

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2020**

**24<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

5:00PM Connors & Gargiulo Families & Natalie Lopac

10:00AM Ray Martinotti

12:00PM Kathleen Meserole  
Ints. of Mario & Maria Morin

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14**

**EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS**

11:00AM Louis M. Botto  
Martin Picinic

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15**

**OUR LADY OF SORROWS**

11:00AM Mary Corrado  
Vincent Libero

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16**

**STS. CORNELIUS & CYPRIAN**

11:00AM Catalina Orpilla  
Joyce Marie Brandon

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17**

**ST. ROBERT BELLARMINE**

11:00AM John Morin  
Matea Morin

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18**

11:00AM Mary Tarabocchia  
John Bucco

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19**

**ST. JANUARIUS**

11:00AM Geraldine Fox  
5:00PM Josephine Paretti

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20**

**25<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

10:00AM Margaret Suchanek Nemecek  
12:00PM Ivan Morin  
Cappelluti Family

**ALTAR BREAD**

*In Memory of*  
Ernie Sdrigotti

**ALTAR WINE**

*In Memory of*  
Carmelo Pillari

**SANCTUARY LAMP**

*In Memory of*  
Natalie Lopac

**MASS CANDLES**

*In Memory of*  
Nedjelko Radovic

**PREPARING FOR MASS**

*The readings for this Sunday are:*

**Sir 27:30—28:7**

If you do not forgive the sins of others,  
you cannot expect another person to  
forgive you.

**Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12**

The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to  
anger, and rich in compassion.

**Rom 14:7-9**

We belong to the Lord in both life and  
death.

**Matt 18:21-35**

We should forgive others seventy times  
seven times.

**WHY SHOULD I FOR-GIVE?**

Before we reflect on the readings, it will be excellent to understand the meaning of the word "FORGIVE." The word is a combination of two words "FOR" and "GIVE" and comes from the Old English "forgiefan," which in turn is a combination of two words "FOR" (completely) and "GIEFAN" (give).

From the preceding, we understand that "to forgive" means "to give completely." We shall have this "giving completely" at the back of our minds as we reflect on forgiveness in this message.

The First Reading today (Sirach 27:30-28:7) tells us, among other things, to forgive others so that when we pray, our sins will be forgiven. Here we could see the law of retribution and the law of the seed sowing showing clearly. We get whatever we sow; we receive what we give; that means we cannot get what we do not give.

In the Gospel Reading (Matt. 18:21-35), our Lord uses a parable to provide more insight to Peter's question: "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?" Peter must have tolerated a terrible brother for a while. Before relating the parable, our Lord tells Peter to forgive not just seven times but seventy-seven times.

"Seventy-seven times?" That could have been Peter's response. Yes, seventy-seven times means that we should not count the number of times we forgive wrongs. It entails that we should write the wrong done to us on sand so that the ever-present wind of forgiveness could blow them away.

In the parable, which is also a kingdom parable, our Lord talks about the king (master) who FOR-GIVES (ultimately gives pardon, mercy, and love) his servant who owes him a lot of money. In turn (after gaining his freedom), the servant goes after another servant who owes him just a little. When the master learns about the act, he rearrests the servant and locks him up until he pays the debt he was asked not to pay earlier.

The parable leaves us with some lessons that answer the question that this reflection poses: "Why should I for-give?" The servant lost his freedom because he goes out there to confront his fellow servant because of a little debt. He did not stop physically abusing the one who owes him; he continues to put him in prison.

Back to our question, "why should I for-give?":

I should for-give because God also forgives me whenever I sin. (Col.3:13).

I should for-give because I also offend others consciously and unconsciously and even receive their forgiveness.

I should for-give because it is part of our daily prayer to God: "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us" (Matt. 6:12).

I should forgive because it determines my forgiveness from God: "forgive, and you will be forgiven" (Luke 6:37).

I should for-give because it is what I do for myself eventually.

As we enter the new week, let us be courageous enough to carry the flag of forgiveness and spread the message wherever we go. Remember to write the words on the sand and the good on stone.

Have a great week ahead.

**Fr. Bonnie Anusiem**

**PARISH SUPPORT**

*Thank you for sharing the gift of your treasure so that we can continue to do God's work here.*

*September 6, 2020*

*Sunday Collection*

*\$3,211.00*

*"For if we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's." – Romans 14:8*

*This is the essence of stewardship – everything we have and everything we are is a gift from God. We aren't "owners" of anything, we are merely "stewards" of the gifts that God has given us, especially our very own lives. Pray to God daily and ask Him how He is calling you to live the life that He intended for you.*



### ROSARY DAY

On Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, we will have a Rosary Day beginning at 11:30AM and ending at 4:00PM. We will feature penance, the rosary and adoration to our Blessed Mother. All are invited to attend.

### SUNDAY MASSES

**Sunday Masses will be at 5:00PM on Saturday and on Sunday at 10:00AM and 12 Noon. We can now accommodate up to 150 persons at each mass. When you attend mass, you must wear a mask before you enter the Church and leave it on for the whole mass. Also, please sanitize your hands when entering the Church with the hand sanitizers found at the elevator entrance. The mass is streamed daily on our website at [epiphanyrchurch.org](http://epiphanyrchurch.org) at 11:00AM and on Sundays at 12:00 Noon.**

Once again, please consider whether you are “at risk” and make a good choice about whether or not to attend mass. I remind you that the Archbishop has indefinitely dispensed all Catholics from their “Sunday obligation” so do NOT feel compelled to attend mass out of fear. If any of you is feeling “under the weather” or running a fever, we ask you please DO NOT come to the church. You may be jeopardizing the life and health of others.

### SANCTUARY LAMPS, ALTAR CANDLES & ALTAR FLOWERS

Sanctuary Lamps, Altar Candles and Altar Flowers are available for the year 2020. Please come into the rectory to book any of these items in memory of or in honor of a loved one.

### SHARING GOD'S BLESSINGS APPEAL

This year's goal for Sharing God's Blessings Appeal is \$32,219.00. We are happy to report that we have \$31,907.00 in pledges. If we go over our goal, we will get 100% returned to our parish for every dollar over \$32,219.00. This is an excellent fundraiser for our parish. Only 105 families have contributed.

### CORONA VIRUS PRAYER

**St. Vincent de Paul, our father and model, throughout your life you wished to imitate Jesus, the missionary and servant. In your time you confronted the plague, the illness of the people. Intercede now with the Holy Trinity on behalf of all the nations on earth visited by this modern scourge. Help the bodies and hearts of all victims. Strengthen caregivers, be close to all neighbors, and enlighten researchers. Walk with those approaching the portals of death.**

**As you gave strong and ardent advice to struggle against evil, so now come to our aid! Teach us how to expose our lives for the weakest among us and strengthen us to help them better with fearless perseverance. With the sole desire of aiding them in their needs, open our spirits to God's infinite providence.**

**Let us endow it with his total will for action. Inspire in us, also, obedience to our leaders, as we now place ourselves in your hands, confident and fortified with genuine feelings of dedication and zeal for our sisters and brothers. Amen.**

**“SHARE YOUR FEELINGS.  
DON'T BE AFRAID TO TELL  
THE PEOPLE YOU LOVE  
HOW YOU FEEL!”**

### BAPTISMS

The Catholic Community of Epiphany Parish welcomes with great joy the following newcomers baptized in August:

*Jidenna Joshua Ejiogu  
Amelia Rose Koonce*

### FOOD PANTRY

We are in dire need of food for our Community Food Pantry which is now opened. Please bring food to the church from 1:00-5:00PM or bring it to the rectory vestibule. We are also available on Friday mornings from 10:00AM-12 Noon. We especially need all non-perishable foods. Our supplies are very, very low. We could use cereals, peanut butter and jelly, tuna fish, rice, sauces, Chef Boyardee, canned vegetables and fruits. Please do not bring any pasta at this time. We appreciate all your help to feed our clients. May God bless you for your generosity.

### LET BC COME TO YOU

Bergen Catholic will share a virtual Open House on Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Registration can be found on the Bergen Catholic website. For more information please contact Matt Rosa, Director of Admissions, [mrosa@bergencatholic.org](mailto:mrosa@bergencatholic.org)

**Attention: Prospective 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Families** – Bergen Catholic will be holding personal one on one tours for interested families, Monday-Friday. Registration is required on the website, and a maximum of 10 families will be permitted per day. For more information please contact Matt Rosa, Director of Admissions, at [mrosa@bergencatholic.org](mailto:mrosa@bergencatholic.org)

### UPCOMING EVENTS

We are waiting to see if the Archdiocese and the Governor will allow any affairs between September and December. If we are able to do so, we will be having an affair which will replace our St. Patrick/St. Joseph's Dinner Dance. Watch the bulletin for more details.

### ESTATE SALE

There is a huge estate sale in Leonia. If interested in browsing or purchasing, please call 757-645-6868 for an appointment or you may email [tradetalks@aol.com](mailto:tradetalks@aol.com) Items to be sold include: sports equipment, hummels, dinnerware, furniture, furs, women's clothing, garden tools, lawn mower, tools, a 2010 Lexus, costume jewelry and much more. A percentage of the proceeds from the estate sale will be donated to Epiphany Church.

### PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF THE PARISH

*Ann Callagher, Caroline Craven, Felicia Martello, Arianna Cappola, Doris Levy, Cindy Simeone Reynolds, Baby Juliette Payne, Brian Hone, Cora Shaffer, Baby Michael, Clyde Harger, Cesar Valdecantos, Kay Tak, Michele Spino, Evelyn Rodriguez, Barbara Snow, Mary Iannaccone, Doris Portillo, Teresita Zafra-Santos, Ann Marie Applegate Tatiana Flores, Christopher Nash, Pat Romano, Donna Carrajat, Tony Martello, Little Gabriel, Rachel Rocks, Sean O'Connor, Vladimir Drobikov, Louanne Mitchell, Colleen Meyers, Domenick Deodino, Rosemarie Liversidge, Christine Caruso, Patrick Bove, Camille Moglia, John Keegan, Kay O'Connor, Anthony Martini, Pantaleon Domingo, Conrado Trinidad, Joanne Kaiser, Patricia Warren, Ramon Villavicencio, Danilo Bonifacio, Daniel Johnson, Ryan Cariddi, Laura Cipullo, Frances Marino, Richard Allen, Anthony Martello, Jr., Miguel Madera, Joe Villani, Lisa Mutchler, Elizabeth Chan, Benjamin Yap, Henry Yap, Archbishop Emeritus John Joseph Myers, Rose & Anthony McCluskey, Jane Kim Estantino, Mike Hromin, Nancy Manto, Roy Regaspi, Gloria Marquez, David Barmore, Drew Johnson, Kunaim Emelyanesko, Kathy Santiago, Vinny Franco, Baby Grayson DiNatale, Kathie Gumb, Michael O'Connor, Patrick Shanley, Perry Bonaguaro, Rev. John Renard, Louise O'Connor, Barbara Curran, Cathleen McLaughlin.*

### PLEASE PRAY FOR THE DECEASED OF THE PARISH

*Frances G. Marino.*



