

September 11, 2011 Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

✠ Saturday, September 10 St. Robert Bellarmine

5:00 p.m. **Ed, Dot, Brian and Scott Wyker**
by The Wyker Family

✠ Sunday, September 11

8:00 a.m. **In Honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary**
by Bob and Debbie Smolar

10:30 a.m. **Laura Longing**
by The Gleba Family

12 Noon (Religious Education) **Peace and Justice**

✠ Mon. Sept. 12 The Most Holy Name of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:45 a.m. **In Honor of Saint Joseph**
by Ann Dellinger

✠ Tuesday, September 13 St. John Chrysostom

8:45 a.m. **Jennie and Corrado Tridente**
by Sam and Marietta Tridente

✠ Wed, September 14 The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

8:45 a.m. **Ron Bunda**
by Cheryl and Kirk Denee

✠ Thurs., Sept. 15 Our Lady of Sorrows

8:45 a.m. **Special Intentions of Pat & Alan Burdge**
by Willa Berkes

✠ Fri, Sept 16 NO MASS St. Cornelius & St. Cyprian

✠ Saturday, September 17 St. Robert Bellarmine

5:00 p.m. **Sabino Antinolfi**
by daughter

✠ Sunday, September 18

8:00 a.m. **Patricia Connolly**
by Beth and Tom Connolly

10:30 a.m. **Irena Agaciak**
by Jacek Agaciak

say, one of those very terrorists who took those actions on September 11, 10 years ago. Facing such a terrorist, what would it be like? I'll frame it with a question. How would you respond to the fervor that you saw in his eyes? For those terrorists were motivated by their beliefs— their Muslim beliefs. Not all Muslims believe and act in the way that those terrorists did; but those men were motivated by their Muslim beliefs about what was true, and what was right and wrong, and what they were supposed to do about it. And if you saw that belief and that resolve in their eyes, how would you respond?

We have all been hurt in some way or other in the journey of life – made fun of in school by a teacher, not invited to the wedding, didn't get the job I thought I should have got, or at a more serious level, betrayed by someone you trusted, abused physically or sexually and so on.

We must pray for the power to forgive, for it is in forgiving that we are healed'. By failing to forgive, we hurt ourselves more than anyone else. Surely this is what Jesus had in mind when he told how the merciless servant was cast into prison when he refused to forgive his fellow servant. I don't think he was suggesting that God would cancel his mercy. He is simply saying that an unforgiving spirit creates a prison of its own. It builds up walls of bitterness and resentment and there is no escape until we come to forgive.

Of course it is important to remember that we also have hurt people. Forgiving and letting go is not easy, especially when the wound is very deep. This is why forgiveness is sometimes called the 'f' word, because it's not to be used lightly. Forgiveness is a choice and often involves a three stage process: (1) I will never forgive that person (2) I can't forgive (forgiveness seen as a good thing, but the hurt is too great) (3) I want to forgive and let go with God's help.

Also we must learn to forgive ourselves. Imagine you are responsible for something very serious. You are driving a car with drink. There is an accident and a young person is killed. That life cannot be brought back. For more and more people there is a something in the background, some skeleton in the closet – a broken marriage, an abortion, a pregnancy outside marriage, a broken relationship, a serious mistake. And for many of us we do not believe that there is another chance much less a seven times seventy



September 11

There had been terrorist attacks in places in the past. But the U.S. had put up safeguards against these, security checks to keep them from happening here. That day, those terrorists pierced through that security. There had been hijackings of planes before; but that day, for the first time, planes were used as missiles to attack locations. And the locations attacked were symbols of American power; and they even managed to completely bring down the two skyscrapers of the World Trade Center. Suddenly, our safeguards didn't work; suddenly, we were face-to-face with this.

I would invite you to reflect on this today, not simply as Americans, but as Christians, as Catholics. And let us take that idea of being "face to face," and imagine what it would be like if a terrorist walked in here, and you were face to face with him— with, let's

chances. This is not the teaching of Jesus. God does not just give us another chance, but every time we close a door he opens another one for us. The Lord challenges us not to make serious damaging mistakes, but he also tells us that our mistakes are not forever – they are not even for a life time – and that time and grace wash clean, that nothing is irrevocable.

In Christ. Fr Zenek. SDS

Catholic, or have any questions about the process, please contact Rose Strohmaier strohmaier@yahoo.com or Father Zenek at 689-8318. Please give name and phone number if leaving a phone message.

September calendar

Monday Masses beginning Sep. 12—8:45 a.m.
 Hospitality Sunday—Sept. 18
 Sign-up for St. Theodore Ministries—Sep 18
 after the 10:30 Mass
 Tricky Tray Meeting—Sep. 18 after the 10:30
 Mass
 Rosarian Meeting—Sep. 19 @ 7pm
 Baptism Class for first-time parents-Sep 20-6pm
 Ladies Club—Sept. 21 @ 7pm

TRICKY Tray

Once again, we are calling on parishioners to help us with Tricky Tray supplies. It has been our experience that many items are delivered unwrapped, which leads to our appeal to you for donations of basket filler (Easter basket grass or basket shred paper), shrink wrap, clear cellophane gift bags, ribbon, baskets, clear packaging tape. We are hoping you will donate these items as soon as possible since we've started taking inventory and have been soliciting vendors for gifts. We don't want to wait until the last minute to prepare baskets. We will be putting basket theme suggestions in the Narthex very soon and again will ask that each family donated a basket of items with a value of at least \$25. We will update you in future bulletins about the Tricky Tray. Supplies may be dropped off from now and until the day before the event in the Narthex or at the Parish Office. Thank you in advance for your support.



The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

is the process by which adult converts are received into full communion with the Catholic Church. Normally, it starts in September and takes place in four stages. It gathers information, answers questions and corrects misunderstandings about Catholicism. It is a process of spiritual formation and introduction to the Catholic parish life. The RCIA program was initiated by Pope Paul VI on January 6, 1972. If you are interested in learning more about the Catholic Church, are considering becoming a

St. Theodore Church
WE APPRECIATE YOUR GENEROSITY!
Last week \$2,860 . ; Last Year \$2,722.30
Second Collection Sept 17/18: Peter's Pence. This collection helps the Pope support victims of poverty, disaster, war, and oppression and others in urgent need of assistance. The Pope uses this collection to strengthen dioceses, religious orders, and struggling communities of faith when they need it most.

Saint Theodore Church
2011 – 2012 Religious Education

- ❖ **Monday, Sep. 19th - Classes at School (except 8th Grade at Church)**
- ❖ **Sep. 25-10:30, 8th Grade Commitment Letter signing; parents meeting after the Mass**
- ❖ **Monday, Sep. 26—7th Grade at Church**

Life Chain

A peaceful, prayerful, silent and non-confrontational demonstration, which brings together people of all faiths and all ages, to make a powerful visual statement about the value and dignity of every human life.

Sunday, October 2, 2011
2:00 - 3:30 pm (rain or shine)
Port Murray, St. Theodore's Church (855 Route 57)
Contact: Joyce Lopez 908-303-2058

Child Care Help Needed: three days weekly (4p to 7p) for two children, ages 8 & 10. Call Parish Office if interested: 908-689-8318

Please pray for: Very Rev. J. William Mickiewicz, Chris, Keira, Anna & John Saksa, Theresa, Stephen, Alice O'Donnell, Bobby Gross, Lillian Shaffer, Bridget, Erin Stanton, Katlyn Faulkner, Barbara Zack, Anthony Vitale Jr., Bobby Greco, Carmine Marmo, Frances Fiumefreddo, Eleanor D., Jay Mildrum, Mary, Paul, Enrico Staiano, Corado Pasquini, Angelina Colacchia, Emir Kane, Charlie, Gracie Witte, James Matthew Marks, Billy . **Call the office to add or remove a name.**