



Around the Parish

AUGUST NEWSLETTER

2024

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 2024 LECTOR SCHEDULE

August 3/4	Transfiguration of the Lord	August 17/18	20th Sunday in Ordinary Time
5:00 PM	Steven Bell	5:00 PM	Sandie Wrable
7:30 AM	JoAnn Schmura	7:30 AM	Vince Moffitt
9:30 AM	Karen Piraino	9:30 AM	John Gleason
11:15 AM	John Sylvester	11:15 AM	Bill Wellock
August 10/11	19th Sunday in Ordinary Time	August 26/27	21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
5:00 PM	Mary Ann Kelly	5:00 PM	Ann Reber
7:30 AM	Kathy Nevel	7:30 AM	Beth Tharp
9:30 AM	Mary Ann Kase	9:30 AM	Lori Anewalt
11:15 AM	Margaret Hueske	11:15 AM	Lou Sutherland
August 14/15	The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin	August 31/1	22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
5:15 PM	Mike Gallagher	5:00 PM	Dean Reber
7:00 AM	Lou Sutherland	7:30 AM	Mike Gallagher
12:10 PM	Mary Ann Kase	9:30 AM	Denise Mogel
7:00 PM	John Sylvester	11:15 AM	Karen Ann Cameron



We hope your summer is going well!

Our next event will be the **Swing and A Prayer Golf Outing on Friday, August 23rd** at *Galen Hall Golf Club*, 1:00 p.m. shotgun start. Now in its 8th 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 2024 K of C dates for your calendar:

August 4 - Officer's Meeting - IHM Room 7:00 p.m.

August 18 - Membership Meeting - IHM Room 7:00-8:30 p.m.;
Rosary at 6:30 p.m. before the meeting.

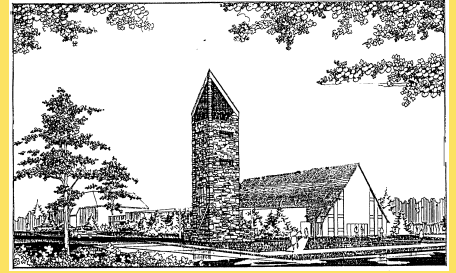
August 23 - Swing and a Prayer Golf Outing

OUR CONDOLENCES TO:

The Swisher/Swist Family and Friends on the passing of:
CAROL JEAN SWISHER
July 13, 2024

The Silveri Family and Friends on the passing of:
ALBERT C. SILVERI JR.
July 1, 2024

UPCOMING EVENTS



Mission Co-Op

Allentown Diocese

During Masses

August 3rd & 4th

The Parishes Italian Picnic

Holy Rosary & Sacred Heart

@ Victor Emmanuel II

August 11th 12:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.

Swing and a Prayer Golf Outing

Knights of Columbus

Galen Hall Golf Club

August 23rd @ 1:00 p.m.

The Assumption of the

Blessed Virgin Mary

MASS TIMES

5:15 P.M.

7:00 A.M.

12:10 P.M.

7:00 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 4th at 7:00 p.m. in the Sacred Heart "Parish Center". Catholic adults who were never confirmed are welcome to join us too. (Soon the RCIA will become known as the OCIA - the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults.) You can contact us at SacredHeartOCIA@gmail.com

WELCOME

TO THE PARISH

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Egges
and Family

Caitlyn Curley

Stephen Rickley

Find Your Voice, Find Your Light: Sing in Our Church Choir Imagine...

The soaring melody of a hymn washing over you, carrying your worries on its wings. The powerful unity of voices raised together, a testament to shared faith and hope. The feeling of peace as you pour your heart into sacred music, a prayer expressed in song. This could be you. Join our church choir and discover the joy of singing praises. It's more than music; it's a journey of connection, inspiration, and spiritual growth. We welcome all voices, from seasoned singers to those who haven't sung a note in years. No experience is necessary, only a love of music and a desire to share your gift. In our choir, you'll find: A supportive community where everyone is valued, regardless of musical ability. A skilled conductor who will guide you in exploring the beauty of sacred music. The chance to deepen your faith through the power of song and fellowship. Together, we create something beautiful. Something that lifts spirits, touches hearts, and brings us closer to the divine. Is this the calling you've been waiting for? Practices begin in September. Let your voice be a beacon of light. Sing with us.

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

Joe Oros

ANTEPARTUM
MOTHERS
DRIVE

Our Cause:

Antepartum mothers are women who are hospitalized during pregnancy due to complications or high-risk conditions. They often face long periods of bed rest, which can lead to boredom, anxiety, and feelings of isolation. Donations like arts and crafts can provide these often-overlooked mothers with a creative outlet, helping to alleviate boredom and improve their mental well-being during a challenging time. Such activities can also foster a sense of normalcy and empowerment, enabling them to stay positive and emotionally healthy throughout their hospital stay. We hope to welcome these soon-to-be mothers with gifts on mother's day and your donations can make a difference in the mother's lives postpartum.

What We're Accepting:

- Arts and Crafts
- Adult Coloring Books
- Yarn and Knitting Needles
- Latch Hook Kits
- Word Searches
- DIY Kits
- Board Games
- Colored Pencils



Where to drop off:

All donations must be dropped off in the main office. Donation collection will stop on Friday August 2nd.

Thanks!

Disclaimer:

All donations must be new and any reusable kits or board games must be able to be disinfected after individual use.

For more information on this drive, please contact:
grant.cib675@gmail.com or quinn@odonnell.one



Reading Hospital
Foundation

Advancing Health. Transforming Lives.

AUGUST 2ND - NARTHEX

8TH 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

11:00 a.m. – Registration & Lunch

1:00 p.m. – Shotgun start

Post Golf – Reception & Prizes/Awards
*Food, drinks and scores will be available



Friday August 23, 2024

1:00PM Shotgun start

NEW VENUE

Galen Hall Golf 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 9, 2024

Make checks payable to: Sacred Heart School

Golf Outing 2024

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: _____

Sponsorship _____ = \$ _____
Sponsorship category name

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

Sponsor Name: _____

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

Make checks payable to:

Sacred Heart School

Golf Outing 2024

701 Franklin Street

West Reading, PA 19611



Proceeds benefit Sacred Heart School!



ITALIAN FAMILY PICNIC

Sponsored by Holy Rosary

August 11, 2024

12 Noon to 4 PM

VICTOR EMMANUEL GROVE

ITALIAN BUFFET SERVED FROM 12:30 TO 2:00 PM

Baked Ziti, Sausage, Meatballs, Salad, Bread
& Pizza

Wrist Band price is \$20.00 for
adults and children 12 and
over. Under 12 no charge.

FREE WILL OFFERING FOR
BEER & BAKED GOODS

D.J. with
Live Music
1 TO 4 pm



Admission by Wrist Bands only. Wrist Bands can be
purchased after Mass at Holy Rosary and on specific
Weekends at Sacred Heart, also at the Parish Offices during
Office Hours. Contact Christine Lichman at 610-373-5579.