

In Your Charity

Please remember in your prayers, Agnes Mrakuzic, mother of parishioner August (Claudia) Mrakuzic, grandmother of parishioners Melissa, AJ, Maxwell, Zane and Sadie Mrakuzic. Also remember in your prayers, Godifrida Munishi, sister of The Reverend Isidore Munishi, AJ. May Augie and Godifrida live forever in the joy of the Resurrection and may their families and friends be granted consolation. Amen.

Planning Ahead for Ozanam Center

“What does it profit, my brethren, if a man says he has faith but has not works? Can his faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and in lack of daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things need for the body, what does it profit? So faith by itself, if it has not works, is dead.” James 2:14-17. We don’t preach to the people who need help at the Ozanam Center but we do help provide for their need of food and clothing. You can help us do that on **September 26 and November 14**. Hope to see you there at **9:30-2pm**. Please call **Cathie or Jim at 330-467-5762** for more information.

First Friday Club of Akron

The **First Friday Club of Akron** will meet **Friday, September 11 at Quaker Station, 135 S. Broadway, Akron, 44304**, and will feature **Pacifique Niyonzima**, an orphan of the Rwandan genocide, who will speak on **“The Strength of the Human Spirit.”** Mr. Niyonzima is a 2013 graduate of Walsh High School and a current student of Walsh University, Canton, OH. The luncheon program is **\$15. Doors open at 11am; program begins at noon, and ends promptly at 1pm.** For reservations, send a **check to the First Friday Club of Greater Akron, 795 Russell Ave., Akron, OH 44307**, call **330-535-7668**, or visit www.firstfridayclubofgreaterakron.org, no later than **Monday, September 7**.

Tutors Needed

Seeds of Literacy, a nonprofit organization offering free, one-to-one tutoring in basic adult education and GED prep, **has a need for more tutors.** Tutor training sessions will be held **Saturdays, September 19, October 17, and November 21 from 9am-2pm** at **Seeds of Literacy West (3104 W. 25th St., Cleveland, OH 44109)** and **Friday, September 25 from 9:30am-2:30pm** at **Seeds of Literacy East (13815 Kinsman Rd., Cleveland, OH 44120).** Both sites feature secure parking and building security. **To register or for more info, contact Alexandria Marshall at 216-661-7950 or alexandriamarshall@seedsofliteracy.org, visit seedsofliteracy.org or facebook.com/seedsofliteracy.**

MOS SVDP News

Update on Back to School Drive:

44 packets of school supplies were donated and \$210.00 collected for school supplies. In addition our SVDP conference made a donation of \$90.00 towards the Faith and Values Appeal

2015 First Step Programs

The Church’s teachings on marriage, divorce, and remarriage are often misunderstood. The First Step Program is offered to help everyone, especially those who have experienced divorce, learn more about Catholic teaching in these areas. The program also helps individuals navigate the path of healing and closure, of which the annulment process is an important aspect. Representatives from the Ministry to the Divorced Office of the Department for Marriage and Family Ministry will also be present to explain their ministry to those who are divorced. **The next meetings are held Tuesday, September 15, at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Cuyahoga Falls, at 7pm and Tuesday, October 13, at St. Ambrose Parish, Brunswick, at 7pm.** The Diocese of Cleveland no longer requires any fees for this process. For more info and testimonials about the program from past participants, call the Tribunal at **216-696-6525/800-869-6525, x4000** or visit www.dioceseofcleveland.org/tribunal.

CANA II Remarriage Preparation

CANA II is a marriage preparation series for couples in which one or both have been married before, or one or both will become a stepparent. Includes Active Parenting for Stepfamilies series on subsequent evenings. **Cana II session held at St. Joseph Parish (12700 Pearl Rd., Strongsville, OH 44136) Saturday, October 3, 8:30am-5:30pm. Active Parenting Series held Thursdays, October 8, 15, and 22 from 6:30pm-9pm also at St. Joseph Parish. \$95 per couple Saturday only; \$125 for Cana II plus Active Step-Parenting series. Already married stepparents are also welcome to register for Active Step-parenting for only \$30. Please register by September 25 at <http://ccdocle.org/program/cana-ii>.**

Back to School Dance

Our Lady of the Elms (1375 W. Exchange St., Akron, OH, 44313) is hosting a **Back to School Dance for grades 6th through 8th Saturday, August 29 from 7-10pm.** Please join us for a night of fun! **Admission is \$3.** Please call **330-836-9384** or visit www.theelms.org for additional information!

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



SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 2015

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

When the rubber hits the road

“The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting; it has been found difficult and left untried,” wrote British author G.K. Chesterton. The gospel teachings are indeed challenging; they go against the grain, especially in a culture that encourages us to focus on a different “trinity”—the self-absorbed trinity of Me, Myself, and I. Jesus challenged us to look beyond our own needs (which God is fully aware of in any case) and respond to the needs of those around us. Many walked the other way when they heard this message. But others stayed. Will you stay or will you go?

TODAY’S READINGS: *Joshua 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b; Ephesians 5:21-32; John 6:60-69 (122)*. “Many of Jesus’ disciples who were listening said, ‘This saying is hard; who can accept it?’”

MONDAY, AUGUST 24 FEAST OF BARTHOLOMEW, APOSTLE

Fear will not stop me

The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke name Bartholomew as one of the original 12 disciples. Scripture also puts him among the witnesses who retreated to the upper room after Jesus’ Ascension. Tradition holds that Bartholomew traveled to Mesopotamia and Persia to preach the gospel and, as a result, he was brutally martyred. Ask yourself, “What kind of a person could persuade me to abandon the safety of the familiar to preach a message of love so radical that it could cost me my life? Do I have the courage to follow where Jesus leads me?” Saint Bartholomew, pray for me.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Revelation 21:9b-14; John 1:45-51 (629)*. “Come see for yourself.”

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25

The stories we tell

To share the gospel is to share a part of yourself. You bring your life experience to bear on the Word of God you hear at Mass. These stories become a part of who we are to the point that we sometimes forget we are the living word, witnesses to the gospel in everyday life. This is no easy task, but you are worthy. Share yourself with those around you through acts of love today, and the gospel will become more real, not just for those you encounter but for you, too.

TODAY’S READINGS: *1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 23:23-26 (426)*. “We were determined to share with you not only the gospel but our very selves.”

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26

Beauty is an inside job

Truth, goodness, and beauty are prime virtues. The church fathers agreed with Greek philosophers on this list. Prime virtues don’t have to produce anything beyond themselves, since they’re intrinsically valuable. When we find truth, goodness, and beauty in the world we catch a glimpse of God, their source. We expect to find God in truth and goodness, but often overlook the beautiful. Perhaps we’ve been deceived by the shell of attraction that often hides something less appealing. Seek beauty that permeates all the way through people, things, ideas, and actions.

TODAY’S READINGS: *1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:27-32 (427)*. “Whitewashed tombs . . . appear beautiful on the outside, but inside are full of dead men’s bones.”

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27 FEAST OF MONICA

A parent’s love

Saint Monica is widely recognized due to her famous son, Saint Augustine of Hippo. By his own account, Augustine was a restless, wayward young man. Monica was deeply troubled by his life choices. Legends say that she wept for him every night and prayed for him constantly. She also sought help from others, including a bishop who, seeing her persistence, remarked, “The child of those tears shall never perish.” Shortly before Monica’s death in 387, Augustine embraced the church. Today, walk with Saint Monica in hope and prayer for all those who are struggling to find their way in life.

TODAY’S READINGS: *1 Thessalonians 3:7-13; Matthew 24:42-51 (428)*. “We have been reassured about you, brothers and sisters, in our every distress and affliction, through your faith.”

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28

FEAST OF AUGUSTINE, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

War no more

“War, what is it good for?” asked the Vietnam War-era protest song. It is a question that echoes through the ages. Just war theory argues that while very terrible, war is not always the worst option. There may be responsibilities so important, atrocities that can be prevented, or outcomes so undesirable they justify war. Though many early Christians were pacifists, Saint Augustine was an early proponent of the just war theory. The problem is that one nation’s notion of wickedness is another nation’s notion of just cause. Pray for a time when war will be seen as an obsolete strategy for resolving differences.

TODAY’S READINGS: *1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Matthew 25:1-13 (429)*. “Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29 FEAST OF THE PASSION OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

Truth or silence?

What kind of person sees the brokenness of human relationships and refuses to remain silent confronted by the alienation of sin? Someone, perhaps, who is “holy and upright” and who speaks truth that is rooted in God. Thus it was with John the Baptist, who spoke truth to power even though it cost him his life. Refusing the path of silence, the preacher and prophet John prepared the way for the one who is the “truth and the light.” We who accept God’s call to follow are equally “obliged to honor and bear witness to truth,” as the Catechism of the Catholic Church says. Speak truth with kindness throughout this day.

TODAY’S READINGS: *1 Thessalonians 4:9-11 (430); Mark 6:17-29 (634)*. “It is not right for you to live with your brother’s wife.”



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

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