

September 4, 2016 The Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, September 3

5:00 p.m. **Thomas, Elizabeth and Louis DeBari**
By Sam and Marietta Tridente

Sunday, September 4

8:00 a.m. **+Patrick and Anna Kane**
By Susan Reynolds

10:30 a.m. **+George Reynolds**
By Susan Reynolds and Family

Monday, September 5 *Bl. Teresa of Calcutta*

8:45 a.m. **Blessings for Bennett Rupell on his
4th Birthday**
By Grammy Rupell

Tuesday, September 6

8:45 a.m. **+Ed, Brian, Scott, and Dot Wyker**
By Clem and Clara Wyker

Wednesday, September 7

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

Thursday, September 8 *Nativity of Blessed Virgin Mary*

8:45 a.m. **+Peter Ochsenfeld**
By Family

Friday, September 9 *Saint Peter Claver*

8:45 a.m. **For the Preservation of Peace and Justice**

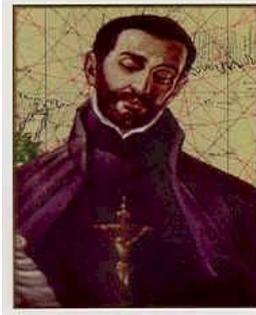
Saturday, September 10

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



A native of Spain, young **Jesuit Peter Claver** left his homeland forever in 1610 to be a missionary in the colonies of the New World. He sailed into Cartagena (now in Colombia), a rich port city washed by the Caribbean. He was ordained there in 1615.

By this time the slave trade had been established in the Americas for nearly 100 years, and Cartagena was a chief center for it. Ten thousand slaves poured into the port each year after crossing the Atlantic from West Africa under conditions so foul and inhuman that an estimated one-third of the passengers died in transit. Although the practice of slave-trading was condemned by Pope Paul III and later labeled "supreme villainy" by Pius IX, it continued to flourish. Peter Claver's predecessor, Jesuit Father Alfonso de Sandoval, had devoted himself to the service of the slaves for 40 years before Claver arrived to continue his work, declaring himself "the slave of the Negroes forever."

As soon as a slave ship entered the port, Peter Claver moved into its infested hold to minister to the ill-treated and exhausted passengers. After the slaves were herded out of the ship like chained animals and shut up in nearby yards to be gazed at by the crowds, Claver plunged in among them with medicines, food, bread, brandy, lemons and tobacco. With the help of interpreters he gave basic instructions and assured his brothers and sisters of their human dignity and God's saving love. During the 40 years of his ministry, Claver instructed and baptized an estimated 300,000 slaves.

His apostolate extended beyond his care for slaves. He became a moral force, indeed, the apostle of Cartagena. He preached in the city square, gave missions to sailors and traders as well as country missions, during which he avoided, when possible, the hospitality of the planters and owners and lodged in the slave quarters instead.

After four years of sickness which forced the saint to remain inactive and largely neglected, he died on September 8, 1654. The city magistrates, who had previously frowned at his solicitude for the black outcasts, ordered that he should be buried at public expense and with great pomp. He was canonized in 1888, and Pope Leo XIII declared him the worldwide patron of missionary work among black slaves.

National Day of Prayer for Peace in Our Communities

Dioceses of the United States will be observing a **Day of Prayer for Peace in Our Communities on Friday, September 9**, the Memorial of Saint Peter Clave.

Bishop Checchio has asked that each parish of the Diocese of Metuchen celebrate Mass on September 9 for the *Preservation of Peace and Justice*. In addition to the celebration of the Mass, all church bells will be rung at 3 p.m. on September 9.

To view the press release on "Purpose of Task Force to Promote Peace and Unity" visit
<http://www.usccb.org/news/2016/16-095.cfm>

Mass at Saint Theodore Church will be celebrated at 8:45 a.m. and Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3 p.m.

The Holy Spirit's might and power are manifested in the striking decisions and bold actions of Peter Claver. A decision to leave one's homeland never to return reveals a gigantic act of will difficult for us to imagine. Peter's determination to serve forever the most abused, rejected and lowly of all people is stunningly heroic. When we measure our lives against such a man's, we become aware of our own barely used potential and of our need to open ourselves more to the jolting power of Jesus' Spirit.

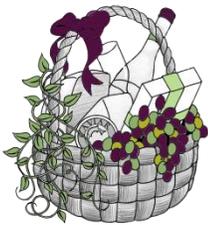
Peter Claver understood that concrete service like the distributing of medicine, food or brandy to his black brothers and sisters could be as effective a communication of the word of God as mere verbal preaching. As Peter Claver often said, "We must speak to them with our hands before we try to speak to them with our lips." The patron saint of African-Americans and Colombia, his feast day is Sept. 9.



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

Our Offering: August 7: \$2,115 ; 2015: \$2,284.



Once again, we are calling on parishioners to help us with 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 basket shred paper), shrink wrap, large, clear cellophane gift bags, ribbon, large baskets, clear packaging tape. We are hoping you will donate these items as soon as possible since we've started taking inventory and have been soliciting vendors for gifts. We don't want to wait until the last minute to prepare baskets. We will be putting basket theme suggestions in the Narthex and again will ask that each family donated a basket of items with a value of at least \$25. Supplies may be dropped off anytime in the Narthex. Thank you for your ongoing support.



September Religious Education Schedule

- Sept. 8, 7 pm—Catechist and Aides Meeting (Parish Ctr.)
- Sept. 10, 6 pm—Grades 1-4, Parish Center to meet teachers and receive books
- Sept. 11, 11:30 am—Grades 5-8, Parish Center to meet teachers and receive books
- 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

TO REGISTER, PLEASE DOWNLOAD FORMS (one per child): www.sttheodorenj.com



It's the Dog Days of August, but our minds are on SNOW!

It's coming, there is nothing we can do to stop it...and we will be stuck with the "shock and awe" of these storms. The holy sacrifice of the Mass never gets a "snow day" so we are trying to make sure we are prepared.

Which brings us to this plea: we are in need of several volunteers to help with the snow plowing and sidewalk maintenance (we have a snow blower for the sidewalks.) The ideal situation would be to have three or four people (or more) to rotate snow maintenance duties, so the burden doesn't fall upon just one volunteer.

If you are willing to help us, please give your name and phone number to Father Damian. Thank you for your consideration.

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