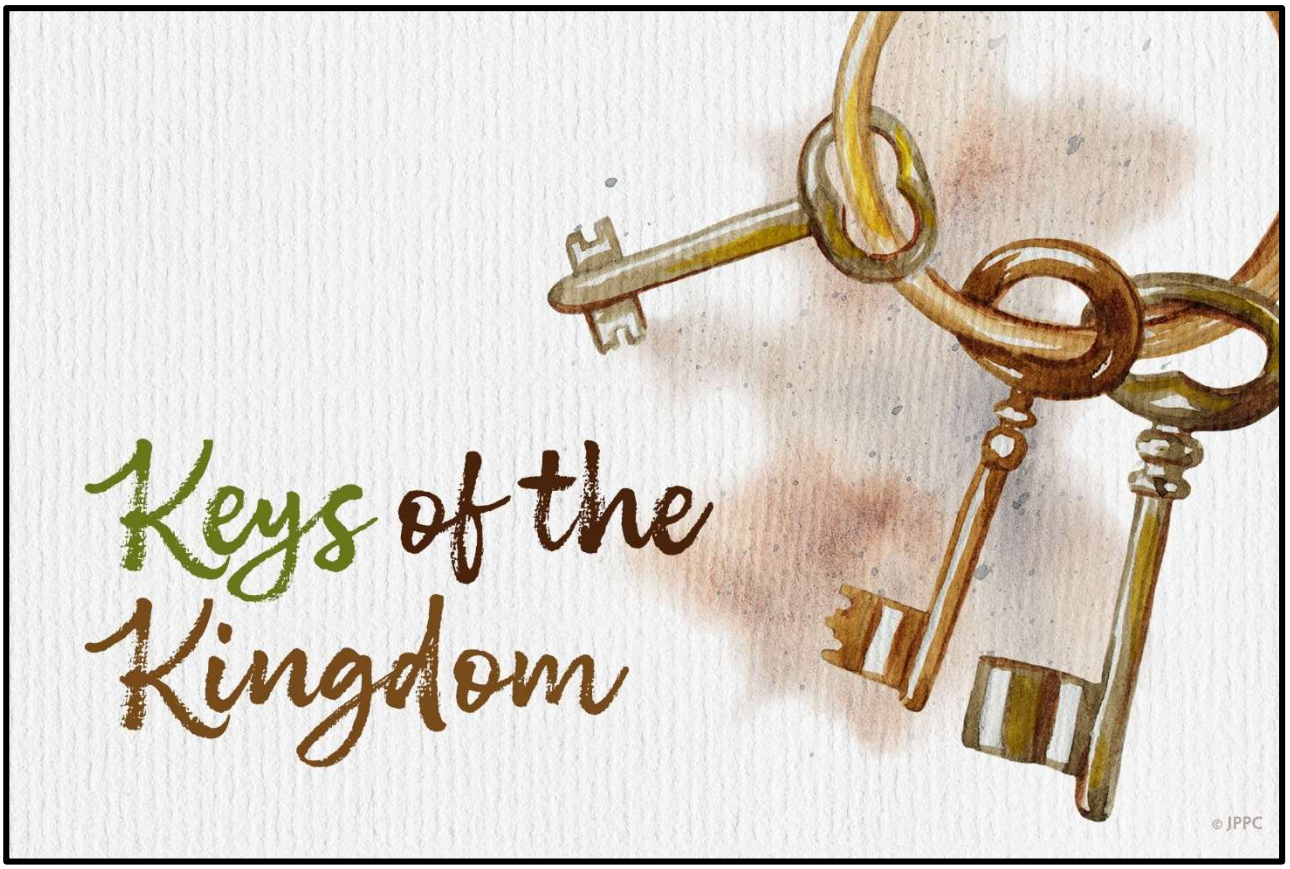
Saint Mary Roman Catholic Parish

94 Walnut Road, Hamburg, Pennsylvania 19526

610-562-7657 ~ WEBSITE: www.stmaryhamburg.org

21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

August 23, 2026



A Parish Blessed by St. John Neumann

Founded 1854

Rev. David J. Loeper, Pastor
daloeps@yahoo.com
Mr. Thomas B. Drogalis, Permanent Deacon
Mrs. Marie Dooley, Religious Education, Youth Ministry & Safe Environment Coordinator
stmarysformation@gmail.com
Mrs. Laura Ludovici, Parish Office
stmaryhamburg@aol.com
Mr. Robert Lesnefsky, Director of Music
Mrs. Marie Dinich, Financial Secretary

Weekly Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM
Sunday Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil, 4:00 PM; Sundays, 8:00 AM and 10:45 AM
Daily Masses: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 9:00 AM; Tuesday, 7:00 PM
Reconciliation: Saturdays, 3:15-3:45 PM; 15 minutes before Daily Masses; anytime by appointment

St. Mary Parish warmly welcomes any guests or visitors who are joining us for Mass. If you are new to the area and looking for a parish home, we kindly invite you to join our parish. Please contact our Pastor or Parish Office for information on registration. If you are traveling through Berks County, we are happy to have you with us. Please know that you are always welcome and be assured of our prayers for your safe travels home.

Parish Information

CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone: 610.562.7657
Religious Education (off hours): 484.575.1222
Email: **Stmaryhamburg@aol.com**
Web**: www.stmaryhamburg.org** *(Bulletin can be found here!)*
Facebook:
https://www.facebook.com/groups/St.MaryHamburg

OUR MISSION

To invoke the prayers and intercessions of the Blessed Virgin Mary, our patroness, as we seek to be drawn ever more deeply into the Paschal Mystery and the life of her Son, Jesus Christ. To provide the sacraments, liturgical services, pastoral guidance, and religious education for Catholic Christians in Northern Berks County. To provide opportunities to parishioners of all ages and abilities to share their time, talents, and treasure through religious and social programs. To support those in need through prayer, outreach, and good works. To manage the tangible assets of the parish with prudent administration through the cooperation of the pastor and the laity. To encourage participation in the inter-faith services and unite with all persons of good will in matters of faith and moral living. To be an asset to the Hamburg and Northern Berks Area and the Diocese of Allentown.

VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR

The Diocese of Allentown provides assistance to anyone who, as a minor, was sexually abused by a priest, deacon, or employee/volunteer of the Diocese/Parish. Parents, guardians, children and survivors of sexual abuse are invited and encouraged to contact the Diocese of Allentown for more information about this program. The fullness of compassion should be extended to these victims of the Church.

DIOCESAN VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR:
Ms. Wendy S. Krisak, M.A., NCC, LPC
DIRECT TELEPHONE LINE: 800-791-9209
DIOCESAN SECRETARY FOR YOUTH PROTECTION:
Ms. Pamela Russo, MSW, MS
610-871-5200, ext. 2204 OR prusso@allentowndiocese.org
CATHOLIC BISHOP ABUSE REPORTING SERVICE
1-800-276-1562, **www.ReportBishopAbuse.org**
PROTECTION OF CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE
Diocesan Policies & Procedures: **www.allentowndiocese.org**

ENVELOPE USE

With quite a few active parishioners, use of collection envelopes is the only way we have of knowing your Mass attendance. If you are asked to be a sponsor for Baptism or Confirmation, you will need a Certificate of Eligibility signed by Father Loeper. These certificates require Father to attest that he has knowledge of your practice of your faith. So please use your envelopes! If a minimal contribution is a financial burden, please put the empty envelope in the collection basket. This indicates that you attended Mass that week. *Please note, all envelopes are recorded according to when they were received, not according to the date on the envelope!*

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

You are encouraged to seek the Sacrament of the Sick if you are suffering from a serious illness or are going to be admitted to the hospital for surgery. Please contact Father Loeper or the Parish Office if you would like to be anointed.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

is held weekly before 4:00PM Saturday Vigil Mass, from 3:15-3:45PM AND 15 minutes before daily weekday Masses. Also by appointment!

BAPTISM: Administered Sundays at 12Noon. Call the pastor to arrange. Families must be registered and practicing for at least 3 months. Parents are to attend an informational session. Catholic sponsors (at least 16 years old) must practice the faith and need a letter of eligibility from the home parish.

MARRIAGE: Contact the pastor *at least 6 months prior to the desired date.* Bride or groom must be registered and practicing the faith for at least 6 months.

CARE OF THE SICK for Homebound: Please notify the office of aged, seriously ill or infirmed persons desiring Holy Communion and/or Anointing of the Sick at home.

HOSPITALS & NURSING HOMES: When a family member is admitted, please notify the parish office.

SPONSOR LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION for Baptism or Confirmation will be issued only to practicing parishioners who are members for at least 3 months. See "Envelope Use" below.

CATHOLIC RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Family Faith Formation (PreK through grade 8) scheduled Sunday mornings during the school year. Contact Mrs. Dooley or the parish office, or email **stmarysformation@gmail.com**

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS: Depending on location, our parishioners might attend any number of Catholic elementary schools or Catholic high schools. Contact the pastor regarding the parish subsidy policy for students attending Catholic schools or for further information.

OCIA: The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults is a program for those preparing for baptism, reception into the Catholic church, or for those Catholics who are lacking one of the Sacraments of Initiation or who wish to return to the Church after an absence or simply wish to learn more about the faith. The program runs from September until Easter.

MEMBERSHIP & REGISTRATION: New members are to arrange to meet with the pastor. Membership involves a commitment to the life of the parish through regular participation spiritually and with one's time, talent, and treasure.

FOR CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBER: If you are MOVING, PLEASE notify the parish office!

BULLETIN DEADLINES: All announcements are to be submitted in writing or by email to **StMaryHamburg@aol.com** by ***the Sunday of the week prior to publication.***

TECHNOLOGY NOTES: Follow our parish news and events on Facebook, on FlockNotes, or on our website.

MEMORIAL FUND: Memorial gifts may be made to the parish in memory of deceased loved ones.

WILLS & BEQUESTS: Consider designating your parish in your last will and testament or living trust so that the blessings the Lord has given you may continue to build His Kingdom.

DIRECTORY of PARISH MINISTRIES & SERVICES

Altar Servers & Ministers of the Altar: Fr. Loeper
Bulletin (weekly): Laura Ludovici, **stmaryhamburg@aol.com**
Catholic Charities: Reading or Kutztown: 610-376-7144
Pottsville: 570-628-0466
Cemetery: John Driscoll
Children's Choir: Keith Symons
Christmas Bazaar: Bonnie Katzaman
Choir & Music Ministry: Bob Lesnefsky
Facilities Manager: Mark Kopp
Guitar Group: Tony LaMastra
Holy Name Society: Mike Sauer
NorthStar Women's Center (pro-life): 610-321-7277
Parish Council: Fr. Loeper
Parish Prayer List: Gail Braun
FFF/Religious Education & Youth Ministry:
Marie Dooley (call 484-575-1222)
Rental Information (Pavilion & Ave Maria Hall): Parish Office
SCRIP Website: raiseright.com or call Office
Ushers: Ed Burns
Taste & See (mercy meals): Mary Alice Kuhns

Mass Intentions

Saturday, August 22: ***21st Sunday in Ordinary Time***
4:00PM + George & Lucille Miller

Sunday, August 23: *21st* ***Sunday in Ordinary Time***
8:00AM + Bea & Don Collins

Sunday, August 23: ***21st Sunday in Ordinary Time***
10:45AM ♥ Avila Dooley

Monday, August 24: ***St. Bartholomew, Apostle***
9:00AM + Lisa Palko Heckman

Tuesday, August 25: ***St. Louis; St. Joseph Calasanz, Priest***
7:00PM + Anna Sottosanti

Wednesday, August 26: ***Weekday***
9:00AM ♥ Bob Walley

Thursday, August 27: ***St. Monica***
9:00AM + Tibboly Pors and Kaylani Pors

Friday, August 28: ***St. Augustine, Bishop & Doctor of Church***
9:00AM ♥ Msgr. Donald Cieniewicz

Saturday, August 29: ***22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time***
4:00PM + Kathleen Yarwood

Sunday, August 30: *22nd* ***Sunday in Ordinary Time***
8:00AM + John Torok

Sunday, August 30: ***22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time***
10:45AM + Ann Callahan

+ Deceased **♥ Living**

Readings for the Week

Monday Rev 21:9b-14 Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18 Jn 1:45-51
Tuesday 2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17 Ps 96:10, 11-12, 13 Mt 23:23-26
Wednesday 2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18 Ps 128:1-2, 4-5 Mt 23:27-32
Thursday 1 Cor 1:1-9 Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 Mt 24:42-51
Friday 1 Cor 1:17-25 Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 10-11 Mt 25:1-13
Saturday 1 Cor 1:26-31 Ps 33:12-13, 18-19, 20-21 Mk 6:17-29
Sunday Jer 20:7-9 Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 Rom 12:1-2 Mt 16:21-27

Parish Calendar

Sunday, August 23 ~ Sunday, August 30

Sunday:
Monday: **Christmas Bazaar Meeting, 6:30PM**
Tuesday: **Adoration, 6PM**
Harvest Fest Meeting, 7:30PM
Wednesday:
Thursday:
Friday:
Saturday:
Sunday:

Stewardship of God's Gifts

Received Sunday, August 16: $7,141
Mission Cooperative: $2,336

Facilities Maintenance Fund

Received Sunday, August 16: $70

Surveys are to some web sites like ants to picnics. Part of life and hard to avoid. But if Jesus gets involved in anything, even a survey, we have to pay attention. We just heard (or read about) Our Lord conducting a survey of His chosen men.

First, the locale. Usually significant in the gospels. We're in Caesarea Philippi, a predominantly Gentile city north of Palestine. Originally known as Panias because of a shrine built there to honor the god, Pan. When Herod the Great's son Philip became tetrarch, he rebuilt the city and named it Caesarea to honor Tiberius the emperor...He cleaned and dressed it up (not with a ballroom) and added his name so the emperor would know it.

So here, among impressive Roman marble and plentiful statues of pagan gods, Jesus asks the Apostles two important questions: "Who do men say that I am?" and then "Who do you say that I am?"

We can assume a stunned silence from the group and then a list of possibilities before Peter pipes up, as he is wont to do, with the correct answer: "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God!" "Wow!" we think.

"Peter sure got it right!" And Jesus wholeheartedly agrees. (Try to remember this scene next Holy Thursday night, when Peter vehemently denies Jesus to the servant girl in the high priest's garden when she confronts him hovering by the fire.)

Jesus rightly pinpoints the source of Peter's insight as the Holy Spirit within him. Then He gives Peter the keys to the kingdom, with power and authority of office that begins here and brings us right to Leo XIV from Chicago!

Rather than defend the papacy to all sorts of critics out there in cyberspace, I'd rather reflect on what St. Peter's answer to Christ means for you and me. But what does it mean? Certainly, the endurance of the Church for more than twenty centuries comes to mind. That plus the comfort of knowing with certainty the Church's purpose. The realization that its central truths about Jesus are forever. That no other plan on how to live is as responsive to God's will as that of Christianity. Certainly, I must add that we are part of the only Church with a pope as successor to Peter.

But now comes the question right at you and me this summer Sunday. Who do you say Christ is? Your answer and mine determine everything. We shouldn't need a survey to tell us. Allow me to close with a quote that fits the situation: "The true Christian is a person who is right-side-up in a world that is upside down."

God love you and give you His peace.

--Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God and for a Special Intention by Jane Markovich.

HOLY NAME CORNER: "IRON SHARPENS IRON"
MEETINGS every third Thursday of the month!

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION: A holy hour takes place in the chapel every Tuesday evening from 6PM to 7PM. Mass is then offered at 7PM. This is a simple holy hour (no Benediction).

QUILT NEWS: St. Mary's Quilting Bee is happy to announce the start of our 2026 quilt raffle. We extend our sincere thanks to Phyllis Yoder for donating this quilt from her collection. Tickets are $1.00 each or 6 for $5.00 and are available on the table in front of the quilt display in the side lobby. We also extend our appreciation to Gregory J. Rautzhan Insurance Agency for his generous donation to sponsor the printing of the quilt tickets. The winner will be drawn at our annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, November 21. Thanks!

FAITH NIGHTS AT THE HAMBURG STRAND THEATER: All films start at 7PM and are shown on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Admission is $10 which includes popcorn and soda. Tickets sold at the door only! The next film shown will be *"Unsung Hero"* on September 8. *See flyer on lobby kiosk!*

PRAYER LIST: Let's pray for those in our parish & family community who are sick, recently deceased, or otherwise in need of prayer: TODD GLADFELTER, SHERRY LUDOVICI, CEREGHINI FAMILY, DAVID BACHMAN, TERRY DUNBAR, BETTY & MATTHEW SHAABER, FRICK FAMILY, DIANE OLEXSON, MARCUS KRAMER, JOSHUA & LORI KIDWELL, BOB PALKO, LEO SAUPPEE, MARGARET EBLING, BOB & KATHLEEN LLEWELLYN, MELISSA ENGLEMAN, KRISTIN YATES, RUTH KREMSER, JENNA PIASKOWSKI, LEO MUZOPAPPA FAMILY, THOMAS HOJNOWSKI, SR., THOMAS HOJNOWSKI, JR., JENNIFER MILLER, CLAIRE CRANDALL, CATHY & STACEY MONTES, JOE PEACOCK, LORI ODENATH, SALVATORE SANGUINITO, MICHELLE, ANTHONY SCARNATI, MICHELLE ANTALOSKY, MAHALA WACHTER, CHARLES SNYDER, PATTI GERMANSKI, ALEX VAUPEL, BOB WALLEY, CAROLYN BONKOSKI, CAIT DRISCOLL, GARRITH DONLEY. Due to privacy laws, the actual person or an immediate family member needs to give us permission for inclusion & remain on the list for 3 mos. ***Please let us know when your loved one is better.***

Our Church is meant to be a place of prayer and recollection. Please refrain from conversation while you are inside the church worship space. Thank you for respecting God's house!

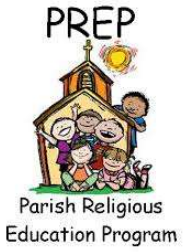
DEAR PARISHIONERS:
This is an important time of year to think about OCIA: the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults. OCIA welcomes adults into full communion with the Catholic Church or helps them complete their Christian initiation. It is for several categories of people:

1. People who have never been baptized and feel called to enter the Catholic Church.
2. Christians baptized into other traditions (Lutheran, Presbyterian, Evangelical, etc.) who wish to enter full communion with the Catholic Church.
3. Those who were baptized Catholic, but for one reason or another, were not brought up in the faith.
4. Catholics who were brought up in the faith but for one reason or another did not receive all of the Sacraments of Initiation, such as Confirmation.

Because we are a relatively small parish, OCIA can easily be adapted to each person's needs. If you or someone in your life falls into one of the above categories and has an interest in entering full communion with the Church or completing initiation into the Church, please speak with me.
If there is someone in your life who you think is open to the Catholic faith, consider sharing this information with them. It is a good way to evangelize. Some people are simply waiting to be invited!

--Father Dave

BVM PILGRIM STATUE: August 22-August 29: OPEN; August 29-September 5: OPEN; September 5-September 12: A VanDongen. Please call the next host family on the schedule as a courtesy reminder.
PILGRIM STATUE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN: *There are weeks open. If you would like to sign up to have the statue in your home for a week, please call the parish office so that you can schedule a week from those available.*



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:
Registrations have gone out for our upcoming 2026-2027 calendar year. All families with children in Preschool through 8th grades are welcome to join us! If you are new to our program, feel free to get in touch with Marie Dooley to complete registration as a new family. Our opening breakfast will be on Sunday, September 13th in the Ave Maria Hall.

POPE LEO'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR THE MONTH:
Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.

LIFELINE SCREENING: You're invited to a LifeLine Screening Event, here at St. Mary on Monday, August 31. Screenings will take place for carotid artery disease screening, peripheral artery disease screening, atrial fibrillation screening and abdominal aortic aneurysm screening. *Please see the ad on the lobby kiosk for further information!*

Liturgy Schedule: Weekend of August 29 & 30

4:00PM
Lector: L Ludovici; EMs: M Bachman, D Sauer
8:00AM
Lector: B Cordier; EMs: D Cordier, J Gricoski
10:45AM
Lector: T Kast; EMs: J & N Kopp

RESPECT LIFE CORNER:
"How can there be too many children? That's like saying there are too many flowers."
— Mother Teresa

KEEP IN PRAYER ***Josephine Edgar, parishioner who recently passed away. Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace! +Amen***

MSC OKTOBERFEST – October 11, 12:00-5:00pm **at the Reading Liederkranz.** *Hosted by and for the Missionary Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.* **Enjoy an authentic German Oktoberfest at the #1 Oktoberfest in the U.S.!** Enjoy live music & dancing with the Josef Kroboth Band from 1PM-4PM. $20 entrance donation online or at the door (under 18 free). Outdoor celebration in a scenic, accessible grove with a HEATED pavilion. Authentic German food & beer ordered by guests at cash/credit food and beverage stands. Raffles. To reserve, sponsor or donate, visit **www.mscreading.org**

Mothers & Daughters, 9-12 Years Old, 1-day Retreat: Milk & Honey, Theology of the Body for Me and Mommy. To be held at St. Benedict Church, Mohnton on Saturday, Sept. 19 at 9AM. See flyer on lobby kiosk!

JOIN OUR CHRISTMAS BAZAAR COMMITTEE!

Please contact **BONNIE KATZAMAN** at 610-562-4036 OR email **Btopkat@verizon.net** as soon as possible! We had our first meeting, but look forward to anyone else giving us a hand! NEXT MEETING will be held this **MONDAY, AUGUST 24 AT 6:30PM!**

Our annual HARVEST FEST will take place on Friday, October 2 & Saturday, October 3!!!

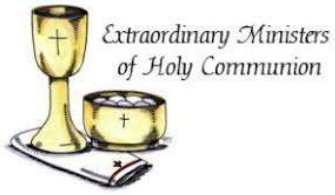
HARVEST FEST CORK PULL: Donations of your favorite wine, spirits & beer are now being accepted for the cork pull. All donated items must be valued at *$15 or more* and may be dropped off during office hours or weekend Masses. Please consider donating! This has been a great addition to Harvest Fest!

RAFFLE AUCTION: Items can be dropped off to the Parish Office during the week or bring them with you to Mass on the weekend! Please make sure that items are attached together with your name, phone number, and value of the gift attached. Please contact Anita Homolo if you have any questions at **launc155@verizon.net**. New, unscratched lottery tickets are also needed!!!

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE ALREADY DONATED ITEMS!

NEXT HARVEST FEST MEETING is this Tuesday at 7:30PM!

BUCKET BRIGADE: In the past, we've asked the parishioners to pick up a bucket in the Lobby of the Church after all Masses and fill it with gifts that our Basket Auction committee could make into theme baskets for the Harvest Fest. This year we will be giving out 10 buckets after each Mass. Anyone wishing to participate can pick up a bucket after all Masses on the weekend of August 29 & 30. All you have to do is leave your name and phone number. ***Buckets must be returned no later than Monday, Sept. 21*** to the Parish Office. If you are returning bags as well as your bucket, everything must be attached together with your name, phone number and value of the gift. Please contact Anita Homolo if you have any questions at **launc155@verizon.net** Hopefully we can make our Bucket Brigade successful again this year!



FATHER, PLEASE TELL US: WHO ARE THE EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS? Part 1

(*Redemptionis Sacramentum*): Their History, Role and Liturgical Importance in the Catholic Church
Have you ever attended Mass and seen a layperson distributing Holy Communion and wondered: Who gave this person the authority to do that? Is this person acting like a priest? Is this a ministry created by Vatican II? Is every Catholic automatically entitled to distribute Holy Communion? And why does the Church call them "extraordinary" if they seem to be present at almost every Mass in some places? The answer requires an important distinction.

The Church does indeed permit certain lay faithful to distribute Holy Communion under particular circumstances. But the Church does not consider them substitutes for priests and deacons, nor does she call them "ministers of the Eucharist."
The precise term is: ***Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion.*** And that distinction is not merely a matter of vocabulary. It tells us exactly what this ministry is, and what it is not.

1. WHO IS THE ORDINARY MINISTER OF HOLY COMMUNION?

Before understanding an extraordinary minister, we must first understand the ordinary minister. According to Canon 910 §1 of the Code of Canon Law, the ordinary ministers of Holy Communion are: *the bishop, the priest and the deacon*. These are the ministers who, by virtue of Holy Orders, ordinarily distribute Holy Communion to the faithful. This is why the Church does not begin with the question, "Who can distribute Communion?" She begins with: *Who is ordinarily entrusted with this ministry?* The answer is the ordained ministers.

2. THEN WHO IS AN EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER?

Canon 910 §2 states that an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion is an instituted acolyte or another member of the faithful designated according to the law of the Church. This means that a layperson does not simply decide one Sunday: "I think I should help distribute Communion today." There is an ecclesial process and authority involved. Depending on the circumstances and the applicable norms, an instituted acolyte may exercise this ministry, while another lay faithful may be deputed according to Church law and the directives of the diocesan bishop. So the ministry is real, but it is also specific and regulated.

3. WHY ARE THEY CALLED "EXTRAORDINARY"?

This is perhaps the most important point in the entire discussion. The word extraordinary does not mean that the person is unusually holy, unusually important, or superior to other members of the faithful. It means that the ministry is supplementary to the ordinary ministers. In other words, the extraordinary minister serves when circumstances require assistance beyond the ordinary ministers. The Church therefore does not envision the extraordinary minister as replacing the priest or deacon. Rather, the extraordinary minister assists when the ordinary ministers are insufficient or unavailable. This is precisely why *Redemptionis Sacramentum* insists that the function must be understood according to its proper name: *Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion*, not "extraordinary minister of the Eucharist."

4. WHY DOES THE CHURCH NEED SUCH A MINISTRY?

Imagine a situation in which there are very few priests or deacons available to distribute Communion to a large congregation. Or imagine a priest who is elderly, sick, physically unable to distribute Communion, or otherwise prevented from doing so. Or consider the need to bring Holy Communion to the sick when the ordinary ministers cannot adequately meet the pastoral need. In such circumstances, the Church allows properly designated extraordinary ministers to assist. The purpose is therefore fundamentally pastoral: that the faithful may receive Holy Communion reverently and without the celebration or distribution being unnecessarily prolonged. *Redemptionis Sacramentum* describes the ministry as supplementary and extraordinary, and permits its exercise in situations such as the absence or genuine inability of ordained ministers or when particularly large numbers of faithful would otherwise make the distribution excessively prolonged.

5. DID VATICAN II INVENT EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS?

This requires some historical precision. The ministry in its modern canonical form developed particularly during the 20th century, especially as the Church responded to changing pastoral circumstances. A major milestone was the 1973 instruction *Immensae caritatis,* which provided for the appointment of extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion in circumstances of genuine need.
The 1983 Code of Canon Law subsequently incorporated the ministry into universal canon law, including in Canon 910 §2.
So it is fair to say that the ministry developed significantly in the period following the Second Vatican Council.
But saying simply "Vatican II invented lay Eucharistic ministers" is an oversimplification. The Church's later legislation established and regulated a ministry that responds to pastoral needs while preserving the distinction between ordained and lay ministries.

6. ARE THEY "MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST"?

Strictly speaking, no. This is one of the terminology issues that *Redemptionis Sacramentum* specifically addresses. The document states that the title "minister of the Eucharist" properly belongs to the priest, because the priest alone, by virtue of valid ordination, can confect the Sacrament of the Eucharist in persona Christi. Therefore, calling a layperson an "Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist" improperly broadens the meaning of the ministry. The correct expression is: ***Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion.*** That distinction matters because distributing the Eucharist and confecting the Eucharistic Sacrifice are not the same ministry.

7. CAN AN EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER DISTRIBUTE COMMUNION AT MASS?

Yes, but not simply because the person has been trained or because the parish has a list of ministers. The Church establishes circumstances for their use. *Redemptionis Sacramentum* states that extraordinary ministers may distribute Holy Communion when there are no ordained ministers available, when those present are genuinely unable to distribute Communion, or when particularly large numbers of faithful would otherwise make the distribution excessively prolonged because there are insufficient ordained ministers. And this is where the word extraordinary becomes important again. If there are ordinarily enough sacred ministers to distribute Holy Communion, the document says extraordinary ministers should not be appointed for that purpose, and those already appointed should not exercise the ministry in such circumstances. This is not a criticism of lay ministers. It is simply the Church preserving the proper order of her ministries.

***To be continued in NEXT WEEK'S BULLETIN!*

formed
Forming Catholics for Life

Feast of Saint Monica | Catholic Saints

Throughout her life, St. Monica constantly prayed for the conversion of Augustine, her beloved son. In a moment of desperation, she even asked for the bishop's help. In response, he said, "the son of those tears surely will not perish." Truly, as this bishop remarked, Monica's tearful prayers helped build her son into the Doctor of Grace. In this video, join Dr. Gray and Dr. Sehorn as they discuss this great Saint.

Our parish has a free Formed subscription for you!
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to create your account and select our parish
to get free access to this content and much more!

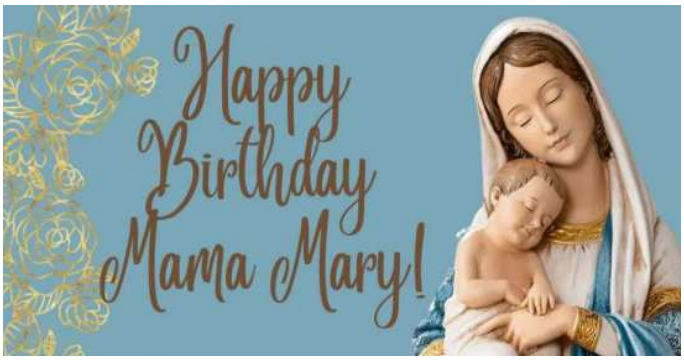
An offering from the Augustine Institute

THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH

JOIN US IN A CELEBRATION OF OUR LADY'S BIRTHDAY!
HOLY HOUR OF ADORATION STARTING AT 6:00 PM
MASS IN HONOR OF OUR LADY AT 7:00 PM

Followed by a Birthday Celebration in Her Honor!
Birthday Cake and Light Refreshments Will Be Served



August 23, 2026
Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time
Is 22:19-23 | Rom 11:33-36 | Mt 16:13-20

Written by THE FAITHFUL DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

In today's second reading, St. Paul reflects in awe over the "depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God." God's judgments are inscrutable, his ways unsearchable, he goes on to say. While on our own, we cannot know the depth of who God is and the beauty of his plan for us, we have been given access to this knowledge by the Holy Spirit. In the Gospel, Peter is able to grasp that Jesus is "the Christ, the Son of the living God," not by "flesh and blood," but by a revelation from our heavenly Father. The Church that is still led by Peter's successor continues to be guided by the Spirit into the fullness of truth. (Jn 16:13) As individual believers, we, too, have received the Spirit in our hearts. By living in communion with our Holy Father and by seeking to listen to the Spirit who also speaks into the depths of our hearts, we can rest assured that we are in a "sure spot" where we can receive all that the Lord wishes to reveal to us about what it means to live in him.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Today's Gospel demonstrates that Christ desired to place Peter – and his successors – as the visible head of his Church. Yes, God willed from the beginning to leave his Church with a leader who could safeguard the quintessential confession of Christ as the "Son of the living God," but there's more to it than this. Peter is given *keys to the kingdom of heaven.* And what are keys for if not to open doors? In a very real way, the mission of our Holy Father is to open up access to God's kingdom, and there are many examples of this. On World Mission Sunday in 2011, Pope Benedict said, "The proclamation of the Gospel is intended for all peoples." And Pope Francis, speaking at World Youth Day in 2023, emphasized that the Gospel is for todos, todos, todos – everyone, everyone, everyone, without exception. As we pray for our Holy Father and the immense task with which he has been entrusted, let us work in our own way to ensure that the doors of our churches, the way to the kingdom of heaven, remain open for all.

PRAY

As we reflect on the gift that Jesus left us by making Peter and his successors the visible head of his Church on earth, take some time to pray for our Holy Father and his intentions. You can pray along with the Pope at the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (a site which contains a short video of the Pope's monthly prayer intention and other prayer resources) at www.popesprayer.va.

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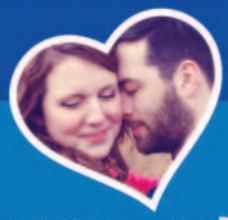
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