

# TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## SEPTEMBER 17, 2017

### LIVING GOD'S WORD

We pray that we might have the gift of forgiveness, both of receiving and giving it to others in turn. We ask the Holy Spirit to empower us to be able to forgive what the world judges to be "unforgiveable." While for us it can seem impossible, with God all things are possible.

#### MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK SEPTEMBER 18, 2017

Monday, September 18  
8:15AM Intentions of Catholic Extension Donor  
Tuesday, September 19, St. Januarius  
8:15AM Mary Ellen Atchison by Friends  
Wednesday, September 20, Sts. Andrew Kim Tae-Gon and Paul Chong Ha-Sang and Companions  
10:30AM In Honor of Mary Lou Schoeppel  
Thursday, September 21, St. Matthew  
NO MASS  
Friday, September 22  
8:15AM Bob & Mary Friess by John  
Saturday, September 23, St. Pius of Pietrelcina  
5PM For the Parish  
Sunday, September 24  
9AM Mr. & Mrs. Earl Jungewaelter and Mr. & Mrs. John Jungewaelter

#### CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF SEPT. 17 THRU SEPT. 24

Sunday	9AM Mass Commissioning of Catechists and Teachers PSR Class after 9AM Mass till 11:15AM
Monday	8:15AM Mass 11AM-1PM K of C Luncheon BBQ Pork Steaks/Fried Chicken
Tuesday	8:15AM Mass (Grades 5-8)
Wednesday	10:30AM Mass at Three Springs - 100 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration
Thursday	Fr. Gene's Day Off
Friday	8:15AM Mass (Grades 5 & 6 Liturgy) 2:50PM Dismissal – NO BUS
Saturday	5PM Mass
Sunday	9AM Mass

**NOTE FROM THE PASTOR:** Is forgiveness ever easy—especially with a repeat offender? "Seven times?" Peter asks. "Seventy-seven times," Jesus replies. Today's readings give us the major reason to forgive others: God has forgiven us. There's more. Not to forgive is to let anger and wrath poison our hearts. Being unforgiving can imprison a person, resulting in bitterness, revenge, and a slow death of the spirit. Not to forgive can be more costly for the one offended. Paul tells us we belong to the Lord, are called to serve him, to do his will, which is the will of the Father. And God's will is that we forgive one another. When the risen Lord first appeared to the disciples in the upper room, he wished them peace, and then gave them the power of the Spirit to forgive. This work is not limited to our going to the sacrament of reconciliation.

#### TITHE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2017

Mary Help of Christians: \$5,682.00  
\$1,272.00 Hurricane Relief; \$598.00 Improvement Fund;  
\$395.00 Catholic Communication; \$20 Cemetery; \$20 Sr. Anne; \$53.50 Child Env.; \$7.00 Votives  
WEEKLY Budget Need: \$7,000.00  
YTD Average Weekly Tithe: \$6,321.91  
Fiscal Year Week: 11  
YTD Actual Giving: \$69,541.00  
YTD Budget Need: \$77,000.00  
YTD Budget Difference: (\$7,459.00)  
YTD Weekly: (\$678.09)

**SERVERS SCHEDULE** for September 23 & 24: 5PM,  
Kayla Bert, Elizabeth Eubanks; 9AM, Camdyn Shemonic,  
Reed Welborn, Maison Shemonic

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:** By hating you banish not someone else but yourself.

**ST. MARY'S CENTENARIAN:** Mary Lou Schoeppel will be celebrating her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on Saturday, Sept. 23. A special Mass will be celebrated in her honor at 10:30AM on Wednesday, Sept. 20, at Three Springs Nursing Home. Anyone wishing to send her a card may send it to:  
Mary Lou Schoeppel  
161 3 Springs Road  
Chester, Illinois 62233-1064

**RETIREED DIOCESAN PRIESTS COLLECTION** On both ordinary and extraordinary days, our priests have been there for us . . . at baptisms, weddings, First Communion and Confirmation, at times of sickness and sorrow . . . dedicating their lives to bring us closer to Christ. Now it is our turn to be there for them during their retirement years through a gift to the Retired Diocesan Priest Collection. All funds will be used only for long-term nursing care, Medicare supplemental insurance and prescription medications. *Note: Our diocesan priests do not receive any funding from the Retirement Fund for Religious collection which is held in December.* Please show your appreciation with a generous gift today. Thank you so much!

**ST. MARY'S QUARTERLY SODALITY MEETING** will be held on Monday, Sept. 25, at 6PM in the K of C Hall.

**BDCCW FALL MEETING** will be Thursday, Sept. 28, at St. Mary's, Ellis Grove, in Sense Hall. Registration is at 9AM and the cost is \$9.00. Rebecca Cooper, a lawyer, will talk about wills in the morning. The afternoon speaker, Nick Kassing, will give information about scams and how to protect ourselves. We will attend Mass before lunch. Call Joan Derringer (618-534-6697) for more information and registration forms.

**LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE** and **ILLINOIS WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE** information can be found on the bulletin board in the back of church.

**SIN AND FORGIVENESS:** Jesus tells a long story responding to Peter's question: how often must I forgive? We know the answer by heart—not seven times but seventy-seven times. The wisdom of the Old Testament offers this help: do not hug sin tight . . . do not refuse mercy . . . put enmity aside . . . do not hate your neighbor . . . overlook faults. And St. Paul sings a hymn of baptismal belonging to Christ and to each other, a living and dying in the Lord (Romans 14:7-9) that underpins forgiveness. Who in my life (still) needs forgiveness? How will I be full of mercy? How can I live and die for the Lord this week?

**WELCOME THE YOUNG PEOPLE:** The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program provided no legal status or government benefits but did provide recipients with temporary employment authorization to work in the U.S. The Catholic Church has long watched with pride and admiration as DACA youth live out their daily lives with hope and a determination to flourish and contribute to society. To read the statement from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops concerning DACA go to [www.usccb.org/news/2017/17157.cfm](http://www.usccb.org/news/2017/17157.cfm). With our Bishops, we must pledge our support to work on finding an expeditious means of protection for DACA youth.