

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

A life-long Catholic friend of mine recently mumbled to me, "I can't stand all these converts to the faith. They're always rocking the boat." It surprised me because he is dedicated to evangelization, and yet he

struggles with openness to new Catholics. It made me realize how easily I close my heart to those whom I perceive to be outsiders who become new members of the Catholic community. Almost unconsciously I reduce the world to the categories of "us" and "them." The result is that meaningful community silently shrinks in my life. Don't we all do that to some degree?

This week Jesus' punchy parable about the two sons blows up that black and white world. One son said he wouldn't get to work, and then did. The other said he would, and then he did not. "Which did the will of his father?" asks the Lord. Like so many of us, in identifying the first as the answer, the religious authorities manifest hidden hypocrisy in refusing to follow Jesus. They — like us — intuit the correct path but simply won't do it. The tax collectors and prostitutes are indeed following Jesus and thereby getting to work in the kingdom of God. Everyone is called to do God's will regardless of the labels we may apply to them.

This week let's reject the convenient but damaging categories of "insiders" and "outsiders." Instead, let's embrace a grateful attitude that Jesus is calling fallen, weak, and broken men and women like you and me. Then we begin to see that the tax collectors and prostitutes aren't them. They are us. And Jesus wants all of us working in his boat, no matter the rocking.— Father John Muir



Weekly Contributions

September 17, 2023

Total Collection: \$7,522.50

September 24, 2024

Total Collection: \$7,288.15

Thank you for your generous support!

Mass Count

Date 2023	5:00p	8:00a	10:30a	Total
Sept 10	133	85	192	410
Sept 17	184	91	142	417
Sept 24	122	86	148	356

Mass Intentions for the Week

MONDAY ~ October 2 ~ The Holy Guardian Angels

8:30AM Larry McGarry, *Thomas Family*

TUESDAY ~ October 3 ~ Weekday

8:30AM Andrew Poploske, *Charles West*

7:30 Livestream Rosary on Facebook

WEDNESDAY ~ October 4 ~ St. Francis of Assisi

8:30AM Frank Mercuri, Jr., *Mercuri & Sejnowski*

6:00PM Pet Blessing in Yard *Families*

THURSDAY ~ October 5 ~ St. Faustina Kowalska

8:30AM Alicia Boyd, *The Shell Family*

FRIDAY ~ October 6 ~ St. Bruno

8:30AM Anthony & Theresa Buzecan, *Stephanie Buzecan*

7:30PM Livestream Rosary on Facebook

SATURDAY ~ October 7 ~ Vigil Mass

5:00PM Bill & Helen Malinowski, *Tom & Anita*

Malinowski

5:00PM Livestream Mass

SUNDAY ~ Oct. 8th 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00AM Mass for Parishioners

10:30AM Bob & Barb Pritchard, *Pritchard Family*



Readings ~ week of October 2, 2023

Sunday: Ez 18:25-28/Ps 25/Phil 2:1-11

Monday: Zec 8:1-8/Ps 102/Mt 18:1-5, 10

Tuesday: Zec 8:20-23/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7/Lk 9:51-56

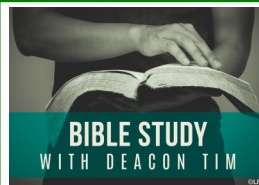
Wednesday: Neh 2:1-8/Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6/Lk 9:57-62

Thursday: Neh 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12/Ps 19/Lk 10:1-12

Friday: Bar 1:15-22/Ps 79:1b-2, 3-5, 8, 9/Lk 10:13-16

Saturday: Bar 4:5-12, 27-29/Ps 69/Lk 10:17-24

Next Sunday: Is 5:1-7/Ps 80/Phil 4:6-9/Mt 21:33-4



Gospel of Mark Bible Study

Who was Mark? Where did Mark get his authority for writing the Gospel?

Learn the answers to these questions as well as find out why the Gospel of Mark was the original "The Fast and the Furious".

We will be meeting in the ATR starting

Thursdays, September 28 at 7 PM.

Contact Deacon Tim to register.

Email: tim@stjustin.net or 440-364-8088.

From the desk of Father Kevin:

Dear Parishioners,

Each year Respect Life Month calls us to thank God for the great gift of life and to enhance and protect the gift of life especially for the most vulnerable in our world. This year we have a special focus on helping women and their children in difficult circumstances overcome obstacles that restrict their ability to live. The dignity and life of both mother and child motivate our rejection of the violence of abortion, especially in its political manifestation as Issue 1 on the November ballot in Ohio.



Pope Francis has said that abortion is not primarily a Catholic or even a religious issue, it is first and foremost a human rights issue. If we fail to protect life, no other rights matter.

Pope Benedict reminds us: *"We are not some casual or meaningless product of evolution. Each of us is the result of a thought of God. Each of us is willed, each of us is loved, each of us is necessary."*

Pope John Paul II put it this way: Human beings have been given *"a sublime dignity, based on the intimate bond which unites [us] to [our] Creator."* We are a sign of God's love, *"a trace of his glory."* From the moment of conception through death and into eternity, each of us lives in relation to God, the Lord of life. The value and dignity of human life do not change according to health or other circumstances.



The journey away from a culture of death and toward following Christ to eternal life goes by way of the Cross: loving others to the point that we die to our personal pride and selfishness, our tendency to view others as obstacles or as things to be used.

A rich young man asked Jesus, *"What good must I do to gain eternal life?"* Jesus replied that one must learn to love God, and *"love your neighbor as yourself."*

This is the model God has given us—a model of love and solidarity with those entrusted to our care, and those we meet on the way. By witnessing this model in our own lives—by holding fast to the moral truths preserved by our faith and "going out of" ourselves for others—we can inspire others to do the same, and help *"build a world where human life is always loved and defended, every form of violence banished."*

Peace, Father Kevin

Thank you for your generous support of parish life. Three years have passed since we last asked all parishioners to prayerfully consider increasing their offertory giving. We have many new parishioners, many have moved away and circumstances have changed for us all. Next weekend we will begin the **"We Follow Jesus in Faith, Prayer and Service"** program of stewardship prayer and reflection. Please consider your thanks to God for all the good God has done for us all in our life and through the life of the Church.



St. Justin Martyr Prayer Chain Line

Contact Mary Jane,
440-953-9729 or email
mbuehner@ameritech.net.

Leave a message and we will add your intention to the prayer chain.

Eucharistic Adoration: Daily in the Chapel 9am-4:30pm

"It is pleasant to spend time with Him, to lie close to His breast like the Beloved Disciple and to feel the infinite love present in His Heart....how can we not feel a renewed need to spend time in spiritual converse, in silent adoration, in heartfelt love before Christ present in the Most Holy Sacrament?"

—St. John Paul II



Come spend time with Jesus.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for all of our parishioners who are sick or hospitalized: Margaret Abel, Susan Adler, Sandy Almasy, Patricia Bacon, June Barr, Jeff & Sue Beam, Mary Lou Beers, Frank Brown, John Brown, Marc Christovich, Sam Cilaberto, Kelly Cipiti, Carolyn & John Cutler, Paul Dendinger, William Downie, Frances Eppich, Pauline Feterman, Bonnie Frech, Frank Germano, Marge Gorenc, Dave Granchi, Joanne Grisanti, Ruth Gryzmala, Ann Hobart, Ed Hurayt, Melanie Hurayt, Daniel Jastredowski, Diane Jurick, Jela Katavic, Alexis Kramer, John Kelly, Katherine Kirsch, Sherise Landrey, Brian Lloyd, Bob Marshall, Diane Marshall, Bud Martello, Gary Meinke, Ann Miller, Bill Monreal, Jenny Panella, Kellie Pastor, Kevin Perkins, Cindy Pike, Doug Rhodes, Joe Ritzu, Joshua Rosian, Tim Rosian, Joan Rozak, Joyce Russo, Jackie Scheid, Audrey Smith, Ed Snyder, Chris Stano, Dorothy & Joe Strand, James Urbanek, Gregory Usko, Eva Variano, Phil Wolfson, Michael Wrayno, Ken Zalar, the shut-ins, those in nursing homes, needing prayers, and all of the intentions written in our Book of Prayers located in the gallery. **Please call the office if you would like someone added or removed, or email sjmoffice@stjustin.net.**



Mass Intentions for your loved ones are still being accepted for the 2024 year.

A stipend of \$10 per Mass is requested. If you need a form please go on our website or pick one up in the parish office.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE[®]

THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF ABORTION

Join other St. Justin Martyr parishioners on Thursdays from Sept. 28 through November 2 outside Family Planning in Painesville.

You are invited to join with other Christians for 40 Days for Life – 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion. You are also invited to stand and peacefully pray anytime between 7 am to 7 pm during the 40-day vigil in the public right-of-way outside **Family Planning** – 54 South State St, Painesville, 44077. **Join us at the Kickoff Rally at St. John Vianney on Monday, September 25, at 7pm**, 7575 Bellflower Road, Mentor, 44060. The Keynote Speaker is Bishop Michael Woost.


Please contact John at clevelandpraysforlife@gmail.com or 216-245-9744 for more info.



Our Food Pantry is in great need of **INSTANT MASHED POTATOES!!**

If you can help we would greatly appreciate it. Place items in the baskets located **in the gallery for our needy!**

Home candles are now priced at \$5.00 due to the increased cost.



Vote NO
Issue 1
Nov. 7

PROTECT
Women.

PROTECT
Families.

PROTECT
Children.



YOUR VOTE IS NEEDED TO SAVE THOUSANDS OF LIVES FOR YEARS TO COME!

An extreme amendment is on the Ohio ballot that threatens the health and safety of women, the rights of parents, and the lives of pre-born babies up to 9 months.

VOTE OHIO.GOV
for voting details



Learn more at:
ohiocathconf.org/protect



Paid for by: Catholic Conference of Ohio



A Pilgrim's Journey

I have been blessed to go on a number of pilgrimages. On the surface, it looks a lot like a vacation, but there is so much more to a pilgrimage than a simple vacation. While a vacation takes the vacationer to another place in a physical sense, a pilgrimage takes the pilgrim to another place not just in a physical sense but in a spiritual sense as well.

A holy site is a place where heaven has touched earth. Where the lines of the spiritual world and the temporal world blur. A journey to a holy site allows the opportunity to connect on another level. My wife, Sandi, and I were blessed to be able to travel to Medjugorje on Pilgrimage. It is a place of peace, prayer, and reconciliation. It was more than just seeing the places where the Blessed Mother appeared to the children, it was about connecting to the spiritual culture of the place.



When Peter, James and John were on Mount Tabor with the transfigured Jesus, Peter became so excited that he didn't want to leave. Can't we just put up tents and stay here forever? That was the same feeling we had in Medjugorje. It is so easy to pray there; so easy to connect with God. But like the disciples, we had to come down from the mountain. Their experience on Mount Tabor was to get them ready for what awaited them. Similarly, we had to come down from Mount Križevac and Apparition Hill and return to Northeast Ohio to what awaits us. Renewed and refreshed to do God's will.

You don't have to travel 5,000 miles to go on pilgrimage. There are many places close to home including the Lourdes Shrine in Euclid. There is a procession with rosary and Benediction every Sunday at 4 PM. If you would like to travel a little further, there is the Sorrowful Mother Shrine in Bellevue or Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation in Carey. But you don't even have to leave Eastlake. You can visit Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament any day from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM in the chapel and St. Justin Martyr. Wherever God leads you, go into the time with an open heart and let God fill you with blessings. **Peace and Blessings, Deacon Tim**



Pet Blessing for the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi

Wednesday, October 4 at 6pm in the Front Yard

Meet Deacon Tim in the yard in front of the main entrance to the Church. All are welcome. All pets must be in cages or on leashes. Thank you!

Charles Hunt, MA
Director of Religious Education

PSR: Parish School of Religion

PSR Classes for grades 1-8 began on Monday, September 11. **It is not too late to sign up!** Registration forms are available in the church gallery. They are also online at www.stjustin.net; go to Forms & choose a printable or fillable PDF form. Classes have faith-filled & experienced teachers who will guide your children as disciples of Jesus Christ. SJM PSR is for children who attend public school.

RCIA: Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Men and women are gradually introduced to the Catholic way of life and become fully initiated members through the RCIA. If you or someone you know are interested in joining the Catholic Church at St. Justin Martyr, please speak with Fr. Kevin, a team member or the RCIA coordinator, Charlie Hunt at 440-946-3287 or charles@stjustin.net. You are invited to offer a Rosary for the intention that others will answer the Lord's call to become members of His Church.

The CHOSEN: Season 3



The Chosen is an inspiring dramatization of the life of Christ. Watch the 3rd season with fellow parishioners. The series started Tuesday September 12. It is from 1:00-2:30 p.m. in the school's ATR Room. It's not too late too join in.

Contact Charlie Hunt for more information and to register at (440) 946-3287 or charles@stjustin.net.

Catholic Humor

A Catholic widow confronted a burglar in her kitchen one night. She had no weapon to scare him off. Being well versed with the Bible, she raised her hand and shouted, "Acts 2:38". The crook froze, allowing the widow to call 911. The police arrived and were amazed to find the burglar standing as still as a statue. "What did you say to him, ma'am?" one officer asked. She replied that she simply quoted scripture to him: "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven." The police officers turned to the criminal and asked, "Why did her scripture verse frighten you so much?" "Scripture?" declared the burglar, "I thought she said she had an axe and 2 38s!"



St. Mary Magdalene Magnificat Council
Knights of Columbus need your help!

Help us help the refugees and immigrants through One Hope NEO transition into safe homes. Due to the conflicts and natural disasters around the world there is a significant need right here in Cleveland.

We are collecting: Brooms, dust pans, shower curtains, shower liners, shower curtain hooks and shower rods and cash donations through Oct. 15.

Items may be dropped off in the box in the gallery to help those truly in need to make a new start here in Cleveland! Questions: Call Mark Blase 216-832-3479 .or Greg Tabar 440-487-8185.

Beth Rossetti, Pastoral Associate
beth@stjustin.net 440-946-1177

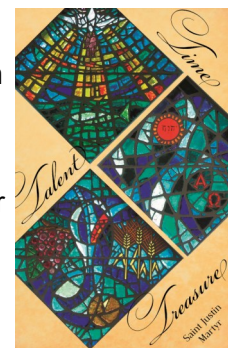
CONFIRMATION 2024 Our next session is on **October 15, following the 10:30am Mass**. We'll see you at Mass and then complete our session. We will take our prayer partner pictures after Mass.



The Funeral Ministry is in need of altar servers. You will be trained to be an altar server. You do not have to serve Sunday Mass only funerals on occasion. Contact Beth if you can help out.



We will have a **Stewardship Committee meeting on Wednesday October 18 at 6:30PM in the Church Meeting Room**. We are always looking for new members to help plan various activities for the parish. Come share your ideas and help out with our ideas for the year. Contact Beth in the parish office for more information. This is a great way to have a low commitment to making our parish vibrant. All ideas are great ideas.



Infant Loss Memorial Mass

Thursday
October 12
7pm

For those who have ever suffered miscarriage, stillbirth, or infant death.

Please RSVP
St-Gabriel.org
or call 440-352-8282 or
Karbren330@yahoo.com



Sponsored by the
Elizabeth and
Respect Life Ministries

Rosary for America Rally

Location: American Croatian Lodge (Outside front Law;
SW Corner of SOM and Lakeshore

When: Noon-1:00pm, Saturday, October 7, 2023

Why: Please join us as we practice our freedom of religion publicly and pray to Honor our Lady and heal our country through the Patriotic Rosary. We will pray for the United States of America and its leaders.



CRAZR tickets sold out!



Holy Name Society News

We are pleased to announce the **Fund CRAZR tickets SOLD OUT!** Thank you for your generous support!

Men's Underwear and Sock Drive

What: Place NEW Men's underwear and socks in any size for the homeless and needy or cash donations to be used for the purchase of underwear and socks in the box in the Gallery. You can also drop cash donations in the Parish Office marked HOLY NAME DRIVE.

Who: Donations will go to the Elyria Hospital Center clothing bank ministry who help serve local neighbors in need. *Thank you in advance for your generous support of this drive. For questions call Dave, 440-951-4384.*

Join the Holy Name Society

All men are welcome to attend the next Holy Name Meeting, October 2 at 7:15 in Parish Hall Meeting Room.



2023 Advent Tea

Sunday, December 3

More information soon.

Contact: louise@stjustin.net

SVDP Blanket Sunday

Thanks to people like you last year we were able to purchase and distribute 5,400+ blankets and 138 mattresses and bed to homeless shelters and local individuals and families in need. Our 1,800+ volunteers provided more than \$12 million worth of emergency assistance to neighbors in need throughout the Diocese of Cleveland.

We are asking for your financial support again through monetary donations to increase our buying power through to help and support the needy and disadvantaged in the Diocese of Cleveland.

Please take an envelope from the table in the vestibule and return it the weekend of October 14-15. Help keep the needy warm this winter!



America Needs Fatima

Saturday, October 14

**Begins all over the country at Noon
Front of St. Justin Martyr Church**

Please join members from our parish as we pray with hundreds of thousands of the faithful throughout this country. Bring a chair, your rosary and a friend.

Ann Lyall will lead us in prayer as we lift up our country to Our Lady of Fatima.

Event will be held rain or shine.



VOCATIONS AT THE CROSSROADS

The following parishioners are scheduled to receive the cross during the month of October:

Week of October 7-8:

Bernie Green

Week of October 14-15:

Ann Lyall

Week of October 21-22:

Debbie Ivans

Week of October 28-29:

Nancy Gansey



If anyone cannot make their week, please call Loretta Vanagas at 942-7396. Thank you for your time and prayers. Thank you to all who pray in this special way for vocations. If anyone is interested in also taking the cross home for a week, please call the parish office or Loretta.

LAST CALL FOR TICKETS

October 4, 2023

St. Justin Martyr

Traditional Spaghetti Dinner

(Pre-paid orders only for dine-in and take-out)

Adult Dinner includes:

Spaghetti, 2 Meatballs, Salad, Roll and Dessert

Children's Dinner Includes:

Spaghetti, 1 Meatball, Salad, Roll and Dessert

\$10.00 Adults

\$5 Children

(12 and under)

PREPAID orders may be dropped off at the Parish Office or placed in the Offertory Collection bin.



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2023

5:30-7:00PM

In Parish Hall