



PASTOR'S CORNER

The Parish as Extended Family

Prolific Catholic author, Bert Ghezzi, in his handy "The Heart of Catholicism," has some personal thoughts about being a member of a parish apropos of the World Meeting of Families concluding Sunday in Philadelphia. He writes,

Over the years Mary Lou and I have lived in eight different parishes in five cities. Each parish community was unique, having its own personality and style. In some of these parishes we flourished, but in others we didn't. What made the difference? Why did we thrive in some parishes and languish in others? Was it the pastor? The congregation? The liturgy? The youth program? Something else? These may have been factors, but looking back I think I can put my finger on the real reason. The more active we were in the parish, the more life we found there. When we were only marginally involved, our Christian experience was the poorer for it.

I am not surprised that our family did not do so well when we minimized our participation in our parish. Christ did not found an individualistic Church. It's not "me and God." No, He made the Church corporate. It's "others and me in God." Of course, we have a personal relationship with the Lord and must spend time alone with Him. But the Lord designed the Church to be a community and He intends us to find life and love among the people there.

Jesus himself was never a "loner." From the outset of his ministry, He surrounded himself with people. ...Jesus was establishing God's family on planet Earth. All who believed in Him He made sons and daughters of God. That's the origin of the Church, the extended divine family, which now includes latecomers such as you and me. ...Today the Church may not feel like a family to us. Its sheer size requires a governmental structure that may seem impersonal and bureaucratic. But beneath the Catholic Church's worldwide organization of national conferences, dioceses, and parishes stands the community Christ founded. Our parish lives as a local branch of the divine family. And to be fully Catholic, we must participate in its life.

The next time you attend Mass, take a look around. These people who are worshipping with you – many of them probably strangers – are your brothers and sisters. We are actually closer to them than we may realize, since the link that binds us is the Holy Spirit himself.

Our brotherhood in Christ remains underdeveloped – even latent – unless we take action to bring it to life. If we want to help enliven our parish, we should make friends of some fellow parishioners.

Food for thought from a spiritual father,
Fr. Eric.

Mass Intentions

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 27, 2015

Saturday – Sept 26th – Ss Cosmas and Damian

4:00PM – Mary and Steve Gerny
by Terry and Joe Gerny
7:00PM – Stephen Steffie
by Monica Hodges

Sunday–Sept 27th – 26th Sunday/Ordinary Time

8:30AM – Louis Maletta
by Barry Bozzone
10:30AM – David J Cunningham
by Bossons Family

Monday–Sept 28th – St Wenceslaus

8:00AM – William J Albert (A)
by Pauline

Tuesday – Sept 29th – Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, the Archangels

8:00AM – Dorothy E VanHorn
by Family

Miraculous Medal Novena after Mass

Wednesday – Sept 30th – St Jerome

6:00PM – Memorial Fund Members
by Memorial Fund

Thursday – Oct 1st – St Therese/Child Jesus

8:00AM – John "Jack" McCarty
by Holy Name Society

Friday – Oct 2nd – The Holy Guardian Angels

8:00AM – Marion Bowen
by Kalnas Family

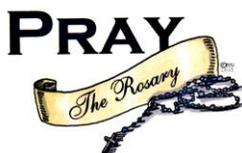
Sacred Heart Novena after Mass

Saturday – Oct 3rd – St Gerard of Brogne

8:00AM – All St John Fisher Parishioners
4:00PM – Mary Cerulli
by Louise Oswald
7:00PM – Albert Check
by Sam McCarty

Sunday – Oct 4th – 27th Sunday/Ordinary Time

8:30AM – Frances Figura
by Margaret Skears
10:30AM – Francis J Broderick (B)
by Family



Sunday
8:15AM and 10:15AM

OFFERTORY COLLECTION



Plate Collection \$ 4,309.75
Catasauqua Food Bank \$ 1,300.05

The Second Collection next weekend, **October 3rd and 4th**, will be the **Cemetery Collection**.



NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

	Servers	Lectors	E.Ministers
4:00PM	G.Parise J.Shaul	B.Molchany	J.McAllister Deacon Jack
7:00PM	C.Gair D.Gair	P.McCarty	J.Yanek Deacon Jack
8:30AM	M.Popovic S.Popovic	E.Snyder	J.Ottinger Deacon Jack
10:30AM	S.DeLong H.Heffner	L.Bolmer	J.Heffner Deacon Jack



BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study begins **Monday, October 19th**, in the Parish Hall **beginning at 7:00pm and concluding at 8:30pm**. Please bring your own Bible. The lower entrance to the hall will be open for those who wish to only descend a short set of stairs. We hope to see you there.



Flowers were placed on the altar last weekend in celebration of the 46th Wedding Anniversary of **John and Marge Druckenmiller**.



The annual Blessing of Animals will be held **next Sunday, October 4th**, at **1:00pm** on the green between the Church and the rectory. All animals and even their owners are welcomed!

HOMEBOUND PARISHIONERS

If you have a loved one who is homebound or in a care facility, please call the rectory at 610-264-1972.

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION



Mark your calendar to spend some time with our Lord in **Adoration** this **First Friday, October 2nd**. Adoration begins at the end of morning Mass and continues throughout the day until Holy Hour beginning at 7:00pm.

PAPAL MASS CELEBRATION AT STEELSTACKS



Come join the Diocese of Allentown on **Sunday, September 27th**, as we celebrate Pope Francis' visit to Philadelphia. The outdoor Mass is at 12:00 Noon at the Levitt Pavilion at SteelStacks. **At 4:00pm** the live streaming of the Papal Mass will begin on three Jumbotron screens. Come join our Diocesan family for a fun-filled afternoon! In case of inclement weather, the entire event will be held indoors.



SHOWER OF ROSES FESTIVAL

Join us on **Sunday, October 4th** at St Francis of Assisi Parish at the Shrine of St Therese, 15 East Garibaldi Avenue in Nesquehoning. **Mass is at 1:00pm** with Monsignor Alfred Schlert as Celebrant. A procession follows at 3:00pm with the recitation of the Rosary, and Benediction is at 4:00pm. The Shower of Blessings from Heaven will be at 5:00pm, followed by refreshments vendors and music.

CYO Winter Sports Signups:

Boys and Girls Basketball and Girls Cheerleading signups will take place on **Wednesday, September 30th** from 6:00pm to 7:30pm; **Saturday, October 3rd**, from 9:00am to 12:00pm; and **Wednesday, October 7th**, from 6:00pm to 7:30pm at the Good Shepherd Gym. Basketball is from Instructional Bidy to High School, and Cheerleading is from K to 4th Grade. CYO is for all children in our parishes. Forms and prices are on the GSCS website under CYO. Contact: Dave Sweetana at 610-502-1950 or sweetana@rcn.com.

FAMILY NIGHT

Join your fellow parishioners on **Friday, October 2nd**, at **5:30pm** in the church basement for a fun filled Family Night. Cost for a family of 4 is \$20.00. Any questions, call Mary Beth at 610-264-4494, or Peggy at 610-264-0307. **Reservations and money must be dropped at the rectory by tomorrow, Monday, September 28th**.

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADULTS: _____ # CHILDREN: _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

SHRINE OF DIVINE MERCY

Join us for a one day trip to Stockbridge, Massachusetts in honor of the jubilee year, sponsored by the Cenacle to the Divine Mercy on **Wednesday, October 7th**. The bus departs at 7:00am sharp from St Joseph's lot on Canal Street and arrives back home around 9:30pm. For details of the day's schedule and to register, call Fran, 610-262-1663, or Stacy, 610-704-2615.

DIOCESAN CLASSES

Institute for Catechesis and Formation Course Offering – ICF 105 – Christian Morality. This course provides an introduction to the fundamental teachings of Catholic morality and its foundations in Sacred Scripture, Tradition and Natural Law. One great course; four weeks; with three local locations to choose! To register: www.allentowndiocese.org/icf. **ICF Courses are for any adult Catholic looking to grow deeper and learn more about the Faith. Prerequisites not required.**

New Series! Apologetics Forum: The Catholic Faith Explained – Marriage and the Family – Presented by Dr. Joshua Schulz of DeSales University, who will address the topics of same-sex marriage, cohabitation, and contraception, on **Wednesday, October 7th, at 7:00pm** at St. Michael's Parish Center of Queenship of Mary Parish, 829 Main Street. Call 610-289-8900.

St Peter's Church in Coplay

Join us on **Sunday, October 4th, at 1:30pm** for a Longaberger Basket and Coach Purse Bingo. Twenty games for \$20.00 plus specials, 50/50 raffle, Tricky Tray raffle, and food available. **Doors open at 12:00pm.**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

If you are interested in helping a few hours a week at the Catasauqua Thrift Shop, please call Sylvia Tognoli, 610-264-4130.



The Kindergarten through 3rd grade Youth Group will be held on the **first Saturday of the month, beginning October 3rd, from 10:00am to 11:00am** in the church basement. To

register, call Mary Beth McGinley at 610-264-4494.

The Mercy Special Learning Center

will be holding its 26th annual gala and auction on **Saturday, October 10th, at DeSales University in Center Valley.** For more information, contact Connie at custraccia@aol.com. Mercy Special Learning Center is a diocesan school and the only private, non-residential school for children and young adults with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities in the Lehigh Valley.



The 40 Days for Life Campaign started on **Wednesday, September 23rd and will continue to Sunday, November 1st,** at the abortion facility at 31 S. Commerce Way in Bethlehem. You can pray for one hour, **from 8:00am to 6:00pm Mondays through Saturdays.** When prayer volunteers are praying, the no show rate for abortion can jump as high as 75%! For information, or to be paired with a partner, call Theresa, 610-704-6935.

HISTORIC CATASAUQUA PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

Fest 'O Fall celebration will be held on **Saturday, October 3rd, from 12:00noon to 5:00pm** at the Biery House, and at the George Taylor House. The celebration will feature kid's games, pumpkin painting, scarecrow making, crafts, hayrides, bake sale, tours, food and music for all.