

Lord, I love your commands.

July 30, 2017

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Saturday, July 29

5:30 pm For Mark Andrew Camire by McGrath Family

Sunday, July 30

8:00 am For Our Parishioners

9:30 am For Our Sick Parishioners

11:00 am For Vincent and Mary Conca by Eufrasia Conca

Monday, July 31

8:45 am For Parishioners of St. Mark

Tuesday, August 1

8:45 am For Parishioners of St. Mark

Wednesday, August 2

8:45 am For Sean Michael Cassels by Susan Reilly

Saturday, August 5

10:45 am Mass at Heath Village

5:30 pm For Rita & Nick Yannuzzi by Yannuzzi Family

Sunday, August 6

8:00 am For Rose Eifu by Draghi Family

9:30 am For Barry Sadloski by Nyman Family

11:00 am For Annette Boenzi by Susan Reilly

FOR THE MONTH OF JULY

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

ST. MARK'S NEEDS \$5,280 PER WEEK TO MEET OUR FINANCIAL OBLIGATION

Current Year	Last Year 2016
July 16, 2017: \$1,936.50 Envelopes used: 43	July 24, 2016: \$2,176 Envelopes used: 45
Online for July: \$10,495.00	Online for July: \$9,495
Supermarket Gift Cards: July 23, 2017 Sales: \$3,120 Profit \$156 YTD Profit: \$4,210 # of Families: 18	St. Mark's Faith Direct Church Code is NJ484

FAITH DIRECT...

Thank you for being a part of our St. Mark the Evangelist family. I appreciate all that you do for our parish and community by sharing your God-given gifts of time, talent, and treasure. Your active participation in the life of our parish helps us to fulfill our vision and mission.

This summer, I pray that you will have some quiet and restful time that includes the love, joy, and peace of being with family and friends. Please consider that St. Mark the Evangelist continues to be open for Mass, numerous activities, and the Sacraments. During these summer months, your generosity through *Faith Direct* can help provide the consistent resources we need to operate our parish ministries.

Visit www.faithdirect.net and use our church code: **NJ484**.

Thank you for your continued support of our parish family!
God Bless!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL...THANK YOU!!!

We held our Vacation Bible School during the week of July 11-14. This year, we explored Peru and enriched our faith journey by learning how God loves and cares for each and every one of us...everywhere in the world! We learned that God gives us comfort, peace and love for our entire lives! We had so much fun and learned at the same time! A big "THANK YOU" to all of our volunteer helpers and to our lively campers. It was a great week. Thank you to Angel Nowak and Tricia Mitchell for setting up and executing our "travel to Peru". Thanks to Fr. Marcin and Fr. Slawek for joining us for opening and closing prayers, and for their support of our program. And, of course, thank you Dr. Moody for your valuable participation, once again...it just wouldn't be the same without you! I look forward to seeing you at church on Sundays, and hope to see you wearing your special VBS shirt!

God bless, Susan Reilly



My dear parishioners,

On this 17th Sunday of ordinary time we meditate on the three parables that make up the final section of the Discourse of the Parables: the hidden treasure, the merchant of precious pearls and the dragnet cast into the sea. Jesus' parables help us adjust our sight to better see the presence of the Kingdom of God in the most ordinary things of life. As we read, it would be good to keep in mind the following: "What is for me a hidden treasure, a merchant of precious pearls or a dragnet cast into the sea? How does my experience help me understand the parables of the treasure, of the pearl and of the dragnet?"

In the Gospel we hear the Lord Jesus, speak in parables to His disciples about the Kingdom of God. WISDOM is the virtue which is being addressed along with the discernment which accompanies it. Wisdom is a gift of the Holy Spirit which comes from God. The Church lists 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states: "The moral life of Christians is sustained by the gifts of the Holy Spirit. These are permanent dispositions which make man obedient in following the promptings of the Holy Spirit." (#1830)

The gift of wisdom comes to our assistance in discerning which path to pursue, what choices to make. It is like a lamp which shines within us allowing us to see clearly so as to conduct ourselves in living a virtuous life and the pursuit of holy endeavors. Wisdom is by our side making decisions which will strengthen our desire for the Kingdom of God.

The Holy Spirit's gift of wisdom comes to the assistance of the faithful one who is open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit through prayer, that is, a listening heart. Like King Solomon in today's Old Testament reading we must pray that the Lord will send us the gift of wisdom so that we may make the correct choices in our daily affairs. We must be mindful of the popular and atheistic forces which are present in our world today, that they may not get a foothold in our decisions but that "Holy Wisdom" will be at our side.

We pray that the Lord Jesus, will send us the Holy Spirit's gift of wisdom to guide us in our decisions so that discerning rightly, we may choose the Kingdom of God above all else.

Our Lady of the Mountain pray for us...

St. Mark pray for us...

Fr. Marcin

BIBLE REFLECTION

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Mt 13:44-52

There is only one treasure that brings happiness and that treasure is Jesus.

- The man in the first parable in the Gospel today found the treasure (kingdom of heaven) and went off happy. If we're not happy we still haven't found Jesus or the kingdom of heaven. If you're not happy, my advice is turn to Jesus and then you will find the happiness you seek.

- Searching for Jesus and the kingdom of heaven means we face choices and have to make decisions, sometimes hard decisions that we would prefer not to have to make. There will be passing treasures that in the short-term are tempting but don't offer us the happiness we really want.

- Do we have to set out on a journey to find this treasure, this pearl, Jesus? Do we need a map? Yes, we do! The journey is the journey into our own hearts, and the map has been given us by Jesus himself. How should we begin? By praying and receiving the sacraments frequently and getting to know our Bible.

- I believe that none of us is praying enough. That's why there are so many problems. If we all prayed more I believe we would all be far happier, and many situations would work out much better. So let us pray more, and receive the sacraments more often, and get to know our Bible so that the pearl, Jesus, may grow within us, a treasure that won't let us down. Then we can go off happy like the man in the parable.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, we thank you for the word that has enabled us to understand better the will of the Father. May your Spirit enlighten our actions and grant us the strength to practice that which your Word has revealed to us. May we, like Mary, your mother, not only listen to but also practice the Word. You who live and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen.

GOOD NEWS.....

Last week I received a check with the final rebate from the 2016 Bishop's Annual Appeal for \$1,365.00. All together throughout the year our parish received \$11,480.00 from last year's Bishop's Annual Appeal.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!!!
GOOD JOB!!!

GET A MASS INTENTION (MASS CARD) FOR LIVING AND DECEASED

WHY THE HOLY MASS IS SO POWERFUL?

WHAT ARE THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH THE MASS IS OFFERED?

-First, to adore God as our Creator and Lord.

-Second, to thank God for His many favors.

-Third, to ask God to bestow His blessings on all men.

-Fourth, to satisfy the justice of God for the sins committed against Him.

The celebration of the Eucharist is the highest form of worship in the Catholic Church because we unite ourselves with Christ's sacrifice on the cross in worship of his Father.

In our catholic tradition it is a practice to give an offering that the Holy Mass might be celebrated for the living and deceased.

Living masses are offered for those who are sick or thanksgiving to God for special blessing received and any other occasion (birthday, wedding anniversary, graduation).

Deceased masses are offered to assist them in their journey to heaven.

I pray that more of our parishioners will make offers so that a Holy Mass will be offered on Sunday and/or during the week for the living and deceased.

A MASS CARD MIGHT BE THE BEST GIFT FOR A BIRTHDAY, WEDDING ANNIVERSARY, AND GRADUATION OR TO PRAY FOR YOUR BELOVED DECEASED AND HELP THEM GET TO HEAVEN!!!

Fr. Marcin

DIOCESE OF PATERSON...

MARIAN PILGRIMAGE

NATIONAL SHRINE TO THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
Seeking a spiritual awakening or journey? The Diocese of Paterson will be hosting the 2017 Pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington DC on October 21, 2017. Join us for a truly wonderful experience.

One-Day Pilgrimage includes:

- Transportation and Gratuity - \$49/person
- Prayer filled day at Shrine – Mass, confession, rosary, divine mercy and presentations
- Rest Stop - going - Meal stop - return
- depart Washington 4:15pm

For more information please call parish office or Lorraine Fleming (908) 813-0152. Signup sheet is in the Gathering Space

COMMUNITY NEWS



LONG VALLEY CUB SCOUTS...

Cub Scouting is a year-round family-oriented program for boys entering 1st- 5th grade in the fall. Scouting's goals are to build character, teach citizenship, and personal fitness through fun activities. Join the adventure, join cub Scouts. Contact: Michael Doherty email: dohertymh@gmail.com

GIVE A PINT, SAVE A LIFE...

A blood drive will be held on Sunday, August 13 from 8:30 am until 1:30 pm at St. Mark's Church. It will be conducted by Miller Memorial Blood Center for the benefit of area hospitals. Please consider donating, as blood bank levels are at dangerously low levels all summer so your donation is truly appreciated and necessary. Schedule your appointment by calling Sherri Tapp at 908-850-5491 or sign up online at www.giveapint.org.

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP LIBRARY SURVEY...

The Washington Township Public Library is currently working on a three-year strategic plan and we invite you to be part of the process by filling out a short survey. Please go the library's website (www.wtpl.org) or follow this link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PersonalComputersWTPL>. Your feedback is very important to us and will help us improve the quality of our services. Thank you!



All- powerful and ever-living God the lasting health of all who believe in you, hear us as we ask your loving help for the sick; restore their health, that they may again offer joyful thanks in your church.

Randi Alloway, Richard Alvarez, Tony Atkins, Charlie, Natalie Rose Bassett, Kenneth Bernisky, 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, Tom Mackie, Anthony Marino, Norman Milz, Marie Molloy, Irene, Madelyn S. Maruggi, Raymond McCarthy Jr., Jonathon McClelland, Harold & Mary McKay, Kathy Minichini, Robert Neilson, Sr., Maryanne & Jack Newell, Girard Nolte, Jr., Marilyn O'Connor, Jim Owens, Arlene Parikh, Nicky Plosi, Clifford Reynolds, Jim Robinson, Ryan, Jillian Elizabeth Sayer, Jeff Schpiner, Margi Schuelke, Rev. Frank Rodimer, Rhonda Soto, Special Intention, Judy Stone, William Thompson, Mary Travisano, Debbie Trepkau, Rev. Zbigniew Tyburski, Anne Walsh, Robert Ron Werner, Marie Zimbile

Every now and then we try to update our prayer list of names of the sick and special intentions. We have alphabetized the names in the hopes of making them easier to read. There are some names that we in the parish office cannot associate with a person who made the request to pray for them. Please look over the list and if you requested prayers for a person please call the office to let us know if you wish to continue to be on this prayer list.

