

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

Missionaries of the Precious Blood
St. George Deanery



Pastor REV. MATTHEW KELLER C.P.P.S.
Email fmatt@glandorfstjohns.com

Deacon DON INKROTT

PARISH OFFICE BUSINESS HOURS

Monday—Friday, 9:00am - 5:00pm
Closed for Lunch from 12:30pm—1:30pm
Phone: 419-538-6928
Sacramental Emergencies : 419-778-9339
Fax: 419-538-6147

Website: www.stjohnsglandorf.org
Email: admin@glandorfstjohns.com

Address:
109 N. Main Street
PO Box 48
Glandorf, OH 45848

Business Manager: Ashley Duling
Email: bmanager@glandorfstjohns.com

Administrative Assistant: Michelle Horstman
Email: admin@glandorfstjohns.com

Music: Dan Ellerbrock

Maintenance: Joe Schroeder

Janitors: Mark Klausing (Church),
Mark Kaufman (Parish Center)

Cemetery Caretaker-Manager: Jeff Gerding

Preschool Administrator: Lori Rump
Email: preschool@glandorfstjohns.com
Phone: 419-538-6264

K-4th Religious Education: Tammy Schmitz
Email: k4ccd@glandorfstjohns.com
Phone: 419-538-6335

5th-8th Religious Education: Mindy Recker
Email: jrhighccd@glandorfstjohns.com
Phone: 419-538-6897

High School Religious Education: Ruth Gerding
Email: hscdd@glandorfstjohns.com
Phone: 419-538-6897 Cell: 567-204-1275

Parish Council President: Mike Karhoff
Finance Committee Chairperson: Matt Bockrath
Altar Rosary Society President: Betsy Maag
Men's Society President: Tony Schroeder



PARISHIONERS

- New Members
- Any status or address changes
- To keep informed, register for Bulletin and Parish Notifications by email or visit St. John's website

Call or email the Parish Office

WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN OUR PARISH?

- If you are interested in becoming a Lector, Extraordinary Minister, Usher, Funeral Server, Choir, Spirit and Song Group and any other way.
- If Interested in becoming a member on our Finance Committee or Parish Council Committee. Please call the parish office for more information and to be put on the next ballot.

Call or email the Parish Office.

CYO SPORTS

DIOCESAN POLICY FOR CYO SPORTS – All players must be members of the sponsoring parish and/or educational system of the parish in order to play on the parish team. **PARISH POLICY FOR HIGH SCHOOL CYO** Playing any sports this year? You are expected to attend both the Fall & Winter sessions of High School Religious Education Groups or Grade School CCD Classes--plus weekend Saturday or Sunday Mass. This includes all players, coaches and their families. Attendance at these groups/classes will be monitored and reviewed. For each class missed, beyond 4 classes you will be sitting out one game. Parents, if your child is sick, please call or text Ruth Gerding at 567-204-1275 before class. This also includes the **PUTNAM COUNTY GRADE SCHOOL BOY'S & GIRL'S CYO SPORTING TEAMS**. We kindly ask the cooperation of all concerned as we implement this church policy for the good of our parish. Fr. Matt & Mike Karhoff

2 FROM THE DESK OF FATHER MATT

www.stjohnglandorf.org

What is the Kingdom of God? I think many of us, myself included would struggle to give a definition to what the Kingdom of God and that is necessarily is not a bad thing. The Kingdom of God is a mystery and mystery is something that we fully do not understand.

During the past few weeks, in our scriptures Jesus has been teaching what the Kingdom of God is like and this is teaching that is complicated and hard for us to understand so to help us to understand Jesus uses parables to help us understand. Jesus told us that the Kingdom of God is like a Sower that went out an scattered seed where some fell in places where it would not grow and others in places where it did, Jesus told us that the Kingdom of God is like a wheat field with weeds sown throughout the field, and Jesus told us that the Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed or yeast mixed with flour that is small at first and grows and becomes the largest.

Today Jesus continues his teaching on the Kingdom of God telling us that it is like a great treasure or pearl of great price that one gives up all to get it. In the previous teachings Jesus was trying to get us to understand, but in this teaching, it seems like Jesus is doing more than trying to get us to understand. Jesus is trying to get us to do something. It seems that we are called to give up everything so that we can obtain the Kingdom of God, so the question for us today is what are we doing to try and obtain the Kingdom of God? Are we giving up everything so that we can obtain the kingdom of God?

Growing up, I never really collected baseball or Pokémon cards, but I had peers that did, and I remember the great length they went to get these cards of great value they would either buy or trade so they could get them. On the surface when Jesus speaks of finding the treasure or pearl of great price this seems to be what Jesus is talking about. But below the surface the search for the Kingdom of God is not a transaction or a trade. The Kingdom of God is here among us hidden in the very ordinary. The question for us is do we see it?

There are a variety of ways to see the Kingdom of God and one my favorite ways is on a walk. I like going on a walk with nothing in my ears so that I can listen to the noise of nature and see the gift of God's creation. When I walk in town here in Glandorf I encounter people and friendly greetings and casual conversations. But it is also on a I walk that God and I have a conversation and God helps me to make sense of life, sometimes even to help me get my thoughts together for a bulletin column or a homily.

When Solomon become king, God told Solomon, “Ask something of me and I will give it to you” (1 Kings 3:5). Solomon asked for “an understanding heart to judge your people and to distinguish right from wrong” (1 Kings 3:9). Solomon asked for the gift of wisdom. And because he asked for this gift and not for selfish gift God blessed Solomon abundantly.

God speaks to you and wants to give you a gift. Might I suggest asking God for the gift of wisdom to see his kingdom. For it is in receiving this gift that God will also bless you abundantly in many other ways as well.



~WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE~

MONDAY, JULY 31 St. Ignatius

7:35am Rosary

8:00am Communion Service-Don Inkrott**TUESDAY, AUGUST 1 St. Alphonsus Liguori**

7:35am Rosary

**8:00am L/D Rosemary & Charles Siefker Family,
Kari Siefker****WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2 Sts. Eusebius, Peter Julian Eymard**

7:15-7:45am Confessions

7:35am Rosary

8:00am L/D Brian Knott Family

6:30-7:30pm Adoration

7:00pm-7:30pm Confessions

THURSDAY, AUGUST 3

7:35am Rosary

8:00am Joe & JoAnn Niese**First FRIDAY, AUGUST 4 St. John Vianney**

7:15am-7:45am Confession

7:35am Rosary

8:00am L/D George and Marcial Schroeder Family**12:00pm Rosary****1:00pm-4:00pm Adoration/Benediction****First SATURDAY, AUGUST 5**

7:35am Rosary

8:00am Mel Verhoff

8:30am Confessions

8:30am -4:30pm All Day Rosary

4:00pm Confessions

**4:30pm Mass in Thanksgiving Louis & Mary Ellen Halker
50th Wedding Anniversary, L/D Thomas Ellerbrock****Family, Junilla & Virgil Karhoff Family****5:30pm-8:00am Adoration****SUNDAY, AUGUST 6 The Transfiguration of the Lord**

7:35am Rosary

**8:00am Terry Maas, James & Patricia Donaldson,
Herbert Maas, L/D Louie Breece Family****10:30am William & Evelyn Palte, Ray & Helen Schroeder,
Harry & Lena Palte****WEEKDAY SERVERS**Mon **8:00am** No MassTues **8:00am** Megan Miller, Ace Nienberg, Sydney NienbergWed **8:00am** Abby Recker, Emmit Miller, Cassidy MaasThur **8:00am** Mason McKee, Kendall Mayhew, Ella MackeFri **8:00am** Carleigh Maag, Brooke Maag, Mattilyn MaagSat **8:00am** Ayvrie Schulte, Chase Maag, Anderson Lammers**Next Sunday, August 6****SUNDAY SERVERS**Sat **4:30pm** Ethan Weis, Sam Warnecke, Brandon Warnecke Thurifer:
Noah SchroederSun **8:00am** Aubrey Leopold, Nolan Duling, Isaac Macke Thurifer: Ethan
Kuhlman,Sun **10:30am** Aubrey Siefker, Grant Maag, Trevor Maag, Thurifer: Jacob
Schimmoeller**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**Sat **4:30pm** Diane Recker

Alicia Nussbaum

Sun **8:00am** Mark Schroeder

Tammy Schroeder

Sun **10:30am** Jason Kleman

Julie Pothast

LECTORS

Carole Schroeder

Kathy Schmitz

Nicole Ruhe

Greg Ruhe

Michelle Schroeder

Dawn Giesige

SUNDAY GIFT BEARERSSat **4:30pm** Richard & Susan SchmitzSun **8:00am** Ken & Linda KlassSun **10:30am** Keith & Traci Schierloh**AUGUST USHERS**Sat **4:30pm** Don & Ginnie RiepenhoffSun **8:00am** Bart Recker, Ken KottenbrockSun **10:30am** Jerry Recker, Al Kaufman**COMMUNION TO MEADOWS:** Gene & Rose Warnecke**COUNTERS FOR SUNDAY:** 1**ROSARY NEXT SUNDAY:** Cliff & Janet Schroeder**AUGUST FUNERAL ROSARY LEADERS:** Gary & Diane Meyer, Jane
Uphaus, Ron Schmitz, Larry & Carolyn Dorn**Baptism**

Instruction is necessary when this is your first child. To arrange a baptism or register for the parental baptism class, please contact the Parish Office.

PARENTAL BAPTISM CLASS (by Deacon Don) Parish Center

Room 15 9:00am -10:30am

Upcoming classes: September 10, 2023

Marriage

Please contact the Parish Office six months in advance to start planning your wedding. A marriage preparation class is required.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION CLASS 1-DAY CLASS

organized by Dr. Craig and Wendy Imm in the Parish Center Cafeteria

Sunday, November 5, 2023 at 8:00am

Initiation of Adults into the Catholic Faith (RCIA)

Is a journey through which interested adults and older children are welcomed and gradually introduced to the Roman Catholic Faith, Sacraments, Worship and way of life. In response to their inquiries, these people are properly instructed so that you can discern (through reflection and prayer) whether you are indeed called to Catholicism. If you would like more information or want to register please contact the Parish Office. The next session will start in the fall.

SACRAMENTS**Reconciliation (Confession)**

Wednesday 7:15am -7:45am, 7:00-7:30pm

Friday 7:15am-7:45am

Saturday 4:00pm-4:15pm

Anointing of the Sick

Please call the Parish Office if you need a Priest for Anointing of the Sick or Last Rites.

If a Sacramental Emergency call 419-778-9339.

Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday 6:30pm-7:30pm 1st Saturday 5:30pm - 8:00am

1st Friday 1:00pm-4:00pm with Benediction

Holy Orders and Religious Life

Contact the vocation office at the Toledo Diocese at 419-244-6711 or e-mail psmith@toledodiocese.org or contact the vocation office at the Missionaries of the Precious Blood 937-228-9263 or e-mail vocation@cpps-preciousblood.org.

4 PRAYER AND STEWARDSHIP

STEWARDSHIP		July 23, 2023
Offering		
Loose	\$	825.00
Adult Envelope	\$	9,100.07
Children	\$	148.00
Maintenance	\$	195.00
Online Giving	\$	2,290.00
Patronal Feast Day	\$	50.00
Peter Pence	\$	20.00
Total Collection		\$12,628.07

Thank you to all of you who have been continuing to make your Weekly/monthly contributions to your St. John's parish family and for sharing your treasure, time, & talent with your St. John's parish family!

Give Online Today!

Visit our website to get the E-Giving Form to fill out and return to the Parish Office. It is located in the left side above the Menu options. www.stjohnsglandorf.org

Heartbeat needs size 3 Diapers & **NEW HOURS** for Heartbeat starting July 31st Open Tuesday's 1-5pm and Thursday 9-1pm

Ottawa Food Pantry needs the following items crackers (any type), Peanut Butter, Boxed Potatoes, Salad dressings, boxed dinners, Box Pancake mix, canned potatoes, mayonnaise, can pasta, cream corn, dry beans, noodles, fresh style green beans, snacks (chips, nuts, cookies), toilet paper



2023 DIOCESAN ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

This Is The Day! Through our contributions, we can assure the continued existence of many important programs that help tens of thousands in our diocese each year, including supporting the education of our seminarians, caring for the sick and needy, and providing faith formation for our youth. We ask you once again for your help. Please respond generously. For more information, visit acatoledo.org. Thank you!

Our goal this year is \$46,479.00.

We currently pledged \$39,852.54 87.22% of goal .

2023 GRAND-orf Club



drawing and coffee & donuts by Andrea and Doug Giesige will be **August 13th in Cafeteria.** Extra tickets are in the racks in the church vestibules.

LOST AND FOUND

We have 2 rings at the office.

One was found in the Parish Center hallway in the spring. The other one was found in the Glandorf Park sometime last year.

Please call the office to claim the lost items.

A Prayer for the Unborn

Heavenly Father, in Your love for us, protect against the wickedness of the devil, those helpless little ones to whom You have given the gift of life.

Touch with pity the hearts of those women pregnant in our world today.

Help them to see that the child they carry is made in Your image, as well as theirs, made for eternal life.

Dispel their fear of selfishness and give them true womanly hearts to love their babies and give them birth and all the needed care that a mother can give.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, Our Lord Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever.

Amen.



Share Catholic

Pray For Those Who Have Gone Before Us

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Thomas H Balbaugh 7/30/14 | Henrietta M Ellerbrock 8/3/04 |
| Thomas F Benning 8/1/17 | Ruth A Klear 8/3/21 |
| Thomas C Weber Sr 8/2/00 | Lucia A Utrup 8/4/11 |
| Cletus L Stechschulte 8/2/05 | Robert H Hanneman 8/4/18 |
| Alberta G Morman 8/3/00 | Catherine Salsburey 8/4/20 |
| | Etta M Rieman 8/5/08 |

Please Include them in your prayers

OUR FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Please remember in your Masses and prayers the soul of our faithful departed . Our sincere sympathy is extended to their families, relatives, friends & neighbors.

BILL KLAUSING

WEDDING BANN

II-Erica Hageman of this parish, daughter of Thomas & Laurie Hageman and Griffin Brinkman of this parish, son of Greg & Hope Brinkman

I-Lindsey Schneeg of this parish, daughter of Michael & Mary Beth Schneeg and Jared Keyser of Perrysburg, son of Dennis & Lindy Keyser

**BECAUSE OF THE IMPORTANT
ISSUE ON THE BALLOT ON AUGUST 8TH
ST. JOHN'S CHURCH WILL BE OPEN
FOR PRAYER FROM 8:30 AM TILL 7:30 PM
WHEN THE POLES CLOSE.**



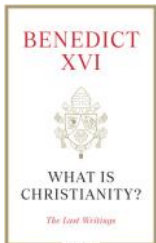
**PLEASE COME AND PRAY
BEFORE OUR LORD IN ADORATION!**

Use the link or QR code to sign up for adoration slots.

[https://www.signupgenius.com/
go/8050f4eaaab2ba7f85-election#/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050f4eaaab2ba7f85-election#/)



PREORDER - "What is Christianity? The Last



Writings" The final work by Benedict XVI, which he asked to be published upon his death, is filled with writings about themes that are "prophetic insight into our times:"

To pre-order, contact
Mustard Seed at 419-538-7220

FUNERAL LUNCHEON MINISTRY

Volunteers who make desserts or help with the luncheon.

Thank you for all your help with this ministry throughout the years. We need your assistance, if you no longer have a land line, please text Darlene Miller your cell phone number. So they can contact you for help with a funeral. Darlene cell phone number is 419-203-0409 and Alice Diemer 419-538-6616.

WE ARE IN NEED OF PARISHIONERS TO PRAY THE ROSARY FOR FUNERALS

Our current list of people praying the rosary at the funeral home is declining. We need your help with this ministry.

Your commitment would be for a given month, you would be with a team of people that would come to the funeral and/or before the funeral and lead the rosary, for anyone from our parish that passes away in that month that you are assigned.

If you are interested and want more information, please call or email the office. We would love for you to be involved with our Parish.

BIBLE STUDY



Women's Bible study for all ages starting this fall. Please RSVP by August 10.

Together we will address the question,

"So why is Jesus Christ interested in your friendship?"

No homework, flexible, monthly Sunday gatherings @ 7pm.

Call Stacey & Sophia Bennett for more information @

567-376-0125.

LADIES OF LEISURE SOCIAL (L.O.L.s)

(Sponsored by St. John's Alter Rosary Society)

Come for Old Fashioned Visiting while playing games or crafting.

**Every Third Wednesday
of each month.**

Two Event Times (1:00-4:00) or (6:00-9:00)

Up Coming Dates:

~~July 19~~ Aug. 23, Sept. 20 ...

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

At The Parish Center in Glandorf

It's a place to gather with friends
without having to clean house. LOL!



YOU ARE WELCOME TO...

Play board games
Play cards
Dominoes, Dice
Knitting, Crafting,
Mahjong Game
Etc.
(Please bring your own
supplies & Games)

-Bring your own Beverage
and snack.

QUESTIONS OR RESERVE A TABLE
Please contact: Jill Gerding
419-538-6942

Eucharist Adoration

First Saturday, Aug 5th and 6th

After 4:30pm Mass until 8:00am on Sunday morning

Sign-up sheet is available on the radiator back in church or sign up on line using the

following link [https://www.signupgenius.com/
go/8050f4eaaab2ba7f85-adoration18#/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050f4eaaab2ba7f85-adoration18#/)

We would like at least two people signed up for each hour. If you can't make it to church to sign in, please call Katie Verhoff 480-236-7305.

If you bring your children to Eucharist Adoration, there are "My Adoration Book" that they can read, color or write messages to God in the back vestibules of the Church.



St Catherine's Embrace Outreach Volunteer Training

St. Catherine's Embrace is an outreach ministry that acknowledges and supports the many families in the St George Deanery/ Putnam County area who have lost babies through miscarriage or stillbirth. Through trained volunteers from each parish, we provide resources and an engraved keepsake box filled with helpful books, artwork, and handmaid memorial items crafted by parishioners from across the county. Are you interested in becoming a volunteer in your parish? We have a brief training session scheduled for Tuesday, August 8th at 6:30 PM in Glandorf. Please call or text Mary Beth at (419)980-8065 or email scembrace@gmail.com for more details.



Parental Baptism Class

Sunday, September 10, 2023 at 9:00 – 10:30 AM

in room 15 in parish center presented by

Don Inkrott.

Pre-register by calling St. John's 419-538-6928.

Next class will be in 2024. Watch bulletin for dates.



Assumption Novena

August 6th-14th

Devotions in Upper Basilica

2:00 pm on Sundays & 14th
8:00 pm on Weekdays

Hymn to Our Lady, Novena Prayer,
Rosary Procession,
Adoration & Benediction of the
Blessed Sacrament

Full Schedule:

www.olcshrine.com/august-novena



Basilica & National Shrine of
Our Lady of Consolation
315 Clay St.
Carey, Ohio 43316



Join Bishop Daniel E. Thomas for this incredible annual celebration!
Candlelight Procession to Shrine Park followed by Mass with Bishop Daniel E. Thomas

Pray with us in preparation:

- Sunday, August 6 - 2:00pm Devotions
- Monday, August 7 through Saturday August 12 - 8:00pm Devotions
- Sunday, August 13 - 2:00pm Devotions
- Monday, August 14 - 2:00pm Devotions
- Monday, August 14 - 9:00pm Candlelight Procession to Shrine Park followed by Mass with Bishop Daniel E. Thomas

Sing with us:

- The Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation in Carey invites area singers to join the 2023 Assumption Choir. This choir, along with a brass quintet, will lead the music for the Vigil Mass of the Assumption, held in the Shrine Park, on Monday, August 14, 2023 at 9:30 p.m. This unique experience gives singers, amateur and professional, the opportunity to sing a wide variety of music with a short-term commitment. Rehearsals will be held from 4:00-5:30 p.m. in the Original Shrine Church (next to the Gift Shop) on Sundays: July 30, August 6, and August 13. Please direct any questions to the basilica's Director of Music Ministries, Mr. Anthony Gallina, at music@olcshrine.com or 419-396-7107, ext. 104.

2023
FATIMA USA
FRIDAY, AUGUST 11, 2023
7:30 PM
Spiritual Center of Maria Stein
2365 St. Johns Rd., Maria Stein, OH 45860
+ All priests are invited to concelebrate at the Mass.
~ More info on reverse ~
facebook.com/Fatima.usa.mass



2023 FATIMA USA

AUGUST 11, 2023

+ All priests are invited to concelebrate at the Mass.
+ First Communicants are welcome to come dressed up and be in the procession.

Candles and holders will be available. The sacrament of reconciliation will be available before mass.

Parking & Event Info:

- Handicap parking available
- General parking on grounds
- Bus parking available
- No food services will be available
- Not responsible for accidents or lost articles

What to Bring:

- Rosary, lawn chair, flashlight, warm clothing (please dress appropriately for Mass)
- A donation will be accepted for candles, holders and event expenses.

Holy Mass with Fr. Robert Muhlenkamp begins at 7:30pm. After dark, a candle-lit rosary will take form on the grounds as each prayer is recited. The program will conclude with a candle light procession around the grounds after the rosary.



Fr. Robert Muhlenkamp is the Parochial Vicar of the Northwest 2 Family of Parishes which include St. Patrick, Immaculate Conception, Holy Rosary, St. Teresa and Our Lady of Guadalupe. He is originally a native of Coldwater, Ohio.

Perhaps the most well known utterance of the apparition of Our Lady at Fatima was her confident declaration that "My Immaculate Heart will triumph". Cardinal Ratzinger has interpreted this utterance as follows: "The Heart open to God, purified by contemplation of God, is stronger than guns and weapons of every kind. The fiat of Mary, the word of her heart, has changed the history of the world, because it brought the Saviour into the world - because, thanks to her Yes, God could become man in our world and remains so for all time. The Evil One has power in this world, as we see and experience continually lets itself be led away from God. But since God himself took a human heart and has thus steered human freedom towards what is good, the freedom to choose evil no longer has the last word. From that time forth, the word that prevails is this: "In the world you will have tribulation, but take heart; I have overcome the world" (Jn 16:33). The message of Fatima invites us to trust in this promise.

STATE ISSUE 1

YES

VOTE YES ON ISSUE 1

PROTECT OHIO'S CONSTITUTION

JULY 10
Voter Registration
Deadline

JULY 11
Early Voting
Begins



BE MY VOICE!

Why you should vote YES on Issue 1

August 8, 2023 - Issue 1 - Vote Yes. A yes vote will raise the threshold to pass a constitutional amendment in Ohio from the present simple majority of 50% plus one to 60%. Making it 60% to pass an amendment will protect Ohio's Constitution from being co-opted by wealthy out-of-state interest groups that intend to sidestep Ohio's checks and balances by buying their way onto the ballot. A Yes vote will ensure that any future Constitutional amendments will be determined by a strong majority of Ohioans, not special out of state-interest groups looking to enrich themselves.

Ohio is one of only 18 states that even allow citizen-initiated constitutional amendments, and one of only 16 states that send them straight to the people for a vote. And of those 16 states, Ohio's 50% threshold for passing them is among the lowest. Ohio is one of the worst states in the nation when it comes to protecting it's constitution. Our US Constitution requires two-thirds to pass an amendment. Groups opposing Issue 1 such as the Ohio Education Assoc., The ACLU, League of Women Voters and Planned Parenthood all require a two thirds vote to change their own constitution. These are all in sharp contrast to our existing Ohio 50% plus 1 rule.

In addition, currently without Issue 1, Signatures for a petition to change the State Constitution only need to come from 44 different counties. If Issue 1 passes, Signatures will need to come from all 88 counties. This would insure a more diverse and representative population of Ohioans to determine whether proposed amendments appear on the ballot by including rural areas in the decision. Furthermore, once mandatory signatures are collected they are checked to be sure the signers are all registered voters. Currently if not enough registered signatures are obtained, there is additional time to retrieve more. Passing Issue 1 would not allow that extra grace time for special interest.

Your YES Vote Matters August 8, 2023
Lives are depending on You!

November 7, 2023 Vote NO on the proposed Amendment that would amend Article 1 of the Ohio Constitution by adding Section 22, titled "The Right to Reproductive Freedom with Protections for Health and Safety" amendment. It's name is intended by the abortion cartel to confuse and mislead voters into supporting an extreme abortion agenda. If passed and added to Ohio's Constitution, it would make abortion on demand through all nine months of pregnancy (including painful and cruel late term procedures on perfectly healthy babies) and would be the repeal of current health and safety provisions that protect women and the unborn children, and will certainly eliminate parental notification and consent before children seek out life-altering procedures like an abortion or gender-altering puberty blocker or surgery. Parents rights would be stripped away!

Pro-Life Prayer

Heavenly Father, Thank you for creating each of us, including our unborn brothers & sisters, in Your image & likeness. We ask for your protection on all precious babies waiting to be born. We pray for an end to abortion in the United States. We lift up mothers & fathers facing unexpected pregnancies & challenging times. Help us to love & serve them in their time of need. Today, I pledge to never be silent or passive in my defense of life. I commit to protecting babies & serving moms until every life is welcomed with love & protected by law in our nation. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen!

Pray and Fast for the passage of Issue 1 on August 8 and also to defeat the amendment to our State Constitution for Vote Nov. 7, 2023

ST. ANTHONY SUMMER FESTIVAL

COLUMBUS GROVE, OH
SATURDAY, AUGUST 5, 2023
5:00 - 11:00 P.M.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 2023
11:00 A.M. - 10:00 P.M.

Garage Sale
Saturday: 9 A.M. - 8 P.M.
Sunday: 11:30 A.M. - 8 P.M.

Doughlicious Donuts

SATURDAY

JOIN FAMILY, FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS FOR
BBQ PORK CHOPS, RIBS & CHICKEN
BEGINNING @ 5:00 P.M.
THE ST. ANTHONY 5K RACE
KICKS OFF AT 7:00 P.M.
ALL ARE WELCOME!
CONTACT **Matt Ellerbrock**
FOR MORE INFO: 419-792-9110
7pm Electric Raindrops Band

ENJOY HAMBURGERS AND FRENCH FRIES AFTER THE BBQ, AS WELL AS REFRESHMENTS

SUNDAY

DUCK RACES! RIDES
GAMES! BAKERY WHEEL
GARAGE SALE
COUNTRY STORE, CRAFTS
REFRESHMENTS
SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!
Kiddie Tractor Pull
Beginning @ 3 p.m.

AXE THROWING

BIG TICKET DRAWINGS
\$2500 WILL BE GIVEN AWAY

BINGO!
FABULOUS PRIZES!

CHICKEN & BEEF
DINNERS

DINE-IN
11 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.

DRIVE-THRU
11 A.M. - 1 P.M.

CARRY-OUT
11 A.M. - 3 P.M.

CAFETERIA STYLE
4 P.M. - 7 P.M.
(CASH ONLY ACCEPTABLE)

GRAND PRIZE

\$20,000 TOWARDS THE PURCHASE OF A NEW VEHICLE
OR \$15,000 CASH

NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN

~THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT~

ST. GASPAR SUMMER FESTIVAL

Sunday, Address: 16209 County Road 46, Bellevue, OH 44811. July 23, 2023 Serving: 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Home Cooked 2 -Leg Quarters of Chicken or Rib Dinners ~ served with homemade dressing, mashed potatoes & gravy, coleslaw, dinner roll & dessert. (\$15.00/meal) Outdoor Food Stand: 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Beer Garden: 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Instant Bingo: all day, Drawing held at 2:30 p.m.

FORMED

FAITH AT HOME

HOW TO CREATE AN ACCOUNT

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MARRIAGE

one flesh, given and received

Natural Family Planning

...supporting God's gifts of love and life in marriage



One of the most joyous occasions in life is the celebration of a wedding. A man and woman come together to join their lives together so that "they are no longer two but one flesh" (see Matthew 19:11). Religious or not, Catholic or not, most people understand marriage as a lifelong commitment in which husband and wife are faithful to one another. Most people also take for granted that marriage is based on love—not just any love, but the kind of love where a person will sacrifice for the beloved. As Catholics, it is important to remember that Jesus sanctified marriage and elevated it to represent His love for the Church—"in the Lord" mirrors the very love of our Lord. Let's reflect on this mystery of a love that will sacrifice for the beloved.

Spousal Love

Where did this idea come from? Some might argue that it is a natural human understanding. That is partially true because we all know that the experience of loving another person is part of the fabric of human life. Our Christian faith tells us more however. We know through the eyes of faith that God, who is love, created us for love and to love!

While love is experienced throughout life in family relationships and with friends, married love is unique. Created in God's image, husband and wife become "one flesh" (see Genesis 2: 24) and are called to live a love that is faithful, selfless, generous, and everlasting. God established marriage as an original blessing, not only to

spouses but also to the world. Through it, God builds up families and society.

Despite the first sin and its harm to God's original plan for man and woman, especially as He willed for marriage, marriage still reflects God's love in the world. This is true regardless of the individual religious faith of each spouse. However, in Christian marriage—the marriage of a baptized Christian man to a baptized Christian woman—God exalts Christian marriage beyond the dignity and value of natural marriage and gives spouses the privilege of reflecting Christ's love for his bride, the Church (see Ephesians 5: 31–32). They witness to something that many do not believe is possible: free, total, faithful, permanent, fruitful love. This is the love our hearts long for. This is the love husband and wife are called to in marriage. It is a love made real in Christ precisely because He is both present with husband and wife in the sacramental reality of the marriage and because marriage reflects His spousal love for His Church.

Marriage is a Gospel

In God's original plan for men and women, the mutual love of spouses "becomes an image of the absolute, unending love with which God loves man" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1604)—this is good news! Despite humanity's fall from grace and the ensuing brokenness, the Lord God continued to invite His children to accept His design for marriage which reveals the love between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Pope Benedict XVI taught this truth when he wrote:

[M]atrimony is a Gospel in itself, a "Good News" for the world of today, especially the dechristianized world. The union of a man and a woman, their becoming "one flesh" in charity, in fruitful and indissoluble love, is a sign that speaks of God with...force and an eloquence... Marriage, as a union of faithful and indissoluble love, is based upon the grace that comes from the triune God, who in Christ loved us with a faithful love, even to the Cross.

(Homily of Pope Benedict XVI, October 7, 2012, St. Peter's Square)

The love of Christ is expressed in His Passion, in His total gift of self on the Cross. The Eucharist is the memorial of what Christ has done for us, "the making present and the sacramental offering of his unique sacrifice, in the liturgy of the Church which is his Body" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1362). In this great sacrament of the Lord, entrusted "to His Beloved Spouse, the Church...a sacrament of love, a sign of unity, a bond of charity" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1323), Christ freely offers Himself in a self-gift of total, permanent, faithful, and fruitful love for the Church and for each individual in the Eucharist.

These methods can be used effectively to manage fertility regardless of the woman's cycling pattern or stage of life (such as postpartum, pre-menopause or with irregular cycles). There is no need to use contraceptives or sterilization to plan one's family.

Blessed, Strengthened, Consecrated

Though periodic sexual abstinence can be challenging at times, this challenge is itself a blessing. St. Paul VI wrote, "far from being a hindrance to their love of one another," this self-discipline "transforms it by giving it a more truly human character" (*Humanae Vitae*, 21) and the lived experience of many couples testifies to the truth of this statement. They find not only that in this sacrifice their love, mutual respect, appreciation, and trust is enhanced but also that their relationship with the Lord is strengthened as well.

And husband and wife are not left alone in the challenge. Through the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony, they are given the grace to live out all that God asks of them and are "strengthened and...consecrated for the duties and the dignity of their state" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1638; cf. *Code of Canon Law*, can. 1134). The Lord is with them; "Then let them implore the help of God with unremitting prayer and, most of all, let them draw God and charity from that unfailing fount which is the Eucharist" (*Humanae Vitae*, 25).

Learn More

Catholic teaching on love and human sexuality
usccb.org/topics/natural-family-planning/love-and-sexuality

Catholic teaching on married love and the gift of life
usccb.org/issues-and-action/marriage-and-family/natural-family-planning/catholic-teaching/upload/Married-Love-and-the-Gift-of-Life-English-version.pdf

Natural Family Planning
usccb.org/topics/natural-family-planning/what-natural-family-planning

Where to learn an NFP method
usccb.org/topics/natural-family-planning/find-nfp-club

Useful marriage-focused websites
foryourmarriage.org; marriageuniquerelationship.org

Cannot find what you need? Contact nfp@usccb.org.

Sister, Janet McLamb, M.A., M.Ed., has a Masters of Pastoral Studies with a concentration in Marriage and the Family. A wife, mother, and grandteacher as well as a former teacher/teacher of Spirituality, a method of Natural Family Planning, she lives in the Diocese of Astoria, Oregon. This article is used here with her permission. You are invited to use this article for educational purposes. Please include the text "Used with permission, Sister, Janet McLamb, All rights reserved."



The Catholic Church teaches that...

marriage is an original gift from God to humanity. Although sin entered the world damaging the marital relationship, this gift was not lost but redeemed by Christ and raised to a sacrament (see Eph 5: 28-32; see also Mt 19: 4-6). Sacred Scripture proclaims that God created humanity in "His image" as "male and female" (see Gn 1: 27). So unique is this relationship that the marital union makes of husband and wife "one flesh" (Gn 2: 24). Procreation, Scripture teaches, is a gift from God (Gn 1: 28). When spouses conceive new life, they participate in the Lord God's creative power. This is an awesome privilege and sacred responsibility!

Couples' Stories

"I am confident that had I not been open to life in the practice of NFP, I would not have needed to depend on God, and not have grown as a person. This growth benefits my family and the people I meet in everyday life." (Dawn Farias, "How Natural Family Planning Changed my Life," available at: www.usccb.org/nfp/what-is-nfp/nfp/couples-stories/upload/How-Natural-Family-Planning-has-Changed-My-Life-2.pdf)

"Jesus calls us to serve others. Marriage and parenthood are ways we can immediately apply this call in our lives. NFP has led me to be more open to life, more aware of God's design for intimacy in marriage, more dependent on Him to fulfill these plans. It has strengthened my relationship with my husband, given me personal insight and it has given our children life!" (Dawn Farias, "How Natural Family Planning Changed my Life," available at: www.usccb.org/nfp/what-is-nfp/couples-stories/upload/How-Natural-Family-Planning-has-Changed-My-Life-2.pdf)

"Many will tell you that the responsibility of being permanently faithful to one person is too great and that being open to life is too much of a burden. They say contraception brings with it freedom and life; however, we have found that it is in openness to God, to each other, and to new life that true freedom is obtained. This is what living Natural Family Planning can help couples to experience." (Michael and Alysha Chambers, "NFP, The Theology of the Body, and Our Marriage," available at: www.usccb.org/nfp/what-is-nfp/couples-stories/upload/Chambers-NFP-TOB-and-our-Marriage.pdf)

"Two years after joining the Catholic Church, my wife and I began practicing Natural Family Planning. I found that the chastity required to get through the periods of abstinence caused profound changes in me... I became grateful for all God had given me, most of all for my wife. My appreciation for her and all that she gives me grew, improving an already good 20-year marriage." (Fletcher Doyle, "My Slogan—Practice Saved Sex!") Available at: www.usccb.org/nfp/awareness-week/upload/Fletcher-Doyle.pdf)

"As we lived the NFP lifestyle, we began to realize that all of our reasons for avoiding pregnancy were 'earthly' – we would need a new car, a bigger house, and more money for everything.... We are so grateful that we now have the kind of marital union that God had planned for us! It has changed our lives so much that we became NFP teachers to spread the good news." (Jennifer and Frank Ricard, "Signs of Grace," available at: www.usccb.org/nfp/what-is-nfp/couples-stories/upload/Jennifer-Ricard-Signs-of-Grace.pdf)