

Patriot Day

September 11, 2001

New York • Washington D.C. • Pennsylvania



⊕ St. Mary Church Hyde Park Cincinnati, Ohio

2853 Erie Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45208

Church Office 513) 321-1207
School Office 513) 321-0703

MISSION STATEMENT

St. Mary Church, Hyde Park, is a Catholic community committed to: Gathering for worship of God, Spreading and living the teachings of Jesus Christ, and, Providing quality Christian education for all ages.

EUCCHARISTIC LITURGIES

Saturday: 4:00 pm
Sunday: 8:00 am, 9:30 am, 11:30 am
Weekdays & Holy Days: Mass Schedule inside the bulletin

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 3:00 - 3:45 pm and by appointment.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Takes place on the first and third Sunday of the month, 1pm or quarterly during weekend liturgies. Preparation for this Sacrament is on the third Thursday of the month 7pm. Call the rectory to either begin the process or register for class. **Parents should know and understand the qualifications of a Godparent before asking someone to fulfill this important role. If you are unsure about the qualifications, please contact the rectory for clarification before you ask someone to be a Godparent.* See website for more information.*

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Parishioners must contact the parish office at least one year in advance. A marriage preparation program is required. See website for more information.

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Ken Schartz Pastor	x5501
Deacon Tim Helmick	x5761
Deacon John Schuler	x5762
John Thamann Deacon Emeritus	
Connie Erdmann Parish Secretary	x5511
Brian Geeding Pastoral Associate	x5533
Beth Mock Communication/ Development Director	
Angie Pfaller Business Manager	x5502
Marianne Rosemond School Principal	
Katie Barton Director of Liturgy and Music	x5525
Margaret Shank Pastoral Associate	x5521
Laura Nickol Volunteer Coordinator	x5510

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday: 9 -12; 1-5
Closed Saturday & Sunday

BULLETIN DEADLINE

Noon Monday
to Connie Erdmann

Never
Forget!



www.smchp.com



Unfiltered

Occasionally I will put pen to paper for ten minutes without contemplating what I am going to write next. It is a steady stream of unfiltered words. This allows me to get out of the way and let my feelings bubble up. Give it a try sometime. You may be surprised what surfaces. This is what surfaced for me.

We do things over and over, year after year, without questioning why or if it is still the best way. We worship, we school, we teach, we debate, we become comfortable. We allow our kids to be raised by others because of our schedules. We believe our kids are ill because they can't sit still at age 6 for more than thirty minutes. We compare ourselves to others and we forget who we are. We despair because we can't keep up with the world. We tell ourselves that it is because of our mistakes and our past that keep us from joy, from success, from heaven. God is love. Period. God is not a cosmic cop. God does not love you more or less because of the choices you make. God does not punish us. All that God does is to bring us closer to love, to peace, to truth.

Does God really have a gender? Why is God a he? God is in all and made all. Why is God gender specific? Yes, Jesus prayed "Our Father". Was it because the image of a Father was one of strength and superiority? Could people accept God as father but not as mother at that time? God is God. We were made by the only perfect being. Does God really desire us to worship God? Doesn't God really want to worship us so that we may feel that perfect love? It happens every second of every day. Will we allow ourselves to feel that love? This is the revolution. It is already here.

calendar

Please visit www.smchp.com for the most current info.

- Monday**, September 12:
Parish Life, Seton Ctr. Meeting Rm., 7 p.m.
- Tuesday**, September 13:
Mass, Church, 6:45 p.m.
St. Mary Hyde Park Council., Seton Ctr., 7:15 p.m.
Sports Association, Seton Center, 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday**, September 15:
St. Vincent DePaul Society Monthly Mtg., Rectory Meeting Room, 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday**, September 17:
St. Xavier Car Wash, Church Parking lot, 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
- Sunday**, September 18:
Baptisms, Church, 1 p.m.
Rosary, Seton Center, 8 p.m.

masses

Tuesday, September 13

7:30 a.m. Bob Kelly-Juliani Family
 6:45 p.m. For the People of the Parish

Wednesday, September 14

9:00 a.m. John E. Prunte-Babbitt Family

Thursday, September 15

7:30 a.m. Patricia Bonn-Greg & Katie Dorr

Friday, September 16

9:00 a.m. John J. Christian Jr.-Joe & Christine Conte

Saturday, September 17

9:00 a.m. For the People of the Parish
 4:00 p.m. Barbara O'Donnell-Tom & Rosemary Bosco

Sunday, September 18

8:00a.m. For the People of the Parish
 9:30a.m. Mary Kathryn Walsh-Joe & Christine Conte
 11:30a.m. Phyllis Verkamp Coffin-Helmut & Evelyn Roehrig

readings

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Sept. 18

Amos 8:4-7
1 Timothy 2:1-8
Luke 16:1-13

100th Anniversary Church Photo Directory

Thanks to everyone who participated in our Church Photos. **You may still submit a photo to the parish office, to be included in our new directory.** Your free 8 1/2 X 11 picture will be mailed to you very soon. The Directory itself will not be published until January 2017 as we finalize all the past church photos to be a part of this Centennial issue. **Any questions please contact Laura Nickol at 321-1207 ext. 5510.**

Collection Sunday, September 4 18,082.15

Projected weekly Collection 19,388.00

Want to write fewer checks? Sign up for *Electronic Fund Transfer*. To enroll go to our website www.smchp.com and click on "Giving" found at the top of the main page. Any questions? **Call Jeff Rinear 321-1207 ext. 5502.**

***to increase your electronic giving:** Log in to smchp.weshareonline.org and click Payments & Schedules/Click Edit next to Sunday Offerings/Enter in your new account/Click Apply **Questions contact Jeff Rinear at 321-1207 ext. 5502.**



From the desk of Fr. Ken

I had just said mass and was back in my house having a coffee and reading the paper. It was about 9:00. My Mom called and said turn on the TV. I saw that a plane had crashed into one of the towers at the World Trade Center in New York City. The next thing was another plane did the same thing into the other tower. Then the Pentagon. Then a plane went down in Pennsylvania. We were under attack. I went over the school and we said the rosary.

I said mass that evening—it looked like attendance for a Christmas Eve Mass. The saying is true “there are no atheists in fox holes”. For a period of time, we were one country. There was no Democrat or Republican. We were simply Americans. On this 9-11 Anniversary, may we all pray that acts of terrorism will cease.

Fr. Ken Schaff



PREP 2016-17

2016-17 PREP Registration is open. Classes will begin with a family gathering in Robisch Hall after 9:30 Mass on Sunday, 9/18. **Classes begin on 9/25.** All children in grades Pre-K through grade 7 are invited and welcome. See “WeShare” for registration information or link to PREP 2016-17 from the opening page of St. Mary website. A great year of learning is about to begin!

Jubilee Year of Mercy

Moments of Mercy

Scripture: Mt:35-38

“Jesus went around to all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and curing every disease and illness. At the sight of the crowds, his heart was moved with pity for them because they were troubled and abandoned, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest.’”

Meditation

“... In this passage ..., Jesus shows us in action and words that [it is our responsibility to address] the plight of the suffering. Not only should we follow Jesus' example in allowing our hearts to respond to the needs of others, but we should also listen to what Jesus calls us to. ... God calls on us to go out into our homes, workplaces, and communities and recognize his love and mercy working through others. God's harvest of mercy is rich and full; we must ask God to make us laborers in his field so that we can better recognize the love of God in others, especially in those we might normally walk past.

This month, we celebrate a jubilee of workers and volunteers of mercy, something we all should strive to be.

... Someone who worked for mercy is Saint Teresa of Kolkata, who responded to God's call for laborers. ... Our response to those who are suffering, like Saint Teresa's, should be one of love, compassion. and mercy.”



SMS school news

FROM OUR SCHOOL OFFICE



Thank you to our school and parish families for supporting our Magazine Drive. The Magazine Drive officially ends this Tuesday...so it's not too late to place an order. You can access the online ordering link from the front page of

www.smshp.com. St. Mary earns 40% of each magazine sale and the proceeds support the operation of the school...we truly rely on this income! Thank you and God bless you!

We are accepting applications for our Kindergarten Class for next Fall 2017. If you would like a personal tour, please call the school office at 321-0703. Visit us at www.smshp.com to learn more and to view photos of SMS Life!

St. Mary Parents of Preschoolers (POPs) News



St. Mary POPs is a group of moms and dads from St. Mary Parish who have at least one child between the ages of 2 and 5. We look to provide a number of fun activities for families to be involved in - playgroups, parents' day out, volunteer opportunities, and more. POPs is a great way to meet other parents, make new friends, and get involved in the St. Mary Parish community.

Joining St. Mary POPs is free - no family membership required! If you are interested in being a member for the 2016/17 year, please email stmarypops@gmail.com to be added to our membership list. Also, please indicate whether you have any interest in helping organize some of our events - the commitment is minimal, and is a great way to get involved!

Formed

Did you know that St. Mary Hyde Park has a subscription to this program of faith formation and evangelization which allows access to ALL the programs on FORMED as well as ALL of the downloadable Leader and Participant Guides for EVERY parishioner? See for yourself! **FORMED** has movies, books, audio CD's, and programs that can be used in your home or in any small group. Check it out: **ST. MARY HYDE PARK PARISH CODE: 8861c3**

The Cathedral of St. Peter in Chains
Extends an open invitation to all
Greater Cincinnati Police, Fire, and
Public Safety Personnel,
Families, Friends & Community to the

12th Annual

Blue Mass Celebration

Sunday, September 25, 2016

Police Chaplain, Rev. Steve Angi, Celebrant

Blessing & Procession begin 10:45 a.m.
With Mass at 11:00 a.m.

Cathedral of St.
Peter in Chains
325 W. Eighth St.,
45202
Downtown
Cincinnati at 8th &
Plum Sts.

Refreshments and
fellowship after the
service.



People of all faiths are invited to pray with us for the men and women whose dedicated service assists us in making our communities safe and for those who have given the ultimate sacrifice to save others.

For more information please call
Cathedral of St. Peter in Chains (513)-421-5354
Captain Bridget M. Bardua, CPD (513)-569-8599
LTC Dave Bailey, CPD (513)-352-3536
Fire Captain Rick Ransick (513) 352-1681

www.stpeterinchainscathedral.org

Car Wash

The St. Xavier High School Big Brothers and Big Buddies Programs are sponsoring a car wash next Saturday, September 17th, from 11 am to 2:30 pm at St. Mary's Church. All the money we raise will support our mentoring and tutoring programs for children in need. Please support our cause by getting your car washed and help spread the word about this event on Saturday, September 17th. Thank you for your support.

Prayer Request Hotline

The Prayer Request Hotline is in service. The number is **533-5500 ext. 5770**. For anyone who is in need of prayer, or if you know someone who is in need of prayer, call and leave your prayer request on the message system. If you'd like to be a prayer partner, please call Marlene Berning (321-7911).

Worship 101

"How can I feel welcomed in the Catholic Church again after experiencing hurt at the hands of people in the Church?"

It can be difficult when we feel like our fellow Christians aren't acting very Christian toward us or toward others. The Church is indeed made up of sinful, imperfect people, who often disappoint. But rather than distancing yourself from the Holy Eucharist and the Catholic Church that Christ founded, consider clinging to Jesus all the more, since he never disappoints. It is helpful, in times of trial and hurt, to remember why you are Catholic—not because all Catholics always represent the mercy and love of Jesus perfectly well, but because the Catholic Church was founded by Jesus, administers the sacraments, and contains the fullness of Truth, helping all of us to draw closer to God and grow in holiness. Do not allow the actions of some to cause you to lose faith in the Church as a whole. Discuss your frustrations with a priest or deacon at your local parish, and start your journey back to a welcoming home. Above all, do not lose heart. People may disappoint, but God never leaves us, and He is always present in the Catholic Church he founded.

catholicscomehome.org

Do you have questions you want answered? Send your questions to connieerdmann555@hotmail.com or call the parish office (321-1207). You may even drop them in the collection basket. We look forward to hearing them.

Fun Family Experience Bluegrass for Babies

Seasongood Pavilion in Eden Park

Saturday, September 17, 2016, 3-9 p.m.

[Tickets, VIP Family Packages, Sponsorships, and Reserved Parking can be purchased online at \[www.bluegrassforbabies.com\]\(http://www.bluegrassforbabies.com\)](#)

Parishioners called to Military Service

If you know of a parishioner who is called into, or presently serving in, our country's military forces **please notify the parish secretary at (321-1207)**. We want to keep these men and women in our prayers. In serving honorably, they contribute to the good of the nation and the preservation of peace (Catechism of the Catholic Church #2310). Please keep the following in your prayers: **Craig Blessing, Josue Vazquez, Tony DeFilippo, Louis Hamilton, Jr., Karl Kadon, III, Kurt Kadon, Jake Keefe, Dom Lanzillotta, Ewan MacDougall, Michael O'Connor, Andrew Quatkemeyer, Amy Rohs, Todd Seurkamp, Todd Smyth.**

military service



Bringing Home the Word

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time September 11, 2016

Lost and Found

By Janel Esker

I lost my wedding ring once. For two days I was frantic, practically turning my whole house upside down. The loss was devastating—the ring symbolized so much and obviously couldn't be replaced. I couldn't do much else during those days but worry—I had trouble working, sleeping, and focusing. When I found the ring safely tucked amid some blankets that had fallen off the bed, my joy was nearly indescribable.

I was filled with relief, and my world was back on track.

That experience gives me insight into “the joy in heaven” Jesus describes in today’s Gospel at the repentance of a sinner. Sin causes a rift in our relationship with God—it’s a profound loss, like that of a shepherd losing a sheep, a woman losing a coin, or a careless wife losing her wedding ring.

Jesus tells us that God’s joy at our repentance is even more profound—it’s worthy of a grand party and celebration. Take my joy at finding my ring and multiply it a hundredfold or more—that’s the rejoicing in heaven when a sinner comes home.

Knowing that’s how God feels about our repentance should bring us relief and peace and move us to extend mercy to those who have wronged us. Broken relationships are losses. We may try to pretend they don’t affect us, but deep down they can still eat away at us, slowly destroying our sense of peace and well-being. We can continue nurturing grudges and anger, or we can grab on to the palpable joy that comes with mercy and healing.

Are you missing out on some much-needed joy? Forgive someone, and then rejoice. †

Sunday Readings

Exodus 32:7–11, 13–14

“They have quickly turned aside from the way I commanded them, making for themselves a molten calf and bowing down to it.”

1 Timothy 1:12–17

“Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Of these I am the foremost.”

Luke 15:1–32

“There will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people.”

A Word From Pope Francis

We cannot forget the great content, the great intuitions and gifts that have been left to the People of God. And Divine Mercy is one of these....It is up to us, as ministers of the Church, to keep this message alive, above all through preaching and in our actions, in signs and in pastoral choices, such as the decision to restore priority to the Sacrament of Reconciliation and to the works of mercy....Thus, in the image of the Good Shepherd, the priest is a man of mercy and compassion, close to his people and a servant to all.

—Address to priests in Rome, March 6, 2014



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- When have I felt mentally, emotionally, or spiritually lost?
- What is the deepest hurt you have forgiven—or need to forgive?
- What stifles it?



Forgiving God

*The best thing we can do:
Tell God how we feel*

By Fr. Eamon Tobin

While it's true that God and his ways are perfect, it's also true that his ways may deeply hurt us and cause us to distance ourselves from him. We may wonder why a good and all-powerful God allows terrible things to happen. Coming to terms with unanswered prayer and destruction can be very difficult, even for people with deep faith.

The worst thing we can do is break our relationship with God or distance ourselves from him. When we do this, we hand Satan a victory. The devil's plan is

to use the bad things in life to weaken or destroy our relationship with God.

The best thing we can do is let God know exactly how we feel. This is what the psalmists and other Old Testament figures did. If and when we feel God has abandoned us and allowed evil to triumph, we can express our anger or disappointment. If we feel like giving God a piece of our minds, we should go ahead and do so. He certainly can handle it. Also, God certainly will be happier with our heartfelt prayer of anger than with our rote prayers that don't express how we truly think and feel.

It may take us some time to work

through our anger with God. We must keep relating to God even if it's with anger. When we feel distant from God, we're engaged in spiritual warfare. The powers of darkness are trying to make us believe that God doesn't care about us while the Holy Spirit is trying to help us see God's presence even in the midst of our tribulations.

It is a mystery why a good and loving God allows so much suffering in our world. But if we keep our eyes focused on Jesus, we will never conclude that God doesn't care about our pain or other people's pain. We may also seek the help of Mary, our Blessed Mother. She continued to believe in God and his care for her even as he allowed horrific things to happen to her innocent Son.

When we choose not to forgive, we knowingly or unknowingly cheat ourselves of the joy of living. When we harbor resentment in our hearts, our resentment becomes the lens through which we see reality. We see God not as he is but how our resentment wants us to see.

What Forgiveness Isn't

Forgiveness doesn't necessarily mean that we must forget a hurt or injustice. Some hurts and injustices are too big and painful to totally remove from our memories. We may need to remember some hurts to prevent them from happening again. But we can let go of the resentments connected with the hurt. If we don't, they will continue to wound us, cloud the way we see reality, and control our actions.

Forgiveness Doesn't Mean...

- ...we surrender our right to justice. We shouldn't confuse forgiveness with stupidity. Jesus asks us to forgive, but he doesn't ask us to be stupid in our dealings with others.
- ...we have to relate to or befriend our offender. This is especially true if the offender shows no sorrow or remorse for the wrong he or she did.
- ...we have to put up with intolerable behavior. Forgiveness doesn't ask that we become doormats for nasty people.
- ...excusing, condoning, or minimizing the wrong inflicted on us.
- ...we never have negative feelings toward our offender. †

Adapted from *Learning to Forgive: Steps to Reconciliation*, © 2015 Liguori Publications



Lord, I am grateful for your gentle, guiding ways. Save me from losing myself in the things of the world. Help me to find my way to your heart of goodness.

—From *Grateful Meditations for Every Day in Ordinary Time*,
Rev. Warren J. Savage
and Mary Ann McSweeney

WEEKDAY READINGS

September 12–17

Mon. Weekday:

1 Corinthians 11:17–26, 33 / Luke 7:1–10

Tue. St. John Chrysostom: 1 Corinthians 12:12–14,
27–31a / Luke 7:11–17

Wed. Exaltation of the Holy Cross:

Numbers 21:4b–9 / Philippians 2:6–11 / John 3:13–17

Thu. Our Lady of Sorrows:

1 Corinthians 15:1–11 /
John 19:25–27 or Luke 2:33–35

Fri. Sts. Cornelius and Cyprian:

1 Corinthians 15:12–20 / Luke 8:1–3

Sat. Weekday: 1 Corinthians 15:35–37,
42–49 / Luke 8:4–15

Bringing Home
the Word 

September 11, 2016

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BHW001

St. Mary Parish Fall Golf Classic

Presented by:



Registration Form



Sign-up today. All are welcome. Register by August 18th and save!

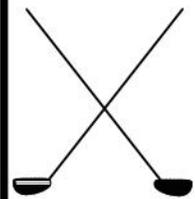
When: Friday, September 23rd at 1:00 pm, shotgun start.

Please arrive no later than 12:30.

Where: California Golf Course

Format: SCRAMBLE! Rules provided prior to start.
Longest drive/closest to pin and other pre/post event contests!

Cost: \$425 \$100 per person if registered prior to August 18th. Includes cart, golf, prizes, beverages, and both lunch at the start and dinner at the golf course following the event.



Detach & mail check with completed form to:
St. Mary Parish, c/o Matt Berlage 1339 Michigan Avenue Cincinnati, Ohio 45208

\$125 100 x _____ golfer(s) + sponsorship _____ = Total \$ _____ Enclosed
Not a golfer? Join us as a dinner only registration for \$30 per person

Name	Email address	Phone number (cell preferred)
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

St. Mary Golf Outing Sponsorship Information:

- \$2,000 Presenting Sponsorship: ~~One (1) available. Includes one (1) free foursome registration.~~ **SOLD!**
- \$750 Food Sponsorship: Two (2) available. Includes two (2) single golf registrations. **One sold! One still available!**
- \$750 Beverage Sponsorship: ~~One (1) available. Includes two (2) single golf registrations.~~ **SOLD!**
- \$250 Hole Sponsorship (Company sign on tee): Thirsty Six (36) available. Includes one (1) single golf registration. **12 sold! 24 still available!**

Company Name (email logo to SMhpGolf@gmail.com): _____

Contact: _____ Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Donation of Merchandise for Prizes/Raffle (item / quantity): _____

Registration questions? Email SMhpGolf@gmail.com or contact Jack Ankenbauer, Matt Berlage, Tim Gillenkirk, Phillip Kiley or Mike Taylor

Join us for Meat Night!



St. Mary's Men's Social Group Summer Event

Come and "meet" your fellow parishioners at "Meat Night". Bring your favorite steak/chop/burger to grill, and an accompanying beverage to wash it down ... veggies and side-dishes discouraged.

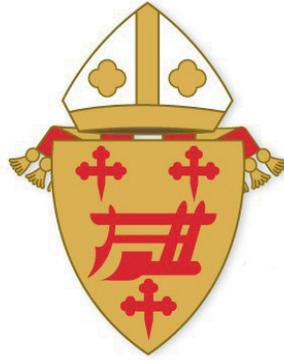
Thursday, September 15 at ~5:30pm
Parishioner Angelo Pusateri will be hosting at 1333 Park
Ridge Place, 45208

No cost. Please bring your own food & drink. Plates, utensils, grill and cookware will be provided.

Depending on interest, space may be limited. RSVP to Andy Scarpitti ajscarpitti@hotmail.com if you'd like to attend.

About St. Mary Men's Social Group:

- * Specific to St. Mary parish – not intended to draw from other parishes.
- * Intended for all age groups – a great way to meet new people outside your peer group
- * Intended to be social only - no philanthropic, religious, fraternal goals or objectives - simply an opportunity to meet other men in the parish.
- * Intended to be low commitment - not intended to be a club, or organization where participation is mandatory or expected. Participate if you're able.



A Call to Support Our Brothers and Sisters in Louisiana

A Statement from: **Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz** of Louisville **President, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops**

WASHINGTON, August 23, 2016 – The recent storms in Louisiana may not have a name, but the names of those suffering in the wake of the worst flooding since Hurricane Katrina are our sisters and brothers. As a people of God, let us come to their aid. I encourage Catholics across the United States to respond generously. Our prayer and material support is urgently needed to help rebuild lives.

As many as 60,000 homes have been damaged, with nearly 20,000 people being rescued from the flood waters. More than 106,000 individuals and families have sought federal disaster aid. Immediate and longterm recovery needs place a tremendous burden on public and private resources. This is a burden we can help carry as the body of Christ. Faced with the loss of their worldly possessions and, in some cases, economic livelihood, the flood waters left thousands of families feeling isolated and fearful. Let us draw near to them.

As president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, I have called for an emergency collection on or near September 18 to support the humanitarian efforts of Catholic Charities USA and to provide pastoral and rebuilding support to impacted Catholic dioceses. Join the Church in being a visible witness to the healing presence of Jesus alive in the world. Understandably, not every parish may be able to participate, but individuals can also donate directly to Catholic Charities USA. Whether your donation is large or small, let us also be sure those suffering feel the power of our prayer to sustain them in the difficult days ahead.

St. Mary Hyde Park will hold this special collection for victims of the Louisiana flooding on the weekend of September 10 and 11.

Please make checks payable to St. Mary Church with a notation of *Louisiana Flood Victims*.



Thank you

Why are babies baptized during Mass?

Kristopher Seaman



It was once quite common to baptize infants during a Liturgy of the Word on a Sunday afternoon or on a weekday apart from the regular Sunday eucharistic liturgy. Perhaps only the priest and a few family members with the godparents were present. One had the sense this was a family celebration, with little connection to the larger Church community of the parish. Today, many parish communities celebrate infant Baptisms within the Sunday eucharistic liturgy. Why?

First, sacraments are communal events. They are neither private moments nor individual celebrations. Sacraments are celebrations of and by the Church. Thus, sacraments are communal events that take place within the community of the Church. In particular, the sacrament of Baptism changes the status of the one being baptized. Generally speaking, Baptism has a twofold meaning. First, the Church believes that original sin is removed through the cleansing waters of new life. Second, one emerges from the font born into a twofold relationship with the Church and with the Trinitarian God. In Baptism, one “puts on” Christ and is hence called a *Christian*. Saint Augustine said Baptism makes one a “little Christ”—a Christian. The candidate for Baptism is immersed three times (for each member of the Trinity) while the presider proclaims, “[Name], I baptize you in the name of the

Father [dip into water or water poured over the head], and of the Son [dip/pour] and of the Holy Spirit [dip/pour].” The newly baptized is in communion, in union, in relationship with the Trinitarian God, as well as with the Church.

Celebrating Baptism during Sunday eucharistic liturgies heightens the rich theology of the Rite of Baptism. The baby is being incorporated (from the Latin *corpus*, meaning “body”) into the body of Christ—the Church that is in communion/union/relationship with the God of Jesus Christ. Sunday Eucharist is the primary event that the Church community gathers to hear God’s Word and to give praise and thanksgiving over Christ who becomes tangible in the very gifts of his Body and Blood. Sunday Eucharist is the repeatable sacrament of initiation. It is in this sacramental event that the community renews its membership—its identity—in Word and Eucharist. In Baptism one is given a new identity or status of Christian, and this status or identity is renewed in Sunday Eucharist. Therefore, celebrating Baptisms of babies during Sunday Eucharist signifies that baptism is incorporating the baby into both the Church and the life of Christ. The celebration is not minimal, but an event of the local Church community surrounding, praying over, and welcoming the baby into the Church and into the life of the God of Jesus Christ.

Another reason for celebrating Baptisms of infants during Sunday Eucharist is based in the ritual text itself. Not just the parents and godparents have responsibility for the new member of the Church, the infant, all the members of the Church have “an important part to play in the baptism of the child” (*Rite of Baptism of Children*, 4). The “faith in which the children are baptized is not the private possession of the individual family, but the common treasure of the whole Church of Christ” (#4). The community is present to help, support, pray, and nurture the faith of the child as he or she grows in communion with Jesus Christ and the Church itself. One comment I hear from godparents and parents who have had their child baptized during Sunday Eucharist is their appreciation of the community who joyfully sings “alleluia” following the Baptism. Parents and godparents have a sense that this child will be nurtured and supported in the faith as he or she grows in the life of Christ. ♦

KRISTOPHER SEAMAN is the associate director of the Office of Worship for the diocese of Gary.

Weekly Marriage Tip

All relationships are unique; avoid comparing your marriage to other marriages, and remember to appreciate your spouse for who she/he is. --USCCB

Weekly Parenting Pointer

What does it mean to love our children? Of course it includes spending time, listening to, looking at, feeding, washing, helping with homework, and correcting. BUT, spend more time looking for the good than reminding of the bad. --
www.susanvogt.net

"The family ... was before the Church, or rather the first form of the Church was the family." --Pope Leo XII

sponsor of the week

Wimberg Landscaping

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