

January 24, 2016 The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, January 23

5 p.m. +George & Louise Wyker & Catherine Gacek
By Clara and Clem Wyker

Sunday, January 24

8:00 a.m. **Parishioners of St. Theodore Church**
10:30 a.m. +Edward and Anna Durnin
By Mary Rupell

Monday, January 25 *The Conversion of St. Paul*

8:45 a.m. +Joseph Sparacino, Jr.
By Karl and Rose Strohmaier

Tuesday, January 26 *Sts. Timothy and Titus*

8:45 a.m. +Bobby E. Johnson, Jr.
By Eileen and Jim Mattison

Wednesday, January 27 *Saint Angela Merici*

8:45 a.m. +Randy Matlack
By Mary Rupell

Thursday, January 28 *Saint Thomas Aquinas*

8:45 a.m. **Intentions of Bruce & Marta Jackson**
By Mary Rupell

Friday, January 29 NO MASS

Saturday, January 30

5 p.m. +Catherine Baines
By The Kappus Family

Sunday, January 31

8:00 a.m. **Birthday Blessings for Bridget McGuire**
By Mary Rupell
10:30 a.m. +Jeanne McCormick
By Karl and Rose Strohmaier



Paul's entire life can be explained in terms of one experience—his meeting with Jesus on the road to Damascus.

In an instant, he saw

that all the zeal of his dynamic personality was being wasted, like the strength of a boxer swinging wildly. Perhaps he had never seen Jesus, who was only a few years older. But he had acquired a zealot's hatred of all Jesus stood for, as he began to harass the Church:

"...entering house after house and dragging out men and women, he handed them over for imprisonment" (Acts 8:3b). Now he himself was "entered," possessed, all his energy harnessed to one goal—being a slave of Christ in the ministry of reconciliation, an instrument to help others experience the one Savior.

One sentence determined his theology: "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting" (Acts 9:5b). Jesus was mysteriously identified with people—the loving group of people Saul had been

running down like criminals. Jesus, he saw, was the mysterious fulfillment of all he had been blindly pursuing.

From then on, his only work was to "present everyone perfect in Christ. For this I labor and struggle, in accord with the exercise of his power working within me" (Colossians 1:28b-29). "For our gospel did not come to you in word alone, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and [with] much conviction" (1 Thessalonians 1:5a).

Paul's life became a tireless proclaiming and living out of the message of the cross: Christians die baptismally to sin and are buried with Christ; they are dead to all that is sinful and unredeemed in the world. They are made into a new creation, already sharing Christ's victory and someday to rise from the dead like him. Through this risen Christ the Father pours out the Spirit on them, making them completely new.

So Paul's great message to the world was: You are saved entirely by God, not by anything you can do. Saving faith is the gift of total, free, personal and loving commitment to Christ, a commitment that then bears fruit in more "works" than the Law could ever contemplate.

Paul is undoubtedly hard to understand. His style often reflects the rabbinical style of argument of his day, and often his thought skips on mountaintops while we plod below. But perhaps our problems are accentuated by the fact that so many beautiful jewels have become part of the everyday coin in our Christian language

"Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, [love] is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things" (1 Corinthians 13:4-7).

Confirmation Announcement

We have been notified that the Bishop will not be conferring the Sacrament of Confirmation. Father Damian will be doing the honors. The date will be **Sunday, May 15 at 12:30 p.m.**

The bishops are inviting Catholics to pray for the protection of life, marriage and religious liberty in our country. A simple way to do this is by praying for the prayer intention which you can receive each week via email, text message or Facebook.

Prayer does not need to be complicated. It is “a simple look turned towards heaven...a cry of recognition and love; embracing both trial and joy” (Saint Therese of Lisieux).

Here are some suggestions to consider as you pray for the weekly intention. Choose the form/s of prayer that work for you: Pray a Hail Mary, Offer a Rosary, Make a Holy Hour, Attend Mass

- **Other Prayer recommendations**
Daily Rosary: The Rosary is a way of being united with Mary in approaching Christ. Is a daily Rosary too much? Start small with a daily Hail Mary or one decade and consider gradually increasing it over time.
- Monthly Eucharistic Holy Hour: Spending time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is always time well spent. This can be done on your own at a time that is best for you or with your parish if one is scheduled. Consider spending an hour monthly with Jesus, praying for the protection of life, marriage and religious liberty. If an hour is too much, start with ten minutes and gradually increase the time.



Please pray for: Stephen, Elizabeth Ondroczy, Rosaria Incantalupo, Anthony Vitale, Bridget M., Savannah Paine, Bobby Gross, Michael Dante, Keira H., Maryann Vaughan, Charlie

Guerriere, Sr., Robert Dicheck, Peter, Zachary, Logan Peter Saksa, Anna Saksa, Lauren Lane, Jay Mildrum, Diane, Philip Kinney, Mary D., Eleanor D., Reilly B., Kerry Kraft

Contribution Statement

If you would like to have a statement of your 2015 contributions, please submit a self-addressed, stamped envelope—make sure your request is to the attention of Mary Rupell. Statements will be ready by the end of January.

Our Offering

January 17: \$2,746 Last Year: \$2,735

Volunteer/s Needed

Andy Ryan has graciously volunteered to take on the task of snow plowing for our church. However, there will be times when he will need help. If you are able to give Andy a hand, please call him at 908-689-8896. I will truly be grateful to you for your assistance.

Father Damian

Church Announcements

- **Trustee & Pastoral Council Meeting:** Wednesday, January 27 at 7 p.m.
- **Confessions** will be heard 30 minutes before the start of every Mass—weekends, as well as daily Masses.
- **Home Visitations:** Every First Friday beginning at 10:30 a.m. Call Mary at the Parish Office to be put on the list.
- **Special Celebration:** February 2, 8:45am Mass Presentation of the Lord.
- **Blessing of the Throats, Feast Day of St. Blaise:** February 3: 8:45am Mass
- **Special Collection:** February 13/14: National Collection for Humanitarian and Church Needs for Severe Weather Relief in the United States
- **Ash Wednesday Mass Schedule:** 8:45 a.m., 12 Noon, 6:30 p.m.
- **Divine Mercy Devotion: Every Lenten Friday:** 3 p.m.: Divine Mercy Chaplet and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.
- **Stations of the Cross:** 7 p.m. every Friday during Lent. Immediately following the Stations, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will take place.
- **Altar Rosary Society Meeting:** Feb. 3 @ 7pm

Religious Education Schedule

Jan 25 & Feb 1: All grades at School

Feb. 8: 7th Grade at Church with parents; all others at School

Feb. 10, 6:30 pm: Ash Wednesday: All grades at Church

Feb.15: No School: Presidents' Day

Feb. 19, 7 pm: Grades 1 thru 4: At Church for Stations of the Cross

Feb. 22: All grades at School

Feb. 26, 7 pm: Grades 5 thru 8: At Church for Stations of the Cross

Feb. 29: All grades at School