



PASTOR'S CORNER

A Family of Oaks [Part Five/Conclusion]

Catholic author, Michael D. O'Brien concludes:

Christ's hidden years in Nazareth have much to teach us about the holiness of the ordinary, for it was upon this foundation that His life as a man was built, and from which came His mission and our salvation. Nazareth in our own times is a mother's hug and her saying, "I know it was an accident," when you knock over and smash her statue of Our Lady. It's a sandwich in your lunch box, and a new baby brother. It is giving life during a season of death, and being willing to pay the price. It is the holy folly of caring for the stranger dying of a shameful disease, loving him as if he were a son or daughter. Or the laborer trudging off in the dawn to a day of toil for the sake of his family. It is worship and tradition, creativity and fun, and exhaustion. It is adoration. It is consolation and desolation. Nor should we forget popcorn and a new box of crayons. It is weeping by an open coffin and it is laughing at the small pink toes of a newborn curling and uncurling around your finger. It is being thankful to God for existence itself, and telling Hi. It is making a hearth full of sweet fire in your home – the domestic church. And it is zeal for the House of the Father – the universal Church. It is defense of the truth, and mercy for the sinner. It is a courageous bishop teaching with fidelity, and a layman listening with attention. It is the wedding night and the confessional. It is a nun at worship, a mother in labor, a craftsman with his tools. It is a wild birthday party. It is a rag-tag family sitting on a mountain praying for their brothers and sisters.

On that blustery afternoon, my children, being less ponderous than their father, could take only so much stillness. They scattered across the mountain top in search of discoveries. I was happy enough to just sit where I was. Eventually they all came back with things to show. Some had gathered oak clusters, brownish-purple or winey-red. Pockets were crammed full of acorns, some old and black, missing their berets, others green and jaunty in fresh caps. One child had found a

Mass Intentions

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time July 27, 2019

Saturday– July 27th –

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

- Sat Vigil: 4:00PM – Jeanette Koncz (B)
by Husband, Gene
- 7:00PM – Ed and Jean Danko (WA)
by Family

Sunday – July 28th –

- 8:30AM – Joseph Tomasic (A)
by Wife, Mary and Family
- 10:30AM – Margaret C. O'Donnell (A)
by McCloskey Family

Monday – July 29th – St Martha

- 8:00AM – Kathryn Quinn
by McCloskey Family

Tuesday – July 30th – St Peter Chrysologus

- 8:00AM – Joseph Soldritsch (A)
by Kellyann Firmstone and Sons

Wednesday – July 31st – St Ignatius of Loyola

- 6:00PM – Maryann Holst
by Joe Holst

Thursday – Aug 1st – St Alphonsus Liguori

- 8:00AM – Brothers, Nieces and Nephews
by Aggie Chabak

Friday – Aug 2nd – St Peter Julian Eymard

- 8:00AM – Elsie McCloskey (A)
by Family

Sacred Heart Novena after Mass

Saturday– Aug 3rd –

Findings of the Relics of St Stephen

- 8:00AM – All St. John Fisher Parishioners

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

- Sat Vigil: 4:00PM – Stanley and Anna Stascinsky
by Estate
- 7:00PM – Bernard and Rose Cunningham, Jr. (WA)
by Bossons Family

Sunday – Aug 4th –

- 8:30AM – Dave Cunningham (A)
by Sister, Betty
- 10:30AM – David J. Sweeney
by Daughter, Lauren



Pray the Rosary Sundays

8:15AM and 10:15AM

miniature garden of moss, from which red trumpets blared their soundless music. The youngest lad braved the prickles of a juniper bush and pried off those old dead berries that look so deceptively like blueberries. He chewed the bitter mash for a few seconds then spit it out violently. At that point his older sister ran up to us. She had found a white fungus growing on a stump, and demonstrated how you could draw on the surface, as if on a blackboard. She drew a tree, a sun, a house with smoke coming from the chimney, and, underneath it, her name.

These frail letters inscribed on the surface of creation tell a story larger than the sum of its parts.

“I am,” they proclaim. “I was here,” they say. “The world is beautiful. It makes me happy and I love it!” And perhaps at a deeper level, it reveals the soul’s awareness that “He who made the mighty oak made me.”

The Church may go on [through] the third millennium and convert the world, or it may shrink to a small remnant of believers. We do not know. Only Christ knows. But of this we can be sure: the family will remain what it is – an oak flourishing in winter. The family will continue, as it always has, to make the seeds of the second spring that is coming after this present winter. When the tyrants and the propagandists and the experimenters have all gone, when the hatred and hopelessness has exhausted itself, the earth will grieve and be born again. The Church and the family will remain. Then, all who have sown in struggle will reap a harvest in joy.

Friends, our faith is always in the midst of a struggle to survive – no less so in our own day and time. If you experience a weariness from “swimming against the tide,” or a worried frustration for our children and grandchildren actually believing in God, or a great sadness at the death of the unborn and the hubris of physician-assisted suicide, or a near despair at the constant redefining of reality – even fluid gender-identity that changes at the drop of a hat, then remember that this is a normal state of existence for the People of God. The

Church/Faith will survive, the family and the dignity of humanity will endure. Be a part of it – have faith in Jesus and his Church. Let us be for each other a family of oaks able to weather any season because of Him Who strengthens us.

Fr. Eric.

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION

Friday, August 2nd

Adoration begins after morning Mass, and continues throughout the day.

7:00PM ~ HOLY HOUR



“A thousand years of enjoying human glory is not worth even an hour spent sweetly communing with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.” St. Padre Pio

OFFERTORY COLLECTION



Plate Collection \$3,276.00
Eastern and Central Europe Collection \$ 686.00

The **Second** Collection next weekend, **August 3rd and 4th, 21st**, will be the **Mission Co-Op Collection**.

Missionary Appeal with Fr. Paul

We earnestly welcome Fr. Paul to speak to us next weekend on behalf of the needs of his parish in Africa. Our donations will assist them in establishing a firm church building wherein the many faithful will celebrate Eucharist and the sacraments. Please be as generous as the Lord allows. Thanks.



NEXT WEEK’S SCHEDULE

| | Servers | Lectors | E.Ministers |
|----------------|---------------------|----------------|------------------------------------|
| 4:00PM | J.Drummer No One | B.Molchany | C.Hetzel C.Molchany |
| 7:00PM | A.Muschko No One | J.Englert | J.Ottinger No One |
| 8:30AM | L.Ruda N.Ruda | J.Englert | J.Druckenmiller M.Druckenmiller |
| 10:30AM | A.Banoza K.Gair | J.DeLong | F.Hutterer J.Marhefka |



MALVERN RETREAT WEEKEND

August 23rd, 24th, and 25th

It is a wonderful weekend to be with our Lord and time for reflection and prayer. I encourage our men of the parish to come with us to this weekend of spiritual renewal. **Fr. Bernard Ezaki**, who is an Allentown diocesan priest at St. Jane's in Easton, will be giving a reflection on Saturday afternoon on the retreat. You don't want to miss Fr. Ezaki's talk. Any questions please call Deacon Jack at 610-266-0689 or Paul Albert at 610-264-3473.

C.C.D. REGISTRATIONS

Registrations have been sent out. If your child attends public school, is home-schooled, or will be starting pre-school this year, and you have not received a registration form, please call the Rectory.

REDNER'S TAPES

We thank all of our parishioners who faithfully do their food shopping at Redner's. By placing your tapes in the collection basket, we have received a check from Redner's in the amount of **\$95.71**. Thank you!

Bus Trip to 9/11 Memorial

St. John the Baptist Slovak Catholic Church is sponsoring a Bus Trip to the 9/11 Memorial Museum in New York City on **Tuesday September 24, 2019**. The cost is **\$50.00**. Admission to the memorial is free to those with veteran military ID, reducing the trip cost to just \$25.00. **Payment is due by August 1st**. Seating will be on a first paid basis. To reserve your seat, please call Pat Noga at 484-951-5041.



ST LAWRENCE

The Feast Day of St Lawrence the Martyr will be observed on **Saturday, August 10th, at the 8:00am Mass**. Morning Mass will be held at the former site of St. Lawrence Church.

Diocesan Anniversary Mass

Celebration will be held on **Sunday, September 15th, at the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, 1875 West Turner Street in Allentown, at 3:00pm**. We cordially invite couples celebrating one, five, ten, fifteen, twenty, twenty-five, forty, fifty, sixty or sixty plus years of marriage to this special event. Register at <http://www.allentowndiocese.org/anniversarymass>, or in the A.D. Times, or email at MFLF@allentowndiocese.org or call 610-289-8900 ext. 2021. **September 9th is the deadline for registration.**



St Peter's Church in Coplay

will hold their Annual Parish Picnic and Homecoming on **Sunday, August 4th, from 12:00noon to 10:00pm** on the Church grounds at 5th and Coplay Streets. Homemade foods, including our famous pierogies are available.

Salem UCC, 615 3rd Street

is having a free community lunch on **Monday, August 5th, at 1:00pm**. All are welcome.