



SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 2016 THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Christmas is official!

It wasn't until 1870 that Christmas was officially declared a federal holiday in the United States. Before that, some condemned the celebration of Christmas as an invention of the Catholic Church. In fact in 1647, England's Puritan rulers banned Christmas! The Puritan influence was brought to the Americas and a ban was in place in the Boston area until 1681. Nowadays Christmas Day is a public holiday in the U.S. and many countries around the world. Even though Christmas is six months away, take some time today to give thanks for the gift of Christmas and the gift of religious freedom.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Kings 19:16b, 19-21; Galatians 5:1, 13-18; Luke 9:51-62 (99)*. "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God."

MONDAY, JUNE 27 Celebrate hard work and achievement

Today we unofficially celebrate the life and achievements of Helen Keller, who, even though deaf and blind, grew to be a renowned activist and author. We are reminded that people can overcome challenges and achieve anything they put their hearts into. Despite her challenges, Keller became the first deaf and blind person to earn a college degree *cum laude* in the U.S. In 1980, during Keller's birth centennial, President Jimmy Carter proclaimed today—her birthday—as Helen Keller Day. This is also a good time to celebrate the patience and resilience of Keller's teacher, Anne Sullivan. Today, encourage those in challenging conditions and celebrate the achievements of the most vulnerable among us.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Amos 2:6-10, 13-16; Matthew 8:18-22 (377)*. "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go."

TUESDAY, JUNE 28 FEAST OF IRENAEUS, BISHOP, MARTYR Befriend the outsider

In the late second century, groups of Christians called Gnostics claimed to have "secret knowledge" directly from Jesus. Saint Irenaeus rejected their divisiveness: Authentic teachers lead the *whole* church, not a closed or secret society. Still, religious division and mistrust are with us today, for example between many Christians and Muslims. Pope Francis says, "Christians, Muslims . . . ought to remain united in working to defeat what disfigures the Face of God by seeking only their own interests." Whom do you consider outsiders? Do you really know much about them? Take time to learn

rather than reject, to share rather than practice secrecy or division.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Amos 3:1-8; 4:11-12; Matthew 8:23-27 (378)*.

"If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love."

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29 SOLEMNITY OF PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES Hail to the chiefs!

Peter and Paul are often called the "chief apostles" because of the way their witness helped spread the gospel far and wide in the early Christian community. Each is an example of what faith can look like. For Peter, it meant spreading his experience of Jesus to everyone he met, to be the "rock" on which the church was built. For Paul, it meant building relationships and speaking to the power of the word to transform lives. Each was a giant in his own right, but together, on this feast, they remind us that disciples never go it alone.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 12:1-11; 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18; Matthew 16:13-19 (591)*. "Put on your cloak and follow me."

THURSDAY, JUNE 30 FEAST OF THE FIRST MARTYRS OF THE CHURCH IN ROME Love and courage

In the year 64 a fire broke out in Rome and raged for seven days, destroying more than half of the city. Historians suggest that the emperor Nero actually set the fire in order to blame it on the Christians, whom he persecuted throughout his 14-year reign. And blame them he did. But this time, Nero's methods of torture were so horrific that the public turned against him. He took his own life in 68, but not before he had made martyrs of many early Christians. People still face unjust persecution in parts of our world. But most of us forget the price the early Christians paid. When we remember them today we ask for the grace to imitate their faith in God.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Amos 7:10-17; Matthew 9:1-8 (380)*. "Such things are bound to happen, but that is not yet the end."

FRIDAY, JULY 1 FEAST OF JUNÍPERO SERRA, PRIEST It starts in the eyes

Conquest begins in the eyes. We see, we want, and we plot to take. Spanish explorers saw the New World as a land worth possessing to the fullest. That it was inhabited seemed no obstacle. Native peoples—awed, overpowered, or enslaved—made conquest all the richer. Missionaries like Franciscan Junípero Serra, founding father of California, offered "salvation and civilization" ahead of the conquistadors, but also the mantle of church protection. We view all these historical actors more critically now. How can we make up for the injustices of history today?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Amos 8:4-6, 9-12; Matthew 9:9-13 (381)*. "We will buy the lowly man for silver, and the poor man for a pair of sandals."

SATURDAY, JULY 2 MEMORIAL OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY "These scars say I am alive"

One of Mary's titles is Mother of Sorrows, but her sorrow can seem remote. During Breast Cancer Awareness Month, a group of eight British women posed for a photograph. Topless. The shock makes you want to look away, but you cannot, and they don't want you to. They are scarred but strong and smiling, as if to say, "We're survivors. Don't feel sorry for us. Help others caught in sorrow." Mary doesn't need us to weep for her pain, but is there a woman you know who needs your support? You may not be able to remove her sorrows, but at least don't turn away. You can let her know she is loved.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Amos 9:11-15; Matthew 9:14-17 (382)*. "Kindness and truth shall meet; justice and peace shall kiss."



Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time.

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2016 Catholic Charities Annual Appeal

You can still contribute to the 2016 Catholic Charities Annual Appeal! To donate or for additional information, please call 800-869-6525 or visit www.catholiccommunity.org/2016Appeal. Thank you so much for your kindness and generosity!

The World Apostolate of Fatima's Centennial U.S. Tour for Peace

The historic tour, marking the 100th Anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady at Fatima, will feature the world-famous International Pilgrim Virgin Statue, traveling worldwide for nearly 70 years. Padre Pio Prayer Group from St. Barnabas, Northfield OH is hosting the tour on July 14 from 8am-2pm, with 12pm Mass. All are welcome but we are looking for Prayer Groups to lead the rosary by calling the contact below to sign up. It will be an extraordinary occasion of healing, hope and grace. Please join us that day to hear the story of Fatima and venerate this beautiful statue that set out from Fatima in 1947 to bring the graces of Fatima to all who might not ever be able to make a pilgrimage to Fatima, Portugal. We bring the pilgrimage to you! Hundreds and favors and graces, including cures, and countless conversions are associated with the image. The presence of this special Statue (sculpted by Jose Thedim in 1947, based on Sr. Lucia's description of her encounters with Our Lady) is a great gift to our community. Contact Therese Harper of Padre Pio Prayer Group of Northeast Ohio from St. Barnabas at 330-760-5780 for more info. Visit www.fatimatourforpeace.com to learn more about the tour and the statue!

SVDP Golf Outing

Whether you're an avid golfer or just enjoy the great outdoors, join us for **Outdrive Hunger: An Inaugural Golf Outing** on Friday, July 29, 2016 from 8am to 4:30pm at Grantwood Golf Course (38855 Aurora Rd., Solon, OH). The outing will raise money to feed the 13,000 people who turn to our food pantries for nourishment each month. For tickets, call 216-696-6525 x3570 or order online at www.svdpcle.org. Registration forms can also be found in the church vestibule.

People are not Things

Pope Francis says: "It is not possible to remain indifferent before knowledge that human beings are bought and sold like goods. I think of the adoption of children for the extraction of their organs, or women deceived and forced to prostitute themselves, of workers exploited and denied their rights of a voice. This is human trafficking." Access the website at www.sistersagainsttrafficking.org - U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking.

Please check the vestibule for more information on upcoming events, registration forms, prayer cards, and notices.

Mark Your Calendar!

Looking for everything for a great family day this summer all in one place? Join us for **The FEST on Sunday, August 7** on the grounds of the **Center for Pastoral Leadership in Wickliffe**. The 56 acre campus becomes the home of our 16th Annual Catholic Family FESTival. It's a day that celebrates faith and family. It's fun and it's free. Join thousands from across the region for national Christian bands (Newsboys, Michael W. Smith, Matthew West, and Lauren Daigle) along with great faith-based activities and interactive displays for the whole family - everything. The day ends with an outdoor Mass at 8 pm followed by an incredible American Fireworks display. **Check it out online - www.theFEST.us**. It's free. Everyone is welcome! The FEST is the perfect family day.

Day of Recollection to Ss. Anne and Joachim

The First Catholic Ladies Association, Anna Hurban Cleveland District will hold their **Annual Day of Recollection to Ss. Anne and Joachim** on Tuesday, July 26 at **Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine (21281 Chardon Rd., Euclid OH 44117)**. Bishop Roger Gries, O.S.B. will be the celebrant at the 11am Mass. Fr. Gerard Gonda, O.S.B. will preside at the **Benediction and Rosary** scheduled for 2pm. Mass and Benediction are open to the public. Luncheon tickets are \$15 and must be paid for in advance. The deadline for luncheon reservations is July 18. Call Catherine Ruzinok at 440-406-9310 or Helen Gebura at 440-835-1926 for luncheon ticket reservation.

Volunteer Drivers Needed

Volunteer Drivers needed for an Ursuline sister with a standing Saturday morning appointment. Would like drivers willing to drive once/month most months. Time commitment for each trip: 8:30am - 11am. Trips originate from Regina Health Center in Richfield. Use the sisters' car and gas. Background check and safe driving record required. Enjoy spending some time with a sister! Please contact Maggie Gibson at 440-449-1200 or mgibson@ursulinesisters.org.

Travel Plans?

When traveling we arrange hotels, places to eat, places to visit and more...Why not include holy places? When we travel on weekends, God is watching over us. Should we not be sure to included finding somewhere to go to Mass for the weekend? You could check www.masstimes.org or call the Parish office for help. Hotels, motels, and travel services may also be of help in finding out where Mass is being celebrated.

Each day let us pray...

Angel of God, my Guardian dear, to whom His love commits me here, ever this day, be at my side, to light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen.