



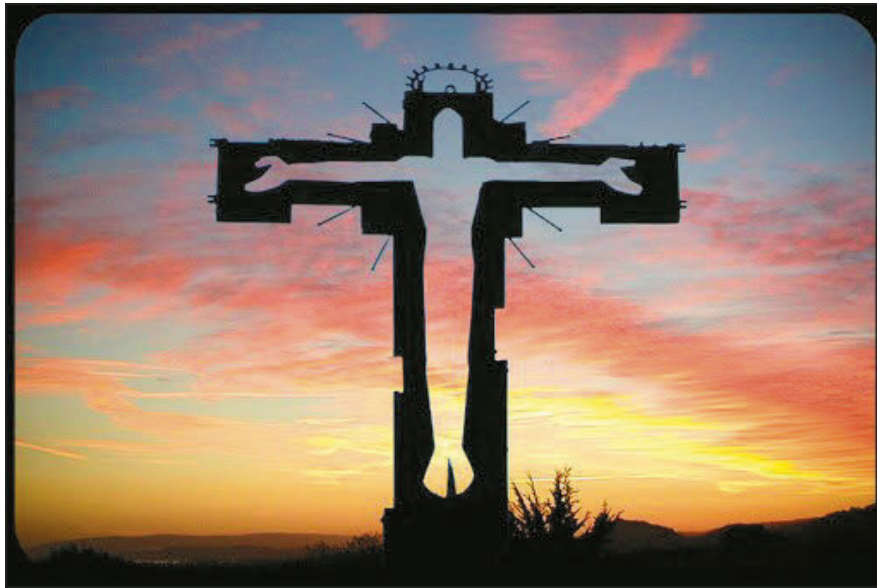
# Blessed Trinity

## Weekend Magazine

Over 60 YEARS COURAGEOUSLY *Living the Gospel*

September 3, 2023 ▪ The Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

## “Take Up Your Cross!”



*A message not calculated to win friends, but one that Christians must heed.*

The passing of time has a way of smoothing out rough and jagged edges of all sorts in life, often in very beneficial ways. Stones in a stream get jostled about and become beautifully smooth. Painful experiences in life diminish in our memory, allowing us to move beyond them. The inexperience and brashness of youth becomes tempered with age and wisdom.

Still, there are times when smoothing “rough edges” can be a harmful mistake, especially when it’s done to something that was never intended to be smooth. One of those instances can be seen in today’s Gospel.

Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.” (Matt 16:24) Do we really stop to think about how clear, how radical, and how shockingly jagged that statement must have been to the disciples? These men and women wanted to follow Christ, and He is telling them they must take up a cross to do so!

Here is where time and familiarity have not served us well. We think of a cross as a pious symbol, one that shows us what love and salvation look like. That is perfectly correct, but it is only half of the story (the most important half, but half nonetheless). What this image often excludes, at least in our imagination, are the demands the cross.

Remember that, for the disciples hearing this, the cross was a symbol of absolute suffering, shame, pain and despair. To be put upon the cross was the worse kind of death, reserved for the most terrible crimes. This conversation happened before the Lord’s passion and resurrection, so the disciples could

*Continued next page . . .*



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Rev. Wayne C. Genereux

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Deacon Lionel Roberts,  
Deacon Emeritus

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Fr. Jack McDowell, OFM  
Fr. Anthony Fortunato, OdeM  
Fr. Victor Bartolotta

### **MASS SCHEDULE**

#### **Weekday Masses**

Monday - Saturday 8:00 AM

#### **Weekend Masses**

Saturday Vigil at 4:00 PM  
Sunday

8:00 AM, 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM

Follow the Sunday Mass on our  
website, [btsp.org](http://btsp.org).

Confessions will be held  
Saturdays 2:45-3:45

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*... Continued from cover*

not yet have fully grasped the salvific nature of it. It must have been unsettling, and it should have been.

Imagine, in our experience today, our Lord telling us that the price of following Him is taking up our electric chair, or our gruesome beheading. This is not at all the comfortable smoothed-edged Good News we are used to hearing, yet this is exactly what our Lord is telling us to do, and he's not being vague about it. The image is meant to get your attention.

The only way to Him is through the cross ... and to follow Him means to take it up. We live in a consumer culture that feels most comfortable with a multitude of options to meet our every whim. Here, facing the most important decision of our life, we have a "take it or leave it" proposition. If this all seems unsettling to us, it should be.

The verb used here, to take up, is a challenge to us. We often think of the perks of faith and not of the costs. We also tend to think that "accepting" the crosses (sufferings) in our life means bearing them patiently and offering them up to Him. While there is nothing wrong with that, Christ's command was not merely one of passive acceptance of the cross, but of personal action motivated by it.

Following Christ is not a passive endeavor. We have to be active to be authentic about it, and being active in our faith will, quite frankly, cost us. This doesn't mean that we seek out suffering, that is masochistic and to be condemned, but it does mean that if we want to follow Christ, then we must be prepared to nail ourselves up there.

Christ was naked on that cross, and so must we be if we want to join Him there. But in order to do that, to take up our cross, we need to strip away all those things we cloak ourselves with. We need to strip away selfish desires, rip off arrogance and pride, scrape off stubbornness, and excoriate the cowardice that prevents us from proclaiming the gospel to the world that hates it.

Each of those things hurt like hell to give up, and the enemy knows this. Every day he whispers in our ear trying to convince us to ignore what the future may bring, and to accept the joys and comforts of the present. He desires us to coast comfortably through life never asking ourselves the question which our Lord asked the disciples: "What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?" (Matt 16:26)

The enemy wants us to focus on the pain and sacrifice of the cross and to decide it's not worth it, or to not make a decision at all. In either case, we lose if we believe that lie.

Our Lord chose the cross as the means of our salvation precisely because of the great cost it meant for Him and for us, so that in recognizing that cost, we can appreciate the magnitude of the joy and peace we find in His victory, making the cost seem as nothing in comparison.

So be not afraid. Take up the cross and follow him ... it is worth it!

*Prepared for Aleteia by the Canonry of Saint Leopold. Reprinted with permission*



September 3, 2023

## Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jer 20:7-9 | Rom 12:1-2 | Mt 16:21-27

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

### GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

I am glad I was duped. Yep, the illusionist in the show we attended had me fooled into seeing something one way and it turns out it was completely false. The show was entertaining, and worth the time and expense we invested to enjoy it. And ... it may be the only circumstance where the word “duped” can be used in the same sentence as “glad.” That certainly wasn't Jeremiah's experience! His prayer reflects frustration and hurt, and even a little bit of disgust at how he has been treated because of the Lord: “I say to myself, I will not mention him, I will speak in his name no more.” But then, even in his discontent and disillusion, he holds on to the truth. For right after this rebellious admission, he confesses that the need to prophesy “becomes like fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones; I grow weary holding it in, I cannot endure it.” He knows he was never really duped – there was no lie from the Lord. And the fact is, he believes and trusts in the Lord enough to pray to him in the first place; even in his prayer of lament he is praising the Lord as God and redeemer. Jeremiah's example is a good one for us: Never lose sight of the Lord as our God. Pray to him; give over our frustrations to him; and allow him to be the fire burning in our heart that we cannot quench.

### GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Reading today's Gospel leaves me feeling awkward and even embarrassed for St. Peter. Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, calling the first pope Satan and telling Peter to get behind him – *super* embarrassing, especially when Peter had good intentions in trying to protect Jesus. What's the old saying, “The road to hell is paved with good intentions”? There's another axiom, a little less dire but just as pointed: “People judge you by your actions, not your intentions. You may have a heart of gold, but so does a hard-boiled egg.” Intentions matter – but how we enact and employ those intentions are important, too. Christ tells us in today's Gospel, “Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.” Faith in God, believing in his promises, and wanting to obey his commandments are wonderful and essential – and they are the foundation of a life lived for Christ. But they are not the entirety of it, and while denying ourselves and taking up our cross is never easy, it is necessary. “What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?” Christ asks. Let's pray for the grace of pure intentions and the strength to live them in service to the Lord.

**PRAY** *Heavenly Father, uncover my eyes and reveal any obstacles keeping me from thinking as you do. Give me the courage to overcome these obstacles, and grant me the strength to take up my cross and follow you, even in the face of difficulty. I ask this through your Son, Christ our Lord.*





## **Are You Hoping to Receive One of the Seven Sacraments With Us?**

### **Matrimony**

Congratulations on your engagement! Every Diocese in Florida requires at least six months preparation before marriage. Please call our Pastor, Fr. Wayne Genereux, at the Parish Office for an appointment before setting a date.

### **Baptism**

We are honored that you would like to choose Blessed Trinity Catholic Church for the baptism of your child! We ask that you please call our Pastor, Fr. Wayne Genereux, at the Parish Office for information regarding the pre-baptism class before scheduling a baptism.

### **Office Hours**

Monday—Friday 9-12 and 1-4  
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## **Mass Intentions**

### **Saturday, September 2, Weekday in Ordinary Time**

8:00 a.m. Mary Lou Deuel (Dec)

### **Saturday, September 2, Vigil for The Twenty-Second Sunday in OT**

4:00 p.m. James Lawler & Pat Sullivan (Dec)

### **Sunday, September 3, The Twenty-Second Sunday in OT**

8:00 a.m. Jerry Holley (Dec)

9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners

11:30 a.m. Jerry Holley (Dec)

### **Monday, September 4, Weekday in Ordinary Time**

8:00 a.m. Harriet and Roman Schuessler (Dec)

### **Tuesday, September 5, Weekday in Ordinary Time**

8:00 a.m. Carole Huff (Dec)

### **Wednesday, September 6, Weekday in Ordinary Time**

8:00 a.m. Mass for Vocations

### **Thursday, September 7, Weekday in Ordinary Time**

8:00 a.m. The Holley Family (Liv & Dec)

### **Friday, September 8, Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

8:00 a.m. Ronald Bento (Dec)

### **Saturday, September 9, Memorial of Saint Peter Claver, Priest**

8:00 a.m. Fr. Grey (Dec)

### **Saturday, September 9, Vigil for The Twenty-Third Sunday in OT**

4:00 p.m. Bill Hueston (Dec)

### **Sunday, September 10, The Twenty-Third Sunday in OT**

8:00 a.m. Yolanda Gleifert (Dec)

9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners

11:30 a.m. Marion Gillis (Dec)



## ***Journeying Through Grief***

“Grief is not a sign of weakness. It is a tribute to the loved one who died, and a healthy response to our heart ache.”

If you would like to be part of a Grief-Support “group” or you would prefer “one on one” support, please call Rachel between 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the parish office, 727-867-3663



## Prayer for Priests & Future Priests

Eternal Father, We lift up to you these and all the priests of the world. Sanctify them, heal and guide them. Mold them into the likeness and holiness of your Son Jesus, the Eternal High Priest. May their lives be pleasing to you. In Jesus name, we pray. Amen.

09/03 • Rev. John Lipscomb  
09/04 • Rev. Sojan Punakkattu, ALCP  
09/05 • Caleb Malec, Seminarian  
09/06 • For Vocations to Priesthood & Religious Life  
09/07 • Rev. Gilberto Quintero  
09/08 • Rev. Patrick Rebel  
09/09 • Rev. Ryan Boyle

These are the names of the active priests and seminarians in our Diocese. Remember our Bishop has designated Wednesdays as Diocesan Day of Prayer for Vocations. Please continue to pray that more young people will hear and answer God's call to the Priesthood and Religious Life.

## Vocations

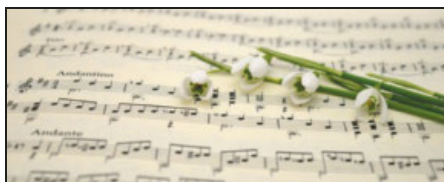
Are you called to serve the family of the Lord and share the Father's love as a priest, deacon, sister or brother?

Call Father Chuck Dornquist 727-345-3452 or write: [scd@dosp.org](mailto:scd@dosp.org)

## Scripture Class

Blessed Trinity Scripture Classes will resume on September 12th from 10:00 am - 11:30 am. We will begin with a new study from Q Place "celebrate", yes to life in Christ.

Class will be held in the Courtyard Hall and the books will be \$12.00 for 12 sessions. For further information and to confirm attendance, please call Barbara Townsend (727) 867-3605



## Music Program

The Music Program has started up once again.

Rehearsals for the Adult Choir will be on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Handbell Choir at 7:30 p.m.

The Contemporary Ensemble will have rehearsals on Sunday mornings at 11:00 a.m.

If you are interested in joining the choir for the first time or returning, all are welcome. I look forward to seeing everyone.

~ Wayne Dieterich, Director of Music

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## Prayer for Protection from Hurricanes

*God, Our Father, Creator and  
Lord of the universe,  
you have set the earth on  
its foundation  
and all the elements of nature  
obey your command.*

*We humbly beseech you to keep  
us safe from all dangers  
and calm the storm that  
threatens us.*

*May we be secure in your  
loving protection  
and serve you always with  
grateful hearts.*

*We ask this through our Lord  
Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with You  
and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, forever and ever.  
Amen.*

## EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

How many public self-storage facilities can you find in your city or town? They seem to be popping up everywhere. One day I was talking to my neighbor and he was explaining that he just wanted to have his garage back again. He was thinking about moving everything to a storage unit so he could gain what he wanted more than all that stuff: space. We talked about the fact that if he chose to follow through with it there was no shortage of places to house all of it. Of course, we also agreed that it would be better to simply let go of all it. He could sell it or give it away. But, of course, it was good stuff! So good, in fact, one was tempted to rent a whole new space to house it!

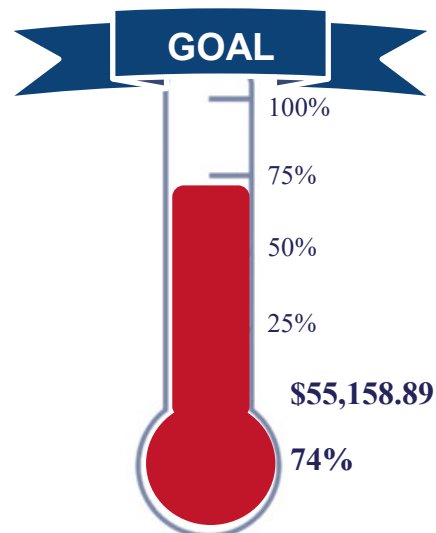
I am not against stuff in principle, but I do realize that stuff can become a stumbling block to real freedom. Sometimes our possessions take on an importance that begins to dictate how we act or how we give of ourselves to God and others. An everyday steward seeks detachment from things of this world that will one day pass away. Things that we possess should be seen as pathways into experiences that glorify God, whether they allow us to serve others, enrich our lives lived daily for God, or even help make leisure and recreation time resting in God's presence easier. But the simpler the life, the fewer distractions there are from focusing on those we love and our relationship with God. And besides, do you really think a monthly payment to house stuff you don't really need is the best stewardship way of life?

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS © Liturgical Publications



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[btsp.flocknote.com](http://btsp.flocknote.com)



### **“Life in the Spirit” Prayer Group**

Monday evenings at 7:00 pm in Courtyard Hall.  
**All are welcome!**

For more information please call 727-867-3663.



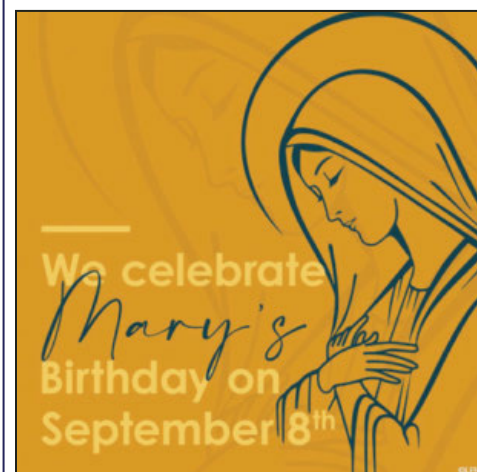
**SAVE THE DATE!**

**November 18, 2023 • evening**

**Saint Mary/Blessed Trinity  
Parish FOLLIES!**

**Dinner and a Show!**

**Watch for more details SOON!**



# MUSIC NOTES

by Wayne Dieterich, BMus., MA., MMus., AAGO, ChM - Director of Music

## Choir Begins

The new program year for the choirs has begun! The Adult Choir meets every Wednesday night at 6:00 p.m. in the choir rehearsal room. At 7:30 p.m., the Handbell Choir meets for 30 minutes each time. The Contemporary Ensemble meets on Sunday mornings at 11:00 a.m. in the church. New members are always warmly welcomed.

## Seeking New Cantors

We currently have three individuals who serve as cantors. They are all very dedicated. I don't want to overburden those three too much, so I am always looking for new talent to serve as cantors. Four months ago, I heard some really excellent voices at the 4:00 p.m. Saturday Mass. Even Father Wayne noticed the great singing. I try to spend an hour each week in voice lessons with anyone who volunteers to cantor. See Wayne Dieterich after Mass if interested.



## A New Musical Setting of the Liturgy

I am very excited about starting my second year as Director of Music here at Blessed Trinity. The first year can be challenging because I had to learn about your church and get to know and understand all of the abilities of each choir member. This was all done in order to design a musical accompaniment worthy of the liturgy. Nonetheless, I saw ways in which the music might be improved. Not too much too quickly is always the rule. I am told we are long overdue to learn a new setting of the liturgy at the 4 pm, 8 am, and 9:30 am Masses. By a new musical setting of the liturgy I mean the setting we are currently singing of the: Lord Have Mercy, Glory to God, Holy, Mystery of Faith (all three), Amen, and Lamb of God. There are six pieces. I spent many hours looking for just the right music. I finally found a setting which is creative in its compositional structure with iridescent harmonies yet is attractively easy to sing. It is a setting of





## FOUR NOTES:

1) The Church of Saint Mary, Our Lady of Grace will be bringing their Follies event to Blessed Trinity on Saturday, November 18 with dinner and a show after 4 pm Mass. It is a joint venture between our two churches. If you would like to perform, or participate, in any way, see Wayne Dieterich as soon as possible to sign up.

2) There will be a concert of Christmas music on Monday, December 4 at 7:00 p.m. The World Premiere of Wayne's piece "When Mary's Baby Cried" will also take place.

3) If you would like to offer your suggestions for hymns you particularly enjoy, clearly write down the names and numbers of those hymns. Give the list to Wayne Dieterich after Mass and look forward to singing some of your favorite pieces.

4) On November 1, we will be accepting new members into the Adult Choir just for Christmas. This is a festival membership, and is temporary. It's a great way to celebrate Christmas by being part of the choir for the holidays without a permanent commitment. All are welcome!

superlative compositional integrity. This new musical setting is the "Mass of Saints Peter and Paul" by Normand Gouin. It is part of The Cathedral Series published by Morning Star Music. In this series, a prominent Cathedral or Basilica in the United States showcases a sacred piece. This particular setting is being showcased by the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The way this setting is going to be introduced into the liturgy is by replacing one musical part of the Mass each month for the next four months while the other parts remain the same. It's a swap. So one piece will change on September 1. The next one will change on October 1. It will take the rest of 2023 to completely shift to this new setting. The Lord, Have Mercy is the only exception. It will be changed right away because it is so easy. However, in this entire process, we are going to start backwards. The Lamb of God is going to be the first to change. It is based on the chant we already know; now with harmony. On October 1, the Amen will be swapped, etc. until all have been replaced.

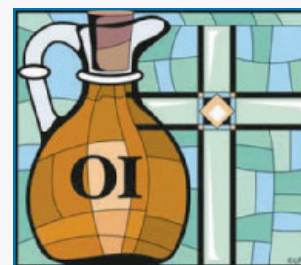


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Cisek, Marilyn  
Comeau, Teresa  
Curtis, Sherlyl  
Daniels, Joshua  
DeZarn, Vickie  
D'Azzo, Lina  
Feltes, Chuck & Lauren  
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Fitzgerald, Dan  
Forbes, Monica & Tom  
Genereux, Carol  
Grimberg, Carol  
Hawkins, Barbara  
Helbig, Len  
Hoffman, Bette  
Huff, Walt  
Irvin, John  
Kindel, Helen

Kirchgessner, Marie  
Lanigan, John  
Lashley, Diana  
Lawler, Matthew  
LeVan, George  
Lewis, Cynthia  
Maharne, Cecile  
Manley, Jan  
Manley, Paul  
Mays, Susan  
Membreno, Mary & Gus  
Mesick, Phil & Nancy  
Nagy, Matthew  
Newcomb, Jeff  
O'Connor, Mary  
Oliphant, Sean  
Parmigiani, Valerie  
Preeper, Helen  
Riley, Marie  
Roberts, Deacon Lionel  
Romani, Angelo  
Shelby, Ron & Montez  
Stankiewicz, Cy  
Thompson, Susan E.

Thuline, James and  
Lil  
Vanderbeck, Jay  
Walsh, Thomas  
Youngman, Ruth



## Anointing of the Sick

To request the Anointing of the Sick for yourself or a loved one, please contact the parish office, 727-867-3663.

If you or a close family member would like to be added or removed from our prayer list, please contact the parish office at 727-867-3663.



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