



Dear Brothers and Sisters of Our Lady of Lourdes,

On the topic of marriage and family, this is an article on BUSTEDHALO.COM. This Sunday's Gospel is the Wedding at Cana. (John 2:1-11)

10 Years Strong: How We Built Our Marriage on a Foundation of Prayer

BY MIKE BEST OCTOBER 8, 2018

Before our big day, my wife and I attended a weekend marriage prep workshop held at a retreat center. One of the most memorable exercises had each of us draw our ideal picture of what our life together would look like in 10 years.

But a neatly drawn picture doesn't always tell the whole story. Once we were married, we were open to having children right away. We waited, and we prayed.

During the waiting, we thought it would never happen. The clock was ticking. Would we ever get pregnant? Was there something wrong with us? We both wondered if infertility was going to be a major bump in the road. As we prayed, we started asking God if we should consider adoption. And then, a little more than three years after getting married, my wife gave birth to a wonderful baby boy. Two years and four months later, she gave birth to a second boy.

Our ideal picture of what we hoped for was coming true.

But an ideal picture is just that: a glossy snapshot of your happiest moments. Marriage doesn't solve any problems you might have had before marriage. It changes your relationship with your spouse, but ultimately it doesn't change who you are and how you deal with life's challenges.

The point is - rarely do things work out how we envision and rarely do they happen on our timeline. That's one of the great lessons of life and one of the great challenges of marriage. But God gives us the power to love and the strength to overcome. Often, we realize these gifts from God through prayer.

Ten years into our marriage, my wife and I pray together every night. Now that we have two sons, we pray in the bedroom they share.

One form of prayer that has helped lift up my family when we hit a rough patch or someone is having a tantrum involves group affirmation. Affirmations force people out of the natural rhythm of life. It's a time when the phones are turned off and the distractions of modern life are silent. This simple form of prayer can help build stronger relationships, diffuse tension, and even boost someone's confidence.

During our family affirmations, my sons might say, "I like that Mommy takes me to lots of cool places, and I like my brother because he plays Legos with me."

Recently, my wife and I celebrated our 10-year anniversary. The time flew by and has been filled with joy, lots of learning, challenges, frustration, laughter, and amazing memories.

One of my key insights relates to perseverance. If you don't persevere with your prayers and with your relationship, then in effect, you're giving up. In any relationship, even with your spouse, there are going to be disagreements, misunderstandings, and bad days. To overcome them, my wife and I often go back to a magnet we received during marriage prep that offers reminders of how to argue fairly.

No matter what your age or relationship status, God does have a plan for you. In time, God's will reveals itself. Sometimes the results will involve all of your hopes and dreams coming true. And sometimes, you'll have to persevere since God's will is revealed on his timeline, not yours.

There are really just three answers to a prayer: "yes," "no," and "wait." And sometimes, it's that last answer that is the hardest, yet most rewarding. I had to wait a long time to meet my wife. We had to wait longer than expected to have children. Now, though, the waiting doesn't feel at all like a long time. It feels like time spent growing and living and loving.

(Author: Mike Best, BUSTEDHALO.COM, October 8, 2018)

In Christ's Peace,
Father Jim Ferry



For Your Stewardship of Time, Talent and Treasure

FISCAL YEAR STARTING JULY 2018	
WEEKLY GOAL	\$ 6800
Collection: January 5-6*	\$ 4560
Deficit:	\$ 2240

*** Includes Online Giving Weekly Average Deposit**

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

SATURDAY 19 JANUARY

8:30 am Noreen & Tony Clarke
5:30 pm Bud & Nancy Moore

SUNDAY 20 JANUARY

7:30 am People of the Parish
9:30 am Michael Phelan
11:30 am Vilma Render (3rd Ann.)

MONDAY 21 JANUARY

8:30 am Evelyn Judge

TUESDAY 22 JANUARY

8:30 am Luigi Russo

WEDNESDAY 23 JANUARY

8:30 am Noreen & Tony Clarke

THURSDAY 24 JANUARY

8:30 am Leo Acevedo

FRIDAY 25 JANUARY

8:30 am Angela Oddi

SATURDAY 26 JANUARY

8:30 am Tony DeLorenzo
5:30 pm Rose Spero (1st Ann.)

SUNDAY 27 JANUARY

7:30 am People of the Parish
9:30 am Rose Raymond
11:30 am Florence Dandola

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY 20 JANUARY

10:30 am Children's Choir Rehearsal

Monday 21 JANUARY

7:00 pm Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
Rectory Office Closed

THURSDAY 24 JANUARY

10:00 am **Deadline for News & Announcements
for February 3rd bulletin email:
lourdesbulletin@aol.com.**

6:00 am **Choir Practice**

SUNDAY 27 JANUARY

10:30 am Children's Choir Rehearsal



This week's Altar Candles, a gift of Annemarie Grasso & Family, is in memory of **ROSE SPERO (1st Ann.)**



LITURGICAL MINISTERS— SUNDAY 27 JANUARY

Mass	Lector	Eucharistic Ministers	Altar Servers
5:30 pm	Jim Reilly	Marge Christiano Emily Kunz Frank Refinski	Gina Camosy Jenie Camosy Jonathan Camosy
7:30 am	Hermie Santos	MaryEllen Cassels Hermie Santos Sr. James Soon	Tim Brennan
9:30 am	Carmelita Dizon	Annette Chiamonte JoAnne Chiamonte Ann Pflug John Pflug	Seamus Murphy Volunteer
11:30 am	Wendy Sheyka	Paul Hirsch Nancy Lanfrank Wendy Sheyka	Gregory Clark Ramone Eugene Amir Stewart
11:30 am	Children's Liturgy	Annamarie Frey	
10:30 am	RCIA		



PRAY FOR THE SICK

Vincent Aiello, Sean Bailey,
Josefina Balerdi, Suzane Ball,
Gina Cammarata, Darlene Cangialosi,
Teresa Carbin, Josephine Ciullo,
Tom Collinson, Jeannie Cox, Ramona De Castro,
Peggy Dolan, Pierre Ferrus,
Catherine Gascoyne, Al Gebhardt, Judy Givas,
Gary Grasso, Alberta Greco, Michael Harris,
Marissa and Richard Hedstrom, Jovann Henry,
Yann Henry, Glenn Holland, Prepty Joint,
Bruce Kiefer, Tim Klein, James Leung,
Rose Mateus, Marion McConville,
Mary McGuinness, Stephanie Montano,
Noreen Meyers, Liam Morley, Florence Olabiyi,
William Ollenschleger, Otilia Ortega, Idelourdes
Petion, Patrick Pierre, Mark Quarno, Thelma
Ramaglia, Amy Ricciardi, Mary Lou Ruppel,
Marie Salvatoriello, Vincent Santucci, Jr.,
Heather Scoffone, Patricia Seib,
Natalie Sims, Marie Stopfer, Jimmy Tiernan,
Robin Tobia, Ann Whelan, Michael Whelan,
George Zachos.

If you wish to have a loved one prayed for,
please call the rectory at 973.325.0110.

Around the Parish & Community



FOOD FOR THE NEEDY

January 26-27 is our monthly food collection for St. John's Church, Newark. Please bring non-perishable food and place it in the bins in the Church lobbies. Thank you.

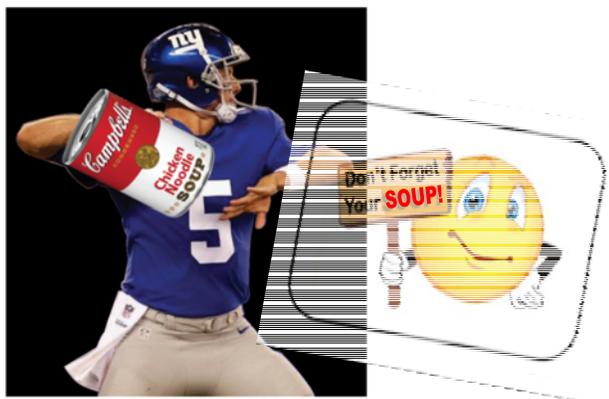
PIPE DREAM ➤

Church Organ

Raffle Winner

ANNOUNCED!

“SOUPER BOWL”



The St. Vincent DePaul Society of OLL will be collecting cans of soup through the month of January to be delivered to St. John's in Newark to nourish and warm the less fortunate.

Please bring your donation of soup to the collection bins located at the entrances of the church

Congratulations

to our Jan 5th \$500 winner:

Jeri Konvalinka



Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Married couples—Worn out from the Holidays? Are you looking for a way to avoid the January blahs? How about a special weekend, just for the 2 of you? Register for a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend today!. For more information contact Mike and Janet Turco at 973-427-7016 or 609-335-6880 or email mikeandjanetwwme@gmail.com

Our Lady of the Lake School
26 Lakeside Avenue, Verona NJ 07044

2x National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence



OPEN HOUSE & REGISTRATION

Sunday, January 27 (1:00-3:00 PM)

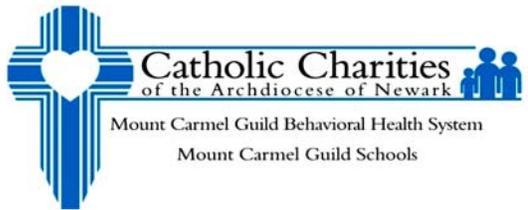
Preschool ♦ Full-day Kindergarten ♦ Grades 1-8

Our Lady of the Lake is where children go for leading academics and lasting connections. Our unique environment allows for highly personalized attention for all students, focusing on personal responsibility, social awareness, and leadership skills.

Our standing as a 2011 and 2017 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence places us among an elite group of educational institutions to have won the award more than once.

For Registration Information please call 973.239.1160 or, you can reach us at myoll.org ♦ info@myoll.org.

ACCOUNTABILITY WITH HEARTFELT THANKS



Catholic Charities
of the Archdiocese of Newark

Mount Carmel Guild Behavioral Health System
Mount Carmel Guild Schools

Catholic Charities received a payment of \$1,048 as a result of your clothing donations from June 1st, 2018 to November 30th, 2018. These funds combined with monies from other participating parishes throughout the Archdiocese enabled Catholic Charities to provide 94,355 nights of shelter to 1,324 homeless individuals and families (FY17/18).

Thank you for being our partner and enabling us to bring Christ's love to the most vulnerable in our society.