

Please Pray for...

All who have died these past weeks, especially Thomas Barnes. We offer our sympathy and our prayers to his family and pray that he will rest in peace.

Those who are sick in the hospital or recovering:

Fr. Martin Donahue, Mary Madden, Elaine Lamoureux, George Gouin, Peter Lacroix, Heather Harris, Simon Kibe, Jean Wheeler, Melanie Paquette, Al Shedyak, Stevie Day, Kathleen Bowen, Paul Masiello, Paul Provencher, Bernadette Pervier, Bob Peluso, Bill Keyes, Diane Cyr, Theresa Cassavant, Laurie Gablaski, Ann Gablaski, Addison Lacaire, Elizabeth Lemerise, Pat Benoit, Gloria Butler, Joyce Frigon, Laura Wynn, Carey Dubois, Raymond Brodeur, Dawn McDonald, Michael Kady, Bonnie Sheldon, Heather Lech, Joseph Nisel, Joseph Sauris, Cheryl Branham, Judy Wilson, Pauline Casavant, Jon Widdison, Lynn Desforges

OUR SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS JULY 22 & 23

Envelopes	\$4,571.00
Loose	\$ 547.66
Total collection	\$5,118.66
Number of envelopes	138
Mass Attendance	346

Thank you for your generous gifts this past weekend which enable us to continue to do God's work. May God bless you all. Please consider weekly or monthly online giving.

**PARTNERS IN CHARITY
WE MADE OUR GOAL!! THANK YOU!**

**FOOD PANTRY REQUEST FOR THIS WEEK
Ketchup & Mayonnaise**

PICNIC PICNIC PICNIC PICNIC PICNIC

Save the Date: We are planning a "Parish Picnic" for Sunday, September 10th beginning with an outdoor mass followed by a meal of Pulled Pork, Hamburgers, Hot dogs, Chili, Beans and Cold Salads and much more. We need a committee to get this Picnic off the ground, please see Sandy if you are interested in helping...

Volleyball Team Remaining Schedule:

7/31 @ 7:00 pm

vs St. Ann's, N. Oxford @ Greenbriar Park Courts

Eagle Scout Project: Zack Simons is looking for donations of dry erase markers for the white boards that were put up please call him at 508-981-5745

FIRST SATURDAY EUCHARISTIC EXPOSITION AUGUST 5, 2017 8:30AM - 4:00 PM

Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary: 8:00am. Confessions following Mass, Exposition starting at the end of Mass and continuing throughout the day until 4:00 pm. Confessions 3:00 – 3:50 pm. Benediction 4:00 pm. If you wish to participate there is a sign up sheet in the sacristy.

Outreach Ministry: Carol St. John visits and brings communion to the homebound and those in nursing homes. If you know of someone who needs a visit please call her at 508-885-3017 or 508-864-6323

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

Office hours: 10:00 – 5:00

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, only, from 10:00-5:00

Contact Judi at 508-885-3111 x 105 or jbrennan@parishmail.com

Faith Formation classes begin in September.

PLEASE REGISTER FOR NEXT YEAR NOW!!!!

Schedule for the 2017 – 2018 year will be:

Sunday	9:00 – 10:00	Grades K – 5
Sunday	5:30 – 7:00	Grades 9 – 11
Monday	4:45 – 6:00	Grades 2 – 5
Tuesday	7:00 – 8:15	Grades 6 – 8

Grades 2 – 5 will only have 1 class on Sunday morning and one class on Monday afternoon. First Come, First Serve

Faith Formation Needs for the Fall:

- High School Catechists 1 Sunday a month
- Someone to organize Prayer Partners for 2nd Grade and Confirmation Classes
- Someone to work w/ GLOW Youth Group implementing activities throughout the year.

"Deja New", Art, Antiques & Collectibles Vendor Marketplace will open on Wednesday, August 2nd from 1:00 - 7:00 pm in the St. Joseph's Rectory building in Leicester for its first season. In addition, a farmers market will be open from 3:00 – 6:00 that day. Stop in and check out our vendor products. All proceeds benefit the non-profit "24-7 Community Partnership" which will provide funds to programs for the needy, including the Leicester Food Pantry.

St. Joseph & St. Pius Church will be holding its Second Annual Estate Sale on August 4- 5th from 9 am to 1pm at the St. Joseph's church hall located at 759 Main Street in Leicester. We have dining room, living room, and bedroom and office furniture from several locations plus collectables. Cash only!!

Last Chance to help!!!

Catholic Charities' Southbridge Area Office is organizing its annual School Supply/Back Pack drive for local children. This year's goal is to service at least 200 children in grades 1 - 12. We will be leaving boxes out at the doors of the church for the next 4 week if you would like to donate. Items needed include: 3-ring binders, 1-3 subject notebooks, backpacks, book covers, calculators, colored markers, crayons, erasers, glue sticks, highlighters, pencils, pens, pocket folders, rulers and whiteout. There are flyers at the doors of the church for information. Supplies will be picked up by August 5th.

Prayer Shawl Ministry news: Next meeting will be Wed. August 2, 7:00 pm

Greater Worcester Opera will be presenting concerts this summer at Briarwood Retirement Community, Wednesday August 2. Come relax in the air conditioned hall and listen to talented area singers, you might even know some. Concerts are at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$10.00 at the door

A message from Fr. Bill

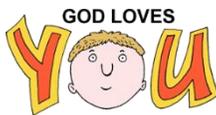
The Gospel according to Saint Matthew

After a long series of parables, this week's Gospel is composed of a twofold parable and the seventh or last parable that again takes up and nuances the parable where weeds were sowed amid the wheat. As to be expected, in the crowds of people who came out to hear what Jesus had to say, there was a variety of people. Their motivations were mixed and their intentions varied; thus, distinguishing between the good and the bad proved to be impossible. It goes without saying that Jesus could have sorted one group from the other and in certain circles that was what the Messiah of Israel would do. Now, of course, that ultimate judgment is inevitable and that Day of the Lord will be marked by the return of the Son of Man who will execute divine judgment. Nevertheless, Jesus does not forestall that fearful day because that final day is known only to God the Father. The present era—the time between Christ's ascension back into glory and the day the Son of Man comes—can be a time of sewing and reaping or, as in this passage, fishing time. Casting the net widely, the Church is a net that "collects fish of every [imaginable] kind". The eventual sorting, though, is destined to take place on the farther shore – then, and only then! This delay is meant to be an opportunity for all—a time not to be squandered. Jesus asks the disciples, "Do you understand all these things?" These parables are identified as parables of the kingdom. And, so, just like those who first heard them, Jesus asks us the same question, both then and now, "Do you know what they really mean?" While we would tend to say yes, as the earliest disciples did, there remains the issue concerning what sort of understanding Jesus is expecting? Then, even if we can give a conclusive answer to that question, this issue remains: How do you acquire it? This form of understanding is not intellectual; no, it requires spiritual intelligence. The humble and the lowly are those to whom God has given knowledge of these hidden mysteries and the grace necessary to act accordingly. These parables and their interior message can only become concrete practices through the action of the Holy Spirit, in other words, by means of prayer and/or meditation. In mulling their implications over, the result of grappling with them is that they chart out the Way or path through earthly life to life eternal. Listening intently, as the crowd did, will never yield knowledge of the kingdom. Instead, like those who were true disciples among that crowd, you must draw closer to Christ in order to receive from Him the proper explanation. In familiarizing yourself with who Christ truly is, by remaining by His side and within ear shot, then and only then, is their meaning clear and does someone become a real disciple of the Lord.

Fr. Bill

Please remember to return your August Calendar Raffles slips and money to the office, raffle starts on Tuesday!!!

Recruiting Ignation Volunteers: Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC) is open to men and women 50 years of age or better, who can commit to two days per week of service in parishes, schools and non-profit organizations working directly with people experiencing poverty or marginalization, or in the pursuit of social justice. The service commitment takes place over a ten month period, September through June. IVC is recruiting volunteers for the upcoming year. Persons interested in applying or for more information should email Dave Hinchon (dhinchon@ivcusa.org) for an application. IVC combines service with monthly spiritual reflection in community with other volunteers.



The 17TH Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Schedule

Saturday, July 29 4:30 pm Jason Bercume (25 th Anniv) & Zachary Fahey (1 st Anniv) by Kim, David, Evan & Liz
Sunday, July 30 8:00 am Therese Johnson by Celine Benoit 10:15 am Evelyn & Tom Harrington by Al & Mimi Shedyak
Monday, July 31 8:00 am
Tuesday, August 1 8:00 am 2:00 pm Howe Village Mass
Wednesday, August 2 8:00 am For the People of the Parish
Thursday, August 3 8:00 am
Friday, August 4 8:00 am No Mass Today
Saturday, August 5 4:30 pm Robert Morrison by his Wife & Family
Sunday, August 6 8:00 am For the People of the Parish 10:15 am Emile Lamoureux by Paul & David

Calendar of Events

Sunday, July 30	Coffee Shop OPEN
10:15 am	Children's Liturgy of the Word
Monday, July 31	
10:00 am	Food Pantry CLOSED
Tuesday, August 1	
6:00 – 8:00 pm	Volleyball Practice
Wednesday, August 2	
7:00 pm	Prayer Shawl Meeting
Thursday, August 3	
10:00 am	Food Pantry OPEN
Friday, August 4	
6:00 – 8:00 pm	Volleyball Practice
Saturday, August 5	
3:30 pm	Confessions
Sunday, August 6	Coffee Shop OPEN
10:15 am	Children's Liturgy of the Word

Pilgrimage to Grotto in Leicester

The Sisters of Mercy will host the annual Mass and Pilgrimage to Our Lady's Grotto at Nazareth in Leicester on the Feast of the Assumption, Tuesday, August 15. The Pilgrimage will begin at St. Joseph Church, 759 Main St. Leicester at 9:15 am. The rosary will be recited throughout the one mile walk to the Grotto at Nazareth Home for Boys. Mass will be celebrated at 10:00 am in the Grotto. Fr. James Mazzone will be the principal celebrant. The Pilgrimage is a tradition which the Sisters of Mercy began in 1901 and have continued each year since then. Visitors may pray at the Grotto before or after Mass and throughout the day.

July 30, 2017

