

“Answer the Call” Men’s Conference

The 17th annual Catholic Men’s Conference “Answer the Call” will be held on Saturday, March 25 at the Holiday Inn in Independence. Come see why as many as 1,000 men throughout northeast Ohio attend these annual conferences. The conference begins with a light breakfast at 8am and concludes with 4pm Mass. Registration includes breakfast, lunch and all conference programs. Advance online and phone registrations need to be in by March 21. Registration at the door will be \$40. Visit www.cmfneo.com or call 877-208-5585 for registration and more information.

DSWC

A “Caring and Sharing” session for those struggling with divorce, separation or widowhood will be held on Monday, March 27 from 7:30-9pm at Immaculate Heart of Mary's Convent Building, 1945 Portage Trail, Cuyahoga Falls. Marlene Maruna, a retired Social Worker, will facilitate this session. This event is open at no charge to people of all faiths. For more information, call Marlene at 330-607-6284.

God Revives Our World

For insight and inspiration come to St. Vincent’s Parish mission, **God Revives Our World (GROW)** which will be held every evening, 7-8:45pm, April 2 - April 4. This mission has been given in over 80 parishes with very positive responses. The focus is deepening our sense of the Lord’s love, guidance, strength, and peace in the midst of everyday, ordinary life – especially our relationships and our work. The two primary presenters are Fr. Norm Douglas, Pastor, St. Vincent Parish, and Attorney Larry Vuillemin in collaboration with a parish team. Each evening will include presentations, reflection, music, and worship. Come to all the evenings or whichever sessions you can. Encourage family members, neighbors, and friends to participate.

Home Opener FUNraiser

Come join the party! Please join us for Community Pregnancy Center's 2nd Annual Home Opener FUNraiser! Saturday, April 8 is 'opening day' for an evening of casino gaming, prizes, great food, open bar, silent auction and much more. Gates open at Todaro's Party Center at 6pm and the fun lasts until 11pm. Tickets are limited, so don't delay - \$75 ticket price includes \$300 funny money for gaming, great food and open bar. Wear your favorite team jersey and ball cap and help us hit this one Out Of The Park! Tickets must be pre-purchased by calling CPC at 330-825-1900.

K of C 3410 Lenten Fish Frys

Held at 2055 Glenmount Ave., Akron, OH 44319
from 4:30-7pm every Friday during Lent.
(March 24, 31 & April 7 & 14)
For more information, please call 330-773-3410.

Chance to Win an iPad

Register as new subscriber for the Northeast Ohio Catholic e-newsletter between March 1 and March 31 and be entered into a drawing for a chance to win an iPad Air-2. Visit www.dioceseofcleveland.org/enewsletter to register. Winners must meet eligibility requirements. Rules and eligibility requirements are available at: www.dioceseofcleveland.org/enewscontestrules.

Engaged Encounter

Catholic Engaged Encounter is a comprehensive weekend of marriage preparation held three times a year at the St. Leonard Retreat Center, 4076 Case Rd., Avon, OH 44011. For more info and to register, visit www.clevelandencounter.com or call Alex and Lily Fuentes at 216-849-3769. The upcoming weekends are May 19-21 and September 15-17.

Department for Marriage & Family Ministry

Visit www.ForYourMarriage.org for the latest news, Catholic teaching and practical helps. Perfect for engaged couples, married couples, parents and young adults. Find and like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/clevelandmarriageandfamily.

2017 First Step Programs

Marriage and Divorce in the Catholic Church

The Tribunal of the Diocese of Cleveland’s First Step Program is offered to help everyone, especially those who have experienced divorce, learn more about Catholic teaching regarding marriage, divorce, and remarriage. Representatives from the Ministry to the Divorced Office of the Department for Marriage and Family Ministry will also be present to explain the resources they offer to the divorced.

Taking the “first step” is always the most difficult. The First Step Program helps individuals to navigate the path of healing and closure.

The schedule for the general meetings in 2017 is:

Tuesday, March 21, at St. Peter Parish, Lorain, at 7pm.

Tuesday, May 16, at St. Mary Parish, Chardon, at 7pm.

Tuesday, Sept. 12, at St. Paul Parish, Akron, at 7pm.

Tues., Oct. 10, at St. Ambrose Parish, Brunswick, at 7pm.

The Diocese of Cleveland no longer requires any fees for this process. For more information, please call the Tribunal at 216-696-6525/800-869-6525, x4000 or visit www.dioceseofcleveland.org/tribunal.

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

Palm Sunday to Easter at MOS 2017

The second week of April begins Holy Week. Masses at Mother of Sorrows for Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord are Saturday April 8th at 5pm, Palm Sunday at 8:30am and 11:00am. On Palm Sunday there will be the annual Ecumenical Blessing of Palms and the remembrance of Jesus entrance into Jerusalem. All are invited to gather at DMT (Rt. 303 and S. Locust Street) at 10:45am for the Service. Daily Mass is scheduled at 8:30am on Monday and Tuesday of Holy Week, on Holy Wednesday, April 12th, Mass will be at Noon. There will be a Communal Penance Service on Monday, April 10th at 6:45pm at Mother of Sorrows Church. On April 13th, Holy Thursday, Mass of the Lord's Supper will be at 7:30pm followed by adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 11:00pm. On Good Friday, April 14th, there will be Stations of the Cross (outside, weather permitting, if not, in church) at 2:00pm. The Good Friday Liturgy will be at 3:00pm and again at 7:30pm. On Good Friday Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available at 4:15pm - 5:15pm and 8:30pm - 9:15pm. On Holy Saturday, April 15th, The Sacrament of Penance will be available at 11:30am - 12:30pm. On Holy Saturday the Blessing of Easter Baskets will be at 1:30pm. The Easter Vigil Mass is at 9:00pm on Holy Saturday. On Easter Sunday, April 16th, Masses will be at 8:30am and 11:00am. Please join us in this journey to Easter!

www.motherofsorrowspeninsula.org



www.123rf.com

SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 2017 THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
This well is deep

We've all been told that God loves us, but if you want to have a deep experience of that love, enter into a practice of contemplative prayer. That is one way to experience the "living water" that Jesus offered the woman at the well. The woman tells Jesus, "The water is deep." So, too, are our souls. And in the practice of contemplative prayer, the grace of God flows through us like clear and cleansing water. That wellspring is always there if we make the effort to dip into it by quieting ourselves and entering into contemplation. Check out a good book on contemplation, like one of those by Thomas Keating.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Exodus 17:3-7; Romans 5:1-2, 5-8; John 4:5-42 (28)*. "Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty."

MONDAY, MARCH 20
SOLEMNITY OF JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
Strong, silent type

Joseph never uttered a word in scripture. Instead he let his actions speak for what was going on in his heart. By his actions we know that Joseph not only believed in God but listened for God's promptings and was willing to be led—even to some confusing and difficult places. If you have trouble keeping an open mind, pray to Saint Joseph, who was so confident in God that he was willing to let go of the reins and let God lead the way. Saint Joseph proved always eager to help those who call on him for help.

TODAY'S READINGS: *2 Samuel 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22; Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Luke 2:41-51a (543)*. "When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him."

TUESDAY, MARCH 21 LENTEN WEEKDAY
Give what you want

Jesus' entire ministry was grounded in love and forgiveness, yet often enough those who call themselves followers of Jesus fail to offer love and forgiveness to others. Instead, they nurture their grudges, hurts, and resentments, keeping them alive and in the present by retelling themselves the same old stories where it's everybody else's fault. Lent is a good time to practice abstaining from this habit. When you find yourself wanting to judge and blame others, turn your gaze inward. How often have you refused to give what you so dearly wish to receive?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Daniel 3:25, 34-43; Matthew 18:21-35 (238)*. "Moved with compassion the master . . . let him go and forgave him the loan."



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

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22 LENTEN WEEKDAY
Do you believe in what you do?

For the past several years National Public Radio has broadcast a series of inspiring essays called *This I Believe*. Each essay is a statement of the core principles that guide the everyday life of the writer. In one memorable essay Sister Helen Prejean, C.S.J., author of *Dead Man Walking*, writes that she watches "what I do to see what I actually believe." She knows it's one thing to say what you believe and quite another to live it. Today ask yourself: What principles guide my life? For inspiration visit thisibelieve.org.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9; Matthew 5:17-19 (239)*. "Whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

THURSDAY, MARCH 23
MEMORIAL OF TURIBIUS OF MOGROVEJO, BISHOP
"Your mission, should you choose to accept it"

Each episode of the *Mission Impossible* TV series began with an agent getting his assignment from a tape-recorded message that included the words "your mission, should you choose to accept it." One can imagine a similar scene in 1580 when Saint Turibius, who was teaching law, was told by his bishop, "Congratulations, you're the new archbishop of Lima," a 170,000 square-mile diocese. Turibius spent the rest of his life arduously visiting the mostly indigenous population of his vast territory in Peru. Everyone has a mission from God. Choose to accept it.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Jeremiah 7:23-28; Luke 11:14-23 (240)*. "Every kingdom divided against itself will be laid waste."

FRIDAY, MARCH 24 LENTEN WEEKDAY; DAY OF ABSTINENCE
Why do we abstain from meat?

When food choices were far less varied than they are today, abstaining from meat was a definite disruption in one's daily meal routine and a sacrifice. The practice of abstinence is intended to reduce our attachments to the normal and the expected so that we might be open to the many other ways God nourishes us. The issue is not the meat, but rather our attachments. Orthodox Bishop Kallistos Ware writes, "Evil resides not in created things as such, but in our attitude toward them, that is, our will. The purpose of fasting, then, is not to repudiate the divine creation but to cleanse our will."

TODAY'S READINGS: *Hosea 14:2-10; Mark 12:28-34 (241)*. "You are not far from the kingdom of God."

SATURDAY, MARCH 25
SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD
Free to consent or refuse

Mary's acceptance of God's proposal is electrifying because she was free to say no. God gives all of us free will, but people often take it from others to oppress and use them. On this feast of Annunciation, we remember victims of slavery. In four centuries of the transatlantic slave trade, 15 million Africans were brought to the New World: four for every European who came to the Americas. Today, many millions of men, women, and children are enslaved in manual labor and prostitution worldwide. See freetheslaves.net for what you can do to make freedom ring.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10; Hebrews 10:4-10; Luke 1:26-38 (545)*. "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you."

CatholicMom.com Gospel Activity - John 4:5-42



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|-----------|---------|-----------|
| CHRIST | CISTERN | DISCIPLES |
| ETERNAL | HUSBAND | JACOB |
| JERUSALEM | JOSEPH | MESSIAH |
| PAYMENT | RABBI | REAPER |
| SALVATION | SAMARIA | SOWER |
| SYCHAR | THIRSTY | WATER |
| WOMAN | WORSHIP | |

HELP *Jesus* IN DISGUISE

“BEHOLD, I STAND AT THE
DOOR AND KNOCK.”
—REV 3:20



“Migrants are our brothers and sisters in search of a better life, far away from poverty, hunger, exploitation . . . Don't we all want a better, more decent and prosperous life to share with our loved ones?”

—Pope Francis, Message for World Day of Migrants and Refugees, 2016



Imagine a situation so dangerous you need to flee with your family from your home to an unknown country. What would you bring? Where would you live? Where would your kids go to school?

Jordan, a country bordering Syria, is home to over 600,000 Syrian refugees; more than half are children. And these are the questions parents are asking every day.

Most refugee children do not have access to formal education. Many have been out of school for years or missed the chance to go to school entirely. For these children, their future is a difficult road full of obstacles. But with your help, these families find hope.

Your donations to The Catholic Relief Services Collection (CRSC) are providing educational opportunities for refugee children including catch-up and remedial classes. Now, over 6,000 students in 21 schools are getting the education they need to protect the future ahead of them.

Your donations are putting these children on a road of hope.

As you walk with these children, you walk with **Jesus in disguise**. Support the CRSC today. For more information, visit www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.



WITH YOUR DONATIONS

- Feed Jesus' hunger in suffering refugees . . . through the **USCCB Department of Migration and Refugee Services (MRS)**.
- Give water to quench Jesus' thirst in the people of Syria and Niger . . . through the humanitarian work of **Catholic Relief Services (CRS)**.
- Offer legal assistance to Jesus in struggling immigrants . . . through the **Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC)**.
- Reach out to comfort Jesus' loneliness in isolated workers . . . through the pastoral work of the **USCCB Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church**.
- Advocate on behalf of Jesus in the poor and marginalized . . . through the public policy work of the **USCCB Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development**.
- Send aid to Jesus in the victims of natural disaster . . . through the **Holy Father's Relief Fund**.



The Catholic Relief Services Collection

OFFICE OF NATIONAL COLLECTIONS

3211 FOURTH STREET NE • WASHINGTON, DC 20017-1194

202-541-3400 • FAX 202-541-3460 • WWW.USCCB.ORG/NATIONALCOLLECTIONS

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ES *Jesús* CON OTRO ROSTRO, ¿LE AYUDARÁS?

“YO ESTOY JUNTO A LA PUERTA Y LLAMO”.
—AP 3:20



“Los emigrantes son nuestros hermanos y hermanas que buscan una vida mejor lejos de la pobreza, del hambre, de la explotación . . . ¿No es tal vez el deseo de cada uno de ellos el de mejorar las propias condiciones de vida y el de obtener un honesto y legítimo bienestar para compartir con las personas que aman?”

—Papa Francisco, Mensaje para la Jornada Mundial del Emigrante y del Refugiado, 2016



Imagínesse una situación tan peligrosa que usted necesita huir de su hogar con su familia hacia un país desconocido. ¿Qué cosas traería con usted? ¿Dónde viviría? ¿A cuál escuela asistirían sus hijos?

Jordania, país limítrofe con Siria, es el hogar de más de 600,000 refugiados sirios; más de la mitad de éstos son niños. Y esas son las preguntas que los padres de familia se hacen a diario.

La mayoría de los niños refugiados no tienen acceso a una educación formal. Muchos de ellos no han asistido a la escuela por varios años o, simplemente, no han tenido la oportunidad de asistir del todo. Para estos niños, el futuro es un camino difícil lleno de obstáculos. Pero, con su ayuda, estas familias tienen una esperanza.

Sus donativos a The Catholic Relief Services Collection (CRSC) están brindando oportunidades educativas a los niños refugiados incluyendo clases de actualización y de recuperación. Hoy, más de 6,000 estudiantes en 21 escuelas están recibiendo la educación necesaria para proteger el futuro que tienen por delante.

Sus donativos ponen a estos niños en un camino de esperanza.

Al caminar con estos niños, usted está caminando con **Jesús con otro rostro**. Apoye a la colecta de CRS hoy. Para más información, visite www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.



CON SUS DONATIVOS

- Se alimenta el hambre de Jesús en los refugiados que sufren . . . a través del **USCCB Department of Migration and Refugee Services (MRS)**.
- Se le da agua a Jesús para calmar su sed en los pueblos de Siria y de Níger . . . a través de la labor humanitaria de **Catholic Relief Services (CRS)**.
- Se le ofrece asistencia legal a Jesús en los inmigrantes que luchan por salir adelante . . . a través del **Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC)**.
- Se acercan para consolar la soledad de Jesús en los trabajadores que se sienten aislados . . . a través de la labor pastoral del **USCCB Secretariat for Cultural Diversity in the Church**.
- Abogan a favor de Jesús en los pobres y los marginados . . . a través de la labor que hace en las políticas públicas el **USCCB Department of Justice, Peace, and Human Development**.
- Se le envía ayuda a Jesús en las víctimas de desastres naturales . . . a través del **Holy Father's Relief Fund**.



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