

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, April 25

5 p.m. **Susan Shiminitz**
r/o The Haines Family

Sunday April 26

8 a.m. **Robert Gross & Charles Folk**
r/o Angela Gross

10:30 a.m. **Theresa Pagano**
r/o Fr. Anthony Sirianni

Monday, April 27

8:30 a.m. **Robert Steingas**
r/o Karl & Rose Strohmaier

Tuesday, April 28

8:30 a.m. **Pauline Yonaitis**
r/o Gus Yonaitis

Wednesday, April 29

8:30 a.m. **Daniel V. Jannicelli**
r/o Joan Mandel

Thursday, April 30

8:30 a.m. **Sabina & Sergio Cappelluti**
r/o Angela Gross

First Friday, May 1 *starting today, daily Mass is at 8:45

8:45 a.m. **MaryRusnock**
r/o Barbara & Doug Anderson

Saturday, May 2

10 a.m. **First Communion**

1 p.m. **First Communion**

5 p.m. **Jim Karpinski**
r/o Henry Rebinski

****Important Notice: Permanent Change****

Beginning Friday, May 1 the daily Mass will begin at 8:45 a.m. The Masses on First Fridays and First Saturdays will also begin at 8:45 a.m. This is a permanent change of the daily Mass schedule.

Baptism Classes

Baptism class for first-time parents will be held on Tuesday, April 28 at 6 p.m. Classes will be held once a month. No longer will there be private sessions. Parents need to attend only one class before their child's baptism. To register, call the Parish Office: 689-8318

Prayers for the Sick

Margaret Glackin, Leslie Kuhn, Erin Stanton, Chris, John Grigalunas, Mrs. Fred Logan, Mrs. Skiawinska, Debbie Carmeci, Anna & John Saksa

Dear friends,

There is no doubt that an unforgettable meeting with Jesus is First Holy Communion, a day to be remembered as one of life's most beautiful.

The Eucharist, instituted by Christ at the Last Supper on the night before His passion, is a sacrament of the New Covenant -- the greatest of the sacraments. In this sacrament, the Lord becomes food for the soul under the appearances of bread and wine.

Children receive this sacrament solemnly a first time -- in First Holy Communion -- and are encouraged to receive it afterward as often as possible in order to remain in close friendship with Jesus.

To be able to receive Holy Communion, as you know, it is necessary to have received baptism: this is the first of the sacraments and the one most necessary for salvation. Baptism is a great event! In the Church's first centuries, when baptism was received mostly by grownups, the ceremony ended with receiving the Eucharist, and was as solemn as first Holy Communion is today. Later on, when baptism began to be given mainly to newborn babies -- and this is the case of many of you, dear children, so that in fact you do not remember the day of your baptism -- the more solemn celebration was transferred to the moment of First Holy Communion.

Every boy and every girl belonging to a Catholic family knows all about this custom: First Holy Communion is a great family celebration. On that day, together with the one who is making his or her First Holy Communion, the parents, brothers, sisters, relatives, godparents, and sometimes also the instructors and teachers, generally receive the Eucharist.

The day of First Holy Communion is also a great day of celebration in the parish. I remember as though it were yesterday when, together with the other boys and girls of my own age, I received the Eucharist for the first time in the parish church of my town. This event is usually commemorated in a family photo, so that it will not be forgotten. Photos like these generally remain with a person all through his or her life. As time goes by, people take out these pictures and experience once more the emotions of those moments; they return to the purity and joy experienced in that meeting with Jesus, the one who out of love became the Redeemer of Man.

For how many children in the history of the Church has the Eucharist been a source of spiritual strength, sometimes even heroic strength! How can we fail to be reminded, for example, of holy boys and girls who lived in the first centuries and are still known and venerated throughout the Church? Saint Agnes, who lived in Rome; Saint Agatha, who was martyred in Sicily; Saint Tarcisius, a boy who is rightly called the "martyr of the Eucharist" because he preferred to die rather than give up Jesus, whom he was carrying under the appearance of bread.

First Communion Mass this coming Saturday is a very special event for 34 children. May God be with you always in your heart. Good luck to: Kelly Anderson, Megan Beckler, Stephanie Cecere, Angelina Colacchia, Elizabeth Donnelly, Kailey Dorsch, Audrey Elliot, Gina Farino, Anju Felix, Nicolas Galka, Stephanie Gonsiewski, Rachel Greenberg, Zachary Hamilton, Catherine Hayes, Kevin LaFerla, Jasmine Lee, Anthony Leggio, Hannah Mele, Alyssa Mendoza-Siersma, Robert Moorehead, Keiran Quелlette, Alex Pace, Emily Phillips, Dominic Primiani, Alex Rodriguez, Joelle Saliba, Kenneth Schwarze, Vincent Tozzi, Shannon Vitale, Lexi Westley, Michaela Yanosy, and Matthew Yerega.

In Christ,

Fr. Zenek



Altar Rosary Society Education Award

The Altar Rosary Society is offering a grant to a high school senior who will be attending college or an institution of higher learning this fall. The grant of \$300 is to assist with educational expenses. To be eligible, the student must be a parishioner of St. Theodore Church and practicing the faith. Filing deadline is May 2. If interested, see a Rosarian after the weekend Masses for an application.

Raffle Tickets

The proceeds from our 50/50 Raffle will be applied to our mortgage. Needless to say, we are hoping the sale of tickets will be brisk! If you need more tickets (which would make us very happy) call the Parish Office 689-8318 or see a Rosarian after any of the weekend Masses. The drawing will be held on May 31. Tickets are to be returned by May 15.

Altar Rosary Society's "Smart Dollars"

One of the Society's fund raising projects is called "Smart Dollars". When you purchase a grocery store card from the Society, they receive a 5% rebate. Your cost is the exact amount of the card and is exchanged—dollar for dollar; therefore, it costs you nothing additional and it raises money for the church. The cards available are redeemable at *Shop Rite, Weis Market, and A & P* in amounts of \$10, \$20, \$25, \$50 & \$100. They can be purchased in the Parish Center before and after the weekend Masses. We're sure you'll agree this is an effortless way to help raise funds. You might say, "a no-brainer"! For additional information call (Helene Picht 908-537-4754, Ann Morpeth 908-852-6406).

MINISTERS' SCHEDULE

ALTAR SERVERS

May 2 Evan and Ryan Moran

May 3 Juliette and Robert Capaldo- 8; Marinda Vargo, Melody Haag, Kaitlyn Gagliano- 10:30

May 9 Luke and Grace Gleba

May 10 Mackenzie and Robert Mason- 8; Gianna Orrechio, Justin Watt, Meghan VanAlstyne- 10:30

LECTORS

May 2 Nancy Guerriere

May 3 Theresa Lucas- 8; Bob Gagliano- 10:30

May 9 Jeanine Gleba

May 10 Mary Rupell 8; Helene Picht-10:30

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

May 2 Ginny Moran E, Tim Moran C, Charles Shipley C

May 3 Nadie Hill E, Bill Supple C, Joan Capaldo C- 8; Helene Picht E, Tina Jackson C, Joy Haag, C- 10:30

May 9 Charles Shipley E, Ray Vonderheide C, Eileen Mattison C

May 10 Diane Keggan E, Emily Cirone C, Monica Merkel C- 8
Jane Labato E, Patricia Kollar C, Joy Haag C- 10:30

Our Weekly Offering

Last Week	\$ 2,658.29
Last Year	\$ 4,233.36



Special Collection

May 2/3 Major Maintenance

Religious Education Corner

The Sacrament of First Communion will be held on May 2: Class 1-A, 10 a.m.; Class 1-B, 1 p.m.

May 3: First Communion children are to attend the 10:30 Mass and Crowning of the Blessed Mother. Children are to be dressed in their Communion clothes for this Mass.

May 4: Last Session of Religious Education; students are to be in the church by 6:15 p.m.

2009 Religious Education Registration

Registration forms for the 2009 Religious Education Sessions have been mailed. Please complete the form and mail or deliver it to the Parish Office by the June 30 deadline. This form can be downloaded from our web site www.sttheodorenj.com

The following letter is being mailed to Religious Education parents who have been placed on the inactive parishioner list.

Dear Parent,

I am writing to you regarding the Religious Education tuition fee for your child. This fee is determined upon your status as a parishioner of St. Theodore Church. If you are an inactive parishioner, the fee will be \$150 per child. This is standard procedure for other churches as well.

To be considered an active member of the church, you are required to go to Mass on Sundays. Your child's faith formation is dependent on your example as a practicing Catholic. Your child will come to know Jesus and grow in his or her faith through your efforts as a Catholic parent.

Last year all parents of Religious Education students signed a letter affirming their intention to be an active member of our Parish. I track Mass attendance through parishioners' contribution envelopes. Our records indicate that some of you have not been attending Mass weekly, which puts you in the inactive category. If you are attending Mass but not putting your envelopes in the collection, please begin to do so. This is one of the ways I am able to know that you are practicing the faith. It is understandable that sometimes you may be away on vacation or that occasionally you may wish to attend Mass at another church; however, it is your obligation to support St. Theodore Parish with your attendance, prayers and contributions.

If you receive this letter and do indeed attend Mass weekly but are not handing in your contribution envelopes because of financial difficulties, please contact me.

In Christ,
Fr. Zenek