

THE JUST WALK IN INTEGRITY; HAPPY ARE THEIR CHILDREN AFTER THEM! ~PROVERBS 20:7 AS A FATHER HAS

COMPASSION ON HIS CHILDREN, SO THE LORD HAS COMPASSION ON THOSE WHO FEAR HIM. ~PSALM 103:11



# OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL BASILICA



Our Lady of Mt. Carmel - St. Anthony of Padua Parish  
343 Via Mt. Carmel • Youngstown, Ohio 44505



- Pastor:**  
Rev. Msgr. Michael Cariglio.....Ext. 103
- Church Phones:**  
Office & Rectory.....(330) 743-4144  
Religious Education .....743-3508  
Church Hall .....743-7740  
Lower Church Hall.....Ext. 114  
Fax .....743-1035
- Church Secretaries:**.....743-4144  
Office .....Ext. 100  
Mrs. Marie Ronyak.....Ext. 101  
Ms. Barbara McOwen.....Ext. 141  
Mrs. Cathy Zack .....Ext. 100
- Office Hours:** Mon. thru Fri. .. 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Permanent Deacons:**.....743-4144  
Mr. Anthony Palasca, Jr .....Ext. 142  
Mr. Mark Izzo ..... 330-533-1857
- Director of Music:**.....743-4144  
Mr. Craig Ziobert..... (330) 770-6504
- Director of Religious Education:**  
Mrs. Therese Ivanisin..... Ext. 121  
olmcTherese@gmail.com or 330-743-3508  
Youth Ministry Coordinator, Melissa Varso. Ext. 122  
olmcMelissa@gmail.com
- Church Caterer:**..... 743-7740  
Mr. Louis Fusillo..... Ext. 131  
or 759-4010 (H)
- Parish Council Chairperson:**..... 743-4144  
Mr. Louis Fusillo..... Ext. 143
- Business Manager/Accountant:**  
Mr. John Didek, Jr..... Ext. 100
- Sunday Masses:**  
Saturday Evening..... 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday..... 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.
- Weekday Mass:** ..... Daily at 12:00 noon
- Baptisms:** Saturday after the 5:00 p.m. Mass  
and Sunday after the 11:00 a.m. Mass.
- Sacrament of Penance:** Saturday 11:00 - 11:30 a.m.  
or by personal request.
- Weddings:** Please schedule marriage at least 6 months  
in advance.
- E-mail:** olmc343@aol.com
- Website:** www.ladymtcarmel.com



**Masses For The Week**

**Sat., June 20:** *The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary*  
12:00 noon Ralph Carella, Sr. & Ralph Carella Jr. by Carella & Caravella Families  
5:00 p.m. James A. & Grace F. Orlando by Family

**Sun., June 21:** *12th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Father's Day)*  
9:00 a.m. Al Wall (A) by Family  
11:00 a.m. Walter E. Good by Dolores Good & Family

**Mon. June 22:** *Saint Paulinus of Nola, Bishop; Saints John Fisher, Bishop, and Thomas More, Martyrs*  
12:00 noon Edwin Muccillo by Family

**Tues. June 23:**  
12:00 noon Mary (A) & Matthew Mikula by Barbara & Steve Raffa

**Weds., June 24:** *The Nativity of Saint John the Baptist*  
12:00 noon Antonette Calcagni by Husband, Gene

**Thurs., June 25:**  
12:00 noon Sam Beronja (B) by wife, Carmela & Daughters

**Fri., June 26:**  
12:00 noon Joseph Caruso by Jude & Rebecca Nohra

**Sat., June 27:** *St. Cyril of Alexandria Blessed Virgin Mary*  
12:00 noon Dr. Felix Pesa (B) by Cathy  
5:00 p.m. Irene Mezzapeso (WA) by Frank Mezzapeso

**Sun., June 28:** *13th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Father's Day)*  
9:00 a.m. John DiSchiavo by Betty & Mona  
11:00 a.m. Mary Guerrieri by Deacon Mark & Susan Izzo



**Parish Support**

Sunday, June 14 (183 envelopes)	\$7,837.00
St. Anthony Shrine/Novena	\$ 824.00
Add'l at Home Combined Collection	\$ 75.00

**WEEKEND ASSIGNMENTS—June 27/28**

**Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist**

5:00 p.m. Deacon Mark Izzo, Anthony Falasca  
9:00 a.m. Deacon Mark Izzo, Geno Capone  
11:00 a.m. Deacon Izzo, Lori Capone

**LECTORS**

5:00 p.m. Maria Leone  
9:00 a.m. Scott Schulick  
11:00 a.m. David Schifferli

**ALTAR SERVERS**

5:00 p.m. Lauren Klanica, Gregory Carbon  
9:00 a.m. Scott Cross, Louis Cross, Dominic Cross  
11:00 a.m. Adrianna Marsco, Luciano Marsco

**PERPETUAL ADORATION OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT**

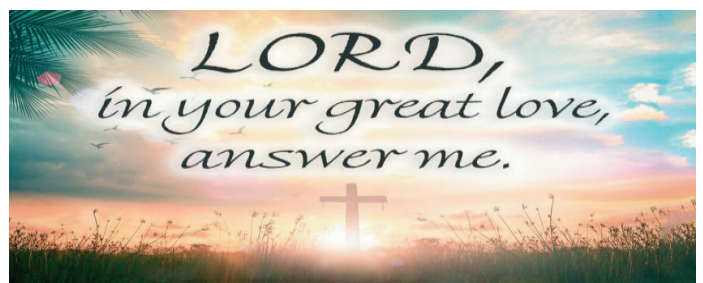
On the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul, June 29 the Apostolate of Perpetual Adoration will begin its 27th year at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Basilica. There will be scheduled holy hours around the clock. To schedule yourself for a weekly holy hour—which can be for you an hour of spiritual power—call the rectory and Maria Panozzo coordinator will be in touch with you. Thank you, Monsignor Michael Cariglio.

**OUTDOOR MASS AT THE BASILICA OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL**

Beginning next week June 28th the 11 a.m. Sunday Mass will be offered outdoors at the Shrine of Saint Anthony; whenever there are optimal weather conditions—between 68 and 78 Fahrenheit, and near zero chance of rain. Please check the weather and if possible bring a light lawn chair. Use social distancing on the lawn area. Families are together. The Basilica will also provide seating. Any questions e-mail the Minister of Music Craig Ziobert who is also a meteorologist! Thank you for your patience in this time of the necessity to assure the health safety of the Faith community. Monsignor Michael Cariglio, Saint Rocco, pray for us.

†

**GOD BLESS  
OUR FATHERS**







Earl Duca, Martha Aliberti, Regina Altiero, Melinda Amon, Peter Angelides, Sandy Battaglia, Nick Benedis, Madelyn Brudis, Tina Bury, Zayne Bryce, Eugene Calcagni, Isabelle Corradi, Jeanni Pesa, Carmen, Kim Bowser, Marko Calko, Dominic Calko, Lori Capone, Michael (Cal) Calipare, Carl J. Carbon, Roseann Cencia, Joseph Cencia, Bethany Maytas, Anthony, Cathy Chimento, Joseph Chimento, Stephanie Chimento, Christopher Centofanti, Damian Chordas, Joseph R. Cioffi, Mary Rose Colucci, Johnny D., Ed Derek, Anna DeLuco, Joanne Desko, Michelina DiVito, Greg Diorio, Grace Duca, Angela Elmo, JoAnn Elmo, Roberta Elmo, Dolores Elston, Deacon Anthony Falasca, Jason, Monroe, Mara Frease, Ilona Gerson, Sebastian Green, Margie, Joseph Haus, Baby Henry, John, Reese, Lisa, Joshua, David, Carl Jr., Louise Faustino, Kaylee, JoAnn George, Emily Gerome, Rose Giampetro, Donald "Duke" Girardi, Dominic Greco, Josie Greco, Jennifer Greco, Michael & Carol Gromada, Claudia Hernandez, Sean Holden, Gail Hubbert, George Iati, Loretta Julian, Mark Julian, Peter Julian, Kerri, Glory & Family, Jeff Knorr, Dennis Kopnisky, Jackie Golden, Gerard Kopnisky, Hillary, William & Melinda Kopnisky, Agnes Kowis, Rocco Kovacs, John Kuzman, Jr., Leann P., Lenny & Cheryl, Lavonne, Lucille, Linda Maiorana, Baby Dominic Malachi, Bill Marcavish, Missy Marrie, John Mascardine, Jennifer McCon, Paul and Greg Medina, Jean Medina, Livia Marinelli, Ellen Monroe, George Panno, Beverly Poidmore Pariza, Mary Pesa, Ronald Pesa, Phil Pillin, Sr. Brielle, Vincent, Paul III, Giovanna Pace, Isabel Pupino, Joseph Pizzola, Nicholas Poccia, Barbara Poghen, Charles Richards, Joseph Richards, Joseph Ridel, Chris Ritter, Marti Runyan, Mark Roberts, Ben Russo, Millie Santangelo, Carmel Scocca, Ellie Sullenberger, Chris Sultan, Helen Trimboli, Betty & Dennis VanSuch, Greg VanSuch, Rita Varacali, Jodi Walters, Kathleen Wienand, Anna Mae Williams, Lilah Dovie, Todd Zama, Skevos Zimbillas, **Mary, Help of the sick, pray for us! Please let us know when the person is well. Thanks be to God.**



**May we continue to Pray for Healing**

During this time of the Stay Safe Ohio order we ask that you pray for all families who have been affected by the Corona Virus. May we continue to find peace and mercy in the Lord.

**Sunday**

**Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Jer 20:10-13; Ps 69:8-10, 14, 17, 33-35;  
Rom 5:12-15; Mt 10:26-33

You have been saved by the grace of God in the person of Jesus Christ. Hence, do not fear those who can take away your mortal life, for the Lord will protect and defend you until life everlasting.

**St. Anthony Shrine and Novena**

**\$100.00 GIFT**

In memory of ROSE WORRELLIA & ATTILIO DILALLO & In honor of MADISON ROSE REED

By Mr. Anthony Worrellia

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Mrs. Nicolette Bleacher

**\$35.00 GIFT**

Mr. John Casciano

**\$25.00 GIFT**

Ms. Janice Jasinski

Mr. and Mrs. Theodore F. McCoy

**\$20.00 GIFT**

In loving memory of MARY ANN PELLEGRINI by Cleto

Mr. & Mrs. Francis A. Bellino

Phyllis Chila

Mr. & Mrs. James DeCenso

Mrs. Ann Desimone

Dr. Mario Leone

Mrs. Mary Ann Ricciuti

**\$15.00 GIFT**

In loving memory of RALPH CARELLA, SR., FRANK CARAVELLA, Our Brother, RALPH CARELLA, JR.

by Thomas and Joanne Caravella

**\$10.00 GIFT**

In memory of JACK MIRONE by wife, Liz Mirone

Mr. & Mrs. John T. Amicone

Miss Sheila Donnadio

Mr. HJervy Dunn, Sr.

Mrs. Jennie Dundee

Mr. & Mrs. Walter M. Good

Miss Theresa Izzo

Ms. Lou Ann Renko

Mrs. Joseph Ricciuti

Stephen & Elizabeth Medovich

Mrs. Diane M. Sheets

Mr. Scott Schulick

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Struble

**\$5.00 GIFT**

Mr. & Mrs. William A. Petruzzi

**Face Book: Our Lady of Mount Carmel Basilica Youngstown**

During the days of the Ohio "stay home order" and through the leadership of Nicolas Capone and David Jones; Sunday Mass, Daily Mass, Stations of the Cross, and Chaplet of Divine Mercy were live streamed into the homes of parishioners and visitors who are Face Book equipped. The live stream was a tremendous instrument, as well as our website olmستا.Com Now that the parishes are open for the people, and through the cooperation of Nicholas Capone-cameraman, producer, director all in one—the Basilica will do the following on live stream Face Book:

**11 a.m. Sunday — Mass for the Homebound and Nursing Homes**

**11:30 Friday — Stations of the Cross**

**12 noon Friday — Mass**

**3 p.m. Friday — The Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament**

**To access to Face Book: Our Lady of Mount Carmel Basilica Youngstown**

Sponsor of the week:



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**Birthdays for the week of June 21-27**

Stephanie Coldwell, Nicolas Folsom, Anita Marsco, Michael Villaneuva, Robert Wallis, Robert Young, Anne K. Alfano, Joseph Frank, Callista Hall, Joseph Haus, Rachel LoCiero, Edith Venerose, Maria Zorella, John Annichenni, Josiah Bloise, Alfred DeChurch, John DeMart, Ernesto Rodriguez, Brandon Wolf, Sam Ciminero, Joyce Frattaroli, Annette Grahovac, Carolyn Soltis, Dominic Wilson, Eleanor Ziobert, Donna Bodzak, Barbara Caruso, Mark Fusillo, Craig Ziobert, John Ausnehmer, Adam Chasko, Giovanna LaMonica, Shirley Matey, Sheryl Rivello, Rose Soltis, Vincenzo Whorten, Lisa Antonini, Alan M. Bloom, Janet Fabrizio, Donald Gaudio.

**ST. ANTHONY LIGHT: June 21-27**

In memory of JAMES ESPOSITO (B) by Family

**SACRED HEART LIGHT: June 21-27**

In memory of FRANK PUGLIESE by Bonnie, Cindy, Nicole, Dena & Caleb

**BLESSED SACRAMENT LIGHT: June 21-27**

In memory of MICHAEL RAKOCY, JR. by wife, Sandy

**SANCTUARY LIGHT: June 21-27**

In memory of ANTHONY FIORE (B) by Norma & Mike

**INFANT JESUS LIGHT: June 21-27**

In memory of JAMES A. & GRACE F. ORLANDO by Family

**OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL LIGHT: June 21-27**

In memory of BENJAMIN LIPINSKY by Marlene & Nicholas Bellino & Family

**GUARDIAN ANGEL LIGHT: June 21-27**

In memory of MICHAEL RAKOCY, JR. by Sons, Stephen & Sam

**ST. THERESA OF THE LITTLE FLOWER LIGHT:**

**June 21-27**

In memory of EDWIN MUCCILLO by Family

**HOLY CROSS LIGHTS: Sunday, June 21**

In memory of WALTER E. GOOD by Marisa Ricottilli

**ETERNAL FLAME: Sunday, June 21**

In memory of ALEX & ANTOINETTE PALOMBO by Family

**ETERNAL FLAME: Monday, June 22**

In memory of NICHOLAS TISONE by Parish Family

**ETERNAL FLAME: Tuesday, June 23**

In memory of MARIANN BARKER by Parish Family

**ETERNAL FLAME: Wednesday, June 24**

In memory of ANGELA FOLTZ by Parish Family

**ETERNAL FLAME: Thursday, June 25**

In memory of the MOST REVEREND GEORGE V. MURRY, J.C. by the Very Rev. Msgr. Michael J. Cariglio, Jr.



**CRAIG'S CORNER**

**A note from our music director**

It is easy to be afraid. All we have to do is go on social media or see countless news outlets and observe what is going on in our world each day. It can be quite scary: from violence to a new virus to all the other incidents and events going on it can be easy to lose hope or get scared.

This is opposite of what Jesus states in the Gospel right away this weekend: "Fear no one." A little further on He reminds us that the only one we should fear is "the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna," not those who can only kill our bodies. This is why Christ tells us to not be afraid. We are worth much in the kingdom of heaven *if* we acknowledge God alone: **not** the things of this world. Our other readings dive into this concept as well. In the first reading, Jeremiah speaks of the Lord's triumph over those who persecute the just: it is the Lord worthy of praise "for he has rescued the life of the poor from the power of the wicked!" Saint Paul tries to shed some light on the matter by reminding us that suffering is the result of sin, but the grace of God is what saves us, reiterating the fact to us that we need to ask, as the Psalmist does this weekend, God to answer our needs according to His great love.

Our music this weekend echoes all of these themes. We enter the sacrifice of the Mass praising God as Jeremiah does in the first reading through our entrance psalm "All the Earth." Our other hymns focus on the necessity to not focus on being afraid in our world but rather looking to God. The words of Padre Pio in "Stay with Me, Lord" are a nice connection from our solemnity of Corpus Christi last weekend to these readings this weekend. Through our receiving the Eucharist, which brings us strength to move forward no matter the circumstances around us, though it is easy to abandon the Lord when things go awry. We constantly ask Him to stay with us because we need His strength. Of course, the hymn "Be Not Afraid" speaks volumes to the theme of our Gospel this weekend.

It can be easy to let the summer Sundays in Ordinary Time feel like we are just fulfilling an obligation of Sunday Mass without any "special" feasts or solemnities. But these weekends do more than just fill ordered time (as the name Ordinary Time means). These Sundays are the heart of the teachings of Christ and offer insight into ways we can become better Christians and live out our faith. Let us remember this especially in these days where it is easy to be afraid and lose sight of the true gift of our faith. We must live out our faith, as Jesus tells us this weekend: "do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father."

**Bishop's Annual Appeal 2020**

Due to the stay home orders and the many shut downs, the Bishop's Annual Appeal 2020 is notably behind in reaching the goal. Since the appeal reaches out the genuinely needy of the Valley, please respond and make your annual contribution. God's choicest blessing. Send to Basilica office at your earliest convenience.

*Congratulations!*

To Charles and Mary Sinclair who recently celebrated their 30th Wedding Anniversary June 2, 2020. Many long and happy years together.

**"Sharing with Others in Our Own Time of Need"**

Parishioners of OLMC-St Anthony, I would like to thank you for your continued love, concern and generous giving throughout our time of shut down and quarantine during this pandemic .

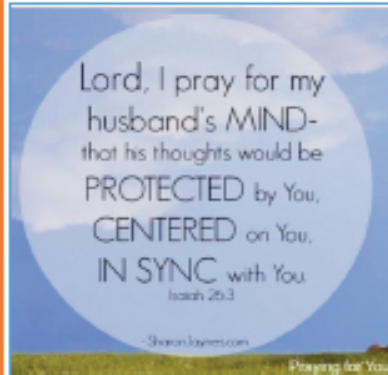
As a parish we were able to provide 100 take out lunches a week during that time for St. Vincent dePaul Food Pantry to distribute to those in need.

Recently, St. Vincent DePaul Dining Hall has opened its doors, to continue the efforts of providing support for people who are in need.

We wish to thank everyone for your ongoing prayers, love , concern and generosity for one another.

God Bless each and everyone

Monsignor Cariglio



**Our Lady of Mount Carmel~ St. Anthony of Padua Parish**  
**2020 First Holy Communion Class**

- Lucas Drew Hernandez Bott \* Sveva Behney Ceccarani
- Mia Rose Gennaro \* Nicholas Anthony Keish
- Charles William Tolson \* Lucia Silvia White
- Grace Louise Wienand \* Alex Benjamin Cooper
- MarenEmilia Josaphine Hann \* Julia Grace Jones
- Sophia Marie Klindworth \* Matteo Paul Schiraldi



Keep them in prayer as they accept the Body and Blood of Christ. May their love and understanding grow deeper as they continue to be nourished by the Eucharist.

**YOUTH & PARENTS.....CONTINUING CONFIRMATION PREP INFORMATION**

PARENTS, PLEASE RETURN THE FOLLOWING FORMS IMMEDIATELY FOR YOUR SON OR DAUGHTER SO THEY MAY CONTINUE TO PREPARE FOR CONFIRMATION.

**\*\*Registration form for Confirmation (was included in your red parent folder)**

**\*\*Permission to Communicate with Minors**

You and your child should be discussing who they would like for his or her Sponsor. Review Sponsor requirements.

**\*\*Sponsor Form is due at the beginning of July.**



**YOUTH :**

You are to continue reading, reflecting and writing on the scripture readings in your *Life of Christ Lectio Divina Journal*. Remember, everyone has their own unique way or ways of praying, talking, listening, reflecting on what and how God calls us to respond.

Mrs. Varso would like your input as to how you are taking the time to work on your journal. She will summarize everyone's thoughts and suggestions and share with the group. This will allow you to see how other busy youth are scheduling their journaling into their busy and complex young lives. It may give you new ideas to try. Grammar and spelling will not be checked.

Contact Information for Faith Formation 330-743-3508 www.olmcsta.com FAX: 330-743-1035 (Out of the office on Monday)

Director: Therese M. Ivanisin / Mrs. I.

Coordinator of Youth Ministry: Melissa Varso

OLMCTherese@gmail.com ext 121

OLMCMelissa@gmail.com ext 122



**St. Anthony Heals the Sick**

Holy Saint Anthony, gentle and powerful in your help, your love for God and charity for His creatures, made you worthy, when on earth, to possess miraculous powers. Miracles waited on your word, which you were always ready to request for those in trouble or anxiety. Encouraged by this thought, I implore you to obtain for me (request). The answer to my prayer may require a miracle. Even so, you are the Saint of miracles. Gentle and loving Saint Anthony, whose heart is ever full of human sympathy, take my petition to the Infant Savior for whom you have such a great love, and the gratitude of my heart will ever be yours. Amen.

**DAILY MORNING OFFERING PRAYER**

Jesus, though the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer you my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world. I offer them for all the intentions of your Sacred Heart: the salvation of souls, reparation for sin, and the reunion of all Christians. I offer them for the intentions of our bishops and of all Apostles of Prayer, and in particular for those recommended by our Holy Father this month.

**THE WAY OF THE HEART.** We pray that all those who suffer may find their way in life, allowing themselves to be touched by the Heart of Jesus.

*Dear Fellow Parishioners,*

*On July 12, 2020 the Solemnity of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel will be celebrated at **all three Masses** at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Basilica. In the past, a celebration dinner followed the principal Sunday Mass. Under the current health circumstances, it is our desire to promote and support the safety and guidelines set forth for social distancing. Therefore, regretfully, it is the consensus of the Feast Day planning committee to cancel this year's celebration **dinner**. We look forward to celebrating our Feast Day at each of the three Masses on July 12<sup>th</sup> and to continue our rich tradition of breaking bread together at next year's Feast Day Dinner 2021.*

*Pat Butto, Chairperson  
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Feast Day  
Planning Committee*

God our Father,  
In your wisdom and love  
you made all things.  
Bless these men,  
that they may be strengthened as  
Christian fathers.  
Let the example of their faith and love  
shine forth.  
Grant that we, their sons and daughters,  
may honor them  
always with a spirit of  
profound respect.

Grant this through  
Christ our Lord.  
Amen.  
— Book of Blessings



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**The Knights of Columbus, Immacolata Council #15086  
together with our 4th Degree, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel  
Assembly #3760**

are pleased to announce that there will be a Bocce League playing this year. There will be 8 teams taking to the courts starting on Monday June 22nd. Our spiritual leader Msgr. Cariglio has guided us in this endeavor. The utmost precautions have been taken to ensure that all the players and spectators are protected per the guidelines put out by The State of Ohio. There will be sanitizer available and our brand new bathrooms will be open for use. There is plenty of space available for social distancing since only 2 teams will be playing each night. Teams will play on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays each week. Spectators are welcome to come and watch. Msgr. Cariglio and all the Knights want everyone to feel safe and enjoy this wonderful facility. See you on the Bocce courts.



**Congratulations!** to our communicants who made their First Holy Communion this past Sunday. Their names are: **Charles William Tolson and Lucia Silvia White.**

# Good News

INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIFE

## 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 20:10-13  
Ps 69:8-10,14,17,33-35  
Romans 5:12-15  
Matthew 10:26-33

**Monday June 22**  
2 Kings 17:5-8,13-15a,18  
Ps 60:3, 4-5,12-13  
Matthew 7:1-5

**Tuesday June 23**  
2 Kings 19:9b-11,  
14-21,31-35a,36  
Ps 48:2-4,10-11  
Matthew 7:6,12-14

**Wednesday June 24**  
Birth of John the Baptist  
Isaiah 49:1-6  
Ps 139:1b-3,13-15  
Acts 13:22-26  
Luke 1:57-66,80

**Thursday June 25**  
2 Kings 24:8-17  
Ps 79:1b-5,8,9  
Matthew 7:21-29

**Friday June 26**  
2 Kings 25:1-12  
Ps 137:1-6  
Matthew 8:1-4

**Saturday June 27**  
Lam 2:2,10-14,18-19  
Ps 74:1b-7,20-21  
Matthew 8:5-17

Think of a time when you were in darkness: a sin, for example, or when you felt abandoned by God or your prayers seemed dry and your spiritual gifts seemed covered over. What did Jesus say to you at that time (perhaps through scripture or friends or a homily at Mass)? What did his whisperings tell you? His words and his guidance were good news for you!

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus says: "What I say to you in the darkness, speak in the light."

He's calling you and commissioning you and empowering you, through his Holy Spirit, to share your good news with others, so that they can hear him in *their* darkness. Proclaim it boldly and visibly so that those who want to hear it will stop and listen. Do not be afraid to openly share how Jesus has been working in your life and how he's helped you grow or heal or turn away from sin.

Yes, when we're this bold, some people ridicule us and reject us, like how Jeremiah was treated in the first reading. But the Lord is with you, too, as "a mighty champion," and your persecutors will eventually stumble and fail. Jesus tells us to "fear no one." God takes good care of us.

Jesus acknowledges those who acknowledge him. In other words, when we're insulted or persecuted for our faith, God holds us and comforts us. It's *his* opinion of



us that matters anyway, and no one else's. Listen to him. In the whispers of the sanctuary of your heart, he's telling you all the good that he sees in you. He's telling you that he appreciates the good you have done. He's giving you good news worth sharing.

### Reflect & Discuss:

1. What is your testimony? What did Jesus teach you when you were in sin or handling a recent difficulty? Write it down; this exercise will help you feel more confident when you try to share your story with others.
2. Practice sharing the testimony you realized during the above personal reflection: Proclaim it first to your community of friends who understand.
3. As you listen to the testimonies of others, encourage them: Tell them how their story helps you.
4. Make a commitment to go forth and spread the good news. What does this commitment look like? What will you do first to fulfill your commitment?



— Est. 1969 —

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Steve Bott, Parishioner

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