

# The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.

September 17, 2017

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time



**Saturday, September 15**

5:30 pm For Tom Mackie by McGrath Family

**Sunday, September 17**

8:00 am For Maria Zuccolo by Nugent Family

9:30 am For Megan McQuaide by Barron Family

11:00 am For Betty Meyer by Sanders Family

**Monday, September 18**

8:45 am For Mary Rayburn by Dondero Family

**Tuesday, September 19**

8:45 am For John & Betty Meyer and their family by Eileen Moore

**Wednesday, September 20**

8:45 am For Robert Alexander by Stokes Family

**Saturday, September 23**

5:30 pm For Megan McQuaide by Lennon Family

**Sunday, September 24**

8:00 am For Deacon John Meyer, 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary by K of C

9:30 am For Tom Mackie by Stokes Family

11:00 am For Betty Meyer by Monteverde Family

**REMEMBRANCE MEMORIALS  
FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER**

**Altar Breads & Wine** – In loving memory of Patsy & Philip Marchese by Marchese family.

**Sanctuary Lamp** – In loving memory of Vito and Marie Benardone by Corry and Benardone families

**Mass Candles:** For Harmony in the World by Skoczylas Family

**WEEKLY COLLECTION**

Current Year	Last Year 2016
September 10, 2017: \$2,325 Envelopes used: 49	September 11, 2016: \$2,767 Envelopes used: 50
Supermarket Gift Cards: September 10, 2017 Sales: \$3,900 Profit \$195 YTD Profit: \$5,361.50 2016 YTD Profit: \$4,690.50 # of Families: 21	St. Mark's Faith Direct Church Code is NJ484

**FAITH DIRECT...**

With the arrival of autumn, I'd like to invite you to join Faith Direct, our parish's electronic giving program. Our to-do lists can get lengthy during this season, but Faith Direct's eGiving program will give you one less thing to remember each week--no more envelopes to find before you go to Mass.

Visit [www.faithdirect.net](http://www.faithdirect.net) and use our church code: **NJ484**.

Thank you for your continued support of our parish family!  
God Bless You,  
Fr. Marcin



**BACK TO SCHOOL REMINDER...**

Every morning, you undoubtedly remember that your children need a good breakfast before going off to school.

But do you also remember that *all* children should have a good breakfast before going off to school? What can *you* do about that? One way to help (and it's probably easier than making breakfast for your own kids) is to donate breakfast foods to the Long Valley Food Pantry.

Some suggestions are hot or cold cereals, pancake mix, syrup, juices, pop tarts, etc. Of course lunch and dinner are also important, so anything you can donate will be put to good use.

The children thank you!

**THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S**

Mon, Sept. 18	8:45 am Daily Mass 7:30 pm Boy Scout Meeting
Tues., Sept. 19	8:45 am Daily Mass 7:30 pm Choir 8:00 pm Knights of Columbus
Wed., Sept. 20	8:45 am Daily Mass 9:30 am Women's Bible Study
Thurs., Sept. 21	Office Closed
Fri., Sept 22	Knights of Columbus
Sat. Sept. 23	8:00 am Men's Bible Study 5:30 pm Mass
Sun., Sept. 17	8, 9:30, 11 am Mass

## FROM FR. MARCIN...

My dear parishioners,

In the Gospel for the 24th Sunday of ordinary time, Jesus tells us of the need to forgive our brothers and sisters. It is not easy to forgive. The bigger the hurt the more difficult it is to forgive and for many people also the longer it takes to forgive. There are some offences and insults that go on hurting us. Some say:

"I forgive, but not forget." I cannot forget! Why it is that forgiving is so difficult? Do I create a space in my family, my community, my work and my relationships for reconciliation and forgiveness?

Peter, it seems from his question in the Gospel today, also found it difficult to forgive. He asked Jesus, "Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?" Jesus said Peter is to forgive not seven times but seventy-seven times. Jesus is saying we are not to hold any grudges. Holding grudges, being angry and resentful, storing up anger in our hearts, is very unhealthy.

Is there anything that can help us to forgive those who have hurt us? Forgiveness is a decision. Decide today to forgive. Forgiveness does not mean blotting out painful memories but it means not acting out of them. That is why when the hurt is deep counseling may be necessary to free us from acting out of past negative experiences. One thing I say to people who are having difficulty forgiving a hurt is to repeat to themselves, "I will not allow X to control my life. I take control of my life back from X. From now on I will control my life."

Another thought that should help us to forgive is to remember that Jesus died to save the other person just as he died to save you. Try to visualize the person beneath Jesus on the cross. Can you see Jesus dying for that person?

Sometimes people say they will forgive if the other person makes an apology. I think that is in some way connected with wanting to control the other person. Forgiving somebody involves giving up the need for an apology and the need to control or dominate the person who hurt us. Surrendering the need to expect them to ask forgiveness frees us to forgive them.

When someone offends us Jesus asks us to forgive, not just seven times, but seventy seven times, to forgive always. The point of Jesus' parable is that the debt of our sin is beyond what we can humanly pay back to our heavenly Father. Jesus paid that price for us on Calvary.

As long as we do not forgive we are not free. Forgiveness is freedom. If we do not choose the freedom of forgiveness in this life, I believe that in Purgatory we will want to choose the freedom of forgiveness in order to enjoy heaven.

Christianity is unique among religions in our belief in the intensity of God's love and closeness to us and God's desire to forgive us. That is not surprising since only Christianity enjoys the fullness of God's self-revelation in Jesus. God revealed himself in Jesus and revealed his closeness to us and desire to forgive us. Jesus is our model in forgiveness. Many times during his Passion we see Jesus forgiving those harming him. Jesus' Passion has earned for us the forgiveness of 60 million days' wages of sin and when someone offends us we are asked to forgive a paltry 100 days' wages.

If God has shown mercy to us in granting us pardon for our sins, then we, in turn, must show mercy and forgiveness towards every person who has offended us. The willingness to forgive those who offend us

is a sacred duty. If we expect God to pardon us and show us his mercy when we sin and disobey his commandments, then we must be willing to let go of any resentment, grievance, or ill-will we feel towards our neighbor. Jesus teaches us to pray daily for the grace and strength to forgive others in the same measure in which God has forgiven us. If we do not show mercy and forgiveness to our fellow human beings, how can we expect God to forgive us in turn? The Apostle James says that "judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy" (James 2:13).

If we want mercy shown to us we must be ready to forgive others from the heart as God has forgiven us. Do you hold any grudge or resentment towards anyone? Ask the Lord to purify your heart that you may show mercy and loving-kindness to all - and especially to those who cause you grief and ill-will.

*"Lord Jesus, you have been kind and forgiving towards me. May I be merciful as you are merciful. Free me from all bitterness and resentment that I may truly forgive from the heart those who have caused me injury or grief."*

*OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAIN PRAY FOR US...*

*ST. MARK PRAY FOR US...*

## **'BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL 2017 HAS BEGUN!**

Our good Bishop is especially mindful of the needy and the marginalized in our area and they are the primary beneficiaries of the BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL. Our generous participation in the appeal provides support to the poor, the elderly, the handicapped, the disadvantaged, children and our elderly priests. How can we not participate and help those who count on us? Do not these deserve our assistance? Can we say "NO" to those who are so vulnerable? I know how loving and generous you are and I look forward to this year's BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL being the most successful ever within our Long Valley parishes. Thank you for your *great generosity you have shown last year Bishop's Annual Appeal.*

### **Catechetical Sunday – September 17**

#### Living as Missionary Disciples

Today we celebrate Catechetical Sunday. The 2017 theme is "Living as Missionary Disciples." Those who the Community has designated to serve as catechists will be called forth to be commissioned for their ministry. Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each person plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel. Catechetical Sunday is an opportunity for all to rededicate themselves to this mission as a community of faith. Today we pray for all our Catechists and children as begin a new catechetical year in our parish.

My big thanks go to our Religious Education Director Susan Reilly and our Catechists. Thank you and God bless you!

#### **Prayer for Catechists**

O God, our Heavenly Father, you have given us the gift of these catechists to be heralds of the Gospel to our parish family. We lift them up to you in thanksgiving and intercede for them concerning their hopes and needs. May we be attentive to the presence of your Word in them, a Word that lifts up and affirms, calls forth and challenges, is compassionate and consoles. We pray that our parish family will always be blessed with those who have responded to the call to share in Christ's prophetic mission as catechists. May we too

be open to the universal call to service that Christ addresses to all of his disciples, contributing our gifts to the communion of faith, the Church. We ask this in Jesus' name. AMEN!

**FROM FR. SLAWEK...**

**Feast of Saint Matthew, Apostle and evangelist – September 21**

Of St. Matthew the Evangelist we have little information beyond this brief verse in the Gospel ascribed to his pen: "as Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax office, and he said to him – Follow me. And he rose and followed him." Was St. Matthew a tax collector? If so he would have been despised by his fellow Jews as a collaborator with the Roman occupation. For consorting with such public sinners, Jesus himself would earn bitter scorn. But whatever Matthew's former life, he apparently recognized that in order to follow Jesus he must leave the past behind.

The author of Matthew's Gospel, which appears to date from the end of the first century, seems to have been a Greek speaking Jewish Christian, determined to affirm in the face of rejection by his fellow Jews that Jesus was the Messiah, the fulfillment of the Scriptures, and messenger of a new life. Matthew's Gospel includes the Sermon on the Mount, which begins with the sublime litany of the Beatitudes. He also records the great parable about the Last Judgment, when God will issue blessings on the basis of charity: "I was hungry and you fed me ..."

St. Matthew is the patron of the Church mission. Called in his own life to follow Jesus, he closes his Gospel with Jesus' Great Commission to his followers, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations." He concludes with Jesus' words that speak to all times:

*"I am with you always, to the close of the age." Matthew 28:20*

**FROM FR. JAVIER...**

## **TEACHING FROM THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

### **THE TEN COMMANDMENTS**

#### The First Commandment

You shall love the lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church the first Commandment teaches us that God is the one and true God first reveals his glory to Israel. The revelation of the vocation and truth of man is linked to the revelation of God. Man's vocation is to make God manifest by acting in conformity with his creation "in the image and likeness of God". In the numeral 2086 it says "The first commandment embraces faith, hope, and charity. When we say 'God' we confess a constant, unchangeable being, always the same, faithful and just, without any evil. It follows that we must necessarily accept his words and have complete faith in him and acknowledge his authority. He is almighty, merciful, and infinitely beneficent. Who could not place all hope in him? Who could not love him when contemplating the treasures of goodness and love he has poured out on us? Hence the formula God employs in the Scripture at the beginning and end of his commandments: "I am the LORD"

The acts of faith, hope, and charity enjoined by the first commandment are accomplished in prayer. Lifting up the mind toward God is an expression of our adoration of God: prayer of praise

and thanksgiving, intercession and petition. Prayer is an indispensable condition for being able to obey God's commandments. Let us return to Him, His love.

### **2017 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL- In Giving, We Receive**

For your convenience, you are able to make an on-line gift to the 2017 Bishop's Annual Appeal by going to [www.2017appeal.org](http://www.2017appeal.org) and following the instructions. You can either make a one-time gift or a pledge with monthly payments made automatically for your convenience. More and more parishioners are taking advantage of this option, so please consider using this method today. Whether it is a pledge, a one-time gift, or an on-line donation, your support is greatly needed. Every gift counts! Please participate in the 2017 Appeal!

### **-LOOKING FOR HELP-**

I have a list with some liturgical items that I would like to buy for our parish: altar bell - \$130; wall bell - \$150; holy water pot with sprinkler - \$130. If you would like to help our parish to get these items please contact Fr. Marcin. Thank you very much.

### **ATTENTION GARDENERS...**

Please join us for St. Mark's Garden Clean Up Day on Saturday, **October 14 starting at 8 AM**. We will be cutting down the grasses and removing some weeds so that the church looks great and is ready for winter. Please bring gardening tools. If you would like to donate financially to help, please let me know. I appreciate your support. Thank you. Kim Dunn 908-813-2495

### **FUNDRAISING HELP NEEDED...**

Want to help St. Mark's with some improvements and financial obligations? Have a great idea for some fun - d- raising? Please join us on **Tuesday, October 3 at 7 pm** at St. Marks. Fr. Marcin would like to get a group together to institute some long term and short term fundraising plans. We are looking for thinkers and do-ers. All are welcome. Thank you for your support. Kim Dunn

### **-NEW EYES FOR THE NEEDY-**

The Knights of Columbus will be having an eyeglass recycling container in St. Mark's gathering space from now through October 1. Please donate your used eyeglasses which will be given to the needy



Randi Alloway, Richard Alvarez, Tony Atkins, Charlie, Natalie Rose Bassett, Kenneth Bernisky, Bill Betz, Luz Bracero, Paul Buckley, John Callaghan, Bernie Cho, Arlene Cichlar, Hannah Clark, Emily Condit, Kaitlin Cross, Natalia Danilczuk, Krish Dharia, Catherine DiPasquale, Connie Elliott, Larry Fine, Tracey F, Elaina Grace Gaffin, Ann Geary, Jerry Green, Barbara Gotterdam, Louie Gutierrez, Helen Greenly, Harper Lynn Granito, Regina Hague, Claudia Harrington, William Heimsly, Heather Henry, Bob Hodiern, Maria Dougherty Jante, Donna Jennings, Laurel Jilek, Claudia Kallmeyer, Jim Karpinski, Kevin Kay, Russell H. Keller, Mary Koenig, Jean Koenig, Mara Lak, Christina Lanaris, Margaret Leon, Maryann Litori, Ann Loughney, Wayne Marks, Anthony Marino, Norman Milz, Marie Molloy, Irene, Madelyn S. Maruggi, Raymond McCarthy Jr., Jonathon McClelland, Harold & Mary McKay, Edward Michonski, Sr., Kathy Minichini, Robert Neilson, Sr., Maryanne & Jack Newell, Girard Nolte, Jr., Marilyn O'Connor, Jim Owens, Arlene Parikh, Nicky Piloni, Clifford Reynolds, Jim Robinson, Ryan, Jillian Elizabeth Sayer, Jeff Schpiner, Rev. Frank Rodimer, Rhonda Soto, Special Intention, Judy Stone, William Thompson, Mary Trivisano, Debbie Trepkau, Rev. Zbigniew Tyburski, Anne Walsh, Robert Ron Werner, Marie Zimbile