that breaks the endless competition for honor. The Christian virtue of humility is not an act of self-degradation or deprecation; Christian humility is based on the truth of who we are and who we are not. The very word “humility” comes from the Latin word “humus” meaning “earth”. As human beings, we come from the dust of the earth, yet we receive life through the Spirit of God who creates us. Who we are, then, is a complete gift of God. Such an honest awareness both prevents us from developing a falsely exalted view of ourselves and acknowledges the great dignity inherent to our nature.

Think about it: Who is someone I know that manifests such a truly humble life? What are their characteristics?



Join the Diocese of Camden in honoring
Law Enforcement and First Responders
At Mass on September 29 at 10:30 AM.
Our Lady of Hope, 701 Little Gloucester Rd.
Blackwood, NJ

INCARNATION FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL

Save the Date – The Food Truck Festival is back on Friday, October 3 from 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM!! Please drop off any donations for the basket of cheer at the parish office – Thank you. This year’s Food Trucks are Carolina Blue, Dominic’s Tavern, Just Fork It and Mister Softee – so don’t cook, bring the family and enjoy a night out!

VILLA MARIA BY THE SEA RETREAT CENTER CARE FOR THE CAREGIVER

Wednesday, October 29 - from 8:45 AM to 3:00 PM
Cost is \$65.00

Presented by Carolyn Rebalsky, RN, MSN (retired)

This day is perfect for anyone who is serving as a caregiver for a loved one whether living with or apart from the patient, managing their care at home or in healthcare settings, or assisting a primary caretaker. This workshop will focus on self-care, offering practical strategies for your own well-being and balance. You will also gain insight into forgiving yourself through the tough aspects of caregiving like placing a loved one in a skilled facility and losing control of your emotions. Take this day to care for yourself so that you can continue to care for others. Mass and lunch are included.

You may opt to stay overnight on Tuesday, October 28 for an additional \$100. Dinner at 5:00 PM is included.

For more information or to register please visit www.VMbytheSea.com.

CELEBRATE THE LOVE YOU’VE BUILT

The Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass and reception for couples celebrating 25, 50, 60, 70 or more years of marriage in 2025 will be on November 16.

Join us on Sunday, November 16 at St. Elizabeth Anne Seton Parish, 591 New Jersey Ave, Absecon. Mass will be celebrated at 3:00 PM followed by a light reception in the parish hall.

To reserve your place please call Incarnation Parish Office at 856-468-1314 by October 25.

IT'S TIME TO LAUGH

WITH
**GORDON
DOUGLAS**



Incarnation Council 6364 Inc.
@incarnationcouncil6364



venmo

**Sponsored by
Incarnation Council 6364, Inc.
Proceeds benefit the Incarnation Food Pantry**

To purchase tickets contact Dave McGee at 240-561-8361,
dpm1205@gmail.com, or call the Parish Rectory
at 856-468-1314 or scan the venmo QR code above

JOIN US FOR A
**Comedy Show &
Spaghetti Dinner***

STARRING
**Gordon Douglas,
Saturday**

October 4, 2025

*Doors open at 6pm for dinner,
comedy show to follow*

Incarnation Church Hall
(Kernan Center)
240 Main St., Mantua, NJ 08051

TICKET PRICING:
\$30 for Adults
\$15 for Children under 12

*Sorry, we cannot accommodate dietary restrictions



Discovering **hope** and **joy** in the Catholic faith.

September 2025

Church of the Incarnation, Mantua, NJ

Rev. Stephen J. Rapposelli, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

St. Lawrence Justinian

Born into a noble Venetian family, St. Lawrence Justinian desired sanctity from an early age. He entered the Order of the Augustinian Canons Regular of St. George, where he became known for his zeal, penitential lifestyle, and deep charity—especially toward the poor. He eventually became the general of the order. Recognized for his holiness, he was appointed Bishop, and later Patriarch, of Venice by the pope. He served faithfully until his death at the age of seventy-five.

Jesus turns sorrow into joy

Each September, the Church celebrates the Exaltation of the Holy Cross—not because we glorify suffering, but because the Cross reveals a Love that is total, faithful, and fearless. Christ embraced suffering, rejection, and death—and triumphed over them. His Cross is the ultimate sign that love is stronger than pain. When we bring our trials and sorrows to Jesus, He transforms them—through a kind of divine alchemy—into strength, healing, joy, and even glory. In Him, suffering is never the end of the story.

"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30).

Holiness in everyday life

Pier Giorgio Frassati — to be canonized on September 7 — was known for blending intense spirituality with fun—he loved mountain climbing, practical jokes, and friendship. He taught that holiness can be simple, joyful, and practical, woven into daily life. In a 1923 address to young people, he summed up the Christian life: "Our religion is based on charity, which is nothing other than the most perfect Love." He proposed three ways to live that love: by example, through compassion, and by joyful invitation.

By example: Blessed Pier believed that our lives should reflect our faith without needing words. "We Catholics must strive to have our whole life guided by Christian moral law," he said. That includes building our schedules around the Eucharist, practicing reverence, treating others with dignity, and living generously. These everyday choices silently proclaim who we are—and whose we are.

With compassion: Blessed Pier encouraged personal, thoughtful acts of

love: visiting the lonely, offering a kind word, or putting others first. He reminded us that holiness begins with small, intentional acts of compassion.

By joyful invitation: Blessed Pier's faith was magnetic, marked by laughter,

"Jesus is with me. I have nothing to fear."

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati

adventure, and prayer. He urged others to draw people to Christ with warmth and sincerity: "Persuade [those who are far from the Church] to follow the ways of God." A quiet chapel visit or simple prayer can be a powerful invitation to grace.

He urged Catholics to stay rooted in the Eucharist: "Approach the Eucharistic Table as often as possible... from which you will draw strength." His life reminds us that sainthood is not about perfection, but about choosing love—daily, faithfully, and joyfully.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics believe in angels?

In the Nicene Creed, professed at every Sunday Mass and solemnity, we affirm belief in "all things visible and invisible"—a direct reference to spiritual beings, including angels. Throughout Scripture, angels appear as messengers, protectors, and servants of God's will. Jesus' words in Matthew 18:10,

referencing angels who "*behold the face of [His] Father*"—form the basis for the Church's belief in guardian angels. These faithful spirits, who remained loyal to God, continue to watch over and guide us. Belief in angels is not optional but a vital part of Catholic teaching and tradition.

Hearing God's voice in the everyday

Discernment isn't limited to religious vocations—it's a way of seeking God's will in all areas of life. Whether you're considering a marriage, a job change, or a move to a new city, discernment helps you respond to God's loving plan with clarity and peace. Here are three tips to avoid common pitfalls:

Learn to recognize His voice: It's difficult to discern God's will if we don't know His character. A healthy relationship with God—nurtured through prayer and Scripture, especially the Gospels—helps us become familiar with His voice. The more time we spend with Him, the easier it becomes to distinguish His promptings from fear, pressure, or personal bias.

Take a practical step: Discernment requires action. You can't always think your way to clarity. Take the interview, visit the new city, introduce your intended to your family. These steps don't commit you for life—they give you real-world experience that sharpens your perspective and brings peace to your decision-making.

Narrow your focus: Too many options can paralyze progress. At some point, discernment involves commitment and trust. Begin by eliminating options that clearly don't fit. The path may shift as you go, but each step—taken prayerfully—leads you closer to the right destination. God's guidance is often gradual but unmistakable.

from Scripture

Luke 16:19-31, Doing the good we ought to do

In this Gospel passage, Jesus tells a parable aimed at those who are indifferent to the suffering around them. A rich man enjoys daily luxury while Lazarus, a poor and sick man, lies just outside his gate, starving and ignored. Though the rich man likely passed by Lazarus often—and even knew his name—he offered no help.

After death, their roles are reversed. Lazarus is carried to the side of Abraham, a place of comfort and honor. The rich man finds himself in torment and pleads for relief. He asks Abraham to send Lazarus with water,

and later to warn his brothers. Both requests are denied.

Jesus' parable does not condemn wealth but the failure to love. The rich man's sin was not what he did, but what he refused to do. He saw suffering and remained unmoved.

This passage challenges us to examine our own hearts. Do we see those in need and look away?

True Christian living means turning prayer into mercy, and faith into action. When we love as Christ commands, the reward is eternal joy.

Q & A

Why do Catholics display crucifixes instead of crosses?

Jesus is risen in glory, having conquered sin and death. Yet we, though united to Him in Baptism, remain on our earthly journey, still vulnerable to temptation and suffering. The Crucifix stands as a powerful reminder of the cost of sin and the price of our redemption.

More than a symbol of pain, the Crucifix reveals the depth of God's mercy and love: *"God so loved the world that He gave His only Son"* (John 3:16). It reminds us that Jesus is *"a compassionate high priest"* (Hebrews 4:15) who knows human suffering firsthand—rejection, sorrow, and even death (cf. Psalm 22:14; 69:20).

In every Catholic church, the Crucifix also points to the reality of the Eucharist. The sacrifice of the Mass is not separate from Calvary—it is the same sacrifice, made present to us (*Catechism*, 1545). Christ offers Himself to the Father, and we receive the fruits of that offering: grace, healing, and strength.

The Crucifix is not just a symbol—it is the visual proclamation of love that saves, heals, and invites us into deeper communion with Christ.

Feasts & Celebrations

September 12 – The Holy Name of Mary. Mary has many titles. Begun in Spain in 1513, this feast celebrates her as the Blessed Virgin and is the counterpart to the Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus. Pope Innocent XI extended this feast to the entire Church after the King of Poland, with Mary's protection, defeated an advancing Muslim army in Vienna in 1683.

September 14 – The Exaltation of the Holy Cross (c. 326). St. Helena (mother of Emperor Constantine) discovered what is believed to be the True Cross while on pilgrimage in Jerusalem. On that site, Constantine built the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher.

September 16 – Saints Cornelius and Cyprian (c. 253). A renowned theologian and orator, he was ordained a priest and served as the bishop of Carthage. He helped Pope St. Cornelius defend the Church against the Novatian heretics. Pope Cornelius was exiled and died from harsh treatment in 253. Cyprian was arrested for refusing to worship idols. He was exiled and subsequently beheaded.

September 19 – St. Januarius (c. 305). Not much is known about this saint, except that he was the Bishop of Benevento, Italy, and that he was martyred with six companions under the Diocletian persecutions. For reasons unknown, a vial of his blood has miraculously liquified annually, several times a year, since at least 1389.

Our Mission

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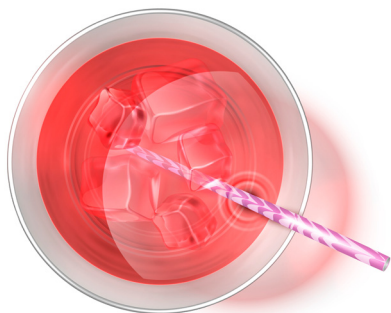
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Gospel Today

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time / Luke 14:1, 7-14

Jesus wants us to “give” with unselfish kindness, putting others needs before our own. Being compassionate, and not expecting anything in return, puts us first in God’s eyes.

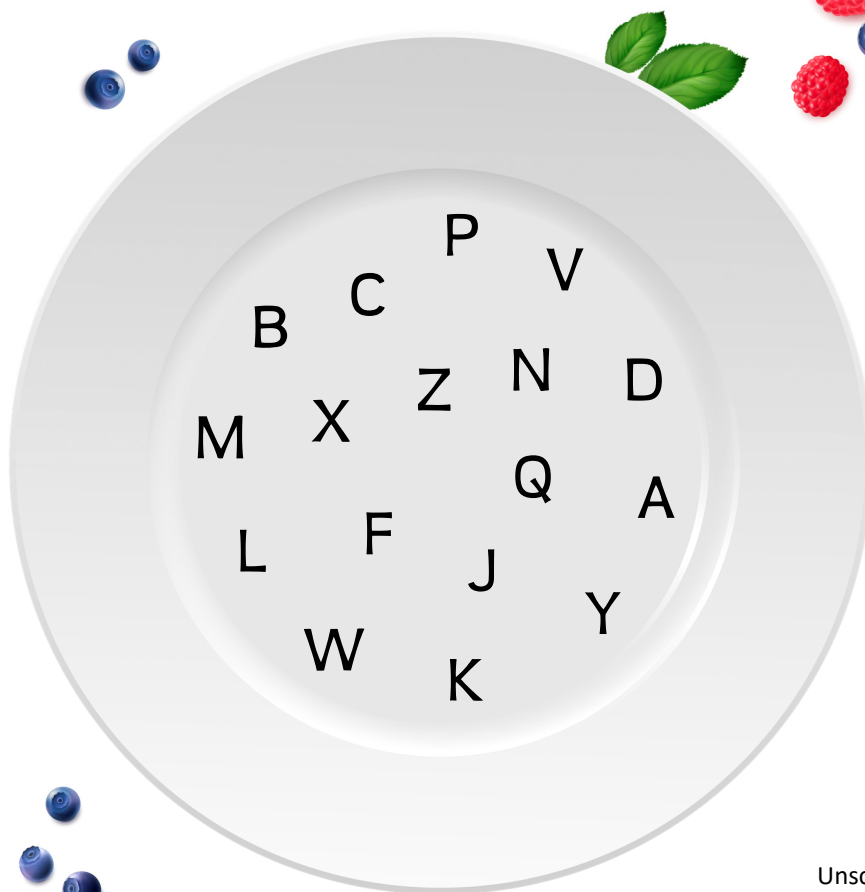
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Jesus says...

“When you hold a lunch or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relations or your wealthy neighbors, in case they may invite you back and you have repayment.”

—LUKE 14:12



Write the alphabet letters **NOT** found on the plate.

Unscramble the letters above and fill in the blanks to complete the sentence below.

answer: righteous

For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the

_____.

Luke 14:14



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