



Joshua said to all the people....,  
"As for me and my household,  
we will serve the LORD."

JOSHUA 24:2, 15C

## Taking a Stand Matters

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

One day I happened to be sitting and chatting with some teenagers. When the discussion turned to parents, expectations, and how they respond, I asked them, "What's really important to you? What do you value and try not to compromise on?" "Why do you want to know?" one asked. "Just wondering," I said. Silence. Then one said that being honest was really important to her, that she always tried to tell the truth. Another said "family." Another, respecting his body, said, "No drugs, no alcohol." More silence, and then one spoke of her faith and how it really mattered and made a difference in her life. Their conversation then moved on to other things, friends, movies, and what to do later that day.

In reality, I had another reason for asking my question, one beyond a simple inquiry. There is something good about saying aloud what is truly important to us, what we won't compromise on. Saying it out loud makes it more real, something we can stand for. Some of those teens didn't say anything, maybe because they had never thought about what their values were. Perhaps hearing others speak up inspired them to think about it, maybe for the first time in their lives. Saying aloud where we stand in life makes a difference.

Jesus reminds us that it is the spirit that gives life, that the flesh is of no avail. Some of those teens have already begun to realize this truth. ●

### Reflect

***What are some values that you do not forsake easily? Why?***



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**St. Thomas More**



**St. Patrick**

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Open Monday - Sunday  
Regular Hours  
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**Office Hours at Holy Trinity**  
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and on Facebook at  
"Bureau Catholic Churches"

**Facebook for the Three Churches**  
Use Link on Home Page  
www.bureaucatholic.org

**Emergency Number for all 3 Churches 779-248-2164**

**Back To School Well Wishes**

*As we start another school year, we would like to wish all students  
a year filled with learning, knowledge, fun and safety.*



**Remember in Prayer Family and Friends of**

*Denise Mini – STM and DeAnn Pozzi (wife of Jim Pozzi) - HT*

**Daily Mass Intentions for the Week of August 26, 2024**

Monday	8/26			† No Mass
Tuesday	8/27	9:00 am	STM	† Richard Mariani
Wednesday	8/28	5:30 pm	HT	† Michael Campbell
Thursday	8/29	9:00 am	HT	† Jack & Theresa McCallum
Friday	8/30	9:00 am	STM	† John Balma

**Mass Intentions for the weekend of August 31 - September 1, 2024**

Saturday	8/31	4:00 pm	St Thomas More	† For the Parishioners
Sunday	9/1	8:30 am	Holy Trinity	† Gerald Flaherty
		10:30 am	St Patrick	† Janelle Beattie Geiger

# *A Reflection On The Passion of St. John the Baptist*

*Feast Day: Thursday, August 29th*

The gruesome death of St. John the Baptist reveals much to us. It reveals, above all, the mystery of evil in our world and God's permissive will in allowing evil, at times, to flourish. Sometimes we wonder why did God allow St. John to be beheaded? He was a great man. Jesus, Himself, said that there was no one born of woman greater than John the Baptist. And, yet, He allowed John to suffer this great injustice.

St. Teresa of Ávila once said to our Lord, "Dear Lord, if this is how You treat Your friends, it is no wonder You have so few!" Yes, God has clearly allowed those whom He loves to suffer greatly throughout history. What does this tell us?

First of all, we should not forget the obvious fact that the Father allowed the Son to suffer greatly and to be murdered in a horrific way. Jesus' death was brutal and shocking. Does this mean the Father did not love the Son? Certainly not. So what does this mean?

The fact of the matter is that suffering is not a sign of the disfavor of God. If you suffer and are given no relief by God it is not because God has abandoned you. It is not that He does not love you. In fact, the opposite is most likely true.

John the Baptist's suffering is, in fact, the greatest sermon he could have preached. It's a witness to his unwavering love of God and his wholehearted commitment to the will of God. The "sermon" of John's passion is powerful because he chose to stay faithful to our Lord despite the persecution he endured. And, from God's perspective, John's fidelity is infinitely more valuable than his continued physical life or the physical sufferings he endured.

Reflect, today, upon your own life. At times we carry some heavy cross and beg our Lord to take it from us. Instead, God tells us that His grace is sufficient and that He wishes to use our sufferings as a testimony of our fidelity. So, the Father's response to Jesus, His response to John and His response to us is a call to enter into the mystery of our sufferings in this life with faith, hope, confidence and fidelity. Never let the hardships of life deter you from your fidelity toward the will of God. *(Excerpted from catholic-daily-reflections.com)*

## *Church* **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### *Diocesan 25th & 50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration*

On September 22, 2024, at 4:00 pm Bishop Tylka will celebrate a Mass at the Cathedral of St. Mary for couples who are celebrating either their 25th or 50th wedding anniversary in 2024. Any parishioners who would like to participate, please call the office.

### *Parish Transition Team (PTT)*

As an important part of the Growing Disciples process, we have finished forming the PTT (Parish Transition Team) for each of our 3 churches. The names of each church's members are as follows:

*St. Patrick – Ernie Bartoli, Ann Hunter, Lauren Koch*

*Holy Trinity – Sheila Campbell, Dennis Hassler, Sue Schwingle*

*St. Thomas More – Terese Deserf, Jyll Pozzi*

As we have said previously, members of these teams will meet with Fr. Thaddeus to begin the implementation of the Growing Disciples mandate.

### LATEST OFFERING'S AUGUST 18TH WEEKEND

HT – \$1,140.00

SP – \$ 342.00

STM – \$1,002.00

St John <sup>29<sup>th</sup> Aug</sup>  
the Baptist  
The man who stood for the truth

**The truth**  
comes with a price.  
Don't flinch!  
God's courage  
will be given to you.



### CONFESSIONS

CONFESSIONS WILL BE  
SAT. AUGUST 31ST  
10:30 AM - 11:15 AM AT  
ST. THOMAS MORE  
IN THE HALL

# Dear Padre,

**A friend claims that various saints have appeared to her. Is this something that really happens?**

Your friend might be experiencing what are called “private” revelations. Many recognized saints experienced visions in which Jesus, Mary, or the disciples spoke to them. These revelations were sometimes the sparks that caused future saints to leave whatever they were doing and follow Jesus in a dynamic way.

Saint Francis of Assisi was a rich young man who had a vision of Christ that radically changed his life. After this private revelation, Francis embraced poverty and devoted himself to the care of the sick. He founded the Franciscans to carry on his mission. An example of recent private revelations are the apparitions at *Medjugorje*. Even though the Church has not formally recognized these revelations, many have discovered a deeper faith because of them.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says this about private revelations: “Throughout the ages, there have been so-called “private” revelations, some of which have been recognized by the authority of the Church. They do not belong, however, to the deposit of faith. It is not their role to improve or complete Christ’s definitive Revelation, but to help live more fully by it in a certain period of history” (CCC 67).

It is important to note whether the private revelation is contrary to the faith or the morals of the Church, and whether a particular revelation brings one closer to God. ●



FRANCIS IN FRONT OF THE STATUE OF OUR LADY MARY, MEDJUGORJE, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, DARIO POSE / SHUTTERSTOCK

*The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org*

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
August 26	August 27	August 28	August 29	August 30	August 31	September 1
Weekday	St. Monica	St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church	Passion of St. John the Baptist	Weekday	Weekday	Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time
2 Thes 1:1-5, 11-12	2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17	2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18	1 Cor 1:1-9	1 Cor 1:17-25	1 Cor 1:26-31	Dt 4:1-2, 6-8
Mt 23:13-22	Mt 23:23-26	Mt 23:27-32	Mk 6:17-29	Mt 25:1-13	Mt 25:14-30	Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27
						Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23



STEVE LONGMIRE / SHUTTERSTOCK

## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

**The Lord asks the disciples the decisive question: “But who do you— you!—say that I am?” Who am I for you, now? Jesus does not want to be a key figure from the past; He wants to be an important person for you today, for me today.... Jesus wants to be the God who is close to us!**

ANGELUS, ROME, AUGUST 27, 2023