

# Community Connection



## Month of the Holy Rosary

October



### THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Article submitted by Fr. Bill Wagner, Pastor



We all know that Baptism incorporates us into the Mystical Body of Christ. All baptized Christians are joined together in solidarity of Christian Charity with Christ and each other making the veneration of the saints an essential element of faith. Each saint reveals something of the Christian life to us in a unique way. Saints do not add anything to God's glory since He exists apart from them but they do express something explicit of God's holiness which can intensify our own journey of faith.

The Blessed Virgin Mary has been assigned an irreplaceable function in the Christian order of salvation. She is the mother of Jesus, our Savior and enjoys the titles "Mother of God" and "Ark of the Covenant". Her acceptance of the vocation announced to her by the angel Gabriel, known as her *fiat*, places her above all the saints. She is the exemplar of faith and holiness. We should accept this by joining our own *fiat* to hers and in so doing recognize that the veneration of Mary is part of the mature Christian life. We join with Mary as true disciples of her Son.

The veneration of Mary is, therefore, different than that of the other saints. The church has definite dogmatic positions taught about her. She is praised in the Bible. Consider Lk 1:28 "Hail Favored one. The Lord is with you." Or Lk 1:48 "from now on all ages will call me blessed. The Mighty One has done great things for me." Mary demonstrates the maternal care of God for us. It would be difficult indeed to appreciate Jesus if we were to take no notice of His mother.

To consider Mary superfluous and ignore her would do a grave injustice to our own Christian vocation in the world. To ignore Mary runs the risk of misinterpreting basic features of the Christian way of life. We would run the risk of remaining deaf to God's loving care. The experience of Mary is a religious experience of the totality of our faith.

October is a special month for the veneration of Mary. It is the month of the rosary. The rosary is a unique way of praying. It involves the physical interaction with the beads, meditation, and it animates and renews our awareness of being in God's presence. The repetition of the prayers can bring an inner peace and a quiet acquiescence of ourselves to God's will.

It has been a custom in many Catholic families to have a Family Rosary. In our somewhat overwhelming social media world this is almost a revolutionary idea. Imagine, setting aside some time for prayer and communication with the Lord Himself without the distractions of our electronics laden lives! It is not really a step back but a step into the world of mystery and holiness.

### YOU CAN STILL JOIN OUR DEDICATED DISCIPLES STUDY GROUPS ON FORMED.ORG!!!!

Groups can meet in members' homes, in a parish meeting space, or online and connect individually through the use of email or other social media tools. St. Thomas More provides our subscription at Formed.org for all parishioners to have access to different studies. (Directions for joining are below.) Sometimes there is a minimal cost for a workbook but most materials are downloadable free of charge. Group members discuss and discern what they are learning and how to apply it to their own lives. Our fall sessions will be in October and November. Our winter sessions will be in January and February.

### THERE ARE FOUR WAYS YOU CAN JOIN A SMALL GROUP:

- **HANDOUTS IN THE PEWS.....**In September, there will be handouts listing the fall studies in the pews throughout the Church. You can check off which study you would like to join, fill out your name and email at the top and place in the blue/green bins at the church entrances.
- **FAITH EVENT ON OCT. 12.....**The Faith Formation Commission will host a faith event starting with appetizers and drinks on October 12 where people can come to hear the Children of Mary, a religious order new to Cincinnati, explain how learning about the apparitions of Fatima that occurred in 1917 are relevant to our faith lived today. At this event individuals can sign up for a Fall Dedicated Disciples study of their choice.
- **SIGN UP WEEKEND.....**There will also be a Sign Up Table after Masses the weekend of October 14/15 where people can sign up for studies of their choice.

**ONLINE AT [WWW.STTM.ORG](http://WWW.STTM.ORG).....**In addition, through the whole month of September the Dedicated Disciple Studies will be described on our website and a link will direct you to signing up for a study of your choice at [www.sttm.org](http://www.sttm.org).

To find online studies, go to [www.Formed.org](http://www.Formed.org). You should see the registration box that says, "Does your parish already have FORMED." Type in the parish code: 28YHKB (notice: case sensitive). Next set up a user name and a password. Now you are all set to use the great study programs on FORMED.org anytime by simply logging in!!

**HOPE TO SEE MANY OF YOU JOIN!  
WE ARE CALLED TO LOVE GOD AND OUR CHURCH  
COMMUNITY!**

**WE CAN'T LOVE WHAT WE DON'T KNOW!  
LET'S BE DEDICATED DISCIPLES TOGETHER AND  
HELP EACH OTHER GET TO HEAVEN**



Filmed around the world with stunning cinematography

JOIN OUR PARISH-WIDE STUDY OF

# SYMBOLON: THE CATHOLIC FAITH EXPLAINED: KNOWING THE FAITH

LED BY FR. BILL

✦ Too often we try to live a faith we don't know or understand.

✦ Some of us stumble, going through the motions.

✦ Others simply walk away.

That's why the time is right for

**Symbolon: Knowing the Faith.**

✦ Explains the essentials of the Catholic Faith.

✦ Informs our minds.

✦ Inspires our hearts.

TO JOIN, REGISTER AT:

[www.sttm.org](http://www.sttm.org)

Click on "FALL 2017 DEDICATED DISCIPLES STUDY GROUP INTEREST" Complete the online questionnaire. Fr. Bill will be in touch with you!! Studies begin the week of Oct. 16!

5 sessions in October and November:

- \* The Journey of Faith
- \* Divine Revelation
- \* The Bible
- \* The Story of Salvation
- \* Who is Jesus, Really?

5 sessions in January and February:

- \* The Paschal Mystery
- \* The Holy Spirit and the Life of Grace
- \* Why Do I Need the Church?
- \* Mary and the Saints
- \* The Four Last Things



Catholic Charities  
Southwestern Ohio

Serve | Enlighten | Empower

**VOLUNTEER RETREAT  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14**

Catholic Charities invites volunteers from faith-based communities across Greater Cincinnati to a retreat to encounter God and reflect on how serving others brings us closer to God. This event will renew and refresh our spirits so we're better equipped to assist others in need.

Led by Fr. Jason Bedel, St. Margaret of York, the Volunteer Retreat will begin at 9:00 am and end at 2:00 pm at the Jesuit Retreat Center in Milford. Mass will be celebrated before lunch. An opportunity for fellowship and networking will follow the retreat.

Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/catholic-charities-volunteer-retreat-tickets-36320049245>

For questions, contact [Scott Stephens](mailto:Scott.Stephens@ccso.org) at 513-672-3714.

Get a jump start on your holiday shopping at the **6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ST. THOMAS MORE CHRISTMAS BAZAAR** November 18th from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm! The event will feature handmade crafts and small business vendors. This show is still accepting vendors, and costs are \$35 for one table and two chairs until October 15<sup>th</sup>. After October 15<sup>th</sup> the cost is \$40. Electric is available for \$10.00. Vendors are encouraged to contribute one item for the raffle. All money earned will benefit the St. Thomas More PTO and School. For more information, contact Megan Spiegla at [stmchristmasbazaar@yahoo.com](mailto:stmchristmasbazaar@yahoo.com) or 513-884-8772.



## FATIMA "SECRETS" & FACTS

A FAITH EVENT SPONSORED BY  
ST. THOMAS MORE FAITH FORMATION  
COMMISSION

Save the Date!!!

Why is Mary's Appearance at Fatima important to YOU 100 years later?

THE CHILDREN OF MARY  
WILL ADDRESS THIS TOPIC ON  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12

Food and Faith:

6:30 pm Appetizers and drinks

7:00 pm talk by Children of Mary Nuns

8:00 pm Announcement of new *Dedicated Disciples* Studies

## NEWLY BAPTIZED

Finnegan Thomas, son of David & Shannon Richey  
Cole Anthony, son Michael & Jessica Phillips

## NEW PARISHIONERS

Davina, Asaselley & Maeblette Campbell  
Floyd & April Rodes  
Zachary, Lana & Landon Watson  
Reuben, Giselle, Christy, Braxton, & Christy Battley  
Kimberly Ackerman

Welcome

## Please join us for the St. Thomas More School Fundraiser Dinner at



### Date

Monday, October 23rd

4:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

### Panera Bread Associate

Please retain flyer and staple to sales receipt.  
Return to marketing.

### Fundraiser Location

Panera Bread / Eastgate  
PH: 513-421-1980



Please join us for dinner Monday, October 23rd at the Eastgate Panera Bread to raise money for St. Thomas More School's PTO.

For each dine-in, carry-out, and gift card purchase made between 4:00 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., the Eastgate Panera Bread bakery-cafe will donate 15% of the total sales back to the school.

This flyer must be presented to the cashier (or shown on a Smart Phone) at the time of purchase.

Grab some flyers, invite your friends, and join us to help support this worthwhile fundraising event!