

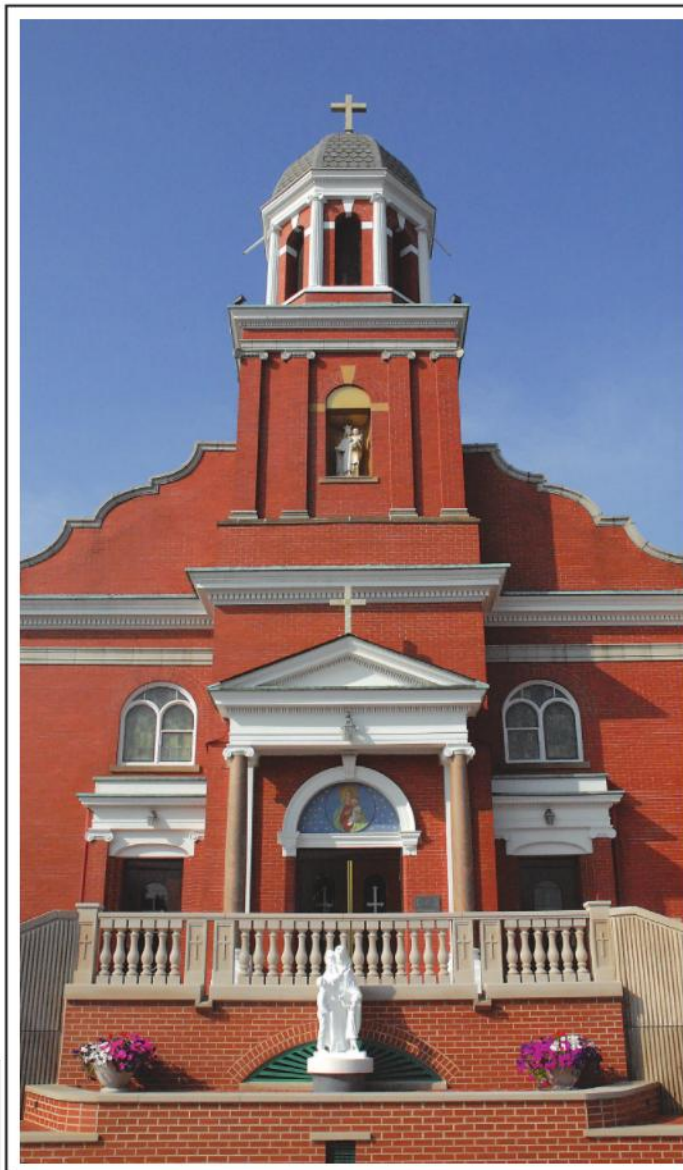
# 13TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

He took the child by the hand and said to her, "Talitha kum,"  
which means, "Little girl, I say to you, arise!"

MR 5:41

## 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 Falasca, 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.OLMCSTA.com



*Masses  
For The Week*

**Sat., June 26:**  
12:00 noon Frank Bellino by Phil & Marie Pillin  
5:00 p.m. Jerry Dietz (B) Frank (B) & Dom Wally by Linda

**Sun., June 27:** *Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
9:00 a.m. Rose Ruggieri by Sister, Rachel Gorgi  
11:00 a.m. Irene Mezzapeso (WA) by Frank Mezzapeso

**Mon. June 28:** *St. Irenaeus, Bishop and Martyr*  
12:00 noon Panozzo & Martini Deceased Families by Deacon Mark & Susan Izzo

**Tues., June 29:** *SS. Peter and Paul, Apostles*  
12:00 noon James Talley by Deacon Mark & Susan Izzo

**Weds., June 30:** *The First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church*  
12:00 noon Nicolette J. Smith (B) (Living) by Grandmother, Barbara Sarko

**Thurs., July 1:** *St. Junipero Serra*  
12:00 noon Chelsey C. Santucci (B) by Son, Chelsey

**Fri., July 2:** *First Friday*  
12:00 noon James Talley by Mary Ann Ricciuti

**Sat., July 3:** *St. Thomas, Apostle*  
12:00 noon Fred Miller by Mary Ann Ricciuti & Family  
2:00 p.m. Wedding of Vincent Wiseman & Victoria Favozzo  
5:00 p.m. Eleanor Tauro by Children & Grandchildren

**Sun., July 4:** *Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
9:00 a.m. Michael Castronova (A) by Wife, Anita  
11:00 a.m. Michael Trimboli by Delight & Frank



*Parish Support*

|                                |                   |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>June 20 (150 envelopes)</b> | <b>\$6,183.00</b> |
| <b>St. Anthony Shrine</b>      | <b>\$ 130.00</b>  |
| <b>Father's Day</b>            | <b>\$1,997.00</b> |

**Grazie!!**

**UPDATE ON FESTIVAL TICKET SALES**

Tickets sold through 6/20/2021: 3,099

Ticket sales need to break-even: 1,480

Ticket sales goal: 8,500

The early bird drawing is fast approaching on July 16. The prize is \$1,000 and \$100 to the ticket seller. We are 36.4% toward our goal...please keep up the good work and ticket sales to friends and family! Please call the church office if you need more tickets.

**WEEKEND ASSIGNMENTS—July 3/4  
Ordinary-Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist**

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| 5:00 p.m.  | Fran Klanica                                   |
| 9:00 a.m.  | James DeToro                                   |
| 11:00 a.m. | Deacon Anthony Falasca, Jr., Joseph Nohra, Jr. |

**LECTORS**

|            |                        |
|------------|------------------------|
| 5:00 p.m.  | Atty. Matthew Giannini |
| 9:00 a.m.  | Darlene Sabo           |
| 11:00 a.m. | Jeena Anness           |

**ALTAR SERVERS**

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| 5:00 p.m.  | Anthony Micco, Alex Micco                      |
| 9:00 a.m.  | Francisco Rivera-Ocasio, Santino Rivera-Ocasio |
| 11:00 a.m. | Scott Cross, Dominic Cross, Louis Cross        |

**Friday The Day Christ died for us**

**Every Friday the Basilica will broadcast for the homebound the following spiritual exercises on Face Book:**

**12 noon Daily Mass**  
**3:00 p.m.. The Hour of Divine Mercy with The Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Benediction**

**The Hour  
for the whole  
World!**

"At three o'clock, implore My mercy, especially for poor sinners; and, if only for a brief moment, immerse yourself in My Passion, particularly in My abandonment at the moment of agony. This is the hour of great mercy for the whole world. I will allow you to enter into My mortal sorrow. In this hour, I will refuse nothing to the soul that makes a request of Me in virtue of My Passion..." (Diary, 1320)

**3 p.m.  
of Mercy**

**Of the Most Blessed Sacrament.  
Basilica is open for in person worship during the above times. Welcome!**

## THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Earl Ducay, Martha Aliberti, Regina Altiero, Melinda Amon, Peter Angelides, Karen Banic, Fred Batcha, Sandy Battaglia, John Beene, Madelyn Brudis, Zayne Bryce, Isabelle Corradi, Kim Bowser, Marko Calko, Dominic Calko, Janice Marinelli Campbell, Lori Capone, Michael (Cal) Calipare, Carl J. Carbon, Roseann Cencia, Joseph Cencia, Anthony, Cathy Chimento, Joseph Chimento, Stephanie Chimento, Christopher Centofanti, Damian Chordas, Joseph R. Cioffi, Mary Rose Colucci, Johnny D., Ed Derek, John Didek, Anna DeLuco, Michelina DiVito, Greg Diorio, Grace Ducay, Roberta Elmo, Dolores Elston, Deacon Anthony Falasca, Gina Fecko, Jason, Monroe, Mara Frease, Sebastian Green, Margie, Joseph Haus, John, Reese, Lisa, Joshua, David, Carl Jr., Kaylee, JoAnn George, Emily Gerome, Rose Giampetro, Donald "Duke" Girardi, Dante Greco, Dominic Greco, Josie Greco, Jennifer Greco, Michael & Carol Gromada, Claudia Hernandez, Gail Hubbert, George Iati, Loretta Julian, Mark Julian, Peter Julian, Kerri, Glory & Family, Jeff Knorr, Jackie Golden, Gerard Kopnisky, Hillary, William & Melinda Kopnisky, Agnes Kowis, Rocco Kovacs, Cheryl Maniccia, Allan Maniccia, Bill Marcavish, 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, Ron Pondillo, Sr., Brielle, Vincent, Paul III, Giovanna Pace, Isabel Pupino, Joseph Pizzola, Lucas Pondillo, Charles Richards, Joseph Richards, Chris Ritter, Scott Rodgers, Marti Runyan, Mark Roberts, Richard Rouan, Ben Russo, Chuck Saulino, Mark Stilson, Carmel Scocca, Ellie Sullenberger, Chris Sultan, Greg VanSuch, Paula VanNest, Rita Varacali, Valerie Villani, Jodi Walters, Kathleen Wienand, Lilah Dovie, Todd Zamar, Skevos Zimbilas, **Mary, Help of the sick, pray for us! Please let us know when the person is well. Thanks be to God.**

### DAILY MORNING OFFERING PRAYER

Jesus, through 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 BEAUTY OF MARRIAGE.** Let us pray for young people who are preparing for marriage with the support of a Christian community: may they grow in love, with generosity, faithfulness and patience.

**SAVE THE DATE:** There will be a Mass at 6:00 p.m. on July 7, 2021 (the 73rd anniversary of Rhoda Wise's death) at St. Peter's in Canton. **The Most Reverend Bishop David J. Bonnar will principal celebrant and homilist!** There will be an update on Rhoda's Cause of Beautification at this Mass and light refreshments in the social hall afterwards. Check [www.rhodawise.com](http://www.rhodawise.com) for more information later this month.

### St. Anthony Shrine and Novena

#### **\$20.00 GIFT**

In loving memory of RALPH CARELLA, SR, RALH CARELLA, JR. & FRANK & THOMAS CARAVELLA by Family

In memory of deceased FUMI & MARSCO FAMILIES by Anita & Nickie Marsco  
In loving memory of MARY ANN PELLEGRINI by Cleto Mr. and Mrs. Jack Ferreri

#### **\$10.00 GIFT**

In memory of JOHN A. MONROE by Anthony J. Monroe  
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald G. DiBacco  
Mr. Scott R. Schulick

### **WOW!**

With great enthusiasm the announcement this past weekend that our minister music **Craig Ziobert** has petitioned for priesthood in the Diocese of Youngstown. He has been accepted as a candidate for priesthood by his Excellency Bishop David Bonner. Craig - thank you for responding to God's call. You are heroic, strong and courageous. Your cup was received and shall overflow with love and happiness. Of course there is always the Cross. I pray for you a lot and ask you to pray for me. Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, St. Joseph, St. Michael and St. Anthony are with you. Love, Msgr. Michael J. Cariglio, Jr.

### **June 7, 2021 Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Wis 1:13-15; 2:23-24; Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11, 12, 13

2 Cor 8:7, 9, 13-15

Mk 5:21-43 or Mk 5:21-24, 35b-43

In the midst of adversity, we need to trust in the saving presence of God, who triumphs over the waters of the sea. In the midst of distress, let us turn to the Lord with faith, to him whom even the wind and the sea obey. He died and rose for our sake that we might live and not perish.

### MEASURE UP CAMPAIGN

**The Knights of Columbus Immacolata Council #15086** Will be collecting for their annual Measure-Up Campaign at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Basilica on Saturday July 10th and Sunday, July 11th at all Masses. This fundraiser is a state-wide effort that all Ohio councils participate in. Its goal is to help children with Developmental Disabilities and 80% of every dollar contributed remains in our area, with the other 20% going to our State Council to help with Special Olympics and other projects for the children at The Rich Center for Autism located on the Y.S.U. Campus. So please be generous and help the Knights help our less fortunate sisters and brothers. Than You from all the Knights at Immacolata Council #15086.



**Birthdays for the week of June 27-July 3**

Donald Gaudio, Janet Fabrizio, Lisa Antonini, Marilyn Milano, Anna Marie Gresko, Peter Garthwaite, Samuel Rakocy, Timothy Wagner, Loreto Sebastiani, Stephen Bada, John Gresko, Donna Hartranft, Debra Hood, Michael Basista, Justin Bonnano, Michael Day, Louis DeVicchio, Hannah Fusillo, Nicholas Klindworth, Amy Millichy, Daniel Cipriano, Jeana Cook, Anthony DelSignore, Mary Maytas, Maria Morgione, Anthony Scarfone, Sr., Dominic Varcalli, Vincent Morgione, Coleen Villone.



**SANCTUARY LIGHT: June 27-July 3**

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

**SAINT ANTHONY LIGHT: June 27-July 3**

In memory of Frank Rondinelli (B) & Mary by Rondinelli Family

**BLESSED SACRAMENT LIGHT: June 27-July 3**

In memory of DANA JOHNSON by Karen & Stephen Sheer

**SACRED HEART LIGHT: June 27-July 3**

In memory of JOHN & MARY THOMAS by Sandy & Natalie Niyeri

**INFANT JESUS LIGHT: June 27-July 3**

In memory of IRENE MESSAPESO by Husband, Frank

**GUARDIAN ANGEL LIGHT: June 27-July 3**

In memory of TONY & ROSE STORTI, SR. (75TH W.A.) by Son, Ralph

**OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL LIGHT: June 27-July 3**

In memory of JAMES & ELEANOR TAURO by Children & Grandchildren

**ST. THERESA OF THE LITTLE FLOWER:  
June 27-July 3**

In memory of ANGELINE DILISIO by Ann Desimone

**HOLY CROSS LIGHTS: June 27-July 3**

In memory of FELIX PESA M.D. by Cathy

**ETERNAL FLAME: Sunday, June 27**

In memory of ROSE KONEVAL by Paish Family

**ETERNAL FLAME: Monday, June 28**

In memory of GEORGE WYDICK by Parish Family

**ETERNAL FLAME: Tuesday, June 29**

In memory of ISABEL MUSOLINO by Parish Family



**Craig's Corner**

**A note from our Music Director**

From calming the sea last weekend and teaching His disciples about the importance of faith, to this weekend seeing the faith of two followers who look to Jesus for healing, we are reminded of the importance of our faith and the power of Christ's role in our lives. Our music this weekend focuses on the power of the name of Jesus as well as of His healing ministry to us even this day.

I would be remiss if I didn't take most of my space in the bulletin to extend my heartfelt *thank you* to you all for the generous outpouring of support you showed me last weekend as Monsignor announced my acceptance into the seminary to begin my studies for the priesthood for our Diocese of Youngstown. Words simply cannot describe how humbled I was to stand before you all as I begin these next steps.

My entire life has been centered on our basilica parish, from growing up sitting in the front row, to being an altar server, an assistant organist, to your minister of music. Monsignor Cariglio has been such a positive influence in my life and I hope to emulate his example moving forward. The thought of priesthood, while it took a smaller place in my mind through the years at times, never left my side. With the passing of Bishop Murry, whom you all know meant so much to me, I felt the call ever more present in my heart to begin talks with Father Kopp, the vocations director. In the months that followed, many in-depth meetings and psychological evaluations were exhausting but necessary steps. I went before the bishop and Diocese Vocations Board on June 10 who unanimously accepted me that same afternoon, ironically I found out later, was the same room which Msgr. Cariglio was accepted in when he entered seminary.

I met Bishop Bonnar as we prepared the rehearsal for his episcopal ordination in January. As we have celebrated Masses together and talked here and there, we have formed a good working relationship (not just because of our Pittsburgh sports common interest) and I am very excited that he has assigned me to Saint Mary's Seminary in Cleveland beginning this August. I am humbled that, when he met my parents, he told them how in just a short time of knowing me and watching me on TV, how dedicated I am to all of my roles in our diocese, our parish, and our community. I pray that I will excel just as well in my seminary studies as I go forward.

I am excited for these next steps but also will miss singing with our parish family every weekend. In honor of our great group of people I have worked with in my time as music director, a few of us are planning a special concert to take place on Thursday, July 29. I am also planning a solo organ recital on Tuesday of that week, July 27. We will have more details on these as we get closer. Again, from the bottom of my heart, *thank you!* Be assured of my prayers for you all as I move forward, and as I mentioned last week too, there's a 100% chance I need all of your prayers as well.

**Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Prelude: Organ Sonata VI, Op. 86: II. Meditation – Alexandre Guilmant

Postlude: Organ Sonata No. 6, Op. 65: VI. Fugue – Felix Mendelssohn

## THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



### APOSTOLATE OF PERPETUAL ADORATION

This past year has presented many obstacles to the beautiful Apostolate of Perpetual Adoration which has been in effect at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Basilica for the past 27 years. As we enter our 28<sup>th</sup> year of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, we now have an abbreviated schedule for adoration. As we work to rebuild a full schedule of 24 hours a day 7 days a week, we need your help.

We wish to acknowledge all the steadfast, loving people who have dedicated hours praying and keeping company with Our Blessed Lord. As of April 11, 2021, Divine Mercy Sunday, we have resumed adoration.

We are inviting each of you to come spend one hour with Our Risen Lord truly present body, blood, soul and divinity. The King of the Universe is waiting for YOU! You may come at any time to adore our Lord, but the following hours need to be filled:

**Sunday: 4-5p.m., Sunday: 5-6 p.m., Monday, 3-4 p.m., Monday, 7-8 p.m., Tuesday, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m., Wednesday, 2-3 p.m., Thursday, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m., Thursday, 3p.m.- 4 p.m., Thursday, 5 p.m.. - 6 p.m.**

#### Our present schedule is:

Sunday 4pm-8pm  
Monday: 1pm-8pm  
Tuesday: 8am-8pm  
Wednesday: 1pm-8pm  
Thursday: 8am-8pm  
Friday: 1pm-4pm (Divine Mercy Devotion and Benediction at 3pm)

To schedule a time call, Jean Talley 330-758-3335 or

Maria Panozzo @ 330-372-5141.

### **STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT:**

*"...as a matter of equality your abundance at the present time should supply their want, so that their abundance may supply your want, that there may be equality." 2 Corinthians 8:14*

One of the tenants of living a grateful and generous lifestyle is giving without expecting anything in return. It is important that we not only grow, nurture and share our gifts; but that we also teach our children and encourage others to do the same. This is the communal aspect of our Catholic faith. We are the "Body of Christ". We are called to be dependent on each other and not live in isolation.

### HEALING PRAYER OF SURRENDER

Dear Lord Jesus, it is my will to surrender to you everything that I am and everything that I'm striving to be. I open the deepest recesses of my heart and invite your Holy Spirit to dwell inside of me.

I offer you my life, heart, mind, body, soul, spirit, all my hopes, plans, and dreams. I surrender my past, present and future problems. I release everything into your compassionate care. Please speak to me clearly, Lord. Open my ears to hear your voice. Open my heart to commune with you more deeply. Open the doors that need to be opened and close the doors that need to be closed. Please set my feet upon the straight and narrow road that leads to everlasting life. Amen



### INTERCESSION:

For the faith to accept the healing power of Jesus, who wants to remove every obstacle to the response of men and women chosen to follow Him as priests, deacons, sisters and brothers, **We pray to the Lord. Lord hear our prayer.**

**The House Band & Family at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Basilica on Sunday, July 18th, 1 p.m.- 4 p.m.** Doors open at 12:30 p.m. get your tickets now before they sell out. Admission \$5.00 Per person. Tickets available at the rectory from Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. or by calling 330-743-4144 for more information. Concessions and Beverages available for purchase.

Sponsor of the week:



**Note:** If anyone knows of a person that is homebound and or in a nursing home, please call the rectory @ 330-743-4144 and let us know so we can update our records. Thank You.

**REGISTRATION:** Members of the parish should be formally registered. If you are not receiving Our Lady of Mt. Carmel envelopes, please call the rectory Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m.—2:00 p.m. For a change of address or telephone number, please call the rectory at 330-743-4144.

How would you reach out to Jesus?

In your heart, mind and soul could you approach Jesus with sincere and total faith?



Jesus gave of himself so that you might have the fullness of life...

how do you give of yourself so that you might have the fullness of life with Him?



Is it with faith, hope & love?



**BE READY... 3 Days of Italian Cultural Week Is Happening This Year!**

Learn the Italian way through Language, Saints, Music, Art, Food & Games

**When:** Tuesday, July 20th ~ Thursday, July 22nd

**Time:** 8:50am—1:pm

**Age/Grade:** Entering K—5th grade in 2021

**Jr. Assistant:** 6th—12th grade

(Begin to work on service hours for Confirmation)

**Registration:** \$15.00 by July 14th or  
\$25.00 after the 14th through the 20th

Registration forms available in the vestibule of the church or the main office of the parish (9—2).

Interested in helping or have questions? Call

Mrs. Leanna Pipala @ Religious Education office.

330-743-3508 ext. 121 or Email: [olmcTherese@gmail.com](mailto:olmcTherese@gmail.com)

**Next Weekend**



**Baptisms**

Expecting or adopting a child? When should we schedule to attend a parent Baptism Prep class and schedule the Baptism? We ask at least 2 months prior to the due date call the Religious Education office. This allows all the necessary information to be obtained. If this is your first child or it has been 4 or more years since your last baptism you will need to attend a Baptism Prep class.



**Don't forget to include God!**

Here is the site for listing Mass times for travelers:  
[www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org)

While you pack, let the kids look on this website and find the closest church to where you are staying and the Mass times.

After Mass stop in at the local donut shop! Let us know if the donuts are better than our local donuts!



**Have fun and be safe!**



Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Basilica ~ St. Anthony of Padua Parish begins the 4th year of Family Catechesis.

\*\*\*\*\*

Family registration packets will be mailed soon. Have your

calendar ready to add dates, times and activities as we begin the new year. The program focuses on the K—12th grade youth, their parents and guardians.

Guidelines for Reconciliation, Eucharist & Confirmation preparation will be included.

**\*\*Read through the entire packet to see changes & adjustments!**



## THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

# Good News

INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIFE

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

Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24  
Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13  
2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15  
Mark 5:21-43

**Monday June 28**  
**St. Irenaeus**

Genesis 18:16-33  
Ps 103:1b-4, 8-11  
Matthew 8:18-22

**Tuesday June 29**  
**Sts. Peter and Paul**

Acts 12:1-11  
Ps 34:2-9  
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18  
Matthew 16:13-19

**Wednesday June 30**

Genesis 21:5, 8-20a  
Ps 34:7-8, 10-13  
Matthew 8:28-34

**Thursday July 1**

Genesis 22:1b-19  
Ps 115:1-6, 8-9  
Matthew 9:1-8

**Friday July 2**

Genesis 23:1-4, 19;  
24:1-8, 62-67  
Ps 106:1b-2, 3-4a, 4b-5  
Matthew 9:9-13

**Saturday July 3**

**St. Thomas**  
Ephesians 2:19-22  
Ps 117:1bc, 2  
John 20:24-29

Wouldn't it be great if we could actually touch and feel the hem of Jesus' clothing, like the woman in this Sunday's Gospel reading? To be near enough to Jesus to be healed spiritually, physically, and emotionally. How can we, more than 2000 years after he ascended to heaven, get so close to him?



It is possible, and it's exactly what Jesus wants. It comes from developing a better understanding of who Jesus really is and how much God really cares. The synagogue leader understood, which is why he could say: "Please, come lay your hands on my daughter that she may live." He understood Jesus beyond what was in front of his eyes.

Knowing Jesus is to know divine life, which transforms our earthly life into something much more like his and then takes us to heaven. The first reading, remember, states clearly that death is not part

of God's plan. Jesus drives this point home by allowing the girl to die before he reaches her house. Certainly God could have kept her alive until he got there! But he wanted to show us that he could restore life and that he has the power to rescue us from death.

If we fear death, we don't recognize the nearness of Christ. We can touch the hem of his garment, but we

don't see it, and so we don't believe it. In this case, we're like the mourners that Jesus had to chase out of the house before working his miracle.

If we fear that our trials are leading

to disastrous conclusions, we've forgotten how powerful Jesus is, and we've forgotten that he cares enough to rescue us. We need to move ourselves closer to Jesus. We have to press on through the crowd of distractions and doubts, with our eyes fixed only on Jesus and our hands reaching out to him in prayer.

If we fear that God doesn't care enough to help us, we need to spend more time learning why Jesus gave up his life for us and why the Father sent him to us.

#### Reflect & Discuss:

1. Do you believe that Jesus wants to work miraculously in your life?
2. How has the disbelief of the people around you infected your thinking and reduced your faith?
3. Describe a miracle that you saw or experienced. How long did it take?
4. What blessings occurred during the time of suffering?
5. How was all of this an expression of God's love?

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