

From the Pastor's Desk

September 11, 2025

Dear Friends,

This past Wednesday, even as America gathered to begin commemoration of the tragic events of September 11 twenty-four years ago, our nation experienced two internal acts of terrorism which stunned, saddened, angered and, sadly, even gladdened some people. The Colorado school shooting, thankfully, did not result in any deaths but we've seen far too many angry outbursts at our schools which challenge the safety of students and the ability to provide them with an education.

An assignation of an unarmed speaker with whom we may agree to disagree is a stain on the precious right to free speech we ought to cherish rather than destroy by acts of murder. While we commemorate the loss of lives on that terrible day over two decades into the past, we cannot, we must not turn our eyes from the even greater tragedy and horror of what we are doing to ourselves. Our nation is divided not into intellectually combative ideologies but into two increasingly violent ideologies which do not hesitate to act out with acts of unspeakable inhumanity and terror. Such behaviors do nothing to solve our differences but only deepen them unless we rise above the dictum: *I don't get mad, I get even.*

As I write this letter, I reflect on the gospel reading from this morning's Mass (Thursday of the Twenty-third week) taken from the gospel of Luke. We should all be familiar with it as it resonates in a particular way when I contemplate how best to address what we witnessed (sadly, again) Wednesday. *Love your enemies and do good to them, Jesus said, for what good is it to merely love those you like and turn your back on everyone else?* Regardless of whether we are liberal or conservative or right down the middle or don't pay much attention to the political turmoil of our nation, none of us should accept acts of violence, *ad hominem* attacks, vitriol spewed on unsocial media or any of the behaviors which are tearing our people and our nation apart.

Yes, we can and should disagree on important social issues but killing, maiming, destroying reputations is not the way to accomplish anything good or useful in addressing the grave issues of the day. Intelligent people debate, dialogue, and come to grips with what divides to find ways and means to a happy resolution that harms none and helps many.

Jesus' message of tolerance calls on all of us to truly love one another and offer acts of kindness, mercy and a listening ear to those with whom we disagree: that is the real answer to what ails our nation. Let us commit ourselves to just that: kind words, merciful thoughts, behaviors which reflect the dignity of even those we cannot find it in our hearts to like but whom we can, as Jesus asks, love.

May the God of mercy forgive us for our own failings as we enter into the political world in which we live; may that same God enlighten us to genuine and active love of our neighbor.

Msgr. Chris Vasko



**HSP EVANGELIZATION COMMITTEE
PRESENTS:**

F'ALLELUIA BAKE SALE

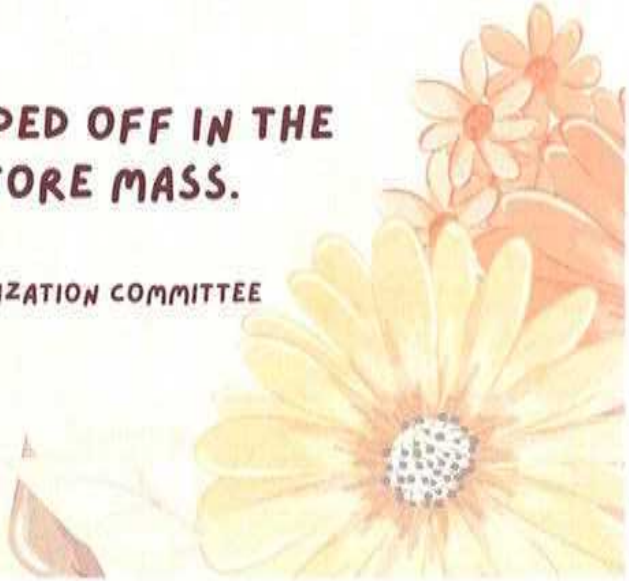
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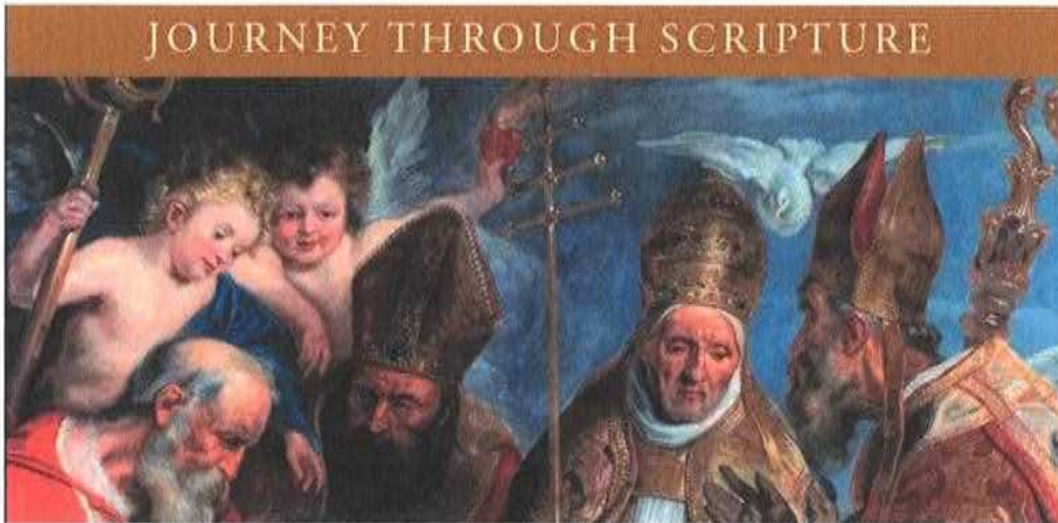
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Wednesdays, October 15-November 19

6:30-8:00 p.m. at the Historic Church of St. Patrick

Cost for Optional Workbook: ~\$28.00

To sign up: contact Martha at Martha.Farrell15@gmail.com

****Note: This is a repeat study but you'll doubly enjoy the refresh on our Church Fathers.***

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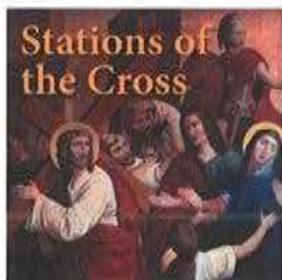
This Week on Formed

Week of September 14, 2025



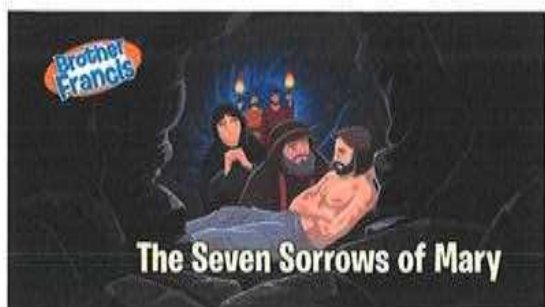
The Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The Seven Sorrows of Mary is a traditional Catholic devotion featuring meditations on sorrowful episodes in the life of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Join us in prayer as we celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows.



Stations of the Cross by Saint Alphonsus Liguori

The Augustine Institute presents a beautiful meditation on the Stations of the Cross by Saint Alphonsus Liguori, narrated by Dr. Christopher Blum. This prayerful reflection is accompanied by the Schola Cantorum, chanting the traditional Catholic hymn Stabat Mater to aid your prayer.



The Seven Sorrows of Mary | Brother Francis

Join Brother Francis as he prays and explores the Seven Sorrows of Mary Devotion!

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