

November 22, 2009

Christ the King



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**

Monday, November 23

8:45 a.m. **Angelo Carfagna**
r/o The Reynolds' Family

Tuesday, November 24

8:45 a.m. **Ron Semonche**
r/o Patrick Finnegan

Wednesday, November 25

8:45 a.m. **Joseph Walsh**
r/o Mary & Bill Supple

Thursday, November 26- Thanksgiving Day

8:45 a.m. **Parishioners of St. Theodore Church**

Friday November 27 No Mass

Saturday, November 28

5 p.m. **Mary Rusnock**
r/o Altar Rosary Society

Sunday, November 29

8:00 a.m. **Francesco, Grazia & Jerry Tirino**
r/o Joe & Emily Cirone

10:30 a.m. **Genevieve & Joseph Bawiec**
r/o Jane & Rocco Labato

A message from Fr. Zenek: Thanksgiving Day Mass will be said at 8:45 am. Please join me at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass to give thanks for the many blessings we have received from our Lord.

An Evening of Recollection

St. Theodore Church will be holding an **Evening of Recollection** on **Tuesday, December 1st at 7PM.**

The evening will include adoration, reconciliation, and Mass, followed with a talk by Father Pawel, SDS. We extend an invitation to all to come join us for this opportunity to prepare ourselves for the coming Season of Advent and Christmas.

Dear Parishioners!

I think of Thanksgiving as the most uniquely American of all our holidays. I know some would argue for the 4th of July, but most other democratic nations have similar Independence Day celebrations. The French

have Bastille Day. Mexico celebrates its Cinco de Mayo, and the Irish observe the Easter Rising and Easter Rebellion.

When I think of "Turkey Day," I think of the little boy who saw his mother putting a thermometer in the turkey and said, "If it is that sick, I don't want any!" Thanksgiving Day, most unique among our holidays, also, is in many ways, most religious because it's not about turkeys. It's about thanksgiving. We even call ourselves

(We use the Greek word for thanksgiving.).... We call ourselves a "Eucharistic People," a "Thanksgiving People." And the main thing we come to do around the table of the Lord is to offer thanks at Eucharist. "Eucharist" is just a Greek word for "thanksgiving." And I almost think of Christ as smiling and saying, "Yeah. This is the feast." Because I can see Jesus saying, "When you celebrate Christmas, when you celebrate Easter, you are pointing at Me. And I came to point to our God and to give thanks to our God, and to get you to give thanks to our God, and not to be pointing at Me all the time."

In many ways, Jesus says, it's all about life. "I have come that you might have life, and have it in abundance. All is gift. All is precious. Everything in creation makes God present." And then He talks about the thieves that come and steal. I am going to suggest two thieves that steal thanksgiving from our hearts, and recognition of God's presence and gifts to give thanks. The first thief I think of is being disconnected. People like Francis of Assisi said, "The heavens are telling the glory of God and all creation is proclaiming God's name,"and we get disconnected from that. Our tradition says the primary sign and sacrament and making-presence of God is all creation. And we get disconnected from that. We disconnect ourselves from the world and we disconnect God from ourselves.

The other thing that steals thanksgiving from our hearts is not just that we disconnect, but that we don't notice. There is so much that we don't notice! Didn't we just celebrate Thanksgiving? Didn't we just celebrate Christmas? Wasn't it just New Year's? And here it is November already! A life goes by. We hardly notice. It's already Thanksgiving. We have to notice. And this Thanksgiving, let's just notice and enjoy. And let's begin to notice again, whether it is at our Thanksgiving family meal or a phone call from a family person or a friend, or just that we make it through the day. Let's give thanks for the gift and the presence of God in our every breath.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Fr Zenek, SDS

Tricky Tray Event December 4

Doors open 6 pm; drawings at 7:30 pm

Admission \$10, which includes 1 sheet of tickets free.
Refreshments available.



Wow! Only 12 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. **Baskets should be**

delivered by Sunday, Nov. 29. 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. Next Meeting is on Nov. 30 at 6 p.m.

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.

Life Issues

"Life before and after birth is a seamless garment...If we become insensitive to the beginning of life and condone abortion or if we become careless about the end of life to justify euthanasia, we have no reason to believe that there will be much respect for life in between."

Cardinal Joseph Bernardin

PARISHIONERS: PLEASE SUPPORT THIS FUNDRAISER: BRUNCH with SANTA

St. Theodore will be hosting a Brunch with Santa on Dec. 13 after the 10:30 Mass. Brunch includes Crapes, Chicken Nuggets, Hot Dogs, Juice Box, coffee & tea, sweets. Tickets are now on sale in the Parish Center after all the Masses; at the Rectory Office Monday-Thursday and they also will be available at the door on the day of the Brunch. Children \$8 (under 4: free), Adults \$10.

Thank you. Fr. Zenek

GIVING TREE

There are only a few ornaments left on the tree. If you are able to donate, please take one. Gifts are to be returned (unwrapped) by 11/21-11/23; 12/5-12/6.

Parish Office will be closed for Thanksgiving beginning 12 noon on Wednesday, 11/25, and will re-open Monday, 11/30.

Our Weekly Offering

Last Week \$3,449.51 Last Year \$3,781.00



Special Collection

11/29: Diocesan Assessment



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

By Family

Pilgrimage to Poland, Czech Republic & Austria

To date, 24 people have signed up. The price per person is \$3,100 for the 11 days; for more details visit www.sttheodorenj.com. 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

- Nov. 23: No Rel. Ed. Session
- Dec. 6 after 10:30 Mass: Mandatory meeting for Youth Group children wishing to participate in the Christmas program at Warren Haven Nursing Home.
- Dec 7, 6:15 pm: Mass for the Immaculate Conception, Holy Day of Obligation: **ALL REL. ED. STUDENTS & PARENTS** are to attend.

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, Charlie. *To add Name: Call Parish Office 908-689-8318*

Altar Servers

Nov. 28: Auston Viotto, Sean Flaherty
Nov. 29: Robert & Juliette Capaldo-8; Walter & William Gonsiewski, Melody Haag-10:30

Lectors

Nov. 28: Christine DeLellis
Nov. 29: Joan Capaldo-8; Helene Picht-10:30

Eucharistic Ministers

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

Dutch Valley Christmas Tree Farm in Changewater.

NJ will be open every day after Thanksgiving, 9a to 5p.

They have trees, grave blankets & wreaths. 166

Changewater Road; 908-689-0793