

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	July 25th
9:00 AM	Francisco Ogilvy Beltran Sr, Ramona B. Beltran, Johnny Uy, and Taciana Pinero Uy
5:00 PM	Joseph Magoli
Sunday	July 26th
9:00 AM	Henry Foertsch
11:00 AM	Michael & Caroline Sassi, Michael Sassi Jr. and Roland Pugliese
5:00 PM	Maria Thomas
Monday	July 27th
9:00 AM	Jerry Siblano
Tuesday	July 28th
9:00 AM	Barbara Dix
Wednesday	July 29th
9:00 AM	James Hughes
Thursday	July 30th
9:00 AM	Rudi Schwarz
Friday	July 31st
9:00 AM	Ignatius Sevcik
Saturday	August 1st
9:00 AM	Msgr. Gerald Langelier
5:00 PM	Rev. August Iantosca
Sunday	August 2nd
9:00 AM	Bernard Boutet
11:00 AM	James M. Pfohl
5:00 PM	Thomas Ash

**PRAY FOR THE SICK**

Patricia Beckett, Ida Ryan, Connie Bornhimer, Mary Wiley, Kathie Greulich, Joseph & Mary Augustine, Ronald Calcevano, Rose Gaynus, Eleanor Merlino, Seraphina Komlos, Mary Tardona, Dorothy Chocko, Catherine Hennessy, Richard McBride Sr., Richard Eisenzopf, Alice & Michael Coleman, Elaine Stumpp, Mary Albert, Maureen Medina, Cheryl Di Napoli, Jazlyn Castro Bilog, German Diaz, Adam Sapel, Christine Bernardo, Andy Marajh, Stephen Palermo, Robert Palermo, Heather Wilcox, James Leung, Rose McArdle, Maureen Kelly, Dr. Ajay Lodha, Paul Henry, Virginia Winberry, Dennis Roberts, and for **all of our parishioners who are currently hospitalized or homebound.**

**PRAY FOR THE ARMED SERVICES**

Major Peter Sulewski, U.S. Army; Lt. Col. Patrick Davis, U.S. Army (JAG); Sgt. Beau Parham, U.S. Army; Major Paul Lentz, USAF; Sgt. Larry Saume, U.S. Army; Capt. Travis Swiatocha, USMC; Pvt. Tim Richardson, U.S. Army; SCSO Ajay James, (NSW) U.S. Navy; SPC Benjamin Bravmann; U.S. Army; PO2 John Schaefer, USCG; and **all parishioners currently in the Military**

Pray for all of our police, fire, and corrections officers, who risk their lives daily to insure our safety.

PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED

Andrew Kirby
Sr. Mary Isabel Schratwieser
Mary Ann Chaffers
Dominic Scaparro

Our Parish Food Pantry is not open in order in order to protect the health of our volunteers; however, we do have some Grab and Go Bags prepared for anyone in an emergency situation but you must call the rectory ahead of time as we have no staff regularly present.

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

Please note that, since all of our offices and buildings are currently closed, all regularly scheduled meetings are temporarily cancelled.

Our Lady Of Mercy Catholic Academy will be closed until Further Notice

SUNDAY – July 26th

Seventeenth Sunday In Ordinary Time

MONDAY – July 27th

Weekday

TUESDAY - July 28th

Weekday

WEDNESDAY – July 29th

Saint Martha

THURSDAY – July 30th

Weekday

FRIDAY – July 31st

Saint Ignatius of Loyola, Priest

SATURDAY – August 1st

Saint Alphonsus Ligouri, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

**MEMORIALIZE A LOVED ONE**

Consider the possibility of a donation of the **Bread & Wine, Flowers for the Altar, Tabernacle Light, or the Memorial Worship Fund** in memory of a special person. Names of all those memorialized will be published in the bulletin. Call or stop by the Rectory to arrange your memorial.

Dear Parishioner

A woman found a lamp and as she examined it out popped a genie. *"Do I get three wishes?"* she asked. *"Nope, I'm a one-wish genie. What will it be?"* She pulled out a map and said : *"see this map? I want these countries to stop fighting so we can have world peace."* *"They've been fighting for many centuries. I'm not that good."* *What else do you have?"* the genie asked the lady. *Well, I'd like a good man. One who's considerate, loves kids, is filthy rich, likes to cook, and doesn't watch sports all day."* Okay, the genie said with a sigh. *"Let me see that map again."*

What would we ask for if God or a one-wish genie appeared to us? When Solomon asked for wisdom it shows he was already wise. Unfortunately he didn't keep using his wisdom to serve God's people well. He married too many wives and spent the country into bankruptcy, so much so that when he died the country split into two kingdoms, pretty much isolating the kings who were descendants of David and Solomon.

I felt I needed to add that part about Solomon, because having wisdom does not mean we will always make good use of it.

Let us return now to today's gospel. This is the third week now we have been hearing parables about the Kingdom of Heaven.

What would we be willing to spend all of our money on, like the people in today's gospel?

We may think that the parable of the treasure and the pearl need no explanation. Certainly Heaven will be all that we could ever desire and more so. But there is a subtle message here that we must not miss. Notice that the people who discovered the treasure and the pearl made it their highest priority. Nothing else was more important. Our search for the kingdom of God has to be our highest priority. Everything we have attained in life, or might attain will give us some satisfaction and happiness. But, everything is temporary. Entering into the Kingdom of heaven which Jesus has revealed to us is happiness forever. What could be more important than that?

The parable of the fishing net that gathered up good fish as well as bad is very similar to the parable of the wheat and the weeds. Its message is to trust in God's final judgment and to be patient until that time comes. The perennial problem of evil in the world will be resolved.

We have to be careful not to give these parables an interpretation that supports John Calvin's form of predestination. It is true, the wheat and the weeds as well as with the good and bad fish represent two types of things of superior and inferior quality. John Calvin, the founder of Calvinism would argue God creates people in the same manner and that there's nothing any of us can do to change it. In Calvin's view God creates us destined to either heaven or hell, and we cannot change our destiny. To think that way would contradict the entire message of the gospel.

We are called to holiness and we have a free will to choose God's grace or to disregard it. Remember it is in Matthew's gospel that we read the account of the Last Judgment where the *"Son of Man"* will separate peoples of all nations inviting one group to enter the kingdom of Heaven and commanding the other to depart from him into the everlasting fire. It is on this basis that they are separated: on the basis of *"what you have done for the least of my brothers and sisters you did it for me."* Weeds can't change their nature, nor can fish that are inedible. Because we are human with a free will, we can change ourselves, with God's help, when our life is going in the wrong direction.

The correct way to think of "predestination" is that we are all predestined to heaven, a place *"prepared for us from the beginning of the world"* as Jesus calls it (Mt. 25,34). However, the gospels tell-us that not everyone lives up to the destiny God has created them for. There is a strange image at the end of the parable about the fish, that the bad fish will be thrown into a furnace of fire. Usually bad fish are just thrown back into the water. This image of being thrown into a furnace of fire and the weeping and gnashing of teeth is symbolic language for eternal suffering. Jesus asked his disciples *"Have you understood all these things?"* Let us pray for the wisdom to understand, not as with the wisdom of Solomon but with the wisdom of a faithful disciple of Jesus. Amen.

Fr. Grzegorz Stasiak



Summer Prayer

Take time to have hope, you are a child of God. Let's put ourselves into the hands of the Lord, and pray that God will bless us and our families during the wonderful months of summer. May we all help make our home a place of relaxation, joy, love, peace and safety. ... We ask this through Christ our Lord.

God Bless
Deacon Dean

Please be reminded that we are live-streaming Mass and other liturgical services..
 In addition, we are open as follows for public Masses:
 Daily weekday Masses are at 9:00am, Monday through Saturday.
 Sunday Masses are the Vigil on Saturday at 5:00pm, and on Sunday at 9:00am, 11:00am, and 5:00pm.
 Monday morning Mass is followed by the Novena Devotions in honor of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal.
 Friday we pray the Rosary at 3:00pm (Live stream only).

For the present, the church is open daily, during the week only, for private prayer after 9:00am Mass until 12:00 noon

Many thanks to our great parishioners, who despite the present unique situation, are still supporting the parish by either sending their collection envelopes or leaving them in the rectory mail slot (70-01 Kessel Street) or keeping their commitments to automatic giving and to the Annual Catholic Appeal. You are outstanding in your thoughtful generosity!

MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY

Joyful Mysteries

- The Annunciation
- The Visitation
- The Birth of Our Lord
- The Presentation
- The Finding in the Temple

Luminous Mysteries

- Baptism of Jesus Christ
- Christ Reveals Himself at Cana
- Proclamation of the Kingdom and Call to Conversion
- The Transfiguration
- Institution of the Eucharist

Sorrowful Mysteries

- The Agony in the Garden
- The Scourging
- The Crowning With Thorns
- The Carrying of the Cross
- The Crucifixion

Glorious Mysteries

- The Resurrection
- The Ascension
- The Coming of the Holy Spirit
- The Assumption of Our Lady
- The Coronation of Our Lady

The joyful mysteries are said on Monday and Saturday; the sorrowful mysteries on Tuesday and Friday; the glorious mysteries on Wednesday and Sunday; the luminous mysteries on Thursday.

PRAY THE ROSARY



PRAYER FOR HEALING

Lord we ask You to lift up those who are facing illness today. We ask You to bring Healing, Comfort and Peace to their body, mind and soul. We ask You to calm their fears and let them feel the Healing power of your Love.