

July 3, 2016 The Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, July 2

5:00 p.m. +**John A. Haines**
By Nancy and Charlie Guerriere

Sunday, July 3

8:00 a.m. **Parishioners of St. Theodore Church**

10:30 a.m. +**Joseph Iwanowski**
By Wife

10:30 a.m. **Parishioners of St. Theodore Church**

Monday, July 4

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

Tuesday, July 5 *Saint Anthony Zaccaria*

8:45 a.m.

Wednesday, July 6 *Saint Maria Goretti*

8:45 a.m. +**Theresa Rebinski**
By Henry Rebinski

Thursday, July 7

8:45 a.m.

Friday, July 8 *NO MASS*

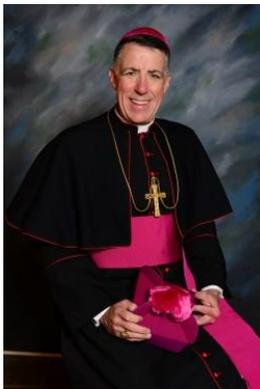
Saturday, July 9

5:00 p.m. +**Louise and George Wyker**
By Clem and Clara Wyker

Sunday, July 10

8:00 a.m. **Parishioners of St. Theodore Church**

10:30 a.m. +**Salvatore and Jeanette Urbano**
By Susan Reynolds



The Parishioners of Saint Theodore Church warmly welcome our Bishop, James Checchio, to our parish to celebrate the 8 a.m. Mass on July 3.

We extend our congratulations on his appointment as Bishop of the Diocese of Metuchen and offer our prayerful

intentions for many blessings as he leads the faithful of the diocese.

Saint Maria Goretti

Born on October 16 1890 in Corinaldo, in the Ancona Province in Italy, her farm worker father moved his family to Ferrier di Conca, near Anzio. When he died of malaria, Maria's mother had to struggle to feed her children. Maria's mother, brothers, and sisters worked in the fields while she cooked, sewed, kept the house clean,



and watched her youngest sister Teresa. Though the family's circumstances were extremely difficult, they were very close and loved God.

On July 5, 1902, Maria was sitting outside the steps of her home sewing her 18-year-old brother or neighbor -

it is unclear which - Alessandro's shirt while he threshed beans in the barnyard. As she concentrated on her sewing, Alessandro surprised her and grabbed her from her steps. When he tried to rape her, Maria cried that it was a mortal sin and warned he would go to hell.

When Alessandro persisted, she fought him and screamed, "No! It is a sin! God does not want it!" At her words, Alessandro began to choke her and she said she would rather die than submit. Upon hearing her words, Alexander pulled out a knife and stabbed her eleven times. When she attempted to reach the door, he stabbed her three more times then fled.

Teresa woke to the sounds of her sister's cries and began to cry. Maria's family returned home and found her bleeding on the floor. They quickly took her to the nearest hospital in Nettuno, where she underwent surgery without anesthesia.

Unfortunately, her wounds were beyond the surgeon's ability to help. Halfway through the surgery, the man asked her, "Maria, think of me in Paradise." As she lay on the table, she looked up at him and said, "Well, who knows which of us is going to be there first?" She did not realize how terrible her situation was, and the surgeon replied, "You, Maria." She said, "Then I will think gladly of you." She also mentioned concerns for her mother. The next day, Maria forgave Alessandro and said she wanted to see him in Heaven with her. She died that day while looking upon an image of the Virgin Mary and holding a cross to her chest. Shortly after Maria's family discovered her, Alexander was captured and questioned. He admitted Maria was a physical virgin as he was unable to assault her and he was sentenced to thirty years. He also admitted he had attempted to persuade her to accompany him to bed on several occasions in the past and had attempted to rape her before.

Alessandro remained unrepentant for his actions until he had a dream that he was in a garden. Maria was there and gave him lilies, which immediately burned in his hands. When he woke, he was a changed man. He repented his crime and living a reformed life. When he was released 27-years-later, he went directly to Maria's mother and begged her

forgiveness, which she gave, saying, "If my daughter can forgive him, who am I to withhold forgiveness?" Maria Goretti was beatified by Pope Pius XII in a ceremony at Saint Peter's Basilica on April 27, 1947. Three years later, on June 24, 1950, Maria was declared a saint and Alessandro was present in the St. Peter's crowd to celebrate her canonization. He later became a lay brother of the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin, where he lived in a monastery and worked as its receptionist and gardener until his death. Saint Maria is called a martyr because she fought against Alessandro's attempts at sexual sin; however, the most important aspects of her story are how she forgave her attacker - her concern for her enemy extending even beyond death - and the miracle her forgiveness produced in his life. Saint Maria's body can be found in the crypt of the Basilica of Nostra Signora delle Grazie e Santa Maria Goretti in Nettuno. Though several claim her body is incorrupt, she has been proven to be corrupt. Her body is kept in a statue which lies beneath the altar and has been mistaken to be all of her remains. Images of Saint Maria often represent her with wavy hair dressed in either white or farm clothes and is often depicted holding lilies. Her feast day is July 6. *Some of St. Maria Goretti's relatives came to America and settled in New Village, NJ, just a few miles from our church.*

Mass Attendance and Vacation

Finding a place to attend Mass while far from home may often not be easy – but with the help of some advance planning, we can usually find one wherever we may go. The web-site www.Masstimes.org has a listing of Mass schedules in parishes throughout the United States. Also most tourist-friendly places readily offer information as to the location of the nearest Catholic Church. As Catholics we belong to more than just our parish – we are members of a universal Church and therefore we are never strangers when we meet with other Catholics to celebrate the great Mystery of our Faith which is the Holy Mass. Vacations are a time of rest – a time to recharge our batteries so to speak. But as we take advantage of our vacation days to spend time with our loved ones and to rest from the everyday demands and routines of work, let us not neglect to also “rest in the Lord” on the day in which we commemorate his love for us in the Sunday Eucharist. If we are serious about our Christian commitment, we cannot neglect to recharge our spiritual batteries in the central act of our worship,

the source and summit of all Christian life: the Mass. There can never be a vacation from our vocation.

Our Offering: June 26: \$2,382.50; 2015: \$2,564.

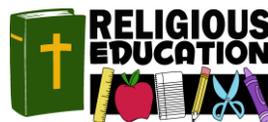


Stephen Anthony Vitale,
Bridget M., Savannah Paine,
Bobby Gross, Michael Dante,
Keira H., Maryann Vaughan,
Charlie Guerriere, Sr., Robert Dicheck, Peter,
Zachary, Logan Peter Saksa, Anna Paine,
Maryann Vaughan, Charlie Guerriere, Sr.,
Robert Dicheck, Anna Saksa, Lauren Lane, Jay
Mildrum, Philip Kinney, Mary D., Eleanor D.,
Kerry Kraft, Barbara K., Patty Mahoney

WALKING PILGRIMAGE

(Parishioners: Again, we will be hosting the priests, religious brothers, and sisters (who are participating in the Walking Pilgrimage) for lunch in our Parish Center on August 11. You have been so generous with your donations of water and desserts in the past—thank you! We are asking if you will be able to do so yet again. If you are able, please put your items in the Narthex or give them to me (Mary Rupell) at the office. Thank you so much for your hospitality and kindness toward them.)

It's Time to Register Your Child



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION The deadline for tuition discount is July 11. Registrations completed after July 11 must include the non-discounted tuition. PLEASE DOWNLOAD FORMS ONLINE (one per child): www.sttheodorenj.com



A beautiful, meaningful way to remember a loved one, living or deceased, is by having a Mass said for them. Mass intentions are often said for someone who has passed away, but there are so many occasions that are perfect for honoring a special person who is living. A Mass can be said for them for blessings on a birthday, an anniversary, a graduation, a wedding, in thanksgiving and, of course, for private special intentions. Call or stop by the office to reserve a date. **Dates still open: July 5, 7, 17 (8 am), 18, 19, 21, 25, 31 (10:30 am); August 1, 2, 3, 5, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21 (10:30 am), 24, 25, 29, 30, 31. There are openings for the rest of the year also.**