

# CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH COMMUNITY

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ext. 6, lcamacho@corpuschristi.org

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### **AUGUST 25, 2019** TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### Prayer: Venturing out on a Limb

The Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve was created in 1982 when the state reserved 48,000 acres along the Chilkat, Klehini and Tsirku Rivers to protect the largest known gathering of bald eagles in the world. Bald eagles are attracted to the area by the availability of salmon and open waters in late fall and winter. The Chilkat Valley is the year-round home for between 200 and 400 eagles and more than 80 eagle nests have been observed in the preserve itself.

During breeding season, the male and female work together to build a nest of sticks, which can weigh up to a ton and can measure up to 8 feet across. They usually have a clutch of between one and three eggs.

As the eaglets get older, they are anxious to constantly test their wings. They hop to the closest branches, flapping their wings and by doing so gain strength and balance. This is called branching. At about 12 weeks of age, they are usually ready to take their first flight.

As we begin the Fall and everyone returns to their "normal" lives, I invite you to try to go "deeper" in your prayer life this year. The nest that we live in is comfortable, but God loves us too much to let us stay comfortable. We were born to soar in prayer and in closeness to God. It is worth going out on the limb and spreading our wings a little!

Fr. Kevin

### **SACRAMENTS • PARISH ORGANIZATIONS**

### **EUCHARIST**

#### **WEEKEND LITURGIES:**

Saturday—5:00 p.m. Sunday—7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 12:15 p.m.

#### **SUMMER MASS SCHEDULE:**

Saturday—5 p.m. Sunday—7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.

## EUCHARIST FOR THE SICK & HOMEBOUND:

Every First Friday; other times upon request

#### FIRST EUCHARIST:

Usually celebrated in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade for children. Celebrated at the Easter Vigil for adults.

#### **BAPTISM**

Infant baptism: for registered parishioners are celebrated two Sundays a month. A 1-hour baptism preparation class is required for all first-time parents. After the child is born, contact the parish office to schedule the baptism. Baptism prep classes are scheduled as needed.

Adults: participate in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). Through this process, the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation are received. For further information, contact the parish office.

### **CONFIRMATION**

Parishioners of high school age are confirmed following a twoyear preparation program, usually culminating with Confirmation in the beginning of junior year. Adult parishioners are usually confirmed at the Easter Vigil. For further information, contact the parish office.

### **CONFESSION TIMES**

Saturday from 4:00 to 4:45 p.m. in the Atrium Conference Room; (and by appointment with one of our priests) Communal Penance services are held in Advent and Lent. First Penance: Usually celebrated in the 2nd grade.

#### **MARRIAGE**

Please contact the parish office one year prior to the wedding. Preparation for Marriage includes: Pre-Cana or Engaged Encounter, as well as meetings with the Pastoral Associate for Marriage and Family, the Music Minister, and the Priest who will witness the marriage. Weddings may be scheduled any day Monday through Saturday. No weddings will be scheduled on Sundays, eves of holidays, holidays, or holiday weekends.

#### ANOINTING OF THE SICK

This sacrament may be celebrated with any person who is seriously ill. A communal celebration of this sacrament is held periodically. You may request this sacrament at any time, especially in case of emergency. Any parishioner who is in the hospital and wishes to see a member of the parish staff should notify the parish office.

### CYO BASKETBALL PROGRAM

See Corpus Christi website (<u>www.corpuschristi.org</u>) or call Jim LeMon at 917-576-1619 or email jlemon1023@gmail.com

#### **SENIOR CITIZENS**

Priscilla Ursino, Coordinator Meets first Friday of month at 12:30 p.m. Liturgy and Lunch October – June

#### **ALTAR SOCIETY**

Coordinators: Kathleen Magill and Dorothy Shanahan

**MEN'S SOCIETY** Meets second Tuesday of the month during the school year at 7:30 p.m.

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SESSIONS**

The parish offers a comprehensive program in religious education for pre-school, elementary school, middle school, and high school. These sessions are held on Sundays or Mondays. We also offer a program for students who are educationally challenged. Adult education programs are scheduled periodically and announced in the bulletin. For further information, contact the parish office, x 715.

#### YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

For those in their 20s and 30s, through social, spiritual and service activities, young adults meet at St. Paul Inside the Walls in Madison (www.insidethewalls.org) and volunteer with the youth here at Corpus Christi. Contact Psomi for further information.

#### HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY

Most youth entering high school become involved in Youth Ministry through a 2 year Confirmation Preparation Program which includes, service, education and retreats. In this three pronged approach, youth learn, experience and grow in their love for self, others and God. After Confirmation, young people are invited into deeper involvement or leadership which includes retreat teams, justice and service, teaching, music and more.

#### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The Knights of Columbus is an international fraternal, family and charitable organization. Locally, the Parcells Council of the Knights of Columbus jointly serves the parishes of Corpus Christi and Saint Patrick. Membership is open to all Catholic men over 18. Visit the Parcells Council on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/parcellscouncil

For further information contact Dan Otten at 973-335-1435.

#### **AL-ANON MEETING**

Al-Anon meets every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. This is open to any persons in the community who are family members or friends of those suffering from any type of chemical dependency, such as alcohol, etc. The meeting is held in the double classroom area. Enter the parish center through the main doors from the rear parking lot. This is not affiliated with the parish, but the facilities are offered as a service to the community. The participants are to maintain strict confidentiality and require anonymity.

# LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, August 24

5:00 p.m. Robert (Buz) Ricci

Sunday, August 25

7:30 a.m. Special Intention 9:30 a.m. Naoki Kurimoto

11:30 a.m. Eric Riso

Monday, August 26

7:30 a.m. Maureen Alexander

Tuesday, August 27

7:30 a.m. Thelma Silano

Wednesday, August 28

7:30 a.m. Ralph Dincher; Special Intention

Thursday, August 29

7:30 a.m. Marie Panza (1st Anniversary)

Friday, August 30

7:30 a.m. John Malcynski; Anthony Iacona

Saturday, August 31

5:00 p.m. John F. Tomlinson

Sunday, September 1

7:30 a.m. Ellen Peers

9:30 a.m. Ann Kunzweiler

11:30 a.m. Agostinho H. Amador

### IN REMEMBRANCE

For the week of August 25, Sanctuary Lights burn in memory of Rita Yackavich. Bread and Wine is offered in memory of Maureen Alexander. Blessed Sacrament Chapel flowers are in memory of Maureen Alexander.

#### FLOWER MEMORIALS

Remember a loved one or offer a special Intention by having a flower arrangement placed in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. The cost will be \$50 or more plus a \$10 offering. The Parish Office will coordinate the request with our florist, Carl Lemanski.

# PRESIDER'S SCHEDULE AUGUST 24/25

5:00 p.m. Fr. Kevin 9:30 a.m. Fr. Mahoney 7:30 a.m. Fr. Kevin 11:30 a.m. Fr. Kevin

# PRESIDER'S SCHEDULE AUGUST 31/SEPTEMBER 1

5:00 p.m. Fr. Kevin 9:30 a.m. Fr. Kevin 7:30 a.m. Fr. Kevin 11:30 a.m. Fr. Mahoney

### August 25, 2019 Twenty-First Sunday In Ordinary Time



### **Mass Schedule**

<u>Sunday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> to Sunday, September 1<sup>st</sup></u>, please note the summer Mass schedule:

Saturday: 5:00 PM

Sunday: **7:30 AM** 

9:30 AM 11:30 AM

### **Office Hours**

During this time, the parish office will be open:

Monday—Thursday
Friday

9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

### **LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTION**

Total \$11,721.50

### Missionary Cooperation Plan Collection August 24-25

"The Church is missionary. She exists so that every man and woman may encounter Jesus."

(Pope Francis).

With our baptism, we are called to share in this calling to bring others to Christ. The Missionary Cooperation Plan (MCP) was inaugurated in the late 1930's to help mission-sending societies solicit funds for their mission efforts around the world. Today, the program is administered by each Diocesan Missions Office under the auspices of the local Bishop.

This weekend, August 24/25, is the MCP collection at Corpus Christi Parish. Sr. Colleen Clair, a Salesian Sister, will speak at the end of all the Masses. Thank you for your generosity!

#### WELCOME!

New parishioners are asked to register for the parish by going to our website at **www.corpuschristi.org**. Click on the **Parish Registration** tab at the top of the home page next to **Online Giving**. For more information, please call the Parish Office.

### PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Patty Westerzelt, LaVerne Washburne, Brian Deasy, Mon Cassius, Pam Koch, Trish Dowling, David Natale, Megan O'Neil, Christopher Ciufo, Martin Dubel, Melina Hennigan, James Greendonner, Jeffrey Dowling, Donna Conforti, Carolyn Phalon, Wayne Parisi, Debby Conti, James J. Price, Pat Pierson, Florence and John Hefele, Hank Campbell, Amy Fitzgerald, Mary McHale, Father John O'Brien, Frances Primack, Dorothy M. Torick, Howard Daly, Katherine Brown, Conor Jennings, Barbara Layman, Peter Pietrucha, Craig Wisdo, John Petite, Raymond O'Connell, Joseph Doria, John Fleming, Donna Kugelman, Jeffrey Hodgeson, Kiran Kenney, Helen Dwyer, Margaret Pittaluga, Tina Errico, Nick McGann, John (Jack) Kaplan, Marie Orgo, Lucy Ryan, Joann Uibelhoer, Beth Abella, Hazel Townsend, Nicholas Ciufo, Peter Elder, Lori Abrams, Brandon Glynnyoung, David Carey, Marylou Perrini, Alan Fischer, Sarah Addison, Carol Murphy, Likeu Lee, Susan Kosinski, Camille Moran, Michael Turinchak, Dorothy Norton, Sr. Barbara Takacs, Diane Allen, Nora and Callum Lemanski, Lucas Reiling, Dominic Ursino, Andrew Jenkins, Debbie Dwyer, Bridget Noe, John Cunningham, Mary Beth Driscoll, Denise Phalon Cascio, Abigail Brady, Frances Smith, Claudia Fernandez, Tom Warren, Marty Erickson, Mary Beth Bonkowski, Carey Jenkins, Aurora Tremaroli, Aubrey Baumbach, Christopher Green Cunningham, John VanDam, Ethel Gasda, Patrick Ford, David Kelly, Patrick Murphy, Jr., Helen Huk, Cathy Caputo, Rui Boos, Joseph Todisco, Marie Skurka, Arianna Khelil, Dorothy Craig, Stephanie Quiroga, Sal Guidone, Judy Broyhill, Tony Rios, Lois McGuire, Gina Pagnotta, Helen Huddleston, Mary Ann Allen, Mary Ellen Wagner, Ed Lord, Gina Pelillo, Thomas Singer, Gregory Malzberg, Kristine Ryan, Luis Gallardo, Susan McGeough, Marianne Conod, Joseph Cirella, Donna Gocking, Marti Sullivan, Lauren Gardner, Edward Cameron, Marie Viteri, Steven Hensle, Bob Whelan, William Cody, John Keelin, Richard Delaney, Mary Lou Carrier, Mary Conforti, Charlie Roussel, Jay Conroy, Richard Pelillo, Christopher Crahan, Ryan Lowe, Dominick Canavaro, Larry Califano, Frank Intagliato, Clifford McGuire, Don Stauber, Marie Meister, Marlenes Teixeira, John Crisp, Don Spagnuolo, Maddie Niebanch, Anthony Careccia, Martine Errico, Henry Von See, Michelle Benaim, Parker Watson, Kevin and Dorothy Franken, Adriana Martins, Frances Psomas, Eugene Iannocelli, Peggy Cox, Eileen Matt, Everett Farren, Connie McNamara, Ann Zerga, Cheryl Maiorini, Alfri Rundio, Barbara Marvin, Beth Cintron, Anna McGeough, Andrew White, Adeline Lombardi, Caitlin Murray, Donald Hanson, Giovanna Tagliaferri, Nancy Merola Miller, Mary Schwartz Carey, Ann Gilroy, Diane Kolster, Gertrude Winkler, Stephanie Windsor, Rosemarie Moeller, Ralph Partlow, John Camary, Eileen Scholp, Patricia Marceterre, Nancy Artiglere, Connie Prince.

## PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE GONE HOME TO THE LORD...

William Jenusaitis, husband of Jeanne and father of Alexandra, Meredith, and Daniel





### Let's Stay Connected this Summer

### Weekly Bulletin emailed to your inbox

- send us your preferred email or call 973-635-0070 x710

### View Sunday Masses 9:30 and 11:30 am

- see livestream link on our website

### Sign up for On-line giving

- see link on our website or call 973-635-0070 x710

### Join Flocknote messaging

- text 'chatham' to 84576 or Flocknote.com/corpuschristichatham

### Follow us on Social Media

Corpus Christi Roman Catholic Church

orpuschristiparish

Visit our website www.corpuschristi.org
We want to connect with you!

From all the staff at Corpus Christi we wish you a safe, fun and blessed summer!

## Accounts Payable/Payroll Specialist Part-time (15—18 hours/week)

Requirements: Payroll Experience 1—2 years with outside payroll provider.

Responsibilities include time clock management, managing payroll exceptions, processing bi-weekly payroll and completing tax and benefit reports.

Accounts payable responsibilities include coding/ processing, filing invoices, and other general accounting activities as needed as well as proficiency in Office361.

Minimum 2 years payroll experience with exposure to Accounts Payable. Must be team oriented and have a "can do/will do" attitude.

Please help us support the mission of the Sisters of Charity

Email resume to: secretary@scnj.org Attn: Accounts Payable/Payroll Specialist

### SPIRITUALITY-FAITH DEVELOPMENT



#### Contact:

Sister Margaret Dincher SCC 973-635-0070 x 714 (phone) 973-635-5518 (fax) email: marga@corpuschristi.org

### PASTORAL CARE



If you or someone you know is in the hospital or is home-bound and wishes to receive Communion or the Sacrament of the Sick, please contact Sr. Margaret and arrangements will be made for a visit.

Father Kevin and Father Lem are available to celebrate the Sacrament of the Sick with those who are homebound.

#### SPECIAL MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

All Eucharistic Ministers are asked to sign-up for Sunday liturgies by email. If you are having difficulty with the process, check the bulletin board for the positions that need to be filled.



On Monday, September 16th at 7:30 pm a meeting will be held for all Eucharistic Ministers.

The meeting will be a time to pray and discuss the updates of serving as a Eucharistic Minister.

#### **LECTORS**



All lectors are invited to a meeting on Mon., September 9th at 7:30 pm to discuss and give an update on the practical points for lecturing. All lectors are asked to attend the meeting.

At the meeting, you will also be given the new Lector's Workbook.

#### ALTAR SERVERS



Altar Servers are needed at Mass. At least one server is needed to process with the cross at the entrance to Mass, to lead those who bring the gifts to the altar and to lead the priest to exit at the end of the Mass. A second server is needed to assist the priest during the Mass.

Boys and girls in grades 3 through 8 are invited to serve.

Contact Sister Margaret to set a time to be trained to serve at Masses on Sunday.

### RCIA - A JOURNEY OF FAITH

Beginning September 22nd, meetings will be held in the Atrium Conference Room each Sunday morning from 9:40 to 11:00 am for those who are not baptized and wish to learn more about the Catholic faith, baptized persons from another Christian denomination, or Catholics who wish to prepare to



receive the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist.

For more information, call or e-mail Sister Margaret.

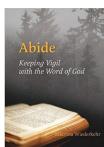
#### **SPIRITUAL DIRECTION**



Spiritual Direction offers a time and place to be attentive and take notice of God's presence and action in our lives. It helps a person grow in his/her relationship with God and better discern how the Holy Spirit is leading in their life. It helps a person to deepen

in his/her relationship with God, self, others and creation. For more information contact Sister Margaret.

### Abide Keeping Vigil With God's Word



Breathe in the Word of God and wait before the Word as you walk through the Scriptures and Abide with God. Keep me safe, O God as I abide in You. Meeting is on the second floor in the Upper Room on Tuesday, September 10th—7 to 8 pm

Facilitators: Diane Radwill Sister Margaret



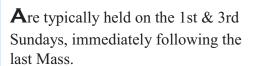
Contact: sbonfiglio@corpuschristi.org

## Marriage Preparation

Contact the Marriage & Family Ministry office 12 months before you plan to be married to begin your preparation for the

Sacrament of Marriage.

### **BAPTISMS**





#### **BAPTISM PREPARATION INSTRUCTION**

is required for first-time parents.

Contact the Family Ministry office for an appointment.



### **BreakThrough** Online

A powerful online course for those in stressed marriages.

Quality video learning, featuring internationally acclaimed educators and multimedia. Suitable for spouses on their own or couples seeking to overcome relationship gridlock.

### Helping couples to:

- \* understand the real issues at play in their marriage
- \* identify their conflict triggers
- \* learn strategies to de-escalate an argument
- \* find constructive ways to re-establish connection

www.SmartLoving.org/BreakThrough

#### MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

### On a MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

weekend, married couples get away from jobs, kids, chores, and phones to focus only on each other -- to deepen, enrich, and grow in their relationship.

Sessions are held in various locations throughout the year. For more information or to sign up, go to www.wwme.org.



Newly married, or know a couple that is? Check out **Foundations** newsletter on our Family Ministry Table at the back of the Atrium.

This bi-monthly newsletter provides practical tips to help newly married couples navigate the waters of their new relationship, and discover the joys of marriage.

Save the Date

Welcome Back Sunday

September

After 9:00 & 11:00 **Masses** 



### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**Contact: Brigette Hanley** 973-635-0070 x715 (phone); 973-635-5518 (fax) or email: bhanley@corpuschristi.org for PreK—Grade 5

**Contact: Brian Duemling** 973-635-0070 x740 (phone); 973-635-5518 (fax) or email: bduemling@corpuschristi.org for Middle School (Grades 6-8)

Contact: Psomi 973-635-0070 x718 (phone); 973-635-5518 (fax) or email: Psomi@corpuschristi.org for Confirmation Prep (Gr. 9-10)



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION GRADES PREK-5



### Registration is OPEN!

Please register your child online at corpuschristi.org for classes for the 2019-2020 school year

### Volunteers Needed!

Each year we need nearly 80 volunteers, please consider volunteering. Training is provided. Consider this rewarding ministry, we need you!





Pick up a summer family fun packet in the atrium for activities and ideas for a faith filled summer on the go. .

Follow us on Instagram

@CorpusChristiParish





### **MUSIC MINISTRY**

Contact: Robert Long, 973-635-0070 x716 (phone); 973-635-5518 (fax); email: rlong@corpuschristi.org

### **CORPUS CHRISTI CHOIRS**

SINGERS AND INSTRUMENTALISTS
ARE WELCOME!

### **CHILDREN'S CHOIRS**

Elementary and Middle School Instrumentalists: Christmas Youth Orchestra Children—Grades 3 through Middle School Children—K-2: Cherubs & Chimes

### **ADULT CHOIRS**

Corpus Christi Adult Choir rehearses on Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in the Emmaus Room.

Corpus Christi Handbell Choir rehearses on Monday at 7:00 p.m. in the Emmaus Room.

#### REGISTRATION FOR 2019/2020 IS OPEN!!

Please register your 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> Grader at **https:// corpuschristi.org/reregistration.** Classes are offered on Sundays at 8:00am, 5:00pm and 7:00pm for 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Grades, and at 9:50am, 5:00pm and 7:00pm for the 8<sup>th</sup> Grades. Parents home schooling their children should also register on the parish website. First come – first served with regard to getting your time preferences. Enjoy the rest of your Summer!

#### **VOLUNTEER CATECHISTS NEEDED!**

Looking to fill the following Catechist positions for the coming year:

6<sup>th</sup> Grade 5:00pm 7<sup>th</sup> Grade 5:00pm

7:00pm

8<sup>th</sup> Grade 7:00pm (2 classes)

Parents: If you are considering volunteering, rest assured I have great resources to help you succeed, to include our OUTSTANDING group of returning Catechists. Please email me directly at <a href="mailto:bduemling@corpuschristi.org">bduemling@corpuschristi.org</a>.

#### "GOD SQUAD" HIGH SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

If you are a sophomore, junior or senior in high school and interested in planning and conducting the Middle School retreats (3 of them at 90 minutes each), then please email me directly at <a href="mailto:bduemling@corpuschristi.org">bduemling@corpuschristi.org</a>. We work with the Middle School students in pairs of high school students, so invite a friend! Great service opportunity!



Contact M. A. "Psomi" Psomas-Jackloski; 973-507-8718(desk); 201-572-1608 (cell) 973-635-5518 (fax); email: psomi@corpuschristi.org; www.corpuschristi.org www.facebook/chathamyouthministry

## **CONFIRMATION PREPARATION**Registration is Open

Confirmation Prep Years 1 & 2



It's time to register.
All 2019-2020 Year 1 & Year 2
Please follow this:
www.corpuschristi.org—
Ministries—Youth Ministry and
Confirmation.

#### Sacrament of Confirmation for current juniors

Juniors, please look out for an email confirming the schedule for Confirmation.

September 13, 7:30 PM... rehearsal Thurs, Sept 12 at 7 PM September 20, 7:30 PM... rehearsal Thurs, Sept 19, 7 PM



**Confirmation Preparation Orientation** 

**Orientation** for all Year 1 and Year 2 (mostly frosh and sophomore)

**Sunday, September 8, 7 – 8 PM in the Church** *All Year 1 and Year 2 teens, plus 1 parent, must attend this Orientation.* 

### **Extreme Faith**



**Ongoing Sundays** 

Instrument Rehearsal: Tuesday, Sept 3, 6 – 7 PM All voices and instruments: Sunday, Sept 8, 10 AM

Teens sing and play the 12:15 mass from September 8<sup>th</sup> through mid-June. It's fun and we build a great community. Contact: Psomi

### **Bridges Collection**

Saturday/Sunday Sept 21-22 after all the masses

We run food into various inner-city areas to feed the people on the streets. To kick this off, we need to collect money to purchase the food. Volunteers for this hold pots after the masses for people to drop in donations.



Contact Psomi

### Senior Dinner/"Intergen" Dinner

Prep decorations

Sunday, Sept 15, 1-3 PM Sunday, Sept 22, 1-3 PM

Sunday, Sept 29, 1-3 PM (if needed)

All in the classroom wing

Saturday, October 5

Prep: 10AM - 3 PMDinner: 5 PM - 10 PM

Dinner runs from 6 - 9, but volunteers need to be here from 5 to 10 PM.

One of our most popular events with teens hosting a dinner dance for the senior citizens of our area. As many as 100 senior citizens attend, and about 40 teens serving and volunteering. Contact any of the following:

Ava Voight <u>avavoight3@gmail.com</u> Grace Toscano <u>217ma3@gmail.com</u>

Sam Abramson sam.abramson1217@gmail.com

### Food Bank

#### **Saturday, Sept 28, 9 – 11 AM**



Arrive at church 8:15, volunteer from 9 – 11 return by way of Panera or Wendy's for lunch (bring money) Back in the church parking lot by 12:15

We volunteer at the Hillside Community Food bank doing whatever they need on that particular day. Mostly it is work with food items. We leave here, with parent volunteer drivers early enough to be at the food bank by 9 AM. We return by way of Panera or Wendy's in Short Hills for a bite to eat, and then are back in the parking lot of the church by 12:15.

### **Solidarity Walk**

# Know the Signs of Healthy Relationships Sunday, Ocober 13, 5PM – 11PM

Sign up online at <a href="www.corpuschristi.org">www.corpuschristi.org</a> – Ministries – Youth Ministry – Solidarity Walk – (and this will bring you to the registration form and the fee payment of \$20)

*In solidarity with kids who are already on the street, teens from* 

all the churches in Chatham will begin this journey at Gloria Dei church and stop at 7 different churches, culminating at Corpus Christi. At each church they will learn something about homeless and teens, and will also engage in service. Three service hours will be given for this.



Contact: Christopher Chiodo <u>christopherchiodo@chatham-nj.org</u>

### REFLECTION BY REV. LEONARD N. PETERSON...

"Monopoly" the board game was created first by one Elizabeth Magie and later by Charles Darren way back in 1935. Most people are aware that the goal is to drive one's opponent into bankruptcy. All told, "Monopoly" has become part of international pop culture, having been licensed in 103 countries and in more than 37 languages! So much for the game.

As for the concept "monopoly," it is firstly defined as "the exclusive control of a commodity or service in a particular market that makes the manipulation of prices possible." There's much evil in most manipulation. Simply put, monopoly is "the exclusive possession or control of something." So monopoly is a negative. Exclusivity nearly always is.

Turning to this weekend's Scriptural excerpts, we learn once again how Israel was God's chosen people. That can never change. Yet we also learn that God's choice was never meant to be exclusive. With the coming of Israel's true Messiah, Our Lord Jesus Christ, God's only Son, that truth was revealed in all its fullness. He clearly taught that the invitation to live in the kingdom of God goes to everyone who recognizes Him as "the Way, the Truth and the Life." Even those who through no fault of their own never heard the invitation but lived a good life according to their consciences. Israel had to learn that nobody is excluded from God's love because of ethnicity or religion. Their great prophet Isaiah taught this as God's prophet centuries before Jesus' coming, as we read today in the Scriptures.

A good and practical follow-up to this truth is a question we can pose to ourselves regarding our own hearts. After all, we are not exempt from self-examination on this point. Are we, are you, as magnanimous as God? Or are certain people excluded from your list of God's loved ones? Are they barred from enjoying your Christian love? And, is your decision, however undeclared to the external world, final? If that is so, you need a real conversion. It's urgent, of course, for no greater reason than your appointment and mine with our divine Judge draws closer each day. That's not a threat but a promise. Great wisdom abounds in one's decision to see things God's way.

Mohandas K. Gandhi was the leader of the Indian nationalist movement against British rule and considered the father of his country. He is internationally esteemed for his doctrine of nonviolence to achieve political and social progress.

Gandhi says in his autobiography that in his student days he was truly interested in the Bible Deeply touched by reading the Gospels, he seriously considered becoming a convert, since Christianity seemed to offer the real solution to the caste system that was dividing the people of India. One Sunday, he went to a nearby church to attend services. He decided to see the minister and ask for instruction in the way of salvation and enlightenment on other doctrines. But when he entered the church, the ushers refused to give him a seat and suggested that he go and worship with his own people. Gandhi left and never came back. "If Christians have caste systems also," he said to himself, "I might as well remain a Hindu."

### Sunday, Aug 25, 2019

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

#### Shortcuts take longer

Some friends are famous for their shortcuts—the kind that always take them longer than if they had stuck to the main routes. Cutting corners rarely winds up with satisfying results. Bakers know that if you use inferior ingredients, you can expect inferior outcomes. Thrown-together carpentry work tumbles apart in short order. Failing to warm up before exercise puts us at risk of injury. Doing things right takes more time and care, but it gets the job done. In moral living, the narrow gate is the most direct route to where we're going. Avoid easy. Choose marvelous.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 66:18-21; Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13; Luke 13:22-30 (123). "Strive to enter through the narrow gate."

### Monday, Aug 26, 2019

### Be steadfast in the face of hypocrisy

Jesus had nothing good to say about hypocrites. He rebuked them often. So does Pope Francis, who recently said it was better to be an atheist than a hypocritical Catholic, calling out those who lead double lives of going to Mass and then exploiting others. It's easy to look around and see people and institutions doing just that—including the church. It would be easy to turn your back on them altogether. But then wouldn't you be letting hypocrisy easily win? Make it hard for hypocrites to take away the faith that is, by right of your Baptism, yours.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5, 8b-10; Matthew 23:13-22 (425). "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites."

### **Tuesday, Aug 27, 2019**

MEMORIAL OF MONICA

#### Persistence pays off

A violent, unfaithful husband, a cranky mother-in-law, an immoral son—all in the same household. Monica could've been canonized simply for surviving. Instead, she pursued her unruly son Augustine from Africa to Rome to Milan when he was 29 (helicopter parenting, anyone?), fasted and wept over his lack of faith. Not quite the way young adults today are parented, but a bishop finally told her, "It's impossible the son of so many tears should perish." He converted, thrived, wrote brilliantly, and told her story in his *Confessions*. Today, compliment the efforts of a mother or son.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 23:23-26 (426). "Our coming to you was not in vain."

### Wednesday, Aug 28, 2019

MEMORIAL OF AUGUSTINE, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

#### Dia deeper

Among the many works that the towering Saint Augustine is remembered for, his work *On the Trinity* is considered by many to be his masterpiece, his most significant contribution to the Western church. Yet a legend arose that as he struggled with his great work, he took a walk on the seashore and came across a young boy who said he was pouring all the ocean water into a small hole in the sand. Augustine replied that it was impossible to fit the ocean in a small hole, to which the boy replied, "It's just as impossible that understanding the Trinity would fit in your small

mind." And then the child was gone—an angelic visitor. Approach the mysteries of faith with humility.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:27-32 (427). "On the outside you appear righteous, but inside you are filled with hypocrisy and evildoing."

### **Thursday, Aug 29, 2019**

MEMORIAL OF THE PASSION OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

#### Be careful what you promise

According to the gospel accounts of the beheading of John the Baptist, Herod immediately regretted the promise he made to Salome that led to John's beheading. Whether John met his death for this reason or simply because Herod regarded him as a threat and wanted him out of the way, the story serves as a cautionary tale to think twice before you promise to fulfill the wishes of another. Would you be willing to violate your internal sense of right or wrong or your conscience in order to fulfill a promise? If not, be slow to make promises without first checking your conscience.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Thessalonians 3:7-13 (428); Mark 6:17-29 (634). "When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body and laid it in a tomb."

### Friday, Aug 30, 2019

### Leave your light on for Christ

A Catholic church is never completely dark—as long as the Blessed Sacrament is present. You'll always see at least a small red flicker before the tabernacle, while it contains the Eucharist, the Body of Christ. The tradition goes back to the Book of Exodus, when God told Moses to perpetually burn a lamp filled with pure oil in the Tabernacle. Thousands of years later, Christ is always there, burning with a light and love that never goes out. Likewise keep the flame for him in your soul steadfast and bright.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Matthew 25:1-13 (429). "The wise brought flasks of oil with their lamps."

#### Saturday, Aug 31, 2019

#### Tame your tongue

Sometimes our daily readings get down to brass tacks. "Don't be a busybody" seems to be the blunt message in Paul's advice to the Thessalonians. It's not an ethereal command to do noble deeds; rather it's the kind of practical advice that makes life in the Christian community (or any community) work. Pope Francis frequently passes along similar wisdom. Put today's citation to immediate use by keeping your silence the next time you're tempted to disparage a neighbor, relative, or coworker.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Thessalonians 4:9-11; Matthew 25:14-30 (430). "Nevertheless we urge you, brothers and sisters, to progress even more, and to aspire to live a tranquil life, to mind your own affairs."

#### Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time



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