

# THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## JULY 2, 2017

### LIVING GOD'S WORD

This week and next Matthew refers to "little ones." Who are the little ones in your community? How are you called to reach out to them? What sacrifice will you have to make? What will be the reward?

#### MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK JULY 3, 2017

Monday, July 3, St. Thomas  
Fr. Gene on Vacation  
Tuesday, July 4  
Fr. Gene on Vacation  
Wednesday, July 5, St. Anthony Zaccaria  
Fr. Gene on Vacation  
Thursday, July 6, St. Maria Goretti  
Fr. Gene on Vacation  
Friday, July 7  
Fr. Gene on Vacation  
Saturday, July 8  
5PM For the Parish  
Sunday, July 9  
9AM Mr. & Mrs. Charles Buatte

#### CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK JULY 2 THRU JULY 9

Sunday	9AM Mass
Monday	Fr. Gene on Vacation 11AM-1PM K of C Luncheon Lasagna/Fried Chicken
Tuesday	Fr. Gene on Vacation
Wednesday	Fr. Gene on Vacation
Thursday	Fr. Gene on Vacation
Friday	Fr. Gene on Vacation
Saturday	5PM Mass
Sunday	9AM Mass

**NOTE FROM THE PASTOR:** This week all three scripture readings illustrate the reward system that God offers for those who make worthy sacrifices. Unlike the sacrifices of overwork, these sacrifices bring eternal rewards. The story of Elisha and the helpful woman exemplifies the rewards of generosity. She acts not out of self-interest, but out of respect for God's servant, the prophet Elisha. Her generosity is rewarded with new life in her womb, a son to care for her in her old age. Paul tells us that all who die to sin shall live with Christ "in newness of life" (Romans 6:4). Finally, Jesus says that "whoever loses his life for my sake will find it . . . and whoever gives only a cup of cold water to one of these little ones" will be rewarded (Matthew 10:39, 42). Sacrifice is at the heart of Christian discipleship, but then, so is the Resurrection.

**OUR GIFTS TO GOD** for June 25: \$157.00 Loose; \$5,002.00 from 104 env.; \$1,240.00 Online; \$6,399.00 Total  
We are \$25,025.50 short of the \$7,000.00 needed weekly;  
\$1,002.00.00 Improvement Fund; \$21.00 Votives

**SERVERS SCHEDULE** for July 8 & 9: 5PM, Koby Jany, Isaac Jany; 9AM, Connor Wolff, Shane Bicket, Trace Fricke

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:** A joyful shout is good to know in case you feel joyful.

**THE PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION** which will be taken up today supports the charitable works of our Holy Father Pope Francis. Funds from this collection help victims of war, oppression, and natural disasters. Take this opportunity to join with Pope Francis and be a witness of charity to our suffering brothers and sisters. Please be generous today. For more information, visit the website [www.usccb.org/peters-pence](http://www.usccb.org/peters-pence).

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** will be Monday, July 10, through Thursday, July 13, from 6-8PM at the Parish

Center in Ellis Grove. Children from K-5<sup>th</sup> Grade are able to register. Contact Cheryl Gross (826-2526 or 853-2678). **ATTENTION 7<sup>TH</sup> & 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS:** Your assistance is requested for Vacation Bible School. Hours worked can apply to your Confirmation Service requirement.

**PARISH COUNCIL OPENINGS:** There are two 3-year terms that need to be filled. If you are interested in learning more about the council and possibly serving a term, contact President Brian Niermann (618-708-1381) or Fr. Gene (826-2444). If you have served on the council sometime in the past, you are welcome to serve again. Paid parish employees and their immediate families are not eligible to serve. The next council meeting will be Wednesday, July 26.

**FOOD PANTRY:** They are preparing Food Bags for children while they are out of school for the summer. Items needed are fruit cups, pudding cups, drink boxes, beanie wieners, potted ham, tuna, PB crackers, cheese crackers, canned meat, canned fruit, canned soups, and canned pasta items. Monetary donations are also accepted.

**PLAYHOUSE @ WESTPORT PLAZA** will be presenting "Church Basement Ladies the Musical" beginning Friday, July 21 through Sunday, October 1. Go to their website, [www.playhouseatwestport.com](http://www.playhouseatwestport.com) for dates, show times, and ticket information.

**INTO CHRIST:** The words and Word of the Easter Vigil still resound in our ears. The second reading, in shorter form today, was proclaimed in longer form that Easter night. Disciples of Jesus Christ (that is each of us) are baptized into Christ, St. Paul reminds us. Disciples (that is you and me) become like him because we love him, St. Matthew says. Why is baptism important to me? How is it shaping me to be like Jesus? How does it enable me to be a loving disciple today?

**WHAT CAN I DO?** The Bible commands us to help "the least of these, my brothers and sisters . . ." (Matthew 25:46). In our culture of death, the least of these are the defenseless, innocent children in the womb who are so incredibly vulnerable. From the first moment of existence, a human being must be recognized as having the rights of a person - among which is the inviolable right of every innocent human being to life." (Catechism of the Catholic Church) Join or support the Respect Life Committee in your parish. Pray for those who are suffering in the aftermath of abortion. If you or someone you know is suffering, confidential non-judgmental help is available. Call Project Rachel's toll free number: 888-456-4673 or visit [HopeAfterAbortion.org](http://HopeAfterAbortion.org) or [EsperanzaPosaborto.org](http://EsperanzaPosaborto.org).

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU** to everyone who has so generously supported the 2017 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal - we are most grateful. If you haven't had an opportunity to make a gift as yet, we hope you will prayerfully consider doing so now. Thank you for your consideration.

**GIVING IS EASY** while you are away this summer. Download the Online Giving app on your mobile device, search for our parish, and begin giving. Your support during summer months helps sustain our parish. Go to [OLGapp.com](http://OLGapp.com) and click on the app store for your device.

**YOU'RE INVITED:** Friday, July 14, & Saturday, July 15, St. John the Baptist, Red Bud, Parish Picnic, Friday-5PM Fish Dinner, Saturday, 3-7:30PM Chicken Dinner