

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time † September 24, 2017

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday Sept. 25**
8:30 a.m. Joan Flannery by Barbara & Dennis Kennedy
- Tuesday Sept. 26**
8:30 a.m. **Saints Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs**
Alois & Gertrud Schmidt by Daughter & Family
- Wednesday Sept. 27**
8:30 a.m. **Saint Vincent de Paul, Priest**
Antonino Napoli by his wife Maria
- Thursday Sept. 28**
8:30 a.m. **Saint Wenceslaus, Martyr; Saint Lawrence Ruiz and Companions, Martyrs**
For intentions of Sister Donna Brady by Cynthia Pearce
- Friday Sept. 29**
8:30 a.m. **Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels**
Eucharistic Service
- Saturday Sept. 30**
4:00 p.m. **Saint Jerome, Priest and Doctor of the Church**
Carmela & Michael Chiarini by Family
- Sunday Oct. 1**
26th Sunday in Ordinary Time
7:30 a.m. For the People of the Parish
9:00 a.m. Merridith Waring by Marjorie Zirrieth
11:00 a.m. Patrick Codd by Catherine Codd

CANDLE AND FLOWER OFFERINGS

The sanctuary candle is offered in healing of Father Ed by the parishioners. The candle before the Blessed Virgin Mary is offered in loving memory of Esther, Joseph & Anna Falcinelli by Richard & Esther Wolff. The candle before St. Joseph is offered in loving memory of Richard Ferrari by Aunt Rose. The candle before Blessed Paulina is offered in loving memory of Agnes Bellew by Grace & Bob McLaughlin.

The sanctuary flowers are offered for the people of the parish. The flowers before the Blessed Virgin Mary are offered in loving memory of Serafina Basile by her sister Maria Napoli.

PARISH CALENDAR

- Sept. 24 Cub Scouts Popcorn Sale
RCIA – 10:00am
Men's Faith Sharing – 7:00pm
- Sept. 25 Social Events Committee -7:15pm
- Sept. 26 Religious Ed Classes 6:15- 7:30pm
Bereavement Group – 7-8:30pm
Prayer Shawl – 1:30pm
- Sept. 27 Religious Ed Classes 6:00-7:15pm
Bible Study – 9:00am
Choir Practice – 7:30pm
- Sept. 28 Woman's Faith Sharing 9-10:30am
- Sept. 30 SYG Mum Sale
- Oct. 1 SYG Mum Sale
- Oct. 2 K of C Mtg. Hall – 7:00pm
- Oct. 3 Religious Ed Classes 6:15- 7:30pm
Bereavement Group – 7-8:30pm



Daily Readings

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday

Is 55:6-9; Phil 1:20c-24, 27a; Mt 20:1-16a

Monday

Ezr 1:1-6; Lk 8:16-18

Tuesday

Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20; Lk 8:19-21

Wednesday

Ezr 9:5-9; Lk 9:1-6

Thursday

Hg 1:1-8; Lk 9:7-9

Friday

Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12a; Jn 1:47-51

Saturday

Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a; Lk 9:43b-45

The collection amount for the weekend of September 17th was \$16,907 and the Hurricane collection was \$10,970. Thank you for your continued support of our parish!

LETTER FROM DEACON JOHN B.

Today in the gospel, we have a real life situation. It starts off with a very generous and compassionate landowner who hires people to work in his fields at all hours of the day. Whoever wants to work can work for this landowner. Then at the end of the day, he pays them all a full day's pay. Naturally, the one who worked the full day thought he should receive more than the others should, especially more than those who only worked one hour.

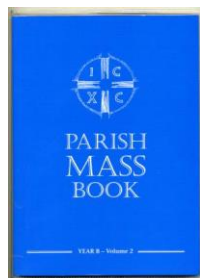
This is how we think, but in this gospel and several previous gospels the point that St. Mathew is making is that we should think more like God. The very generous landowner was not unfair to anyone. He did not go back on his promise to the ones who worked a full day. They received what they were promised at the start of the day.... a full day's pay.

God's very generous gift to all of us is "Salvation." We cannot buy it with our good deeds and pious behavior. It doesn't matter if we are cradle Catholics. We do not get a bonus for that. God can call anyone at any time to receive the faith, even the "Good Thief" an hour before he died.

As cradle Catholics we start to receive the love, grace and the intimacy of our God at a much earlier age than someone who was called to the faith later in life. Someone like the "Good Thief," who was called later in life and was promised Paradise.

My friends, there is nothing to complain about. We know how to get there. We just have to take St. Mathew's advice. We have to think more like God. The question that was going around several years ago asked, "What would Jesus do?" I believe it's a good start to start thinking as God thinks.

Much love,
Deacon John B



The 2018 Mass Book will open on The First Friday, October 6th after the 8:30 am Mass.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

7th Graders- October 11th 6:00 – 7:15pm. Lifenet "Chasity" Presentation in the Church. Mandatory that all 7th graders attend on this night (Wednesday) in lieu of their scheduled class.

2nd Grade Parent Meeting - October 17th at 6:20pm, 18th at 6:05pm, and 19th at 6:20pm in Father Congdon Hall.

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD PARISH MISSION

SAVE THE DATES
OCTOBER 16th, 17th and 18th at 7:00 pm

The pressing material needs of modern life, can sometimes make us complacent with our spiritual lives. The Mission is a time to step back and come together as the Body of Christ and experience the passion and fervor of our Catholic faith. Join us for an experience you will never forget. Father Charles Coury, who has spent over 30 years worldwide as a Redemptorist missionary, will conduct the Mission. Attend all 3 nights or whenever you can. The service will be a different theme each evening. Father's preaching opens hearts to what is often missing from our lives, renewing and reawakening a joyful spirit in Christ.

LIFE CHOICES

Rosanda Grau, of Life Choices Resource Center of Metuchen, N.J. will speak at all Masses on Saturday October 21st & 22nd. This Ministry needs all the support we can give. It helps reach vulnerable mothers and families, including taking their new Mobile Ultrasound Unit to the very doors of the clinic.

Middlesex County is overrun by abortion clinics and your generosity and commitment will help in preserving the life of the unborn child. Life Choices is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit and all donations are Tax deductible. Donation envelopes will be available in the Narthex.



Special Mass for Fr. Ed Flanagan

On Monday evening, October 23rd at 7:00 pm there will be a special Mass for the health and blessing of our Pastor, Fr. Ed followed by fellowship in Father Congdon Hall sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.



“Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted.”

When a loved one dies, our world is forever changed. If you have recently lost a loved one, your first year or subsequent years without them can be painful. Many times people are caught in the dilemma of the need to grieve and the pressure from others to get over it. If you are suffering over the death of someone you love, perhaps our Bereavement Team here at Nativity of Our Lord Parish can help you during this painful time.

Our support group will begin on **Tuesday evenings, September 19, 2017 from 7:00-8:30pm in the Resurrection Room and will continue through Tuesday evening October 31st**. The sessions are focused on the stages of grief and offer a safe haven during this difficult time in your life.

To register or for more information, contact Sister Marie Colette at, 609-371-0499 ext.16 or sistermariecolette@nativitymonroe.org.



**GREAT NEWS!!
The SYG mum fundraiser
is back!!!**

POP'S FARM MARKET will be providing our beautiful MUMS again this year for our sale after masses Sept 30th & Oct 1st! The mums will be \$4.50 or 3/\$12! A portion of our proceeds will go to our Relay For Life participation!!

Our next SYG meeting will be Sunday Oct 1st 10am - 11am in the church hall! Any high schooler is invited to join us! Please let us know if you plan to attend: 908-415-3373!

Welcome to
Children's Liturgy



Children's Liturgy of the Word resumes on October 7th & 8th during the Saturday 4:00 p.m. and Sunday 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Masses. All children are welcome and encouraged to attend as we explore the Gospel reading and share in the Word of the Lord. If you would like to share your talents, Children's Liturgy of the Word ministry welcomes new volunteers to assist or lead the discussion of the Gospel readings. For more information, please email Laura Monaco at laanello1@aol.com.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Our October AC Trip!!!

On Tuesday October 3, 2017 we have planned a trip to Atlantic City's **Tropicana** Casino. The cost is \$22pp, with \$25 slot play bonus per person. A photo ID is required to obtain a Tropicana Advantage Card to receive the bonus. Make check payable to **Church Activities**. Park in the rear of the Church parking lot. Arrive at 9:15am. The bus will leave promptly at 9:30am, returning approximately 7:30pm. For reservations, call **Vinny DiSanto 609 655 5744**.

PARISH MINISTRIES

St. Vincent De Paul Society: If you are experiencing financial hardship due to a temporary loss of employment, illness, or disability, the St. Vincent de Paul Society is available to provide assistance for your everyday needs such as food, utility assistance, or agency referrals. Please dial the parish number 609-371-0499, then press 8, and leave a message with your name and phone number. Someone will return your call. **All calls are handled in strict confidence.**

Respect Life: Respect Life will be having a "baby shower" for The Center for Great Expectations on October 7th and 8th. Topping their list of needs:
- Gift cards from Amazon, Target, and Walmart
- Huggies or Pampers diapers - Size 6
- Socks boys or girls sizes Newborn-5T
- Aveeno Products - Baby Wash or Lotion
(More info in next week's bulletin.)

Elder Care: Do you need assistance with shopping periodically? Are you seeking a responsible person to sit with someone in need of supervision for a brief time? Do you require help with minor

household chores? Please call **Marge Nadolny 609-409-6164** to schedule this service, or to become a volunteer.

Helping Hands: Do you need a helping hand with minor tasks around the house? There are parishioners who are willing to help in these situations. Please contact **Esther Wolff** by phone on **732-521-6019** or via email to **richardj.wolff@verizon.net**.

Prayer Shawl: Missed the last meeting? Join us Tuesday Sept. 26th at 1:30 for fellowship, fun and good works. All are welcome! Questions? Call Dorothy Kopil at 609-655-8138 or Greta Wiczorkowski at 609-655-4262

CRS Rice Bowl - Your "Change" Changes Lives: For students like Amina, in Benin, Africa, the free, nutritious meal the Food for Education program provides is often the only meal of their day. It's a strong incentive to stay in school. CRS witnesses the benefits of the program and is concerned by a proposal in Congress to eliminate it.

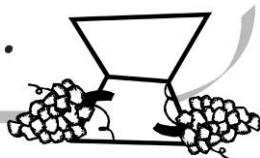
McCaffrey Tapes

Just a kind reminder we are collecting McCaffrey grocery store register receipts – **ONLY McCAFFREY RECEIPTS. Other store receipts cannot be used.** McCaffrey gifts us with 1% of the total grocery amount collected. In this past, this has meant donations up to \$700 to our church just for collecting these McCaffrey receipts. There is a drop box in the Narthex. Thank you for your participation!



Rosary Group Please join us every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 7:50 a.m. to recite the Holy Rosary. We will be seated at the right side of the church near the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Seek God...



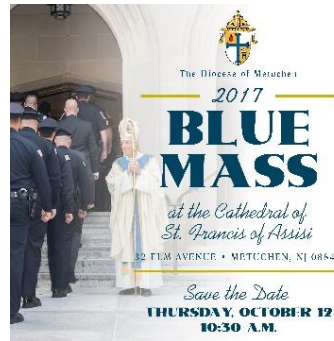
call God's name.

BISHOP GEORGE AHR HIGH SCHOOL
One Tingley Lane * Edison, NJ 08820

FALL OPEN HOUSE
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2017
1:00 – 4:00 P.M.

Meet our faculty, tour our new facility, and hear about our technology. Learn about our sports, clubs and organizations. Student guides and brochures are available. Refreshments served.

All are Welcome! 7th Graders Are Encouraged To Get An Early Start! Call Bishop Ahr for further info or directions at (732) 549-1108 X620 Or visit us on the Web at bgahs.org.



**COME PRAY
FOR
THOSE WHO
SERVE
AND
PROTECT!**

**16th Annual Blue Mass for Law
Enforcement**

**Thursday, October 12, 2017
10:30 AM**

Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi, Metuchen

Bishop James F. Checchio cordially invites ALL the faithful in the Dioceses to join him at the annual Blue Mass to pray for and with police officers and law enforcement personnel from the communities and towns from across Middlesex, Hunterdon, Somerset and Warren counties. Come to represent your parish and town, to support and pray for all our dedicated local, county, state and federal law enforcement officials and to honor those officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice through their service to others. For more information, call (732) 562-2463 or visit <http://diometuchen.org/2017-blue-mass>.

**Stewardship Bulletin Reflections
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

“So the last will be first and the first last” -
MATTHEW 20:16

You have heard the saying “it’s not where you start, but how you finish.” This certainly applies to this Bible passage. We have a responsibility not only for our own lives, but for the lives of others as well. We are called to generously share our gifts with others, not hoard them for our own use. Our gratitude and generosity helps us live “God-centered” lives and not “self-centered” lives.

**OAK TREE/APPLEGARTH PTA
FOURTH ANNUAL**

**Friday October 13
6:00 PM
\$5 per child**



The kids will trick or treat from trunk to trunk in the safety of a closed parking lot. There will be prizes for the best-decorated car.

NEW THIS YEAR: Cars that decorate are to provide the candy. Each car needs at least 300 individually wrapped pieces. If you decorate a car, you will be permitted to have 2 children attend for FREE! Complete the Form and Return It To School **No Later Than Oct 6.**

DO NOT SEND PAYMENT- ALL PAYMENTS WILL BE COLLECTED AT THE SIGN IN TABLE

Child’s Name: _____

Teacher: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone #: _____

I would like to decorate my car (circle one):
yes no

*If you would like to decorate your car, please arrive at 5:30 in the front OT parking lot. Spaces will be limited, so hurry and register!

Number of Trick or Treaters
(OT/A families only): _____

Please note: Candy will NOT be provided by the PTA

RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has designated the first Sunday in October (Oct. 1st) as **Respect Life Sunday** and October as **Respect Life month.**

**The 16th Annual Critical Life Issues Conference
October 14, 2017**

On Saturday, October 14, 2017, the Dioceses of Metuchen will be sponsoring the Annual Critical Life Issues Conference from 8:30am to 3:30pm at the St. John Neumann Center, Piscataway. This year’s theme: “*Be Not Afraid! Love Unleashes Life!*” It will be held at the St. John Neumann Conferences Center, Piscataway and registration is \$25.00. This fee includes lunch and handouts. To register please visit <http://diometuchen.org/critical-life> or call 732-562-1900 ext. 1629 or 1543. Seating is limited.

**< KID'S >
KORNER**

Gospel Today
Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time | Matthew 20:1-16a
Jesus compares the Kingdom of Heaven to the vineyard - the rewards are equal for all regardless of when the workers begin, or the faithful respond to the call of Jesus.

The landowner went out at dawn to hire workers. The first workers agreed on a daily wage. Later in the day the next workers agreed to a just, or fair wage. The last workers only worked 1 hour. Though all the workers started at different times, the landowner paid them the same. Upon receiving the same daily wage, the workers who were in the vineyard all day were envious. The landowner said, "Take what I promised and go. I am free to be generous with my money."

God is generous... His gifts are free.

1 Today's reading is from the book of _____

2 The workers all started at different _____ of day.

3 The same, or _____

4 In Heaven, the _____ are equal for all.

5 Word meaning "fair" _____

6 Kingdom of _____

7 A place to grow grapes _____

8 Heaven _____ like...

9 People ready to do a job _____

10 The landowner was _____ with his money.

11 Our Heavenly Father _____

12 The workers _____ to the usual daily wage.

13 The _____ hired the workers _____

14 _____ workers were hired at dawn.

15 The first workers were _____ of the wage paid to the last workers hired.

16 The first workers thought they would be _____ more money.

13 The workers hired _____ were paid first.

14 No change