

Mass Intentions for the Week



20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME August 16, 2015

Saturday, August 15 Assumption of Mary

12 Noon Lourdemary Jeganathan
4:30PM Flora Raimondi

Sunday, August 16

7:30AM Joseph Marinari
9:30AM Marie Kilgallon
11:30AM Thomas Smith Jr.

Monday, August 17

8:15AM William J. Freas

Tuesday, August 18

8:15AM Alexandria Taylor

Wednesday, August 19

8:15AM Linda Rodenbaugh

Thursday, August 20

8:15AM Matthew Derfler

Friday, August 21

8:15AM Frank & Susie Paparo

Saturday, August 22

4:30PM Kathryn Ryan

Sunday, August 23

7:30AM Rose Cowhey
9:30AM Ivo Salvi
11:30AM John Coelho

*Keep Them
in your
Prayers*



Tom Tone, David Talone, JoAnn LaSorsa, Marie Carney, Greg Atkinson, Sophie Grabowski, Anthony Bonanno, Joanne Toth, Theresa Lenczewski, Rev. Msgr. Robert Grudowski, Florence Zapien, Luke Birkhead, Rose Kiger, Erik Kozlowski, Edmund Opielski, Bozena Orzechowski, Marlene Salkowski, Roselie Partenheimer, John Walski, Carl Reiff, Joseph Blaszcak, Patrick Kelly, Sean McGonagle, Mary Pierce, Brian Dunlevy, Sr. Jean Streibig, Stephanie Hathaway, Ken Waszena, Charles Streibig, Theresa McGrath, Kylie Reiff, John McCann, Nikki Dolan, Joseph Rozecki, Betty DiCola, Brother James Riley, Shawn Gallen, Eduardo Gloria, Molly Glick, Deb Smith, Ann Campbell, Francina Capolingua, Cathy Pierlott, Lynn Bowman, Anne Gallagher, James Sousa, James Gauger, Emilia Bello Jones, Rita Van Buskirk, Joan Nasielski, Stephen Greene, Caroline Smerecki, Joan Pierce, Kevin Miller, Mike Ancin, Alfred Zisk, Cynthia Allen, Rylan Borys, Susan Minnick, Ann Greco, Dorothy E. Lawler, Denise Kavanaugh



Pray for the Deceased



Pray for the Military

Staff Sgt Daniel Furtak, Lt. Michelle R. McNally, SSKC Terence J. McNally Jr., Sgt. Robert Bonneau, Andrew Midgett, Jonathan Staats, Col. Shawn McGinley, 108th Wing McGuire AFB, Matthew Horning, 1st Lt. Stanley J. Reimer III, SR Brett Pellicciotti, PFC Thomas Mazzochetti, Staff Sgt. Michael Alfonse, Robert Catapano U.S. Army 101st Airborne, Paul Brown, Marines, Corporal Andrew Teitjen, Tech Sgt Eric Zweiback

CELEBRANTS MASS SCHEDULE

8/15 12 Noon Fr. Heron
8/15 4:30 Fr. Ryan
8/16 7:30 Fr. Heron 9:30 Fr. Ryan 11:30 Fr. Heron
8/22 4:30 Fr. Ryan
8/23 7:30 Msgr. Owens 9:30 Fr. Ryan 11:30 Msgr. Owens
8/29 4:30 Msgr. Owens
8/30 7:30 Fr. Heron 9:30 Fr. Ryan 11:30 Fr. Heron

THE 6PM YOUNG ADULT EVENING MASS IS CANCELLED UNTIL AFTER THE POPE'S VISIT.

Prepare for next Sunday

Scripture

Joshua 24:1 – 2, 15 - 18

Ephesians 5:2, 25 - 32

John 6:51 - 58

Reflection

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Many murmur, "This saying is hard; who can accept it?" If we approach Christianity from our own presuppositions then we completely miss the fact, as Pope Benedict XVI writes, that "being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction." We are to look beyond the "saying" to the Say-er. This is what it means to be "subordinate to one another out of reverence for Christ." "Decide today whom you will serve" – your own ideas and preconceptions, or "the Lord."

Pre-Jordan Instructions (Sacrament of Baptism)

The Sacrament of Baptism is administered in church on the first three Sundays of each month following the 11:30 A.M. Mass. In preparation for having a child Baptized, parents are required to attend "Pre-Jordan Instructions." Classes are the first Tuesday of each month. The next class will be **Tuesday, September 1 at 7PM.** You will be required to attend a class if this is the Baptism of your first child. Please call the rectory at 610-828-0424 press 4 for the office to register for the class.

The following forms and schedules can be found on our website at www.stmatthewparish.com

**CHECK
OUT
OUR
WEBSITE**

Parish Registration
Prep/CCD Registration
Schedule a Baptism
Schedule a Wedding
Eucharistic Minister Schedules
Lector Schedules
Altar Servers Schedules

Religious Education News

Children's Liturgy will be suspended for the summer months of July and August. Leisure time is important. Part of leisure is to pray! Bring the children to Mass every Sunday for some leisurely grace! Children's liturgy will resume in September.

ATTENTION PARENTS: REGISTER OR RENEW NOW FOR PREP/CCD CLASSES FOR THIS FALL. IT WILL SOON BE TIME TO ORDER TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIALS AND WE NEED A COUNT. If your child enters First Grade in 2015, go online to St. Matthew website and click on the link to register and mail in your payment or electronically submit it as you would your contribution. Classes are 6:30 – 7:45pm Monday evenings September thru March. Tuition fee: one child \$110.00, two children \$165.00, three or more \$195.00. Classes will be held again at Early Childhood School and SS Cosmas and Damian Hall. Any questions please call the rectory at 610-828-0424 ext6.

We Celebrate the Sacraments

St. Matthews will celebrate the sacraments of First Penance on March 14, 2016, and First Eucharist on April 30, 2016.

After Confirmation, then what? Do you still wonder, still have questions about what it is we believe or why we believe certain truths in the Catholic Church? Your education in the teachings of the church does not have to end with Confirmation. This year we want to invite the newly confirmed to return, perhaps to act as an aide to a younger class, perhaps to a learning/discussion session, perhaps to participate in an activity in the parish or community. On Monday evenings while PREP/CCD is occurring, as a young group of committed Catholic Christians, you could continue to be active in your faith lives. You can come as often as you like. Startup date is the Opening night of PREP, Sept. 14th.

A letter to the newly confirmed will be going out via email the week of August 10. Gain service hours as an aide, gain insight and truths about controversial topics (i.e. Right to Life issue), about certain beliefs (Real Presence of Jesus in Eucharist), participate in faith based activities (helping with a clothing/food drive). You can choose how and when you would like to attend. A registration form would be required. They will be available on the St. Matt's webpage. For more information or answers to questions email Miss Mary Kay at mckennamaryk@gmail.com or call the Rectory 610-828-0424 ext 6.



Food Pantry Needs: tuna fish, boxes of mashed potatoes, stew, canned fruits, peanut butter and jelly.



Dear Friends,

I am here at the Villa exactly one month. I must be honest and say adjustment is difficult. Although I have more than I need, a part of me is not here. I miss "the spirit and love" we shared at Saint Matthew. We are blessed with "this newly formed parish". May it continue to grow in love and peace. Your love, friendship and many kindnesses are in my prayers. Remember that the Lord loves us all. God bless and keep me in your prayers.

Sister St. Herman.

RCIA *A journey in faith*

Are you interested in learning more about the Catholic faith? Do you or does someone you know wish to become Catholic? Are you a baptized Catholic but never have been confirmed or received First Eucharist? Are you curious about some aspects of our faith or tradition? **The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the place for you!** Every year, adults are welcomed into the Catholic Community through RCIA. It is a learning and loving process in which conversion of the heart brings you to Jesus Christ! Interested?? Please call the rectory 610-828-0424 with any questions or for more information. (No obligation!) First Session will begin Monday, September 28th at 7PM.

SUMMER BOOK CLUB: Do you enjoy reading novels? Does Summer give you a bit more free time? Allow yourself some leisure! **August 25 - North of Hope at 7 PM** parish meeting room off the rectory parking area. For more detail consult the posters by the doors of the church. To register contact Msgr. Owens voice mail: 610-828-0424 ext 112 or stmatt2014@gmail.com

ST. MARY'S GOLDEN AGE CLUB: Meets every Thursday at St. Mary's Church Hall. Three dollar fee. Play Cards 9:00 AM Snacks 10 AM Lunch 11 AM Play Bingo 12 – 2:30 PM. Dues for members due 2015 is \$10.00 for the year.

God's Plan for Giving

Due to an early bulletin deadline these numbers will not be available until the next bulletin
**WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL FOR
YOUR OFFERTORY
GIFTS LAST WEEKEND**



ELECTRONIC GIVING:

We invite you to consider our new **electronic giving program** as a way to automate your regular weekly or monthly offerings.

Parish Giving is convenient for you and there is **NO COST** for you to participate. Contact Deacon Mike Kubiak at deacon.mike.kubiak@comcast.net to register www.parishgiving.org or www.stmatthewparish.com

INDEPENDENCE MISSION SCHOOLS is proud to be a non-profit network of 15 elementary schools in Philadelphia offering high quality Catholic education. We have a few teaching positions left to fill in Elementary and Middle school grades, Technology, Music, Art and Physical Education. We have part-time and full-time opportunities with benefits. Visit our careers page to learn more about how you can support building our Catholic communities <https://independencemissionschools.org/about/careers/>



St. Matthew Prayer Shawl Ministry:

We most 'warmly' invite you to be a part of this Ministry by meeting with us in the St. Vincent DePaul room **Tuesday, September 8th at**

7PM. If you know of someone who might like to receive a shawl, please let us know-or make one yourself for someone special to you. For Information contact Alice O'Connor acaoc@verizon.net

World Meeting of Families

The World Meeting of Families – Philadelphia 2015 and IBM recently announced a new mobile app "Go Philadelphia!" The app will provide information about the region's cultural institutions and family-friendly events taking place between September 18 – 29. The app displays events and attractions on an interactive online map. Visitors have instant access and detailed information about institutions, exhibits, events and attractions, translation services, frequently asked questions, schedules, maps, and more. Customized family schedules can be created on the app and saved to favorites. The App also gives users access to real-time translation and captioning services in eight languages during portions of the Papal Mass being held on Sunday, September 27. The free app can be downloaded for android devices and Apple devices.

GOLDEN AGE CLUB of St Mary's News: Casino Trips are scheduled for the second Tuesday of each month: September 8 & October 13. Bus leaves 9:00 AM from 11th & Fayette, 9:15 AM from 3rd & Fayette, and at 9:30 AM from St. Mary's. Please call Joe (610-825-4596).

REFLECTIONS FROM MY ROCKING CHAIR:

Each August and September our parish community reaches out to those who are considering full membership in the Roman Catholic Church. I realize that almost all of you who are reading this bulletin are already Catholic. For those of you who are not Catholic and are reading this bulletin, what are you waiting for? Take the good advice of Jesus who said to the disciples of John the Baptist when they asked, "Are you the one?" He said, "Come and see." For those of you who are reading this, and are Roman Catholic, why not ask someone you know who is not Catholic but might have interest in being Catholic to come and join our RCIA program.

RCIA stands for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. It is the process of prayerfully considering the Catholic faith for oneself. After a period of inquiry one declares him or herself a catechumen (one who is being formed in the teachings of the Catholic Church) through to the first Sunday of Lent when the catechumen through the Rite of Election enters the final period of preparation for their reception into the Church at the Easter Vigil. Being a Catholic is a beautiful thing, we are the Church founded upon Jesus Christ, our sanctifier and redeemer. Our frail human nature is infused with the spirit of God by way of God's Son who takes on our mortal flesh (the Incarnation). All creation is thus sanctified and gives glory to God and deserves our respect. Pope Francis' encyclical (Laudato Si) begins, "Praise be to you, my Lord". *In the words of this beautiful canticle, St. Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us. "Praise be to you, my Lord, through our sister, mother Earth, who sustains and governs us and produces various fruit with colored flowers and herbs."* Surely, this thought strikes a sympathetic chord in our hearts.

Being a Catholic also is a challenging experience. We are a magisterial Church, meaning that Christ the teacher is still revealing himself through the Church's teaching offices, both Pope and Bishop, and together. The Church offers guidance in the questions surrounding what it takes to be a just society and how best to protect the dignity of human life in all its phases from conception to natural death. The Catholic Church is a beautiful blend of faith and reason and we are compelled to take our convictions both to the marketplace and to the political arena. But at heart being a Catholic means to love Jesus and, thus, all people and to discover him more and more in prayer, in the sacraments and in our Christian witness. A well-known theologian wrote many years ago, "Christians of the future will be mystics or they will not be Christians at all". In decades past the faith was handed on almost without thought, with little opposition. Today there is a real choice to being an active Catholic and commitment is made with conviction. To truly know Jesus and his Church is at heart an act of love – that's the "mystical" of which I speak. Despite the flaws in her members the Church in essence is a sturdy bark in which to whether the stormy seas and enjoy the peaceful sunrise. Are you one or do you know one that the Spirit seeks to attract to the membership in the Catholic Church? Come and see or tell them to. (stmatt2014@gmail.com or call at 610-828-0424 ext. 112) Blessings, Msgr. Tom Owens

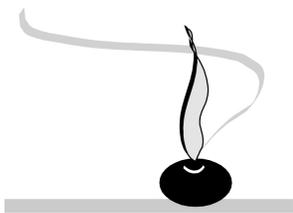
Fr. Tom Heron's Weekly Reflection

*Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord Jesus,
Welcome!*

I rejoice in your presence with the Saint Matthew faith worshipping community as we participate in the Liturgy for the 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time. We are blessed by your desire to give thanks to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, both parishioners and guests. May you be renewed in mind, heart and spirit through the Word and Eucharist we share. Thanks for joining us!

Proverbs 9:1-6 Psalm 34 Ephesians 5:15-20 John 6:51-58

There seem to be three ways people experience life today.



The first is vicariously: some of us seek to live through the experiences of others. Statistics on the amount of time and money that Americans spend watching television or movies would lead us to believe that most of us just live

life vicariously. We get high on the experiences of actors and actresses. The average American watches over 28 hours of television a week – about four hours per day.

One mother's fear that her young son was watching too much television was finally confirmed when she overheard him saying his prayers. "Bless Mommy and Daddy," the boy began, "and give us this day our slow-baked, oven-fresh, butter-topped, vitamin-enriched bread."

Even more disturbing, there is evidence that television and motion pictures have a desensitizing effect – so that our deadened senses crave even a wider range of experience. So some young people commit acts of violence like the ones they see in the movies and on television. Sometimes they kill just for the experience of watching someone die. It's a scary part of living in a jaded and desensitized society.

Of course, another way to live vicariously is through artificial means of stimulation, like drugs and alcohol. It appears to me that there is a subtle move right now on the part of film and television producers to glorify marijuana. That is sad.

The second way of experiencing life today is the opposite extreme of living vicariously. We might call it "living outrageously." Witness the rise in extreme sports and death-defying fads like bungee-jumping. We have raised a whole new generation of people, some of whom can only feel alive if they push themselves to the very edges of death.

Risk-taking, in all kinds of manifestations, is a national obsession. We have dealt with this before, but we need to consider what happens to a generation of people who feel

they must test the limits.

There are many people who are not content to live within the constraints of responsible behavior. They are always on the edge financially, legally, morally, physically and spiritually. Anything, so long as it is outrageous. That's a second way of living that appeals to many people.

There is a third way to live, however, and that is abundantly. In John 6:57, Jesus says, "Just as the living Father sent Me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on Me will live because of Me."

The life that Jesus offers us is neither vicarious nor outrageous; it is abundant. When Jesus comes into our lives, He renews all our senses, all our thoughts, all our emotions. We experience life differently. Our priorities change. Our self-image changes. The way we see the world changes. We discover a whole new dimension to life.

Jesus is not the enemy of experience. Just the opposite is true.

You may be familiar with the story of a group of theologians at a study conference. During the opening session, an announcement was made that in Room A there would be a lecture about heaven. In Room B, it was announced, you could experience heaven itself. So all the theologians got up quickly and headed to Room A for the lecture on heaven.

That may be the theologians' way of experiencing life, but it is not Jesus' way. Jesus wants us to experience life in all its fullness.

Let's imagine for a moment that you and I have a vision problem that causes us to see only in black and white. The colors are still there in this beautiful world we inhabit – we just can't see them. But a brilliant new doctor comes on the scene who possesses an amazing new laser machine and he performs surgery on us and suddenly we see a world of color that we never knew existed before. That is what Christ would like to do for us. He would like to show us a world so much more beautiful and so much more exciting than we ever dreamed before. That is abundant living. Christ invites us to move beyond knowing about Him to experiencing Him. One way we experience Christ is through the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Notice in our Scripture lesson: Jesus says, "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world." The Jews began to argue sharply among themselves, "How can this man give us His flesh to eat?" Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."



End of Bulletin