

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

AUGUST 19, 2018

		†	MASS INTENTIONS	†
Sat.	8/18	4:00 PM	Margie Serock by Her Sisters Anna, Helen, and Their Families	
Sun.	8/19	7:30 AM	For the People	
		10:30 AM	Rocco Lutz by His Family	
Mon.	8/20	7:00 PM	Deceased Members of the Evanochick Family by Their Family	
Tue.	8/21	7:00 AM	John Kopashy by Dan Ravina	
Wed.	8/22		NO MASS	
Thur.	8/23	7:00 AM	Marilyn Moyer by Alfred and Barbara Moyer	
Fri.	8/24	7:00 AM	Lorraine Sharp by Mrs. Anna Plaksa and Family	
Sat.	8/25	4:00 PM	Lillian Strohl by Her Husband Oscar	
Sun.	8/26	7:30 AM	Mary Kopczynskie by Henry Kopczynskie and Family	
		10:30 AM	Jack and Elaine Brogan by Jay, Sarah, and Stella	



Last Weekend:

Sunday \$4,523.00; Dues \$665.00; Care and Education of Priests \$63.00; Feast of the Assumption \$101.00; Poor Box \$240.97

CANDLES ON THE ALTAR are in Memory of Elsie Norman and Cheryl Kleckner by Marlo and Family.

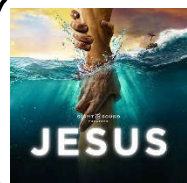


MEMORIAL DONATION of \$25.00 was made in Memory of Ann Louise Ceriani by Mary Grace and Bill Maranki



THE FOOD PANTRY DONATION for August is JELLO & pudding snack cups for children's lunches as they go back to school. The next distribution is Tuesday, August 28th.

TRAVEL SIZE TOILETRIES FOR THE HOMELESS will continue to be collected in the tubs in the back and side entrance of the church throughout the months of August and September. All toiletries will be distributed to the homeless in our area communities through the Catholic churches in Hazleton.



ST. JOHN BOSCO TRIP TO SEE JESUS at Sight and Sound in Lancaster is Tuesday, April 26, 2019. The cost is \$123.00 which includes the show, lunch, and dinner at Shady Maple Smorgasbord. For reservations contact Marie at 570-455-3874.



Jesus really rocked the boat this weekend with His "...unless you eat of the Son of Man..." quote. He was already in hot water with the religious leaders (He was different and they did not like it). Now he comes out with this eating flesh thing and it sends them over the top. Even His followers were a bit skeptical. Jesus' statement sounded like he was advocating cannibalism. Of course, WE know He was not! Nevertheless, we were not there when He first said it. I wonder how I would have reacted if I had been there. Each week, we approach the altar and you hear the phrase: **Body of Christ**. How do you react? Is it really the Body of Christ for you? Do you believe?



A VIEW FROM THE PEW, SAINTLY ADVICE

"Put up willingly with the faults of others if you wish others to put up with yours." St. John Bosco

SINCERE THANKS to everyone who donated a backpack or made a donation for backpacks. As you know, we had fallen short of the number of backpacks needed for all of the children who had registered. So many of you immediately brought extra backpacks or made generous donations to help us meet our needs. The backpacks are being distributed this weekend to more than 125 children, and we were still 20 backpacks short. As you know, the cost of a well-filled backpack is \$25.00. For some parents that is an impossible expense, especially when there is more than one child. As we considered how to get the 20 backpacks we needed, a true blessing occurred. A member the Sons of Erin was helping us to take the recently donated backpacks to the church basement and asked how we were doing with our numbers. When he learned about the shortfall, he let us know that the Sons of Erin would donate the \$500.00 needed for the last 20 backpacks. No children should have to start school without the supplies they need, and because of your



generosity and the generosity of the Sons of Erin, more than 125 children and their parents will not have that worry. And YOU made it all possible! Thank you all so very much for remembering that whatever you do for "the least of Jesus' little ones," you do for Jesus Himself. God bless you!

LET'S CELEBRATE SR. JANE! Sr. Jane will be retiring from the parish of St. Patrick's after 20 years of ministry. Sr. Jane does not want a big celebration, but rather a simple gathering after each Mass on the weekend of August 25/26. Her dream is to make this occasion an opportunity to bring us all together as a family. The gatherings will be on Saturday, August 25th, after the 6:00 PM mass and on Sunday, August 26th, after the 8:00 AM and 11:00 AM masses. If you would like to attend and to wish Sr. Jane well on her retirement, you would be most welcome and your well-wishes would be most appreciated.

PARISH HAPPENINGS

Within the next few weeks, a stand will be placed in the vestibule of the church with a book where you will be able to write your personal petitions. These petitions will then be prayed for during every mass at Immaculate Conception during our Intercessory Prayer with the statement: "We pray for all the needs of the members of our parish community especially those listed in our Petition Book." It is also asked that you remember these petitions in your own daily personal prayer.

Although the book is intended for your personal petitions, we do ask that since this book is available to the public that you use proper judgment when listing a petition in order to keep individuals' privacy intact. For example, instead of saying: "I pray for John Smith to get a job", you could say: "I pray for my friend to find employment." This allows individuals the dignity of their privacy while giving them the opportunity to have the community pray for them.

The Diocese of Scranton offers compassionate counseling in a safe, comfortable environment where your privacy is always respected. Counseling is about self-discovery and can be used for personal growth or when distressing conditions exist and you need a bit of extra support. Help is available. Anyone who struggles with anxiety, depression, grief and loss, life transitions or a variety of emotional or psychological conditions is welcome. Catholic Social Services accepts Medicaid plans and some insurance plans. Counseling is made affordable for everyone. For more information or to make an appointment, call (570) 207-2283.

La Diócesis de Scranton ofrece consejería compasiva en un ambiente seguro y cómodo donde siempre se respeta su privacidad. La consejería se trata de autodescubrimiento y puede usarse para el crecimiento personal o cuando existen condiciones angustiantes y necesita un poco de apoyo adicional, hay ayuda disponible. Cualquiera que tenga problemas de ansiedad, depresión, dolor y pérdida, transiciones de vida o una variedad de condiciones emocionales o psicológicas es bienvenido. Catholic Social Services acepta planes de Medicaid y algunos planes de seguro. La consejería se hace asequible para todos. Para obtener más información o para programar una cita, llame al (570) 207-2283.

Keeping Our Youth Safe

As I am sure you are aware, last week, a Grand Jury report investigating child sexual abuse within the Catholic Church in Pennsylvania was released. I would like to offer my most sincere apologies to all victims, and to the community at large, for this tragic reality. The report brings up painful and uncomfortable issues that we must face together so we can eradicate child sexual abuse from the church altogether.

I know you are all concerned. I share those same concerns and I want to assure you that your child's safety is our highest priority. Our current standards are built upon years of ongoing improvements as we constantly reevaluate and improve our procedures and policies.

HOW DO WE PROTECT OUR CHILDREN?

- All volunteers and employees must have criminal background and child abuse clearances • Every person is trained extensively on sexual abuse prevention, reporting, victim advocacy and more
- Since 2003, we have trained more than 28,000 adults in child protection awareness
- Every child in kindergarten through 12th grade is taught how to recognize and report inappropriate behavior

HOW DO WE HANDLE ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE?

- We strictly adhere to a zero tolerance policy on abuse
- We immediately notify law enforcement of all allegations of abuse
- We notify Pennsylvania Child Line
- We remove abusers from ministry and immediately notify the parish and the public
- And we provide all necessary support to victims, knowing that the healing process can be difficult and lengthy

Once again, I am deeply sorry and grieved for the unsettling nature of the behaviors described in this Grand Jury investigation. I hope we can work together to restore trust in the church and move forward in a more positive way.

If you are in need of resources that can help you discuss these issues with your children, we recommend:

- Catholic Social Services (cssdioceseofscranton.org)
- Darkness to Light (d2l.org)
- Prevent Child Abuse America (preventchildabuse.org)
- Stop It Now! (stopitnow.org)

Thank you and God Bless you.
Bishop Joseph C. Bambera

PRAYER FOR HEALING VICTIMS OF ABUSE

God of endless love,
ever caring, ever strong,
always present, always just:
You gave your only Son
to save us by the blood of his cross.

Gentle Jesus, shepherd of peace,
join to your own suffering
the pain of all who have been hurt
in body, mind, and spirit
by those who betrayed the trust placed in them.

Hear our cries as we agonize
over the harm done to our brothers and sisters.
Breathe wisdom into our prayers,
soothe restless hearts with hope,
steady shaken spirits with faith:
Show us the way to justice and wholeness,
enlightened by truth and enfolded in your mercy.

Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts,
heal your people's wounds
and transform our brokenness.
Grant us courage and wisdom, humility and grace,
so that we may act with justice
and find peace in you.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.