

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 15, 2009



MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, February 14

5:00 p.m. **Tony Falvo**
r/o Barbara, Angela, Maria & Anthony

SUNDAY, February 15

8:00 a.m. **George & Louise**
r/o Wyker Family

10:30 a.m. **Michelina & Bill Juliano**
r/o Family

MONDAY, February 16

8:30 a.m. **Dr. William J. Duffy**
r/o St. Theodore Altar Rosary Society

TUESDAY, February 17

8:30 a.m. **In Thanksgiving for Carmelite Sisters**
r/o Parishioners of St. Theodore

WEDNESDAY February 18

8:30 a.m. **John Norman Baines**
St. Theodore Altar Rosary Society

THURSDAY, February 19

8:30 a.m. **Necia Ortiz**
Colacchia & Espinosa Families

FRIDAY, February 20

No Mass

SATURDAY, February 21

5:00 p.m. **Helen Pellegrino**
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Flaherty

SUNDAY, February 22

8:00 a.m. **Peter Martinez**
r/o Rose Strohmaier

10:30 a.m. **Altar Rosary Society**

Lawn Maintenance for St. Theodore

An area of great concern for me is the high cost of lawn maintenance of our property. Last year \$10,600 was expended for this purpose. I think you will agree that eliminating this service will be very cost-effective. My plan for reducing spending in this area is to purchase a riding mower and cut the grass myself, along with volunteers. If you would care to donate towards the purchase of a mower, (approx. \$3,500,) I would be most grateful.

Home Visitation of the Sick

Fr. Zenek will begin home visitation of parishioners who are ill and/or confined to their homes. Father's visits will be on the First Friday of each month and will begin on March 6. Please call the Parish Office (908-689-8318) to schedule a visit.

Dear Parishioners,

All of us long to connect with someone who can identify with our circumstances and share in our day-to-day life. Prayer is just that - a personal experience and intimate connection with our loving Heavenly Father.

Imagine meeting your best friend for coffee at your favorite cafe. Your friend knows everything about you. You can count on your friend being exactly where he says he will be. Anytime you need him, you can call and he won't be upset with you. He is willing to listen and responds with love and concern.

That is just like prayer. The only difference is that your best friend is God.

God is available to you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. He knows everything you ever did and He still loves you! He knows your future too. He has the best plans for your life. He cares for you so much that He gave His Son so that you could be with Him forever. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:16). You can talk to Him about anything that concerns you. Tell Him your desires and passions. Share your concerns for your loved ones. Talk out your fears with Him.

Communicate to God what is inside you without fear.

Prayer – Why Pray?

Why is prayer important? If God already knows all about you and knows all that He has written, why should you pray? It's because God created us to have free will. He wants us to come to Him willingly and not as robotic creations. He has given us a mind to make decisions and the most important decision is about eternity. Even though He knows the future, we don't know the future choices we will make. It's important to live by His guidance to make the right choices.

Unanswered Prayer – Understanding Answers

Sometimes, God will answer, "No" to our desperate prayers. Any delay or unexpected outcome must not dishearten us. What is God's true purpose in answering our prayers (John 14:13)? What does God want to complete in us through prayer (John 16:23-24)? God wants us to bring our every need to Him as He answers (yes or no) according to His character and will. God will never grant requests contrary to His will. While receiving a "Yes" usually makes us happy, God never promised us happiness. Happiness is based on circumstances. God wants us to have everlasting joy -- especially when He responds, "No, it will be done in My time, not yours. No, I will reveal My glory."

When you pray, God listens to your cries. When you don't pray, God feels left out of your life. "He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9b). As you pray consistently, you are affirming the existence of God in your life. You are building your faith as you see God's hand do His mighty work on your behalf just because you asked.

In Christ

Fr Zenek, SDS



Prayers for the Sick

Margaret Glackin, Leslie Kuhn, Erin Stanton, Jasmine Lee, John Grigalunas, Mrs. Fred Logan, Mrs. Skawinska, Debbie Carmeci

Diocese of Metuchen Lenten Instructions

1. The days of **fast and abstinence** are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
2. **All other Fridays** of Lent are **days of abstinence**.
3. From the **Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday** until the celebration of the **Easter Vigil on the evening of Holy Saturday**, the **Easter fast** should be observed so that, with uplifted and welcoming hearts, we may be ready to celebrate the joys of the Resurrection. This ancient tradition intimately connected with the *Rites of Holy Week* and the *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults*, is encouraged, especially in those places baptizing catechumens at the Easter Vigil.

The obligation to **fast** applies only to Catholics **between the ages of 18 and 59**. To fast in the Catholic tradition means to limit oneself to one full meal during the day so as to experience hunger.

The obligation of **abstinence** affects all Catholics who have **reached the age of 14**. Abstinence in the Catholic tradition means to abstain from meat and all meat products.

The obligation of fast and abstinence, as a whole, is a serious obligation. While failure to observe **any** penitential day in itself may **not be considered serious**, the failure to observe **any** penitential day at all, or a **substantial number** of them **without good cause**, would be considered a **grave matter**. Those unable to abstain for a valid reason on any given Friday of Lent are asked to perform **some other penitential act**, or to **abstain on another day**.

May all our Lenten prayers, fasting and works of mercy help prepare to celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord with renewed minds and hearts.

+Most Rev. Paul G. Bootkoski
Bishop of Metuchen

Our Weekly Offering

February 7 & 8, 2009 \$ 3,508.76
Last Year \$ 4,141.54

Your generosity is truly appreciated, especially during these difficult economic times. Thank you. Fr. Zenek

There will be no Religious Education Session on Monday, February 16 (Presidents' Day).



Religious Education Student: Print name on the line, cut section and give to your Religious Education teacher on March 2, 2009.
For February 14/15, 2009

ST. Gabriel Possenti, Patron Saint of College Students

Gabriel's father was a lawyer for the Papal States and leading Catholic layman of Assisi, begetting 13 children. Orphaned at four, Garbiel (whose given name was Francis) was raised by Jesuits, and in his youth was nicknamed "*Il Damerino*" ("The Ladies' Man"). Twice in his teens he was afflicted with serious illnesses, and on both occasions vowed to enter the priesthood if cured, but on recovery he delayed his decision. In 1856 (when he was 18) an epidemic of cholera broke out. A Holy Picture of Our Lady of the Sorrows was paraded through the streets, which put a quick end to the plague. As it passed Francis, the Blessed Mother looked at and spoke to him. He immediately joined the Passionist Order, taking the name "Gabriel of Our Lady of the Sorrows." Until he died of tuberculosis at the age of 21, he was, by all accounts, a model novice—humble and obedient, his body wrapped at his own request in chains set with sharp points, the better to mortify his sinful flesh. The Sacred Congregation of Rites, confirming his Sainthood in 1932, recommended him as Patron of college students. His feast day is February 27.

MINISTRIES

ALTAR SERVERS

February 21 Sean Flaherty, Christopher Pollack

February 22 Robert & Juliette Capaldo – 8 a.m.

Melissa Cairo, Miranda Vargo, Angelica Jackson- 10:30 a.m

February 28 Luke Gleba, Evan Moran

March 1 Mackenzie & Robert Mason 8 a.m.

Walter & William Gonsiewski, Justin Watt 10:30 a.m.

LECTORS

February 21 John Haines

February 22 Joan Capaldo 8 a.m.

Elmer Kollar 10:30 a.m.

February 28 Jeanine Gleba

March 1 Theresa Lucas 8 a.m.

Mary Rupell 10:30 a.m.

EUCARISTIC MINISTERS

February 21 Denise Flaherty C, Tim Flaherty E, Jim Mattison C

February 22 Rose Strohmaier C, Diane Keggan C, Emily Cirone E 8
Patricia Kollar E, Jane Labato C, Joy Haag C 10:30 a.m.

February 28 Ginny Moran E, Tim Moran C, Charles Shipley C

March 1 Nadie Hill E, Monica Merkel C, Bill Supple C 8 a.m.

Helen Picht E, Mary Koskoff C, Phil Koskoff C 10:30 a.m.

Statue of the Resurrection of the Lord for St. Theodore Church

The statue of the *Resurrection of the Lord* has been ordered and will be arriving shortly. I believe the presence of this statue will heighten our relationship with the risen Lord—by his Resurrection, he opens for us the path to new life.

My wholehearted thanks to Lorraine & Paul Buckley, Joseph & Marjorie Dante, Robert & Kathleen Farley, Billiemarkie & John Tate, Sam & Marietta Tridente, Jim & Barbara Zack, Art & Mary Zeiss for their donations toward the purchase of this statue.

May the Lord bless you for your generosity to our church.

Statue of the Dead Savior

The statue of the *Dead Savior* will intensify our awareness of the human Jesus—that he became man, suffered and died for us. Funds for the purchase of the statue of the *Dead Savior* were donated by Mary Rupell in memory of her parents, Edward and Anna Durnin. Thank you, Mary.