

May 3, 2009

FOURTH SUNDAY of EASTER



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, May 2

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

Sunday May 3

8 a.m. **Diane Melchiorre**
r/o Joan Mandel

10:30 a.m. **Ann Marie Connelly & Aurelea Walsh**
r/o Susan Reynolds

Monday, May 4

8:45 a.m. **Constance Ludwick**
r/o Karl & Rose Strohmaier

Tuesday, May 5

8:45 a.m. **Armando DiGoetano**
r/o Theresa & Joe Donatone & Family

Wednesday, May 6

8:45 a.m. **Jim Karpinski**
r/o Jim Gardner & Melodee Malone

Thursday, May 7

8:45 a.m. **Janyce Heinrich**
r/o Barbara Colacchia

Friday, May 8- NO MASS

Saturday, May 9

5 p.m. **Marina & Giovanni Nappa**
r/o Daughter

May is traditionally the month of growth in regard to nature, and for this reason, May is one of my favorite months. It is extremely beautiful, but it is also important in the Church. May is also traditionally the Month of Mary, where we recall the role of Mary in salvation.

In Mary's life on earth, we see a strong woman, the author of the *Magnificat*, who was willing to embrace motherhood as a vocation from God, in all its joys and sorrows. Every mother will know exactly the meaning of the prophet Simeon's words to Mary, when Jesus was presented in the Temple in Jerusalem: "A sword will pierce your own heart".

She was with Jesus at every moment of his life: from his conception through his "hidden life" in Bethlehem, during his public ministry, at his crucifixion, and with the disciples on Pentecost Sunday, when the Holy Spirit came down upon them. She was both Jesus' model, and an example of perfect discipleship.

Following in the footsteps of Jesus, and in the richness of the Christian tradition, we find in Mary the perfect mediator between mankind and God, in whom we can confide our most private thoughts and deepest fears, asking her intercession in the confident knowledge that Jesus will hear her, as happened at the Wedding Feast at Cana.

In our own society, it is unfashionable to pray, and in a society which has devalued motherhood, it is profoundly counter-cultural to pray to Mary in particular.

She is the Virgin Mother of God, whose *fiat* allowed Our Lord to take human form. Because of her complete trust in God, she lived her life sinlessly. And, after her life, she was assumed into Heaven by the power of God and crowned as Queen of Heaven and Earth. She is, of course, not divine. We worship only Jesus Christ, but we honor Mary as a saint. We honor God by remembering the role of Mary in the beginning of our salvation. And, remember, Devotion to Mary always leads to Jesus Christ. This month of May

- Honor the ever-beautiful and fertile Virgin with a Rosary, or at least a decade of the Rosary, each day.
- Read some inspiring poetry on, or about, her.
- Set up a little Shrine to her outside or inside your house.
- Love her!

In Christ, Fr. Zenek

Baptism Classes

Baptism class for first-time parents will be held on Tuesday, May 20 at 6 p.m. Classes will be held once a month. Parents must attend one class before their child's baptism. **Parents need pre-register.** To register, call the Parish Office: 689-8318, Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Welcome to Saint Theodore Church
Nicolette Marina Vasquez
Daughter of Fred Vasquez & Amanda Pagano
Baptized on April 26, 2009



Saint Theodore Church welcomed to the table of the Lord
For the first time on May 2
Alexis Hoover and Trevor Williams
May God be in your hearts always.

Please Pray For

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

Dear Parishioners!

Our late parishioner Robert G. Mayer, a dear friend of Fr. Al Roca, bequeath to Saint Theodore Church a sum of money with the instructions to purchase a statue and apply the remainder to our mortgage. Thus far \$190,000 has been applied to the mortgage (no information on when we will receive the remainder or how much it will be).

The statue of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel that Fr. Anthony ordered has arrived and taken her place of honor in front of our church. I plan to make the area assessable and safe by placing stepping stones on the ground so you will be able to walk up to her. If you could possibly help defray the cost of this project, please put your donation in the collection basket (don't forget to put your name on the envelope) or send it to the office.

The Altar Rosary Society's statue of the Blessed Mother has been relocated to the side lawn adjacent the Rectory door. I am in the process of planting bushes and flowers to make this area a welcoming place for meditation. I hope you will find peace and happiness in the company of the Blessed Virgin Mary each time you visit these gardens of devotion to her. 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.

ALTAR SERVERS

May 9 Luke and Grace Gleba

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

May 16 Sean Flaherty, Christopher Pollack

May 17 Juliette & Robert Capaldo-8; Sarah Kochan, Walter & William Gonsiewski-10:30

LECTORS

May 9 Jeanine Gleba

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

May 16 Fran Licciardiello

May 17 Joan Capaldo 8; Elmer Kollar 10:30

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

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

May 16 Denise Flaherty E, tim Flaherty C, Ray Vonderheide C

May 17 Karl Strohmaier E, Rose Strohmaier C, Bill Supple C-8 Patricia Kollar E, Joy Haag C, Jane Labato C-10:30

May 4: Last Session of Religious Education; students are to be in the church by 6:15 p.m. Progress reports and certificates will be handed out. Parents may register for the 2009 classes at this time. If you haven't filled out a registration form yet and wish to do so during this evening, forms will be available (parents of 1st Graders- bring Baptism certificates if registering this night).

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 or you can register May 4, 6:15 p.m. at the church.

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

Our Weekly Offering

Last Week	\$ 3,203.41
Last Year	\$ 4,392.00

Religious Education Corner