

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church Newsletter
September 26, 2021

My Dear Parishioners,

This week we hear from the Book of Numbers. The Book of Numbers is one of the “Five Books of Moses,” and the Five Books of Moses are also known in Greek as the Pentateuch. “Numbers” is the fourth Book of the Holy Bible. Interestingly, the Book takes its name from the census in the beginning of the Book which numbered all of Israel.

The Book of Numbers records Israel’s forty years in the desert after being condemned to wander in the desert until just before passing into the Promised Land.

The number “forty” in Sacred Scripture is a perfect number which indicates a perfect amount of time for God to accomplish part of His plan.

God’s plan was to purify Israel in preparation entering the Promised Land. So, we see the challenges that Israel faced in those forty years as opportunities to make reparation for sin, to grow in virtue, and to confirm oneself to God and His Holy Will. Numbers tells us that those who accepted the challenge were rewarded. Those who rejected the challenge were punished.

In this weekend’s particular passage, we see Moses sharing his work with others. This passage foreshadows the hierarchy of the modern Church with the laity cooperating with and supporting the shepherds appointed by God Himself: the Pope, the Bishops in union with the Pope, Priests, and Deacons, all to bring God’s plan to fulfillment.

What hasn’t changed is that God’s plan is a plan of purification. A plan to purify the Faithful, laity and clergy, to be with Him in our true homeland of Heaven.

Which brings our parish to our new home in the new offices in the Parish Life Center in the old school building. We have settled in nicely.

Please stop in just to say hello and to see the new office space.

We owe a great debt of gratitude to all of those who made this happen, including a very faithful parishioner who donated a great deal of time and materials to make this a very successful transition.

I know a few of you have asked questions about the old rectory. I am still living in the old rectory and it is not up for sale at this time, and there are no immediate plans to do so. If any parish property is ever put up for sale, the entire parish will be notified after consultation with the Finance and Facilities Committee and the Parish Council, as per Canon Law and Archdiocesan Directives.

In this week’s newsletter I have included some wisdom from Padre Pio and also an article about authentic masculinity from the Knights of Columbus.

Let us continue to lay siege to Heaven with our Rosaries and our Chaplets for each other.

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, pray for us!
St. Joseph, Patron of the Church, pray for us!

Fr. Michael J. Pawelko, pastor

Cry Room Update

Given that health officials now say that the Delta Variant is peaking and that things will start improving, the decision has been made to reopen the Cry Room starting this weekend (September 25th & 26th). Please remember that it is a *cry room*, primarily meant for families with small children. Also please remember that it is a confined space, so anyone using the cry room might consider wearing a mask for their own safety and the safety of others.

Lastly, one change from the past, is that there will **not** be a Communion station in the cry room. Anyone using the cry room will be asked to use one of the Communion lines at the front of the church.

Distribution of Holy Communion in Church & Visit to the Homebound Updates

Given that health officials now say that the Delta Variant is peaking and that things will be improving and also in line with recent directives from the Archdiocese, we have decided to make these updates:

- **Communion on the Tongue:** those who wish to receive Holy Communion in the Traditional Way on the Tongue may start going to any line starting the first weekend of October.
- **Low Gluten Host:** Those wishing to receive a low gluten host are still asked to come to one of the Communion Stations in the Center aisle.
- **Visits to the Homebound:** Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will again be permitted to visit the Homebound starting the weekend of October 9th & 10th. The office will be reaching out to those who were on the homebound list in the past. Anyone else who would like to be added to the Homebound list are asked to call the office. The office will then assign an Extraordinary Minister to each of the Homebound.

Pray, Hope, and Don't Worry.

Pio of Pietrelcina

This past week was the Feast of St. Pio of Pietrelcina, better known as Padre Pio. This Italian priest was granted many mystical gifts because of his holiness. We have to remember that those mystical gifts were directed by him for helping others grow in holiness. Interestingly, in helping others grow in holiness, Padre Pio stressed the basics: regular attendance at Mass, regular and worthy reception of Holy Communion, a regular and honest Confession, avoidance of any sin whatsoever, and daily praying of the Rosary. Padre Pio is famous for saying “Pray, Hope, and don't Worry.” Thankfully he left us many other counsels worthy of considering. Here are some of them:

† Always humble yourself lovingly before God and man, because God speaks to those who are truly humble of heart, and enriches them with His gifts.

† Oh, how precious time is! Blessed are those who know how to make good use of it. Oh, if only all could understand how precious time is, undoubtedly everyone would do his best to spend it in a praiseworthy manner!

† In order to attract us, the Lord grants us many graces that we believe can easily obtain Heaven for us. We do not know, however, that in order to grow, we need hard bread: the cross, humiliation, trials and denials.

† Joy, with peace, is the sister of charity. Serve the Lord with laughter.

† In all the free time you have, once you have finished your duties of state, you should kneel down and pray the Rosary. Pray the Rosary before the Blessed Sacrament or before a crucifix.

† Prayer is the best weapon we have; it is the key to God's heart. You must speak to Jesus not only with your lips, but with your heart. In fact on certain occasions you should only speak to Him with your heart.

† Let us bind ourselves tightly to the Sorrowful Heart of our Heavenly Mother and reflect on its boundless grief and how precious is our soul.

† Have courage and do not fear the assaults of the Devil. Remember this forever; it is a healthy sign if the devil shouts and roars around your conscience, since this shows that he is not inside your will.

† Prayer is the oxygen of the soul.

† The longer the trial to which God subjects you, the greater the goodness in comforting you during the time of the trial and in the exaltation after the combat.

† Temptations, discouragement and unrest are the wares offered by the enemy. Remember this: if the devil makes noise it is a sign that he is still outside and not yet within. That which must terrify us is his peace and concord with the human soul. That which comes from Satan begins with calmness and ends in storm, indifference and apathy.

† God enriches the soul which empties itself of everything.

† Do not fear. Jesus is more powerful than all hell. At the invocation of his name every knee in heaven, on earth and in hell must bend before Jesus; this is a consolation for the good and terror for evil.

† Remember that it is not feeling of guilt that constitutes sin but the consent to sin. Only the free will is capable of good or evil. But when the will sighs under the trial of the tempter and does not will what is presented to it, there is not only no fault but there is virtue.

† When you gossip about a person it means that you have removed the person from your heart. But be aware, when you remove a man from your heart, Jesus also goes away from your heart with that man.

† Where there is no obedience there is no virtue, where there is no virtue there is no good, where there is no good there is no love, where there is no love, there is no God, and where there is no God there is no Paradise.

† Don't ever be pleased with yourself because of some goodness that you might discover in yourself, because it all comes to you from God, and to Him must you give the honor and glory.

† Invoke your Guardian Angel who will enlighten you. God gave you your Guardian Angel for this reason. So make use of your Angel's service.

† Walk the way of the Lord in simplicity; do not torment your spirit. Speak the truth, always the truth.

† You should feel at home with sufferings that it pleases Jesus to send you, since you always have to live with them. Acting thus you think less of being freed from them. Jesus who cannot suffer long to keep you in affliction will come to relieve and comfort you by infusing fresh courage into your soul.

† Don't allow the sad sight of human injustice to sadden your soul; someday you will see the unfailing justice of God triumph over it!

† Every Holy Mass, heard with devotion, produces in our souls marvelous effects, abundant spiritual and material graces which we, ourselves, do not know...It is easier for the earth to exist without the sun than without the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass!

† Those strong and generous in heart do not complain except for a strong reason, and even then it does not affect them intimately.

- † If the world could see the beauty of a soul without sin, all sinners, all non-believers would instantly convert (their lives).
- † Some people are so foolish that they think they can go through life without the help of the Blessed Mother. Love the Madonna and pray the rosary, for her Rosary is the weapon against the evils of the world today. All graces given by God pass through the Blessed Mother.
- † Go to the Madonna. Love her! Always say the Rosary. Say it well. Say it as often as you can! Be souls of prayer. Never tire of praying, it is what is essential. Prayer shakes the Heart of God, it obtains necessary graces!
- † The Rosary is the ‘weapon’ for these times.
- † Keep close to the Catholic Church at all times, for the Church alone can give you true peace, since she alone possesses Jesus, the true Prince of Peace, in the Blessed Sacrament.
- † Humility and charity are the master chords that all other virtues depend upon. The one is the lowest, the other the highest. The preservation of the entire edifice depends on the foundation and the roof. If the heart keeps itself directed in the exercise of these, no difficulty will be encountered in the others. These are the mothers of virtue, the others follow them as the chicks do their mother.
- † The life of a Christian is nothing but a perpetual struggle against self; there is no flowering of the soul to the beauty of its perfection except at the price of pain.
- † Pray, hope, and don’t worry. Worry is useless. God is merciful and will hear your prayer.
- † Time spent in honor of God and for the salvation of souls is never badly spent.
- † The Devil is like a mad dog tied by a chain. Beyond the length of the chain he cannot catch hold of anyone. And you, therefore, keep your distance. If you get too close you will be caught. Remember, the Devil has only one door with which to enter into our soul: our will. There are no secret or hidden doors. No sin is a true sin if we have not willfully consented.
- † God will not allow you to be lost if you persist in your determination not to lose Him.
- † Remember: the sinner who is sorry for his sins is closer to God than the just man who boasts of his good works.
- † Have great confidence in God’s goodness and mercy, and He will never abandon you; but don’t neglect to embrace His holy cross because of this.
- † Bear in mind that the more the enemy assaults you, the closer God is to your soul. Think about, and penetrate this great and comforting truth.
- † Keep the conviction that there is a lot of malice in you. Humble yourself, but don’t become distressed.
- † Don’t be daunted by the cross. The surest test of love consists in suffering for the loved one, and if God suffered so much for love, the pain we suffer for Him becomes as lovable as love itself.
- † I wish my voice could reach all sinners: Come to Christ where all is love.



Behold, the Real Man

What is the essence of authentic masculinity?

Columbia Magazine ~ 9/20/2021

Mike Phelan, director of the Office for Marriage and Respect Life in the Diocese of Phoenix, says meeting his wife, Sharon, encouraged him to embrace a true understanding of masculinity — one rooted in sacrifice and prayer. (Spirit Juice Studios)

What does it mean to be a “real man”?

In popular culture, masculinity is too often equated with machismo, measured by traits such as physical power, aggression, pain threshold, alcohol consumption and even coarseness in speech or behavior. Think of your typical action hero or “tough guy” from the movies, and you’ll get the idea.

From a faith perspective, men certainly are called to be heroes, but not in that way. Authentic masculinity is something quite different. We’re called to be heroic in virtue.

“We want to be a hero,” said Matt Birk, a former NFL center, two-time All-Pro and Super Bowl champion. “We want to fight for someone, for somebody, for a cause.”

Dave DiNuzzo, founder of TrueManhood Ministry, defines authentic masculinity as “living for excellence ... living virtue.”

Birk and DiNuzzo were among Catholic leaders interviewed for the “Masculinity” episode of the Into the Breach video series produced by the Knights of Columbus. The series is based on the 2015 pastoral letter by Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted of Phoenix that challenges all Catholic men “to do the work of Christ’s soldiers in the world today.”

For men, that work involves being a provider, protector and spiritual leader — roles that are essential to marriage and fatherhood. And those roles, which all involve meeting the needs of others, demand self-denial and self-sacrifice.

For a model of masculinity, we need look no further than the image of Christ, who gave his life to save us. Men are called to give of themselves similarly for their families, which is why St. Paul exhorts husbands to “love your wives, even as Christ loved the church and handed himself over for her” (Eph 5:25).

“Male spirituality is this call to lay down our lives for our bride,” said Father Burke Masters, director of adult formation in the Diocese of Joliet. “For married men, of course, it’s for your wife and children. For priests, it’s the same thing: I’m called to lay down my life for my bride, the Church, and all my spiritual children.”

Mike Phelan, director of the Office for Marriage and Respect Life in the Diocese of Phoenix, experienced a kind of conversion to a true understanding of masculinity when he met his future wife, Sharon, at the Arizona State University Newman Center. He admits he was too heavily influenced by his peers and lived in a “typical knucklehead college athlete way.” But after meeting Sharon, he focused his life on “becoming the kind of man that was worthy of building a life with her.”

He made new friendships, went deeper into his Catholic faith and prayer, and prepared himself for married life.

“Authentic masculinity would be a man integrating all his God-given powers to become someone who brings life, someone who lays down his life for others, someone who becomes a provider for others, and someone who is, in the spiritual realm, an important leader,” Phelan said.

Sharon said that Mike’s masculine strengths complement her role as a wife and mother.

“We have different strengths, we have different gifts, and we are called to use them in different ways in our family,” Sharon said. When Mike leads with his gifts, she added, “that’s when he’s most himself and most manly.”

Some “macho” traits, properly ordered and understood, come into play in authentic masculinity. For example, a man does need to tolerate pain well because sacrifice for others means suffering for others. And power and aggression can be channeled into vigilance and initiative in protecting his family from anything that might harm or threaten them.

That threat might not come from a physical enemy, explained Scott Hahn, professor of theology at the Franciscan University of Steubenville. “It might not be a soldier or a burglar who’s trying to break into our homes, but it might be the internet,” he said. “We are called, as men, to protect our family.”

Birk stated it plainly: Men must protect their families from the devil. And not just in a defensive way, but as part of an active spiritual battle against evil.

“We have to attack Satan,” he said. “We don’t sit back and just try to ward him off, but we go forward with our faith. We put on the armor of God and every single day try to slay that dragon.”

That all-important battle is how Catholic men, by God’s grace, become heroes of virtue. It might sound like a task that’s too big for us, but this is the role for which truly masculine men of faith are built.

“You are made for greatness,” Mike Phelan said. Because men are made in God’s image, he explained, “You are made for this fight. You are made for this battle.”

To view episodes of the Into the Breach video series and to access the study guide and other resources for promoting the series in your parish, visit kofc.org/intothebreach.



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