

*The kingdom of heaven is like
treasure hidden in a field.*

When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy
went and sold all he had and bought that field.

Matthew 13:44



VICARIATE
FOUR
GROUPING
438
N. Oakland
Chicora
Carbon Center

St. Joseph Parish

Located at 864 Chicora Rd.

Chicora, PA 16025

724-445-3713

Fax: 724-607-1183

Office Hours by PHONE only:

M. T. Th. - 9:30am-Noon

Mater Dolorosa Parish

Located at 409 North Main St.

Chicora, PA 16025

724-445-3713

Office Hours by PHONE only

at St. Joe Rectory:

M. T. Th. - 9:30am-Noon

St. Wendelin Parish

Located at 210 St. Wendelin Rd.

Butler, PA 16002

724-287-0820

www.stwendelinbutler.com

Office Hours:

M. W. F. - 9:00am-Noon

July 26, 2020

The Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

A Message from Fr. Matt...

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

One thing that we have no shortage of in our Parish Grouping is trucks. Most Sundays, you see quite a few in each of our parking lots. I have to admit, I have no opinion on which kind is better, but I know that is a topic that can cause a lot of debate. The thing is, whether you are a Ford person, a Chevy person, or a Ram person, you have to take care of your truck or it is going to give you problems. That doesn't mean you have to be soft on it. A little mud never hurt a truck, but if you don't change your oil and keep an eye on gauges, no matter what you drive, it is going to break down.



In the Second Reading today from the Letter to the Romans, St. Paul says, "We know that all things work for the good..." St. Paul continues, but to be honest, most people stop reading there. We all think that stuff should go our way. We say things like "everything happens for a reason" and assume that questionable situations will work out in the end. When things don't go well, when

they don't end up the way we want them to, when we realize that there isn't a reason for every bad thing, we get mad at God and question His existence. If He does exist, we wonder whether we should follow Him, or we say something like "I guess it is just God's plan."

The thing is, many times, it isn't God's plan. God's plan isn't for hatred or violence or fear or mistrust to rule the day. Why does it so often end up that this is the case? Let's look back at what St. Paul says and finish the sentence that I quoted. St. Paul says that "all things work for the good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." If you don't do what is good and right and healthy for your truck, it will break down, Ford or not. If we don't love God and live according to God's purpose, why would we expect everything to go fine? It won't. In physical, emotional or familial ways, we will break down. When your truck breaks down while you have done nothing to keep it up, do you blame the company? If you do, you're silly. So when we break down in some way, and we haven't been doing good things to keep ourselves up by loving God and following His ways, who do we blame? Let's not be silly. It is on us.

There are two ways of looking at the Gospel today. One way tells us how to live as someone who loves God. The other way tells us why we should. The first way can be seen by looking at the treasure in the field and the pearl of great price as our relationship with God. This relationship, loving God and following His ways, is worth giving up everything for. If we learn from this way of looking at the Gospel message, we need to ask ourselves, is God first in our lives? Do we try to live lives that are pleasing to God? Is there anything we need to give up or get away from so that God can be our leader, our center, our everything? These are important questions not only to be asked, but to be answered and acted on. You can think all you want about changing your truck oil, but it is not going to happen unless you actually do it!

The second way of looking at the Gospel today tells us why. What if we look at the treasure in the field and the pearl of great price as us? Who, then, is the man who buries the treasure and sells all he has to buy the field? Who is the merchant who sells all that he has to buy the pearl of great price? It is God. Think about it. God has given everything, even the life of His Only Son, to win us! To God, you are the treasure! He has given everything for you. So why should we change our oil and love God with everything and follow His ways? Because God loves you so much He gave everything for you. He will not lead you the wrong way. And when we love God and follow God's lead, everything does work for the good, there is a reason for everything, and God does have a plan!

So let's do what is good for us. Let us live in a way that will lead to all things, tough things, sad things hard things, work for the good. Let us check our brakes, change our oil, love God, and live the way He made us to live. You are everything to Him. That is a good reason why.

Peace and Love,
Fr. Matt



**JULY 27 THRU
AUGUST 2**

MONDAY:

JER 13:1-11; DT 32:18-21; MT 13:31-35

TUESDAY:

JER 14:17-22; Ps 79:8, 9, 11, 13;
MT 13:36-43

WEDNESDAY:

JER 15:10, 16-21; Ps 34:2-11; JN 11:19-27
OR LK 10:38-42

THURSDAY:

JER 18:1-6; Ps 146:1B-6AB; MT 13:47-53

FRIDAY:

JER 26:1-9; Ps 69:5, 8-10, 14; MT 13:54-58

SATURDAY:

JER 26:11-16, 24;
Ps 69:15-16, 30-31, 33-34; MT 14:1-12

SUNDAY:

Is 55:1-3; Ps 145:8-9, 15-18;
ROM 8:35, 37-39; MT 14:13-21



Sympathy is extended to the families of

Ronald C. "Ron" Thoma

who was laid to rest on July 20, 2020
from Mater Dolorosa Parish

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon him.

May he rest in peace.

Loretta J. Hillwig

who was laid to rest on July 20, 2020
from Mater Dolorosa Parish

Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon her.

May she rest in peace.



CONGRATULATIONS!

William & Kristen Davis
on the baptism of their daughter
CLAIRE MARIE DAVIS
on July 19, 2020

MAY JESUS ALWAYS BE HER LIGHT



CONGRATULATIONS FIRST HOLY COMMUNION RECIPIENTS AT MATER DOLOROSA AND ST. JOSEPH!

Seven children (left) received the Sacrament of the Eucharist for the first time at Mater Dolorosa Mass last week. **GOD BLESS!**

This past Thursday, the first group of Confirmation candidates received the Sacrament, and the second group will be anointed this week. Please keep all these youth in your prayers as the Gifts of the Holy Spirit enlighten and engage.

Schedule for Monday, July 27-Sunday, August 2 ~ MASSES, CONFESSIONS, OPEN CHURCHES

Monday, July 27

Noon Mass at MD
For Shirley Heitlinger
By Fred & Martha Callihan
Open church 11am till Mass starts

Tuesday, July 28

8am Mass at SW
For Parishioners of St. Joseph,
Mater Dolorosa & St. Wendelin
Open church after Mass till 10am

Wednesday, July 29

Noon Mass at SW
For Gladys Steighner
By M/M William Seelnacht
Open church 11am till Mass starts

Wednesday, July 29 *continued*

6pm Confessions at MD
Open church 6pm till Mass
starts at 7pm at MD
For Tyler Barger
By Paul & Jill Izenas

Thursday, July 30

8am Mass at SW
For Larry Weiland
By Dennis & Yvonne Young
Open church after Mass till 10am

Friday, July 31

Noon Mass at SJ
For Rose Filges
By Fran Waltman
Open church 11am till Mass starts

Saturday, August 1

11am Confessions at MD and SW
and 11:45am at SJ
4pm Mass at SW
For James E. Neff Family
By Wife & Children

Sunday, August 2

8am Mass at MD
For Shirley Heitlinger
By Fred & Martha Callihan
9:30am Mass at SJ
For Parishioners of St. Joseph,
Mater Dolorosa & St. Wendelin
11am Mass at SW
For Gladys Steighner
By Floyd & Dolores Neigh



Parish Offertories

July 18 & 19

ST. JOSEPH PARISH

Offertory at Mass 7/19	\$1,399.00
Offertory Online	\$75.00
Total Offertory	\$1,474.00
Weekly Goal	\$1,500.00
Fiscal Year Goal	\$75,000.00
Total Toward Fiscal Year Goal	\$2,611.00
Parish Share: Monthly Envelope on Appeal	\$15.00
PSP Online	\$00.00
Total Parish Share	\$15.00
2020 Parish Share Goal	\$6,289.00
Total PSP Received 2020/21	\$10,293.00

MATER DOLOROSA

Offertory at Mass 7/19	\$939.00
Offertory Online	\$155.00
Total Offertory	\$1,094.00
Weekly Goal	\$3,400.00
Fiscal Year Goal	\$175,000.00
Total Toward Fiscal Year Goal	\$4,165.00
House	\$25.00
Parish Share: Monthly Envelope on Appeal	\$75.00
PSP Online	\$00.00
Total Parish Share	\$75.00
2020 Parish Share Goal	\$20,985.00
Total Received 2020/21	\$12,265.00

Thank you for your generosity to Parish Ministries!

ST. WENDELIN PARISH

Offertory at Mass 7/18 & 19	\$2,497.00
Offertory Online	\$1,221.00
Total Offertory	\$3,718.00
Weekly Goal	\$5,800.00
Fiscal Year Goal	\$300,000.00
Total Toward Fiscal Year Goal	\$14,693.00
Project Fund	\$45.00
Adopt A Child	\$55.00
Parish Share	\$945.00
Parish Online	\$40.00
Total Parish Share	\$985.00
2020 Parish Share Goal	\$47,710.00
Total PSP Received 2020/21	\$17,389.00
SWS Endowment Y-T-D	\$530.00

Grouping Information

This week's St. Wendelin School
Student of the Week is:

QUINNALY WELTER

Quin will be a
Second Grade Student
in the Fall of 2020.
She has an older sister
Trinity who also
attends St. Wendelin.
Quin's favorite subject
is Art, because
she likes to make crafts.
She is a member of the
St. Wendelin School
Chorus. Quin has earned
awards for perfect
attendance. Outside of
school, she likes to play
on the swings and slide.
Quin also enjoys swimming
in the pond by her house
and petting the animals
on her farm. Quin has a
wonderful personality
and is always willing to
lend a helping hand.

Congratulations to
this week's
St. Wendelin School
Student of the Week,
QUINNALY WELTER!

Basket Raffle Donations - LAST WEEK!

We are known far and wide for our Basket Raffle. Can you help with a donation this year? Please no individual items, ONLY COMPLETED BASKETS, cash, lottery tickets or gift cards. Drop at the SWP Office. Deadline is **Wednesday, July 29**. You will be able to purchase tickets for the Basket Raffle on the day of the dinner or online thru the website starting on **Saturday, August 1**.

ALL OTHER PICNIC ACTIVITIES SUSPENDED THIS YEAR. Thank you for understanding.

Catholic Identity Program

This program highlights a variety of virtues and values through short lessons, prayers, Scripture references, and more.

This Week's Virtue is:

INTEGRITY

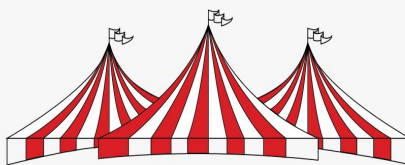
Integrity is acting and speaking with honesty and sincerity. It means doing the right thing, even if it is hard, in order to live according to God's Commandments and the teachings of Jesus.

LET YOUR
YES *be* **YES**
AND YOUR
NO *be* **NO**

Scripture Reflection on Integrity

Matthew 5:33-37

- 33 Again you have heard that it was said to your ancestors, 'Do not take a false oath, but make good to the Lord all that you vow.'
34 But I say to you, do not swear at all; not by heaven, for it is God's throne;
35 nor by the earth, for it is his footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King.
36 Do not swear by your head, for you cannot make a single hair white or black.
37 Let your 'Yes' mean 'Yes,' and your 'No' mean 'No.' Anything more is from the evil one.



SWP "PICNIC" INFO

SWP plans to host a Dinner and Basket Raffle on **Sunday, August 16**, Noon-4:00pm.

We will have a **DRIVE THRU** dinner, featuring our famous

char-grilled chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, stuffing, green beans, cole slaw, cucumbers, and dessert. Please note it is **DRIVE THRU only**. Also available are tickets for a chance on our awesome Raffle Baskets, all hands-off. You can purchase Basket Raffle tickets online starting **August 1**, access thru the website: <https://www.stwendelinbutler.com/>

Cupcakes: Bake Away!

To keep items as hands-off as possible and the drive thru line moving, donate only cupcakes for the dinners. Call SWP office to let us know how many to expect. YUM!

Volunteers

Eighth grade and older can offer a two-hour time slot on **Sunday, August 16**, or for veggie cutting on **Saturday, August 15**, or bread cutting on **Wednesday, August 12**.

Donations

Cash donations welcome to defer the cost of the dinners or to use for a Raffle Basket. Drop off or mail your donation to the SWP Office.