

## Litanies, Chaplets, and More

all are prayed after 8:30 AM Mass, unless noted

Beginning in March, a Chaplet pertinent to the month will be prayed on the First Wednesday.

March 5th - St. Joseph Chaplet

Why do Catholics do that?

You open the door, dip your fingers, cross yourself, and check to see if anyone is sitting in "your" pew. Why? Like most things, this action can become a rote practice given little or no thought each time it's performed. This can be why, when asked by a Protestant friend, "What's up with the holy water?" you might not have a ready answer.

Our lives began in water, and so, with every visit to the church, we begin anew. We also carry on the Jewish custom of cleansing one's hands prior to prayer as they did even before Christ was born. We call to mind the "watermark" of our baptism in crossing ourselves, as Cardinal Ratzinger said, "as a re-acceptance of our baptism."

So why not just use tap water? When the priest blesses water (by adding exorcised salt) he removes it from the material world and makes it Godly, restoring it to its original purpose to give us divine life. Thus, all these elements are ripped from the domination of the Prince of this world and handed over wholly to the King, ready for use in our spiritual warfare.

Not all holy water is blessed in the same way. While there is no official Church teaching on the subject of a type of water being more powerful than another, Epiphany Water is considered by many to be a superior tool in their spiritual arsenal. Our ministry is providing 4 ounce bottles of Epiphany Water (one per family, please) this month. (You will find it at each entrance door by the ministry baskets.) Each comes with a handout that uses, prayers, and more.

By this holy water and by Your Precious Blood, wash away all my sins, O Lord.

### A parting thought...

The Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord, the end of the Christmas Season, is the perfect day to bless your family and your home, using the Epiphany Water we are providing, and to renew your Baptismal Vows.

'See you then...

Watch the bulletin for an upcoming announcement of a time to meet ministry members after weekend Masses to learn about Our Mother's Hands.

Membership is open to men and women.

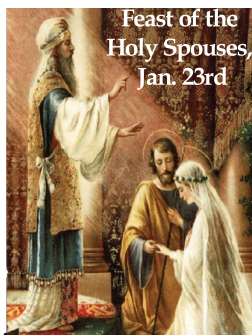
We all love Our Mother, and she loves all of us!

## Upcoming Consecration Dates

Consecration to:	Start	Feast	End
The Virgin Mary	Dec. 31	Presentation of Our Lord	Feb. 2
Saint Joseph	Jan. 1*	Presentation of Our Lord	Feb. 2
The Virgin Mary	Jan. 9	Apparition at Lourdes	Feb. 11
Saint Joseph	Feb. 15**	Solemnity of Saint Joseph	Mar. 19
The Virgin Mary	Feb. 20	The Annunciation	Mar. 25

\* Fr. Calloway calls for consecration on the 33rd vs. 34th day.

\*\* During a leap year, begin on Feb. 16



Feast of the Holy Spouses, Jan. 23rd

Although currently this feast of St. Joseph and the Blessed Virgin is celebrated in only a limited number of locations, this day is remembered as a time to recognize the sanctity of marriage between a man and a woman, and to pray for each spouse's holiness.

Look to Mary and Joseph's example in your daily struggles and strive to emulate their perfect love.



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Do what you can, when you can, where you can.

Non-mandatory meetings, 3rd Saturday at 10 AM  
St. Sebastian, Byrider Hall, 420 S. Hawkins, Akron, 44320



Volume 4, Issue 1

# Our Mother's Hands

JAN./FEB. 2025

Founded October 22, 2022  
under the patronage of  
Pope Saint John Paul II,  
we strive to bring souls  
to Jesus through Mary.



St. Paul Parish  
EDITION

We need only to open ourselves to the Holy Spirit, to whom she is united, to obtain the grace to be Our Mother's Hands.

We humbly provide:



SACRAMENTAL  
SEND-HOME  
ITEMS



24 HOUR  
PRAYER  
LINE

Call or Text:  
(330) 485-3731



BAPTISM GIFT  
PACKAGES



BEREAVEMENT  
PACKETS



CALLING  
HOURS  
ROSARY or  
CHAPLET FOR  
THE DECEASED

## January is the Month of the Holy Name of Jesus

When the Lord was 8 days old, he was brought to the Temple, circumcised, and given the name, Jesus, which means “the Lord is salvation.” This month we honor His name and call to mind its power.

Ways to observe the month:

- strive to never take His Name in vain: bow your head at each mention and you will soon break the habit.
- pray the Chaplet of the Holy Name
- pray the Divine Praises
- pray the “Jesus Prayer” throughout the day

## February is the Month of the Holy Family

February represents that time between Christmas and Lent, between the birth of Jesus and the beginning of His public ministry. A period of 21 years summed up in one sentence: *“Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and favor with God and with people.”*

The Holy Family is the perfect example of perfect love and virtue for all families. As Pope Leo XIII wrote, “Nothing truly can be more salutary or efficacious for Christian families to meditate upon than the example of this Holy Family, which embraces the perfection and completeness of all domestic virtues.”

Ways to observe the month:

- Pray **with** your family.
  - ◇ Perhaps start a family rosary; maybe just weekly or monthly to start.
  - ◇ Begin the tradition of blessing your spouse and children at the start of each day and at bedtime.
- Pray **for** your family:
  - ◇ If you are estranged, consider a devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows; she will help ease the pain of the separation.
  - ◇ Pray to St Joseph, entrusting the salvation of the soul of your loved ones to his intercession.

## Martha's Day Out

WOMEN'S RETREAT

*Serve like Martha,  
love like Mary.*

*Join us as we discover ways to strike a balance, blending our secular and spiritual lives.*

# \$35

*includes continental breakfast, lunch, and materials*



Saturday, April 5, 2025

8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

St. Sebastian Parish-  
Zwisler Hall

REGISTER NOW →

use QR code or go to [ourmothershands.org](http://ourmothershands.org) for more information

## February Sacramental

*(in the baskets at the entrances)*



Metal  
JESUS LOVES ME  
Pen

## JOURNEY THROUGH THE MASS

PART THREE

“The Lord be with you.”

“And with your spirit.”

It is understandable to think nothing more of this exchange than as something on the level of saying “Good morning,” but it is much more. The priest is not just sharing a nicety, he is reminding us that something important is about to happen: God is here, God is present, God is with you. Leave all you brought in with you behind: money troubles, anxiety, stress, and family issues. Be present in this moment because none of those things matter...God is with you.

When you review biblical passages you will find those words spoken to a number of main players throughout the Scripture: Gideon, Joshua, Isaac, the Virgin Mary, and many others. They heard those words, either from God or one of His angels, as a call to action and as an assurance that, while they were doubting their own abilities, they could count on Him to use their weaknesses for His glory. Just as God spoke to the His chosen people, the Israelites, thousands of years ago, He now speaks to us as Catholics, His chosen people, and expects us to do powerful things with Him. God is with us and at the beginning of each Mass we are reminded of that powerful message.

And when you respond, “And with your spirit,” you are not echoing the priest’s words. Instead you are recognizing the spirit within him, and in doing so you are encouraging him in his mission, urging him to “be a priest to us now.” Our words are a prayer that the ministerial priest becomes one with the only priest, Jesus Christ, and leads us into the sacred mystery.