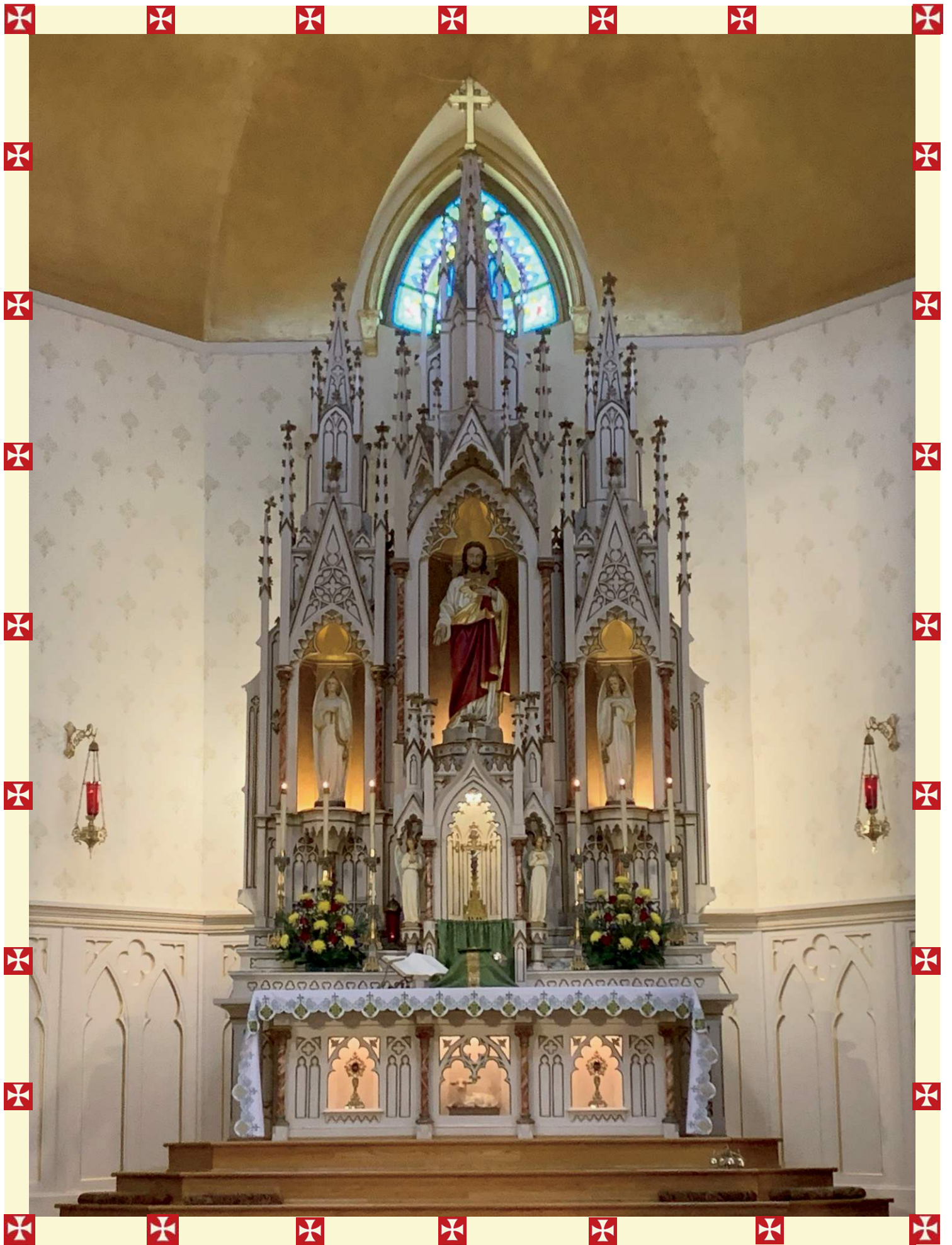




TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

August 16, 2026



WELCOME TO HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH

Served by the Mercedarian Friars USA (www.orderofmercy.org)



PARISH OFFICE, 588 W. Gay Street, Columbus, OH 43215

Open Monday—Thursday: 8:00 a.m.—12 noon
1:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m.

Main No.....614-221-4323 Fax No: 614-221-9818
Web:..... www.holyfamilycolumbus.org
Email:..... office@holyfamilycolumbus.org
Facebook.... Holy Family Catholic Church
Flocknote.... holyfamilycolumbus@flocknote.com

PERSONNEL STAFF

Father Michael J. Donovan, O. de M.. Pastor
Father Daniel Bowen, O. de M..... Vocation Director
Brother Kevin Cush, O. de M..... Seminarian
Business Manager Brian Krull
Secretary..... Mary Gamble
Maintenance..... Tim Kearns
Music Director / Organist..... Shawn Kenney
OCIA (RCIA) Coordinator..... Linda Hamilton
Religious Education..... Sr. Bozena Tyborowska LSC

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

Altar Servers—*Br. Kevin Cush, O. de M., Director*
Confraternity of Christian Mothers—*Rita Martinez, President*
Diocesan Center for the Guard of Honor
of the Sacred Heart of Jesus—*Rebecca Rector, Zelatrix*
Eucharistic Adoration—*Sarah Hill, Coordinator*
Holy Family Young Adults—*Ricky Obregon, Coordinator*
Hospitality—*Kathy McKinniss & Linda Hamilton, Coordinators*
Knights of Columbus—*Shawn Kenney, Grand Knight*
Liturgical Ministry—*Linda Hamilton, Coordinator*
Mercedarian Lay Third Order—*Fr. Michael J. Donovan, O. de M.*
Spiritual Director
Respect Life—*Jake & Kennedy Oliger, Coordinators*

SOUP KITCHEN—(backyard of Parish Center building)

Donations...Monday—Friday
8:00 a.m. —12 noon preferred, back of building drop off
12 noon—3:00 p.m. optional, please call in advance
Main No..... 614-221-4323, Option 3
Web..... www.hfsk.org
Email..... Dennis Shope, Director
soupkitchen@holyfamilycolumbus.org

BAPTISM—Call the Parish office to schedule a Baptism.
Children over the age of 6 will require some special instruction.

MARRIAGE—Please call the Parish Office at least six months
before the wedding. Diocesan Pre-Cana and Natural Family
Planning classes are required and six meetings with the priest.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE SICK—Call the Parish Office
during general office hours. Otherwise, call Parish Office and
select “Sacramental Emergency” option.

RECEPTION OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST—Those who desire
Holy Communion at home should call the Parish Office.

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekdays: 12:15pm
Saturday: 9:00 a.m.
Sunday: 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.

Convent of St. Birgitta—40 N. Grubb St., Columbus

Weekly: 7:00 a.m. Mon. Tues. Thurs. Friday
4:00 p.m. Wednesday
(Each day is open to the public)

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Weekdays: 11:30 a.m.—12 Noon
Sunday: 8:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 4:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION SCHEDULE

Holy Family Church

Weekly: 1:00 p.m. Thursday—12 Noon Friday

First Friday Adoration in Reparation to the
Sacred Heart—8:00 p.m.—8:45 a.m. First Saturday

Please contact **Sarah Hill at 740-418-0517** or
thehills1936@gmail.com if you have interest in being
scheduled weekly or monthly in either location.

Convent of St. Birgitta (CSB) 40 N. Grubb St., Columbus

Weekly: 9:00 a.m.—9:00 p.m. Tuesday
9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Mass Wednesday
4:30 p.m.—9:00 p.m. following 4pm Mass
9:00 a.m.—9:00 p.m. Friday

MOST HOLY ROSARY

Weekdays: 11:30 am (Tuesday is Respect Life Rosary)
Chaplet of Divine Mercy follows Rosary

Saturday: 8:30 a.m. before 9:00 a.m. Marian Mass
8:15 a.m. before 9:00 a.m. First Saturday
Mass

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. & 4:30 p.m. (before Mass)

Please contact the Parish Office if you wish to be
scheduled to lead before 9am Saturday or 9am; 5pm
Sunday Mass.

REGULAR DEVOTIONS



Each Tuesday following the 12:15 p.m. Mass there
are Devotions to **St. Anthony of Padua**.



Each Saturday Novena Prayers to **Our Lady of
Mercy** following 9:00 a.m. Mass.



On First Wednesday of each month a 7:00 p.m. Mass
is offered in honor of **Good Saint Joseph**.



On First Friday of each month following the 12:15 &
7:00 p.m. Mass there is **Act of Consecration of the
Human Race to the Sacred Heart of Jesus**.

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

August 16, 2026

MASS INTENTIONS August 16—August 23, 2026

Sun August 16 TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

- 9:00 AM * Repose of the Soul of
Virginia and Robert McPhail, by Tom Fries
- 11:00 AM People of the Parish
- 5:00 PM Repose of the Soul of Mary Furlow
by Dan Carpenter
- 8:00 PM Peace and Blessings for My Sister, Tam
by Abby

Mon August 17

- 7:00 AM **CSB**—All Souls, by Tim & Kim Nguyen
- 12:15 PM Repose of the Soul of Mary Wanner
by Bob & Natalie Wanner

Tues August 18

- 7:00 AM **CSB**—Repose of the Souls of Betty
and Raymond Conklin and Living Family
Members, by Eric & Christy Conklin
- 12:15 PM The Warren Family, by Bill & Theresa Warren

Wed August 19 Saint John Eudes, Priest

- 12:15 PM Repose of the Souls of George
and Wilma Ziegler, by Kristi Ziegler
- 4:00 PM **CSB**—Repose of the Soul of
Delphene Rose Montfort, by Sean & Jody White

Thurs August 20 Saint Bernard, Abbot and Doctor

- 7:00 AM **CSB**—Susan Frizzell, by Todd & Jovi Frizzell
- 12:15 PM Molly Seago, by Avery Hays

Fri August 21 Saint Pius X, Pope

- 7:00 AM **CSB**—Betty and Raymond Conklin and Living
Family Members, by Eric & Christy Conklin
- 12:15 PM Matt Randolph, by The Randolph Family

Sat August 22 THE QUEENSHIP OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

- 9:00 AM Brother Cody Evaristo
by Brian & Connie Swigert

Sun August 23 TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

- 9:00 AM * The Olachea Family, by The Bucher Family
- 11:00 AM An Increase in Mercedarian Vocations
- 5:00 PM Repose of the Soul of Madeline Wiggins
by Nicholas Wiggins
- 8:00 PM People of the Parish

** Incense will be used at this Mass*

Sign up for September 19th A Morning of Grace Retreat
Attend Art Show & Sale on Sunday August 23rd
(See flyers on pages 4 & 6 and on bulletin boards)

LECTOR SCHEDULE



- | | | |
|-----------|----------|-----------------|
| August 16 | 9:00 am | Mary Gamble |
| | 11:00 am | Kendy Troiano |
| | 5:00 pm | Rebecca Rector |
| August 23 | 9:00 am | Brandan Litman |
| | 11:00 am | Aurelio Morales |
| | 5:00 pm | Dan Hueckel |

HOMEBOUND AND/OR ILL IN NEED OF PRAYERS

Andre Bond	Theresa Piatt
Melody Christ	Joe Pinto
Sarah Conway	Eleanor Rabideau
JoAnn Cormack	Maura Renouf
Mary Jo Fetch	Josh Stroud
Jack Gookin	Genny Temple
John Keller	Celeste Trautman
Charles McKinniss	Mary Ann Wirsching
Debbie Newell	

Key Reasons to Teach Children of the Importance of Holy Communion

- **Real Presence:** Children learn that the bread and wine become the actual Body and Blood of Jesus, not just symbols.
- **Spiritual Nourishment:** They discover that receiving Communion feeds their soul the way food feeds the body.
- **Church Connection:** It connects them deeply to the parish family and the wider Catholic community.
- **Moral Growth:** Preparing for this sacrament teaches them about forgiveness, love, and mercy through Reconciliation.

CCD Class begins Sunday, September 13th
Have you registered your children?

OCIA: Order of Christian Initiation for Adults

Weekly sessions will meet Tuesdays, beginning **September 8** from 7:00 PM—8:15 PM in the Holy Family Parish Center behind the Church. To register or for more information, please contact Linda Hamilton, OCIA Coordinator at linda.hamilton01@sbcglobal.net.

SERMON ON THE AMOUNT

August 3, 2026—August 9, 2026

Offertory	
Collection	\$ 3,368
On-Line	9,201
Mail	+ 1,597
Total	\$ 14,166
Less: Assessment (10%)	- 1,417
Net	\$ 12,749
Soup Kitchen	\$ 20,997
Total Capital Campaign Donations	\$716,546
The Appeal Pledges	\$ 15,888
The Appeal Goal	\$ 75,987

God Reward your Generosity

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

August 16, 2026

A MORNING OF GRACE: RETREAT FOR WOMEN IN THE COLUMBUS CATHOLIC DIOCESE *Renew Reflect Reconnect*

Saturday, September 19, 2026

Begin with Mass at Holy Family at 9:00 am – then move to the undercroft for Faith, Fellowship & Renewal!

Come away for a meaningful retreat experience designed to refresh your spirit, strengthen your faith, and create space to listen, grow, and connect with God and one another.

Time	9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Location	Holy Family Catholic Church 584 Broad St. Columbus, OH 43215
Theme	"Gathered in Grace"
Cost	Free
Register By	September 10, 2026

Retreat Highlights

- Guided prayer and quiet reflection
- Inspirational teaching and talks from our two keynote speakers:
 - Father Michael Donovan, O. de M Pastor at Holy Family
 - Father Stash Dailey, Pastor at St. Michael the Archangel
- Conversation, food and refreshments

All are welcome. Bring a Bible, journal, and an open heart.

For registration, use the QR Code or if you have questions, contact: Holy Family Christian Mothers at

holyfamilyccm@gmail.com

Please register by September 10, 2026 via email or use this QR Code:



TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

August 16, 2026



HOLY FAMILY KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS #13428

We continue to collect aluminum cans for the Seminarians. All proceeds will go to these young men of Christ. Please drop the cans off at the entrance of the Church and/or Parish Center.

Our next Pancake Breakfast is scheduled for **Sunday August 30, 2026** after the 11am Mass.

Our monthly Corporate Mass for the Unborn Children and All Priests and Religious will be on Sunday **September 6, 2026** at the 11am Mass.

Our monthly Council meeting will be after the 11am Mass on **September 6, 2026** at the Parish Center.

If you are interested in becoming a Knight of Columbus, please contact **Jose Rivera** at **(614) 256-1425** or **fourtonmantis@icloud.com**.



HOLY FAMILY RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

"The Catholic Church has constantly taught that it is always intrinsically wrong to use contraception to prevent new human beings from coming into existence.

Not only does hormonal birth control work as an abortifacient that kills young humans, but all contraception violates God's design for sexuality and marriage, altering the sexual act by closing it off to the possibility for a new life...

To end abortion, we must reform our culture to respect sex as an action solely between a married man and woman and that is always open to life..."

(Catholics for Life).

1. Our Parish Picnic is **Sunday, September 20th after the 11am Mass** in the church parking lot. Raffle tickets will be sold after the 9am and 11am Mass. Please consider purchasing raffle tickets for a chance at winning a hand-selected saint statue by Fr. Michael!
2. Sign up to pray for the unborn and those facing abortion by taking home our traveling St. Raymond statue for 9 days. A sign up sheet is in the vestibule near the Holy Family statue
3. Our baby material drive for our local pregnancy centers is ongoing. Please consider donating gently used or new baby and maternity items to our donation drive!

Email **holyfamilyrlm@gmail.com** with questions.

Are You Registered With Holy Family Church?

There are **so many** benefits for you and our Church by just completing a registration form and becoming an official member! Please contact the Parish Office or stop by during normal office hours to get this taken care of. You need to be a part of us completely. And, it definitely would be an honor for us to have you.



CONFRATERNITY OF CHRISTIAN MOTHERS & LADIES GUILD

Serving the Women of Holy Family since 1887

Prayer for Special Needs of Children

Oh my God, I know too well that whatever I may do for the education of my children will remain fruitless without the blessing of Your Grace. "Unless the Lord builds the house," says the psalmist, they labor in vain who build it. Unless the Lord keeps the city, He watches in vain that keep it." (Ps. 127) I pray to You, therefore, O Lord, to give success to what I do for my children. Grant that they may remain preserved from all evil of body and soul, help me build so that the edifice of virtue and perfection may have in them, solid foundation and rise higher, graciously accompany all my words and actions with Your Grace, so that whatever I say and do may tend to their true welfare. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen

Our Mass is **Sunday, August 16** at 11:00 AM with the St. Gerard Blessing to follow. Please join us before the Blessed Mother's Altar.

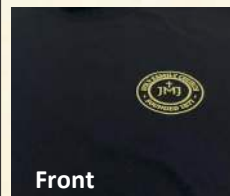
It is time to reserve your attendance for the **September 19 "A Morning of Grace" Retreat**. **Deadline is September 10th** for registration. There is no charge. A free will offering is always appreciated. Bring your bible, journal, and an open heart. Father Donovan and Father Stash will be speakers followed by food and refreshments.



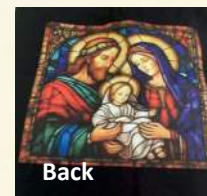
Pasta Dinner will be held **October 17**. The QR Code is for attendance registration. Please consider volunteering for this event. If interested you can contact us at **holyfamilyccm@gmail.com**. Flyers will be posted soon. Deadline for registration is **October 1st**.



Holy Family T-shirts can now be ordered at our cost of \$20. Sweatshirts and Hoodies are also available for \$30. Contact **holyfamilyccm@gmail.com** for an order form or use the QR code.



Front



Back



You will be notified by **Rita Martinez** **ritamar202@yahoo.com** to coordinate pick up of shirt orders. Please add her to your contacts to ensure email isn't sent to spam/junk folder.

We are always welcoming new members, please send your information to **holyfamilyccm@gmail.com** or join us at a meeting! .

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

August 16, 2026

ART Show & SALE

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23

AFTER THE 9:00 AM AND 11:00 AM MASSES
HOLY FAMILY CHURCH UNDERCROFT

Join us for a special exhibition and sale of
original artwork by parishioner

Mary Jo Fetch.



Mary Jo Fetch is a parishioner who paints
daily and has dedicated her art to the
Blessed Virgin Mary.



Mary Jo paints with her non-dominant hand
because of a stroke affecting her right side.
She began painting in October of 2024 –
painting **over 125 Christmas cards** that
first year!



Of note is that two of Mary Jo's pieces
were selected to be shown in the **Upper
Arlington Community Art Exhibit** that
were showcased at a reception on July 19
and will reside with other artwork in the
UA Municipal Services Center located at
3600 Tremont Rd through September.

Please consider stopping down after Mass
to see many of her beautiful works of art.



CASH OR CHECK PLEASE



A portion of the proceeds from the art sale will go
toward the *building fund* at Holy Family.

SUPPORT LOCAL ART.
SUPPORT OUR PARISH.
WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

DEMENTIA SERIES

Join us for a four-part series exploring the medical, safety, emotional and community-resource aspects of Alzheimer's disease and Dementia. Sessions are from **5:30 to 7 p.m.** on the third Thursday from August through November. They will be hosted at St. Brendan Parish located at 4475 Dublin Road in Hilliard.

Session 1: August 20 – Dr. Gavin Baumgardner, Owner, Healthy Alliance ("The Medical Aspects of Alzheimer's & Dementia")

Session 2: September 17 – Kelly Lambert, Executive Director, Dublin Glenn Memory Care ("The Emotional Aspects of Being a Caregiver")

Session 3: October 15 – Tonya Kreml, Owner, Transitioning Your Senior ("Safety at Home While Caregiving")

Session 4: November 19 – Laurie Schier, Oasis Senior Advisors ("Resources Beyond the Home")

Whether you're a caregiver, family member, friend, or simply interested in learning more, all are welcome to attend this free informative series. For questions, please email **Nell O'Connell** at doconnell@stbrendans.net.

St. Michael Festival—September 4—6, 2026
Fri. 7pm—11pm; Sat. & Sun. 5pm—11pm

Midway Games * Kiddie Land * Beer & Wine *
Bake Sale * Silent Auction * Casino * Toddler Kid Zone
* Inflatables * Slides * Face Painting * Photo Booth

Free Entertainment: Friday 8—11pm The Big Bad
Saturday 5—7pm Joint Rockers; 8—11pm Radio City
Sunday 6—7pm Apple Bottom Gang
8—11pm The Wet Bandits

5750 N. High Street, Worthington, Ohio 43085

Holy Family Parish is privileged to
announce The Banns of Marriage for
the following couples:

Jacob Scott Inscore
&
Regina Nicolę Severance
September 5, 2026

Jacob Matthew Macaluso
&
Hallie Marie Bradley
September 12, 2026

Wedding Banns



Congratulations to the families of
Andrea Bernardo Ramirez
Lesly Bernardo Ramirez
&
Genevieve Marie Snyder
who were welcomed into our faith
community through the Sacrament
of Baptism.

Deadline of Notes, Articles and Columns for
the August 30, 2026 Bulletin Issue is
Wednesday August 19th. Please contact the
Parish Office if you have any questions.
Thank you!

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

August 16, 2026

FEAST OF SAINT PIUS X

Friday, August 21, 2026

Pope Pius X (June 2, 1855—August 20, 1914) is perhaps best remembered for his encouragement of the frequent reception of Holy Communion, especially by children.

The second of 10 children in a poor Italian family, Joseph Sarto became Pius X at age 68. He was one of the 20th century's greatest popes.

Ever mindful of his humble origin, Pope Pius stated, "I was born poor, I lived poor, I will die poor." He was embarrassed by some of the pomp of the papal court. "Look how they have dressed me up," he said in tears to an old friend. To another, "It is a penance to be forced to accept all these practices. They lead me around surrounded by soldiers like Jesus when he was seized in Gethsemani."

Interested in politics, Pope Pius encouraged Italian Catholics to become more politically involved. One of his first papal acts was to end the supposed right of governments to interfere by veto in papal elections—a practice that reduced the freedom of the 1903 conclave which had elected him.

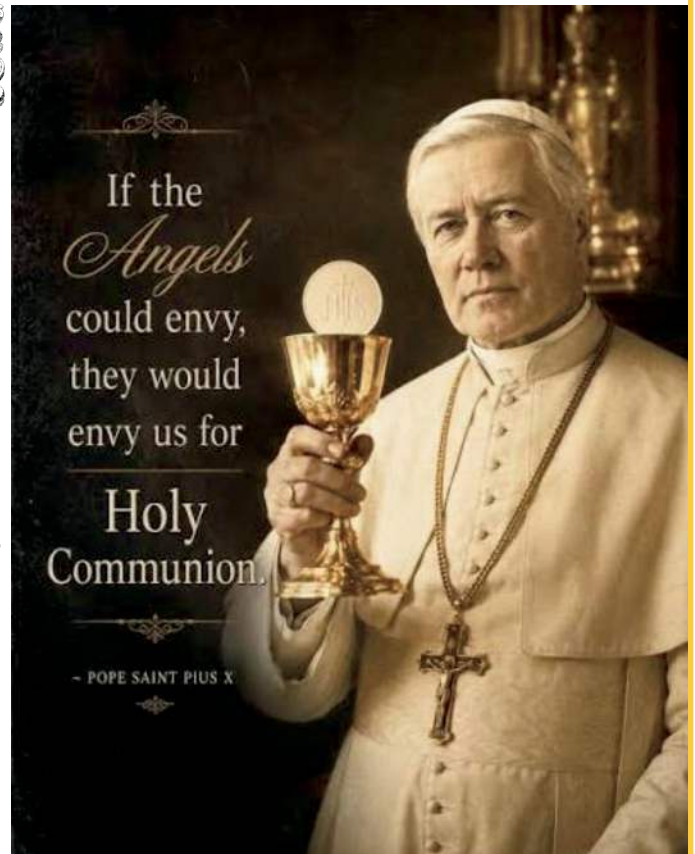
In 1905, when France renounced its agreement with the Holy See and threatened confiscation of Church property if governmental control of Church affairs were not granted, Pius X courageously rejected the demand.

While Saint Pius X did not author a famous social encyclical as his predecessor had done, he denounced the ill treatment of indigenous peoples on the plantations of Peru, sent a relief commission to Messina after an earthquake, and sheltered refugees at his own expense.

On the 11th anniversary of his election as pope, Europe was plunged into World War I. Saint Pius X had foreseen it, but it killed him. "This is the last affliction the Lord will visit on me. I would gladly give my life to save my poor children from this ghastly scourge." He died a few weeks after the war began, and was canonized in 1954.

Reflection

His humble background was no obstacle in relating to a personal God and to people whom he loved genuinely. Saint Pius X gained his strength, his gentleness and warmth for people from the source of all gifts, the Spirit of Jesus. In contrast, we often feel embarrassed by our backgrounds. Shame makes us prefer to remain aloof from people whom we perceive as superior. If we are in a superior position, on the other hand, we often ignore simpler people. Yet we, too, have to help "restore all things in Christ," especially the wounded people of God.



Key Contributions to Holy Communion

Lowered Communion Age: Issued *Quam Singulari* to allow children who reached the "age of reason" (7 years old) to receive the Eucharist, ending the previous practice of waiting until age 12 or 14. (*Aleteia*)

Frequent Communion: Urged the faithful to receive Holy Communion often (or even daily) rather than only a few times a year, emphasizing that the Eucharist is a source of spiritual strength. (*Corpus Christi Cathedral*)

Spiritual View: Famously called Holy Communion the "shortest and safest way to get to heaven". (*Adoremus*)

Lectio Divina

SCRIPTURE READING + MEDITATION + PRAYER + CONTEMPLATION

“What page, what passage of the inspired books of the Old and New Testaments is not the truest of guides for human life?” +Saint Benedict, from the *Rule of Saint Benedict* (73:3)

The month of August is dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

“There are those who seek knowledge for the sake of knowledge; that is Curiosity. There are those who seek knowledge to be known by others; that is Vanity. There are those who seek knowledge in order to serve; that is Love.” +SAINT BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX

Monday, August 17 ~ Twentieth Week in Ordinary Time
Optional Memorial: Our Lady of Knock

Holy Gospel: Matthew 19:16-22 A young man approached Jesus and said, “Teacher, what good must I do to gain eternal life?” He answered him, “Why do you ask me about the good? There is only One who is good. If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments.” He asked him, “Which ones?” And Jesus replied, “*You shall not kill; / you shall not commit adultery; / you shall not steal; / you shall not bear false witness; / honor your father and your mother; / and you shall love your neighbor as yourself.*” The young man said to him, “All of these I have observed. What do I still lack?” Jesus said to him, “If you wish to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” When the young man heard this statement, he went away sad, for he had many possessions.

Meditation: The young man who apparently had the best the world could offer – money, property, a position in society – came to Jesus because lacked one thing. He wanted the kind of lasting peace and happiness which his possessions could not buy. The answer he got, however, was not what he wanted to hear. He claims to have kept all of the commandments, so he must be an honest person in worldly dealings, and he obviously was a man of faith because he approached Jesus with a legitimate question. But based on the young man’s reaction to Jesus’ response, it becomes quite obvious that there is one thing that impeded the young man from giving himself wholeheartedly to God – his love of his possessions. While he lacked nothing in terms of material goods, he was possessive of what he had, and placed his hope and security in his possessions. That is why he became sad when Jesus challenged him to make God his one true possession and treasure, instead of his earthly possessions. Which begs the question – are you willing to part with your possessions in order to attain everlasting joy with Jesus?

Prayer: O God, who give hope to your people in a time of distress, grant that we who keep the memorial of the Blessed Virgin, Our Lady of Knock may, through her intercession, be steadfast in the faith during our earthly pilgrimage to heaven, and so come to eternal glory with all the angels and the Saints. 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.

Our Lady of Knock Novena: <https://www.praymorenovenas.com/our-lady-of-knock-novena>

Novena to Our Lady of Knock for the Unborn of Ireland:

<https://www.praymorenovenas.com/novena-to-our-lady-of-knock-for-the-unborn-of-ireland>

Contemplation: A very wise, faithful and holy priest I came to know in seminary once told us that one measure of our love for Christ, in comparison to anything else, is our attitude – do I *want* to spend time with Christ, do I *desire* from the heart to spend time with Christ, versus do I *have* to spend my time with Christ. The latter being the negative approach, like a child told to clean his or her room when they want to go out and play – “do I have to do this” versus *wanting* to do it. Apply this to Sunday Mass – do you *desire* to go to Mass, or do you go to Mass simply because you *have* to? Treasure has a special connection to the heart, the place of desire and longing, the place of personal will, desire and focus. The thing we most set our heart on is our highest treasure. Jesus himself is the greatest treasure we can possibly have. Giving up everything else to have the Lord as our treasure is not sorrowful, but the greatest joy.

About Our Lady of Knock: On August 21, 1879, Margaret Beirne, a resident of Cnoc Mhuire, was sent by her brother to lock up the church for the evening. When she was ready to leave, she noticed a strange



brightness hovering over the church. Margaret had other things on her mind, and didn't tell anyone what she saw. Around the same time, another member of the Beirne family, Mary, was leaving from a visit to the church's housekeeper, and stopped with the housekeeper at the gables, where they could see the church. Mary replied: "Oh look at the statues! Why didn't you tell me the priest got new statues for the chapel?" The housekeeper responded that she knew nothing of the priest getting new statues. So, they both went for a closer look, and Mary Beirne said: "But they are not statues, they're moving. It's the Blessed Virgin!" Thirteen others also came and saw the beautiful woman, clothed in white garments, wearing a brilliant crown. Her hands were raised as if in prayer. All knew that it was Mary, the Mother of Jesus, Queen of Angels. On the right of Our Lady stood St. Joseph, his head inclined toward her. On her left stood St. John the Evangelist, dressed as a bishop. To the left of St. John stood an altar which had a lamb and a cross surrounded by angels on it. The vision lasted about two hours. People who were not at the apparition site reported that they saw a bright light illuminating the area where the church was. Many of the sick were healed upon visiting the church at Knock.

Tuesday, August 18 ~ Twentieth Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Matthew 19:23-30 Jesus said to his disciples: "Amen, I say to you, it will be hard for one who is rich to enter the Kingdom of heaven. Again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for one who is rich to enter the Kingdom of God." When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and said, "Who then can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "For men this is impossible, but for God all things are possible." Then Peter said to him in reply, "We have given up everything and followed you. What will there be for us?" Jesus said to them, "Amen, I say to you that you who have followed me, in the new age, when the Son of Man is seated on his throne of glory, will yourselves sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands for the sake of my name will receive a hundred times more, and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

Meditation: One might wonder if Jesus was against wealth, and persons who had wealth. We know that Jesus was not opposed to wealth *per se*, nor was he opposed to the wealthy. He had many friends who were well-to-do, including some notorious tax collectors! One (Matthew, who wrote this Gospel) even became an apostle. Jesus' is concerned that wealth can make us falsely independent. The church at Laodicea was warned about their attitude towards wealth and a false sense of security: "For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing" (Revelations 3:17). Wealth can also lead us into hurtful desires and selfishness (see 1 Timothy 6:9-10). Look at the lesson Jesus gave about the rich man and his sons who refused to aid the poor man Lazarus (see Luke 16:19ff). They neglected to serve God. Only those who put their trust in God and who depend on him, and who share what they have with those in need, will find true peace, security, and happiness which lead to everlasting life and joy in God's kingdom.

Prayer: O God, who have prepared for those who love you good things which no eye can see, fill our hearts, we pray, with the warmth of your love, so that, loving you in all things and above all things, we may attain your promises, which surpass every human desire. 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.

Contemplation: Do you recognize and acknowledge our total need and dependence on God? If you do not, now is the time to recognize this truth, for only through the Lord will we find true peace, security, and happiness that can sustain us now and forever. Only God alone can satisfy our deepest need and longing – everything else is fleeting at best.

Wednesday, August 19 ~ Twentieth Week in Ordinary Time

Optional Memorial: Saint John Eudes, Priest

Holy Gospel: Mathew 20:1-16 Jesus told his disciples this parable: "The Kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out at dawn to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with them for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. Going out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, 'You too go into my vineyard, and I will give you what is just.' So they went off. And he went out again around noon, and around three o'clock, and did likewise. Going out about five o'clock, he found others standing around, and said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' They answered, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You too go into my vineyard.' When it was evening the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Summon the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and ending with the first.' When those who had started about five o'clock came, each received the usual daily wage. So when the first came, they thought that they would receive more, but each of them also got the usual wage. And on receiving it they grumbled against the landowner,

saying, 'These last ones worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us, who bore the day's burden and the heat.' He said to one of them in reply, 'My friend, I am not cheating you. Did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what is yours and go. What if I wish to give this last one the same as you? Or am I not free to do as I wish with my own money? Are you envious because I am generous?' Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Meditation: In the parable of the laborers in the vineyard we see the extraordinary generosity and compassion of God (Matthew 20:1-16). There is great tragedy in underemployment, unemployment, the loss of work, and the inability to earn enough to live and support oneself or one's family. In Jesus' times laborers had to wait each day in the marketplace until someone hired them for a day's job. No work that day usually meant no food on the family table. The laborers who worked all day and received their payment complain that the master pays the late afternoon laborers the same wage. The master, undoubtedly, hired them in the late afternoon so they wouldn't go home payless and hungry. God is generous in opening the doors of his kingdom to all who will enter, both those who have labored a life-time for him and those who come at the last hour. While the reward is the same, the motive for one's labor can make all the difference. Some work only for reward. They will only put in as much effort as they think they will get back. Others labor out of love and joy for the opportunity to work and to serve others. The Lord Jesus calls each one of us to serve God and his kingdom with joy and zeal and to serve our neighbor with a generous spirit as well.

Prayer: O God, who wonderfully chose the Priest Saint John Eudes to proclaim the unfathomable riches of Christ, grant us, by his example and teachings, that, growing in knowledge of you, we may live faithfully by the light of the Gospel. 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.

Contemplation: Today's Gospel should make us think about whether or not we labor for God's kingdom here on earth, whether or not we live our lives in witness to Christ, and asking if we labor for Christ in order to attain eternal life with Him. What motivates us? What is our intent? What is our ultimate goal in life? If our ultimate goal is not focused on attaining eternal life with Christ, then today is a perfect time to make a course correction in order to get a clear understanding of what our earthly life should be about in order to attain eternal life.

Thursday, August 20 ~ Twentieth Week in Ordinary Time

Memorial: Saint Bernard of Clairvaux, Abbot and Doctor of the Church

Holy Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14 Jesus again in reply spoke to the chief priests and the elders of the people in parables saying, "The Kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son. He dispatched his servants to summon the invited guests to the feast, but they refused to come. A second time he sent other servants, saying, 'Tell those invited: "Behold, I have prepared my banquet, my calves and fattened cattle are killed, and everything is ready; come to the feast."' Some ignored the invitation and went away, one to his farm, another to his business. The rest laid hold of his servants, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged and sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then the king said to his servants, 'The feast is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy to come. Go out, therefore, into the main roads and invite to the feast whomever you find.' The servants went out into the streets and gathered all they found, bad and good alike, and the hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to meet the guests he saw a man there not dressed in a wedding garment. He said to him, 'My friend, how is it that you came in here without a wedding garment?' But he was reduced to silence. Then the king said to his attendants, 'Bind his hands and feet, and cast him into the darkness outside, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.' Many are invited, but few are chosen."

Meditation: Jesus' parable contains two stories. The first has to do with the original guests invited to the marriage feast. The king had sent out invitations well in advance to his subjects, so they would have plenty of time to prepare for coming to the feast. How insulting for the invited guests to then refuse when the time for celebrating came! They made light of the King's request because they put their own interests above his. They not only insulted the King but the heir to the throne as well. The king's anger is justified because they openly refused to give the king the honor he was due. Jesus directed this warning to the Jews of his day, both to convey how much God wanted them to share in the joy of his kingdom, but also to give a warning about the consequences of refusing his Son, their Messiah and Savior. The second part of the story focuses on those who had no claim on the king and who would never have considered getting such an invitation. The good and the bad along the highways certainly referred to the Gentiles and to sinners. This is certainly an invitation of grace - undeserved, unmerited favor and kindness! But this



invitation also contains a warning for those who refuse it or who approach the wedding feast unworthily. God's grace is a free gift, but it is also an awesome responsibility.

Prayer: O God, who made the Abbot Saint Bernard a man consumed with zeal for your house and a light shining and burning in your Church, grant, through his intercession, that we may be on fire with the same spirit and walk always as children of light. 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.

Contemplation: Saint John Chrysostom provides some words to contemplate on pertaining to today's parable: "But since you have already come into the house of the marriage feast, our holy church, as a result of God's generosity, be careful, my friends, lest when the King enters he find fault with some aspect of your heart's clothing. We must consider what comes next with great fear in our hearts. But the king came in to look at the guests and saw there a person not clothed in a wedding garment. What do we think is meant by the wedding garment, dearly beloved? For if we say it is baptism or faith, is there anyone who has entered this marriage feast without them? A person is outside because he has not yet come to believe. What then must we understand by the wedding garment but love? That person enters the marriage feast, but without wearing a wedding garment, who is present in the holy church. He may have faith, but he does not have love. We are correct when we say that love is the wedding garment because this is what our Creator himself possessed when he came to the marriage feast to join the church to himself. Only God's love brought it about that his only begotten Son united the hearts of his chosen to himself. John says that 'God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son for us' " (John 3:16).

Friday, August 21 ~ Twentieth Week in Ordinary Time

Memorial: Saint Pius X, Pope

Holy Gospel: Matthew 22:34-40 When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a scholar of the law, tested him by asking, "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments."

Meditation: Jesus summarized the whole of the law in two great commandments found in Deuteronomy 6:5 - "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might" - and Leviticus 19:18 - "you shall love your neighbor as yourself." God's love directs all that he does - His love is holy, just, and pure because it seeks only what is good, beneficial, and life-giving - rather than what is destructive, evil, or deadly. That is why he commands us to love - to accept and to give only what is good, lovely, just, and pure and to reject whatever is contrary.

Prayer: O God, who to safeguard the Catholic faith and to restore all things in Christ, filled Pope Saint Pius the Tenth with heavenly wisdom and apostolic fortitude, graciously grant that, following his teaching and example, we may gain an eternal prize. 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.

Contemplation: Love is the gift of giving oneself for the good of others - it is wholly other oriented and directed to the welfare and benefit of others. Love which is rooted in pleasing myself is self-centered and possessive - it is a selfish love that takes from others rather than gives to others. It is a stunted and disordered love which leads to many hurtful and sinful desires - such as jealousy, greed, envy, and lust. The root of all sin is disordered love and pride which is fundamentally putting myself above God and my neighbor - it is loving and serving me, myself and I rather than God and neighbor. True love, which is wholly directed and oriented to what is good rather than evil, is rooted in God's truth and moral goodness. How can we possibly love God above all else and obey his commandments willingly and joyfully, and how can we love our neighbor and willing lay down our life for their sake? Paul the Apostle tells us that "hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us" (Romans 5:5). We do not earn God's love - it is freely given to those who open their heart to God and who freely accept the gift of the Holy Spirit.

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