September 26, 2021
26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Intentions for the Week

Sat. Sept. 25	5pm	Gary Carbone Yvonne Plakiotis
Sun., Sept. 26	7:30am	Richard Myers
	9:00am	Harold Bolton
	10:30am	Carl Eckardt Peter Paul Caruso
	12:00pm	Terry Palmieri Eugenio & Rose Marie Chiaramonte Elba "Sonia" Rangel
Mon., Sept. 27	12:10pm	Lorette & Ed Lang Gabrielle Truyol-Go
Tues., Sept. 28	12:10pm	Emelina D. Bernardo
Wed., Sept. 29	12:10pm	Peter M. Conroy
Thurs., Sept. 30	12:10pm	John Gallagher Richard Esposito Lester Resh Phylis Resh Rose Prisco
Fri., Oct 1	12:10pm	Jillian Riedler
Sat., Oct 2	5:00pm	Robert Clark Campbell Doris Biache
Sun., Oct 3	7:30am	Richard Myers
	9:00am	Glen Mount Radine Buckley
	10:30am	Manual DaSilva Elisa S. Chicano
	12 noon	Gaetano "Thomas" Spinella Leonard Gopoon

Through the waters of Baptism, we welcome to the parish family ***Natalie Ann Bolinder,*** daughter of Will & Stephanie and ***William Francis Barra,*** son of Frank & Kate.

Divine Mercy Novena

We gather on Thursday evenings at 6:30pm at the side altar at the statue of the Blessed Virgil Mary for our weekly novena. You are cordially invited to join us!

Rosary Hour

Join us for our daily praying of the Rosary immediately following the 12:10pm Mass.

Novena to St. Joseph

On Tuesday immediately following the 12:10pm Mass, we invite you to join in our Novena to St. Joseph.

Family Rosary & Holy Hour

Every first and third Tuesday (October 5 & 19) the Knights of Columbus will hold a Rosary Hour in the Church. You are welcome to join them at 8pm in person and through live-stream.

Readings for the Week

Sunday: Nm 11:25-29; Jas 5:1-6; Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48
Monday: Zec 8:1-8; Lk 9:46-50
Tuesday: Zec 8:20-23; Lk 9:51-56
Wednesday: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12a; Jn 1:47-51
Thursday: Neh 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12; Lk 10:1-12
First Friday: Bar 1:15-22; Lk 10:13-16
First Saturday: Bar 4:5-12, 27-29; Mt 18:1-5, 10

Please remember in your prayers. . .

Our Family & Friends

Anne Benson
John O'Leary
Mary Maffeo
Sandra Buck
Stephen Burke
Miah Tully
Barbara Trzaska
Florence & John Luckey
Jackie Donnelley
Jerry Warrick
Rose Marie Warrick
Kamasha Redhead
Baby Emma Scannelli
Mary Eileen & Douglas Prisinzano
Ed Schrak
Marie Loughlin
Tony Loughlin
Judy Taylor
Marie E. Logan
Michael O'Connor
Debbie Dallemolle
Rosemary Paulison
Colleen Dillion & Family
John & Elizabeth Zisa
Teresa Procopio
Jeffrey Taszko
Christie Farias
Steve Hogan
Robert Taylor
Eileen Lagan
Bill Warrick
Barbara Bock

All those who service in defense of our Country, both at home and abroad

The deployed airmen of the 914 Air Refueling Wing,
SSGT Blake Reidinger
PO1 Timothy Butchko
LT Patrick Leahey
MJR Stephanie Sittman
LTR Andrew McGuinness
LCDR Daniel M. Leahey
LT Mark C. Leahey
LT Kian Federick Stewart
CPL Irvin Carithers
LT Kelsey Bergh
MJR Gary Windt
LT Ryan Feeney
SSGT Thomas Sittmann
SSGT Eric Wright
LT Mark Van Ordan
MSGT T.J. Hopkins
LT Tyler Huhn
DC1 Alexander V. Fernandez

FAITH FORMATION>>>

Faith Formation October Schedule

Grades K - 6

October 3: Children's Mass at 9am (attendance required)
Grade 2: In-person meeting from 10:15-11:45am
Drop off and Pick Up from the Tracy Center. You must sign you child/ren in and out.
October 8: K – 6 Rosary Walk 5-6pm on the Church grounds. Meet near Tracy Center.
This is a family day so at least one parent should attend with child.
October 17: Children's Mass at 9am (attendance required)
Grade 2: In-person meeting from 10:15-11:45am (Sign In and Out)

Grades 7 & 8

September 26 FISH Meeting 6:30-8:30 (TC)
October 2 Grades 7, 8 & 9 Day of Service on the Parish Grounds 9am – 12 noon
October 17: Youth & Family Mass

Grades 9 & 10

October 2: Grade 9 Day of Service on the Parish Grounds 9am – 12noon
October 3: Grade 10 FISH Meeting 6:30pm Tracy Center
October 17: Youth Mass
FISH Meeting 6:30pm in the Tracy Center

Thank you for your continued generosity. The collection for the last weekend was $8,662. (In pew = $5,846 + Faith Direct = $2,816). We very much appreciate your kindness.

Please consider using Faith Direct, an online giving service where you can donate the amount you currently give each Sunday through an online medium. Our parish number is NJ732. You can also use your cell phone and "text to give" at 973-221-9551 and follow the instructions for a one-time gift.

Parish Happenings>>>

Calling all ***PRIME TIME***ers! Due to the asbestos remediation in the school, we were unable to resume our meetings in September. But if you are ready to get together for an enjoyable social gathering, mark your calendar for Friday, October 15, from 1-3 p.m.

It's been s long 18 months since we last gathered and I am asking for your help as we return to a more normal life. I ask you for assistance in the 50/50, baking, program ideas, phone calls and on-site set-up. Please call me, Kathy Sisler at 973-538-1379 and let's talk.

Masks are not required, but if you feel more comfortable, please let's see who has the most decorative or unusual mask. After all, it will be Halloween month.
I look forward to seeing all of you on Friday, October 15th. Stay well and may our God bless us all.

The Rosary Society Trip to Sight & Sound, Lancaster, PA featuring ***Queen Esther***, departs the St. Virgil Church parking lot on Wednesday, October 13, at 8:45 a.m. and returns approx. 8:45 p.m. Please remember to bring along your vaccination card unless proof of vaccination has already been supplied to Long's Travel.

Come begin the month of October with ***First Friday Mass at Loyola*** Jesuit Center in Morristown. There will be a brief meditation followed by mass. All the begins at 7:00am.

2021 Diocesan Ministries Appeal
Let Your Light Shine

The 2021 Diocesan Ministries Appe00al (formerly call the 'Bishop's Annual Appeal') is officially kicking off this weekend. The theme of this year's Appeal is "*Let Your Light Shine".* After so much hardship experienced by many because of the pandemic, it appears that there is light at the end of the tunnel. Our 2021 Appeal theme reminds us that we we all have a role to play in diminishing the darkness by being beacons of hope for all in need. Please support our Diocesan Ministries Appeal that helps os many of our brothers and sisters in our Diocese.

The Diocesan Ministries Appeal supports the important work of our Catholic Charities, priests' extraordinary healthcare needs as well as Nazareth Village, our diocesan priests' retirement residence, Catholic inner-city elementary education and seminarian formation. Tens of thousands of people are helped each year because of your generous support. You can give with conficence, nowing that funds from the Diocesan Ministries Appeal are used solely for the causes described in the campaign materials. They are used for no other purpose. For your convenience, you can support the Diocesan Ministries Appeal by making an on-line gife. Simply go to www.2021appeal.org and follow the user - friendly instructions.

RCIA
An Invitation To Join Us For An Incredible Journey of Faith

RCIA, The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is the process by which people become members of the Roman Catholic Church. RCIA is an opportunity:

- For those who have not been baptized and would like to learn more about the Catholic Religion
- For those who have been baptized in another religion who think they might like to become Catholic
- For those baptized Catholic who have not completed the Initiation Sacraments or who have not been raised in the Catholic Faith
- For those who are 18 years or older.
- For those who have been baptized in another religion who think they might like to become Catholic
- For those baptized Catholic who have not completed the Initiation Sacraments or who have not been raised in the Catholic Faith

We will begin to meet on ***Wednesday, October 6, 2021***, at ***7:30pm in the Tracy Center***, to prepare for the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil in the spring of 2022. If you or someone you know may be interested in joining the group, please call the ***Parish Office at 973.538.1418.***

Registration for the RCIA process is now being taken. Registration period ends promptly on October 6, 2021.

Mary Help of Christians Academy in North Haledon will host a Fall Open House on Sunday, October 24, from 12 – :30pm. Register at www.maryhelp.org

Oratory Prep School in Summit will host their Open House on Sunday, October from 1 – 3pm and on Thursday, October 28 from 6:30-8:30pm. For further information visit www.oratoryprep.org

Road to Emmaus Men's Retreat

There will be a Men's Weekend Retreat entitled "Road to Emmaus" at St. Mary's Abby from October 15 through October 17. The retreat begins Friday evening at 6pm and concludes Sunday at noon. Cost is $200, but please don't let that be a barrier, we have scholarship funds available. Contact Deacon Joe Quinn at 973-476-8562 or joeq8562@gmail.com for further details and registration.

Rosary Walk
Friday, October 8, at 5pm on the Parish Grounds

Join with our Faith Formation families as we meditate the Rosary and pray for the intentions of our families and friends.

New Jersey Right to Life Car Raffle
At the Doors on the weekend of October 2-3

Tickets are $10 each. Be the winner of a 2022 Volvo XC40 AWD SUV valued at $41,340. Second, third and fourth prizes are for ShopRite Gift Cards valued at $1,000, $750, and $500 respectively. The drawing will be held at Maggiano's Little Italy in Bridgweater on November 19, 2021. Winner need not be present. Proceeds will benefit New Jersey Right to Life, the state's oldest and largest pro-life organization.

Evangelization Corner

Faithfulness is the sixth Fruit of the Holy Spirit. So, what is faithfulness?

Faithfulness is defined as the quality of being true to one's word or one's commitments; to do what one has pledged to do or to follow what one professes to believe. Faithfulness is also defined as lasting loyalty and trustworthiness in relationships such as marriage.

The Bible speaks of faithfulness in four ways:

1. as an attribute of God,
2. as a positive characteristic of some people
3. as a characteristic that many people lack, and
4. as a gift of the Holy Spirit.

For God, faithfulness is an integral part of His ethical nature. *(Psalm 89:8; Hebrews 13:8)* It is personified by His unwavering loyalty in His relations with man, especially with His people Israel. However, loyalty is only one aspect of God's faithfulness. God is also faithful in fulfilling His promises to man. He cannot lie nor break an unconditional promise that He says He will fulfill. (Hebrews 6:18) Every convenant He made is kept. Every promise or foretelling has or will come true. To be "faithful" is to be relliabile or trustworthy. God, therefore is worthy of our trust.

The Old Testament is a history of the people of Israel's failure to obey God; of their refusal to keep His commandments and statutes. As a result, God would punish them for their disobedience by deferring the fulfillment of His promises to the patriarchs. As the people repented for their disobedience, God responded with the goodness and mercy that is connected with His faithfulness in fulfilling His covenant promises.

There are also many references to the faithfulness of Christ in the New Testament. Where Jesus is called a faithful high priest, the idea expressed is His fidelity to His obligations to God and to His saving work *(Hebrews 2:17; 3:1,6)*

Paul teaches that God's faithfulness to His promise to man is never impacted by man's unfaithfulness to God's law. God faithfulness is unchangeable loyalty to His covenant promises; and it is this fidelity to His promises that God's gifts are without any change of mind on His part, *"For the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable." (Romans 11:29)*

John also ascribes faithfulness as an aspect of God's nature since one of the most precious of God's promises is that throught the 'blood of Jesus Christ' we can obtain the forgiveness

from sin. *"If we acknowledge our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from every wrongdoing." (1 John 1:9)*

Peter views the faithfulness of God slightly different. Peter says that, *"those who suffer in accordance with God's will* [doing good in his name]" are handing their souls over to a faithful Creator. (1 Peter 4:19).

We will discuss what 'faithfulness as a positive characteristic of some people' is in next week's column.

May the Lord's peace be with you always!

Evangelization Ministry

Weekly Reflection
26th Sunday in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: Numbers 11:25-29
Responsorial Psalm 19:8-14
2nd Reading: James 5:1-6
Gospel Acclamation: John 17:17b
Gospel: Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48
Communion Antiphon: Psalm 119

Today's writings by James and Mark focus on the question of that which we need to enter the Kingdom: our faith or good deeds? The answer, actually is that we need both! The readings tell us stories of failure to live life going in the right direction. "You have lived on earth in luxury, and pleasure, you have fattened your hears for the day of slaughter.: James is warning us about how to live our lives. Mark tells us of a quote that most of us are familiar with, "Whoever is not against us is for us" … "Anyone who gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ, amen, I say to you, will surely not lose his reward." Christ, several times in the Gospels, has referred to the questions of "faith" and good deeds," and the answer He gives us is that we should not judge anyone if they are going a good deed—they should not be told that one must follow some procedure to make an act a good deed. It is the faith joined with the act that gives truth and value to an act!"

This issue has traveled with us across the ages. The Protestant Reformation also dealt with this question. Christ continues to tell us that truth matters. We are told that "the ordinances went about prophesying without being blessed by the Spirit of God. Other prophets complained of this to Moses, he answered: "Would that the Lord might bestow his spirit on them all!" He was making it clear that God, in His Kingdom, doesn't require one to dress, walk, and talk a certain way. If we believe in the justice of God, and act because of our faith, that is all He requires. When we look at the Second reading and the Gospel of Mark, it gives us some alarming statements, telling us "If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed than with two hands to go into Gehenna, into the unquenchable fire." These are difficult words that support the necessity, the mandatory, need for both good works and faith in our lives.

Lord, please stay with us, guiding our daily acts and faith; and be our guide!