

November 15, 2009 Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time



Saturday, November 14

5 p.m. **Julia Cacciarelli**
r/o Jeanne Szamreta

Sunday, November 15

8:00 a.m. **Nicolo Cirone**
r/o Joe & Emily Cirone

10:30 a.m. **Mary Rusnock**
r/o Ann Marie Ksarda

Monday, November 16

8:45 a.m. **In Thanksgiving for Carmelite Sisters**
r/o Parishioners

Tuesday, November 17

8:45 a.m. **For the Healing of Robert Gross**
r/o Antela Gross

Wednesday, November 18

8:45 a.m. **Ronald Semonche**
r/o Kathryn Finnegan

Thursday, November 19

8:45 a.m. **Zakeih Hadded**
r/o Susan Reynolds

Friday November 20 No Mass

Saturday, November 21

5 p.m. **Ann Marie Havard**
r/o Angela & Charley Carhart

Sunday, November 22

8:00 a.m. **Nicolo, Antonette & Cono Cirone**
r/o Joe & Emily Cirone

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



**Sanctuary Candle in Loving Memory of
Ronald Semonche
By Family**

Dear Parishioners!

Through this month of November, *we remember those who have gone to their rest in the hope of rising again and all the departed...* And we remember Jesus, our brother, who died for us and rose and opened the door to his Father's house and prepared for each of us a dwelling place in his peace. At the heart of all our worship as Catholic Christians, we pause to remember... We remember Christ, and all he did for us; we remember how he suffered, died and rose for us; and in word and sacrament, we remember what he did at table with his friends on the night before he died. Every time we celebrate the Eucharist, then, we remember someone who has died: our brother, Jesus.

And every time we celebrate the Eucharist we remember others

who have died, too. You know the words as well as I do:
Remember our brothers and sisters who have gone to their rest

in the hope of rising again; bring them and all the departed into the light of your presence... We remember all our brothers and sisters in Christ and not only them but all the departed - everyone who has died - and we pray that through the mercy and love of God every one of them will enjoy the light and peace of God, forever.

Of course, when we pray for those who have died we remember first those whom we loved the most, those whom we miss the most. I'm sure there are names that come to your heart, too. And we pray for them...

But *why* do we pray for them? *What* do we pray for them?

Our knowledge of human frailty and our faith in God's mercy teach us that when we die, God might not be quite yet finished with fashioning us, making us ready for eternal life. Our whole life on earth is a journey to the dwelling place Christ has prepared and reserved for us in his Father's house. Sometimes we stay right on the path that leads us home and sometimes we take short cuts or make detours or even turn around and walk in the other direction! We need the Lord to shepherd us from death into life... So it might be, it might even be *likely*, that at the end of our life our rough edges might need some buffing and polishing.

The Church has long taught that after death, those not quite ready for heaven may need some further purification. This has sometimes been called purgatory. But we might have a false picture of purgatory. It's not some "flaming concentration camp on the outskirts of hell." It's not God's last chance to make us suffer!

St. Catherine spoke beautifully of the fire of purgatory as "God's love burning the soul until it was *wholly aflame* -- with the love of God." It's like the fire mentioned in the book of Wisdom: "As gold in the furnace, God will prove us, purify us, and take us to himself... we shall shine... and we shall abide forever with God in love..." If there is pain in purgatory, it is the pain of longing to be with God, to be worthy of the heaven Jesus won for us.

And so we pray for those who have gone before us that God bring to completion the good work begun in their lives while they were still with us. We cannot know *how* or even *if* time is measured in this purification. Perhaps one day, one hour, one minute on our clocks of finally and fully realizing the greatness of God's love for us and how unloving in return we often were, perhaps one *second* will be all it takes to purify us of the sins of taking God's love and the love of others for granted.

When we remember those who have died some of us might recall those who hurt and harmed in this life. We can pray for these, too, entrusting them to God who knows how to make

even the hardest of hearts ready for his mercy.

Fr. Zenek

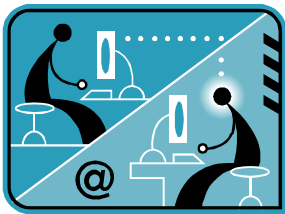


Tricky

Tray Event December 4, 6 p.m.
Next Meeting is on Nov. 16 at 6 p.m.

Wow! Only 20 days left before the Tricky Tray night. Hopefully, you are in the process of putting your basket together. If you haven't started yet, there's still time. It would be very helpful if you'd wrap your basket with shrink wrap or put it in a cellophane bag. Basket value begins at \$25.

With effort and prayers we can make this fundraiser succeed—we are St. Theodore Parish!



FATHER ZENEK IS NOW A BLOGGER!

Visit our web site www.sttheodorenj.com and go to Father's blog page to find pertinent information

about our church, Religious Education Program (including cancelling of Rel. Ed. due to snow), upcoming events and, of course, inspirational stories and messages.

Giving Tree

Our Giving Tree Gift Program benefits Warren Haven Nursing Home, Colonial Manor Assisted Living Home, NJ Division of Youth and Family Services and The Domestic Abuse Morningside Shelter.

The Christmas Giving Tree will be on display in the Narthex through Sunday, November 22.

Parishioners are encouraged to select a gift donation ornament.

Kindly return **unwrapped** gifts by November 28, November 29, or December 5 or December 6. Make sure you return the **original ornament** attached to the gift.

Too busy to shop? Allow us to do it for you by: Selecting a monetary donation ornament Make out a check payable to St. Theodore Church. Enclose cash or check in an envelope marked, "Giving Tree". Please remember all gift items serve as suggestions.

We, the Giving Tree Committee, thank you for your support and generosity to this ministry.

Altar Rosary Society Bake Sale

will be held the weekend of Nov. 21-21 after all Masses. The Society is asking parishioners to please assist with donations of baked items and/or purchasing some very delicious goodies. Call Mary Zeiss 852-6948 for more info.

Altar Rosary Society

Monthly Meeting

All members are encouraged to attend the meeting on Monday, Nov. 16 at 7 p.m. in the Parish Center. Those ladies who are not members are welcome to join us.

Our Weekly Offering

Last Week	\$2,586.50	Last Year	\$3,653.47
Major Maint. \$	969.53		997.75



My sincere thanks to those who helped make the Feast of St. Theodore celebration a wonderful time for our parishioners.

Thank you Bakers, Donators of food, beverages & supplies, Servers, & Kitchen Helpers. From Fr. Zenek

Pilgrimage to Poland, Czech Republic & Austria

Trip Meeting: Nov. 15 at 9 a.m.

Please join us (Fr Michael from Hampton, and Fr Zenek) for **pilgrimage to Poland (Krakow, Wadowice, Czestochowa), Czech and Austria (Vienna and Melk). July 6th - 16th, 2010**

Religious Education Corner

Parents: Please remember to send in your Tricky Tray items for your child's class participation by Nov. 16.

Notice: No Rel. Ed. Session Nov. 23.

Mrs. Elisa Sforza's hours: Mon. 1p-8p; Tue. 1p-7p; Wed, Thu, Fri—Off. **Phone 908-689-8318, Option #2**

Please pray for: Chris, Bree, Anna & John Saksa, Heather Rupell, Stephen, Ray & Alice O'Donnell, Vickie Li Puma, Theresa, Mary, Robert Gross, Lillian Shaffer, Bridget, Beatrice Gillis, Erin Stanton, Theresa Kugelman, Katlyn Faulkner, Denise Piazza, Chris Gilheany, Steve, Dolores, Renee Drag, Geri Hedges, John P., Honol Shah, Barbara Zack. *To add Name: Call Parish Office 908-689-8318*

Altar Servers

Nov. 21: Evan & Ryan Moran
Nov. 22: Sarah Kochan, Auston Viotto- 8;
Kaitlyn Gagliano, Walter & William
Gonsiewski-10:30
Nov. 28: Auston Viotto, Sean Flaherty
Nov. 29: Robert & Juliette Capaldo-8;
Walter & William Gonsiewski, Melody Haag-
10:30

Lectors

Nov. 21: Fran Licciardiello
Nov. 22: Joan Capaldo-8; Bob Gagliano--
10:30
Nov. 28: Christine DeLellis
Nov. 29: Joan Capaldo-8; Helene
Picht-10:30



Eucharistic Ministers

Nov. 21: Tim Moran E, Ginny Moran & Ray
Vonderheide C
Nov. 22: Monica Merkel E, Bill Supple &
Diane Keggan C-8; Helene Picht E, Karl &
Rose Strohmaier C-10:30
Nov. 28: Charles Shipley E; Jim & Eileen
Mattison C
Nov. 29: Emily Cirone E, Nadie Hill &
Diane Keggan C-8ane Labato E, Patricia
Kollar & Joy Haag C-10:30