

THIS WEEK AT THE MADELEINE

Furthering the Reign of God, Where All Are Welcome • February 4–5, 2023

OREGON INTERFAITH EARTH SUMMIT

Sunday February 5, 1:00–5:30 pm • Old Madeleine Church

The Old Madeleine Church will be the Portland site for the statewide Earth Summit, where many faiths will share information, action plans and prayer for our common home!



The Summit will be in-person with statewide speakers on Zoom. In person speakers will be leaders from Multnomah Friends Meeting, Havurah Shalom Community, Zen Community of Oregon and The Madeleine Parish, with a closing prayer by Therese Fenzl and Deacon Mike.

The goals of the program are as follows:

- ▶ Gather people of faith across Oregon who care for our common home, Earth, and who are working toward environmental and climate justice.
- ▶ Develop relationships at the local level across faith communities, faith traditions, and denominations.
- ▶ Gain information about advocacy priorities for the 2023 legislative session.
- ▶ Build and strengthen regional networks for local actions, events, and advocacy in the future.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK SERVICE

Saturday, February 11, 6:15 pm • Main Church

We offer this sacrament on February 11 in observance of the World Day of the Sick and the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. In 1992, Pope John Paul II established February 11 as the World Day of the Sick, urging people to pray for the ill and those who care for them. People all across the world take the opportunity to pray for the sick and those who labor tirelessly to alleviate their pain.

Before the Second Vatican Council, “Extreme Unction,” meaning “last anointing,” was only performed on the dying. Today, known as the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, it is more broadly administered. The Anointing of the Sick is not a sacrament only for those who are at the point of death. Rather, a priest may anoint any baptized Catholic whose health

is seriously impaired by sickness or old age. Sickness includes anyone experiencing a life-threatening operation or in danger of death because of illness or old age. During the sacrament, the priest anoints the forehead and the palms of the sick, while praying that God will save and raise them up. The anointing accompanies a prayer for physical and spiritual healing. The sacrament, through the power of the Holy Spirit, unites the sick person to Christ’s suffering, and effects include a strengthening, peace, and courage to overcome the difficulties associated with serious illness or old age. The sacrament is a gift of the Holy Spirit for the forgiveness of sins, restoration of health if it is conducive to the salvation of the soul, union with the passion of Christ, and a share in the saving work of Jesus.

COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE

Thursday, February 16 • 6:30–8:30 pm • Main Church

After a couple years without due to the pandemic, we are pleased to again offer our Communal Penance Service.

This service provides a unique opportunity for Catholics to confess sins and find forgiveness. Communal reconciliation

reminds us that our sin affects others and that we can be forgiven for the wrong we’ve done. Occurring just before Lent, on February 16, this Communal Penance is open to all parishioners. Additional priests will participate in hearing confessions.

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

What does it mean to be salt, light, a city built on a mountain? Today’s readings remind us that, as baptized Christians, we can’t hide. God — who is a God of justice and mercy — had expectations of Israel. The Israelites weren’t off the hook regarding how they were to act, and neither are the followers of Jesus. God has expectations of us. People see us, they observe what we do and how we act. What are they seeing? We can’t be followers in name only.

PRAY FOR OUR FAITHFULLY DEPARTED

- ▶ Alan Morrill—Funeral Feb. 10, 11:00 am
- ▶ Herman Schnidrig—Funeral Feb. 18, 11:00 am
- ▶ Christie Kmetz—Funeral March 11, 11:00 am
- ▶ Jesse Kissinger
- ▶ Dolores Seybold
- ▶ Jeremy Powell
- ▶ Ernie Wynn

PRAYER REQUESTS

For those who are ill, or in need of our prayers

- ▶ Bill Stack
- ▶ Chadd Garvens
- ▶ Mason Lugar
- ▶ Aaron Stevenson

WORSHIP & PRAYER

- 02/07, Tues Jesse Kissinger †
- 02/08, Weds Patricia Hildebrande
- 02/09, Thurs Kelly Gorton †
- 02/10, Fri No 8:00 am Mass due to funeral
- 02/11, Sat Terry Stokes McConaughy †
- 02/12, Sun, 8:00 am . . . The Madeleine Community
10:00 am Edwin & Theresa Salamanca

Calendar This Week

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5

- 8:00 am: Mass—Church
- 8:45 am: RCIA—St. Catherine Room
- 10:00 am: Mass—Church  **ALSO LIVESTREAMS**
- 1:00 pm: Oregon Interfaith Earth Summit—Old Madeleine Church

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6

- 6:30 pm: FA Meeting—Fireside Rm

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

- 8:00 am: Mass—Church
- 9:00 am: Adoration—Church
- 7:00 pm: Knights of Columbus—Fireside Rm

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

- 8:00 am: Mass—Church
- 2:45 pm: NO Children's Choir
- 5:30 pm: NO Chimes Rehearsal
- 7:00 pm: NO Madeleine Choir

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9

- 2:00 pm: School Mass
- Baptism of Maxwell and Clara Orlowski

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10

- 10:30 am: Alan Morrill Rosary—Church
- 11:00 am: Alan Morrill Funeral Mass—Church
- Reception follows in the Fireside Rm

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11

- ▶ Catholic Home Missions Collection
- 9:30 am: Alzheimer's Group—Fireside Rm
- 5:00 pm: Mass—Church
- 6:00 pm: Anointing of the Sick—Church

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12

- ▶ Catholic Home Missions Collection
- 8:00 am: Mass—Church
- 8:45 am: RCIA—St. Catherine Room
- 10:00 am: Mass—Church  **ALSO LIVESTREAMS**
- 11:00 am: Knights Pancake Breakfast—Parish Hall

SAVE THE DATE

- ▶ **Ash Wednesday:** February 22
- ▶ **St. Kateri Presentation:** February 28
- ▶ **Fish Fry:** April 21
- ▶ **Wine Tasting:** August 26
- ▶ **Parish Picnic/Oktoberfest:** October 8
- ▶ **Madeleine Marketplace:** December 7

PARISH LIFE

PARISH OFFERTORY UPDATE

January 2023 Collection

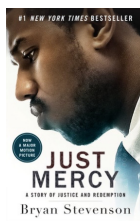
Budgeted Offertory, full month \$77,000
 Collected Offertory, full month \$94,667

Fiscal Year 2022-23 Collection

Budgeted Offertory, year to date \$536,000
 Collected Offertory, year to date \$576,977
 Offertory Surplus (deficit) \$40,977

BOOK CLUB NEWS

We cordially invite you to join our roster of enthusiastic readers. We will be meeting mid-February to discuss our next book selection, *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*, by Bryan Stevenson, and would love to have you join us. For more information and/or to be added to our email list, please contact our MBC ministry coordinator: Gretchen Stevenson, gypsyfrau47@yahoo.com or 503-312-6834.



MILESTONES

Baptism

Congratulations and welcome to **Reinier Tiago Martinez** son of Michael Martinez and Caroline Van der Harten, who joined the Church through the sacrament of baptism on Saturday!

February Birthdays

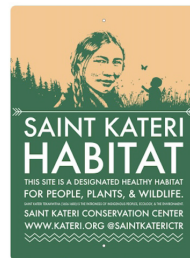
Happy birthday to some of our honored parishioners!

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| ▶ Gwen Wills | ▶ Susan Lavin |
| ▶ Nancy Carlin | ▶ John Keith |
| ▶ Thomas Nichols | ▶ Richard Gunderson |
| ▶ Ruth Wieber | ▶ May Kay Debenedetti |
| ▶ Kathleen Larson | ▶ Kim Larson |
| ▶ Nita Oliver | ▶ Alamander Hicks |
| ▶ Lucia Michaud | ▶ Carl Mason |
| ▶ Mary Keith | ▶ Sheila Edwards |

“ We have been called to offer our lives for our brothers and sisters, and to bring them Jesus, the One who alone heals the wounds of every heart. ”
 —Pope Francis via Twitter @pontifex

SAVE THE DATE—SAINT KATERI CONSERVATION CENTER PRESENTATION

On February 28, 6:30 pm, in the Old Madeleine Church, Annalise Michaelson, Horticulturist with the Saint Kateri Conservation Center (www.kateri.org) will give a presentation, “Ecological Conversion: Cultivating Creation with Native Plants.” In addition, if you are interested in joining an informal working group to help plan for the enhancement of the ecological value of our parish property, email Annalise, annalise.saintkateri@gmail.com



WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER:

“Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.”


Let the light of your marriage sacrament shine for all. Make your light bright by attending the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience on April 21-23 (Virtual), or June 9-11 In Salem, Oregon. To apply for YOUR WWME Experience or search other dates go to rediscoverthespark.org. For information about WWME call 503-704-0836 or by email at reservations@rediscoverthespark.org

Mark your calendar and join Us in-person at Portland Golf Club!

The 88th Annual Archbishop's Seminary Tea

Benefiting the education of seminarians preparing to serve in the Archdiocese of Portland Oregon

Seminary Tea Committee



Founded 1935

Wednesday, April 19, 2023, 3-6 PM
 Portland Golf Club
 5900 SW Scholls Ferry Road
 Portland 97225

To purchase tickets or donate go to <https://www.seminarytea.org/donate.html> or mail donation to Seminary Tea Committee PO Box 25057/Portland, OR 97298.



In the Gospel today, when Jesus says, “You are the light of the world,” he is calling us to live our Christian vocation in words and deeds. Be the “light” to those living in poverty and in a world of darkness by giving a donation to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

—Mary Clare O'Brien, 503-309-7639



Mmm...Pancakes!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PANCAKE BREAKFAST
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12 AFTER 10:00 MASS

Join us in the Parish Hall for a great pancake breakfast! Lots of yummy food...at a very affordable price.



No fixed prices...donations accepted



Upcoming concerts at The Madeleine

Performances in The Old Madeleine Church unless noted

- ▶ **February 14, 7:00 pm** • 45th Parallel Universe • Whoever You Are, I Love You: A Valentine's Day Journey with Zach Galatis • www.45thparallelpdx.org
- ▶ **February 22, 7:00 pm** • 45th Parallel Universe • Treasures of the Baroque • www.45thparallelpdx.org

SAVE THE DATE
APRIL 21 • PARISH HALL

Fantastic Fish Family Fun
WWW.THEMADELEINE.EDU/FISHFRY

45TH PARALLEL UNIVERSE

Join us for concerts this February at the Madeleine!



WHOEVER YOU ARE, I LOVE YOU

A Valentines journey with Zach Galatis

February 14
7:00 pm
The Madeleine

Lovers unite! Zach Galatis brings his considerable vocal talents to this special evening of song in honor of Valentine's Day.



TREASURES OF THE BAROQUE

February 22
7:00 pm
The Madeleine

45th Parallel founder Greg Ewer welcomes flutist Martha Long, keyboardist Byron Schenkman and violinist Adam LaMotte for an evening of Baroque masterpieces performed on historical instruments.



Learn more at 45thparallelpdx.org



WEEKLY MASS TIMES

Regular Mass Times:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 8:00 am
Thursday No School: 8:00 am
During School: 2:00 pm
Saturday Vigil 5:00 pm
Sunday 8:00 am, 10:00 am

▶ Livestream 10:00 am Sunday
at youtube.com/themadeleineparish

PenanceBy appointment; call Parish Office

PARISH OFFICE

Hours Monday–Friday, 10:00 am–3:00 pm
Phone: 503-281-5777 **Fax:** 503-281-0673
School Office. 503-288-9197

PARISH STAFF

- Rev. Mike Biewend**—Pastor
fathermike@themadeleine.eduext. 111
- Deacon Mike O'Mahoney**—Permanent Deacon
deaconmike@themadeleine.edu
- Carol Glasgow**—School Principal
cglasgow@themadeleine.edu . . . 503-288-9197
- John Garrow**—Business Manager
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- My Schoning**—Assistant Business Manager
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- Therese Fenzl**—Director of Spiritual Ministries
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- Maria Manzo**—Director of Music
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- Guy Allen**—Events Manager
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- Mary Prusso**—Registration
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- Julie Kupers**—Special Events
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- Janeen Reilly**—Parish Administrator
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- Terry Silva**—Facilities Support
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- Rich Hammons**—Director of Communications
rhammons@themadeleine.edu ext. 129

SACRAMENTS

- Marriages, Funerals, Anointing of the Sick**—
Fr. Mikeext. 111
- Infant Baptism**—Darlene Maurer ext. 125
- First Reconciliation, First Eucharist**—
Rose Horton sac-prep@themadeleine.edu
- RCIA**—Christi Bohmbach, rcia@themadeleine.edu
- Confirmation**—Fr. Mikeext. 111

COUNCILS & CONTACTS

- Pastoral Council**—Meg Scharle
- Finance Council**—Jim Jones 503-284-3301
- Buildings & Grounds**—Erin Couch . . . 503-281-9575
- School Advisory**—Tim Resch503-984-46072
- Facility Requests**—themadeleine.edu/facilities
- Maintenance Requests**—John Garrow
jgarrow@themadeleine.eduext. 118
- St Vincent de Paul** (Food, utility, rent assistance)
Mary Clare O'Brien 503-309-7639
- Ministry Schedule**
www.themadeleine.edu/minister-schedule

Bulletin submissions due 5:00 pm Tuesday.
Email to bulletin@themadeleine.edu

In Memoriam

THE MADELEINE FAMILY REMEMBERS

ALAN GRAHAM MORRILL, JR.

A Funeral Mass will be held for parishioner Alan Morrill on Friday, February 10, 11:00 am, at The Madeleine. Rosary will precede the Mass at 10:30 am.

Alan was born February 1, 1930, in Olympia, WA to Alan G. Morrill, Sr. and Elsie Knosher Morrill. Alan's father was employed with General Motors (GM) in Seattle and when the depression hit, GM closed its Seattle office and offered Alan Sr. a job in Detroit. Preferring to remain in the NW, the family moved to Portland where Alan's father bought a restaurant/coffee shop in a downtown office building. Alan was a depression era child, which taught him to not be wasteful and to be happy with what he had. Alan worked all through high school in his father's coffee shop, along with some of his best friends. He attended Beaumont Elementary School and graduated from Grant High School. He spent a summer driving across country with friends before attending Oregon State University (OSU) where he earned his degree.

Upon graduating from OSU, Alan enjoyed a summer of fun with all of his best buddies, never thinking about a career until his parents finally urged him to get a job. He applied to Bonneville and was accepted but couldn't envision a life sitting behind a desk. He then took the U.S. Department of State Foreign Service exam and passed, and from there he embarked on a satisfying career that took him around the world. He served as a political officer in Japan, Taiwan, Spain, Argentina, Venezuela, Italy, and Brazil. He was fluent in both Spanish and Italian. While he was on his first tour in Spain, he sent his parents \$1,000 to use as a down payment on a beach front property in Cannon Beach. He then took a hiatus from the State Department to try living simply at the beach along with his first wife and son Kenneth Alan (Kam). To make ends meet, he rented half of the house, but when that did not pay the bills, he got a job for a year as a Spanish teacher at Roosevelt High School (the principal told him he had never hired a teacher who actually spoke the language fluently). Not finding teaching his forte, he was able to be rehired by the State Department, and never looked back. Alan and Brenda met on his second tour in Spain, and they were married in 1976.

While he and Brenda were on a 5-year tour with the Embassy in Rome, Italy, they befriended two priests, both of whom later became Cardinals: Fr. Jorge Mejia and Fr. Leonardo Sandri, both of Argentina. Their two children, Michael and Laura, were born in Rome, and Fr. Mejia baptized both at

St. Peter's. After their daughter Laura married and had children, Cardinal Sandri graciously agreed to baptize them, and they were baptized in 2010 and 2012 at the baptismal font in the Fontana Chapel in St. Peter's.

After retirement, Alan's diplomatic and language skills were used in a series of kidnap/hostage negotiations in Mexico,

Guatemala, Colombia, Venezuela, and Brazil. He never lost anyone to the perpetrators.

Alan and Brenda were lifelong lovers of classical music and opera. In Rome, they had box seats at the Rome Opera. In Portland they were longtime subscribers to the Portland Symphony.

Alan did not grow up with any religious background, but he once remarked that most of his best friends over the years were Catholic. Coincidentally, he discovered after the renovation of The Old Madeleine Church that he had been best man at his childhood friend's wedding (Jack Smith and Shirley Isaacs) in the old church in the early 50's.

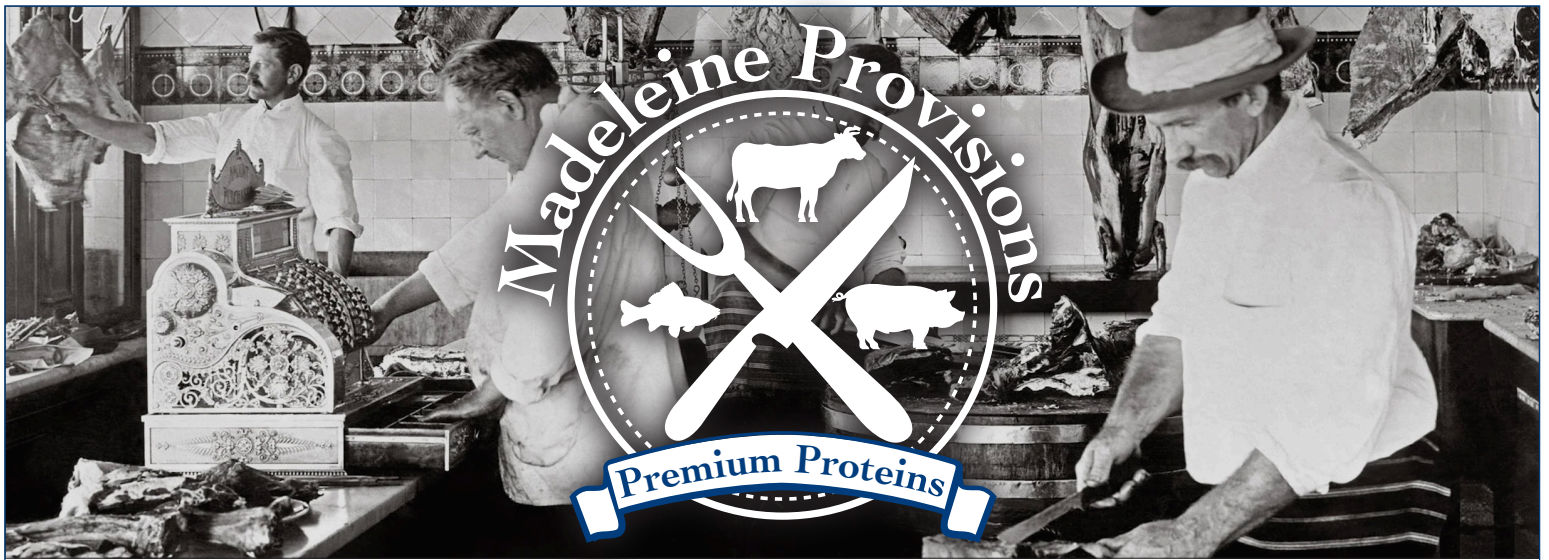
Alan was received into the Catholic Church in 2015 and was confirmed with the confirmation name of Pio (St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina), with whom his son-in-law Michael has a family connection.

Alan and Brenda were devoted to each other and enjoyed a long and happy marriage of 47 years. Alan cherished his children and grandchildren beyond measure, and his grandchildren in particular brought him so much joy in his later years.

Alan is survived by his wife Brenda, his beloved children Kam (Mary Shea), Michael (Tara), Laura (Michael), beloved grandchildren Alexander, Sebastian, Henry and Hazel, nephew Scott Bowes (Catherine) and family. His sister Marianne Bowes predeceased him.



Please pray for Alan, his family, and all the faithfully departed from The Madeleine



MADELEINE PROVISIONS FEBRUARY FLASH SALE

Restaurant-quality proteins, wholesale prices!
Beef, pork, game meats and fish

This fundraiser for the Madeleine Parish offers you top quality beef, pork, fish and more at wholesale prices. These are the same quality (and higher!) meats and seafood you will find at premium grocery stores but at much lower prices...even with the small margin we've added for the fundraiser. Enjoy and thank you!

How it works:

- ▶ Place your online by Noon on **Tuesday, February 14**
- ▶ Pick up your order at the carport near the Main Church on **Thursday, February 16, 3:00-6:00 pm.**
- ▶ Everything is conveniently **FROZEN** and expertly cryo-vac'd, ready for your freezer.
- ▶ All items are sold **BY THE CASE**, with the exception of the King Salmon and Tuna Poke. A case more than you need? Split it with a friend!

Our Premium Proteins:

- ▶ **AUSTRALIAN WAGYU BEEF**—Crossbred from Japanese Wagyu cows, no hormones or antibiotics. The closest you can get to Japanese Wagyu at a fraction of the price. Characterized by an almost sweet flavor and tender texture. The speckled marbling brings incredible richness and depth of flavor.
- ▶ **ANGUSPURE SPECIAL RESERVE PASTURE RAISED NEW ZEALAND BEEF**—pasture-raised, grass-fed, grass-finished Angus beef. No hormones or antibiotics. Fed and grass finished in a rain rich (phytonutrient flooded) environment. The meat has low PH levels and is leaner than American beef, while retaining the rich tastes and textures that steak lovers crave.
- ▶ **PREMIUM PORK, LAMB, GAME MEATS AND FISH**—Neuske's Applewood Smoked Bacon • Sakura Duroc Pork Chops • Family-farmed free-range, grass-fed Lamb • Bison, Elk, Venison, and Wild Boar • New Zealand King Salmon Fillets • Ahi Poke cubes



Order before noon on February 14
www.themadeleine.edu/provisions



RECYCLING PROGRAMS AT THE MADELEINE

Marked collection bins in the breezeway facing 23rd Ave.

The Madeleine's Laudato Si' Circle and Care for Creation Ministry have joined with U. S. based recycler, Terracycle, to offer our parish, school, and community opportunities to responsibly recycle specific items (primarily plastics) not generally handled at curbside. Terracycle has added more manufacturers to its program, and in turn, we have expanded our recycling offerings. Here is a current listing of what we are collecting. Please keep this in mind:

- ▶ Do not include garbage or items not specifically mentioned in the descriptions.
- ▶ Empty containers of contents. No need to wash first; ensure packaging is dry.



KROGER FLEXIBLE PLASTICS

All Kroger brand flexible plastic packaging can now be accepted. Includes Private Selection and Simple Truth brands as well.



METAL-BASED COOKWARE AND CUTLERY

All brands of metal-based cookware, bakeware, and cutlery (non-stick Aluminum, Stainless Steel, Carbon Steel, Cast Iron). Please make sure items are thoroughly clean and dry.



SWIFFER REFILLS



Swiffer only brands of Sweeper™ Dry, Wet, and XL Refills, WetJet Refills™, and Duster™ Refills.

LATE JULY® SNACKS

All Late July® snack packaging as seen in these examples. Limited to Late July brand only.



ORAL CARE PRODUCTS

All brands of used or empty oral care products, including toothpaste tubes, tooth brushes, and dental floss containers.



FOOD STORAGE

All brands of well-used plastic and glass food storage containers.



GILLETTE® AND VENUS RAZORS AND RAZOR BLADES

All brands of blades and razors (systems and disposable units, and replaceable-blade cartridge units), rigid plastic packaging, and flexible plastic bag packaging.



CIGARETTE BUTTS, SANTA FE NATURAL TOBACCO COMPANY

All brands of fully extinguished cigarettes (and ashes) and tobacco products, including filters, plastic packaging, inner foil packaging, rolling paper, and loose tobacco pouches.



BIC WRITING INSTRUMENTS AND PACKAGING

All brands of empty writing instruments, glue sticks, water-color dispensers, highlighters, paint sets, and flexible packaging.



OFFSITE RECYCLING OPPORTUNITIES FOR FAMILIES

REDYPER DISPOSABLE DIAPERS

Subscription service for purchasing and recycling Redyper brand disposable diapers through Terracycle

LOOP

Offers zero-waste packaging of everyday essentials (beauty, health and personal care, grocery, and household essentials) from leading brands (including Haagen-Dazs!) Details at www.loopstore.com



Details on all programs at www.themadeleine.edu/terracycle

Anointing of the Sick

Joined to Christ, Witnesses of Hope and Healing



Anointing of the Sick is the sacrament that is received by those who are ill or suffering. By the sacred anointing and the prayer of the priest, the whole Church commends those who are sick to Christ. The sick person receives the Holy Spirit's gifts of strength, faith, peace, and courage, and his or her suffering is united with the suffering of Christ for the building up of the Church (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* [CCC], nos. 1520-23).

Through the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, the Church carries out Jesus' mission of compassion and healing for the sick. The one who is ill can also be a minister to others. By uniting their suffering to Christ, those who are sick can be signs of faith and witnesses of Christ's Resurrection to the entire community (Pope John Paul II, *Christifideles Laici* [*The Vocation and the Mission of the Lay Faithful in the Church and in the World*], no. 54).

A Communal Celebration

The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is both "a liturgical and a communal celebration." In the family home, hospital, or church, members of the Body of Christ gather for the sacramental rite led by a priest. The Penitential Rite followed by the Liturgy of the Word and sacramental anointing of the sick can inspire and comfort both those who are ill and their family and friends who are gathered (CCC, nos. 1517-18). Many parishes have communal celebrations at which many persons receive the sacrament. These sacramental celebrations are a "source of strength amid pain and weakness, hope amid despair" and a "joyful encounter" for the entire community (*Christifideles Laici*, no. 54).

Connection to the Communion of Saints

Anointing with sacred oil is a sign of blessing by the Holy Spirit of the one who is sick. Oil of the Sick, which receives a different blessing from the Chrism oil used during Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders, recalls the community's sharing of the Holy Spirit and the sick person's connection to the entire Body of Christ and Communion of Saints.

Imitation of Christ's Compassion

In the Gospels, Christ's great compassion toward the sick is expressed in the miraculous healings he performs, which heal the entire person, both body and soul. Parables such as the Good Samaritan (Lk 10:29-37) and

the Judgment of the Nations (Mt 25:31-46) urge Christ's followers to share his ministry of compassion and healing and to imitate his "preferential love for the sick" and all who suffer (CCC, nos. 1503, 1506; Pope Benedict XVI, *Sacramentum Caritatis* [*Sacrament of Charity*], no. 22).

Solidarity with All Who Suffer

We care for the sick because we see them as children of God and part of our human family. When one part of the Body of Christ suffers, we all suffer (1 Cor 12:26). The suffering of one impacts everyone. Thus, we are called to solidarity, which is responsibility on the part of everyone with regard to everyone (Pope John Paul II, *Sollicitudo Rei Socialis* [*On Social Concern*], no. 38; Pope Benedict XVI, *Caritas in Veritate* [*Charity in Truth*], no. 38).

By our compassion, we remind those who are sick that "[the Church] shares your suffering. She takes it to the Lord, who in turn associates you with his redeeming Passion" (Synod of Bishops, *Per Concilii Semitas ad Populum Dei Nuntius*, no. 12). We are called to comfort, pray for and with, and be in solidarity with all who are sick or suffering.

Caring for those who suffer is not a burden, but a gift. Those who care for the sick do holy and important work; they walk with Christ's suffering people and in doing so, serve Christ himself (Mt 25:31-46). Those who minister to the sick and who work to secure decent health care for all become "the living sign of Jesus Christ and his Church in showing love towards the sick and suffering" (*Christifideles Laici*, no. 53).



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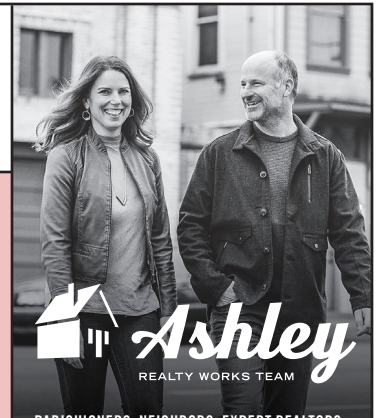
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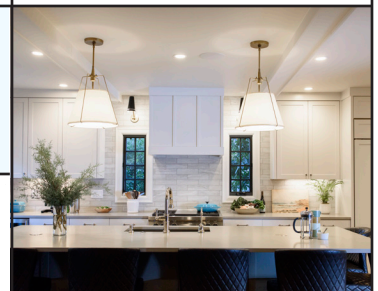
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