

BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER: MARY’S PERPETUAL VIRGINITY

“*Ever a Virgin, you gave birth to God the Word. O true Mother of God, we magnify you!*”
(Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom)

The dogma of Mary’s Perpetual Virginity asserts three things. First, that she conceived Jesus “*by the power of the Holy Spirit*” without loss of her virginity (Mt. 1:18, 20; Nicene Creed). Second, that Jesus’ birth did not diminish her virginal integrity, but rather sanctified it (*Lumen Gentium*, no. 57). Third, that Mary remained a virgin throughout her earthly life (*Lumen Gentium*, no. 59).

Mary’s virginity *before* Jesus’ birth is relatively easy to establish based on Scripture. Her question to the angel, “*How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?*” (Lk. 1:34), makes no sense unless she was a virgin. Likewise, the angel’s appearance to Joseph (Mt. 1:20-21) further indicates that Mary and Joseph had not had relations. If they had, there would be no need to reassure him of the divine source of the pregnancy.

Her virginity *during* birth is understood to mean that Jesus passed from His Mother’s womb without her losing the physical signs of virginity (*Lateran Synod*, canon 3). This has been taught by Fathers and doctors of the Church throughout history. Some theologians also hold that Mary suffered none of the usual pains involved in pregnancy and childbirth (*Catechism of the Council of Trent*, pt. 1, a. 3.2; Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologica*, III, q. 35, a. 6; John



Damascene, *On the Orthodox Faith*, Bk. IV, Ch. 14).

Virginity *after* birth means that Mary had no relations with a man after the birth of Jesus. While not explicitly taught in Scripture, the Latin, Greek, and Syriac Fathers all affirm this truth (C.f. The Catholic Encyclopedia, *Virgin Birth of Christ*, 1912). One might object that Scripture references Jesus’ “*brothers*” (C.f. Mt. 13:55, Mk. 3:31-35, Lk. 8:20, Jn. 2:12 and 7:3-5). However, the Greek word used (*adelphos*) can designate either a blood brother or varying degrees of extended family. Nowhere in Scripture is Mary ever explicitly

identified as the earthly mother of anyone other than Jesus. Additionally, the “*brothers*” appear to be older than Jesus, and Scripture supports Jesus being Mary’s firstborn (Mt. 1:18-25, Lk. 1:26-38 and 2:7). Most noteworthy, Jesus would not have entrusted His Mother to St. John if she had other children to care for her (Jn. 19:26-27).

In proclaiming this threefold dogma, the Church celebrates the fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecy, “*Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel*” (Is. 7:14). Far from distracting us from Christ, this dogma highlights the uniqueness of Jesus’ miraculous Birth and safeguards His identity as Son of God.



Catholics United for the Faith: 1-800-MY FAITH [693-2484], Cuf.org.

Ask about our FAITH FACTS:

- ✙ Mary’s Perpetual Virginity
- ✙ The First Marian Dogma: Mary, the Mother of God
- ✙ Mary, Conceived Without Sin: The Immaculate Conception

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* HARRISON COUNTY * CATHOLIC CHURCHES



Sacred Heart Church
Hopedale



St. Matthias
Freeport



St. Teresa of Avila
Cadiz

OCTOBER 11, 2026 28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FOR OUR VISITORS

RESTROOM FACILITIES

FREEPORT ST. MATTHIAS - The restrooms in St. Matthias are located off of the gathering room behind the worship area.

CADIZ - ST. TERESA - There are no restrooms in the church itself. Restrooms are located in the Activity Center which is the building right next to the church at the back of the parking lot.

HOPEDALE - SACRED HEART - The restrooms are located in the basement of the church but you have to go outside and down to the front of the church to access the basement and restroom facilities.

SCRIPTURE FOR THIS WEEK

SUN - Isaiah 25:6–10a, Psalm 23:1–3a, 3b–4, 5, 6, Philippians 4:12–14, 19–20, Matthew 22:1–14

MON - Galatians 4:22–24, 26–27, 31–5:1, Psalm 113:1b–2, 3–4, 5a and 6–7, Luke 11:29–32

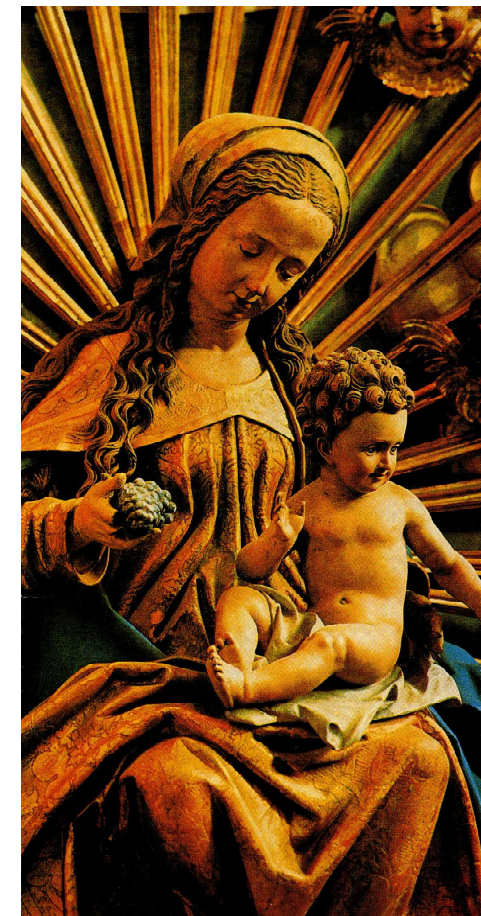
TUE - Galatians 5:1–6, Psalm 119:41, 43, 44, 45, 47, 48, Luke 11:37–41

WED - Galatians 5:18–25, Psalm 1:1–2, 3, 4 and 6, Luke 11:42–46

THU - Ephesians 1:1–10, Psalm 98:1, 2–3ab, 3cd–4, 5–6, Luke 11:47–54

FRI - Ephesians 1:11–14, Psalm 33:1–2, 4–5, 12–13, Luke 12:1–7

SAT - Ephesians 1:15–23, Psalm 8:2–3ab, 4–5, 6–7, Luke 12:8–12



✱ **HARRISON COUNTY CATHOLIC CHURCHES** ✱

St. Teresa of Avila (Cadiz) - Sacred Heart (Hopedale) - St. Matthias (Freeport)

Parish Offices: 143 E. South St. - Cadiz, OH 43907

Pastor: Rev. Frederick Kihm

(740) 942-2211 - email: d_vargo3@yahoo.com or fkihm@diosteub.org

<https://www.harrisoncountycatholicchurches.org>

ST = at St. Teresa, SH = at Sacred Heart, SM = at St. Matthias

The Rosary is recited one half hour before all weekend Masses.

Confessions will be heard after Mass at Sacred Heart and St. Matthias and

Tuesdays after 4:30 PM Mass at St. Teresa

10/10/2026	SAT	4:30 PM	ST	Chuck Pincola (Sis Pincola) - 5892
10/10/2026	SAT	7:00 PM	SM	David Bober (Janice Snyder) - 5658
10/11/2026	SUN	9:30 AM	ST	People of Our Parishes
10/11/2026	SUN	11:00 AM	SH	Brothers & Sisters (Jerry Jackson) - 5817

10/12/2026	MON			NO MASS
10/13/2026	TUE	4:30 PM	ST	Teresa Luther (Family) - 7038
10/14/2026	WED	4:30 PM	ST	Louis Martin, III (Joel & Connie Robinson) - 4700
10/15/2026	THU	4:30 PM	ST	Thomas Phillips (HC CWC) - 5725
10/16/2026	FRI	12:15 PM	SH	Intentions of the St. Joseph Foundation - 5755

10/17/2026	SAT	4:30 PM	ST	Tom Malicki (The Malicki Family) - 5693
10/17/2026	SAT	7:00 PM	SM	People of Our Parishes
10/18/2026	SUN	9:30 AM	ST	Myron Fledderus (Staley & Logue Families) - 5586
10/18/2026	SUN	11:00 AM	SH	Don Jochims (Karen Jochims) - 4515

2026 D/PSC: Thank you to our parishioners of our three parishes for making their 2026 goals. Therefore, the 2026 Diocesan Parish Share Campaign is done for this year.

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION CLASS: will be held Sunday, October 18th at 8:30 AM— 9:20 AM before the 9:30 AM Sunday Mass. We will meet in St. Teresa’s Activities Center. **(Next class: November 1st).**

MOMS PRAYING FOR THEIR CHILDREN: was formed by women who would like to pray for their children. They will begin with a rosary with intercessory prayers and then private prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament for the remainder of the hour. They will meet every 2nd and 4th Monday of the month. Hope you can join them on October 12th, 3:30 PM at Sacred Heart Church. (Also: October 26th.) Contact: Emily Gray at 740-491-0526, if you have questions.

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT: Sunday, October 18th, 6:00 - 8:00 PM at St. Teresa Activity Center. A movie will be shown for the children and adults may bring games to play. Coffee, tea and juice will be provided, please bring snacks to share.

PRAY AND TAKE ACTION — to Protect Women and Babies from the Abortion Pill: The USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities is inviting Catholics to join a focused effort of prayer and action to stop the spread of abortion pills by invoking the intercession of St. Joseph, Defender of Life. Join us in prayer from now until the end of October! For facts and resources about abortion pills visit: respectlife.org/abortion-pills. (From the office of Marriage, Family & Respect Life of the Diocese of Steubenville).

OUR ADOPTED SEMINARIAN: Our Catholic Woman’s Club has adopted another seminarian since Peter Stetson was ordained to the priesthood on May of this year. Our adopted seminarian is Samuel Ivkovich. His home parish is Triumph of the Cross, Steubenville, and he is attending St. Vincent Seminary, 300 Fraser Purchase Rd., Latrobe, PA. 15650. Pray for Samuel in his discernment.

CATHOLIC WOMAN’S CLUB MEETING: will begin with rosary at 6:00 PM, October 20th, in Sacred Heart Church. The meeting will follow in the Church Hall. Refreshments will be provided by the Club.

DEANERY MEETING & DAY FOR OUR SEMINARIANS: will be held Sunday, October 25th, 1:30 PM at St. John Fisher Church, Richmond. RSVP to Karen Jochims, 740-937-2062, by the 18th.

If everyone, everywhere,
at all times and under all circumstances
followed the teachings of Jesus Christ
and His Church, the world would be
so much more like heaven, and
so much less like hell!

Fr. Fred Kihm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Tammy Belon, Michael Beckler, Ginger Russell, Julie Meyer, Richard Kidd, Lisa and Baylor Barger, Joyce Antol, Celeste Coelho, Irma Filippi, Cherilynn Morgan, Dolly Ferraro, Joanne Raha, Ann (Fledderus) Crouse, Walter Carman, Holly & Niko Kirsch, Laura Griffin, Kaden and Suzy Cable, Melody Beckler, Jennifer Wright, Mike & Marilyn Belon, Pamela Kutcher, Michael Folio, Connie & Sam Gardner, Chris & Becky Wood, Darlene Powell.



PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR PARISH CHURCH IN YOUR WILL!

POPE LEO’S OCTOBER PRAYER INTENTION:
For mental health ministry -- Let us pray that mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.

YOUTH ENVELOPES: There are youth envelopes in the back of the church for children to use. It goes without saying that generosity is a virtue that needs to be learned at an early age.

K OF C ACCEPTING DONATIONS: The Knights of Columbus Council #4590 is accepting donations of nonperishable food items as well as laundry detergent, cleaning supplies and new or gently used clothing for the Cadiz Food Pantry. Please leave the items in the church basement (Hopedale) or in the Activity Center lobby (Cadiz). Mometary donations will also be accepted and may be dropped in the collection basket. Make your check out to the Knights of Columbus Council #4590 and on the memo line write: “Cadiz Food Pantry”. God bless you for helping the needy of Harison County.

JUBILEE of MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARIES: On Sunday, November 8th, 5:30 PM, at Holy Family Church, Steubenville, Rev. Drake McCalister will offer a special Mass to recognize significant marriage anniversaries of the faithful in the Diocese of Steubenville. This year’s celebration will be offered for couples celebrating their 10th, 20th, 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, 45th, 50th, 55th and 60th plus (every year thereafter). anniversary of marriage during 2025 or 2026. If you are one of the special couples celebrating a significant marriage anniversary and want to attend the Mass on November 8th, call the rectory office, 740-942-2211 by October 15th.

RESPECT LIFE MONTH: The Catholic Church in the United States celebrates Respect Life Month in October with the first Sunday designated as Respect Life Sunday. The theme for this year is “Mary, Mother of Life, Pray for us!” Our Lady’s distinguished role is as mother of all the living. As Catholics, we are called to welcome, care for, and protect God’s gift of human life, with special concern for those who are most vulnerable. We are called to be set apart for the work of the Kingdom of God, proclaiming in word and deed the sanctity of every human life, from conception to natural death.

OCTOBER: is the month dedicated to the ROSARY and MARY. Remember, the Rosary is recited one half hour before all weekend Masses. Everyone’s welcome.

“Mary, Mother of Life, Pray for us!”

Contributions & Donations

ST. TERESA
Regular: \$427.00
Building Fund: \$1,018.00

SACRED HEART
Regular: \$183.00
Building Fund: \$875.00

ST. MATTHIAS
Regular: \$270.00

GOD BLESS EVERYONE WHO HAS DONATED TO THE SUPPORT OF OUR CHURCHES!