

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY

in Ordinary Time



Jesus said to him in reply,
“Blessed are you, Simon son
of Jonah. For flesh and blood
has not revealed this to you,
but my heavenly Father.

Matthew 16:17



Welcome to all who celebrate the Mass with us today. May God's grace and peace fill us all so that we can serve one another in unity and love.

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In today's gospel passage, Jesus praises Peter for his insight and declares him "Rock." Peter's promotion to the "head office" must be seen, however, as conditional. We can all be replaced if we fail to do our jobs. Isaiah tries to communicate the possibility of being "let go" to Shebna, a royal official. If you were called into the boss's office today, would you fear being fired or expect a promotion?

This Sunday the readings are: (1) Isaiah 22, 19-23 (2) Romans 11, 33-36 (3) Matthew 16, 13-20. **Year A (Gather 1152)**
Next Sunday the readings will be: (1) Jeremiah 20, 7-9 (2) Romans 12, 1-2 (3) Matthew 16, 21-27. **Year A (Gather 1155)**

Masses For The Week

SAT: 4:00PM Mercedes Kapfhamer, off: Carol Cypher
SUN: 8:30AM For the Parish
MON: 9:00AM Pauline Porcello, off: Dolores Dulaney
TUE: 9:00AM Jim Trame, off: Ed & Joan Gulbransen
SAT: 4:00PM John Maiorano, off: MHC Bible Study
SUN: 8:30AM For the Parish

STEWARDSHIP/ FINANCE
Collections for August 20, 2023

Regular Collection & loose cash & envelopes	\$10,723.00
Capital Improvement Donations	\$55.00
Total collections for August 20, 2023	\$10,778.00

Church Renovation Project	
Total Donations and Pledges as of August 20, 2023	\$149,109.95

Collection for The Assumption was \$2,109.00

THANKS FOR YOUR CONTINUED GENEROSITY

PLEASE REMEMBER MHC IN YOUR WILL

When considering which charities to include in your will or trust, we hope you will remember **Mary, Help of Christians**. The parish gratefully accepts donations of stock. A tax deduction for a gift of appreciated securities to a charity equals its full fair market value.



From The Pastor's Desk

Fr. Bedel

Beloved in Christ,

Please keep the youth of our parishes in your prayers as youth programs kick off Sunday in our family of parishes. May the youth rise up to be disciples of Jesus who make other disciples of Jesus.

Happy Feast Day St. Augustine! Tomorrow, Monday, Aug. 28 is the Feast of St. Augustine. Everyone is invited to join in the celebration at our own St. Augustine Church at 44 E. Washington St. in Jamestown. We will pray the Rosary at 5:30 p.m., Expose the Blessed Sacrament at 6 p.m. and celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at 7 p.m. After Mass, we will have an ice cream social in the parish hall. See you there!

One of the ways we welcome our students into the new academic year is through the celebration of the Red Mass of the Holy Spirit. We will celebrate these on Aug. 30 at St. Brigid and on Sept. 5 at St. Luke. This tradition goes back to the 12th century and includes a special blessing for students and teachers.

Did you know that Ohio is the seventh most populous state in the United States? That means 43 states are smaller than Ohio. Our state is a big deal, so this can be both a blessing and bring challenges. Because Ohio is so important, the abortion lobby is using us as a testing ground for radical ideas.

Ohio is the only state this year where the voters will decide if our laws will protect our innocent unborn Ohioans in our state's constitution or not. Next year, in 2024, the abortion lobby will try it in 11 states. We can be sure they will be watching Ohio as they make their plans to promote some very radical agendas that attack the dignity of the human person. The next page has some graphics that clearly show the dangers of the proposed amendment for the ballot in November. Visit ohiocathconf.org for more information on this and healing ministries available.

Thanks for your prayers. Be assured of my prayers for you.

God bless,
Fr. Bedel

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ANY3 THINGS PODCAST



"Fr. Ambrose has launched a podcast for our family of parishes! Any3 Things will talk about what's going on each week, and highlight different staff and events. Episode 11 of our Any3 Things podcast is now live! Heather Ayers, the

new principal at St. Brigid, joins the show to talk about her new role, what it means to be a Catholic school, and the accreditation process. Listen on any of your favorite podcast apps, or click here: <https://www.podbean.com/eas/pb-r3ant-1487689>



"THE WILD GOOSE" SERIES



"The Wild Goose" by Fr. Dave Pivonka. Michael Barclay will be showing "The Wild Goose." This high quality video series on the Holy Spirit will run for seven weeks after Tuesday morning Mass in St. Francis Hall. This series promises to free our hearts, minds and lives to live more boldly in the Holy Spirit! We are taking a two week break! Next sessions will start Tuesday, September 12 for the last 7 sessions.

LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 2023 MARY, HELP OF CHRISTIANS SOFTBALL TEAM



12-2 League Champions 2023 Mary, Help of Christians Softball Team.

Tournament games Tuesday, August 29th 7:15PM. If we win first game we play the Tournament Championship game at 8:30PM@Fairfield Park, Fairborn.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS



RCIA for our Family of Parishes!

CHRISTIAN INITIATION "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations baptizing them." There are people in our community right now discerning the call to follow Jesus and enter the Church. Please help us by praying for them. If you know anyone who is considering becoming Catholic, has never been baptized, or who never received their sacraments as a young person, please encourage them to contact Spencer Hargadon at (937) 426-1733 or shargadon@saintlukeparish.org. Catholics interested in supporting those exploring Catholicism are also welcome.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES



Catholic Charities USA.

Catholic Charities USA is assisting with relief efforts following the devastating wildfires which struck parts of the island of Maui, Hawaii, on August 8 and 9. Anyone wishing to make a financial contribution to these relief efforts may do so by visiting www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/?form=hawaii23. Let us pray for all those affected by this disaster and for those assisting with recovery and rebuilding efforts.

YOUTH OPPORTUNITY

2023 NATIONAL CATHOLIC YOUTH CONFERENCE: Fully Alive (November 16-18, Indianapolis, IN) NCYC is a national Catholic youth event that gathers High School aged Catholic teenagers for a life-changing encounter with Christ. At NCYC, teens pray, build community, learn more about their faith, and are empowered to live out their faith. Our team of speakers and artists will help our teens reflect on how they, too, are made in the image and likeness of God and are called to be Fully Alive in his presence. If interested in attending, please contact Michael at mbarclay@mhcp parish.org. More information at: <https://youtu.be/ymGPT9fmDV>



St. _____, PRAY FOR US

Family to choose canonical parish name,
all parishioners have opportunity to nominate patron



While the names of the churches that make up the Northeast 3 Family of Parishes **will not change**, the Code of Canon Law requires patrons be named to intercede for the people of the new combined parish.

An insert included in this bulletin lists the guidelines for naming such saints in accordance with Canon Law. The chosen saint, or saints (*see insert explanation*), will also replace the temporary title of "Northeast 3" as the family name.

Parish leaders are seeking patron suggestions from parishioners **through Oct. 1**. A link to submit suggestions electronically will be sent via Flocknote, and the back of the insert has space for parishioners to write their suggestions.

Hand-written nominations can be placed in collection baskets or dropped

off at parish offices.

Parishioners are strongly encouraged to clearly explain the reason for their nomination. Submissions lacking any basis for why a nomination was presented may not receive as much consideration.

The grand revealing of the family's new name (date to be determined) is expected to be first announced via Flocknote.

Signing up to receive Flocknotes via email and/or text is as easy as:

Scanning the QR Code



Or, texting "NE3" to 84576

Or, visiting ne3.flocknote.com



PICK YOUR PATRON

NE3 Seeking Suggestions for Canonical Parish Name

While the names of the churches that make up the Northeast 3 Family of Parishes *will not change*, the Code of Canon Law requires a saint be named as intercessor for the people of the new combined parish.

The chosen saint will also replace “Northeast 3” as the family name and NE3 leadership is seeking saint suggestions from all parishioners.

Below are Canon guidelines and considerations for naming parishes.


Saint suggestions, along with a description of why that saint (or saints, *see below*) should be considered, *can be written on the back of this form. Completed forms can be placed in collection baskets or dropped off at parish offices through Oct. 1.*

- The final canonical parish name will identify the parish each church belongs to, for example, *St. Augustine Church of St. (insert name) Parish*
- The following are the possible patrons: *the Blessed Virgin Mary, under some title already accepted into the sacred liturgy, the Angels, and the Saints*
- When two or more saints are inscribed in the Roman Calendar together, they may together be chosen as the principal patrons
- The three Divine Persons are always excluded from possible patrons because the patron is to be the principal intercessor for the people of the place before the Divine Persons themselves
- Choosing the patron of a church already part of the Archdiocese is not prohibited, though choosing a unique name can avoid confusion going forward
- A “Blessed” may only be chosen as a patron with an indult granted by the Apostolic See



TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

ST AUGUSTINE FEAST DAY CELEBRATION



YOU'RE INVITED!
ST. AUGUSTINE PARISH
FEAST DAY CELEBRATION

MONDAY
AUGUST 28, 2023

44 E Washington St, Jamestown, OH 45335

Rosary, Adoration, Mass
5:30 PM 6 PM 7 PM

Ice cream social to follow in hall

SPECIAL SECOND COLLECTION AUGUST 26 & 27 THIS WEEKEND

Special Second Collection August 26 & 27 this weekend

An amendment to the Ohio state constitution is being proposed and will be on the ballot this November which, if passed, will enshrine the right to take the lives of innocent children in the womb while harming women and families in the process. As we continue our efforts to assist pregnant women in need with material resources and personal accompaniment, it is also paramount that we inform people of the ways this amendment would put women at risk, threaten parental rights, and allow abortion through nine months of pregnancy. We will be taking up a second collection on Aug. 26 and 27 at all of our NE3 Family of Parishes. Proceeds from this collection will be divided such that half of the monies raised will benefit pregnancy care centers and agencies across the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and half would fund efforts to inform Ohioans on the need to reject the deadly amendment. Prayerfully consider joining others in donating to this second collection.

PRAYER CHAIN



PRAYER CHAIN

After many requests Mary, Help of Christians has started an **MHC PRAYER CHAIN**. This consists of a group of people who pray individually in their homes for special Prayer requests received by fellow parishioners. The power of prayer is tremendous!

If you would like to join our **MHC PRAYER CHAIN** or have a special prayer request, contact Julie at jsewellmhc@gmail.com or call the parish office 937-878-8353. We can get you signed up through Flocknotes.

THE MHC MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT THIS WEEKEND

Stop by and visit the MHC Choir /Music Ministry Table this weekend in the gathering space to find out more about this awesome ministry. We need you!!! We rehearse on Tuesday evenings, from 7:00-8:30PM in the Church.



LABOR DAY



Reminder: The parish office will be closed **Monday, September 4, 2023 for the Labor Day holiday.** There will be Mass Monday morning at 9:00AM.

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK



Sponsor of the Week

We'd like to call your attention to this week's "Sponsor of the Week." **Family Physicians Inc., Jacob T. Dean, M.D., 7774 Dayton Springfield Rd, Fairborn.**

We would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their continued support of our weekly bulletin. **THANK YOU:** This bulletin is furnished to the Parish without charge. The advertisements that appear, completely defray all publishing costs with which the church would otherwise be burdened. **Please patronize these sponsors as a thank you for their kind generosity.**

PSR NEWS

THE MHC HOLIDAY BAZAAR



The 53rd MHC Holiday Bazaar will be on Saturday, November 4 and Sunday, November 5 continuing our 50 year tradition of our Holiday Bazaar being held on the first weekend in November. Please mark your calendars for this annual event. We may need a few more people this year to help coordinate and chair some of the booths. If you would be interested in helping with a booth please contact Julie Sewell @ 937- 878-8353. We are always happy to receive basket donations that can be raffled. If you have anything that you would like to donate please contact Julie Sewell @937- 878-8353 to make drop off arrangements. Your help would really be appreciated. Bring in your Christmas items starting September 11.



PSR News:

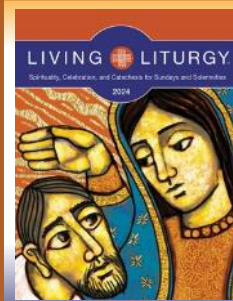
Our Parish School of Religion program will begin on Sunday, September 17 We have mailed out registration forms last week to last year's registered families. If you will be new to our program, please call 937- 878-8353 and leave your name and address so we can send you the information and registration forms.

CATECHETICAL SUNDAY



We will celebrate Catechetical Sunday on Sunday, September 17, 2023 at the 8:30AM Mass. Mark your calendars.

ORDER LIVING LITURGY



Living Liturgy Order

Anyone wishing to order a Living Liturgy Book 2024 for the next liturgical year can call Julie @ 937- 878-8353 before October 31.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BINGO



The Fairborn Knights of Columbus has BINGO every Wednesday night in the Parish Center. Doors open at 5:00PM and Instants start selling at 5:00PM. 24 games. Packages start at \$13.00 (12 faces). A portion of the profit is donated back to our parish. For more information or if you would like to volunteer to work one night a month call Eric Rogalinski @ 937-657-6958. Updates and more information call @ 937-878-2909.

NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE



NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE: The 11th Annual National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children will be Saturday, September 9, 2023. The Daughters of Isabella, Marian Circle 911 and Knights of Columbus Council 3724 will be participating again this year by holding a prayer service after the 4:00PM Mass at our own Memorial for the Unborn which is in front of the statue of Mary at the far end of MHC Parish Center. Please join with us in saying a Pro-Life Rosary at our nationally listed site dedicated to the memory of aborted children. All families and individuals are invited to participate in this special event. If you have questions or need more information, please call the K of C Offices @ 937-878-2909 or Annie @ 937-409-5299.

FLOCKNOTE JOIN TODAY



Flocknote, a popular communication tool, widely-used by Catholic churches for instant messaging, is active in our family of parishes. Flocknote focuses on simplicity and letting parishioners choose the information they want to receive via email, text message, or both. Flocknote requires no password and no accounts, just an email or phone number. An easy scan QR code and a simple text-to-join keyword are available below. Need help please contact the parish office with any Flocknote questions.

DIVORCE CARE



Do you need Christian-based healing from going through separation or divorce's emotional challenges? This might be a very difficult time for you right now. You should not have to feel isolated or cut off from the Catholic Church. Let us help you @ our fall 13-week support group Thursday evenings, 6:30-8:30 pm from Sept. 7 to Dec. 7; St. Francis of Assisi Campus, 6245 Wilmington Pike, Centerville. For more information, contact Marcelle Toma at (937) 312-1157 (Not a texting number) or mtoma@woh.rr.com

3 Crazy Simple Ways to Sign Up

1. Scan the QR Code
2. Or, text "NE3" to 84576
3. Or, visit ne3.flocknote.com



BEACONS OF LIGHT



BEACONS OF LIGHT
Our NE-3 Family of Parishes continues to work towards bringing our six parishes together as one. Information about the work ahead is available on the Pathways website:

<https://www.pathway.catholicaoc.org>

All are invited to learn more about the process, to better understand the work being done in our Family, and to learn how you can contribute.

FORMED



The Eucharistic Revival is a national movement to renew the Church by enkindling a living relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist.

FORMED is proud to accompany the USCCB as we **reinvigorate** the **Church** in her **understanding** of and love for Our Lord in this sacrament. Learn what the Church teaches about this precious gift and why it is pivotal to your spiritual journey through the resources found on FORMED!

Visit: <https://watch.formed.org/eucharist> or scan the QR code. (To sign up free, visit: <https://signup.formed.org> and enter Mary Help of Christians/ Fairborn.

FORMED provides the very best Catholic content from more than 60 organizations to help parishes, families and individuals explore their faith anywhere.



PARISH WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE LINKS

Visit the parish website at: www.mhccparish.org



Visit our Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/fairbornmhccchurch/>

OLIVE WOOD CARVINGS FOR SALE

The Holy Land Shepherds



Bethlehem Olive Wood Carvings For Sale In The Bride's Room August 26 & 27 This Weekend. Please take time to stop in the Bride's Room and look at the beautiful carvings available for your purchase.

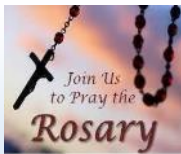
FAMILY ROSARY MONDAY EVENINGS

Family Rosary Every Monday

Please join us this Monday, August 28 @ 6:00PM.



ROSARY SATURDAY AFTERNOON BEFORE MASS



Rosary Saturday Afternoon before Mass In The Church. Please join us @ 3:30PM.

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION CLASSES

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION CLASSES AT MHC

The next Baptismal Preparation Class for parents seeking baptism for young children is being held on Sunday, September 10, 2023 at 9:45AM in the Church. Please call the parish office @ 937- 878-8353 to advise us if you will be attending this class.

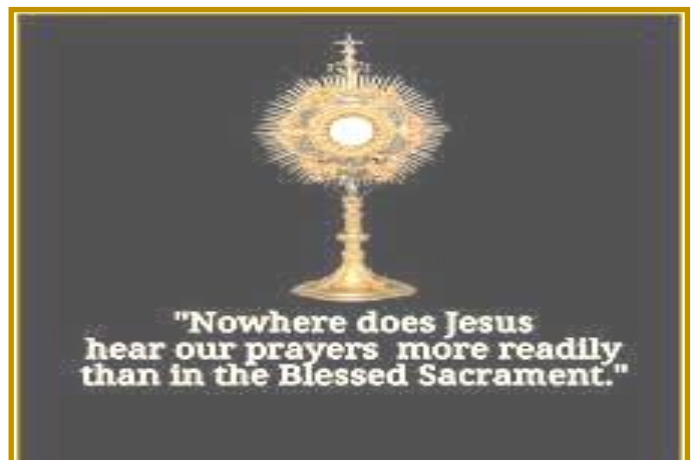
MHC CEMETERY LOTS



MHC Cemetery Lots

Just a reminder that Mary, Help of Christians has a section in the Fairfield Cemetery here in Fairborn. Heading southwest on Broad Street, turn right on Clover Street at Goodyear and proceed; you will find our section in that first area on your left. Each lot is \$400. Please feel free to call the parish office @ 937-878-8353 if you have an interest.

IDEA FOR THE WEEK JOIN US THIS MONDAY FOR EUCHARISTIC ADORATION!



TWENTY- FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Sacred Heart Corner

ADORATION & CONFESSION

Join us at Sacred Heart Tuesday
Evening for Adoration & CONFESSION.
7:00-8:00 pm
English and Spanish

PATRIOTIC ROSARY

All are welcome to join us
Thursdays at 9:30AM
Blessed Sacrament Chapel in the Church

DAILY DEVOTIONS

Sacred Heart Church is open
7:00AM to 7:00PM for your daily devotions.

FIRST FRIDAY MASS

Join us at Sacred Heart 9:00 am for
First Friday Mass
September 1, 2023

CALLING all CRAFTERS

November 3 & 4

Friday 10:00-7:00
Saturday 10:00-4:00

Snowflake Craft Bazaar

Sacred Heart Church, New Carlisle, OH

\$30 PER TABLE SPACE
\$45 PER 10 x 10 BOOTH SPACE
\$40 PER 9 x 8 BOOTH SPACE



Now Accepting Applications
Contact: snowflake@sacredheartnc.net

ST VINCENT DE PAUL



Food Donations for St. Vincent de Paul.

It has been requested that we put an item or two in the bulletin each week that St. Vincent de Paul could use to help defray some of the ever rising food expenses. Each week we will have different items that are needed. You can still bring any items that you would like as well.

Your Favorite Bar Soap Any Brand

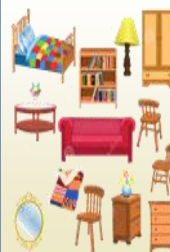


You can drop off your items at the in the Church gathering space on right side by usher's room door we will have a blue bin marked Food.



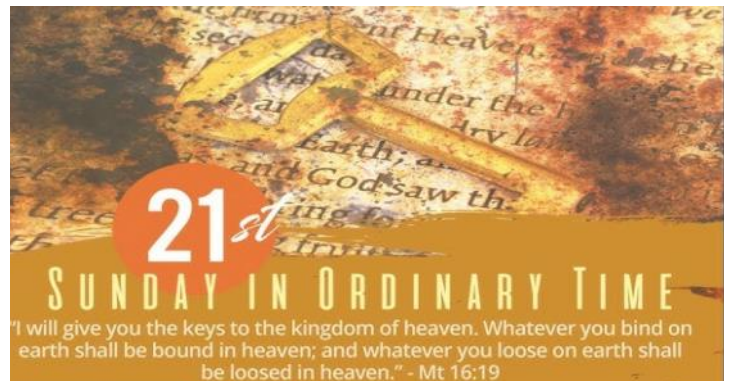
St. Vincent de Paul collects monetary donations at the doors after Mass on the 3rd weekend of every month. Look for baskets at each of the doors marked for St. Vincent dePaul. St. Vincent volunteers will be holding the baskets.

St. Vincent de Paul Furniture Needed



We are looking for furniture, the need is surprisingly high. Couches, beds/mattresses, tables and chairs. Please contact Dave at 937-825-3576. We will be glad to arrange free pick-up. Thanks for your help and support. Quality Rule: If it is okay for your mother-in-law, it is okay to donate.

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REST IN PEACE

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS all our parishioners, relatives, and friends who have died, especially Kathy Latham

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT PSR MINISTRY

Parish School of Religion (PSR)

Michael Barclay, *Associate Director of Youth, Adult and Family Evangelization* 937-830-8735 cell

Julie Sewell, *Administrative Assistant*, Parish Office
937-878-8353



Our Parish School of Religion (PSR) is offered to children ages 3 & 4 year olds to 12th grades, so they can know, love, and serve Jesus better.

Through catechesis we hope that the youth can know and appreciate His Church more fully. Special emphasis is placed on presenting the fullness of Catholic Doctrine, frequent reception

of the Sacraments, and cultivating a prayer life. Our program continues and supplements the religious formation from parents, who are the primary teachers of their children in the ways of the faith. The dedicated catechists in our PSR program have many years of experience and love of passing on our faith to the youth of the parish.

Our classes meet every Sunday (September-April), from 9:45-11:00am.

Another important facet of our mission is to ensure that your children know that Mary, Help of Christians is a place where they belong and where they are loved. We cherish the opportunity to be a caring, Catholic adults in their lives who supports them and wants the best for them. We value the opportunity to partner with parents in passing on the faith to their children. We have classes for youth in every grade, whether they are receiving a sacrament or not. We wholeheartedly encourage you to keep your children in classes each year to help encourage them to grow and progress on their faith journeys.

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHTS



Mary, Help of Christians

has more than 50 ministries that meet the diverse needs of its members and the

community. Over the next few months we are presenting a series of these ministry's profiles. These Ministry Spotlights highlight the wide variety of opportunities to serve and be served at Mary Help. Our hope is that somewhere in these 50-plus ministries is one that's just right for you! A Ministry Spotlight is a celebration of the work of the Church. It is a time to learn about the programs, ministries and services of the parish, as well as an opportunity for all parishioners to consider their God given talents and gifts and to discern how those gifts can be of service to others.

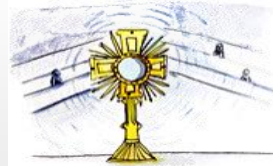
Now is the time for you to reflect upon your gifts and how they might be of service to the community. This can help you grow in your relationship with God and with each other, for we are all called to be good stewards of our lives. Highlighting the ministries and activities of the parish will help all of us witness the vast treasures of gifts and talents within our faith community. We have all been gifted by God, so as to use our gifts for the good of the others. Please pray to discern your gifts and talents and how you might use them for the common good. Watch for a table in the gathering space where these ministries are being highlighted.

SEPTEMBER 2 & 3 WE WILL SPOTLIGHT OUR MHC PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION MINISTRY

ADORATION

Holy Hour and Eucharistic Adoration:

You are invited to spend a holy hour of prayer with adoration on the **4th Monday each month from 7:00-8:00PM in the church.**



Welcome!
Join us Monday, August 28

ST. FRANCIS MEDITATION GARDEN

Enjoy God's Creation!

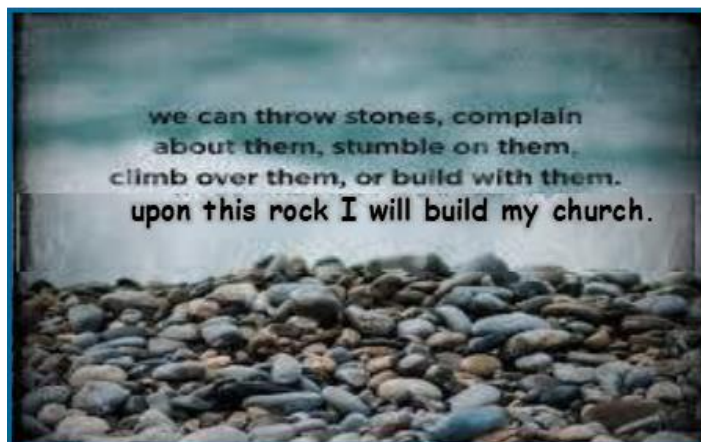


As the weather is warmer all are invited to spend some quiet time or private prayer in our St. Francis Meditation Garden!

The garden is open from dawn to dusk. The entrance is near the St. Francis Hall garage door. Check out our beautiful garden.

If you would like to help care for the garden, we work most Tuesdays around 8:30AM. Please call Beverly at 937-878-6060 for more information.

SPEAK LIFE



MHC TEE SHIRTS AVAILABLE



We have a few MHC Tee Shirts still available to purchase. Please call Eric Rogalinski or the parish office to place your order.

If you need to pick up a shirt that you already ordered they are available at the Parish Office. Small-X Large \$10.00

WHERE DOES IT SAY THAT?



THIS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT...

THREATENS PARENTAL RIGHTS

By using "individual" instead of adult or woman, anyone under the age of 18 could have an abortion or make any other reproductive decision without their parents' consent or notification.

PUTS WOMEN AT RISK

Current Ohio laws* require abortion providers to explain procedure risks and ensure access to hospital transfer if needed. These health and safety standards could be seen as a "burden" and be eliminated, making it even less safe for women seeking an abortion.

ALLOWS ABORTIONS THROUGH 9 MONTHS OF PREGNANCY

In U.S. law,** "health" includes age or physical, emotional, or psychological well-being. This means a woman's age or emotional health could be cited to justify aborting a full-term baby. An abortion-providing physician would decide when a baby could survive outside the womb, leaving no clear protections for preborn children.

IS MISLEADING

Referring to "miscarriage care" promotes a myth that a "right to abortion" is necessary to preserve care for miscarriages and ectopic pregnancies. This is false. Catholic hospitals have always provided comprehensive miscarriage care and will continue to do so regardless of the outcome of this vote.

ARTICLE I, SECTION 22

The Right to Reproductive Freedom with Protections for Health and Safety

1. Every individual has a right to make and carry out one's own reproductive decisions, including but not limited to decisions on contraception, fertility treatment, continuing one's own pregnancy, miscarriage care, and abortion.
2. The State shall not, directly or indirectly, burden, penalize, prohibit, interfere with, or discriminate against either an individual's voluntary exercise of this right or a person or entity that assists an individual exercising this right, unless the State demonstrates that it is using the least restrictive means to advance the individual's health in accordance with widely accepted and evidence-based standards of care.
3. However, abortion may be prohibited after fetal viability. But in no case may such an abortion be prohibited if in the professional judgment of the pregnant patient's treating physician it is necessary to protect the pregnant patient's life or health.
4. As used in this Section, "Fetal viability" means "the point in a pregnancy when, in the professional judgment of the pregnant patient's treating physician, the fetus has a significant likelihood of survival outside the uterus with reasonable measures. This is determined on a case-by-case basis"; and "State" includes any governmental entity and political subdivision.
5. This Section is self-executing.

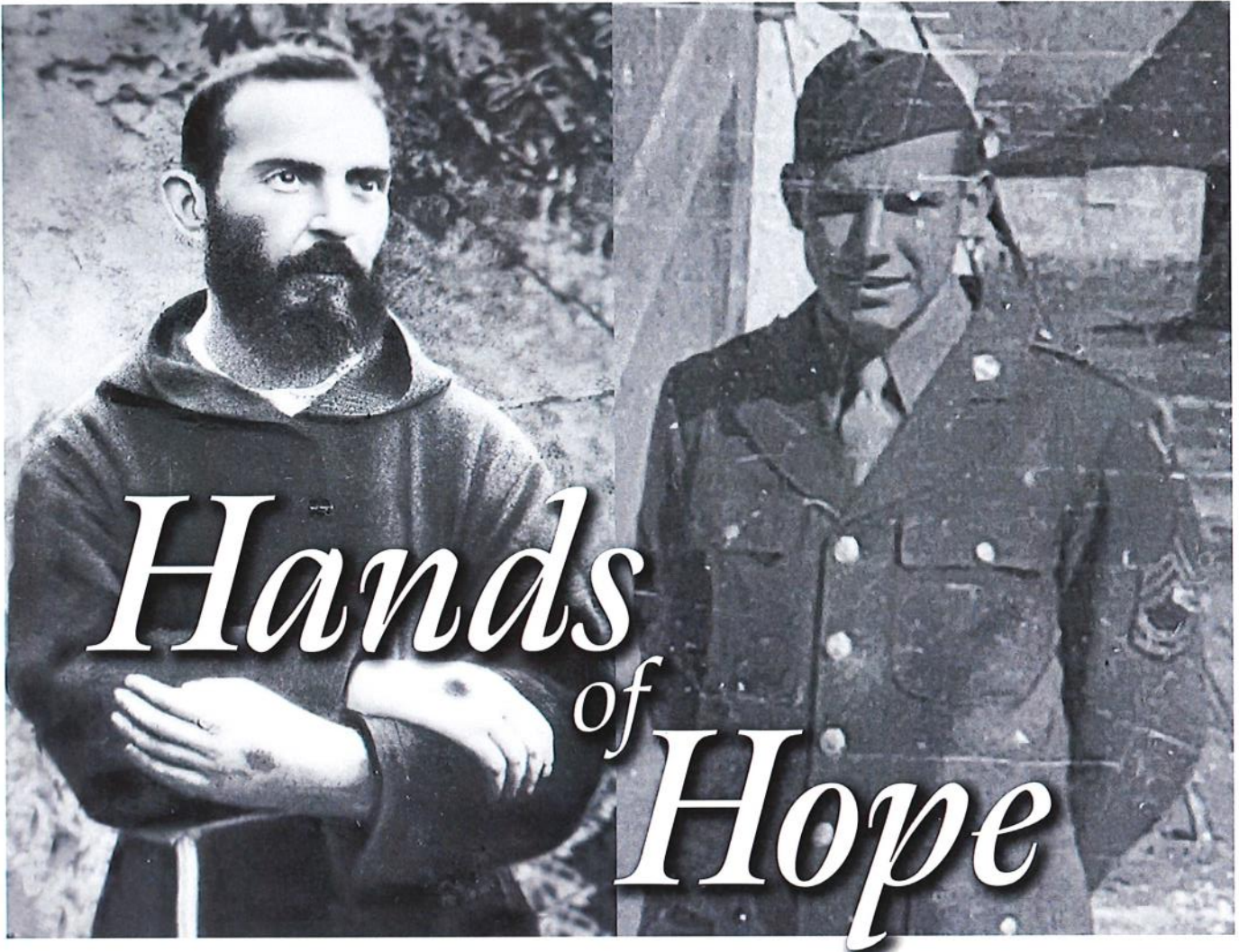
* Ohio Revised Code, Sections 2317.56 & 3702.303

** Based on Doe v. Bolton



Educating is an act of Love. It is like giving Life. Pope Francis

**TRAIN
the
Young
in
the
WAY
in
they
SHOULD GO:
EVEN WHEN
Old they will
NOT SWERVE FROM it.**
PROVERBS 22:6



A TALE OF WORK, WAR, LOVE, AND THE TIES THAT BIND
ST. PADRE PIO, PAUL PITSTICK, AND ST. PAUL PARISH

by Paul Pitstick

I have the hands of a Midwestern farmboy. They are weathered and coarse. They are sun-dried and calloused. They are tired and bruised. My hands have tilled soil and planted seeds. They look every bit of the ninety-three years of life I have lived.

I have the hands of a husband. They have fixed cars and changed lightbulbs. They have stained the fence and changed the oil. They have mown the lawn and taken out the garbage. My hands are uniquely formed to hold the hand of my bride of seventy years. They never feel quite as good as when they are in hers.

I have the hands of a father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. They have changed diapers of forty-five of the most beautiful children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren a man could ask for. They have dried tears, played catch, wrapped presents, rocked cribs, tickled toes, and fed each child with love.

I have the hands of a son. They shook my father's hand as I left for World War II, and they held my mother tight when I returned home. They have gripped the shovel as I buried both of my earthly parents. My hands have opened the good book written by my Heavenly Father. They have held the Body of Jesus Christ every day for over seventy years.

Ultimately my hope rests not in the work of my own hands, but in the hands of Jesus. Jesus has been with me every day of my life. I felt this most powerfully the day I kissed the wounds of Christ on the hands of the great saint Padre Pio.

I met Padre Pio during my third year serving as a bomb site auto pilot mechanic in World War II. When the war ended, I was asked to remain in Europe for an extra year of service. My family contacted me from home in Ohio and told me they thought I was stationed near San Giovanni

Rotondo, where Padre Pio lived.

Sure enough, when I looked at my map, I realized I was in the town right next to San Giovanni Rotondo. Can you believe that? What are the chances? It had to have been the Lord!

The first time I met Padre Pio, he allowed a group of us to kiss the glove covering the stigmata on his palm. What a grace! I was deeply moved by his presence. There was something different about Padre Pio. His presence was weightier than others'. He was always joyful, always smiling, despite his painful wounds. It was a gift for him to suffer with the Lord. I felt closer to God when I was with Padre Pio, and I couldn't wait to visit him again.

God gave me the opportunity to visit Padre Pio on four occasions during my time in Italy. I remember him inviting a fellow soldier and me to kneel before the altar as he said Mass. We were so close to him that we could clearly see the stigmata on his palms as he celebrated the Eucharist. He always took off his gloves for Mass.

We received the Body of Christ from those hands. Later, he invited me to kneel in front of him, placing his right hand on my head and holding his left hand out in front of me. I kissed the wound of Christ in Padre Pio's flesh. That experience was such a special grace. I think about it every day.

The only time I spoke to Padre Pio was to ask him to pray for my sister and father, who were both in poor health. My mother had written me from home to request this prayer intention

from him.

After hearing my request, he said to me, "I will keep them in the palm of my hand." I knew they would be taken care of. And they were.

I can feel Padre Pio with me all the time. I know he is praying for me and my family. On the day Padre Pio died,

**'I felt closer to God
when I was with Padre Pio,
and I couldn't wait
to visit him again.'**

the bells at our church tolled miraculously for almost three hours. The janitor had to clip the wire near the bells to make them stop.

I could hear the bells tolling out on the farm nearly a mile away. That was Padre Pio's way of saying goodbye to us. Sometimes when I close my eyes, I can still hear those bells ringing and I smile.

The saints are beacons of hope in the world. They show us that ordinary men and women can be the living hands of Jesus acting in the world. Saints show the world that God does powerful things through those that make themselves available to him.

Padre Pio gives me hope that one life can make a difference in another. He gives me hope that my hands can do God's work. Even through a simple Midwestern farmer, husband, father, and son, God can bring hope into the world. If God can make a saint out of

an ordinary man like Padre Pio, he can do the same thing with you and me.

In my life, hope has been found in people. It is through people that God has shown me how he loves to do the extraordinary through the ordinary. My wife is my hope. My children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren are my hope. Padre Pio is my hope. Jesus is my hope. You are my hope.

Yes, you reading this, you are my hope. You are a gift from God to the world. You hold within you the hope of a greater and more beautiful Church. You hold within you the hope that this can become a nation of holy families and saintly priests and religious. You hold within you the hope that love can prevail over hate. You hold within you the hope that God will bring the wonderful message of salvation to every corner of the earth.

Editor's Note: This story was reprinted with permission from the book "Beautiful Hope," a Dynamic Catholic collection of real-life stories by a variety of authors, including Pope Francis, Matthew Kelly, and Fr. Mike Schmitz. Paul Pitstick has been a parishioner of St. Paul Church and Mary, Help of Christians Church, as has many of his family members. His son, Fr. Martin Pitstick, is pastor of Divine Mercy and St. Bernard Parishes in northern Kentucky.

Paul and Pat Pitstick have been married for more than 75 years. The center and left photos appeared with the story, "[Area WWII veteran turns 100: 'I've been so lucky.'](#)" in the Springfield News Sun and were reprinted with permission from the Dayton Daily News.



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now but yours."
-St. Teresa of Avila**

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