

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES OF
ST. PIO OF PIETRELCINA

REVEREND JEREMIAH N. MURASSO, PH.D., ED.D., PSY.D., PASTOR
REVEREND PATRICK KANE, PAROCHIAL VICAR
REVEREND ZACHARIAS PUSHPANATHAN, PAROCHIAL VICAR



**17th SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

“The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field,
which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and
sells all that he has and buys that field.” - Mt 13:44

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
JULY 26, 2020

Welcome... You enter these doors...not as a stranger, but as a guest of God. God is your heavenly Father. Come, then with joy in your heart and thanks on your lips into God's presence, offering God your love and service. Be grateful to the strong and loyal ones who, in the name of Jesus Christ, built these churches of worship and to all who have beautified them and hallowed them with their prayers, praise and financial sacrifices. Ask God's blessing on those who love these places of faith as the inspiration of their labor, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. May that blessing rest on you, both on your going out and coming in.

Mass Intentions for the Week

SATURDAY, July 25 - Vigil - 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 4:00pm OLOP + Nick & Angie Criscuolo
by Children
4:00pm ST. B + Mario & Louise Gagliardi
by Children
4:30pm SVDP + Millie Iacobellis
by Joann MacCatherine & Ed & Bella Giza

SUNDAY, July 26 - 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 8:00am OLOP + Gina Mazzara
by Angela Anderson
8:00am ST. B + Dec'd Mem. of the DeMartino Family
by John & Maria Acampora
9:00am SVDP + Nicholas & Angelina Criscuolo & Michael Foster
by Daughter, Rosemarie Tomei
10:00am OLOP + Frank Massimino
by Wife, Josephine & Family
10:00am ST. B + Lynn Aquaro & Helen Hitchko
by Pat Scalese
11:00am SVDP + Vivian Bruno
by Family
11:45am OLOP + Salvatore Serio
by Family
6:00pm ST. B + Rev. Thomas Mitchell

MONDAY, July 27 - St. Apollinaris

- 8:00am OLOP + Sharon Adinolfi
by Carol
8:00am SVDP + Joseph DaCosta
by Clancy-Palumbo Funeral Home
8:00am ST. B + Rita LeHarne
by Hugh & Martha O'Neill

TUESDAY, July 28 - St. Lawrence of Brindisi

- 8:00am OLOP + Antonia & Felice Rizzo
by Daughter, Marie
8:00am SVDP + Heather Kydon
by Family
8:00am ST. B + Available (Call Office to Book)

WEDNESDAY, July 29 - St. Mary Magdalene

- 8:00am OLOP + Anna Malangone
by Children
8:00am SVDP + Jeffrey LeBlanc
by Clancy-Palumbo Funeral Home
8:00am ST. B + Available (Call Office to Book)

THURSDAY, July 30 - St. Bridget

- 8:00am OLOP + Frank S. Torok
by Jeffrey
8:00am SVDP + Available (Call Office to Book)
8:00am ST. B + Available (Call Office to Book)

FRIDAY, July 31 - St. Sharbel Makhluf

- 8:00am ST. B + Personal Intentions
SATURDAY, August 1 - Vigil - 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 4:00pm OLOP + Bill & Greg Lau & Lou Gallucci
by Friend, Pete Anyzeski
4:00pm ST. B + Angelo Sordilli (1st Anni.)
by Wife, Lina & Family
4:30pm SVDP + Available (Call Office to Book)

SUNDAY, August 2 - 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 8:00am OLOP + Albert & Louis Mauriello
by Children & Grandchildren
8:00am ST. B + Anna DelBasso (1st Anni.)
by Porto Funeral Home
9:00am SVDP + Anthony Amendola
by Family
10:00am OLOP + Sebastian & Josephine Giaimo
by Family
10:00am ST. B + Rosanne Viscuso (15th Anni.)
by Family
11:00am SVDP + Paul Gavigan
by Wife & Family
11:45am OLOP + Milton Lukaszek
by Family
6:00pm ST. B + Available (Call Office to Book)

STEWARDSHIP

With public Masses cancelled, please continue to support the parish. We need your support as the operations continue on a daily basis. In addition, we want to continue to pay our loyal staff. Please mail-in your contributions. Online giving is also available at, <https://stpioofpietrelcinaeh.com/> and click on the **GIVE** button.

Due to Early Printing, the totals will be in next weeks bulletin.

Thank you to the many of you who have been so generous and responsive in these difficult times.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

- Sunday: 1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12/Ps 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-128, 129-130 [97a]/Rom 8:28-30/Mt 13:44-52
Monday: Jer 13:1-11/Dt 32:18-19, 20, 21 [cf. 18a]/Mt 13:31-35
Tuesday: Jer 14:17-22/Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13 [9]/Mt 13:36-43
Wednesday: Jer 15:10, 16-21/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9, 10-11 [2]/Jn 11:19-27 or Lk 10:38-42
Thursday: Jer 18:1-6/Ps 146:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6ab [5a]/Mt 13:47-53
Friday: Jer 26:1-9/Ps 69:5, 8-10, 14 [14c]/Mt 13:54-58
Saturday: Jer 26:11-16, 24/Ps 69:15-16, 30-31, 33-34 [14c]/Mt 14:1-12

Live-Stream Mass

- Monday-Thursday at 8:00 AM
Saturday at 4:00 PM
Sunday at 8:00 AM & 11:45AM

To watch the live stream go to, <https://www.stpioofpietrelcinaeh.com>, then click on Online Mass and click on StreamSpot.

St. Pio of Pietrelcina Parish

Address: 355 Foxon Road, East Haven, CT 06513
Phone Number: (203) 469-0764

Office Hours:

Foxon Road: Mon-Fri 8:00-12:00 & 1:00-3:00
Taylor Avenue: Mon. & Fri. 10:00-2:00
E-Mail: stpioofpietrelcina@gmail.com

CONFESSION SCHEDULE:

- St. Bernadette & Our Lady of Pompeii:** Saturday at 3:00-3:30pm
St. Vincent de Paul: Saturday at 3:30-4:00pm

Important Message

Fr. Murasso's Message Board

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena
25th Anniversary
9-Day Novena
POSTPONED**



The 9-day novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help will take place for 9 days beginning Saturday, September 12 @ 10:00am. This first of 9-days will begin on the Feast of the Holy Name of Mary and conclude on Sunday, September 20, immediately following the 11:45 Mass. This will include a procession immediately following the conclusion of the novena prayers.

The hour-long novena includes:

- ◇ Novena Prayers
- ◇ Benediction
- ◇ Recitation of the Rosary
- ◇ Enrollment in the Brown Scapular.

FR. MURASSO'S MESSAGE BOARD



This past weekend, July 4 & 5, the Saturday Vigil and Sunday Masses have resumed at their regular scheduled times in all of our three churches.

We will continue to maintain the social distancing guidelines established by the Governor and the Archbishop. The pews will continue to be roped off, permitting 25% of the total capacity of each church. This means that approximately 100 parishioners for St. Vincent de Paul and Our Lady of Pompeii and approximately 80 parishioners at St. Bernadette per Mass.

Our Lady of Pompeii Church will be streaming all the Masses in the church hall for the overflow. Consequently, everyone who chooses to be in attendance should be accommodated either in the church proper or the church hall.

FACIAL MASKS ARE REQUIRED TO ENTER THE CHURCHES FOR MASS.

Parishioners are asked to enter through the **FRONT DOORS ONLY.** Individuals may exit either from the front or side entrances.

As you know, the dispensation given by Archbishop Blair, which removes the obligation for Mass attendance remains in place throughout the summer. Therefore, individuals with health concerns or who experience any kind of weakness or sickness should remain home.

HOLY HOUR: MONDAY: 8:30am to 9:30am



Please consider spending one hour with the LORD before **Blessed Sacrament** at either church Monday morning at OLOP:

8:30am to 9:30am.

The Good LORD had blessed our lives in so many different ways. Our Holy Hours will provide each with the opportunity to pray for our personal intentions as well as for both civil and religious needs. For peace throughout our country and our world; that **violence and hatred and prejudice will stop** and that **men and women begin to extend their hands outward toward one another in peace and upward in prayer toward God.**



The Candles burn this week for these special intentions:

Our Lady of Pompeii Candles

Sanctuary Lamp (Right Side) ~ In Memory of Billy Richmond & For All the Souls in Purgatory

Sanctuary Lamp (Left Side) ~ In Memory of the Mauro & Elko Families

Chapel ~

Sacred Heart of Jesus ~

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Icon ~

Our Lady of Pompeii Picture ~

St. Vincent de Paul Candles

Sanctuary Lamp (Right Side) ~ In Memory of the Balzano & Avitable Families

Sanctuary Lamp (Left Side) - In Memory of Ronald Paolillo

Statue of Our Lady's Altar ~

Statue of St. Joseph's Altar ~ Joseph Martorelli by Madelyn & Vincent Camera



We will get through these difficult days BETTER, if we live one moment at a time by placing our trust in God and raising our voices and our hands in prayer to a **MERCIFUL and **LOVING FATHER.****



**Midnight Run
Taylor Avenue Campus**

The Midnight Run for August, will be the 3rd Monday, August 17th. Donations of brown bag lunches, water and toiletries can be dropped off to Sue Stacey, on Monday up until 7pm, at her home 82 Forbes Pl Thankful for all donations. Thank you to all who donate to the Midnight Run!!! The Midnight Run for the month of August will be on August 17th, which is the 3rd Monday of the month, this is for August only! Until further notice PLEASE drop off all brown bag lunches to Sue's home, 82 Forbes Pl, I can not at this time accept clothing or blankets, but toiletries are still acceptable Thank you God Bless You! Stay safe and well!!!

**Midnight Run
Foxon Road Campus**

On the last Monday of each month, we bring 75 bagged lunches to the Columbus House Overflow Shelter.

Donations Needed:

ShopRite Gift Cards or

Gallon Size Ziploc Bags

Quart Size Ziploc Bags

Peanut Butter & Jelly

Juice Pouches

Raisin Boxes

Fruit Cups & Pudding Cups

Granola Bars

Individual Packaged Cookies, Crackers or Chips

We are also looking for small amounts or full skeins of yarn, it will be used to make hats and scarves for the midnight run. Please leave your donations at any entrance of the church. Thank you.

Midnight Run is the **LAST** Monday of **EVERY** month from Our Lady of Pompeii Church from 6-7 pm.

Thank-you for being so generous!

PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH

Nick Vessicchio, Sally Ann Fallon, Lynette Ely, David T. Boyle, Richard Lucibello, Denise Ceeseence, Carmel Ferretti, Bryan Surprenant, Sharon Spadacenta, Marie & Charles Zambrano, Marie Sunderland, Helen Langelo, Annette Brissette, Brian Savo, Gerry Andrea, John Umlauf, Alan Poirier, Joseph Benson, Connie Rasimas, Jane Pyka, Harry Clark, Lou DiNola, Peter Pepe, Vincent Perricone, Virginia Klump, Robert Savino, Geraldine Licciardi, Joanne Cretella, Joseph Anyzeski, Alice Tietjen-DeSenti, Faith Gibson, Fran Sofo, Elizabeth Kuen, Deborah Sanning, Paula Ferrara, Patricia Brasile, Joann Mazzucco, Tina Marie Fionia, Elizabeth Nucolo, Joseph Parise, Frank DelGrego, Moira Ferguson, Danielle Joubert, Nelson Eddy, Margaret Lendroth, Katherine Hungerford Picciano, Frances Polaski, Sharon Filion, Pauline Condon, Rose Marie Monaco, Paul Spadacenta, Anna Izzo, Angelo DeMatteo, Carmen & Patricia Riccitelli, Patricia Aulenti, Michael Pascale, Alyce Richmond, Catherine Leach, Mark Schettino, Patty DiMilo, Rose Rogalski, Elaine Smith, Karen Rescigno, Virginia Pisano, Joan Baisley, Deanna Baldassare, Kim Hughes, DJ DiVincenzo, Sgt. Anthony Rybaruk, Philip DeMilo & Sally DeMilo, Anna Concelmo, Sally Ann Corcoran, Paul Castiglione, Anna Marie Nappi, Brian Higney, Rich Tortora, Andrea Palmucci, Fr. Brad Pierce, Frances Randi, Denise Bailey, Peg Dmytruk, Mary Mack, Joseph Peterson, Judith Robbins, Marion Mahl, Gloria Ranfone, Paula Ruddock, Pamela Willis, Laura Luzzi, Jose Maisonet, Anita Della Ventura, Brian Wilson, Maureen Redmond, Pasquale Savo, Kristianne Argentino, Shirley Perrelli, Marion Schobert, Bill Izzo, Andrew & Catherine Criscuolo

Please send prayer requests to stpiofpietrelcina@gmail.com so that our parishioners and friends can be remembered in our prayers.

From the Pen of Fr. M.
Reverend Jeremiah N. Murasso, Ph.D., Ed.D., Psy.D.

*Mary, the Month of August
&
Saint Mary the Major Basilica*

Next weekend, we begin the month of August, which in addition to the months of October and May celebrates feast days of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Church celebrates two special days in August, which recognize the greatness of Mary, the *Mother of God, Queen of the Apostles, Mother of the Church and our Mother.*



Tomb of Saint Peter/Crypt in Saint Peter's Basilica

Legend of Saint Mary Major Basilica



As one of the four major basilicas in Rome, Saint Mary Major is located on the Esquiline Hill. Unlike the other three basilicas, Saint Mary Major has retained its original interior, and as such is one of the *most magnificent* pieces of architecture.

There is a fascinating legend associated with Saint Mary Major. The Blessed Virgin Mary is believed to have appeared on August 4, 358, to Pope Liberius and also, to a Roman gentleman by the name of John. The message, like all of Mary's messages was quite simple: "*Build me a church.*" This church was not to be built just anywhere. It was to be built on the Esquiline Hill.



On August 15, the Church celebrates Mary's Assumption into heaven, body and soul. While this feast is well known, primarily because it is a holy day of obligation. When the feast falls on either a Saturday or Monday, the obligation to attend Mass is removed. However, it still remains one of the most important holy days in the church's liturgical calendar. The other feast honoring Mary is celebrated on August 5. This is the feast of the dedication of the *Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore* (Saint Mary Major Basilica) in Rome.

Saint Mary Major Basilica

The feast of Saint Mary Major Basilica in Rome is a celebration not only in honor of the *Blessed Mother*; it is also, the commemoration of the majestic Basilica that bears her name and its intriguing origin. Saint Mary Major is one of my favorite churches in Rome and is usually my first stop when visiting the *Eternal City*. It is one of the four *Patriarchal Basilicas* in Rome along with the Basilicas of:

- San Giovanni in Laterano (Saint John Lateran), which is the Cathedral Church of Rome in the same way that the Cathedral of Saint Joseph is the Cathedral Church for the Archdiocese of Hartford.
- San Paolo Fuori le Mura (Saint Paul outside the wall), which is dedicated to St. Paul whose body is buried under the papal altar. It was not until 2002 that the Vatican began to excavate the area beneath the altar in order to make the sarcophagus visible to the public.
- La Basilica di San Pietro (Saint Peter's Basilica), which is perhaps, the most well-known and most-visited Basilica in the world. It is believed that Saint Peter was martyred on this site where he is buried under the papal altar.



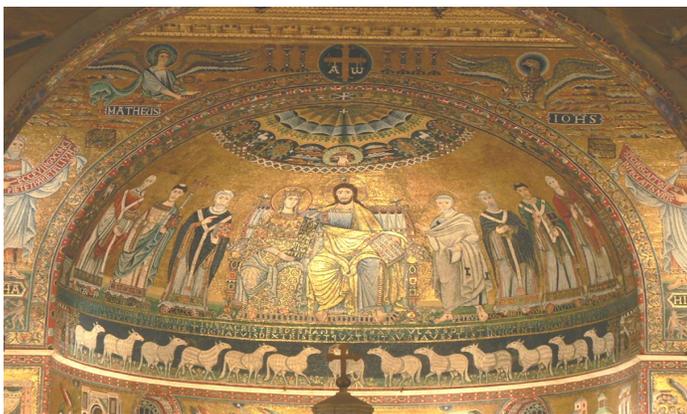
The Blessed Mother went on to inform the young man, John that he would know the exact location on the Esquiline Hill because it would be marked out with “*newly fallen snow.*” Just as Mary had predicted, snow in the month of August fell, not throughout Rome but on the exact spot where her church was to be built. On the very next morning, the 5th day of August, there on the Esquiline Hill, a spot was marked-out with newly fallen snow.

Immediately, plans got underway for the building of Mary’s church. This courageous undertaking would be paid in full by the wealthy Patrician named John. The original name of the church was *Santa Maria della Neve* (Saint Mary of the Snow). It was then changed to *Santa Maria del Presepe* (Saint Mary of the Crib) because the Basilica is home to the *relic of the original crib of Jesus*, which is housed in the *Cappella Sistina*, an underground chapel inside the Basilica.

Interior of Saint Mary Major Basilica

The interior of Saint Mary Major stretches approximately 300 feet and consists of 36 columns made of Hymettian marble. On the arch of the Nave, there can be seen some exquisite mosaics, which date back to Pope Sixtus III. The year was 432. Unfortunately, these mosaics are a bit difficult to view in detail. They include the scenes from the lives of Abraham, Jacob, Isaac, Moses and Joshua.

In the Apse are seen Toritti’s beautiful mosaics, all of which are dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. These date back to about 1293. This was the period in which Saint Mary Major was restored. The Coronation of the Blessed Virgin Mary is located at the center of the dome. This is my favorite! The mosaic depicts Mary being assumed into heaven body and soul. The fact that Mary was assumed into heaven with body and soul was a matter of great theological debate and intrigue in the thirteenth century. This was Toritti’s way of *confirming* his belief and the belief of the Church.



In this particular mosaic, Mary is depicted against a blue background filled with stars. To the left of this scene, one sees Saint Peter, Saint Paul and Saint Francis of Assisi. Kneeling in the front of these three important figures is Pope Nicholas IV who is responsible for the funding used to commission this masterpiece. On the right side of the Coronation is Cardinal Colonna who along with Pope Nicholas IV provided the funding for this work. Colonna is seen kneeling in front of Saint John the Baptist, Saint James and Saint Anthony of Padua.

In my description of this magnificent piece of architectural glory, Saint Mary Major Basilica not only portrays through art, the manner in which God has communicated to his people throughout salvation history, or is only about the Blessed Mother’s simple, yet, significant presence to faithful individuals. In many ways, it is all about man’s receptiveness to God; man’s proclamation and his assertion; man’s testimony and his response in faith, which he has made throughout the ages in and through his artistic creations that demonstrate and confirm his undying belief that Jesus Christ is *Lord* and *Master* of the universe.

Most Holy Annunciation

As we leave Rome, we travel to the lovely city of the Medici’s and arrive at Florence to the Basilica of The Most Holy Annunciation (*La Basilica della Santissima Annunziata*).



Like so many other stories about Mary, the Mother of God, the story about this beautiful basilica is truly mystifying and captivating. It is a story of God’s intervention in and through human history and man’s response in faith.

The Basilica of the Most Holy Annunciation was founded by seven original members of the Servite Order in 1250. It contains what is believed to be a miraculous painting of the Blessed Mother, in which, all but the face is believed to be the work of a young Servite brother named Friar Bartolomeo.

The Servites of Mary

The Order of the Servites of Mary was founded on August 15, 1233, the Feast of The Assumption of Our Blessed Mother. The community was then given Papal permission and canonical status in the year 1259. The community consisted of seven young Florentine laymen who formed a confraternity for the purpose of worshiping God more perfectly, the living out of and the spreading of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and in addition, the promulgation of devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

It all began in the year, 1233. While deep in prayer and worship of Jesus and Mary, the seven young men were visited by the Blessed Virgin Mary. Her request, like all of Mary’s requests was *simple* but *serious*. She asked the seven young Florentine men to withdraw from the world and commit themselves to the living-out of the Gospel by spreading the mission and ministry of her Son.

La Camarzia

The seven young men were not quite sure how to follow through with Mary's request, nor where to start. In any case, they approached the Franciscan Friars at La Camarzia, a small town located outside of Florence, and for a while became affiliated with these friars. Yet, as time went on, they realized that they desired a more rigid lifestyle and greater seclusion from the world for the purpose of prayer and penance. This led to the severing of ties with the Franciscan Friars and the relocation to Monte Senario, which is located north of Florence.

Monte Senario

Shortly after their arrival at Monte Senario, on the 8th day of September, which coincidentally happens to be the Feast of the Blessed Mother's birth, Mary once again appeared to the seven young men. Across Mary's arms was a black habit which she conferred upon all seven men.

On this visit, Mary was accompanied by two angels; one was holding the *Rule of Saint Augustine*, while the other held a scroll. Taking the *Rule* from the angel, she entrusted it to the seven men indicating that it was her desire that they follow the *Rule*, not of Saint Francis of Assisi, but the *Rule* of Saint Augustine. As Mary took the scroll from the second angel, it unrolled, revealing the name by which these seven men would be called for all times: *The Order of Servites of Mary*.

The Blessed Mother, also requested that the seven men establish themselves as an official order in the Church and in addition, she requested that they pray continuously and fast daily for an increase in their numbers. The Order of the Servites of Mary was founded in April, 1240. Official Papal recognition and canonical status was granted in March, 1259.

St. Peregrine

Many are familiar with the great Saint Peregrine Laziosi, another nice Italian boy! Peregrine, underwent a conversion in faith after years of persecuting the Catholic Church. He became actively involved with the Servites of Mary, joined the order and was ordained a priest. Saint Peregrine is the Patron Saint of those who suffer from cancer-related illnesses.

Miraculous Painting of Mary

There is what the Church has come to believe, a *miraculous painting of the Blessed Mother*, which is preserved in a small chapel at the entrance of this Basilica. This fascinating and mysterious story, once again shows the greatness of God and how He works in time, and through history by choosing individuals for particular and special purposes in the building up of His Body, the Church.



Friar Bartolomeo painted this beautiful picture of the Blessed Mother, which depicts her Annunciation; the Archangel Gabriel announcing to Mary that she would be the Mother of God. The young friar painted the entire body of the Virgin along with the beautiful background, yet, he did not feel worthy in presuming that he could capture the face of the Mother of God. Consequently, he procrastinated and for months the painting went unfinished.

The young friar, being pressured by the superior to finish the painting, still could not bring himself to paint the face of the Madonna. With continued pressure and an ultimatum from his superior to finish the painting, the friar went armed one morning to the church with paints and brushes. He vowed as he went to complete the picture.

As the young friar began to paint, he became overcome by anxiety and feelings of unworthiness in presuming that he could possibly paint a face worthy of the Mother of God. Overcome with anxiety, Friar Bartolomeo passed out. Hours later the young friar awoke, and to his awe and amazement the picture had been completed; the face of the Virgin had been painted, but not with his hands, or for that matter, not with human hands.

For years, tests were performed on this fresco and all the tests indicated that the image of the face of Mary was not consistent with the rest of the Virgin's body; thus, it was not the work of the same painter. In addition, the paint used was and continues to be unidentifiable, and not consistent with any known pigment.



Faith and the Workings of God

As I depart from these two *temples of glory*, Saint Mary Major Basilica and the Basilica of the Most Holy Annunciation, I leave wondering what it would take for post-modern men and women living in the twenty-first century to truly believe in the presence of the Almighty in the same way that our ancestors did. One thing is for certain: if we did, the experience would be *life-changing!*
JNM



Feeding the Community

We will continue our July food collection for the East Haven Food Pantry, which is asking for cereal and pasta sauce. Please leave your donations of food at the church entrance at both the Taylor Avenue and Foxon Road campuses throughout the month.



Bible Study

Wednesdays at 10:00AM

Mondays at 7:00PM

Contact: Sally Mucka for the link

203-467-6395 Option 8 Or email

saintpio.rcia@gmail.com

Led by Christine Sandford



MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

Please pray for those whose funeral rites were celebrated here at St. Pio of Pietrelcina & St. Bernadette during the month of June:

Antoinette Storoni
George Dayharsh
Josee Moon
Eleanor Popolizio
Henry Luzzi
Josephine Romano
Ann Chouinard
Trofimena Fraulo

Sheila Hottin
Virginia Mingarelli
William Fappiano
Marguerite Danick
Harry Faulkner
Philomena Ursini

Congratulations to those who were baptized into our Parish Family in the months of June:

Finn Joseph Robinson
Giovanna Marie D'Angelo
Jenna Rose D'Angelo
Ashlyn Krotki

Congratulations to their families!

Important Message

FR. MURASSO'S MESSAGE BOARD

Preventative Maintenance Starts Here!



Saint Bernadette Church

It is with great joy that I announce to you that we are moving in the direction of a merger with our sisters and brothers of Saint Bernadette Church.

Our parish of St. Pio of Pietrelcina will now have three campuses with three worship sites: Saint Bernadette, Saint Vincent de Paul and Our Lady of Pompeii. This is exciting!

I know that you join me in extending a heart-felt welcome to all the faith-filled parishioners of Saint Bernadette who will add so very much to our Catholic community of Saint Pio of Pietrelcina.

PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

Saint Vincent de Paul:

◇ The roof over the chapel continues to present a problem with water getting behind the walls and in the ceiling. We have finally determined where the water is coming from and plans are underway to repair again, the wall around the stain glass window in front of the chapel and the ceiling.

◇ The center walkway ascending the church has become damaged due largely to water that has seeped underneath of the concrete along with kids with skateboards that use the front stairs as a slide. This has resulted in serious cracks in the concrete, making this a hazard. In addition, the iron rail has become rusted at the point where the iron meets the sidewalk. This has become aggravated to the point of breaking due once again, to the skateboards constantly slamming into the iron rail. New concrete will be poured along with the reinforcement of the rail beginning **June 1**. During this time the side **entrance of the church** facing the school will be open for daily visits.

◇ The church kitchen is about to get a much-needed refurbishment with more counter space, a new floor and paint on the walls. This work will begin within the next couple of weeks.

Our Lady of Pompeii:

◇ Work continues in the church proper with the much-needed re-sealing and painting of the window frames on the inside and outside.

SOMETHING TO PONDER



The Virtue of Gratitude

Are you a person who is grateful for whatever it is that you have? Do you thank others for what they do for you, like wait staff in a restaurant, bank tellers, cashiers in the supermarket or in your favorite department store, the nurse who takes your pressure or helps you onto the scale, or the teacher who goes the extra mile in order to assure that you really understand?

Or are you among those who believe that service providers are receiving their just reward: a paycheck for serving your needs? Are you someone who believes that their paycheck is thank-you enough; thus freeing you from any and all obligation to demonstrate gratitude and thankfulness for what another person has done for you? Do you display the nonverbal attitude that “*after all it’s their job?*”

Are you one of those individuals who are slow to express gratitude for a service rendered, yet, are quick to criticize and castigate when a service provider falls short of *your* expectations? Are you a person who blames hardships, missed opportunities and personal losses on someone else or God?

Mother of Virtues

Gratitude is the greatest virtue among all other virtues because it encompasses all the other virtues. In addition, the individual who practices and displays a grateful spirit is probably the individual who by his/her nature also demonstrates such virtues as charity, generosity, kindness, forgiveness and tolerance to name a few.

In a society such as ours, which is so damaged due to excessive fear, mistrust and suspicion, it becomes a challenging assignment for busy and anxious individuals to consciously demonstrate appreciation to others and to God for the unmerited acts of kindness and love that come their way in the midst of their daily responsibilities.

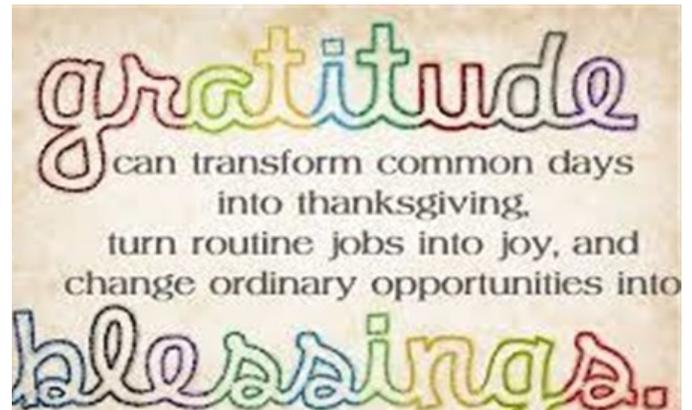
Authentic Happiness

The demonstration of a grateful spirit and the practice of appreciation enables us to put the crisis of the moment as well as the dilemma of the day in proper perspective. The person who is in possession of a grateful spirit is the person who becomes sensitive to the minor and at times miniscule miracles that present themselves on a daily basis. If we do not recognize them each and every day, it is *not* because they are not happening. Rather, it is due to the fact that there is a flaw in the way we are living our lives and conducting our affairs.

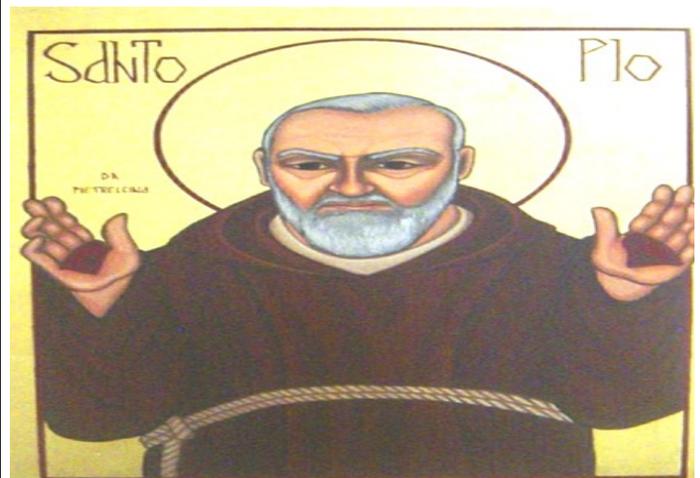
Being grateful and demonstrating appreciation for life and for what we have helps us to be more accepting with those unexpected *twists of fate*; those existential *curved balls* that we dodge from time to time. Showing appreciation results in a greater level of happiness despite or *in spite of* the crosses that we might have to carry because being grateful improves our relationships with others and with God.

Grateful people are less critical of others and more accepting of difference. They are also individuals who view life as well as their own short-comings with less drama and more passion. They are also less inclined to look at life through the lens of the glass being half empty, and more inclined to see it as being half full. People who are grateful for what they have are less inclined to constantly think that more is *owed* to them.

Are you a grateful person? Do you show your appreciation for even the littlest acts of kindness that come your way? Or are you too busy to notice? When was the last time that you said, “*Thank-you*” to another who did something or said something that made your existence in this world a bit better



THE WISDOM OF PADRE PIO

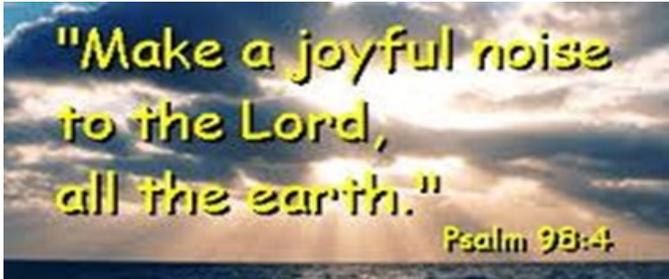


For us who face the daily trials and tribulations in a world gone mad, we must turn to St. Pio of Pietrelcina for prayers and guidance. He confronted his suffering and pain head on through prayer, the Holy Eucharist and devotion to the Blessed Mother. Always remember these words from him: “*Pray, Hope, and Don’t Worry.*”

"Always stay close to this Heavenly Mother because she is the sea to be crossed to reach the shores of Eternal Splendor."

"Love the Madonna and pray the Rosary, for her Rosary is the weapon against the evils of the world today. All graces given by God pass through the Blessed Mother" (St. Pio of Pietrelcina).

HOLY HUMOR



A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!" His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you know what the Bible means?" The son replied, "I do know!" "Okay," said his father. "What does the Bible mean?" The boy replied, "that's easy, Daddy, it stands for basic information before leaving earth."

There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk. "Only the Ten Commandments," answered the lady.

It has been said that there are only two kinds of people in the world. There are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good morning, Lord," and there are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good Lord, it's morning."

A minister parked his car in a no-parking zone in a large city because he was short of time and couldn't find a space with a meter. Then he put a note under the windshield wiper that read: "I have circled the block 10 times. If I don't park here, I'll miss my appointment. Forgive us our trespasses." When he returned, he found a citation from a police officer along with this note: "I've circled this block for ten years. If I don't give you a ticket, I will lose my job. Lead us not into temptation."

There is the story of a pastor who got up one Sunday and announced to his congregation: "I have good news and bad news: the good news is that we have enough money to pay for our new building program. The bad news is that it's still out there in your pockets."

A minister waited in line to have his car filled with gas just before a long holiday weekend. The attendant worked quickly but there were many cars ahead of him. Finally, the attendant motioned him toward a vacant pump. "Reverend," said the young man, "I'm so sorry about the delay. It seems as if everyone waits until the last minute to get ready for a long trip." The minister chuckled, "I know what you mean. It's the same in my business."



July 25 & 26, 2020

4:00pm OLOP Vigil: Fr. Zacharias

4:00pm SB Vigil: Fr. Murasso

4:30pm SVDP Vigil: Fr. Patrick

8:00pm SB: Fr. Meehan

8:00am OLOP: Fr. Zacharias

9:00am SVDP: Fr. Patrick

10:00 SB: Fr. Zacharias

10:00am OLOP: Fr. Murasso

11:00am SVDP: Fr. Patrick

11:45am OLOP: Fr. Murasso

6:00pm SB: Fr. Meehan



**Pray the Divine Mercy with Us
Every Saturday at 11:00am
Garden of St. Clare at
Our Lady of Pompeii**



**Scriptural Rosary
Thursdays 7:00pm
Our Lady of Pompeii Church**