



Around the Parish

AUGUST NEWSLETTER

2023

Miracles In Catholicism No One Can Explain

When considering unexplained Catholic miracles, most people think of the Shroud of Turin. Then there are the few interred Catholic saints whose bodies have not decayed.

Catholicism is open about the visions and unexplainable occurrences credited to the faith's higher power. The church is also open about particular processes used to verify Catholic miracles, such as the inconclusive forensic analysis of the Shroud of Turin. And there are scientific theories about how a statue could weep tears, how a large group of people could see the Virgin Mary appear to them on a building, and how a bright star led the magi to the newborn Christ. Nevertheless, some Catholic miracles are strange occurrences that haven't been debunked.

Whether you're a follower of Catholicism or a neutral party, these miracles are sure to provoke a sense of curiosity.

The 1917 Miracle Of The Sun

In May 1917, children returning home from shepherding reportedly encountered an apparition of the Virgin Mary in Fátima, Portugal. She allegedly told the children of her plans to appear on the 13th day of the next six months, prompting the kids to rush home and tell their parents of their vision. People hoping to see the Virgin Mary at the appointed times gathered in Fátima to watch a miracle.

On October 13, 1917, the Virgin Mary supposedly appeared only to the children - and predicted the end of World War I. As the story goes, she then presented the 70,000 in attendance with a silver sun to clear the stormy skies, as described by the Lisbon paper *O Dia*: The silver sun... was seen to whirl and turn in the circle of broken clouds. A cry went up from every mouth and the people fell on their knees on the muddy ground... The light turned a beautiful blue as if it had come through the stained-glass windows of a cathedral and spread itself over the people who knelt with outstretched hands. The blue faded slowly and

then the light seemed to pass through yellow glass... People wept and prayed with uncovered heads in the presence of the miracle they had awaited. The seconds seemed like hours, so vivid were they. Nonbelievers and believers alike provided eyewitness accounts for daily newspapers across Portugal, corroborating the movement of the sun. Some theories suggest the event was a mass hallucination brought on by fervor and the need to see something unexplainable.

Incorruptible Bodies Of Saints That Never Decay

In the early 20th century, saints known as "incorrupt" were discovered with preserved bodies. Some of these saints decomposed after their final resting places became unsealed, allowing everyday microbes and contaminants to end their time of untouched perfection. Still, believers in the miracle of incorrupt saints stay undeterred in their faith, feeling assured that God blessed his servants with bodies that remained in pristine condition after death - even though the Catholic Church eventually stopped declaring these to be miracles. Coinciding with the Church's decision were the scientific discoveries that most of the saints underwent a mummification process as part of their preparation for burial. Other saints, meanwhile, had the luck of being kept in chilled vaults that staved off decay.

But a number of saints were scientifically proven to have no special conditions in their final resting place, nor any preparation to preserve them after burial. St. Zita received a full examination via intra-body camera by scientists working under pathologist Gino Fornaciari of the University of Pisa. They found no sign of post-mortem cuts or preservation methods on or in the corpse. At least three other saints - St. Ubald of Gubbio, Blessed Margaret of Savoy, and St. Savina Petrilli - are also inexplicably preserved.

Our Lady Of Lourdes And The Healing Water

In 1858, in Lourdes, France, a 14-year-old girl named Bernadette Soubirous lived with her family in an abandoned prison. Bernadette went with her sister and a friend to collect firewood on February 11. She lagged behind due to asthma and found herself alone at the Grotto of Massabielle, while the other girls had already crossed the cold stream.

According to Bernadette, as she worked to remove her socks and shoes, gusts of wind issued from the grotto before a blinding light followed. A woman in white robes with a blue sash, yellow roses on her feet, and a rosary in her hands appeared to Bernadette and encouraged her to pray. Bernadette's companions did not see any of this and brushed off her account of the vision.

She visited the woman daily over the next 15 days, despite police intervention and her parents' disapproval. On February 25, the woman told Bernadette to drink from and bathe herself in the fountain, but there wasn't one. The girl dug with her fingers until she found an underground water spring that still flows today. Three days later, the woman told the girl to build a church on the land, but the local clergy dismissed her until 1862 when they officially decreed the Virgin Mary had revealed herself.

Millions flock to the spring annually, and the Medical Bureau of the Sanctuary claims upward of 7,000 visitors have received healing from their ailments by immersing themselves in the spring. Each cured person submits their information to the Bureau for scientific authentication before leaving the holy grounds. Of the 7,000 reports of healing since 1862, 66 remain unexplained by science.

Bernadette became St. Bernadette after committing herself to a life of servitude as a nun and is one of the incorrupt saints recognized by the Catholic Church.

- www.ranker.com

August 2023 LECTOR SCHEDULE

August 5/6	Transfiguration of the Lord	7:00 AM	Joe Tharp
5:00 PM	Mary Ann Kelly	12:10 PM	Mary Ann Kase
7:30 AM	Mike Gallagher	7:00 PM	Sandie Wrable
9:30 AM	Denise Mogel		
11:15 AM	Karen Ann Cameron		
August 12/13	19th Sunday in Ordinary Time	5:00 PM	Steve Bell
5:00 PM	Dean Reber	7:30 AM	Vince Moffitt
7:30 AM	JoAnn Schmura	9:30 AM	Lori Anewalt
9:30 AM	Lou Sutherland	11:15 AM	Bill Wellock
11:15 AM	Margaret Hueske		
August 14/15	The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin	5:00 PM	Ann Reber
5:15 PM	John Sylvester	7:30 AM	Kathy Nevel
		9:30 AM	John Gleason
		11:15 AM	Beth Tharp



We hope your summer is going well!

Our next event will be the **Swing and A Prayer Golf Outing on Friday, August 18th** at *Reading Country Club*, 1:00 p.m. shotgun start. Now in its 7th year, proceeds from this event benefit Sacred Heart School. Please look to page (4) of the newsletter, or the bulletin for more information on how to sign up or become a sponsor. We appreciate your help in making this event a big success for our School!

Recitation of the Rosary is now on the weekly schedule, and we hope you can join us on Sunday mornings after the 9:30 a.m. Mass in the church and at 5:30 p.m. before Mass on Tuesday evenings. All are welcome!

Important 2023 K of C dates for your calendar:

August 3 - Officer's Meeting - IHM Room 7:00 p.m.

August 17 - Membership Meeting - IHM Room 7:00-8:30 p.m.;
Rosary at 6:30 p.m. before the meeting.

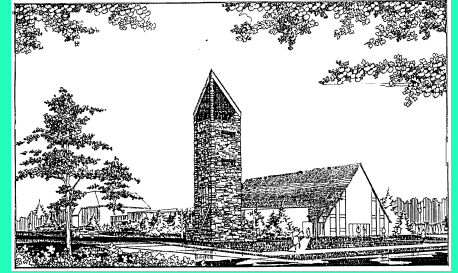
The Knights of Columbus Monsignor Bornemann Council membership is open to all practicing Catholic male adults, aged eighteen and over, who wish to serve their parish and community. Meetings are the third Thursday of the month. To join, contact John Sylvester at 610-451-6980, or go to bornknights.org and fill out the Contact Form located on our website OR sign up directly using the online K of C link.

SVDP TOILETRIES DRIVE AUGUST 12 & 13



St. Vincent de Paul Society will be conducting a, "PAPER AND SOAP DRIVE" for the St. Joseph's Food Pantry on August 12 & 13. Please bring paper products such as napkins, paper plates, paper towels, tissues, toilet paper, diapers, baby wipes, feminine products. Items such as, bar soap, shampoo, toothpaste, are all acceptable and needed too! Please help us, help those in need.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Swing and a Prayer Golf Outing

Knights of Columbus

Reading Country Club

August 18th @ 1:00 p.m.

Toiletries Drive

Saint Vincent de Paul

In Front of Sacred Heart Church

August 12th & 13th

The Parishes Italian Picnic

Holy Rosary & Sacred Heart

@ Victor Emmanuel II

August 13th 12:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.

Monte Carlo Night

Sacred Heart School

@ Tinnemyer Residence

September 15th @ 5:30 p.m.



1. CATHOLICISM IS REASONABLE.

There are many aspects of Catholic belief that cannot be immediately reached by deductive reasoning: that God is a Trinity, for example. But the idea of one God in three co-equal and co-eternal persons is not a logical contradiction either; it just requires fine distinctions to be made and understood—namely, the difference between *person* and *nature*.

But some religious beliefs can be reached via deductive logic. The Church from her foundation has always recognized that there are footprints of God in the natural world. St. Paul wrote in his letter to the Romans that God's existence can be known through the observation of created things (see Rom 1:20). Science combined with reason is a powerful combination for the believer.

Various arguments that address the question "Why is there something rather than nothing?" demonstrate how religious truths can indeed be reached logically (like God's existence, for example). Since reason tells us that things do not pop into existence without a cause, and scientific investigation (as well as philosophical reasoning) makes a good case for the beginning of the universe, it can thus be concluded that the universe has an eternal, all-powerful cause unbound by space and time.

And of course there are the cosmological arguments of St. Thomas Aquinas who observed (building on the arguments of the pagan Aristotle), for example, that an infinite regress of *caused* causes leads to logical problems; and thus there must be an infinitely perfect being—an Uncaused Cause—behind it all to get the domino effect going in the first place (as well as to sustain it here and now). Indeed it was such arguments as these that played a huge part in moving perhaps the 20th century's most renowned atheist, Antony Flew, to belief in a Creator.

2. CATHOLICISM IS BIBLICAL.

We've talked about historical sources that support the claims and beliefs of Catholicism; but we haven't talked about the primary source, both theologically and historically: the written Word of God.

One of the shocking things I realized when I re-entered the Catholic Church was how plainly biblical her teachings were. We believe that we are saved by grace because St. Paul, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, says so (Eph 2:8). But we also believe that we are saved by faith—but not "by faith alone" because that's what the Bible says (James 2:24). We believe true faith works in love and thus we must "work out our salvation with fear and trembling" (Gal 5:6; Phil 2:12). We believe that the deposit of faith has been passed down through the Sacred Writings and also by sacred oral tradition because that's what Paul taught (1 Thess 2:13; 2 Thess 2:15; 1 Cor 11:2). We believe that priests can forgive our sins in the presence of Christ because Jesus said to the apostles "whose sins you forgive are forgiven them" (John 20:21-23). But we also believe that the grace required for our salvation comes freely through the sacraments, beginning with baptism, because the New Testament says things like "Baptism...now saves you" (1 Pet 3:21).

We also believe in the authority of the Church as the teacher and interpreter of the faith. Jesus makes the final authority of the Church clear in Matthew 18 and, furthermore, St. Paul calls the Church "the pillar and bulwark of truth" (1 Tim 3:15). We recognize Peter and his successors as the leader and Prime Minister of the Church because, well, it is a sort of sociological necessity; even for the Church of God. Every institution on earth needs a "boss" because people disagree on things. But also, Jesus changed Simon's name to Peter (signifying a new mission like when God changed Abram's name to Abraham) and then gave him "the keys" and the power to bind and loose (Matt 16:18-20; Is 22). There can be no mistaking it: Jesus gave Peter authority over the Church, and his successors (see Acts 1:20) would inherit that authority.

Finally, we believe in the Eucharist because Jesus said "unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood you have no life in you" and "my flesh is food indeed." Then the night before he died he showed the apostles how this was to be done by revealing his flesh and blood in the form of bread and wine. "Do this," said Jesus. And to this day the Catholic Church continues to do this in memory of Christ making present today the once for all sacrifice of Jesus on Calvary. The Eucharistic sacrifice is a re-presentation and *this* is the source and summit of the Christian life.

That is why a Eucharistic Church is the final resting place for every human. It is the one place where spiritual *and* bodily communion is possible with God in this life: and from that one great meeting with God flows all kinds of extraordinary possibilities. That is ultimately why I am Catholic. Because of the Eucharist. I believe it is found in the Communion of the Catholic Church—and only there. The Catholic Church, I believe, is where man finds everything he is looking for.

www.wordonfire.org

SACRED HEART CHURCH

Do you know someone who wants to become Catholic?



Tell them about the RCIA! It's the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults; it is the process by which adults can become members of the Catholic Church. If someone you know is interested in becoming Catholic, please invite them to our first RCIA meeting on Wednesday, September 6th at 7:00 p.m. in the Sacred Heart "Parish Center". Catholic adults who were never confirmed are welcome to join us too. You can contact us at SacredHeartRCIA@gmail.com, or at the parish office at (610) 372-4010

WELCOME

TO THE PARISH

Ben, Sarah Swisher and
Family

Mary Frances Sheetz

Jason, Katheen Mensinger
and Family

3 R's of why Catholics sing:

1. SINGING HELPS US REMEMBER GOD'S WORD.

Paul says, "Let the word of Christ dwell in your richly...singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs." The "word of Christ" mostly means the word *about* Christ, or the gospel. Songs whose lyrics expound on the person, work, and glory of Christ tend to stay with us long after we've forgotten the main points of the sermon.

2. SINGING HELPS US RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE.

While no one is exactly sure what "psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs" refers to, we can at least infer some kind of variety in our singing. No singular musical style captures either the manifold glories of God or the appropriate responses from his people. We're also told to sing with "thankfulness in your hearts to God." Singing is meant to be a whole-hearted activity. Emotionless singing is an oxymoron. God gave us singing to combine objective truth with thankfulness, doctrine with devotion, and intellect with emotion.

3. SINGING HELPS US REFLECT GOD'S GLORY.

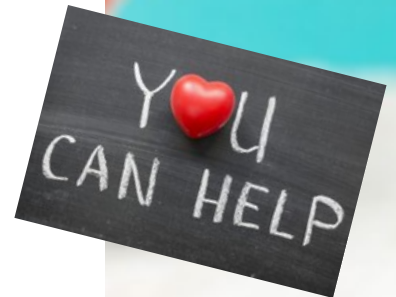
Doing "everything in the name of the Lord Jesus," implies bringing God glory. Worshiping God together in song glorifies God for at least three reasons. First, it expresses the unity Christ died to bring us. Second, because all three persons of the Trinity sing (Zeph. 3:17; Heb. 2:12; Eph. 5:18-19). Finally, it anticipates the song of heaven when we'll have unlimited time to sing, clearer minds to perceive God's perfections, and glorified bodies that don't grow weary.

Worshiping God in song isn't simply a nice idea or only for musically gifted people. The question is not, "Has God given me a voice?" but "Has God given me a song?" If you trust in the finished work of Christ, the answer is clear: Yes! So *remember* His Word, *respond* to His grace, and *reflect* on His glory.

Perhaps something nice for even the people NOT in the choir to hear. Even singing from the pew is music to God.

Come see me after Mass if you would like to join us!

Joe Oros



Saint Vincent de Paul Society

At Sacred Heart Church



**Toiletries
Drive**



8/12 & 8/13

Help us, help those in need.

Items will be going to the St Joseph's Parish Food Pantry



7TH ANNUAL SWING *and* A PRAYER GOLF OUTING

Thanks to our
EVENT ORGANIZER



Prayerfully consider sponsoring and/or participating in this year's event!

REGISTER ONLINE at www.sacredheartreading.com/golf-outing

GOLF SCHEDULE

- 11:30 a.m. – Registration
Refreshments
- 1:00 p.m. – Shotgun start
- Post Golf – Post Golf Summer BBQ
Prizes/Awards



Friday August 18, 2023

1:00 p.m. Shotgun start

Reading Country Club

Rain or Shine

Proceeds benefit Sacred Heart School

Golf Package - \$125 per person

Package includes refreshments, green fees, cart, gift bag, drinks on course, and post golf food/awards.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Tournament Sponsor - \$1200 +

- 4 player package
- Signs throughout the course
- Sign at registration
- Full page ad in program

Albatross Sponsor - \$700 - \$1199

- Signs throughout the course
 - Sign at registration
 - Full page ad in program
- ### Eagle Sponsor - \$400-\$699
- Sign on 1 hole
 - Sign at registration
 - ½ page ad in program

Birdie Sponsor - \$150 - \$399

- Sign on 1 hole
- ¼ page ad in program

Patron - \$100

- Patron line in program

Cart Sponsor - \$50

- Sign on cart

For more information on becoming a sponsor, please email Mark Merolla at mjm@bmflaw.com.

Sponsor deadline for inclusion in the program is August 4, 2023

Make checks payable to: Sacred Heart School

Mail to: SHS Golf Outing, 701 Franklin Street
West Reading, PA 19611

SWING AND A PRAYER GOLF OUTING REGISTRATION/SPONSOR FORM

Name: _____

☐ Please assign me a team, **OR**

☐ My team members are:

Company: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Sponsor Name: _____

as it should appear in the program – email ad/logo to
bgasperack@sacredheartreading.org



Proceeds benefit Sacred Heart School!

Sponsorship _____ = \$ _____

Sponsorship category name

Golf Package - \$125 x _____ golfer(s) = \$ _____

Make checks payable to:

Sacred Heart School

Mail to: SHS Golf Outing, 701 Franklin Street
West Reading, PA 19611

Italian Family Picnic

August 13th

12:00 Noon - 4:00p.m.

At Victor Emmanuel II

**Italian Buffet Available between 12:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.
Baked Ziti, Pizza, Sausage, Meatball Sandwiches, Salad, &
Bread**

Beer & Baked Good Donations Welcomed!

**Call the Office for more details! 610-372-4010 or
see one of the KoC members in the Narthex before or after Mass**

**\$20/ Wristband
Under 12 Free**



Raffles!!



**Live D. J.
1:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.**



September 15, 2023

Monte Carlo Night

A Night to Benefit Sacred Heart School and Parish



Sponsorship Opportunities

GoldenEye Sponsor - \$10,000

- Two VIP tables of eight at Monte Carlo Night
- Name/logo on Table
- Full back or inside front page ad in program
- Event cocktail named after you
- 2 free "Ice Cubes" drink raffle
- Name/Logo listed on all event-related marketing
- Recognition at Monte Carlo Night
- Social Media Recognition

Heartbreaker Sponsor- \$2,500

- 4 tickets to Monte Carlo Night
- Name/Logo listed on all event-related marketing
- ½ page ad in program
- 1 free "Ice Cubes" drink raffle
- Recognition at Monte Carlo Night
- Social Media Recognition

Lucky You Sponsor- \$5,000

- One VIP table of eight at Monte Carlo Night
- Full page ad in program
- 2 free "Ice Cubes" drink raffle
- Name/Logo listed on all event-related marketing
- Recognition at Monte Carlo Night
- Social Media Recognition

Maverick Sponsor - \$1,000

- 2 tickets to Monte Carlo Night
- Name/Logo listed on all event-related marketing
- ¼ page ad in program
- Recognition at Monte Carlo Night
- Social Media Recognition

SPONSORSHIP:

☐ GoldenEye Sponsor- \$10,000 ☐ Lucky You Sponsor- \$5,000

☐ Heartbreaker Sponsor- \$2,500 ☐ Maverick Sponsor - \$1,000

☐ We cannot be a sponsor, but wish to contribute \$_____ to the **Sacred Heart Monte Carlo Night**.
Your gift is fully tax-deductible and will be listed on the "Friends of Sacred Heart " page of the Souvenir Event Program.

PAYMENT:

A check for \$_____ made payable to **Sacred Heart School** is enclosed.

Credit card, which will be charged on the night of Monte Carlo Night (MCN):

Number _____ Exp: _____/_____/_____

COMPANY NAME _____

CONTACT NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ FAX _____ EMAIL _____

You will be contacted regarding benefit fulfillment and guest names.

Please return this form to Sacred Heart School | 701 Franklin St. | West Reading, PA 19611

For more information, please contact **Amanda Spencer**, MCN Chair, aspencer1408@gmail.com