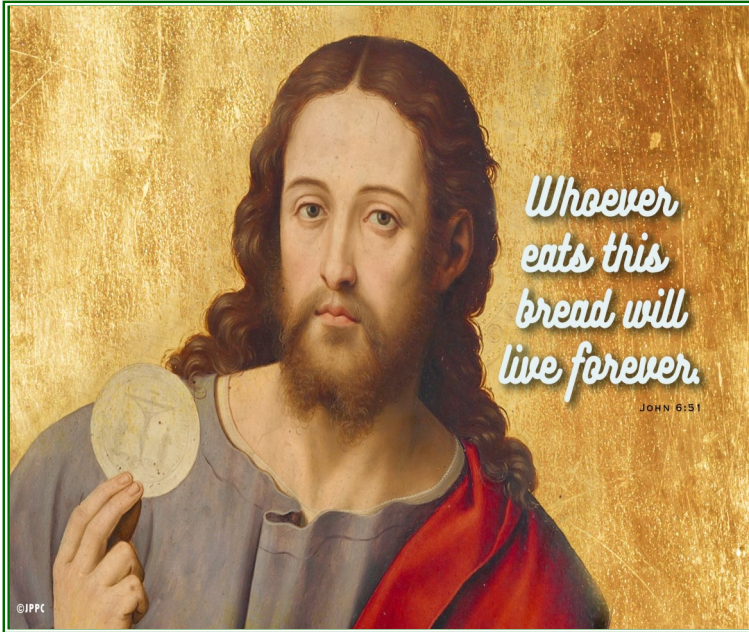


Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul And the Shrine of Saint Katharine Drexel

18th Street and Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Most Reverend Nelson J. Pérez, Archbishop of Philadelphia



August 8, 2021

Parish Mission Statement

As a vibrant Roman Catholic community in Center City, the Cathedral Parish serves all those who come to the Cathedral Basilica, the Mother Church of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. We profess our Catholic Faith, minister to others and welcome all, as founded on the Word of God and the celebration of the Sacraments of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Adopted by the Parish Council, October 13, 2020

Reverend Gerald Dennis Gill
Rector

Reverend Monsignor Arthur E. Rodgers
Rector Emeritus

Reverend Matthew K. Biedrzycki
Parochial Vicar

Reverend Monsignor Louis A. D'Addezio
Priest in Residence

Deacon Jesús M. Burgos
Permanent Deacon

Sister Eleanor McCann, R.S.M.
Pastoral Associate

Sister Mary Luchia, P.V.M.I
Parish Evangelization

Sister Mary Raphael Paradis, R.S.M.
Outreach Coordinator

Charlene Angelini
Director of Cathedral Parish Music

Mark Loria
Principal Organist

The Cathedral Shop is open
Wed. 10:30 AM - 2:00 PM / Sat. 11:00 AM - 5:15 PM
Sun. 10:30 AM - 6:30 PM / 215-665-9032

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday 5:15 PM Anticipated Mass
Sunday: 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM in Basilica
12:30 PM Spanish in Cathedral Chapel
(Santa Misa en español, en la Capilla)
6:30 PM in Basilica
Weekdays: 7:15 AM, 12:05 PM in Cathedral Chapel
Saturdays: 12:05 PM in Cathedral Chapel
Holy Days: See website

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE SCHEDULE

Sunday: 9:00 AM and 5:30 PM in Basilica
12:00 PM (español) en la Capilla
Weekdays: 11:30 AM in Basilica
Saturday: 4:15 PM in Basilica

Please contact the Parish Office to arrange for the:
**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM AND MARRIAGE,
SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK,
AND HOLY COMMUNION OF THE SICK
AND HOMEBOUND**

Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter & Paul 
@CathedralPhila 

Parish Office Hours: Monday to Friday 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
1723 Race Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103 • 215-561-1313
www.cathedralphila.org • info@cathedralphila.org
Shrine of Saint Katharine Drexel <https://www.saintkatharinedrexelshrine.com/>

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday, August 8, 2021

*"I am the living bread that came down from heaven, says the Lord;
whoever eats this bread will live forever." JN 6:51 R. Alleluia, alleluia."*



Weekly Mass Intentions



August 7, Saturday, Weekday

Saint Sixtus II

12:05 Matteo & Giovannina
Marucci
5:15 Sister Grace O'Connor

August 8 Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 For the People of the Parish
9:30 Susan Montezinos
11:00 Dott Desiderio
12:30 Josefina Pérez
6:30 Carolina Pomponio

August 9, Monday, Weekday

St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross

7:15 Silverio Berarducci
12:05 John McGuire

August 10, Tuesday

St. Lawrence

7:15 Brian R. Forest
12:05 James Patrick Bradley

August 11, Wednesday

St. Clare

7:15 Intentions of Daniel Ryoo
12:05 Intentions of Chico
Guzman Family

August 12, Thursday, Weekday

St. Jane Frances de Chantal

7:15 Alessandro Iavarone
12:05 Mary Harvey

August 13, Friday, Weekday

St. Pontian & Hippolytus

7:15 Intentions of Steve Jun
12:05 Intentions of Susan &
Michael Zima

August 14, Saturday

Saint Maximilian Kolbe

12:05 Leone, Cuccurullo &
Kenny Families
5:15 Robert Donner

August 15 The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00 For the People of the Parish
9:30 Arturo Giacomucci
11:00 Antonio Demarsilo
12:30 Sonja Lopatinkij
6:30 Alfredo D'Ercole & Family

Dear Parishioners,

Today is the Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time! The Lord Jesus, in this Sunday's Gospel, continues to teach us about his great Gift to us in the Holy Eucharist. The marvel revealed to us over the past few weeks is just what is the Holy Eucharist—the Lord himself! Today, we hear additional good news about this Gift of the Eucharist. "I am the living bread that comes down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world (John 6: 51)." We profess that the Eucharist is truly and really Jesus Christ. With this profession of faith comes a deeper understanding. With our worthy reception of Communion there is a connection with eternal life and the way we are to live our Christian lives. When we receive Holy Communion, we eat and drink of the risen and glorified Lord, the Lord who awaits us at the heavenly banquet. In fact, the Lord gives us his Body and Blood during the Mass from his place in heaven. "Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb" are the words that are part of our invitation to come forward for Holy Communion at each Mass. The Lord who makes us one in his Body with Holy Communion compels us to recognize him and serve him in one another. Let us hear in this teaching of Jesus a necessary reminder to express our own personal love and devotion for the Holy Eucharist. Let us also be sincere to receive Holy Communion without serious sin and ready to live from all the blessings and graces that come to us from the Lord.

Next Sunday, August 15, 2021 is the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This observance fills us with the hope that what is Mary's eternal glory may one day come to each of us as well in the death and resurrection of her Divine Son. Next Sunday is also the Sunday when the obligation to assist at Sunday Mass returns to the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. In fact, the obligation is restored to all the dioceses in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Please see elsewhere in today's bulletin the electronic link to read the Archbishop's letter about the restoration of the Sunday Mass obligation.

Once again, we are preparing for more than 20 possible catechumens and candidates to be a part of our adult Christian Initiation ministry. This is good news and a sign that the Lord is at work among us drawing people to himself. With so many potential catechumens and candidates, we are in need of additional parish sponsors. If this interests you or you would like more information about a parish sponsor, please contact me.

Once again, please see elsewhere in this edition of the Parish Bulletin information on the preparation for the Sacraments—Confirmation, Penance and Reconciliation, First Holy Communion—for school age children. It is very encouraging the number of parents who have responded to this invitation. Please do not delay in making contact with the Parish Office for enrollment in this preparation program.

Next Sunday, the second collection will be directed to the national collection for the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. You can mail your Sunday offerings to the Cathedral Parish Office or make use of the many ways to give electronically. Please see <http://cathedralphila.org/donate/>. Thank you so very much for your goodness and generosity to the Cathedral Parish.

God bless you,
Father Dennis Gill,
Rector



PRAYER | PARTICIPATION | GENEROSITY

One of the best things about summer is the Joy of time away from work and worries with your family.

Remember to remain grateful through prayer for all the joy-filled opportunities.

Your Cathedral parish priests *shore* do have a plan to pray that all of our parishioners have a happy summertime of fun, family and blessings! There are some very cool ways to help us with our ministries this summer! As always, thank you for your generosity and for sharing your joy with us. Please remember our Cathedral parish with your gift.

St. Joseph, pray for us! And let us remember to pray for each other always!

Have the Best Summer Yet!

Your generosity was:

Regular	\$ 5,253
Special	<u>958</u> (for summer utility expenses of the Cathedral Parish)
Total	\$ 6,211

Electronic giving for June 2021 (weekly average \$3,004):

Online	\$ 11,816
Text-to-Give	<u>200</u>
	\$ 12,016

We hope that your generosity will exceed **\$10,000** next week. Thank you!

Please consider a gift to support the good work of our Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul.

- Become a parishioner! – speak with Father Gill, Father Biedrzycki or Deacon Burgos after any Sunday Mass and he can help you register
- **Planned Gifts** – call and leave a message for Rose at 215-561-1313, so she may discuss with you long-term ways that may be best for you such as annuities, life insurance, stock, estate planning and memorial gifts
- **Text to give** anytime, especially for your Sunday Mass offering – text “Cathedral” to 215-709-9955
- **Donate on-line** at <http://cathedralphila.org/donate/> or scan this QR code:



NOVENA SAINT KATHARINE DREXEL English Spanish

<http://cathedralphila.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/printable-novena-2.pdf>

PARISH GREETERS

The Cathedral Parish is always eager to welcome those coming to pray and Worship God at Holy Mass. We likewise, are anxious for regular attendees to consider becoming one of our Greeters for a few years at the Mass of your choice. Please contact Sister Eleanor McCann @ emccann@sistersofmercy.org with your name and phone number and a convenient for a phone call to discuss your interest.

Thank you and God bless you.



Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Sunday, August 15, 2021

Holy Mass Schedule:

5:15 PM Anticipated Mass, in the Cathedral Basilica
(on Saturday, August 14)

8:00 AM Mass, in the Cathedral Basilica

9:30 AM Mass, in the Cathedral Basilica

11:00 AM Mass, in the Cathedral Basilica ([Livestreamed here](#))

12:30 PM Spanish Mass, in the Cathedral Chapel

3:30 PM Mass, in the Cathedral Basilica in the

Extraordinary Form

6:30 PM Mass, in the Cathedral Basilica



Please remember these parishioners and friends of the Cathedral Parish in your prayers/ Ora por los enfermos:

Daniel Damon, Nancy, Jacqueline and her intentions, Anthony Pelle, Jr., Baby Ava Hope, David Blue, Jeannette Argir, Judy Day, Wally Dalton, Baby Benjamin Summers, Eileen Maher, Carmine Meadows, April De Matto, Jim Mace Thompson, Levi Oattes, Rose McKenna, Sue Del Biondo, Paul Fischer, Valente family, Marlene Cinclair, Gloria Quici, Frank Munafo, Matthew Munafo, Rosemary Hennelly, and those in nursing homes or hospitals and all the sick.

To add or remove parishioners, friends or family members to the prayer list, please send an email to: sr.mrparadis@archphila.org, or call Sister Mary Raphael, Parish Outreach Coordinator, at the Cathedral Parish Office, 215-561-1313 Monday through Thursday. Por favor envíe un email o llame a la oficina parroquial para añadir o remover los nombres de la lista de personas que estén enfermas.

La Misión de la Catedral Basílica de los Santos Pedro y Pablo

La Parroquia Catedral sirve a todos los que vienen a la Catedral Basílica, la Iglesia Madre de la Arquidiócesis de Filadelfia, como una vibrante comunidad católica romana en el centro de la ciudad. Profesamos nuestra fe católica, servimos a los demás y damos la bienvenida a todos, fundamentado en la Palabra de Dios y en la celebración de los sacramentos de Jesucristo, Nuestro Señor y Salvador.

Adoptado por el Consejo Pastoral Parroquial, Octubre 13, 2020

BOLETIN INFORMATIVO

Oficina para Católicos Hispanos

[CLICK HERE](http://oficinahispanacatolica.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/August-Agosto-2021.pdf)

<http://oficinahispanacatolica.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/August-Agosto-2021.pdf>

EDUCACION RELIGIOSA EN LA CATEDRAL

¡Primera Comunión y Confirmación en la Catedral!

Si alguno de sus hijos necesita prepararse para la Primera Penitencia, la Primera Comunión o la Confirmación, ¡habrá clases aquí en la Parroquia de la Catedral a partir del otoño! ¡LAS CLASES DE INGLÉS comenzarán a principios de octubre! ¡LAS CLASES DE ESPAÑOL comenzarán a FINALES DE OCTUBRE!

Las clases serán GRATUITAS excepto por los libros y materiales, y serán impartidas por catequistas voluntarios.

- *Este no es un programa completo de educación religiosa.*
- *Pueden asistir niños que estén inscritos en un programa de educación religiosa, que asistan a una escuela católica, pública o autónoma, que estén recibiendo educación en el hogar o que no estén en educación religiosa.*
- *Los materiales en línea estarán disponibles en caso de que las clases en persona se vuelvan imposibles debido a Covid-19.*
- *Los que no son feligreses también son bienvenidos.*

PÓNGASE EN CONTACTO CON LA HERMANA MARY RAPHAEL, COORDINADORA DE DIVULGACIÓN, EN [sr.mrparadis@archphila.org](mailto:mrparadis@archphila.org) LO ANTES POSIBLE ANTES DEL 27 DE AGOSTO o LLAME AL 215-561-1313 si tiene preguntas. ¡Necesitamos pedir los libros para las clases!

Para las clases en español, envíe un correo electrónico a Arturo Ceves a aceves28@gmail.com, o hable con él después de la misa dominical en español a las 12:30pm en la Capilla.

REFLEXIÓN DEL RECTOR

Estimados feligreses,

¡Hoy es el Décimo-noveno Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario! El Señor Jesús, en el Evangelio de este domingo, continúa enseñándonos sobre su gran Don para nosotros en la Sagrada Eucaristía. La maravilla que se nos ha revelado durante las últimas semanas es lo que es la Sagrada Eucaristía: ¡el Señor mismo! Hoy escuchamos buenas noticias adicionales sobre este Don de la Eucaristía. “Yo soy el pan vivo que ha bajado del cielo; el que coma de este pan vivirá para siempre. Y el pan que yo les voy a dar es mi carne para que el mundo tenga vida (Juan 6: 51)”. Profesamos que la Eucaristía es verdadera y realmente Jesucristo. Con esta profesión de fe llega una comprensión más profunda. Con nuestra digna recepción de la Comunión hay una conexión con la vida eterna y la forma en que debemos vivir nuestra vida cristiana. Cuando recibimos la Sagrada Comunión, comemos y bebemos del Señor resucitado y glorificado, el Señor que nos espera en el banquete celestial. De hecho, el Señor nos da su Cuerpo y su Sangre durante la Misa desde su lugar en el cielo. “Bienaventurados los llamados a la cena del Cordero” son las palabras que forman parte de nuestra invitación a acercarnos a la Sagrada Comunión en cada Misa. El Señor que nos hace uno en su Cuerpo con la Sagrada Comunión nos obliga a reconocerlo y servirle a él en el prójimo. Escuchemos en esta enseñanza de Jesús un recordatorio necesario para expresar nuestro amor personal y devoción por la Sagrada Eucaristía. Seamos también sinceros para recibir la Sagrada Comunión sin pecado grave y dispuestos a vivir de todas las bendiciones y gracias que nos llegan del Señor.

El próximo domingo 15 de agosto de 2021 es la Solemnidad de la Asunción de la Santísima Virgen María. Esta observancia nos llena de la esperanza de que la gloria eterna de María pueda llegar un día a cada uno de nosotros también en la muerte y resurrección de su Divino Hijo. El próximo domingo también es el domingo cuando la obligación de asistir a la misa dominical regresa a la Arquidiócesis de Filadelfia. De hecho, la obligación se restablece a todas las diócesis del Commonwealth de Pennsylvania. Consulte en otra parte del boletín de hoy el enlace electrónico para leer la carta del Arzobispo sobre la restauración de la obligación de la misa dominical.

Una vez más, nos estamos preparando para que más de 20 posibles catecúmenos y candidatos formen parte de nuestro ministerio de Iniciación Cristiana para adultos. Esta es una buena noticia y una señal de que el Señor está obrando entre nosotros atrayendo a la gente hacia él. Con tantos potenciales catecúmenos y candidatos, necesitamos padrino/madrinas parroquiales adicionales. Si esto le interesa o desea obtener más información sobre un padrino/madrina parroquial, comuníquese conmigo.

Una vez más, por favor vea en otra parte de esta edición del Boletín Parroquial la información sobre la preparación para los sacramentos — Confirmación, Penitencia y Reconciliación, Primera Comunión — para niños en edad escolar. Es muy alentador el número de padres que han respondido a esta invitación. No se demore en ponerse en contacto con la Oficina Parroquial para inscribirse en este programa de preparación.

El próximo domingo, la segunda colecta se dirigirá a la colecta nacional de la Universidad Católica de América en Washington, DC. Puede enviar sus ofrendas dominicales a la Oficina Parroquial de la Catedral o hacer uso de las muchas formas de donar electrónicamente. Consulte <http://cathedralphila.org/donate/>. Muchas gracias por su bondad y generosidad con la Parroquia Catedral.

Dios lo bendiga,
Padre Dennis Gill,
Rector



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT THE CATHEDRAL

First Holy Communion & Confirmation at the Cathedral!

*If any of your children need to prepare for First Penance, First Holy Communion or Confirmation, there will be classes here at the Cathedral Parish starting in the fall! **CLASSES IN ENGLISH** will start in early October! **CLASSES IN SPANISH** will start at the END OF OCTOBER!*

Classes are FREE except for books and materials, and are taught by volunteer catechists.

This is not a full religious education program.

- *Children may attend who are enrolled in a religious ed program, going to a Catholic, public or charter school, are being homeschooled, or not in religious ed.*

- *Online materials will be made available in case in-person classes become impossible due to Covid-19.*

Non-parishioners are also welcome.

CONTACT SISTER MARY RAPHAEL, OUTREACH COORDINATOR, AT sr.mrparadis@archphila.org **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BEFORE AUGUST 27TH** or **CALL HER AT 215-561-1313 with questions.** We need to order books for the classes! For classes in Spanish, please email Arturo Ceves at aceves28@gmail.com, or talk with him after the Spanish Sunday Mass at 12:30pm in the Chapel.



The Divine Mercy Chaplet

We will pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet **each Friday at 3:00 P.M.** Join us wherever you are.

Join Via Zoom Meeting: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87567068541?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87567068541?pwd=Wmo1V01XWEIQLzRuZ0JnOWU2T3Rsdz09)

[pwd=Wmo1V01XWEIQLzRuZ0JnOWU2T3Rsdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87567068541?pwd=Wmo1V01XWEIQLzRuZ0JnOWU2T3Rsdz09)

Meeting ID: 875 6706 8541

Passcode: Mercy

Join us in a Mass for those suffering from addiction.
All are invited.

Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul
18th Street and Benjamin Franklin Parkway
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103

Saturday, August 14, 2021
12:05 PM

Celebrant
Reverend Gerald Dennis Gill
Rector and Pastor

Addiction has touched far too many families
and taken far too many of our loved ones.
Join us that we may draw strength from one another
in the power of our faith.

Parking lot open, rear of cathedral.

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

- Philippians 4:13

Saint Michael, the Archangel, defend us in battle; be our protection
against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him,
we humbly pray, and do thou, O prince of the heavenly host, by the
power of God, thrust into Hell, Satan and all the other evil spirits, who
prowl throughout the world, seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

- Pope Leo XIII



STATEMENT OF ARCHBISHOP NELSON J. PÉREZ REGARDING REINSTATING THE OBLIGATION TO ATTEND SUNDAY MASS

Archbishop Nelson J. Pérez' announces the restoration of our obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation **beginning Sunday, August 15, 2021.**

Let us continue to give thanks and praise to God for the great gift of His Son given to us in the Holy Eucharist!

To read Archbishop's letter [CLICK HERE](#), or go to:

<http://cathedralphila.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/NJP-Statement-Obligation-to-Attend-Sunday->

PARISHIONER INFORMATION UPDATE

New Parishioners

Welcome to the Cathedral Parish!

The easiest way to register can be accomplished by speaking with one of the parish priests after any regularly scheduled Mass. If preferred, you can also contact the Parish Office to schedule an appointment to meet with a priest for parish registration.

Parishioners

If you have new contact information, new members in your household, or someone in your household has received a sacrament, please call the Parish Office so that our records can be updated. **If you have not been receiving your weekly offering envelopes**, again, please call the Parish Office to insure that your address is registered correctly. If you are planning on moving away please let us know.

Parish Office phone number is 215-561-1313.



THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

The celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism is the doorway to the Christian life and to all the other Sacraments. As such, preparation of the parents and for the Baptism itself deserve very special attention. The celebration of Baptism at the Cathedral Parish takes place on the **FIRST Sunday** of each month at 12:30 PM after the 11:00 AM Solemn Mass. Everyone is welcome. The celebration will be carried out with liturgical music and with a great sense of hospitality.

Upcoming Baptisms: September 5, 2021; October 3, 2021; and November 7, 2021.

A *Baptism Preparation Session* takes place on the **THIRD Sunday** of each month at 12:30PM in anticipation of the celebration of the Sacrament. Parents in the Cathedral Parish are obligated to participate. The session is open to all of our neighbor parishes and to godparents as well. Parents are encouraged to participate during pregnancy, if at all possible. Please call Sister Mary Marta at the rectory by calling 215-561-1313 **to register for the Baptism Preparation Session provide your phone number, parish, and names of people attending.** Also note if you would like to schedule the baptism at the Cathedral.

Upcoming prep sessions: August 15, 2021; September 19, 2021; and October 17, 2021.



Please support our bulletin sponsors and ask if their business can be found on the FindingFABER™ app. ©JPPC

EVANGELIZATION NEWSLETTER

Office for New Evangelization

[CLICK HERE,](https://phillyevang.flocknote.com/note/12715036)

<https://phillyevang.flocknote.com/note/12715036>

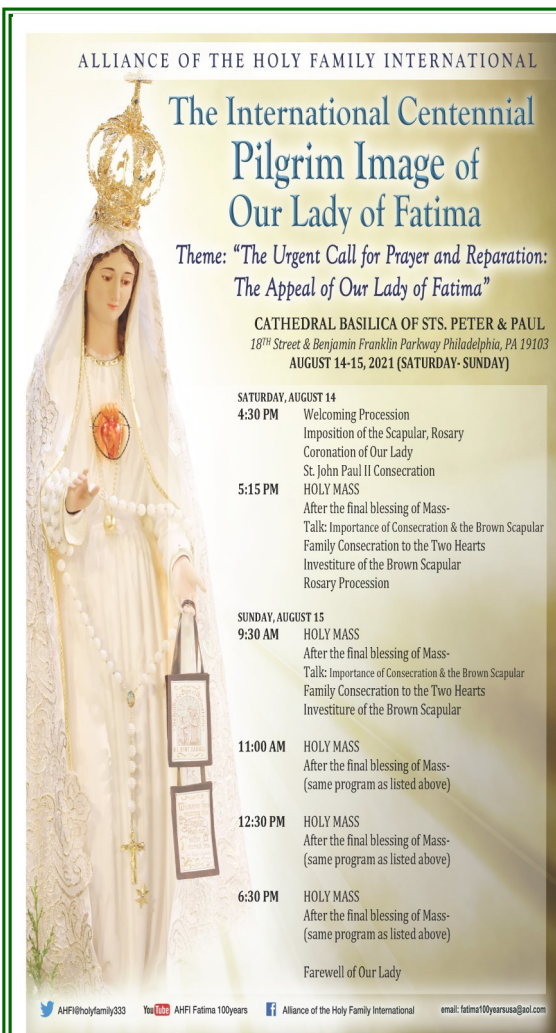


"THE SUMMIT"
Friday, August 27th 2021

7:00pm - Mass
8:00pm - Exposition
10:00pm - Benediction

**A NIGHT OF
WORSHIP, OUTREACH,
AND
COMMUNITY.**

Location:
The Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul
215 N 18th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103
Free Parking Available



ALLIANCE OF THE HOLY FAMILY INTERNATIONAL

**The International Centennial
Pilgrim Image of
Our Lady of Fatima**

Theme: "The Urgent Call for Prayer and Reparation:
The Appeal of Our Lady of Fatima"

CATHEDRAL BASILICA OF STS. PETER & PAUL
18TH Street & Benjamin Franklin Parkway Philadelphia, PA 19103
AUGUST 14-15, 2021 (SATURDAY-SUNDAY)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 14
4:30 PM Welcoming Procession
Imposition of the Scapular, Rosary
Coronation of Our Lady
St. John Paul II Consecration
5:15 PM HOLY MASS
After the final blessing of Mass-
Talk: Importance of Consecration & the Brown Scapular
Family Consecration to the Two Hearts
Investiture of the Brown Scapular
Rosary Procession

SUNDAY, AUGUST 15
9:30 AM HOLY MASS
After the final blessing of Mass-
Talk: Importance of Consecration & the Brown Scapular
Family Consecration to the Two Hearts
Investiture of the Brown Scapular

11:00 AM HOLY MASS
After the final blessing of Mass-
(same program as listed above)

12:30 PM HOLY MASS
After the final blessing of Mass-
(same program as listed above)

6:30 PM HOLY MASS
After the final blessing of Mass-
(same program as listed above)

Farewell of Our Lady

AHF1@holymfamily333 YouTube AHFI Fatima 100years Alliance of the Holy Family International email: fatima100years@aol.com

The Holy Mass – The Lord's Day – Part 1 of 4

On August 15, 2021 the Solemnity of the Assumption, the obligation to assist (be present) at Mass in-person will be reinstated. This means that as Catholic Christians living in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia we are to be present for Holy Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. Our absence carries with it the pain of sin. Exceptions to this obligation ordinarily consist of those obstacles posed by grave physical (illness) or moral (excess fear, anxiety etc.) factors that would make assisting at Mass difficult if not impossible. This begs the question – why is it so important to be at Mass on Sunday? Is it **"just a rule"** or more? Over the next few weeks we will look at this from a couple of angles. Where do we begin?

The best place to begin is at the beginning, the very beginning. Following the six days of Creation, having completed His first labor of love on behalf of mankind (creating and bringing mankind into being) God rests on the seventh day, the Sabbath. We read in Genesis **"God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work he had done in creation."** Following Israel's liberation from Egypt the observance of this seventh day will be codified in the Ten Commandments: **"Remember the Sabbath day—keep it holy."** This day, the seventh or Sabbath, for the Jewish people is Saturday.

The observance of the seventh day is recalled particularly so that Israel may imitate God, he rested on the seventh day, and recall the mighty work of salvation the Lord wrought on their behalf; freeing them from servile labor to be a people peculiarly his own. With Jesus, we see the fulfillment of the Old Law. In Jesus, some parts of the law are fulfilled, as in completed and done, others parts are fulfilled in that they are perfected. In Jesus, the definitive Lord's Day, is Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord wherein Jesus conquers sin and death opens the way to heaven for all who believe in Him.

Pope Innocent I, writing at the beginning of the fifth century testifies to the custom of gathering on Sunday: **"We celebrate Sunday because of the venerable Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, and we do so not only at Easter but also at the turning of the week."** The center point of these observance of this day for Christians, particularly Catholic, is the celebration of the Eucharist.

In the Eucharist, the saving sacrifice of Jesus is re-presented, made present again, and those persons believing in him are permitted to taste the fruits of the tree of life, the cross, in the reception of his very body and blood, under the forms of bread and wine. In ancient times, as now, it was a defining characteristic of the Christian people to refrain from servile labor on Sunday and gather for the **"breaking of the bread."** Sharing in the one sacrifice of Christ the Christian people are made one.

Christians fully become the Body of Christ by sharing in the Body of Christ, the Eucharist. Christ is the head and we are the members. Separated from our head, by sin or our own negligence, we are not much different than a limb cut off from a perfectly healthy body; more dead than alive. By Baptism, we are made for communion. Observing the Lord's Day fulfills this desire and duty of a grateful heart.

Next week we will look more closely at that duty particularly and the obligation that flow from it. See you at Holy Mass!

Fr. Matthew Biedrzycki

¹ Gen 2:3

² Ex 20:11

³ Cited from John Paul II, *Dies Domini, Apostolic Letter on Keeping Holy the Lord's Day*, 11.