

"Why Catholic?" Corner



In what ways did the participants in the "Why Catholic?" groups feel their faith life was enriched?

Once again, let us listen to them:

"I felt more of 'kindred spirit' to so many as we gathered to share our faith."

"I enjoyed hearing how faith affects each person's life and I have been opened up to new ways of experiencing God in my own life."

"It is so refreshing to be able to talk about your walk with Jesus with those who are also on the same journey."

"It awakened in me a new awareness and helped me meditate on what we discussed together."

"It brings into focus what should be important. Hearing others share their faith allows me to be more open to being a better person."

"I appreciated listening to others as they met their daily challenges in a Christian way."

SJA Accepting Applications



Are you interested in having your child attend Ste Jeanne d'Arc School? We are still accepting applications for the 2013-2014 school year. Ste Jeanne d'Arc School is a K1 – 8 Catholic independent school

located in Lowell, Massachusetts. We offer accelerated classes, a K – 8 French program, extensive athletic programs, extra-curricular activities and an Extended Day Care Program. A 2010 National Blue Ribbon School, we invite you to see what we have to offer. To learn more, visit our website at www.sjdarc.org. Parents interested in applying can download an application from our website or request an admissions package by contacting the Admissions Office at 978-453-4114.

Catholic Missionary with FOCUS

Kaitlin Gilday, from Pelham, NH, is a full-time Catholic Missionary with FOCUS (the Fellowship of Catholic University Students). She follows the call of Blessed John Paul II's New Evangelization and invites college students into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ and his Church, inspiring and equipping them for a lifetime of Christ-centered evangelization and discipleship in which they lead others to do the same.

Kaitlin raises her entire financial support. If you are interested in joining her mission partner support team or want to learn more about FOCUS' outreach to college students, contact Kaitlin at (603)508-1130 or kaitlin.gilday@focus.org.

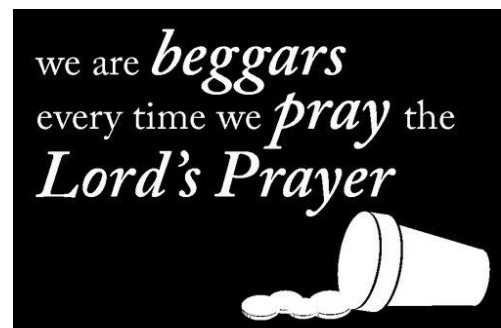
17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Big cities can have a special attraction. The commercial areas can be alive with such hustle and bustle. Walking past store windows and sidewalk restaurants can enliven one's spirit as the great mass of humanity seems to be undulating with all the excitement of commerce and exchange. In large cities one can often hear multiple languages just by walking a few blocks as people from different parts of the world mix together on the sidewalks of America. Walk a few blocks in any big city and it is likely that you will come upon someone begging or panhandling on the street. In some places the beggars are very discreet, just sitting on a bench or a sidewalk with a paper cup in their hand that may have a few coins in it so as not to attract the attention of the police. In other places, the begging may be more aggressive with requests hurled at passersby. In a big city, every beggar has his regulars who give him something when they see him. But there are also the hundreds who will pass by. And then there are the occasional visitors who are unsure whether to heed the beggars' pleas or not.

In the Gospel this weekend, the disciples of Jesus ask him to teach them how to pray. He then goes on to describe for them the nature of prayer. He reminds the disciples not to give up. They must be persistent in their prayer, asking for what is needed.

Most of us probably can't ever conceive of ourselves as beggars sitting on the street corner of some large city, even though it is likely that at some point in our lives we have seen them (and maybe even given them something!). But that is exactly what we are every time we pray the Lord's Prayer. After all, we pray, "Give us this day our daily bread." You can't be much more of a beggar than that!

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"Suppose one of you has a friend to whom he goes at midnight and says, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread,' and he says in reply from within, 'Do not bother me.' I tell you, if he does not get up to give the visitor the loaves because of their friendship, he will get up to give him whatever he needs because of his persistence." — Lk 11:5b, 7a, 8

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)



This is a program of religious formation for persons who wish to be baptized in the Catholic Church; persons who were baptized in another Christian church, but wish to become Catholic; persons who were baptized but never received

the other sacraments, especially Confirmation; or any person who wants a refresher course in the Catholic faith. Do you know anyone in any of those groups? If so, please speak to them about becoming part of the RCIA. These sessions begin in September through to Easter, every Monday evening from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. To be eligible for reception of the sacraments, participants must attend the entire program. Interested persons are invited to call the Parish Office at 978-452-4812 and leave their name along with the best way to be reached and someone from the team will contact them to provide additional information.

Attention: Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Do you know somebody who is a homebound parishioner who is unable to come to Mass? Do you have an elderly or disabled friend or family member who would like to receive a home visit by one of our parish priests? Do you feel like the Lord may be calling you to serve the Church as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion?

Saint Rita's and Ste Marguerite's Parishes are currently updating our records. So if you've answered "YES" to any of these questions, please contact Fr. Chris at the Parish Office (978)452-4812 or frchris1340@gmail.com.

Summer Reminder

Now that summer is officially here, we would like to remind everyone about the need to take special care that what you wear in church is appropriate and modest. There is a tendency to wear clothing which may be suitable for the beach or lounging in one's backyard by the pool but which is very unacceptable in the place of worship.

Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors should be especially aware of the need to appear in neat and modest clothing - no tank tops, short shorts or tight fitting clothing. Kindly be aware that you are coming into the Holy Presence of the Lord not only in the tabernacle but also in yourself and everyone who is present.

Parish Support

Weekly Offertory needed to meet budget	\$4,488.00
Offertory Collection July 20/21	\$3,640.00
On-Line Giving & Back Envelopes	\$284.50
Collection Under Budget	(\$563.50)

Fiscal Year Needed to date	\$13,464.00
Fiscal Year Collected to date	\$12,966.00

Seating Capacity 450 X 3 masses	1,350
Mass Attendance last weekend	283

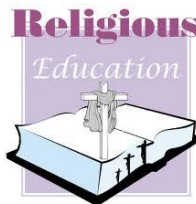
Second Collection

Next weekend's second collection is for Catholic Relief Services. This collection support emergency relief, human development and peace initiatives in 99 countries around the world, where nearly half the population lives on less than \$2.00 a day. The collection funds the ministries of five Catholic Church organizations: Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC), Migration and Refugee Services (MRS), Social Development and World Peace (SDWP), and The Holy Father's Relief Fund. For more information, please visit www.usccb.org/crscollection.

Summer Collection Reminder

This time of the year many are going away during the weekends or are making plans for the summer. We ask you to please remember that we need your financial support throughout the summer months. Thank you for mailing in your donations when you are unable to attend Mass here at St. Rita's. Your efforts make a considerable difference in helping us maintain our weekly budget. Thanks for your continued support.

Religious Education New Registration



Registration for our 2013-2014 Religious Education Programs has begun. **You only need to register if you are new to the program (Grade 1, Grade 2 – Sacramental Preparation or Catholic High School Confirmation I or II program).** Please contact our Parish Office at (978)452-4812 and we will be happy to help you with your registration.

Please note that registration for our 2013-2014 Religious Education Programs ends on September 1, 2013 so be sure to register soon. Thank you!

JULY 28, 2013

The Week Ahead

Saturday, July 27th

8:30 Sacrament of Reconciliation - Chapel
8:30 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament – Chapel
11:45 Benediction – Chapel

Monday, July 29th

7:00 St. Vincent de Paul Meeting – Parish Hall

Tuesday, July 30th

7:00 Cub Scout Committee Meeting – Parish Hall

Saturday, August 3rd

8:30 Sacrament of Reconciliation - Chapel
8:30 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament – Chapel
11:45 Benediction – Chapel

Date/Time	Celebrant	Date/Time	Celebrant
July 27/28		August 3/4	
4:00PM (SR)	Fr. Peter	4:00PM (SR)	Fr. Chris
4:00PM (SM)	Fr. Chris	4:00PM (SM)	Fr. Peter
7:00AM (SR)	Fr. Chris	7:00AM (SR)	Fr. Peter
8:30AM (SM)	Fr. Peter	8:30AM (SM)	Fr. Chris
10:00AM (SR)	Fr. Chris	10:00AM (SR)	Fr. Peter
11:30AM (SM)	Fr. Cormier	11:30AM (SM)	Fr. Cormier

*Anticipated celebrant may change without prior notice

The Great Feast of the Dormition and Assumption of the Holy Mother of God

St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church cordially invites you to celebrate the Great Feast of the Dormition and Assumption of the Holy Mother of God.

This Great Feast honoring Our Blessed Lady will be celebrated with Great Vespers on Tuesday, August 13, 2013 at 7:00 pm. Along with the Great Vespers they will sing the Lamentations at the Bier of the Blessed Mother followed by an outdoor procession. There will also be a blessing of five loaves (Artoclasia) to be distributed at the end of the Service.

St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church is located at 44 Bowers Street, Lowell, MA Phone: (978)452-4816.

JULY 28, 2013



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, July 27th

8:00 Gerard Lambert, Jr. (Dec.) by the family
4:00 Cornelius Finnegan (Dec.) by the family

Sunday, July 28th – 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:00 Hanna Savlyak (Living/Birthday)
by her family
10:00 John "Jack" Lyons (Dec.)
by Elaine & Fred Drewniak

Monday, July 29th

9:00 For the members of the parish

Tuesday, July 30th

9:00

Wednesday, July 31st

No Mass

Thursday, August 1st

No Mass

Friday, August 2nd

9:00 Mary Serptowski (Dec.) by M/M R. Bernier

Saturday, August 3rd

8:00
4:00 Bernard McMahon (Dec.) Martin & Kim McMahon

Sunday, August 4th – 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:00
10:00 Joan I. Martin (5th Ann.) by husband & family



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ANY TEXT OR GRAPHICS ENTERED ON THIS PAGE
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Comments:
