

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-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time * October 5, 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, October 5

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 17:5-10

The disciples ask Jesus to increase their faith. Jesus replies that "faith the size of a mustard seed could transplant a sycamore," indicating that a person either has faith, strong and complete, or none at all. Jesus also explains that a servant will not receive gratitude for simply following his master's orders. In the same way, we are all God's servants doing no more than our duty when we obey God's commands.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, October 4 – St. Francis of Assisi

8:30am Joseph Ranalli r/b Nick & Frank Colonna
5:00pm Arthur & Gertrude Toner
r/b daughter Anne Kollar

Sunday, October 5

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30am Deborah Romano r/b sisters Betty & Brenda
9:30am Ron Raffa r/b Trish Raffa
11:30am James Rogers r/b Children & Grandchildren
Sam Nastasi r/b Angie, Wayne & Justin Stauffer
Rita Caltabiano r/b Joe & Jen Stickler
George Ballinger r/b Barbara Ballinger
Richard White r/b Anne Abbruzzese
Vincent Minniti, Sr. r/b Carl & Irene Minniti

Monday, October 6 – St. Bruno

7:00am Living & Deceased Members of the Parish
8:30am Joseph LaMonica r/b John & Elizabeth Iannelli

Tuesday, October 7 – Our Lady of the Rosary

7:00am Patricia Timberman r/b Barbara Ballinger
8:30am Tammy Mozer r/b her Husband

Wednesday, October 8

7:00am Martin Richards r/b Cathy & Charlie Pagano
8:30am Jose Trinidad r/b Capistrano Family

Thursday, October 9 – St. Denis

7:00am Richard White r/b Carol Ann Bruno
8:30am Teresa & Bill Hagan r/b Marie McGuirl

Friday, October 10

7:00am Tammy Mozer r/b her Husband
8:30am Aurora Elizabeth Marks (2nd Anniversary)
r/b Anne Kollar

Saturday, October 11 – St. John XXIII

8:30am Thomas & Elizabeth Maloney
r/b Parcells Family
5:00pm Tina Daily r/b Christina McNasby

Sunday, October 12

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30am John & Craig Forsman r/b Wife & Mother
9:30am Ofelia Magnaye r/b Arlene Magnaye
Joanne Dean r/b Gail A. Curcio
Edward Powers r/b John & Elizabeth Iannelli
Kathleen Magnotta r/b Steven & Fallon Corcoran
Karen Muhlbaier r/b Cathy Cacciola
Joseph Ranalli r/b Nick & Frank Colonna
11:30am Richard White r/b Nora & Peter Traum

Readings for the Week

Monday, October 6	Jon 1:1-2:2, 11; Lk 10:25-37
Tuesday, October 7	Jon 3:1-10; Lk 10:38-42
Wednesday, October 8	Jon 4:1-11; Lk 11:1-4
Thursday, October 9	Mal 3:13-20b; Lk 11:5-13
Friday, October 10	Jl 1:13-15, 2:1-2; Lk 11:15-26
Saturday, October 11	Jl 4:12-21; Lk 11:27-28

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,

Reading 1 - Reading 1 - Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4

How long, O LORD? I cry for help but you do not listen! I cry out to you, "Violence!" but you do not intervene. Why do you let me see ruin; why must I look at misery? Destruction and violence are before me; there is strife, and clamorous discord. Then the LORD answered me and said: Write down the vision clearly upon the tablets, so that one can read it readily. For the vision still has its time, presses on to fulfillment, and will not disappoint; if it delays, wait for it, it will surely come, it will not be late. The rash one has no integrity; but the just one, because of his faith, shall live.

Responsorial Psalm - Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Reading 2 - 2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14

Beloved: I remind you, to stir into flame the gift of God that you have through the imposition of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control. So do not be ashamed of your testimony to our Lord, nor of me, a prisoner for his sake; but bear your share of hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God. Take as your norm the sound words that you heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Guard this rich trust with the help of the Holy Spirit that dwells within us.

Gospel - Luke 17:5-10

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith." The Lord replied, "If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you. "Who among you would say to your servant who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, 'Come here immediately and take your place at table'? Would he not rather say to him, 'Prepare something for me to eat. Put on your apron and wait on me while I eat and drink. You may eat and drink when I am finished'? Is he grateful to that servant because he did what was commanded? So should it be with you. When you have done all you have been commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants; we have done what we were obliged to do.'"

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...”

Cameron Louis Carreiro

“...a time to welcome...”

DeLoach Family, Parker Family, DiNicola Family

“a time to be married...”

Ray Sciahetano and Angela Cruz
Brian Hawkins and Jennifer Barbato

...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 DiFabio, Lucyna Dinces, Mirenda Donnian, Rich Donofrio, Ellie & Les Edwards, Francis Ferry, Agnes Flood, Anna Forsman, Marylou Furfari, Linda Gerwatoski, Jay Gigante, John Gilmore, Dave Griffith, Michael Groody, Donovan & John Gura, John & Joseph Hart, Kathy Heisinger, Karol Hennessey, 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, 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, Karen Rucci, Ivey Caruso Rupert, Denise Sacco, Marguerite Sadler, Caterina Saya, Santi Saya, Loretta Scardino, Nicholas Simeo, Sr., Linda Sesko, Eda Shannon, Jason Shipman, Frank Smith, Chris Stalker, Nick Stansbury, Janie Talemal, Jason Tallarida, Ernie Tolentino, Evelyn & Tom Tull, Lou Underwood, Rosemarie Villari, William Walsh, John Werner, Mary White, 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...”

Timothy D. Cureton
Antonio DiFabio
Kathy Voelmle (mother of Kathy Hazzard)



**SOUTH JERSEY
CATHOLIC
MINISTRIES
APPEAL**

WE ARE ALMOST THERE!!

Many thanks to everyone who has donated to the SJ Catholic Ministry Appeal – **to date we are \$4,800.00 away from our goal of \$196,800.00.** When we reach our goal we will receive \$19,680.00. These funds are used to help those in need through our parish pantry and the St. Vincent dePaul Society.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Thank you for your continued generosity to the Parish. Your ongoing support enables us to minister to our parishioners and the greater community.

September 23 through September 29 - \$18,446.30

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.**



STEPHEN MINISTRY

Feeling Down?

Our **Stephen Ministry** can help. Stephen Ministers aren't just there for "big" crises. They're also available for the little ones, because many times the little things can really add up. So, don't wait until you have a really big crisis; consider Stephen Ministry if the little things have you feeling down. To find out more about our Stephen Ministry or to request a Stephen Minister, call 856-468-5536.



REMINDER – Casseroles and products will be delivered to the Joseph's House this Monday, October 6. Any questions please contact Jerry at 856-579-7004 or jerbotemple@comcast.net. Thank you for your continued support!

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.

PRAY FOR OUR TROOPS

Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform in our time of need. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen. We pray for all in our armed forces, especially:

Francis M. Duras, Greg Giordano, Dane Kozlosky, James Tingle, Johnny McGowan, Vincent McManus, Vincent W. Abruzzese, Mitchell Luckman, John Robinson, Sean Owens, Matthew Cottrell, David Nahas, Michael Nahas, Colin Wexler, Liam Wahl, Ty Thuston, Brian Guzzetti, Leonard Puggi, Daniel Golden, Brett Govern, Ryan Lisle, Devin Kozlosky, Cory Carpenter, Christopher Hansen, Luke Wordelmann, Ryan Gilroy, Tyler L. Novak, Danielle Davis, Jesse Nester, Adam Stetser, Joseph Vaccarella, Matthew Murphy, Sara Huber

INCARNATION ANGELS (Women's Group)

Looking to get involved? Join other women from the parish next Tuesday, October 14 at 7:00 PM – Fr. Salerno Room in the Kernan Center. We are getting ready to host our semi-annual Vendor & Craft Show and we would love to have you be a part!



SENIOR CITIZENS MONTHLY MEETING

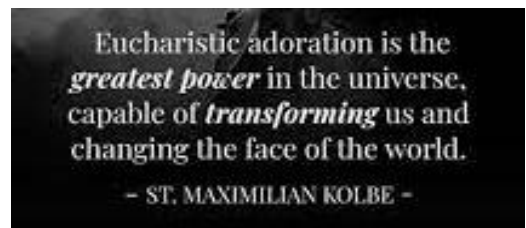
The Incarnation Seniors (55 years of age and older) will meet on Thursday, October 9. Join us this Thursday and every second Thursday of the month at the Kernan Center. Social time begins at 12:00 Noon with lunch for \$2.00 and the meeting starts at 12:45 PM. Bingo will follow meeting. Yearly dues are \$8.00.

Hope to see you there!

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Due to the Diaconate Ordination this year's Blessing of the Animals will be a week late – see below.

Bring your pets, large and small, in a cage or on a leash to our Annual Blessing of the Animals on Saturday, October 11 at 9:15 AM – at the Mary Grotto.



Are you feeling overwhelmed or disconnected, busy with little or no downtime...consider taking a prayer break each week and sit before the Blessed Sacrament. Even a few minutes in the Eucharist's presence can change your day's tone and transform your life. We are all a work in progress, and every moment spent in adoration is a step towards greater spiritual wholeness. Remember, in the silence of the heart, God speaks. Are you ready to listen?

Eucharistic Adoration is open to everyone - Every Wednesday from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM in church. In addition, every First Friday from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM in church. Please consider becoming a regular adorer...Adorers are scheduled for one hour each Wednesday. Regular visits build a rhythm and structure that enhances your spiritual life. If you are interested, please contact Reggie Santos at 856-952- 4420, Julie Santos at 856-981-4849 or email regjul14@outlook.com.

LIVING AS MISSIONARY DISCIPLES

Our scripture passage for this Sunday comes from the Gospel of Luke 17:5-10. This Gospel passage reminds us that it is always an honor and privilege to be a Christian disciple who is given a share in the mission of the Gospel. When all is said and done, it is really we who should be thanking God for having allowed us to be His servants and for giving us the strength, skills, and resources with which to do the Lord's will. That attitude of gratitude is the quality of faith Jesus is looking for in a disciple. To have more of that faith is truly a gift from God. Gratitude is a powerful remedy for feelings of resentment, anger, and entitlement. Gratitude also keeps our hearts and minds focused on God rather than on our own problems or others' faults.

When it comes to the life of discipleship then all is to be considered a gift. God owes us nothing for living a good Christian life. The Lord's favor and blessing are graces that cannot be earned. While we deserve nothing, in gratitude we can accept everything. In doing so, we become disciples who forgive others even as we are forgiven and who help others take their next step in discipleship even as we take ours.

Think about it: How do I foster and express gratitude in my relationship with God?



MEN'S SPIRITUALITY CONFERENCE SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2025

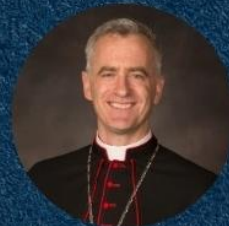
Join Us For This One-Day Life Changing Event!
"We Are Called To Be Men Of Faith and Pilgrims Of Hope"



Most Rev. Dennis Sullivan
Bishop Emeritus of Camden NJ



Chris Stefanick
Author, Speaker, TV Host



Most Rev. Joseph Williams
Ninth Bishop of Camden NJ



Tom Kendzia
OCP Musician, Composer, Author



Deacon Steve Javie
Former NBA Referee



Eddie Morris
A Man Of Faith, Hope, and Action



Registration and Breakfast Begin at 7:30

Conference Ends at 3:30

Amazing speakers, opportunities for confession, adoration, inspiring music, spiritual reflection, exhibitors, breakfast, lunch, and more

PAUL VI High School
901 Hopkins Rd.
Haddonfield, NJ

Tickets and Information
WWW.MANUPSOUTHJERSEY.COM

Event Sponsor



UPCOMING *Mark Your Calendars* EVENTS



Save The Date

Saturday, November 15, 2025



Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Infant Jesus

Fundraiser Dinner / Dance

Incarnation Parish - Mantua, NJ

For more information scan the QR Code or call
St. Margaret Convent at 856-848-6049



REBOOT

A LIFE-CHANGING EVENT

Perfect
for Ages
12 & Up!

This high-energy, 2-hour event with internationally acclaimed speaker **Chris Stefanick** will awaken your faith, reignite your joy, and equip you with tools to live the life God created you for: A life of JOY. It will help you rediscover the JOY you were created for, and is perfect for everyone... even friends, family, and children (12+) who may not be actively practicing their faith.

Tickets Are Limited!

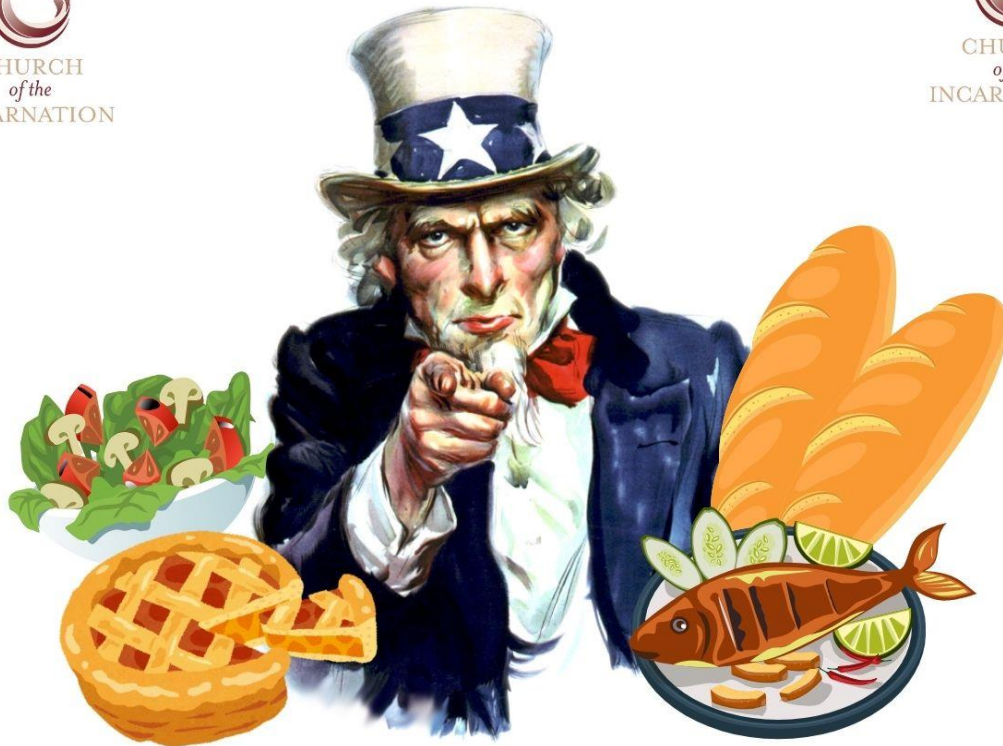
[HTTPS://BUYTICKETS.AT/REALLIFECATHOLIC/1765337](https://buytickets.at/reallifecatholic/1765337)

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

7:00 - 9:00 PM

Church of the Incarnation
240 Main St, Mantua Twp, NJ 08051





I WANT YOU TO DONATE YOUR RECIPES!

We are going to be putting together a cookbook that celebrates our community's love of food and fellowship. Whether it is a treasured family recipe, a holiday traditional treat, your busy night quick go-to recipe, or comfort dish.

We want it!

Proceeds from this event will be used to benefit our food pantry, or those in need within our diocese.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 15TH

WHAT to Submit:

Please include the following...

- Family Name
- Recipe Name
- A short note about the dishes significance (optional)
- Ingredients & Instructions

WHERE to Submit:

Submit printed recipes
via parish hall box

OR

via email to
recipes4goodness@gmail.com



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

October 2025

Church of the Incarnation, Mantua, NJ

Rev. Stephen J. Rapposelli, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

St. Paul of the Cross

Born in seventeenth-century Ovada, Italy, to a noble Catholic family, Paul Francis Danei had a great devotion to the Cross of Christ since he was young. He turned down a respectable marriage to devote his life to prayer, penance, preaching, and works of charity. In 1720, he was called to found an order honoring Jesus' Passion. The Passionist Order received papal approval. The order elected St. Paul as their superior general until his death in 1775.

Celebrating All Hallows Eve

Halloween is a Catholic holy day — it's the vigil of All Saints Day. It even has its own liturgical prayers! One way to recapture a sense of the sacred on this holy vigil is to pray Evening Prayer (Vespers) in the Liturgy of the Hours. It is easily found online and takes about 15 minutes. It's a beautiful, deeply liturgical way to celebrate All Hallows Eve with the Church. Because solemnities "start" the evening before, after Vespers, the party can start!

"If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next... Aim at Heaven and you will get earth 'thrown in': aim at earth and you will get neither" C.S. Lewis.

Simple ways to stay rooted in God's love every day

God meets us in powerful ways through the Sacraments, especially at Sunday Mass. But we're not meant to leave His presence at the church door. Our souls need daily contact with His love—through small, intentional acts that anchor us in grace, even during busy or chaotic days.

Start with a Morning Offering. This short prayer dedicates everything you do — your work, joys, and struggles — to God. It turns your entire day into an offering, a prayer in motion. Even when events feel out of control, you've already placed them in His hands. That changes how you carry each moment.

Wearing a crucifix, saint medal, or carrying a Rosary is another way to stay grounded. These sacramentals aren't lucky charms—they're signs of faith and reminders that we belong to God. When worn or used with devotion, they offer quiet strength and speak to the world, even without words.

Next, carry a line of Scripture with you. Choose a verse that speaks to your heart and keep it where you'll see it—on your phone, dashboard, or mirror. Reflect on it throughout the day. God's Word is alive and personal. Even a single verse can give light when your path feels dim.

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psalm 119:105).

Lastly, surround yourself with sacred art. A holy card in your wallet, an image of Christ in your kitchen—these aren't just decorative. They teach, inspire, and prompt prayer. They gently turn your attention toward Heaven in the middle of daily routines.

None of these habits takes much time, but over time, they shape your heart. They help you live with peace, stay open to grace, and remember: God is near, always ready to meet us where we are.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Many Protestant versions of the Our Father include the doxology: "For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever." While this line is theologically rich and spiritually uplifting, it was not part of the original prayer Jesus gave His disciples. It does not appear in the earliest and most reliable Gospel manuscripts. Scholars believe it began as a marginal note—

Why does the Catholic Our Father have a different ending?

possibly added for liturgical use—that was later copied into the text. Its inclusion in the King James Bible helped establish it in Protestant tradition, where it remains a beloved conclusion. Though not found in the original biblical text, the doxology reflects the heart of Christian praise and continues to express the glory of God in worship across many denominations.

Holy Hospitality - let love lead during the holidays

We may not have to host the Messiah and twelve hungry disciples on short notice, but the stress St. Martha felt is all too familiar during the holiday season. The good news? Grace can do what we cannot.

To find peace amid pressure, Pope Leo XIII said to begin with silence. Even a few moments of quiet prayer each day can create the space needed for God to work in your heart. Then, he offered two essential practices:

Focus on what matters most. Jesus' friend, Martha, was *"anxious and troubled about many things,"* but Jesus reminded her of the *"one thing... necessary"* (Luke 10:41-42). Hospitality isn't about perfection—it's about presence. Pope Leo encourages us to make space for real human connection:

to care, to listen, and to truly see those around us. Resist the urge to multitask. And yes—put the phone away.

Choose understanding over offense. The holidays can magnify tensions, but they also offer a sacred opportunity for growth. "It takes effort," Pope Leo admitted, "to understand one another in disagreements, and to forgive when mistakes are made." Approach family gatherings with humility and grace. Assume the best. Be patient, flexible, and quick to forgive. Small acts of mercy often go unseen—but *"your Father who sees in secret will reward you"* (Matthew 6:18).

This season, let love—not logistics—lead. That's the heart of holy hospitality.

from Scripture

Luke 18:9-14, Divine mercy responds to humility

In this Gospel passage, Jesus contrasts two prayers: one from a respected Pharisee, the other from a despised tax collector—a comparison that would have shocked His audience.

In first-century Jewish society, Pharisees were seen as models of religious observance, while tax collectors were viewed as collaborators with the Roman occupiers and often as corrupt and dishonest.

The Pharisee confidently takes a prominent place in the temple and offers what appears to be a prayer—but it's really a self-congratulatory speech. He thanks God not for grace

received, but for his own perceived righteousness. In contrast, the tax collector stands at a distance, won't even lift his eyes, and offers a single, sincere plea: "God, be merciful to me, a sinner."

Jesus tells us it was the tax collector—not the Pharisee—who went home justified before God

This parable reminds us that true prayer begins with humility. God isn't impressed by performance or flowery words. He desires contrition, honesty, and a heart open to grace. He already knows us, loves us, and simply asks for our love in return.

Q & A Why do Catholics have different types of Masses?

Liturgical diversity has always been part of the Church's life. Today, when people refer to "different Masses," they may be referring to the different forms, such as the Traditional Latin Mass (also called the Extraordinary Form) and the more familiar post-Vatican II Mass (Novus Ordo, or Ordinary Form).

The Traditional Latin Mass, shaped over centuries, is known for its reverence, use of Latin and chant, and the priest facing *ad orientem*—toward the altar along with the people. It fosters an atmosphere of silence and awe.

The Novus Ordo emerged after the Second Vatican Council, which called for a renewed, simplified liturgy that would be more accessible and participatory. At that time, Latin was no longer widely taught or understood.

Both forms are authentic expressions of the same Eucharistic mystery—the meeting of Heaven and Earth at the altar. When celebrated reverently, each reveals the beauty and depth of the Church's liturgical tradition in distinct but complementary ways.

Feasts & Celebrations

October 7 – Our Lady of the Rosary (1571). This feast was originally named, "Our Lady of Victory" by Pope Pius V, on the victory of the Battle of Lepanto, when the Christians won a critical victory against the Ottomans after praying the Rosary. Pope Gregory XIII later renamed this feast in recognition of this powerful prayer.

October 10 – St. Francis Borgia (1572). St. Francis was a nobleman who served in the Spanish imperial court. After the death of his wife, he gave away all his possessions and joined the Jesuits. He proved to be a good administrator, and as superior

general of the Jesuits, he helped to spread their presence all over Spain and Portugal.

October 14 – St. Callixtus I (222). Born a slave in a Roman household, Callixtus was ordained a deacon by Pope Zephyrinus, whom he later succeeded. Callixtus's election caused an eighteen-year schismatic movement. He fought against heresy and showed tolerance toward sinners. In a time of trial and confusion, he re-opened the Church to all. He was later martyred.

October 28 – Saints Simon and Jude (1st century). St. Simon was a Zealot – Jews who believed the Messiah would free them from political oppression. St. Jude was a fisherman. After following Jesus, they eventually traveled to Persia where they preached the Gospel until they were martyred.

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