

# SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FEBRUARY 20, 2022

## † MASS INTENTIONS †

Sat.	2/19	4:00 PM	Joseph, Agnes, & Susan Maloney by Hugh & Catherine Maloney
Sun.	2/20	11:00 AM	Sonia and Stanley Wilczek by Their Son Stan
Mon.	2/21	7:00 PM	Sara Fedor by the Famalette Family
Tue.	2/22	7:00 AM	Alexander and Anita Iorio and Victoria Keating by Their Granddaughters and Nieces Susan, Janet, and Ruth
Wed.	2/23	7:00 AM	Norman Ceriani by the Phillips Family
Thur.	2/24	7:00 AM	Jean and Bob Iorio by their Daughters Susan, Janet, & Ruth
Fri.	2/25	7:00 AM	Shirley Nitka by Her Daughter Linda Nitka-Moyer
Sat.	2/26	4:00 PM	Charles and Hilde Scott by Hugh and Catherine Maloney
Sun.	2/27	11:00 AM	Michael T. Pshar, Sr. and Deborah Pshar Bonner by Wife and Mother Elsie T. Pshar

### Last Weekend:



Sunday \$3,688.00; Loose \$70.00; Dues \$1,953.00; Care and Education of Priests \$160.00; Other \$100.00; Poor Box \$143.00

**CANDLES ON THE ALTAR** are in Memory of Barbara Banyas-Patton by Her Siblings Cathy and Jack



**OUR SANCTUARY LAMP** is burning this week in Memory of Steve Korol by His Friend, Dan Ravina



**MANDATORY BAPTISMAL PREPARATION CLASS** will be at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, April 27th, in the basement of Immaculate Conception Church. Please register by calling the Immaculate Conception Parish Office at 570-636-3035 or the Good Shepherd office at 570-788-3141.

## REMINDER

**COMMUNITY/SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING** will be held on Tuesday, January 18th, at 6:00 PM in the church.



**PASTORAL COUNCIL** will meet on Wednesday, February 23rd, at 7:00 PM in the parish center.



**THE PARISH OFFICE** will be closed On Monday, February 21st, in observance of Presidents' Day.



## A MESSAGE FROM FATHER MIKE:



Sometimes there are "two" of me. The first person is the man who was ordained a priest almost 35 years ago. I love being a priest. Priests are called to love and serve their parishioners. While not always easy, we are challenged to "...turn the other cheek." Speaking of "other," then there is the other side of me - the man who was born some 65 years ago. This is the man who gets frustrated at folks who drive in the passing lane, letters telling me how to do my job (without a signature) and calling the diocese because they don't like a change made in the church. This man gets mad and frustrated. There, now you see the two sides.

Here's the trick: how do I balance the priest and the man? Prayer, great people who work and volunteer at the parish, parishioners who text and say "thanks" for reaching out, and when someone says "Good Morning, Father" at 4:00 PM on a Saturday afternoon. Bottom line: Priest trumps man! How about you, are there TWO of you?



### A VIEW FROM THE PEW, SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT.

"The problem of disbelieving in God is not that a man ends up believing nothing. Alas, it is much worse. He ends up believing anything." G.K. Chesterton.



**FORGET-ME-NOT GIFT BAGS ARE DUE  
ON THE ALTAR OR IN THE PARISH OFFICE  
BY SUNDAY, APRIL 3RD.**

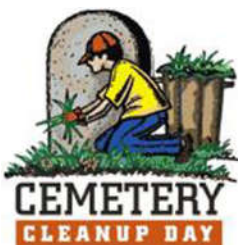


**FAITH FORMATION NEWS:** There will be no classes on Sunday, February 21st, in observance of Presidents' Day.

On Saturday, February 26th, our second grade will be celebrating the Sacrament of First Reconciliation. Please keep our students in your prayers.

Sunday, February 27th, the 11:00 mass will be the First Penance mass.

**ATTENTION ALL CONFIRMATION PARENTS:** There will be a meeting at Good Shepherd Parish on Monday at 5:45 PM. At least one parent for each student needs to attend.



**ATTENTION LOT HOLDERS CALVARY CEMETERY - Notice of Spring Clean up -** Spring clean up will take place on **TUESDAY MARCH 01, 2022**. Please remove any and all desired items from graves prior to March 01, 2022. Any remaining items left on graves. On March 01, 2022 will be removed and discarded by cemetery personnel. All questions can be directed to the Cemetery Office at (570) 788-2150.

❖ Dear Deacon Jim,

*I was raised Catholic, went to Catholic school, nuns, and all! As a child, we were constantly told how God was always there for us, how he protected us, how no harm would come to us, and as a child, I absorbed that from a child's point of view. Down the road of life, as an adult, when I see bad things happen to good people, loss of a loved one, horrible diseases, fires, floods, abuse of innocent children, murders. I find it so hard to believe a God who loves us so much could stand by and not stop these harmful life occurrences and protect us! Yes, I know, free will, people have free will, but how about the victim of that bad free will? They did not sign on to be a victim! How do you hold on to your faith through pain and sorrow and life's bad side? I know there are wonderful, happy, experiences too, and regardless of my doubts, I never fail to pray, day and night, and attend mass which gives me a place of peace. So, what is the answer to why do I have difficulty with my faith?*

❖ Response

First, you are to be commended for your Catholic upbringing and maintaining the practice of your faith as an adult despite the many tragedies experienced and the suffering, we see all around us.

How can a God who loves me allow me to experience pain and suffering? It just does not seem to add up. When terrible things happen, we want answers and believe me, you are certainly not alone. That "why" question goes back thousands of years. It was asked in the Old Testament and by the writers of the Psalms. I believe many books have been written on this very topic. The truth is we cannot know the reasons why God lets terrible things happen. We live in a world that is stained by sin, so difficulties and disappointments are bound to cross our path. God did not create evil and suffering. Yes, he did indeed create the potential for evil to enter the world, because that was the only way to create the potential for genuine goodness and love. But it was human beings, in our free will as you point out, who brought about that evil. As we see in scripture (Genesis), the choice of Adam and Eve to disobey their Creator led to evil being allowed to enter the world, permanently changing our lives and the world around us. Scripture is clear that God grieves over the very things that we grieve over. Those people who inflict suffering will be judged and receive the just punishment they deserve for their wrongdoings.

Unless you accept God's grace to deal with suffering, inevitably you will become bitter. However, if you choose to trust God to bring about His purposes through suffering, you can avoid that bitterness and grow in the grace of the Lord. We see in scripture that God made it clear that the earthly suffering we are experiencing, is only for a moment considering eternity with Him but only if we respond by looking to the Lord. Not only may suffering lead us to a closer union with Christ, but God can bring good out of the evils we experience. Remember, without faith, there is no hope.

*Deacon Jim*