

WEEKLY UPDATE

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time



When you give to the needy, it is like lending to the Lord, and the Lord will pay you back.

Proverbs 19: 17



This week Michael and Ann Geurts' grandchildren dropped off a **\$200** donation from the proceeds of their lemonade stand and asked us to put it towards the Ukraine Fund. Thank you for your kindness and generosity to our brothers and sisters in Ukraine!

SENIOR CONNECTION

JULY 28 | 1:00 PM
ST. MARY COMMUNITY ROOM

Cards, Games, & Socializing!

Bring a friend!



St. Mary Synod



Tell Pope Francis and the Church your thoughts!

- Better our Catholic Church, greater Christian community, and world by becoming a listening, learning, & loving Church
- Every person has experiences of joy and sorrow in regard to our Catholic Church
- Every person deserves to be listened to
- Your participation is irreplaceable in realizing the Pope's dream

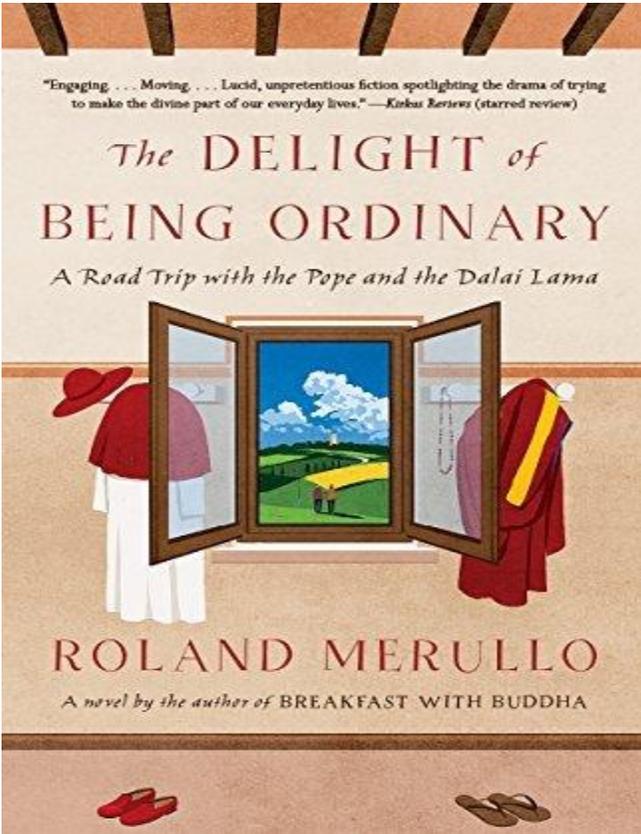
First: Share with and listen to each other

- Gather around the dinner table
- Discuss with friends after a yoga class
- Meet up for coffee with another and share thoughts
- Spend time alone with God and pray on how to better our Church

Then: Answer Synod Questions Here



St. Mary's Book Club



The next St. Mary/St. Joseph book club discussion will take place at 6pm, on Tuesday, August 9, in Room L4 at St. Mary on State Street. The book selected for August 9 is: *The Delight of Being Ordinary* by Roland Merullo. What happens when the Pope and the Dalai Lama decide they need a secret vacation? Roland Merullo's playful, eloquent, and life-affirming novel finds the world's two holiest men teaming up for an unsanctioned road trip through the Italian countryside--where they rediscover the everyday joys and challenges of ordinary life.

Looking ahead: The September 13 selection is *The Summer of Lost and Found* by Mary Alice Monroe, and our October 10 selection is *Searching for Sunday: Loving, Leaving, and Find the Church* by Rachel Held Evans.

For more information, please contact Mary Schulz, 920-809-4474. New members are welcome to join anytime.

Mark Your Calendars!

Irish Fest takes place on
September 16 - 17, 2022
and St Mary will be hosting a
Celtic Mass on
Saturday, September 17 at 4:30 p.m.



Funny Name. Easy Fundraising.

Help support St Mary's by purchasing scrip after Mass in the Marian Way or by coming into the parish office during business hours!

In Loving Memory

Please pray for the family and friends of Gerald "Gus" Laemmrich, and, the family and friends of Richard Wankey. May fond memories comfort them at this time. If you have lost a loved one and would like them to be remembered in the bulletin, call the parish office at 920-739-5119.

Prayer Requests

Contact Mary Jo Zilisch (920-734-1182 or 920-843-1249) or Laurie Richter (lauriejrichter@gmail.com) if you have a prayer need. Please remember the requests in our prayer baskets.

Events Calendar

Monday, July 25

7:00pm Boy Scouts/St. Anne Room

8:00pm Al-Anon Meeting/ Lower Level Room 6

Tuesday, July 26

10:30am Homily Connect Group/Lower Level Room 7

2:00pm Rosary Group/Church

6:15pm Confessions/Chapel

Wednesday, July 27

9:00am Mom's Group/Babysitting Room

9:30am Connect, Pray, Reflect on the Sunday Scriptures/Lower Level Room 7

Thursday, July 28

1:00pm Senior Connection/Community Room

Friday, July 29

Parish Office closed!

Saturday, July 30

9:00am Confessions/Chapel

2:00pm Corinne Vandenheuvel/Matthew Steele Wedding

Mass Times

Mon., July 25, 12:05pm

Tue., July 26, 8:00am

Wed., July 27, 8:00am

Thur., July 28, 12:05 pm

Sat., July 30, 4:30pm

Sun., July 31, 7:45am

9:45am

6:30pm

Intention

Dobbie & Sis Robertson

Mass at St. Bernard Parish

Mass at St. Bernard Parish

Jim Long

Ted Miller

Parishioners of St. Mary

Carl & Francis Fisher Family

Ed & Dorothy Frahm

IN JOY & SORROW

WITH FR. BILL
SWICHTENBERG

07.24.2022

Coming from someone who is not a parent, I just have to say how much positive regard I have for all parents. Raising children and teenagers is an undaunted task. The responsibilities of parenting can seem all-consuming and charged with many joys and some sorrows, many successes and some disappointments. Parents really want only one thing for their children, that is, that they be happy and that they be able to receive love and to give love.

In my pastoral experience, which is limited I know, I have accompanied a few parents on their journey as they agonize for a child who is struggling with issues around his or her sexual identity or sexual orientation. A loving mother once asked me, "Father, what do I do? My young adult son is transitioning into my daughter. This is so hard for us as parents. I do not understand this. Did we do something wrong as parents? What do we do?"

I said something like, "Accompany your daughter. Love her and love her some more. Difficult as it is to understand, it is even more difficult for your daughter to understand why she feels trapped in the wrong body. Love her even when it is difficult. Love her. Love her as Jesus loves her."

I know that our sisters and brothers who are members of the LGBTQ+ community struggle mightily to receive love and give love. They sometimes feel that they are disordered or defective because they sometimes hear that from the people around them. Some of them deal with painful rejection and some of them end up as our homeless sisters and brothers. The hatred and anger showered upon them at times can lead to thoughts of suicide. They feel as if the Lord Himself has abandoned them because many in the Lord's Church do not make them feel welcome.

If we lived in a perfect world, we would choose a life for every person which was grounded in heterosexuality and an acceptance of one's biological sex. We would want this for all our children and young adults. The alternatives bring so much pain into the lives of our sisters and brothers. We embrace the ideas of heterosexuality and acceptance of one's biological sex, believing that this is how God meant things to be, but we cannot hide from the real life experiences of our sisters and brothers who are struggling with homosexuality and gender dysphoria. Ideologies must take a back seat to real life experiences.

I am not a biologist or sexologist. I am not an expert when it comes to human development in the womb. I am not a psychologist or sociologist. I think the issues around sexual identity are very complicated and some of them arise very early in the development of the human person - sometimes even within the womb of his or her mother. Issues around sexual development are not choices that persons are making but they are rather givens that they are struggling to understand and accept. You may choose to disagree with me.

This is what I believe is all important. Will I take the time to accompany a sister or brother on their difficult pathway? Will I be committed to listening and holding sacred the journey they might share with me? Will I try, with everything within me, to reassure them of my love no matter what? I will remind them that Jesus made them wonderfully in their mother's womb and that Jesus loved them

from the very first moment of their conception and that Jesus loves and accepts them now. Respect, sensitivity and compassion will be my guiding lights.

Will we, as a parish family, reassure our sisters and brothers in the LGBTQ+ community that our parish is a place of love and welcome? We must be able to promise that we will not push them away, in effect, saying that there is no place in the Catholic Church for them.

While a transgendered young man and his family have moved away from this area, and I have lost contact with him, I do remember his attempt to attend Mass on Christmas Eve. He was extremely uncomfortable and was worshipping only to please his parents. He had picked up from somewhere that the Church had rejected him because he could not live into his biological sex. And if the Church had rejected him, as was his perception, he wondered what the Lord actually felt about him.

I believe that these issues are very complex and we can probably never understand them completely. In the meantime, I am committed to accompanying my sisters and brothers, reassuring them of the Lord's love and my love, always offering them a place in the beloved community, which is the Church, the People of God. I always go back to Saint Paul's encouragement to the People of God of the Church of Rome, "Rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep. (Romans 12:15) I am certain that our sisters and brothers of the LGBTQ+ community have found themselves sometimes weeping. How can I not be there for them? We all need to receive love so that we can give love. Our God is only Love!

Just one more thought!

Juan Carlos Cruz, a Roman Catholic clergy sex abuse survivor from Chile, met with Pope Francis at the Vatican in April 2018. In a post-visit interview, Cruz reported what he says the Pope said to him: "You know, Juan Carlos, [being gay] does not matter. God made you like this. God loves you like this, the Pope loves you like this, and you should love yourself and not worry about what people say."

I am well aware that some people disagree with Pope Francis about this and that this recollection from Mr. Cruz is his alone and was never confirmed officially by the Vatican. But I do believe that Pope Francis is committed to accompanying every person on his or her journey, always reassuring him or her of the Lord's unconditional, merciful love. We are all saved by the Lord's love!

Fr. Bill +

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Summer Hours:

Mon - Thurs, 9am-4pm
closed Fridays

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Marriage

Congratulations! Contact Fr. Bill at least 6
months before your planned wedding date.

Baptism

Congratulations! Contact Nadine Duncan for
information.

Confession

Sat. 9-10am and Tues. 6:15-7:15pm (except for
the 1st Tues. of the month)

St. Mary Cemetery

920-882-4158
cemetery@stmaryparish.org

Xavier Catholic School System

920-735-9380