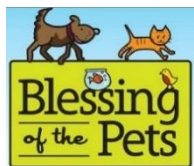


MARK TIMES

NEWS and NOTES for October 5, 2025

Sunday, Oct. 5:	4:00PM	SHINE worship with Blessing of the Animals - courtyard
Monday, Oct. 6:	2:30PM	Fiber Arts at Westfield Manor
Wednesday, Oct. 8:	9:00AM	Evangelism/Social Ministry Meeting – Conference Room
	12:00PM	Ladies' Lunch Bunch – Papa Vito's downtown
Thursday, Oct. 9:	4:00PM	Chancel choir
	5:30PM	Men's Chorus
	6:00PM	Bell Choir
	6:00PM	Yoga – Parish Hall
Fri. 10/10 & Sat. 10/11		Chili Cook-Off

Blessing of the Animals TODAY!



We join our partners from St. George's and our animal friends to celebrate the feast of St. Francis with a special SHINE service and a **Blessing of the Animals!**

Our service is at **4:00PM TODAY Sunday, October 5** in the **church courtyard***. Please **bring your own chair** if possible.

Part of our service is dedicated to **remembering our beloved pets who have died**. You are invited to **bring a photo of your departed pet** (framed, if possible) to place on a remembrance table.

*If the courtyard is obstructed by construction materials, the event may be held on the big parking lot.

Chili Cook-Off: Volunteers Needed!

Volunteers are needed to help in the booth and kitchen **NEXT WEEKEND, October 10 and 11**. A sign-up sheet with details is located in the Parish Hall. Contact David Buckley with questions at 618-520-9333 or david_f_buckley@yahoo.com.

Adult Forum: *Giants and the Conquest of Canaan*

Join Pastor Brian this morning for an exploration of the **giants of ancient Canaan**, who were destroyed by Yahweh and the Israelites in the biblical accounts of the Conquest. We will show how the memories of indigenous giants are related to monumental stone ruins in the landscape of Israel and Transjordan. This is a twist in biblical archaeology, redirected to the history of memory. Don't miss it!

Ladies Lunch Bunch meets at Papa Vito's in downtown Belleville **THIS Wednesday, October 8 at 12 noon**. Please RSVP to June at 618 977 4389 or Jandcbenedick@gmail.com.

Meals on Wheels Needs Help!

The Meals-On-Wheels services provided out of our Parish Hall need more volunteers, particularly on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Please see Frank Dressel or David Buckley for more details about serving those for whom these meals may be the only substantial meal of the day.



SHARE THE WARMTH October 5 thru 26, 2025: Inspired by Phillip's Wish in the movie **5000 Blankets** and the needs of our food pantry clients, we are collecting gently worn **coats, thermal underwear, sweatshirts, t-shirts, undershirts, socks, hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves** for the homeless in our area. **Warming blankets, handwarmers and new underwear for men and women** are also appreciated! Donations will be distributed to various organizations throughout the project period with donation numbers provided periodically. A collection container is in the Narthex!

Franklin School Lunch Packing Returns

We pack 20 bag lunches for needy students at Franklin school for all long weekends, and we welcome volunteers! Packing requires about an hour on the day before most holiday weekends. See **Peggy Andersen** (618-791-0992) to sign up or for questions. There is also a sign-up sheet downstairs near the coffee hour tables. Your support is so much appreciated!

Join the Choir!

If you can carry a tune at all (you don't need to sing solo or even read music), the chancel choir would love to welcome you! Check out our new Thursday rehearsal times: **Voice choir meets at 4:00PM; Men's Choir meets at 5:30PM; and Bell Choir meets at 6:00PM.**

From the Parish Nurse:

More Than a Ribbon—The Heart of Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Every October, Breast Cancer Awareness Month unites people worldwide to shine a light on education, advocacy, and hope. While the pink ribbon is a powerful symbol, the campaign is about far more than color—it's about saving lives.



The goals of Breast Cancer Awareness Month are simple but vital:

- Encourage regular screenings and mammograms.
- Educate about risk factors and early warning signs.
- Support survivors and fuel research through fundraising.

This month reminds us that breast cancer touches millions of lives. Whether you're a survivor, caregiver, advocate, or ally, you are part of a global movement working toward fewer diagnoses and better treatments.

The pink ribbon serves as a reminder of solidarity—an emblem of hope and resilience. But awareness without action isn't enough. Take steps: schedule your screening, share resources with friends, or join a fundraiser.

Every story matters. Every action adds up. Together, we move closer to a future where breast cancer is no longer a leading threat to women's health.

GriefShare: *Surviving the Holidays* Event on November 15

The holiday season can stir difficult emotions, especially after the loss of a loved one. *Surviving the Holidays* offers support, encouragement, and practical tools to help you navigate this time with peace and assurance. Join St. Mark's special session, led by Nurse Becky, on **Saturday, November 15** from **1–3 PM** in the **Parish Hall**. The free event includes a video, group discussion, and a Survival Guide. Pre-registration is required at griefshare.org/events/276776



Offerings (9/28): General Fund: \$12,625; Food Pantry/Woodrome Memorials: \$2,080/\$125; Thrivent Choice (September): \$462; Muller Landscaping: \$101; Fiber Arts: \$101; Property/Grounds: \$101