

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Lord, you are good and forgiving.

July 23, 2017



“The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a person took and sowed in a field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, yet when full-grown it is the largest of plants... and the ‘birds of the sky come and dwell in its branches.’”

Matthew 13:31b-32

ANNOUNCED MASSES

If you wish to bring up the gifts for a Mass being said for your loved one(s), please see the Usher before Mass.

Vigil (Sunday) Mass – July 22

5:00 PM Karen Ann Sullivan

Sunday, July 23 – Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 AM Dee Kavana

10:15 AM *St. Joseph's* – Daniel Moriarty

12:00 PM Rose and Eugene Spencer

Monday, July 24 – Saint Sharbel Makhlūf, Priest

8:15 AM John and Robbie McKim

Tuesday, July 25 – Saint James, Apostle

8:15 AM George Rapalje

Wednesday, July 26 – Saints Joachim and Anne, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:15 AM Peter Sgro

Thursday, July 27 – Weekday

8:15 AM Betty Haniotis & Janice Hume and all the People of the Parish

Friday, July 28 – Weekday

8:15 AM Shirley A. Engelbride – *4th Anniversary*

Saturday, July 29 – Saint Martha

8:15 AM Josie Pidala – *1st Anniversary*

Vigil (Sunday) Mass – July 29

5:00 PM Frederick J. Des Marais

Sunday, July 30 – Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 AM George W. Van Tassel, Sr.

10:15 AM *St. Joseph's* – Ethan Oak LaFleur

12:00 PM Agnes Barry Impellittere

MEMORIALS

The **Sanctuary Candle** this week is burning in loving memory of Josephine Pidala donated by Frank Ricevuto, Sr. The candle will burn from July 23rd through July 29th.

CHOIR REHEARSALS

Adult Choir rehearsals are held on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm in the choir loft. New members are welcome at all weekend Masses. If you would like to sing, please come to a rehearsal or call Jeffrey V. Lutz at 228-5612.

GRAYMOOR PRAYER GROUP

Increase your time in prayer. The Graymoor Prayer Group, following the Medjugorje prayer format, meets Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 8:30 pm at the Spiritual Life Building 6th floor Chapel. The prayer facilitator is Diana Roda: (845) 424-4175.

INTERCESSORY PRAYERLINE

Call in your intercessions.
Marian Shrine (Divine Mercy), Stockbridge
800-804-3823

PLEASE PRAY

For the sick and suffering, especially

Lucy Abbatine	Todd Morris
Lucas Boesch	Joseph Nowakowski
Electra Bokanoski	Brian O'Keefe
Nicole Bokanoski	Inelda O'Keefe
Robert Broughal	Luis Padilla
The Brusco Family	Rosario Padilla
Kathleen Clements	Neilan Pierce
Ned Flanagan	Vivian Pisanelli
Christopher Hartly	Joan Rosado
Joseph Hoda	Phillip Rossignol
Parker Jane Holloway	Melissa Castro-Santos
Joey Hyatt, Jr.	Miguel Santos
Elizabeth M. Hynes	Laura Schiele
Geoff Lyons	Sally Singh
Kathleen Manganello	Ralph Torres
Mary Marion	Connie Tuomey
Paula Martino	Frank Volkmann
Merna Mendelson	Lidia Watrud

and for all our dearly departed, that the fighting among nations cease, that vengeance end and lasting peace begin, and for all of our prayers in our book of petitions.

READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

Monday:	Ex 14:5-18; Ex 15:1bc-6; Mt 12:38-42
Tuesday:	2 Cor 4:7-15; Ps 126:1bc-6; Mt 20:20-28
Wednesday:	Ex 16:1-5, 9-15; Ps 78:18-19, 23-28; Jn 20:1-2, 11-18
Thursday:	Ex 19:1-2, 9-11, 16-20b; Dn 3:52-56; Mt 13:10-17
Friday:	Ex 20:1-17; Ps 19:8-11; Mt 13:18-23
Saturday:	Ex 24:3-8; Ps 34:2-11; Jn 11:19-27 or Lk 10:38-42
Sunday:	1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12; Ps 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-130; Rom 8:28-30; Mt 13:44-52 [44-46]

WEEKEND OF JULY 16, 2017
REGULAR WEEKLY COLLECTION – \$6,590

Thank you for your generosity.

MASS ATTENDANCE

	Adults	Children	Total
Saturday, 5:00 pm	86	7	93
Sunday, 8:30 am	101	21	122
St. Joseph's Chapel Sunday, 10:15 am	49	9	58
Sunday, 12:00 pm	83	16	99
Total	319	53	372

Banns of Marriage

TIMOTHY MURRAY & HEATHER WATERS
 Wedding Date – July 28, 2017

GRANITE FRISEDA & SABRINA SCANGA
 Wedding Date – August 5, 2017

CONNOR WALSH & MOLLY FREEMAN
 Wedding Date – August 11, 2017

HEALING MASS

Wednesday, July 26, 2017
 Rosary • 6:30 pm and Mass • 7:00 pm
 Assumption Church • 131 Union Ave • Peekskill
 With Father Richard McAlear, OMI
 Ministry of Hope and Healing

Since 1976, Father Richard McAlear's Ministry has been offering hope, healing, love, and peace to tens of thousands of people all around the world. Father's gifts of teaching and healing are powerful indicators of the healing love of Jesus Christ being poured out on today's world. For information contact 914-737-2017 or manager@assumptionpeekskill.org.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
Loretto Council #536

PHILIPSTOWN FOOD PANTRY DELIVERY

Next Sunday • July 30th

The Knights of Columbus will be collecting food and other items, including diapers, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, cleaners and paper towels, for the Philipstown Food Pantry the weekend of July 29th and 30th.

Please leave donations in the cry room during that weekend. Thank you for your generosity!

OUR LADY OF LORETTO PARISH
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

"Handing on the Faith"

845-265-3718 ★ ollfaithformation@gmail.com

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION FOR THE 2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR

If you have not done so already, please register your children in our 2017-2018 Religious Education Program. Registration forms have been mailed to all families who were enrolled in the program this past year.

If you did not receive the registration information, or are new to the program, please call or stop by the Parish Office to register your children for next year's classes. Thank you!



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

At Our Lady of Loretto • Every Monday • 7:00-8:00 pm

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament remains as it is with individual prayer time, but specific groups are being identified for certain Mondays so they can come together to focus in prayer for a specific intention...

- Jul 24 – His Holiness Pope Francis
- Jul 31 – Children of the parish
- Aug 7 – The unborn and persecuted Christians
- Aug 14 – Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers

PHILIPSTOWN COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

Friday, August 4th, 2017 • 2:00 to 8:00 pm

North Highlands Firehouse
 504 Fishkill Rd • Cold Spring

To register on line or for questions:
www.nybloodcenter.org
 1-800-933-BLOOD [2566]

WALK-INS ARE WELCOME

COME OUT! I GIVE YOU LIFE

"Let us think: What part of the heart can be corrupted because of my attachment to sin, one sin or another? And to remove the stone, to take away the stone of shame and allow the Lord to say to us, as he said to Lazarus: 'Come out!' That all our soul might be healed, might be raised by the love of Jesus, by the power of Jesus. He is capable of forgiving us... Let us hear that voice of Jesus who, by the power of God, says to us: 'Come out! Leave that tomb you have within you. Come out. I give you life, I give you happiness, I bless you, I want you for myself.'"

– Pope Francis

A PRO-LIFE TALK AT GOOGLE'S HEADQUARTERS WAS A HIT

The Catholic News Agency and EWTN News reported that a pro-life activist walked into Google's headquarters and delivered a speech so compelling that within 24 hours, the online video of it surpassed a similar speech given by the head of Planned Parenthood. It may sound like the start to a far-fetched joke, but on April 20th, pro-life speaker and activist Stephanie Gray did just that. Gray was the co-founder of the Canadian Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform and served as its executive director for several years before starting the ministry which she now runs, Love Unleashes Life.

She spoke in April as a part of the Talks at Google series, a program that brings a variety of speakers to the company's headquarters to discuss their work. Gray has participated in more than 800 talks and debates on abortion.

Gray's talk centered around the idea that there are three qualities that lead us to call someone "inspiring." They place others ahead of themselves, have "perspective" on their sufferings and situation in life, and do the right thing even in difficult situations. She linked these criteria to the process of dialoguing with others about abortion, emphasizing question asking.

She began by contrasting two stories, that of the shipwreck of the Costa Concordia in Italy in 2012 and the "Miracle on the Hudson" emergency plane landing in 2009. In the first story, she explained, the captain had jumped ship along with the rest of the crew. In the second, the pilot, Captain Chesley Sullenberger, had been the last off the flooding vessel, ensuring his passengers all exited safely. In comparing the two stories, she noted that Sullenberger was lauded as a hero, and the captain of the Concordia internationally shamed.

"If you agree that it was correct for the pilot to put the passengers ahead of himself, to prioritize the needs of his dependents," she said, "then wouldn't it follow, that when it comes to the topic of abortion and an unplanned pregnancy, that a pregnant woman ought to prioritize the needs of her dependent?"

However, she noted that the comparison was only valid "depending on, indeed, whether embryos and fetuses are human beings, like the passengers on the airplane." To determine whether or not a fetus is a human being, Gray displayed an image of a human fetus and posed the question, "What are her parents?" It would logically follow that two human parents' offspring must be the same species, she said.

Despite the ambiguity around the origin point of human life when it comes to abortion, she said, in discussing other topics "we have great clarity." For example, an IVF specialist or dog breeder would agree that the life they attempt to create begins at fertilization.

Taking a look at what qualifies as "personhood," Gray considered the terms used by pro-infanticide philosopher Peter Singer, that a person is a being which is "rational, conscious, and self-aware." She contrasted a human embryo with an amoeba: the embryo lacks these qualities "because of how old she is," where the amoeba lacks them "because of what it is."

"Should personhood be grounded in how old we are, or should personhood be grounded in what we are?" she asked. "The quality of age shouldn't be the basis for which someone has personhood status," she answered, noting that the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognizes the rights of "all members of the human family."

She then addressed the question of the fetus' dependence, arguing that the fetus' greater dependent status as a weaker entity than a baby entitles it to greater, not less, protection. She related this to the story of a friend's husband who, faced with the choice between rescuing a mother or her baby first from the roof of a sinking car, made the "obvious" choice to take the baby. "Since you believe that we should prioritize weaker and more vulnerable people ahead of stronger people, then shouldn't we actually prioritize the needs of the pre-born child?" she said.

She recalled meeting a Rwandan genocide survivor who, seeing a picture of a child killed in the conflict next to an aborted fetus, pointed to the image of the fetus and said, "That's worse, because at least my family could try to run away."

Considering the concept of perspective, she posed another question: "How can we change our perspective in an unplanned, crisis situation?" She recalled dialoguing with a college student whose stepmother had an abortion upon learning her baby was expected to die at birth. Responding with a thought experiment involving a terminal cancer diagnosis, she answered the student, "Why would we cut short the already short time we have left? Instead, wouldn't we want to savor every moment of every day of the next 20 weeks (of the pregnancy)?"

Moving to her final criterion for what makes a person inspirational – "do the right thing" – she listed a number of circumstances that make pregnancy hard and often lead to abortion, including poverty or rape. But when we look at parents raising an already-born child in the same circumstances, she said, we can see that we ought to have the same attitude towards carrying an unborn child as towards parenting a child in the same situation.

Gray closed with a number of stories from people she knows personally, including a woman who was raped and had a child at age 12, a woman who cared for her baby daughter with respiratory issues, and a woman who regretted her own abortion and ended up counseling another woman to carry her baby to term.

"They're inspiring because they put others ahead of themselves, because they had perspective, and because they did the right thing, even when it was hard," she said of all the stories she had told throughout the talk. "And that's the challenge that I leave all of you with today."

In a question-and-answer session after her talk, she recommended that audience members seek to start dialogue on the difficult topic of abortion with open-ended questions, and to "seek to understand where (another) person is coming from." She also used the analogy of a person choosing rape to address the thought that pro-life views cannot be "forced on" pregnant women, saying that just as it is illegal to make the choice to rape someone, it ought to be illegal to choose to end the life of a fetus.

WHO WERE THE DESERT FATHERS AND WHY THEY MATTER

Their influence can be seen throughout the Church and is even found in popular culture.

Aleteia.org, by Philip Kosloski – On his trip earlier this year to Egypt, Pope Francis urged priests and religious to “draw upon to the example of Saint Paul the Hermit, Saint Anthony, the holy Desert Fathers, and the countless monks and nuns who by their lives and example opened the gates of heaven to so many of our brothers and sisters.” These names are well known to the Egyptian people, but to the Western ear, the saints mentioned by the Holy Father are rather unknown.

Who were these “Desert Fathers”?

During the late 3rd century a Christian man named Paul, living in the city of Thebes, Egypt, was forced into the desert during the persecution of Emperor Decius. While there he lived in a cave and was waiting for the persecution to end. In the process Paul discovered that he enjoyed the solitude and freedom to fast and pray. He embraced life in the desert and lived in that cave for many more decades as a hermit dedicated to the worship of God.

Near the end of Saint Paul’s life another man in Egypt named Anthony was inspired by the Gospel to give up his possessions and serve God alone. His experience is related in the famous Life of Anthony written by Saint Athanasius. The book recounts how during Mass one day, “the Gospel was being read, and [Anthony] heard the Lord saying to the rich man (Matthew 19:21), ‘If you would be perfect, go and sell what you have and give to the poor; and come follow Me and you shall have treasure in heaven.’” Anthony believed the words were aimed directly at him and so, immediately following Mass, he sold all of his possessions and sought to do God’s will.

Around this time Anthony heard about Paul the Hermit and went to visit him in the seclusion of the mountains. Anthony was inspired by his way of life and was convinced that God was also calling him to become a hermit in the wilderness.

Anthony dedicated the remainder of his life to fasting and prayer, living a life of poverty for the glory of God. His holiness became widely known and, during the persecution of Diocletian, Christians became attracted to the desert as a way of escaping the world and living a private Christian life. Anthony’s life and wisdom inspired numerous men and women to give up their worldly ambitions and live in solitude worshiping God. Monasteries developed over time and spread throughout Egypt. A rule of life was formed and other holy men and women began to take up the call to the desert.

Among the early saints who developed this way of life and are considered part of the Desert Fathers were Saint Pachomius, Saint Amun, Saint Basil of Caesarea, Saint Macarius of Egypt, and Saint Moses the Black. Those who were highly influenced by this early monasticism were Saint Athanasius of Alexandria, Saint John Chrysostom, Saint Hilarion and Saint John Cassian. Saint Benedict later developed his own rule of monasticism based on the writings of these early Desert Fathers. As a result, most modern-day religious orders can trace their spiritual

lineage to Egypt.

Saint John Cassian was the one responsible for bringing the wisdom of the Desert Fathers to Europe and at the time his influence reached as far as Ireland. This is when Ireland’s own version of monasticism developed, essentially based on the writings of Cassian and example of Saint Anthony. It was this desert monasticism that influenced monks in the 7th century to sail off the coast of Ireland to the remote island of Skellig Michael, forming a monastery of bee-hive huts that have been brought to life again in the latest Star Wars movies.

While most Catholics may not be familiar with the writings of the Desert Fathers, their influence can be felt throughout the world. They call us to a radical form of Christian living that features fasting, penance and silence. In a world filled with numerous earthly temptations and such great noise, the Desert Fathers are a beacon of light calling us to live differently.

Even though we may not be called to give up all our possessions and live in the desert, the Desert Fathers challenge us to make our own daily sacrifices, live more simply, and dedicate time each day for prayer and silence.

WHAT IS EUCHARISTIC ADORATION?



Understood simply, Eucharistic Adoration is adoring or honoring the Eucharistic Presence of Christ. In a deeper sense, it involves “the contemplation of the Mystery of Christ truly present before us.” During Eucharistic Adoration, we “watch and wait”, we remain “silent” in His Presence and open ourselves to His Graces which flow from the Eucharist. By worshiping the Eucharistic Jesus, we become what God wants us to be! Like a magnet, the Lord draws us to Himself and gently transforms us. In its fullest essence, Eucharistic Adoration is “God and Man reaching out for each other, at the same time!” Jesus waits for us in the Blessed Sacrament. He waits for our little acts of faith, adoration, love, thanksgiving, repentance, reparation and charity that we can offer Him as we contemplate His Divine Majesty in the Blessed Sacrament.

“The time you spend with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the best time you will spend on earth. Each moment that you spend with Jesus will deepen your union with Him and make your soul everlastingly more glorious and beautiful in Heaven, and will help bring about everlasting peace on earth.”

– Saint Teresa of Calcutta

*Please join us at Adoration on Monday evenings,
7:00 - 8:00 pm at Our Lady of Loretto Church.*

Let’s think a little less and trust a little more.

Let us see God in the many things we oft-overlook. Whether we know it or not, God is active and engaged in every aspect of our lives. – *Tod Worner*