Welcome to St. William Fr. John Hourican

August 2020

August is often considered the transitional month in our seasonal calendar. It is the time of the year we begin to wind-down from our summer travels and vacations and prepare for Autumn — back to school, fall festivals, harvest time, etc. The Church in her holy wisdom has provided a cycle of events in its liturgical year which allow the faithful to celebrate the major feasts in the life of Christ and Mary.

Most notably, during August, we celebrate the feast of the Transfiguration (August 6) and the feast of the Assumption (August 15).

With many blessings and prayers from our staff!
Rev. John Hourican (Fr. John)
Deacon Jimmy Schmall
Debi Yetman—Adult Catechesis
Lisa Schmidt—RCIA
Debbie Breckenridge—DRE
Janna Dominguez—Dir. Youth Ministry
Rick Miller—Grand Knight
Mary Heburn—Women’s Club Pres.
Blessings all! I hope this finds everyone well. I hope everyone is still social distancing, wearing masks, and washing hands, and looking out for your neighbor. It seems hard to believe that August is upon us already. And while these past few months have seen many changes at St. William, please note we will see some more in August.

As you have heard by now Fr. Mike has been assigned as Pastor of Incarnation Church in Collierville. He has been our pastor for the last three years and while his leaving is sad, we pray for him and wish him well in his new assignment. What started out as a pastor/deacon relationship has turned into a great friendship for me, and I know that we will all miss him.

With his departure, we welcome Fr. John Hourican. You may remember Fr. John when he was Pastor of St. Alphonsus in Covington a few years ago. Again, as sad as it is to see Fr. Mike leave, I think we will like Fr. John. Let us give him a big St. William welcome! And let us give him a month or two to acclimate himself!

On August 10, we celebrate the Feast of St. Lawrence, Deacon and Martyr. I have shared his story with you before, but it is worth repeating. In the third century in Rome, St. Lawrence was ordained a Deacon and assigned as one of the seven deacons of Rome. He was entrusted with the church’s treasury with the express task of helping the poor. When Rome was sacked, the Prefect of Rome instructed St. Stephen to bring to him all the treasures of the church. St. Lawrence gave everything away and presented the Prefect with the poorest of the poor. St. Lawrence was martyred for his act.

In keeping with the tradition of St. Lawrence of helping those in need, through your generosity, we have been able to help many families over the past few months. Through your generosity of food donations and anonymous monetary donations, the St. Lawrence Pantry/Fund is doing what it was intended to do. That is to help parishioners and others in our community in need. Speaking of community outreach, we have also been able to help the good folks at the Millington Food Pantry at the First United Methodist Church. Our parish always steps up when called upon, and these past few months have been no exception. So, a big THANK YOU from your Deacon!

While we are not accepting food donations at this time due to Covid-19 restrictions if you wish to make a monetary donation we will gladly accept. Cash or check is good. Make checks payable to St. William Catholic Church. On the memo line of the check please specify “St. Lawrence Fund”. You may drop your cash or check off at the church office anytime. Thanks in advance.

We have gotten good attendance at Mass the past few weeks. For the time being, we will continue to have Mass in the FLC. If you attend in person please continue to practice social distancing, wear your mask, and wash/sanitize your hands.

God Bless You!

Deacon Jim
My Dear Friends

When I was installed as Pastor here 3 years ago by Bishop Holley, he prayed over me and said these words: "Remember, my brother Michael, always be a loving father, a gentle shepherd, and a wise teacher of your people, so that you may lead them to Christ who will strengthen all that you do.” I then turned to face all of you, my parishioners and led you all in the Creed. After reciting the Creed, I then turned back to Bishop Holley and stated an oath that said that I believe, profess, and hold true everything contained in God’s Word, the Tradition of the Catholic Church, and the teachings of the Holy Father, the College of Bishops and the authentic magisterium of the Church. After I made that declaration and signed the oath, the Bishop then led us in the Prayers of the faithful, specifically praying for me and for you, and closed by saying this prayer:

“Gracious God, you have nourished and protected your Church by providing it with pastors who are stewards of your word and sacraments. Strengthen our brother Michael, as he begins a new ministry among us, and help us all to follow your Son, Jesus Christ, who is Lord, for ever and ever. Amen.”

I have been a pastor at St. Paul in Whitehaven, Sacred Heart in Humboldt, St. Matthew in Milan, Holy Spirit in East Memphis, and St. William in Millington. But this was the only time I was ever formally installed by the Bishop as the Pastor in a liturgical rite. At the time, I thought it was just a formality, and that the letter I received which stated that I was made pastor, and taking possession of the parish was enough. But as a Pastor, I am a Vicar of the Bishop, I am his representative to all of you. To receive his Blessings and your prayers in his presence was a very powerful moment, one that ranks right up there with my ordination. Maybe that is why leaving here is so difficult for me. It is not just because you welcomed me with such great love and have my life so joyful. I truly believe it is because of the graces which flow through your lives and your prayers for me and for all of you.

I hope and pray that my presence and time with you has had the same effect. I pray that I have been the “loving father, gentle shepherd, and wise teacher” that you have needed. I hope that I have led you to Christ and have truly led you in faith. I know that I have seen Christ shine forth from so many of you. That is why Msgr. Creary and Fr. Burke both told me I would love it here, not because pastoring you has been so easy and comfortable, but because you are such great fonts of God’s grace. I know I am a holier priest now because of you than I was when I got here, and I know I am closer to heaven because of you. It is also because of you and your prayers and presence, that I was able to say yes to Bishop Talley’s request to move to Incarnation. Much like Mary’s “Yes” to God because she was “full of grace”, I was able to say “yes” to the Church because you have poured grace into my heart. I leave you with a heavy heart, but I also leave you knowing that you have prepared me for whatever God is calling me to do. It was necessary for me to come to Millington, it was truly God’s will, and now that I have been blessed, I am sent out again, strengthened by your love and filled with joy, ready for whatever God has in store. I thank and praise God that He called me to be a steward of His Word and Sacraments to all of you, but I also thank God and all of you for your great ministry to me. Once again, God knew what was written on my heart and what would make me happy, I will treasure and love you always! God Bless! -Fr. Mike
It is getting to be that time when we start preparing our kids to go back to school. I know everything is up in the air due to the Virus and we haven’t gotten settled in a new normal yet. I don’t have any idea of what that will look like, but we must move forward and prepare the best we can for what we think will happen. As of right now, without any other guidance from the diocese, we are planning on starting back to our PRE classes the Sunday after Labor day (Sept 13th). I will be doing in person registration in the FLC on August 16th and 23rd as of right now. The registration forms can be printed from our website or picked up in the parish office or FLC. They can be filled out and sent back to me in all the ways listed below:

- Drop off at the parish office any time during the week during business hours
- Drop off at parish office in the mail box if after business hours or during lunch (please call or text me if you do this so I can grab them out of the mail box)
- Put in the collection basket on Sunday with my name on the envelope
- Scan and email them back to me (debbiebreckenridge@earthlink.net) ***preferred method***
- Fax them to 866-335-2765
- Give to me personally anytime it is convenient for you. Just call me to work out the details (901-359-7063)

PLEASE NOTE!! Only one family form needs to be filled out per family and one student form PER child attending classes. If your child is to receive their First Communion or Confirmation this year I must have their Baptismal certificate for them to even register. Please send that as well...no exceptions.

I need to get the registration forms in so I can get the books ordered and in before class starts. Please don’t delay.

I am also going to institute an “At Home Program” for those of you that may still feel uncomfortable or nervous about gather the children together. This will also require the same forms as regular PRE registration. I hope as time go by they will end up joining their peers in class at some point. They will work the same book as they would if they were coming to PRE classes and the class work will need to be turned in at certain dates throughout the school year so they can be held accountable for the material. If your child is in a sacramental year we will need to have a personal discussion about this. As I said...this is new to all of us and we will have to work through any issues as we come upon them.

Please know that your child’s safety and the safety of the fabulous volunteer catechist are of our utmost concern and priority. As it gets closer to time and I have some additional guidance from the diocese and Father John, I will be back in touch with a more detailed look at what our PRE year is going to look like. Regardless...we need to get the kids registered so please don’t delay. Watch your email and the bulletins for updates and as always...contact me with any questions!

All My Best!

Debbie Breckenridge
901-359-7063
The Early Church Fathers

If you have ever participated in Catholic Studies or even Bible Studies, often references are made to the Church Fathers or Doctors of the Church. Have you wondered who these people are and how do they have these titles or are part of these distinguished groups? This month let’s look at the first of these two groups of people within the Church and understand how blessed we are to have had them be on fire with their faith and understanding of Christ.

The Church Fathers are made up of two groups. The first are the Apostolic Fathers. These are the first and second-century writers who associated personally with the apostles. Their writing genuinely reflect the teachings of the apostles (apostolic teachings). The Apostolic Fathers are:

**Saint Clement**: He was the 4th Pope and the author of the Letter from the Church of Rome to the Church of Corinth.

**Saint Ignatius**: The Bishop of Antioch and the 3rd Pope. He was a disciple of Saint John and wrote letters to the Ephesians, Magnesians, Trallians, Romans, Philadelphians and the Smyraeans. He also wrote to Polycarp, the Bishop of Smyrna.

**Saint Polycarp**: The Bishop of Smyrna. He also was a disciple of Saint John. He is the author of a letter to Philippians.

**The Author of the Didache**: A church manual and liturgical document which contains teachings of the Apostles, particularly the prayer priests say to this day while preparing the gifts during the Liturgy of the Eucharist – “Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation. Through your Goodness we have this...”

The next group are the Sub-apostolic. They did not know the apostles, but new of their teachings from the Apostolic Fathers:

**Saint Justin Martyr**: A layman, he is known for his apologist writings. The First Apology defends the morality of the Christian life and provided various ethical and philosophical arguments to convince the Roman emperor (Antonius) to end the persecution of the Church.

**Saint Irenaeus**: A Greek bishop who is noted for his role in guiding and expanding Christian communities in what is now the south of France. He is known for developing Christian theology by combating heresy (specifically Gnosticism) and defining orthodoxy.

**Saint Cyprian**: A Bishop of Carthage, he wrote many letters condemning the Novatian heresy.

Next month we will look at “The Four Great Fathers of the Church”.

For Everyone From: Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults
From the Grand Knight:

What are the Knights up to?

1. Labor Day BBQ Butts fundraiser. Charity is our primary core value, and it costs money. With the pandemic and the restrictions encountered we have not been able to raise money with our normal activities to support our charitable activities so our capacity for charity is slowly dwindling. Our nearest fundraiser event is the Labor Day weekend BBQ butt sale to raise some cash for charity because we are so restricted. The Diocese will allow us to prepare and sell food for pickup only and that’s what we are going to do. Contact Mark Miller (901-870-3925) either by text or phone to reserve your BBQ. We will buy the meat needed based on the reservations made so please ensure you reserve yours to ensure you get one. When we BBQ the butts, drive by to see how much we smoke the Parish grounds up with delicious smelling BBQ coming from several Knight’s cookers. Keeping social distance, you can yell encouragement or good natured insults at your choosing to the Knights as they cook your food.

2. Special Olympics: Rudy Bernil has consistently kept us abreast of Special Olympic activities and this year is no exception. There will be opportunities coming up to support Special Olympic activities in late summer/early fall. These events have traditionally been a hit, both for the Knights who work them and the Olympians we meet and support. We will be flexible in how we support these events because the organizers heading them up are under restrictions similar to us. Non Knights are encouraged to participate in this rewarding activity, more to follow as dates/times for specific events are given to us. Thank you Rudy!

What we Knights SHOULD be doing:

1. Come to Mass when and where possible allowing for your personal restrictions/ health issues. Wear your Knights badge. Give the new Grand Knight the business because he often forgets his..... Hand out one of the recruiting cards to people you don’t know. If you need cards, let me know and I will get them to you.

2. Stay in contact with your brother Knights. It gets easier and easier to fall through the cracks and sit on the couch while not attending Mass each week and not going to the meetings. Fight that feeling however you can and reach out to another Knight, even if just to tell a bad joke or hurl a good natured insult. Contact is important.

3. Come to the meetings: We are currently meeting in the Family Life Center to allow for social distancing and we still meet the first Thursday of each month at 7PM. Meetings last 1 hour (if they threaten to last longer, you can just barely see the Grand Knight’s carotid artery throb....)

Vivat Jesus!
The Wild Goose on Zoom

Join us on Wednesday afternoon at 4:30 PM on Zoom for 14 weeks with Fr. Dave Pivonka, TOR.

Be prepared to welcome the Holy Spirit into your life! We received the Holy Spirit when we were Baptized and at our Confirmation, we received the gifts. Now, as adults, we pray “Come Holy Spirit, come. Enter our hearts and minds to help us to understand what we are about to see and hear.”

This class will be over “Zoom”, an online meeting room. I will send an email with the link to the meeting room the morning of class. You don’t need to be a member to or sign up for Zoom to participate. Follow the prompts and you will be there! You will need to say “yes” to audio and video in order to participate fully. There will be a 30 minute video followed by discussion. I will send you, in an email, the PDF version of the study guide. There is only one page per session. You can participate even if you don’t print it.

If you are interested, please email or call Debi Yetman at 901.487.6390 or debi.yetman@gmail.com
The Feast of the Assumption of our Blessed Mother, Mary

The Assumption is the oldest feast day of Our Lady, but we don't know how it first came to be celebrated. Its origin is lost in those days when Jerusalem was restored as a sacred city, at the time of the Roman Emperor Constantine (c. 285-337). By then it had been a pagan city for two centuries, ever since Emperor Hadrian (76-138) had leveled it around the year 135 and rebuilt it as Aelia Capitolina in honor of Jupiter.

For 200 years, every memory of Jesus was obliterated from the city, and the sites made holy by His life, death and Resurrection became pagan temples.

After the building of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in 336, the sacred sites began to be restored and memories of the life of Our Lord began to be celebrated by the people of Jerusalem. One of the memories about his mother centered around the "Tomb of Mary," close to Mount Zion, where the early Christian community had lived.

On the hill itself was the "Place of Dormition," the spot of Mary's "falling asleep," where she had died. The "Tomb of Mary" was where she was buried.

At this time, the "Memory of Mary" was being celebrated. Later it was to become our feast of the Assumption.

For a time, the "Memory of Mary" was marked only in Palestine, but then it was extended by the emperor to all the churches of the East. In the seventh century, it began to be celebrated in Rome under the title of the "Falling Asleep" ("Dormitio") of the Mother of God.

Soon the name was changed to the "Assumption of Mary," since there was more to the feast than her dying. It also proclaimed that she had been taken up, body and soul, into heaven.

That belief was ancient, dating back to the apostles themselves. What was clear from the beginning was that there were no relics of Mary to be venerated, and that an empty tomb stood on the edge of Jerusalem near the site of her death. That location also soon became a place of pilgrimage. (Today, the Benedictine Abbey of the Dormition of Mary stands on the spot.)

At the Council of Chalcedon in 451, when bishops from throughout the Mediterranean world gathered in Constantinople, Emperor Marcian asked the Patriarch of Jerusalem to bring the relics of Mary to Constantinople to be enshrined in the capitol. The patriarch explained to the emperor that there were no relics of Mary in Jerusalem, that "Mary had died in the presence of the apostles; but her tomb, when opened later . . . was found empty and so the apostles concluded that the body was taken up into heaven."

In the eighth century, St. John Damascene was known for giving sermons at the holy places in Jerusalem. At the Tomb of Mary, he expressed the belief of the Church on the meaning of the feast: "Although the body was duly buried, it did not remain in the state of death, neither was it dissolved by decay. . . . You were transferred to your heavenly home, O Lady, Queen and Mother of God in truth."

All the feast days of Mary mark the great mysteries of her life and her part in the work of redemption. The central mystery of her life and person is her divine motherhood, celebrated both at Christmas and a week later (Jan. 1) on the feast of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. The Immaculate Conception (Dec. 8) marks the preparation for that motherhood, so that she had the fullness of grace from the first moment of her existence, completely untouched by sin. Her whole being throbbed with divine life from the very beginning, readying her for the exalted role of mother of the Savior.

The Assumption completes God's work in her since it was not fitting that the flesh that had given life to God himself should ever undergo corruption. The Assumption is God's crowning of His work as Mary ends her earthly life and enters eternity. The feast turns our eyes in that direction, where we will follow when our earthly life is over.

The feast days of the Church are not just the commemoration of historical events; they do not look only to the past. They look to the present and to the future and give us an insight into our own relationship with God. The Assumption looks to eternity and gives us hope that we, too, will follow Our Lady when our life is ended.

In 1950, in the Apostolic Constitution Munificentissimus Deus, Pope Pius XII proclaimed the Assumption of Mary a dogma of the Catholic Church in these words: "The Immaculate Mother of God, the ever-virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heaven."

With that, an ancient belief became Catholic doctrine and the Assumption was declared a truth revealed by God.

Excerpted from Fr. Clifford Stevens in Catholic Heritage
The Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord

This feast became widespread in the West in the 11th century and was introduced into the Roman calendar in 1457 to commemorate the victory over Islam in Belgrade. Before that, the Transfiguration of the Lord was celebrated in the Syrian, Byzantine, and Coptic rites. The Transfiguration foretells the glory of the Lord as God, and His Ascension into heaven. It anticipates the glory of heaven, where we shall see God face to face. Through grace, we already share in the divine promise of eternal life.

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Our divine Redeemer, being in Galilee about a year before His sacred Passion, took with him St. Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, Sts. James and John, and led them to a retired mountain. Tradition assures us that this was Mount Tabor, which is exceedingly high and beautiful, and was anciently covered with green trees and shrubs, and was very fruitful. It rises something like a sugar-loaf, in a vast plain in the middle of Galilee. This was the place in which the Man-God appeared in His glory.

While Jesus prayed, he suffered that glory which was always due to his sacred humility, and of which, for our sake, He deprived it, to diffuse a ray over His whole body. His face was altered and shone as the sun, and his garments became white as snow. Moses and Elias were seen by the three apostles in his company on this occasion, and were heard discoursing with him of the death which he was to suffer in Jerusalem.

The three apostles were wonderfully delighted with this glorious vision, and St. Peter cried out to Christ, "Lord, it is good for us to be here. Let us make three tents: one for thee, one for Moses, and one for Elias" While St. Peter was speaking, there came, on a sudden, a bright shining cloud from heaven, an emblem of the presence of God’s majesty, and from out of this cloud was heard a voice which said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him" The apostles that were present, upon hearing this voice, were seized with a sudden fear, and fell upon the ground; but Jesus, going to them, touched them, and bade them to rise. They immediately did so, and saw no one but Jesus standing in his ordinary state.

This vision happened in the night. As they went down the mountain early the next morning, Jesus bade them not to tell any one what they had seen till he should be risen from the dead.

Excerpted from Butler’s Lives of the Saints, Benziger Bros. ed. [1894]

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In the Transfiguration, Christ enjoyed for a short while that glorified state which was to be permanently His after His Resurrection on Easter Sunday. The splendor of His inward Divinity and of the Beatific Vision of His soul overflowed on His body, and permeated His garments so that Christ stood before Peter, James, and John in a snow-white brightness. The purpose of the Transfiguration was to encourage and strengthen the Apostles who were depressed by their Master's prediction of His own Passion and Death. The Apostles were made to understand that His redeeming work has two phases: The Cross, and glory—that we shall be glorified with Him only if we first suffer with Him.

— Rt. Rev. Msgr. Rudolph G. Bandas
### AUGUST

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### MATTHEW 14:22-33

It’s worth observing that things don’t get scary for the disciples until Jesus shows up. This is an insight, perhaps, on our own willingness to muddle through with our own half-baked agendas and find God’s intervention in our lives to be what any intervention is: a confrontation with our own sin and a pain in the a**. And that, friends and neighbors, is what we call “the deep end.”
FLAME OF LOVE PRAYER CENACLE

“We are blessed to meet in person again. ALSO, we have a virtual meeting, as well. We will be using two rooms in the Family Life Center and be keeping socially distanced on August Sundays, the 9th and the 23rd from 8:45 to 10:45 AM between the masses on the above dates. The virtual prayer cenacle will be at 2 PM every Sunday. Contact Teresa Elliott at 901-604-7225. Newcomers welcome! Please join us!

“My Adorable Jesus,
May our feet journey together.
May our hands gather in unity.
May our hearts beat in unison.
May our souls be in harmony.
May our thoughts be as one.
May our ears listen to the silence together.
May our glances profoundly penetrate each other.
May our lips pray together to gain mercy from the Eternal Father. Amen.”

Come deepen your faith and prayer life! Learn about and pray the devotion “Flame of Love” given by Jesus and Mary to Elizabeth Kindelmann of Hungary between 1961 and 1983 as written in her diary. The Flame of Love Movement has the Apostolic Blessing of Pope Francis, was encouraged by Pope John Paul II, and received the Imprimatur number 494-4/2009 from Cardinal Peter Erdo, Archbishop of Estergom-Budapest and Primate of Hungary. Since then the diary has received the Imprimatur by numerous bishops in various jurisdictions including Archbishop Charles Chaput in Philadelphia, the Fountainhead of this Movement in the United States. The Diary will be provided to participants.

PLEASE JOIN US! Call Teresa Elliott for any questions at 901-604-7225

Please join us for Bunco on the third Friday of each month. We meet at 7:00 and start rolling at 7:30. NO WORRIES if you have never played! No skill involved, just a desire to have a good time and get to know your fellow parishioners. Call Debbie Breckenridge with any questions or if you need a ride 901-359-7063.
Crossword Puzzle—Apostles

**Across**

3. “The Twin”
4. “what happened that you will reveal yourself to us and not to the world?” (Jn 1:4)
8. Son of Alpheus (Alpheus): ... the ...
9. Former tax-collector
10. Brother of First Pope
12. Replaced Judas

**Down**

1. “Master, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us”
2. Nathanael
4. Betrayer
5. Apostle of the Gentiles
6. First Pope
7. Zealot
8. Guardian of Jesus’ Mother
11. Brother of Apostle John