

Mass Intentions

TWELFTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

Monday, June 20

8:00am (GS) For the People of the Parish

Tuesday, June 21

8:00am (GS) Hubert J. Majetic by Roseann & Richard King

Wednesday, June 22

8:00am (SJ) William Kato, Sr. by Carol & Chuck Andoga

6:30pm (GS) Bruno & Janina Osowski by Daughters
Teresa & Stefanie

Thursday, June 23

8:00am (GS) Hope Marie DiCicco by Robert F. & Theresa DiCicco

Friday, June 24

8:00am (SJ) In Thanksgiving for 150 Years as a Parish by Parish

8:00pm (GS) Marian prayer Group

Saturday, June 25

4:00pm Vigil (SJ) Lawrence, Gary & Jeff Francis by Bonnie
Francis & Family

5:30pm Vigil (GS) Fortunato & Teresa Rigano by Sons,
Tony & Dominic

Sunday, June 26 THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:00am (GS) In honor of the 61st Anniversary of
Charles & JoAnn Smith by Family

9:30am (SJ) For the Living & Deceased of our Parishes

11:00am (GS) Dorothy Hoffman by Angel & Paul Hoffman

Readings for the Week of June 20 2016

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Monday | 2Kgs 17:5-8, 13-15a, 18 Ps. 60:3-5, 12-13 Mt. 7:1-5 |
| Tuesday | 2Kgs. 19:9b-11, 14-21, 31-35a, 36 Ps. 48:2-4, 10-11 Mt. 7:6, 12-14 |
| Wednesday | 2Kgs. 22:8-13; 12:1-3 Ps. 119:33-37, 40 Mt. 7:15-20 |
| Thursday | 2Kgs. 24:8-17 Ps. 79:1b-5, 8-9 Mt. 7:21-29 |
| Friday | Is. 49:1-6 Ps. 139:1b-3, 13-15 Acts 13:22-26 Lk. 1:57-66, 80 |
| Saturday | Lam. 2:2, 10-14, 18-19 Ps. 74:1b-7, 20-21 Mt. 8:5-17 Zec. 12:10-11; 13:1 Ps. 63:2-6, 8-9 Gal 3:26-29 Lk. 9:18-13 |
| Sunday | 2 Sm. 12:7-10, 13 Ps. 32:1-2, 5, 7, 11 Gal 2:16, 19-21 Lk. 7:36-8:3 or 7:36-50 |

THIS WEEK WE REMEMBER...

(GS) Charles Smith bt Wife, JoAnn and Family

BLESSED MOTHER SHRINE CANDLE

(GS) In Memory of Edward 'Brud' Zimmerman by
Wife Turina & Family

HOLY FAMILY SHRINE CANDLE

(GS) Arthur J. Conti by Wife & Children

BREAD & WINE

(GS)

Hope Marie DiCicco by Robert F. & Theresa DiCicco
Jack Pietroboni by Carl, Jean, Ashton & Camden
Charles Hapich by Friend, Neighbor Nancy Savie



From Father Joe

Even as I write this article, it has been a *whirlwind* week so far—and it's only Wednesday! Monday, as we gathered to celebrate a funeral, the cafeteria was filled with the savory smell of meatballs cooking as volunteers prepared 2,148 meatballs for our annual Good Samaritan Festival. Tuesday evening was the closing of the Saint Anthony Novena. Over 300 people gathered for the closing Mass, with Fr. Joe Freedy, along with Fr. Tim Whalen and Deacon Anthony Giordano. Following the Novena was the procession, featuring the Red Coat Band with parishioners carrying flags from all over the world representing the cultures that make up our parish. After the novena, more than a hundred people gathered at Jericho Hall for refreshments and fellowship. In addition to this all, today we are getting a new seminarian, David J. Egan, who will be spending his whole Pastoral Year at Good Samaritan. We will have more about him in next week's bulletin.

It seems like only a year since I came here as pastor, but I just passed the 5 year mark a few weeks ago. When I look back, I realize we have been through 2 parochial vicars, and a deacon since that time.

More than 2,000 years ago, the Greek Philosopher Heraclitus said "The only constant is change." The same is true for our region, our Diocese, and for our local parishes as well.

A Pittsburgh Post gazette article, written on the occasion of the visit of Pope Francis to Philadelphia last year, provided some sobering statistics that highlight the trends from 2000 to 2015. According to the paper:

- ◆ Infant baptisms: Down 31% nationally.
Down 47% in the Diocese of Pittsburgh.
- ◆ First communions: Down 16% nationally.
Down 41% in Pittsburgh.
- ◆ Church marriages: Down 43% nationally.
Down 53% in Pittsburgh.
- ◆ Elementary school enrollment: Down 32% nationally.
Down 46% in Pittsburgh.

These changes are hitting our individual parishes as well. Just in the 5 years since I became pastor, we have buried about 520 parishioners at Good Samaritan and about 80 at Saint John's. Since five of our parishes merged to form Good Samaritan 21 years ago, *well* over 2,000 parishioners have passed away.

OUR MISSION:

On Mission for the Church Alive!

Looking at the changing demographics within our region, and the changing trends in religious practice, the Diocese has undertaken the mission of planning for the church of the future in the Pittsburgh region — a church that will not just survive, but *Thrive* in the future

(article continued on inside...)

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OUR MISSION:

On Mission for the Church Alive!

THE CHALLENGES:

There are a number of challenges to planning for the future of our parishes and our Diocese.

- Despite the continued generosity of parishioners, currently **50% of our 200 parishes** run annual deficits! Just three years ago, two thirds of parishes in the Diocese were operating in the black, now half of our parishes are in the red. Many parishes are rapidly depleting their savings to pay the bills.
- In 1990, there were 453 priests in the Diocese. By 2015, that number was only 225 — less than half. We have about 200 parishes, and not all of these priests can be pastors, therefore more of our priests are running multiple parishes.
- Projections show that the number of priests in active ministry will continue to decline from **225 to 112 in the next 10 years**, yet the need for pastoral care in parishes, hospitals, nursing homes and prisons will remain the same or increase.
- The population is changing in our area. Towns like Ambridge and the city of Pittsburgh are losing population, while other areas are growing exponentially, like Cranberry Township. What’s more, the percentage of parishioners who attend Mass on a regular basis has continued to decline over the years.

THE PLAN:

Recognizing these challenges, the Bishop began the initiative we have come to know as *On Mission for the Church Alive!*. Each pastor was asked to select six representatives of the parish to assist in looking at the demographics and trends in each parish. Working with the Pastoral & Finance Councils of each parish, this **On Mission Team** from each parish will make recommendations for changes that will allow our parishes to continue to survive and to continue providing services to those in need.

Below is a list of the On Mission Team members for both parishes. You will be hearing more from them soon:

GOOD SAMARITAN

Rose Filipponi

Pam Harsch

Zach Pinkosky

Frank Strano

Phyllis Haney

Brian Olander

Martha Piontek

SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST

Diane Barto

Brad Dornish

Cathy Johnston

Rose Curcio

Gerri Fabanich

Helen Ringel

Statistics from *For U.S. Catholics, growing numbers, fading rites*, September 6, 2015, by Peter Smith, /Pittsburgh Post-Gazette ©1997—2016

Our sincere Thanks to everyone who made our annual novena possible, particularly the Saint Anthony Novena Committee, the Sacristans & Servers, the Arts & Environment Committee, and the dozens of others who worked so hard to make it so glorious. God bless you all! Fr. Joe

On Mission for The Church Alive!

RUMORS, RUMBLINGS AND REALITIES – GET THE FACTS!

This week’s *On Mission for The Church Alive!* information sessions presented by Bishop Zubik or diocesan representatives will be from 7:00-8:30 pm at the following locations:

Monday June 20th at St. Ferdinand, Cranberry Township

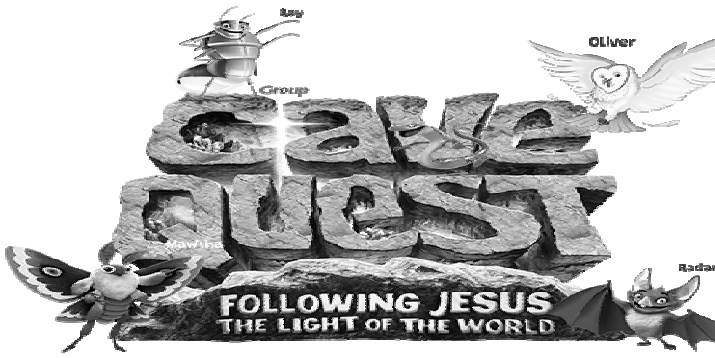
Tuesday, June 21st at St. Damien of Molokai, Monongahela

Wednesday, June 22nd at St. Thomas (St. Marcellus Site), Clarksville

And Thursday, June 23rd at St. Andrew, Center Township.

All are welcome. No reservations are necessary. All sessions are held in the church.

To read more, check out “On Mission for The Church Alive!” on page 5 of this week’s Pittsburgh Catholic and visit www.OnMissionChurchAlive.org.



GOOD SAMARITAN and ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

WHEN: Sunday, June 26th through Wednesday, June 29th
Jericho Hall at Good Samaritan

TIME: Meals will be served at 5:00 PM
Bible School will start at 5:30 – 7:30 PM
Pick-up will begin at 7:30 - 8:00 PM
Scholarships available upon request based on need.

PRICE: \$12.00 per child prior to June 19th
\$15.00 per child after June 19th to *Day of VBS*
or \$25.00 per family.

Questions call 724-266-3974 or email [gtciem@comcast.net](mailto:gtcziem@comcast.net)
PLEASE REGISTER ASAP! VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TOO!

VBS REGISTRATION FORM:

Child's Name: _____ Age: _____

Child's Name: _____ Age: _____

Child's Name: _____ Age: _____

Child's Name: _____ Age: _____

Allergy information: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____ Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____ Emergency Phone: _____

DROP IN COLLECTION BASKET, OR AT PARISH CENTER

SAINT JOHN'S CORNER


FRIDAY, JUNE 24, PARISH FEAST DAY! We celebrate the Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist at 8:00AM Mass today. Also, join us in the social hall following Mass for a light reception.

SAVE THE DATE! PARISH PICNIC: SUNDAY, JULY 17
Our Holy Name Society will hold the annual Parish Picnic here on the St. John's grounds from Noon until 5:00PM. Tents will shade our area. Chicken, ribs, hamburgers, hot dogs, corn and more will be served. Ladies of Charity will host games including 25-cent per card Bingo. Plan to come and enjoy great food and fun.

ON YOUR MARK, GET SET, READ! At the Baden Library, Join a **Summer Reading Club**; Read-to-Me (for pre-readers) and Independent Reading (for readers up to age 12). Children will read books and earn tickets to win prizes. Sign up at the library or online at the Baden Library's webpage @ www.beaverlibraries.org.

 **Ambridge Fireworks** 
Ambridge Borough Park
July 3rd - Park Gates Open at 4 p.m.
Entertainment & Food

THERE WILL BE A FESTIVAL LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING ON TUESDAY, JUNE 28 AT 6:00PM IN THE PARISH CENTER



ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED



Any boy or girl entering Third Grade or above and is interested in becoming an Altar Server, please fill out the slip below and place in the collection basket or return to either parish office by **Monday, June 20**. Practice will then be scheduled.

Interested Altar Server

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

GOOD SAMARITAN 724-266-6565
SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST 724-869-2280

+UPCOMING EVENTS+

Monday, June 20
4:00pm (GS) Pierogi Making (JH)

Friday, June 24
8:00am (SJ) Parish Feast Day Mass followed by reception in Social Hall at St John the Baptist
3:00-8:00pm (GS) Eucharistic Adoration
7:00/8:00pm (GS) Rosary/Mass-Marian Prayer Group

Sunday, June 26
5:00pm Vacation Bible School in Jericho Hall

**THERE WILL BE
NO CONFESSIONS ON SATURDAY, JUNE 25
DUE TO THE ORDINATION CEREMONY**

ORDINATION OF DEACON ANTHONY SCIARAPPA

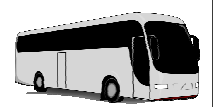
ALL are welcome to St. Paul Cathedral on **Saturday, June 25, at 10:00 AM** to witness the Ordination of Deacons and Priests for the Diocese of Pittsburgh. Deacon Anthony Sciarappa, the first parishioner to be both baptized and enter seminary from Saints John and Paul will be ordained at this ceremony!



On **Sunday, June 26, at 2:00 PM**, Father Anthony will celebrate his first mass of thanksgiving at Saints John and Paul. There will be a reception immediately after mass in the Cardinal DiNardo Center where you can meet Fr. Anthony, eat delicious food, and ask for a his priestly blessing! All are welcome.

BUS TRIP TO THE ORDINATION

We will be sponsoring a bus to Saint Paul Cathedral on Saturday, June 25 for the Ordination of Deacon Anthony Sciarappa to the Priesthood. The bus will leave Good Samaritan at 8:15 am SHARP and return at approximately 1:30pm. Cost is \$10. Only 40 seats are available. If interested, call Martha at (724) 266-2527 and leave your name and phone number.



Deadline is Wednesday, June 22.

✠IN SYMPATHY

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all our dearly departed, especially *John Bionda* who died recently. May his. soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

| GOOD SAMARITAN | <i>Our Gift to God</i> |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| Weekly Offering June 12, 2016 | \$6,821.20 |
| Monthly Collection | \$350.00 |
| St. Anthony | \$430.00 |
| Parish Share | \$436.00 |
| ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST | |
| Weekly Offering June 12, 2016 | \$2,419.00 |