

September 9, 2018 The Twentieth-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, September 8

5 p.m. +**Ed, Brian, Scott and Dot Wyker**
By The Wyker Family

Sunday, September 9

8:00 a.m. **Birthday Blessings for Michael Kovacs**
By The Kovacs Family

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

Monday, September 10

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

Tuesday, September 11

8:45 a.m. +**Helen Kelton**
By The Shipley Family

Wednesday, September 12

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

Thursday, September 13 **NO MASS**

First Friday, September 14

8:45 a.m. +**The Altar Rosary Society**

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

A Biblical Walk Through the Mass **The Homily**

From the earliest days of Christian Liturgy, the Word of God was not read on its own. It was accompanied by a homily, which explained the meaning of the scriptural readings and drew out the application for people's lives. The word *homily* means "explanation" in Greek. In the early Church, the bishop typically was the one who celebrated Sunday Mass and gave the homily. From this primitive practice came the homilies of St. Augustine, St. Ambrose, St. John Chrysostom, and many other celebrated texts from the Church Fathers.

Yet the liturgical practice of explaining Scripture readings did not start with Christianity. It is rooted in ancient Jewish custom. In the book of Ezra, for example, the Book of the Law, was not merely read to the people. The Levites "helped the people to understand the law" (Neh 8:7). They read from God's Law "and they gave the

sense, so that the people understood the reading". (Neh 8:8).

The homily is crucial for the instruction of the faithful, so that they can understand the readings and apply them to their lives. So important is the homily for passing on the faith that Vatican II taught that the homily should hold "pride of place" among the various forms of Christian instruction."

Who Gives the Homily?

Finally, the homily is to be given only by an ordained minister: a deacon, priest, or bishop. The same is true for the reading of the Gospel at Mass. While the other Scripture readings may be proclaimed by religious or laity, only a deacon, priest, or bishop is to read the Gospel. As a successor of the apostles, the bishop—and the priests and deacons with whom he shares his authority—have the responsibility to proclaim the Gospel and pass on all that Christ taught the apostles. Since the Gospels are the heart of the Bible, reserving the Gospel reading for ordained ministers reminds us that *all* the readings from Scripture to which the Gospels point "are to be read and understood under the authority of apostolic faith."

This sheds light on why the homily, too, is to be delivered only by an ordained minister. A layperson or religious brother or sister certainly might have greater speaking abilities or more theological and spiritual points to offer on a given topic than a particular priest or deacon. And there are many ways for those gifts to be shared with the community. But that is not the purpose of the homily at Mass. While a homily ideally would be thoughtful, clear, and engaging, it ultimately is not a matter of eloquence or insight. Driscoll notes that the homily being given by an ordained minister is meant to be a sign, or "guarantee" that the preaching is passing on "the Church's apostolic Faith and not merely the private thoughts and experiences of an individual." Although God's people as a whole are to give witness to the faith of the Church, it is the particular responsibility of the bishop as a successor of the apostles to teach the apostolic Faith. And his union with the pope and the other bishops throughout the world gives further

visible, concrete witness to the apostolic Faith. Since priests and deacons, by virtue of their ordination, share in this particular responsibility, they also may proclaim the Gospel and deliver the homily at Mass.—Edward Sri

Please help us with our fundraisers!

We need to have successful fundraisers to supplement our Sunday collections. To make these affairs profitable we need parishioners to step up and give us a hand. We can't do without your support!



The **Tricky Tray Event** is our biggest fundraiser and we are in great need for volunteers. Can we count on you to pitch in and help the other members?



Our **Wine Tasting Event meeting** will be held on September 12 at 6:30 in the Parish Center. Our chair persons need help with the event. Please consider giving them a helping hand!



Almighty and ever-living God, physician who brings eternal healing to those who believe, hear us as we ask your compassionate help for

your servants who are sick.

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.

Give them back good health, and enable them to return thanks to you in the assembly of the faithful. Amen

Our Offering

September 2: \$2,662

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



SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

- 9/8, 6 pm: Grades 1-4 meet teachers and received books
 - 9/9, 11:30: Grades 5-8- meet teachers and received books
 - 9/8 & 9/9: Ministry Sign-up in Parish Center after Mass
 - 9/9, 9a & 11:30a: Hospitality Sunday in Parish Center
 - 9/10, 6:15: Religious Ed Opening at school
 - 9/12, 6:30: Wine Tasting Meeting in Parish Center
 - 9/13 & 14, 7 pm: Healing Service in the church
 - 9/19, 6:30: Trustee & Parish Council Meeting
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Healing Mission at Saint Theodore Church
September 13 & 14, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

On those dates we will begin our Healing Mission and are hoping that you will be attending at least one of the services. Each service is unique; however, forgiveness and confessions are the main drive and the mission director, Mr. Paul Rymniak101, feels very strongly that your healing will begin in the confessional.

For 31 years, Paul has been to various churches in the United States as well as to churches in many other countries and, at times, worked with interpreters for nine different cultures. During his mission he worked with Native Americans for three years, people of the Caribbean, Canada and Mexico.

Mr. Rymniak has stated that he is ordinary and will argue that point because he knows where the power of healing he witnessed comes from; he will tell you it is from God.

You needn't take the words and accomplishments of Paul's past endeavors. Come and see for yourself; you may be surprised. You may leave with a HEALING!
