

September 16, 2018 The Twentieth-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, September 15

5 p.m. + **Sabino and Antonietta Antinolfi**
By Daughter

Sunday, September 16

8:00 a.m. + **Charles Kelton**
By The Shipley Family

10:30 a.m. + **Daniel McDonald**
By the Scarince Family

Monday, September 17 *Saint Robert Bellarmine*

8:45 a.m. **Special Intentions of Bill Supple**
By Mary Rupell

Tuesday, September 18

8:45 a.m. + **Alexis**
By Mary Theroux

Wednesday, September 19 *Saint Januarius*

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

Thursday, September 20 **NO MASS**

Friday, September 21 *Saint Matthew*

8:45 a.m.

Saturday, September 22

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

Sunday, September 23

8:00 a.m. + **Joe Rogers, Sr.**
By Jim and Eileen Mattison

10:30 a.m. + **Erna and Josef Marquart**
By Irma Marquart

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

“The Sunday Eucharist is the foundation and confirmation of all Christian practice.” Thus says the Catechism of the Catholic Church. It is both a precept of the Church and Church law that Catholics must worship God on Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation by participating in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass unless excused for a serious reason (for example, illness or the care of infants) or dispensed by their own pastor.

“Those who deliberately fail in this obligation commit a grave sin.” Most you here, I assume, are aware of this but you would be surprised to find out how many Catholics aren’t. Many of them think that Sunday Mass attendance is something that Catholics should do, but that if a person misses Mass on Sunday once in awhile, it isn’t really that serious. But it’s also the logical conclusion of our relativistic “make up your own rules” culture in which the word “obligation” really doesn’t mean that you “have to” do it. It’s

the same mentality that turns the “Ten Commandments” into the “Ten Suggestions.” But then, some Catholics are aware of the Sunday obligation but are just a bit lazy, especially while on vacation or away on a weekend business trip. They somehow manage to make all of their travel arrangements—determine what route to take or purchase their plane tickets, make hotel reservations, plan what they’re going to do—but never quite get around to planning Mass into the schedule. It is so easy to find churches and Mass times today on the Internet, that there should be no excuse for missing Mass while away from home. It just takes a little extra effort and the desire to do something that we should want to do.

And it isn’t enough that so many Catholics don’t know, or just don’t care, about their obligation to attend Sunday Mass. **There are also so many of them, who seem to be quite oblivious to the fact that when they deliberately miss Mass on Sunday or holy days of obligation without serious cause, they commit a grave sin, that is, a mortal sin, and that they shouldn’t receive Communion. The Code of Canon Law states: “A person who is conscious of grave sin is not to ... receive the body of the Lord without previous sacramental confession unless there is a grave reason and there is no opportunity to confess.”**

But why, some may ask, if you take some time out to pray to God in the privacy of your home on Sunday, is it so important to go to church and attend Mass? The short answer is that it is both a precept of the Church and Church law. But aside from this, attendance at Sunday Mass logically follows from the fact “that in the Mass it is Christ Himself who worships the Father, joining our worship to His.

Occasionally, a person does have a justifiable excuse for missing Mass on Sunday because of illness, hazardous weather or some other reason. But we must always remember that this is the exception and in those cases there is no sin. But we can never justify our absence at Sunday Mass by saying that God doesn’t care if we pray to Him at church or in the privacy of our home. This is nothing short of a Protestant mentality.

The reason we are obligated to attend Sunday Mass is that “Participation in the communal celebration of the Sunday Eucharist is a testimony of belonging and of being faithful to Christ and to his Church.” You can’t do this alone at home. You either belong to a church or you don’t.

If we try to understand **why** participating in Mass is so important, **why** skipping Mass is a mortal sin, then perhaps, it will no longer seem like an “obligation.” Then, when a person begins to love the Mass, to love going to church on Sunday, it is no longer about having to understand why the Mass is so important. It suddenly becomes “I want to. I need to.”

TRICKY TRAY MEETING

9/18/12 at 6:30 p.m.



Parishioners, please consider joining our Tricky Tray team to help make a difference. We are in great need for others to assist our current workers. As you are aware,

the Tricky Tray event is very important to our budget—it is our biggest fundraiser and more workers are needed to help make this year’s event successful!

We are also in need of Tricky Tray supplies. It has been our experience that many items are delivered unwrapped, which leads to our appeal to you for donations of basket filler (Easter basket grass or shred paper), shrink wrap, clear cellophane gift bags, bows, ribbon, baskets, clear packaging tape.

Soon we will be putting basket theme suggestions in the Narthex and again will ask that each family donated a basket of items or gift cards with a value of at least \$25.

Feast of St. Theodore Celebration



Circle November 18 on your calendar so you won’t miss the celebration of the Feast of St. Theodore at the 10:30 Mass. Bishop Checchio will celebrate the Mass and

several former pastors, along with Father Damian, will concelebrate. Immediately following the Mass, hospitality will be held, serving a selection of covered dishes, desserts, etc. Please show your support of our church by attending this celebration. Volunteers are needed

to help organize the celebration. Contact the Parish Office, 908-689-8318, ext.1, if you are able to help.

Our Offering

September 2: \$2,662 September 9: \$2,434.85A
Special Collection will be taken up on September 22 & 23 for the victims of flooding and landslides in Kerala, India at the request of Bishop Checchio.



Prayer Request

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.

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR



9/18, 6:30: Tricky Tray Meeting
9/19, 6:30: Trustee & Parish Council Meeting
9/15 & 16: Maintenance Collection
9/22 & 23: Assessment Fund Collection

9/22 & 23: Kerala, India Special Collection

9/29 & 30: Salvatorian Missions Collection

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

Please join other Christians across the globe from Sept. 26th through Nov. 4th, for 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion. Prayerfully consider taking some time to peacefully pray during a 40-day vigil in the public right-of-way outside Planned Parenthood, 66 East Main St. Washington. You are also invited to attend an opening rally on Sept. 30th anytime between 2-4 outside the Planned

Parenthood. Please pledge to lift the local 40 Days for Life campaign up in prayer, as well as asking for God’s protection on all human life from conception until natural death. If you’d like more information – and especially if you’d like to sign up to pray please contact: Jennifer English, amjadopt@comcast.net 973-525-6692