

## WELCOME to OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH!

Thank you for joining us today. We welcome you to our faith family and look forward to growing in faith and friendship with you. If you are interested in formally joining our parish community and/or the Catholic Faith, you can do so on-line or by coming in to the parish office. If you are returning to an active Catholic life, we are happy to facilitate a smooth and joy filled transition. May you find fellowship, peace and serenity in our community. Sincerely in Christ, Fr. Edwino, Pastor

### **CONTACT US**

Parish Office

8:30 – 4:30pm, M-F

Closed 12:00 – 1:00pm, M-F

(916) 481-5115

5057 Cottage Way

Carmichael, CA 95608

[www.olaparish.net](http://www.olaparish.net)

[parish@olaparish.net](mailto:parish@olaparish.net)



### **MASS SCHEDULE**

Saturday Vigil: 5:00pm

First Saturdays: 8:00am

Sunday:

8:00, 9:30, 11:00 & 7:30pm

Weekday:

8:00am, Monday - Friday

### **Holy Days:**

Vigil: 5:30pm; 8:00am & 5:30pm

### **Our Mission Statement**

The Mission of the parish community at Our Lady of the Assumption Church is to proclaim the Word of God more fully, to gain a more intimate knowledge of God through our Catholic traditions, and to serve the people of God, especially in our efforts to meet the needs of the poor in our community, and when possible around the world. We strive to build a sense of community among our parishioners, with the wider Diocesan community, and with the entire family of God.

### **Pastor**

Rev. Edwino T. Silveira: [pastor@olaparish.net](mailto:pastor@olaparish.net)

### **Pastors Emeritus**

Rev. Brendan McKeefry & Rev. Michael F. Kiernan

### **Deacon**

Michael Tateishi: [deacon@olaparish.net](mailto:deacon@olaparish.net)

German Ramos: [seminarian@olaparish.net](mailto:seminarian@olaparish.net)

Ministry Coordinator/Admin. Asst., Shannon Blecha:

[ministrycoordinator@olaparish.net](mailto:ministrycoordinator@olaparish.net)

Parish Bookkeeper, Theresa Parulan: [Parulan@olaparish.net](mailto:Parulan@olaparish.net)

Music Director, Casey Oliver: [worship@olaparish.net](mailto:worship@olaparish.net)

Faith Formation, Joan Cotton: [faithformation@olaparish.net](mailto:faithformation@olaparish.net)

Youth Minister, Johann Rubia-Miller: [youth@olaparish.net](mailto:youth@olaparish.net)

Building Maintenance, Earl Knight: [maintenance@olaparish.net](mailto:maintenance@olaparish.net)

Groundskeeper, Paul Narloch

### **ADVISORY COUNCIL CHAIRPERSONS:**

Pastoral Council, Juan Yniguez

Liturgical Committee, Deacon Michael Tateishi

Finance Council, Fred Oliver

Buildings & Grounds Committee, Paul Read

### **OLA PRESCHOOL – EIGHTH GRADE:**

Principal: Nicole Grant

K-8th: [alters@olaparish.net](mailto:alters@olaparish.net), 489-8958

P-8<sup>th</sup> Admissions: [development@olaparish.net](mailto:development@olaparish.net)

P-8<sup>th</sup> Website: [www.olaparishschool.net](http://www.olaparishschool.net)

Preschool Director, Patty Jones: 485-1504

[jones@olaparish.net](mailto:jones@olaparish.net) License No. 343616796

### **SACRAMENTS:**

Baptism: Required baptismal classes & scheduling, Deacon Michael

First Eucharist (child): Faith Formation

Reconciliation (child): Faith Formation

Confirmation (teen): Faith Formation

Marriage: Contact office six months in advance.

Reconciliation: Saturdays at 3:30pm or by appointment.

Anointing of the Sick: Contact Pastor to request.

Eucharist for Homebound Parishioners: Call office.


Eucharistic Adoration: T/Th after 8:00am Mass until 7:00pm

### **RCIA - RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS**

(unbaptized or uncatechized) If you are interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith, you are welcome to join this year-round process at any time by contacting Deacon Michael.

### **ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY:**

Provides assistance for those in need within our parish boundaries. Please call 481-6352

 **HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES:** Ask Usher



# WELCOME TO OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION CHURCH

**July 15, 2018**

**Fifteenth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time**



*"Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out two by two."*

**Mark 6:7**



## Mass Intentions

To request a Mass, please call the Parish Office

### SATURDAY, JULY 14

**St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin**

5:00pm Fred Baca †

Baca Family

### SUNDAY, JULY 15

8:00am Eunice-Clare Lis †

Byron Family

9:30am Ed Campini †

Pat & Jerry Laumer

11:00am George Michael Larivee † John Damonte Family

7:30pm OLA Parishioners

### MONDAY, JULY 16

**Our Lady of Mt. Carmel**

8:00am Noel David †

Nancy Arndorfer

### TUESDAY, JULY 17

8:00am Souls in Purgatory

Anonymous

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 18

**St. Camillus de Lellis, Priest**

8:00am William Hayes †

Chambers Family

### THURSDAY, JULY 19

8:00am Jerry Mouton †

Jane

### FRIDAY, JULY 20

**St. Apollinaris, Bishop, Martyr**

8:00am Kenneth Whitfield †

Shirley Whitfield

### SATURDAY, JULY 21

**St. Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest, Doctor of the Church**

5:00pm Lizz Baca †

Baca Family



### SATURDAY, JULY 14

Curia Meeting 9:30am, St. Paul's Room

Quinceañera—Flores 11:00am, Church

### SUNDAY, JULY 15

Open Gym—OLA Basketball 7:30am, Parish Hall

Baptism—Javideyan 12:00pm, Church

### MONDAY, JULY 16

Pastoral Council Orientation 5:30pm, St. Paul's Room

Pastoral Council Meeting 6:30pm, St. Paul's Room

Boy Scouts 6:45am, St. John's Hall

### TUESDAY, JULY 17

PERT Club 9:30pm, St. John's Hall

Liturgy Committee 7:00pm, St. Paul's Room

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 18

Legion of Mary Meeting 8:30am, St. Paul's Room

### THURSDAY, JULY 19

Pack Meeting 6:30pm, St. John's Hall

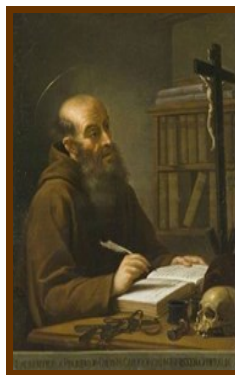
Living the Word 7:00pm, Rectory

### FRIDAY, JULY 20

Boys Basketball 7:00pm, Parish Hall

### SATURDAY, JULY 21

Matthew 25 Ministries Sorting 9:00am, St. Paul's



### St. Lawrence of Brindisi July 21

St. Lawrence of Brindisi was born on July 22, 1559, and died exactly 60 years later on his birthday in 1619. He was canonized in 1881 and proclaimed a Doctor of the Church by Pope John XXIII in 1959. St. Lawrence, had an ardent devotion to the Immaculate Mother of God. Indeed, he was the first to write on all aspects of theology that concern the Blessed Virgin.

The prophet hears what God proclaims (Ps) and is called to speak in God's name (1). The Twelve hear the message of Jesus and are sent forth to preach the good news (3). In him have we been chosen to be full of love (2).



## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

### Monday, July 16

Is 1:10-17; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23; Mt 10:34-11:1

### Tuesday, July 17

Is 7:1-9; Ps 48:2-3a, 3b-4, 5-6, 7-8; Mt 11:20-24

### Wednesday, July 18

Is 10:5-7, 13b-16; Ps 94:5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 14-15; Mt 11:25-27

### Thursday, July 19

Is 26:7-9, 12, 16-19; Ps 102:13-14ab and 15, 16-18, 19-21; Mt 11:28-30

### Friday, July 20

Is 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8; Isaiah 38:10, 11, 12abcd, 16; Mt 12:1-8

### Saturday, July 21

Mi 2:1-5; Ps 10:1-2, 3-4, 7-8, 14; Mt 12:14-2

### Sunday, July 22

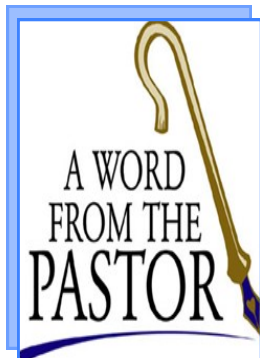
Jer 23:1-6; Ps 23:1-3, 3-4, 5, 6; Eph 2:13-18; Mk 6:30-34

**Hearing  
Assistive  
Devices  
Available**

Please ask an Usher for assistance



## OUR PARISH



### *Chosen in Christ to be holy, full of love*

In all the readings for today we can see that God calls all us to be holy and full of love in Christ Jesus who saves us and empowers us with the Holy Spirit. St. Paul blesses God, Our Father for choosing us in Christ, even before the creation of the world and for giving us every spiritual gift in Christ, and for sealing us with the Holy Spirit. That is why Jesus called the Twelve Apostles and sent them to free people from the devil through the proclamation of the coming of God's Kingdom. Already in the Old Testament God chose Amos and the other prophets to proclaim His Word of salvation. Let us listen to the Good news of the Gospel and ask the Lord to show us His kindness and grant us salvation.



**FULFILLING  
THE PROMISE**  
OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION

### *What is sacrificial giving?*

Sacrificial giving begins with the Christian principle that to show gratitude for God's generosity, we dedicate a portion of our gifts to furthering God's mission. Our gift becomes sacrificial when it comes from our substance rather than our abundance and when we give up something of ourselves, we are changed in the process.

OLA needs all of us to prayerfully plan and consider our sacrificial gifts to the *Fulfilling the Promise* Capital Campaign. Channeling our gifts through the Parish will help us bear witness to the values we find at the center of our lives.

If you are ready to make your pledge now, please download a pledge form from the website or pick one up in the Church or Parish Office. Or if you wish to have one mailed to you, please contact Elisabeth Gustorf, Campaign Coordinator at [capitalcampaign@olaparish.net](mailto:capitalcampaign@olaparish.net) //916.481.5115 ext203



### **BAPTISMS**

Congratulations to our newly baptized children and their families. Welcome to our community of faith in Jesus Christ!

**6/2/2018**

Colton Brady Anthony; Parents: Darren Anthony and Heather Anne Childress

**6/3/2018**

Claire Maureen Read; Parents: David Read and Shannon Shaw

**6/3/2018**

Grace Elizabeth German; Parents: DJ Gervin and Natalie Dronberger

**6/3/2018**

Keilani Anne Morek; Parents: Justin Morek and Paula Satterlee

**6/24/2018**

Emmitt Jakob Watkins; Parents: Erik Watkins and Natalie Stewart

**6/30/2018**

Lucas Manuel Pinto; Parents: Danny Pinto and Susete Machado

### **PERT CLUB MEETING**

***Tuesday, July 17, 2018***

The PERT (People Enjoying Retirement Together) Club will meet once more to celebrate our country's Independence Day at 11:00 am, in St. John's Hall, OLA, Tuesday, July 17, 2018. There will be a short meeting, some fun and games and drawings, followed by the traditional 4<sup>th</sup> of July "picnic" at Noon. Hot dogs, buns, and assorted condiments will be supplied by the club. You are asked to supply the picnic salads, appetizers, chili, desserts, etc., usually associated with "A picnic in the park". Bring your utensils, cups, glasses, table decorations for your table, some food for the St. Vincent de Paul Food Locker, and some lively conversation. Following the potluck will be BINGO, with cash prizes, at 1:00 pm, or when the Kitchen Crew is finished with clean-up. The Kitchen Crew is asked to arrive by 9:30 am, to help with table decorations and prepare food presentation. If you are retired and looking for some social interaction with new or old friends, stop by the PERT Club to see what's happening, and try the potluck. Call Jane at 916-359-7126, if you have any questions.

### ***Eucharistic Adoration***

Tuesdays and Thursdays, following the 8 a.m. mass, and continuing until 7 p.m. First Saturday of the month following the 8 a.m. mass until 1 p.m.





## OLA SCHOOL NEWS

### School Tours

You are welcome to contact Jane Ricci for a personal tour and to receive information on our Pre-school – Eighth Grade programs at your convenience. Jane can be reached at 489-8958 ext. 202 or [development@olaparish.net](mailto:development@olaparish.net). Check us out at [www.olaparishschool.net](http://www.olaparishschool.net) or on Facebook.



### Youth Choir & Ensemble

**Remember!** Our next music ministry leadership workshop for parish youth grades 3-12 is this Wednesday, July 18, from 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the church. Interested students, please RSVP by emailing Casey Oliver, Music Director, at [worship@olaparish.net](mailto:worship@olaparish.net).

Participating students will sign up for a weekend Mass during the summer, and they will prepare to perform a leadership role in music ministry, based upon ability level and interest. Options include cantoring the psalm and/or gospel acclamation, leading a song at the microphone, announcing songs, etc.

These workshops are part of our initiative to invite, recruit, train, and schedule young people in liturgical leadership roles at weekend Masses. We are especially encouraging students in grades 9-12 to participate, as there will be weekly music ministry leadership opportunities available for high school youth starting at the end of August. Please encourage the young people you know with musical gifts to sign up for one of these workshops to learn more. If the date doesn't work out for someone who is interested, please contact Casey Oliver to sign up for an alternate training time.

Also, save the date for our first rehearsal for the Fall Ordinary Time session for OLA Youth Choir and Ensemble. It is on Wednesday, August 8, at 6:00 pm in the church.

### SOAP FOR SOULS

OLA youth group is sponsoring a toiletry drive year round for St. Vincent de Paul.

You ever wonder what to do with all your hotel shampoos and soaps? Donate to us! We are in need of any and all travel soaps, shampoos, conditioners, lotions, etc. Baskets will be in the back of the church labeled Soap for Souls. We appreciate your generosity.



Wednesdays (Grades 7 - 8) 7:00pm - 8:30pm  
Tuesdays (Grades 9 - 12) 7:00pm - 8:30pm  
Meetings are held in Seton Hall.

For more information about Youth Groups, please contact OLA's Youth Minister, Johann Rubia-Miller at (916) 481-5115 or Email: [youth@olaparish.net](mailto:youth@olaparish.net)

### Check out our upcoming youth events!

☛ **Norcal Stubenville Youth Conference**  
San Mateo, July 27th, 28th, and 29th.

**STEUBENVILLE NORCAL**

**SAN MATEO EVENT CENTER  
SAN MATEO, CA  
JULY 27-29, 2018**

**CHRIS MUELLER**  
HOST

**IKE NDOLO**  
WORSHIP

**FR. JOSH BURNS**  
TEAM PRIEST

**SPEAKERS**

**NOELLE GARCIA**  
**JOEL STEPANEK**  
**PAUL KIM**

[WWW.STEUBENVILLENORCAL.COM](http://WWW.STEUBENVILLENORCAL.COM)

**LIFE TEEN** **STEUBENVILLE CONFERENCES**

☛ **World Youth Day**  
**Panama, January 22 - January 27, 2019**

**NEXT  
WORLD YOUTH DAY  
2019  
PANAMA**

**WYD PANAMA 2019**

**"I am the servant of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word" Lk. 1:38**

**January 22 to 27, 2019**

Any high school youth interested in attending, please contact Johann Miller, OLA Youth Minister, at [youth@olaparish.net](mailto:youth@olaparish.net), as soon as possible.

**T**he feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, celebrated on July 16, was first instituted in the late 14th century in commemoration of the approval of the rule of the Carmelite Order a hundred years earlier. According to legend, a religious community was established even before the time of Christ on Mount Carmel. This is the mountain overlooking the Mediterranean Sea on which the prophet Elijah successfully challenged the priests of Baal and won the people to the true God. The feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel entered the Calendar of the universal Church in the early 18th century.

Although there is no historical evidence for the pre-Christian Carmelite community, references in the 12th century record a community of monks on the holy mountain. Despite continual difficulties, the community built a monastery and church dedicated to the Virgin Mary on Mount Carmel in 1263. Saint Louis, King of France, had visited Mount Carmel in 1254, and brought back six French hermits for whom he built a convent near Paris.

Mount Carmel was taken by the Muslims in 1291, and the brothers were killed and the convent burned. The spread of the Carmelites in Europe is largely attributable to the work of Saint Simon Stock (1247-1265). The Carmelite Order was formally approved in 1274 at the Council of Lyon.

### The Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel

The brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, according to the Carmelite tradition, was presented by Our Lady to St. Simon Stock, the then Father General on July 16, 1251. Our Lady gave St. Simon a scapular for the Carmelites with the following promise, saying: "Receive, My beloved son, this habit of thy order: this shall be to thee and to all Carmelites a privilege, that whosoever dies clothed in this shall never suffer eternal fire .... It shall be a sign of salvation, a protection in danger, and a pledge of peace."

Another important aspect of wearing the Scapular is the Sabbatine Privilege. This concerns a promise made by Our Lady to Pope John XXII. In a papal letter he issued, he recounted a vision that he had had. He stated that the Blessed Virgin had said to him in this vision, concerning those who wear the Brown Scapular: "I, the Mother of Grace, shall descend on the Saturday after their death and whomsoever I shall find in Purgatory, I shall free, so that I may lead them to the holy mountain of life everlasting."

Many popes and saints have strongly recommended wearing the Brown Scapular to the Catholic Faithful. Pope Pius XII said: "The Scapular is a practice of piety which by its very simplicity is suited to everyone, and has spread widely among the faithful of Christ to their spiritual profit." In our own times, Pope Paul VI said:

"Let the faithful hold in high esteem the practices and devotions to the Blessed Virgin...the Rosary and the Scapular of Carmel" and in another place referred to the Scapular as: "so highly recommended by our illustrious predecessors."

According to Church tradition, there are three conditions necessary to participate in this Privilege and share in the other spiritual benefits of the Scapular: wear the Brown Scapular, observe chastity according to your state in life, and pray the Rosary. In addition to the Sabbatine Privilege, enrollment in the Brown Scapular also makes a person part of the Carmelite family throughout the world. They therefore share in all of the prayers and good works of the Carmelite Orders.

In order to receive the spiritual blessings associated with the Scapular, it is necessary to be formally enrolled in the Brown Scapular. The enrollment is made only once by a priest or authorized person. The Scapular can be replaced afterwards by a medal, which has on one side the image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and on the other, the image of Mary.

There a short form for giving the scapular: "Receive this Scapular, a sign of your special relationship with Mary, the

Mother of Jesus, whom you pledge to imitate. May it be a reminder to you of your dignity as a Christian in serving others and imitating Mary. Wear it as a sign of her protection and of belonging to the family of Carmel, voluntarily doing the will of God and devoting yourself to building a world true to his plan of community, justice and peace."

The scapular stands for:

- A commitment to follow Jesus, like Mary, the perfect model of all the disciples of Christ. This commitment finds its origin in baptism.

- It leads into the community of Carmel, a community of religious men and women, which has existed in the Church for over eight centuries.

- It reminds of the example of the saints of Carmel, with whom it establishes a close bond as brothers and sisters.

- It is an expression of the belief that the bearers of the scapular will meet God in eternal life, aided by the intercession and prayers of Mary.

The Carmelites insist that the scapular is not:

- A magical charm to protect someone.

- An automatic guarantee of salvation.

- An excuse for not living up to the demands of the Christian life

It is instead a sign which has been approved by the Church for over seven centuries and which stands for the decision to

- Follow Jesus like Mary:

- Be open to God and to his will.

- Be guided by faith, hope, and love.







**CHRIST THE KING  
PASSIONIST RETREAT CENTER**

**Married Couples Retreat  
The Joy of Love (Amoris Laetitia )  
July 20-22, 2018  
Presented by Fr. Tom Bonacci CP**

Our Weekend Retreat for Married Couples is inspired by the Apostolic Exhortation, Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love). Pope Francis faces some of the most complex and perplexing issues facing families and society. The core of our Retreat is based on the powerful and beautiful Chapter Four in which Pope Francis meditates on the beloved Scriptural text I Corinthians 13:1-13. Through prayer, study, quiet time, sharing and Liturgy, we will rededicate ourselves and our love for the well-being and blessings of one another and all the world.

\* Registration starts at 4:30 pm on Friday

\* Retreat Closes with Lunch on Sunday

\* Fee: \$300 Per Couple

For Registration or any questions email:

[retreatctk@passionist.org](mailto:retreatctk@passionist.org) or Call: 916-725-4720 x 301.

Register online at: [www.ChristTheKingRetreatCenter.org](http://www.ChristTheKingRetreatCenter.org)

**Christ the King Passionist Retreat Center  
Institute For The Study Of The Passion**

**The Summer Series  
Reflections on the gospel of St. Mark  
Thursday mornings, 10 am-12 noon  
Presented by: Fr. Tom Bonacci, C.P.**

We remember Jesus in the Breaking of the Bread. The Feeding Miracles, as portrayed in the Gospel of Mark, give us powerful insights into the nature of the Sacraments and the necessity for Gospel outreach to the poor.

July 19, 2018

The Feeding of the 5000 / The Feeding of the 4000

August 2, 2018

The Aftermath of the Feeding Miracles

\* Meets in La Casa

\$12 per session or

\$30 for the three-week block paid at first session.

\* You are invited to join us for the community Mass at 9am, Thursday. Payment and registration will be taken at the door.

**For more information please call 916 725-4720 Ext. 301 or register online:**

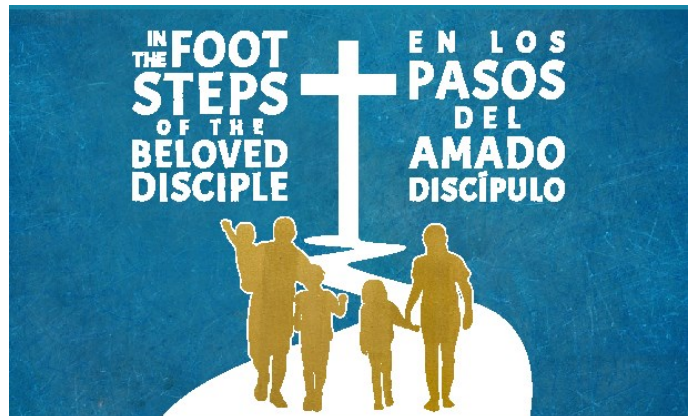
[www.ChristTheKingRetreatCenter.org](http://www.ChristTheKingRetreatCenter.org)

**Retrouvaille—Marriage Recovery**

**Weekend.** Is your marriage in trouble – miserable – dead? Would you like it to come alive? Retrouvaille can give you the communication skills you need to relate to one other in a more respectful and emotionally mature way. The next weekend is in Sacramento, July 13 – 15. For more information call (800) 470-2230, email [6013@retrouvaille.org](mailto:6013@retrouvaille.org) or visit <http://www.helpourmarriage.com>.

**“In the Footsteps of the Beloved Disciple”  
Ministry Days - Sept. 28 & 29**

Ministry Days is the largest gathering of ministers, catechists and Catholic school teachers in the Diocese of Sacramento. It's an excellent opportunity to network with others who serve our parishes and schools.



Knights of Columbus Council 4970 thank all parishioners who supported our Independence Day Fireworks booth. The funds raised from purchases and scrip sales will allow us to continue to present 6-\$1500 scholarships to 8th grade students entering a local Catholic High School next year. Last year's receipts allowed us to present similar scholarships to 6 students from St. Ignatius, Our Lady of the Assumption and St. John the Evangelist parish schools this past school year as well as altar server awards. For further KofC information contact Gene Gobbo at 916-283-5223.



*El Retiro San Inigo*  
THE JESUIT RETREAT  
CENTER OF LOS ALTOS

**The Jesuit Retreat Center of Los Altos  
St. Ignatius' Feast Day Celebration  
July 28**

Come celebrate St. Ignatius' Feast Day with us at the JRC! 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Please join us and other friends of El Retiro as we celebrate the Feast Day of our founder, St. Ignatius Loyola. Experience the beauty of our 38 acres on a day celebrating the influence of St. Ignatius on the Jesuits and the Church. There's no charge for this event and lunch will be served.

[https://jrc.retreatportal.com/events/f?p=101:2:24759828685247:::PROGRAM\\_ID:2047](https://jrc.retreatportal.com/events/f?p=101:2:24759828685247:::PROGRAM_ID:2047)

# STEWARDSHIP

## OFFERING

### Weekend of July 8

Weekend Offertory:	\$ 9,283.58
Electronic Giving:	\$ 2,237.25
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 11,520.83</b>
Average Weekly Budget Amount:	\$ 12,500.00

**Am 7: 12-15; Ps 85: 9-14; Eph 1: 3-14; Mk 6: 7-13**

“He instructed them to take nothing for the journey.”

When Jesus sent his Apostles out, He sent them “two by two,” and commanded them to take nothing on the journey: “no food, no sack, no money in their belts.” The point of the Lord is that all they needed was to trust in God. Jesus says the same thing to us.

As long as we trust in God, our needs will be met. That is easily said, but it is a bit daunting to actually do it. Yet, people have been doing it since Jesus’ time. It is one of the reasons that the Church has thrived for such a long time.

There is a secondary reason for Jesus’ instructions though, one with which we may not be familiar with. At the time there was a rule that you could not enter a temple area with shoes or a moneybag, because you were there to serve the Lord, nothing else and no one else. The Apostles understood that preaching the Gospel and healing in God’s name was holy work. Jesus did not want them to exemplify any other motive either.

One of the foundational elements of stewardship is trusting God. What enables us to be good stewards and to think of giving to God first, of ourselves and what we have, is that we truly believe that God will take care of us. God has a plan for each of us, and it is better than our own plan may be.

## St. Kateri Tekakwitha

St. Kateri Tekakwitha was born about forty miles west of what is now Albany, NY. She was the daughter of an Algonquin Catholic woman who was captured and given in marriage to a Mohawk chief who was not Catholic. During a smallpox epidemic that struck when Kateri was just a toddler, she not only lost her parents and a younger brother, but also contracted the disease and was disfigured and partially blinded by it.



She was adopted by her uncle and cared for by his family. Even as a young girl, she was impressed by the Jesuits who lived among her people, but she did not seek religious instruction because she feared her uncle’s

angry reaction. When she was 18, she finally summoned the courage to ask to receive instruction and was baptized a year later, on Easter Sunday.

She was always in danger after that time. She was put at odds with her uncle. On the advice of one of the Jesuits, she fled, walking nearly 200 miles to reach a Catholic Indian village at Sault St. Louis, near Montreal, Canada. There she received spiritual direction from a priest and an older Iroquois woman and continued to grow in holiness. She devoted herself to long hours of prayer and to helping others, and practiced extreme fasting dedicated to bringing about the conversion of her people. At 23, contrary to her culture in which a woman was considered to need the protection of a husband, she took a vow of virginity.

Kateri died just a year later, at 24. Witnesses said that, at her death, the marks left by small pox and the emaciation caused by fasting disappeared, and she looked like a healthy, smiling child.

St. Kateri Tekakwitha is the first Native American woman to be declared a saint. Her feast day is July 14.



## Family Connection

**Theme:** We work together to share the Good News of Jesus.

### Breaking Open the Word

Suggested text for faith sharing: Today’s Gospel

#### Step One: Listen to the Word

As you hear Jesus sending his disciples out to teach in his name, what image comes to mind for you?

What strikes you about this event?

#### Step Two: Look into Your Life

**Question for Children:** To whom would you announce the Good News about Jesus? Who do you think most needs to hear this message?

**Question for Youth:** When Jesus sent the disciples out, he was preparing them for the future when he would be gone. How are you growing in your own faith and preparing for a life as a Christian disciple?

**Question for Adults:** Why do you think Jesus sent them out two by two, rather than alone?



**BECAUSE VIBRANT  
CHURCHES MATTER**

### We Share

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