

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
SEPTEMBER 24, 2017



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2017

5:30 P.M. Rita Destito
Tom Norton
Kathleen Guerin

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2017

7:30 A.M. Parishioners
Anne & Carl Hivish
Emilia Glorioso
Emilia & Michael Gorzelany

10:00 A.M. Dorothy & Frank Orofino
Shirley & Roy Parian

12:00 P.M. Ralph Lavella
Michael Bilancia

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2017

8:00 A.M. Alberto Maccaferri

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2017

8:00 A.M. Betty Gramilch

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2017

8:00 A.M. Ernest Canali

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2017

8:00 A.M. Greg Grubaush

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

5:30 P.M. Tom Norton
Bill Vogt

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2017

7:30 A.M. Parishioners
Anna Millraney
Ada & Irving Rumsey

10:00 A.M. Violet Klemens
Bill Vogt
Ann Langley

12:00 P.M. In Thanksgiving

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

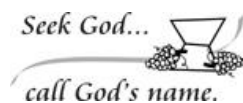
SICK: Mary Carton Jacob Hicks Ron Moebius
Nina Margossian Tom Guzowski Audrey Grace Higgins
Gary Ragusa Silverio Conte Alex Haines
Baby Michael Soojian Jan Hongo Susan Nichols-Boggio
Baby Ryder Sasso Carmela Fusco Frank Morici
Frances De Maria Dorothea King Jerome Foray
Gabe Bellantoni Manuel Esguerra Eileen McPartland
Rosemary Liebman Cenia Soto Sandra Pacifico
Sharon Acquaia Noah Lorencovitz John Carolan
Sister Marie Louise Rosemary Pannone
Evelyn Means Barbara Kincaid Frank Sanclementi
Carmela Caropreso Bitondo

DECEASED: James P. Provenzano Stella Solensky
Ann Langley Robin May

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday – \$5,493.00

Thank you for your continued support.



Dear friends in Christ,



Seek the Lord! From the very first reading today from the Prophet Isaiah, we are told to seek God, to seek the Lord, to look for the divine. Most of us are fairly relaxed about seeking God and we get around to this religious work without much stress. That is probably good. The challenge for us is to realize how wonderful God is and how much God loves us.

Today's Gospel from Saint Matthew is trying to tell about God's love. God does not care when we turn to Him. He always wants us to turn to Him right now. Now is the time of salvation. Always the reward is the same: complete love and acceptance and the forgiveness of our sins. Some Christians in earlier times took this as a way to put off conversion and wait until the end of life to be baptized. This is a complete misunderstanding of God's love. God wants to love us now! God wants to share His life with us now!

This Gospel account wants us to understand that whenever we turn to God, God is there to receive us. God always loves us. Always. God is present with His love inviting every moment of our lives. We want to live in a way which responds to God's love.

The Gospel is also a teaching against envy. We can surely understand that if we have been on the path of the Lord, we have given up various aspects of pleasure and delight that the world values. The present values of the world want us to think that we should always seek our own good first, that we should have as much pleasure as possible, that we should strive to have money and power, and so on. These are not the values of the Gospel.

Honestly, of course, we can admire those who seem to have everything in this world. The real value, however, is in our hearts. If our hearts are not set on God and seeking God, then all else is vanity and emptiness. This is the meaning of the second reading today, from the Letter to the Philippians: conduct yourselves in a way worthy of the gospel of Christ.

The language of the Gospel and of the New Testament in general can at times sound like an obligation. The heart of the New Testament however is not obligation but invitation. Jesus invites us to know the love of the Father. Jesus invites to live in the joy of the Holy Spirit. Jesus invites to embrace the Cross, but only because we love Him, not because suffering is good of itself. If we are to love completely in this world, we will learn to embrace the Cross of Jesus.

We must be free of all envy. Others may have more that we do in this life, but our task is to have hearts that are rich in grace and love. Come, Lord Jesus!

**St. Robert Bellarmine,
Feast Day September 16**

The First Letter of St. Paul to Timothy lists the virtues required of a bishop; he should be "temperate, self-controlled, decent, hospitable, and able to teach." These words describe St. Robert Bellarmine very well. He was a diocesan bishop for only a few years, but he distinguished himself for his zeal and ability in preaching and teaching the faith. He did this not only as a Bishop, but all of his life.

Robert Bellarmine was born in 1542 in Montepulciano in Italy and joined the Jesuits at a young age. He used his abilities and

knowledge to serve the Church well in many important and high profile positions. He addressed controversies at the Roman College, and was a trusted consultant to several popes, cardinals and archbishops. In his own time as archbishop, he dedicated himself to bringing his people into closer union with God by instructing them in the faith. At a time when sermons were common only during Advent and Lent, St. Robert preached every Sunday and feast day. He went to great trouble to get to the remote portions of his diocese during the week in order to catechize his congregation.

Although Robert was named a cardinal in 1598 by Pope Clement VIII, he always led a humble and caring life. He once gave the curtains in his room to a poor man to use as blankets. He showed a sense of humor when he said, "The walls won't get cold". He died in 1621, was canonized in 1930 and is a Doctor of the Church.

St. Robert Bellarmine devoted his life to teaching the faith. That is why he is now invoked as the patron saint of catechists. We are just beginning a new year of religious education here at St. Francis. We can pray that this great saint will intercede for our catechists and guide them well as they teach the youngsters in our CCD and Confirmation programs.

St. Wenceslaus (sometimes spelled Wenceslas) Feast Day: September 28

Wenceslaus was born in Bohemia in 907. His father was killed in battle when he was young. This left the kingdom of Bohemia in the hands of his pagan mother, who favored the anti-Christian groups in their country. Ludmilla, Wenceslaus's grandmother, was a good Christian. She took over his education. Ludmilla was determined that Wenceslaus would do two things: be a Christian and rule his country instead of letting his mother take over. Nobles of pagan heritage killed Ludmilla, but she had done her work well. Wenceslaus became the ruler—a well-educated, Christian one. Wenceslaus first made peace with his mother so that he could govern. He worked with the Church, ended the persecution of the Christians, brought back exiled priests, and built churches. Wenceslaus set an example all could follow. He gave alms, was just to those who were rich and those who were poor, visited prisoners, and promoted the religious and educational improvement of his people. To do this, Wenceslaus had to make peace with the king of the German empire, and that decreased the independence of Bohemia as a nation. This caused opposition from the Bohemian nobles. They were angry because they were ruled by a Christian king.

Boleslaus, the brother of Wenceslaus, was jealous that his brother was king. Boleslaus invited Wenceslaus to a banquet. The next morning as Wenceslaus was on his way to Mass, Boleslaus hit him. As they struggled, the friends of Boleslaus ran up and killed King Wenceslaus at the chapel door. Before he died, Wenceslaus asked God's mercy for his brother. Immediately, Wenceslaus was recognized as a martyr. He was proclaimed patron of Bohemia, now the Czech Republic. His picture was engraved on coins, and the crown of Wenceslaus became a symbol of Czech nationalism and independence. His life is a shining example of love of country and neighbor.

Do you know the famous Christmas Carol, "Good King Wenceslas"? It tells the story of a Bohemian king made a journey in cold and snowy winter weather to give alms to a poor peasant on the Feast of Stephen. That good king was St. Wenceslas.

KIDNEY NEEDED

There is a parishioner in our parish who needs, most of all, your prayers, but who is in need of a kidney. Sometimes just knowing of a need or talking about it, brings amazing results. So, in your conversations, you may want to bring this topic up because you never know whose ears that this story falls upon, might be the lifesaving ones. But, above all, prayers are priceless. Thank you and God bless you.

LAST CALL FOR DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO NATIONAL BASILICA IN WASHINGTON D.C.

On Saturday, October 21st Paterson Diocese parishioners are invited to join a diocesan pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. The pilgrimage gives everyone the opportunity to pray together as one diocese in our nation's largest Church. (As one who has attended this pilgrimage several times, we are a mighty voice when we pray together as one.) The day includes Mass with the Bishop and the priests of the diocese, spiritual devotions and prayers, as well as the opportunity for Holy Confession.

THE LAST DAY FOR THE SIGN-UPS HAS BEEN CHANGED TO SEPTEMBER 30th!! If you wish to come (and who wouldn't want to come??), please call me (Pat Demarest, 973 831 6513) or the rectory and leave your name and phone number. Bring your \$49.00 check made out to St. Francis of Assisi to the rectory some time NEXT WEEK. We will let you know about departure times as soon as we can. If you have questions, call Pat Demarest as 973 831 6513.

SATURDAY MASS AND ROSARY NOVENA

On Saturday, Oct. 7th, we will begin a new five month novena to Our Lady of Fatima in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of her appearances to the children at Fatima, Portugal. This novena requires us, for five consecutive months, to go to confession within 8 days of the First Saturday, receive Holy Communion, and say the rosary. These five first Saturdays must be offered to console the heart of Mary saddened by the indifference and ingratitude of so many people. October 13th 1917 was Mary's last appearance to the children, Lucia, Jacinta, and Francisco and our novena will be completed Nov. 4th.

As with the Patriotic Rosary, we will begin with an 11:00am mass to be followed by the novena. For those who complete the novena Mary has promised Lucia that she will help them at the hour of death with the graces of salvation. Please come and pray with us. It is a good thing to do.

DON BOSCO FALL OPEN HOUSE

Registration is now open for middle school and transfer students to Don Bosco Prep's Fall 2017 Open Houses! The open houses are scheduled for Thursday, September 28th, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and Sunday, October 29th from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. (preceded by 12:00 p.m. Mass). At these open houses, students and families will learn about what it is like to attend Don Bosco Prep on a daily basis and about what it means to be an Ironman. For more information and additional questions please contact Mr. Christopher Donnelly via email at cdonnelly@donboscoprep.org or phone at 201-327-8003 ext 102.

FROZEN CARNIVAL FOOD ITEMS AVAILABLE:

The following is a list of foods from the carnival. They are frozen. If you would like to purchase any, please call the rectory – 973-835-0480

10 pound boxes of 4oz. hamburger patties: \$22 per box (6 left)

2.5 pound bags of onion rings: \$4 per bag (10 left)

5 pound bags of mozzarella cheese: \$9 per bag (5 left)

Do ‘Something Beautiful for God’

From Sept. 27 through Nov. 5, there will be “40 Days for Life” daily prayer vigils around the world outside of Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers. Please join us as we pray the rosary at 196 Speedwell Ave. - Planned Parenthood of Morristown - where every day, three babies die from chemical abortions; i.e. over a thousand each year. Your gift of an hour or more of peaceful witness and prayer any time between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., Monday through Sunday, will help to save God’s children in danger of abortion. Do something beautiful for Him, and sign up for any hour(s) you can give at <https://40daysforlife.com/browse-campaigns>, or contact the local campaign coordinator, Frances Spillman, at 44lifeus@gmail.com or 973-627-1654/973-627-1654"

ST. FRANCIS KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL #2617

The St. Francis Council Knights of Columbus are selling New Jersey Right to Life Raffle Tickets the weekends of Oct 7-8 & 14-15, 2017. The prizes are as follows:

1st prize – 2018 Volvo XC60 AWD SUV retail value \$43,500.00.

2nd prize – Shoprite Gift Card \$1000.00

3rd prize – Shoprite Gift Card \$750.00

4th prize – Shoprite gift Card \$500.00

TICKETS ARE \$10.00 EACH

Drawing is on November 17,2017

Proceeds benefit the New Jersey Right to Life

There will also be information available concerning membership and joining the Knights of Columbus.

CLOTHING DRIVE

The Fall clothing drive date is set for Saturday, October 21st from 9:am – 2pm. It’s time to clean out closets and drawers of the unused unwanted items you no longer need. Clothing must be in good condition please. Not ripped, torn or stained. Stuffed animals are also accepted along with bedding, pocketbooks, shoes and linens. Any questions please call the rectory – 973-835-0480.

FREE EYE SCREENING

Vision
Glaucoma
Eye Screening

The New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired and the Passaic County Department of Health with the support of the West Milford Health Department are holding a free eye screening on **Tuesday September 26, 2017** from 10am until 2pm at West Milford Town Hall 1480 Union Valley Rd., West Milford. This is open to **all New Jersey Residents**.

To make an appointment, please contact the Passaic County Department of Health at 973-881-4396.

Test results will be provided with referral. Referrals made as needed on results of diagnosis.

SILVER AND GOLD WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

Couples, were you married in 1967 or 1992? You are warmly invited to celebrate your 25th or 50th Wedding Anniversary with the Church of Paterson. Bishop Serratelli will be the main celebrant at Mass at The Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Paterson.

Sunday, November 5, 2017 at 4:00pm.

Arrangements can be made by contacting the parish office. Registrations will be accepted through **Tuesday, October 17, 2017**. Information will be sent from the Office of Family Life once your registration has been processed. Congratulations on this joyous occasion!

LAKELAND NURSING HOME SCHEDULE SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2017

Pat Demarest & John Minnett

LECTORS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

5:30 P.M. Pat Demarest

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2017

7:30 A.M. Bill Boswell

10:00 A.M. Judy Moran

12 NOON Armando Haro

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

5:30 P.M. Frank & Sandy Polglaze

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2017

7:30 A.M. Sue Raoul

10:00 A.M. Diane Drew & Melissa Rivera

12 NOON Linda O’Connell & Tony Mazza

ALTAR SERVERS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

5:30 P.M. Scott & Steven Bracken

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2017

7:30 A.M. Elizabeth Reid

10:00 A.M. Kelly Frisina & Jonathan Hogue

12 NOON Tim Kenny & Aaron Manalili

*Attention All
Carnival Volunteers!*

**CARNIVAL
APPRECIATION
DINNER**

**Friday, October 20th
at 7 PM - Church Hall**

Please RSVP with Rectory

973-835-0480

stfrancis@optonline.net

