

# C.O.O.L. NEWS

# 40 Days of Lent

Holy Shroud of Turin  
Presentation

Tuesday, March 1 at  
6:30PM

See page 3 for  
information!



### *Stations of the Cross Schedule*

March 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm

March 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm

March 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm

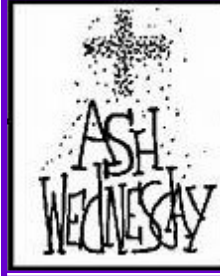
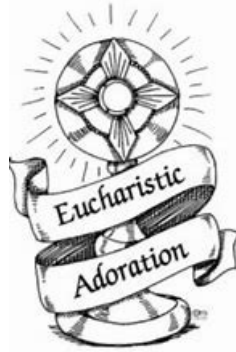
March 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm

Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Monthly Newsletter

## ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

**First Friday,  
March 4, 2022  
From 9:45am to Noon  
Weekly Adoration on Friday's  
from 9:45am to 10:30am**

**Consider adding weekly  
Adoration to your Lenten  
practice this year.**



**Ash Wednesday Masses  
9:00am and 7:00pm  
ASH WEDNESDAY IS A DAY OF  
FAST AND ABSTINANCE**

### Lenten Fast & Abstinence Reminder

On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, everyone age fourteen (14) and older **MUST ABSTAIN FROM EATING MEAT** (*seafood is permitted*).

Adults eighteen (18) and older must **FAST** (meaning one full meal a day and two lesser meals).

On all Fridays during Lent everyone fourteen (14) and older must **ABSTAIN** from meat.

Please see the COOL calendar on the back of the COOL News which has notations for Fast & Abstinence as appropriate for each day.

### FEAST DAYS IN MARCH

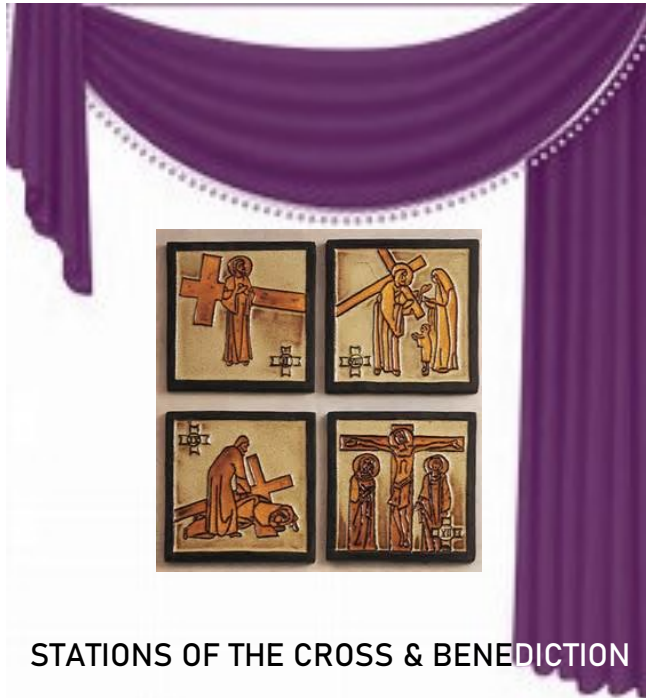
#### MARCH IS THE MONTH OF ST JOSEPH

- March 1 - Shrove Tuesday (Feast of the Holy Face of the Shroud of Turin- Roman Calendar)
- March 2 - ASH WEDNESDAY
- March 3 - St. Katherine Drexel
- March 4 - St. Casimir & First Friday /Adoration
- March 5 - First Saturday
- March 6 - Family Lenten Reconciliation Service (see page 5 for details)
- March 7 - St. Perpetua & St. Felicity, Martyrs
- March 8 - St. John of God, Religious
- March 9 - St. Frances of Rome, Religious & St. Dominic Savio
- March 17 - St. Patrick
- March 18 - St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop, Doctor of the Church
- March 19 - ST. JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
- March 23 - St. Turibius of Mogrovejo
- March 24 - St. Catherine of Sweden (The Brigidines)
- March 25 - THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD
- March 29 - St. Joseph of Arimathea

**LENTEN FAMILY RECONCILIATION SERVICE  
Sunday, March 6, 2022 at 7:00pm**

#### **RECONCILIATION CATECHESIS PROGRAM**

**The Church of Our Lady PSR Team is conducting a special program of catechesis for children on the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The program begins at 5:15<sup>PM</sup> Sunday, March 6, 2022  
MORE INFO ON PAGE 5**



### STATIONS OF THE CROSS & BENEDICTION

#### MARCH, FRIDAY EVENING SCHEDULE

March 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm  
March 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm  
March 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm  
March 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm

#### Lectors for the month of March are:

March 4th - Joanne Farrell  
March 11th - Hope Cardamone  
March 18th - Rea Okerberg & PSR Families  
March 25th - Elaine Sturm

**Servers are needed to support this Liturgy:**

**Two servers to carry candles  
One server to carry the Crucifix**

Servers will also assist Deacon Steve or Fr. Coleman with Benediction.

# 54-Day Novena of the Divine Mercy Chaplet, 2022

## Intentions of this Novena plus any you would like to add:

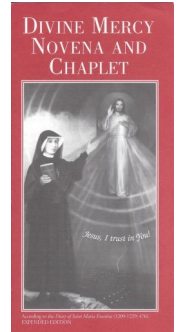
*For this United States of America and Our Holy Mother the Church. For the truth to prevail, flaws to be mended, corruption to be exposed, repentance, conversion and atonement; for God's will to be done and His justice to be served. Amen*

**Beginning Tuesday March 1 and ending April 23,  
Divine Mercy Sunday is April 24.**

**Let us pray for the end of the pandemic so that we may fully celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday.**

The following dates show the corresponding **Divine Mercy prayer** for that day:

	1 <sup>st</sup> Novena	2 <sup>nd</sup> Novena	3 <sup>rd</sup> Novena	4 <sup>th</sup> Novena	5 <sup>th</sup> Novena	6 <sup>th</sup> Novena
1 <sup>st</sup> Day	March 1	March 10	March 19	March 28	April 6	April 15
2 <sup>nd</sup> Day	March 2	March 11	March 20	March 29	April 7	April 16
3 <sup>rd</sup> Day	March 3	March 12	March 21	March 30	April 8	April 17
4 <sup>th</sup> Day	March 4	March 13	March 22	March 31	April 9	April 18
5 <sup>th</sup> Day	March 5	March 14	March 23	April 1	April 10	April 19
6 <sup>th</sup> Day	March 6	March 15	March 24	April 2	April 11	April 20
7 <sup>th</sup> Day	March 7	March 16	March 25	April 3	April 12	April 21
8 <sup>th</sup> Day	March 8	March 17	March 26	April 4	April 13	April 22
9 <sup>th</sup> Day	March 9	March 18	March 27	April 5	April 14	April 23



There continues to be so much need of prayer. What a better time to increase prayer than during the Lenten season with our focus on Jesus and what He did for us and what He continues to do. This Divine Mercy Novena is 54 days, consisting of three novenas (27 days) in petition and three novenas (27 days) in thanksgiving.

Divine Mercy pamphlets will be provided in the lobbies if you need one. The awesomeness of the Divine Mercy Novena is that on each day of the nine days we pray for a different intention that Jesus requested specifically. The blessings you may receive from praying this Novena are out of this world.

Ask a family member or friend to join you. Remember that where two or more are gathered in His Name, Jesus is there

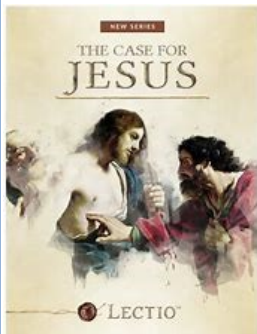
praying with you. Remember, you also can ask any who preceded you in this life to join you in prayer. The numbers praying with you can really add up in no time.

You may feel that it is a struggle to pray this entire 54-day Novena. Do not be discouraged, have hope. All our prayers are heard by God. If you miss a day or two, simply make it up the next day. Each Divine Mercy Chaplet usually takes less than 10 minutes. Singing our prayers is praying twice as Fr. Coleman tells us. Singing the Divine Mercy Chaplet takes only about 20 minutes! Please pray as much as you can.

May God bless all who join in praying this Novena, whether it be one day or 54 days. Thank You!!!

Mary Bishel

## ADULT ED - LENTEN BIBLE STUDY - "The Case For JESUS"



The COOL Adult Education program is presenting a special Lenten Bible study on four Sundays after the 10:00am Mass.

The sessions will focus on helping you strengthen your understanding of the true basis for our Catholic Faith.

We have selected four chapters from "The Case For Jesus" by Brandt Pitre:

- March 13: Session 1 - The Kingdom of God, the Messiah
- March 20: Session 2 - Did Jesus Claim To Be God?
- March 27: Session 3 - The Crucifixion of Jesus
- April 3: Session 4 - The Resurrection

Sessions will meet at 11:15. Refreshments will be served to tide you over. Sign-up sheets will be located in both lobbies. Please consider joining us Sunday mornings for this new program.

Submitted by Joanne Farrell

## The Holy Shroud of Turin Presentation

**Tuesday, March 1, 2022**

Deacon Steve will present a talk and slide program on the Shroud of Turin on Tuesday, March 1, at 6:30<sup>pm</sup> in Don Ross Hall.

With March 1, being the Feast Day of the Holy Face Of Jesus, it is fitting that we have the opportunity to explore and understand more of the Shroud's treasures.

It has been a number of years since Steve has given this presentation and he is really looking forward to sharing all his research and knowledge with you. Please add this event to your calendar.

Submitted by Adult Ed



## LITANY OF THE LOST

Lord have mercy. *Lord have mercy.*  
Christ have mercy. *Christ have mercy.*  
Lord have mercy. *Lord have mercy.*

(The response for the following petitions is:

*St. Anthony, pray for us.)*

For those of us who have lost. . .

our health,  
our peace of mind,  
our housing,  
our financial security,  
a loved one,  
our dreams,  
our talents,  
our initial zeal,  
our sobriety,  
our faith,  
our self-respect,  
our perspective,  
our innocence,  
our independence,  
peace within our families,  
civil peace, our trust in others,  
our virtue,  
our home,

(Please add your own particular loss.)

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world, *have mercy on us.* (3 times)

Let us pray.

All loving God, You have given us St. Anthony, the patron of the lost, as an intercessor of those who are in need of Your mercy. Listen to his voice as he calls out to You on our behalf, and grant those things which will help us grow in Your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

source: from a "Companion Prayer" A Guide to Prayer from the Companions of St. Anthony.

## Police Chief Ralph Portier

I would like to pay tribute to someone who was also known as Our Lady's Self Defense Instructor.

We were so privileged to have him as our instructor. He was very frank. He told us you may not come out of an encounter unharmed or even alive but he gave us skills to try. He was able to adapt defense skills to each person's skill level. He showed us how to use a cane in self-defense.



He was an interesting man. He earned his Black Belt in Taiho-jutsu and Japan Karate-Do. He was inducted into the Martial Arts Hall of Fame in 2016. He freely shared any information that might help us. We were blessed to have known him.

Mary Bishel

**Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let Perpetual Light shine upon him. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.**

**~Amen~**

Ralph J. Portier, 71, died December 30, 2021, at his home in Pickerington, OH. He died peacefully with family at his side following a two-year struggle with pancreatic cancer.

For his obit go to: <https://www.tributearchive.com/obituaries/23545707/ralph-portier/canal-winchester/ohio/dwayne-r-spence-funeral-home>

## ABSTINENCE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

In the first portion of his Gospel St. Matthew relates how Christ passed forty days in the desert, during which time neither food nor drink passed His lips. No doubt this penance of the God-Man was not only expiatory, but also exemplary.

True, Christ did not explicitly define the days nor the weeks wherein His followers would be obliged to fast and abstain. At the same time His example, coupled with His reply to the disciples of the Baptist, is evidence that the future would find His followers subjected to regulations whereby they would fast "after the bridegroom had been taken away". The only piece of clearly defined legislation concerning abstinence embodied in the New Testament was framed by the Council of Jerusalem, prescribing "abstinence from things sacrificed to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled" (Acts 15:29).

Nevertheless the Acts of the Apostles give evidence of a tendency on the part of the Church, as an organized body, to prepare the way for important events by abstinence and fasting (Acts 13:3; 14:22). In fine, St. Paul sets forth the necessity of abstinence when he says that "everyone striving for the mastery must abstain from all things" (1 Corinthians 9:25); and "let us exhibit ourselves as the ministers of Christ in labors, watchings, and fastings" (2 Corinthians 6:5), which he had often practiced (2 Corinthians 11:27).

source:catholicencyclopedia/newadvent.org

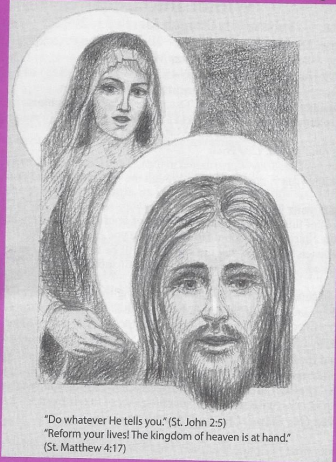
**Sunday, March 13**

**Spring**

**Ahead**

**2:00AM**

## One Bread, One Body



"Do whatever He tells you." (St. John 2:5)  
"Reform your lives! The kingdom of heaven is at hand."  
(St. Matthew 4:17)

Have One Bread, One Body  
mailed to your home  
Details Inside

Winter Into Lent  
February 1, 2022 - March 31, 2022  
www.presentationministries.com

### Daily Spiritual Readings

A very good Lenten practice is to spend 10 or 15 minutes each day in meditation on Scripture.

One Bread, One Body is a monthly booklet which makes this practice easily accessible.

You can find these booklets in both lobbies at Church Of Our Lady. They are provided free of charge for everyone through the generosity of June and Joe Hettinger. I have included a copy of the meditation for Ash Wednesday to give you a preview.

Please consider choosing this as part of your Lenten prayer and meditation practice.

Submitted by Elaine Sturm

Wednesday, March 2, 2022

Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:12-18  
2 Corinthians 5:20—6:2

Psalms 51:3-6, 12-14, 17  
Matthew 6:1-6, 16

### UP FROM THE ASHES

"Rend your hearts." —Joel 2:13

Today, the Catholic Church marks our heads with an ashen cross. Ashes connote humility and death. Ashes are what is left over after something is burned. They are commonly associated with the residue of destruction and death (Est 4:3; Jb 2:8). We die to ourselves in the self-denial of Lent. The ashes of our desires are what remain after this death.

After a forest fire, the forest floor is covered with ashes. The ashes are the residue of death and destruction. However, the ashes also are the beginning of new life for the forest. The fire clears away the accumulated litter on the forest floor which had been smothering seedlings which struggled to grow every year. Now that the fire has burned away this litter, the ashes serve as a sort of mulch which protects and nourishes the new seedlings. Thus, the ashes enable the cycle of new life to begin.

We are like that. The Lenten ashes of our repentance (see Jb 42:6) and dying to self smother our selfish desires, enabling and nourishing new life to blossom within us.

What new life does the Lord want to spring up as a result of your dying to self this Lent? (see Is 61:3) Will it be a call to a new vocation, the conception of a new child, a new holiness, the courage to witness publicly for Jesus, or joining a small Christian community? Repent! Die to yourself (Lk 9:23). Let Jesus create His new, abundant life (Jn 10:10) in you.

**Prayer:** Father, may I crucify my flesh with its passions and desires (Gal 5:24). May I always be fertile and fruitful for You.

**Promise:** "Keep your deeds of mercy secret, and your Father Who sees in secret will repay you." —Mt 6:4

**Praise:** John receives his ashes early on Ash Wednesday and makes a silent witness for Christ by wearing them throughout the day at his downtown job.

(This teaching was submitted by a member of our editorial team.)



### PSR Want Ad

I am looking for a volunteer who speaks French to help with translation for the children in PSR class. I know that they understand the English words but often they need to be taught the French equivalent.

Your help would be a tremendous asset to our program! Please consider if you could be this person.

You will need to go through **Protecting God's Children** (the diocese program) before you can join the PSR teaching ranks.

Contact Rea at:

Tolkien.nerd91@gmail.com

Or text to 614.699.2351

**REMINDER: OUR RECONCILIATION CATECHESIS is Sunday, March 6 at 5:15pm**

See the information at left.

**To my French students,** this is my favorite Bible verse for the children:

*Des enfants ont été amenés à Jésus afin qu'il puisse leur imposer les mains et prier. Les disciples les reprennent, mais Jésus a dit : « Laissez les enfants venir à moi, et ne les en empêchez pas ; car le royaume des cieux appartient à ceux qui leur ressemblent. Après avoir posé ses mains sur eux, il s'en alla.*

Matthieu 19:13-15, Marc 10:13-16

Submitted by Rea Okerberg



### LENTEEN RECONCILIATION SERVICE and CATECHESIS

**Both EVENTS on Sunday, March 6, 2022**

Our annual Lenten Family Reconciliation Service will be held on Sunday, March 6, at 7:00pm.

For PSR students who are preparing to make their First Reconciliation and all older students there is a mandatory Reconciliation Catechesis program Sunday, March 6, at 5:15pm.

Fr. Coleman along with the PSR Team will conduct the catechesis on Reconciliation. There will be plenty of time for questions and discussion of any aspects of Reconciliation (Confession and/or penance) that you might need help understanding.

There will be pizza for the children & families after the session. PSR students and families are required to attend the 7:00pm Reconciliation Service.



# Musings of a Curious Angel

(A humorous tale of what went on upstairs  
before long ago happened)

by

**Stephen A. Venturini**

May 13, 2021

I have the curiosity of a cat. When things happen I want to know why, even how. I raise questions, seeking answers. Yes, I know that old saw, curiosity killed the cat; but, frankly, that does not concern me. I am an angel. Curiosity is simply a part of me – and it's all because of God. Understand, please, I'm not blaming God for anything. Heaven forbid! It's just that I am what God created, curiosity and all. Maybe it's His sense of humor that He created me the way I am, to be so inquisitive. (He does have a sense of humor, you know. After all, He created humans.) Or, maybe He simply wanted me to think about things, to try and find their purpose. So, that is what occupies me. The nice thing about it is that I have a lot of time to spare (uh, we'll talk about "time" a little later). I was early on thankful that He did not assign me as a Guardian Angel. Have they got a job and a half, trying to keep up with all the foibles and peccadillos that seem to plague humans.

From the moment God called us into being, none of us have ever been able to understand Him. There is no way we can, He is so infinitely beyond our ability to discern His intentions. I have watched with great interest – okay, curiosity – every time God seemed to be poised to do something unprecedented, like when He created the Universe.

Now, there's a word-and-a half – "unprecedented", a very curious word in Heaven. Everything God has done He has known from the beginning of infinity, which as any angel can tell you is an oxymoron. Infinity had no beginning; it is not confined by time. Nor does infinity have an end. It always was – I mean always is. In the absolute sense of the word infinity is both timeless and time-less. Doesn't that knock the socks off comprehension? (I'm curious as to why those humans have never really latched onto the "interabang" - ?; it's such a useful punctuation mark.)

In my curious mind, infinity is impossible to envision. Consider us angels in Heaven. God created us. There was that singular moment in infinity when we didn't exist; then we did. Unlike God and Heaven, we had a beginning. God said the word, and there we were. Many of us may be curious about it. I know I am. But we do not question it. We simply accept that, because of God, we exist.

Early on in our existence (wow! I almost said the "time" of our existence when, in fact, there was no such thing as time), a rebellion took place, a revolt that really shook up Heaven. God, of course, being God, was

unperturbed by it all; but it sure messed with our minds. Suffice it to say that not a few of us angels – including some from all nine choirs – decided that they would be better off without allegiance to God. Needless to say, I was not among them, or I would not be here, telling you all this. These rebel angels thought that they had it within themselves to take care of matters.

Were they ever wrong! It was pure arrogance, but it is what it is. The rest of us – meaning a significant majority of us – stood pat. We knew which side of the bread the butter was on. (Hmm. Where did that come from? I'll have to explore that one.) The rebellion was a prime example of a special gift God gave us – free will. That gift enabled us to make our own decisions, with the understanding that once made, the decisions would be ratified by God. No pressure! Also, no escape, as in, "Is that your final answer?" (Gosh! Another one I'm going to have to look into.)

As I noted earlier, I was gifted with a strong sense of curiosity. I want to know the why and how of things. Well, there came an instance when my curiosity was, shall we say, well-tickled. At that moment... Excuse me, but I have a hard time explain things to you mortals without referring to time and its synonyms to enable you to better understand; so please bear with me as I relate my tale. As I was saying, at that moment, God locked His eyes on me and flashed a most intriguing grin, knowing that He had piqued my curiosity. He willed into being something I had never heard of: a singularity. A singularity? To be honest (that's all I can be up here) I was not the only perplexed angel in Heaven. All of us murmured quizzically: a singularity?

When we asked what it was, God told us that it was something that would drive humans nuts – and that was before humans even existed. He said it was a dimensionless point of essence – of being. It wasn't, then it was. To my curious mind, a point that has no dimensions, that cannot be measured, is a purposeless nothing. But, I'm a mere creature; what do I know? No matter how hard I tried, I couldn't make heads or tails of it (whoops! Another one to investigate). God had a plan, and I was sure He would soon let us in on it. When us angels got together to try and figure it out, our gathering ended up with a whole host of blank stares. When we asked God what was the point of the point (cute, huh? Remember, this was before puns were invented), He simply smiled with that all-knowing grin He enjoys flashing and said, "Soon."

After what seemed like an eon – and it was, in fact a bit more than an eon, much like the "wait a moment" you humans often use with great inaccuracy as to its length – God looked at us and finally answered our question: "Much!"

*Continued on next page*

*Musings of a Curious Angel, continued*

I looked over at Gabriel and Michael, hoping that surely God would have let His Archangels in on the plan. Both answered me with a shrug. Neither did any of the Seraphim and Cherubim have an answer. It was just one more of those countless mysteries that God likes to throw at us, probably to make us think.

All of us, the entire hierarchy of angels, stared at the odd creation, the singularity, and wondered as to its purpose – and, of course, it had a purpose. God never does anything that lacks a reason.

“Watch!” God suddenly announced, again lovingly flashing that famous grin.

With no idea as to what was about to happen, we watched. And watched. And watched. Suddenly, the singularity began to expand. Faster and faster it grew, and we could see things happening inside it, almost like clouds swirling and intermingling. What was once a measureless point had become a “thing”. But, what?

“Behold!” God announced. “Behold the Universe!”

For the next twelve or so billion years – yes, time had in a sense become a reality – many of the angels were called into the main office to receive their future assignments, all having to do with this Universe God had created. A whole lot of them were told that, over time, they would be put in charge of a creature called Man – that’s you humans, of course – as Guardian Angels. Others were assigned to what would become cities, and even nations. When my turn came, I was told that God had promised Himself that He would leave me to my curiosity. Apparently, He enjoyed my energy and frustrations in trying to figure things out. I guess even God likes to be amused sometimes.

I spent the next two eons thanking Him.



**FAMILY ROSARY RALLY**  
SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 2022

Please join us in an America Needs Fatima Rosary Rally on Saturday March 19, 2022, at Noon.

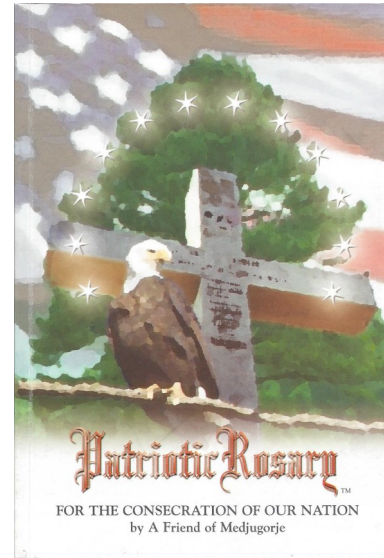
Hopefully this will be outside, weather cooperating. Praying against experiencing another Winter Storm Landon ever again.

Come celebrate St Joseph’s Feast Day with prayer for our country to return to one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Questions: Mary Bishel

**Coming in March 2022**  
**Community Rosaries**

Remember the Patriotic Rosary Book?



Starting the first Saturday in March (the 5th), after the 4:00pm Vigil Mass, we will be praying of a part of the Patriotic Rosary.

On Saturday, March 5th we will begin by praying the intro, the meditation and the first decade to the Rosary. We will follow with the first stanza of the song following the decade.

Each of the Saturday Rosary decades will end with the Hail Holy Queen and St. Michael the Archangel prayers.

Saturday, March 12, would be the second decade of the Rosary along with the meditation and song listed for that decade. And so forth. . .

March has four Saturdays, so we will pray the fourth and fifth decades on March 26.

I am aware of the extended time it takes to pray the full Patriotic Rosary so I hope this approach will enable more people to have the time to meditate on the messages and mysteries.

Group prayers are so powerful, please pray with us.

Questions: Mary Bishel

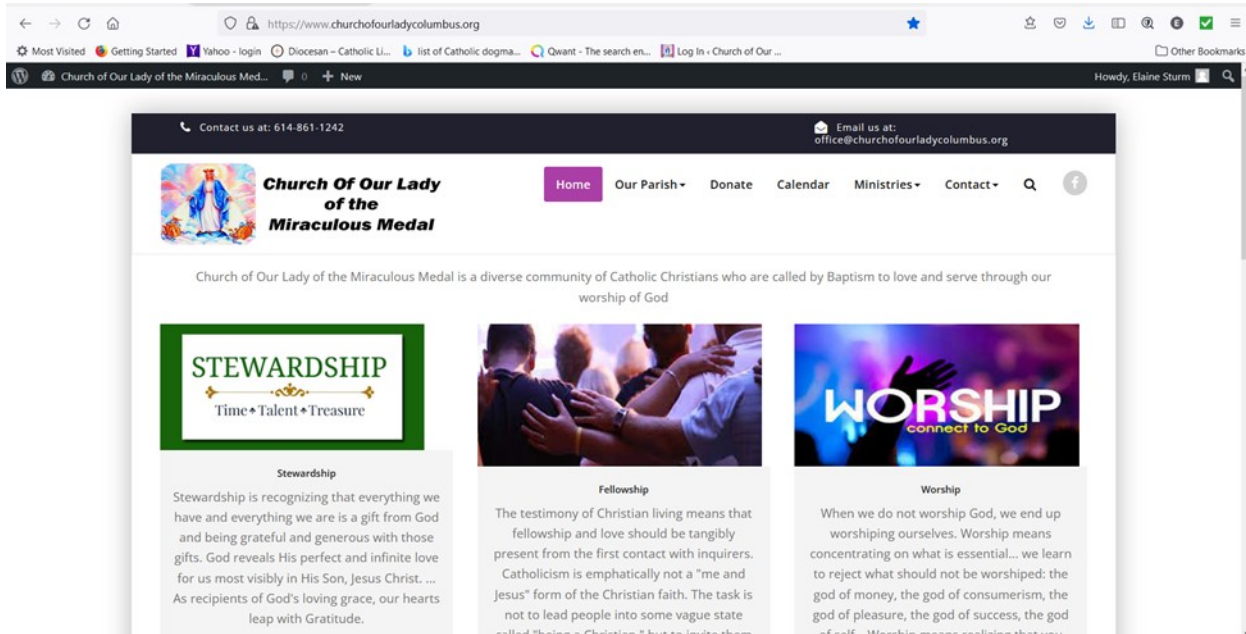


# A LOOK AT THE UPDATED WEBSITE FOR CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL

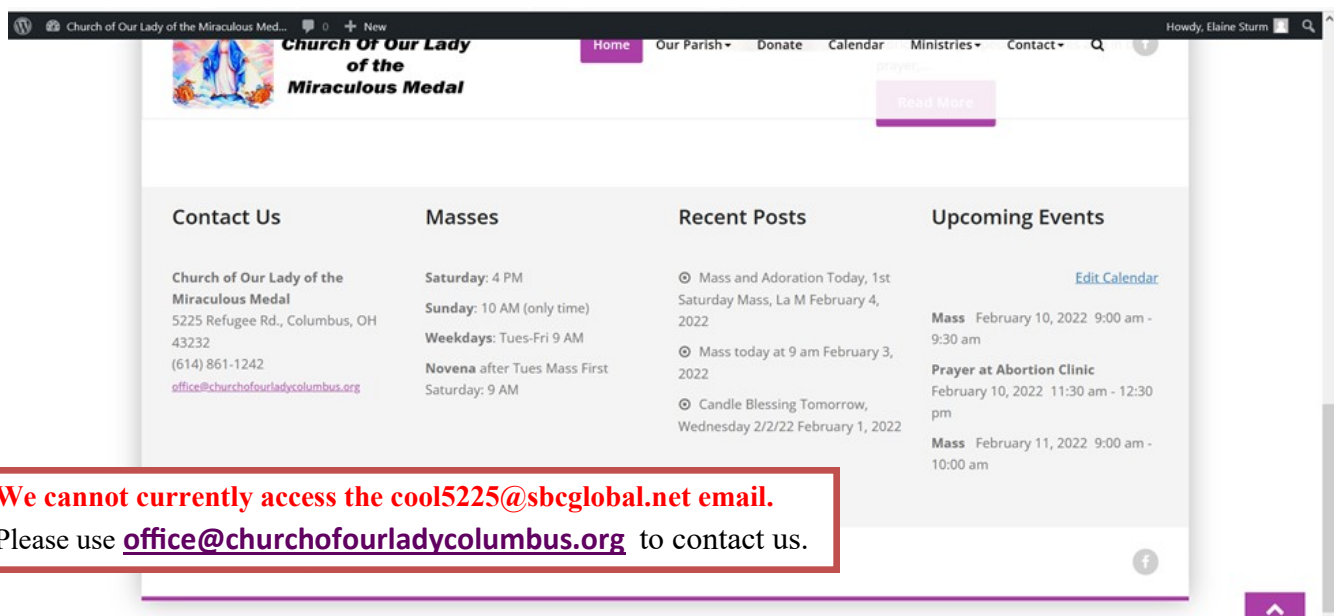
<https://www.churchofourladycolumbus.org/> HAS A NEW LOOK!

Our long-time web-master, Rob de Santis, retired last fall. The interface he was using was several years old and there was no possibility of updating the inner workings. God blessed us with local talent who have come forward to take over the management and design of our website. Craig Segbers and Paul Mitchell are working in partnership with a new interface, WordPress, to help bring our website up-to-date with a new look and new features.

Below is a screen shot of the home page - the top, and the 2nd screen shot below is the bottom of the page. We have the added feature that individuals within the COOL staff now have the capability of easily adding content. We are all learning bit by bit - and sometimes items don't show up just the way we intended. Please be patient as we get accustomed to the environment.



At the bottom of the home page, we have the general information that remains fairly constant: Church name, address, phone number and email contact. **Please note that the contact email for Church of Our Lady has changed to: [office@churchofourladycolumbus.org](mailto:office@churchofourladycolumbus.org)**

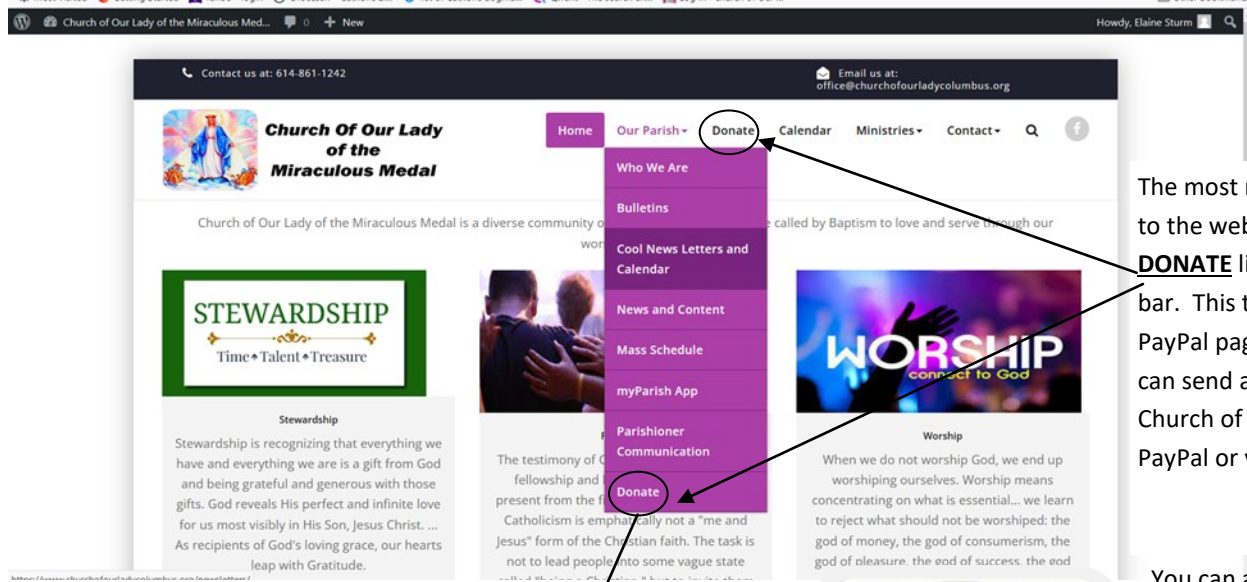




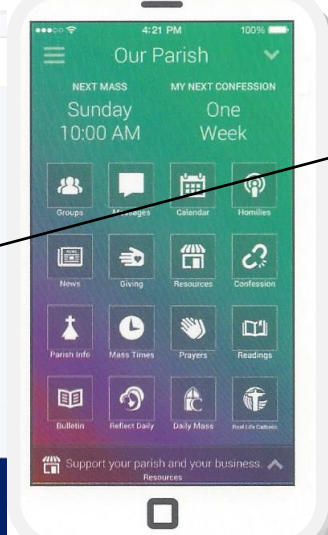
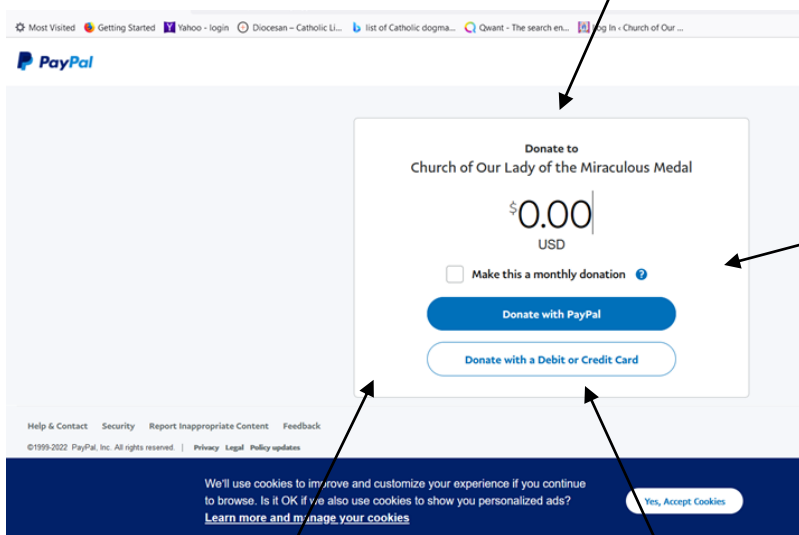
Under the **“Our Parish”** we find a listing the most used relevant information.

Fr. Coleman’s monthly Cool News Calendar is available as you can see on the drop-down menu. There is also a **“Calendar”** option which takes you to a Google-type formatted calendar.

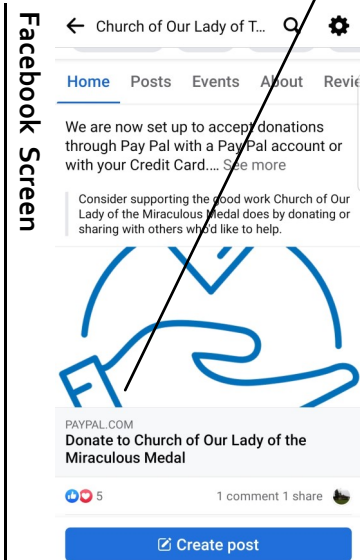
Under **“Ministries”** we have only the **“Music Ministry”** thus far which takes you to the Music Ministry page of information. This tab is waiting for additional ministries to be added so that relevant activities in our ministries can be promoted to everyone.



The most recent addition to the website is the **DONATE** link on the menu bar. This takes you to the PayPal page where you can send a donation to Church of Our Lady via PayPal or your credit card.



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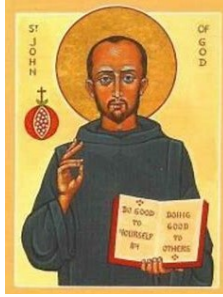
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# St. John of God

Born: March 8, 1495

Died: March 8, 1550 – Granada, Spain

Patron Saint of the Dying and All Hospitals



John of God was born João Duarte Cidade (Portuguese form, the Spanish form is João Cidade Duarte) in Montemor-o-Novo (now in the District of Évora in south-central Portugal), the son of André Cidade and Teresa Duarte, a once-prominent family that was impoverished but had great religious faith. One day, when John was eight years of age, he disappeared. The circumstances of his disappearance are not clear and there are conflicting accounts. According to his original biography, his mother died from grief soon after this and his father joined the Franciscan Order.

The young João soon found himself a homeless orphan in the streets of Oropesa, near Toledo, Spain. There, in a foreign land, he had no one to care for him, nothing on which to live and he had to be content with whatever food he could find. He was eventually taken in by a man called Francisco Mayoral and the boy settled down as a shepherd caring for his sheep in the countryside.

The farmer was so pleased with João's strength and diligence that he wanted him to marry his daughter and to become his heir. At (about) the age 22 years, to escape his master's well-meant but persistent offer he joined a company of foot-soldiers, and in that company fought for Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor. While serving for the Count of Oropesa, he was appointed to guard an enormous amount of loot, much of which had been rifled by the time he was relieved. Suspicion naturally fell on him; even if he had not been involved in the theft, at the least he was guilty of dereliction of duty. He was condemned to death, but a more tolerant officer intervened to win his pardon.

Disillusioned by this turn of events, João returned to the farm in Oropesa, spending four years again in a pastoral life. This went on until the day that the Count and his troops marched by, on their way to fight in Hungary against the Turks. Still unmarried, he immediately decided to enlist with them, and left Oropesa for a final time. For the next 18 years he served as a trooper in various parts of Europe.

Succeeding years found him first at his birthplace, saddened by the news of his mother's premature death, which had followed close upon his mysterious disappearance; then a shepherd at Seville and still later at Gibraltar, on the way to Africa, to ransom with his liberty Christians held captive by the Moors. He accompanied to Africa a Portuguese family just expelled from the country, to whom charity impelled him to offer his services.

On the advice of his confessor João soon returned to Gibraltar, where, brief as had been the time since the invention of the printing-press, he inaugurated the apostolate of the printed page, by making the circuit of the towns and villages about Gibraltar, selling religious books and pictures, with practically no margin of profit, in order to place them within the reach of all.

It was during this period of his life that João is said to have had a vision of the Infant Jesus, who bestowed on him the name by which he was later known, **John of God**, also directing him to go to Granada (Spain). João then settled in that city, where he worked disseminating books, using the moveable type printing press of Johannes Gutenberg to provide people with works of chivalry and devotional literature.

João experienced a major religious conversion on Saint Sebastian's Day (January 20) of 1537, while listening to a sermon by John of Ávila who was later to become his spiritual director and who would encourage him in his quest to improve the life of the poor. At the age of 42, João had what was perceived at the

time as an acute mental breakdown. Moved by the sermon (of John of Ávila), he soon engaged in a public beating of himself, begging mercy and wildly repenting for his past life. He was incarcerated in the area of the Royal Hospital reserved for the mentally ill and received the treatment of the day, which was to be segregated, chained, flogged, and starved. John of Avila visited him and advised him to be more actively involved in tending to the needs of others rather than in enduring personal hardships. João gained peace of heart, and shortly after left the hospital to begin work among the poor.

About this time, he made a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Extremadura, where it is said he experienced a vision of Mary, who encouraged him to work with the poor. João expended all his energy in caring for the neediest people of the city. He established a house where he wisely tended to the needs of the sick poor, at first doing his own begging. When João began to put into effect his dream, because of the stigma attached to mental illness, he found himself misunderstood and rejected. For some time he was alone in his charitable work, soliciting by night the needed medical supplies, and by day attending to the needs of his patients and the hospital; but he soon received the cooperation of charitable priests and physicians. Many stories are related of the heavenly guests who visited him during the early days of his immense tasks, which were lightened at times by the Archangel Raphael in person. To put a stop to his custom of exchanging his cloak with any beggar he chanced to meet, Sebastian Ramirez, Bishop of Tui, had a religious habit made for him, which was later adopted in all its essentials as the religious garb of his followers, and the bishop imposed on him for all time the name given him by the Infant Jesus, John of God.

Slowly João drew to himself a dedicated circle of disciples who felt called to join him in this service. In 1535 he founded his first hospital at Granada, where he served the sick and afflicted. After ten years spent in the exercise of charity, he died March 8, 1550, of pneumonia after he had plunged into a river to save a young man from drowning. He was canonized by Pope Alexander VIII in 1690 and was declared *the patron saint of the dying and of all hospitals* by Pope Leo XIII in 1898.

The Order of Hospitallers were approved by the Holy See in 1572 as the [Brothers Hospitallers of Saint John of God](#), who care for the sick in countries around the world. One mark of honor to his labors is that this Order has been officially entrusted with the medical care of the pope. In Italian they are also known commonly as the Fatebenefratelli, meaning "Do-Good Brothers", and elsewhere as the "Brothers of Mercy", the "Merciful Brothers" and the "John of God Brothers". The Order carries out a wide range of health and social service activities in 389 centers and services in 46 countries.

John of God's first companion, Anton Martín, O.H., was chosen to succeed him as prior general of the Order. Thanks to the generosity of King Philip II of Spain, a hospital was founded at Madrid, another at Córdoba and several others in various Spanish towns. Pope Pius V approved the Order of the Brothers Hospitallers in 1572 under the Rule of St. Augustine. The Order spread rapidly into the other countries of Europe, and even into the distant colonies. In 1584, Pope Gregory XIII called some of the Brothers to Rome and gave them the Hospital of St. John Calybita, Fatebenefratelli Hospital, located on an island in the Tiber, which then became the motherhouse of the whole Order. Brother Sebastiano Arias founded the Hospital of Our Lady at Naples and the famous Hospital of Milan. Another Brother Hospitaller at this time was John Grande, O.H., who was beatified by Pope Pius IX in 1852. Sources: Catholic Encyclopedia & Wikipedia



# **KofC 2022 LENTEN FISH FRIES-TAKE OUT ONLY**

**WHEN:** Friday's on 03/04, 03/11, 03/18, & 03/25

**TIME:** from 6:00pm (after Stations) to 7:30pm

**COST:** \$10 – cash or credit card

**MENU:** Freshly Fried Fish  
Sides: Fries or Mac-N-Cheese  
Green Beans  
(drinks, desserts, salads, condiments not available)

**PROCEDURE:**

- ENTER THE WEST LOBBY, OR DRIVE UP TO THE WEST LOBBY ENTRANCE, OR CALL 614-531-7998 TO ORDER AHEAD.
- A MEMBER OF THE KNIGHTS WILL TAKE YOUR ORDER AND ACCEPT PAYMENT.
- FOOD WILL BE PREPARED AND BROUGHT OUT TO YOU IN CARRY-OUT CONTAINERS.

The Columbian Squires will be selling pop and chips for \$1 per item.  
Proceeds support the charitable functions of the Knights of Columbus



# Fr. Coleman's Calendar