

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Mass Intentions

Saturday, August 20

5:30pm Karen Vendetti

Requested by Mom and Dad

Sunday, August 21

8:00am William C. Ballou

Requested by Jean McGair

10:00am Rosemary Walsh

Requested by a friend

12:00NN Fern Ferreira

Requested by Kelli R. McNulty

Monday, August 22

7:00am Alice and Al Antone

Requested by family

Tuesday, August 23

7:00am Joey Munox

Requested by Betty Ann Hogan

Wednesday, August 24

7:00am Joan Chianese

Requested by Maria Posillo

Thursday, August 25

7:00am Sister Ann Lynch

Requested by Hood family

Friday, August 26

7:00am Edward McGee

Requested by Boyle family

Saturday, August 27

5:30pm James Sweet

Requested by family

Sunday, August 28

8:00am Thomas & Phoebe McNulty and
Gar Whaley

Requested by family

10:00am Rosemary Walsh

Requested by Jean McGair

12:00NN Elizabeth Nolan

Requested by Nolan family



St. Romuald Chapel Mass Intentions

Saturday, August 20

5:30pm Bernard McSally

Requested by family

Sunday, August 21

8:00am Alice & Hilding Munson

Requested by family

10:00am Cy, Betty & David Cooney

Requested by Cooney family

Saturday, August 27

5:30pm John and Ann McLaughlin

Requested by Eric & Lisa Zatko

Sunday, August 28

8:00am Timothy Davies

Requested by family

10:00am Charles and Nancy Galligan

Requested by family



For Your Information

PARISH SUPPORT

Parish Support for August 14 was Budget—**\$9,302.00**; Monthly—**\$2,992.00**. Next weekend's second offering—*Ongoing Maintenance*. Thank you for your continued generosity.

SANCTUARY LAMP

This week's sanctuary lamp at St. Francis Church burns in memory of Karen Vendetti.

UPPER ROOM UPDATE

The St. Francis "Upper Room," a unique space on the third floor of Greenan Hall for our parish youth, is coming along swiftly! The curtains are finally up! This past week alone, we have received the following donations: an i-Pod dock, an easy chair, a mini-refrigerator, and a DVD player. We are still in need of a flat-screen television. Our game table, along with a round table and chairs, will be in place by next week. Many, many thanks to all those who have donated items. Thanks are also due to Laurie Friel for helping collect donated items. We hope to have an open house sometime in the Fall when the room is completely furnished.

YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATE

Parishioners Jacqui Bertrand, Dan Mahoney and Nick Soltysiak have been busy brainstorming youth events for the upcoming school year. They are excited about new plans for our high-school youth ministry program! Be sure to check the parish bulletin for upcoming youth events! With our new "Upper Room," this new school year will bring new opportunities for fellowship, prayer and fun!

PRAISE SOCIAL NIGHT: WRAP-UP

On August 9, our teen music ensemble PRAISE hosted a Holy Hour in Saint Francis Church. Immediately afterward, they enjoyed a social night in Fr. Greenan Hall with games, movies and plenty of food! Many thanks to Mimi Battey, Mark Castro, and Bill and Julia Craig for helping to coordinate and supervise the evening. We are blessed to have a group of such dedicated and talented young people, willing to serve God and our parish family through their musical gifts. Thank you for your talent and your witness! Be on the lookout for our next PRAISE Holy Hour!

PARISH DIRECTORIES AVAILABLE

Parishioners who sat for portraits last winter received a free copy of our parish directory. Several copies are now available for only \$5.00 for those who did not sit for a portrait. Why should you purchase a directory? The full-color directories contain historical photographs, information and pictures about our parish patrons, Sts. Francis and Romuald, scenes from our parish life, and photos of fellow parishioners whose names you might not know! It's certainly worth the \$5! Call the rectory for more information.

AUGUST 21, 2011

AS SUMMER WINDS DOWN... *Some Advice from Pope Benedict*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

When we have a break from our activities, especially during vacation time, we often take up a book we want to read. It is this very aspect that I would like to reflect upon today.

Each of us needs time and space for recollection, meditation, and calm ... Thanks be to God that this is so! In fact, this need tells us that we are not made for work alone, but also for thought, for reflection, or simply for following with our minds and hearts a tale in which we can immerse ourselves, "losing ourselves" in some sense to find ourselves subsequently enriched.

Naturally, many of the books we take up during our vacation are for the most part an escape, and this is normal. However, some people, particularly if they are able to take a more extended time of rest and relaxation, devote themselves to reading something more demanding.

I would therefore like to make a suggestion: why not discover a few of the books of the Bible that are not commonly known? Or perhaps from which we have heard an occasional passage during the Liturgy but which we have never read in their entirety? Indeed, many Christians never read the Bible, and have a very limited and superficial knowledge of it.

The Bible—as the name suggests—is a collection of books, a little "library" [*biblioteca*] that came to be over the course of a millennium. Some of these "little books" that make up the Bible remain virtually unknown to the vast majority of people, even to good Christians. Some are very short, like the *Book of Tobias*, a tale that contains a lofty sense of family and marriage; or the *Book of Esther*, in which the Hebrew Queen saves her people from destruction through her faith and prayer; or even shorter, the *Book of Ruth*, a foreigner who comes to know God and to experience His providence. These little books can be read in their entirety in an hour. More demanding and true masterpieces are the *Book of Job*, which confronts the great problem of innocent suffering; *Ecclesiastes*, which is striking for the baffling modernity with which it challenges the meaning of life and the world; the *Cantic of Canticles*, a stupendous symbolic poem on human love. As you see, these are all books from the Old Testament. And the New? The New Testament is of course better known and its literary genre is less diversified. But the beauty of reading a Gospel in one sitting is worth discovering, as I also recommend for the *Acts of the Apostles*, or one of the *Letters*.

To conclude, dear friends, today I would like to suggest that you keep the holy Bible close at hand during the summer months and in moments of rest, so that you might enjoy it in a new way by reading some of its Books straight through, those that are less well known as well as those that are more familiar, such as the Gospels, but without putting them down.

In this way, moments of relaxation can become not only a time of cultural enrichment, but beyond this, also a source of spiritual nourishment, capable of nourishing our knowledge of God and conversation with Him; that is, prayer. And this seems to be a beautiful occupation during the summer holidays: to take a book of the Bible in order to have a little relaxation, and at the same time, to enter into the great realm of God's Word and to deepen our contact with the Eternal One, as the goal of the free time given to us by the Lord.

This address was given by Pope Benedict XVI to pilgrims gathered at Castel Gandolfo on Sunday, August 13, 2011.



Religious Education

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION BEGINS

The official start of our Religious Ed Program is **Sunday, September 11th**. Religious Ed. information packets have been mailed. If you have not received the mailing and have children registered in the program or if you have not yet registered your child please do so by calling the Religious Ed Office at 792-8684 or fill out a registration form located at the church entrances. Thank you.

NEED FOR CATECHISTS AND AIDES

Christ himself is at the heart of our religious education program. Our ***catechists*** help communicate his love and his grace to our parish children. Their unselfish generosity of time and talent is a gift to the young parishioners of St. Francis Parish. With over 500 children in our program, there is a great need for more teachers. *Why not you? Team teaching is an option so invite a friend to join you! Newly confirmed teens, this is your chance to give back to the community the gifts of your faith that were passed on to you.* The qualifications needed are: a generous heart, enjoyment of young people, and a willingness to share faith. Training and assistance are provided. Please call Barbette Cullen or Diane Castro at 792-8684 for more information.

CATECHIST MEETING

There will be an Orientation Meeting for Catechists Grades K-2 on Thursday, August 25th at 6:30pm and Grades 3-6 at 7:30pm in Father Greenan Parish Center.



This Week

Sunday, August 21

7:00pm AA (HBH)

Thursday, August 25

6:30pm Orientation Meeting for
Catechists Gr. K-2 (FGC)

7:30pm Orientation Meeting for
Catechists Gr. 3-6 (FGC)

7pm Men of St. Joseph (Office Bldg.)

IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

In today's gospel passage, Jesus poses a pivotal question to the apostles. "Who do you say that I am?" That is the core question for every believer. Who do we say that Jesus really is? Is he a distant, quaint figure, removed from our day-to-day lives or is he an intimate friend, a constant companion? Do we recognize his Lordship over our lives and over our world, or do we allow ourselves (or parts our lives) to remain outside of his domain? Jesus warns his disciples, "Everyone who fails to acknowledge me before others, I will fail to acknowledge before my Father in heaven" (see Matthew 10:33). Conversely, those who see Jesus for who he truly is will be acknowledged by him before the Father in heaven. The challenge is the recognition! In the liturgy, Jesus reveals himself to us. He breaks open the scriptures and feeds us with his own body and blood. Do we acknowledge him in Word and Sacrament? Or do we allow our participation at Mass to grow rote and thoughtless? If we avail ourselves of opportunities to receive God's grace through the sacraments (especially Mass and Confession), we will recognize Christ more readily for who he truly is. Faithful, attentive and devout participation in the liturgical life of the Church means cleansing and renewing our vision so that we may see Jesus as "the Christ, the Son of the Living God"!



Year of Liturgical
and Spiritual Renewal

ELEVENTH ANNUAL BREAKFAST AT MATUNUCK

An event that has become particularly enjoyable to the parishioners of St. Francis and St. Romuald is the parish breakfast at the Matunuck Community Center. The eleventh annual breakfast will be held on Sunday, August 28, from 8:30AM-12:00NN. Tickets will be on sale after all the Masses (children under 5 eat for free).



MY CHILD WAS LOST BUT NOW IS FOUND!

The story of the prodigal son in the Gospel of Luke portrays the loving father running out to welcome back his errant son. There is no better image for the Sacrament of Reconciliation than this one! God reaches out to us in Confession, forgives us, heals us and welcomes us home in grace. If it's been a while, consider coming back to this great sacrament of mercy and healing! Confessions are heard every Saturday at 4:30PM in Saint Francis Church (the Confessional is located off of the sanctuary, through the door by the pulpit), and at 4:45PM in Saint Romuald Chapel during the summer (at the back corner of the transept, to the right of the altar).



THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION AT SAINT ROMUALD CHAPEL

The Sacrament of Penance will now be offered at St. Romuald Chapel on the Saturday's during the year when we have an evening Mass. Confessions will be heard from 4:45-5:15pm at the back of the transept (to the right of the altar).

FOOD DONATIONS FOR AUGUST

Peanut butter and jelly, cans/jars of veggies, tuna, canned meats, tomato sauce, pasta, fruit juice and snacks. Toilet tissue and paper towels, bug spray and sun-block are also needed. Collections are low, so please try to remember to bring some items once a month. As always, thank you for your generosity.



SUMMER'S SWAN- SONG SWEEPSTAKES

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

Cost: \$35

1st Prize—\$2,000, 2nd Prize—
\$500, 3rd Prize—\$500

Tickets on sale **THIS weekend,**
August 20/21, after all Masses

at the Church and Chapel. Winning tickets will be drawn on Sunday, October 2nd at the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi Breakfast at Father Greenan Parish Center.

ATTENTION ALL COLLEGE STUDENTS!

We are trying to compile a database of contact information for our parishioners who are away at college. Please call the rectory to leave us your name, college, class year, and email address.

NEW TRANSLATION COUNTDOWN

14 weeks remain until the new translation of the Mass is implemented on November 27, 2011, the First Sunday of Advent.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Mass Readings for every day of the month can be found online at:

<http://www.usccb.org/nab/>

NEXT WEEKEND'S MASS READINGS

1st Reading: Jeremiah 20:7-9

2nd Reading: Romans 12:1-2

Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:21-27

Don't forget to check out
St. Francis on the Web:

<http://stfranciswakefield.com>

or

<http://facebook.com/stfranciswakefield>