

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church

Temperance, Michigan

Third Sunday of Lent

March 19, 2017

“The Antonian”



ST. ANTHONY'S DIRECTORY

PASTOR

Father Brian Hurley.....734-854-1143 fatherbrianhurley@stanthonytemperance.org

Rectory.....734-854-1143 4605 St. Anthony Road, Temperance, MI 48182

Fax.....734-854-4622 **Parish E-mail**.....stanthony@bex.net

Web site: stanthonytemperance.org

OFFICE STAFF:

Michelle Lindsey, Parish Secretary: 734-854-1143 Office Hours: Monday - Friday: 9am - 4pm

Linda Moeltner, Business Office: 734-854-8445 Office Hours: Monday & Tuesday: 9am - 3pm

busadmin@stanthonytemperance.org

DIRECTOR OF LITURGY & MUSIC

Eric Hite.....419-266-0571.....ehite820@gmail.com

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE)

Ginny Stout, RE Coordinator.....734-854-1160 Office Hours: Monday - 10am - 6pm

dredu@stanthonytemperance.org

Padua Hall: 734-854-9120 4611 St. Anthony Road

Kenna Hall: 734-854-9162 4635 St. Anthony Road

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday (Sunday Vigil) (OF-MC): 5:00pm

Sunday (OF-MC): 9:00am & 11:00am

Holy Days: Check Bulletin & Website

Sacrament of Penance

Saturday: 3:30-4:30pm;

First Wednesday: 6:30-7:30pm (September - May)

Second Tuesday: 6:00-6:30pm (September - May)

Devotions

First Friday: 7:00pm Mass (OF-LM) **First Saturday:** 9:00am Mass (EF-MC)

O. L. of Perpetual Help & Prayer - Wednesday @ 6:15pm

Prayer Blankets

Sandy Maenle.....734-847-7813

Prayer Chain

Miriam Dressel.....734-888-1192

† Our Sacramental Policy †

Six-month Parish registration and participation are required for Baptism, Confirmation and Marriage.

Baptisms: Arrangements must be made in advance and parents must attend a baptism class. The Church requires that at least one of the parents be a practicing Catholic, and the Godparents must be active, practicing, fully initiated Catholics at least 16 years of age. If two Godparents: must be 1 male & 1 female; if one Godparent: may be male or female.

Marriage: Arrangements must be made at least nine months in advance. Please call the rectory office. Officiate at the ceremony must be St. Anthony Parish Pastor or a family member.

Funerals: Officiate must be St. Anthony Parish Pastor or a family member.

Please note: The services of the Parish Organist are used for all sacramental liturgies.

For more details regarding our Sacramental policies and procedures, please refer to the Sacrament link on our Parish web-site.

Lenten Schedule for the Week

††††

Stations of the Cross

Monday, March 20, 2017

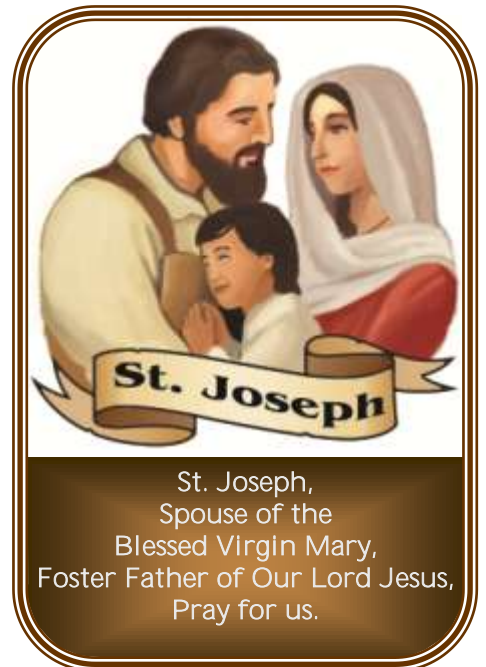
5:00pm

with Religious Ed; Marian Stations;
(rescheduled)

Friday, March 24, 2017

7:00pm

(Followed by Exposition, Benediction)



St. Joseph,
Spouse of the
Blessed Virgin Mary,
Foster Father of Our Lord Jesus,
Pray for us.

Blood Drive

Saturday, March 25, 2017

10:00am - 3:00pm

Kenna Hall



To make an appointment:
1-800-RED CROSS *or visit:*
redcrossblood.org and enter
sponsor code STANTHONY

† MASS SCHEDULE †

Key to Abbreviations:

- EF - Extra-ordinary Form (Trad. Latin Mass)
- OF - Ordinary Form (New Rite; Novus Ordo)
- LM - Low Mass; MC - Missa Cantata (Sung)

Monday, March 20, 2017

8:30am † Jerry Long by JoAnn Long
(OF-LM)
St. Joseph (1st C.), spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, foster father of Our Lord, Pt. of the Universal Church (New-transferred from March 19)
St. Wulfran (720), B. (Hist.)
St. Photina (1st C.), Samaritan woman at the well (John 4:7) (Hist.)

Tuesday, March 21, 2017

8:30am Sunmi & Ed Auh & Family
(OF-LM) by Barbara James
St. Benedict (543), "Father of Western Monasticism" twin of St. Scholastica, R., R., Pt. against poison (Trad.)

Wednesday, March 22, 2017

8:30am † Joan Klofta
(OF-LM) by Greg & June Bobak
St. Isidore the Farmer (1130), Pt. of farmers (Trad./some places)
St. Nicholas of Flue (1487), Hermit, Pt. of Switzerland and councilmen (Hist.)

Thursday, March 23, 2017

9:00am † Mark Bohmer
(OF-LM) by Greg & Karen Baer
St. Turibuis of Mongrovejo (1606), B., Pt. of native rights (New)
Our Lady of Victories (Hist.)

Friday, March 24, 2017

9:00am † Bonnie Zarka by Tracy Bowser
(OF-LM)
St. Gabriel the Archangel, Pt. of telecommunications & diplomats (Trad.)
St. Catherine (Karin) of Sweden (1381), V., W., Ab., daughter of St. Bridget of Sweden, invoked against miscarriages (Hist.)

Saturday, March 25, 2017

9:00am Carmelites
(EF-LM)
The Annunciation (New, Trad.)
St. Dismas (33), "The Good Thief" Pt. of convicted criminals (Hist.)
St. Margaret Clitherow (1586), wife, mother, M. (Hist.)

Sunday Vigil Mass

5:00pm † Frank Darga III
(OF-MC) by Bea & Kevin Montr

Sunday, March 26, 2017

4th Sunday of Lent (New, Trad.)
Laetare Sunday (Trad.)

9:00am Living and Deceased Members of the George & Carrie Komorowski Family
(OF-MC) by George & Rose Marie Komorowski on behalf of the Reunion

11:00am The People of St. Anthony
(OF-MC)

St. Ludger (802) B. (Hist.)

Readings for the Week

Monday, March 20:
2Samuel 7:4-5a,12-14a,16
Romans 4:13,16-18,22
Matthew 1:16,18-21,34a or
Luke 2:41-51a

Tuesday, March 21:
Daniel 3:25,34-43; Matthew 18-21-35

Wednesday, March 22:
Deuteronomy 4:1,5-9; Matthew 5:17-19

Thursday, March 23:
Jeremiah 7:23-28; Luke 11:14-23

Friday, March 24:
Hosea 14:2-10; Mark 12:28-34

Saturday, March 25:
Isaiah 7:10-14,8:10; Hebrews 10:4-10
Luke 1:26-38

Sunday, March 26:
1Samuel 16:1b,6-7,10-13a
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41




April 27, 2017
Burton Manor, Livonia
Special Guest Speaker
Lisa Kratz Thomas

If you would like to reserve a place at one of the Parish tables, please call the parish Office 734-854-1143.

The Monthly Prayer Request for Priests

Would You Pray for a Priest each Day?
Before each Holy Mass, parishioners pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and the Rosary. We include the names of the priests for the day, with our intentions. Please join us. Copies of the list for January through June are available in the table in the Narthex.

Traveling Vocation Chalice

March 19 Lowell & Liz Cousino 
March 26 The Hajdu Family
April 2 The Oswald Family
April 9 *Host Family Needed

This Week's Calendar



Monday, March 20, 2017
8:30am - Mass
4:45-6pm - Religious Ed. - Grades 1-8;
† Marian Stations @ 5pm

Tuesday, March 21, 2017
8:30am - Mass

Wednesday, March 22, 2017
8:30am - Mass
6:15-7pm - Perpet. Help & Prayers
7:30pm - Catholic Convers. - Padua Hall

Thursday, March 23, 2017
9:00am Mass
7:00pm - Choir Practice

Friday, March 24, 2017
9:00am - Mass
† 7:00pm - Stations of the Cross;
Followed by Exposition & Benediction

Saturday, March 25, 2017
9:00am Mass
10am - 12pm - Carmelites - Padua Hall
10am - 3pm - Blood Drive - Kenna Hall
3:30-4:30pm - Confessions
5:00pm - Sunday Vigil Mass

Sunday, March 26, 2017
9:00am & 11:00am - Mass
12:15pm - 50/50 Drawing - Narthex

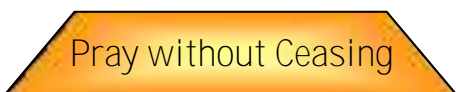
Catholic Conversations

Our next meeting will be
Wednesday, March 22
7:30-9:00pm in Padua Hall
We've had many great conversations, there is always something new to learn.

Contribution Statements for 2016
for Tax purposes will be sent upon request. Please call or email Michelle in the Parish Office.

The Offertory Story
March 12, 2017

# Env. assigned: 289;	# Env. used: 108
Envelope total	\$ 5,117.00
Loose:	\$ 494.00
Children's Envelopes:	\$ 50.25
Total	\$ 5,661.00
Weekly Budget amount..	\$ 5,250.00
+Over/-Under Budget	\$ + 411.00
Year To Date +-	\$ -7,361.35
Other:	
Books, CD's	\$ 40.00
Candles	\$ 106.00
Church in Europe	\$ 82.00
Easter Flowers	\$ 112.00
Hall Rental	\$ 720.00
Kroger	\$ 250.04
Mass Intentions	\$ 30.00
Total for Other:	\$ 1,321.04



Upcoming Events

- Blood Drive - Mar. 25
- Rummage Sale - May 3 & 4
- St. Luke Production "Faustina" - May 12

Easter Food Baskets



St. Anthony will be accepting donations for Easter Food Baskets for the less fortunate this holiday season.

Items needed are:

- Canned fruits & vegetables
- Potatoes (bag or instant)
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Rolls
- Eggs
- Hams (cash or gift cards to purchase them will also be accepted)
- Any other items that will make a holiday meal

There will be containers in the Narthex for all donations. Any fresh items (potatoes, rolls, eggs, hams, etc.) should be brought no sooner than the weekend before Easter.

We will be collecting donations through Monday, April 10. We will be packing the baskets and handing them out on Wednesday, April 12.



If anyone knows a family who could use a basket, please call Linda Sloan (734)856-5991 or the Parish Office.

....Let us Pray for....

- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Helen Arends | Kevin Gore | Albert Miller |
| Maria Baer | Margaret Gotha | Robert Mueller |
| Anna Barch | Debbie Grycza | Steve Murzynski |
| Robert Barch | Steve Haman | Patty Muskat |
| Gretchen Brautigian | Beth Huner | Frank Parker |
| Toni Breiningier | JoAnn Huntwork | Andrew Phillips |
| Chris Brown | Rosemary Jacobs | Rachel Renn |
| Abby Bunting | Michael Katafiasz | Kaye Ritzenthaler |
| Don & Shirley Carter | Bud LaPlante | Adrian Sandelin |
| Larry Closurdo, Jr. | Martin LaVoy | Kathy Simms |
| Bonnie Cornprobst | Audrey Lawrence | Larry Simms |
| Lowell Cousino | Anthony Lehman | Steve Smith |
| Amy Crumm | Brenda Liwo | Mazie Sue Springer |
| Linda DeFalco | Ron Liwo | Vic Stevens |
| Janie Delauter | Linda Luchansky | Tom Townsend |
| Jim Drake | Dick MacAdams | Carole VanBrandt |
| Larry Dusseau | Sandy Maenle | Teresa VanHove |
| Cynthia Dvorsky | Edward Malik | Virginia VanKirk |
| Terry Dvorsky | Anna Marie McCutchen | Aaron Vyse |
| Albert Failer | Carolyn McCutchen | Pat Webber |
| Scott Ferguson | | Vicki White |
| Stephanie Gelsey | | Peter Williams |

From Monroe County Right to Life:

Please mark your calendars for the upcoming Fall Banquet hosted by Monroe County Right to Life, an affiliate of Right to Life of Michigan!

The date is Thursday, October 26, 2017. Doors open at 6:00pm and the Dinner Program begins at 7:00pm. This year's special keynote speaker will be Senator Patrick Colbeck, State Senator for Michigan's 7th District. Individual reservations are \$50 per person. Table reservations are \$320 for a table of eight (8). Reservations are accepted through October 11, 2017 after which date tickets will be mailed. The venue is LaRoy's Hall in La Salle, MI.

This year we are promoting the incentivized role of Table Captains where he or she will facilitate the purchase of tickets, by others, to fill a table eight attendees. There will be two levels of a very nice incentive for those willing to be Table Captains. To unveil this Table Captain opportunity we will host a meeting, an open discussion, on Sunday, April 30, 2017 from 2:00pm to 3:00pm in St. Anthony Catholic Church's Padua Hall in Temperance. Please join us at this meeting to learn more.

For more information please contact Robert Burke at [517.215.8688](tel:517.215.8688) or monroecountyrtl@gmail.com. For more information about the lifesaving work of Right to Life if Michigan please visit www.rtl.org.

ATTENTION: Lectors & Altar Servers

Liturgical Assignments for April (including Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter and Divine Mercy Sunday) are now available in the Narthex and on our Website: stanthonymtemperance.org.

**Saint Joseph Catholic Church 2238 Manhattan Street, Erie, Mi.
16th Annual Lenten Fish Fry**

4:30-7:30 p.m. every Friday from March 3 through April 14.

All you can eat perch and tilapia, with popcorn shrimp, cheesy potatoes, French fries, green beans, coleslaw, applesauce, roll, dessert, and beverage. Meatless spaghetti is available. Dine in or carry out. Adults \$13, seniors \$11, kids 12 & under \$6. For more info, call (734) 848-6125 or visit <http://www.stjosepherie.com/>



Please keep in your prayers all our service men and women, especially those currently serving in Iraq or Afghanistan, especially
 ☆ Kenneth Lee Ziegler, Jr, Army
 ☆ Master Sgt., Gerald Hughes



Liturgical Assignments for March 25 & 26, 2017

Mass	Priest	Lector	Altar Servers
Saturday, 5:00pm Mass	Fr. Brian	J. Rawski	J., J. & L. Rawski
Sunday, 9:00am Mass	Fr. Brian	J. Hajdu	J. Sterns; A. Vaughn
Sunday, 11:00am Mass	Fr. Brian	K. Shade	J. & T. Dollison

Fr. Brian's Blarney

Fr. Patrick Rohen

We welcome Fr. Rohen again to celebrate Holy Mass for us on Saturday evening. It is a joy to have you here to celebrate the Mass and to hear your stories about your past adventures, whether it be in the Military or in the dioceses of Toledo or Montana. I am especially grateful for your help when I was fighting with bronchitis.

The Vicar's Article

Fr. Michael Woroniewicz wrote in the Monroe Vicariate News Letter for the month of March an article explaining what is to happen when a priest doesn't show up for Mass. In a nutshell, a Communion Service may not be offered, though a simple Liturgy of the Word may be offered.

He states that an announcement is made stating something to the effect of "Do to circumstances beyond our control, there is not a priest to celebrate Mass today. In this emergency situation, I encourage you to attend Mass at (and then a list of Masses will be given)." If for a good reason (like work that was previously scheduled, inclement weather, or lack of means to get to Mass), your Sunday obligation is waived. The Church doesn't expect the impossible to be done.

(Per Michelle, copies of the full article may still be found in the Narthex.)

THE IRISH MADONNA

My parents bumped into one of my classmates, Tom Mulcahy, from the seminary, who was working on his theology degree from the University of Detroit-Mercy for a lay ministry program. Tom is a lawyer by degree and trade. Ironically, he was a parishioner at St. Andrews in Rochester where my second assignment as an associate pastor would be. He would end up switching parishes to Ss. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Catholic Parish in Sterling Heights where my parents would end up joining, as well.

He mentioned to them that he wrote an article on his blog "catholicstrength.com". I've included it on this page.

May God Be Blessed!!

A TRUE AND AMAZING MIRACLE TOOK PLACE ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY!

By Thomas L. Mulcahy

<https://catholicstrength.com/2017/03/16/a-true-and-amazing-miracle-took-place-on-saint-patricks-day/>

The beautiful picture you are looking at is known as "The Irish Madonna of Hungary." The portrait itself is from Ireland, but it was brought to Hungary by an Irish priest, Bishop Lynch, who was fleeing English persecution in Ireland around the year 1652. Bishop Lynch worked for ten years among the faithful in Hungary, and just before he was about to return to Ireland he fell ill and died, bequeathing on his deathbed the portrait in question to the Bishop of Gyor in Hungary who hung the painting in the Cathedral of Gyor. The awesome miracle I am about to discuss involves this picture.



The miracle in question did in fact occur on March 17, 1697 (St. Patrick's Day)

while "thousands were attending Holy Mass in the Cathedral of Gyor" (the year 1697 is highly relevant because in 1697 all priests were expelled from Ireland).

Suddenly "the eyes of the Madonna [in the picture above] began to shed tears and blood which ran down the canvas to the image of the sleeping Jesus. The Irish Madonna was weeping for her suffering children [in Ireland]. The people who had been attending [Mass], as well as those summoned to witness the miracle, took turns in gathering around the portrait while the priests repeatedly wiped the face of the Madonna with a linen cloth that is still preserved in the Cathedral. The miracle continued for more than three hours."

Every lawyer knows the value of credible witnesses! Here then we see that this miracle was witnessed by a whole contingent of extremely credible witnesses. Joann Carroll Cruz relates the following: "Before long not only Catholics, but also Protestants and Jews flocked to see the miracle. Thousands witnessed the event, and many of these gave testimony of what they saw. A document signed by a hundred people bears the signatures of the governor of the city, its mayor, all its councilmen, the bishop, priests, Calvinist and Lutheran ministers as well as a Jewish rabbi. All volunteered their signatures to the document stating they had witnessed an undeniable miracle."



Schedule of Services for Lent & Easter - 2017

Stations of the Cross

Fridays of Lent @ 7pm

March ****17, 24, 31**, (*Followed by Exposition & Benediction*)
April 7 (*Followed by Mass with Exposition and Benediction*)

Additions & Exceptions:

**** March 17**

**Stations also @ 3:30pm - led by Troops of St. George*

** 7pm Stations will be "Mary's Way of the Cross"*

(no Benediction/Exposition)

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays: 3:30 – 4:30pm

Tuesday, March 14: 6:00pm - 6:45pm

Wednesday, April 5 6:30pm -7:30pm

Tuesday, April 11 11:00am - 12:00pm - 2 priests available
6:00pm - 6:45pm

Wednesday, April 12 7:00pm - 8:00pm - 2 priests available



HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday, April 9

Masses: Saturday: 5pm; Sunday: 9:00am & 11:00am
Procession with Palms before 11am Mass

Holy Thursday, April 13

Mass of the Lord's Supper: 7:00pm

Following Mass, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the Church until Noon on Friday; sign-up sheets will be on the Chapel door.

Good Friday, April 14

12Noon - 3:00pm: Stations of the Cross; Rosary; Divine Mercy Novena, Sacred Music, Mid-day Prayer

3:00-4:30pm: Liturgy of the Lord's Passion with veneration of the cross & reception of Holy Communion

Holy Saturday, April 15 *(No Confessions Today)*

Church Decorating 9:00am

Blessing of Food 12:00pm

Easter Vigil Mass 9:00pm

Easter Sunday, April 16

Masses: 9:00am & 11:00am



Lenten Regulations on Fast & Abstinence

Abstinence from meat is observed on **Ash Wednesday, Good Friday**, and all the **Fridays of Lent** by all Catholics 14 years and older. Abstinence forbids the use of meat, but not of eggs, milk products, or condiments made of animal fat. Permissible are soups flavored with meat, meat gravy, and sauces.

Fasting is observed on **Ash Wednesday** and **Good Friday** by all Catholics who are 18 years of age but not yet 59.

Those bound by this rule may take only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted as necessary to maintain strength according to one's needs, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted. Ordinary liquids are allowed.

Catholic Services Appeal 2017

Dear Friends in Christ,

Each year, all parishes in the Archdiocese of Detroit embark upon the CSA (Catholic Services Appel) Drive. The CSA is a required collection taken up for the general operational expenses of the Archdiocese of Detroit. It helps to subsidize Catholic institutions that may not necessarily be connected to or funded by a particular parish. Among these special services are Campus Ministry, Telecommunications, Hospital and Prison Chaplaincies, Central Service Offices, which provide direct assistance to individual parishes, the Marriage Tribunal, and the like. Since the CSA provides for 62% of the operating budget of the Archdiocese, we are assessed or taxed a specific amount we are asked to meet. Our assessment is based upon many factors, including parish registration, Sunday collections, and financial status of the area within our parish boundaries.

As we enter into the holy season of Lent, we would like you consider making your pledge and/or contribution to CSA for 2017 part of your Lenten observance for sacrifice. The amount assessed to St. Anthony Parish this year is **\$37,318**. In order to reach our goal, the recommended pledge amount will be **\$250** from each family

For your convenience, pledge forms can be found at the bottom of this page. Please complete the form and designate the amount of your pledge and the payment plan you prefer and return to the Parish Office. Pledges may also be made by calling the Parish Office 734-854-1143; sending your pledge via email (stanthony@bex.net) or by stopping by the Parish Office during regular business hours.

Your pledge can be made in several ways: paid in full and returned with your pledge form; a down payment returned with your pledge form, with the balance divided into quarterly payments, or divided evenly among 9 monthly payments. Credit card and automatic withdrawal payments will also be accepted. If you wish to contribute this way, please indicate on the line below and a form will be sent to you.

Please note: If you sign up to make payments on your pledge, the payment schedule will not begin until July 2017.

Please remember that we are required to make an accounting of all CSA cards for our Parish, so even if you are unable to pledge, we ask that you indicate that to the Parish Office as well.

I am grateful for your continued stewardship and prayers.

May God Be Blessed!

Father Brian Hurley
Pastor, St. Anthony Parish

CSA - 2017

Name _____

Address _____ Phone # _____

Amount of total Pledge \$ _____ Amount paid today \$ _____

Balance due \$ _____. Please bill me quarterly _____ or monthly (9 monthly payments) _____

____ I would like to pay by credit card (or) ____ I would like to pay by automatic withdrawal payments.

-- Please make checks payable to: **St. Anthony – CSA**



King St. Louis **by Joe Sixpack**

There are stories that come to us about the saints that are sometimes legend but most of the time they're true. Whether fact or fiction, these stories offer us many valuable lessons about some of the wonderful aspects of our holy and ancient faith. The following story is of King St. Louis, the saint for whom the city in Missouri is named. I've never been able to verify its veracity, but the lessons we can garner from the story are tremendous.

It's said that when King Louis was very young, he had a love for his people that was uncommon among even the most benevolent of kings. He was saddened to know how much they suffered from hunger, cold and sickness. He did what he could for them with gifts of food and clothing, but his people didn't seem to think he really cared. "It's no use telling the king our troubles," they'd lament. "He could never understand what it's like work, or be hungry or cold."

Young King Louis was discouraged by his subjects' attitude. He was determined to do something, so he went to a wise old man of the royal court to seek his advice. "How can I win the confidence of the people? I want to show them how to put an end to some of their sufferings and help them to bear others bravely, but they don't know their king loves them. Please tell me how I can make them understand."

"Your Majesty, I think there would be only one way to do this."

"Please tell me!"

"If Your Majesty could go and live among them—not as their king, but rather as one of them."

That night a man dressed in poor clothing left the palace. With the exception of the old wise man and a couple of trusted servants, no one knew it was the king himself. The people of the royal court had come to believe the king had gone on a long journey to another country, but for months he lived in a poor hut in a village among the people. He lived and ate and worked among the peasantry. He tended the sick and worked right alongside those who struggled to earn a living. It wasn't long before the people came to love and trust him, and many of them came to him for advice because he seemed wise beyond his years. He told them one day he had to move on, and they were very sorry to see him go.

When King Louis returned to the palace and again moved among the people as he had before, it wasn't long before he was recognized by those who'd known him as a laborer. The story spread throughout the kingdom, and from then on his subjects loved and trusted him because he'd shown that he'd cared so much for them that he had even become one of them.

Fact or fiction? It doesn't really matter. This anecdote actually tells us the story of the Incarnation and the nature of Jesus Christ. The Incarnation is when God became man. That is, the Incarnation is when the Son of God became man to redeem us.

In our story, King St. Louis was both the king and one of the people. Jesus is true God (King) because He has the **same divine nature as the Father. He's true man (the people) because he was born of the Blessed Virgin Mary** just like any man is born of woman. Also like any other man, Jesus has a human body and a human soul. Although Jesus is true man, He was still free from all sin, both original and personal, because He is also true God, and God cannot sin.

Now where people really get confused is about the nature of Jesus Christ. I've learned when you ask most people how many persons there are in Jesus, most want to say two. They seem to think about Him being a divine person and a human person. **No, He isn't schizophrenic. There is only one Person in Jesus Christ. He's the second Person of the Blessed Trinity.** That means His personhood is divine—that He is God Himself. However, Jesus does possess two natures, the human and divine. A person is who you are, but a nature is something you possess. So Jesus is God, but he possesses both a human and divine nature. This is called the *hypostatic union* in theology.

To drive home the point of the Incarnation and Jesus' divine personhood, I'll ask you, **did Jesus Christ always exist? No, He didn't. The second Person of the Blessed Trinity has always existed, but Jesus Christ, true God and true man, has only existed for 2000 years.** Get it? Jesus only existed from the time of the Incarnation, but as God He has always existed with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

I happen to know some of you are sharing *What We Believe...Why We Believe It* with some of your non-Catholic friends and relatives in an effort to share the faith with them. Congratulations for having the tenacity to obey Christ's command to share the faith with the world. Please understand, though, that non-Catholics often use this **teaching about Christ's hypostatic union to take a potshot at the Blessed Virgin Mary. They ask, "If Jesus possesses a human nature but is a divine Person, how is it that you can call Mary the Mother of God? He is, after all, man."**

Well, the answer to this isn't rocket science, but you do have to stop and think for a moment. **Did your mother give birth to a person or a nature? She gave birth to a person, of course! Again, a nature is merely something you possess—it's not who you are. You are a person. Therefore, since Jesus is a divine Person, the second Person of the Blessed Trinity, she conceived of the Holy Spirit and gave birth to the second Person of God.** This makes Mary the Mother of God, and the divine motherhood is the greatest privilege ever given to a human person.

Sacred Scripture proves Mary is the Mother of God. When the Archangel Gabriel announced to Mary she was **being given the opportunity to bring the Savior into the world, he said, "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will call his name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the son of the Most High...therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God"** (Luke 1:31-35). If Jesus is the Son of God, He must also be God, so **Mary gave birth to God! But that's not all! (That sounds like a commercial, so you should probably be waiting for your two bonus offers now.)**

Luke also tells us that when Mary visited her cousin Elizabeth and greeted her, John the Baptist, who was still in **Elizabeth's womb, was filled with the Holy Spirit and leapt for joy. Then Elizabeth said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted me, that *the mother of my Lord* should come to me?"** (Luke 1:42-43) Mary hadn't even yet told Elizabeth she was to have a child, but when the Holy Spirit filled her unborn son she had perfect understanding. What did Elizabeth call Mary? She called her the **"mother of my Lord". Who is Elizabeth's Lord? God, of course. So Elizabeth was the first human in history to call Mary the Mother of God!**

There are other passages we could examine to reinforce the fact that Mary is the Mother of God, but we lack the **space here to do so. However, we'll conclude this by pointing out that the Church teaches the divine maternity as a dogma of our faith, which means it's not an option for us—we must believe it to be Catholic.** The official title for Mary is *Theotokos*, a Greek term meaning Christ-bearer, and it was canonized by the Council of Ephesus in A.D. **431 in defense of Mary's divine maternity. In fact, this was the whole reason the Council of Ephesus was convoked.** A man named Nestorius, who gave us what history calls the Nestorian Heresy, claimed that Mary was only the mother of the man Jesus. But to the ecstatic celebration of the laity, the bishops of the Church declared her the *Theotokos!* **That's because this is What We Believe...Why We Believe It.**

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