

February 19, 2017 The Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 18

5:00 p.m. +**Albert McLaughlin**
By Karl and Rose Strohmaier

Sunday, February 19

8:00 a.m. **Parishioners of St. Theodore Church**
10:30 a.m. +**Sebastian and Concetta Gallo**
By The Gallo Family

Monday, February 20

8:45 a.m. + **Bob Leonardardi**
By Brian and Gerry Moss

Tuesday, February 21 *Saint Peter Damian*

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

Wednesday, February 22 *The Chair of St. Peter*

8:45 a.m. +**Thomas, Elizabeth and Louis DeBari**
By Sam and Marietta Tridente

Thursday, February 23 *NO MASS*

Friday, February 24

8:45 a.m. +**Antonietta and Sabino Antinolfi**
By Daughter

Saturday, February 25

5:00 p.m. **In Honor & Intentions of St. Philomena**
By Mary Kovacs

Sunday, February 26 *Eight Sunday in Ordinary Time*

8:00 a.m. **Birthday Blessings for Susan Reynolds**
By Henry Rebinski
10:30 a.m. +**Bernie Brady**
By Saint Theodore Choir

Canon 1248

1. The precept of participating in the Mass is satisfied by assistance at a Mass which is celebrated anywhere in a Catholic rite either on the holy day or on the evening of the preceding day.

2. If because of lack of a sacred minister or for other grave cause participation in the celebration of the Eucharist is impossible, it is specially recommended that the faithful take part in the liturgy of the word if it is celebrated in the parish church or in another sacred place according to the prescriptions of the diocesan bishop, or engage in prayer for an appropriate amount of time personally or in a family or, as occasion offers, in groups of families.

Since a "grave cause" is needed to excuse one from this obligation it would be a serious or mortal sin to willfully skip Mass on Sunday or a Holy Day of Obligation, as the Church has always taught. Reasons such as the necessity to work to support one's family, child care, personal sickness or the care of the sick, necessary travel etc. would excuse a person on a particular occasions. Those who have continuing reason to be excused should consult their pastor. If a priest is not available in an area and only a Liturgy of the Word or a Communion Service is offered the Mass obligation does not "transfer" to such services. As canon 1248 notes, participation is recommended for the spiritual value, especially if Communion is distributed.

The proper way to celebrate Sunday is spoken of at length in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

2182 Participation in the communal celebration of the Sunday Eucharist is a testimony of belonging and of being faithful to Christ and to his Church. The faithful give witness by this to their communion in faith and charity. Together they testify to God's holiness and their hope of salvation. They strengthen one another under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

2183 "If because of lack of a sacred minister or for other grave cause participation in the celebration of the Eucharist is impossible, it is specially recommended that the faithful take part in the Liturgy of the Word if it is celebrated in the parish church or in another sacred place according to the prescriptions of the diocesan bishop, or engage in prayer for an appropriate amount of time personally or in a family or, as occasion offers, in groups of families."

Sunday Mass and Holy Day Obligation

It is both a precept of the Church and Church law that Catholics must worship God on Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation by participating in the Holy Mass. This follows from the fact that in the Mass it is Christ Himself who worships the Father, joining our worship to His. In no other way is it possible to adequately give thanks (eucharistia) to God for the blessings of creation, redemption and our sanctification than by uniting our offerings to that of Jesus Christ Himself. Following the example of the Old Covenant the Church does this weekly, on the day of the Lord's Resurrection.

Canon 1247

On Sundays and other holy days of obligation the faithful are bound to participate in the Mass; they are also to abstain from those labors and business concerns which impede the worship to be rendered to God, the joy which is proper to the Lord's Day, or the proper relaxation of mind and body.

2017 Bishop's Annual Appeal
Ambassadors for Christ

Please watch your mailbox for a letter from Bishop Checchio coming to you this week announcing the 2017 Bishop's Annual Appeal. You will be interested to know that Bishop Checchio, after a number of meetings and in consultation with many of the pastors and staff, has made some changes to the Appeal. The first, as you probably already noticed, the Appeal has been moved from the fall to a Lenten campaign. The active phase has been condensed and the number of solicitation mailings has been reduced. Another significant change is the reintroduction of Parish Rebates. To allow parishes to share in the success of the Appeal, Bishop Checchio is offering parishes a rebate of 50% of the amount collected over goal.

Through your support of the Bishop's Annual Appeal you help those in our diocese whose needs are the greatest—the poor, the homeless, and those struggling with illness or grief. Among other needed pastoral ministries, your gift also supports our priority ministries of evangelization, promotion and support of religious vocations and enhances the work of forming our youth. The many pastoral, educational and charitable ministries of the Diocese of Metuchen would not be possible without a generous contribution from every household. Please be as generous as your means allow.

Dear Parishioners,

Many of you have heard of my sudden illness and have been praying for me. I wish to thank you so very much for including me in your thoughts and prayers.

It has been a whirlwind event for my family and me, as well as for Father Damian. The sudden onset of my illness caught us by surprise and we are still shaking our heads.

The cycle began in mid January when I became very short of breath and had crazy sounds in my chest (sounded as if someone was inside me snoring!) I ignored those signals and continue my daily routine of working, etc. for another five days before I made an appointment with my PCP. Long story short: tests revealed that I have heart failure and was put on heart meds. I had another episode on Tuesday, February 7 (to a much lesser degree) but became concerned and called the squad, which took me to the hospital. I was admitted for four days, during which I had a cardiac cath that confirmed the diagnosis. Now I am wearing a defibrillator and, after the next battery of tests, it may be it

may be determined that one must be implanted in my chest.

Which brings me to the point of why I am sharing a lot of detail with you. While I am wearing the defibrillator in church or the office and it should need to shock my heart, **NO ONE IS TO TOUCH ME DURING THIS "TREATMENT"**. If you should touch me, you also will be shocked. So please, just let the machine do its thing to bring me back to life. Of course, while this is going on, please call the emergency squad. My hospital is Hunterdon Medical Center.

The medical consensus is that it was caused by a virus, or that the chemo I had had for leukemia damaged the heart muscle.

I will be working from home for awhile. If you need to get in touch with me, please email me at: sttheodoren@gmail.com.

Again, thank you for your prayers. I truly am grateful for them.

--Mary Rupell



Stephen, Anthony Vitale, Bridget M., Savannah Paine, Bobby Gross, Michael Dante, Keira Hedges, Maryann Vaughan, Robert Dicheck, Peter, Zachary, Logan Peter Saksa, Anna Paine, Maryann Vaughan, Anna Saksa, Lauren Lane, Jay Mildrum, Philip Kinney, Mary D., Kerry Kraft, Patty Mahoney, Cheyann Miller, Cathy Moncello, Peter S., Helen Dicheck, Mary Supple, Mary Rupell

Church & Religious Education Schedule

Feb. 20: No Rel Ed; Parish & Rel Ed Offices Closed

Feb. 21, 6:30; Bible Study

Feb. 26: 11:30: Good Friday Auditions

2016 Income Tax Contribution Statements: if you would like a statement of your contributions for your income tax filing, please submit a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Mary Rupell (You could put your request in the collection basket. Please make sure mark the envelope to the "attention of Mary Rupell".)

Our Offering: 2/12/17: \$1,876 (inclement weather)
2016 \$2,649.