

Useful Resources

Scan the QR codes with your smart phone camera.



Divine Mercy Plus – Videos and podcasts from the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception
<https://divinemercuryplus.org/>



Why Be A Catholic – And Not Just Christian? - Fr. Mike Schmitz
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jJCbCs-y1k>



The Catholic Talk Show - A funny and informative podcast on Catholic faith!
<https://www.youtube.com/@CatholicTalkShow>

Evangelization

As baptized and confirmed Catholics, the Catechism of the Catholic Church states that we are all called to be “true witnesses of Christ” and “strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed.” (CCC, para 1285). Likewise, the Archdiocese of Baltimore proclaims that “As disciples of Jesus our mission is to evangelize ourselves, our families, our parish and local communities, and our world.” Here at St. Casimir, we have said that “Our Sacred Purpose is to welcome, evangelize and be inclusive so that we can grow in faith and



bring ourselves and others closer to God and each other, while being anchored in the community.”

Referring to the words of the Catechism, Catholic theologian Scott Hahn of Franciscan University writes:

“Strictly obliged” is strong language. It doesn’t leave much room for doubt about what the Church expects of her members. No matter how much we might prefer to leave the heavy lifting to the ordained and consecrated, the Church doesn’t give us that option. She says the work [of evangelization] belongs to the laity, as much as it does to priests and religious.¹

What does it mean to evangelize? At its core, it means proclaiming the Gospel, the “good news” (*evangelion* in Greek) that Jesus Christ, the son of God, became man, was crucified, died and was resurrected to accomplish our full and authentic liberation from evil, sin an death, and that through him God bestows “new Life” that is divine and eternal. The goal of evangelization is to bring others to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. This means not simply an intellectual acceptance of the truth of the Gospel, but to believe, trust in and live out the teaching of Jesus passed down to us through Scripture and the teaching of the Church.

First and foremost, we must continuously evangelize ourselves and our families. Most Catholics become (and stay) Catholic because they were born in a household where the Catholic faith was



St. Casimir at Canton & Patterson Park Website
<https://stcasimir.org/>



St. Casimir at Canton & Patterson Park Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/stcasimircantonMD/>



St. Elizabeth of Hungary at Patterson Park Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/StLizBmore/>

practiced faithfully, or because they marry a Catholic and discover the faith through a spouse active in their faith. Most professions and trades require years of initial education and training, followed by constant continuing education to maintain proficiency and skills. None of us would advise young people to drop out after middle school because they've learned all they need to know. So, regular study of the faith cannot stop after confirmation. As Catholic adults, we need to continually refresh and expand our knowledge of our faith and the ways in which we live it out in our lives – for ourselves and our families. The resources in these Catholicism 101 inserts are made available for just such a purpose.

Similarly, as parents, we wouldn't expect our children to be able to get into a good college or university with only one or two hours of school per week. An hour of religious education every week or two is not sufficient to form the faith our children will need to follow the narrow path of Christ. It is the parents' responsibility, given as a promise at the child's baptism, to raise the child in the Catholic faith. Accordingly, parents need to take the lead in catechizing their children, praying with them, and talking to them about God and salvation history. The Mass and other Church celebrations must become the center of family life. When parents prioritize other things (e.g., sporting events) over Mass or Religious Education, the lesson is not lost on the children. Scott Hahn writes:

Children learn by imitation. That's true with language, and its true with prayer. They learn to pray when we pray with them. They learn what it means to talk to God, when they hear us talk to God.

¹ Dr. Scott Hahn, *Evangelizing Catholics: A Mission Manual for the New Evangelization*, Our Sunday Visitor Publishing Division (2014) at 38.

They learn to go to God – in adoration, in thanksgiving, in contrition and in supplication – when they see us go to God in those same ways.²

Saints of the Week

Scan the QR codes with your phone to read and listen about the lives of the Saints.



April 23 – Saint George (280 – 303). Real martyr of Palestine, not a dragon killer.



April 24 – Saint Fidelis of Sigmaringen (1577-1622). “Poor man’s lawyer” becomes Capuchin priest and martyr.



April 25 – St. Mark the Evangelist (??-68). Author of the second book of the Gospels.



April 26– Saint Pedro de San José Betancur (1626-1667). Secular Franciscan aided the poor of Guatemala.



April 27 -Saint Louis Mary Grignon de Montfort (1673-1616). Founded Missionaries of the Company of Mary.



April 28 – Saint Peter Chanel (1803-1841). First martyr of Oceania and its patron.



April 29 – Saint Catherine of Siena (1347-1380). Great mystic and spiritual writer. Co-patron of Italy.

² *Id.* At 91.