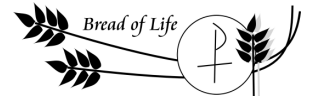


August 23, 2009 *Twenty-first Sunday* in Ordinary Time



Saturday, August 22

5 p.m. **The Doonan Family**
r/o Ann & Howard Morpeth

Sunday, August 23

8:00 a.m. **Josephine Martin**
r/o Altar Rosary Society

10:30 a.m. **Ann Marie Connolly**
r/o The Maguire Family

Monday, August 24

8:45 a.m. **Beatrice & Thomas Nappi**
r/o Angela Gross

Tuesday, August 25

8:45 a.m. **Richard Thomas**
r/o Diane Thomas

Wednesday, August 26

8:45 a.m. **Souls in Purgatory**
r/o Don & Cathleen DeLorenzo

Thursday, August 27

8:45 a.m. **Florence Wolken**
r/o The Dausch Family

Friday August 28 No Mass

Saturday, August 29

5 p.m. **Pauline Yonaitis**
r/o Husband

Sunday, August 30

8:00 a.m. **Nick Cirone**
r/o Rob Marchese

10:30 a.m. **Michael J. Walsh**
r/o Family

Sunday, September 20, 10:30 Mass

Father Zenek will profess his faith at the 10:30 Mass on September 20, where he will be formally installed as the Pastor of St. Theodore Church. You are cordially invited to attend the Mass and the reception (in the Parish Center) immediately following. We offer our prayers in thanksgiving for Father Zenek. May God bless him as He has blessed us.

Dear Parishioners!

Here we are at the beginning of a work week — the beginning of a new school

year. Beginnings are filled with so many emotions, questions, doubts and promises... even for those returning to school. Returnees are eager to reconnect with friends and come with resolutions to do better this year.

So many expectations of ourselves and others, how do we hold it all?

September 24th is the feast of St. Bartholomew (otherwise known as Nathanael) and the Gospel is a story of beginnings... the

narrative of Nathanael's introduction to Jesus and his call to follow him. Upon first reading of this passage, as well as the surrounding verses, I'm struck by how easy it was for those first followers to come to a knowledge and faith in Jesus. With John the Baptist's brief testimony, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" Jesus begins to gather an interested group who in turn invite others. No resumes, no reference letters, no assessment of outcomes, no annual reports. They all drop what they are doing and, curious, follow him. Nathanael is the only skeptical one, "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" Philip replies with the invitation, "Come and see". Nathanael, easily impressed because Jesus anticipated his coming, eagerly follows.

Surely the disciples came to faith the way we do... over a long period of time, imperfectly, eager one time, hesitant the next; hearts full of doubt and full of hope; a history of broken promises and re-commitment. But that's the rest of the story. Today is about the beginning; the invitation. Accepting an invitation to relationship is not easy. We long for the life that Jesus promises, but we carry the hurts and heartbreak of human relationships. Can we take the risk? Is our desire for fullness of life greater than our need to hold onto our wounds, the battle scars of human relationships? How is Jesus inviting me into relationship through the circumstances and people of my life?

As we begin this week -- an ordinary work week, a new friendship, teaching, learning -- here are some questions to consider:

- Is there anyone in my life who sees something greater in me than I can see in myself? Do I trust him or her?
- Jesus invited Nathanael into relationship... who is inviting me to a deeper relationship? Who is inviting me to greater love, greater hope, greater compassion and greater life?

Pray these questions with the praise of the psalmist in your heart: "Your friends make known, O Lord, the glorious splendor of your Kingdom." Are these friends not radiant, like a precious stone? Or a secure foundation, like the massive walls of the city?

Jesus promises that Nathanael will see even greater things -- that Jesus himself will unite the heavens and the earthly, reveal the presence of the eternal within the temporal -- that all may know that the goodness and compassion of God are now carried in us, in our humanity and our everyday, mortal world. The kingdom is among us! Come and See.

In Christ,
Fr Zenek, SDS

Message on Marriage from the Catholic Bishops of NJ

"In the face of the attempts to establish same sex "marriage", the Catholic Bishops of New Jersey have issued a comprehensive message, "The Call to Marriage is Woven Deeply into the Human Spirit." The Bishops' message calls upon all Catholics to:

- Protect and promote marriage.
- Hold firm to the Church's teaching on marriage and the complementarity of the sexes.
- Support all family members, including those who choose to remain single.
- Help those entering marriage to prepare for the challenges, sacrifices and joys to come.
- Reach out with the special compassion of Christ to those married couples and families experiencing difficulties, anxiety, and illness.

The Bishops emphasize that the Church has always and everywhere taught that marriage is the union of one man and one woman as husband and wife. This great truth about marriage is not some obscure doctrinal fine point but a fact of human nature, recognized from time immemorial by people of virtually every faith and culture.

The Church asks Catholics to become involved in how government treats marriage because civil authorities are charged with protecting children and the common good, and marriage is indispensable to both purposes. The Bishops also note that Catholics have the right and

responsibility to oppose laws and policies that unjustly target people as bigots or that subject people to charges of unlawful discrimination simply because they believe and teach that marriage is the union of man and a woman.

In New Jersey, what is the debate on same sex marriage all about? In New Jersey, the debate is not about benefits and rights. The Civil Union Act [N.J. Statutes 37:1-31(a)] settled that issue once and for all. In New Jersey, same sex couples have every benefit, right and protection whether these rights derive from statute, administrative or court rule, public policy, common law or any other source of civil law, as are granted to spouses in a marriage. The same sex "marriage" political initiative is an attempt to change the historic structure of marriage as a union only of a man and a woman. This initiative ignores human nature, because through all of human history marriage has required the complementarity of man and woman.

Same sex civil unions may represent a new and a different type of institution, one in which government grants to same sex couples benefits and protections, but same sex unions are not marriage.

The Bishops' message is not just a brief in opposition to same sex "marriage". Fundamentally, the Bishops' message is a call for a



cultural awakening and an increased recognition of the importance of stable marriages in which mothers and fathers willingly commit themselves to each other and to openness to children. The Bishops call for people to reject "secular individualism" and to embrace and

support the historic role of marriage which includes spouses sacrificing self-interest to foster long term commitment to each other, to children and to the future of our society.

7th & 8th Graders and Parents

I am asking for 7th & 8th Graders and parishioners to help clean the church and property before my installation Mass. If you could give up some of your time to help, please come to the church on September 12 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Service hours will be granted to the students. Thank you.

Fr. Zenek

Altar Servers: If you are in 3rd Grade or higher and interested in becoming an altar server, please see me after any Mass. Fr. Zenek

Our Weekly Offering

Last Week \$2,240. Last Year \$ 3,377.
Assumption of BVM \$432. Last Year \$777.78

Religious Education Information:

- Religious Education will begin with Mass at 6:15 p.m. on September 14. All students and their parents are required to attend this Mass and should sit together during Mass. Text books will be given to students after the Mass.
- There will be a Catechist meeting on Saturday, September 9 following the 5 p.m. Mass. All catechist and aides are to attend.

Margaret Glackin, Chris, Bree, Anna & John Saks, Heather, Stephen, Ray & Alice O'Donnell, Vickie Li Puma, Theresa, Mary, Robert Gross, Lillian Shaffer, Bridget,

**Beatrice Gillis, The Hance Family, Erin
Stanton, Theresa Kugelman, Katlyn
Faulkner, Denise Piazza**

To add Name: Call Parish Office 908-689-8318 email Rose
Strohmaier at: strohmaierr@yahoo.com to add name to the
Prayer Chain.

**Eucharistic Minister Needed for Home
Visitations**

We are in need of another Eucharistic Minister
to help bring Holy Communion to parishioners.
If you are available on Mondays and willing to
serve, please see Fr. Zenek. Thank you.

Interested in Becoming a Catholic?

Have you ever thought about becoming a Catholic? Or, having
been baptized Catholic, have you considered completing the
Sacraments of the Eucharist and Confirmation (Sacraments of
Initiation)? If you have answered "Yes", the Rite of Christian
Initiation of Adults (R.C.I.A.) will help with your journey. This
program will bring you together with others who desire to
know the Lord Jesus Christ in the truth of the Catholic faith. As
you undergo catechesis, reflect on the scriptures and
contemplate the call to faith in Christ, you will be preparing for
Baptism and/or reception and completion of the Sacraments of
Initiation. Also invited to attend are adults who are interested in
broadening their knowledge of and intensifying their
commitment to the Catholic faith. Meetings will begin in
October. Contact Rose Strohmaier: 908-689-5173 or 908-303-
9692 or Father Zenek at 908-689-8318. When leaving a
message, please give your name and telephone number).

ALTAR SERVERS Aug 29 Auston Viotto, Carlee Moran ;Aug 30
Robert & Juliette Capaldo-8; Mellissa Cairo, Miranda Vargo, Sarah
Kochan-10:30

LECTORS Aug 29 Fran Licciardiello; Aug 30 Joan Capaldo-8;
Christine DeLellis 10:30

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS Aug 29 James Mattison E, Eileen
Mattison C, Charles Shipley C: Aug 30 Karl Strohmaier E, Rose
Strohmaier C, Emily Cirone C-8; Tina Jackson E, Jane Labato C,
Helene Picht C-10:30