

Our Lady OF THE Hills

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ADAMS AND HIGHLAND COUNTIES

FR. MIKE PARANIUK, PASTOR
937-403-2510 • edbourdase@yahoo.com

FR MATTHEW LEE, VICAR
937-544-2757

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.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

612 E. Mulberry St. • West Union, OH 45693
937-544-2757
secretary@holyltrinity-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. 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.

ST. MARY QUEEN OF HEAVEN CHURCH

205 Wendell Ave. • Peebles, OH 45660
937-544-2757
secretary@holyltrinity-ac.org

Masses:

Sun. 8:30 a.m. Tues. 9:00 a.m.
Thurs. 9:00 a.m.

FAMILY WEBSITE: <http://www.ourladyofthehillsoh.com>



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

OCIA:

Joyce Combs & Cindy Sprauer
Phone: 937-403-6708

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION (GRADES PRE-K THRU 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

OCIA

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

**THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
NOVEMBER 3, 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, NOVEMBER 3, 2024**

8:00 a.m. *St. Mary* – Tom Moran (Loretta Dean Family)
10:00 a.m. *St. Mary* – Raphael “Whitey” Maher (Gary & Joyce Baker)
12:00 Noon *St. Benignus* – Rita Blankenship (Joan & Jim Winner)
Fr. Mike Paraniuk

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2024

9:15 a.m. *St. Mary* – Allison Buchlem (Mary Tamborski)
11:30 a.m. *St. Benignus* – Arlene Boulas (Ellen Clark)
Fr. Matthew Lee

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2024

**3RD THURSDAY MASS EVERY MONTH IS DEDICATED TO PRO-LIFE
HOLY HOUR EVERY THURSDAY AT ST. MARY CHURCH**

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 (Colleen Bolton)
Fr. Mike Paraniuk

Friday, November 8, 2024

11:00 a.m. *St. Benignus* – Noel Family (Bob Dye)
Fr. Matthew Lee

Saturday, November 9, 2024

3:30 p.m. *St. Benignus* – Orphans, Widows, Immigrants & Refugees (Bob Dye)
5:30 p.m. *St. Mary* – Rita Blankenship (Bill & Janet Butler)
Fr. Matthew Lee

Divine Mercy Chaplet before Mass at 9:45 a.m. at St. Mary Church

Sunday, November 10, 2024

8:00 a.m. *St. Mary* – Edward Nerswick (Theresa Korte)
10:00 a.m. *St. Mary* – Barb Wilkenson (Mary Tamborski)
Noon *St. Benignus* – The Saunders Family (Bob Dye)
Fr. Matthew Lee

FAMILY WEBSITE!! <http://www.ourladyofthehillsoh.com>

ST. MARY COLLECTION – OCTOBER 27, 2024

Weekly Need.....	\$	7,200.00
Weekly Collection.....	\$	6,125.00
Variance	\$	-1,075.00
FISCAL YEAR NEED	\$	119,600.00
FISCAL YEAR COLLECTED	\$	82,981.00
VARIANCE.....	\$	-36,619.00

ST. BENIGNUS COLLECTION – OCTOBER 27, 2024

Weekly Need.....	\$	2,900.00
Weekly Collection.....	\$	1,118.00
Variance	\$	-1,782.00
FISCAL YEAR NEED	\$	45,300.00
FISCAL YEAR COLLECTED	\$	29,852.00
VARIANCE.....	\$	-14,330.00



*Our Lady of
The Hills Family Facebook Page*
Please Like and Share!
[https://www.facebook.com/
profile.php?id=61565871562111](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61565871562111)

*Thank You for your Generosity!
St. Mary Online Giving Link & QR Code*
osvhub.com/stmaryhillsoh/giving/funds
You can give Online to (SOPC, SVdP, Building Fund, Church)
by using the link above or by scanning the QR Code to the right.



OLOTH VISION STATEMENT

The OLOTH Family is committed to live out this Vision – At Our Lady of the Hills Catholic Family, our vision is to be a vibrant community that radiates love and compassion, grounded in prayer, and guided by the Holy Spirit. We strive to be a beacon of hope and refuge for all who seek God’s Grace, welcoming all with open hearts and unwavering faith in Jesus.

MY MORNING OFFERING

O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer You my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day for all the intentions of your Sacred Heart, in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world, for the salvation of souls, the reparation of sins, the reunion of all Christians, and in particular for the intentions of the Holy Father this month. Amen.

ST. MARY CHURCH BINGO

**** Volunteers Needed for Bingo** – Bingo teams are short a few people. **We really need help!** Even if you can only work before Bingo starts (5:30-7:00 p.m.) that would be great. All teams could use extra hands to help with this ministry. If you could work on a team or just work a few hours, all help is welcome! Contact Michelle Salyer at 937-840-8655 for more information. **Bingo Team 1 (December 6, 2024)** – Michelle S., Jane H., Ann L., Barb R., Josh P., Tim L., Mary B., JoAnn M.

"Humility, obedience, meekness, and love are the virtues that shine through the Cross and the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. O my Jesus, help me imitate you!" – St. Anthony Mary Claret

"It is not lengthy prayers, but generous deeds that touch God's heart." – St. Arnold Janssen

DATES TO REMEMBER**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2024**

8:45-9:50 a.m. St. Mary Hall/Classrooms – PSR – **St. Mary**
10:30 a.m. Snacks and class 10:45-11:45 a.m. – PSR – **St. Benignus**
11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Youth Group Meeting Grade 6-12 – **St. Mary**

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2024

7:00 p.m. Memorial Mass – **Holy Trinity Church**

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2024

6:00-7:30 p.m. St. Vincent de Paul Pantry – Religious Ed. Bldg. – St. Benignus
7:30 p.m. Worship Committee Meeting – (**Parish Library – Meeting Room**)
St. Mary

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2024

6:00 p.m. Our Lady of The Hills Family Carry-in Dinner for Fr. Lee at Mary Queen of Heaven Church (Please bring a side dish to share)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2024

8:45-9:50 a.m. St. Mary Hall/Classrooms – PSR – **St. Mary**
10:30 a.m. Snacks and class 10:45-11:45 a.m. – PSR – **St. Benignus**
1:00 p.m. St. Vincent de Paul Meeting – Religious Ed. Bldg. – St. Benignus

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2024

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

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2024

10:00 a.m. Stewardship & Evangelization Teams Meeting –
All are welcome to attend – **Mary Queen of Heaven**

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2024

8:45-9:50 a.m. St. Mary Hall/Classrooms – PSR – **St. Mary**
10:30 a.m. Snacks and class 10:45-11:45 a.m. – PSR – **St. Benignus**

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2024

8:45-9:50 a.m. St. Mary Hall/Classrooms – PSR – **St. Mary**
10:30 a.m. Snacks and class 10:45-11:45 a.m. – PSR – **St. Benignus**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2024

1:00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting – Religious Ed Bldg. – **St. Benignus**

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2024

7:30 p.m. Parish Council Meeting – **St. Mary**

FAMILY PICNIC COMMITTEE HELP NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to help, prepare and plan the annual Our Lady of The Hills Family Picnic for 2025 – Sign up by Email to justleahatstmary@gmail.com or call 937-840-9932.

Wednesday, November 13, 2024

6:00 p.m. Knights of Columbus – St. Benignus – Meeting in Father Lay Hall
Grand Knight: Bruce Bennett, Sr. Contact: 740-463-3406

PLEASE PRAY FOR

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

ST. BENIGNUS & ST. MARY PRAYER LIST

Archbishop Schnurr, Ally Wright, Bonnie Hammons, Joe Carson, Agnes Volk, Bob Dye, Joe Turley, Jeff Thoroman, Judy Hagerty, Matt Scheeler, 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, Linda Bradford, Joe Wright, Jake Burns, Dr. Monica Salido, Tina Hudson, Thomas Hovan, Emily Konerman, Kirk Wuellner

**** 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 e-mail 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

\$55,070.35 Debt on Fr. Luehrmann Hall

"Make friends with the angels, who though invisible are always with you. Often invoke them, constantly praise them, and make good use of their help and assistance in all your temporal and spiritual affairs."

– St. Francis de Sales

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

November 3 – Kim King, Nancy Schultheis, Jackie Soards
November 4 – Edna Maxwell, Fia Thomsen
November 5 – Carol Sams
November 8 – Cathy Sader
November 9 – Brent Walters
November 10 – Brian Jolitz, Gayle Paetzel
November 11 – Anna Vilvens
November 12 – Brent Witt
November 13 – Elizabeth House, Erin Walters, Gregg Wehrung
November 14 – Travis Wehrung
November 16 – Cody Crawford, Jeff Kilbarger
November 20 – Elizabeth Ann Schlueter
November 23 – Patty Reinholz, Tammy Wells
November 26 – Ben Howland
November 27 – Margaret Dean, Robert Prosek
November 28 – Ann Schlater
November 29 – Mary Lou Barnhart, Rebecca Ventura
November 30 – Clare Fullenkamp, Cora Fullenkamp, Susan Moran-Rhoads

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, NOVEMBER 9TH – 3:30 P.M. MASS	SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH – NOON MASS
SACRISTANS	<i>Needed</i>	<i>Needed</i>
MINISTERS OF THE WORD	Eric Givens	Vicki Brock
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	Debbie Kennedy Cathy Givens Eric Givens	Dan Allison Teresa Allison Vicki Brock
SERVERS	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>	Iryna Reeves
COUNTERS		Cory T. / Smoke B.

Fundraiser

Big Ernie's PIZZA & Society of St. Vincent de Paul
Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Tuesday, November 12, 2024
4 p.m. until closing
Dunlap Road, Hillsboro
Ph. 937-393-8500

Big Ernie's and St. Vincent de Paul (S.V.d.P.) are teaming up together to help families in need. Eat at Big Ernie's, and part of the sales on November 12th (4 p.m. until closing) will be donated to S.V.d.P. a non-profit organization (501(c)3).
Dine-in - Carry-out - Drive-thru
S.V.d.P. gives back to the community. They help pay utility bills, groceries, rent, and more.

Our Lady of The Hills

Family Welcoming
Carry In Dinner for Fr. Lee

Please bring a side dish to share!

Table Service, Meat (Sloppy Joe's & Hot Dogs) & Bottled Water Provided

Friday 6 PM
Nov 8th

Welcome Fr Lee

Mary Queen of Heaven Church
205 Wendell Ave.
Peebles, Ohio 45660

This year, we as a parish community are going to make a special effort to invite Catholics who do not attend church regularly to come back to Mass. We have designated Sunday, November 24, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, as Together Sunday. We ask each of you to assist! Please prayerfully consider one person who you can personally invite back to Mass, pray for that person, and then invite him or her to join us for Mass on Sunday, **November 24**.



We all have Catholic friends, family members, neighbors, or coworkers who have become disengaged from the practice of their faith. Many of them may just be waiting for a personal invitation back to regular attendance at Mass. Invite one Catholic back to Mass on Sunday, November 24, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe.

Worship is better together, and a simple invitation could be life-changing.

The Catholic Company presents

GET FED
Bite-Sized Faith

FARMER-SAINTS TO HELP YOU IN YOUR WORK...

Who are the patrons of those who
"labor and toil in the sweat of their brows?"

Whether you work for your daily bread on arable property of your own or you simply care for a handful of chickens and a postage-stamp garden, you know the anxious labor that goes into producing healthy stock and vibrant crops. Among the saints in heaven, countless numbers have experienced the same and would be delighted if you brought them your prayers.



HERE ARE A FEW FARMER-SAINTS WHO CAN ASSIST YOU IN YOUR DAILY LABORS:

Bl. Franz Jägerstätter was an Austrian farmer in the turbulent years of pre-WWII. His faith was not foremost in his young adult years; it was only after his marriage in 1936 that he grew attentive to spiritual things. He attended Mass daily and became a sexton (a person who, among other things, helps with burials, guarding the church’s valuables, and ringing the bells), always refusing to accept the customary pecuniary offering which families gave the sexton.

With the outbreak of the war, he was called up for duty a few times. Finally, his conviction that it would be a sin to fight for the Nazis caused him to refuse the draft. His offer to engage in nonviolent work was rejected and he was charged with sedition. The priest who ministered to Franz before his execution was moved by the young man’s peaceful serenity.

St. Isidore, the official patron of farmers, is famous for having his plowing done by angels while he said his prayers. He is often invoked along with his wife, Bl. Maria de la Cabeza, noted for her humility, patience, devotion, and austerity. Isidore frequently brought home poor folk, offering them food from his own scanty table. One day, Isidore and Maria’s pot of stew miraculously multiplied in order to feed a greater number of guests. After their deaths in the 12th century, farmers in the area kept and spread devotion to this holy couple.

St. Maria Gorretti was a child-martyr whose widowed mother shared farming duties with their neighbors. Though she died before her twelfth year, the routine of caring for animals and working the fields was ingrained in Maria. Her deft handling of manual labor illustrated early the interior strength that enabled her to gain the crown of martyrdom in 1902.

Our time is experiencing a return to agrarianism, especially among young Catholic families. The skills required to homestead are almost a lost art, but those with a head start are eager to share tips and advice. *The Liturgy of the Land* is an excellent resource for those interested in farming the land and the spiritual foundation for such a life. It offers a combination of the “whys” of Catholic homesteading with the “hows” gained from experience.



OUR LADY OF THE HILLS FAMILY CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Congratulations Confirmation Class of 2024

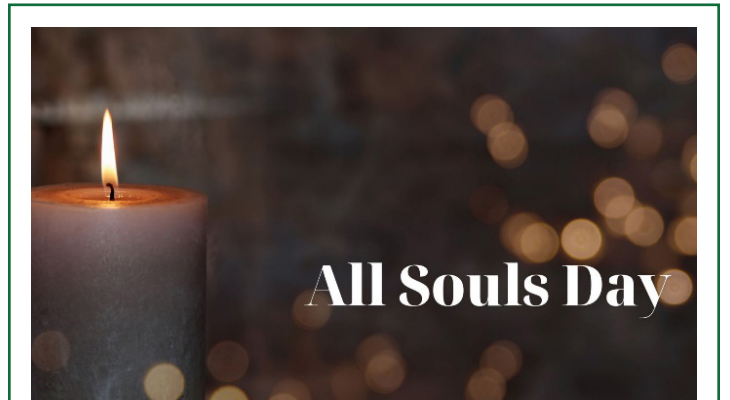
St. Mary Catholic Church on October 22, 2024

Celebrant – Father Bernard Weldishofer

Pastor – Father Mike Paraniuk

Vicar – Father Matthew Lee

Aubrey Baldwin, Everleigh Barry, Luke Bennett, Bryce Corns, Adalberto Mendez-Diego, Angel Mendez-Diego, Alia Hester, Olive Hocter, Gabriella Howard, Hatfield Jeremiah, Harley O’Connor, Elliana Reeves, Iryna Reeves, Bryant Salyer, Kolston Schweitzer, Franklin Thery, Blake Walters



PLEASE REMEMBER IN THE MASSES CELEBRATED ON ALL SOULS’ DAY...

Vic & Rose deMilliano, Ray deMilliano, Eleanor Solley, Mary Gross, Loretta Spadoni, Leslie Hickathier, Elmer & Ethel Wilkens, Barbara & Frank Fowee, Janet Wilkens, David Rosselott, Mary Lou Haines, Tom Moran, Russell & Reva Salyer, Michael Cowdrey, Clayton & Ruth Vanzant, Kathleen Vanzant, Ann Rehark, Frank Rehark, Velma Dammeyer, Jeronie Winner, Dan Hart, Rita Blankenship, Craycraft Family, Steele Family, Flaughter Family

ST. MARY ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE COLLECTION
November 2nd through November 23rd
Bags are located in between the Church & Narthex – Please return to the same area by November 23rd. Please consider giving Canned Goods, Personal Hygiene Items, Soups, Beans.

Holiday Food Drive

COOKIE DOUGH FUNDRAISER

**Paper form for ordering is located in the Narthex and Money needs to be turned in to the Church office, Online ordering, please choose name (Leah S. or Michelle S.) to ensure we get your order to you. Thank you for supporting St. Mary Preschool!



WOODEN SPOON COOKIE DOUGH ST. MARY PRESCHOOL FALL FUNDRAISER

Calling all Cookie Lovers!
937-840-9932

Wooden Spoon Cookie Dough comes pre-portioned and ready to bake – so there's no need to plan ahead. Simply break the cubes apart, place on a cooking sheet, and bake at 325°F for 13-17 minutes. Simply delicious!

Please help St. Mary Preschool reach our goal by purchasing our Wooden Spoon Cookie Fundraiser! The cookies are pre-portioned cookie dough, Break & Bake format, freezer to oven-ready, and a variety of delicious cookies to choose from, each cookie package makes **FORTY** cookies!!! You can order by child name or if you just want to:

Help Support the Preschool Sales order under the name(s) – Gina D., Leah S., Michelle S.

The **Sale Ends on December 9, 2024**, so don't wait to order – perfect for holiday cookie baking!

Delivery will be on Monday, December 16th at St. Mary Preschool in Hillsboro.

You can place and order by going to this QR Code. Thank you!



**I love you, LORD,
my strength,
Praised be the
LORD, I exclaim!**

Psalm 18:2,4

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

Sunday, November 3, 2024

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time
Dt 6:2-6
Ps 18:2-3, 3-4, 47, 51
Heb 7:23-28
Mk 12:28b-34

Monday, November 4, 2024

Saint Charles Borromeo, Bishop
Phil 2:1-4
Ps 131:1bcde, 2, 3
Lk 14:12-14

Tuesday, November 5, 2024

Weekday
Phil 2:5-11
Ps 22:26b-27, 28-30ab, 30e, 31-32
Lk 14:15-24

Wednesday, November 6, 2024

Weekday
Phil 2:12-18
Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14
Lk 14:25-33

Thursday, November 7, 2024

Weekday
Phil 3:3-8a
Ps 105:2-3, 4-5, 6-7
Lk 15:1-10

Friday, November 8, 2024

Weekday
Phil 3:17-4:1
Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5
Lk 16:1-8

Saturday, November 9, 2024

Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome
Ez 47:1-2, 8-9, 12
Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9
1 Cor 3:9c-11, 16-17
Jn 2:13-22

Access Daily Readings from
the New American Bible,
Revised Edition (NABRE) online at
<https://bible.usccb.org>

SAINT CHARLES BORROMEO

Saint of the Day: November 4

Patron Saint of: Catechists, Catechumens, and Seminarians

Although he belonged to the Milanese nobility and was related to the powerful Medici family, Charles desired to devote himself to the Church. In 1559, when his uncle, Cardinal de Medici was elected Pope Pius IV, he made Charles cardinal-deacon and administrator of the Archdiocese of Milan. At the time Charles was still a layman and a young student. Because of his intellectual qualities, Charles was entrusted with several important offices connected with the Vatican. Soon after being ordained a priest at age 25, Borromeo was consecrated bishop of Milan.

Saint Charles deserves the credit for keeping the Council of Trent in session when at several points it was on the verge of breaking up. Borromeo encouraged the pope to renew the Council in 1562, after it had been suspended for 10 years. Because of his work at the Council, Borromeo was unable to take up residence in Milan until the Council concluded.

Eventually, Borromeo was allowed to devote his time to the Archdiocese of Milan, where the religious and moral picture was far from bright. The reform needed in every phase of Catholic life among both clergy and laity was initiated at a provincial council of all the bishops under him.

Charles took the initiative in giving a good example. He allotted most of his income to charity, forbade himself all luxury, and imposed severe penances upon himself. He sacrificed wealth, high honors, esteem, and influence to become poor. During the plague and famine of 1576, Borromeo tried to feed 60,000 to 70,000 people daily. To do this, he borrowed large sums of money. Whereas the civil authorities fled at the height of the plague, he stayed in the city, where he ministered to the sick and the dying. Work and the heavy burdens of his high office began to affect Archbishop Borromeo's health, leading to his death at the age of 46.

Read the full article: "Saint Charles Borromeo" Franciscan Media, Franciscan Friars, franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-charles-borromeo/ (Accessed October 22, 2024).

SERMON ON MARK 12:28b-34

One of the more difficult struggles parents face is to get their child to sleep in their own bed. There is the story of a little girl whose parents were weening her from sleeping in Mom and Dad's bed. They made for her a beautiful bedroom decorated with wallpaper of Snow White and Minnie Mouse. Stuffed toys of Elmo from the Muppets, a pink Care Bear and Petey the Grey Raccoon were strewn about her room. (My favorite stuffed toy is Dracula the Vampire Bear).

Mom and Dad prayed bedtime prayers before tucking her gently to bed, gave her a kiss and turned on a night light. The little girl closed her eyes to begin a peaceful sleep.

Fifteen minutes later, they heard muffled crying. The father goes to her room to see what the problem is. The girl blurts out, "Daddy, I'm scared." He says, "Don't be afraid. God loves you. He is here to protect you. You are not alone." She replies, "I know that, Daddy." He asks, "Then what's the problem?" With tears running down her cheeks she says, "I need someone with me who has skin."

Have you ever heard the phrase "I have skin in this game?" It means someone has a personal investment in a person or situation. God has a personal investment in His humans whom He created. God was deeply angry that the Devil tempted Adam and Eve to separate themselves and all humans from Him. God lost His children. He was committed to get His kids back. In this situation, God did the thing He had to do to defeat Satan. God sent His Son to take on human skin. Hebrews 2:14 says, "Because God's children are human beings – made of flesh and blood – the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death." God literally put His skin in the battle against Satan. God loved us with all His Heart, His Mind, His Divine soul and strength.

You can confidently call on God to be with you because He is someone who has His "skin in your game." God is not a bystander who lets you face your trials alone. God cares deeply about what happens in your life. He put His most valuable gift on the line for you. "The Word (Jesus) became flesh and made his dwelling among us." (John 1:14) How do I make a return of my love for God?

Jesus reveals the Great Commandment from God:

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul,
with all your mind,
and with all your strength.

The second is this:

You shall love your neighbor as yourself. (Mark 12:30-31)

How do you love God and neighbor? God wants you to put your "skin in His game." God calls you to use your flesh to reveal His Love to a suffering world. You show love for God when you give your body to God to take away the suffering of those who hunger for food and starve for love.

St. Theresa of Avila wrote a beautiful poem entitled, "Christ Has No Hands But Ours"

Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours.
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
Compassionately on this world.
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no body now but yours.

This is how you love God. Blessings...Fr. Mike

WLRU 106.9 FM

"The Lord is Right for U."

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