

SAINT JULIE BILLIART

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

CHURCH-CATECHETICAL CENTER • 440-327-1978

5500 Lear Nagle Road • N. Ridgeville, OH 44039

CHAPEL-ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

5545 Opal Drive • N. Ridgeville, OH 44039

Hours: (Monday-Friday) 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

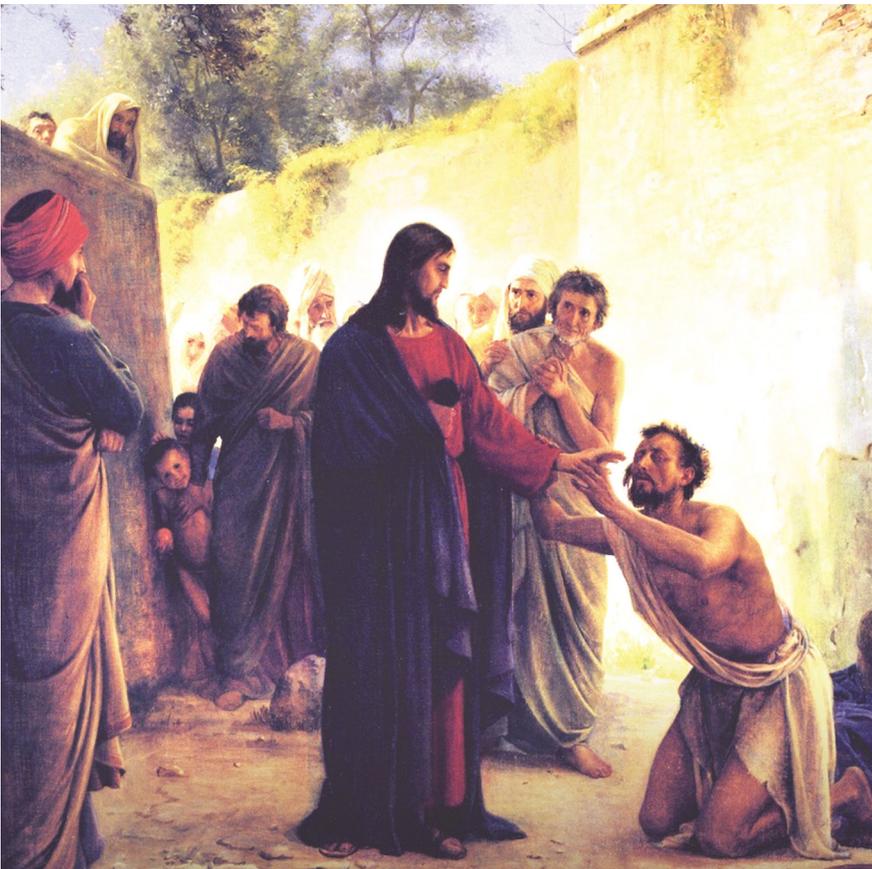
Phone: 440-327-1978 • Fax: 440-327-1994

Email: stjbc@windstream.net

Website: www.stjuliebilliart.org

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

St. Julie Billiart is a welcoming Roman Catholic community that deepens our personal relationship with Jesus Christ by worshipping together, reaching out to others and building up the Kingdom of God.



4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" - Jn 9:35

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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March 22, 2020

PASTOR: Rev. George A. Vrabel

Deacons: Rev. Mr. John Rivera

Rev. Dr. Ken DeLuca, retired

PSR Principal: Kelly Reed

Music Director: Danny O'Brien

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Masses at Church

Saturday.....5:00 p.m.

Sunday.....9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m.

Weekday Masses at the Chapel

Monday-Friday.....8:30 a.m.

(Excluding Thursdays)

Holydays.....Consult the Bulletin

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays.....4:00 - 4:30 p.m.

in the Church Library

PSR - PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

Grades K - 8: 9 - 10:15 a.m. Sundays

Children's Liturgy of the Word:

During 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass

(except first Sunday of Month)

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY

Grades 9 - 12: 11:45 a.m. Sundays

RCIA & RCIC (*Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and Children*)

BAPTISMS

1st & 3rd Sunday by appointment

MARRIAGE

Arrangements must be made 6 months in advance

NEW PARISHIONERS

You are welcome to call the office or register on line.

From the Desk of Father George

DURING THIS MOST UNUSUAL TIME WITHIN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, IT IS MY GOAL TO PROVIDE SPIRITUAL THOUGHTS AS WELL AS UP TO DATE INFORMATION AS THE CORONA VIRUS CONTINUES TO AFFECT ALL OF OUR LIVES.

Laetare Sunday (/leɪˈtɑːri/)^[1] is the fourth Sunday in the season of Lent, in the Western Christian liturgical calendar. Traditionally, this Sunday has been a day of celebration, within the austere period of Lent. This Sunday gets its name from the first few words (*incipit*) of the traditional Latin entrance (Introit) for the Mass of the day. "Laetare Jerusalem" ("Rejoice, O Jerusalem") is Latin from Isaiah 66:10.

The term "Laetare Sunday" is used by most Roman Catholic and Anglican churches, particularly those with Latin liturgical traditions. The word comes from the Latin *laetare*, the singular imperative of *laetari*: "to rejoice".

The full Introit reads:

"Lætare Jerusalem: et conventum facite omnes qui diligitis eam: gaudete cum lætitia, qui in tristitia fuistis: ut exsultetis, et satiemini ab uberibus consolationis vestræ. *Psalm*: Lætatus sum in his quæ dicta sunt mihi: in domum Domini ibimus."

"Rejoice, O Jerusalem: and come together all you that love her: rejoice with joy, you that have been in sorrow: that you may exult and be filled from the breasts of your consolation. *Psalm*: I rejoiced when they said to me: 'we shall go into God's House!'"

Greetings Parishioners and Friends of St. Julie's,

On this 4th Sunday of Lent - Latare Sunday, the Sacred Scriptures offer us another wonderful Gospel. Jesus cures the man born blind - but the greater miracle is Jesus' opening the eyes of the 'seeing' around him to the presence of God in their midst. This Holy Season of Lent reminds us to open our eyes and clearly see beyond labels and stereotypes, self-interest and past hurts. Even though our Churches are closed, and Mass is temporarily suspended, the great Feast of Easter is still at the heart of our faith. With that in mind, are we becoming more able to recognize the love of God present to us in everyone and everything that is good?

In light of last week's Gospel - The Samaritan Women at the Well - are we experiencing the conversion necessary for a Lenten pilgrim? One of my favorite verses from last week is: "If only you recognized God's gift..." What is the gift in our lives? Who might be the source of strength or encouragement? How has our faith been bolstered by the gift of another person in our family, church or work environment?

The observance of Lent is quite different this year - for it is up to every individual to try at home to fast, give alms, and offer prayers. **Station of the Cross** booklets are available at the parish office. **Please stop by to request a booklet for use at home!** Fridays of Lent are still days of abstinence, and **GOOD FRIDAY** is a day of fast and abstinence.

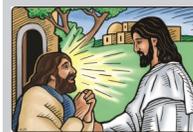
Fr. George

Parish News and Updates:

- While we are all away, progress is being made on updating the church sound system. The contract was signed, and work began prior to the corona virus outbreak and the unprecedented stock market response. The previously reported estimated cost of 19k has become \$20,837.
- **It is important to stress that your weekly contributions are essential to paying our bills.** We still have utilities, salaries, insurance, health benefits, and diocesan assessments that remain as monthly expenses for the parish. With that in mind, please continue to financially support the parish during these difficult times.

And finally, on a personal note, my three cardiologists have given me some very good news after my last procedure and subsequent evaluations. My heart function has greatly improved - so much so that their comments have been: "we just don't normally see such improvements". I believe your prayers became a miracle in my life. Thank you!

I am trying to remember that gift even though I am so distraught at the thought of no Holy Week and no Easter Sunday Celebrations. You are my comfort and **WE WILL** be back for an Easter Season of great rejoicing.



When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered and said, "Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "I do believe, Lord," and he worshiped him. - Jn 9:35-38

Dear Friends,

After serious consideration of the grave health risk involved in public gatherings and in order to curb the spread of the Coronavirus, the bishops of Ohio have decided, **effective immediately**, to suspend temporarily all publicly celebrated Masses/liturgies, at least through the celebrations of Holy Week and Easter. The bishops of Ohio dispense the Catholic faithful who reside in their respective dioceses and all other Catholics currently in Ohio from the obligation of attending Sunday Mass through Easter Sunday.

This means at Saint Julie Billiart Parish all public participation in Masses, Baptisms, Penance Services, Rosary, and PSR/FLY classes are cancelled. Funerals and Weddings can be celebrated with the presence of the fewest possible members of the faithful [immediate family]. Private celebrations of the Sacrament of Penance and the Sacrament of the Sick can be arranged by appointment through the parish office at (440)327-1978.

I invite everyone to participate in the celebration of the Eucharist daily by viewing the broadcast of the Holy Mass on our parish website by clicking on this link: stjuliebilliart.org and make a spiritual communion by praying this prayer at the Holy Communion time of Mass:

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

Pray. During this period, I urge every parishioner and their family to dedicate some personal and family prayer time every day. I offer for your use Pope Francis'

Prayer For Protection In Time Of Pandemic:

O Mary, you always brighten our path as a sign of salvation and of hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who, at the Cross, took part in Jesus' pain while remaining steadfast in faith.

O loving Mother, you know what we need, and we are confident you will provide for us as at Cana in Galilee.

Intercede for us with your Son Jesus, the Divine Physician, for those who have fallen ill, for those who are vulnerable, and for those who have died.

Intercede also for those charged with protecting the health and safety of others and for those who are tending to the sick and seeking a cure.

Help us, O Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who took upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows, so as to lead us, through the Cross, to the glory of the Resurrection. Amen.

Under thy protection we seek refuge, O Holy Mother of God.

In our needs, despise not our petitions, but deliver us always from all dangers, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.

Leave no parishioner - or neighbor - behind. If members of our parish or community are elderly or have underlying medical conditions, please ensure that they have enough food. If you have food to spare, offer to drop something off on their doorstep or to shop for them.

Give blood. Many communities are facing blood shortages. Those not being recommended to isolate themselves due to illness, age or underlying conditions should consider giving blood. This lifesaving activity remains an important aspect of our charitable works.

At this time, the Parish Office will remain open. Most Parish Activities will be postponed and re-scheduled. Please check the website at stjuliebilliart.org or call the office at 440-327-1978 regarding the status of our parish programs.

*May Christ who reached out with compassion
to the woman at the well; who healed the man born blind;
and who raised Lazarus from the dead,
grant us his healing and be our remedy
for all that ails us physically, spiritually and emotionally.
Amen.*

Please pray for . . . the health of, and caregivers of: Fr. George, Eleanor Gravette (mother of Valerie Kotarsky, Phyllis Turk, & Gloria Schaefer), Nathan Sears (grandson of Donna Lis), Mary Begany, Marian Juskiewicz, Larry Kolarik (brother of Linda Koch), Ruth Geierman, Ginny Umpirowicz, Dolores Rivera, Elaine Klepek, Terry Flanagan, Bill Livingston, Alma Hamilton, JoAnne Bellomo, John Murphy, Patrick Tinics, June Seman, Jerry Moran, Carol Polak, Irene Kollin, Regula Family, Ron Regula, Troy, Sondra Jirousek, Carol Straub; for our men & women in uniform, our police, firefighters, doctors and nurses; and for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life.

News & Events

Prayers of Spiritual Communion

When we are unable to receive Holy Communion sacramentally, we can receive great graces and blessings by expressing our desire to do so in what is called a "spiritual Communion." This practice goes back many centuries and has a rich tradition.

There are different models for doing this, but they all have these steps in common:

Make an act of faith: *Jesus, I believe that You are really present in the Holy Eucharist. . .*

Make an act of love: *Jesus, I love You because You are all-good and deserving of my love. . .*

Make an act of desire: *I want to receive You in Holy Communion, the Gift You have chosen above all others to share Yourself and Your life with me. . .*

Invite Jesus to come into your heart: *Please come into my heart, my life and everything I do. . .*

Thank Him for being truly within your heart and soul

You can simply use these words or expand on them in your own way. Remember to pray for others too, just as you would if you were at Mass and receiving Sacramentally / physically.

Here are a couple of classic versions of a Spiritual Communion:

Spiritual Communion Prayer by Saint Alphonsus Liguori

My Jesus, I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I long for You in my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though You have already come, I embrace You and unite myself entirely to You; never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Saint Josemaria Escriva often taught this version, "I wish, Lord, to receive you with the purity, humility and devotion with which your most holy Mother received you, with the spirit and fervour of the saints."

St John Vianney said, "If we are deprived of Sacramental Communion, let us replace it, as far as we can, by spiritual communion, which we can make every moment; for we ought to have always a burning desire to receive the good God. Communion is to the soul like blowing a fire that is beginning to go out, but that has still plenty of hot embers; we blow, and the fire burns again. After the reception of the Sacraments, when we feel ourselves slacken in the love of God, let us have recourse at once to spiritual communion. When we cannot go to the church, let us turn towards the tabernacle; no wall can shut us out from the good God."

Parish Stewardship

Mar. 15: Envelopes used: 89 (out of 694 mailed)	\$2151
Average per Envelope	\$24
Children's	\$5
School Subsidy	\$30
Capital Improvement	\$20
Net Offertory	\$2206
Mass Attendance	185



Memorandum

Cathedral Square Plaza

OFFICE OF THE DIOCESAN ADMINISTRATOR

To: Priests

From: Reverend Donald P. Oleksiak *DPO*

Date: 17 March 2020

Re: Coronavirus update

As you know, the decision to suspend public celebrations of Mass/Liturgies throughout the Diocese of Cleveland has been made. Please find below specific guidance on how best to proceed with celebrating the sacraments and other answers to questions you may have during this unprecedented health crisis. We each must do our part to slow down this epidemic and protect the common good for the people of God entrusted to our care. Please use your own discretion regarding the reduction of hours or closing of parish offices. If you contract the virus please call your doctor immediately, quarantine yourself, follow health care directives and inform the diocese

Keeping Churches Open for Personal Devotion

Our churches may remain open ONLY if you have taken necessary precautions to perform routine maintenance and have the necessary staff to sanitize all hard surfaces and hymnals in the church, the vestibules, doorknobs, and bathrooms at the end of each day that the church is open (this applies to Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration Chapels as well). The following are some additional suggestions to keep your church a safe place during this health crisis:

- Parishioners should make every effort to observe the highest standards of hygiene. That means not touching your face, wiping your nose or cough while in church.
- Remove items that are in common areas and are regularly touched.
- Remove hymnals or music books from the pews.
- Remove paper from the pews (comment cards, registration cards).

Spiritual Communion and Televised Masses

Televised or live-streamed online Mass provides daily opportunity for the faithful to remain connected to the Eucharist during this difficult time. Please share with your people all opportunities to experience the Mass by way of live-streaming, EWTN, or other opportunities to share in the liturgy online in these next few weeks. Please understand for those who are using technology to record/livestream Mass you are not to have the faithful present. These recorded/livestream Masses are to be private celebrations without the faithful.

Baptism

All parishes in the Diocese of Cleveland are asked to observe some temporary practical norms concerning the Sacrament of Baptism. At this time, baptisms are still possible based on *pastoral urgency*. However, in order to limit the potential spread of the virus to a vulnerable

population, you may only celebrate small, private family baptisms. There are to be no "immersion" baptisms. Use fresh water that has been blessed for the Baptism, pour the water from a pitcher (not your hands) into another receptacle, and immediately drain the water afterwards. Family members who are especially vulnerable are requested to stay home.

Confession

- During this health crisis we need to exercise caution using every option to contain the contagion. Therefore, confessions are limited to being in danger of death. We are not able to provide confession via technology. Please call your parish in the case of an emergency and danger of death.

Confirmations

All confirmation dates scheduled before Easter Sunday are postponed indefinitely and will be re-scheduled once clearance is given. If the confirmation was to be celebrated by the pastor, it can be re-scheduled at the parish. If it was to be celebrated by one of the bishops or by Abbott Hoover, you will need to reschedule it with Ann Marie Perkins in the Diocesan Offices.

Weddings

Every effort should be made to reschedule weddings during this crisis if possible. If a civil license is available, a wedding can be celebrated with immediate family members only, keeping in mind the maximum number persons in attendance according to government directives.

Funerals

If at all possible we recommended that you schedule a memorial Mass at a time when the current restrictions are lifted. The Rite of Committal may be celebrated at the cemetery with immediate family members only, keeping in mind the call for social distancing. If a funeral Mass is celebrated, the attendees are limited to immediate family members only. We encourage you to have the family make note in the published obituary that the funeral Mass and burial are private family only events. Please keep in mind the maximum number of persons in attendance according to government directives.

Ministering the Sacraments to a non-coronavirus-infected patient

Holy Communion to the Sick and Homebound

We urge you to use extreme caution, and only to do so when absolutely necessary (or based on pastoral urgency). If you are a high-risk priest or deacon, you are instructed to refrain from taking communion to the sick. All other clergy should use extreme caution to protect themselves from the contagion. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are not permitted to take Holy Communion to the sick during this health crisis for their good and the good of their families.

- If the visit is in a hospital environment, contact the facility before you visit, and follow the hospital directives regarding personal care (washing hands, etc.).
- Most nursing facilities are under quarantine. Please contact the nursing home staff for directives of attending to the sick and dying. If the communicant is in a nursing facility, avoid visiting to limit potential hazards to the most vulnerable population.
- If the visit is to someone's home:
 - ✓ Wash hands or use a hand sanitizer once you enter the home
 - ✓ Avoid any physical contact with the person or family during the visit
 - ✓ Use a hand sanitizer again before distributing Communion
 - ✓ If the communicant usually receives Communion on the tongue, strongly encourage him or her, for your safety as well as theirs, to receive Communion in the hand
 - ✓ Wash or sanitize your hands after the visit

- Maintain social distance (six feet) from everyone in the room, except the patient
- Do not offer comfort with any physical contact

Anointing of the Sick

If the sacrament is celebrated in a health care facility, follow the protocols and protective guidelines of the facility

- Maintain social distance with everyone in the room so as to offer comfort without making physical contact.
- Wash or sanitize your hands once you enter the room.
- The anointing may be done with a cotton-tipped swab or a cotton ball which should be burned or buried after use.
- If Holy Communion is given, it is to be distributed in the hand.
- Sanitize your hands after the visit.

Keeping Contact With those who are Homebound, Sick or Infirm and all your parishioners:

Here are some thoughts about what you can do to help your parishioners feel cared for and connected during this difficult and perplexing time.

- Expand outreach by making phone calls to homebound parishioners and local nursing home residents and assure them of your prayers, thoughts and best wishes
- Offer to pray with people over the phone.
- Organize individuals to go grocery shopping for others who must stay home. You can always leave groceries at the doorsteps for those most vulnerable but also in need of basic necessities and food.
- Our homeless neighbors will be encountering greater hunger as local restaurants, food pantries and catering companies cut back. Encourage your parishioners to donate to local foodbanks or St. Vincent DePaul society and to continue to be generous to the church so that we can care for those in greatest need.
- Think about video streaming messages, homilies or prayers for others and utilize Facebook, Twitter and other social media means to share these with your parishioners.

Ministering the Sacraments to a confirmed COVID-19 patient

Restrictions for who can fulfill this ministry:

- No priest in the high risk group or those over 60 years old.
- No priest with chronic illnesses, e.g. heart issues, diabetes, Crohn's, cancer, rheumatoid arthritis, asthma, COPD.
- These restrictions are in place following the healthcare guidance that indicates younger, healthier individuals are at a much diminished risk of contracting a serious case of coronavirus.

Anointing of the Sick - coronavirus infected person:

- If the anointing is performed in a hospital or healthcare facility, the guidelines for protective measures, including garments, prevail.
- If the anointing is not in a hospital or healthcare facility: if available, latex gloves should be worn unless the patient or priest/deacon has an allergic sensitivity to latex. Additionally, if available, protective eye wear should be worn.
- The anointing may be done with a cotton-tipped swab or a cotton ball which is to be burned or buried after use.
- If the priest uses his gloved hand, the glove is to be burned or buried after the visit.
- If Holy Communion is given, it is to be distributed in the hand.

- Maintain social distance (six feet) from everyone in the room, except the patient.
- Do not offer comfort with any physical contact.

Holy Communion to the Sick and Homebound – non-coronavirus infected person:

- During this health crisis, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are not permitted to take communion to the sick for their good and the good of the infirmed.
- If this is performed in a hospital or healthcare facility, the guidelines for protective measures, including garments, prevail.
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Regarding Religious Education, RCIA, and All Other Ministry Groups

All classes, sessions and **meetings** are to be cancelled regardless of the number of attendees/participants.

Remember to Pray

Catholics have always joined together in prayer during times of crisis throughout the ages. We have ministered to the sick, attended to the dying and buried the dead. May this unprecedented time in our history be a time we remember who we are and whose we are – disciples of Jesus Christ, crucified and risen. May we continue to demonstrate love of God and of our neighbor. In addition, may we remember to pray for everyone involved as we weather the storm.

As Pope Francis reminds us, we should be reaching out to our communities and praying in solidarity with the Church around the world. He offered this prayer to Mary, mother of Jesus: *O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm. You, Salvation of the People, know what we need and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father, and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.*

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Sacrifice of Praise

Fourth Sunday of Lent: 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a / Ephesians 5:8-14 / John 9:1-41



All images Shutterstock unless marked

The Blessing of a Thankful Heart

In today's Gospel, the disciples questioned Jesus if sin caused the man's blindness. Did he or someone in his family warrant this punishment by their offense to God? The disciples listened and accepted Jesus' explanation that the man's lack of sight was not due to sin but instead was to show the glory of God. Meanwhile, the Pharisees refused to accept Jesus' teaching and in essence became the blind ones. Ironically, their inability to see could be directly attributed to sin — specifically, the sin of pride.

They refused to believe in the miracle which had occurred right before them and would never be able to see the miracles Jesus could perform in their lives. Their metaphorical blindness remained because they were unwilling to believe in any truth other than their own. Jesus has the power and authority to open anyone's eyes, to break through anyone's darkness, but first we have to be willing to see.

Sometimes we face circumstances truly beyond our control, which make

FOR REFLECTION

- Make a list of all the things you are grateful for. Spend time in prayer thanking God for each one.
- In difficult situations, are you able to recognize reasons to be thankful?
- What burdens keep you free from embracing a hope-filled life in Christ?

us wonder what we've done to be abandoned by God or what may have angered him. It is imperative to understand an important truth about God: He does not bring hardships; these exist as a result of the Fall in the Garden of Eden. God has given each of us free will so that we may be able to freely chose to enter into a relationship with him — one based on love, not coercion.

Trusting in God's promises that "all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose" (Rom 8:28), or that "for human beings this is impossible, but for God all things are possible" (Mt

19:26), can be difficult in the midst of a tragedy, trial, or difficulty. However, one who continues to pray in thanksgiving maintains a grateful heart and remains hopeful, like the man born blind. Although Jesus' method of curing the man's blindness may have seemed strange, the man, thankful for a chance at healing, followed Jesus' instructions.

Lent is the perfect time to rub mud in our eyes, figurately speaking, and allow Jesus to heal our spiritual blindness. Whether currently struggling through a difficult time, or scars from past battles that are hard to forget, prayers of thanksgiving can mold those experiences into blessings. Clarity of vision of the cumulative experiences in our lives belong only with God; apart from him, we will never make sense of them. Remaining close, thankful, and open to seeing his hand in all that happens in the world, keeps our hearts safeguarded from growing hard. Lent is a time to reflect on what blinds us from saying, "Lord, I believe," and a time to refocus on following the Light of the World.

PRAYER TIP

When do you find time for prayer within a typically busy day? Some days do not lend themselves to dedicated or uninterrupted prayer time. Instead of skipping prayer, find ways to build it into the things you are already doing. Here are a few suggestions:

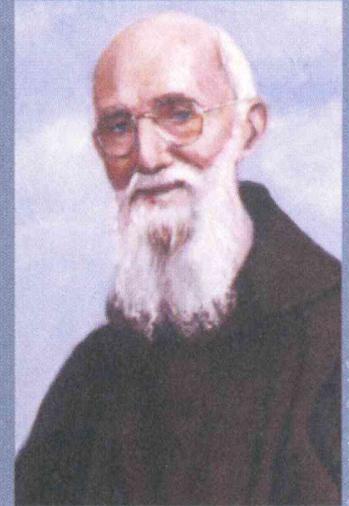
- Use your morning coffee time to read a Scripture verse.
- Recite the Rosary on your drive to work.
- Bring joy to your chores by thanking God for the food that dirtied the dishes, the clothes that now fill the hamper, and a floor that requires vacuuming.
- Offer a Hail Mary while brushing your teeth.
- Pray before (and even after) each meal.

“Give thanks to the Lord ...
whose love endures forever.”

— 1 CHRONICLES 16:34

Thank God Ahead

Blessed Solanus Casey was a simple Capuchin friar from Oak Grove, Wisconsin. Blessed Solanus is an extraordinary example of how a person can foster devout faith amid an ordinary life. Through his many hardships, he learned the blessing of maintaining a heart of gratitude, regardless of current circumstances. Solanus often counseled people to consider the good God would do in the future for them, and to “Thank God ahead of time!”



Painting by Nancy Danylko Gwartz

CATECHISM CONNECTION



“The inexhaustible richness of [the Eucharist] is expressed in the different names we give it. Each name evokes certain aspects of it. It is called:

“Eucharist, because it is an action of thanksgiving to God. The Greek words *eucharistein* and *eulogein* recall the Jewish blessings that proclaim — especially during a meal — God’s works: creation, redemption, and sanctification.”

— *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1328

“Thanksgiving characterizes the prayer of the Church which, in celebrating the Eucharist, reveals and becomes more fully what she is. Indeed, in the work of salvation, Christ sets creation free from sin and death to consecrate it anew and make it return to the Father, for his glory. The thanksgiving of the members of the Body participates in that of their Head.

— *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2637

Prayer

Lord Jesus, may I remember each day this Lent to thank you for each blessing and each cross. May the devotion I offer you be from a place of great love and not hinge on my happiness, but instead on the blessed hope found in Easter. Our blessings are abundant; so should our thanks to the One who bestows them. Lord, this week, I will pray without ceasing, giving thanks in all circumstances.