October 2, 2016   The Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, October 1
5:00 p.m.   **+John A. Haines**
                                    By The Shipley Family
Sunday, October 2   Respect Life Sunday
8:00 a.m.   **+Marie Miccio**
                                    By Bob and Carol Waldron
10:30 a.m.   **+Ludwik Tomiczek**
                                    By Mary Rupell
Monday, Monday, October 3
8:45 a.m.   **+Charlotte Klein**
                                    By Sam and Marietta Tridente
Tuesday, October 4   St. Francis of Assisi
8:45 a.m.   **+Marion and Roy Mattison**
                                    By Jim and Eileen Mattison
Wednesday, October 5
8:45 a.m.   **Parishioners of Saint Theodore Church**
Thursday, October 6   Saint Bruno
8:45 a.m.   **+Theresa Rebinski**
                                    By Henry Rebinski
First Friday, October 7   Our Lady of the Rosary
 8:45 a.m.   **+Theresa Rebinski**
                                    By Henry Rebinski
Saturday, October 8
5:00 p.m.   **+Florence and Michael Jablon**
                                    By Grace Jablon
Sunday, October 9
8:00 a.m.   **Blessings for Mary and Bill Supple on
                    their 59th Wedding Anniversary**
                                    By Family
10:30 a.m.   **The Altar Rosary Society**

October is Respect Life Month and plans have been put in motion for the Life Chain at several local churches.

Sometimes, we get so caught up in activities that we forget there are people in our pews who don't really understand the basics of what respecting life is all about. To reinforce in the minds of parishioners the purpose behind everything that you are doing, here's a handy recap:

As Catholics we believe that all life – from conception to natural death – is sacred. We know that this means abortion and euthanasia are morally wrong. But respecting life means so much more.

It's been almost 40 years since the term "seamless garment" was used to describe a holistic approach to respecting life. The term refers to the seamless tunic, worn by Jesus, that the soldiers did not tear apart during the crucifixion (John 19:23). In 1971, Eileen Egan, a Catholic journalist, co-founder of Pax Christi – USA, and close friend of Mother Teresa, proclaimed, "The protection of life is a seamless garment. You can't protect some life and not others."

Twelve years later, in 1983, the late Cardinal Joseph Bernadine (1928-1996) introduced the concept of a Consistent Life Ethic, using the same image of a seamless garment to promote the idea that all human life should be revered and protected. This seamless garment includes opposition to abortion, assisted suicide, euthanasia, capital punishment, unjust war, nuclear war, genetic engineering, hunger, poverty, and economic injustice.

As Catholics, we can't pick and choose which life issues we will and will not respect."When human life is considered 'cheap' or easily expendable in one area, eventually nothing is held as sacred and all lives are in jeopardy," Cardinal Bernadine explained.

In 1995, Pope John Paul II encouraged the establishment of "a culture of life" that emphasizes the value of all human life. In his encyclical, *The Gospel of Life*, he pointed out that the right to life is the foundation for all other human rights. "The deepest element of God's commandment to protect human life is the requirement to show reverence and love for every person and the life of every person," the pope explained.

The concept of respecting life is so profound that it's worth meditating upon. When people embrace the concept of respecting life it impacts everything they say and do.

This month, in addition to whatever Respect Life activities that you've already planned, make it a priority to understand what respecting life really means. We encourage you to give much thought on how to respect life in all of its different dimensions. Invite you to pray that our society will become a culture of life –not just for our own sakes – but for the future of our world.

The month of October is dedicated to Mary under the theme of the Rosary because of the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary on October 7. In the 15th and 16th centuries, there was an extensive promotion of Devotion to the Rosary. On October 7, 1571, Christians won an important naval battle against the Moslem Turks at Lepanto Strait (near western Greece). The credit for the victory was

thought to be the Rosary. Pius V ordered that the annual anniversary of this victory be celebrated with a Marian feast of Our Lady of Victory. In 1573, Gregory XI permitted churches to celebrate a feast of the Holy Rosary. After another victory against the Moslem Turks in 1716, Clement XI extended the feast to the universal Church. We honor Mary by signs of devotion and prayer. Marian shrines and various Marian prayers such as the Holy Rosary, the Litany of Loretto and the Angelus are all means of showing honor to Mary. In showing honor to Mary we not only acknowledge her special place in salvation history, we also imitate Jesus, who honored and obeyed his mother.

Mary not only is the greatest of saints, she also has the heart of a mother for us, her children. From the cross, Jesus entrusted Mary to the beloved disciple, John, as mother. In this action we see Mary given to all disciples as mother. When prayer requests are entrusted to Mary, we are entrusted to the heart of a mother who cherishes and desires the best for her children.

May the rosary beads which are draped on our church pews be a reminder for us about this simple but powerful Devotion of the Holy Rosary.

Thank you Parishioners for your expression of sympathy with Mass cards and words of comfort on the passing of my father. I truly appreciate your kindness. God bless you.
--Fr. Damian

Church Schedule
Oct. 2, 2pm: Respect Life Chair; SS Peter & Paul Church, SS Philip & James Church (Phillipsburg), Planned Parenthood (Washington)
Oct. 5: 6:30pm: Catholicism & Bible Study in Parish Center (conducted by Fr. Damian)
Oct. 5: 7pm: Altar Rosary Society Meeting
Oct.6: 7 pm: New Eucharistic Ministers Training
Oct. 9 after 8 & 10:30 Masses: Hospitality and Ministry Sign-up Fair
Oct. 10: Parish and Religious Ed Offices closed.

Upcoming Workshop: First Phase: Weekly one-hour sessions on Catholicism and Bible Study conducted by Father Damian. Join Father to learn more about our faith. A beautiful DVD series on Catholicism will be shown and discussed.

Second Phase: Will be Bible Study, also conducted by Father Damian.

Mark your calendar: October 9 after the 8 and 10:30 Masses there will be sign-up for various ministries during *Hospitality Sunday.*

If you are interested in volunteering for any of the ministries, just sign your name to the list. The various ministries are: Hospitality, Altar Rosary Society, Lector, Grounds Keeping, Church Cleaning, Altar Servers, Ushers, Youth Group, Religious Education, Adult and Youth Choir, Fund Raising (includes Tricky Tray, Giving Tree, 50/50), Knights of Columbus, Respect Life, Prayer Chain.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Oct. 10: No Religious Education Classes
Oct. 17: 6:15: 2nd Grade Parents Meeting
Oct. 31: No Religious Education Classes
Nov. 1: 6:15: All students report to church

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, Martin G., Cheyann Miller

Our Offering: Sept. 25: $2,407-- 2015: $2,790

33 Days to Merciful Love: Author Fr. Gaitley of the Divine Mercy Shrine in Stockbridge, MA has published another book and DVD series on God's merciful love as exemplified by St. Therese of Liseaux. You are invited to SS Philip & James Church (Conference Room) for a 6-week course beginning Oct. 17 @ 7pm. For more info call 908-454-9880; leave your name & phone # so they can order you a book.