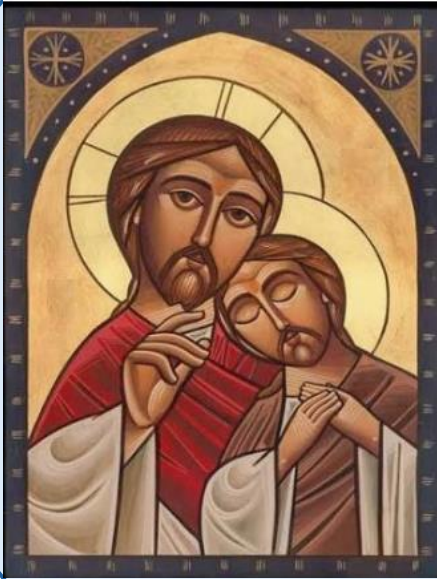




BELOVED DISCIPLE CATHOLIC PARISH

October 2026

Welcome to our second edition of the Beloved Disciple Parish Faith Formation Newsletter. If you would like to see the past edition, please visit the parish website at <https://www.beloveddiscipleparish.org/faith-formation3eb4292b>. As the leaves turn brilliant shades of red and gold, October brings us a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the season and strengthen our faith. Let this month be filled with beautiful outdoor activities and cozy indoor gatherings that can keep our hearts centered on God.

Marialyce Garwis, Director of Faith Formation



2026 World Mission Sunday One in Christ, United in Mission

On October 18, 2026, Catholics around the world will mark a historic milestone: **the 100th anniversary of World Mission Sunday**, the Church's annual day of prayer, reflection, and solidarity with the young and growing Churches in mission territories. Every October, the Catholic Church has been uniting in a powerful act of faith. For 100 years, World Mission Sunday has been the heartbeat of Catholic missions. World Mission Sunday helps to support the basic physical footprint that keeps missionary life going, training thousands of seminarians, thousands more missionary catechists, and building hundreds of churches each year where the Gospel is heard sometimes for the very first time.

This celebration is very special for our Holy Father Pope Leo XIV. "When I served as a missionary priest and then bishop in Peru, I saw firsthand how the faith, the prayer, and the generosity shown on World Mission Sunday can transform entire communities."

As we celebrate World Mission Sunday on October 18th, let's respond to the continual work of the Holy Spirit to pray, to sacrifice, and to contribute generously to their growth.

Family activities can be found at: <https://pro.tpms.cloud.sitefinity.com/wms-2026>

See where the missionary work is happening on the world map at: <https://pro.tpms.cloud.sitefinity.com/where-we-are/mission-territories>

Beloved Disciple Faith Formation Important Dates for October 2026:

- 4 + Student Faith Formation Classes (Emlenton Campus only)
- 6 + Adult Faith Formation at 5:30 PM in the triple classroom
- 15 + Confirmation Parent Meeting at 7 pm in church library
- 18 + Student Faith Formation Classes—World Missions Sunday
- 20 + Adult Faith Formation at 5:30 PM in the triple classroom
- 22 + First Reconciliation (2nd grade) Parent Meeting at 7 pm in church library
- 25 + Student Faith Formation Classes (Grove City Campus only)
- 29 + 1st Eucharist (3rd grade) Parent Meeting at 7 pm in church library

October is the Month of the Rosary

Pope Leo urges Catholics to pray daily Rosary in October

October is recognized as the Month of the Holy Rosary in the Catholic Church. This month-long devotion is intended to encourage the faithful to pray and meditate on the lives of Christ and Mary. This devotion emphasizes seeking the Blessed Virgin Mary's intercession for protection of the Church and for personal intentions. October includes the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary (October 7).

The practice of the daily rosary is encouraged for promoting peace in families, communities and throughout the world. Mary, Our Blessed Lady, in her appearance to the children at Fatima, urged the daily recitation of the rosary for world peace.

In the late 19th century, Pope Leo XIII enthusiastically promoted the rosary by issuing multiple encyclicals on the devotion. He officially dedicated this month – October – to its devotion.

Now Pope Leo XIV invites the faithful to join in praying the Rosary every day during October to invoke God's gift of peace and announces a Rosary in St. Peter's Square on October 11 as part of the Jubilee of Marian Spirituality at his Wednesday General Audience on 9-23-26.

Family Activities focused on the rosary:

- **Catholic Icing** has several craft activities for your family from a small single decade rosary to a large rosary from pool noodles: <https://www.catholicicing.com/celebrating-month-of-rosary-html/>
- **Sara J Creations** has a giant walking rosary from a shower curtain and paint: https://www.sarajcreations.com/2016/04/giant-games-using-shower-curtains.html?utm_source=Pinterest&utm_medium=organic
- You can color and pray the rosary here: <https://enterarena.blogspot.com/2012/02/rosary-art-line-drawings.html?m=1>
- For praying the rosary or for children leading it themselves **Look to Him and be Radiant** has: <https://www.looktohimandberadiant.com/search/label/rosary>
- 13 tips for praying the Rosary with kids can be found on **Teaching Catholic Kids.Com**: <https://www.teachingcatholickids.com/13-tips-for-praying-the-rosary-with-kids/>



October 2nd - Memorial of the Guardian Angels



Prayer to Our Guardian Angel: Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom God's love commits me here, Ever this day [or night] be at my side, to light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen.

Each person on earth has a guardian angel who watches over us and helps us to attain salvation. After our earthly life has ended, then hopefully our guardian angel accompanies our soul to purgatory or heaven. This is when we will be saints in heaven, not angels. Angels are servants and messengers from God. "Angel" in Greek means messenger. In unseen ways the angels help us on our earthly pilgrimage by assisting us in work and study, helping us avoid temptation and protecting us from physical danger.

The idea that each soul has assigned to it a personal guardian angel has long been a truth of the Church. From the Gospel of Matthew 18:10, "See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father." The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states that "the existence of the spiritual, non-corporeal beings that Sacred Scripture usually calls 'angels' is a truth of faith (328)." From our birth until our death, man is surrounded by the protection and intercession of angels, particularly our guardian angel: "Beside each believer stands an angel as protector and shepherd leading him to life (336)."

The Collect for this memorial at Mass: O God, who in your unfathomable providence are pleased to send your holy Angels to guard us, hear our supplication as we cry to you, that we may always be defended by their protection and rejoice eternally in their company. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Activities:

- Make or buy an angel food cake for today's dessert.
- Choose from several angel crafts at Catholic Icing - <https://www.catholicicing.com/angel-art-projects/>
- On Teaching Catholic Kids.com there are 7 ways to celebrate - <https://www.teachingcatholickids.com/celebrate-the-feasts-of-the-angels/> I particularly like #3, Read about angels in the Bible.

What is the Pope's Monthly Prayer Intention? <https://popesprayerusa.net/>

Each year, the pope considers the works, joys, and sufferings of the entire world and, through the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, calls on people of goodwill to join him in prayer for twelve of the issues closest to his heart. Praying with Pope Leo XIV in this way is a concrete act of service, because our prayers make a difference and the Holy Spirit may call some of us to extend prayer into additional action.

OCTOBER 2026 for Mental Health Ministry.

Let us pray that the mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.



Some Organizations that assist with mental health, to support and pray for:

- *International Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministers*- <https://catholicmhm.org/> - Join for free to get access to their newsletters and webinars. They develop, provide and facilitate an effective and responsive network of trained mental health organizers and mental health ministry leaders in Dioceses and parishes throughout the United States.
- *Catholic Charities* - <https://www.eriecd.org/mham-charities.html> - Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Erie connects individuals and families experiencing mental health challenges with appropriate resources.
- *Mercer County Suicide Prevention Network* – is our local network with **Crisis Hotline: 724 662-2227**

Highlights of the Month

During October, as in all of Ordinary Time (formerly known as Time After Pentecost), the Liturgy does not focus on one particular mystery of Christ but views the mystery of Christ in all its aspects. We follow the life of Christ through the Gospels and focus on the teachings and parables of Jesus and what it means for each of us to be a follower of Christ.

This month the main liturgical feasts (see the calendar page) are St. Thérèse (October 1), Guardian Angels (October 2), St. Faustina (October 5), St. Bruno (October 6), Our Lady of the Rosary (October 7), St. Callistus I (October 14), St. Teresa of Jesus (October 15), St. Hedwig and St. Margaret Mary (October 16), St. Ignatius of Antioch (October 17), St. Isaac Jogues, St. John de Brébeuf and Companions (October 19), St. Paul of the Cross (October 20), St. John Paul II (October 22), St. Anthony Mary Claret (October 24) and Sts. Simon and Jude (October 28).

The feasts of St. Francis of Assisi (October 4), St. John XXIII (October 11) and St. Luke (October 18) are superseded by the Sunday liturgy.

This is the Jubilee Year of St. Francis of Assisi. It began on January 10, 2026 and will end on January 10, 2027. However, October 4, 2026 marks the 800th anniversary of his death! Franciscans around the world will celebrate the 800th anniversary of the Transitus of St. Francis of Assisi during evening prayer services on October 3, 2026, marking the final earthly moments and death of St. Francis in 1226.

What are we doing to commemorate St. Francis? At Beloved Disciple we will have a prayer service after the 4:30 pm Mass on Saturday, October 3, 2026 marking the Transitus of St. Francis of Assisi and on October 4th following the 11 am Mass we will have a pet blessing.

The life of the Poor Man of Assisi shows that God's mercy works in history also through people who have opened their hearts to His action. Therefore, the Jubilee is an opportunity for the faithful to rekindle their faith, strengthen their relationship with God and with the community of the Church.

To learn more about St Francis of Assisi and to do some other family activities, visit the following:

To Learn

- <https://friars.us/news-and-media/800th-anniversary-of-the-transitus-of-st.-francis>
- <https://www.capuchin.com/?view=article&id=1228>

Videos

- <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLS7CywpOFHEXvHWLCsOorjGDOGZPcaK4k>
- <https://thedinemercy.org/videos/st-francis-assisi-worlds-most-beloved-saint>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SWk8GIiI8rk>

Activities

- Family Pilgrimage: Visit a local Franciscan convent, church, or a designated shrine named after St. Francis to pray together and seek the Jubilee plenary indulgence under usual church conditions.
- Nature Walks and Creation Scavenger Hunts: Take a hike in a local park to spot birds, trees, and flowers, using the time to read or recite St. Francis's *Canticle of the Creatures* praising God for "Brother Sun" and "Sister Moon".
- Simple Living Challenge: Dedicate a week to living more simply as a family—turn off electricity for an evening, reduce food waste, or simplify toy and clothing consumption to share with those in need.
- Service Projects for Creation and the Poor: Volunteer at a local community garden, plant native trees, or pack food boxes for a local shelter to blend Franciscan care for creation with love for the vulnerable.
- For crafts and coloring pages, please visit: <https://catholicblogger1.blogspot.com/2015/09/st-francis-of-assisi-activities-for-kids.html>



October 2026

SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
				1 St. Thérèse of Lisieux	2 Guardian Angels	3 St Candida, Martyr on the via Portuense
4 St. Francis of Assisi	5 St. Bartolo Longo St. Faustina Bl. Francis Xavier Socelos	6 St. Bruno Bl. Marie-Rose Durocher	7 Our Lady of the Rosary	8 St. Pelagia, Virgin and Martyr of Antioch	9 St. John Leonardi St. John Henry Newman St. Denis	10 St. Paulinus, Bishop of York, Disciple of St. Gregory the Great Sts. Daniel, Samuel and Companions, first Franciscan Martyrs
11 St. John XXIII	12 St. Carlo Acutis	13 Theophilus, Bishop of Antioch	14 St. Callistus I	15 St. Teresa of Avila	16 St. Longinus St. Margaret Mary Alacoque St. Hedwig	17 St. Ignatius of Antioch
18 St. Luke	19 Bl. Jerzy Popiełuszko Sts. John de Brabour and Isaac Jogues	20 St. Paul of the Cross	21 St. Gaspar del Bufalo	22 St. John Paul II	23 St. John of Capistrano	24 St. Anthony Mary Claret
25 Sts. Crispin and Crispinian, Martyrs Chrysanthus and Daria, Martyrs on the via Salaria nuova	26 St. Demetrius, martyr	27 St. Evaristus, Pope St. Frumentius, Bishop, Apostle of Ethiopia	28 Sts. Simon and Jude	29 Bl. Chiara Badano	30 St. German, Bishop of Capua	31 St. Alphonsus Rodriguez



Our Baptism is a call to the fullness of life. Our vocation is the special way which God wants to give us that fullness of life through love. There are 5 basic areas of vocations: to married life, to consecrated single life, to religious life, to single life, and to ordination.

This month we will look at our Call. A great kids video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=ixcqmOcc324

As Catholics, we believe God calls individuals to fulfill certain roles in the Church, both for their own holiness, and the good of the entire Body of Christ.

Holiness is Our Common goal. Holiness is everyone's primary vocation. Holiness means trying to be like Jesus. It means being a "whole" person: striving for virtue, avoiding sin, and living a life of love.

After the decision to follow Christ and seriously pursue holiness, your vocation is the most important decision in life. We are always in need of priest and religious, but even with these vocations from God sometimes they come with a secondary vocation of lawyer, scientist, or accountant for example.

<https://worlddayofprayerforvocations.com/teens/>

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has the **ABCs of Fostering Vocations**.

A: Answer your children's questions about priesthood or Religious life; never discourage them or ridicule them if they bring it up.

Ask your child to identify a talent which he or she has and imagine together what work or ministry God might want someone to do with that type of talent. Also talk about what good things can be done with their talent right now. For instance, a singing talent could be used to sing a baby brother or sister to sleep. Talent at soccer could be used to help someone on the team who needs extra practice.

B: Bring your family to the next ordination mass or prayer vigil for religious.

Go to their website to read them all: www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/vocations/parents/abcs-of-fostering-vocations

MIGRATION <https://www.usccb.org/nmw>

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops remind us that even though we celebrated with the Catholic Church in the United States the observance of the National Migration Week that began September 21 and culminating with the 112th World Day of Migrants and Refugees, We need to continue to pray.

For over 45 years, the U.S. Catholic Church has celebrated National Migration Week (NMW) by reflecting on its history as an immigrant Church and the ways in which the country has been enriched by generations of immigrants, including the many Catholics who have adopted this land as their own. Its connection to the World Day of Migrants and Refugees (WDMR)—which traces its origins to 1914 when Pope Saint Pius X called on all Christians to pray for the growing number of migrants at the time—demonstrates the U.S. Church's solidarity with the Bishop of Rome and the Universal Church. Pope Leo XIV has chosen "Even just one of these children" as the theme for this year.

Amid heightened social tensions regarding immigration, Catholics across the country are invited to reflect on how our faith is calling us to respond to this most vulnerable group within the context of migration. Catholic dioceses, parishes, schools, and organizations nationwide are encouraged to mark this observance with prayer, educational programs, pastoral outreach, and support for migration-related ministries.



All Hallows' Eve

or Halloween ends October and heralds the month of November with emphasis on the Communion of Saints, especially the Church Suffering (the Poor Souls in Purgatory) and the second coming of Christ. This last day of October on the secular calendar is second only to Christmas in commercial preparations. The secular festivities center on ghouls, witches and devils, but the Christian counterpart focuses on the Communion of Saints. As Christians living a "Catholic Culture", we should try to explore the Christian roots of the Halloween festivities.

Where does the Christian aspect of the holiday come into play? In 835, Pope Gregory IV moved the celebration for all the martyrs (later All Saints) from May 13 to November 1. The night before became known as All Hallows' Eve. Eventually the name was shortened to the current Halloween. On November 2, the Church celebrates All Souls Day.

The purpose of these feasts is to remember those who have died, whether they are officially recognized by the Church as Saints or not. It is a celebration of the Communion of Saints, which reminds us that the Church is not bound by space or time.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says that through the Communion of Saints, a perennial link of charity exists between the faithful who have already reached their heavenly home, those who are expiating their sins in purgatory and those who are still pilgrims on earth. Between them there is, too, an abundant exchange of all good things (#1475).

The noun "hallow," which means "Saint," derives from the Old English adjective "hallowed," with which Christians should be familiar from its use in the Lord's Prayer ("hallowed be thy name").

ACTIVITIES

- Leading up to Halloween, people commonly carve pumpkins with silly or spooky faces and place a candle inside to display their design. This year, consider doing a Catholic spin on pumpkin carving and carve a Saint-O-Lantern (instead of a jack-o-lantern) to shine a light on your Catholic faith.

Give thanks to God while carving your pumpkin with this pumpkin prayer.

Dear Jesus,
As I carve my pumpkin
Open my mind so that I can learn about you. (Cut the top off the pumpkin.)
Take all my sin and forgive the wrong that I do. (Clean out the inside.)
Open my eyes so Your love I will see. (Cut the eyes.)
I'm sorry for times I've turned up my nose at what you've given to me. (Cut a nose.)
Open my ears so your word I will hear; (Cut the ears.)
Open my mouth to tell others you're near. (Cut the mouth.)
Let Your light shine in all I say and do! (Place a candle inside and light it.)
— Unknown author



- 10 Fun Ideas for All Hallows' Eve - <https://www.hisgirlsunday.com/post/ideasforallhallowtide>
- Have fun with outdoor activities like apple picking, visiting a pumpkin farm, going to a corn maze, or going on a hayride.
- Go to the Vigil Mass for All Saints Day
- Keep all your loved ones who have died in your family prayers.

EDGE is our Catholic middle school youth ministry program designed for students in grades 6–8. It provides a fun, interactive, and faith-filled environment where young teens can build friendships, explore their faith, and grow in their relationship with Christ. Through games, teaching, small groups, and prayer, EDGE helps them navigate life's challenges with a strong spiritual foundation. Rooted in the life of the Church, it prepares them for a lifelong journey of discipleship.

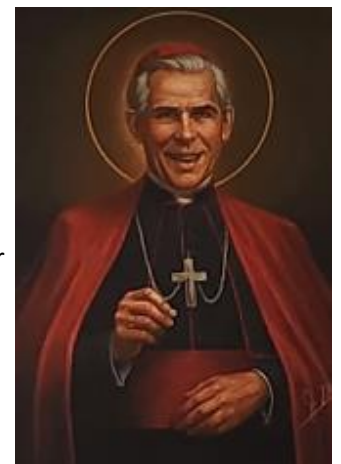
EDGE sessions are broken into four sections: Gather, Proclaim, Break and Send. During the Gathering, Youth will play a game or do an activity with their small group. During the Proclaim, the youth will hear a talk on the catechetical topic of the day. Then during Break, the youth will answer and discuss small group reflection questions based on the talks they heard. Lastly during the send, we will wrap up, pray and give the teens a weekly challenge.



OCIA Are you wondering how to become Catholic? Whether you're feeling a spiritual pull, exploring the beauty of Catholic teaching, or simply curious about the process, you're not alone. Every year, thousands of people begin the journey into the Catholic Church through a process called OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults). OCIA is the process by which someone joins the Catholic Church and receives the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and First Communion (Eucharist), is Catholic and completes their Sacraments, or inquires more deeply about the Catholic Faith. For more information contact Marialyce Garvis @ 724-748-6700 ext. 112 or Deacon Owen Wagner @ 724-748-6700 ext. 110

For the first time, an American-born Catholic bishop is one step away from becoming a saint. And tens of thousands of people went to St. Louis to see it happen. The Catholic Church held a beatification Mass for Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen on Thursday, September 24, 2026 at the Dome at America's Center. The faithful from 49 states and 10 countries came to the ceremony that bestows on Sheen the title "Blessed" and his own feast day. It also means he is nearly a saint.

Born in 1895 in El Paso, IL Fulton Sheen was ordained a Catholic priest in 1919. In 1926 he began broadcasting Lenten talks on radio stations in New York. He soon began a weekly talk on The Catholic Hour radio program, where he spoke on a range of topics including Mary, the Eucharist, communism, and more. He became a Bishop in 1951. He also began his television series Life is Worth Living that year - the most widely-viewed religious show in the history of television, which won an Emmy Award in 1953. He appeared on the cover of Time Magazine in 1952. His influence led to countless conversions to Catholicism. In 1966 he became the Bishop of Rochester, a position he resigned in 1969. He spent the remainder of his life preaching and writing. He died on December 9, 1979.



via: [DynamicCatholic.com](https://www.DynamicCatholic.com)