

# St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish

SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

*24<sup>th</sup> Sunday*  
IN ORDINARY TIME

## MISSION STATEMENT

We Worship ~ We Teach ~ We Care

5112 Pocono Crest Road  
PO Box O  
Pocono Pines, PA 18350

Mass Schedule:  
Saturday 4:00 pm  
Sunday 8:30 am & 10:30 am

September 13, 2020

24th Sunday

in Ordinary Time



*“So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives your brother from your heart.”*

*Mt 18:35*



**St. Maximilian Kolbe**  
Parish Staff

**Reverend Sean G. Carpenter**  
~ Pastor

**Deacon Frank Gisoldi**

**Deacon Tom Amoroso**

**Melissa Laverty**

Pastoral Associate  
Coordinator of Religious Education  
~ St.MaxMelissa@outlook.com

**Juli Reese**

Office Manager ~ Stmaxkol@ptd.net

**John Marcinkowski, Jr.**

Coordinator of Music ~ jjm1105@ptd.net

Visit us on the web @ [www.stmaxkolbepoconos.org](http://www.stmaxkolbepoconos.org)

## GOSPEL MEDITATION

What right do we have to limit the amount and degree of forgiveness we show to others when we are so desperately in need of it ourselves? In not wanting someone who hurt us to downplay or forget the gravity of their wrong, we cling to anger, resentment, and wrath as a way of maintaining control. It is a way to acknowledge and express our deep hurt. We fail to realize that in doing so we hold ourselves hostage to these destructive feelings and actually become mired in the bondage of sin. All we gain is further alienation from ourselves, others, and especially God. We are no longer free but tethered to all of this unresolved negativity. Don't we really want to let it go? The fact is that we need to.

A good self-reflective posture will quickly show us that when the shoe is on the other foot and we are the ones in need of forgiveness, we desire it above anything else. This is especially true with our relationship with God. It is hypocritical to want one thing for ourselves and something else for another. Yet, many act in precisely this way.

Perhaps we think that in offering forgiveness, even for the most grievous of wrongs, somehow excuses the person of their wrong and makes it almost acceptable. This is what makes revenge, retaliation, and punishment so attractive. We see forgiveness as being an eraser that easily wipes away the offense without consequence. Or, we may believe that in offering forgiveness I must somehow forget the wrong and open myself as a victim of even greater possible hurts in the future. In fact, forgiving my sister or brother of their wrongful actions or attitudes involves none of this. It does not erase anything or position me vulnerably as a doormat to be walked on.

Forgiveness is an act of freedom that restores honest dialogue, shares true, and heartfelt feelings and acknowledges the consequences of an action. It admits that the wrong has caused a hurt that must be healed and squarely positions responsibility on the offender. The act of forgiveness recognizes our sinfulness and brokenness. It also admits that the most saintly among us is capable of doing very grave and deep harm to another person. It sees that we all can be victims of our passions and works in progress that deserve unlimited chances to get it right. With forgiveness, I release myself from the bonds of negativity and pursue a path of restoration, wholeness, and healing. I do not forget the wrong nor do I dismiss it. Sometimes, we have to stay far away from the one who hurt us. But we can still heal internally and be free.

For the one who wants to be forgiven and the one who needs offer forgiveness, the journey can be an adventure in learning what brought us to this place and what is needed to move forward. This is exactly how God treats us. Why would we not want to do the same for others?

St. Maximilian Kolbe, Priest and Martyr, pray for us



September 12th through September 20th

- Saturday: **Anne Marie Alcamo**  
by Nat Alcamo
- Sunday: **For The Parishioners**  
**Eugene Gartner & Daughter Denise**  
by Joan Gartner
- Monday: **Timothy Volpe**  
by Bruce Wheeler & Karen Nissen
- Tuesday: **Betty Lou Torpey** by Parish Staff
- Wednesday: **Milton Ramos**  
by The Dunham Family
- Thursday: **Intentions of Sandy Marsh**
- Saturday: **Robert Salter**  
by Joanne & Tony Guerra
- Sunday: **For the Parishioners**  
**Frank Chabala**  
by The Gregorowicz Family

Bread and Wine: For Victims of Abortion

On Monday, September 14th, at 6 p.m. the Knights of Columbus and Fr. Jim Torpey will hold a Holy Hour for the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. The Holy Hour will include Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, the recitation of the Holy Rosary and Benediction. You are invited to bring a cross/crucifix to be blessed by Fr. Jim per the guidelines set forth by the Diocese of Scranton. Social distancing will be practiced and masks are required. For more information contact the parish office.



MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday 4 pm

Sunday - 8:30 am & 10:30 am

Daily Masses

Monday through Thursday at 9:15 am

All masses will be on a first come, first serve basis. Overflow seating will be in the parish hall with live television. Everyone is required to wear a mask and ushers will take everyone to their seats, following social distancing protocols. We humbly ask for your patience and cooperation with this arrangement.

Online masses continue on Zoom, Facebook Live, and Pocono Catholic.

Go to our website: [stmaxkolbepoconos.org](http://stmaxkolbepoconos.org), for weekly bulletins and other information regarding our parish.

Readings for the Week of September 13th

- Sunday: Sir 27:30—28:7; Rom 14:7-9; Mt 18:21-35
- Monday: Nm 21:4b-9; Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17
- Tuesday: 1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a; Jn 19:25-27
- Wednesday: 1 Cor 12:31—13:13; Lk 7:31-35
- Thursday: 1 Cor 15:1-11; Lk 7:36-50
- Friday: 1 Cor 15:12-20; Lk 8:1-3
- Saturday: 1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49; Lk 8:4-15
- Sunday: Is 55:6-9; Phil 1:20c-24, 27a; Mt 20:1-16a



Confessions/Anointing of the Sick

by appointment -only for serious need

First Friday Adoration

Suspended until further notice



We thank those who continue to support through Parish Pay or by other means. In addition, your donation can be mailed to St. Maximilian at PO Box O, Pocono Pines, PA 18350  
Thank You for Your Generosity

ST. MAX Raffle

Total ticket sales for our raffle was \$14,360. Thanks to the matching donation and after prizes were given out, our parish raised a total of \$25,848.

The winners were:

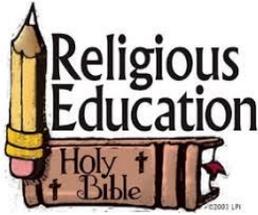
- Robert and Geraldine Williams—\$1,436.
- Chris D'Ascenzo—\$718.
- Peggy Bostwick—\$718.

*Thanks to everyone who supported this fundraiser.*



Faith Formation

**Attention St. Max Faith Formation Families,**



This year, all Faith Formation classes will be taking place online. In the coming weeks, your children's teachers and I will be undergoing training

by the Diocese of Scranton and I will have more details very soon. We hope to be up and running for the weekend of September 19 and 20, which is when regular in-person classes would have started.

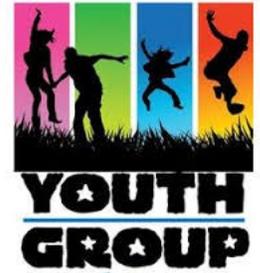
For this year, all registration fees will be waived, but you must still register your children by sending in the registration form that was mailed. If you did not receive one please call the parish office. Please return this form to Melissa via email or snail mail, or by bringing it to the parish office.

Thank you for your patience and understanding, since we are all trying to navigate the plans for the upcoming school year for our children. Please call me with any question you may have. -Melissa

**Youth Group Forming**

For teens in 7th grade and up.

Aubrey Reese and Lillian Namik are starting a youth group. The goal is to meet twice a month based on student and parent's availability. One of the meetings will focus on the spiritual works of mercy, these meeting would include food, bible study and prayer. The other meeting will focus on the corporal works of mercy ( e.g. canned food drive, visiting the sick, volunteering at a shelter) or a fun activity to connect and form relationships with likeminded peers. This will be designed for St. Max parishioners, but all are welcome. This will begin virtually, so if you have a child that is interested, please email or text to Aubrey:



[areese@thecommonsofscranton.com](mailto:areese@thecommonsofscranton.com)  
804-572-3399

**Led by Social Concerns Committee, Parishioners Lend a Helping Hand**



Kudos to the members of the St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish Social Concerns Committee, along with a group of very dedicated parishioners, who in August prepared 18 meals for Family Promise of Monroe County. Family Promise is a non-profit

organization that supports homeless families with children. Members of the Social Concerns Committee received an urgent request to support a homeless family of four – a mother and her three children, including a five-month-old infant. The very next day, the St. Max team delivered four days of fully cooked meals to the family. After that, the cooks committed to providing another three meals to be delivered the following week.

As the committee was working to support this family, another homeless family of four reached out to Family Promise for support and the St. Max ladies went right to work cooking for them as well, delivering fully cooked meals for two weeks straight. The committee will continue to support this family in the beginning of September as well.

If you would like to assist the committee with this effort, contact the parish office at 570-646-6424.



The St Max Prayer Shawl Ministry has prayer shawls available for those in need.

Please contact the parish office to arrange a time to pick one up.

# RESPONDING *to the Call*

*Tuesday is The Feast of  
Our Lady of Sorrows*

## **Should I Stay or Should I Go?**

Life is not always easy on us and it can be hard to figure out the next step to take in our journey. We can even become immobilized by indecisiveness and fear about making the wrong move or choosing the incorrect path. I think of the song, *Should I Stay, or Should I Go*, as a mantra for many times in my life. Should I stay in this house, this job, or this car? Should I go here or there? When those times of decision surface, I usually turn to my wife, my friends, or even my children. Talking it out can help, and their perspectives give me more data to consider. When I lean on others to help me make a decision, it helps me become more confident in my choices.

Discerning the will of God is not easy either. Rarely do we understand God's calling clearly at first. God's calling is always more easily discerned within a community of faithful disciples. Our stewardship way of life can suffer greatly if we refuse to allow others to assist us in the process of discernment. What gifts or talents are needed for the task at hand? Where do I fit best into God's plan? Where is God leading me? No one should have to decide the answers to these questions alone. We need to always lean on the Body of Christ to help us see the path that God has laid before us. Without a little help along the journey, over time we might find ourselves stuck in the same place where we started.



## **Reflection**

John's account of Jesus' death is highly symbolic. When Jesus gives the beloved disciple to Mary, we are invited to appreciate Mary's role in the Church: She symbolizes the Church; the beloved disciple represents all believers. As Mary mothered Jesus, she is now mother to all his followers.

Furthermore, as Jesus died, he handed over his Spirit. Mary and the Spirit cooperate in begetting new children of God—almost an echo of Luke's account of Jesus' conception.

Christians can trust that they will continue to experience the caring presence of Mary and Jesus' Spirit throughout their lives and throughout history.

## *Congratulations*

*St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish*

*...for reaching your Appeal Goal*

*You are part of the Gospel in action  
through the good works of our Diocese  
serving our brothers and sisters in Christ.  
Peace and blessings to you!*

Your gifts helped to raise \$4.1 million for Diocesan Ministries

- Catholic Social Services
- Catholic Media
- Care & Education of Clergy
- Parish Life
- Catholic Education
- Parish Social Justice Grants
- Parish Faith Formation Grants

2019 Diocese of Scranton  
**DIOCESAN**  
ANNUAL APPEAL

SERVING *faith*  
IN WITH HOPE  
AND GRATITUDE