

# August 30, 2009 *Twenty-second Sunday in*

## Ordinary Time



### 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

### Monday, August 31

8:45 a.m. **John Kasarda**  
r/o Wife Ann Marie

### Tuesday, September 1

8:45 a.m. **Noah Petty**  
r/o Eileen & Jim Mattison

### Wednesday, September 2

8:45 a.m. **George Reynolds**  
r/o Family

### Thursday, September 3

8:45 a.m. **Anna & Patrick Kane**  
r/o Reynolds Family

### First Friday September 4

8:45 a.m. **Louise Lunghi**  
r/o The Saska Family

### First Saturday, September 5

8:45 a.m. **Gina Simone & Frances Sparacino**  
r/o Karl & Rose Strohmaier

5 p.m. **Ed, Scott, Brian & Dot Wyker**  
r/o Wyker Family

### Sunday, September 6

8:00 a.m. **Elizabeth, Louis & Thomas DeBari**  
r/o Sam & Marietta Tridente

10:30 a.m. **George Reynolds**  
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.

### *Provisions for Father Zenek's Reception*

It would be very much appreciated if you would be able to donate soda, water, cookies, cakes, or other desserts for Father's reception. If you are able to do so, please bring your items to the Parish Center on Saturday, September 19. Thank you!

### **HIS WORD TODAY** by Rev. William J. Reilly

**"All good giving and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights... Humbly welcome the word that has been planted in you and is able to save your souls. Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deluding yourselves. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to care for orphans and widows in their affliction and keep oneself unstained by the world."**

Many of us are not familiar with the letter of James. Written at the end of the first century the author is encouraging the first Christians in living their commitment. Faith is to be an active, permanent commitment, not limited to saying 'I believe'.

The Word of God has been 'planted' in us. Did Jesus not use the same analogy of the places where the seed was sown? That Word is the source of eternal life and salvation. The Word who came into the world came to save us all. That Word is Jesus Christ Himself.

Some church people are described as 'shakers and doers' as they put into practice what they have accepted themselves. A simple test to see if I am living my religious belief is to see if I am caring for the widows and orphans, or others in need. I look to see if my charity is genuine as I reach out to others.

Today as I reflect upon the Word of God, I 'humbly' ask God to direct it to that part of my life where there is need for change.



### **READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

#### **Sunday**

Dt 4: 1-2, 6-8; Jas 1: 17-18, 21b-22, 27;  
Mk 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23

#### **Monday**

1 Thes 4: 13-18; Lk 4: 16-30

#### **Tuesday**

1 Thes 5: 1-6, 9-11; Lk 4: 31-37

**Wednesday**

Col 1: 1-8; Lk 4: 38-44

**Thursday**

Col 1: 9-14; Lk 5: 1-11

**First Friday**

Col 1: 15-20; Lk 5: 33-39

**First Saturday**

Col 1: 21-23; Lk 6: 1-5

**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.

**7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Graders and Parents**

I am asking for 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade or higher and interested in becoming an altar server, please see me after any Mass. Fr. Zenek



**First Friday and First Saturday**

**Friday, September 4 and Saturday,**

**September 5:** Mass at 8:45, followed by the Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

**Please Note:** *Monday, September 7* there will not be a morning Mass. There will be, however, a Vigil Mass for the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary at 7 p.m. on this date.



**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 Saksa, 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: [strohmaier@yahoo.com](mailto:strohmaier@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).

**Bishop Bootkoski invites all to the Annual Blue Mass honoring local, state & federal law enforcement officials of all faiths** who live and work within the Diocese of Metuchen on September 23 at 10:30 a.m. at Our Lady of the Mount Church, 167 Mt. Bethel Rd., Warren, NJ. For more info call 732-562-2461 or visit [www.diometuchen.org](http://www.diometuchen.org).