

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SEPTEMBER 23, 2018

LIVING GOD'S WORD

Lord, help us to follow your call by serving the "little ones," especially those more likely to be subject to the cruelty and indifference of the world. Sustain us in this work with the assurance that when we receive them, we receive not only you but the One who sent you.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK SEPTEMBER 24, 2018

Monday, September 24
8:15AM Roberta Jany by Roger & Ruth Petrowske
Tuesday, September 25
8:15AM Curtis Jany by Friends
Wednesday, September 26, St. Cosmas & Damian
10:30AM Cleo Gross
Thursday, September 27, St. Vincent de Paul
NO MASS
Friday, September 28, St. Wenceslaus
8:15AM Special Intention
Saturday, September 29, Sts. Michael, Gabriel & Raphael
5PM Steve Kickham by Willie
Sunday, September 30
9AM For the Parish

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK SEPT. 23 THRU SEPT. 30

Sunday	9AM Mass PSR Class after Mass till 11:15AM
Monday	8:15AM Mass 11AM-1PM K of C Luncheon Beef Stew / Fried Chicken
Tuesday	8:15AM Mass (Grades 5-8)
Wednesday	10:30AM Mass at Three Springs 7PM Parish Council Meeting in Rectory
Thursday	Fr. Gene's Day Off
Friday	8:15AM Mass (Grade 3 & 4 Liturgy)
Saturday	5PM Mass
Sunday	9AM Mass

NOTE FROM THE PASTOR: After Jesus has spoken again about what was going to happen to him, the disciples say nothing, even though they do not understand what he is saying. Instead they go back to bickering among themselves about who is the greatest. When they get home, Jesus asks about it. Their silence surely disappointed him, since he could surmise what had engaged them. But like a good teacher, he tries another way to make his point. He calls a child over and places his arms protectively around her and says to them, "If you want to be first, then be last. If you want to be in charge, then serve. When you take in the least, you take in not only me but my Father." It has proved a hard lesson to learn. Or maybe few of us really want to learn it. When you look out at the world, most seem to want to be first, the greatest, the one with the most and best toys, a wielder of power and influence and authority. Choosing to serve the least doesn't make the top ten on most people's "to do" list.

TITHE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 16, 2018

Mary Help of Christians: \$6,959.00
\$424.00 Cemetery; \$1,096.00 Retired Diocesan Priests;
\$183.00 Improvement; \$75.50 Child Env.; \$31.00 Votives
WEEKLY Budget Need: \$7,000.00
YTD Average Weekly Tithes: \$6,234.75
Fiscal Year Week: 12
YTD Actual Giving: \$74,817.00
YTD Budget Need: \$84,000.00
YTD Budget Difference: (\$9,183.00)
YTD Weekly: (\$765.25)

SERVERS SCHEDULE for Sept. 29 & 30: 5PM, Garret Hopkins, Isaac Jany; 9AM, Paige Vasquez, Nolin Crain, David Grau

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: Lord, help us to change our definition of "greatness" as the world defines it to a life of service in which we receive both Jesus and you.

EXHIBIT AT CHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY: A Museum on Main Street exhibition from the Smithsonian Institution and Illinois Humanities is at the Chester Public Library through October 20. *Crossroads: Change in Rural America* can be viewed during regular library hours: Monday - Thursday 10AM-7PM, Friday 10AM-5PM, and Saturday 8AM-1PM. The local companion exhibit, *Change Through a Local Lens*, features Kaskaskia, the Mississippi River, area farms, and more. Stop by during regular hours to enjoy the exhibit.

QUARTERLY MEETING of the Ladies Sodality will be held at the K of C Hall on Monday, Sept. 24, at 6PM. All ladies of the parish are invited to attend.

CHESTER AREA CHRISTIAN FOOD PANTRY will host the mobile market in the Cohen Complex on Wednesday, Sept. 26, at 10AM. Please call Bob Koenegstein (826-5264) to help with the distribution.

IT'S FALL YA'LL: On Sunday, Sept. 30, St. John the Baptist, Red Bud, will host a Fried Chicken & Pork Sausage Dinner from 11AM-2PM. A Quilt & Cash Bingo will begin at 2PM. For more info, call 618-282-3222.

THE BDCCW will host the annual convention on Wednesday, Oct. 10, at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 411 Palmer Road, Columbia. The day begins at 8AM. Early registration cost is \$18 if paid by Tuesday, Sept. 25. Cost at the door is \$20 (including lunch). Speakers will be Lu Cortese, Exec. Director, St. Joseph Evangelization Network and Fr. Jim Deiters, St. Clare of Assisi Parish, O'Fallon. Call Joan Derringer (618-534-6697) for more information or registration forms.

SEATS ARE STILL OPEN for Jared Bryson's talk on *Creating a Culture of Encounter: Bringing Jesus' Healing Ministry To Our Daily Life* at the Red Bud Winery on Thursday, Oct. 11, at 7PM. Tickets are \$20. Call *The Messenger* at 618-722-5036 to reserve a seat for this fundraising event. Tickets also available at the door.

MANY PARENTS want perfect children, and our culture is obsessed with superficial perfection. Photos are airbrushed, and social media depicts seemingly perfect lives. However, God calls us to seek perfection not in appearance or abilities, but in love. Christians know what perfect love looks like-Jesus offering himself on the Cross. Love in a family where one member has a serious disability may look unappealing from the outside. Indeed love in any family is messy. There are faces to wipe and sacrifices to make. It is natural to fear that such sacrifices will require too much, but this is where the deep mystery of sacrificial love becomes apparent. Learn more about disabilities and strive to make all family members feel welcomed in church. Pray that we all begin to understand the worth of human life, which does not depend on our skills or appearance, but only on the fact that we are created in the image of God. All lives are worth living; all lives are precious and a gift from God.

ASHAMED AND SILENT: Jesus takes the disciples aside for some teaching. They just don't get it - yet. He catches them arguing about who is the best. They grew silent, and, no doubt, ashamed. He embraces a child, as any grandparent would do, and says: receive them, be like them, be last! Be full of mercy! St. James adds on: cultivate peace. How can I push my ego to the back and attend to the other? Who will I let go first this week? Since Baptism calls me to service, how will mercy fill what I do and say?