

January 22, 2017 The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 21

5:00 p.m. +**George and Louise Wyker and Catherine Gacek**
By The Wyker Family

Sunday, January 22

8:00 a.m. +**Francis Kane**
By Susan Reynolds

10:30 a.m. +**Kate Kessler**
By Brian and Gerry Moss

Monday, January 23

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

Tuesday, January 24

8:45 a.m. **Blessings for Healing of Keira Hedges**
By Grammy Rupell

Wednesday, January 25

8:45 a.m. +**Edward and Anna Durnin**
By Mary Rupell

Thursday, January 26 **NO MASS**

Friday, January 27

8:45 a.m. +**Janet Napolitano**
By Brian and Gerry Moss

Saturday, January 28

5:00 p.m. +**Francis Blevins**
By Rachael and Family

Sunday, January 22

8:00 a.m. +**Anna and George Redgate**
By Mary Rupell

10:30 a.m. +**Vincie Vallo**
By Victoria and Bob Dichek

the value of this most basic of all gifts which is life. Mere reason leads us to comprehend that it is better to be alive than never have had been in existence. The knowledge of the value of life that comes through revelation leads us to understand better this gift and to appreciate it: as a result, we worship and love more and more the Giver of this gift. This love is what moves us to protect the life of the unborn or any who might be unjustly treated. We are also led to protect women that might feel tempted or forced to commit abortion, as we know the devastating consequences that abortion will have in their lives. Last but not least we have to love, even if most of them seem to be utterly unlovable, the many perpetrators of abortion: medical personnel, and pro-abortion activists and politicians. We have to do everything that we can to convince them of their errors so that they repent and change their ways, both for their own benefit and for the benefit of society.

All human beings are created in the image and likeness of God. Using a traditional scholastic term, we can state that He is the exemplary cause of every human being, in other words, He is the model on which all human beings are created. He looked upon himself and wished that other beings would share in His own happiness. So if we reflect upon ourselves, we can begin to understand our participation in the greatness of our Creator. This participation on His greatness leads us to comprehend that He has brought us out of nothing with a purpose, because knowing His intelligence and His loving nature it is clear that all His actions are always guided by a magnificent purpose. The first intention for which He has created us is that we should enjoy for an eternity His loving company in Heaven. All human persons are called to this eternal and loving company, no one is excluded, save those who, through their own actions, exclude themselves.

This manner of creation brings us to understand the unique essential dignity of every human being. A dignity that is not lost for any deprivation of the many external perfections that we might expect to find in a human person. A person might be born with a disability, or may



January 22 is the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* and the day established by the Church of penance for abortion, has been formally named as the “Day of Prayer

for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. More than 56 million abortions have been performed since the 1973 decision, reflecting the heartbreaking magnitude that Pope Francis calls a “throwaway culture.”

Love is not merely a feeling, but is rather the desire for the best possible good for those whom we love. Through our natural intelligence and through Divine Revelation we become aware of

suffer disability through injury or disease, but these deprivations do not affect his basic dignity. A Christian also has the hope that one day when the doors of Paradise will be opened for those children, all their human imperfections will be healed and they will enjoy forever the beatific vision that we all long for.

We are also created to be collaborators in the salvation of the World. The Lord normally does not intervene directly in the world; He does it through our free collaboration in his plans of salvation. He gives to us the saving truths through Holy Scripture, our natural reason and the mediation of the Church and we have to manifest them in our daily lives. If we love those truths we should be impelled to share them with all whom the Lord places in front of us. So when we speak with love and conviction of those truths we cannot be accused of carrying out an exaggerated rhetoric when we defend human life from its biological beginning until natural death. Nobody in his right mind can call it "vitriolic rhetoric" when we denounce that millions upon millions of unborn babies have been killed in the womb in the U.S. and in the rest of the world. It is literally a question of life and death, for the victim, for the mother of the baby and for the perpetrator of abortion, assisted suicide or euthanasia. The victim will have his earthly life terminated; the mother will suffer greatly for her actions, and the perpetrator and the mother will live under the shadow of the unhappiness of having rejected the loving truths of their Creator and certainly they will place their eternal salvation in jeopardy. Our main solidarity has to be always with the victim of the crime, because if the conscience of the nation is not moved by this growing injustice, we know that a growing number will be victimized in the future. Our solidarity is also with the mothers of those babies because often they have been misled or forced into committing this terrible action.

Last but not least, we wish and pray that all abortionists will understand the terrible consequences of their actions and be converted.

All dioceses of the United States shall observe Monday, January 23 as a particular day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion.

March For Life, Washington DC
Friday, January 27, 2017

Church & Religious Education Schedule

Jan. 23: All grades at school
Jan. 24: Bible Study: 6:30 pm
Jan. 28, 6 pm: Youth Group Game Night
Jan. 30: All grades at school

***Our Offering* Sunday, Jan. 15 \$1,801. 2016 \$2,746.**

Special Collection January 21 & 22

The second collection next weekend is for the Foundation for Catholic Education, a diocesan fund that provides tuition assistance grants for students with financial need in the Catholic elementary and high schools of the Diocese of Metuchen. Without financial assistance, these students might not receive the gift of a Catholic education. Please be as generous as your means allow.

Our Food Pantry Ministry is a vital outreach



Food Pantry
Donations Needed

program pledged to fulfill the continuing needs of our community and those of the surrounding area. In order to meet this commitment we need you to donate nonperishable food items.

We are asking that, if you are able, to bring food items such as soups, tuna, cereal, vegetables, pasta, etc. to our Parish Center. Once weekly, the items we collect are delivered to the Community Food Pantry of Washington, operated from the First Presbyterian Church, which serves more than 100 families. The Food Pantry depends on donations from local churches and organizations.

Contribution Statement

If you would like to have a statement of your 2016 contributions, **please submit a self-addressed, stamped envelope**—make sure your request is to the attention of Mary Rupell.



Stephen, Anthony Vitale, Bridget M., Savannah Paine, Bobby Gross, Michael Dante, Keira H., 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, Louise C., Peter S., Helen Dicheck, Mary Supple