

September 11, 2016 The Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, September 10

5:00 p.m. **For the Healing of Elizabeth Szamreta**
By Jeanne Szamreta

Sunday, September 11

8:00 a.m. **Parishioners of St. Theodore Church**
10:30 a.m. **+Mark Johnson**
By Eileen Flanagan and Family

Monday, September 12 The Most Holy Name of Mary

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

Tuesday, September 13 St. John Chrysostom

8:45 a.m. **+Corrado and Jennie Tridente**
By Sam and Marietta Tridente

Wednesday, September 14 The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

8:45 a.m. **+The Ochsenfeld and Watson Families**
By Flo Ochsenfeld

Thursday, September 15 Our Lady of Sorrows

8:45 a.m. **In Thanksgiving of St. Jude, St. Francis and St. Anthony**
By Angela Gross

Friday, September 16 NO MASS

Saturday, September 17

5:00 p.m. **+Helen Kelton**
By The Shipley Family

Sunday, September 18

8:00 a.m. **Parishioners of St. Theodore Church**
10:30 a.m. **+Irene Agciak**
By Jack Agciak



The title, **Our Lady of Sorrows**, given to our Blessed Mother focuses on her intense suffering and grief during the passion and death of our Lord. Traditionally, this suffering was not limited to the passion and death event; rather, it

comprised the seven dolours or seven sorrows of Mary, which were foretold by the Priest Simeon who proclaimed to Mary, This child [Jesus] is destined to be the downfall and the rise of many in Israel, a sign that will be opposed and you yourself shall be pierced with a sword so that the thoughts of many hearts may be laid bare (Luke 2:34-35).

These seven sorrows of our Blessed Mother included the flight of the Holy Family into Egypt; the loss and finding of the child Jesus in the Temple; Mary's meeting of Jesus on His way to Calvary; Mary's standing at the foot of the cross when our Lord was crucified; her holding of Jesus when He

was taken down from the cross; and then our Lord's burial. In all, the prophesy of Simeon that a sword would pierce our Blessed Mother's heart was fulfilled in these events. For this reason, Mary is sometimes depicted with her heart exposed and with seven swords piercing it. More importantly, each new suffering was received with the courage, love, and trust that echoed her fiat, let it be done unto me according to Thy word, first uttered at the Annunciation.

This Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows grew in popularity in the 12th century, although under various titles. Granted, some writings would place its roots in the eleventh century, especially among the Benedictine monks. By the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, the feast and devotion were widespread throughout the Church.

Interestingly, in 1482, the feast was officially placed in the Roman Missal under the title of Our Lady of Compassion, highlighting the great love our Blessed Mother displayed in suffering with her Son. The word *compassion* derives from the Latin roots *cum* and *patior* which means to suffer with. Our Blessed Mother's sorrow exceeded anyone else's since she was the mother of Jesus, who was not only her Son but also her Lord and Savior; she truly suffered with her Son. The key image here is our Blessed Mother standing faithfully at the foot of the cross with her dying Son: the Gospel of St. John recorded, Seeing His mother there with the disciple whom He loved, Jesus said to His mother, 'Woman, there is your son.' In turn He said to the disciple, 'There is your mother.' (John 19:26-27). The Second Vatican Council in its *Dogmatic Constitution on the Church* wrote, A...She stood in keeping with the divine plan, suffering grievously with her only-begotten Son. There she united herself, with a maternal heart, to His sacrifice, and lovingly consented to the immolation of this Victim which she herself had brought forth (#58).

St. Bernard (d. 1153) wrote, Truly, O Blessed Mother, a sword has pierced your heart.... He died in body through a love greater than anyone had known. She died in spirit through a love unlike any other since His (*De duodecim praerogativis BVM*).

Focusing on the compassion of our Blessed Mother, Pope John Paul II, reminded the faithful, Mary Most Holy goes on being the loving consoler of those touched by the many physical and moral sorrows which afflict and torment humanity. She knows our sorrows and our pains, because she too suffered, from Bethlehem to Calvary. Mary is our Spiritual Mother, and the mother always understands her children and consoles them in their troubles. Then, she has that specific mission to love us,

received from Jesus on the Cross, to love us only and always, so as to save us! Mary consoles us above all by pointing out the Crucified One and Paradise to us! (1980).

Therefore, as we honor our Blessed Mother, our Lady of Sorrows, we honor her as the faithful disciple and exemplar of faith. Let us pray as we do in the opening prayer of the Mass for this feast day: Father, as your Son was raised on the cross, His Mother Mary stood by Him, sharing His sufferings. May your Church be united with Christ in His suffering and death and so come to share in His rising to new life. Looking to the example of Mary, may we too unite our sufferings to our Lord, facing them with courage, love, and trust.



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, Robert Dicheck, Anna Saksa, Lauren Lane, Jay Mildrum, Philip Kinney, Mary D., Kerry Kraft, Barbara K., Patty Mahoney, Martin G., Cheyann Miller, Mary W.



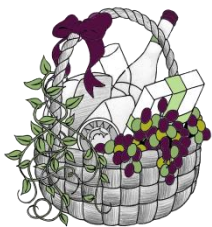
September Religious Education Schedule

Sept. 12, 6:15 pm—All grades at school and **PARENTS**

MEETING W/ FATHER AT THE SCHOOL AT 6:15 PM on Sept. 12.

Sept. 19, 6:30 pm, Grades 7 & 8 at church with parents; 6:15 pm all other grades at school

Sept. 26, 6:15—All grades at school



Tricky Tray Supplies Needed

The following donations are needed: basket filler (Easter basket grass or basket shred paper), shrink wrap, large, clear cellophane gift bags, ribbon, large baskets, clear packaging tape. We will be posting basket theme suggestions in the Narthex soon. Gift Cards donations are a real time saver and head scratcher saver. Grocery Gift cards can be purchased from our Altar Rosary Society in the Parish Center after every weekend Mass.

Our Offering: Sept. 4: \$2,649 -- 2015: \$2,480

FYI: Special Collection: Sept. 17/18

Bishop Checchio has authorized a special collection to assist in the **relief and rebuilding efforts in Louisiana and Central Italy.**



The Bishop wrote, "I am aware of the many requests that are directed at our

generous parishioners for both local and national causes. However, those affected by these natural disasters are also our sisters and brothers who no longer have the basic necessities. I ask all to be as generous as their circumstances allow."

Love and Protection of the Unborn

The whole mission of the Catholic Church in the world—the theme and purpose and vocation of every institution and every Catholic individual—is *love*.

Why does the Church set up hospitals and adoption agencies and soup kitchens? Why have whole orders of nuns been founded to care for the elderly or the sick? Why did St. Damien offer to go to spend his last years serving in a leper colony in Hawaii? Why did Mother Teresa establish homes for men dying of AIDs?

It's not for money. It's not for recognition. It's not a plan to increase our numbers and our social influence. It's not even because the Church is committed to taking care of her own. It matters not at all to any of these institutions or individuals whether the people they're serving are Catholic. They don't have to be Catholic. They can even be anti-Catholic. We don't do it for ourselves; we do it for love.

We do it because we understand that each and every person is made in the image and likeness of God. Each, no matter how small or weak or wounded or messed up, is completely unique and infinitely *precious*.

We understand that **all** human life ---- including every child in the womb-----is a gift to be received, cherished, and *served*, not abused, not manipulated, not degraded, not destroyed.