



Mass Intentions for the Week

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time August 20, 2017

Saturday, August 19

4:30PM Elizabeth L. Bowe

Sunday, August 20

7:30AM Kristina Lynn Morris

9:30AM James R. Lepera

11:30AM Marie L. Kilgallon

Monday, August 21

8:15AM Rosario Russell Amen III

Tuesday, August 22

8:15AM Henry Kuczynski

Wednesday, August 23

8:15AM Hal Zweiback & Lloyd Laskey

Thursday, August 24

8:15AM Dec'd Members of Weychert & Paparo Families

Friday, August 25

8:15AM John Coelho

Martha Jane Major

Saturday, August 26

4:30PM Jack Heron

Sunday, August 27

7:30AM Thomas M. Puchtler

9:30AM Christina Friend

11:30AM Margaret Storti



Prayer
Requests

Tom Tone, David Talone, JoAnn LaSorsa, Marie Carney, Greg Atkinson, Msgr. Robert Grudowski, Anthony Bonanno, Joanne Toth, Theresa Lenczewski, Luke Birkhead, Erik Kozlowski, Marlene

Salkowski, Roselie Partenheimer, John Walski, Carl Reiff, Joseph Blaszcak, Patrick Kelly, Sean McGonagle, Mary Pierce, Brian Dunlevy, Sr. Jean Streibig, Stephanie Hathaway, Charles Streibig, Kylie Reiff, Eduardo Gloria, Molly Glick, Deb Smith, Ann Campbell, Francina Capolingua, Cathy Pierlott, Lynn Bowman, James Gauger, Emilia Bello Jones, Rita VanBuskirk, Caroline Smerecki, Joan Pierce, Kevin Miller, Rylan Borys, Susan Minnick, Ann Greco, Jessica Jara, Joe Lotito, Kendall Soltys, Concezio Lelii, William McGrath, Carl Pierce, Ursula Kozlowski, Benedetto McDaniels, Kevin Kelly, Joanne Kalacinski, Mary DiMedio, Anna Marie Ferrier, Mary Stoffel, Jeri McClennen, John Boccella, Jim Bokoski, Hans Pawling, Margie Burghart, Kristen Lafferty, Debbie Miller Hannon, Robert Berk, Emma Forlini, Derek Dean, Baby Noah Marchetti, James Simpson, Roseann Sirianni Lare, Theresa Steinhauer, John Palmer, Rachel Minnick, Mark Hogan, Gregory Mazzochetti, Teresa Sensinger, Theresa Rozecki, Minnie Olearsky, Kimberly Moyer, Sal Spera, Veronica Lilick, Jessie Bonkowski, Marlin McCarthy, Angeline Williams, Jack & Grace McCracken, Joe Lipinski, Marty Murray, Jack Ashton Sr., David Folts



Sam & Mary Lupica



Staff Sgt Daniel Furtak, Lt. Michelle R. McNally, SSKC Terence J. McNally Jr., Sgt. Robert Bonneau, Andrew Midgett, Lt. Col Evah McGinley, The 108th Wing McGuire AFB, Petty Officer George Horning Jr., 1st Lt. Stanley J. Reimer III, *SR Brett Pellicciotti*, *Corporal Thomas Mazzochetti*, Robert Catapano U.S. Army 101st Airborne, Michael Bondra, Senior Airman Jacob Shoemaker, Master Sgt. Curt W. Zeiders III, Edward Sobeck, 2nd Lt. Ryan D'Ambrosio, 2nd Lt. Eraina D'Ambrosio.

CELEBRANTS MASS SCHEDULE

8/19 4:30 Fr. Heron

8/20 7:30 Fr. Heron 9:30 Fr. McKeaney 11:30 Msgr. Owens

8/26 4:30 Msgr. Owens

8/27 7:30 Fr. Ryan 9:30 Fr. Heron 11:30 Fr. McKeaney

Pre-Jordan Instructions: 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 1st

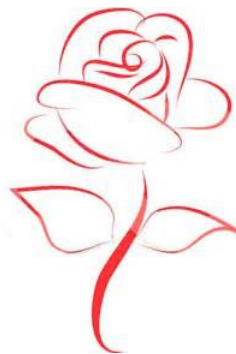


Tuesday of each month. **The next class is September 5 at 7PM in Church.** You will be required to attend a class if this is the Baptism of your first child. To schedule your Baptism go to www.stmatthewparish.com



St. Matthew Parish is offering a one day pre-Cana program on **Saturday, October 21, 2017** from 8:30am – 4 pm followed by Mass at 4:30PM. Cost \$200 per couple. Couples from all parishes are welcomed.

Contact Deacon Mike Kubiak: 610-828- 0424 X 5 or deacon.mike.kubiak@comcast.net



PRO-LIFE SUMMER RAFFLE

Please take a \$25 Chance for Life and support the Pro-Life Summer Raffle. A maximum of 2,500 tickets will be sold at \$25 each for ten prizes totaling \$7,500: 1st Prize \$5,000, 2nd Prize \$1,000, 3rd Prize \$500, two 4th Prizes \$250, and five 5th Prizes \$100. This Raffle supports the Pro-Life Legal

Fund, which has served the pro-life movement since 1986 by effectively advancing interests in court cases and advocating for pro-life policies at the local, state, and national levels. Please make checks payable to "Pro-Life Legal Fund". Please contact **Diane at 610-828-8041** for tickets. The drawing for the Raffle will occur on **Saturday, September 23, 2017**. Thank you very much!



PREP/CCD REGISTRATION FOR 2017-2018. Now is the time for parents to plan for next year. Please take a few minutes to register your children online for religious education classes.

Fees will remain the same. One

child \$110.00 Two children \$165.00 Three or more children \$195.00

Classes are offered Sunday Mornings between masses. Classes are held in the Parish Center 10:25-11:25 am.

We will hold registrations in back of church on Sunday, August 20 and Sunday August 27th for your convenience.

Opening Day for Prep/CCD Sunday September 10, 2017. 9:30 Mass in church, classes to follow in Parish Center.

Catechist and Staff Meeting **August 29th** 6:30 pm in Parish Center. Enter through Harry Street

Parent Meeting **August 30th** 6:30 pm in Parish Center. Enter through Harry Street. (one parent from each family, if you are unable to attend ask someone to pick up the folder for you.)

Those families whose students attend Catholic Regional Elementary Schools and are candidates for First Sacraments are asked to please call Ms. Mary Kay at the Parish Center. 610- 828-0424 ext. 6.

Announcing a wonderful opportunity to get involved...Enriching the lives of our young children.

TEACH, AIDE, VOLUNTEER FOR PREP/CCD St. Matthew Religious Education Program

We are in need of a few **male** role models as catechists and or aides in the classroom. Please contact: Mary Kay McKenna at the Parish Office 610-828-0424 or email mckennamaryk@gmail.com.

YOUTH GROUP: Please register online for Parish Youth Ministry. All 7th, 8th, 9th graders are welcome. Group will meet once a month in the evening. Day and Time TBA. No fee.

LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR CHILDREN:



WILL "GO ON VACATION" FOR JULY & AUGUST. It will return to the 9:30 Mass in September. Enjoy the leisure of summer.



ALTAR SERVERS: Are you 10 years old or older? Do you want to help in the parish? Join the St. Matthew's Altar Servers. Training will begin after 9:30 Mass on Sunday. E-mail stmatthewrectory@verizon.net.



SAVE THE DATE:
Volunteers and Donations Appreciated!

Sunday September 24th, we will be having our

annual Healing Service in Honor of the Feast of SS. Cosmas and Damian. This year we will have a 3 day Triduum, (A triduum is a three-day period of prayer, usually in preparation for an important feast or in celebration of that feast) beginning on **Friday September 22nd at 7:00 PM – Prayer Service – Deacon Joseph Carr, Saturday 8:15 AM - Mass – Celebrant and Homilist – Father Gasper Genuardi and ending on Sunday with a Healing Service after the 11:30 Mass.**

At the close we will be hosting refreshments, finger foods and desserts so we can enjoy one another's company.

(Donations of finger foods, desserts, beverages, and time to help out where needed. Any questions, contact: hclegg100@aol.com)

We are looking forward to this annual event at St. Matthew's Parish. Spread the word, looking forward to hearing from all of you. Mark your calendar and contact Helene at the parish center (610-828-0424) or by email to let her know what you will be bringing.



YOUNG ADULTS

St. Matthew's Conshohocken Young Adult group aims to provide fellowship through social, spiritual and service opportunities for those in their 20s and 30s and the young at heart. Our next social events:

8/22 Tuesday at Tee's Golf Center – Mini golf Par-Tee.

9/10 Brunch after 11:30 Mass. Please meet in the back of the church

9/26 Volunteer at Cradles to Crayons. Sign up on our facebook page or email Tony or Erin for the information.

To sign up for events and more please join the St Matthew Conshohocken Young Adult Facebook group. If you have any questions, please contact Tony Moral at tony.moral2@gmail.com or Erin Garrett at erin.garret@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 **Casino Trips:** scheduled for the 2nd Tuesday of each month: **September 12 & October 10** . Bus leaves 9:00 AM from 11th & Fayette, 9:15 AM from 3rd & Fayette, 9:30 AM from St. Mary's. Call Joe (610-825-4596).

God's Plan for Giving

August 13, 2017

WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR OFFERTORY GIFTS LAST WEEKEND:

These numbers will be available next week due to an early bulletin deadline.



ELECTRONIC GIVING: 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

The disciples asked,
"Teacher, where do you live?"
Jesus answered,
"Come and see."

Are you considering
Becoming a Catholic?

Or, were you once baptized into the
Catholic Church but have not received the
Sacrament of Confirmation

We are presently gathering a group of people interested in full communion with the Church as described above. The formal title of this program is Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). We will begin our gatherings on the last Monday of September at 6:30 PM in the new Parish Center (using the entrance nearest the front door of the Rectory).

To indicate your interest, please call the Rectory office and leave your name and phone number or contact us at Stmatt2014@gmail.com. Catholicism is a wonderful life lived close to Jesus and his Sacraments and comforted by the charity of its members, one for another – and even toward the stranger.

St. Lucy Parish Anniversary Celebration



Saint Lucy Parish, Manayunk, if it were still open, would be celebrating its 90th anniversary this year. In thanksgiving for the many blessings God has continued to bestow on this community

of faith, a celebration will be held on **Sunday, October 22, 2017**. A Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving will be celebrated at 3:00 P.M. at Holy Saviour Church, Norristown, PA. A dinner will follow Mass at 5:00 P.M. at the Presidential Caterers, East Norriton. Dinner is \$50 per person, cash bar. Checks may be sent Saint Timothy Church, c/o Father Michael Olivere, 3001 Levick Street, Phila, PA 19149. Please make checks payable to Saint Timothy Church. Any questions please call Saint Timothy Rectory at 215.624.6188.



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 12** 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. Contact Alice O'Connor acaoc@verizon.net

Interested in actively participating in the Sunday Liturgy? Consider becoming a lector who proclaims the Scripture Readings at Mass or a Eucharistic Minister. Contact Mary Kay 610-828-0424 x 6.

Gwynedd Mercy Academy High School is seeking a short-term substitute teacher in the Theology Department, specifically with knowledge of, or experience in, teaching studies of the New Testament and Sacraments. Qualified applicants with teaching experience and PA clearances are asked to contact Cindy DeCandido at careers@gmahs.org.



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. This Fall, at St. Matthews Parish in Conshohocken, we will be studying the women of the bible using the WWP "Discovering Your Dignity" workbook. If you want to learn more about WWP, please join us on **Wednesday, September 6th at 6:30 PM and Friday mornings**. Please contact Judy Kukowski at 610-331-2147 or JAKukowski@verizon.net with questions and for meeting details.



Irish Festival: St. Patrick 24th Annual Irish Festival on Sunday, **August 27th** at 12 PM Mass of the Golden Rose celebrating The Feast of Our Lady of Knock by Rev. Gus Puleo. Hosted by the Ancient Order of Hibernians and Ladies A.O.H. – Dive. No. 1 Montgomery County – After Mass join us in the Hall from 2 – 6 PM – Enjoy the music by: The Paul Moore Band

Augustinian Mass Cards: The Augustinian Guild was established to share with others the spiritual riches of the Augustinian Friars of the Villanova Province. Individuals enrolled in the Guild, living or deceased, share in the Masses, prayers and ministry of the friars. Donations to the Guild through the use of these cards also assist the friars in the Province's mission, especially the care of elderly and infirm friars, and the training of future Augustinians. Guild brochures are available at the doors of the Church. To order Mass cards online, please visit: www.augustinianfund.org/mass-cards or contact maria.manna@augustinian.org or call 610-527-3330 x240. A variety of sympathy and occasional Mass cards are available.

Fr. Tom Heron's Weekly Reflection

The Gospel story today provides you with a case study in persistence –



persistence in prayer. And is there anyone among us who does not need that? We pray, but we pray sporadically and half-heartedly. We knock, but we don't keep on knocking; we ask, but we don't keep asking. We pray, but we are not persistent in prayer. Well, take another look at this Gospel story and you will learn that persistence pays off. The Canaanite woman in this story is a mother.

She has a daughter with a serious affliction.

She knows that Jesus is a Healer – indeed, He has performed miracles in full view of the people. So she approaches Jesus and explains to Him her plight: “Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David! My daughter is tormented by a demon.” But curiously, according to the Gospel story, Jesus “did not say a word in answer to her.” He appears to have no pity at all. That is certainly strange. Apparently, Jesus is not only unresponsive, but rude to her. His disciples intervened and it is not clear whether they are asking Him to do what she asks and thus “get rid of her,” or whether they, too, want to ignore her. “She keeps calling out after us,” they say to Jesus.

Persistence on her side; total stonewall unresponsiveness on the part of Jesus and His disciples.

This is a puzzling situation made all the more puzzling by the response Jesus gives to His disciples: “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” We know His mission was a lot wider than that. He narrows the range of His responsiveness here for reasons that are not at all clear. In any case, He is ignoring the Canaanite woman’s request. So the Gospel story goes on to say, “But the woman came forward and did Him homage saying, ‘Lord, help me!’” How many times have you said those exact same words in prayer? “Lord, help me!”

Whenever you do that you are making a prayer of petition. The answer will sometimes be “No” or “Not exactly as you ask,” but your prayer will always be answered. That’s why the reaction of Jesus in this Gospel story is so puzzling. To make matters worse, He tells her, “It is not right to take the food of children and throw it to the dogs.” Not a very encouraging comment. But she, in her persistence, comes right back at Him: “Please Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters.” Well, that seems to do it for Jesus. The Gospel goes on to say: “Jesus then said to her in reply, ‘O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.’ And the woman’s daughter was healed from that hour.” That’s a great story. Let it serve both as a reminder and a tribute to the power of persistence in prayer.

The prayer of asking – prayer of petition, as it is often described – is not the sum and substance, beginning and end, be all and end all, of prayer. Not by any means. This is not to say that your prayer of petition is unimportant. It is simply to acknowledge that more advanced forms of prayer, contemplative prayer, for example, and other privileged ways of experiencing God, are available to us poor mortals. Indeed, the Holy Spirit wants to pray *within* us, if only we say ‘yes.’ Nonetheless, the prayer of petition is familiar and just about universal (“Give us this day our daily bread ...”). Let me offer you an example that may help you better understand how the prayer of petition works. Reflect for a moment on your own personal experience on a lake, a bay or river when you are in a boat drawing near to the dock. Typically, you would throw a rope (a “line”) toward the dock hoping to catch it on a permanent cleat. Once the line is caught on the cleat, you begin to pull. Notice that you are pulling yourself and your boat toward the dock, not the other way around. And yet how often do you toss your prayers of petition up to God, like lines going toward a dock, and immediately try to pull the dock (God) to you! You pray, in effect, for God’s will to align itself with yours, for God to come to you, on your terms and conditions, when it should be exactly the other way around.

So, be persistent in making your demands of God in prayer, but realize that God may also be making a few demands of you. Or, as seems to be the case with the Canaanite woman, God may want to hear from you just one more time!

In our parade of notable Catholics in America we consider Father Isaac Hecker, the founder of the Paulist Fathers. Father Hecker believed that Catholicism had found a proper home for itself in America and was eager to share that faith with his co-patriots. Hence, he chose St. Paul, the great apostle to the Gentiles, as the name for his religious community dedicated to preaching the Word. He believed that God’s providence was preparing him “for a great work, the conversion of our countrymen.” He and his Paulist Fathers traveled widely giving Missions which they continue doing today. The church historian, Russell Shaw, writes “He (Hecker) traveled constantly, delivering lectures to largely non-Catholic audiences. On one trip alone he covered 4500 miles and spoke to some 30,000 people, a considerable feat in the horse-drawn world of 19th century America. The spirited preacher wrote, “In our own country where the Church exists in her entire independence from State control, yet all her rights acknowledged and protected by the laws of the country, where her right to hold property, of establishing colleges schools, charitable associations, etc. and to govern and administer her affairs according to her own laws and customs; it is here she is putting forth an energy and making conquests which compare with the zeal and success of the early ages of Christianity.” We live as Catholics with the conviction, articulated by the II Vatican Council, that Catholicism is the fullest expression of the Christian faith and a worthy home for all those who come to Jesus. Religious tolerance is a blessing in that we respect every good effort to believe in God but let that not be confused with religious indifference. It does matter that we find Christ within His Church. If this has not happened just yet, Father Hecker’s optimism then applies.

In most ways Father Michael McGivney appeared to be no more than any other member of that band of hard-working parish priests who built up the Church in America in the latter years the 19th century. But Father McGivney was unique in this regard: before he was 30 he had founded what was to become the largest Catholic men’s organization in the world – the Knights of Columbus. We are all so familiar with the Knights but not perhaps with their founder. Catholic newcomers to the United States were largely unwelcome (does that sound familiar?) and were confronted with nativist hostility. In addition, the number of immigrants, especially from Ireland, increased dramatically. In the 1850s their number reached over 1 million. Impoverishment was rampant. Father McGivney was born in 1852 in Connecticut. Having experienced a call to priesthood he was ordained in 1877 and was stationed at St. Mary’s Parish in New Haven, Connecticut. Arrogance was the attitude of the day. In 1879 the New York Times published an editorial about the founding of St. Mary’s Church entitled “How an Aristocratic Avenue was Blemished by a Roman Church Edifice”. While doing pastoral work Father McGivney saw a need for a men’s organization that would provide financial support to families whose breadwinners died young. The title “Knights of Columbus” was symbolically significant. It was a verbal reminder to anti-Catholic bigots that Christopher Columbus was a Catholic. As for “Knights” the word indicates the member’s commitment to a crusade on behalf of Christ and his Church. Two years after its founding, Father McGivney was named Pastor of St. Thomas Church in Connecticut – a factory town 10 miles from Waterbury. With that came the responsibility for a second parish. Working alone he carried a backbreaking pastoral load yet managed to continue defending and promoting the Knights. In January 1890 Father McGivney contracted pneumonia. On August 14, only 38 years old, he died. Today the 1.8 million Knights are an ethnically and racially diverse body located in a number of countries. At the national and international level the group raises millions of dollars every year for church based initiatives.

To be continued ...



Reflections from my Rocking Chair

Dear friends,

Blessings, Monsignor Owens

End of Bulletin