

Lord I love your commands.

July 26, 2020 ~ Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time


MASS INTENTIONS
— OF THE WEEK —

Saturday, July 25

5:30 pm For Thomas Wolf *by Kearney Family*

Sunday, July 26

9:00 am For Fernanda Rojas *by Brigette Dizon*

Saturday, August 1

5:30 pm For Laura Konopczynski *by Stokes Family*

Sunday, August 2

9:00am For Philip Karas



For the Month of July

Sanctuary Lamp: In loving memory of Vito and Marie Benardone and Aeneas and Genevieve Corry *by Corry/Benardone family*

Mass Candles: In loving memory of Dorothy Totin Donohue and Marion Chambers *by Stokes family*

Altar Breads & Wine:



Shoprite and Weis gift cards are available for purchase in the parish office. Please call the office to schedule a time for picking up your gift cards.



MASS CARDS...

If you need a mass card please call the parish office and we will get back to you as soon as possible to arrange for pick up.

My dear parishioners,



On this 17th Sunday of ordinary time we meditate on the three parables that make up the final section of the Discourse of the Parables: the hidden treasure, the merchant of precious pearls and the dragnet cast into the sea. Jesus' parables help us adjust our sight to better see the presence of the Kingdom of God in the most ordinary things of life. As we read, it would be good to keep in mind the following: "What is for me a hidden treasure, a merchant of precious pearls or a dragnet cast into the sea? How does my experience help me understand the parables of the treasure, of the pearl and of the dragnet?"

In the Gospel we hear the Lord Jesus, speak in parables to His disciples about the Kingdom of God. WISDOM is the virtue which is being addressed along with the discernment which accompanies it. Wisdom is a gift of the Holy Spirit which comes from God. **The Church lists 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states: "The moral life of Christians is sustained by the gifts of the Holy Spirit. These are permanent dispositions which make man obedient in following the promptings of the Holy Spirit." (#1830)**

The gift of wisdom comes to our assistance in discerning which path to pursue, what choices to make. It is like a lamp which shines within us allowing us to see clearly so as to conduct ourselves in living a virtuous life and the pursuit of holy endeavors. Wisdom is by our side making decisions which will strengthen our desire for the Kingdom of God.



The Holy Spirit's gift of wisdom comes to the assistance of the faithful one who is open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit through prayer, that is, a listening heart.

Like King Solomon in today's Old Testament reading we

must pray that the Lord will send us the gift of wisdom so that we may make the correct choices in our daily affairs. We must be mindful of the popular and atheistic forces which are present in our world today, that they may not get a foothold in our decisions but that "Holy Wisdom" will be at our side.

We pray that the Lord Jesus, will send us the Holy Spirit's gift of wisdom to guide us in our decisions so that discerning rightly, we may choose the Kingdom of God above all else.

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION – August 1st, 2020.

OLM CHURCH



The essential elements of the practice of First Saturday Communion of Reparation. With the intention of making reparation to the

Immaculate Heart for these five offenses, we are asked to:

1. Go to confession (Can be within 8 days before or after the First Saturday)
2. Receive Holy Communion
3. Pray five decades of the Rosary
4. Keep Our Lady company for 15 minutes while meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary

THE GREAT PROMISE!!! Our Lady promised to assist all those who will practice the devotion of the first Saturday on five consecutive months with the graces necessary for salvation at the hour of their death.

OUR TEMPORARY MASS SCHEDULE:

St. Mark's: 5:30pm (Saturday - outdoor) and 9:00am (Sunday – indoor).

OLM: 7:00pm (Saturday – outdoor) and 9:15am (indoor), 10:45am and 12:15pm (indoor).

OUR ATTENDANCE AND WEEKLY COLLECTION RECENTLY IS VERY BAD. IF WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE MASSES AT DIFFERENT TIMES PLEASE LET ME KNOW. EVERY WEEK IT SEEMS WE HAVE LESS AND LESS PEOPLE COMING IN. ST. MARK'S IS IN OUR HANDS, IN YOUR HANDS.

GOOD NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE...

Our parish has received the final rebate from the 2019 Bishop's Annual Appeal. Your generosity to the 2019 Appeal is greatly appreciated.

St. Mark Parish:	
2019 Parish goal:	\$10,000.00
Cash Received as of June 30, 2020:	\$12,281.00
March 2020 Rebate:	\$768.00
Final June 2020 Rebate:	\$372.50

**TEACHING FROM THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH
THE SACRAMENTS OF THE CHURCH**

The Sacrament of Matrimony

The goods and requirements of conjugal love

My dear brothers and sisters, according to our Catechism "*Conjugal love involves a totality, in which all the elements of the person enter - appeal of the body and instinct, power of feeling and affectivity, aspiration of the spirit and of will. It aims at a deeply personal unity, a unity that, beyond union in one flesh, leads to forming one heart and soul; it demands indissolubility and faithfulness in definitive mutual giving; and it is open to fertility.*" In a word it is a question of the normal characteristics of all natural conjugal love, but with a new significance which not only purifies and strengthens them, but raises them to the extent of making them the expression of specifically Christian values.

The love of the spouses requires, of its very nature, the unity and indissolubility of the spouses' community of persons, which embraces their entire life: "*so they are no longer two, but one flesh.*" They "*are called to grow continually in their communion through day-to-day fidelity to their marriage promise of total mutual self-giving.*" This human communion is confirmed, purified, and completed by communion in Jesus Christ, given through the sacrament of Matrimony. It is deepened by lives of the common faith and by the Eucharist received together.

Also "*The unity of marriage, distinctly recognized by our Lord, is made clear in the equal personal dignity which must be accorded to man and wife in mutual and unreserved affection.*" Polygamy is contrary to conjugal love which is undivided and exclusive.

God bless you

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12

Solomon, realizing that he will succeed his father David as King of Israel and Judah, begs the Lord to give him wisdom and understanding in order to rule his people well. The Lord grants his request saying, "...there will come no one to equal you."

Second Reading: Romans 8:28-30

As heirs of God and heirs with Christ, we suffer in order to be glorified with Christ.

Gospel: Matthew 13:44-52

Jesus speaks again about the "reign of God," telling the parables of the buried treasure and the merchant's search for pearls. In each parable, Jesus emphasizes that the "reign of God" is more precious and valuable than any treasure.



We are working to bring you a new Christian Education Program. We will begin our program sometime in the fall, and will make online registration available as soon as we have the program ready to go. This year, the emphasis will be on safety, as we continue to serve families, with Catholic Faith instruction. We are aware of the challenges we face during this pandemic crisis, and are planning to make Christian Education available to our children and their families in an easy way, which can be enjoyed by everyone. Those who were registered in the program last year, will receive a message with the details of the program for the coming year, within the next few weeks. We welcome all those who are interested in participating, and details will be made available for those who have not been in Christian Ed. previously. Please enjoy summer as best and as safely as you can! Sue Reilly



Richard Alvarez, Tony Atkins, James Barone, Bob & Jeff Cheripka, Daria Cremonini, Brittany Cicchino, Carol DeAlvandres, Trisha Drechsel. Ann Geary, Sue Geary, Heidi L., Daniel Huntz, Suzy Ladlee, Vincent Lai, Mary McArdle, Denise Niessing, Girard Nolte, Jr., Rosemarie Picarelli, Christopher Popp, Tim Popp, John S, Don & Joyce Schmitt, George and Ann Senftinger, Fredrick Senftinger, Special Intention, Josh Winnker, Christopher Zeliff .



Earlier this month, our council received the Star council award for providing well-rounded service programs and activities benefitting the people and families of Long Valley and the parishioners of Our Lady of the Mountain, St. Mark and St. Luke. This prestigious award recognizing a council's outstanding achievement in membership, insurance and programming, is earned through conducting well-rounded programs and activities in the categories of church, community, family, culture of life and youth. It is the marker of a high performing Knights of Columbus unit and the goal to which every council strives. But it could not have been earned without your generous support. Thank you.

Reflection for the Week

It had long since come to my attention that people of accomplishment rarely sat back and let things happen to them. They went out and happened to things.

Leonardo da Vinci

We are an active council and have a lot to offer.

[Become a Knight](#)

www.lvkofo.org

COMMUNITY NEWS

Assumption College for Sisters, 200A Morris Avenue, Denville, NJ 07834...Is offering their fall classes beginning August 25-December 17 Theology and Philosophy Courses. \$516/course for credit and \$258/course for audit. For registration or information call 973-957-0188 Ext. 106 academicdean@aes350.org

