

# April 15, 2018 Third Sunday of Easter

## MASS INTENTIONS

### Saturday, April 14

5:00 p.m. +**Theresa Risoldi**  
By The Saksa Family

### Sunday, April 15

8:00 a.m. +**Francisco Paloma**  
By The Paloma Family

10:30 a.m. +**Lizabeth Lino**  
By The Shipley Family

### Monday, April 16

8:45 a.m. **In Honor of the Madonna of Health**  
By Angela Gross

### Tuesday, April 17

8:45 a.m. **Blessings for Andy and Bernadette Ryan  
on their Wedding Anniversary**  
By Family

### Wednesday, April 18

8:45 a.m. **Parishioners of St. Theodore Church**

### Thursday, April 19 NO MASS

### Friday, April 20

8:45 a.m. +**Rose Howe**  
By Barbara Mallon

### Saturday, April 21

5:00 p.m. +**Andrew Peterson**  
By Nancy and Charlie Guerriere

### Sunday, April 22

8:00 a.m. +**Maria Korkoszka**  
By Anna Kuruc

10:30 a.m. +**Helen Dicheck**  
By Victoria and Robert Dicheck

## The Precepts of the Church

The precepts of the Church are duties that the Catholic Church requires of all the faithful. Also called the commandments of the Church, they are binding under pain of mortal sin, but the point is not to punish. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church explains, the binding nature "is meant to guarantee to the faithful the indispensable minimum in the spirit of prayer and moral effort, in the growth of love of God and neighbor." If we follow these commands, we'll know that we're headed in the right direction spiritually.

You may see different lists of precepts, but this is the current list from the Catechism.

### 1. The Sunday Duty

The first precept of the Church is "You shall attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation and rest from servile labor." Often

called the Sunday Duty or the Sunday Obligation, this is the way in which Christians fulfill the Third Commandment: "Remember, keep holy the Sabbath day." We participate in the Mass, and we refrain from any work that distracts us from a proper celebration of Christ's Resurrection.

### 2. Confession

The second precept of the Church is "You shall confess your sins at least once a year." Strictly speaking, we only need to take part in the Sacrament of Confession if we have committed a mortal sin, but the Church urges us to make frequent use of the sacrament and, at a minimum, to receive it once each year in preparation for fulfilling our Easter Duty.

### 3. The Easter Duty

The third precept of the Church is "You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season." Today, most Catholics receive the Eucharist at every Mass they attend, but it wasn't always so. Since the Sacrament of Holy Communion binds us to Christ and to our fellow Christians, the Church requires us to receive it at least once each year, sometime between Palm Sunday and Trinity Sunday (the Sunday after Pentecost Sunday).

### 4. Fasting and Abstinence

The fourth precept of the Church is "You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church." Fasting and abstinence, along with prayer and almsgiving, are powerful tools in developing our spiritual life. Today, the Church requires Catholics to fast only on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, and to abstain from meat on the Fridays during Lent. On all other Fridays of the year, we may perform some other penance in place of abstinence.

### 5. Supporting the Church

The fifth precept of the Church is "You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church." The Catechism notes that this "means that the faithful are obliged to assist with the material needs of the Church, each according to his own ability." In other words, we don't necessarily have to tithe (give ten percent of our income), if we can't afford it; but we should also be willing to give

more if we can. Our support of the Church can also be through donations of our time, and the point of both is not simply to maintain the Church but to spread the Gospel and bring others into the Church, the Body of Christ.

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Dear Parishioners,

As mentioned in past bulletins, we count on the Sunday First Collection for our routine expenses.

Following is an overview of how our collections are allocated:

The Second Collection (excluding Diocesan, National Collections, Salvatorian Collections) as in the past are used for extraordinary expenses—e.g. tractor and truck repairs, heating and air conditioning repairs, etc.

Easter and Christmas Collections, along with Sunday First Collections, Second Collections and Fundraisers, are used to subsidize our Property Insurance and Diocesan Assessment payments.

Our church attendance has gone down considerably in the last few years, which has impacted our operating capital. Our Sunday First Collections were down \$19,621 from Fiscal Year 2015-2016 to Fiscal year 2016-2017 and the decline continues this fiscal year.

It is extremely difficult to meet our financial responsibilities with this large a deficit. I am asking you, parishioners, in your goodness, if it is at all possible, to increase you weekly contribution to help us in this difficult time. With God's grace we will overcome this set back. May the Lord bless you for your continued generosity to the church.

In Christ,

Father Damian

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## Theodore Church Fundraisers

- **50/50 Raffle: (May 27):** Parishioners will be receiving in the mail soon a book of tickets for our annual 50/50 Raffle. As in the past, the books are \$100-\$10 per ticket. These chances will be sold before and after the weekend Masses in the Parish Center.
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## REQUESTS — FOR — PRAYER

Stephen, Bridget M., Savannah Paine, Bobby Gross, Keira Hedges, Peter, Zachary, Logan Peter Saksa, Anna Saksa, Lauren Lane, Jay Mildrum, Philip Kinney, Peter S., Mary Supple, Mary Rupell, Susan Reynolds, Robert Dicheck, Christian, Tara, Zoe, Teagan, Eric Harding, Kathy & Bob Y., Irma Marquart, Dolores Staiano, Gerard Schnaars, Glenda L., The Rasimowicz Family, Michael Dante, Joseph Boyle, Rosemarie Freeman, Tony Santos

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### April Calendar

**Bible Study** Every Tuesday @ 6:30 pm

**April 21, 10:30 am:** Grounds Cleanup

**April 23, 6:15 pm:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade in Church

**April 30, 6:15 pm:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade in Church for First Communion Rehearsal

### **Sunday collection needed to meet weekly expenses: **\$3,637.****

Easter Collection: \$4,952

April 1: \$1,941.17

April 8: \$1,977.

### Grounds Cleanup



### **Annual Spring Cleanup**

**A new date has been set up for our annual grounds cleanup: April 21 at 10:30 a.m.** Please join Fathr Damian for the annual sprucing up of the

property. Your help, as always, is very much appreciated. Don't forget to bring your rake or another equipment that would help.

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### **2018 Bishop's Annual Appeal**

#### *Lighting a Fire in the Heart of Our World*

Thank you to all who have given so generously to the 2018 Bishop's Annual Appeal. If you have not made a pledge, there is still time to participate. Just as important as our financial goal is our goal of 100% participation—something from every family—whatever you can comfortably give. Moreover, this is an opportunity for each of us to show our gratitude to the Lord for the blessings we have received. Mail your gift to Diocese of Metuchen, Bishop's Annual Appeal, PO Box 4000, Metuchen, NJ 08840-4000 or give online at <https://diometuchen.org/BAA>.