

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

833 Main Street
Agawam, MA 01001

www.stjohnagawam.com

sje.information@gmail.com

Office Phone: 413-786-8105 | Fax: 413-455-3100



Welcome!

No matter what your present status in the Catholic Church,
No matter what your family or marital situation,
No matter what your past or present religious affiliation,
No matter what your personal history, background, race or other,
No matter what your own self-image or esteem,
You are invited, welcomed, accepted, loved and respected here at St. John's.

EUCCHARIST:

Lord's Day Mass: *Saturday* 4:00 pm, *Sunday* 8:00 am, 10:30 am

Weekday Mass: Monday-Tuesday and Thursday-Friday at 8:00 am & Wednesday at 6:00 pm | Adoration: Wed. 12:00 - 6:00 pm

CONFESSION: Saturday 2:45 to 3:45 pm, Wednesday 4:30 to 5:30 pm, or by Appointment.

BAPTISM: Please call the parish office to schedule.

MARRIAGE: To be arranged at least one year in advance. Please call the parish office.

ANOIDTING OF THE SICK: Is available in the Confessional every Saturday or see Father after Mass. If you or a loved one needs Father to come to you, please call the parish office.

CONFIRMATION: Takes place in 11th Grade, please contact the Director of Religious Education to enroll in classes. If you are an adult and need to make your Confirmation, please contact the same office and ask about the RCIA program.

HOLY ORDERS: Are you thinking about a vocation to the priesthood or religious life? Please call Fr. Pierz at the parish office, or call the Office of Vocations at (413) 452-0811.

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT: *We are a Roman Catholic community inspired by the Holy Spirit to follow the example of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by sharing, growing and spreading God the Father's love through our parish ministries, and by coming together as a community in meaningful prayer and worship to celebrate that love.*

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time—August 14, 2022

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday - 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Pastor (appointed): Fr. Michael Lillpopp
sje.priest@gmail.com

Parochial Vicar: Fr. John Hurley
sje.curate@gmail.com

Deacon: Deacon Dave Picard
sje.deacon@gmail.com

Priest in Retirement: Fr. John Lis

Office Manager: Andreana Perkins
sje.operationsmanager@gmail.com

Parish Secretary: Debbie Whitehead*

Reception Volunteers: Mary Talarico,
Patricia Brown, Shirley Cuslusi

Pastoral Ministry to Sick & Homebound:
Francesca Brandt
sje.homebound@gmail.com

Director of Religious Education: Roxanne Casiello
sje.religiouseducation@gmail.com

Director of "In the Beginning"

Pre-School Ministry: Claire Riberdy
sje.inthebeginning@gmail.com

Pre-School Teachers:
Mary Boulrice, Lisa Lemire

Director of Music Ministry: Isabella Manning
sje.musicdirector@gmail.com

Maintenance Supervisor: Beth Thomas
sje.maintenance@gmail.com

Child Advocate: Mary Beth Swindell
Private Line: (860) 386-6009

Finance Council:

David Ross (Chair)	Dale Marie Breault
Stanley Ciempa	Cecile Fragoso
Albert Innarelli	Suzanne Lamkins

Pastoral Council:

Cecile Fragoso (Chair)	Trisha Brown
Judy Cross Donahue	Luke Hollwedel
Mary Kate Henle	Jeffrey Krause
Leo Marinak	Jessica Pokora
Jane Seaver	Jane Trevethan
Gianna Smith (Youth Representative)	

Bulletin Submissions are due 12 days prior to print

***Email: sje.parishsecretary@gmail.com**

Thoughts from the Rectory...

Dear friends of St. John the Evangelist,

During World War II my father was in China when, during a conflict, a soldier was struck by grenade shrapnel with a piece embedded in his chest.

In the Gospel today, Jesus is lamenting to the apostles his eagerness to continue to invigorate and embolden the people in the loving church of God.

The problem is when the people go to their families, they will meet resistance, he finds it frustrating.

When my dad opened up the soldiers chest, he found a piece of shrapnel that had cauterized itself to the heart muscle! Standing over this man Dr. Hurley agonizes....what do I do? If I remove it he will bleed to death. So, he closed the wound.

As we see today, throughout history, since the time of Jesus the ebb and flow in the life of the church, that God's loving message continues to inspire millions every day. Always in a state of growth somewhere in the world overcoming all.

The soldier was able to be moved to the rear back to his family, despite worry and anguish...God is always with us!!

St. John the Evangelist, pray for us!

Fr. Hurley



Luke 12: 49-53—Jesus: A Cause of Division

"49 I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!

50 There is a baptism with which I must be baptized, and how great is my anguish until it is accomplished

51 Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division.

52 From now on a household of five will be divided, three against two and two against three;

53a father will be divided against his son and a son against his father, a mother against her daughter and a daughter against her mother, a mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law."

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, August 13th

4:00 pm—William E. Turgeon †

Requested by His Friend Robert

Sunday, August 14th

8:00 am—FOR THE PEOPLE

10:30 am—Glenn Consolini—1st Anniversary †

Requested by Sophia & Family

Monday, August 15th—THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

8:00 am—Minerva Eggleston †

Requested by Charlene & Gary

Tuesday, August 16th—Saint Stephen of Hungary

8:00 am—Herbert & Helen Griffin †

Requested by Daughter Susan

Wednesday, August 17th

6:00 pm—Alix Stearns

Requested by Her Husband

Thursday, August 18th

8:00 am—Bill Flebotte †

Requested by The Family

Friday, August 19th—Saint John Eudes, Priest

8:00 am—Faith Simmons

Requested by Faith Simmons

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, August 20th

4:00 pm—Sisters In Christ: United Under Mary's mantel Members & Families

Requested by Donna Marie Cooper O'Boyle

Sunday, August 21st

8:00 am—FOR THE PEOPLE

10:30 am—Matt & Claire Riberdy—5th Wedding Anniversary, and Jane & Jack Seaver

Requested by The Family

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary



The Parish Office will be closed Monday, August 15, in observance of the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

This feast is typically a Holy Day of Obligation; however, when it falls on a Saturday or a Monday, the obligation to attend Mass is abrogated.

SANCTUARY LAMP

AUGUST 14-20

WILL BE LIT IN MEMORY OF

GLENN CONSOLINI

REQUESTED BY

SOPHIA CONSOLINI

If you would like to request the Sanctuary Candle to be lit in honor of or in memory of someone, please contact the parish office.

MEMORIAL LAMP FOR OUR CHILDREN

AUGUST 14-20

WILL BE LIT IN REMEMBRANCE OF

ALL DECEASED CHILDREN OF AGAWAM

REQUESTED BY

THE PARISH

If you would like to request the *Memorial Lamp for Children* to be lit in honor or in memory of a child, including the unborn, contact the parish office.



Please remember in your prayers: Please pray for the sick and dying of our parish. Remember all who are in hospitals, nursing homes and homebound. Pray for the hungry, the unemployed and under-employed. Pray for an end to abortion and a true respect for all life, from conception to natural death. Pray for peace. In a concrete way we pray for all those who have died and all the deceased members of our parish and diocese, especially James Cousineau.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.

And let perpetual light shine upon them.

May they rest in peace. Amen.

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

IN MY MOTHER'S ARMS PRAYER LINE:

If you have a serious intention that you need prayers for: surgery, sufferings, medical, illness, cancer treatment, a sick child, or anything like that, please give Pat (786-3023) or Mary (786-9671) a call and you will have countless rosaries and prayers. *If anyone else is interested in being a prayer partner, please call Pat or Mary.*



Religious Education News & Notes



Welcome Roxanne Casiello as the Director of Religious Education for St. John the Evangelist Church. Roxanne (right) was the Assistant Director of Religious Education at St. John's from 1990-2013. Family matters brought her to Hawaii for several years, and now she has returned to Agawam.

"Everything we do in the religious education program should point towards the liturgy," says Roxanne. "Parents are the first catechists of children. We offer them support in uplifting the Domestic Church."

St. John the Evangelist Church is grateful to Claire Riberdy (left) who oversaw both the preschool ministry while directing religious education. Claire will now focus her attention solely to the ever-growing *In the Beginning* Preschool ministry.

A parent meeting will be scheduled in September. Classes will begin in October.

Contact Roxanne Casiello by phone, 786.8105, or by email, sje.religiouseducation@gmail.com.

2022-2023 Religious Education Program:

Attention Parents!

Please download a registration form from StJohnAgawam.com.

Drop off the completed form, with registration fee, in the collection basket or deliver it to the parish office. You can also mail it to 833 Main Street, Agawam.



Ministry to Sick & Homebound

PASTORAL MINISTRY HOURS:

Monday-Thursday from 9am-1pm

Francesca Brandt, Pastoral Minister

413-786-8105 ext. 105 | sje.homebound@gmail.com

HOSPITAL VISITS:

HIPAA Medical Law restricts access to patient admittance information. On arrival via emergency transport or self-transport, be sure to ask for in-house Clergy information to have a visit with a Catholic Priest for an anointing of the sick.

HOMEBOUND MINISTRY:

If you or a family member are confined to home due to illness or are anticipating surgery, please contact the parish office to request a Pastoral visit with Francesca Brandt, P.M. She will bring Holy Communion, as well as, inform Fr. Pierz and Fr. Hurley of the visit.

BEREAVEMENT:

A bereavement counseling visit may be prudent in helping the understanding of Our Blessed Lord's words of never being left alone. Fr. John Hurley and Francesca are here to assist you during your grief prolongment. Allow your "Tears of Sorrow" to turn into "Tears of Hope and Fulfilment of Blessings". ALL CALLS ARE CONFIDENTIAL: 413-786-8105

PRAYER SHAWLS:

If you have a family member, friend, or know someone who could benefit from a bit of extra comfort, please contact Francesca, or leave your name/number, and she will pass on the information to the Prayer Shawl Ministry. Each shawl includes the name of the prayer shawl Angel who crafted the shawl with prayerful love. Note: the shawl must be picked up and delivered by the person who submitted the request.



ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY



Today we are celebrating the “great things”. Mary is assumed into heaven: small and humble, she is the first to receive the highest glory. She, a human creature, one of us, attains eternity in soul and body. And there she awaits us as a mother waits for her children to come home. Indeed

the People of God invoke her as the *Gate of Heaven*. We are on a journey, pilgrims towards the home that is up there. Today we look to Mary and we see the finish line. We see that a creature was assumed into the Glory of the Risen Jesus Christ, and that creature could not have been but her, the Mother of the Saviour. We see that Mary, the new Eve, is in heaven, together with Christ, the New Adam; she is also there, and this gives us comfort and hope on our pilgrimage here below.

The feast of the Assumption of Mary is a call to each of us, especially those who are afflicted by doubt and sadness, and live with their gaze turned down, unable to raise their glance. Let us look up. Heaven is open. It does not inculcate fear. It is no longer distant because on the threshold of Heaven, a mother, our mother, is awaiting us. She loves us, she smiles at us and she thoughtfully assists us. Like every mother she wants the best for her children and she says to us: “You are precious in God’s eyes; you were not made for the small satisfactions of the world, but rather for the great joy of heaven”. Yes because God is joy, not boredom. God is joy. Let us allow Our Lady to take us by the hand. Each time that we hold the Rosary in our hands and pray to her, we are taking a step forward, towards the great destination of life.

Let us allow ourselves to be attracted by true beauty. Let us not be befuddled by the trivialities of life, but rather let us choose the greatness of Heaven. May the Holy Virgin, Gate of Heaven, help us daily to trustfully and joyfully look to where our true home is, where she is awaiting us like a mother.

POPE FRANCIS. Angelus. St. Peter’s Square, 15 August 2019.

Weekend of August 7, 2022

“Pray, brethren, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father”

Weekly: \$3,927

Maintenance: \$1,200

Fuel: \$182

Loose: \$715.25

Loan Repayment: \$888.54

Online Giving: \$2,362.96

Total: \$9,275.39

Loan Update:

Original Loan Amount: \$275,000

Loan Repayment Collected on August 7: \$888.54

Required Monthly Loan Payment: \$5,049.05

Loan Repayment Collected as of 6/30/22: \$127,590.33

Loan Balance as of 6/30/22: (\$117,720.85)

“May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of His name, for our good and the good of all His holy Church.”

COMING UP AT ST. JOHN’S

Daily Mass Times: 8 am (M, T, Th, F) 6 pm (W)

Confession Times: Wed. 4:30 pm, Sat., 2:45 pm

Monday, August 15th—Feast of the Assumption

OFFICE CLOSED

7:00 pm St. Monica Club (Church/LC)

7:00 pm Picnic Meeting (FJR)

Tuesday, August 16th

6:00 pm Basketball (Gym)

6:00 pm Young & Catholic Women (PCR)

7:15 pm Catechism Seminar (PC3)

Wednesday, August 17th

10:00 am Knitting Group (FJR)

12:00 pm Adoration (Church)

6:00 pm Basketball (Gym)

6:30 pm Music Ministry (Church)

7:00 pm Worship Commission (FJR)

Thursday, August 18th

9:00 am RCIA (PCR)

7:00 pm Adoration (Church)

7:00 pm CWC Talent Show Rehearsal (Gym)

7:00 pm Building/Maintenance Meeting (FJR)

Friday, August 19th

6:00 pm Basketball (Gym)

Sunday, August 21st

8:00 am Take and Eat (FJR/Kitchen)

SJE Commission News & Notes

Faith Formation Commission



Formerly known as RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults), the USCCB recently approved a slight revision for those petitioning for full acceptance into the Church. The new revision (OCIA) includes four groups:

- ✝ Catechumens: unbaptized adults
- ✝ Unbaptized infants
- ✝ Baptized, non-Catholic Christians
- ✝ Baptized Catholics in need of Confirmation

At St. John the Evangelist Church, our OCIA program is also open to adult Catholics seeking to learn more about the Church and mature in the Faith.

2022-2023 OCIA Program

St. John the Evangelist Church | 833 Main St., Agawam, MA

Begins Saturday, September 17, 9-10:30 am | Pastoral Center

***Interested? Call the parish office, 413.786.8105,
or email sje.pariahsecretary@gmail.com.
An OCIA team member will reach out to you.***

SJE Commission News & Notes

Christian Service Commission

FOOD COLLECTION FOR THE PARISH CUPBOARD

With assistance from the Christian Service Commission, the Parish will resume collecting non-perishable food donations for The Parish Cupboard on an ongoing basis.

The Parish Cupboard is a food pantry and lunch program serving families and individuals in West Springfield, Agawam, and Feeding Hills.

Collection baskets are available at all three church entrances. If you are interested in helping to deliver the food to The Parish Cupboard in West Springfield once per month, please call the parish office and someone from the Christian Service Commission will contact you.



August 2022 wish list:

Toilet paper, spaghetti sauce, juice boxes, jelly, boxed mashed potatoes, small bags of rice (1-pound each).

Let's be neighbors helping neighbors!

Year of the Eucharist Yard Signs Have Arrived!

The Christian Service Commission will distribute Year of the Eucharist lawn signs in the foyer of the Pastoral Center:

Sunday, August 21st:

9:00 am and 11:30 am

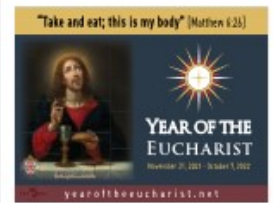
Saturday, August 27th:

5:00 pm

Sunday, August 28th:

9:00 am and 11:30 am

Signs are available for each family (or address) at no charge. Let's canvas Agawam with a sign in our lawn, proclaiming this Year of the Eucharist!



Spiritual Life Commission

Novena August 14-22 to honor the Assumption and Crowning of the Blessed Virgin Mother:

The Three Hail Mary Nine Day Novena in Honor of the Power, Wisdom, and Loving Mercy of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Oh, Immaculate Mary, Virgin most Powerful, I beseech you, through that immense Power which you have received from the Eternal Father, obtain for me Purity of heart, strength to overcome all the enemies of my soul, and the special favor I implore in my present necessity.

Name Intention...

Mother most pure! Forsake me not, despise not my prayer, graciously hear me for God's glory, your honor, and the welfare of my soul.

To obtain this favor I honor your Power by reciting:

Hail Mary...

Oh Virgin Mary, My Mother, through that ineffable Wisdom bestowed upon you by the Incarnate Word of God, I humbly beseech you, obtain for me Meekness and humility of heart, a perfect knowledge of the Divine Will and strength to accomplish it always.

Oh Mary, Seat of Wisdom; as a tender Mother lead me in the path of Christian Virtue and perfection; enlighten and enable me to do what is most pleasing to your beloved Son, and obtain my petition.

To obtain this grace I honor your Wisdom by reciting:
Hail Mary...

Oh, Mother of Mercy, Mother of penitent sinners, I stand before you sinful and sorrowful, beseeching you through the immense Love given to you by the Holy Spirit for us poor sinners, obtain for me true and perfect contrition for my sins, which I hate and detest with all my heart, because I love God. Mother most Merciful, help me in my present necessity. Turn, then those eyes of Mercy toward us, Oh Clement, Oh Loving oh Sweet Virgin Mary!

To obtain this precious gift, I honor Your Loving Mercy by reciting:

Hail Mary...

Rosary Intention (week of August 7th)

Please pray a rosary in thanksgiving to our Blessed Mother for prayers answered.

SJE Commission News & Notes

Family & Human Life Commission

Plan to attend!!

St. John the Evangelist

church picnic

Sunday, September 11

chicken

cole slaw

green salad

hamburger & hot dog bar

potato salad

chips

pasta salad

drinks

sausages

baked beans

desserts



Raffles

Games

Music & Entertainment



\$5.00 per person

**Children under 5
eat free**

**Tickets purchased
after Sept 4- \$10**

**Presented by the Family &
Human Life Commission**



Call the Parish Office for tickets beginning Aug 20, after Masses the weekend of 9/3 & 9/4, or online at: stjohnagawam.churchgiving.com

What's Happening around the Parish

St. John the Evangelist Guild

The first meeting of the 2022-2023 year is Tuesday, September 6th, 6:00 pm in the Pastoral Center. New members are welcome as we engage in **fun activities, meeting new friends, and supporting the Church.** For details, contact Miriam Assad via the Parish Office.

A guild is a group that engages in fellowship while supporting the good works of the Parish.

Buildings & Maintenance Commission Meeting

**Thursday, August 18, 7 pm
SJE Pastoral Center**

Come share your knowledge,
expertise, advice, and talent!

⇒ HVAC, Plumbing,

⇒ Building/Grounds, Masonry, Carpentry



*Contact our Maintenance Supervisor, Beth Thomas
via the parish office, (413) 786-8105.*

Fr. Pierz can be reached at:

Blessed Trinity Parish

14 Beacon Street | Greenfield, MA 01301

The Parish includes two churches:
www.catholiccommunityofgreenfield.org



**Holy Trinity
Church**

133 Main St.
Greenfield
(413) 774-2884



**Blessed Sacrament
Church**

221 Federal St.
Greenfield
(413) 773-3311

What's Happening around the Diocese



All men, women, and children of the Diocese of Springfield, especially our Synod volunteers, participants, and young people are invited to join Bishop Byrne and Fr. Pierz for our Mass of Thanksgiving for the Synod!

Thursday, August 25, 6:30 pm
Cathedral of St. Michael the Archangel
(Springfield)

Join us as we continue our journey together!

SAVE THE DATE! BISHOP'S MASS AT THE BIG E

Bishop Byrne invites all the faithful to join him for the Bishop's Mass at the Big E- Sunday, September 18, 2022 at 10:00am under the Circus Tent. A reception will follow in the Brooks Building on the fair grounds. What a great way to spend your day at the fair- Eucharist in the morning and Cream Puffs in the afternoon!! Please see the Catholic Mirror for more details on this Mass and others offered during the Big E.



FAITH + HOPE + LOVE + HEALING

FAITH ON FIRE

CATHOLIC RALLY

SPREADING THE FIRE

Sponsored by the Hampden West Deanery and the Diocese of Springfield Catholic Charismatic Renewal

FREE WILL OFFERING WILL BE TAKEN UP

One Night Only!

FRIDAY, AUGUST 26, 2022 AT 6PM

ON THE GROUNDS OF SACRED HEART PARISH IN FEEDING HILLS
1065 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA

FEATURED SPEAKERS:

**BISHOP
WILLIAM BYRNE**

**FR. PAUL
NORMAN**

**FR. RYAN
SLIWA**

PRAISE & WORSHIP MUSIC:
JACK YOURIOUS AND HIS GUITAR, PSALM 33 WITH TOM FUCCI,
AND ST. CECILIA'S YOUTH BAND WITH CAROLEE McGRATH

Please bring your own **LAWN CHAIRS** and **BLANKETS** for comfortable seating.
In the event of rain, rally will be held in church. Food and beverages will be available for purchase.

office of
youth &
young adult
ministry
DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD

COME JOIN US FOR THE FULL EXPERIENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
ONE NIGHT ONLY!
AN OFFICIAL FOLLOW-UP EVENT TO STEUBENVILLE EAST

Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

August 2022

St. John Evangelist Church

Rev. Michael Pierz, Administrator

One Minute Meditations

Get involved

Catholics have a long history of action – feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, caring for the poor, praying for souls. Are you doing all you can to help? If not, find out if there is a parish ministry that could use your time, talent, or treasure. Catholics are meant to make a difference.



Run, don't walk

If you think you don't sin and don't need the Sacrament of Reconciliation, run – don't walk – to the nearest confessional. *"If we say, 'We are without sin,' we deceive ourselves"* (1 John 1:8). Unconfessed sin, especially when it goes unnoticed, forms a barrier between us and God. Penance, absolution, and life amendment helps to break it down.

A Novena

Do you have a particular concern or an upcoming challenge? A novena – a prayer offered over nine consecutive days in preparation for a feast day or a special need – is a great way to ask for God's particular help.



Jesus, I trust in you!

We fully trust in someone when we have a firm belief in his or her reliability, truth, ability, and strength. Do you trust God? He really is *"faithful and true"* (Revelation 19:11). You can trust Him ...

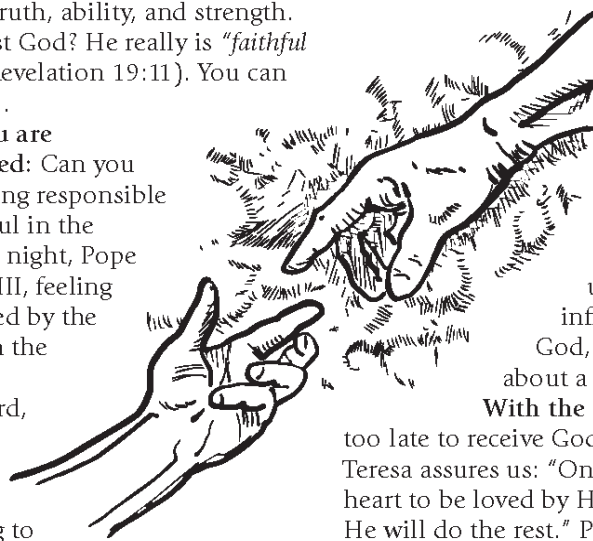
When you are overwhelmed: Can you imagine being responsible for every soul in the world? One night, Pope St. John XXIII, feeling overwhelmed by the problems in the Church, prayed, "Lord, it's Your Church; You take care of it. I'm going to bed." That's the perfect model for us. Surrender concerns to God, trust Him to handle them, and relax.

With the future: St. Padre Pio said, "You say you are anxious about the

future, but don't you know that the Lord is with you always and that our enemy has no power over one who has resolved to belong entirely to Jesus?"

When we understand the infinite love of God, we won't worry about a thing.

With the past: It's never too late to receive God's mercy. Mother Teresa assures us: "Only open your heart to be loved by Him as you are. He will do the rest." Pope Francis has said that God is never tired of dispensing His mercy. We are the ones who tire of asking. Never tire of asking. Absolution is as close as your nearest Catholic church.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics bury loved ones' remains?

Everything the Church teaches about care for the dying, funeral rites, and burial is out of respect for the body. For Catholics, the body has the added dignity of participating in the Sacraments during life: *"your body is a temple of*



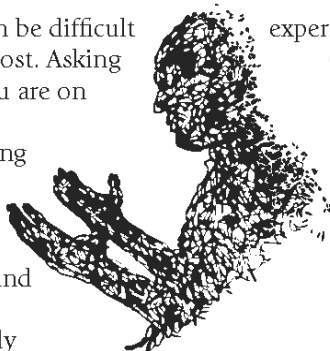
the Holy Spirit" (1 Corinthians 6:19). In the Creed, we profess belief in the resurrection of the body. Therefore, the Church permits cremation as long as the cremains are buried in sanctified ground. Scattering ashes is prohibited.

Discerning God's will

Do you have a big decision to make? It can be difficult to hear God's voice just when you need it most. Asking the right questions and looking for signs you are on track can help you make the right choice.

"Will it help me get to Heaven?" Answering this question first will weed out extraneous options quickly. Then, when deciding between two good choices, consider which one makes best use of your strengths, gifts, and your state in life.

Deep peace. In heartfelt prayer, you'll likely



experience a deep peace for one of your options. Only God gives this kind of peace (John 14:27). It's a good sign when that peace lasts throughout the decision process. Lack of peace is usually God saying, "no."

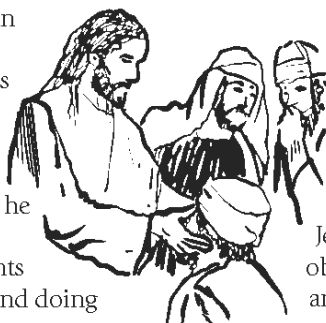
Good fruits. These are easiest to see after you have taken steps toward your decision. If you see spiritual fruits like generosity, joy, patience, and self-control growing in your soul, you're on the right track. Anxiety, turmoil, anger, tension are signs that you made a misstep.

from Scripture

Luke 14:1, 7-14, Unreciprocated kindness

Jesus was under close and careful scrutiny by the Pharisees who were watching for a misstep in order to discredit him. They were afraid that his "radical" ideas would undermine the religion and tradition they protected. Nonetheless, he never let this critical scrutiny by his opponents keep him from saying and doing the right things.

As Christians, we must never succumb to pressure to do what is politically or socially correct at the expense of our spiritual beliefs and obligations. For example, there is a cultural value to



"networking" – entertaining people who can further our personal or professional goals. There is usually an exchange of favors implied in this kind of a relationship, "you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours."

In this parable, however, Jesus urged us to forget about obtaining benefit or admiration and instead serve people in need. He said that doing favors for and being kind to the disadvantaged can be very rewarding and will bring blessings to the host. The guests won't be able to reciprocate, but God will certainly repay the kindness.

Q & A What does Mary's Assumption mean for us?

On November 1, 1950, Pope Pius XII infallibly declared that, "having completed the course of her earthly life," the Blessed Virgin Mary was taken up, body and soul, into heavenly glory.



Although this doctrine was declared relatively recently, the Church's belief in it isn't new. Sacred Scripture and Tradition repeatedly emphasize Mary's

sinlessness and holiness (Luke 1:28), and her deep involvement in the mysteries of Christ's life. Given this, we believe Jesus preserved her body from decay and raised her to heavenly glory.

For us, the Assumption, is a "sneak preview" of what our ultimate destiny can be if we are faithful to Christ, as Mary was - having our glorified bodies, sinless and perfectly happy. What she is now, we hope someday to be. Moreover, the Assumption reveals the value of our bodies in God's plan. When God created us in His image, He created us body and soul and said it was "very good" (Genesis 1:31). It's so good, that He intends to raise us, bodily, into His glory.

Feasts & Celebrations

August 2 – St. Peter Julian Eymard (1868). Born in France, Peter was ordained in 1834 and earned a reputation as a preacher. He was friends with St. John Vianney. He founded the Congregation of the Priests of the Blessed Sacrament to increase devotion to the Holy Eucharist.

August 9 – St. Edith Stein (1942). Born Jewish, she was a brilliant atheist intellectual in Germany. Edith converted to Catholicism after studying St. Teresa of Avila, and became a Carmelite nun. Although her order tried to shelter her

from the Nazis, she was arrested and executed at Auschwitz.

August 15 – Solemnity of the Assumption. Declared a dogma of faith in 1950 by Pope Pius XII, the Assumption celebrates Mary's being taken up into Heaven body and soul at the end of her life.

Aug. 24 – St. Bartholomew the Apostle (1st Century). Bartholomew is thought by some scholars to be the apostle, Nathanael (John 1:46). After Jesus's Ascension, Nathanael spread Christianity to India and Armenia, where he was martyred.



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