

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SEPTEMBER 3, 2017

LIVING GOD'S WORD

We can pray that we have the strength to respond courageously to Jesus' call to be willing to lose our life for his sake. We ask to be able to discern in our daily lives the way we can "offer [our] bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, your spiritual worship"

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK SEPTEMBER 4, 2017

Monday, September 4
NO MASS-LABOR DAY
Tuesday, September 5
8:15AM Tootie Gardiner by Rose Mary Callahan
Wednesday, September 6
10:30AM In Thanksgiving for 65th Wedding Anniversary
of Lawrence & Roberta Jany
Thursday, September 7
NO MASS
Friday, September 8, Nativity of the Blessed Virgin
8:15AM Rev. Gerald C. Miriani
Saturday, September 9, St. Peter Claver
5PM Leander Gaertner by Ida & Family
Sunday, September 10
9AM For the Parish

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK SEPT. 3 THRU SEPT. 10

Sunday	9AM Mass
Monday	NO MASS/NO SCHOOL NO K OF C LUNCHEON
Tuesday	8:15AM Mass (Grades 5-8) 6PM PTO Meeting in Library 6PM Initial Child Protection Training in 3-4 Grade Classroom
Wednesday	10:30AM Mass at Three Springs
Thursday	Fr. Gene's Day Off
Friday	8:15AM Mass (K-2 Liturgy) 1:30PM Dismissal-BUS SERVICE Popeye Picnic
Saturday	5PM Mass Popeye Picnic
Sunday	9AM Mass Popeye Picnic

NOTE FROM THE PASTOR: The prophets often spoke bluntly, whether addressing the people or even God. Jeremiah accuses God of seducing and overpowering him, making him speak a word that has led to his ridicule and persecution. He was even thrown down a cistern and left to die because of his preaching! Jeremiah confesses he has no choice in the matter. When he refuses to speak God's word, he experiences a fire burning in his heart, consuming his very bones. Peter saw this coming when Jesus began to speak of the suffering that lay ahead, instead of being the powerful Messiah people had been waiting for. Instead, Jesus spoke about taking up the cross and losing one's life. God's plan for us is the transformation and renewal of our minds according to the pattern of God's Son Jesus. This transformation comes about when we "offer [our] bodies as a living sacrifice," seeking to discern and do God's will as Jesus did.

TITHE WEEK OF AUGUST 27, 2017

Mary Help of Christians: \$6,427.00
\$695.00 Improvement Fund; \$60.00 Child Env. ;
\$17.00 Votives; \$5.00 Donation
WEEKLY Budget Need: \$7,000.00
YTD Average Weekly Tithe: \$6,267.12
Fiscal Year Week: 9
YTD Actual Giving: \$56,404.00
YTD Budget Need: \$63,000.00
YTD Budget Difference: (\$6,596.00)
YTD Weekly: (\$732.89)

SERVICES SCHEDULE for September 9 & 10: 5PM,
Koby Jany, Brock Vasquez; 9AM, Shane Bicket, Nolin
Crain, & volunteer

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: Faithfulness in little things
is a big thing. St. John Chrysostom

KASKASKIA ISLAND CHURCH PICNIC is Sunday,
Sept. 3, with 10AM-4PM Static World War II Exhibit,
11AM-4PM Exhibits in Church, 1PM Cash & Quilt Bingo,
Skills Games, Drinks, Food, Country Store, Raffle

SPARTA COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE will be held on
Tuesday, Sept. 5, in the Sparta Auxiliary Building located
in the Broadway Plaza, Sparta, IL from 10AM-2PM. Call
1-800-733-2767 or visit redcrossblood.org and enter
SpartaCommHospital to schedule an appointment.

RETIRED DIOCESAN PRIEST COLLECTION will be
taken up on Sept. 16 & 17. All monies collected will be
used only for long-term nursing care, Medicare
supplemental insurance and prescriptions for our retired
diocesan priests. Please be generous. Thank you!

VOCATIONS CORNER: Today we are called to deny
ourselves and follow after Jesus. We're told that the
measure of obtaining the entire world is nothing compared
to our immortal soul. That's exactly where vocation comes
in because a vocation is always drawing us to the service of
others and isn't looking for our own reward. It's through
our vocation that we deny ourselves and at the same time
find our deepest fulfillment and identity in Christ. NOTE:
Our Parish Vocation Coordinator is Brian Niermann. Any
questions or suggestions about vocations can be directed to
him (618-708-1381).

IF YOU WERE UNABLE to make the last training session
but are still interested in serving as a lector or Eucharistic
minister, please call Brian (618-708-1381) for individual
training. We still need people for these ministries,
especially at the 9AM Sunday Mass.

**NEEDED: PARISHIONERS TO SERVE ON OUR
PARISH COUNCIL!** At our last meeting we were unable
to fill our openings because no one stepped forward to
serve a term on our council. Being a council member is a
great way to find out more about what is going on with
your Parish without making a huge time commitment. We
meet every other month on the 4th Wednesday of the
month at 7PM. We currently have 3 openings we need to
fill- there are two 3-year terms available and also a one-
year term that needs to be completed for a council member
that is moving away from the area. If you are interested in
learning more about the Council, please contact Fr. Gene
(826-2444) or Brian Niermann (618-708-1381). Our next
meeting is on Wednesday, Sept. 27, at 7PM in the rectory.

LIVE EACH DAY WITH DIGNITY: The suffering caused
by chronic or terminal illness cry out for our compassion,
a word whose root meaning is to "suffer with" another
person. Pain and suffering do not undermine our dignity.
True compassion means accompanying another person in
his or her suffering, alleviating that suffering with respect
for the person's dignity, and never abandoning him or her.
Pray that we learn to be more compassionate.

OBSTACLES: Peter, who last week was called the rock, is
called a stumbling stone today. Sometimes we let our timid
nature, our fears get the best of us, don't we? Doing the
Lord's work, living the Christian life, can bring on
laughter and scorn. But that does not keep us from doing
what must be done. What am I called to do? What obstacle
must I avoid to follow Jesus? Am I an obstacle for
another? How can I stop being a stumbling stone, a block
head?