

THE TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jesus says to His disciples in today's gospel: "Amen, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven". What a tremendous power Jesus gives to His disciples! What a colossal power He gives to His Church! To bind and to loose mean to decide, to organize, to make decisions, to build..... That is what the Church has been doing for 2026 years and counting. Today's gospel also mentions other topics, for instance how to solve conflicts between and among people. It's not easy to live in harmony with other human beings. A well-known proverb in Latin Language puts it well "Homo homini lupus est" (man is a wolf to man). No matter what group or community we belong to, there is always friction, even among siblings. Conflict, anger, hatred, jealousy, drama, and even scandal are part of our daily life, whether we cause them or we are the victims. Constantly, we are torn apart, we are in crisis: husband fighting wives, friendship dismantled, Jesus is giving us some solutions, very easy and simple, but at the same time extremely difficult. It is: go and meet the other, your neighbor, talk with him/ her. If it is done, things become very easy. If it is not done, things become seriously complicated. The final result is the Church's intervention, the Church that binds and looses. Everything is and must be done with love, with humility, with kindness, with tenderness... We have to ask Jesus to help us to do what He asks of us.

WYOMING COUNTY FAIR

Time is running out. The Wyoming county fair will end on Labor Day September 7. Last chance to get tickets to have a chance to win a basket at the SML Basket Raffle and support St. Mary of the Lake Church.

OLA FALL FESTIVAL NEEDS

The OLA Fall Festival on Sept.19(5 to 10pm) & 20(12 to 6pm) is drawing closer.

Please consider donating to our booths.

Bountiful Baskets: \$25 (or more) NEW items or gift cards. Please wrap in clear cellophane. You can drop off your baskets in the OLA church hall. Call Karen Rolka at 570-563-2084.

Dining Out: gift certificate to your favorite restaurant. You can drop it off at the OLA office or put it in the collection basket at any weekend Mass.

Basket of Cheer: please share your favorite wine, beer or liquor. You can drop it off at the OLA office.

Bake Stand: time to gather your favorite recipes.

White Elephant & Silent Auction: you can drop off your donations at the OLA church hall Items for the Silent Auction should be gently used and placed on the right side of the room (men's bathroom side).

White elephant items should be in working condition and placed on the left side (women's bathroom).

Donations for the food stands will also be accepted.

We are still accepting donations of bottles of water and cans of soda that can be dropped off in the church hall. Volunteers are also needed. Please share some of your time. Contact Bruce & Nikki Weisenfluh at 570-335-8135 if you would like to donate or volunteer.

ST. PATRICK FALL FESTIVAL

SUNDAY OCT. 4 FROM NOON TO 4PM

Our St. Patrick's Festival will include Dinner (Pork Tenderloin, Baked Potato, Corn, Roll, Applesauce, Dessert, Drink), Potato Pancakes, Soups, Hot Dogs/Chips/Drink, Baked goods, Baskets, 50/50, BIG Raffle, Silent Auction, Activities for children, music by John Bower!

To start the Festival Preparations, The Raffle Ticket Letters will be handed out at church until September 20th. In the Raffle ticket letters, you will find tickets and more details on how you can help! Such as 1. Help with distribution of flyers 2. Sell Raffle tickets at BRIDGE DAY 3. Sign up for dinner desserts (NOT refrigerated) LIKE PIES! 4. Pastries for sale. 5. soup - HOT, HOT IN A CROCK! 6. Bountiful Baskets (\$20-50 value) or Specialty Baskets (\$100-125 value) 7. set-up/clean-up 8. Dinner Prep SAT Oct 3rd 9am 9. Help at the Silent Auction Table 10. Help undecorate. Please look for the signup sheets in the foyer starting Sunday, 13 Sept 2026 Please call Joanne-443-528-8713 for information or questions! Thank you for all your support for our annual fundraiser!

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

The 2026-27 Catholic Ministries Appeal has begun. Next weekend, September 12 & 13, we will have the Catholic Ministries Appeal In-Pew commitment and video appeal.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS / LECTORS SCHEDULE

September 12 & 13

Eucharistic Ministers

4 pm (OLA) Nikki Weisenfluh
9:00am (SML) Ann Marie Gorko
11 am (SP) Sue Stutzman

Musicians

4 pm (OLA) Maria Fay
9:00am (SML) Danny Williams
11 am (SP) Maria Fay

Lectors

4 pm (OLA) Becky Mozeleski
9:00am (SML) Bob Andrews
11 am (SP) Liz Dempsey

Altar Servers

4 pm (OLA) – Kevin Jones, Margaret Jones
11am (SP) – Emma Evans
Shadow – Nolan Matulevich

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept 7 – Church office at OLA closed for Labor Day
Sept 10 - Bingo SP doors open at 5pm, bingo 6pm
Sept 10– Prayer Shawl Ministry, SML, 5:30pm
Sept 13 – SP/OLA FFF classes begin 9:45 to 10:45am
Sept 14 – Altar & Rosary Mtg. SML, 6:45pm

SML ANNUAL BREAKFAST NEWS

The Social Concerns Ministry of St Mary of the Lake will host their annual breakfast on September 27th for parishioners and friends following the 9 am mass in the parish hall. We appreciate the help of our Faith Formation Class with this event. See you there!

SML FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

Family Faith Formation at SML Sundays following 9am Mass until 11:15am
Grades Pre-K through 8th grade
It's back to school season!
Classes begin October 4
Contact Kerry Pieretti for more information
Redlightgreen343@gmail.com

SP & OLA FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

Family Faith Formation at SP begins on Sunday, 9/13 from 9:45-10:45am for grades K-8. Contact Jill D'Antoni for more information.
dantonijill@gmail.com

CLASSES FOR OCIA CANDIDATES

New OCIA classes will be starting on Sunday Sept. 13 at St. Pat's Hall. We have 2 candidates so far. Anyone interested in becoming a Catholic, anyone interested in returning to the Catholic faith or anyone who knows of someone who may be interested in becoming a Catholic, please contact Lucy Ziman at the parish office ,570-563 1622 or Greg Solfanelli at 570-281-8083 for further information. WELCOME!

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday (September 8) Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00am (OLA) 65th Wedding Anniversary Blessings
for Pat & Mike Mould
By The Mould's Son & Daughter

Wednesday (September 9) Saint Peter Claver, Priest

8:00am (SP) Jill, Patrick, Angelo, Jack, Nicholas, & Juliana Stefanelli
By Carol Stefanelli

Thursday (September 10) Weekday

8:00 am (SML) Benjamin & John Zdaniewicz
By Theresa Zdaniewicz

Saturday (September 12) The Vigil of The Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 pm (OLA) Stanley & Bertha Rysz
By Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Kruczek

Sunday (September 13) The Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am (SML) Teresa Marie Featherstone
By Roanne Kellerher
11:00 am (SP) Taylor Hortman
By Geneva Kuzara

WEEKLY OFFERINGS (COLLECTIONS)

SP Weekly \$ 2,115.00 Loose \$ 78.00
OLA Weekly \$ 1,846.00 Loose \$ 51.00
SML Weekly \$ 1,590.00 Loose \$ 107.10
May the Lord reward your generosity.

PARISH PRAYER

As summer comes to an end with Labor Day, we give thanks to all who participated in our America 250 celebrations and joined us in prayer for our country. We are grateful for your participation and prayers. Next weekend, we will resume our Parish Prayer:

SP BINGO NEWS

Bingo will resume regular play on 10 September. The jackpot number will rise to 59 if there is no winner on the 27th!

SAINTS WITH UNUSUAL LIVES

We turn our attention today on Saint Monica (mother of the great St Augustine- and Navigus and Perpetua of Hippo). In her adolescent years, Monica tasted wine and loved it. On a regular basis, she went to the family cellar and served herself freely. She stopped only on the day she got into an argument with the housemaid who called her "little drunk girl". She was so surprised to learn that her drinking wasn't that secret. From that day on, Monica stopped drinking altogether with God's grace. That's why she is the Saint Patron of alcoholics. All these are related by her son Saint Augustine in his famous book, Confessions (book IX. Chapter 8). She became a Saint, so can we.