

# Welcome to OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL CHURCH



**12175 Stringfellow Road, Bokeelia, FL 33922  
(239) 283-0456**

## **Fr. Jacek Mazur, Pastor**

Fr.Jacek@olmm.org

**Rev. Mr. William “Bill” Beck, Deacon**  
deaconbill@comcast.net

**Parish Secretary—Donna Wallis**  
donna.wallis@olmm.org

**Bookkeeper—Diane Gleason**  
diane.gleason@olmm.org

### **Parish Office Hours**

9:00 am—1:00 pm Monday—Friday

[www.miraculousmedalch.org](http://www.miraculousmedalch.org)

Email: [office@olmm.org](mailto:office@olmm.org)

**Knights of Columbus**—Contact Luis Ramos (239) 560-6380

**Baptisms**—Parents must meet with the Pastor for instructions and a date for the ceremony\*

**Marriages**—Couples must see the Pastor at least six months before the intended wedding date\*

**Visits to the Sick**—Please call the Parish Office

**Religious Education**—Sundays, Sept.–May from 9:30 to 11 am. Pre-K through secondary grades

**RCIA**— (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) - Please contact the Pastor for more information

**New Parishioners**—Registration forms are located in the entrance of the Church, at the Parish Office and on our website

**Bereavement Support Group**—No meetings scheduled at this time

**\*Registered parishioners only**

## MASS SCHEDULE

- ◆ **Daily Mass** Monday—Friday 8:30 am
- ◆ **Saturday Vigil** 4:30 pm—Year Round
- ◆ **Sunday Masses**
  - **September through May**  
8:30 am & 10:30 am
  - **June through August**  
9:30 am
- ◆ **Spanish Mass**  
5:00 pm Sunday—Year Round
- ◆ **Holy Days of Obligation** 8:30 am & 6:30 pm  
+++++
- ◆ **Confessions** Fridays after the 8:30 am Mass, Saturdays 3:30 to 4:30 pm or by appointment
- ◆ **Rosary** A half hour prior to daily Mass. Wednesdays the Rosary is dedicated for the protection of our area against disasters. Rosary begins 45 minutes before the first Sunday Mass
- ◆ **Miraculous Medal Novena** Monday following the 8:30 am Mass
- ◆ **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** First Friday of every month beginning at 9:00 am concluding with a brief prayer service and Benediction at Noon
- ◆ **Chaplet of Divine Mercy** First Fridays after the opening of Adoration

**AUGUST 19, 2018—TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**





## Mass Intentions for the Week

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- Mon. Aug 20** +Helen Clifford  
8:30 am Requested by Vin & Joan Bresnahan
- Tues. Aug 21** +Ed Hughes  
8:30 am Requested by Greg & Lucy Lambrecht
- Weds. Aug 22** Members of the Parish  
8:30 am
- Thrs. Aug 23** +Ed Hughes  
8:30 am Requested by Vicki & John Jaunich
- Fri. Aug 24** +Mary Clifford  
8:30 am Requested by Vin & Joan Bresnahan
- Sat. Aug 25** +Anna Templeton  
4:30 pm Requested by Doris & John Pitale
- Sun. Aug 26** +Dave Clark  
9:30 am Requested by Nancy Clark

## Weekly Collections

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**WEEKEND OF AUGUST 4-5, 2018**  
**ATTENDANCE – 338**  
**OFFERTORY—\$4,221.00**  
**SECOND COLLECTION—\$1,024.00**  
**POOR BOX—\$143.00**

*Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church is sustained by the generosity of our parishioners through their selfless offering of time, talent and treasure. Thank you and God Bless!*



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### PRAY THE ROSARY DAILY

**FORMED.org**  
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## This Week

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**Monday, Aug 20, 2018**

- **St. Bernard**

**Tuesday, Aug 21, 2018**

- **St. Pius X**

**Wednesday, Aug 22, 2018**

- **Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

**Thursday, Aug 23, 2018**

- **St. Rose of Lima**
- **Active Shooter Training 6:30 pm PLC**

**Friday, Aug 24, 2018**

- **St. Bartholomew, Apostle**

**Saturday, Aug 25, 2018**

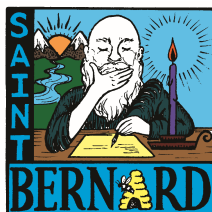
- **St. Louis**
- **St. Joseph Calasanz**
- **Blessed Virgin Mary**
- **Vigil Mass at 4:30 pm**

**Sunday, Aug 26, 2018**

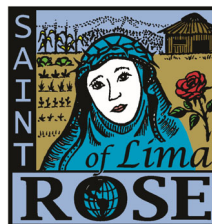
- **Mass at 9:30 am and 5:00 pm (Spanish)**

**Monday, Aug 27, 2018**

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Rose Adams, Tony Ambrose, Carmen & Nilsa Aponte, Joe Arcuri, Glenn Armani, Helen Armani, Babies Laya & Landon, Nora Baker, Barbara Basgall, Jacob Basilotto, Patricia Benson, Peter & Peggy Bercik, Wally Birmingham, Angela Biondello, Ami Blachowiak, Patricia

Blackwell, Rev. Jim Bok, OFM & Mary Gate of Heaven Parish, Negril; Katy Boylan, Peggy Brick, Dolores Brown, Betty Bulifant, Tom Cabot, Chuck Cabot, Patricia Clemens, Mario Corso, Larry DiOrio, Don & Wanda Eck, Wendy Edwards, Aiden Foley, Connor Foley, Michael Fontaine, Justin Fiesta, Leo Hage, Harry Haskins, Shawn Heeter, Pete & Alice Herber, Pat Herbert, Eddie Holloway, Sally Hooper, George & Betty Hoyt, Dave & Carol Humme, JoAnn Ippolito, Everette & Nancy James, Stephanie Jefferson, Diane Jezek, Stan Jock, Arlis Kelly, Jim Kirk, Ken & Ginny Kloiber, Eddie Knowlton, Kent Krabill, Zal Kutar, John Lambrecht, Larry Larson, Ginny LeClaire, Margaret Lines, Anne Lintner, Edward Lodema, Eric Marinelli, Catherine Mazzola, Jim & Joan McCaffrey, Cindy McClure, Kenneth McCurdy, Jim McDonnell, Patty McGlone, Rick McKenna, Jr., Gloria McKeown, Connor McKinnon, Veronica Moran, Gema Moreno, Regina Mulherin, Ruth Nayard, Elizabeth Nomorosa, Bernadette Nyka, Danny O'Herron, Jack O'Neill, Max & Mila Perez, Tyler Peryea, John Pitale, Pal Polster, Shirley Porter, Joe & Catherine Porthouse, Greg Printy, Kristin Ramsey, Tina Reichenwallner, Elly Rode, Jimmy Rosso, John & Janet Rovaldi, Heather Sallstrom Sanchez, Malte Sallstrom, Clarence Schuetz, Paul Sepczynski, Donnie Sheetz, Ann Speitel, Colleen Sullivan, Pat Tweed, Barbara Vadas, Gus Ventimiglia, Melanie Voris, Virginia Waggle, Robert Wallace, Mary Wilcox, Norman Willebrandt, Glenna Wolshlager

### PARISH CALENDAR

August 23-Active Shooter Training 6:30 pm PLC

August 28-Primary Voting Day

August 30-Religious Education Registration

**September 2-Return to Regular Mass Schedule**

September 3-Labor Day

September 9-First day of Religious Education

October 2-Ladies' Guild-First Gathering of the Season

October 8-Columbus Day

October 11-Pilgrimage to National Shrine of Mary

October 25-Fr. Jacek's 17th Ordination Anniversary

October 31-Halloween

### ???QUESTION OF THE WEEK???

What can I do to show others that I have advanced in understanding and that Jesus remains in me?



**2018  
Catholic  
Faith  
Appeal**



**OLMM 2018 CFA STATUS**

Parish Goal \$ 85,000.00  
 Pledged \$ 77,275.95  
 Total Paid \$ 68,429.19  
**Balance Due \$ 16,570.81**  
 a/o 08/02/18

Thank you for your generosity.

**†SAINTS/FEASTS OF THE WEEK†**

**Aug 20-St. Bernard**-A Cistercian monk, mystic and doctor of the Church, St. Bernard was the founder and abbot of the abbey of Clairvaux and known as one of the most influential churchmen of his time.

**Aug 21-St. Pius X**-Taking as his motto "To restore all things in Christ" (Ephesians 1:10), Pius condemned the theological innovations called "modernism," yet dramatically altered the then-common practice whereby people rarely received Communion for fear of unworthiness, mandating early First Communion and urging everyone to frequent reception.-*Peter Scagnelli, Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch Co., Inc*

**Aug 22-St. Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary**-In the papal encyclical *Ad Caeli Reginam*, issued by Pope Pius XII, it states that Mary is called Queen of Heaven because her son, Jesus Christ, is the king of Israel and heavenly king of the universe; indeed, the Davidic tradition of Israel recognized the mother of the king as the Queen Mother of Israel.-*Wikipedia*

**Aug 23-St. Rose of Lima**-When at last her family became convinced that she did not aspire to marriage, she adopted the name of Rose when she entered the Third Order of St. Dominic. As a Dominican tertiary Rose lived at home, dedicating herself to prayer, daily work, and care of the poor. Her life of prayer and penance was exemplary; she built a personal house of prayer, an oratory, in her garden. One room in her house became a hospital where she could take care of the sick and those who flocked to her. As great a saint as she was, her life was marked by sacrifice and spiritual anguish. She died at thirty-one, becoming the first Latin American to be canonized; she was declared the patron saint of Latin America.-*Miguel Arias, Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.*

**Aug 24-St. Bartholomew, Apostle**-One of the twelve apostles of Jesus, St. Bartholomew, also known as Nathaniel, is credited with many miracles regarding the weight of objects and is known as the patron saint of the Armenian Apostolic Church.

**Aug 25-St. Louis**-A King of France, St. Louis is the only canonized king of France. He was a reformer and developed the French Royal Justice and developed the "presumption of innocence" in criminal matters. He banned trials by ordeal and tried to prevent private wars.

**-St. Joseph Calasanz**-A Spanish Catholic priest and educator, St. Joseph Calasanz instituted the Pious schools which provided free education to the children of the poor.

**"Without the burden of afflictions it is impossible to reach the height of Grace. The gift of Grace increases as the struggle increases."**

-*St. Rose of Lima*

**TELEVISED MASS TO THE HOMEBOUND**

WFTX-TV FOX 4 – Sundays at 10:30 am

The Mass is also available on the Diocese of Venice website, [www.dioceseofvenice.org/tvmass](http://www.dioceseofvenice.org/tvmass).

**Donations may be sent to:** TV Mass, 1000 Pinebrook Road, Venice, FL 34285  
 For questions call 941-486-

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED**

**Alice Ambrose, Sal Anastasio, Ed Anderson, Pat Auge, Mary Lou Beck, Roger Bolduc, Al Doerman, Jo Ann Grabenstetter, Gerry Green, Mary Hagan, Daniel Higgins, Helen Holfelner, Lil Honc, Ed Hughes, Pat Jock, James Kennedy, Betty Licari, Dr. Lou Mauney, Kathryn McGuineas, Leo Miller, Wes Morris, Maureen Murphy, Jim O'Neill, Volker Oelze, Fred "Fritz" Schoenbaechler, Jeanette Smith, Muriel Urrico, Victor Zawadski**

***"Eternal rest grant unto them Oh Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they Rest in Peace."***

**Prayer for Safety In Hurricane Season**

O God, Master of this passing world, hear the humble voices of your children.

The Sea of Galilee obeyed Your order and returned to its former quietude.

You are still the Master of land and sea.

We live in the shadow of a danger over which we have no control:

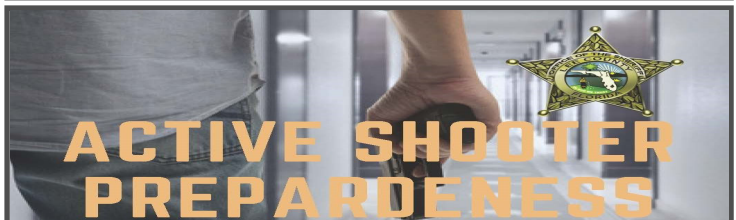
the Gulf, like a provoked and angry giant, can awake from its seeming lethargy, overstep its conventional boundaries, invade our land, and spread chaos and disaster.

During this hurricane season we turn to You, O loving Father.

Spare us from past tragedies whose memories are still so vivid and whose wounds seem to refuse to heal with passing of time.

O Virgin, Star of the Sea, Our beloved Mother, we ask you to plead with your Son on our behalf, so that spared from the calamities common to this area and animated with a true spirit of gratitude, we will walk in the footsteps of your Divine Son to reach the heavenly Jerusalem, where a stormless eternity awaits us. **Amen.**

*[Composed by Most Rev. Maurice Schexnayder (1895-1981), Second Bishop of Lafayette (1956-1973), following Hurricane Audrey in 1957]*

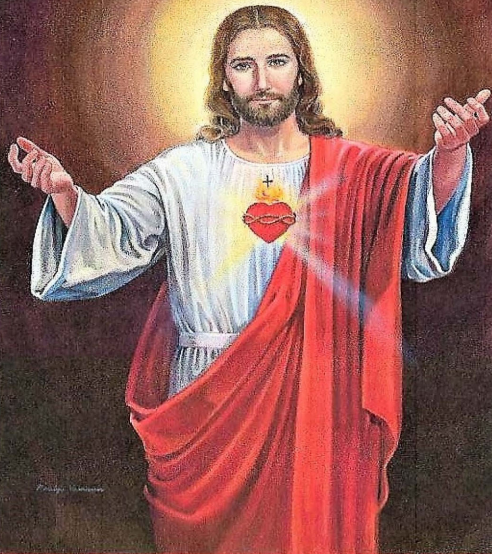


**ACTIVE SHOOTER PREPAREDNESS**

We see it in the news almost weekly .... Someone opens fire at a school, a concert, a restaurant, a mall and ..... a church. It is unfortunate that we live in such times, but we must inform ourselves on how to act and protect ourselves and our loved ones in a terrifying situation. Please join us on Thursday, August 23rd at 6:30 pm in the Parish Life Center for an Active Shooter training session presented by Staff Officer Griffith from the Lee County Sheriff's Office. **ALL** parishioners-**young and old**-are invited to attend. A light dinner will be served. Please RSVP the Parish Office by August 20th.



Love one another as I have loved you.  
John 15:12



Artwork by Marilyn Hamann. Used with permission from www.Popesprayerusa.net

## 2018 STATEWIDE FLORIDA RESPECT LIFE CONFERENCE

September 28-29  
Punta Gorda

### SCHEDULE

#### Friday, September 28

##### Pre-Conference:

2:00 PM **Deacon Al Mauriello, MD**  
*End of Life Issues:  
A Catholic Perspective*

3:00 PM **F. Michael Gloth, III, MD**  
*Dementia & Managing  
Challenging Behaviors*

4:00 PM Questions & Answers

5:00 PM Dinner on own

5:00 PM Registration Opens

##### Conference:

7:00 PM Opening Prayer Service

7:30 PM **Terry Beatley**  
*The Deadliest American Hoax*

9:00 PM Closing Prayer

#### Saturday, September 29

8:00 AM Registration Opens

8:30 AM Mass at Sacred Heart Church  
(211 West Charlotte Avenue -  
1/2 mile south -  
optional parish Mass)

9:00 AM Continental Breakfast

9:45 AM Opening Prayer & Welcome

10:00 AM **Bishop Mark Seitz**  
Keynote:  
*Love One Another  
As I Have Loved You*

11:00 AM **Stephanie Gray**  
*Sacred Life, Pro-Life:  
Making a Beautiful Choice*

#### SATURDAY SCHEDULE CONTINUED

12:00 PM Lunch and Displays

1:00 PM **Pam Stenzel**  
*Prevention and Intervention:  
Important Roles in Building a  
Culture of Life*

2:00 PM **Catherine Davis & Panel**  
*Recovery: Healing a  
Post-Abortion Society*

3:00 PM Chaplet of Divine Mercy  
in Song

3:30 PM **Marietta Jaeger Lane**  
*From Fury to Forgiveness:  
A Mother's Journey through  
the Loss of her Daughter*

4:30 PM **F. Michael Gloth, III, MD**  
*Spirituality in Primary Care &  
Physician Assisted Suicide*

5:30 PM Break/Prepare for Mass

6:00 PM Mass at Event Center

7:00 PM Banquet with Live Music  
and Awards

9:00 PM Closing

We would like to have a table of 10 from our parish for the closing banquet on Saturday evening, September 29th. Please contact Bonnie LaVigne or the Parish Office if you're interested in attending.

## HOPE AFTER ABORTION

**Sylvia Jimenez**  
Project Rachel  
Coordinator

Compassionate &  
confidential help:  
941-412-5860  
(English, español & Deutsch)

project.rachel@dioceseofvenice.org  
www.hopeafterabortion.com

## project rachel Peace starts here



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Venice, FL 34285  
941-441-1101



www.dioceseofvenice.org/respectlife



### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION

On Thursday, August 30th, we will be holding a Religious Education dinner/registration/informational event in the Parish Life Center beginning at 6:30 pm for Religious Ed students and their parents. Please bring a copy of your child's Baptism Certificate. We look forward to seeing you then! Please sign up on the form in the Narthex or contact the Parish Office by August 27th.

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES BEGIN SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH!!!!

"Qui me amat, amet et canem meum. (Who loves me will love my dog also.)" -St. Bernard of Clairvaux

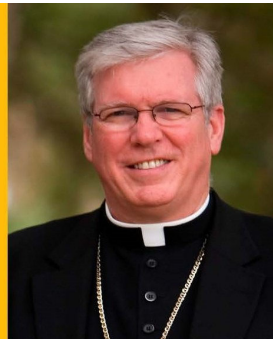
**WE WILL RETURN TO OUR REGULAR  
MASS SCHEDULE THE WEEKEND OF  
SEPTEMBER 1-2, 2018  
AS FOLLOWS:**

**SATURDAY VIGIL—4:30 PM  
SUNDAY MASSES—8:30 & 10:30 AM  
5:00 PM SPANISH MASS**

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# Gusten y vean qué bueno es el Señor

## 19 de agosto de 2018 • Vigésimo Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

La sabiduría a menudo se le identifica con Cristo y con el Espíritu Santo. Ambos están presentes en las lecturas de hoy, uno como metáfora y otro como doctrina. “Aquel que le falte juicio (sabiduría), vengan, aliméntense con mi comida, y beban del vino que he preparado”. Ella nos recuerda, “Abandona la insensatez para que vivas, avanza en el camino de la sabiduría”.

Jesús nos recuerda a estar unidos con él de una forma íntima con su Cuerpo y Sangre en la Eucaristía. Estamos bendecidos con el don de la sabiduría, si solo reconocemos esto y aceptamos a nuestro Señor en nuestro corazón.

### RECIBEME Y VIVE

“¿Cómo puede este hombre darnos de comer de su carne? En aquellos días, antes de comprender el significado de la Eucaristía, antes de la Última Cena cuando Jesús se ofreció él mismo a sus discípulos en el pan y el vino, esto pudo haber sido una pregunta teológica razonable, y también lógica. Ellos no entendieron. Ellos no tenían la sabiduría para ver la metáfora, o para entender el conocimiento que estaba por venir.

Pero aquellas personas que estaban abiertas a las palabras de Jesús, el pan de vida estaba ofrecido y aceptado como el camino a la vida eterna. Quizá ellos no entendieron que Jesús estaba hablando de la vida eterna, no nuestra vida terrenal, que sería dada por la eternidad, sino que estaban cautivos por la metáfora y creyeron. “Aquel que coma mi carne y beba mi sangre tendrá vida eterna”. Es posible estar confundido y aun así creer.

¿Entonces, qué significa esto para nosotros hoy? La sabiduría es algo que realmente necesitamos en nuestro mundo, y es uno de los dones del Espíritu Santo. Al participar del Cuerpo y Sangre de nuestro Señor obtenemos tanto sabiduría como la vida eterna, y participamos de la vida de Dios, la Santísima Trinidad y de la otra persona con amor y cariño. Debemos dejar nuestras tonterías y creer.

Lecturas de hoy: Prov 9:1-6; Sal 34 (33):2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Ef 5:15-20; Jn 6:51-58

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**"Sin la carga de las aflicciones, es imposible alcanzar el nivel de gracia. El don de la Gracia aumenta a medida que aumenta la lucha ."**

-St. Rosa de Lima

### CATHOLIC HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

Travel back in time to the ancient Holy Land and birthplace of Jesus and Christianity. Follow in the footsteps of Jesus for the spiritual experience of a lifetime in a fully escorted, customized, guided pilgrimage to the Holy Land with three priests, inclusive of daily Masses, first class hotels, all breakfasts, all lunches, all dinners, and round trip airfare for 9 days, (February 16<sup>th</sup> – February 24<sup>th</sup> 2019)

This is truly a Catholic Pilgrimage with spiritual meaning and great value, not just another tour.

Call Father Hoyer at 954-854-0079, or the tour agency (Altura Tours) at 1-800-242-4122 for complete information and group pricing.

The Deadline fast approaches! Book by November 15, 2018! Hurry, the group is limited and will sell out soon.

If you have not walked where Jesus walked, now is the time!



Envelopes

We are beginning the process of ordering new offertory envelopes for the 2019 calendar year. If you are not using envelopes but would like to, please contact the Parish office to register.

### Know Your Immigration Rights Conozca Sus Derechos de Inmigración

La Conferencia Estado Unidos de Obispos Católicos (USCCB) ha proporcionado un video en español y en inglés sobre los derechos de los inmigrantes. Por favor vaya a [www.dioceseofvenice.org](http://www.dioceseofvenice.org) y haga clic en el banner "Conozca Sus Derechos" para ver los videos.

### V Encuentro, Sesiones del Decanato Norte

La Oficina del Apostolado Hispano de la Diócesis de Venice organiza una serie de sesiones por decanatos para continuar el proceso del V Encuentro. Los fieles del Decanato Centro están invitados a participar a la siguiente reunión que se realizará en: Epiphany Cathedral, 350 Tampa Avenue West, Venice, Martes 25 de Julio, 6:30 p.m., La alegría de ser discípulos misioneros. Información: [pastoralhispana@diocesofvenice.org](mailto:pastoralhispana@diocesofvenice.org).



## AUGUST 19, 2018 TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### THIS EUCHARISTIC FEAST

Some things about human nature don't change, even over the course of centuries. When we celebrate a holiday, we have a meal; when we celebrate a significant event, we have a feast. In today's first reading, Lady Wisdom is setting a feast, a sign of celebrating the covenant that Israel has with God. Israel's central remembrance of its saving Exodus covenant is the Passover meal. So it is natural—and not coincidental—that the Christian celebration of the new covenant sealed by the blood of Christ on the cross happens at a meal, our Eucharist, offered first by Jesus in the context of Passover remembrance. It is easy for us, sometimes, to forget the very long and rich religious and human origins of our eucharistic feasting on the bread and cup that are the Body and Blood of Jesus. Today, and for the next few Sundays that we hear the "Bread of Life" discourse from John, let us bring to mind the loving covenant that God makes with us, and be filled with great joy at this marvelous feast that we have come to attend!

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### TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — Wisdom has built her house; she has dressed her meat, mixed her wine, yes, she has spread her table (Proverbs 9:1-6).

**Psalm** — Taste and see the goodness of the Lord (Psalm 34).

**Second Reading** — Be filled with the Spirit, giving thanks always and for everything (Ephesians 5:15-20).

**Gospel** — I am the living bread that came down from heaven (John 6:51-58).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

### TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Sometimes the heat of summer translates into unrest in a city's streets. In the summer of 1834, popular sentiment against the presence of the Ursuline nuns near Boston reached a boiling point. An influx of Irish laborers had an impact on the work force in the city, and a deep-seated resentment against Catholics fueled the fire. The nuns supported themselves with a school, and most of the young women students were drawn from patrician Protestant families. Nevertheless, rumors fed by the saga of an unhappy junior sister and a later episode of a senior sister fleeing the place increased tensions. The city's selectmen were given a tour by the disgruntled sister, who by then had returned, and found all things in good order. That didn't please the mob, and the mother superior didn't help matters when she said that the bishop had platoons of Irishmen at hand, twenty thousand strong, to do marauders harm. By August 11, the convent had been invaded, ransacked, and burned to the ground. The nuns fled to Maine and Canada. The diocese attempted to recover losses, but the commonwealth offered only ten thousand dollars, which was rejected. Years later, a legislative bill for the state to rebuild the convent and school was roundly defeated. Yet the enterprise of Catholic education had great resilience, and in 1946, more than a hundred years after the riots, the Ursulines returned to Boston to re-establish an academy that endures to the present day. —Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

### THE GIFT OF GRACE

The gift of grace increases as the struggles increase.

—St. Rose of Lima



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### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: z 24:15-24; Dt 32:18-21; Mt 19:16-22

Tuesday: Ez 28:1-10; Dt 32:26-28, 30, 35cd-36ab; Mt 19:23-30

Weds: Ez 34:1-11; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 20:1-16

Thurs: Ez 36:23-28; Ps 51:12-15, 18-19; Mt 22:1-14

Friday: Rv 21:9b-14; Ps 145:10-13, 17-18; Jn 1:45-51

Saturday: Ez 43:1-7a; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Mt 23:1-12

Sunday: Jos 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b; Ps 34:2-3, 16-21;

Eph 5:21-32 [2a, 25-32]; Jn 6:60-69

### YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT

The effect of receiving the body and blood of Christ is to change us into what we receive. —Pope Saint Leo the Great

### MAKING THE MOST OF THE OPPORTUNITY

The Letter to the Ephesians speaks to us, urging wisdom in our discernment of how to live the Christian life. We are to "watch carefully . . . making the most of opportunity," and "try to understand what is the will of the Lord" (5:15). We are promised a generous outpouring of God's help in our attempts to live the gospel: the Eucharist. This is the "living bread," the Body and Blood of the Lord. To those who can only think literally, this seems not only foolish, but repulsive as well. We need to have more wisdom, understanding, and faith to understand properly what we have been asked to believe. For our bread, which is food, and our wine, which is drink, to be transformed from things that give life to the body into Christ, who gives life to the soul, another great transformation must take place. Not only are the physical elements transformed, we are transformed as well. If we become people of Wisdom, eating of this banquet, we become one with Christ, who is one with God. We become the Body of Christ, his living and real presence.

**FOR THE LIFE OF THE WORLD**—This wisdom for us is foolishness to the world. But there is a saying, "The proof of the pudding is in the eating." When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we become what we eat; that is, we become one with the Lord and with each other. The proof of this is in our love. If we love God, if we love each other, and if we love others and serve them in charity, our love will be living proof of God's life and in charity in the world. We truly become the Body of Christ.—Copyright (c) 2005, World Library Publications. All rights reserved.

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**Blessed Art Thou**



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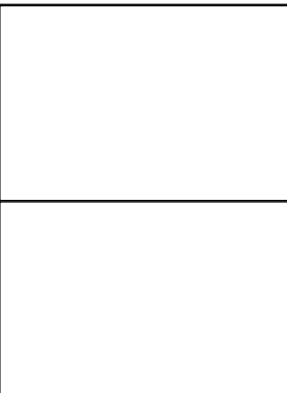
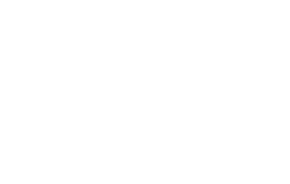
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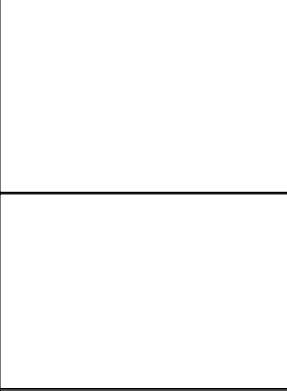
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