Saint Mary Roman Catholic Parish

94 Walnut Road, Hamburg, Pennsylvania 19526

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

22nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

August 30, 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 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

Monday, August 31: *Weekday*
9:00AM **+** Jay Cullen

Tuesday, September 1: *Weekday*
7:00PM + Anne Bean

Wednesday, September 2: *Weekday*
9:00AM + Michael DeVanney

Thursday, September 3: *St. Gregory the Great, Pope*
9:00AM ♥ David Bachman

Friday, September 4: *Weekday*
9:00AM + Gene Olexson

Saturday, September 5: 23rd *Sunday in Ordinary Time*
4:00PM + Richard Freymoyer

Sunday, September 6: 23rd ***Sunday in Ordinary Time***
8:00AM ♥ Gerry & Sue Wertz, wedding anniversary

Sunday, September 6: 23rd *Sunday in Ordinary Time*
10:45AM + Gabriel & Mark Kalinofski & Jen Wilder

+ Deceased **♥ Living**

Readings for the Week

Monday 1 Cor 2:1-5 Ps 119:97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102 Lk 4:16-30
Tuesday 1 Cor 2:10b-16 Ps 145:8-9, 10-11, 12-13ab, 13cd-14 Lk 4:31-37
Wednesday 1 Cor 3:1-9 Ps 33:12-13, 14-15, 20-21 Lk 4:38-44
Thursday 1 Cor 3:18-23 Ps 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 Lk 5:1-11
Friday 1 Cor 4:1-5 Ps 37:3-4, 5-6, 27-28, 39-40 Lk 5:33-39
Saturday 1 Cor 4:6b-15 Ps 145:17-18, 19-20, 21 Lk 6:1-5
Sunday Ez 33:7-9 Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 Rom 13:8-10 Mt 18:15-20

Parish Calendar

Sunday, August 30 ~ Sunday, September 6

Sunday:
Monday:
Tuesday: **Adoration, 6PM**
Wednesday:
Thursday:
Friday:
Saturday:
Sunday:

Stewardship of God's Gifts

Received Sunday, August 23: $6,659
Assumption: $35
Mission Cooperative: $20

Facilities Maintenance Fund

Received Sunday, August 23: $0

We have for our late summer reflection today a section of Matthew's gospel that could well be subtitled "Truth or Consequences." How so? Jesus first predicts His future suffering, death, and resurrection. Then Peter, in his usual brash way, rushes in to persuade the Master to change His plan. Jesus then promptly puts him in his place by calling Peter "Satan" for his brash idea.

By now, the rest of the Apostles who had watched all this must have been a bit "gobsmacked," as we might say, by what Jesus said next. He declared that the only way of life for His followers would necessarily be one of self-denial and suffering. That was a lot to take in. After all, had they not been eyewitnesses to signs and wonders Jesus had produced to help so many needy people? What is this talk of opting for pain?

Our Lord clearly wanted His young volunteers to know exactly what they were in for when they "signed up" to join their lives to His. They would not be offered the luxury of ignorance!

During the prolonged wait for my necessary spinal surgery, with setbacks and frustration galore none of my doing, I began to think I was living in a cheap scare novel. But at least I had the good sense to ask the various medical professionals to be as explicit as their ethics allowed. No holding back from the truth of my condition. Of course, I often got to hear what I would not like to hear.

We can suppose that the Apostles may have bought into the popular idea that the Messiah was to be a bold warrior who would lead Israel in a revolt against Rome and triumph over tyranny for bright days of glory. Jesus gave them some "shock and awe" they needed.

It is the same for anyone who is introduced into Christianity with all its positives. Or even we long-time believers can substitute daydreams for reality here below. We can be lulled into the belief that Christian living is not so difficult after all. Just go to Mass on Sunday (unless it's inconvenient). Keep the basic rules of behavior in between. Oh, and say your prayers. Other than that, don't make waves and do what everybody else does.

Not so! We're talking here about a serious commitment to the person Jesus Christ, and everything He stood for. Everything! And unless you've been vacationing on Venus for a while, you know that puts you and me at odds with a nearly pagan culture, with its own gods and false ideas it says are "good."

To take one of many examples, there is the widely held belief that killing a child in the womb is perfectly right and just. Another contradiction of Christ is the decision some people make that God was mistaken when He created them.

Allow me to close by using an image from ski season about how to best live as a Christian that I came across: "There are three ways in which a skier can get to the top of the ski slope. He or she can try to walk up on their own or be pulled up as he or she holds on to a strap, or they can ride up in the chair lift. This illustration depicts the various ways Christians try to live the Christian life. Some try completely using their own strength; others try to combine their own effort with some degree of dependence on God. But the only true way to ultimate victory and peace in every situation is total dependence on the Holy Spirit.

God love you and give you that peace.

-Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

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:

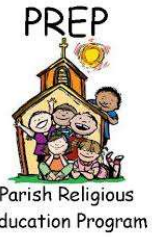
1. People who have never been baptized and feel called to enter the Catholic Church.
2. Christians baptized into other traditions (Lutheran, Presbyterian, Evangelical, etc.) who wish to enter full communion with the Catholic Church.
3. Those who were baptized Catholic, but for one reason or another, 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 29-September 5: OPEN; September 5-September 12: A VanDongen; September 12-September 19: K Haggerty. 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 Sept. 5 & 6

4:00PM
Lector: L Ludovici; EMs: B & A Leon-Caraballo, K Kurtz
8:00AM
Lector: S Churgai; EMs: G Wertz, K Hinkle, M Muller
10:45AM
Lector: C Leibensperger; EMs: J Copeland, C Weyer, A Rossi

RESPECT LIFE CORNER:
"The Gospel is not a picture of adoption; adoption is a picture of the Gospel."
— John Piper

29TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT REPORT: The Holy Name Society again gratefully acknowledges the sponsors and donors who helped make this year's event a great success. Please thank them and patronize the businesses involved. Sponsors: Leibensperger Funeral Homes, Peach Tree Pet Cremation Services, Joe Jurgielewicz & Son Tasty Duck, Tom Schaeffer's Camping and Travel Center, Bob & Carol Lesnefsky, McHenry Creative Services, Essig Plumbing & Heating, A Friend of St. Mary Parish, Fred & Debby Herman, Dr. Robert & Marianne Blauser, Dr. Theodore Dando, Edward Jones Investments--David Doll Financial Advisor, Luckenbill Notary Services, Francis L. Werley Automotive, HVAC, & Fuels, and The Westy Bar & Grill. Donations: Joe Jurgielewicz & Son Tasty Duck and Bill & Pat Atkinson. Prize Winners: Flight 1: 1st, Travis Schlegel Foursome, 2nd, Rick Kleckner Foursome; Flight 2: 1st, Jonathan Gassert Foursome, 2nd, Eric Garland Foursome; Closest to the Pin: Bill Atkinson [4], Michael Collins [8 & 14] & Dan Jalboot [17]; Longest Drives: Men, Corey Girard; Women, Rebecca Koziol and Senior: Steve Wagner.

JOIN OUR CHRISTMAS BAZAAR COMMITTEE!

Please contact **BONNIE KATZAMAN** at 610-562-4036 OR email **Btopkat@verizon.net**! We look forward to anyone else giving us a hand!

Our Christmas Bazaar will be held on Saturday, November 21 from 8AM to 1PM! Mark your calendars now!

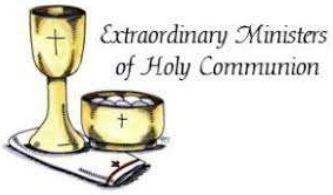
Our annual HARVEST FEST will take place on Friday, October 2 & Saturday, October 3!!!

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!

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 this weekend! 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 2

CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK'S BULLETIN!

(*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.

8. DOES THIS MEAN EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS ARE "LESS IMPORTANT"?

Absolutely not. The Church teaches the dignity of every baptized Christian. A person serving as an extraordinary minister is performing a genuine ecclesial service and should approach the ministry with deep reverence, humility and proper formation. But dignity does not mean that every ministry has the same nature. The priest's sacramental role is different from the deacon's. The deacon's role is different from that of the instituted acolyte. The instituted acolyte's role is different from that of an extraordinary minister. And the extraordinary minister's role is different from that of every other lay Catholic. Different ministries do not mean different human worth. They mean different responsibilities within the one Body of Christ.

9. WHAT ABOUT BRINGING COMMUNION TO THE SICK?

Extraordinary ministers may also assist in bringing Holy Communion to those who cannot attend Mass, according to the norms established by the Church and the diocesan bishop. This can be particularly valuable in hospitals, nursing homes, homes and other situations where the sick or elderly are unable to participate in the Eucharistic celebration. The Church's concern here is profoundly pastoral: the inability to attend Mass should not unnecessarily separate the sick from the Eucharistic life of the Church. At the same time, extraordinary ministers should receive appropriate formation in Eucharistic doctrine, reverence, liturgical practice and the Church's discipline regarding Holy Communion. Redemptionis Sacramentum specifically calls for such instruction.

10. WHAT AN EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER DOES NOT BECOME

An extraordinary minister does not become a priest. The person does not acquire the power to celebrate Mass. The person does not consecrate the Eucharist. The person does not hear sacramental Confession. The person does not preach the homily by virtue of being an extraordinary minister. The person does not acquire the sacramental character of Holy Orders. The ministry is a service, not an ordination. This distinction is fundamental to Catholic theology.

11. WHY DOES THE CHURCH CARE SO MUCH ABOUT THE DISTINCTION?

Because the Eucharist is not an ordinary meal. Catholics believe that at Mass, through the ministry of the validly ordained priest, the Eucharistic sacrifice of Christ is made sacramentally present. The priest acts in persona Christi Capitis in the Eucharistic celebration. The extraordinary minister, by contrast, assists with the distribution of Holy Communion when the circumstances warrant it. These are profoundly different functions. The Church therefore wants the visible structure of the liturgy to communicate the reality of what is taking place. As Redemptionis Sacramentum explains, the ordinary ministers' distribution of Holy Communion manifests their proper ministerial role and the sacramental sign.

12. SO, WHY DO SOME PARISHES HAVE MANY EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS?

This is where we must be careful not to judge individual parishes without knowing their circumstances. The Church's universal law establishes the principle that the ministry is extraordinary and supplementary. The practical application can depend on the pastoral circumstances of a particular celebration, the number of faithful, the availability and ability of priests and deacons, the diocesan bishop's norms, and other legitimate circumstances. Therefore, seeing several extraordinary ministers at a particular Mass does not automatically tell us whether the ministry is being exercised improperly. At the same time, the Church's norms should not simply be ignored because a parish has become accustomed to using extraordinary ministers at every Mass. The word extraordinary has a real liturgical meaning.

13. WHAT SHOULD EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS REMEMBER?

Anyone entrusted with this ministry should approach it with profound reverence. They are handling and distributing the Most Blessed Sacrament. They should therefore be properly formed, appropriately commissioned or deputed according to the applicable norms, attentive to liturgical discipline, and deeply conscious that their service is directed toward Christ and His Church. The ministry should never become a platform for personal recognition. It should never be treated as a badge of status. And it should never become an occasion for competition. The extraordinary minister disappears into the service. ***CHRIST REMAINS THE CENTER.***

THE BIGGER CATHOLIC LESSON

The ministry of the Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion teaches us something beautiful about the Church.
The Church has many ministries, but one Lord. Some are ordained. Some are instituted. Some are deputed. Some serve permanently. Others serve according to particular pastoral needs. But every authentic ministry exists for one purpose: the building up of the Body of Christ and the sanctification of God's people. The extraordinary minister is therefore neither a "lay priest" nor merely someone who helps because there are too many people in church. It is a genuine ecclesial service with a precise purpose, a precise name and precise limits.
And perhaps the most important thing to remember is this: Extraordinary does not mean unimportant. It means supplementary to the ordinary ministry.

REFLECTION

The next time you see an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion at Mass, don't merely see someone handing out Communion.
See a baptized member of the Body of Christ performing a service entrusted by the Church. And if you serve in this ministry yourself, remember that the greatest honor is not that people see you. The greatest honor is that through your humble service, Christ is received with greater reverence and love.

formed™
Forming Catholics for *life*.

Mother Teresa: No Greater Love

Mother Teresa: No Greater Love is a soaring tribute to a spiritual icon, a powerful witness of authentic Christian charity, and a guidepost for all who seek hope in our turbulent times: Mother Teresa of Calcutta. This film reveals not just who Mother Teresa was, but how her singular vision to serve Christ in the poor continues to be realized through the Missionaries of Charity today.

Our parish has a free Formed subscription for you!
Simply scan the QR code or visit formed.org/signup
to create your account and select our parish
to get free access to this content and much more!

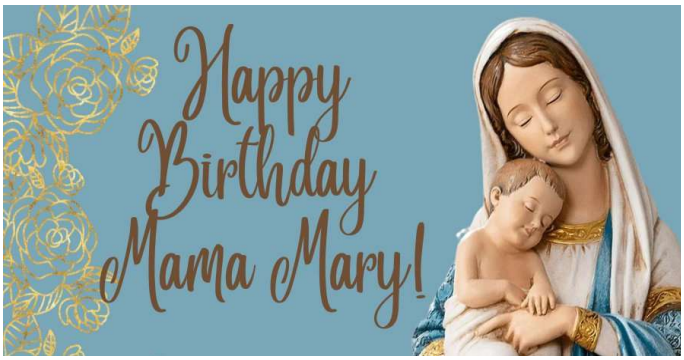
An offering from the Augustine Institute

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 30, 2026
Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jer 20:7-9 | Rom 12:1-2 | Mt 16:21-27

Written by
THE FAITHFUL DISCIPLE

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

Peter, understandably, responded to Christ's foreshadowing of his death with shock and horror – insisting that Jesus would not suffer and die. But Christ's words to his disciples taught them all to respond with humble obedience, trusting in the mission of God without fully understanding it. And Jeremiah in the first reading felt that God had "duped" him. Perhaps the message here is to expect the unexpected when taking on a life of holiness. In my own vocations of marriage, motherhood, and teaching, I regularly encounter challenges and surprises. As disciples, when we discern the will of God in our lives and choose to live according to his will, we do so not because we know all that it will entail, but because we know and trust the One who calls us. We are not promised an easy life, but we are promised abundant life. God calls us to a life of holiness because he knows that is what will bring us fulfillment and peace.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

In the process of discernment, we consider our gifts and talents, humbly reflect upon what is needed to build the kingdom of God, and listen carefully in prayer to the voice of God. We have the immense gifts of Sacred Tradition and Scripture to facilitate the "renewal of [the] mind" (Rom 12:2) as we allow our minds and hearts to be transformed by God's will. And in humble obedience, we must be honest with ourselves about whether we are fully open to God's call, even when it is contrary to our plans. When we believe with our entire being that we are living according to God's will, we will not be able to remain quiet or live in a mediocre way. Just as Jeremiah was unable to keep himself from speaking on the Lord's behalf, the Good News of Christ will come pouring forth from our being in everything that we do. And in this outpouring of God's love, we will give others the opportunity to encounter Christ through us.

REFLECT

Spend some time this week considering the vocation to which you are being called. Reflect upon how you can grow in trust of God to depend upon his care and guidance as you serve according to his will. Although our specific call may be challenging and may seem overwhelming, we can trust in the promise that following God's will leads to a life of joy and peace.

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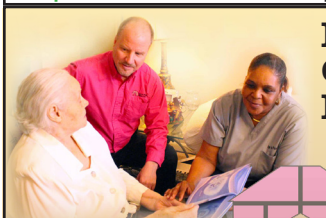
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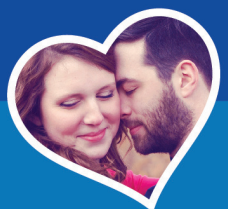
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