

EGO
SVM
ALPHA
ET O
PRIN
CIPIV
ET FI
NIS.

Go, therefore, and make disciples
of all nations, baptizing them
in the name of the *Father*,
and of the *Son*,
and of the *Holy Spirit*.

Matthew 28:19



Mass Intentions for the Week

SATURDAY VIGIL, May 30

4:30 p.m. Dorothy Wilcosky

SUNDAY, May 31 – The Most Holy Trinity

Reading I: Dt 4: 32-34, 39-40

Reading II: Rom 8: 14-17; Gospel: Mt 28: 16-20

8:30 a.m. Mother's Day Intentions
For the People of the Parish

10:30 a.m. Elsie Kocevar

3:00 p.m. Confirmation

MONDAY, June 1 – St. Justin

Reading I: Tb 1: 3, 2: 1b-8; Gospel: Mk 12: 1-12

6:30 p.m. Josephine & Walter Kolosinski

TUESDAY, June 2 – St. Marcellinus & Peter

Reading I: Tb 2: 9-14; Gospel: Mk 12: 13-17

7:00 a.m. Paulette Krockner

WEDNESDAY, June 3 – St. Charles Lwanga & Companions

Reading I: Tb 3: 1-11a, 16-17a; Gospel: Mk 12: 18-27

THURSDAY, June 4

Reading 1: Tb 6: 10-11, 7: bcde, 9-17; 8:4-9a

Gospel: Mk 12: 28-34

8:30 a.m. Deceased Members of the Ross
& Sciko Families

FRIDAY, June 5 – St. Boniface

Reading I: Tb 11: 5-17; Gospel: Mk 12: 35-37

8:30 a.m. Therese Biegacki
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

SATURDAY, June 6 – St. Norbert

Reading I: Tb 12: 1, 5-15, 20, Gospel: Mk 12: 38-44

Vigil Mass

4:30 p.m. Biagio & Jennie DiMarco

SUNDAY, June 7 – The Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ

Reading I: Ex 24: 3-8;

Reading II: Heb 9: 11-15; Gospel: Mk 14: 12-16, 22-26

8:30 a.m. Lawrence & Ann Cermak

10:30 a.m. For the People of the Parish

St. Therese Parish

5276 East 105th St.

Garfield Hts., OH 44125

Rectory: 216-581-2852 Rel. Ed. Office: 216-581-3840

sttheresegarfield.org

Rev. Daniel R. Fickes, Pastor

Rev. Norman Gajdzinski, Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Mr. Robert Bugaj, Deacon

Sr. DeAnne Zawadzki, SSJTOSF, D.R.E.

Mrs. Nancy Heineke, Youth Minister,

youth412rocks@att.net

Mr. Frank Kozuch, Music Director

John Paul II Academy Phone: 216-581-3080

Ms. Christine Lackney, Principal

Collection-May 23/24

Collection: \$4,855.05* Envelopes Used: 239

St. Vincent de Paul: \$38

Office of Catechetical Services: \$11

PSR: \$10

*figure includes the following:

Restoration: \$128

Parish Use Only: \$305

School: \$19

Children: \$29.55

Mother's Day: \$5

Ascension: \$104

Faith Direct \$775

THANK YOU!

Pray for the Sick of our Parish:

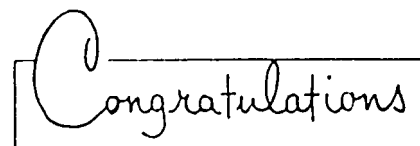
Kathy Cool, Joshua Stebal, Elizabeth O'Donnell, Don Tews, Laverne Griffiths, Jess B. Palker, Michelle Cozens, Shirley Zwilling, Robert Thomas, Rita Pawloski, Raymond Pavlik, Naomi Conter, Michael Kobie, Keith Thomas, Jeannie Wolfendale, Dori Herout, Evelyn Maruna, Linda Voracek, Dolores DiBaggio, Richard Schultz, Larry Pentek, Robyn Buckley, Linda Antolik, Bruce Hutton, Charlotte Balla, Joseph Sciko, , Sophie Tessmer, John Thomas, Sr. Felicia Mann, Donna Bogucki

Rest in Peace

Please pray for the soul of:

Margaret Bombik

May our risen Savior grant her His peace.



**To: Richard Bieniecki who received his
First Eucharist on May 25!**

The Most Holy Trinity

Do you know? The names of Isaac and Rebekah's two sons in Genesis?

Answer below.

Peace and Justice Gem

We readily recognize that we live in a world that is increasingly estranged from Christian values. In order to remain a Christian, one must take a resolute stand against many commonly accepted axioms of the world....We must develop a sense of solidarity, cemented by relationships with mature and exemplary Christians, who represent Christ and his way.

The Challenge of Peace, par, 277, by the U.S. Bishops



Congratulations to the following who will be confirmed at St. Therese Parish on May 31:

**Richard Alachniewicz
Richard Bieniecki
Megan Cermak
Vincent Doran
Brandon Fortuna
Brady Hamilton
Edward Huff
Mason Laski
Julianne McKee
Alyssa Mitchkash
Rob Nahine
Zachary Napier
Gabrielle Radvilavicius
Cameron Rawlins
Jonathon Rawlins**

Now Enrolling!

John Paul II Academy is accepting applications for the 2015-2016 school year for PreK through grade 8. Please call Miss Lackney at the academy (216-581-3080) to set up an appointment. The future starts today at John Paul II Academy!

Answer: Esau and Jacob

Pancake Breakfast Today!

The St. Therese Boy Scouts will hold a pancake breakfast after masses on Sunday, May 31. Thank you in advance for supporting our troop!



What do you think of when you hear the words Boy Scout? Do you conjure up a mental picture of a clean-cut, uniformed boy helping someone cross the street? Or perhaps it's a young man receiving his first pocket knife armed with the skills to use it properly? Maybe it's a circle of small tents with a warm fire blazing in the center as dusk approaches and dinner is being prepared. All of these are true, and so much more!

You probably know that St. Therese charts Troop 361 with the Boy Scouts of America. What you may not know is just how hard this group works to do good deeds in the world around you. Here's a snapshot of Troop 361's past 12 months of service: set up, tore down and provided food at the parish picnic, planted trees in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, built a 12' long foot bridge along the Buckeye Trail (Eagle Scout project), helped paint the fence surrounding JP II Academy, replaced a deteriorated culvert at Findley State Park, and in the next 30 days we plan to paint new lines at the Garfield Hts. Police Station and build a new fence at Marymount Child Care (Eagle Scout project).

All of these "good turns" are in addition to monthly campouts, skills competitions, and fundraisers. So the next time you see a young man in uniform with "361" emblazoned on his shoulder, take a moment to ask him what he's been up to lately. You might be surprised by his answer!

And remember, we are always looking for additional volunteer help. You don't have to be a scout parent to help and *your* talents are valuable. If you can make time to help shape a young man's life, please don't hesitate to contact Paul Orzel at 216-256-6339 or paulorzel@me.com for more information.

We of troop 316 are very proud to represent St. Therese Parish and you! Thank you for your support.

Father's Day Masses



You may enroll your father, living or deceased, in a series of masses to be said at St. Therese. Enrollment envelopes are available in the church or at the rectory. Please return them to the rectory or in the collection basket.

Save the Date!!

St. Therese Parish will host a "Dining for Dollars" event at Applebee's in Garfield Hts., 9225 Vista Way, on Tuesday, June 16, from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. to support our ongoing fundraising efforts. Applebee's will donate 15% of each check to the parish when diners present a flyer to their server. Flyers will be inserted in the church bulletins the weekend prior to the event and will also be available at the rectory. Flyers cannot be distributed in the restaurant. And don't forget, Applebee's gift cards can also be purchased at the rectory.

May Baby Bottle Collection



If you did not bring back your baby bottle (filled or not) yet, please bring it to the rectory by Monday, June 1. The funds generated will help Womankind provide free prenatal care and a

full range of support services to pregnant women in need. For more information about Womankind, check out their website at: www.womankindcleveland.com.

Women Growing in Faith – TODAY!

Please join us on May 31 for an "afternoon of prayer for women" presented at the Jesuit Retreat House by Sr. Mary Ann Flannery. We can meet in the St. Therese parking lot at 12:30 p.m. to share a ride. Otherwise, you can arrive at the Jesuit Retreat House by 1 p.m. The cost is \$12, which includes the prayer service and light refreshments. We also have access to the JRH grounds before and after the prayer session. This includes the beautiful chapel and easy walking paths. The Jesuit Retreat House is located at 5629 State Road (between Snow and Brookpark Roads). If you have any questions, please call Nancy Simpson at 216-570-7510. You may pay at the door.

Holy Name Society News

The winners of our May Giant Eagle raffle were:

\$100	Josephine Mathews
\$ 25	Kevin Ineman
\$ 25	Helen Holovach

Thanks to all who participated. Watch the bulletin for our next drawing.

From Sr. DeAnne:

The last PSR class has taken place for this school year and I want to thank the teachers who were there each and every week, to be living examples of dedication to their Gospel call.

Thanks to those parents who offered to be of help when needed, hopefully they will continue to develop your role and get you more involved in the program.

Thank you to the parents who got the young people here and supported us in the education of their children. A special thanks to the parents of those students who received Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation this year. My life was made easier and truly blessed by your help and support.

Thank you to the young people who showed up each week, at the end of a long school day, to learn more about their Baptismal call.

Thank you to Fr. Dan and Deacon Bob for their liturgical support.

Lastly, thank you to the people who supported our program by donating money for scholarships and other things needed for the program. Those who bought the candy bars that helped us with the "extra things" this year. And to all of you who kept us in your prayers. I pray that the Lord bless you as only the Lord, God can.

Social Justice and Advocacy

Advocating for social justice is part of our responsibility as Christians. Our elected officials answer to us, and it's important that we share with them on the matters that affect our communities. Considering that the gospels reveal to us Jesus' special concern for the poor and marginalized, this is a quality we also should cultivate. Research about the impact of advocacy shows that receiving personalized letters does have a decided influence on legislators if they haven't yet come to a firm conclusion on an issue. If this is something that interests you, please contact Fr. Dan.

If your name hasn't been included in our monthly birthday calendar and you would like it to be, please call the rectory at 216-581-2852.

The Most Holy Trinity



Busy making plans for your summer vacation? Don't forget to include St. Therese in your vacation plans! Sign up today for eGiving through *Faith Direct* to make sure you remember your gifts to St. Therese while you're off enjoying the summer breeze and sunshine. Enrolling is easy--just go to www.faithdirect.net and use our church code OH617. Thank you for your continued support of our parish family with your time and talents as well as treasure!

God bless you,
Fr. Dan



Attention St. Therese School Class of 1970

We are having a get-together on Friday, June 5, at 6:30 p.m. at the Winking Lizard Tavern, 6111 Quarry Lane in Independence.

NOTICE TO ALL SAINTS FCU MEMBERS

Conversion Date

St. Therese/SS Peter & Paul Branch will be Closed for Business on Monday, June 1.

St. Francis de Sales Branch will be Closed for Business June 1 through June 6.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Attention Seniors: There will be a Seniors' Club meeting at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, June 1.

A Greeting Before Mass

Soon we will begin a practice new to our parish but that a number of other parishes use: greeting one another before Sunday Mass begins. The St. Therese Liturgy Commission has recommended this as a worthy instrument to enhance a sense of hospitality here. That everyone, from our long-time parishioners to a first-time visitor, feels welcome is an important value for any faith community. May each of us offer a friendly smile to one another when we come to church and give a warm greeting to anyone who might be a visitor!



Graduation

Please join the John Paul II Academy community as we celebrate the accomplishments of our 2015 graduating class at SS. Peter & Paul Church on Monday, June 1, at 7 p.m.

Coming up in June – Stars & Stripes, Balls & Strikes



Join the Stewardship Committee on Saturday, June 13, for some old fashioned baseball fare and fun. We'll have hot dogs, hamburgers, peanuts and cracker jack, plus lots

more. This event will be held from 5:30 – 8 p.m. (after the 4:30 Mass). Tickets are \$6 and \$2 for children 5 and under. Tickets will be on sale after Mass and at the rectory.



Hear About Catholic Relief

The Diocesan Social Action Office is pleased to announce that Dr. Carolyn Woo, the President and CEO of Catholic Relief Services, the official overseas relief and development agency of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and a member of Caritas International and the National Catholic Development Conference, will speak at St. Clarence Parish, 30106 Lorain Road on Thursday, June 4, from 7-8:30 p.m. This FREE talk, titled **Faith, Action, Results** will describe how CRS responds to the call of the Gospel to serve the poorest and most vulnerable on behalf of the Catholics in the United States. The presentation will provide an overview of the challenges and progress which has been made pertaining to global poverty. Plan to attend to hear Dr. Woo. Foreign Policy (May/June 2013) featured her as one of the 500 Most Powerful people on the planet and one of only 33 in the category of "a force for good!"

Ward Four Block Watch

On Tuesday, June 2, Ward 4 will have their block watch meeting at the Garfield Hts. Civic Center at 7 p.m. This will be their last meeting until September. They will be having a cook out. Please bring something to share. Chief Sacket will be there. If you have any questions, call Dan at 216-475-4810.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

In today's gospel Jesus says, "I am with you always, until the end of the age." Bring Jesus into your marriage by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is June 26-28 at the Clarion Conference Center in Hudson, Ohio. Call Lori and Scott at 330-305-9963 to register. Dates and registration are also available online at WWME.org.

Borromeo Seminary Golf Outing

The annual Borromeo Seminary Challenge Scholarship Golf Outing will take place on Monday, June 29, at StoneWater Golf Club in Highland Hts. The monies from this golf outing allow us to provide room and board scholarship for diocesan students during their first year at Borromeo Seminary. Please call 440-943-7677 for more information.

St. Martin of Tours Trash & Treasure Sale

St. Martin of Tours Parish will host their annual Trash & Treasure Sale on:

Thursday, June 18 5 to 8 p.m.
Friday, June 19 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Saturday, June 20 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

There will be great deals on electronics, books, kitchen & bath, jewelry, antiques, clothing, and much more. For more information, call Betty Hofman at 216-662-6564.

50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration



The annual 50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration will take place on Sunday, July 26, at 2:30 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist. Bishop Richard Lennon will be the principal celebrant. Reservations are now being accepted for couples married 50 years (married in 1965). Couples who are celebrating other significant anniversaries (55 or over) or have missed previous celebrations are welcome to register and attend. Seating is limited. Registration forms are available at the rectory.

Catholic Family FESTival

Looking for a great family day this summer? Join us for The FEST on Sunday, August 9, on the seminary grounds in Wickliffe. The 56 acre campus becomes the home of our 15th Annual Catholic Family FESTival. It's a day that celebrates faith and family. It's fun and it's FREE. Join thousands from across the region for national Christian bands and great faith-based activities and displays for the whole family. The day ends with an outdoor Mass at 8 p.m. followed by an incredible American Fireworks display. Check it out online – www.theFEST.us. Everyone is welcome! Make plans to join us as we come TOGETHER for FEST 2015.

Come to a Play

The Garfield Players are performing "*Cheaper by the Dozen*" on May 29 & 30 and June 5 & 6, at 7:30 p.m. and on June 7, at 3 p.m. at the Garfield Hts. High School Studio Theater. "*Cheaper by the Dozen*" is the story of the Gilbreth family, told by 2 of their children. Please come join us. For ticket information, go to our website, garfieldplayers.org. or call 216-475-8313.

Diocesan Enthronement Center

The Diocesan Enthronement Center will again sponsor their annual Mass of Reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus on Friday, June 12, which is the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, at 7 p.m. at St. Bernadette Church, 2256 Clague Road in Westlake. All are welcome. If you have questions, please call Marlene R. Palumbo, the Secretary-Treasurer of the Enthronement Center at 216-447-9375.

Addiction Awareness Workshop

The Samaritan Ministry of St. Malachi Parish will offer a FREE one-day ADDICTION AWARENESS WORKSHOP in St. Malachi Center (behind the school), West 25th and Detroit in Cleveland on Saturday, June 13, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. PB&J sandwiches and beverages will be provided. Donation are welcome. Relevant topics will include addiction/alcoholism as a brain disease, effects of drinking/using on others, treatment options, 12-step programs of recovery, and resources in the community. For information or to register, call Judy Stowe at 440-250-9959 or judydystowe@gmail.com or St. Malachi Rectory at 216-861-5343. A brochure is available at www.stmalachi.org.

The Most Holy Trinity

Summer Volunteer Opportunity

“Touch our world one child at a time.” Today more and more children find themselves homeless. **Blessing House**, a crisis care center for children in the Cleveland area, provides children a safe and loving environment until they can go home. The Sisters of Notre Dame invite single women ages 18-35 to volunteer at Blessing House from June 28 – July 2. For more information, contact Sr. Kathleen Hine, SND at 440-476-6094 or at khine@ndec.org. Online registration is available at www.sndchardon.org.

Jesuit Retreat House

There are many events coming up at the Jesuit Retreat House in June, including one about the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus on June 9. For information on this event and more, visit the Jesuit Retreat House at www.jrh-cleveland.org or call 440-884-9300.

From Fr. Dan:

You might be wondering why you haven't heard anything about the parish's summer picnic and raffle, since in past years the preparations would have been in full swing by now. The reason is that the picnic will be delayed, since we weren't able to secure the July date we wanted at Klima Gardens in Cuyahoga Heights. Consequently, this festive gathering is set for Sunday, September 20. The decision was made to combine it with the corn roast, which usually would have occurred a few weeks later. For quite a while we have held the raffle drawing at the picnic and will carry on with that tradition this year. I hope you will mark your calendars and plan to join us! All Saints Credit Union is lending a hand by underwriting the cost of printing the raffle tickets, thanks to a \$500 donation. Their generous support of St. Therese Parish in this and many other ways is much appreciated!

I congratulate our eighth-graders whom Bishop Richard Lennon will confirm at St. Therese today at 3 p.m. My thanks go to Sr. DeAnne Zawadzki, our Director of Religious Education, for preparing our children for this sacrament, assisted so ably by Susan Chermonte and Patti Shumiloff, who teach our grade eight students in, respectively, our Parish School of Religion and John Paul II Academy. Sr. DeAnne also did a wonderful job in readying our second graders for First Reconciliation and First Communion. Helping her in this was our grade two teacher, Mary Denise Donegan of JP II. The PSR year, which ended last

Tuesday, wouldn't have been possible without the generous contribution of time, energy, and love by the teachers and other volunteers.

Finally, I'd like to remind you that we have a suggestion box in the church vestibule. I hope you will use it or speak to me in person about any ideas that cross your mind. One recent suggestion was that the parish have a noon Mass on Christmas Day and Easter Sunday, besides the two usual masses. The person proposing this wrote that getting three small children ready in time for the 10:30 a.m. Mass is nearly impossible. At Christmas we added a noon Mass, but the attendance was so sparse that repeating it at Easter seemed ill advised to me. Liturgy suffers when the number of people worshipping falls beyond a certain point. It was for this reason that I eliminated one of our Sunday masses in 2013, as well as on account of the challenge to find priests to assist me.



The Week Ahead

Sunday, May 31

Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast after Masses, H
Women Growing in Faith 1 p.m., Jesuit Retreat House
Confirmation 3 p.m., C & H

Monday, June 1

Seniors Meeting 1:30 p.m., H
JP II 8th Grade Graduation 7 p.m., SS. Peter & Paul Church

Tuesday, June 2

Cub Scout Parent Meeting 7 p.m., R
AA 8 p.m., H

Wednesday, June 3

Boy Scout Meeting 7 p.m., H

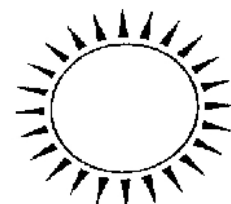
Thursday, June 4

Bingo 6:45 p.m., H

Friday, June 5

First Friday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament after 8:30 a.m. Mass

KEY: H: parish hall **R:** rectory **C:** church **S:** school



June 2015

C = Church
 R = Rectory
 SR = St. Rita
 SM = St. Monica

H = Hall
 S = School
 PP = SS. Peter & Paul
 MT = St. Martin of Tours

**Program Dates and Times are Subject to Change

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 1:30 Seniors-H 8th Grade Graduation-PP	2 7:00 AA-H 7:00 Cub Scouts Parents-R	3 7:00 Boy Scouts-H	4 Last Day of School 5:30 Bingo-H	5 First Friday Adoration after 8:30 a.m. Mass	6
7	8 7:00 H.N.S.-H 7:00 Boy Scout Parents-R	9 7:00 AA-H	10 7:00 Boy Scouts-H	11 5:30 Bingo-H 7:00 Spirit. Dev.-S	12	13 Stars & Stripes, Balls & Strikes! After 4:30 Mass, H
14 10:30 HNS Donuts after Mass-H	15 1:30 Seniors-H Parish Council Dinner	16 Dining to Donate at Applebee's 6:30 SVdP-R 7:00 AA-H 7:30 Social Concerns (?)>SR	17 7:00 Boy Scouts-H	18 5:30 Bingo-H	19	20 Girl Scout Bake and Candy Bar Sale after 4:30 Mass, H
21 Girl Scout Bake and Candy Bar Sale after masses, H Father's Day	22	23 7:00 AA-H	24 7:00 Boy Scouts-H	25 5:30 Bingo-H	26	27 Donuts after Mass
28 Donuts after Masses	29	30 7:00 AA-H				



June 2015 Saints and Birthdays



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1 <i>St. Justin</i> Jess Palker Mason Laski	2 <i>SS. Marcellinus & Peter</i>	3 <i>St. Charles Lwanga & Companions</i>	4	5 <i>St. Boniface</i> Liam Graham	6 <i>St. Norbert</i> Joe Putka Julianne McKee
7 <i>The Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ</i> <i>St. Anthony Gianneli</i> Frank Kozach, Maria Hamilton, Anne Seman	8 <i>St. Melania the Elder</i> Barbara Barto Thelma Kilfoyle	9 <i>St. Columba</i> <i>St. Ephrem</i>	10 <i>Bl. John Dominic</i>	11 <i>St. Barnabas</i> Paul Orzel	12 <i>The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus</i> <i>St. Leo III</i>	13 <i>The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> <i>St. Anthony of Padua</i> Paul Moeller
14 <i>St. Methodius of Constantinople</i>	15 <i>St. Germaine</i> Agnes Callen	16 <i>St. John Regis</i> Althea Nahine	17 <i>St. Harvey</i> Chad Gudat	18 <i>SS. Mark & Marcellian</i>	19 <i>St. Romuald</i> Tom Gadus	20 <i>St. Adalbert</i>
21 <i>St. Aloysius Gonzaga</i> Patricia Graham	22 <i>SS. John Fisher & Thomas More</i> <i>St. Paulinus of Nola</i> Danielle Makowski	23 <i>St. Audrey</i> Phil Herout	24 <i>The Nativity of St. John the Baptist</i> Leona Smith	25 <i>St. William of Vercelli</i>	26 <i>St. Anselm</i> Theodore Kaminski Ann Strinka	27 <i>St. Cyril of Alexandria</i>
28 <i>St. Irenaeus</i> Linda Vracek	29 <i>SS. Peter & Paul</i> Dan Chermonte	30 <i>First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church</i> Gaby Radak Elena Kortovich				



Bringing Home the Word



The Most Holy Trinity

May 31, 2015

Our Divine Parent

By Janel Esker

While filling out pages in our daughter's baby book, my husband and I noted that while most of the book is about her, quite a few sections ask about us. Where Mom and Dad went to school, how we met, funny quirks about each other. Though she won't be interested in those sections immediately, my own experience reveals that she'll one day be quite curious about her parents. I've recently spent much time with my

Sunday Readings

Deuteronomy 4:32–34, 39–40

The Lord is God in the heavens above and on earth below, there is no other.

Romans 8:14–17

You received a spirit of adoption.

Matthew 28:16–20

Baptize them in the name of Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.

mom assembling old family photos, and I've delighted in the stories about her childhood and her marriage "BC"—Before Children!

This Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity is a moment to ponder about our divine parent. The Church gives us this feast to reflect on the mystery of who God is for us. Perhaps most remarkable is the reality that we can call God our Father. Saint Paul states it beautifully in Romans 8:15: "You did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry, 'Abba, Father!'" We're asked to name God in the same way Jesus did—intimately, as a child to a parent. It's a privilege we should never take for granted.

Today on this feast, what can you say you know about God from your experience of being God's beloved child? The Hebrews in the first reading could tell of God's mighty deeds for them throughout history. Jesus' disciples could speak to his great miracles and the Spirit moving among them.

These rich stories make up the parents' pages of our baby book—but what can we add to them from what we have known of God?

Who is God to you? †

REFLECTION
QUESTIONS

ONE QUESTION
REFLECTION

- What does my life look like in the Trinity?
- What has God commissioned me to do with my life?

PRAYER

Lord,
you command me
to love all people.
Remove the
prejudice that keeps
me from loving my
brothers and sisters.
Amen.

The Ultimate Unbalanced Force

By Paige Byrne Shortal

A year ago I spent some time in India. One evening my hostess invited me to watch *The Bucket List* with her. Try to picture us: two women, one Hindu and one Catholic, unknown to each other until a month earlier, watching a movie about two men with terminal cancer who spend their last six months doing things they always wanted to do before they “kick the bucket.” Poonam and I sat late into the night discussing our own “bucket lists” and found we had much in common.

What do I want to do before I die? For that matter, what do I want to do before summer ends? Too often it flies by, and come September I mourn that I only went swimming twice with my grandchildren, I missed the cherry harvest, and I didn't even begin a certain writing project.

Why do we not do what we want to do? This phenomenon isn't limited to distasteful projects; I even put off the tasks I enjoy. It's not so much the work that's daunting; it's the starting. I don't have a scientific mind, but when I was introduced to Isaac Newton's First Law of Motion, I had an “aha” moment. The first part says that a body at rest or moving at a constant speed in a straight line will remain at rest or keep moving in a straight line at constant speed. Aha!



That's why it's so hard to get going or to change. We're like Newton's inanimate objects, tending to continue as we are—purposeful and productive or on the couch watching reruns of *This Old House*.

This morning in our coffee shop I met a good friend who just lost his job, one of the millions of the suddenly unemployed. After years of the work routine, he's verging on despair. Financial worries, yes, but also difficult is the disorientation of being forced to a sudden stop.

And yet crises that bring us up short are also moments of opportunity, moments when we can examine who we are, what we want from life or—better—what God wants of us.

The cure for boredom and mindless distraction by day and wide-eyed, heart-thumping panic by night is engagement—the flow and competence of meaningful work. But sometimes a malaise settles over a person suddenly out of work, and it's hard to get going again. As Newton explained in the second part of his First Law of Motion, the events in the first part only change when they're acted upon by an “unbalanced force.”

What's an unbalanced force? Any force strong enough to get us moving in a new direction...or moving at all. Job loss, being diagnosed with cancer, and retirement are unbalanced forces that compel us to move in a new direction, but sometimes a New Year's resolution or a “bucket list” will do the trick.

The ultimate unbalanced force, the force that can knock us off our pins and set us right again, is the Holy Spirit. God didn't create us to be slaves to safe routines and mindless amusements until this precious life is over. He made us for freedom and instilled in us a longing for meaning, a sense that our lives matter very much. We're here to reveal—indeed to *be*—a face of God otherwise never known to this world. God sends the Holy Spirit to work in us, to help each of us become our true self before this life ends and we go home to heaven.

Meanwhile, the summer stretches before us. What's on *your* list of things to do before summer kicks the bucket? †

WEEKDAY READINGS June 1–6

Mon.	St. Justin Tobit 1:3; 2:1b–8 / Mark 12:1–12	Thurs.	Tobit 6:10–11; 7:1bcd, 9–17; 8:4–9a / Mark 12:28–34
Tues.	Tobit 2:9–14 / Mark 12:13–17	Fri.	St. Boniface Tobit 11:5–17 / Mark 12:35–37
Wed.	St. Charles Lwanga and Companions Tobit 3:1–11a, 16–17a / Mark 12:18–27	Sat.	Tobit 12:1, 5–15, 20 / Mark 12:38–44