

# OUR LADY OF THE HILLS

The Catholic Community of Adams and Highland Counties

## ST. MARY CHURCH

212 S. High St. • Hillsboro, OH 45133

937-840-9932

Masses Sat. 5:30 p.m. Sun. 8:00 & 10:00 a.m.

Tues. 9:15 a.m. Thurs. 7:00 p.m.

## ST. BENIGNUS CHURCH

204 S. Second St. • Greenfield, OH 45123

937-981-2785 • stbenignus@gmail.com

Masses Sat. 3:30 p.m. Sun. 12:00 p.m.

Tues. 11:00 a.m. Fri. 12:00 p.m.

## HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

612 E. Mulberry St. • West Union, OH 45693

937-544-2757

secretary@holytrinity-ac.org

Masses Sat. 5:00 p.m. Sun. 11:00 a.m.

Mon. 7:00 p.m. Wed. 9:00 a.m. Fri 12:00 p.m.

## ST. MARY QUEEN OF HEAVEN CHURCH

205 Wendell Ave. • Peebles, OH 45660

937-544-2757

secretary@holytrinity-ac.org

Masses Sun. 8:30 a.m.

Tues. 9:00 a.m. Thurs. 9:00 a.m.

## FR. MIKE PARANIUK, PASTOR

937-403-2510 • edbourdase@yahoo.com

## FR. MARK BREDESTEGE, VICAR

937-637-8035 • frbredestege@holytrinity-ac.org

## FAMILY WEBSITE

<http://www.ourladyofthehillsoh.com>



ST. MARY CHURCH • HILLSBORO  
ST. BENIGNUS CHURCH • GREENFIELD



**ST. MARY PROGRAM CONTACTS**

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL:**

*George Sakash*  
Phone: 937-205-0919

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:**

*Grand Knight, Jim Hehl*  
Phone: 937-661-4835

**RCIA:**

*Joyce Combs*  
Phone: 937-403-6708

**PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION (GRADES PRE-K THROUGH 12TH)**

*Michelle Vanzant Salyer*  
Phone: 937-840-9932  
Email: stmarycre119@gmail.com

**CHOIR/MUSIC DIRECTOR:**

*Lynn Turner*  
Phone: 937-763-8522

**PRO-LIFE REPRESENTATIVE:**

*Mary Tamborski*  
Phone: 937-205-4458

**ST. MARY CHURCH OFFICE & ST. MARY PRESCHOOL:**

*Leah Salyer, Administrative Assistant & Beacons of Light*  
Office: 937-840-9932  
Cell: 937-205-3038  
Email: justleahatstmary@gmail.com

**ST. BENIGNUS PROGRAM CONTACTS**

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL:**

*Gene DeBruin*  
Phone: 937-981-2785

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:**

*Grand Knight, Bruce Bennett, Sr.*  
Phone: 740-463-3406

**RCIA:**

Phone: 937-981-2785  
Email: stbenignus@gmail.com

**PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION:**

*Chyane Collins*  
Phone: 740-572-2101  
Email: chyaneollins@gmail.com

*Bruce Bennett, Jr.*

Phone: 740-572-2085  
Email: bennettb@greatoaks.com

**CHOIR/MUSIC DIRECTOR:**

*Kristy Bockrath*  
Phone: 937-361-6590  
Email: krbockr@icloud.com

**LADIES AUX:**

*President: Paula Miller*  
Phone: 937-876-9883

**ST. BENIGNUS CEMETERY:**

Phone: 937-981-2785  
Email: stbenignus@gmail.com

**PRO-LIFE REPRESENTATIVE:**

*Mary Tamborski*  
Phone: 937-205-4458

**ST. BENIGNUS CHURCH OFFICE:**

Phone: 937-981-2785;  
Email: stbenignus@gmail.com

**TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
JUNE 23, 2024**

**CONFESSION (RECONCILIATION): CONFESSION IS AVAILABLE BEFORE THE MASSES OR BY APPOINTMENT.**

**ROSARY EVERY SUNDAY AT 7:40 A.M. AT ST. MARY CHURCH  
SUNDAY, JUNE 23, 2024**

**8:00 a.m. St. Mary** Chief Rudy Thomsen (Lydia Breckel)

**CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY AT 9:45 A.M. EVERY SUNDAY  
BEFORE 10:00 A.M. MASS AT ST. MARY CHURCH**

**10:00 a.m. St. Mary** Dustin Blanchard (Taryn Hastings)  
**Noon St. Benignus** Healing of Dick Lester (Chyane Collins)  
*Fr. Mike Paraniuk*

**TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 2024**

**9:15 a.m. St. Mary** Healing for Greyson Meyer (Walters Family)

**ROSARY EVERY TUESDAY AT 11:00 A.M. AT ST. BENIGNUS CHURCH**

**11:30 a.m. St. Benignus** The Tapay & Hahn Families (Bob Dye)  
*Fr. Mike Paraniuk*

**HOLY HOUR EVERY THURSDAY AT ST. MARY CHURCH**

**3RD THURSDAY MASS EVERY MONTH IS DEDICATED TO PRO-LIFE**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 2024**

**6:00 p.m.** Exposition at St. Mary  
**6:30 p.m.** Recitation of the Rosary at St. Mary  
**6:50 p.m.** Benediction at St. Mary  
**7:00 p.m. St. Mary** Joel Griggs (Coleen Bolton)  
*Fr. Mike Paraniuk*

**FRIDAY, JUNE 28, 2024**

**Noon St. Benignus** Zaldy Bucayan (Bob Dye & Mary Ann McNichols)  
*Fr. Mike Paraniuk*

**SATURDAY, JUNE 29, 2024**

**3:30 p.m. St. Benignus** Tess Anfone (Jackie Soards)  
**5:30 p.m. St. Mary** Valeriana Riquer (Josie Riquer)  
*Fr. Mike Paraniuk*

**SUNDAY, JUNE 30, 2024**

**8:00 a.m. St. Mary** Jane Lawson (Greg Lawson)  
**10:00 a.m. St. Mary** Brian Hennessey (Jamie & Bryce Corns)  
**Noon St. Benignus** Anthony Beverly (Josh Beverly)  
*Fr. Mike Paraniuk*

**ST. MARY COLLECTION - JUNE 16, 2024**

Weekly Need .....	\$	6,500.00
Weekly Collection.....	\$	4,177.00
Vagabond Mission Collection.....	\$	1,256.00
Variance .....	\$	-2,323.00
FISCAL YEAR NEED .....	\$	331,500.00
FISCAL YEAR COLLECTED .....	\$	306,045.00
VARIANCE.....	\$	-25,455.00

**ST. BENIGNUS COLLECTION - JUNE 16, 2024**

Weekly Need .....	\$	1,900.00
Weekly Collection.....	\$	2,741.00
Vagabond Mission Collection.....	\$	1,091.00
Variance .....	\$	+841.00
FISCAL YEAR NEED .....	\$	96,900.00
FISCAL YEAR COLLECTED .....	\$	112,733.00
VARIANCE.....	\$	+15,833.00

*Thank You for your Generosity!*

**PRAYER REQUEST**

Please keep **Archbishop Schnurr** in your prayers. He has been diagnosed with small bowel cancer and will begin a six-month regimen for treatment. His health overall is good, but can use the support and prayers of the faithful as he begins this endeavor.



**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**THURSDAY, JULY 4, 2024**

Following the 9:30 a.m. Mass – Knights of Columbus Patriotic Rosary – **St. Mary**

**THURSDAY, JULY 11, 2024**

6:30 p.m. Ladies Auxiliary Indoor Picnic Meeting – Religious Ed Bldg. – **St. Benignus**

**MONDAY JULY 15-THURSDAY JULY 18, 2024**

6:00-8:00 p.m. Vacation Bible School – Barnyard Roundup – **St. Mary**  
Contact Michelle Salyer for more information at 937-840-9932.

**FRIDAY, JULY 26, 2024**

9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. SVdP Annual Rummage Sale – **St. Mary**

**SATURDAY, JULY 27, 2024**

9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. SVdP Annual Rummage Sale – **St. Mary**

**JULY 29-AUGUST 2, 2024**

6:00-8:00 p.m. Sea Explorers Vacation Bible School – **Holy Trinity Church**.  
Contact Kathy Gerth for more information at 937-661-4070.

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 2024**

6:30 p.m. Ladies Aux. Meeting – Religious Ed. Bldg. – **St. Benignus**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 18, 2024**

3:00 p.m. Our Lady of The Hills Adams County Picnic – Presentation Ministries,  
Our Lady of Guadalupe Discipleship Center  
5701 Lawshe Road, Peebles, Ohio 45660

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2024**

1:00 p.m. Our Lady of The Hills Highland County Picnic –  
Mitchell Park, 753 S. 7th Street, Greenfield, OH 45123

**THURSDAY, JULY 4, 2024**

Following the 9:30 a.m. Mass  
Knights of Columbus Patriotic Rosary – **St. Mary**



**SUNDAY, JULY 14, 2024**

11:00 a.m. Knights of Columbus St. Benignus in Father Lay Hall – **St. Benignus**  
**Grand Knight: Bruce Bennett Sr. Contact: 740-463-3406**

**NEWS AROUND OUR LADY OF THE HILLS**

**FAMILY WEBSITE COMING SOON!!**

Please note: at this time, it is **not** live yet but will be soon! <http://www.ourladyofthehillsoh.com>.



**SUPPORT THE WORKS OF THE HOLY FATHER THROUGH THE PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION**  
**Weekend of June 29-30th**

Peter's Pence Collection, a worldwide collection that supports the work of the Universal Church,

including the work of the Holy See and the charitable works of Pope Francis. This collection, supported by Catholics around the globe, funds the ongoing activities of the Holy See and helps the Holy Father reach out to people suffering in our world. Take this opportunity to join with Pope Francis and be a sign of mercy to our suffering brothers and sisters. For more information, visit [www.obolodisani Pietro.va/en.html](http://www.obolodisani Pietro.va/en.html)

**PLEASE PRAY FOR**

Remember in your prayers those parishioners or their family or friends who are sick, in the hospital, nursing home, homebound or in need of prayers...

**ST. BENIGNUS & ST. MARY PRAYER LIST**

Archbishop Schnurr, David Tolle, Brittany Kinzer, Eric Arrington, Paula Miller, Claudia Frank, Jeff Hadley, Becky Hiser, Theresa Shackelford, Cathy Thompson, Teresa Staten, Edna Maxwell, Jean Smith, Howard Smith, Ron Speakman, Linda Strahler, Dick Lester, Tom Moran, Jeff McCoy, Kaye Miller, Pam Huff, Al Takacs, Linda Bradford

**\*\*To Add/Remove from Parish Prayer List, please inform the office (937-840-9932, St. Mary) or leave a note in the collection basket. (St. Benignus Church Office, 937-981-2785)\*\***

**BULLETIN DEADLINE**

**\*\*Please submit by Monday 10:00 a.m. in writing or email at [justleahatstmary@gmail.com](mailto:justleahatstmary@gmail.com), or submit in my mailbox located at the front of the school or call the office at 937-840-9932.\*\***

**FR. LUEHRMANN HALL**

**\$65,447.25 Debt on Fr. Luehrmann Hall.**



**ST. MARY CHURCH BINGO**

**\*\* Volunteers needed for Bingo. Help is needed from 5:30-7:00 p.m. Substitute Team Help needed also. Please call the Church Office at 937-840-9932 \*\***

**Bingo Team 2 (July 5, 2024)**

David Tamborski, Mary Tamborski, Tara Bloom, Joyce Combs, Barb Barker, Kevin Stuebs, Teresa Stuebs

**BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!**

- June 24** – Katie Ross
- June 28** – Bruce Bennett, Darlene Markel, Kim O'Brien, Tom Wakeman
- June 29** – Deacon Len Parker
- July 1** – Tami Florek
- July 3** – Jennie Boden, Jennifer Ewing, Joni Stultz
- July 5** – Kayleigh Elliott
- July 7** – Dorothy Creed, Keith Chambers, Sally Frydryk
- July 9** – Linda Hovan, Ella Salyer, Gina Taylor
- July 10** – Cindy Cook, Kirk Wuellner
- July 11** – Adam Chamblin, Holly Pence, Isaiah Thery
- July 12** – Amber Michael, Al Takacs
- July 13** – Jim Lehn II, Gail Malec
- July 14** – Andrew Gillespie, Patricia Rumpke

## ST. BRIGID IN XENIA – JULY 1 & 2ND – THE SETON ROUTE, NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC PILGRIMAGE

The dinner is provided by the church, and they would like you to register using the QR code on the flyer. If you're planning on attending and would like to meet at the event or carpool, contact Michelle Salyer at 937-840-9932 and we will work out the details.

YOU ARE INVITED TO BE PART OF

**the Seton Route**

NATIONAL Eucharistic Pilgrimage




**Mon July 1**

3:30-4:15 Shuttles from St. Brigid to Expo Center

4:30 PM **Procession** from Fairgrounds Expo Center to St. Brigid Church

5 PM **Holy Hour**, including a **National Eucharistic Preacher**, Praise & Worship music by **Damascus Worship**, with confessions available

6:30 PM **Community Dinner** in Parish Activity Center  
~ **Adoration** continues overnight until Holy Mass

**Eucharistic Miracle Exhibition** by Bl Carlo Acutis can be seen in the PAC

**Tues July 2**

7:30 AM **Holy Mass at St. Brigid**

Following Mass, **Eucharistic Procession** from St. Brigid Church through downtown Xenia to Xenia Station, approx 2.3 miles (shuttle bus will bring people back to St. Brigid)

**July 1-2**

**Jesus is coming**



Scan the QR code to register and for updates

**ST BRIGID IN XENIA**

## ST. MARY CHURCH, HILLSBORO – CONFIRMATION MASS

October 22, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

Fr. Bernie Weldishofer, our Dean from St. Columbkille, will be the celebrant.



## ST. MARY – VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 15-18, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Vacation Bible School, Barnyard Roundup, will take place on July 15 to 18, 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. at St. Mary Parish Hall. It is open for grades preschool through 5th grade.

We start the night off with a meal and the VBS program starts at 6:00 p.m. Registration forms are in the narthex on the table; please return them to the collection basket. If you are interested in helping or have more questions, please call Michelle Salyer at 937-840-9932 or email to [stmarycre119@gmail.com](mailto:stmarycre119@gmail.com).



## SOPC BABY BOTTLE FUNDRAISER

A BIG THANK-YOU to all the parishioners who made this fundraiser a success!!! The generosity from this parish is so awesome!!! We raised over \$1,400.00 for the moms in need in our community. Your generosity never ceases to amaze me. Again, a BIG THANK-YOU on behalf of all the moms and their babies either born or preborn, may our sweet Lord bless you all in your endeavors.

With much gratitude, Mary F. R. Tamborski, Pro-life Representative



## FATHER'S DAY IN HONOR OF / IN MEMORY OF

Marvin Simon, John Hovan Sr., Don Walters, John Keating, Sam Williams, Jack Keating, Harold Shultz, David Walters, Vic deMilliano, Ray deMilliano,

Chris deMilliano, Alan deMilliano, Timothy Blanchard, Dustin Blanchard, Drew Hastings, Donald Markland, Edward Singer, Clayton Vanzant, Russell Salyer, Michael Cowdrey, Gary Huff, Carl Huff Jr., Robert Kleinhenz, Arnold Lafferty, Richard Pavey, Alan J. Lehn, John W. Powers, Frank Rehark, Jerome Winner, Jim Winner, David Tamborski, George Trumble, Chris Tamborski, Joseph Moses Jr., Everett (Shorty) Wright, Alvin Cole, Stanley Feder, Ted Combs, George Wehner, Charl Moyer, Joe Butler, Lewis Behm, Dale Kerchinske, Art Kerchinske, Alvin Paetzel, Isidor Brown, Dale Walker, Harold Carson, Elpidio Pedroza, Edward Volk, Florance Perin, Charles Volk, Richard Uhl, Arthur Block, Ralph Bryant, Billy Ratcliffe, George Barnes, Sr., Dane E. Iseman, Amos Cook, Al Burkart, Albert Kearney, Charles Morgan, David Kearney, Sidney Soards, William S. Soards

## ATTEND THE NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS JULY 17-21 IN INDIANAPOLIS

Join thousands of fellow disciples from across the U.S. and beyond for this event, which will include prayer, workshops, concerts, and more. The National Congress is a centerpiece of the multi-year Eucharistic Revival initiated and led by the U.S. Catholic Bishops. Groups or individuals may register for the entire event or for just a day. For more information, go to <https://www.eucharisticcongress.org/>

## JOIN IN THE EUCHARISTIC PILGRIMAGE COMING TO ARCHDIOCESE JULY 1-8

The St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Route of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage is coming through the Archdiocese of Cincinnati July 1-8 on its way to Indianapolis for the National Eucharistic Congress. Along the route, several parishes will be offering special opportunities for prayer and fellowship. On July 6, Archbishop Schnurr will celebrate Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter in Chains at 10:00 a.m. followed by a Eucharistic Procession through downtown Cincinnati and Eucharistic Festival on Fountain Square. Please plan to participate in this wonderful event! Go to [www.JesusIsHere2024.org](http://www.JesusIsHere2024.org) for information.

## SVDP ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE

119 E. Walnut Street, Hillsboro will be: **Friday, July 26, 2024: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; Saturday, July 27, 2024: 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.**



**Drop-off days at 119 E. Walnut Street: Wednesday, July 24th from 5:00-8:00 p.m.; Thursday, July 25th from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Please, no electronics.**



**St. Benignus Ladies Auxiliary** will be holding an indoor picnic meeting on July 11th at 6:30 p.m. in the Religious Ed. Bld. All ladies of the parish are invited. Please bring your favorite picnic dish. Hot dogs and drinks and place settings will be furnished. Please come and join us for an evening of fun and merriment.

**ARE YOU BETWEEN 16 AND 75 YEARS OLD? EVER CONSIDER SHORT OR LONG-TERM SERVICE OR LAY MISSIONARY WORK IN THE U.S. OR OVERSEAS?** There are over 100 Catholic organizations seeking volunteers for all sorts of service: agriculture and mechanic work, arts and music, building trades, business and administration, computer work, community organizing, religious/school education, elderly outreach, engineering, mental and physical health care, refugee services, pro-life ministries, social/racial justice work, youth ministry...AND MORE! Check out the Catholic Volunteer Network at <https://catholicvolunteernetwork.org>. For advice and possible limited subsidies, contact Dr. Mike Gable, Mission Office Director, Archdiocese of Cincinnati at [mgable@catholicaoc.org](mailto:mgable@catholicaoc.org)

# Adams Co. Food for All



Catholic Charities  
Southwestern Ohio  
Serve | Engage | Empower

Mobile Pantry

**Every 4th Tuesday of Month**

**Adams County Fairgrounds, Boyd Ave West Union**

Eligibility Guidelines: TEFAP Household income at or below 200% the federal poverty line

**Tuesday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024 from 11am-1pm**

**Tuesday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 from 11am-1pm**

**Tuesday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024 from 11am-1pm**

**Picture ID and current piece of mail necessary for registration.**

**If local schools close or delay due to inclement weather, the Mobile Pantry will be cancelled or rescheduled.**

**Questions or willing to volunteer... Contact CCSWO Food for All Coordinator at 513.672.3720**

Made possible by **Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio, Freestore Foodbank, Anthem**  
and the strong support of area churches and volunteers.



This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



## OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE DISCIPLESHIP CENTER SEMINARS AND RETREATS

Our Lady of Guadalupe Discipleship Center, 5701 Lawshe Road, Peebles Ohio 45660

Call 513-373-2397 or email [retreats@presentationministries.com](mailto:retreats@presentationministries.com)

**Our Primary Goal Is to Make Disciples Who Make Disciples**

For this purpose, our founder, the late Fr. Albert Lauer, developed the 40-Day Discipleship Formation. It is a series of 13 Retreats consisting of six to seven seminars each, reaching the depths of our soul and shining the Light of the Gospel on sin and confusion. If you feel called to this commitment, please call us and let us know.

### 40-Day Discipleship Formation – First Week

(This formation can be done in 40 straight days or in segments over a couple of years. You are welcome to come to any part even if you can't make the 40-day commitment.)

#### June 24-26 – Living in Reality

This Seminar helps build a firm foundation for a Christian who is just beginning a walk with the Lord. There is much to consider here. If there are cracks in your foundation, areas in need of healing of which you are not even aware, you are at risk of great setbacks in your spiritual life.

#### June 26-28 – How do I Seek the Kingdom of God?

This one provides building blocks for the Christian Life and a broad view of the Church established by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

#### June 28-30 – Life style in the Spirit

These teachings from the Bible challenge the ways of the World that have ensnared many Christians. Most pastors avoid them but they need to be heard (Sex, Money, Work, Sunday Worship, Freedom, Risen Life).

#### Retreats (Second Week of 40-Day Formation)

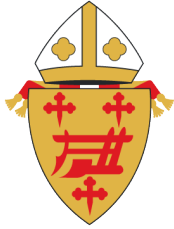
##### July 1-3– Intimacy with God (Sacraments)

##### July 3-5 – Who Am I in Christ?

##### July 5-7\* – Discover your Spiritual Gifts (Charisms)



For more information or to register, go to: [www.presentationministries.com](http://www.presentationministries.com) or Email: [bpojesu2000@gmail.com](mailto:bpojesu2000@gmail.com). Cost is a Donation!



## ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI

Office of the Archbishop

archbishop@catholicaoc.org

513.263.6612

June 19, 2024

*Anniversary of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Today we celebrate the 203rd anniversary of the establishment of our archdiocese (then diocese) by Pope Pius VII. For over two centuries, Catholics in these 19 counties of western and southwestern Ohio have celebrated and shared in our Lord's presence and mission as members of the Mystical Body of Christ, the Church. Throughout these many years, the Church has responded to the pastoral, spiritual, and temporal needs of people, proclaiming the Gospel through word and action. It is fitting, therefore, to mark the anniversary of the establishment of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati by considering how we may continue to grow together as the Church in this time and place.

Beacons of Light highlights the call of every person to actively participate as "a member of a parish, the Universal Church, and our local Church" and to "continually deepen the bond of communion with other parishes." Consistent with this principle, many Families of Parishes recognize the benefit of working together to serve the poor, reach out to those who are homebound, engage young people in the faith, and better use their resources to fulfill Christ's great commission to share the Good News of salvation. Such collaboration in ministry is encouraging. Still, there is even more we can do to further Christ's mission into the future through the parishes and ministries of the archdiocese.

This year, Catholics throughout the United States continue to participate in the National Eucharistic Revival, a three-year movement to deepen understanding and devotion to this great mystery of our faith. As St. Augustine teaches us, the Church and the Eucharist are two facets of the same reality, the Divine Person of Jesus Christ. The Revival invites us to reflect on the gift and fruit of Christ's enduring Eucharistic presence in the Church. Through prayer, reflection, catechesis and celebration, we are reminded of Christ's great sacrifice and our responsibility to give freely and fully in order to share God's love with others.

Our participation in the Eucharist draws us into *metanoia* – a fundamental and enduring change of mind and heart – in order to be more like the One whose Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity we receive in Holy Communion. Change typically is not easy, either for ourselves or for the Church. Yet change is necessary. The circumstances in which the Church operates now are different than they were two hundred years ago, or during any period of time in between. We therefore must consider whether all our resources and activities are properly oriented to helping people encounter Christ and grow more deeply in love with Him through His Church.

On this anniversary of the archdiocese, we pray for a deepening of devotion to our Lord in the Eucharist and that this devotion will foster a greater spirit of unity in our Families of Parishes, our archdiocese and the entire Catholic Church.

Sincerely yours in Christ

Most Reverend Dennis M. Schnurr  
Archbishop of Cincinnati

ljh

RADIATE CHRIST

Questions/Requests: Call Kristy Bockrath at 937-361-6590 or email krbockr@icloud.com. **If you cannot attend as scheduled, please find a substitute.**

ST. BENIGNUS CHURCH	SATURDAY, JUNE 29TH – 3:30 P.M. MASS	SUNDAY, JUNE 30TH – NOON MASS
SACRISTAN	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
MINISTERS OF THE WORD	Eileen Corwin	Amy Baldwin
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	Dan Cook Jackie Soards <i>Volunteer Needed</i>	Jim Block Susan Stuckey <i>Volunteer Needed</i>
SERVERS	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>	Iryna Reeves
COUNTERS		Mary Lou B. / Peg S.

## SERMON ON MARK 4:35-41

I was riveted to the radio listening to an interview about a country singer’s journey from the valley of a living hell to the mountain top of God’s Grace. His name is Jelly Roll, named by his mom to describe her chubby son. Outwardly, he looks intimidating. He is 6 feet one inches and weighs over 400 pounds. His face is covered with tattoos. But inside breathes a compassionate heart that has known great suffering. His parents divorced in 1997 when he was 13 years old. This sent him into a tailspin of drug addiction.

At 15, Jelly became an incarcerated felon for an armed robbery of stealing drugs from two dealers. He would be sent to jail 40 more times for drug possession and dealing. Ten years of his life would be spent behind bars. Jelly joked that in one arrest he tried to run but because he was so fat, the officer knabbed him with just a fast walk. Jelly ran so slow the officer did not charge him with resisting arrest.

While in jail, Jelly filled his time with writing down lyrics and creating melodies in his head. He wrote hundreds of songs. When Jelly left prison, he carried with him his songs written on a stack full of papers stuffed in a bag. He told everyone, “I’ll be singing these in Times Square one day.” People laughed at him. No one would be listening to a fat guy singing sad songs.

For years he travelled from town to town, playing to half-empty clubs and sleeping in his van while trying to gain traction for a music career. He handed out CDs of his music everywhere he went. His big break came when a recording company heard his music and offered him a contract. His big dream came true when he was invited to sing at the Grand Ole Opry. Jelly said, “I cried like a baby in front of 12 strangers.”

All his life he felt no one accepted him. This changed in 2023 when the Country Music Association embraced him with four awards for New Artist of the Year and Male Video of the Year. Then his other dream came true. Millions of people around the world watched him welcome in the 2024 New Year while singing in Times Square. The people who laughed at him are laughing no more.

There was a profound spiritual moment in the radio interview. He described how in prison these hardened, fearless inmates who had no interest in God were suddenly brought to their knees begging for God’s help before going to court. They are pleading for God’s favor but could care less for God when everything was OK. Jelly Roll wrote a song about it called, “Need A Favor”.

I only talk to God when I need a favor  
 And I only pray when I ain’t got a prayer  
 So who the heck am I, who the heck am I to expect a savior, oh  
 If I only talk to God when I need a favor?  
 But, God, I need a favor

Jelly told the interviewer that God is happy that I talk to Him even when my motivation is not pure. God is thrilled to hear from me even when I’m just trying to get a favor from Him.

I remember talking with a mom who said her son visits her only when he needs money. She told me, “I know he’s not here to see me, but I need to see him. I love him so much. If money gets me a visit with him, I gladly give it.

The Apostles cried out to Jesus fearing they would drown (Mark 4:35-41). It’s easy to forget God when times are good, then run to Him when life drowns you with trials and trouble.

God finds great happiness when you talk with Him. He is always ready to listen. God says this in Revelation 3:20 “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.”

During your busy day, make room for God. Open the door for Him. Talk with Him, and not just when you need a favor.

A wise person said, “If you only pray when you’re in trouble, you’re in trouble.” Blessings...Fr. Mike

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