



ONE CHURCH: ENCOUNTERING JESUS, EQUIPPING DISCIPLES, LIVING MERCY.

St. Francis Humphrey

PO Box 116,
Humphrey, NE 68642
402-923-0913
www.humphreystfrancis.com

Holy Family Lindsay

103 E 3rd St.
Lindsay, NE 68644
402-428-2455
lhparish.wordpress.com

St. Michael Tarnov

309 3rd St.
Tarnov, NE 68642
402-923-0913
Mailing Address: PO Box 162

St. Mary Leigh

319 N Oak St.
Leigh, NE 68643
402-487-2666
<http://bit.ly/stmaryleigh>

Friends,

One of the debates that has plagued the Church throughout her existence is the relationship between faith and science. At times, these debates have become so contentious that it has led both to persecutions of scientists by Christians and persecution of Christianity by science. This is a shame, precisely because, if there were ever two realities that should be closely aligned, it is the realities of faith and science.

Think of it this way. God is the author of all truth. Our human experience, however, receives these truths from God in two different, but complementary ways. One way we receive truth is by discerning it in our world through our senses. This is the process we call “science”. The goal of science is to determine what is true in our world by analyzing what is observable. Thus, when science has enough information from enough observation, it declares some observable reality to be “true”.

Notice, however, that this field of science is limited only to what is observable. There is another entirely different realm of truth authored by God – the spiritual. We testify to these two realms in the very first line of the Nicene Creed. “We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, *of all that is visible and invisible.*” Not only is God the author of the truth that is seen, which is discerned by science, but also of the truth that is unseen. We call this truth faith.

When seen in this light, two interesting observations can be made. The first is that there is more certainty in truths of faith than there is with truths of science. It may seem odd to say that we are more certain that God is a Trinity of persons than we are that two plus two equals four. Nevertheless, those truths God reveals directly are more reliable than those we discern from our senses.

Our human experience seems to corroborate this. In fact, notice how the truths of science have changed over the years. When I was in high school, we learned in science that our world was slipping into another ice age and oil would be gone by 2020. Today, we are worried about global warming and there’s more known oil reserves than at any point in human history. At one time it was an indisputable scientific fact that the earth was the center of the universe. Centuries later it was an indisputable scientific fact that the sun was. Now we know that neither is. At one time it was an indisputable scientific fact that the world was flat, that an atom was the absolute smallest particle known to man, etc... The list could go on and on and on.

It’s not that science is evil and always wrong. In fact, the opposite is true. Science is necessary for us to develop into the creatures God wants us to be. The reason God gave us human intellect is so that we could exercise it and discern Him in the truths we observe in our world. The difficulty comes in that, given enough new information, what was thought to be true may evolve.

The same thing, however, does not happen with truths of faith. No matter how much time or new information we receive, God will continue to be three persons completely sharing one divine nature. Jesus Christ will always be true God and true man. Mary will always have been assumed to heaven body and soul, and so much more. These and the numerous other truths of our faith will, unlike science, never change and never evolve. Since they are revealed directly by God Himself, they are the truest realities in our world.

Our second observation is that there can never be any real contradictions to what is revealed to us in faith and what we have discerned as true in science. This is probably self-evident by now. Since God is the author of all truth, and since God cannot contradict Himself, there can be no contradiction in our discernment of God in this world (science) and what God has revealed to us directly (faith).

Of course, there have been, are and will continue to be apparent contradictions between truths of faith and truths of science. But these contradictions are the result of misunderstandings. Either these apparent contradictions result from a misunderstanding of science (more likely the case) or a misunderstanding of faith. More often than not, these misunderstandings involve one of these two avenues to truth overstepping their scope of expertise.

Faith and science are like two lungs, faith and science are meant to work together to discern truth. It is only when both work together that humans will breathe deeply from the truth that is not idea, but a person; Jesus Christ.

Blessings,

F. E. J. A.

GENERAL INFORMATION

SACRAMENT PREP

CONFESSIONS:

DAILY: 7:30 AM-7:50 AM (Before All Daily Masses)

SATURDAYS: **Lindsay:** 4:00 PM-4:45 PM

Humphrey: 4:30 PM-5:15 PM

SUNDAYS: **Lindsay:** 7:00 AM-7:45 AM

Leigh: 8:00 AM-8:20 AM

Tarnov: After 10:30 AM Mass

BAPTISMS: To schedule, please contact Rev. Eric Olsen.

MARRIAGE: Please contact the priest six months before wedding in order to fulfill required wedding prep classes.

CONTACTS

Pastor:

Rev. Eric Olsen 402-923-0913

.....esolsen@archomaha.org

Rev. Steve Emanuel 402-923-0913

To Submit Bulletin Information:

St. Francis Parishioners kmorfeld@hsfschool.org

Holy Family Parishioners.....lhfp@lhf.esu7.org

St. Mary Parishioners.....dbrabec@frontiernet.net

St. Michael Parishionersstmichaelstarnov@gmail.com

(For other parish contacts, please see the following pages.)

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER...

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Mike Leake, Gavin Hottovy,

Keith & Julie (Werner) Frauendorfer, Bob Oberhauser,
Moni Albracht, Bonnie Ramaekers, Shirley Pfeifer

KEEP IN PRAYER AS THEY SERVE OUR COUNTRY:

Jacob Williams, Jediah Brown, Codi Rose Fehringer,
Fr. Curt Dwyer, Bryce Bartholomew, Calvin Wiese,
Doc Schumacher, Dylan Preister, John Babl, Patrick
Washburn, Craig Prather, Cody Ramaekers, Ben Borer,
Nicole Thompson

(Please call your parish office to add a name.)



MASS SCHEDULES & INTENTIONS

ST. FRANCIS CHURCH, HUMPHREY:

Sat, 09/04:

5:30 PM-L/D Paul & Bonnie Ramaekers Family

Sun, 09/05:

10:00 AM-For the People of the Cluster Parishes

Mon, 09/06:

8:00 AM-In Thanksgiving from the Karen L. Weidner Family

Tues, 09/07:

8:00 AM-L/D +Edna Widhalm Family

Wed, 09/08:

8:00 AM-+Kathaleen Frauendorfer (A)

Thurs, 09/09:

8:00 AM-+George & +Liz Brockhaus (WA) & +Rich Wegener

Fri, 09/10:

8:00 AM-L/D +Ludwig & +Viola Wemhoff Family

Sat, 09/11:

5:30 PM-+Todd Preister & Lyle & Sue Babel (45th WA)

Sun, 09/12: 10:00 AM-L/D +Alvin & Shirley Fischer Family &
Dick & Sally Classen

(WA): Wedding
Anniversary

(A): Anniversary
of Death

(B): Birthday

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH, LINDSAY:

Sat, 09/04: 5:00 PM-L/D Kent & Pat Preister Family,
L/D Richard & Geraldine Preister Family

Sun, 09/05: 8:00 AM-L/D Harry & Mary Lou Nienaber Family,
Erwin Zach, Karen Weidner

Mon, 09/06:

8:00 AM-NO MASS

Tues, 09/07:

8:00 AM-L/D Henry & Rose Wiese Family

Wed, 09/08:

8:00 AM-Catholic Order of Foresters

Thurs, 09/09:

8:00 AM-L/D Bob & Dinah Olmer Family

Fri, 09/10:

8:00 AM-L/D Harry & Diane Korus Family

Sat, 09/11: 5:00 PM-L/D Marvin & Rhoda Gilsdorf Family,
L/D Harold & Bernice Korth Family

Sun, 09/12: 8:00 AM-L/D Bud & Lori Bender,
Parishioners of Holy Family

ST. MARY, LEIGH:

Sun, 09/12:

8:30 AM-Mary Ann Doernemann

ST. MICHAEL, TARNOV:

Sun, 09/12:

10:30 AM-Angie Slovinski

ST. FRANCIS CHURCH

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday - 8:00 AM-3:30 PM

CONTACTS

PARISH MINISTERS:

Deacon Dennis Anderson(402) 920-1380
Deacon Kent Sachau.....(402) 369-1750
Deacon Tim Howard.....(402) 841-3434
Parish Council: Duane Kosch(402) 910-3303
Ken Classen(402) 920-2153
Finance Board: Bryan Reichmuth(402) 340-6429
School Board: Todd Preister(402) 454-1302
Lindsey Kosch(402) 910-3303
Home & School Association: Sue Wegener(402) 948-0075
Lisa Classen.....(402) 649-8581
Religious Ed Director: Lori Classen(402) 923-0987
Daycare Director: Brandi Eisenmenger(402) 923-0585
Server Coordinator: Deb Herchenbach(402) 920-3161
Bulletin Submissions: Katie Morfeld(402) 923-0913
.....kморfeld@hsfschool.org
Parish Office Secretary: Karen Wieser.....(402) 923-0913
Finance Office: Lisa Krings(402) 923-0913
Alumni Relations Coordinator: Missy Braun(402) 923-0818
Prayer Line: During Office Hours - Parish Office..(402) 923-0913
After Office Hours - Connie Foltz(402) 920-3222
Pastoral Minister: Diane Zach.....(402) 920-0617
Gift Shop: Julie Krings(402) 992-4151

ST. FRANCIS SCHOOLS:

Principal: Jennifer Dunn.....jdunn@hsfschool.org
Jr./Sr. High School:.....(402) 923-0818
Elementary School:.....(402) 923-0611

PARISH SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sun, 09/05: *7 PM-Rosary for Peace & Unity in Church
Mon, 09/06: *Labor Day
Thurs, 09/09: *8:30 AM-7 PM-Adoration
*7:30 PM-Knights of Columbus Meeting
Sun, 09/12: *7 PM-Rosary for Peace & Unity in Church



RCIA CLASSES WILL BEGIN SOON:

If you would like to sign up for these classes, contact Karen at the parish office at 402-923-0913.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SEP 11-12

Sat, 5:30 PM

Lector-Kim Jarosz
Servers-Carter Howard, Harrison Howard
EMHCs-Deacon Tim Howard, Janet Osten
Greeters-Joe & Lori Classen
Gift Bearers-Dave & Ronda Lubischer

Sun, 10:00 AM

Lector-Rita Keller
Servers-Eli McPhillips, Drew Engel
EMHCs-Jordan Bender, Sarah Huettner
Greeters-Mark & Jeanne Brockhaus
Gift Bearers-Elaine Eisenmenger, Cathie Fuxa

WEEKLY COLLECTION REPORT

Sunday Giving	\$ 4,016.50
Loose	\$ 319.05
Youth.....	\$ 14.45
School Giving.....	\$ 240.00
Assumption	\$ 40.00
Building & Repair	\$ 50.00
Total Collection	\$ 4,680.00



CHURCH CLEANING

WEEKLY CHURCH CLEANING CHAIRMEN:

Jim & Marcia Schrant - 402-923-1064
Greg & Andrea Hassenstab - 402-741-1492
Alan & Jayne Ternus - 402-920-2820
Bruce & RaeJean Pfeifer - 402-920-3203
Sharon Theilen - 402-285-0170
Zackery & Susan Lindsley - 402-419-4036

SACRISTY & FLOWERS CHAIRMEN:

Jeff & Jami Brandl - 402-923-0126
Dave & Ronda Lubischer - 402-923-0282
Tom & Brenda Harding - 402-923-0259
Keith & Janet Krings - 402-923-0576
Tim & Diane Mausbach - 402-285-0326
Ken & Bonnie Kosch - 402-923-270-1508

VACUUMERS: Terri & Brenda Foltz, Jim & Lisa Classen

HAPPY
LABOR DAY

ST. FRANCIS continued

***WE WELCOME THE NEWLY BAPTIZED** and pray for the parents who are the first teachers of their children in the ways of faith: Andrie Kate Olmer, daughter of Nick & Jenna Olmer, was born June 11, 2021, and baptized August 29, 2021.

***PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER** the soul of Harold Frauendorfer (brother of JoAnn Veik and Gerald Frauendorfer of our parish) who passed away last week. May his soul, and all the souls of the faithfully departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

***THANK YOU:** Thank you for the gifts given in memory of Richard Wegener to our general church fund, general school fund, the Kevin Wemhoff Memorial Scholarship, Austin Steven Classen Memorial Scholarship, Sr. Bernice Preister Memorial Scholarship, Mary Helen Fuchs Scholarship, school wish list, and cemetery fund.

• Thank you to everyone who brings in their aluminum cans to be recycled. We received a check in the amount of \$98.80 for bringing them in to be recycled.

***ONE SPOT NEEDS TO BE FILLED FOR THURSDAY ADORATION:** If you would like to fill in the 2:00 PM-3:00 PM time slot for Adoration every Thursday, please call the parish office at 402-923-0913.

***EARLY-BIRD DRAWING WINNERS:** Congratulations to Mike & Sandy Classen big ticket stubs during the month of August! The prize is \$10 or 10 big tickets!

***CEMETERY WINTER PREP:** All summer items and flowers will be removed after Labor Day in order to get the cemetery prepared for winter. Please be sure to remove all items you would like to keep.

***BIG RED BASH 2021:** Join us Saturday, September 25, for the Huskers vs Michigan State Spartans at the HSF gym! Time to be announced. For tickets call Kevin & Paula Kosch (402-270-3726) or Nick & Jenna Olmer (402-920-3176). Meal and drinks provided. There will be twenty \$50 drawings for all who attend! *Watch future bulletins for more details!*

***WE ARE IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS FOR NEXT YEAR'S BAZAAR DINNER COMMITTEE!** We currently have no volunteers for the Dinner Committee. If you have not yet taken your turn, please seriously consider volunteering SOON so that you will be able to shadow this year's committee and learn the ropes. Call the parish office at 402-923-0913 to sign up!

***NEW BAZAAR AUCTION GUIDELINES FOR 2021:** We appreciate everyone's past support in donating to our auction held during our annual bazaar. With school being in session the following day, traveling/visiting alumni, we need to keep time in mind, so we are making a change in items accepted for donations. We are asking for individual items or packaged deals of \$100.00 or greater. This should help keep our stage free from clutter as raffle sales take place up there

HSF SCHOOL NEWS & SPORTS

School News

*** STAR District Screening through September 17 ***

Mon, 09/06:	*NO SCHOOL
Tues, 09/07:	*7:30 AM-4 PM-Scholastic Book Fair *8 AM-GS Mass
Wed, 09/08:	*Picture Day *7:30 AM-FFA Meeting *7:30 AM-4 PM-Scholastic Book Fair *8 AM-GS Mass
Thurs, 09/09:	*7:30 AM-8 PM-Scholastic Book Fair *8 AM-HS Mass *1 PM-Dismissal *NO PM Bus Service *2 PM-8 PM-Parent/Teacher Conferences
Fri, 09/10:	*7:30 AM-4 PM-Scholastic Book Fair *8 AM-GS Mass
Sun, 09/12:	*10:30 AM-4 PM-Confirmation Retreat @ St. Michael

Sports News

Mon, 09/06:	*5 PM-VB @ Burwell-St. Ed Triangular
Fri, 09/10:	*3 PM-JH/HS CC @ Norfolk Catholic *4 PM-FB w/ Palmer
Sat, 09/11:	*9 AM-JHVB @ Clarkson *9 AM-VB @ Fremont Bergan Tourney

LUNCH MENU & VOLUNTEERS

Mon, 09/06:	No School
Tues, 09/07:	chicken fajita, rice/noodles, peas & carrots, fruit
Wed, 09/08:	ham slice, dinner bun, mashed potatoes & gravy, fruit
Thurs, 09/09:	homemade pizza, broccoli, fruit
Fri, 09/10:	cheesy potato/ham/carrot soup, dinner bun, fruit

Served with milk. Salad bar served daily.

CAFETERIA VOLUNTEERS

Mon, 09/06:	No School
Tues, 09/07:	Lisa Classen, Karen Werner
Wed, 09/08:	Kathy Korus, Karen Werner
Thurs, 09/09:	Cathie Fuxa, Rita Keller
Fri, 09/10:	Betty Sueper, Ann Denkinger

PLEASE NOTE:

- *Please park in the reserved space by multi-purpose room.
- *Due to state health & safety regulations, please **do not** bring your preschool age children with you when volunteering.

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday & Wednesday - 8:30 AM-4:00 PM
Friday - 8:30 AM-12:00 PM

CONTACTS

PARISH MINISTERS:

Rev. Jim Novotny (retired) (402) 281-5610
Holy Family Parish Office: (402) 428-2455
Holy Family Parish Office (FAX): (402) 428-5205
Parish Project Center: (402) 428-2204
Holy Family School: (402) 428-3215
..... (402) 428-3455
Holy Family School (FAX): (402) 428-3231
Holy Family Daycare: (402) 428-9070
Parish Bulletin Submissions: Ann Weeder (402) 428-2455
..... lhfp@lhf.esu7.org

ONLINE:

Holy Family Parish Website: lhfp parish.com
Holy Family Daycare Website: lhfd daycare.wordpress.com
Holy Family School Website: lhfbulldogs.wordpress.com

PARISH STAFF:

School Principal: Andy Bishop
Parish Council/Finance President: John Wiese
School Board President: Ryan Dohmen
Knights of Columbus, Grand Knight: Roy Zach
Catholic Order of Foresters, Chief Ranger: Virgil Preister
Ladies Guild President: Angie Reardon
PRE Coordinator: Tami Wiese
Youth Ministry Director: Norma Preister
Daycare Director: Michelle Shemek

PARISH SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Mon, 09/06: *NO SCHOOL
*NO MASS
Tues, 09/07: *8 AM-Midnight-Eucharistic Adoration
*4:30 PM-SB vs Polk Co @Stromsburg
*5:30 PM-VB vs GACC @ HSS
*6 PM-JHVB vs Stanton @ HHS
Thurs, 09/09: *4:30 PM-SB Tri @ Genoa
*5:30 PM-VB @ North Bend
Fri, 09/10: *Grandparents Day Mass
*3 PM-Norfolk Catholic CC
*7:30 PM-FB vs North Central @ LHF

FUTURE EVENTS:

Nov 13-14: *Festival of Trees

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SEP 11-12

Sat, 5:00 PM

Lector-Jim McPhillips
Servers-Lily Stenger, Max Stenger
EMHC-Julie Beller
Gift Bearers-Marian Hamling

Sun, 8:00 AM

Lector-John Wiese
Servers-Nyla Beller, Sierra Reardon
EMHC-Sherry Lindhorst
Gift Bearers-Jim & Cindy Klassen

WEEKLY COLLECTION REPORT

Sunday Giving
Loose.....
Youth.....
School Suppo
PRE
Heat.....
Catholic Relie
Total Collectic



SEPTEMBER PRAYER CROSS

Terry & Lori Herchenbach
Justin & Cora Korus

Please take home one of the crosses with prayer cards
and return to the back of church at the end of the month.

CHURCH CLEANING

Feel free to clean any time **except when Mass is being offered and during Eucharistic Adoration.** If you are unable to come, **please** get a substitute.

Doreen Johnston	Cindy Klassen (Paul)
Anne Klassen	Denise Klassen
Ashley Klassen	Georgia Klassen
Cindy Klassen (Jim)	Jenna Klassen



ON EWTN: *Called and Chosen: Fr. Vincent Capodanno*, September 4 at 9:00 PM. The inspirational true story of Fr. Capodanno, a U.S. Marine Chaplain who gave up his life ministering to soldiers during the Vietnam War.

ST. MICHAEL CHURCH

CONTACTS

PARISH MINISTERS:

Deacon Louis Dohmen (402) 270-2032
 deaconlouisd@hotmail.com

St. Michael Parish Office: (402) 923-0913

St. Michael Email: stmichaelstarnov@gmail.com

Mail Address: P.O. Box 162, Humphrey, NE 68642

Finance, Records and Bulletin Submissions:

Mindy Stock (Home) (402) 923-0677

..... (Cell) (402) 367-2231

..... stmichaelstarnov@gmail.com

PRE Director: Michelle Brandl (402) 923-1308

..... rbrandl@megavision.com

Parish Hall: (402) 246-4821

Parish Hall Schedule: Ruth Mausbach (402) 246-2421

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Deacon Louis Dohmen

President: Mitch Dohmen

Joy Hemmer

Vice President: Robert Brandl

Mike Johnson

Secretary: Mindy Stock

Adam Korth

Scott Rosenthal

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SEP 12

Sun, 10:30 AM

Lector-Tim

Servers-Claire, Macey

EMHCs-Mitch, Barb

Greeters/Gift Bearers-Tim & Julie Sliva

Money Counters for September: Tim Sliva, Doug Macken

Church Cleaning: Ruth Gronenthal, Leslie Groetluchen

Helpers: Michelle Brandl, Linda Frauendorfer,

Julie Sliva, Lisa Sims

PARISH SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sun, 09/12: *10:30 AM-4 PM-Confirmation Retreat @
 St. Michael

Wed, 09/15: *PRE Begins for Grades 1-7

Sun, 09/19: *Fall Festival

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Total



FALL FESTIVAL WORK SCHEDULES AND TICKETS ARE IN THE BACK OF CHURCH: Please be sure to pick one up as they will not be mailed out this year. If you can not work your shift, please try to find a replacement.

THANK YOU to everyone who came to the PRE Registration Luncheon on Sunday, August 29. It was great to see so many faces after the long summer break!

ST. MARY CHURCH

CONTACTS

PARISH MINISTERS:

St. Mary Parish Office: (402) 992-0287

Bulletin Submissions: Melissa Brabec (402) 992-0287

..... dbrabec@frontiernet.net

PARISH SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Wed, 09/08: *First Day of PRE Classes for All Students

***A HUGE THANK YOU** to Janice K, Diane B, Charmayne B and Laure O for a most-needed deep cleaning in the church kitchen! Your work is greatly appreciated!

***PRE CLASSES WILL BEGIN** for students grades 1-12 on Wednesday, September 8. Grades 1-4 will meet after

school from 3:45-4:50 PM, grades 5-12 will meet from 6:30 PM-7:30 PM. If you have any questions, talk to Heather Kasik, Angie Reeves, Linda Wilk, Shawn Messerlie, Melissa Brabec, Emily Wietfeld or Fr. Olsen.

***CHURCH ROOF UPDATE:** Completed cost: \$76,000; insurance received: \$16,972; roof collections received to date: \$29,775. Thank you to everyone for their donations to the roof!

***ST. LEONARD'S BAZAAR IN MADISON:** On Sunday, September 19. Dinner served from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM, raffles, auction, bake sale and more! See the flyer at church for more information.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SEPT 12

Sun, 8:30 AM

Lector-Emma Labenz

Servers-Ava Kasik, Jack Brabec

EMHC-Sandy McMullin

Gift Bearers-Save Labenz

Rosary-Barb Ehlers

Collection Counters-Myles Kabes

WEEKLY COLLECTION REPORT

Adults	\$ 763.00
Students	\$ 3.00
Plate	\$ 229.00
Mass Intention	\$ 10.00
Fuel	\$ 300.00
Total Collection	\$ 1,305.00

CLUSTER PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHECK OUT THIS PAGE EVERY WEEK TO SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR PARISHES, THE SURROUNDING PARISHES, SNIPITS FROM FR. OLSEN & MORE!



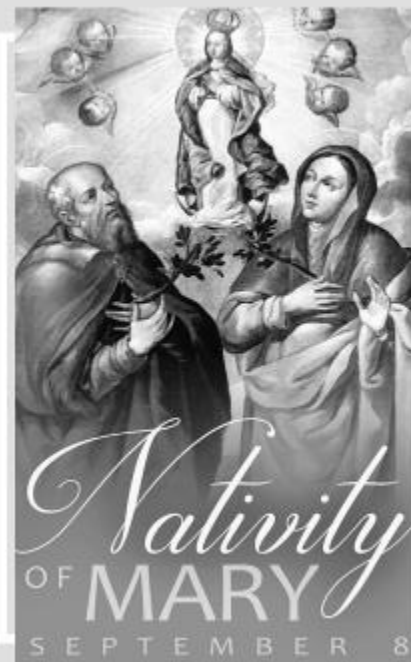
SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR IS COMING TO ST. FRANCIS!

Come on over to the high school gym lobby on the following days:

- September 7-10 from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM,
- September 9 from 7:30 AM to 8:00 PM during parent/teacher conferences.

Or you can visit our website and shop online at <http://www.scholastic.com/bf/stfrancisgradeschool2>.

ALSO, we are in need of volunteers! Please PAN or text Mrs. Huettner at 402-920-0603 if you are able to help out. Books bring us adventure!



AS WE CELEBRATE LABOR DAY, CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT CATHOLIC TEACHING REGARDING LABOR?

One of the most important principles of Catholic social teaching is the dignity of work and the rights of workers. Four encyclicals address this foundational social teaching: *Rerum Novarum* (1891) by Leo XIII, *Quadragesimo Anno* (1931) by Pius XI, *Laborem Exercens* (1981), and *Centesimus Annus* (1991) by John Paul II. They address both the theology and dignity of work. In Genesis, God takes the initiative in creating the world, calling forth human beings to be faithful stewards of creation. We are thus formed to share in God's continuing creative activity by partnering with God in finishing the world and helping bring it to completion and fulfillment. From this perspective, work can be spiritually understood in terms of sharing in God's ongoing activity to build, create, and transform the world. Human beings are co-creators with God. This vocation demands self-discipline.

Besides an exercise in self-discipline, work is also the means by which we develop and fulfill ourselves. In work, we shape the world and our environment. Through work, we also shape

ourselves. Pope John Paul II summarized this point in *Laborem Exercens* #6, "the value of work is not primarily the kind of work being done, but the fact that the one who is doing it is a person."

Labor Day offers an excellent opportunity to reflect on how we view work in light of our Catholic social teaching.



REFLECT

FIRST READING

The prophet Isaiah spoke of the importance of being strong of heart when it comes the ways of God. Why do you think this is such an important virtue?

SECOND READING

James encouraged believers to view the rich and poor from God's perspective. Why do you think people struggle with this divine point of view?

GOSPEL READING

In today's reading, we hear how Jesus healed the deaf man with a speech impediment at the request of the "people" close to this man. Who do you know in your life who needs healing from Jesus?



SUNDAY READINGS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

1st Reading:
Resp. Psalm:
2nd Reading:
Gospel:

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

1st Reading:
Resp. Psalm:
2nd Reading:
Gospel:

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