



6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

"It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. This I command you: love one another." - Jn 15:16-17

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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MASS:

Wednesday 9:00 a.m.

Sunday 9:00 a.m.

Parish Pastoral Council:

Chris Bonacci; Shawna Bonacci; Andrea Neff; Eddie Odom; Amy Pollice; Joe Vivacqua; Tony Winterburn

A Monk Named Merton

Yours truly had something of a surprise recently when I was talking with a lifelong Catholic in his sixties and happened to mention the name of Thomas Merton.

"You know," I said. "The famous Catholic monk." Nothing. "The most famous monk in the world until he was accidentally electrocuted in Thailand while attending an ecumenical event?" The man assured me he had no idea who I was talking about. "The author of 'The Seven Storey Mountain' New York Times bestseller," I tried again. Still no response.

This conversation awakened me to the realization that all of us, even many of our most devout, best educated, most involved Catholics have certain gaps in our knowledge of Church history and its illustrious figures.

While it is all but impossible to summarize the life of Thomas Merton in a few lines, those familiar with him know he was a convert who chronicled his conversion to Catholicism and the religious life in the 1948 bestseller mentioned above. The book had a huge cultural impact. The Trappist monastery in Gethsemani, KY., where Merton lived, had been built to house sixty monks; because of his book, nearly 300 men came to live there in the 1950s, hungering for depth in their spiritual life.

Merton's books became bestsellers and he became known around the world as a spiritual teacher and world peace advocate. There are probably 50 books about his life, his spiritual insights, and his influence, all written since his death at 53 in 1968. Known in religious life as Father Louis, he is buried beneath a simple small white cross with his brothers in faith. Thousands continue to visit the monastery to pray at his grave.

One of my most valued possessions is an Image paperback of his selected writings, given to me at 24 in hopes of fostering a vocation to religious life. While that never happened, I maintain great admiration for men and women living in religious congregations. It takes a special kind of person (and God's grace) to stay with that commitment for a lifetime.

By the way, Merton's 76-year-old book remains a compelling read. His journey from self-absorbed atheist graduate student to beloved contemplative monk whose life would touch millions is a true story you cannot put down.

— Lou Jacquet

'Brunch with Brendan' Set 5/19

We will celebrate the Feast of St. Brendan the Navigator on Sunday May 19 with "Brunch With Brendan" in Maxwell Hall following our 9 a.m. Mass.

Breakfast meat will be provided by the parish. You are asked to bring a favorite breakfast casserole, fruit, bread or a baked item to help enlarge the menu and make the feast extra special.

The most important thing to bring is yourself and your family. Hope to see you there to enjoy your company.

Services for Miscarried, Stillborn

In an effort to help families mourn a child lost through miscarriage or stillbirth, the Diocese of Youngstown is offering three Memorial Services for Miscarried or Stillborn Children on Sunday, May 19, at 2 p.m. in the chapels of Calvary Cemetery in Youngstown, Calvary Cemetery in Massillon (3469 Lincoln Way E.) and 4:30 p.m. in the chapel at All Souls Cemetery, Cortland (3823 Hoagland Blackstub Road).

Parents, grandparents, and others are encouraged to attend. Sponsored by the diocesan Office of Worship, Office of Pro-Life, Marriage and Family Life, and Catholic Funeral and Cemetery Services. Information: 330-744-8451.

Office Hours:

Monday–Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Call Jackie Niznik with questions at 330-792-3875

Sunday, May 5

9:00 a.m. Living and Deceased Members of Altar/Rosary Society

Wednesday, May 8

9:00 a.m. Barb Carissimo by Bob Carissimo

Sunday, May 12

9:00 a.m. Mass for All Mothers

Please Pray For Our Sick

Sr. Marjorie Haidet, Frank Lightner, Michelle Smith, Ken Mains, Judy Lazar, David Deihl, Barbara Bonninsegna, Sherri Creech, Nancy D'Amico, Mary Beth Celio, Fr. Richard Brobst, Charles Slivkoff, Harold and Debra Brown, Rita Thomas, Christine Kalhoun, Blanche Ruggiero

National Eucharistic Congress Set in July

Catholics around the country have marked their calendars for a pilgrimage to the 10th National Eucharistic Congress set for July 17-21 in Indianapolis. Bishop David Bonnar and Catholics from the Diocese of Youngstown will be among participants.

Some 80,000 persons are expected to gather for the historic five-day gathering of missionary disciples, which leaders "expect to be a new Pentecost, a powerful anointing, and a personal commission to invite others to know Christ." Bishop Bonnar called it "a pivotal moment in the Church to draw into a deeper intimacy with our Lord."

The goal of the gathering is to "renew the members of the Church through an encounter with the lifesaving love of Jesus," according to Bishop Andrew Cozzens, chairman of the board for the event. This is the first such congress since World War II. It comes at a time when recent studies have shown only 30-40% of Catholics believe in the truth of the Eucharist. Hence the highly critical need for the Eucharistic revival that the planning members have called for.

Red Saunders Memorial Set 6/29



An 18-hole, four-person scramble, the inaugural Jack "Red" Saunders Memorial Golf Outing, will be held Saturday June 29, 2024 at Knoll Run Golf Course. Saunders, a beloved figure in the St. Brendan

and Chaney communities, "dedicated decades of his life to coaching football and basketball, leaving an indelible mark on the lives of countless young athletes from St. Brendan," according to organizers Mike Kernan and Dallas Saunders.

Cost is \$85/person, \$340/team; 8 a.m. registration, 9 a.m. shotgun start. Proceeds support local charities and organizations. Text Kernan (330-207-0493) or Saunders (330-718-7562) or contact REDSAUNDERSMEMORIAL@GMAIL.COM

Sunday's Scriptures: A Game Changer

Today's readings: Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48; 1 John 4: 7-10; Gospel of John 15: 9-17.

There are moments in life where change is necessary, and although we may fear or dread a new direction, it can contain our salvation. Today's reading from the Acts of the Apostles contains a turning point in early Church history.

The Apostles have been given a mission. Jesus instructed them to preach the Gospel to all nations and baptize in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Their starting place of ministry is the city of Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost. They then spread the message to all of Judea.

The early converts to the "Christ-centered" message are Jewish people who accept the belief that Jesus is the long-awaited Messiah. These early converts still retain many of their Jewish beliefs, including circumcision, dietary laws, and the impurity of Gentile people.

Acts chapter 10 presents us with a real "game changer" in the process of evangelization and building up of the Church. Peter is deep in prayer on a rooftop and he is hungry. While in a trance, "he sees the heavens open up and a

large sheet containing animals descend toward him. A voice tells him, 'Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.' Peter replies, 'I have never eaten anything impure or unclean.' The voice speaks again, 'Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.'"

This vision challenges Peter's view about Jewish religious dietary restrictions. Peter is then directed to visit the home of a Roman centurion who is a Gentile. Peter obeys the command of God. A crowd gathers outside and questions the righteousness of Simon Peter for breaking Jewish law concerning fellowship with Gentiles.

The Holy Spirit comes upon all who were listening to the message of Peter, and they begin to speak in tongues and glorify God. Upon this outpouring of the Holy Spirit, Peter baptizes Cornelius and his household.

From this point on the Apostles will include Gentiles into the Church, not requiring them to follow Jewish laws and customs. People of every nation and race are accepted into the Church. Today, the Catholic Church is over one billion strong. Now that's a game changer!

— Geri Jacquet

Taste of Faiths Set 5/16

The Mahoning Valley Association of Churches (MVAC) is sponsoring "A Taste of the Faiths" on Thursday, May 16 5:30-7 p.m. in St. Charles Parish Hall, 7345 Westview Dr., Boardman.

The event supports the work of MVAC in the Valley. Food provided by congregations of the Mahoning Valley. Dine-In or To-Go, \$20. Musical guest: Jason Volovar.

Help For Battered Women

A Polka Fest presented by the Massillon Knights Foundation will be held 1-8 p.m. Sunday May 5 (today) at 988 Cherry Rd. NW, Massillon. Lenny Gomulka and the John Gora Band, Polka hall-of-famers featured. Ticket information: Tom Berdella, 234-360-4207. Drinks and food available. Proceeds to Battered Women's Organizations.

Prayer: St. Damian



"Father of mercy, who gave us in St. Damian a shining witness of love for the poorest and most abandoned, grant that, by his intercession, as faithful witnesses of the heart of your Son Jesus, we too may be servants of the most needy and rejected. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever."

Feast Day: May 10. Died: 1889

Your Sacrificial Offering

Amount needed monthly to meet expenses

For April 2024 **\$29,440.00**

Week of April 28, 2024

Sunday Collection	\$1,960.00
Increased Operating Exp.	\$775.00
Major Repairs	\$00.00
Rentals	\$1,050.00
Maint. Support	\$1,110.00
Total	\$4,895.00

4 week total \$21,932 .00 toward the goal of \$29,440.00

\$7,508 .00 short

WE COUNT MEMBERS BECAUSE MEMBERS COUNT

Mass 9 a.m.

4/28- 105



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MISSION STATEMENT

*We are called to be
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We are committed to building the kingdom of
God by living the Gospel,
celebrating the sacraments
and loving our neighbor as ourselves.*

PARISH STAFF

Pastor

Father John Jerek

Parochial Vicar

Father Robert England

Deacons

Ron Layko

Mark Kiraly

Parish Office Manager

Jackie Niznik

Ext.10

Email: office@stbrendanyo.org

Music Director

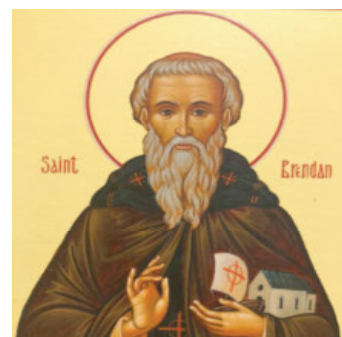
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Assistant Music Director

Allyson Reed

MASS Sunday 9:00am

Wednesday 9:00am





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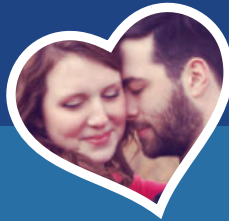
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