

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Saturday, October 13**

5 p.m. + **Charles and Helen Kelton**  
By The Shipley Family

**Sunday, October 14**

8:00 a.m. **Saint Theodore Parishioners**

10:30 a.m. + **Joseph Cong Tran**  
By Family

**Sunday, October 15**

8:00 a.m. **Saint Theodore Parishioners**

10:30 a.m. **Altar Rosary Society**

**Monday, October 16** Saint Teresa of Jesus

8:45 a.m.

**Tuesday, October 17**

8:45 a.m.

**Wednesday, October 18**

8:45 a.m. + **Robert Gross and Charles Folk**  
By Angela Gross

**Thursday, October 19** NO MASS

**Friday October 20**

8:45 a.m.

**Saturday, October 21**

5 p.m. + **Bill Mitchell**  
By Nancy and Charlie Guerriere

**Sunday, October 22**

8:00 a.m. + **Father John Basil**  
By Rich and Maryjane Petteruti

10:30 a.m. **Saint Theodore Parishioners**



Teresa of Ávila was born in Ávila, Spain. Teresa's father was rigidly honest and pious, but he may have carried his strictness to extremes. Teresa's mother loved romance novels but because her husband objected to these fanciful books, she hid the books from him. This put Teresa in the middle -- especially since she liked the romances too. Her

father told her never to lie but her mother told her not to tell her father. Later she said she was always afraid that no matter what she did she was going to do everything wrong.

After this incident she led a fairly ordinary life, though she was convinced that she was a horrible sinner. As a teenager, she cared only about boys, clothes, flirting, and rebelling. When she was 16, her father decided she was out of control and sent her to a convent. At first she hated it but eventually she began to enjoy it -- partly because of her growing love for God, and partly because the convent was a lot less strict than her father.

Still, when the time came for her to choose between marriage and religious life, she had a tough time making the decision. She'd watched a difficult marriage ruin her mother. On the other hand being a nun didn't seem like much fun. When she finally chose religious life, she did so because she thought that it was the only safe place for someone as prone to sin as she was.

Once installed at the Carmelite convent permanently, she started to learn and practice mental prayer, in which she "tried as hard as I could to keep Jesus Christ present within me....My imagination is so dull that I had no talent for imagining or coming up with great theological thoughts." Teresa prayed this way off and on for eighteen years without feeling that she was getting results.

Teresa suffered the same problem that Francis of Assisi did -- she was too charming. Everyone liked her and she liked to be liked. She found it too easy to slip into a worldly life and ignore God. The convent encouraged her to have visitors to whom she would teach mental prayer because their gifts helped the community economy. But Teresa got more involved in flattery, vanity and gossip than spiritual guidance. These weren't great sins perhaps but they kept her from God.

Then Teresa fell ill with malaria. When she had a seizure, people were so sure she was dead that after she woke up four days later she learned they had dug a grave for her. Afterwards she was paralyzed for three years and was never completely well. Yet instead of helping her spiritually, her sickness became an excuse to stop her prayer completely: she couldn't be alone enough, she wasn't healthy enough, and so forth. Later she would say, "Prayer is an act of love, words are not needed. Even if sickness distracts from thoughts, all that is needed is the will to love."

For years she hardly prayed at all "under the guise of humility." She thought as a wicked sinner she didn't deserve to get favors from God. But turning away from prayer was like "a baby turning from its mother's breasts, what can be expected but death? "When she was 41, a priest convinced her to go back to her prayer, but she still found it difficult. "I was more anxious for the hour of prayer to be over than I was to remain there. I don't know what heavy penance I would not have gladly undertaken rather than practice prayer." She was distracted often: "This intellect is so wild that it doesn't seem to be anything else than a frantic madman no one can tie down." Teresa sympathizes with those who have a difficult time in prayer: "All the trials we endure cannot be compared to these interior battles."

Yet her experience gives us wonderful descriptions of mental prayer: "For mental prayer in my opinion is

nothing else than an intimate sharing between friends; it means taking time frequently to be alone with him who we know loves us. The important thing is not to think much but to love much and so do that which best stirs you to love. Love is not great delight but desire to please God in everything."

As she started to pray again, God gave her spiritual delights: the prayer of quiet where God's presence overwhelmed her senses, raptures where God overcame her with glorious foolishness, prayer of union where she felt the sun of God melt her soul away. Sometimes her whole body was raised from the ground. If she felt God was going to levitate her body, she stretched out on the floor and called the nuns to sit on her and hold her down. Far from being excited about these events, she "begged God very much not to give me any more favors in public." In her books, she analyzed and dissects mystical experiences the way a scientist would. She never saw these gifts as rewards from God but the way he "chastised" her. The more love she felt the harder it was to offend God. She says, "The memory of the favor God has granted does more to bring such a person back to God than all the infernal punishments imaginable."

Her biggest fault was her friendships. Though she wasn't sinning, she was very attached to her friends until God told her "No longer do I want you to converse with human beings but with angels." In an instant he gave her the freedom that she had been unable to achieve through years of effort. After that God always came first in her life.

Some friends, however, did not like what was happening to her and got together to discuss some "remedy" for her. Concluding that she had been deluded by the devil, they sent a Jesuit to analyze her. The Jesuit reassured her that her experiences were from God but soon everyone knew about her and was making fun of her.

Teresa felt that the best evidence that her delights came from God was that the experiences gave her peace, inspiration, and encouragement. "If these effects are not present I would greatly doubt that the raptures come from God; on the contrary I would fear lest they be caused by rabies."

Sometimes, however, she couldn't avoid complaining to her closest Friend about the hostility and gossip that surrounded her. When Jesus told her, "Teresa, that's how I treat my friends" Teresa responded, "No wonder you have so few friends." But since Christ has so few friends, she felt they should be good ones. And that's why she decided to reform her Carmelite order.



## **TRICKY TRAY FUNDRAISER**

**December 1 @ 9:30 a.m. at the Mansfield Township School**

Check out our Basket Theme suggestions posted in the Narthex and again we ask that each family donated a basket of items with a value of at least \$25.

*Dear Parishioners, You are encouraged to join me every Friday after the morning Mass, to pray the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy, and on the First Friday pray the chaplet in front of the Blessed Sacrament. To follow Bishop James's invitation, we will dedicate these prayers for the healing of the victims of clergy sexual abuse and for strength, courage and perseverance of the Church of of Metuchen.—Father Damian*

### **Our Offering**

**October 7:** \$2,413; Salvatorians: \$755.

Stephen, Bridget M., Savannah Paine, Bobby Gross, Keira Hedges, Peter, Zachary, Logan Peter Saksa, Anna Saksa, Lauren Lane, Jay Mildrum, Peter S., Mary Rupell, Susan Reynolds, Maryanne C., 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, Tony Santos, Tina Delrosso, Gaspar Scozzati, Eleanor D., Tom and Jean C., Helene Picht, Tom M.



Prayer Requests



10/15, 6:15: 2nd Grade Parents meet w/ Fr. Damian at the school  
10/15, 6:15: All Rel. Ed. Grades at school

10/21, 10:30: 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Mass  
10-/22, 6:15: All Rel. Ed. Grades at school  
10/27: Giving Tree begins  
10/28, 10:30: 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Mass  
10/29, 6:15: All Rel. Ed. Grades at school  
**11/1, 6:30: ALL students & parents at Mass For All Saints Day (Holy Day of Obligation)**