

# A Parish Family of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charleston

Bishop Jacques Fabre-Jeune Diocese of Charleston

#### **Pastor**

Canon Christopher Smith

#### **Parochial Vicar**

Fr. Richard Tomlinson

#### **Deacons**

Nestor Acosta, Michael Cavin, Robert Smith, Gus Suárez, Mark Thompson & Michael Thompson

#### **Our Mission**

To share the fullness of the Gospel to all we encounter in our lives by equipping disciples to create and strengthen a personal relationship with Christ. By the grace of God, we are called to strive for personal holiness, participate fully in the vibrant life of the Church's Tradition and transform the world.



864.268.4352 After hours medical emergencies requiring a priest only: 866.456.2956



parishoffice@princeofpeacetaylors.org

#### Office hours:

Monday-Thursday 9a-4p \*office closed 1-2p Friday 9a-12p

#### Stay connected:

Website: www.princeofpeacetaylors.org

Facebook & Instagram: @princeofpeacetaylors

Recordings of homilies are on the parish website & <u>Apple Podcast</u> Sacred Music: <u>Spotify</u> (search Sacred Music at Prince of Peace) Formed: when you register at formed.org/signup, use code GYYF72.

#### Giving:

We appreciate your support: Parish Offertory & Parish School Giving

#### Library:

Online Catalog & Hours: https://www.librarycat.org/lib/POPCCS

#### Are you new? Welcome!

We are grateful that you have come to our parish and hope that you will soon call this faith community your home! Learn more by emailing us at welcome@princeofpeacetaylors.org.

## Letter from our Pastor



## An Extraordinary Parish for Ordinary People

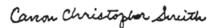
Dear Parishioners,

Father Patrick Peyton, a famous Irish priest in the last century, was famous for saying: "The family that prays together stays together." His Family Rosary Crusades were famous for galvanizing an entire generation of Catholics to pray the rosary and unite the family. He was actually declared Venerable by Pope Francis in 2017, the first step on the road to canonization. Do you pray the rosary? Do you pray it with your family? Do you pray it alone? Do you carry rosary beads on your person, or have them on a nightstand or in the car? Have you ever used the "natural rosary", your ten fingers, to count the prayers with, in the absence of rosary beads?

I often come across people who have heirlooms of rosary beads from a beloved grandparent, that are precious treasures, but never actually used. It used to be a given that Catholics knew how to pray the rosary, and did so, but we now have Catholics who were never taught by their parents how to pray this Catholic prayer. There are tons of videos on YouTube that can teach you how to pray the Rosary. The Internet has made it easy to source rosaries of any price point from all over the world.

As a student in Rome, I remember an older woman who used to stand on the side of the crazy busy Piazza Venezia every morning rain or shine, with rosaries and miraculous medals and pamphlets in various languages on how to pray the Rosary. She spent her own money on these things, and gave them to anyone who would stop to talk to her. One of my friends once commented, "That one woman has done more for the New Evangelization in Rome than all the cardinals of the Vatican combined." I think he was probably right.

Your mother wants to hear from you. You need that space of prayer to meditate on the mysteries of salvation, to be still, and know God. This October, dedicated to the Most Holy Rosary, is a great time to take up that prayer once again.





## Our Map—A Smoke, Vape & Tobacco Free Campus



- I Parish House, under the protection of Our Lady of Fatima (includes within it Croghan Hall)
- 2 Guadalupe Hall
- 3 Lourdes Hall & School Office
- 4 Walsingham Hall
- 5 PAC (Parish Activity Center) & PAC Classroom
- 6 St Vincent de Paul (SVDP) Hall
- 7 Blessed McGivney Hall
- 8 Church
- 9 Christ the King Adoration Chapel
- 10 St Joseph's Workshop
- Parking Lots 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15
- 16 St Isidore Garden (feeds the hungry of SVDP)

# **Parish Calendar**

Fr Christopher Smith = F0	CS Fr Richard Tomlinson = FRT  Fr Timothy	Davison= FTD   Readings are Year C	
sunday, 5 oct 27th sunday in ordinary time (English) 17th sunday after pentecost (Latin)	monday, 6 oct blessed marie rose durocher (English) st bruno (English & Latin)	tuesday, 7 oct our lady of the rosary (English & Latin)	
8a Mass For the People of the Parish (FRT)  10a Mass Deceased McCullen/Simmons Families (FTD)  12p Latin Mass Nova Mershon-L (FCS & FJM)  4p OF Altar Server Training  6p Vespers  6.30p Our Lady of the Rosary Procession	7a Mass Walter Duncan+ (FTD) 12p Latin Mass Michael Scovill+(FRT)	7a Mass Norman Dandenault+ (FRT) 12p Latin Mass Ray Lopez+ (FCS)	
8.50a religious education Ip basketball I.30p potluck parish house 6.30p cyo svdp in narthex	5.30a men's workout 9a st isidore garden harvesting 6.30p legion of mary walsingham hall 7.30p volleyball pac	6.30p fraternus/fidelis 7p men's bible study guadalupe hall	
wednesday, 8 oct weekday (English) st bridget of sweden (Latin)	thursday, 9 oct st dennis & companions (English) st john leonardi (English & Latin)	<b>friday, 10 oct</b> weekday (English) st francis borgia (Latin)	
7a Mass Toca Family-L (FTD) 12p Latin Mass Joseph Mershon-L (FRT) 5p Confessions	7a Mass Eileen Krahm-L (FTD) 12p Latin Mass Tim & Rosie Seger+(FRT)	7a Mass Michelle Zimmerman-L (FTD) 12p Latin Mass Francis J Fitzgerald+(FCS)	
7p introduction to catholicism pac	6.30p adult faith formation parish house 6.30p baptism class 6.30p kofc mcgivney hall	6p ccm mcgivney hall 6p basketball	
saturday, II oct st john XXIII (English & Latin) motherhood of the blessed virgin mary (Latin)	sunday, 12 oct 28th sunday in ordinary time (English) 18th sunday after pentecost (Latin)	prayer requests  All those serving our country, Brian Aho, Lucretia Albright, Angela Bagley, Deborah Baker, Jim Bannister, Yanessa Baugh, Daniel Bennett, Gerard Brady, Francine	
8a Latin Mass Charles Lewis-L (FCS) 3.30p Confessions 5p Mass Edward Carr+ (FTD)	8a Mass Deceased Perone Family (FRT) 30a Mass Nick Yates+(FCS) 12p Latin Mass For the People of the Parish (FRT) 6p Vespers	Burke, Wrenn Calcutt, Michael Campanelli, Jean Casey, Martha Catel, Frank Cespedes, Julia Chatignyblais, John Cegledy, Anna Chevalier & Casey Chevalier, Alan Coker, Rosemary Craig, Gena Cunningham, Alan & Linda Deese, Carol Deretchin, Thomas Dorsey, Gloria Dussich, Jim Eagan, Mary Ann Egan, Annmarie Egas, Andrew	
9a dominican reception parish house	no religious education no cyo Ip basketball	Frisari, Kenneth Gifford & Kathryn Gifford, Jim Green, Jennifer Gregory, Bridgitte Gunnells, Shannon Harkins, Eileen Harrison, Mary Jean Heap, Riley Holcomb, Judith Inghram, Carl Jones, Tammy Jones, Alejandro Kawasaki, Laura Kuczewski, Julie Mallory, Mary Martin, Ed Matthews, Dorothy McDonald, Peter McPherson, Connie Meiners, Kathy Melone, Sandy Milton, Janine Moore, Kathleen Mottl & Dan Mottl, Kristina Murphy, Lillie Nesbitt, Elizabeth Nowlan, Alan Olson, Valerie Pachur, Jenn Pfaffl, Doris Pratt, Kenneth Price, David Purpura, Lorenzo Rosa, Rose Schillaci, Kelly Shane, Christy Smith, Dcn Bob Smith, Lois Smith, Matt Smith, Yanini Smith, Kevin Stanton, Susan Subrizi, Christine Tallman, Laurie	
•	uest a name be added to the prayer list. for two weeks, unless requested otherwise.	Taylor, Rose Teuscher, Joe Valitchka, Cal Valois & A. Thana Pacco Rivas, Luigina Warga, Kayla Whatley, Sarah Williams, & Stephen Wiltberger.	



## An Extraordinary Parish for Ordinary People

#### homebound ministry

If you are homebound and wish to receive Holy Communion, contact Deacon Mark Thompson at mark.thompson@princeofpeacetaylors.org

#### bounce—loss of a loved one

Be comforted by those who have experienced the grief of the death of a loved one on the first Saturday of the month at 10a in St Vincent de Paul Hall. Learn more: Julia Gianelloni at 864.561.4733.

#### ladies lunch bunch

The Ladies Lunch Bunch will meet at Longhorn Steak House on Woodruff Rd in the Green Ridge Shopping Ctr, Tuesday, 14 October at 11.30a. Please RSVP to Dorothea Jones at 864.268.3354.

#### new parishioners

Join us in welcoming the following new parishioners: Morgan Bailey; John & Stephanie Cummings; Clay & Brianne Harper; Christine Schmidt

#### serve as an usher or greeter

Greeters and ushers are greatly needed across all Mass times! Consider serving your parish in this simple yet meaningful way:

- Be a welcoming face to all who enter the church
- Help create a reverent and organized worship experience
- Offer hospitality that reflects Christ's love Contact Marco DeMaria at 864.631.7713 or <a href="mad4jen@msn.com">mad4jen@msn.com</a>!

#### perpetual eucharistic adoration



"Let us come into His Presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to HIM with songs of praise!" Psalm 95:2 RSV-CE

Share a Holy hour with the Lord! Contact Lisa Buss at 864.508.7123 or adoration@princeofpeacetaylors.org. All hours are available for prayer,

but please consider one of the following hours (\*URGENT HOUR!):

Sunday - 12a\*; Monday - 7p; Wednesday - 8a & 8p; Thursday - 2a\*; Friday - 8a and 12p\*; Saturday - 11a & 2p

#### baptism class

Parents desiring Baptism for their child must attend a Baptism Class. The next class is 9 October at 6.30p in Walsingham Hall. You must register by contacting Deacon Gus at 864.420.0497 or by email at <a href="mailto:gus.suarez@princeofpeacetaylors.org">gus.suarez@princeofpeacetaylors.org</a>.

⇒ Baptisms cannot be scheduled until the class is completed. Only Deacon Acosta can schedule Baptisms.

#### men's bible study

The Tuesday evening Men's Bible Study, led by Dcn. Michael Thompson meets Tuesdays at 7p in Guadalupe Hall. All men are invited to join for fellowship and faith formation. Ouestions? Call 864.365.8178.

#### mass intentions

The parish has Mass cards for Mass intentions to be said in the Holy Land anytime.

## **Donations** (envelopes in the narthex may be dropped into the offertory baskets)



sanctuary candle \$20



flowers \$400



bread & wine \$20



music \$300

donated by: Dave & Jane Schutte in honor of: their family

## An Extraordinary Parish for Ordinary People

#### august offertory

Giving to the offertory is convenient and easy. Scan the QR code, click "donate" on our website, or visit Tithely to make a gift <a href="https://tithe.ly/give?c=1479801">https://tithe.ly/give?c=1479801</a>. Or, options to give to special projects are available.



Donate

	 As of August 31, 2025				
Offertory	Actual		Budget	Surplus / (Deficit)	
Month	\$ 143,065	\$	168,200	(\$25,135)	
Year-To-Date	\$ 297,865	\$	300,730	(\$2,865)	

#### magnifikid subscription order

Prince of Peace is placing a bulk order for Magnifikid! (regularly \$39/year). Parish pricing is \$17.90 each at 25+ subscriptions or \$15.90 each at 50+. We already have several reserved and hope to reach the 50+ tier. To be included, email Maria Barontini at <a href="mailto:maria.barontini@princeofpeacetaylors.org">maria.barontini@princeofpeacetaylors.org</a> by I November. Maria will coordinate monthly pickup via the school, RE program, or privately. Final price will be confirmed after I November; payment is due by I2 December 2025. Preview the journal at <a href="mailto:us.magnificat.net/home/magnifikid">us.magnificat.net/home/magnifikid</a>.

#### 50th anniversary celebration

Join us Friday, 12 December at 6p as Bishop Fabre-Jeune, CS, celebrates a solemn Mass for our parish's 50th anniversary. A festive reception will follow with authentic Mexican food, Mariachi music, and a photo booth with sombreros and ponchos. RSVP to parishoffice@princeofpeacetaylors.org.

#### christ the king

To celebrate the Feast of Christ the King on 26 October, we will sing Henri Du Mont's Missa Regia ("Royal Mass"), a French Baroque setting that has endured as a staple in chant books. The St. Cecilia Choir will sing, and the music will be printed in the worship aid—come practice your chant reading and join in!

#### homeschool mass with bishop

All homeschoolers are invited to Mass with Bishop Fabre on 22 October at 9.30a at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist (Charleston). No RSVP needed.

#### over 900 books, socializing and fun await

The Blessed McGivney Hall is open on Sundays after the 10a Mass. Grab a hot drink or breakfast, peruse a library of over 900 vetted Catholic titles, and socialize with parishioners. Indoor and outdoor activities are available for kids of all ages! Children 18 and under must be accompanied by a parent or caregiver at all times. Contact John Olson to learn more at <a href="mailto:jamolson@gmail.com">jamolson@gmail.com</a>.

#### interested in learning more about catholicism?

Our Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA) program is open to anyone interested in deepening their understanding of the Catholic faith—whether you're a lifelong Catholic seeking a refresher or someone who is simply curious about what Catholics believe. Participation in the program does not require a commitment to become Catholic; it's a welcoming space to explore, ask questions, and grow in faith. To learn more or to join us, email ocia@princeofpeacetaylors.org. Classes meet Wednesdays at 7p in the PAC.

#### holiday craft fair

Put on your shopping shoes; it's Holiday Craft Fair time on Saturday, I November from 9a-2p. Drop in to see talented artisans, hand crafted items and a selection of holiday delights. Questions? Contact Jim Bindewald at popcraftfair@charter.net.

⇒ Vendor booths are SOLD OUT!

#### advent market

Prince of Peace Catholic Church invites you to our Advent Market on the church plaza: Friday, 5 December (5–9p) and Saturday, 6 December (9a-Ip). Celebrate the joy of the Nativity with a European-style Christmas market featuring vendors, food, drinks, fellowship, church tours, a life-size hand-carved Nativity, St. Nicholas visits, Lessons & Carols, and more.

- Vendor applications are coming soon! Craft (handmade) and retail (resale) spaces are available.
- Volunteers are also needed to serve on the Vendor Committee to help with vendor selection, placement, and hospitality.

Questions? Please email Michael Sandifer at michael.sandifer@princeofpeacetaylors.org



## An Extraordinary Parish for Ordinary People

#### meal train at pop

Parishioners and school families are invited to reach out to Jennifer Pfaffl by email at <a href="missfluff129@yahoo.com">missfluff129@yahoo.com</a> during times of need to have a Meal Train organized. It takes a village to provide support to those in need. Please consider supporting the gift of comfort for those in need.

#### st vincent de paul—needs

St. Vincent de Paul accepts checks made directly to SVdP and online giving through Zeffy. Scan the QR code or click the link to make your gift to SVdP.



This year's Christmas project will provide gift cards and warm winter coats to children in need. A donation of \$50 will supply a gift card, and \$25 will provide a coat. Our goal is to bless 125 children this season. Donations may be made online, by scanning the QR code, or by placing a check in the poor box inside the church.

Pantry donations may be left in the large wooden bin in the Narthex. Current pantry needs are:

Breakfast: Cereal, Jelly

Proteins: Canned Tuna, Canned Chicken

Pasta & Sauces: Pasta, Pasta Sauce, Spaghetti O's,

Macaroni & Cheese

Important Notice: SVdP does not accept clothing, shoes, or household items. To volunteer, contact popsydpyolunteer@gmail.com.

#### men's breakfast

All men of the parish and their friends are invited to breakfast and fellowship on the first Thursday of each month (e.g. 6 Nov) at 8a at Eggs Up at 3935 Pelham Rd. Contact Don Foertsch at 864.268.3810

## fall coffee on the plaza sundays

Join us for Coffee on the Plaza on 19 Oct and 16 Nov after the 10a Mass. Moves to PAC if the weather is poor. Goodwill donations are encouraged to defray the costs and allow us to continue to offer this hospitality.



#### parish school donations

Did you know that 45% of families rely on financial assistance to attend the parish school? Your donations to our Annual Fund are needed. Prayerfully consider making a Catholic education possible with a check to POPCS or online gift today!





#### become a registered parishioner

If you consider Prince of Peace your spiritual home we ask that you register! Please visit our website <a href="mailto:princeofpeacetaylors.org">princeofpeacetaylors.org</a> and click the register button.

#### invitation to fidelis & fraternus

Looking for a place for your tween/teen to grow in virtue and answer the call to holiness while forming lasting friendships with their Catholic peers? Join Fraternus (for boys) or Fidelis (for girls), which are open to kids in grades 6–12, on Tuesdays. Email Fidelis at <a href="mailto:upstatefidelis@gmail.com">upstatefidelis@gmail.com</a> or email Fraternus at <a href="mailto:ecividanes@hotmail.com">ecividanes@hotmail.com</a>

#### latin mass community monthly potluck

The Latin Mass community hosts a potluck the first Sunday of each month in the PAC after the 12n Latin Mass. Please bring a main dish to share. Volunteers needed for setup and cleanup! Questions? Contact the Green Family at 719.660.3440.

#### welcome committee

Interested in helping new folks feel at home at Prince of Peace Catholic Church? Contact Loretta Williams at <a href="welcome@princeofpeacetaylors.org">welcome@princeofpeacetaylors.org</a> to learn more about the Guild of St. Benedict Welcome Committee. From emails and phone calls to welcoming events, there's a way for everyone to pitch in!

 The Welcome Committee is also collecting gently used hardback or sturdy children's religious books appropriate for ages I—4. Please drop them off in the church library or reach out to Loretta at the email above.

#### substitute teachers needed

Join our Substitute Teacher list at the parish school! Please email Liz Burgdorf, Receptionist, to learn more at <a href="mailto:reception@popcatholicschool.org">reception@popcatholicschool.org</a>.

## An Extraordinary Parish for Ordinary People

#### recollections

Friends of St Josemaria will be hosting in-person recollections:

- Evening of recollection for men: Friday, 17 October at 7p with reception in Parish House
- Morning recollection for women: Saturday, 18
   October at 9a.

A recollection is a silent mini-retreat. It consists of Benediction, a meditation by a priest of the Prelature Opus Dei, an examination of conscience, spiritual reading from the works of St Josemaria or another spiritual author and a talk on a practical topic. contact Thierry at <a href="mailto:thierry.wersinger@gmail.com">thierry.wersinger@gmail.com</a> or 864.313.5601

#### vespers

On Sundays in October and November, we will celebrate Solemn Vespers or Evening Prayer, in the Church at 6p. This 30-35 minute service is a great way to join in the public prayer of the Church at the end of the day.

We will need a Thurifer, Crucifer, 2 acolytes and an MC.

#### open light media account creation (free)

Our parish has gifted all families free access to Open Light Media. To begin exploring this benefit, create an account:

#### I. Create an Account

- Click Here: <a href="https://plus.openlightmedia.com">https://plus.openlightmedia.com</a>
- Login, create an account using email address and password (if your name is in the black box on the right)

#### 2. To join your group

- Click here <u>Openlight Media Plus Subscription</u> Plans » Openlight Media
- Click Join Your Group
- Enter your school's zipcode, then press the right arrow
- Click on the school name (Prince of Peace Catholic SCHOOL—do not say "parish")
- Complete the fields ROLE and POSITION
- Confirm on the next page

#### 40 days for life

Join Christians across the Upstate for the fall 40 Days for Life campaign, 24 September – 2 November. Although Roe v. Wade has been overturned, abortions still occur, and we must continue to pray and witness until every life is protected from conception to natural death. Pray the **Rosary for Life** during the campaign and submit your counts to familylife@charlestondiocese.org.

For **sidewalk counseling training** (online or inperson) or to sign up for vigil hours, visit <a href="https://www.40daysforlife.com/greenville">www.40daysforlife.com/greenville</a> or contact Judy (864.506.0964) or Ingrid (864.991.5873).

#### mary queenship, our lady of palestine

Our Lady of Palestine is the patroness of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, an order to which Fr. Smith, Fr. Tomlinson, Fr. Davison, and 17 of our parishioners belong. At the 10 a.m. Mass on 26 October, we joyfully welcome all the Knights and Dames of the Holy Sepulchre!

#### basketball signups 21 sept-8 oct

K5–12 (co-ed & boys/girls) + Men's/Women's 18+. Register at poptaylorsathletics.com or in the church office. Registration, waiver, and code of conduct required before practice/games.

**Practices**: Sundays in the PAC starting 5 Oct K5–1st Co-Ed 1–2p • 2–3rd Co-Ed 2–3p • Girls 4–5th 3–4p • Boys 4–5th 4–5p • Boys MS 5–6p • Girls MS 6–7p • Girls HS 7–8p • Boys HS 8–9p • Men's/Women's 9–10p

**Volunteers needed:** Scoreboard/scorebook too. Email John (poptaylors.bball@gmail.com) or Maria (maria.rauch@princeofpeacetaylors.org). Virtus required.

### our lady of the rosary procession

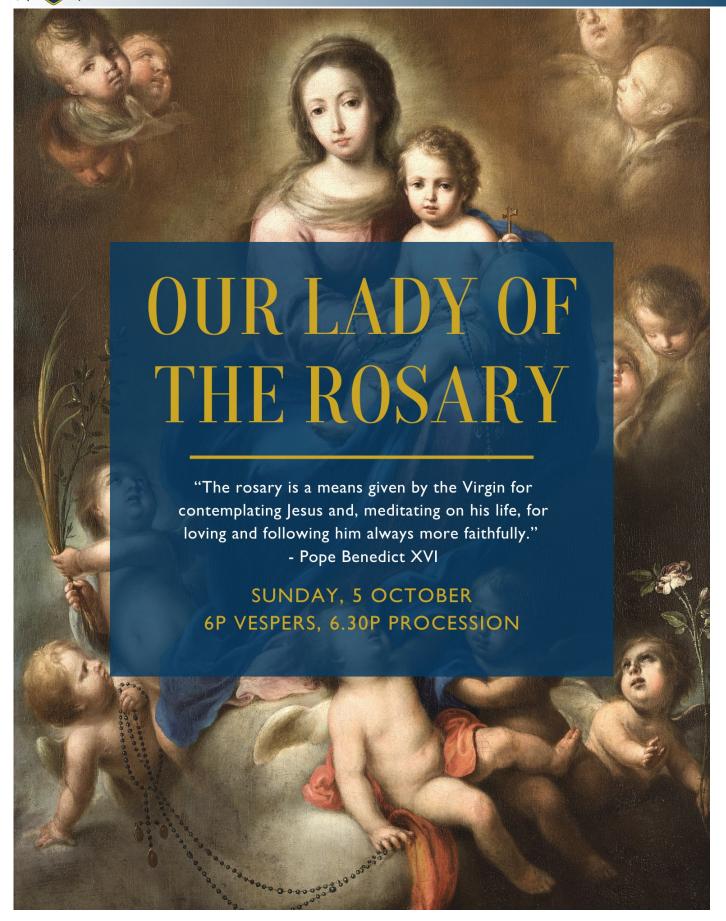
On 5 October, there will be a procession for Our Lady of the Rosary following Vespers which is at 6p.

#### altar server training

There will be English Mass altar server training for all OF servers on Sunday, 5 October from 4-5.30p.



An Extraordinary Parish for Ordinary People



## **Contact Us**

		A	n Extrac	ordin	ary Parish for Ordinary People
Clergy					
Fr. Christopher Sr	nith Pastor		864.268.435	2 frs	smith@princeofpeacetaylors.org
Fr. Richard Tomlir	son Parochial Vic	ar	864.268.435	2 ric	chard.tomlinson@princeofpeacetaylors.org
Fr Tim Davison	Retired Pries	t			tim.davison@gmail.com
Altar Servers		Dcn Michael Cavin		m	ichael.cavin@princeofpeacetaylors.org
Sick & Homeboun	d	Dcn Mark Thompson	864.630.060	)6 m	ark.thompson@princeofpeacetaylors.org
Liturgical Ministers	<u> </u>	Dcn Michael Thompson		m	ichael.thompson@princeofpeacetaylors.org
Baptism Class		Dcn Gus Suarez		gu	s.suarez@princeofpeacetaylors.org
Parish Staff					
Phil Head	Director of Admin	istration 8	64 331 3908	direct	orofadministration@princeofpeacetaylors.org
Justin Carrick	Finance & Account				keeper@princeofpeacetaylors.org
					r.acosta@princeofpeacetaylors.org
		funerals, declarations of nullity			. incoording the confederation of the confederation
Maria Rauch	Parish Secretary		-		rauch@princeofpeacetaylors.org
					gery or when gravely ill, Safe Environment
Maria Barontini	•				barontini@princeofpeacetaylors.org
		hesis, first confession, first comm			
				•	el.sandifer@princeofpeacetaylors.org
		OCIA (introduction to catholicis			
Philip Reed	Director of Music	,	,	philip.	reed@princeofpeacetaylors.org
·	Associate Director				eth.wilson@princeofpeacetaylors.org
Jeanie Reed	Associate Director	of Children's Music			.reed@princeofpeacetaylors.org
Ed Carl	Sexton			•	l@princeofpeacetaylors.org
		r childcare registration numb	per is 24774		
Nathan Barontini	Principal	e emideare registration name	864.331.214	15	principal@popcatholicschool.org
Michelle Zimmern	•		864.331.214		michelle.zimmerman@popcatholicschool.org
	`	,			
•		of our ministries on our wel	osite under t		
Communications		Kylee Jean Heap			communications@princeofpeacetaylors.org
Creighton Fertility C		Kristie Killough, RN, BSN, FCP	864.243.7		text for appointment
	outh Organization)	John & Stephanie Lasitter	0440040		cyo@princeofpeacetaylors.org
Food & Financial A		St. Vincent de Paul Society	864.331.3		
Introduction to C	atholicism	Sean Chapman	0///:-=		ocia@princeofpeacetaylors.org
Legion of Mary		Pat Hodur	864.616.7		ph137@aol.com
B 1.46		Pam Harrison	864-233-6	5200	pharriso@bellsouth.net
Respect Life Spiritual Direction		Lisa Buss			spiritualdirection@princeofpeacetaylors.org



# **PROCLAIM THE FAITH**YEAR 1 STUDY GUIDES

Monthly study guides can be used in personal prayer and for small group reflection.

# **OCTOBER 2025**

#### **SCRIPTURE**

Read Mt 13:1-23

#### **REFLECT:**

- **1.**Why do you think Jesus uses this image of the "sower" to talk about the Kingdom of God? What can we ascertain from pondering the figure of the sower and his behavior in this passage?
- 2. What might the different types of soil tell us about receptiveness to the Gospel message? How might this affect how we think about evangelizing?
- 3.What type of soil do you think you are at this moment? What areas of potential growth can you identify?

#### **READ:** A selection from *Via Fidelis* — Chapter 3

When we hear the word "evangelization," we often imagine knocking on people's doors or preaching on a streetcorner. While such efforts are sometimes helpful, this is not how most of us will be called to evangelize.

Rather, evangelization begins by walking alongside the people who God has placed in our lives — our family members, friends, neighbors and co-workers. We form relationships with them and meet them where they are. This is what Jesus did when he first began to walk with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, asking about them and listening to their worries and fears.

In the context of this relationship, we can help to gradually establish trust and clear away obstacles that might hindering the person's relationship with God. By being approachable and joyful in living our faith, they can feel comfortable to inquire or pose questions to us about God.

This is a gradual process of "clearing the soil" so that their hearts might be better prepared to receive the seeds of faith, so that the seeds of faith can land in good soil rather than rocky soil (Mt 13:1-9). This preparation can be called "pre-evangelization."

#### **REFLECT:**

- **1.**In this passage, the bishop talks about the importance of relationships. Why do you think this is such a key component for the process of evangelization?
- 2. The image invoked here from Emmaus is one of walking together with others. How does this inform our understanding of our baptismal mission to make disciples?
- 3.In what ways does understanding ourselves in the context of the soil in the "Parable of the Sower" help us to understand others? In what ways can we "cultivate the soil" in the hearts of those we walk with?



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Tony & JoAnn Sciortino Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 11am-9pm Friday: 11am-10pm, Saturday: 12pm-10pm Sunday & Monday: Closed (864) 991-8636

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