



## 7<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



"Give, and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you." - Lk 6:38

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**

**Carmen Roebke– Compliance Officer  
330-792-3829 Ext. 108**

**Dominic Colucy– Victim Assistance  
Coordinator**

**330-744-8451 Ext. 293**

**[dcolucy@youngstowndiocese.org](mailto:dcolucy@youngstowndiocese.org)**

## *The Shepherd of Hermas*

I suppose by now it is no state secret that I am a very poor sleeper. Getting two or three hours in a row is about the norm, dating back to my years in journalism when I would often get an hour's worth of sleep on the night before deadline. Usually I fall asleep about 11 p.m., wake up near 2 a.m., and don't get back to sleep until it's almost time to get up.

I won't flatter myself that my sleep patterns are of much interest to the general public per se, but they may be of interest in this one regard: In the hours that I cannot sleep, I read, and most often I read about the Church Fathers in a four-volume set, edited by Johannes Quasten, entitled "Patrology" that my wife and I bought for each other years ago.

It is fascinating reading, and one of the more fascinating characters from those ancient days is Hermas, author of "The Shepherd of Hermas." It is particularly interesting reading because I have read it about 10 times and still never remember what I have read for more than a day or two. I have only read snippets of the larger work, but Hermas himself interests me. His work is a book of revelation that he was granted in Rome by an angel and a shepherd; it was written about 140-150 A.D.

The revelations themselves are pretty basic, covering such topics as sin, penance, the destiny of Christianity and various aspects of living the faith. The real fascination, as Quasten notes, is that "there is hardly a work of ancient Christian times in which the life of the community passes before us with such vividness as The Shepherd of Hermas." The work covers good and bad Christians in their triumphs, faults, and failings, including those who had denied the faith to escape Roman persecution. Above all, what surprised me was that for several centuries, some of the brightest minds in the Church held this work to be as important as the Sacred Scriptures themselves.

What also makes these pages so interesting, as Quasten explains so well, is that "with good natured sincerity, Hermas relates all manner of intimate matters concerning himself and his relatives." I laughed right out loud at 3 a.m. when I read that "Hermas has nothing good to say of his wife, who talks too much and cannot bridle her tongue."

All in all, Hermas makes the ancient Christian communities come alive, a precious gift to us these many centuries later.

— Lou Jacquet

## *Catholic Charities Month*

February is Catholic Charities Month in the Diocese of Youngstown. Did you know that Charities receives 60 % of the funds raised through the Annual Diocesan Appeal to provide material goods and services to people in our community? To learn more, visit [ccdoy.org](http://ccdoy.org)

### *Fish Dinner Volunteers Needed*



Dear Parishioners:

Just two weeks until our first Drive-Thru Fish Dinner of 2025 on Friday March 7. We always welcome new parishioners to help with the dinners. If you have been unable to help in the past, but feel you can help this year, it would be gratefully appreciated. It is not necessary that you be there all day, but two or three hours would be great.

Preparation for the dinners starts at 12:30 p.m. on Thursdays in the kitchen. We need potato and cabbage cut along with fish being unpacked so that it can start to thaw. On Fridays we start around 6 a.m. to separate fish, make macaroni and cheese, and halushki. At 9 a.m. we start to fill containers for coleslaw, cut the cakes to be put in containers, and prepare to start the day for the orders.

We need dish washers in the morning to keep up with cleaning dirty items. We need cooks, servers, packing of the dinners, runners to deliver the orders to the cars, along with clean up at the end of the night.

If you are interested in helping with any of the above, or have questions, please call me at 330-799-3339.

—Patty Infante

#### **Sunday, February 23**

**9:00 a.m.** Raymond, Irene, and Elaine Michaud  
by Lorraine Alarcon

#### **Wednesday, February 26**

**9:00 a.m.** David Lesnak by Lorraine Alarcon

#### **Sunday, March 2**

**9:00 a.m.** Leonard Cercone by Family

#### **Please Pray For Our Sick**

**Mary Pavlak, Beverly Detate, Sr. Marjorie Haidet, Frank Lightner, Michelle Smith, Ken Mains, David Deihl, Barbara Bonninsegna, Mary Beth Celio, Fr. Richard Brobst, Charles Slivkoff, Harold and Debra Brown, Rita Thomas**

## *St. Vincent de Paul Parish Update*

"We would like to thank the entire parish for your continued support: Volunteering at the kitchen, the sock and winter gloves/hats drive, the annual outreach and monthly collections to support the food boxes... and most importantly, all your prayers.

"We are helping numerous neighbors on the West Side annually.

"Please feel free to visit us at the new St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store (near Rt. 224 and Market Street) in Boardman across from the mall. All donations and sales support the kitchen that feeds hundreds daily."

— Joe Vivacqua



## *March Ministry Schedule*

### **Lector:**

Debora Flora

### **Eucharistic Ministers:**

Di Dultra, Charlie Griffith

## *Oldest Parishioner Turns 100*



**Theresa Vivacqua, the oldest living parishioner at St. Brendan's, turned 100 on Dec. 8. Celebrating the event over cake with her at the Inn at Christine Valley were her sons, from left, Ron, Gary, and Joe Vivacqua. With them is Father John Jerek, pastor of St. Brendan's, St. Christine and Our Lady of Sorrows parishes, who gave Theresa a blessing on her special day. Photo courtesy of Joe Vivacqua**

## *Sunday's Scriptures: Love My Enemies?*

The readings for today's 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time are from 1 Samuel 26: 2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23; 1 Corinthians 15: 45-49; Luke 6: 27-38

Our first reading from the first book of Samuel shares an incident that happened about a thousand years before Jesus. At that time Saul was king of Israel and David was a loyal subject of the king. David had become the people's favorite hero after slaying the giant Goliath. King Saul was jealous of David's popularity and fearful that David might become king. He set himself and his troops on a mission to kill David.

As the story progresses, David and his nephew, a military leader, went at night among Saul's soldiers and found Saul asleep with his spear thrust into the ground near his head. The soldiers were fast asleep. Abishai whispered to David: "God has delivered your enemy into your grasp this day. Let me nail him to the ground with one thrust of the spear." David said to Abishai, "Do not harm him, for who can lay hands on the Lord's anointed and remain unpunished?" David shows mercy on his mortal enemy, and for this and other acts of obedience

to God he is rewarded.

The story from Luke's gospel takes place in Jesus' Sermon on the Plain. Jesus has just finished instructing the crowd with the Beatitudes, and now He describes the life and virtues he expects of them. Every one of these teachings is extremely difficult to live out in life.

"To you who hear, I say love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. If you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you?...Love your enemies and be merciful, just as your Father is merciful."

This is a very difficult counter-cultural way of living. We have a good example of how much virtue and greatness this takes in the person of David, when he loves King Saul who wants to kill him. Jesus will show this perfectly when He forgives those who actually kill Him. How close are we to living Jesus' way of forgiveness and love? It is easy to wield the sword of gossip about someone who hurt us. It takes God's grace to pray for their good.

— Geri Jacquet

## *Altar/Rosary Upcoming Schedule*

Watch the bulletin for details and save the date for these upcoming St. Brendan Altar/Rosary Society events:

**April 27:** Bingo/Card Party

**May 4:** May Crowning

**Oct. 5:** Afternoon Tea With Mary

**Dec. 7:** Christmas Party

## *2025 Mass Book Open*

St. Brendan's 2025 Mass Book is now open and Masses are available as soon as April. All parishioners requesting Masses for a deceased loved one are limited to ONE SUNDAY MASS and ONE WEEKDAY MASS. There are 104 Masses to be celebrated, but several are for all parishioners.

To request a Mass, call Jackie Niznik, parish office manager, 330-792-3875 (Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.) at the rectory, or drop your written request with your name and phone number into the collection basket.

## *Prayer to St. Gregory of Narek*

"Lord God, who graciously imbued blessed Gregory of Narek with heavenly doctrine, grant, through his intercession that we may keep that same teaching faithfully and express it in what we do. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, forever and ever."

Feast Day; Feb. 27; died 1003

## **Your Sacrificial Offering**

Amount needed monthly to meet expenses

For February 2025 **\$29,440.00**

### **Week of February 16, 2025**

Sunday Collection	\$2,901.00
Increased Operating Exp.	\$180.00
Rentals	\$1,050.00
Maint. Support	\$1,110.00
Total	\$5,241.00

**3 week total \$16,475 .00 toward the goal of \$29,440.00**

**\$12,965.00 short**

**WE COUNT MEMBERS BECAUSE MEMBERS COUNT**

**Mass 9 a.m.**

**2/16-92**



### *RECTORY*

2800 Oakwood Avenue  
Youngstown, OH 44509-2002  
Phone: 330-792-3875 Fax: 330-792-9080

### *MISSION STATEMENT*

*We are called to be  
disciples, faithful to Jesus  
and empowered by the Spirit.  
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 Stephen Zeigler

#### **Deacons**

Ron Layko

Mark Kiraly

#### **Parish Office Manager**

Jackie Niznik

Ext.10

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

#### **Music Director**

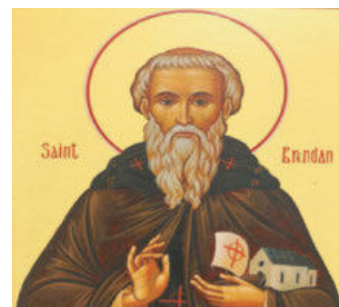
Geri Jacquet

#### **Assistant Music Director**

Allyson Reed

*MASS Sunday 9:00am*

*Wednesday 9:00am*



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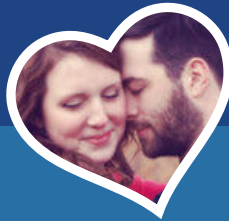
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