

Mater Ecclesiae

# The Downtown Family of Catholic Parishes



ST. LOUIS • BLESSED SACRAMENT • ORATORY OF ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA • ST. MICHAEL • ST. JOSEPH'S CATHEDRAL

## ST. LOUIS

*Oldest parish in the Buffalo diocese.*



780 Main Street (at Edward), Buffalo, NY 14202  
[StLouisRCChurch.org](http://StLouisRCChurch.org)  
716-852-6040  
[ChurchOffice@StLouisRCChurch.org](mailto:ChurchOffice@StLouisRCChurch.org)

## BLESSED SACRAMENT

*"The Bishop's Chapel"*



1029 Delaware Ave, Buffalo, NY 14209  
[BlessedSacramentBuffalo.org](http://BlessedSacramentBuffalo.org)  
(716) 884-0053  
[office@BlessedSacramentBuffalo.org](mailto:office@BlessedSacramentBuffalo.org)

### FAMILY MASS TIMES

#### SATURDAY VIGILS

- St. Louis Parish: 4:00 pm
- Blessed Sacrament Church 4:30 pm
- St. Michael's: 5:30

#### SUNDAYS

- St. Louis Parish: 9:00 & 11:00 am
- Blessed Sacrament: 10:30 am
- St. Michael's: 12:00 pm

#### WEEKDAYS: MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY

- St. Louis Parish: 12:05 pm
- Blessed Sacrament: 8:00 am
- (Tuesday & Friday only)
- St. Michael's: 6:45 am
- St. Joseph's : 12:10 pm (M-F)

#### CONFESSION: ON REQUEST AFTER ANY MASS

- St. Louis: Saturdays: 3:15-4:00 pm
- St. Joseph's Cathedral: Wed & Fri 11:45 am; Saturday 4:00 pm
- St. Michael's: after 6:45 am daily until 9:00 am, or by appt.
- St. Anthony's: 30 mins before all Masses

#### BAPTISMS:

New parents must participate in a virtual pre-baptismal instruction class. Information and registration forms are available on the St. Louis website for the Downtown Family of Parishes. Questions? Contact the Faith Formation Office at [religiously@StLouisrcchurch.org](mailto:religiously@StLouisrcchurch.org).

#### WEDDINGS: AT ST. LOUIS OR BLESSED SACRAMENT

Registered parishioners should call the family office to discuss and check available dates. Arrangements should be made 8 months in advance.

#### NEW PARISHIONERS: AT ST. LOUIS OR BLESSED SACRAMENT

We welcome you to the Downtown Family of Parishes! Registration forms can be found on the websites.

#### ANOIDING OF THE SICK

Anointing in preparation of surgery or illness can be done after any Mass. Communal anointing takes place the last Sunday of the month after the Noon Mass at St. Michael's.

#### BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS

Email to [dbfpbulletin@gmail.com](mailto:dbfpbulletin@gmail.com)

January 18, 2026 ~ The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

# January 18, 2026 ~ The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

*Week of January 18 2026*

*Saturday, January 17*

St. Louis 4:00 pm Dr. Rene Francisco Perez-Biode  
Req by: Dr. John Campbell & Dr. Heidi Crow

Blessed Sacrament 4:30 pm Downtown Family of Parishes  
Req by: Blessed Sacrament Parishioners

Saint Michael's 5:30 pm Thomas Ransford

*Sunday, January 18*

Saint Louis 9:00 am Downtown Family of Parishes  
11:00 am Req by: St. Louis Parishioners  
William (Bill) Roof  
Req by: Barbara State

Blessed Sacrament 10:30 am Downtown Family of Parishes  
Req by: Blessed Sacrament Parishioners

Saint Michael's 12 noon All Souls

*Monday, January 19 ~ Martin Luther King, Jr. Day*

St. Louis 12:05 pm Intentions of Pope Leo  
Req by: St. Louis Parishioners

Blessed Sacrament **NO MASS**

Saint Michael's 6:45 am All Souls

*Tuesday, January 20 ~ St. Fabian*

St. Louis 12:05 pm All Souls  
Req by: St. Louis Parishioners

Blessed Sacrament 8:00 am Michelle Lehner  
Req by: Richard Lehner

Saint Michael's 6:45 am Downtown Family of Parishes

*Thursday, January 22*

St. Louis 12:05 pm Rita Marie Rozbicki  
Req by: Estate

Blessed Sacrament **NO MASS**

Saint Michael's 6:45 am H. Edward Smith Family

*Friday, January 23 ~ St. Vincent, St. Marianne Cope*

St. Louis 12:05 pm Downtown Family of Parishes  
Req by: St. Louis Parishioners

Blessed Sacrament 8:00 am All Souls  
Req by: Blessed Sacrament Parishioners

Saint Michael's 6:45 am Michelle Lehner  
Req by: Richard Lehner

*Mater Ecclesiae*  
**The Downtown Family of Parishes**



<b>Pastor</b> Rev. Raymond Corbin 716-852-6040 x 202 FrRayssp@gmail.com	<b>Permanent Deacons</b> Thomas LaBelle deacon.labelle@gmail.com Carmelo Gaudioso
<b>Family Clergy</b> Msgr. Salvatore Manganello smanganello@buffalodiocese.org	Rev. Ben Fiore, S.J. Rev. Richard Zanoni, S.J. Please call St. Michael's Rectory at 716-854-6726
<b>Dir. of Religious Education</b> Ashlee Campbell	religiously@stlouisrcchurch.org 443-744-0354

**Saint Louis**  
35 Edward St

<b>Dir. Of Music</b> Frank Scinta	<b>Cantors</b> James Mrozek Erin Peradotto-Terhaar
<b>Business Manager</b> Kevin Brayer	<b>Trustees</b> John Beller Erin Peradotto-Tehaar

**Blessed Sacrament**  
1035 Delaware Ave

<b>Dir. Of Music</b> Anthony Domzal <b>Cantor</b> Cory James Gallagher	<b>Trustees</b> Paul F. Jones Jim Knab
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**Saint Michael's**  
651 Washington Ave.

<b>Trustees</b> David Granville Steven Nosek	
<b>Musicians</b> Mark Di Giampaolo, Istvan Hernak	
<b>Cantor</b> Michael Dobrasz	

## DOWNTOWN FAMILY PASTORAL COUNCIL

Peter Rizzo - **President (BSC)**

Dennis Burns - **First Vice President (St. Louis)**

Alyssa Zakroczemski, **Second Vice President (BSC)**

Anne Harrington, **Secretary (BSC)**

# Saint



# Louis

## EVENTS AT ST. LOUIS

### WHERE FAITH AND ROYALTY MEET: THE ROYAL PRIORY OF ST. LOUIS DE POISSY, FRANCE

You're invited to a 30-minute presentation on the early life of St. Louis, Blanche of Castile, and the priory named in his honor, presented by Kandace Brill Lombart, literary & archival scholar, on **Saturday, January 24, 2026 at 5 pm in the St. Louis Church Hall.** There will be a Q&A session afterwards, followed by a reception. This event is free to attend, but please register to secure your seat. The event and reception are generously sponsored by the Joseph M. Sorg Foundation.

Register online, or contact Ashlee Campbell at 443-744-0354 / [religiouioused@stlouisrcchurch.org](mailto:religiouioused@stlouisrcchurch.org).

## MEMORIAL PRAYER CANDLES

**The Sanctuary Candle** burns this week to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Thomas and Sally Parks by Donna and Dennis Burns.

**The Pieta Altar Candle** burns in Loving Memory of Thomas and Sally Parks by Donna and Dennis Burns.

**The St. Joseph Altar Candle** also burns in Loving Memory of Thomas and Sally Parks by Donna and Dennis Burns.

If you desire to have a Memorial Prayer Candle lit in memory of a loved one or for your special intention, please use the envelope available for that purpose. We honor requested dates as they are available.

## IN YOUR PRAYERS

*Please pray for all those who are sick, suffering, recovering and hospitalized, especially Fran Angelo, Diane Andriaccio, Gabriella Parisi, Rosemary Bloch, Laurie Hoehn, Tracy Allen Abram, Greg Joseph, Marcella Ng, Beverly Grover, Kim Bach, Bill & Donna Reeves, Richard Shephard, Joseph Barba, Sr., Dr. Fred Luongo, Michael MacPherson, Patricia Guerra, Jay Deveau, Sondra Schreiber, Christine Maciejewski, David Marchetti, Frank Zawistowski, Bernadette R. Crawford, Carrie W., Joyce Persico, Jeanine L., Richard J. Wall, Sr., Gail Neil, Fred Wolf, Ed Kast, Linda Holben, Rachel Gaiser, Michael Hawkins, Allie Urbanski, Dr. William Fiden, Sharon Hunger, Fr. Drew Morgan, Larry Kennebeck, Denise Goodman, Jason Parks, Kienan Duggan, Kathy Piotrowicz, Margaret Foegen.*

*Please contact the Parish Office to have a loved one placed on the Prayer List. If their condition continues to warrant our prayers, we will gladly include them as long as necessary.*

*We remember all those recently deceased, and especially our deceased parishioners and loved ones.*

## SPIRITUAL AND FINANCIAL REPORT

We warmly welcome all who come to St. Louis for Mass—tourists, visitors, parishioners and friends. Your generosity is deeply appreciated. It enables the preservation, ministry and maintenance of our historic church. It assists us in reaching out to the people of our neighborhood.

**OUR COLLECTION FOR LAST WEEK WAS \$8,928.00**  
**COLLECTION FOR ST. VINCENT DE PAUS WAS \$25.00**  
**OUR WESHARE COLLECTION WAS \$465.21**  
**OUR TOTAL COLLECTION LAST WEEK WAS \$9,418.21**

**THE NUMBER OF PARISHIONERS WHO  
ATTENDED WAS 385**

**\*\*Please Note: We are only accepting online giving through WeShare.**

WeShare is a Catholic owned and operated company whose rates benefit the Parishes. Please visit the Parish website for instructions to switch. You can also support the parish by mailing your donation or using our WeShare account on our web page or the QR code on the bottom of the page.



Thank you for your support.

**Please note that starting September 1, 2025 we are starting a drive for WeShare with a goal of signing up 100 parishioners. Parishioners will be available to assist with signing up.**

Thank you for your support. Please remember St. Louis Parish in your will. To learn more about making a charitable contribution or leaving a bequest to St. Louis Church, please contact Mike Riester at 716-803-5773.

## LECTORS/EUCHARIST MINISTERS JANUARY 24 AND 25, 2026

### Lectors:

**Saturday, January 24      4:00    Ann Dumansky**

**Sunday, January 25      9:00    Steve Nosek**

**Sunday, January 25      11:00   Pam Nordstrom**

### Eucharistic Ministers:

**Saturday, January 24      4:00    Jim Ferrini**

**Sunday, January 25      9:00    Bob Sprague**

**Sunday, January 25      11:00   Lisa McCarthy & Emily  
Schimert**



# Blessed



# Sacrament



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716-885-6111

**Mr. Earl Schunk**  
Principal

## COLLECTION FOR DECEMBER 2025 AND JANUARY, 2026

The collection report for 12/25/25 - 1/11/26 is as follows:

### 12/25/25

**Total** - \$3,372.00

### 12/28/25

**WeShare** \$2,090.01

**Religious Retirement** \$90.00

**Human Development** \$20.00

**Weekly** \$2,305.00

**Total** \$4,505.01

### 1/5/2026

**Weekly** \$5,531.00

**WeShare** \$5,465.01

**Total \$** \$10,996.01

### 1/11/26

**Weekly** \$1,933.99

**WeShare** \$1,586.01

**Religious Retirement** \$100.00

**Total** \$3,520.00

**There will be a second collection next week - Catholic Relief Services (American BPS Overseas Relief)**

## LECTOR/EM SCHEDULE - JANUARY 2026

### Lectors

#### Sat. 4:30 pm

January 3 - R. Lehner

January 10 - L. Urbanski-Farrell

January 17 - D. Galucki

January 24 - M. Cusack

January 31 - F. Conti

### Eucharist Ministers

#### Sat 4:30 pm

D. Russell

C. Jones

M. Mierszwa

F. Conti

C. Jones

### Lectors

#### Sat. 4:30 pm

January 4 - A. Wulf

January 11 - M. Biedny

January 18 - G. Riedel

January 25 - M. J. Carroll

### Eucharist Ministers

#### Sun. 10:30 am

J. Knab

M. J. Carroll

C. Pitek

N. O'Rourke

## WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES - ENGAGE PARISHIONERS IN DAILY MASS AND PRAYER

### Readings for the week of January 18, 2026

**Sunday:** Is 49:3, 5-6/Ps 40:2 and 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10/1 Cor 1:1-3/Jn 1:29-34

**Monday:** 1 Sm 15:16-23/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23/Mk 2:18-22

**Tuesday:** 1 Sm 16:1-13/Ps 89:20, 21-22, 27-28/Mk 2:23-28

**Wednesday:** 1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51/Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10/Mk 3:1-6

**Thursday:** 1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7/Ps 56:2-3, 9-10a, 10b-11, 12-13/Mk 3:7-12

**Friday:** 1 Sm 24:3-21/Ps 57:2, 3-4, 6 and 11/Mk 3:13-19

**Saturday:** 2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27/Ps 80:2-3, 5-7/Mk 3:20-21

**Next Sunday:** Is 8:23-9:3/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/1 Cor 1:10-13, 17/Mt 4:12-23 or 4:12-17

### Observances for the week of January 18, 2026

**Sunday:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Monday:** Martin Luther King Day

**Tuesday:** St. Fabian, Pope and Martyr; St. Sebastian, Martyr

**Wednesday:** St. Agnes, Virgin and Martyr

**Thursday:** Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

**Friday:** St. Vincent, Deacon and Martyr; St. Marianne Cope, Virgin

**Saturday:** St. Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

**Next Sunday:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time; Celebrate Catholic Schools Week

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## GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

January 18, 2026

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

John 1:29-34

It's common to hear belief in Jesus and the Church mocked as blind faith and credulity. But in reality, it is deeply human and rational. Think about it: we rely on the testimony of others constantly. I trust chemists who certify the safety of toothpaste and cleaning products. I trust engineers when I use a microwave or drive over a bridge. Why? Because they have studied and seen what I have not, and their testimony proves itself in daily life. That kind of trust is not irrational; it is how human knowledge works.

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist declares: **"Now I have seen that He is the Son of God"** (John 1:34). That is the language of an eyewitness. It invites us into a very human act: trusting someone who has directly encountered something - or Someone - we have not yet fully seen ourselves.

The Church's faith is built on this kind of reliable sight-based testimony. The Apostles did not make abstract claims. They saw, followed, suffered for, and proclaimed Jesus Christ. Over centuries, their witness - carried in Scripture, in the lives of the saints, and in the sacramental life of the Church - has proven dependable. We come to know its truth by assenting to it, by living and studying it, praying with it, trusting it.

Faith in Christ is not a childish leap into the dark. It is a step into the light of testimony that proves itself over time.

~ Father John Muir

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# SAINT

716-854-6726

# MICHAEL'S

651 Washington St.

### ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH ATTENDANCE & COLLECTIONS

1/12/26	\$1,868.00
1//26	109

Weekly Collection needed to cover expenses— \$3,200.

Registered Families - 45

### INFORMATION REQUESTS

For any Parish Information regarding St. Michael's Masses, funerals, prayer requests, please contact St. Louis Parish. Phone - 716-852-6040

Email - [churchoffice@stlouisrcchurch.org](mailto:churchoffice@stlouisrcchurch.org)

### IN YOUR PRAYERS FOR ST. MICHAEL'S

Evan, Fran, and Mo Angelo, Judith Barone, Alexander & Michael Brickel, Lorraine Brown, Alonso/Caceres/Rios Santa Cruz, Peter Caruso, Annie Feldman, Phyllis Galie, Mary Biuttner Gutierrez, Gloria Knight, Ben Lisiecki, Elain Love, Dr. David Marchetti, Jean McCarthy, Tom Passmire, Cheryl Radwan, Arlo Thomas Stadler, Jack Stepniak, Mark Szpakowski, Angelo Tomsello, Ann Weihing.

### ST. MICHAEL'S INFORMATION

Email: [StMichaelChurchBuffalo@gmail.com](mailto:StMichaelChurchBuffalo@gmail.com)

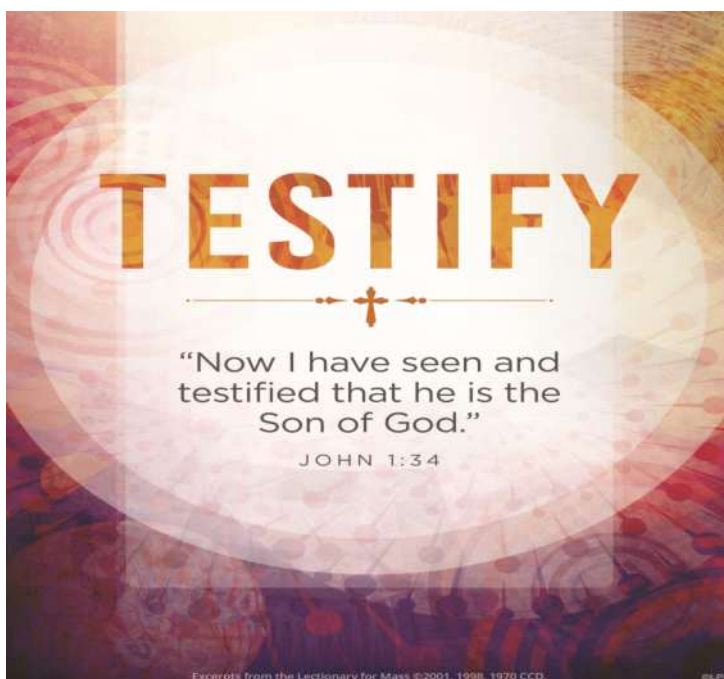
Musicians: Mark Di Giampaolo, Istvan Hernak

Cantor: Michael Dobrasz

**Holy Hour:** Join us Sundays for a Holy Hour starting at 1pm, featuring exposition, adoration, rosary, and silent prayer until 2pm at which time the church will close.

**St. Michael's Update:**

The Vatican has upheld the Diocese's decision to merge St. Michael's with St. Louis. An appeal has been filed to a higher Vatican Court. There is a 60 day waiting period for a decision. Updates forthcoming.



# News

*Mater Ecclesiae*  
**The Downtown  
Family of Parishes**



# Happenings

## ADORATION WITH ROSARY AND DEVOTION TO THE HOLY FACE

Adoration with Rosary and Devotion to the Holy Face will occur Tuesday evenings at 6:00 pm at Blessed Sacrament Church, Delaware Ave.

All are invited to come and spend time in prayer and reflection before our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament



## ST. JOSEPH'S CATHEDRAL

50 Franklin

716-854-5855

Cathedral@BuffaloDiocese.org

## ORATORY OF ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

160 Court St

716-854-2563 StAnthonyBuffalo@yahoo.com

## FROM THE PASTOR

A big Thank You to all the parishioners of the Family for the Christmas cards, notes, gifts, and "bottles of cheer" for the holidays!

Thanks for thinking of me.

Peace and joy this New Year!

Love, Fr. Ray

## LET'S DO LUNCH

(Center of Renewal at Stella Niagara - 4421 Lower River Rd.,  
Stella Niagara, NY 14144)

**Breaking Bread & Bible Study with Bonnie**

**Your Garden of Life**

**Thursday, March 19, 2026 10:00 am - 1:00 pm**

**Question: How is Your Garden Growing?**

One of the worst feelings in life is to assume that your life really doesn't count for anything important. That sense of disappointment, which we all have experienced at some point in life, is like planting a garden in the Spring and after weeks of meticulous attention and loving care we end up growing a few scraggly looking flowers or some ugly deformed veggies. Uggh! Spiritual Life gardening can sometimes be as frustrating as dirt gardening, therefore, let's focus this day on creating a more bountiful, meaningful, God pleasing harvest in our Gardens of Life.

**Cost: \$28.00** - includes retreat and lunch

**For Reservations Call** - 716-754-7376 (Reservation deadline is March 5, 2026)

## (PRACTICING) CATHOLIC - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

**By: Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman**

**Mini Reflection:** Young or old, believer or non-believer, rich or poor: it doesn't matter who we are. It doesn't matter what our life looks like. If we are a human being, if we have a soul, we stand on the shore of a great and powerful sea, a net in our hands and a hunger in our soul.

### Sea of Galilee Moments

Young or old, believer or non-believer, rich or poor, healthy or sick: it doesn't matter who we are. It doesn't matter what our life looks like. If we are a human being, if we have a soul, we stand on the shore of a great and powerful sea, a net in our hands and a hunger in our soul.

So what's in the sea? I don't know about yours, but mine is filled with feelings of inadequacy. It's filled with fear and resentment and confusion. It's filled with misplaced pride. It's deep. It's dark. It's well-stocked.

I cast my net, over and over again. What else is there to do? If I draw back a harvest, it can sustain me for days, weeks, maybe even years. The nourishment of the sea can keep away the hunger pangs - for a time. You can survive on fear and resentment and pride if it's all you have. You'll never feel full, and you'll never be strong, but you'll survive on what the world can offer you - so long as you keep coming back to the shore.

This is where Jesus finds us.

If I close my eyes, I can picture the moments exactly, all of them: my Sea of Galilee moments. I could describe them to you - the day, the year, what was happening in my life, what I wanted and what I needed and what gnawing hunger had brought me, once again, limping, crawling back to the shore.

But you wouldn't understand my Sea of Galilee moments, just like I wouldn't understand yours. There is only one who understands, and His is the voice we heard, clear and strong: "Put down the net, and come with me."

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## VIRTUES, EXPLAINED!

### Peace

**Mini Explanation** - Our modern Catholic understanding of peace is derived from the Hebrew concept of shalom, or wholeness, and refers not just to an absence of violence but to a personal reconciliation with one's Creator.

### Peace, Explained!

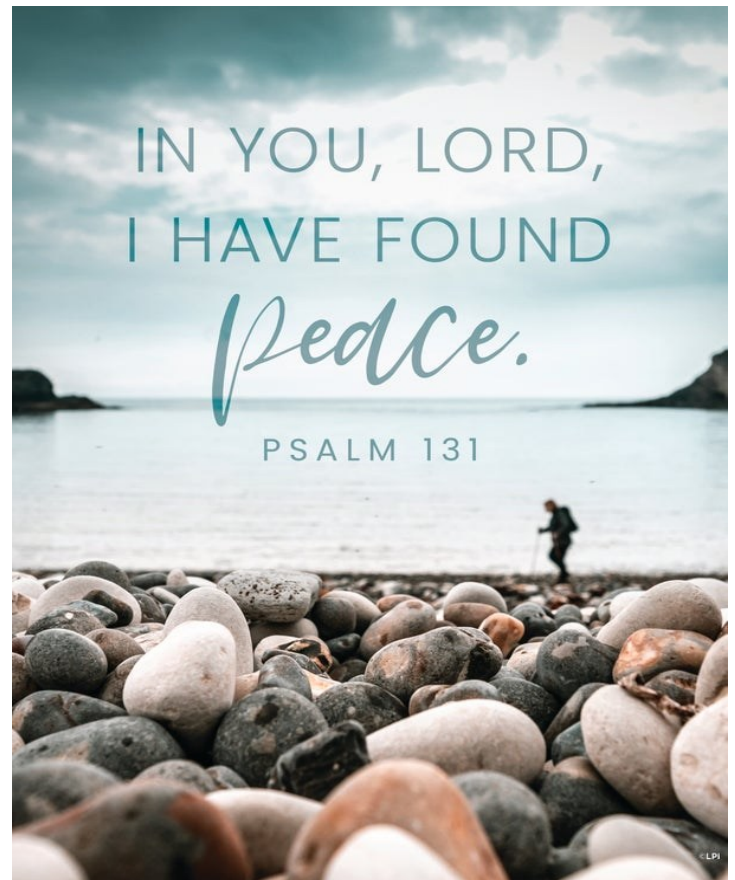
Peace. There may be no other word in the English language, writes Msgr. Stuart Swetland in Catholic answers, "more susceptible to slogan-eering, and thus misunderstanding." but what is peace, in the context of Catholic

virtue?

The peace of God, writes Paul in his letter to the Philippians, "surpasses all understanding." (Phil. 4:7) Peace is both a fruit of charity (CCC1829) and a fruit of the Sirit (CCC 1832). Our modern Catholic understanding of peace is derived from the Hebrew concept of *shalom*, or wholeness, and it refers not just to an absence of violence (mandated by the fifth commandment) but to a personal reconciliation with one's Creator. Peace is a spiritual effect of the Sacrament of Reconciliation (CCC 1496).

Our search for interior peace in our hearts parallels the historic struggle of mankind to realize peace in the world by practicing justice. "When we hear the Gospel, dear brothers and sisters," said Pope Benedict, "we learn to build peace on the truth of a daily life inspired by the commandment of love."

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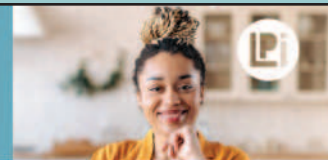
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