

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JULY 8, 2018



Nation Makers

I often try to appropriate the 'eyes' of those who have gone before us, looking forward to an unknown future which has become for us hindsight. Oh, what lies ahead! Oh, the opportunities to partner with our God in breathing life into his creation!

As we move forward from Independence Day, we may try to see with the eyes of wonder at what lies ahead. To that end I share with you the following prayer:

*Father of all nations and ages,
We recall the day when our country
Claimed its place among the family of nations;
For what has been achieved we give you thanks,
For the work that still remains we ask for your
help,
And as you have called us from many peoples to be
one nation,
Grant that, under your providence,
Our country may share your blessings
With all the peoples of the earth.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your
Son,
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit,
One God, forever and ever. Amen.¹*

May we always see with wonder the kingdom God has given us.

Father Mark

¹ Roman Missal, Third Typical Edition, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops: Washington, DC. 2011, 892.



"Gaze on God simply and straightforwardly and let Him do as He pleases."

St. Francis de Sales



In your charity, please pray for all the deceased of St. Anthony's.

Monday, 6:45 AM 8:00 AM	7/9 MR. & MRS. JAMES JULIAN LOUIS & PHILOMENA DELLOSO	FAMILY CHILDREN
Tuesday, 6:45 AM 8:00 AM	7/10	
Wednesday, 6:45 AM 8:00 AM	7/11	
Thursday, 6:45 AM 8:00 AM	7/12	
Friday, 6:45 AM 8:00 AM	7/13	
Saturday, 6:45 AM 5:30 PM	7/14 IRENE ANDREOLI JOSEPH RYBICKI, SR.	FAMILY WIFE
Sunday, 7:00 AM 9:00 AM 11:00 AM	7/15 PARISHIONERS MARIO J. FRABIZZIO	FAMILY



Next Sunday's Readings

1st Reading:

Amos 7:12-15

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalms 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14

2nd Reading:

Ephesians 1:3-14

Gospel:

Mark 6:7-13

Offertory Update

Due to the early deadline made necessary by the Independence Day Holiday, collection figures for June 30th/July 1st weekend will be reported in next Sunday's bulletin.

Your Prayers and Support Requested

Mateo Ahumada	Kenyon Blough	Nancy Brown
Marianne Calvarese	Roger Chao	Tori Daniello
Mary T. DiBiaso	Judi DiFrancesco	Thomas DiGuglielmo
Tommy DiVirgilio	Christopher Ganey	James Ganey
Mark Johnson	William J. Nardo, Jr.	Kelly Panella
Jack Pipa	Charles Rosenberg, Sr.	Jimmy Silicato
Larry Silvestri	Eileen Swindel	Albert Vietri
Robert Walton	Anmarie White	

...and all the sick of St. Anthony's Parish.

Second Collection

Next weekend, July 14th and 15th, there is no scheduled second collection.

St. Joseph Parish Carnival -Middletown

July 17 thru July 21. Exciting rides, games and nightly entertainment under the big top! FREE admission and parking. More information, call Parish Office at 302-378-5800 or www.stjosephmiddletown.com.

Diocese of Wilmington Website Notes

The Diocese of Wilmington's new website makes it easier to find a church or school and features news headlines from The Dialog, quick links, a video feature, and more. Check it out today at www.cdow.org.

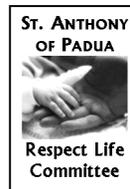
Let us Rejoice in the Lord! Our Diocese is 150 years old! For videos, a calendar of coming events, information about our Historic Churches Pilgrimage Program, *Convocation 150* coming on November 3rd, links, photos, and more, go to www.cdow.org/150th. Also, follow all the action on social media at www.facebook.com/cdow150th, and @CDOW150th on Twitter and Instagram and www.TheDialog.org.

Before you head to the beach, check out the Vacation Mass Guide. The Diocese of Wilmington is blessed to have some of the best, most beautiful places for family vacations within its borders. Find family fun at one of the exciting Delaware or Maryland Atlantic beach resort areas, or relax with a trip to one of the historic and quaint Chesapeake Bay communities on the Maryland Eastern Shore. Wherever you go, you can find a warm, welcoming Catholic parish. For Mass times, check out the Vacation Mass Guide at www.cdow.org/VMG.

Vocations

In today's gospel reading, Jesus heals a long-suffering woman and raises a little girl from the dead. Every day priests, deacons and religious bring life and healing into a world fractured by sin and death. Do you think God is calling you to serve through one of these vocations? Please call or write Father Norm Carroll, Diocesan Director of Priestly and Religious Vocations (302-573-3113, vocations@cdow.org). Be sure to visit our website: www.cdow.org/vocations!

Respect Life: Fact of Life



"We must appreciate the dignity of life in all its seasons, even the path of the elderly in the twilight of their years, to work toward the day when every child, born and unborn, is welcomed to life and protected by law."

Gov. George W. Bush

Catholic Forum

Listen to Catholic Forum every Sunday morning at 10:05 a.m. on WDEL 101.7 FM, 1150 AM and www.wdel.com. Next Sunday, July 15th, Ms. Shirley Bounds will look back at her career as a teacher, coach, and administrator at St. Elizabeth's High School in Wilmington. For photos, information regarding upcoming guests, podcasts and more, "Like" Catholic Forum on Facebook at www.facebook.com/catholicforum. Listen to past episodes of Catholic Forum online at cdow.org/communications or search "Catholic Forum" on Apple Podcasts or iHeartRadio podcasts.

For two consecutive Sundays, August 5th and 12th, Catholic Forum will honor the anniversary of Father Roberto's passing by airing a 2-part interview with Father recorded in 2006.

2018 Annual Catholic Appeal Disciples of Christ, Witnesses of Faith

All Annual Catholic Appeal participants who pledged to the campaign will receive a monthly payment reminder mailed directly from the diocesan development office. Please mail all payments in the self-addressed, return envelope provided with your pledge reminder. Do not make payments to the parish office or through the Offertory collection.

Festival 50/50 Winner

Nicole Clothier of Philadelphia, PA is the lucky winner of this year's Festival 50/50!

Wedding of the Sea Festival Wednesday, August 15th

Take part in this special tradition of the Parish of St. Monica in Atlantic City! Mass of the Assumption of Mary • Boardwalk Hall. Doors Open 11:00 AM. Program and Mass 12:00 PM. Procession of the Blessed Mother and Benediction on the Boardwalk; Procession to Surf 1:15 PM. Join the Most Reverend Dennis Sullivan, Bishop of the Diocese of Camden, in celebration of this beautiful Mass. Festival – St. Michael's Church Parking Lot, Georgia Avenue at 1:00 PM – 7:00 PM. Free & open to the public. Enjoy 10 Atlantic City restaurant vendors, a beer garden, live music, children's games, and more. Free parking at multiple locations. • (609) 345-1878 • <http://weddingofthesea.org/>

Follow the Leader

When we were children, many of us played the game Follow the Leader. As we move through life, we often find it necessary or helpful to follow someone who can lead us into new knowledge or skills or who leads a team at work or on the sports field.

The liturgy has a leader, too. What leader do we follow through the various parts of our worship? One answer is that the priest or bishop is the one who leads us at Mass. A deeper answer is that the true leader of our worship is Christ himself.

The sacrifice of the Mass is Christ's sacrifice. We are invited to join him in offering praise and thanks to the Father in his act of worship. He is our leader, and we are all called to follow the leader. Because it is really Christ who leads us through the ministry of the priest or bishop, the Church speaks of Christ's presence in the presider as the second way that Christ reveals himself to us at the Eucharist.

Those among us who have been around a few years may remember when we commonly spoke of the priest as “another Christ.” Since those times, we have learned that priests have clay feet just like the rest of us. That may make it a little harder to see Christ working through the priest at Mass.

Yet it is important for us to do so. We need to remember that Christ has chosen to work through imperfect human beings. Christ lives in and works through each of us who are baptized, sinners though we are. The Church has long taught that the validity of the sacraments does not depend on the holiness of the priest. Our tradition speaks of the sacraments working “*ex opere operato*.” That Latin phrase really means that Christ acts in the sacraments, regardless of the holiness of the priest. It reminds us that Christ is able to work through us no matter how serious our own limitations.

If Christ is the true leader of our worship, then reverence requires us to respond to his invitation to join him in worshipping the Father. To refuse to take part is to reject his invitation, a sign of irreverence. Our participation in the Mass—singing and praying and sitting and standing and kneeling and processing—is one way we show reverence to Christ.

Of course, Christ does not issue this invitation for his sake but for ours. Participating in the Mass is the primary way that Christians grow in holiness. As we give ourselves to the action of the liturgy, we are drawn closer to the Lord who leads us. As we enter into the sacrifice of Christ, we learn to love as he loves.

Some days we may find it easy to enter into the liturgy; other days it may take a real effort on our part. That effort is a gift we offer the Lord, following his lead and joining in his worship. Each of us has a vital role to play in making the Mass what it should be. None of us can make that happen alone, but together we can give God fitting thanks and praise.

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