

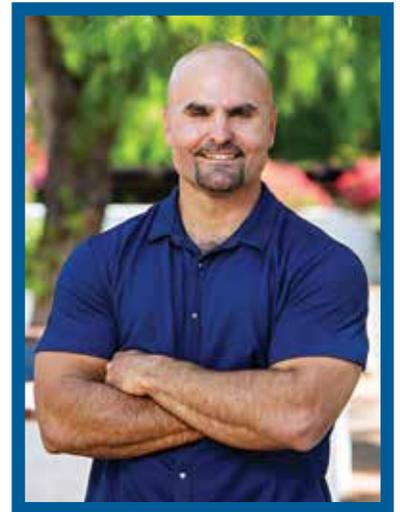


Our Lady of HOPE

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Don't Miss Our Upcoming August Series with Karlo Broussard

*An Opportunity for All to
Learn and Grow in the Faith*



*We welcome speaker Karlo Broussard on
Aug. 25-27.*

Most of us have pretty busy days, and it can be difficult to set aside time for more activities. But you should plan to set aside time for the whole family on Aug. 25-27 to hear renowned speaker and apologist Karlo Broussard.

Karlo will speak on Sunday, Aug. 25, at 7 p.m. on the “Splendor of the Catholic Faith.” On Monday, Aug. 26, at 9:15 a.m. and 7 p.m., he will speak on “Religion: Why Should I Care?” Finally, on Tuesday, Aug. 27, at 9:15 a.m. and 7 p.m., he will speak on “Why God Still Matters.” The morning sessions were added for the middle and high school students.

Hannah Freyberger is helping to coordinate this special event. Her husband, Kyle, was the one who suggested Karlo as the speaker — Kyle has enjoyed listening to Karlo on the podcast *Pints with Aquinas*.

“I appreciate his quick wit and knowledge of all things Catholic,” Kyle says. “He is very knowledgeable about the Catholic faith. He knows how to talk about all things related to Catholicism and apologetics.”

Hannah hopes parishioners will make a point to come

and bring a friend. You won't be disappointed by the content or Karlo's presentations. It will be an opportunity to both learn more about the faith and walk away with skills to defend the Catholic faith.

“It is important to have events for parishioners because it allows people to gather and grow in community together while learning something about their faith,” Hannah says. “Not everyone can have unlimited access to the internet. Not everyone can read, and not everyone has the opportunity to travel to see and hear speakers. It's important to provide events like this for our community so that everyone has an equal opportunity to learn and grow in their faith.”

Kyle agrees that we are called to be lifelong learners of our Catholic faith — it is like a bottomless well from which we can always draw knowledge.

“I most look forward to taking in Karlo's wisdom and being able to add tools to my faith toolbox to defend my

continued on back cover

EMBRACING

STEWARDSHIP: A DISCIPLE'S RESPONSE

A BLUEPRINT FOR CATHOLIC LIFE

In 1992, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) released a pastoral letter that would resonate through the years, shaping the way Catholics perceive and practice their faith. Titled *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*, this document serves as a profound blueprint for how Catholics should live stewardship as a way of life and is — in essence — the roadmap for how we live out stewardship at our parish.

At its core, stewardship is not merely a financial concept, but a profound spiritual principle deeply rooted in Catholic teachings. The 1992 pastoral letter seeks to enlighten Catholics on the transformative power of stewardship, inviting them to view their lives through the lens of discipleship and responsibility.

One of the pivotal messages of the document is the recognition that everything we have — our time, talent, and treasure — is a gift from God. Stewardship, as outlined by the USCCB, is the grateful and responsible management of these gifts in a way that reflects our love for God and others. It is a call to live out the Gospel in concrete and intentional ways, not just within the walls of the church but in every aspect of our daily lives.

The pastoral letter emphasizes that stewardship is not an optional aspect of the Christian life but an essential response to God's love. It challenges Catholics to move beyond mere Sunday worship and integrate their faith into every facet of their existence. In essence, stewardship is presented as a way of life, a continual commitment to recognize and utilize God-given gifts for the betterment of the world.

Furthermore, the document urges Catholics to embrace stewardship with a spirit of generosity, emphasizing the importance of sacrificial giving. This sacrificial aspect goes beyond monetary donations; it encompasses the giving of one's time and talents for the service of others. By doing so,

individuals are called to be active participants in building a community that reflects the love and compassion of Christ.

Stewardship is not a one-size-fits-all concept, and the pastoral letter recognizes the diversity of gifts within the Catholic community. Each person is uniquely endowed with talents, and the document encourages a discernment process to identify and employ these gifts for the common good. In essence, the USCCB provides a framework for fostering a vibrant, engaged, and spiritually rich community by acknowledging and utilizing the varied talents of its members. The pastoral letter challenges Catholics to consider the broader implications of stewardship beyond the local parish. It calls for a heightened awareness of social justice issues, advocating for a commitment to building a more just and compassionate society. Stewardship, in this context, becomes a catalyst for positive change in the world, encouraging Catholics to be agents of justice and mercy.

Stewardship: A Disciple's Response is a timeless guide for Catholics seeking to deepen their relationship with God through the practice of stewardship. It presents a holistic approach to living out one's faith, challenging individuals to recognize and utilize their God-given gifts in the service of others. By embracing stewardship as a way of life, Catholics can contribute to building a community that reflects the transformative power of God's love in the world.

Stewardship: A Disciple's Response is a must-read for any devoted Catholic looking to take his or her own stewardship to the next level. The USCCB's pastor letter is available for purchase online through various outlets, including Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Ascension Press, and more. Search for the document online and pick up a copy!



The Feast of the Assumption:

A Time to Deepen Our Connection with St. Mary

Dear Parishioners,

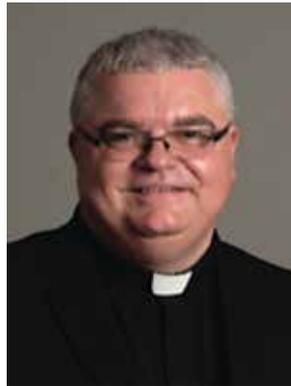
As we approach the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Holy Day of Obligation, I wish to reflect with you on the profound significance of this event in our Catholic faith. The Assumption of Mary into heaven, body, and soul, is a celebration of utmost importance, and it offers us a unique opportunity to honor and venerate the Mother of God.

On Aug. 15, we commemorate the Assumption, the moment when the Virgin Mary was taken up to heaven by the power of God. This event signifies the culmination of Mary's earthly life, as her sinless body was preserved from corruption and united with her soul in the glory of heaven. Mary's Assumption not only demonstrates her unique role in salvation history but also points to the promise of our own resurrection and the hope of eternal life with God.

The Feast of the Assumption invites us to honor and venerate Mary, the Mother of God, in a special way. She who said "yes" to God's plan and brought our Savior into the world deserves our love, respect, and devotion. Mary's example of faith, humility, and self-surrender provides us with a model for living a life of holiness and obedience to God's will.

Here are some ways in which we can honor and venerate Mary on this Holy Day of Obligation:

- **Attend Mass:** The most important way to honor the Feast of the Assumption is to participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. By doing so, we unite ourselves with the whole Church in commemorating this event and receiving the grace of the Eucharist.
- **Pray the Rosary:** The Rosary is a beautiful prayer that allows us to meditate on the life of Jesus and



Mary. On this day, consider praying the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary, which include the Assumption.

- **Visit a Marian Shrine:** If possible, visit a local Marian shrine or grotto to pay your respects to Mary. These sacred places are often filled with a sense of peace and devotion.
- **Acts of Charity:** In honor of Mary's compassionate heart, engage in acts of charity and kindness towards others. By emulating her love and care for those in need, we bring honor to her name.
- **Read and Reflect:** Take some time to read about the Assumption and meditate on the significance of this event. Reflect on Mary's unique role in God's plan for our salvation.
- **Personal Prayer:** Spend time in personal prayer, expressing your love and gratitude to Mary. Seek her intercession in your life and entrust your concerns to her.

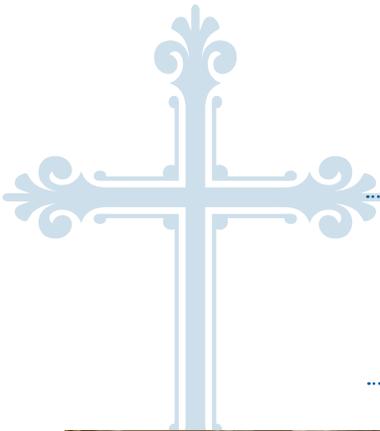
The Feast of the Assumption is an occasion to deepen our connection with Mary and, through her, with Christ. It reminds us of the hope of our own resurrection and the promise of eternal life. May this day be a source of grace, renewal, and inspiration for all of us.

In Mary's loving care and intercession, I pray that you have a blessed and meaningful Feast of the Assumption.

In Christ,

Fr. Paul Ferguson

Fr. Paul Ferguson
Pastor



Celebrating *the* Priestly Ordination

This June, we joyously celebrated the priestly ordination of our new priests. We extend our warmest congratulations and prayers to the newly ordained priests.



Ordination of Fr. Tyler Underhill

priestly ordination of Fr. Tyler Underhill.

wonderful support as he begins his priestly ministry.





Nurture Your Faith *and* Build a Relationship *with* Our Parish Priests

In the Catholic faith, our priests play a pivotal role as spiritual guides, confessors, and shepherds of the local faith community. Developing a personal relationship with your parish priests can be immensely beneficial for your spiritual growth. Here are some insights on the significance of building such relationships and advice for how you can approach our priests for advice on prayer and spiritual guidance.

Our parish priests are well-equipped to offer spiritual guidance and counsel. They possess a deep understanding of Catholic teachings, theology, and the spiritual needs of their parishioners. By fostering a relationship with your priests, you gain access to a valuable resource for navigating your faith journey.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is an essential aspect of Catholic life. Our parish priests can guide you through the sacrament and offer the assurance of God's forgiveness. Building a relationship with our priests can make the confession process more comfortable and meaningful.

Everyone's spiritual journey is unique, and priests can provide personalized advice tailored to your specific needs and circumstances. They can help you develop a more profound prayer life, address doubts and questions, and navigate life's challenges through the lens of faith.

Parish priests often play a central role in fostering a sense of community within the parish. By building a relationship with our priests, you can become more deeply connected to the parish family and participate in various activities and ministries.

So, how do you approach our priests for advice, prayer, and spiritual guidance?

- **Respect Their Time:** Priests are often very busy with their pastoral duties. When seeking

advice, it's essential to be respectful of their time. Schedule an appointment or attend office hours if available and be punctual for your meetings.

- **Be Open and Honest:** When discussing your spiritual needs or questions, be open and honest with your priest. Share your concerns, challenges, and aspirations. The more they know about your spiritual journey, the better they can provide guidance.
- **Listen Actively:** During your conversations, actively listen to your priest's advice and insights. Their wisdom and experience can offer valuable perspectives on your faith and prayer life.
- **Ask Specific Questions:** If you have questions or issues you'd like to address, formulate them in advance. Specific questions can lead to more targeted advice and guidance.
- **Attend Parish Events:** Participate in parish events and activities to engage with your priests on a personal level. This can help establish a more comfortable and open relationship.
- **Practice Patience:** Building a deep, trusting relationship takes time. Be patient in nurturing your connection with our parish priests.

Developing relationships with parish priests is crucial for Catholics seeking spiritual guidance, advice on prayer, and a deeper understanding of their faith. Parish priests are there to serve and support their communities, and by actively engaging with them, you can enhance your faith journey and cultivate a closer relationship with God. Remember that your priests are trusted sources of spiritual counsel and compassionate guides on your path toward spiritual growth and fulfillment.

An Inside Look at the Ushers Ministry

Serving as Spiritual Ambassadors for Our Church

St. Dominic Savio once recognized that “I can’t do big things. But I want all I do, even the smallest thing, to be for the greater glory of God.” Sometimes ministries require a lot of work and time, and sometimes they require little — but each can be done for the greater glory of God.

At Our Lady of Hope Parish, those who participate in the Ushers Ministry play an important role in the parish. They serve as spiritual ambassadors who respond to the needs of Jesus in each person who comes into the Church.

“The ushers are very important because they help if someone gets sick, or if they see something going on, they can help that person,” Fr. Paul says. “Also, they are there if there are large crowds coming into the Church and can help them find a seat.”

The ushers’ main duty is to take up the collection and make sure that it is kept safe. The Offertory is an integral part of the liturgy because it is the primary means by which a parish receives financial support. It is an expression of gratitude to God and an opportunity for one to give and contribute in building up the Kingdom of God here on earth. For someone to participate in the ministry, they must be confirmed and it is a wonderful way to contribute to the stewardship mission within the parish.

Fr. Paul is hoping that soon someone will be able to help him with the training for ushers in the parish. Training is very simple and is about helping others to understand the responsibilities and expectations of being an usher.

“It covers the basics of what is involved in being an usher, how to help others as situations arise, handling large populations when there are a lot of visitors, and what the duties and responsibilities are with the collection,” Fr. Paul says. “It can be a contribution of their time and talent at the Masses, and give them a feeling for being part of the bigger liturgy and helping me.”

Ushers hold a hidden but important role in leadership within their parish. The time and talent given to this ministry is an indication of a servant’s heart, as well as a commitment to helping the liturgy run smoothly as they serve the needs of others in the present moment.



Ushers James Hopkins and Ed Zipperle



Ushers Ed Zipperle, Ryan Michael, Bill Mattingly, and James Hopkins

For those who are interested in serving as an usher, contact Fr. Paul through the parish office at 812-254-2883.

315 N.E. Third Street
Washington, IN 47501
812-254-2883
www.ccwash.org

Don't Miss Our Upcoming August Series with Karlo Broussard

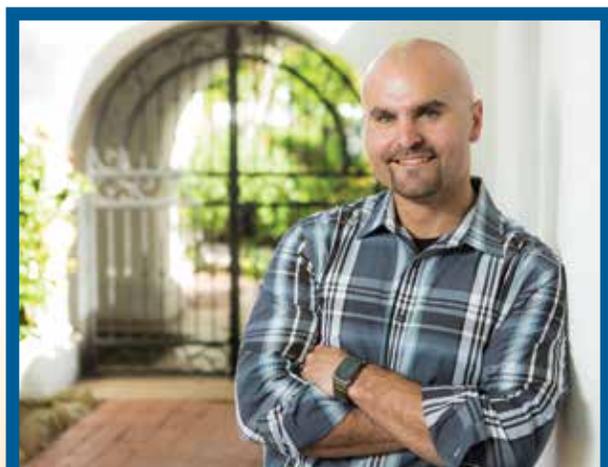
continued from front cover

beliefs," he says.

Hannah agrees. These talks will not only add to your "faith toolbox," but they will keep you from becoming stagnant in living out your faith.

"When the storms come, or you hit an especially rough patch in life, who will you cling to — God or the comforts of the world?" Hannah says. "It's important to avoid stagnation — to be proactive in creating a good and holy environment where you can continually grow in your faith and relationship with God. Continual growth makes it easier to surrender to God's will and trust Him."

If this hasn't convinced you enough, the event is free! We are so blessed to welcome Karlo here at Our Lady of Hope. Don't miss this very special parish event!



Be sure to attend the first of three nights on Sunday, Aug. 25, at 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Hope.

