

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

JULY 26, 2020

From the priests' desks:

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Sacred Heart:

Our readings for today are all about choices. In the first reading (1 Kgs. 3:5, 7-12) King Solomon was invited by God to choose anything he wanted, and he would receive it. We are told that instead of riches, or long life, or getting rid of his enemies—the logical things any person might wish for—Solomon chose to ask instead for a wise and understanding heart that he might be able to distinguish right from wrong and so to properly fulfill his duties as king of Israel. We are further told that God was pleased with his choice and granted him not only what he asked for but even those things for which he did not ask, making him one of the most famous kings in history.

Our Gospel (Mt. 13:44-52) adds another dimension to the challenge of choosing, for it forcefully suggests something that we certainly already know: that the really valuable things in life are not always easily obtainable, but that they are worth the price we have to pay to get them. The person who found the buried treasure, the merchant who found a valuable pearl, each had to sacrifice what was less important in order to acquire what he or she really wanted. They made the sacrifice without hesitation and without regrets. Of course, from Jesus' point of view in the parables, both the pearl and the treasure represent faith—something which is never simply handed to us, something that doesn't just fall into our laps, but rather something we have to seek out, to discover through our own efforts, even though—as today's second reading (Rom. 8:28-30) reminds us—the grace of God accompanies us, always urging us on, always inviting and challenging us to knock, to seek, and to find. St. Augustine says in one of his most well-known prayers: "You have made us, Lord, for yourself and our hearts are restless until they rest in you." The problem is that sometimes we settle for second best, or we give up because the going gets too rough. Or perhaps we lose our way and accept an illusion instead of the reality. This is the essence of idolatry: Accepting a cheap substitute for the real thing or, as the Old Testament says so often, to embrace an image of gold or silver, wood or stone in place of the living God.

Faith, of course, is an invitation and a challenge to consider the reality of God and the will of God as factors that should ultimately influence all our decisions. Our decision—our choice—to be present in prayer (in person or at home) this weekend at Sacred Heart, to take time to listen to the Word of God, to receive the Eucharist with gratitude,

to renew our friendship with God and with one another, hopefully was not simply a mechanical one or a grudging one, but rather a decision based on a felt need to maintain and strengthen our connectedness, our bond, with the One who has given us our life, our freedom, and the motivation to say "Yes" to embracing values that will fulfill not just our present lives but our future hopes as well. In the midst of our sadness over the closing of Sacred Heart School, and the heartache it has caused to so many, may we at the same time rejoice with the children who are receiving their First Holy Communion this weekend and the second weekend of August; may they and their families receiving blessings from our Eucharistic Lord! And may this God of our faith and hope continue to inspire all of us to make wise decisions, life-giving decisions, decisions that will lead all of us to true and lasting happiness.

Fr. Michael Rafferty, OAR

Fr. John Gruben, OAR



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION July 25, 2020 CONGRATULATIONS

CATECHISTS:

Etel Conde, Myrian Montano, Jorge Montano
11:00AM

Enna Lara Perez	Ashley Lara Perez
Nelly Gutierrez Melchor	Heidy Rodriguez
Kaylee Gutierrez Melchor	Danny Castillo
Jahayra Silva Hernandez	Denzel Dominguez
Garry Flores	Junior Grajales
Gabriel Santamaria	Bryan Rosales
Daylyn Nayely Medina	Orlando Once

1:00PM

Jaycie Munoz	Karol Nielcen Gonzalez
Ashley Navarrete Lopez	Sheyli Melendez
Emily Najarro Fernandez	Elizabeth Quintuna
Sandy Avila Xil	Mia Matadamas
Giovanni Monje Villanueva	Allen Moreno
James Quintuna	Noel Sanchez
Emerson Penafiel	Brandon Marin Zurita

PHASE IV

Funeral Masses, Baptisms and Weddings are allowed. Reconciliation has begun again on Saturdays from 4 to 5pm in the Church library and will also be administered by appointment, please call the Rectory Office which is now open Monday through Thursday from 9am to 5pm, and Friday 9am to 2pm. Although permission has been granted for Church's to go to 50%, here at Sacred Heart we feel due to the layout of the building we would be unable to maintain the 6ft. distance still required for safety, so we are keeping our current seating arrangement but will now also have the Mass live streamed into the gym where social distancing can be maintained and more of our parishioners can attend Mass feeling more confident that no further exposure with increased numbers of people attending Mass. Communion will be brought to the gym.

Please remember, that because of the ongoing health crisis, the Cardinal has *dispensed* everyone from the Sunday Mass obligation, so if you are uncomfortable about being with a group, watching Mass and a spiritual communion is still in effect. Please observe the following when planning to attend:

+ If any member of your household has a fever, or is feeling ill, please remain at home.

+ If you have any pre-existing health conditions, you should remain at home at this phase.

+ Pews have been premeasured for seating with appropriate 6' social distancing in-between. Members of the same household may sit together. Available seating is marked with a green X.

+ Since seats will be filled-in as people arrive, there will be no choice of seating location.

+ Facial coverings (masks) must be worn to Mass.

+ To avoid contact, there will be no offertory procession or *exchange of peace* during the Mass.

+ The Sacred Host will be distributed in the hand only. For those who feel that receiving in the hand is unacceptable we ask that you wait to receive until the celebrant asks those who wish to receive on the tongue come forward. Please form a single line and observe the 6' social distance as you proceed down the center aisle. Disabled persons may remain seated.

+ Hand sanitizer dispensers are available on the walls of the church, and at the entrance

+ Entrance into the church is on the awning side of our building only.

+ Please exit again using social distancing due not bunch up please.

Fr. Michael Rafferty, OAR, Pastor

Fr. John Gruben, OAR, Assistant

PARISH CALENDAR

Monday, July 27

Mass at 9am

Tuesday, July 28

Mass at 9am

Wednesday, July 29

Mass at 9:00am

Thursday, July 30

Mass at 9:00am

Friday, July 31

Mass at 9:00am

Saturday, August 1-Rosary 12pm (live streamed)

Sunday, August 2

2020 - 2021 MASS BOOK

Due to the pandemic we still have almost 100 Masses open in the 2020 Mass Book. Therefore, we will not be opening the 2021 Mass book until Mid- August.

CARDINAL'S APPEAL 2020

Parishes are only as strong as its parishioners.

As you are aware a church's resources come only through the generosity of its parish family. When things start to return to normal parishes needing support through the Archdiocese can only get it through the funds the Appeal makes yearly. Please consider donating today. Bless you all and pray for an end to this virus. To date we have raised \$88,144.00 towards our goal of \$122,500.

SACRED HEART RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM REGISTRATION 2020-2021

Registration for all is now being taken. First Graders and New Registrants, please visit our website: www.sacredheartparish.org for forms and needed items for registering your child. There are also re-registration forms on the website under Religious Education, found in the drop-down menu at the top of the page. For further information please call 357-6044 or to receive registration forms via mail.

If you are uncomfortable about registering under the current pandemic, we do understand and want to make you aware that we will be providing an online course that will mimic in-class work until the current health issue is resolved. **Registering is required.**

A program for children with Special Needs is also available. Please supply us with a copy of your child's baptismal certificate for registration. Thank you.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

We welcome into the Roman Catholic Church and our Parish Community the following child who was recently baptized at Sacred Heart:

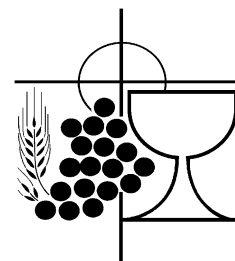
ALEENA LUIS

Daughter of Alyssa and Bismark



Please pray for those who are ill and have asked us to pray for them: Keith Alanis, Jenna

Applebaum, Theresa Anselmi, Michael Brady, Angie Clifford, Robert Conly, Comerford Family, Teresa & Tom Consolo, Mirella Cosentino, Joe Davey, Anthony DeFrancesco III, Matthew DeMayo, Cledha Desir, Mary Discini, John Duffy, David Eckert, Sr., Ginny Figula, Stefanie Gaudelli, Arlene Gentile, Joseph Gilson, Mark Goldman, Debra Gravina, Senan Halpin, Clement Hayes, Mr. Harris, Domenic & Anthony Iannaccone, Rob Incognoli, Bob Janson, Fran Janson, Anna Kasperska, Eileen Kennedy, Fred Lemoine, Elizabeth Lempka, Vasily Lockhart, Roberta Lynch, Laura Mack, Rosemarie Manthey, Matthew Luludis, Marie Marasuilo, Thomas Mathai, Jeanne Matera, Richard McCarthy, Rosemary McCormick, Debra McGovern, Catherine McMenamin, John McLoughlin, Jacob Mendelsohn, Ken Meyer, Florence Mohan, Mary Lou Oldfield Napolitano, Barbara Neilson, Robert Nunes, Thomas O'Connor, Jennifer O'Hara, Pat O'Neill, Nancy Overend, Daryl Pack, Shace Paljusevic, Noreen Pidgeon, Peter Princi, Etta Rooney, Claudia Spallanzani, Joseph Pasculli, (Baby Ty) Reilly, Michael Shumway, Jean Simons, Roberto Sorgo, Maureen Starke, Shaun Stein, Patricia Steiper, Janet Tamburro, Richard Vanadio, Barbara Veraldo Strano, Phyllis Varacalli, Kali Villela, Robert Vogt, Fr. Wing, and Vladimir Zaslavsky.



DAILY MASS WILL OCCUR AT

**9:00AM DAILY – (MONDAY – FRIDAY)
AND IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
SUNDAYS AT
8:30AM, 11:30AM AND 5:30PM
10:00AM – (SPANISH)**

**MASS WILL ALSO BE LIVE STREAMED ON OUR
WEBSITE:**

WWW.SACREDHEARTPARISH.ORG

SATURDAY, JULY 25 - VIGIL MASS

5:30pm – Salvatore Cambria/ Mary Ann Blanton

SUNDAY, JULY 26

8:30am – Guiseppe & Antonia Dominijanni/
Silvio Zucatti

10:00am – Spanish Mass

11:30am – Catherine E. Brennan / Rose Lopardo

5:30pm – Parish Memorial / All Parishioners

MONDAY, JULY 27

9:00am – Edward Frank / Andrew Statham

7:15pm – **NO Novena**

TUESDAY, JULY 28

9:00am – Joseph Mikulka

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29

9:00am – Doris Dawson/ Richard J. Lynch, Jr.

THURSDAY, JULY 30

9:00am – Alyse Adams (Witt)

FRIDAY, JULY 31

9:00am – Ed Keleman

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1

12:00pm – **HOLY ROSARY (LIVE STREAMED)**

SATURDAY, VIGIL MASS

5:30pm – Jessie Cici / Denis Davey

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2

8:30am – Francis Circelli / Benjamin Harvey

10:00am – Spanish

11:30am – Rosemarie DiNapoli / Carrin V. Holborn

5:30pm – Parish Memorial / All Parishioners

FOR OUR ARMED FORCES & FIRST RESPONDERS

OF ALL KINDS, AND OUR DOCTORS & NURSES

We pray for all the men and women serving our country AND especially the sons and daughters, grandchildren and loved ones of our parishioners.

ALTAR MEMORIALS

JULY 26, 2020

Sanctuary Lamp In Memory of

NICOLE SANTAMARIA



Let us pray for our deceased parishioners, and family members and loved ones:

Especially: **Roy Harris, Marie Miccio, Clara Gutierrez.**

BOOSTER CLUB

WEEK 23 – OWEN COSGROVE