



Bethany Charismatic Catholic Church

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Chapel of Mercy



"At Bethany there is no Past, only the Present and Future Hope !"

There are those who have to cut down on red-carpet items like the corporate jet and that \$3,000 weekend at the spa. Far more prevalent are those who are crossing red meat off the home supper menu and sticking with spaghetti. But however the cuts come, there's no argument: Just about everyone is adjusting to a revised standard of living in some way.

Not all of this is bad news as individuals rethink their lifestyles and how they spend their money. Shoe repair shops are posting huge spikes in business, since people aren't so quick to rush out and buy that new shiny pair. The odometer on the car that reads 100,000 is replacing its "Trade me in" message with a much louder one: "You and I, kiddo, have only just begun."

But what actually is this standard of living we hear so much about in the news? This thing we have to adjust to, agonize over, and be defined by? One thing that's safe to say is that it can be defined as changeable, unpredictable – and up for grabs. Another thing that's safe to say: Nothing changeable, unpredictable, or up for grabs is "safe."

Of course we all desire that economies – not just our own but those around the globe – thrive. But there might be a better way to help that along, for everyone concerned, if we begin to understand the concept of standard of living in a different way – a way that frees, instead of restricts.

An understanding of spiritual truth sheds considerable light on the concept of standard of living. Jesus marked out the way. He invited people of every background to accept glorious liberty as children of God and be free! This is your divine right. It's a simple message, and when examined closely, it's a remarkable one because it gently leads us to the idea that when we get out of our own way, there are universal laws of God, of "good", that we can follow – laws that sustain us. And they not only sustain us, but allow for expanded prospects on the horizon.

Freedom from worry: this might sound a little naïve in these times, but in fact it's a present and dynamic possibility. To begin to know God as not only a Comforter, but as a Caretaker; to begin to see that this divine Mind guides us – not in some Pollyannaish way of thinking but, step by step, by removing the sense that we are at the mercy of events. It brings harmony into our lives. This doesn't imply for one minute being passive in doing what's necessary in regard to employment, bringing down debt, or finding new ways to meet living expenses. But it does mean that our starting point can be a humble acknowledgment that the divine Mind is already on the field. And guess what? It is meeting our needs by giving us good ideas, moment to moment.

Freedom to be receptive to new ideas: when worry lifts, we have clarity, pure and simple. Creative ideas suddenly fill the space where stress seemed to be. These ideas come from this same Infinite Being that fills all space and does not leave room for doubt and concern. When we have the expectation that good is our divine right, bestowed by a capable, divine, intelligent and loving God, we allow thought to travel in new directions, previously closed off by insecurity and indecision, doubt and inaction. New possibilities, perhaps for employment we may never have considered before, become opportunities for investigation.

Freedom to experience life in a wider context: what the understanding which the Lord provides is a vision that opens out – beyond a "standard of living" to a "standard of liberty" – a life not defined by a paycheck, or by the lack of a paycheck. Neither looming percentages of unemployment or ageism in the workplace, or any other limitation operating at either end of the spectrum, defines it. This vision liberates us from a future we've pinned down with "what ifs" and sets us free to consider entirely fresh options right now.

With this liberating perspective of spiritual understanding, a line from Psalm 35 offers assurance: "Let the Lord be magnified, who has pleasure in the prosperity of his servant." This is the "economy" we can start with and stay with, and are daily blessed by – safe, in the supremacy of the Almighty.

In His Light,

Bishop Raymond Contois

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WEEKLY MASSES

Saturday - - Cancelled

Sunday - 9:00 AM *

Wednesday- - Cancelled

RECONCILIATION & PASTORAL MEETINGS

By Appointment (413) 324-1164



August Schedule

Eucharistic Ministers Ministers of the Word

2nd	Ron, Paula Ann	Beth, Ron
9th	Ron, Paula Ann	Catherine, Paula Ann
16th	Ron, Paula Ann	Ron, Jayne
23rd	Ron, Paula Ann	Beth, Dan
30th	Ron, Paula Ann	Paula Ann, Stash



Bethany Food Drive

We will continue collecting non-perishable food items for area food pantries. Please drop off your donations of canned goods and dry goods, and leave them in the foyer.

Thank You for your constant generosity.



"Hunger never takes a vacation."



Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee.

Blessed are thou amongst women
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners now
and at the hour of our death.
Amen.

A PRAYER

TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit, You who made me see everything and showed me the way to reach my ideal. You, who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and you, who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue want to thank you for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from you no matter how great the material desire may be. I want to be with you and my loved ones in your perpetual glory.



Dates to Remember August 2026

2nd: SUN. 9:00 AM Lord's Day Mass

9th: SUN. 9:00 AM Lord's Day Mass

16th: SUN. 9:00 AM Lord's Day Mass

23rd: SUN. 9:00 AM Lord's Day Mass

30th: SUN. 9:00 AM Lord's Day Mass



THE ASSUMPTION of Mary

The Assumption of Mary is the belief that at the end of her earthly life, the Blessed Virgin Mary was taken body and soul into heavenly glory. It is a dogma of the Catholic Church, proclaimed by Pope Pius XII on November 1, 1950.



WHAT IS IT?

It means that Mary, the Mother of Jesus, was assumed body and soul into Heaven at the end of her life, preserved from the corruption of the grave.



WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE?

Mary's Assumption is a sign of the hope and destiny that awaits all who are faithful to God. It shows that God's grace can completely transform and glorify the human person.



WHY MARY?

Mary was chosen by God to be the Mother of His Son and lived a life of faith, holiness, and surrender to His will. As the first disciple and most faithful follower, she is already with Christ in heavenly glory.



WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR US?

The Assumption is a reminder of our own future resurrection and life with God. It encourages us to live with faith, hope, and love, striving for Heaven as our true home.

*"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." — Luke 1:46-47*

*Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.*



*"Lord, give me the courage to follow faithfully.
May I rely on Your strength and not on my own."*

Fr. Kenneth Grabner

