

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12

4:00 p.m. Charles Cull

SUNDAY, AUGUST 13

8:00 a.m. Rarick Family
9:30 a.m. For the People
11:30 a.m. Luz Maldonado

MONDAY, AUGUST 14

8:30 a.m. Gertrude Roehrer

TUESDAY, AUGUST 15

8:30 a.m. For the Intention
of Trevor Crawford
7:00 p.m. For the People

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16

8:30 a.m. John Lyons

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17

8:30 a.m. Tom Raphael

FRIDAY, AUGUST 18

8:30 a.m. Carol Mary Benson

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19

4:00 p.m. Ann Kirwan

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20

8:00 a.m. Michael & Binnie DiSabato
9:30 a.m. For the People
11:30 a.m. Marion Temme

BULLETIN DEADLINE

The deadline for all articles for the Sunday bulletin is Friday afternoon, (9) days before the article appears in the bulletin. Please include contact information with a phone number and email address. Your written submission may be sent to the parish office or emailed to ic.bulletin@iccols.org. All bulletin items and flyers must be approved by the parish office. Notices for bulletin boards must also be approved by the parish office before posting.

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor Fr. Matthew Hoover.....icoffice@iccols.org
Permanent Deacon Rev. Mr. Christopher Campbell ccampbel@cddeduction.org
Weekend Assistants Msgr. Anthony Frecker
Msgr. Christopher Schreck
Pastoral Minister Sr. Ruth Hamel, O.P..... srhamel@iccols.org

FAITH FORMATION & MUSIC MINISTRY

Evangelization & Sacramental Coordinator Rev. Mr. Carl Calcara ccalcara@iccols.org
Music Ministry Mark Voris.....mvoris@iccols.org
Youth Ministryicyg414@iccols.org
P.S.R. Coordinator Paulette Mudrey.....icpsr@iccols.org

PARISH OFFICE STAFF Phone: 614-267-9241 Fax: 614-267-7720

Business Manager Laurie Johnson.....ljohnson@iccols.org
Finance Secretary John Bernard.....jbernard@iccols.org
Development & Marketing Coordinator Theresa Vivona.....tvivona@iccols.org
Administrative Assistant Karen Cannellicoffice@iccols.org
Facilities Manager Keith Altier
Assistant Facilities Manager Joseph Burgess

SCHOOL STAFF Phone: 614-267-6579 Fax: 614-267-2549

Principal Colleen Kent.....cokent@cddeduction.org
Assistant Principal Rick Logue.....rlogue@cddeduction.org
Office Manager Marina Hachwa.....mhachwa@cddeduction.org
Secretary Peggy Heffernanpheffern@cddeduction.org
School Age Child Care Mary Louise Westmlwest@iccols.org, 614-267-0239

PARISH SUPPORT SERVICES

Faith-Based Counselor Mary Ann Jepsen.....jepsen.ma@gmail.com, 614-309-2270
Planned Giving Liaison Kelly Noll.....knoll@gbq.com, 614-352-1655

WELCOME DESK

Parish registration forms are available at the Welcome Desk and the Parish Office. Please notify the Parish Office of any updates or changes in your family information.

HOSPITALITY SUNDAY

Join other parishioners for fellowship, coffee, juice and donuts in Marian Hall after Sunday Masses the first weekend of each month. Exceptions are the months of February and November.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE – AUGUST 19 & 20, 2017

MASS TIMES	4:00 p.m. Saturday Vigil	8:00 a.m.	9:30 a.m.	11:30 a.m.
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	Nancy Moushey Tim Moushey John Groeber Karen Groeber Vinh Do Dom Do	Paul Duffy Kathy Copeland Vinh Do Dom Do Marilynne Poirier Judi Mehling	Jennifer Gardner Mary Leathley Herbert Poling Cathy Poling Chris Atzberger Matt Finnegan John Jackson <i>NEEDED</i>	Chris Mahler Rosemary Velasquez Joe Urquhart Kathy Urquhart Lari Hummer Sue Beman
LECTOR	E.J. Davis	Beth Mahler	Daric Galden	Emily Strand
ALTAR SERVERS	Fiona Isbell George Koloski Angus Moore Tommy Price	Sophia Comer Bridget Cotter Tori Demko	Gabe Knuth Samuel Knuth Maddy McCandlish Gabe McCann	Joy Packard Mary Pulsinelli Lauren Sewell Anna Staoffer
USHERS	E.J. Davis Dick Conway Mike Hatzo <i>NEEDED</i>	Jim Ryan Ralph Mathews Regis Mckenna Michael Girard	Sean O'Neil Jeff Ortega John Ryle John Longbrake	Bob Poirier Bob Taylor Jeff Doon Chris Mahler
WELCOME DESK	Pat Conway	Diana Marie Winkler/ Suzanne Smith	Lynn Boardwine	Janine Oman Anne Campbell Carolyn Smith

THE FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION – HOLY DAY

Tuesday, August 15 is the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and is a Holy Day of Obligation. Holy Day Mass times are at 8:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.

LOW-GLUTEN HOSTS

Using low-gluten hosts is an available option at Immaculate Conception. If you require a low-gluten host, please stop in the Sacristy before Mass and talk to the priest or deacon.

AUGUST CONTRIBUTORS TO THE SANCTUARY LAMPS

The Sanctuary lamp burns constantly to proclaim the real presence of Jesus in the Tabernacle. For the month of August, the Sanctuary candles in the Church and in the Adoration Chapel were donated by the **Jenkins** family.

**ASSISTED LISTENING DEVICES**

Assisted listening devices are available in the Sacristy for use during Mass. If you are interested in using one of these devices, please go to the Sacristy prior to Mass.

IN OUR PARISH

NEW PARISHIONERS: We welcome these new parishioners to the parish: **Adam Kaminski; Andrew and Amanda Paxton; Nicholas and Ashley Kelly; Maura Hunter.**

ONE WEEK UNTIL WE GO TO CAREY!!!! SEATS STILL AVAILABLE ON THE BUS TO THE BASILICA & SHRINE – AUGUST 19

In celebration of the 100th anniversary of the apparitions at Fatima, Immaculate Conception is sponsoring a pilgrimage to the Basilica & National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation in Carey, Ohio, on August 19, 2017. The bus will depart IC at 8 a.m. and will return no later than 5:15 p.m. The cost is \$30 per person. Register online at <http://bit.ly/ICPilgrimageRegistration> or via paper forms available in the Gathering Space or in the parish office. You may call the office at 614-267-9241 to register. Please consider joining us for a day of prayer and fellowship!

CHILDREN'S CENTER/PARISH EDUCATION CENTER

The newly named Parish Education Center (formerly the Children's Center / Kindergarten building / Convent / etc.) will be the home of our new preschool, School Age Child Care, RCIA and many other programs and activities.

Have you seen the newly-covered entrance to our Parish Education Center? Thank you to Dean and Malissa Monnin of [Columbus Door Sales](#) for their generous donation so that we could brand this building and provide a covered entry for our parish education programs!

IC MEN'S CYCLING AND COFFEE

Pump up your tires, grab your helmet and join other men in the parish for a Saturday morning bicycle ride. We will leave from the parking lot at 7:15 a.m. SHARP, ride north on the Olentangy Trail to The Hills Market where we'll stop for breakfast. Then, we'll ride the trail back to IC returning around 9:00 a.m. The plan is to ride at a moderate pace, but the group will set the pace. NO ONE will be left behind. This ride will continue every Saturday morning over the summer, WEATHER PERMITTING. The ride is open to all men, so invite your friends and neighbors. No RSVP is necessary, but call or text Daric Galden with questions (614) 354-5957.



O God, let all the nations praise you!

**ALPHA RETURNS TO IC!**

Become a part of the program to explore Christian life that is like no other! Alpha is a worldwide program open to all who are interested in encountering Jesus in a new and personal way with the purpose of reinvigorating active Catholics and encouraging dialogue with others who may not know – or have fallen away from – Christ. It consists of 10 weekly sessions featuring food, a short video and small group discussion and is open to anyone, at any stage of faith. The fall sessions will be held Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8:30 p.m. starting September 12 and continuing through November 21.

Want to learn more? Join us in Marian Hall after all Masses this weekend to explore Alpha further. There will be refreshments, a short video presentation and an opportunity to ask questions about this amazing program. All are welcome!

Online registration is now open!

Visit <http://bit.ly/ICAAlphaRegistration> to secure your spot today.

WALKING WITH PURPOSE

We are inviting all women of the parish to join us as we begin a new series of Walking with Purpose.

We will be starting KEEPING IN BALANCE, and will also be offering the OPENING YOUR HEART study again. These two programs will occur at the same time/day and in the same location, Marian Hall. Opening Your Heart will be offered to new participants, and Keeping In Balance for returning participants.

Walking with Purpose is a Catholic Bible Study program that aims to bring women to a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. We offer personal study and small group discussion that links our everyday challenges and struggles with solutions given to us through the teachings of Christ and the Catholic Church. The study runs for 22 weeks, 11 sessions before Advent, and the remaining sessions will conclude before Holy Week.

When: Begins September 6, Wednesdays from 7-8:30 p.m.; Cost: \$60 (\$40 covers cost of book/\$20 supplies). If you have questions or are interested, please email icwomenoffaith@gmail.com, or call Mary Ann Rivera at 614-558-1329. Please RSVP by September 1. We look forward to seeing you!"

THAT MAN IS YOU!

The parish is beginning a new session with all new content for That Man is You! All men are invited on Thursday evenings beginning September 21, 2017. Light refreshments and beverages will be served beginning at 7:30 p.m. followed by a presentation and discussion concluding at 9 p.m. That Man is You! is a faith inspiring opportunity for men that will reward you with purposeful and personal insight. Discover "Why?" through the promise of new inspiration for your life and faith. Join us at TMIY beginning September 21. For details, contact Dan Costello at 614-774-8873 or dancolls@aol.com.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY – NOW HIRING

Wanted: School Age Child Care Assistant: IC Parish is seeking one, paid part-time School Age Child Care Assistant for next school year. Requires a BCI background check and successful completion of Protecting God's Children Program.

Duties: Provides support to the SCC Director in planning and implementing SCC programs, incorporating all components of the program, and caring for groups of students; performs clerical/receptionist duties and other duties as assigned. If interested, please submit resume and three references to Laurie Johnson at ljohnson@iccols.org.

TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

Fostering Stewardship as a Way of Life

Fiscal Year 7/1/2017-6/30/2018 • Offertory Report 7/30/2017

	8/6/2017	YTD 2017/2018
Envelopes/Checks/EFT	\$22,299.55	\$ 122,499.41
Loose	\$ 950.31	\$ 5,224.25
Total	\$23,249.86	\$ 127,723.66
Budgeted Offertory	\$20,530.00	\$ 123,180.00
Over (under) Budget	\$ 2,719.86	\$ 4,543.66

Special Maintenance	\$	10.00
Church in Latin America	\$	80.00

Remember this:

"Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously."

2 Corinthians 9:6

IC WOMEN'S CLUB ANNUAL SUMMER BLOOD DRIVE



The I.C. Women's Club Blood Drive will be held in Marian Hall from 1 p.m.-7 p.m. on Monday, August 21. To make an appointment, visit redcrossblood.org, sponsor code: IC or call 1-800-RED CROSS. **Please donate blood and help save a life!** If you have any questions, contact Sue Beman at 614-214-5333.

COLLECTION FOR THE CHURCH IN LATIN AMERICA

Thank you for your support of the Collection for the Church in Latin America. Your donations will be used to share the faith with our brothers and sisters in Latin America and the Caribbean. If you missed the collection, it's not too late to give! Just visit www.usccb.org/nationalcollections and click "How to Give" on the left. Your gift will certainly make a difference! If you have not yet donated, you may still do so by using the envelope in your envelope packet or by placing your donation in an envelope marked Latin America and putting it in the offertory basket. To learn more, please visit www.usccb.org/latin-america.

SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR THE TRINITY DOME AT THE BASILICA OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE

The Bishops of the United States have approved a special one-time collection to take place in parishes across the country in 2017 to support the mosaic ornamentation of the Trinity Dome at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. The National Shrine has been a century in the making, and our bishops are grateful for people's support of this initiative to help complete America's Catholic Church in advance of its 100th anniversary in 2020. **This collection will take place August 26 & 27.** For more information, visit www.trinitydome.org or www.nationalshrine.org.

ST. ANDREW FESTIVAL

St. Andrew Parish Festival is Friday, August 19 and Saturday, August 20 from 5 p.m. to midnight. Enjoy rides and inflatables, grilled food, games of chance for kids and adults, Saturday night Italian dinner by Berwick Manor, Casino in the school cafeteria, Silent Auction in the Rectory Garage and live music both nights.

VOCATION RETREAT – SEPTEMBER 8-10, 2017

"Be Bold. Respond to God's Call: A Discernment Weekend." Do you feel God is calling you to something more? Join with other women discerning a call and explore life in a religious community. What does it mean to be a contemporary Dominican Sister? How do you go about prayerfully discerning what God is calling you to? On this weekend retreat, you will learn some of the answers to these questions and more about the heritage, prayer and community life of the Dominican Sisters of Peace today.

Dominican Sisters of Peace invite single, Catholic women, ages 18-45, to attend a free "Come and See" Discernment Retreat designed to explore contemporary Dominican life for women. The retreat begins at 5:30 p.m. Friday, September 8 and concludes at 1 p.m., Sunday, September 10 at the Dominicans Sisters of Peace Rosary Manor, 1 Rosary Drive, Watertown, Massachusetts 02472. For more information, call or text Sister June Fitzgerald at 570-336-3991 or email jfitzgerald@oppeace.org. We can offer some travel assistance on a need basis.

SOCIAL CONCERNS MINISTRY

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD PANTRY NEEDS DONATIONS

With donations of pasta, pasta sauce and canned fruit the VBS students did a great job restocking the Society of St. Vincent DePaul food pantry. But now there is a need for cans of soup, cans of whole kernel corn and Mac-N-Cheese. The people we serve prefer the standard ready to eat soups such as chicken noodle, vegetable beef, and vegetable soup. Just place your donations in the boxes by the church doors. Thank you.

INVEST IN JUSTICE!

BREAD uses the power of faith-based people volunteering to research and then collaborate with and push public officials to adopt evidenced-based strategies to address and solve serious problems such as lack of opportunities for wealth building in neglected neighborhoods, violent crime recidivism, lack of an officially recognized I.D. system for marginalized individuals in Columbus and juvenile crime recidivism. It is nonprofit and completely non-partisan.

Invest in BREAD! Every \$1 invested leverages \$53 back to our community. Place your completely tax-deductible investment in an envelope marked "BREAD" (be sure I.C. is in the memo line.) Then send it to the parish office. No investment is too small. To learn more about BREAD, check out <http://www.breadcolumbus.com/> or contact **Frank Copeland** frank.copeland@att.net or **MaryAnn Grossman** 614-530-5872.

BREAD is the living "field hospital" of Pope Francis right here in Columbus, Ohio.

SCHOOL NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

KINDERGARTEN AIDE NEEDED!

Immaculate Conception School is seeking a Kindergarten Aide for the 2017-18 school year. The working hours for this position are Monday-Friday (8 a.m.-11:30 a.m.). If interested, please send your resume to Ms. Colleen Kent (Principal) at cokent@cdeducation.org. Please call the school office if you have additional questions at (614) 267-6579.

SCHOOL SUPPLY SALE

Our Annual School Supply Sale will take place this Sunday, August 13 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. in the school gym for all of our school families. Class lists will be posted along with required school supplies for all grade levels. Parents have the option to have all supplies pulled and waiting in a bundle for convenience purposes. Contact Mrs. Sarah Berger (sarah4875@gmail.com) if interested in purchasing supply bundles or if you can help in any way with the sale.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

Immaculate Conception's first day of school is Wednesday, August 23. Mark your calendar!

IC SCHOOL-AGE

CHILD CARE REGISTRATION

Registration for the School-Age Child Care Program has begun and there are a few openings still available. For more information, or to register your child/children, call or email Mrs. West at 614-267-0239 or mlwest@iccols.org.

BISHOP WATTERSON NEWS

Eagles Summer Softball Tryouts: The Bishop Watterson summer softball program is holding tryouts for their 2018 10U and 12U softball teams. Tryouts will be Sunday, August 20 from 2-4 p.m. and Thursday, August 24 from 6-8 p.m. at Ridgeview Middle School. Registration will open 20 minutes prior to tryout time. If you have any questions, please, email Coach Emily Manahan at manahanemily@gmail.com.

Athletic Hall of Fame: Bishop Watterson will induct its fourth class into its Athletic Hall of Fame on August 25-27. Inducted this year will be Frank Biancone '61, Bill Boyle '70, Mike Durant '88, Gracie Finnegan '10, Dr. James Good, Lerron Moore '02, Michael Mulligan '88, and Andrew Theado '97. The group will be honored at halftime of the BWHS vs. Whitehall-Yearling football game at Hagely Field on Friday, August 25. A Mass, brunch and induction ceremony will be held at Bishop Watterson on Sunday, August 27. Tickets for the brunch and induction ceremony are \$30 per person or \$210 for a table of eight. Registration is available at bishopwatterson.com.

Legends Golf Outing: The annual Bishop Watterson Legends Golf Outing will be held on Sunday, September 10 at 1:30 p.m. at the Golf Club of Dublin. Proceeds benefit BWHS tuition assistance. Individuals may register for \$125 at bishopwatterson.com. Tee sponsorships (\$150) and corporate sponsorships (\$600) are also available on the website.

RETREAT FOR MARRIED COUPLES

Cultivating Intimacy: 7 Steps to Creating a Eucharistic Marriage

All married couples are invited to the Diocesan Retreat for Married Couples, Saturday, September 9 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at St. Agatha Church, 1860 Northam Road, Upper Arlington. Bishop Frederick Campbell will celebrate Mass and offer a morning reflection. Greg Schutte, author of *"Discovering our Deepest Desire"* and director of *Marriage Works! Ohio*, will continue with presentations on enhancing the intimate relationship of husbands and wives. A guided Holy Hour will also be included in the day's schedule. Continental breakfast and warm lunch will be provided. The cost for the event is \$65. Kindly register by September 1 at columbuscatholic.org/retreat or call 614-241-2560.

THE BLUE MASS

Monday, September 11 at 5 p.m.

St. Timothy Church and St. Timothy Knights of Columbus Council 14345 will host The Blue Mass on Monday, September 11, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. The Blue Mass is an opportunity to honor and pray for all active, retired and deceased police, firefighters, and emergency medical services. In addition, it is an occasion to remember the 2,973 who lost their lives in the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. All active and retired police, fire, and emergency medical services in the greater Columbus area, and their families are invited. The Celebrant and Homilist for The Blue Mass will be The Most Reverend Frederick F. Campbell, DD, PhD, Bishop of Columbus. **Let us all join together to honor our police, firefighters, and emergency medical services, to ask for God's blessing, to keep them safe, and to guide them in their duties. Thank you.**

TIME FOR A TUNE-UP

Your marriage needs care and maintenance too! That's what you'll get on a **Worldwide Marriage Encounter** weekend. Marriage Encounter is where married couples can get away from jobs, kids, chores, and phones—and focus only on each other. The next weekend is September 15-17 in Central Ohio. For more information or to apply, contact Paul & Marilou Clouse at 614-834-6880 or visit our website at www.wmecolumbus.org.

BETHESDA HEALING MINISTRY

God's infinite mercy is present in our lives. It is bigger than our understanding, enduring forever. All we have to do is ask and he will forgive us. Bethesda is a confidential, safe place providing support, prayer, reconciliation and spiritual renewal for anyone wounded by the tragedy of abortion. Come to Bethesda Healing Ministry and let us support you in seeking the Sacrament of Forgiveness and Healing. Please call Bethesda Healing Ministry confidential phone lines: 614-309-0157 or 614-309-2651 or visit our website at bethesdahealing.org.

TUTORS NEEDED-TRAINING WORKSHOP

"Be the light that helps others see; it is what gives life its deepest significance," Roy Bennett. Tutors are needed for adults seeking basic education skills, GED instruction, or English as a Second Language. The Dominican Learning Center will hold its next Tutor Training workshop on **Saturday, August 26**, from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at 1111 E. Stewart Avenue, Columbus, 43206. Those interested, please call 614-444-7330 or email dlccolumbus@oppeace.org to sign up. Tutors must be at least 18 years of age and hold a high school diploma. We especially need Reading tutors for Basic Education and GED preparation at the DLC weekday mornings. To find out more, please visit www.Domlearningcenter.org.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION YOUTH

Blog: www.ICYG414.wordpress.com
on Twitter and Instagram @ICYG414
For questions, contact our youth minister,
Joe Burgess, icyg414@iccols.org



ICY SUMMER SCHEDULE

The entire ICY Summer Schedule is available on the ICY blog, www.icyg414.wordpress.com, and on the ICY bulletin board in the church.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION PAGE

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, August 13, 2017

The Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

“The sum of your word is truth; and every one of your righteous ordinances endures forever. [Ps. 119:160] And now, O Lord God, you are God, and your words are true;’ [2 Sam. 7:28] this is why God’s promises always come true. [Cf. Deut. 7:9] God is Truth itself, whose words cannot deceive. This is why one can abandon oneself in full trust to the truth and faithfulness of his word in all things. The beginning of sin and of man’s fall was due to a lie of the tempter who induced doubt of God’s word, kindness, and faithfulness.” (CCC, 215)

The Catechism of the Catholic Church

Marriage Resource Center

Marriage Rx

Marriage Rx discusses the symptoms of a common but perplexing problem and offers a prescription.

All relationships need help from time to time. Each article in Marriage Rx will discuss the symptoms of a common but perplexing problem and offer a prescription to keep your marriage healthy.

Check out these resources for Marriage on the website below:

<http://www.foryourmarriage.org/marriage-resources/marriage-rx/>

[The Empty Nest](#), by Judy Clark

[Resolving Differences](#), by Kathy Beirne

[Parenting Teens](#), by Lynda Madison

[Career Conflicts](#), by Susan Vogt

[Remarriage](#), by Bill Urbine

[Personality Differences](#), by Judy Clark

[Recreation](#), by Mary Jo Pedersen

[Making Moral Decisions](#), by Joanne Heaney-Hunter

[Parenting to Beat the Bedtime Blues](#), by Lynda Madison

[The Marital Sexual Relationship](#), by Don Paglia

[Finances: Yours/Mine/Ours](#), by Judy Clark

[Interfering In-Laws](#), by Kathy Beirne

[Sharing Household Duties](#), by Mary Jo Pedersen

[How Much Does Faith Matter?](#), by Susan Vogt

[Balancing Family and Work](#), by Jim Healy, Ph.D.

[When Your Marriage Hits the Boredom Rut](#), by Don Paglia

Sacraments: Marriage



The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary---August 15, 2017

This feast has been celebrated in the liturgy of the Eastern rites since the sixth century and in Rome since the seventh century.

On November 1, 1950 Pope Pius XII defined the dogmas of the Assumption. He solemnly proclaimed that the belief that the Blessed Virgin was taken up body and soul into the glory of heaven at the end of her life really forms part of the deposit of faith, received from the apostles.

This feast confirms us in the theological virtue of hope, whereby we seek our sanctification and that of others in the midst of our ordinary duties. At the same time, we are encouraged to look toward our goal in heaven.

[The Roman Missal]



Sponsors are needed for this year’s R.C.I.A. Catechumens, Candidates, and Adult Confirmandis!! Please consider this important work! It is the work of All the baptized to evangelize and companion others in

the faith and life of the church. Training for this role will be provided. We would like to build up a group of sponsors who will be able to help whenever the need arises during the year for a companion sponsor.

If you are interested, able, and/or need more information, please contact Sr. Ruth at the parish office 267-9241 x293, or, e-mail at: srhamel@iccols.org Thank you in advance for your generosity and sharing your time and talent to this ministry.

exploring

THE SUNDAY READINGS

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME CENTRAL MOUNTAIN TIME

FIRST READING

1 KINGS 19:9A, 11-13A

“Go stand on the mountain before the Lord: the Lord will be passing by.”

Sometimes we go to the mountains to feel exaltation. At other times, we just want to be alone to gain perspective. We may even want a shouting match with God, out of earshot of any witnesses. Elijah escaped the towns where Queen Jezebel’s army was seeking to assassinate him, fleeing to the wilderness. Discouraged by the outcome of his prophetic mission, he didn’t care if he simply died out there. An angel of the Lord directed him to take heart: God was waiting for him on Mt. Horeb, also known as Sinai. So Elijah trooped uphill for another sacred encounter.

The usual epiphanies came by: driving wind, earthquake, fire. Biblically speaking, these three natural events were typically read as God’s calling card. But a trained seer like Elijah wasn’t fooled by any of them. He was waiting for a different kind of encounter, which he found in the tiny whispering sound. That was the voice of God the weary prophet was prepared to engage.

» *By what media have you felt divinely addressed: windfall or misfortune, health or sickness, human agents or sacraments or silence?*

SECOND READING

ROMANS 9:1-5

I have constant anguish in my heart... for the sake of my own people.

Not all spiritual experiences are the mountaintop variety. Like Elijah’s despair in the wilderness, the apostle Paul also felt despondent at times. He knew many disappointments in his mission: arrests and beatings, even being stoned and left for dead. But the thing that caused him constant anguish was the realization that his own Jewish community wasn’t going to sign onto the revelation of Jesus wholesale, as he once imagined they would, given the right persuasion. Paul experienced the disillusionment that every idealist suffers, as he or she realizes the world will not be moved simply by the truth of a passionate conviction.

Many of us know what that level of discouragement is like. Our life’s work, the cause to which we’re most closely devoted, or the truth that seems so obvious to us, is not valued or even accepted by everyone. How do we keep from hopelessness, or outrage? Sometimes we need signs from heaven that the vision we hold is not in vain.

» *When have you felt discouraged or hopeless about an important goal not being realized? How do you deal with disappointment?*

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 14:22-33

After dismissing the crowds, Jesus went up on the mountain by himself to pray.

I’ve never been the athletic sort, so my hikes to the top of real mountains have been rare. But once I did attempt to climb a 10,000 foot peak in the Sierras, only to turn back after a long struggle when I encountered a sheet of ice across the path that plunged down into an abyss. That failed ascent nagged at me. I felt I could have made it all the way but for that unavoidable obstacle. So two years later, I tried again, and did it. I’d been so close the first time and hadn’t even dreamed my goal was a few hours away.

Some ascents you make with companions in tow, and others you have to do yourself. In the gospels, Jesus frequently goes off to pray alone. Those solitary ascents gave him the fortitude he needed for the work ahead. If Peter had had such training in stamina and perseverance, perhaps he wouldn’t have lost his nerve as quickly as he did in the hours when he was called upon to get out of the boat and act. Prayer is a form of resistance training, a way to strengthen our spirits for all the future may hold.

» *How do your present prayer practices train you to face the obstacles ahead of you?*

Repeated with permission of *Exploring the Sunday Readings*, Twenty-Third Publications (1-800-321-0411).