

Mass Intentions for the Week



21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME August 23, 2015

Saturday, August 22

4:30PM Kathryn Ryan

Sunday, August 23

7:30AM Rose Cowhey

9:30AM Ivo Salvi

11:30AM John Coelho

Monday, August 24

8:15AM Margaret Bernadette Carlino

Tuesday, August 25

8:15AM Martha Jane Major

Nick Mastrocola

Wednesday, August 26

8:15AM Jack Heron

Thursday, August 27

8:15AM Dec'd Members of the Addeson Family

Friday, August 28

8:15AM Jeffery Janifer

Saturday, August 29

4:30PM David McTamney

Helen Goodwin

Sunday, August 30

7:30AM Catherine H. Shaffer

9:30AM Billy Freas

11:30AM Raymond Beswick Jr. (26th Anniversary)

*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 Blaszczyk, 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, Denise Kavanaugh, Michael Fox



**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

8/22 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

Deuteronomy 4:1 – 2, 6-8

James 1:17 – 18, 21 – 22, 27

Mark 7:1 – 8, 14 -15, 21 - 23

Reflection

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

The scribes and the Pharisees live according to a defective understanding that disregards God's commandment and clings to human tradition. Since their hearts are far from God, evils like malice, deceit, blasphemy, and arrogance, come "from their hearts." God endows us with "statutes and decrees" in order to rescue us from our own inadequate ideas and to give us a way to "live, enter in, and take possession of the land." By allowing our hearts to be formed by God's commandments, we "give evidence of our wisdom and intelligence to the nations." For such obedience reveals just how close God is to us who wills "to give us birth by the word of truth." "Humbly welcome the word that ... is able to save your souls."

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

Youth Ministry Registration

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!
SEPTEMBER 14, 2015 WILL BE OPENING NIGHT FOR PREP/CCD CLASSES TO BEGIN. PLEASE GET YOUR REGISTRATION OR RENEWALS AND FEE PAID AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Any newly confirmed interested in assisting, learning more about our faith, and participate more fully in parish life please register for the Youth Ministry on the website.

2015-2016 PREP/CCD Calendar and other sacramental information is available on our website. Simply click the tab Parish Organizations and select PREP.

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.

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.



PLEASE TAKE NOTE:

The Food Cupboard will only be open twice a month starting in September on the 2nd & 3rd Fridays of the month at 1 PM.

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

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 stmat2014@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.

The 2015 Pro-Life Summer Raffle:

The Pro-Life Summer Raffle offers a maximum of 2,500 tickets at \$25 each on ten prizes totaling \$7,500. 1st prize \$5,000, 2nd prize \$1,000, 3rd prize \$500, 4th prizes \$250, 5th prizes \$100. The drawing for this Raffle will occur on Saturday, October 3, 2015 and the proceeds will benefit the Pro-Life Legal Fund for Southeast Pennsylvania. This Fund has served since 1986 by effectively advancing the interests of the pro-life movement in court cases and advocating for pro-life public policies at the local, state, and national levels. Please contact Diane at 610-828-8041 to purchase tickets. Please make checks payable to the "Pro-Life Legal Fund". Thank you very much.

God's Plan for Giving

August 16, 2015
WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL FOR
YOUR OFFERTORY
GIFTS LAST WEEKEND:
\$12,880.50

Electronic giving \$821.50 + \$12,059.00 = \$12,880.50



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

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).



Walking with Purpose is a Catholic women's bible study that meets once a week to discuss Scripture as it relates to our everyday lives. Classes start Wednesday, September 30th. The classes will be Wednesday evenings from 6:30 PM – 8:15 PM at the St Matthews Convent. **REGISTRATION DEADLINE** is Monday, September 7th to allow time to order the materials. Please check out the website at <http://walkingwithpurpose.com>. Contact Judy Kukowski at 610-331-2147 or JAKukowski@verizon.net for more information.

REFLECTIONS FROM MY ROCKING CHAIR:

Dear friends,

Now that summer is coming to a close, the September *WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES* is fast approaching and will convene on September 22 at the Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia. For the last few months, by way of the parish bulletin, you received summaries of the themes that will be dealt with at the convention. You may or may not have those digests so I thought it best to offer you an opportunity (by way of email) to receive them at your home. *Created for Joy* (1) suggests we can achieve intimacy with God. *The Mission Love* (2) suggests that we can recognize true love by way of God's covenant with us. *The Meaning of Human Sexuality* (3) would sanctify our nakedness. *Become One* (4) boldly proclaims that the Sacrament of Matrimony celebrated by a man and woman can help identify the qualities that we should seek in a potential spouse. *Creating the Future* (5) states directly that the willingness to have children is an essential part of the Sacrament of Matrimony. *All Love Bears Fruit* (6) sees a common thread in every Christian vocation, marriage, vowed religious life, priesthood and the single life that is giving witness to a self-sacrificing chaste love. *Life in a Dark World* (7) contextualizes the church's teachings on artificial contraception, natural family planning and same-sex marriages. *A Home for the Wounded Heart* (8) reminds the church that she is a "field hospital" offering solace to all, especially to the believer attempting to love with the compassion and generosity of Jesus. *Mother, Teacher, Family: the Nature and Role of the Church* (9) is a frank acknowledgment of the sinfulness of her members while at the same time declaring herself to be a holy church. *Choosing Life* (10) wonders if the values of the larger cultural setting – life in an American city, for example – can be counter to church teaching and in opposition to the gospel and threaten our spiritual health.

The closing paragraph of *Love Is Our Mission: Family Fully Alive* is as follows: "Family, become what you are. Choose life, then, that you and your descendants may live, by loving the Lord, your God, obeying his voice, and holding fast to him. The mission will sometimes mark you as different from others in your society. To live your witness of love will require spiritual commitment and discipline, but do not fear. The Church is with you. The Lord is with you. The Lord has made a covenant with you. The Lord is calling. He will be faithful, and your covenant will bear fruit. Love is your mission, the basis for all communion, a profound adventure in service, beauty, and truth".

If you are interested in one or more of the digests listed above please contact me at stmatt2014@gmail.com. I will email you in response.

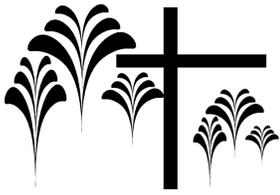
Fr. Tom Heron's Weekly Reflection

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 21st 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!

Joshua 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b Psalm 34 Ephesians 5:21-32
John 6:60-69



The television quiz show, "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" captured the imagination of audiences. The format is very simple, but the key to its success is

surely the tension which mounts as the contestants are confronted with a series of critical decision-making moments. Do they play safe and take what they have already won or gamble and risk, sometimes a considerable amount of money, in the hope of making far more? We tend to admire the risk-takers, but what would we do in their situation? And, anyway, what is it that influences us to make those sorts of choices?

Today's readings present us with choices. Joshua offers the people of Israel a clear choice. They have conquered the land God promised them and now stand on an important threshold. Joshua realizes that this is a time for decision, and that the decision they make now will affect their whole future. The people look to the past and choose the Lord as their God – not out of any sense of mere traditionalism or conservatism, but because God has proved Himself to be faithful, their redeemer, their liberator and protector. They make a decision to face the future based on their past experience of God's goodness.

Jesus also gives His disciples a choice: "Do you want to go away, too?" Peter gives an answer based on experience. The disciples have spent time with the Lord, listened to His words, seen Him perform miracles, watched how He dealt compassionately with people. They have come to know Him – to know that He is the "Holy One of God," to know that He brings hope and healing into people's lives – that He has the message of eternal life. They have come to have faith in Him: "We believe." Their faith is not certainty: Jesus knows that like those who walked away, the disciples who stayed would have doubts, questions, many

things they simply did not understand. That is why He asks if they, too, will leave. But, although they do have questions, His disciples make a decision based on experience, based on their experience of the Lord. It is a gamble – they had no guarantees about how their lives would turn out or what hardships they would have to endure if they remained with Christ.

Why were so many of Jesus' disciples put off, so that they couldn't make that decision to remain His disciples? They, too, had heard and observed Jesus. But they chose what they already had (to "keep the money") rather than take the risk of following Him. They opted for safety and security, rather than being open to the message of Jesus.

Choosing whether or not to follow the Lord is a choice we all have to make each day, as the changing circumstances of our lives require us to decide whether to risk trying to live by His teaching or to walk away and remain safe in our old securities. The doctrine which provoked people to leave Jesus was His teaching that we should eat His Body and drink His Blood, if we are to have life within us. The presence (Body and Blood) of Jesus is not confined to the Eucharist.

Christ also promised that He would be found among the poor, the weak, the sick and imprisoned, the lonely and the hungry – among the people who make us feel uncomfortable or who make implicit or explicit demands on our time, our concern, our money, our friendship.

Do we recognize Christ's presence – His life-giving Body and Blood – among these people, or do we prefer to remain safe and comfortable by closing our eyes and ears to the needs and demands of the poor?

It is easy for us to stay with what we have, to walk away from any risk. The challenge of real faith is to follow the Lord and to seek His presence in the faces of our neighbor. That is a choice which will lead to the greatest prize of all for us: eternal life.

*O God,
you have
the words
of eternal life.*

End of Bulletin