

Blessed Trinity Parish

Roman Catholic Church

Greenfield, Massachusetts

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time - January 15, 2023



Schedule of Masses

Lord's Day Vigil— Saturday 4 pm

Lord's Day—Sunday 8 am, 9:30 am, & 11 am

Weekday - 8 am & 9 am

First Saturday - 8 am

Weekday Holy Day Vigil - 6 pm

Holy Day - 9 am, 12:05 pm, & 6 pm

*"Just as the living Father sent me
and I have life because of the Father,
so also the one who feeds on me
will have life because of me." Jn 6:57*

Our Churches & Sacred Spaces

Blessed Sacrament Church

221 Federal Street

Mass: Saturday - 4 pm | Sunday - 11 am | Daily - 9 am

Holy Day Vigil: 6 pm | Holy Day: 9 am

Calvary Cemetery

Wisdom Way | First Burial recorded 1792

Holy Trinity Church

135 Main Street

Mass: Sunday - 8 am & 9:30 am | Daily - 8 am

Holy Day: 12:05 pm & 6 pm

Perpetual Adoration Chapel

221 Federal Street | Always present 24/7

www.blessedtrinitygreenfield.org

All are Invited & Welcome to Join Us!

We are a diverse Catholic Community of Greenfield which shares a faith in Jesus Christ, is nourished at the table of the Eucharist, celebrates life-giving and healing Sacraments, tries to live the beatitudes, and reaches out in service, together.

Please join us on this journey of life and faith!

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME.

Almighty ever-living God, who govern all things, both in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the pleading of your people and bestow your peace on our times.



PARISH OFFICE.

14 Beacon Street. Greenfield, MA 01301

HOURS: Monday-Friday: 8 am - 4 pm

413.773.3311 | 413.774.2884
office@blessedtrinitygreenfield.org



PASTOR: Rev. Michael M. Pierz

pastor@blessedtrinitygreenfield.org | x103

DEACONS: deacons@blessedtrinitygreenfield.org

Deacon Paul F. DeCarlo | Deacon John Leary

Deacon George Nolan | Deacon Channing L. Bete (ret.)

CAMPUS MANAGERS:

Deacon Paul DeCarlo | Deacon John Leary

OFFICE MANAGER:

Monique Richardson

MAINTENANCE STAFF:

Harry Demers | Rick Dufraine

CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION:

Betty Fritz, Administrator *pro tem*

MUSIC MINISTRY:

Paul Calcari, Choir Director | Kathleen Galluzzo, Organist

Stephen Glover, Organist/Choir Director

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

Karen Yestramski-Provost, Interim Coordinator

ReligiousEd@blessedtrinitygreenfield.org

FOOD PANTRY:

Donna Leary, Coordinator

pantry@blessedtrinitygreenfield.org

BULLETIN:

Charlene Currie, Editor *pro tem*

bulletin@blessedtrinitygreenfield.org

(Deadline **Sunday 5pm** for following weekend.)

FINANCE COUNCIL: (transitional)

Bill Bell (Co-Chair) | Kevin O'Neil (Co-Chair)

Pierre Belhumeur | Ann Dillon

Gary Longley | Mark Penfield

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION BOARD:

Marshall Carroll | Virginia Christi

Phil Corrinet | Jason Edson

Mary Fleury | Michael Motisi

Lindsay O'Neil | Katie Pierce

Karen Yestramski-Provost

BUILDINGS & MAINTENANCE COMMISSION:

Pierre Belhumeur | Skip Descavich

Johan Livingstone | Gary Longley

Mark Penfield | Greg Rode

FATHER JAMES CASEY HALL (135 Main St)

PASTORAL CENTER HALL (14 Beacon St)

BL. MCGIVNEY CONFERENCE ROOM (14 Beacon St)

Arrangements for use can be made through the Parish Office.

PERPETUAL ADORATION CHAPEL

Deacon John Leary, Coordinator

Hours available and Coverage Requested

CALVARY CEMETERY

Arrangements for burial can be made through the Parish Office.

OUR MINISTRIES.

FOOD PANTRY

Saturday 9 am– noon | Tuesday Noon-3 pm | Thursday 3 pm-6 pm | pantry@blessedtrinitygreenfield.org

COMMUNITY MEALS: Upcoming schedule to come.

ALTERNATIVES PREGNANCY CENTER

413.774.6010 *Pregnancy Tests, Counseling, Support, Post Abortion Support*

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING: Ed & Suzi Cottrill 413.773.3311

YOUNG & CATHOLIC YOUNG ADULT GROUP OF FRANKLIN COUNTY: Stephanie Paige 413.773.3311

POPE ST. JOHN PAUL THE GREAT YOUTH GROUP: Ed & Suzi Cottrill 413.773.3311

ROSARY SODALITY: Marcy Hoynoski, President. 413.773.3311

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, LT. JOHN GALVIN COUNCIL NO. 133: Dan Arsenault, Grand Knight. 413.773.3311

HOSPITAL MINISTRY | JAIL MINISTRY | HOMEBOUND MINISTRY | HOMELESS MINISTRY

Thoughts from the Pastor's Desk ...

Dear friends of Blessed Trinity,

Following the great mysteries of the Nativity of the Lord and His Epiphany as a light to all nations, Holy Mother Church brings to our attention the great Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. As the bridge between the liturgical seasons of Christmas and Ordinary Time, this feast inaugurates the ordinal progression of our coming weeks and orients us in our relationship with the Father. Having celebrated the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord this past Monday (due to Christmas falling on a Sunday), we are challenged to recognize that in Christ Jesus, we have gained a share in divine sonship.

As Jesus was baptized by John, immersed in the waters of the Jordan, He sanctified the waters of our own baptism. He made effective the sacramental action of the Church. St. John the Baptist testifies, "the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'On whomever you see the Spirit come down and remain, he is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.'"

As we are baptized, we are immersed into the life of Christ and gain His very Spirit. By our participating faithfully in the sacraments and fostering a life of virtue, we become a willful reflection of His own reflected will. "Here I am Lord, I come to do your will".

Furthermore, it is not enough that we simply become servants of His mysteries and keen spectators of His restoration of grace, but that we become visible signs of that grace in the world. "I will make you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth."

This year let us set out to be that light for our parish and diocese. Today we begin again that the salvation won for us in Christ may reach beyond the ends of our churches, our homes, our neighborhoods, our city of Greenfield. May that gift of His grace be made known far and wide, even to the ends of the earth. "Here I am Lord, I come to do your will".

Most Holy Trinity, I adore You! My God, I love you in the Most Blessed Sacrament!

Fr. Pierz

OUR SACRAMENTS.

EUCCHARIST:

LORD'S DAY MASS

Saturday 4:00 pm (BSC) | **Sunday** 8:00 am (HTC), 9:30 am (HTC), 11:00 am (BSC)

WEEKDAY MASS

8:00 am (HTC) and 9:00 am (BSC)

ADORATION

Always present, 24/7 in our Perpetual Adoration Chapel

CONFESSION:

Saturday, 2:30-3:30 pm, before weekend Mass (BSC), and by appointment.

BAPTISM:

Please contact the Parish Office to schedule baptism preparation classes, review sponsor eligibility, and plan celebration of the sacrament. Typically celebrated within 8 weeks of birth. Ceremony may be private or during our Sunday Masses.

MARRIAGE:

Please contact the Parish Office at least 9 months in advance to enroll in marriage preparation classes and plan liturgy arrangements.

CONFIRMATION:

Typically takes place through our Religious Education program. If you are an adult and have not received the Sacrament of Confirmation, please contact the Parish Office.

HOLY ORDERS:

Have you ever been inspired of a vocation to the priesthood or religious life? Please speak with Fr. Pierz or call the Parish Office.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK: Available during pastoral visit, Sacrament of Confession, or by appointment.

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS: Seeking to receive all your sacraments and enter full communion with the Catholic Church? You are invited and welcome to join us! Please contact the Parish Office to learn how to become Catholic and receive the sacraments of initiation.

OUR FAITH.

CATHOLIC 101.

Why do Catholics use bells during Mass?



The ringing of bells is an old tradition used to mark the crucial parts of the Mass: the Epiclesis (the prayer invoking

the Holy Spirit to transform the bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ), and after the elevations of the host and the chalice (General Instruction of the Roman Missal, #150).

Today the ringing of the bells invites us to make a sacred response and reflect on the mysteries of God's presence. (*InFaithPublishing.com*)

SAVE THE DATE. Bishop William Byrne will be celebrating Mass in Greenfield!

Please plan to join us as we welcome him on Saturday, January 21 at our 4pm Mass.



CATHOLICS COME HOME.



To learn more about our Catholic Church and to help you understand more clearly the Church and her teachings you can find helpful resources at

www.catholicscomehome.org

"The world offers you comfort. But you were not made for comfort. You were made for greatness." - POPE BENEDICT XVI



Start your mornings inspired to become the best Catholic you can be. Sign up for "bite-sized" daily emails at dynamiccatholic.com.

CONFIRMATION RETREAT OPPORTUNITIES.

There are many upcoming opportunities for Confirmation Retreats this Spring. Please check the calendar at www.CatholicYouthRevival.org for more info.

COME PRAY WITH US.

Most Holy Rosary—before Daily Mass at 7:35 am (HTC) Join us in asking our Blessed Mother to help, comfort, protect, and heal.

Adorations & Benediction—after the Wednesday 8 am & 9 am Daily Masses

Roses for Mary Prayer Group—each Monday at 6:00 pm in the Adoration Chapel. All are welcome.

Holy Hour for the Sick and Dying—each Wednesday at 7 pm in the Adoration Chapel. If you know of someone in need of prayer, come and spend an hour for their intention.

Chaplet of Divine Mercy—Fridays at 3 pm in the Adoration Chapel—all are welcome.

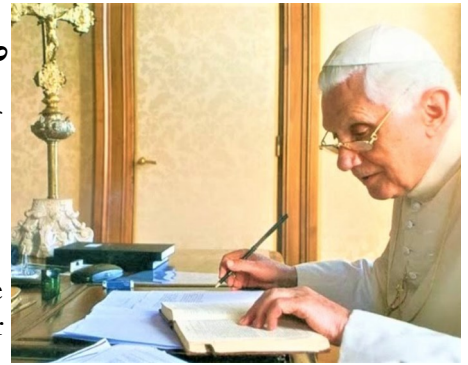
"We are not some casual and meaningless product of evolution. Each of us is the result of a thought of God." - POPE BENEDICT XVI

OUR FAITH.

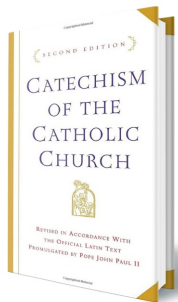
Did you know Benedict XVI helped create the Catechism?

John Paul II entrusted Cardinal Ratzinger with the overwhelming task of creating the new Catechism of the Catholic Church.

While Pope St. John Paul II was the pope who commissioned the new *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, it was Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger (later Pope Benedict XVI) who put it all together.



Pope St. John Paul II responded to numerous bishops' requests for a new catechism that would address the many challenges of the modern world and created a commission in 1986 to formulate such a monumental task.



Cardinal Christoph Schönborn explains in an article for *Vatican News* “It is not surprising that he **entrusted Cardinal Ratzinger with the task of leading the project**. It is not necessary for me to retrace the stages of that journey, which lasted six years. A commission of 12 cardinals and bishops led by Ratzinger was set up.”

Ratzinger was the principal leader of the project and his style was imprinted upon it.

Schönborn notes that it was Ratzinger who helped formulate the primary division of the *Catechism* into four pillars, as he had “the conviction that the **four classic pillars of catechesis continue to be the backbone today**. He also pointed out the order: the Creed has been the foundation ever since the beginning of the Church; the Sacra-

ments are the doors through which grace enters our lives; the Ten Commandments are the sure signposts of a successful life; the Our Father is the measure and the original form of all our prayers. This, then, is the structure of the book on faith.”

Furthermore, if you truly want to see the genius of the *Catechism*, all you need to do is pick-up the oft-forgotten ***Introduction to the Catechism of the Catholic Church*** that was written by Cardinal Ratzinger. In it, Ratzinger details his vision of the *Catechism* and how he hoped it would be used.

As many begin to mine the treasures of the *Catechism* through Father Mike Schmitz’s *Catechism in a Year* podcast, remember that much of the beauty behind it is due to the work of Benedict XVI. (*Aleteia.com*)



Perpetual Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament

takes place in the Adoration Chapel twenty-four hours a day, every day. All are welcome to come and worship and adore our Eucharistic Lord.

“Could you not watch one hour with me?”

Matthew 26:4

Please contact Deacon John for available hours. 773.3311

NEW PARISHIONERS.

Welcome! We are eager to meet you and we invite you to register at the Parish Office.

We look forward to getting to know you in prayer and service and we hope that you will favor our Parish with your prayers, your presence, and your talents.

OUR PARISH.



Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, January 14—FR. LUNNEY & DEACON BETE

4:00 BSC JAMES O'SHEA—
Charlie & Sandy Kosterman

SUNDAY, January 15—FR. AKSAMIT

8:00 HTC SPECIAL INTENTIONS FOR NANCY PELOSI—
Mary Fleury

9:30 HTC WILLIAM & MARY COUGHLIN—
JANE McDONOUGH

11:00 BSC JAMES HANNIGAN— by Betty Fritz

MONDAY, January 16—FATHER PIERZ

8:00 HTC MATTHEW KOSTANSKI— his Parents

9:00 BSC STANLEY & ELEANOR PARDA—Don Parda

TUESDAY, January 17—DEACON PATTEN

8:00 HTC JOHN E. KILEY FAMILY— by the Estate

9:00 BSC MARTIN LEO & FRANCES B. COYNE

WEDNESDAY, January 18—FR. AUFIERO

8:00 HTC MATTHEW KOSTANSKI
— Britney, George & Children

9:00 BSC IN THANKSGIVING FOR PRAYERS ANSWERED
— Christina Martel

THURSDAY, January 19—BISHOP McDONNELL

8:00 HTC ANASTASIA AGHAONU
— Fr. Valentine Nworah

9:00 BSC MATTHEW KOSTANSKI— his Parents

FRIDAY, January 20—OUR RETIRED PRIESTS

8:00 HTC ELEANOR GEROULO 4TH ANNIVERSARY—
her Children

9:00 BSC MATTHEW KOSTANSKI
— Britney, George & Children

SATURDAY, January 21—CLERGY WHO ARE SICK

4:00 BSC DAVID KEOUGH— by Anne Keough

SUNDAY, January 22—FR. O'MANNION

8:00 HTC MRS. FRANCES BARON -
Mary Fleury

9:30 HTC LUIGI POLO— JANE McDONOUGH

11:00 BSC LARRY FILIAULT— the Family

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME.

JANUARY 15, 2023

Give eternal life O Lord, to all our beloved dead.
May they rest in peace! We remember in our prayers:

SHARON DAHLSTROM | EDMUND DROWN
MARY SOKOLOSKY

The **SANCTUARY CANDLE** will burn
Jan. 15-28 in memory/honor:

1. For a Special intention-from
Anonymous



The **ADORATION CHAPEL CANDLES** will burn
Jan. 15-28 in memory/honor of:

1. Ellen Dunn— from Joyce Thibodo
2. Mary & Stephen McCarthy—from Julie McCarthy
3. For a Special intention-from Anonymous
4. Patricia Duffey Earley-from Robert Earley

THANK YOU for your generosity with all the warm mittens, scarves and gloves donated to our Giving Tree and Joshua Tree this Christmas Season! Our parish made an incredible difference in helping the community during these cold winter months.

Your care and compassion is a wonderful tribute to our long tradition of helping others—*thank you!*

PRAYER CHAINS.

Our Parish Prayer Chains are available to anyone. Please contact us with your petition: Andrea Lapointe / Parish Office at 773.3311 or Marie Boynton at 413.775.3633 / memeboynton@comcast.net.



HOMEBOUND MINISTRY. If you know of anyone who is a homebound and unable to attend Mass, or if you know of any parishioner who is in the hospital or nursing home, **please email/call us at 773-3311 or 774-2884.**



We want to reach out to all of our parishioners, especially in their time of need.

CANTORS.

Saturday Jan. 14 4:00 pm— Jane Winchester

Sunday Jan. 15 11:00 am — Jackie Jurewicz

Saturday Jan. 21 4:00 pm— Sandra Pavoni

Sunday Jan. 22 11:00 am — Karlana Henry

OUR PARISH.

THE FOOD PANTRY needs small cans of baked beans, spaghetti sauce, canned ravioli, canned vegetables, rice, hearty soups, crackers, peanut butter & jams, cold cereals, ramen noodles, canned meats, **canned fruits, jello, pudding, desserts and kids snacks.** The items in bold are the most needed. Financial contributions are always appreciated.



PARISH SECRETARY.

Blessed Trinity Roman Catholic Parish in Greenfield, MA is seeking a spirited and enthusiastic individual to serve as Parish Secretary. This part-time paid position of 24-28 hours per week supports the pastor in promoting the mission of the Church, assisting parishioners in administrative needs, and maintaining a professional office environment.

Responsibilities include but are not limited to communications, scheduling, record maintenance, census management, correspondence, and promotion of Catholic life and the activities of the parish. Understanding of the Church's teachings, organization, discretion, and technological skills are necessary qualities. Please contact Fr. Pierz at Blessed Trinity Parish by phone, (413) 773-3311 or email, pastor@blessedtrinitygreenfield.org with questions or interest.

UPCOMING BULLETIN NOTICES. The deadline for submitting information to be reviewed and published is Sunday evening for the next weekend's bulletin. Please email to bulletin@blessedtrinitygreenfield.org. The earlier we receive the information the better chance it will be published because we lay out several upcoming bulletins in advance. **Many thanks!**

WEEKENDS OF JANUARY 1 & 8, 2023

"Pray, brethren, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father"

	Jan. 1	Jan. 8
Weekly Parish Collection:	6,495	5,859
Fuel Collection:	292	353
Maintenance Collection:	354	223

"May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of His name, for our good and the good of His Holy Church."

Thank you for your generosity!

MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!



Coming up at Blessed Trinity Parish

Daily Mass 8 am HTC & 9am BSC

Daily Holy Rosary 7:35 am HTC, 8:30 am BSC

Confession: Sat. 2:30-3:30 pm BSC
or by appointment

Monday Jan. 16

6:00 pm *Roses for Mary* Prayer Group (Adoration Chapel each Mon.)

Tuesday Jan. 17

Wednesday Jan. 18

After Daily Mass—Adoration & Benediction after
BSC & HTC Daily Masses (each Wed.)

1 pm RCIA in Pastoral Center

7 pm - Holy Hour for the Sick and Dying (Adoration Chapel each Wed.)

Thursday Jan. 19

Friday Jan. 20

3 pm Chaplet of Divine Mercy recited (Adoration Chapel each Fri.)

Saturday Jan. 21

4 pm—Mass (BSC) with Bishop William Byrne

Sunday Jan. 22

8 am Mass (HTC)

9:30 am Mass (HTC)

9:45 am –10:45 am Gr. 1-8 Religious Education

Classes Pastoral Center. Coffee & conversation available for parents.

11 am Mass (BSC)

6-7 pm—Gr. 9th/10th —Religious Education Classes

*"Truth is not determined
by a majority vote."*

• POPE BENEDICT XVI

OUR YOUTH.

ATTENTION ALL YOUTH GRADES 6-12— CHARITY DANCE-A-THON EVENT PUT ON BY YOUTH FOR YOUTH.

February 3-4



Bring your friends and come for the dancing, food, games and photobooths and leave with memories of a lifetime while supporting a worthy cause! From 7pm February 3 to 8am February 4, High School students will be dancing the night away! 8am-3pm February 4 will have themed community hours, and middle school students will end the event dancing from 3-7pm.

The event is to provide help and hope to those in need in Western Massachusetts through an annual youth-led and youth-run charity Dance-A-Thon.

What is a "Charity Dance-A-Thon?"

It's a concept that takes the great and universal appeal of music and dance, and capitalizes on the energy and enthusiasm of young people and not so young alike – ALL for the purpose of raising money for designated local charities. Last year, they raised \$16,500 for charity and hope to do the same again this year!

Event held at **Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish Gym**, 127 Holyoke Rd. Westfield, MA

Plus YOU could win \$500. How?

- Step 1. Register by January 20th
- Step 2. Get a friend to register with you
- Step 3. Collect a minimum of \$50 in sponsorships

Register before January 20!

Visit www.wmcd.org

Got questions? info@wmcd.org or 413.562.9875



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS AND PARISH NIGHT AT THE SPRINGFIELD THUNDERBIRDS

THUNDERBIRDS
SENATORS
SAT. JAN 28
@7:05PM

\$16 TICKETS

**\$2 HOT DOG AND SODA
VOUCHER AVAILABLE**

SCAN TO ORDER:



Special appearance by Bishop Byrne who will be dropping the ceremonial puck!

Order tickets by scanning the QR code or visiting
<https://springfieldthunderbirds.formstock.com/forms/catholicparishnight128>

Questions? Contact Lauren Blanchard (413)417.2289
lblanchard@springfieldthunderbirds.com

STEUBENVILLE EAST 2023

The Steubenville East Catholic Youth Conference is coming back to Springfield this **Summer 2023** with registration opening January 17th.

Details at steubiceast.org. If you have any questions about Steubenville East, please contact Joe Austin at 413-276-5134.

"Evil draws its power from indecision and concern for what other people think."

~ POPE BENEDICT XVI

AND MORE.

FREE CONCERT! FRIDAY, JANUARY 20.



Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish is offering a free one-hour concert on Friday, January 20 at 6:30pm featuring

“Sarah The Fiddler Trio”

Sarah’s treatment of a mixture of bluegrass, Celtic, folk and classical genres is mesmerizing!

Doors open at 5:45 pm.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church
256 State St. | Granby, MA 01033
413.467.9821

YOUTH MINISTRY MASTER CLASS

with Tim Habeeb

Our diocesan Office of Youth Ministry invites all parish staff, pastors, and those adults involved with youth ministry to join for a special evening MasterClass

"Reaching the Modern Teen"

with Tim Habeeb,
Northeast Regional Director of Life Teen

Tuesday, February 7th, 5-6pm.

- Free on Zoom-

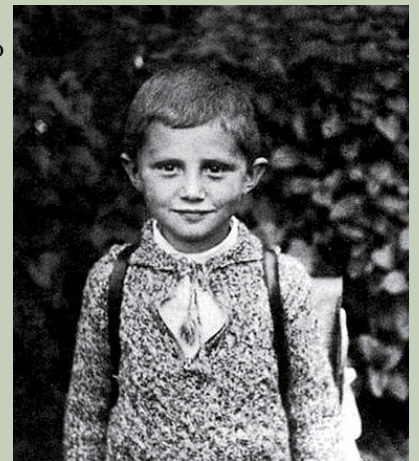
Register or find more info on the upcoming Spring Master Class Series at

www.catholicyouthrevival.org/leaders/adults

DID YOU KNOW? At the tender age of seven, a young Joseph Ratzinger already demonstrated his deep faith. Instead of writing to Father Christmas, he wrote to baby Jesus. And as Catholic News Agency shared, the letter was put on display in a village in his native Bavaria in 2021. It read:

*“Dear Baby Jesus,
quickly come down to earth. You will bring joy to children. Also bring me joy. I would like a Volks-Schott (a Mass prayers book), green clothing for Mass (clerical clothing) and an image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. I will always be good.
Greetings from Joseph Ratzinger”*

Looking at the incredible life of the late Joseph Ratzinger, elected Pope Benedict XVI, it seems he kept his word.



UPDATE. The restoration of Notre Dame de Paris is going smoothly, passing several milestones needed before reconstructing the spire. The reconstruction effort at Notre Dame de Paris is on schedule for their planned 2024 reopening. **Recent progress reports have painted a hopeful picture of the iconic French cathedral**, which was catastrophically damaged by the April 2019 blaze. Plans for beautifying and updating the areas surrounding the building have emerged as well. Michel Picaud, president of the charity Friends of Notre Dame de Paris, stated “the work is proceeding extremely well,” and said that the schedule for reopening in 2024, in time for the Olympics to come to Paris, “seems very solid.” While Notre Dame is planned to reopen in 2024, the restoration will not be completely finished until 2025.



OUR HERITAGE.



POPE BENEDICT XVI'S FINAL LETTER TO THE CHURCH

Upon election every pope writes a spiritual testament that is to only be read after his death. Pope Benedict XVI wrote his testament and, as tradition follows, it has been released publicly this week. It was just over a year into his pontificate when he penned his spiritual testament, according to the Vatican, on August 29, 2006. Here is what he wrote (according to [Catholic News Agency](#)):



My spiritual testament

If in this late hour of my life I look back at the decades I have been through, first I see how many reasons I have to give thanks. First and foremost I thank God himself, the giver of every good gift, who gave me life and guided me through various confusing times; always picking me up whenever I began to slip and always giving me again the light of his face. In retrospect I see and understand that even the dark and tiring stretches of this journey were for my salvation and that it was in them that He guided me well.

I thank my parents, who gave me life in a difficult time and who, at the cost of great sacrifice, with their love prepared for me a magnificent abode that, like clear light, illuminates all my days to this day. My father's lucid faith taught us children to believe, and as a signpost it has always been steadfast in the midst of all my scientific acquisitions; the profound devotion and great goodness of my mother represent a legacy for which I can never give thanks enough. My sister has assisted me for decades selflessly and with affectionate care; my brother, with the lucidity of his judgments, his vigorous resolve and serenity of heart, has always paved the way for me; without this constant preceding and accompanying me I could not have found the right path.

From my heart I thank God for the many friends, men and women, whom He has always placed at my side; for the collaborators in all the stages of my journey; for the teachers and students He has given me. I gratefully entrust them all to His goodness. And I want to thank the Lord for my beautiful homeland in the foothills of the Bavarian Alps, in which I have always seen the splendor of the Creator Himself shining through. I thank the people of my homeland because in them I have been able again and again to experience the beauty of faith. I pray that our land remains a land of faith, and I beg you, dear countrymen: Do not let yourselves be turned away from the faith. And finally I thank God for all the beauty I have been able to experience at all the phases of my journey, especially, however, in Rome and in Italy, which has become my second homeland.

OUR HERITAGE.

To all those whom I have wronged in any way, I heartily ask for forgiveness.

What I said before to my countrymen, I now say to all those in the Church who have been entrusted to my service: Stand firm in the faith! Do not let yourselves be confused! It often seems that science — the natural sciences on the one hand and historical research (especially exegesis of Sacred Scripture) on the other — are able to offer irrefutable results at odds with the



Catholic faith. I have experienced the transformations of the natural sciences since long ago and have been able to see how, on the contrary, apparent certainties against the faith have vanished, proving to be not science, but philosophical interpretations only apparently pertaining to science; just as, on the other hand, it is in dialogue with the natural sciences that faith, too, has learned to understand better the limit of the scope of its claims, and thus its specificity. It is now sixty years that I have been accompanying the journey of Theology, particularly of the Biblical Sciences, and with the succession of different generations I have seen theses that seemed unshakable collapse, proving to be mere hypotheses: the liberal generation (Harnack, Jülicher etc.), the existentialist generation (Bultmann etc.), the Marxist generation. I saw and see how out of the tangle of assumptions the reasonableness of faith emerged and emerges again. Jesus Christ is truly the way, the truth and the life — and the Church, with all its insufficiencies, is truly His body.

Finally, I humbly ask: Pray for me, so that the Lord, despite all my sins and insufficiencies, welcomes me into the eternal dwellings. To all those entrusted to me, day by day, my heartfelt prayer goes out."



Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI died on December 31, 2022 and his funeral Mass was held Thursday, January 5th 2023 in St. Peter's Square in Rome. Pope Francis presided over the Mass.

Pope Benedict XVI left his final words to the Church and the world just as he lived his life. He set the example of how all of us are invited to reflect on our life. He gave thanks to God for every blessing and grace bestowed upon him. He asked for forgiveness for those who he has hurt and then encouraged the Church to stay faithful and grounded in the faith. It is these things, and so

much more, for which he will be remembered.

Benedict's final words through his testament cause us to take a moment and ask ourselves, 'What would my final spiritual testament say if I were to write one?' (Cf. Catholic365)