

Mass Intentions for September 19th – 25th, 2016

Monday, Sept 19th

6:50 am Mass for the People

Tuesday, Sept 20th

6:50 am Ettore Machelli by Naz, Mary Lou & Norina

Wednesday, Sept 21st

6:50 am Ann Marie Tasonyi Symons by sister

Thursday, Sept 22nd

6:50 Patricia Dunleavy by Niki & Brian

Friday, Sept 23rd

6:50 am Irene Castellani by family

Saturday, Sept 24th

4:00 pm Jerome Aniska Sr by wife, sons, & family

Sunday, Sept 25th

8:00 am Clara Pazzaglia by Frank & Diane

10:00 am William D. Brennan by David, Amy & Abigail Burdyn



Remember in Your Prayers

Please pray for the sick, the suffering, the bereaved and the recently deceased victims of terrorism.

hungry, and using our energy to simply feed them. We need to help God's vision become a reality.

Jesus often spoke of the intimate linkage that exists between love of God and love of neighbor. It stands to reason then that if we are in a covenant, loving relationship with God then we are also in a covenant, loving relationship with each other. We cannot turn our backs on the needs of humanity, especially those that are so obvious and grave—the poor and the powerless.

Special Collection – Flood Relief

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has requested that a special collection be taken up in all parishes this weekend to support the victims of the 2016 Louisiana Floods, the worst domestic disaster since Hurricane Sandy. Bishop Bambera has directed that this collection be taken in the Diocese of Scranton this weekend, September 17-18. This emergency collection will be used both to support the humanitarian efforts of Catholic Charities USA & to provide pastoral & rebuilding aid to impacted dioceses.

Collection for last Weekend: September 4-5, 2016

379 Sunday Offertory Envelopes \$6,830.00

We sincerely thank all who are consistently using their regular offertory envelopes or prearranged bank checks to support the work and mission of Sacred Heart Parish. We also commend those who are being conscientious to their commitments through our ongoing Parish Care Campaign.

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

We can easily become complacent and ignore the cries of those who are poor. In fact, the prophet Amos tells us exactly that! "Hear this, you who trample upon the needy and destroy the poor of the land!" The continuation of this reading next weekend will show us how this attitude has led to self-destruction. Amos sees the destruction experienced in northern Israel as the direct result of complacency and indifference to the poor, outcast, and needy. Regardless of the scope of our sinfulness, I do not believe for one minute that God causes our demise or inflicts this type of "repayment" upon people for their misdeeds. However, what is to be considered is whether a habit of self-focused self-indulgence can and will eventually lead to the demise of an individual or to an entire nation. Trampling upon or ignoring anyone will always come back with negative results.

Mother Teresa saw a clear link between personal well-being, holiness, and service to the poor. As a woman who believed in Jesus Christ, even in her darkness she felt compelled to live this life of total service, bringing to fulfillment the vision God places before us. Our psalmist lays this out before us: "He raises up the lowly from the dust; from the dunghill he lifts up the poor." As Christians, it is important to consider the systemic causes of poverty and injustice. We need to continually challenge contemporary systems to see the light and truth of the Gospel. However, it is even more important to put our questions and even our doubts aside for a bit, being consumed less with dealing with why a person is

**CATHOLIC
Social Services
& Parish Outreach**

"We knew Stanyal was motivated to make a better life for herself...She's done a wonderful job with her daughter."

JESSICA DOBINSON, DIRECTOR
SHEPHERD'S MATERNITY HOUSE



Your gifts to the Diocesan Annual Appeal enable us to serve the poorest, the weakest and the most vulnerable among us through Catholic Social Services. Many individuals also receive assistance through parish-based Social Justice programs funded by the Appeal. The 33 grants awarded last year included food and clothing pantries, and monthly dinners for families in need.

Shepherd's Maternity House in Stroudsburg assisted Stanyal Shay by providing care and support and a family atmosphere for this homeless young woman and her unborn child. Like other residents, Stanyal was given the opportunity to learn parenting skills, and receive counseling and job training. Whether women place their infants for adoption or keep their babies, they also receive assistance in finding permanent housing. "This is a blessing," said Stanyal. "I've started life over. The staff helped me through a lot...I plan to do everything right for my daughter and this program lifted me up to be able to do that."

*Support social justice and show mercy to those in need.
Give to the Diocesan Annual Appeal*

2016 Diocese of Scranton
DIOCESAN
ANNUAL APPEAL

LIVING FAITH
Serving with Mercy

Catholic Media Rack

Check out our *New* selection of materials located in the Willow Street vestibule! These materials provide an excellent resource for your continuing education and an effective tool to help spread the Good News and evangelize others! Please take advantage!

National Catechetical Weekend

On this third weekend of September, the Church celebrates Catechetical Sunday. This year we focus on the theme "Prayer: The Faith Prayed." This year's theme invites all the baptized--especially catechists and Catholic school teachers--to devote themselves to a deeper study and practice of prayer, for their own spiritual good and for the good of those they serve. Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each person plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel. It is an opportunity for all to rededicate themselves to this mission as a community of faith. Thoughtfully reading a few paragraphs on prayer each week from the Catechism of the Catholic Church or the U.S. Catholic Catechism for Adults can open our minds and hearts to a deeper relationship with God--Father, Son and Holy Spirit--present and at work in our lives. Daily prayer shines the light of the Gospel on everything we do, so that all our thoughts, words and actions can be informed and measured by love of God and neighbor.

Those serving in the catechetical ministry of our parish are listed below. We acknowledge them for their willingness to serve in this important ministry in the Catholic Church:

- Grade 1 Mrs. Gayle Castellani
- Grade 2 Mrs. Elise Gilroy/ Mrs. Kim Laboranti
- Grade 3 Mrs. Andrea Kempa / Miss Emily Kempa
- Grade 4 Mr. Jack Gilory
- Grade 5 Mrs. Betsy Kondrat
- Grade 6 Mrs. Christine Griffin
- Grade 7 Mrs. Maria Kishel/ Mr. Jack Ehnot
- Grade 8 Mrs. Donna Fazio / Mrs. Wendy Rought

Director Faith Formation Mrs. Gayle Castellani
Asst. Director Faith Formation Mrs. Betsy Kondrat

Grades 9 thru 12 meet with Msgr Madus for advanced faith and moral formation. This semester we approach our formation within the framework of writings by Our Holy Father, Pope Francis; Most Reverend Robert Barron, founder of the Word on Fire--World Wide Christian Ministry; and Matthew Kelly, Christian writer and world renown speaker.

Seventh Annual Roast Beef Dinner

This fundraising event includes delicious roast beef dinner, basket raffles and cash drawings for \$2,000 in prizes on Sun October 2nd. Take-outs are available 11 to 3. Dinner seating is from noon to 3. Tickets are \$12 in advance or \$14 at the door. Tickets are available at the parish office (570-383-3244 ext. 2) from 9a thru 4:30pm Monday thru Friday and also before and after the Masses on September 24-25 and Saturday October 1st. *(If you know any person who may be in need and who would enjoy our hospitality and a roast beef dinner, please encourage them to come and we'll be glad to welcome them as a guest.)*

Gift baskets are needed for the Roast Beef dinner and those who wish to donate one should bring it to the parish office by Wednesday, September 28th. Basket donors are asked to

keep their baskets limited to \$50.00 in value.

Parishioners are being encouraged to provide baked goods for the dinner. If you have not yet committed to baking a dessert, please contact Cindy Campbell at 570-383-4888. Baked goods can be dropped off at the auditorium between 3:00 & 6:00 pm on Sat, October 1st. Volunteers are always needed the day of the dinner. If you are able and willing to help, please call Lori Mondak at 570-383-7033 as soon as possible.

Our Parish Ministry News

Adult Faith Formation Opportunities

- Tues, Sept 20 6:30pm Adult MSBR 8-week course
- Wed, Sept 21 6:30pm Teen/Parent MSBR 6-week course
- Thur, Sept 22 6:00pm The Gospel of Happiness course
- Sat, Oct 8 8:00am Diocesan Congress

The Gospel of Happiness – Come and join us this fall for a 7-week course led by Brendan Murphy, M.A. He will present Dr. Christopher Kaczor's work on how contemporary studies in psychology have empirically demonstrated how Christian spiritual practices can help increase your personal happiness. Learn simple practices grounded in the Gospel that can increase your happiness! Learn how modern psychology supports the effectiveness of Christian practices for rooting out vice and growing in virtue! This course is FREE and open to everyone--no registration required! The meetings are held on Thursday evenings from 6pm-7:30pm beginning on September 22 in Sacred Hearts of Jesus & Mary Parish Hall, 624 Madison Ave, Jermyn. Can't make all of them? Just join us for the ones you can! Questions? Email murph50@hotmail.com.

2016 Diocesan Congress- All those who participate in parish ministries or are interested in personal faith formation and spiritual growth are invited to this year's Diocesan Congress: "*A Revolution of Tenderness*" on Saturday, Oct. 8th on the campus of Scranton University. Registration begins at 8am. Workshops will be held throughout the day featuring dynamic speakers presenting on various topics which have ongoing impact on parish life. For more info including workshop descriptions & schedule, go to www.dioceseofscranton.org. To register, please call the parish office. A pre-conference "Year of Mercy" Concert will be held on Friday, Oct. 7th at 7:30pm at the Cathedral. Concert tickets are included with congress registration.

16th Annual Craft Fair

Sponsored by the Women's Guild of Divine Mercy Parish, 312 Davis Street, Scranton, on Saturday, Sept 24 from 9am to 3pm in the Parish Center. Do your Christmas shopping early at this great display of handmade jewelry, seasonal decorations and gifts from over 40 local crafters. Door prizes all day, with bake sale & refreshments. Admission \$2.

We thank our business advertisers, including **Four Seasons Florist**, Peckville- 489-8608, who place ads on the back of our weekly bulletin. Please check back page.