

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Mass Intentions

Saturday, August 11

4:30pm Jack Brockmann

Requested by niece

Sunday, August 12

8:00am Masumeh Ghandaharian

Requested by family

10:00am Mary-Frances Esty

Requested by Marcia & James Signorelli

12:00nn Peter Swanson

Requested by family

Monday, August 13

7:00am Margaret Flynn

Requested by Jeff and Kathie Carney

Tuesday, August 14

7:00am Marion Maggio

Requested by family

Wednesday, August 15

7:00am Rose Silva

12:00nn Mass of Thanksgiving for the

Intentions of the DeGrasse family

6:30pm Chi Thi Anna Tran & Thanh John

Ha - *Requested by family*

Thursday, August 16

7:00am Mass for the People

Friday, August 17

7:00am Paul Pietrantonio

Requested by Fred & Arlene Robinson

Saturday, August 18

4:30pm Rose & Ralph Calitri

Requested by D. Smith

Sunday, August 19

8:00am Julia Buckley Schaaf

Requested by family

10 Reginald & Annette & Reginald Allen, Jr.

Requested by family

12:00nn P. Harrison Lofton

Requested by friend

St. Romuald Chapel Mass Intentions

Saturday, August 11

5:30pm Kathryn Faucher

Requested by family

Sunday, August 12

8:00am Grace & John Carpinelli

Requested by family

10:00am Sabatino & Pearl Vacca

Gino & Catherine Parente

Requested by family

Saturday, August 18

5:30pm Jim and Lucille Ferry

Requested by family

Sunday, August 19

8:00am Alice & Hilding Munson

Requested by family

10:00am Cy, Betty and David Cooney

Requested by family



For Your Information

SANCTUARY LAMP

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

TWENTY WEEK CLUB WINNERS—WEEK 13

Congratulations to the latest 20 Week Club drawing winners: James DeLuca and Dr. Thomas Packer. Stay tuned for next week's drawing!



HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary is observed on Wednesday, August 15. This special day in honor of Our Blessed Lady is a **Holy Day of Obligation**. Masses will be celebrated in St. Francis Church at **7:00AM, 12:00NN & 6:30PM**.

Blessing of Herbs and Fruits

In many parts of the world and even in our own country, the Solemnity of Our Lady's Assumption is marked by a unique tradition of blessing herbs and fruits. The symbolism of the tradition is powerful: Mary is often portrayed as a vine, from which the tender stem of the Messiah grew, and the fruit of Mary's womb was no less than the Savior of the world. The blessed fruits would be shared with family and friends or given to the poor, while the herbs would be kept on hand for cooking and even medicinal remedies. **The custom of this blessing will be observed in our parish on Wednesday, August 15, immediately following the 12NN Mass.** All are invited to bring bunches of flowers and herbs, as well as baskets of fruits to the church, which will be placed on a table by the altar of Our Lady. Immediately after Mass, the items will be blessed and can be taken home for your own use.



WEEKLY PARISH SUPPORT—August 5

August 5

Budget envelopes (287 used)	-	\$6,437.00
Loose Donations	-	\$1,610.00
Online Giving (15 donors)	-	\$ 331.00
Total Budget	-	\$8,378.00

Peter's Pence

Budget Envelopes (201 used)	-	\$1,653.00
Loose Donations	-	\$1,123.00
Total Peter's Pence	-	\$2,776.00

This weekend's second offering is the Monthly offering for August. Next weekend's second offering will be the Ongoing Maintenance Fund Offering. As always, thank you for your continued generosity to the parish.

Who are you, O Immaculate Conception?

Two hours before St. Maximilian Kolbe was arrested by the Gestapo and taken to a concentration camp where he would sacrifice his own life to save the life of a man who was a husband and father, Kolbe penned a document. In this document he set out to answer the above question, "Who are you, O Immaculate Conception?" The document begins as follows:

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION. These words fell from the lips of the Immaculata herself. Hence, they must tell us in the most precise and essential manner who she really is. ...

Who then are you, O Immaculate Conception?

Good question...At the apparitions in Lourdes, Mary didn't say to St. Bernadette "I was immaculately conceived" but rather "*I am the Immaculate Conception.*" This seems to be a problem. After all, Mary *was* immaculately conceived. In other words, through a special grace from God, she was conceived in the womb of her mother, St. Anne, without any stain of original sin by the foreseen merits of her Son. So why does she speak so strangely? Why does she make the grace she received at her conception *her very name*? Doesn't this almost seem as if she were making herself divine? Clearly, Mary is not God. Kolbe wrestled with this apparent "divinity problem" for decades, and it led to the following solution.

The Immaculate Conception is divine. But the one I'm talking about isn't Mary. It's the Holy Spirit. In other words, Kolbe believed there are two "Immaculate Conceptions": Mary and the Holy Spirit. Mary is the *created* Immaculate Conception and the Holy Spirit is the *uncreated* Immaculate Conception. In other words, before there was the *created* Immaculate Conception (Mary), for all eternity there is the *uncreated* Immaculate Conception, the One who for all eternity "springs" from God the Father and God the Son as an uncreated conception of Love and who is the "prototype of all the conceptions that multiply life throughout the whole universe." So, "the Father begets; the Son is begotten; the Spirit is the 'conception' that springs from their love."

Now, the Holy Spirit is a "conception" in the sense of being the Life and Love that springs from the love of the Father and the Son—in some analogous way, there's the conception of children who "spring" from the love of husband and wife. The Holy Spirit is an "immaculate" conception because, being God, he is obviously without sin. And finally, the Holy Spirit is an "eternal, uncreated" conception because, again, he is God.

Okay, so this covers Kolbe's teaching that the Holy Spirit is the Immaculate Conception, but why does Mary call herself by the same name? ...

In all seriousness, we should thank both St. Bernadette and St. Kolbe profusely, because their fidelity to grace is now opening up for us a glorious truth that undergirds the whole theology of Marian consecration. (*continued on page 3 of bulletin*)

Religious Education

Need for Catechists & Aides

Our teachers and aides are a key component of our religious education program. 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 your faith.

Training and assistance are provided. Please call Barbette Cullen or Diane Castro at 792-8684 for more information.



This Week

Sunday, August 12

7:00pm Catholicism DVD (FGC)

7:00pm AA (HBH)

Monday, August 13

NO ADORATION after Morning Mass

ALL PARISH OFFICES CLOSED

7:30pm Praise Rehearsal (FGC)

Tuesday, August 14

7:00pm Catholicism DVD (FGC)

Wednesday, August 15

ASSUMPTION of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

HOLY DAY of OBLIGATION

Masses at: 7am, 12nn, 6:30pm

Thursday, August 16

1:30pm Mass at South Bay Manor

7:00pm Men of St. Joseph (FGC)

7:00pm Jonnycake Ctr Ecumenical Mtg. (FGC)

Be sure to check out the following sites to keep on top of all the happenings in the parish:

<http://stfranciswakefield.com> or
<http://facebook.com/>

Who are you, O Immaculate Conception? (Part Two)

This truth has to do with the union between the Holy Spirit and Mary. Kolbe explains this in a passage that is long and difficult but incredibly rich and deserving of deep reflection:

What type of union is this [between the Holy Spirit and Mary]? It is above all an interior union, a union of her essence with the “essence” of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit dwells in her, lives in her. This was true from the first instant of her existence. It was always true; it will always be true.

In what does this life of the Spirit of Mary consist? He himself is uncreated Love in her; the Love of the Father and of the Son, the Love by which God loves himself, the very love of the Most Holy Trinity. He is a fruitful Love, a “Conception.” Among creatures made in God’s image the union brought about by married love is the most intimate of all (see Mt 19:6). In a much more precise, more interior, more essential manner, the Holy Spirit lives in the soul of the Immaculata, in the depths of her very being. He makes her fruitful, from the very first instant of her existence, all during her life, and for all eternity.

The eternal “Immaculate Conception” (which is the Holy Spirit) produces in an immaculate manner divine life itself in the womb (or depths) of Mary’s soul, making her the Immaculate Conception, the human Immaculate Conception. And the virginal womb of Mary’s body is kept sacred for him; there he conceives in time—because everything that is material occurs in time—the human life of the Man-God.

... If among human beings the wife takes the name of her husband because she belongs to him, is one with him, becomes equal to him and is, with him, the source of new life, with how much greater reason should the name of the Holy Spirit, who is the divine Immaculate Conception, be used as the name of her in whom he lives as uncreated Love, the principle of life in the whole supernatural order of grace?

In light of this remarkable passage, I'd like to make three points. First, ponder it again, deeply and prayerfully. As you do, keep in mind that these are the parting words of one of the greatest Marian saints of all time, answering the very question to which he dedicated his life and energies. Second, if it seems that Kolbe has gone a bit overboard with this talk of Mary and her union with the Holy Spirit, don't worry. Pope Paul VI went out of his way to reassure the faithful that Kolbe's teaching is sound. Third, if you only get one point from this challenging passage, may it be this: Mary is the Spouse of the Holy Spirit. In fact, her union with the Holy Spirit is even deeper than what we understand by a spousal relationship.

Come, Holy Spirit, living in Mary ... Unveil for me the meaning of the Immaculate Conception.

Excerpt taken from 33 DAYS TO MORNING GLORY by Father Michael E. Gaitley, MIC

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Tuesday, August 14th is the feast day of this great Marian saint.

St. Maximilian Mary Kolbe, **pray for us!**



We now offer a secure and convenient way for you to contribute to St. Francis Parish!

Online donations may be made at any time from the privacy and comfort of your own home or any place with internet access. Online donations are credited to your tax statement for the end of the year (except when made anonymously), and each user can change his or her preferences or desired donation amounts at any time!

Visit our website for more information on how to get started: www.stfranciswakefield.com.

SUMMER CATECHETICAL SERIES

Please join us as Fr. Baron's DVD series continues at Father Greenan Center:

7PM Sunday, August 12 – "Word Made Flesh, True Bread of Heaven: The Mystery of the Liturgy and the Eucharist"

7PM Tuesday, August 14 – "A Vast Company of Witnesses: The Communion of Saints"

7PM Sunday, August 19 – "The Fire of His Love: Prayer and the Life of the Spirit"

7PM Tuesday, August 21 – "World Without End: The Last Things"

You are invited...

**Join us for a Holy Hour
as we celebrate the
Queenship of the
Blessed Virgin Mary**

**NEXT Wednesday,
August 22nd, 7:00PM
in St. Francis Church**



All are welcome to join us in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament as members of our parish family make or renew their consecration to Our Lady. (N.B. If you will be renewing your consecration, please call Kelli in the parish office at 783-4411 to let her know you'll be joining us for this very special celebration).

EXPOSITION•ROSARY•HOMILY•CONSECRATION•BENEDICTION