



The parish is required to submit a year-end financial statement to the diocese which lays out income and expense and compares it to the zero balance budget sent in at the beginning of the fiscal year. A synopsis of that report was in the bulletin which I hope everyone examined carefully. There are a couple of significant points to make regarding the report.

The parish ended the year "in the black," which is to say we had a surplus of income over expenses. That's always good news but this year it isn't as good as it could be. The surplus came in from sources other than the Sunday collection; a large part of it was the final instalment of the government program to assist with issues occurring during Covid when nobody was allowed to come to church. There are no more wind-falls like that down the road; consequently what makes our report look good won't be there to do the same next year.

If you paid close attention to the part of the report covering Sunday collections, you'll have noticed that we fell far short of the budget; when compared to expenses, we faced a rather significant loss for the year. Obviously, that's not good: Sunday collections should support all of the ordinary expenses of operating the parish. That would include utilities to keep the church lit and warm in winter, ordinary maintenance such as yard work, cleaning, minor repairs and the like, payroll for our employees, taxes, increases and pretty much the same things any family has to cover at their own home. Even when we add in other income streams like weddings and funeral fees, unfortunately we still fell short.

The Finance Committee is concerned about this shortfall; if we can't meet our ordinary expenses from ordinary income, we will begin to shrink our savings which are there to address major expenses which are necessitated by things going wrong at our aging buildings. Each year we try to increase the savings via the Preservation Society but in recent years, donations to the Society have been minimal and did not come close to covering expenses including the church tower repairs, the marble reattachment in the sanctuary and repairs to the flashing up on the roof. Our savings diminished significantly to address those problems: others loom, like a new roof to replace the quarter century old asphalt shingles up there now. Non-emergency upgrades, like air conditioning or repair of the pews, cannot be contemplated given the pressure on our funds.

Certainly, many parishioners are doing their best to contribute generously to the parish and its ministries. However, many more are not. I ask that all of those reading this letter who are not dropping anything into the collection each week consider a gift of \$10.00 per week to lend an all-important hand in making income meet expenses. That would not only help prevent a shortfall but grow our collection so that we can set aside something every week for the preservation of our magnificent church property. For those already contributing, consider what inflation has done to our weekly receipts. If possible, consider a small increase in your own giving. Together we can address the future with confidence and tackle many of the issues which are out there. Thanks for those who give, and thanks for taking the time to read and consider this letter. Have faith that we are working hard to manage parish finances as effectively as possible.

Thank you for your help,

Msgr. Chris

Potluck on the Patio with Monsignor

On Friday, August 14th at 6:30 PM

Come and join us for great food, fellowship and conversations

Hamburgers and Hotdogs on the grill will be provided!

All that you need to do is sign-up and let us know what potluck dish you will
be bringing

Also, beverages are not provided so please bring your own!

Jeanne and/or Grant will be available after 10:00 AM Mass to sign up on
August 2nd and 9th

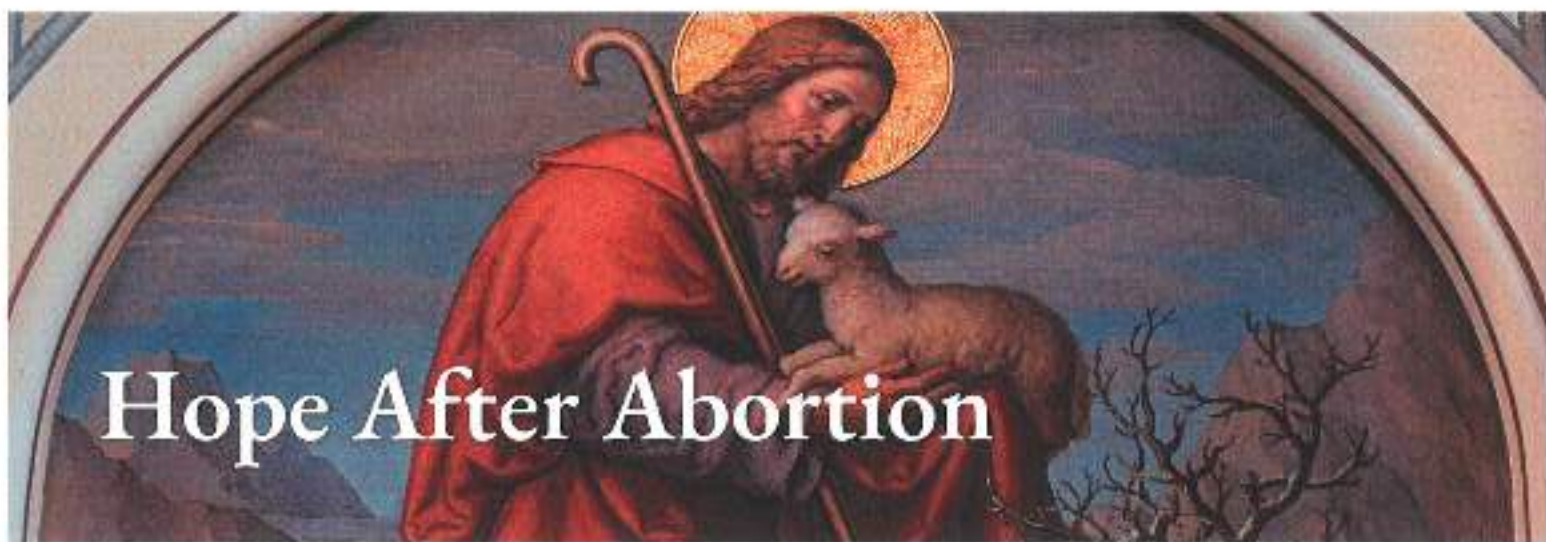
Not able to sign up after Mass?

Text or call Jeanne at 419-410-7065

leave a message and she will return your text or voice mail as soon as she
can*

It is always a good time
We look forward to seeing you!!





Hope After Abortion

A reading from the Gospel of Luke (15:1-7).

The tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to Jesus, but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." So Jesus addressed this parable to them. "What man among you having a hundred sheep and losing one of them would not leave the ninety-nine in the desert and go after the lost one until he finds it? And when he does find it,

he sets it on his shoulders with great joy and, upon his arrival home, he calls together his friends and neighbors and says to them, 'Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you, in just the same way there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance."

Let us reflect...

The figure of the shepherd is a central image used throughout Scripture. Traditionally, shepherds were wholly entrusted to care for and protect the sheep of their flock. The shepherd guarded the sheep day and night from robbers, thieves, and wolves, requiring them to live in the fields among the sheep and often isolated from the community.

Shepherds were seen as poor and lowly, living on the margins of society. Yet despite their humble status, they devoted their entire lives to the constant care of the flock, often enduring harsh conditions and danger, putting their own lives at risk to defend and tend to the sheep.

In the Gospels, Jesus tells us, "I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me" (Jn 10:14). Because the shepherd lives his life among the flock, the sheep know the familiar sound of his voice, allowing them to trust and follow the shepherd who calls them by name.

In contrast to the Good Shepherd, Jesus tells us that, "A hired man, who is not a shepherd and whose sheep are not his own, sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf catches and scatters them" (Jn 10:12). But the Good Shepherd never abandons his flock. The "essential trait" of the Good Shepherd is that he lays down his life for the sheep, symbolizing Christ himself who offers his very life for us on the Cross.¹

The Prophet Ezekiel tells us, "For thus says the Lord God: Look! I myself will search for my sheep and examine them...I will deliver them from every place where they are scattered on the day of dark clouds...I myself will pasture my sheep; I myself will give them rest....The lost I will search out, the strays I will bring back, the injured I will bind up, and the sick I will heal" (Ez 34:11-12, 15, 16).

When we have lost our way and find ourselves brought low by sin and suffering, we can know with

confidence that the Lord will never abandon us. No matter what sins we have committed or how many times we have chosen to separate ourselves from the flock, we can know that Christ's mercy and kindness await us. There is nothing we can do, no sin so great, that cannot be overcome with the infinite mercy of Christ. Jesus searches for us when we are lost and our lives seem to be consumed by the darkness. As Pope Benedict XVI reminded us, Christ "never tires of coming to meet us, he is always the first to set out on the path that separates us from him."²

As the Good Shepherd, God will leave the ninety-nine to seek us out and bring us back to Himself. And when he finds us—lost, hurt, hungry, alone, full of shame, without hope—he picks us up, lays us upon his shoulders, and, with joy, carries us to safe pastures. When we are too weak to lift ourselves up, we can find comfort in the strong shoulders of the Good Shepherd bearing us home. We need only to listen for the voice of the shepherd, tenderly calling us by name, repent, and ask the Lord to free us from our sin.

God desires to take the greatest of sinners and transform them into the greatest of saints. No sin is beyond his mercy. He makes "*all things new*" (Rev 21:5). 'This is why there is more rejoicing over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine who have no need of repentance.

When we arrive safely home, the shepherd calls together his friends and neighbors to celebrate his joy in our return. All of Heaven rejoices in our homecoming, because once we were lost, but now we have been found.

Therefore, because of God's unwavering mercy, we can proclaim, "*The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I lack. In green pastures he makes me lie down; to still waters he leads me; he restores my soul. He guides me along right paths for the sake of his name. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff comfort me*" (Ps 23:1-4).

Often one may feel as though they have committed the 'unforgivable sin' and it's easy for them to think that mercy and forgiveness is for other people, and that God could never want them. Please know that the Church is here to offer you the endless mercy and forgiveness that our Lord has for you. Even in your darkest moments, He desires you. His mercy awaits you in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Project Rachel Ministry is a confidential ministry of the Catholic Church that offers God's mercy, hope and healing to those who have been involved in abortion.

If you or someone you know is suffering after an abortion experience, confidential, non-judgmental help is available from Project Rachel Ministry. Visit the "Find Help" map on HopeAfterAbortion.org to find your nearest diocesan Project Rachel Ministry.

May Christ's peace be with you.

¹ Pope Benedict XVI, Homily, April 29, 2012: https://www.vatican.va/content/benedict-xvi/en/homilies/2012/documents/hf_ben-xvi_hom_20120429_andreaziani.html.

² Pope Benedict XVI, Angelus, September 12, 2010: https://www.vatican.va/content/benedict-xvi/en/angelus/2010/documents/hf_ben-xvi_ang_20100912.html.

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JOIN US FOR THE FIRST

YOUNG CATHOLIC PROFESSIONALS TOLEDO PICNIC

HOSTED BY BISHOP DANIEL THOMAS
AT THE EPISCOPAL RESIDENCE

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28TH

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

2544 Parkwood Ave.
Toledo, OH 43610



DETAILS:

- Open to YCP Members and non-members in their 20-30s
- Dress code: business casual
- Registration in advance is required no later than August 21st
- The event is rain or shine
- Dinner, drinks, and yard games provided
- To RSVP and for more event details, please go to www.youngcatholicprofessionals.org/chapter/toledo



YOUNG CATHOLIC
PROFESSIONALS
Working in Witness for Christ™



RSVP!



This Week on Formed

Week of August 09, 2026



Triumph of the Heart

In the harrowing confines of Auschwitz's starvation cell, Catholic priest St. Maximilian Kolbe volunteers to die in place of another prisoner, joining nine others condemned by the Nazis.



The New Eve | Lectio: Mary | Episode 1

The Book of Genesis begins with the story of Adam and Eve, whose sin of disobedience breaks their relationship with God. God does not abandon his people, but gradually prepares them for the coming of his Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus, the promised "seed" of Genesis 3:15 is the "New Adam," and his mother, the promised "woman," is the "New Eve."



Clare and Francis

This outstanding movie is unique among films about St. Francis because of the historical accuracy of the story and its authentic spirit of joy and piety so characteristic of Francis, as well as the major role played by Clare. Both founded major religious orders, and together they inspired many to follow their radical call to live the Gospel.

Our parish has a Formed subscription.
Visit signup.formed.org and select our parish name.

An offering from the  BASILICA OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

help a child

When you sponsor through Unbound, you help a child and family achieve their God-given potential. You walk with them on their path out of poverty.

encourage a youth

Getting an education can be especially hard for young people faced with poverty. Your support provides financial resources and encouragement. It says, "I believe in you."

befriend an elder

Elders often experience challenges related to nutrition, health and social isolation. Your support helps an elder with needs like food, health care, home visits and group activities.

sponsor today

We're all part of one human family created in God's image. As a sponsor, you'll get the satisfaction of knowing you're living your faith as part of a caring community. You'll learn about your new friend from letters and photos, and you can write and send photos, too!



I want to sponsor:

- ☐ Any child ☐ Girl ☐ Boy ☐ Youth ☐ Elder
- ☐ I would like to contribute through my bank account or credit card (see reverse).
- ☐ Enclosed is my first monthly contribution of \$45.
(Please do not send cash. Make checks payable to Unbound.)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Mobile phone (_____) _____ Email _____

(We'll call or text you with important updates.)

Parish _____



You can also sponsor online at unbound.org, call (800) 875-6564 or scan the QR code.

MAIL TO:

Unbound, P.O. Box 660005, Dallas, TX 75266-0005



UNBOUND

"I hope to achieve the goals that I want by helping others and helping to make the world a better place. It's a big task but I want to take it one day at a time ... one person at a time."

— Mai Whelan, Unbound sponsor



To select someone to sponsor, visit the information table after Mass, scan the QR code or call (800) 875-6564.



WHO WE ARE

Unbound is an international nonprofit founded by lay Catholics and grounded in the Gospel call to put the needs of the marginalized and vulnerable first. We build relationships of mutual respect that bridge cultural, economic and religious divides. We work side by side with people of diverse faith traditions in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

HOW WE WORK

We believe the surest path out of poverty is a self-directed one. Sponsored individuals and families use your support to work toward goals like education, dignified housing, better nutrition and developing livelihoods. Mothers lead the way in our programs through active participation in small groups. From accessing microloans to starting small businesses and forming their own credit cooperatives, mothers are creating paths to self-sufficiency for their families.

HIGHLY RATED STEWARDSHIP

Our commitment to excellent financial stewardship of the funds you entrust to us earns Unbound top ratings from independent charity evaluators.



AUTOMATIC BANK WITHDRAWAL

I hereby authorize a direct debit from my checking account each month for payment to Unbound. (Please attach voided check.)

Routing #

Account #

Amount \$ 00

Authorized Signature Date

You may cancel this agreement anytime by contacting Unbound at (800) 875-6564. Please allow 2 business days to cancel.

CREDIT CARD AUTHORIZATION

I authorize Unbound to charge my credit card in the amount of:

☐ \$45 Monthly ☐ \$135 Quarterly ☐ \$270 Semi-annually ☐ \$540 Annually

Card #

Expiration date /

Cardholder name

Signature Date

So that we may process and provide a receipt for your contribution, please complete this contact information section on the front of this form.

Please print clearly.

