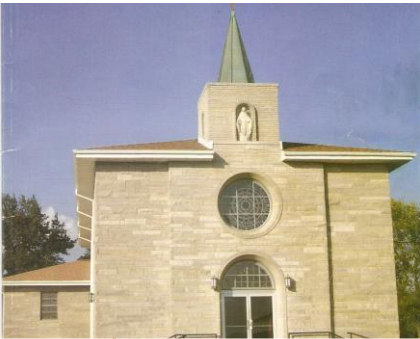


St. Mary’s Catholic Church

Annunciation Church of B.V.M., Shumway, IL
+Bishop Thomas John Paprocki
Fr. Adam Prichard, Pastor
aprichard@dio.org
“Office” Phone: 1-844-536-6514 (leave a message)
Website: www.stmaryshumway.org
Email: stmarysshumway@gmail.com
Address: PO Box 96, Shumway, IL 62461



To reserve the church basement please call 1-844-536-6514.

Cemetery Committee

John Adams 618-322-2874
Matt Childerson 217-254-5896
Daphne Hoffman 217-821-7268

Funeral Meal Coordinators

Leslie Kemme 217-821-3399
Dot Thomas 217-259-8560

Shumway Mass Times:

Tuesday – 5:15 pm
Adoration 4-5 pm
Wednesday 8:00 am
Saturday 4:00 pm
Reconciliation-3pm
Sunday 8:00 am

Green Creek Mass Times:

Thursday – 5:15 pm
Adoration 4-5 pm
Friday – 8 am
Saturday – 6 pm
Sunday – 10:00 am

No Adoration/Mass when it falls on a Holy Day

Victim Assistance Contact Information-To Report Child Sexual Abuse by Church Personnel or to inquire about Safe Environment Programs in the Diocese of Springfield call 217-321-1155 or Children & Family Services Child Abuse Hotline 1-800-25-ABUSE

SAT 4pm	Aug. 16 Church picnic	Aug. 23	Aug. 30	Sept. 6	Sept. 13
Servers	Aubrey Brown Abby Brown Anna Brown	Trey Brown Tryston Brown Madalyne Brown	Isaac Wells Abby Brown Anna Brown	Aubrey Brown Tryston Brown Madalyne Brown	Trey Brown Isaac Wells Abby Brown
Lector	Donna Davis	Christy Brown	Alaina Miller	Mike Holland	Doug Brown
Usher	Mike Holland Jason Wells	Don Brown Doug Brown	Jason Wells Don Brown	Don Brown Doug Brown	Mike Holland Jason Wells
Ech Min	Donna Davis Mike Holland Rosemary Holland	Katrina Davis Kathy Brown Don Brown	Katrina Davis Kathy Brown Don Brown	Donna Davis Mike Holland Rosemary Holland	Katrina Davis Kathy Brown Don Brown
Gift Bearers	Doug Brown Family	Jason Wells Family	Kathy Brown	Jesse Davis Family	Don Brown Family
SUN 8am	Aug. 17	Aug. 24	Aug. 31	Sept. 7	Sept. 14 Families in Faith
Servers	Garrett Hoene Braxton Hoene Olivia Vonderheide	Rory Miller Wylie Miller Daisy Miller	Wade Conder Zoey Conder Jacob Vonderheide	Garrett Hoene Braxton Hoene Olivia Vonderheide	Rory Miller Wylie Miller Daisy Miller
Lector	Lisa Thompson	Terry Hoene	Lisa Thompson	Terry Hoene	Lisa Thompson
Ushers	Jason Vonderheide Charley Vonderheide	Larry Lieb Jim Vonderheide	Roy Waldhoff Joe Conder	Gene Doedtman Tom Doedtman	Josh Miller Justin Conder
Ech Min	Roy Waldhoff Barb Vonderheide Lisa Waldhoff	Leslie Kemme Timber Miller Lisa Thompson	Linda Doedtman Barb Vonderheide Lisa Waldhoff	Roy Waldhoff Leslie Kemme Timber Miller	Linda Doedtman Barb Vonderheide Lisa Waldhoff
Gift Bearers	Justin Conder Family	Greg Michelle Spannagel	Deb Stremming	Wanda Ohnesorge	Rodney Hoene Family
Greeters	Charley Rhonda Vonderheide	Barb Vonderheide	Roy Lisa Waldhoff	Jason Pruemmer Family	Larry Lieb
Money Counters	Bales, Richards Sheehan, Hackman	Stremming Conder	Doedtman Shadwell	Waldhoff Hoene	Kemme Adams
WED. 8am Lectors	Aug. 20	Aug. 27	Sept. 3	Sept. 10	Sept. 24
	Linda Doedtman	Irene Koester	Alice Richards	Mike Holland	Linda Doedtman

PRAYER LIST: Please remember them in your prayers!



Call: 1-844-536-6514 to add or remove someone. Thank You.

Carl Gross
Trevor Roy
Tony Bierman
Tori Schairbaum
Tom Laue
Jerry Worman
Mardell Sheehan
Elsie McKay
Kathy Miller
David Brown
Kathy Wakefield
Larry Nation

Norma Bloemer
Beth Hewing
Jim Gordon
Don Kemme
Don Clark
Steve Moore
Sally Wakefield
Pat Kuhns
Bill Hamilton
Christie Dust
Helen Kollinger
Bill Nuxoll
Cinda Held



August Committee: Carol Levitt, Lisa Waldhoff, Karen Neu
Sandra Laue, Janice Monroe

Weekly Offering.....8-10-25

Adult.....\$1895.00
Loose.....336.00
Altar Donation.....10.00
Total.....\$2231.00
Masses \$20
Parish Hall update \$130,344.97

August parish council meeting minutes can be found on the bulletin boards in church.

St. Mary’s Catholic Church, Shumway

MISSION

(who we are and what we do, our purpose)
Be a growing community of disciples, centered on the Eucharist, that imitates Jesus by proclaiming the Gospel and serving our neighbors with love.

VISION

(where we are going, our focus)
Building the Body of Christ through families of faith with vibrant spiritual formation, joyful community fellowship and service, and a welcoming presence to all.

ST. MARY'S SHUMWAY

3RD ANNUAL POKER RUN

SATURDAY AUGUST 23

FUNDRAISER FOR A NEW PARISH HALL

REGISTER: NOON LEAVE; 1PM \$25 PER PERSON

50/50 DRAWING

WE WILL START AT ST. MARY'S STOPS WILL INCLUDE ORCHARD INN, MIDWAY, KAZBAR, VAHLING WINERY, BACK TO THE CHURCH TO DRAW THE LAST CARD.

WE WILL HAVE FOOD AND DOOR PRIZES WHEN WE RETURN TO ST. MARY'S.

FOR ANY QUESTIONS OR TO PRE-REGISTER PLEASE CALL OR TEXT:
 LESLIE KEMME: 217-821-3399
 HOWARD DUST: 217-663-2395
 TERRY HOENE: 217-343-4545

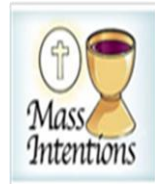
ALL VEHICLES WELCOMED

Bible Study @ St. Mary's, Shumway

This year we will take "A Journey Through Church History." We will do 10 sessions in the fall and 10 sessions in the spring. We will meet every Wednesday starting on the Sept. 10th at 6:30pm in the basement. We will not meet on the first Wednesdays due to the parish council meetings. To order a workbook go to <https://ascensionpress.com/collections/epic-a-journey-through-church-history#study-materials> If you have any questions contact Donna Davis 217-690-2640. See the flyer on the bulletin board for more info.

The Effingham Knights of Columbus Council #665 will be hosting it's yearly Labor Mass on September 1st, 2025, at St. Anthony Church. Mass will be at 9am and will be celebrated by our councils' chaplain Fr. James Flach and reception and fellowship to follow in the Parish Center, all are invited to attend. A collection will be collected for El Shaddai here in Effingham.

Bible Study at St. Anthony's Church will resume on Thursday, Sept 4 with the study of Salvation History through the Bible Timeline. This study is led by Jeff Cavins, who will teach you how to read and understand the Bible. It will lead you the wonderful narrative of Scripture. Sessions will be offered at 9:15am or 6:30pm in the St. Anthony parish center. Please call the parish office to register by August 25 so books can be ordered 217-347-7129



† This symbol denotes-deceased.

- Saturday, Aug. 16- Parishioner of St. Mary's
- Sunday, Aug. 17 – †Ross & Violet Pautler by Duane Joyce Shadwell
- Wednesday, Aug. 20 - Eric Sandschafer by mom
- Saturday, Aug. 23 – †Dorothy Ruholl by Tim & Patty Kessler
- Sunday, Aug. 24- †Bob Roepke by Family
- Tuesday, Aug. 26 – †Lucy & Henry Dust by Family
- Wednesday, Aug. 27- †Larry Ferguson by Kathy Ferguson

Please call or email (info on front page) to schedule an intention or put an envelope in the collection basket with the information. Envelopes can be found in the mailbox in the cry room. There is a calendar of available dates located in the cry room.

Happy Birthday



George Conder 8-18
 Kay Conder 8-20
 Lance Clark 8-20
 Emma Thompson 8-23

Happy Anniversary

RON & SHERILL HARRIS 8-23-2004
 21 years

Men's Leadership Summit taking place in Edwardsville Oct. 18 – Do you feel like just another guy in a pew? You're not alone. The Diocese of Springfield in Illinois has invited John Edwards from Just a Guy in the Pew to host a Men's Leadership Summit on Saturday, October 18, 2025 at St. Boniface Church in Edwardsville (110 N Buchanan St.) to bring single and married men together to support one another, get inspired by their faith, gain and enhance leadership skills, and discuss best practices for men's ministry. John is a dynamic, inspirational spiritual leader who has a powerful witness story of hard drug use to finding Christ in a radical way.

Register at dio.org/events. Cost: \$30. Includes materials/food and drink. Deadline to register is Oct. 1. Contact: Gracie Ortiz, Director of Marriage and Family Life at gortiz@dio.org or 217-321-1124 for questions.

Married 50 Years or More? Let Us Celebrate You! – at a special Anniversary Mass on Sunday, September 21 at 2 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield. This celebration honors your beautiful witness to the vocation of marriage. A light reception will follow Mass. RSVP by September 9 at dio.org/events, or contact Gracie Ortiz at gortiz@dio.org or (217) 698-8500. Let us honor your milestone of faith and love!

Families in Faith (PSR) will begin on Sunday, Sept. 14 after mass. There is a sign up sheet in the cry room for any new students grades Pre-K through high school. Also remember that there is a class also for all adults in the parish. You don't have a child in a class to participate!!! If you have any questions, contact Leslie Kemme 217-821-3399

On Tuesday, Sept. 9 @ 7pm there will be training for Lectors and Extra Ordinary Ministers. This for anyone who current is or those who would like to be. AND on Saturday, Sept. 20 @ 9am there will be server training. This for current servers and anyone one else who would like to serve (need to have made your first communion).

Youth Group Kick Off Cookout on Sept. 7 from 5-7pm. See the fliers on the bulletin board for details.

Deanery Prayer Vigil for Life at St Mary the Annunciation Church in Shumway on Tuesday August 19. Praying the rosary will begin at 6:00 pm. Fr Adam Prichard will be the celebrant for the 6:30 pm Mass. The business meeting will follow in the lower level. Refreshments will be served while current pro-life issues and events are discussed. **THERE WILL BE NO 4 pm ADORATION OR 515 MASS.**

Join our Millions of Monicas prayer group Monday August 18 at Sacred Heart Parish 6-7 pm. All mothers welcome whether spiritual or biological, as we pray together for our children's faithful return to the Catholic Church. For more information

All ladies are invited to the **Mattoon Deanery Council of Catholic Women meeting** on Thursday, August 28, 2025, at St. Columcille Church, 516 W. Jackson St., Sullivan, IL 61951. Holy Mass at 8:30 a.m., registration following Mass.

All women are invited to the **Springfield Diocesan Council of Catholic Women's annual convention** on Wednesday, October 1, at St. Paul's Church and Trinity Hall, 1411 Main St., Highland, IL. The day begins with registration and refreshments from 8:00–9:00 a.m., followed by the convention from 9:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m., including Mass at 11:00 a.m. with Bishop Thomas John Paprocki. For more info see bulletin board. Forms to register are on the bulletin board. Forms are due by September 14

Knights of Columbus Initiation The 4th Degree of Assembly 0196 in Teutopolis, IL will hold an exemplification on Sunday, September 7. The 4th Degree Knights is a Catholic men's organization that fosters patriotism and responsible citizenship. Why not take the next step in your faith and religious development? Everyone who is a 3rd Degree Knights member and interested in becoming a sir knight is encouraged to contact the Faithful Navigator, Dan Dust at 217-690-3124 or call the Faithful Scribe, Leon Gobiczynski at 217-343-2112.

Family Life Center Fundraising Banquet
Sept. 11 (Thursday), 7 pm, at the Keller Convention Center.
- Reservations are required bit.ly/visiondinner2025
- Seating begins at 6:30 pm, the dinner and program are from 7 - 9:15 pm.
- The featured speaker is David McCroskey.

The 35th annual Family Camp will be held September 20-21 at Lake Williamson Christian Center in Carlinville. This fun and relaxing weekend is for those with intellectual and/or physical disabilities, along with their family and friends. Registration forms are available at www.sheff.org or by contacting Elaine Vonderheide at 217-821-1995.



Mattoon Knights of Columbus--Shrimp Boil for Catholic Charities @ Immaculate Conception Mattoon
Serving a delicious shrimp boil with corn, potatoes, shrimp, sausage, and other seafood August 23, 2025 5:00 to 6:30 on Saturday Only \$10.00 per plate Drink Specials While They Last!
Live Music by Jim McBride from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Lawn chairs not required, but suggested.

Upcoming DeColores Fall Weekends:
Men's Weekend: October 16-19; Lay Leader: Tim Hodge. Call or Text him at 217-821-0113
Women's Weekend: October 23-26; Lay Leader: Sandy Deters. Call or Text her at 217-259-2417
The weekends are held at Camp Walter Scott south of Effingham (Must sign up prior to attending.) Call or text for an application.

This past week, most of our area schools have started back up again for another year of education for our children, and college students are heading back to their dorms and preparing for another year of higher education. This turns my mind to the role the Catholic church has played down through the centuries in this area. There are many orders in the church whose main focus has been the education of the youth, the poor, and the marginalized. Yet others are devoted to higher education, devoted to scholarly thought that deepens understanding, and work to answer unknown questions.

So why has the church spent so much time and effort on education and learning? Is it because knowledge is power? In one sense, yes, but not the power the world and the culture think of power, not as domination, but rather as freedom. Freedom to seek and to know the God who created us, to seek Truth, to strive to unlock the mysteries of our humanity and those of God as well. The catholic model of education and learning has always been to form the mind, body, and soul of a person. Learning is a lifelong process; we never stop learning.

When we look at the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit that we receive at our Confirmation---Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety, and Fear of the Lord, these we implore daily, not only to better learn about and know our God, but also to learn and discover the natural world around us as well, which can help us understand God, too. It's good to keep in mind that all our knowledge and learning, all we discover and come to know as true, is a gift from God. God created everything. So that which we learn, God knew and gave us the graces to see for the first time.

As we start this new routine of school days again, let us be thankful for the ability to learn and grow in knowledge and always count it as a blessing. Giving thanks and glory to God.

In service to Christ, in service to You,
Deacon Candidate Jesse R. Davis

Office for the Permanent Diaconate - Interested in becoming a permanent deacon? Join us after 10am Mass Sunday, September 7th at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Following Mass there will be an informational meeting in the atrium. Wives are welcome and encouraged to attend with their husbands. Please visit <https://dio.org/diaconate/> for more information about the diaconate. You may also contact Jesse Davis.

Catholic Men's Overnight Retreat, September 27-28, Villa Maria Retreat Center – Norbertine Father Herman Joseph Johanneck, O. Pream, presents the upcoming overnight retreat, "Sons of the Father, Men in Christ." The retreat begins at noon on Saturday, September 27 and concludes after lunch on Sunday, September 28. Visit dio.org/events for a more detailed schedule and to register. The cost is \$150 and includes overnight accommodations (single occupancy), meals, and retreat materials. Deadline-- September 22. Contact events@dio.org with questions.

Fr. Adam and Jesse Davis are offering OCIA this year. What is the OCIA? The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) is designed for non-Catholics who wish to learn more about the Catholic Church.

The OCIA process explores the meaning of faith and how Catholics express that faith in the community and in the world. It offers a chance to ask questions, raise doubts, acquire information, share, learn and grow. What's the commitment? First of all, you're not making a commitment to join the Catholic Church. You won't be pressured into making any decisions; you can stop attending the meetings at any time. You will continue to be welcome at the meetings and in the parish no matter what your decision.

You might want to share this information about the OCIA with anyone to whom you wish to offer an invitation. Perhaps to give them support and encouragement, you might offer to accompany them to one of the meetings.

If you have any questions or an interest, please email Fr. Adam at aprichard@dio.org or Jesse at Jrdavis6698@gmail.com or call the parish office and leave a message."

St. Mary's Youth Group Presents:

KICKOFF COOKOUT

Sunday, September 7

5-7pm - on the church lawn

School is back in session & so are we!

All 7th-12th grade students & families are invited to a fun evening of food & fellowship as we gear up for the year ahead! Hamburgers, hot dogs, & drinks will be provided; feel free to bring a snack/side to share.

Some fun games are also in store, so be sure to wear shoes you can run in & clothes that can get a little messy! (Parents welcome to participate, too!) And don't forget a lawn chair. Can't wait to see you there!

Don't miss out -

RSVP Now!

 Katrina Davis:
217-240-4291



Diocese of Springfield in Illinois in partnership with
Just a Guy in the Pew presents





MEN'S LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

OCTOBER 18, 2025

St. Boniface Catholic Church • 110 N. Buchanan St., Edwardsville, IL

SATURDAY

- 9 a.m.** Holy Mass
- 9:30 a.m.** Coffee & Check In
- 10 a.m.** Session 1: **HEART & MIND OF A LEADER**
- 10:45 a.m.** Small Group Questions/Discussion
- 11:15 a.m.** Session 2: **WHAT MEN WANT/WHAT MEN NEED**
- 11:45 a.m.** Small Group Questions/Discussion
- 12:15 p.m.** Lunch provided by Edley's BBQ
- 1 p.m.** Session 3: **HOW TO BUILD OR ENHANCE
A SUCCESSFUL MEN'S GROUP**
- 1:45 p.m.** Small Group Questions/Discussion
- 2:15 p.m.** Session 4: **NEXT STEPS/PRACTICAL DISCUSSION**
- 2:45 p.m.** Q&A with John Edwards and Large Group Discussion

QUESTIONS? Contact Gracie Ortiz at gortiz@dio.org or 217 321-1124

Watch John's story at dio.org/events/mens-leadership-summit/

The cost is \$30 to register • Deadline is October 1, 2025



OUR SPEAKER:
JOHN EDWARDS
Founder of Pew Ministries and host of
"Just a Guy in the Pew" podcast



go.dio.org/mls

IF YOU WERE ASKED ABOUT...

THE CRUSADES,
THE INQUISITION,
"THE DARK AGES",
THE GALILEO AFFAIR,
WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?



EPIC

A JOURNEY THROUGH CHURCH HISTORY

Do you know your family history? The history of the Church is the story of our family. It is the epic story of our ancestors in the Faith – the heroic men and women who shaped civilization and spread the Gospel throughout the world. Knowing this story is crucial to our identity as Catholics. Just as we would uncover exciting and interesting stories of our ancestors through the study of our family genealogy, we can uncover our Catholic past through the study of Church history.

Many in our society misunderstand and even attack our Church for the supposed misdeeds of the past. Topics such as the Crusades, the "Inquisition", and Galileo are used in an attempt to discredit the Church and her role in the world. What is the truth concerning these events and persons? How can you answer the objections?

Join us for this exciting journey through Church history and you will:

- Learn about the major people, places, and events of the two-thousand years of Church history.
- Remember the 12 time periods of Church history using a unique color-coded system.
- Learn the true story of the Crusades .
- Discover the revolutionary character of the Protestant Reformation.
- Discover the massive persecution of Christians in the 20th century.
- See the workings of the Holy Spirit throughout Church history and much more!

Dates, Time, Location

St. Mary's Shumway
Wednesdays @ 6:30pm
starting Sept 10
(skip 1st Wed. of the month)
Church basement

For More Information

Call/Text Donna Davis
217-690-2640

About Steve Weidenkopf



Steve Weidenkopf has a gift for making Catholic Church history come alive for any audience. He currently serves as a lecturer in Church History for the Notre Dame Graduate School of Christendom College.

www.CatholicTimeline.com



**ALL WOMEN ... COME TO THE
SPRINGFIELD in IL DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF
CATHOLIC WOMEN (SDCCW)**

2025 Convention

Wed., Oct. 1

**8:00 AM – 9:00 AM: Registration &
Refreshments**

9:00 AM – 3:30 PM Convention

11:00 AM Mass

Bishop Thomas Paprocki, Main Celebrant

Hosted by the Alton Deanery Council of Catholic Women

St. Paul's Church and Trinity Hall

1411 Main St., Highland, IL



"LET YOURSELF BE LOVED"

St. Elizabeth of the Trinity

Canonized by Pope Francis, Oct. 16, 2016

July 18, 1880 - Nov. 9, 1906



Claire Dwyer desires that all women know how deeply they are loved by God. She is a wife and mom of six and grandmother of two, living and working remotely for the Avila Foundation as Content Editor of Spiritual Direction.com from her home in Arizona. She is a speaker, retreat leader, and author of *This Present Paradise: A Spiritual Journey with St. Elizabeth of the Trinity*.



SDCCW email: sdccwinil@gmail.com

FB Page: Springfield Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

Please receive the registration form from your church --- due Sept. 14.

President of the SDCCW: Janet Zimmerman: 217-494-4743

Forms on bulletin board

Dear Padre,

Is “co-redemptrix” a title for the Blessed Virgin Mary?

The Church does not officially regard Mary as a co-redemptrix with Christ. Her “unique holiness”...‘from the first instant of her conception’ comes wholly from Christ: she is ‘redeemed, in a more exalted fashion, by reason of the merits of her Son’” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 492).

According to Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the title “co-redemptrix” would “obscure” the origin that “everything comes through Christ,” as written in Ephesians and Colossians. “Mary, too, is everything she is through Him,” stated the future Pope Benedict XVI, adding that “co-redemptrix” is a departure “from the language of Scripture and of the Fathers, and therefore gives rise to misunderstandings.”

Likewise, in 2019, Pope Francis quoted St. Bernard, who said that no praise is sufficient to talk about Mary, but, ultimately, her title as a humble “disciple” best represents Mary’s faithfulness to “her Son, the only Redeemer.” “She never wanted for herself something that was of her Son,” explained the pontiff. “She never introduced herself as co-redemptrix. No. Disciple.”

Pope Francis reiterated the Church’s position on this matter in 2021, saying that Jesus entrusted the universal Church and all the faithful to Mary, “Not as a goddess. Not as a co-redemptrix. As a mother.” Incidentally, “Mother of God” (Greek: *Theotokos*, “God-bearer”) is Mary’s oldest title, established in 431 by the Council of Ephesus. ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR / DearPadre.org



Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
August 18	August 19	August 20	August 21	August 22	August 23	August 24
Weekday	Weekday	St. Bernard,	St. Pius X, Pope	The Queenship	Weekday	Twenty-first
Jgs 2:11-19	Jgs 6:11-24a	Abbot and	Jgs 11:29-39a	of the Blessed	Ru 2:1-3, 8-11;	Sunday in
Mt 19:16-22	Mt 19:23-30	Doctor of the	Mt 22:1-14	Virgin Mary	4:13-17	Ordinary Time
		Church		Ru 1:1, 3-6,	Mt 23:1-12	Is 66:18-21
		Jgs 9:6-15		14b-16, 22		Heb 12:5-7,
		Mt 20:1-16		Mt 22:34-40		11-13
						Lk 13:22-30



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

The Gospel does not leave things as they are; when the Gospel... is listened to and received, things do not stay as they are. The Gospel provokes change and invites to conversion. It does not dispense a false intimist peace, but sparks a restlessness that sets us in motion and drives us to open ourselves up to God and to our brothers and sisters.

ANGELUS, ROME, AUGUST 14, 2022

Our Parish COMMUNITY

August 17, 2025

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10 / Hebrews 12:1-4 / Luke 12:49-53



Where I Stand

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

One day, as I was walking in a local nature preserve, I came across what someone had written in the sand: “It’s time to take a stand.”

Though the person never suggested what we should take a stand on, all of us take stands in life. In many ways, those stands define our lives: Republican or Democrat, pro-life or pro-choice, NRA and guns, save the whales, vax or anti-vax, ecology. As we all know so well, where we stand on any given issue can become divisive among friends and even family.

The Scriptures this weekend tell of the prophet Jeremiah, who took a stand of faith against the king who trusted in military arms rather than in God. The Letter to

the Hebrews mentions an Old Testament “cloud of witnesses” who placed faith in God without knowing where that would take them. And, Jesus himself recognizes that those who place their faith in him and the vision of life he proclaimed would find themselves in conflict with others. For every person who professes faith in Jesus Christ, the question becomes how this faith affects all the other stands we take. To “keep our eyes fixed on Jesus” influences the lifestyle we choose, how we spend our time and our money, who our friends are, and even who we vote for. At some point, faith insists we take a stand. ●

Reflect

How does my faith affect all my other beliefs and practices?

[Jesus said,] “I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing! There is a baptism with which I must be baptized, and how great is my anguish until it is accomplished!”

LUKE 12:49-50

