

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME. FEBRUARY 20, 2022

Announced Masses

Saturday, February 19,

4:00PM Alexander & Annette Vecchione (L) by
Rosann Paolini

**Sunday, February 20, Seventh Sunday Ordinary
Time**

9:00 AM Frank & Margaret Niessen by Ron & Anna
Meyer

11:15 AM Gabriella Francesca Maria Paolini (L) by
Roseann Paolini

Monday, February 21,

9:00 AM Rosanna Spoto by Annette Castaldo

Tuesday, February 22, The Chair of St. Peter,

9:00AM Nancy Rizzi (L) by Ron & Anna Meyer

Wednesday, February 23, St. Polycarp

9:00 AM (No Mass)

Thursday, February 24,

9:00 AM Frank & Mary Giannico by Annette
Castaldo

Friday, February 25,

9:00AM Maria Fay by Jane Fay

1:00 PM Funeral Mass for Filomena Mahnkopf

Saturday, February 26,

4 PM Steven Mahnkopf

500

Sunday February 27, Eighth Sunday Ordinary

Time

9:00 AM Filomena Mahnkopf by Nicole DiGennaro

11:15 AM Joe & Maria Meyer by Ron & Anna Meyer

200 CLUB

#106 Cathy Corban

Mass Book for 2022 is open.

**The perfect prayer is the Holy Sacrifice of the
Mass. Why not offer this most special prayer to
someone living who is need of special graces, or
those who are deceased in need of special mercy.**

Please fill the form kept at the back of the Church and
return it to the Rectory either by Mail or in person or
put it in the collection basket.

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Please pray for: Alice Leesha, Lauren LaRuffa, Anne Suppa, Frances Sciarra, Michele Griesbaum, Lisa Donohue, James Valenti, Kathleen Quinn, Vincent Russo, Aliya Rachlin, Tara Byrne, Anthony Giordano, Bob Einterz, Andrea Fedoruk, Nicky Castagna, Michael and Matthew Mclean, and Samantha. For Our Military Personnel: Vaughn Schlott, Ana Lucia Teran-Stasilli, Arianar Severf, Larry Weiss, Martin Kamen, Peggy Connolly, Mary Ann, Kimberly Chatfield, Isabella Marchese, Ira Glickler, Rose Infantino, Cathy Gerrard, Linda Bozza, Margaret Payne, Stephanie Freer Greyden Freer, Collen Kent, Karen Fullone, Carol Scott, Eileen Hoynes Hope Traver, Louise Smith, Karen Fullone, Stephen Scognamiglio, Pam Kocher, Gabriella Francesca Maria Paolini, Janice Mutia, Rose Ann Donnadio, Steven & Kelly Spencer, Spencer Michael Rose, Pastor Linda Bohs, Jeanne Boyar Arniery, Lee VanSaaders, Barbara Donnelly and Mary Ann, Grace Garufi, Joe Garufi, Cheryl Novak, Melaina Elms, Neil R. Stasilli III, Michael Sherwood, Michael Jaszczak and Anthony Horecky.

**CONTACT THE RECTORY FOR YOUR LOVED
ONES NAMES TO BE ADDED IN PRAYER LIST**

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

O our beloved Saint Joseph, adopt us as your children and take charge of our salvation. Watch over us day and night and preserve us from all occasions of sin. Obtain for us purity of body and soul, and the spirit of prayer, through your intercession with Jesus. Grant us a spirit of sacrifice, humility, and self-denial. Obtain for us a burning love for Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament, and a tender love for Mary, our Mother. Saint Joseph, be with us in life, be with us in death, and obtain for us a favorable judgement from Jesus, our merciful Savior.

THE MEMORARE

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it know that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help or sought thy intercession was left unaided.

Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my mother; to thee do I come, before thee I stand sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word incarnate despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

LENT IS ARRIVING SOON

ASH WEDNESDAY is March 2

We will have the following schedule:

9 am Mass with the distribution of ashes

3 pm Prayer Service with distribution of ashes

7 pm Mass with the distribution of ashes

TODAY'S READINGS

(Scripture reflections also by Fr. Richard)

FIRST READING

In our reading we hear the wisdom of the prophet to not prejudge people by their appearances, but rather judge them from what they say, for our speech reveals our true character. This is especially good advice for our superficial times when image is more important than substance. Are we wise like this sage? Do we take time to speak to someone before we evaluate who they are, and whether they will enhance our faith or destroy it?

SECOND READING

In St Paul's Letter to the Corinthians, he explains that we, the followers of Jesus, benefit by his resurrection. Our mortal, corruptible nature is now covered over with immortality and incorruptibility! The grave is not the end, but rather a portal to a new beginning—life in Christ. Is this awareness how we live our lives? Do we feel the power of the resurrection? Do we live bravely?

THE GOSPEL

In today's gospel we see the Lord warn us of two severe evils: gossip and hypocrisy. How we love to talk about others so they appear small and we feel tall, puffed up by pride that we are better than them! Jesus warns us that this is spiritual corruption that leads to the death of the soul! Are we engaged in this? Then what a blessing to change our ways and begin to live lives that uplift others!

SUNDAY COLLECTION February 13, \$1,882

Color Copier: \$ 4,780.00 (total collected)

We are collecting donations for a color copier that would allow us to print The Bulletin in color. The Catholic Kolping Society of New York (of which I am the Spiritual Director) is also going to collect donations to help us in this cause. So far we have collected seven donations: eight from St. Anthony's totaling \$4,380 and two from Kolping for \$400. Please help us in our efforts! Also, I will be comparing three copiers for image quality, any suggestions? Tell me.

I HAVE NO CRYSTAL BALL, BUT

by Fr. Richard J Bretone

I HAVE NO CRYSTAL BALL, BUT I can share with you a feeling or premonition. One of the great clichés is: “a word to the wise is sufficient.” Having said this I would like to share with you some of the concerns that we priests shared at a priest gathering with the Priests of Sullivan County.

At that meeting the discussion gravitated towards the dwindling number of congregations and priests in Sullivan County. By all accounts Mass attendance has been down along with the number of young people enrolled in sacramental programs. Is this just from the rust that comes from getting over the church closings due to the Corona Virus, or does it portend of a greater trend that our county is aging and young families are going elsewhere? This is hard to answer, but what became evident is that some churches in the future may need to merge. We don't know when this will be or which churches may be involved, but I came away from that meeting with a troubled heart.

We have such a dynamic church here at St Anthony-St Thomas. We have friendly people, great music, numerous parish organizations and services to join like: The Knights of Columbus, The Rosary and Altar Society, The Cardinal Egan Memorial Library, The Food Pantry, Mary's Table, The Religious Education Program, Movie Night and AA. We also have a wonderful parish complex of buildings that can be used for education classes, workshops, parish gatherings, entertainment and bringing us all together in many other ways.

With all these spiritual assets, we need to help build up **some areas of potential weakness:**

- 1) We are a church that can pay our bills now; we should always **seek to pay our bills in the future**. It has come to my attention that there is over **\$25,000 in pledges to the Renew and Rebuild Fund that have not been paid**. Please, if you have promised to help with this Fund, and have not kept up with those promises, now is a great time to begin to make good on those pledges—we are as good as our word.
- 2) **Support the Cardinal's Appeal**. We are already half way to our \$7,500 goal, and we get to keep 60% of everything over this. We want to spruce up the parish center with the overage. Also, when it comes time to see if a church is vibrant and able to sustain itself (and therefore, stay open), the people in charge of these decisions may look at how generous we were to the support of the larger archdiocesan mission. **By attaining our appeal goal each year, we are also showing our greater support for the larger church;** we won't be seen as narrow-minded or only focused on our individual parish needs. (There are **envelopes** for The Cardinal's Appeal **in the vestibule** of our church)
- 3) **Bring a friend to Mass**. Before I came to St Anthony-St Thomas, I asked Fr. Joselin about how many people attended Mass. He said about 35 people per Mass. I am grateful for each and every person who joins us on Sunday, but looking at this from the point of view of a group of people who decides on what parishes to keep open, we definitely need to increase this number! So please invite a friend (and promise them brunch after the Mass, if you must!). **We will flourish!**