



# St. Joseph's Messenger

*A BULLETIN FOR INSPIRING SCHOOL FAMILIES*

*"GROUNDED IN THE TRADITION OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL IS A COMMUNITY DEDICATED TO FORMING DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST THROUGH FAITH, ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE, AND SERVICE TO OTHERS."*

## PRACTICING THE PRESENCE OF GOD

The Month of May is shaping out to be a full month, with events such as First Communion, Science Fair, Field Trips, and End-of-the-school-year Activities. And now the world mourns the death of Pope Francis. Now May brings the conclave and the election of the next pope. For our students this will be the first one that they remember. With so much happening we must ensure we do not lose ourselves, and most importantly, our connection with God. To help us stay focused during all these happenings, my encouragement is to look toward the teaching of Practicing the Presence of God by Brother Lawrence.

Brother Lawrence worked as a cook in the monastery. The kitchen was where God perfected this practice in him. Brother Lawrence's conversion happened upon seeing a tree stripped of its leaves in the winter. He reflected that, "before long leaves would appear anew, then flowers and then fruit." In this he saw God's ability to bring the fruit of growth and transformation in souls. As he had this insight God imprinted growth in his soul. From this moment on Brother Lawrence challenged people to strive to think of God always, turning

ordinary moments into prayer, time with God. We know those best who we spend time with.

Brother Lawrence taught, "Do not be discouraged by the resistance you will encounter from your human nature; you must go against your human inclinations. Often, in the beginning, you will think that you are wasting time, but you must go on, be determined and persevere in it until death, despite all the difficulties." God's presence is the pearl of great price, sell everything and buy it.

While this is only a quick look at his teaching, it will take time to form the habit. But knowing God's presence adds a great sweetness to our experience of life. In all our activities and events this May, may we never lose sight of God. May we remember these days and cherish them all the more knowing we shared them with God. And may this new habit carry us to a new experience of God this summer.

-Fr. Jeremy



## May Feast Days and Special Day

2 - St. Athanasius  
3 - Sts. Philip & James  
14 - St. Matthias

26 - St. Philip Neri  
31 - Feast of the Visitation  
of the Blessed Virgin Mary

## Upcoming Parish/School Events

*Mama Meet Up*

Motherhood needs a community. Join us for food, conversation, and fellowship with other moms!

**April 29th @7:30pm**  
**Ravenstone**

*Monthly meetings on the last Tuesday of each month*

*First Holy Communion*

*St. Joseph's 2nd Graders will receive their  
First Holy Communion  
on Sunday, May 4th*



*Mass at 1 PM  
at St. Joseph's Church*

**May 1st-2nd**

Mega Trip for 4th-6th Graders

**May 4th**

First Holy Communion  
Mass at 1pm at St. Joseph's Church

**May 5th-9th**

Teacher Appreciation Week!

**May 9th**

Science Fair (4th-6th graders)

**May 16th**

Fr. Jerry Cook Off!

**May 23rd**

Field Day!  
Rain day May 27th

**May 28th**

6th Grade Graduation!  
5:30 pm Mass followed by reception

**May 29th**

Last Day of School!

### Playground Build!

Playground equipment has been delivered to the school!

The build will take place over the course of the summer, with a goal of completion in August.  
Please keep an eye out for ways to help with the playground build.



**flocknote**

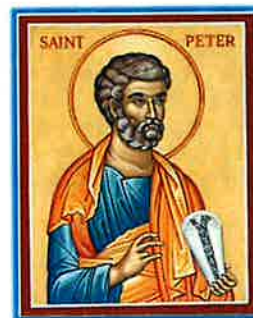
Please follow St. Joseph's Church events by  
signing up for Flocknote. [www.itascacatholic.org](http://www.itascacatholic.org)

## May Virtue is Responsibility

### May Saints

**PreK-2 Grade will study: SAINT PETER (1 BC-67 AD, Jerusalem, Rome)**

Saint Peter had great faith, and Jesus made him the leader of the Apostles and the head of the whole Church. He was the very first Pope! When Jesus was arrested, Peter denied even knowing him. But after Jesus rose from the dead, Peter admitted it, and asked Jesus to forgive him. Jesus did forgive Peter and again said that it was his job to take care of Christian all over the world! Saint Peter knew he could not do this job alone, so he prayed that the Lord would help him and to show him how to guide the Church. **His feast days are February 22 and June 29.**



**Grades 3-5 will study: SAINT HENRY (972-1024, Germany)**

Saint Henry was born of a royal family and became the fifth Holy Roman Emperor. Although he was an emperor, Saint Henry did not seek power, but knew it was his role to serve others. He always fought for the good of his people and the good of the Catholic Church. He defended the rights of the Church and supported the bishops. He affirmed Rome's sovereignty, or power to rule, and insisted on priests living holy lives. He built Bamberg Cathedral, a magnificent church which still stands today.

Saint Henry desired holiness so much that he wanted to abdicate, or retire as king, so that he could become a benedictine monk. The abbot of Verdun counseled him to care for the empire. So Saint Henry remained emperor and became an oblate, or lay member, of the order. **His feast day is July 13.**

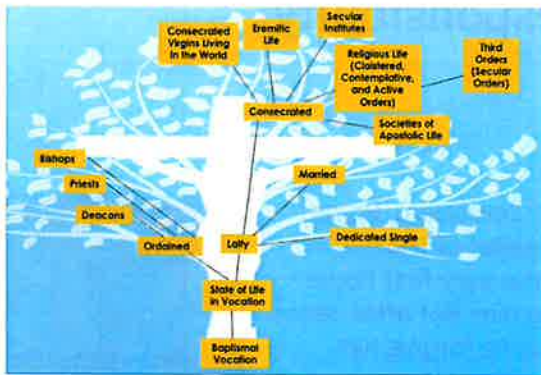
**Grade 6 will study: BLESSED BARTOLO LONGO (1841-1926, Italy)**

Bartolo was raised Catholic, but fell away from his faith later in life and even joined a cult. An old friend brought him back to God and introduced him to a Dominican friar, Father Alberto, who heard his confession and helped him to leave the cult. He began to work for a charity group, and to use his skill as an attorney to help the poor. He married the Countess di Fusco who led the group and together they raised many orphans and funded about 45 seminarians.

He moved to the ancient city of Pompeii, where he started a yearly feast for the Rosary which included fireworks, music, and games. He published pamphlets on the Rosary and worked with the people of Pompeii to build a shrine to Our Lady of the Rosary. Blessed Bartolo Longo died at the age of 85, listening to the Rosary prayed around his bed by the orphans he had assisted.

**His feast day is October 5.**





## What is your vocation?

A **vocation** is an occupation or type of work that you are especially drawn to or have a strong calling to give all your time to.

"Each individual Christian is uniquely called by God, beginning at Baptism, to go into the world and to bear much fruit."

<https://www.vocationtree.org/vocation-tree>

## Ms. Goshey discerns a life of Consecrated Virginity

### What is a consecrated virgin?

A vocation for women, who have chosen to become a bride of Christ. This rite parallels the role of a priest but is a marriage to Christ, with a dedicated prayer life, service to the diocese, and a "holy resolution" of celibacy.<sup>1</sup>

### Why are you discerning to be a consecrated virgin?

Ms. Goshey: "It's a call, and I am answering this call. I love Jesus very much, and I believe that there are certain things that haven't happened in my life because this is what He is wanting me to do. I am with Him in this journey, however far it will go. I hope and pray it goes through the rite of consecration but if not, I am very happy to be on this journey with Him."

### What is the difference between a nun and consecrated virgin?

A nun is connected to an Order and they move to where Superiors instruct them. Whereas consecrated virgins provide for their own needs, report to the diocesan Bishop where they live, and are specifically committed to praying for their diocese, priests, and local church.<sup>1,2</sup>

### What does the commitment look like?

The rite of consecration lasts for eternity. It requires a commitment to live a single life and

to regularly participate in the Liturgy of the Hours, praying at least a morning and evening prayer.<sup>1,2</sup> In addition, there is an annual check-in with the Bishop.

### What is the process of discernment?

Ms. Goshey: "I was never aware that this was a vocation until 2021 when I met a consecrated virgin who was leading a retreat. Her vocation got me thinking..."

I reached out to the Bishop and was handed the Consecrated Virginity Information packet. I began to develop the habits of morning and evening prayer, daily mass attendance, and my spirituality began to develop and grow in my relationship with Jesus."

The Bishop appoints a delegate to act on his behalf for the women discerning for consecrated virginity. "I meet monthly with her to discuss how my discernment is going. I will also have a spiritual director who will be helping and guiding me through the process of discernment."

The discernment process is based on each candidate's individual growth so the consecration date will differ.

Ms. Goshey is in her 3rd year and has been accepted as a candidate in the formation for consecrated virginity.

<sup>1</sup><https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/260059/an-ancient-vocation-is-on-the-rise-consecrated-virginity>

<sup>2</sup> Wikipedia [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Consecrated\\_virgin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Consecrated_virgin)