

January 27, 2019

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

From the Desk of Rev. Fr. Anthony C. Ekanem, MSP:

How are your New Year's resolutions going? It's been nearly a month now. Have you been faithful to them? Did you make any in the first place? Are you ready to weep now, as the assembly in the first reading did, because you've fallen short or you find them too difficult? New Year's Day is an opportunity to change our habits. Ezra offered an opportunity to the people of Jerusalem by reading to them from the law. They had returned after generations in exile, so living according to the law was new to them. It was an opportunity to use guidance from God to live justly and virtuously, but it may have been overwhelming because it was new to them. Ezra had to encourage them to rejoice. Centuries later, the passage Jesus found in the synagogue provided a lot to be joyful about: glad tidings for the poor, liberty to captives, sight to the blind, freedom to the oppressed. What was new in this case was revealed when he told them, "Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing" (Luke 4:21). Now Jesus' ministry had begun. Jesus gave them—and gives us— a new opportunity, a new beginning, a new year, in fact, " a year acceptable to the Lord" (Luke 4:19). How can you make 2019 a year acceptable to the Lord?

Paul proclaims that the body is one. All the parts need the other, even those we might consider "lesser" or "unworthy." We are all part of the human family created by God. We can't choose who belongs and who doesn't. God has constructed the body to have the same concern for all, without division. There's the rub. Our world is filled with division and too many people still try to choose who belongs and who does not, we do the same at times, I'm sorry to say.

But just as the Israelites were told to celebrate their return from exile and allot portions to those who had nothing prepared. We must allot a portion of the love and care that God has for us to those whom we consider "nothing" or "less". Why? The same Spirit of the Lord who was upon Jesus is upon us. As difficult as it can be, part of my job is to continue fulfilling the Scripture passage proclaimed by Jesus and handed on to us. If one part of God's body suffers, all suffer. If one part is honored, all share its joy.

Marriages: In order to provide sufficient time for the Marriage Preparation Course, please call the parish office and ask to speak with the pastor at least six months in advance of the wedding.

Collection : Last Sunday, January 20, 2019 our weekly collection was \$2,307.00

2nd Collection: The 2nd collection last Sunday January 20th for our Organ Renovation collection was \$707.00 We would like to thank the Dominican Community for their Fundraising contribution from their feast of the Virgin of the Alta Garcia for \$571.00

Food Collection: Next Sunday February 3rd we will have our monthly food collection for the needy in our community—please remember them when you go grocery shopping this week—and as always thank you for your generosity in helping those less fortunate than ourselves .

Pope Francis: " The Spirit of God speaks freely to each person through feelings and thoughts. The Spirit cannot be confined with simple reasoning, but must be welcomed with the heart! "

Parish Membership: Every family or single adult to be considered active members of St. Mary's must be properly registered in the parish, receiving and regularly using the weekly donation envelopes. Only in this way can the parish issue documents attesting to parish membership and Catholic practice, e.g. a letter to be a Godparent or Sponsor. Also if you have moved and still want to continue as a parishioner of St. Mary's please stop by the office with your new address so that we may make the appropriate changes. Thank You

February 2019:

2nd Religious Education Classes **2nd Meeting of Confirmation Parents 11:30 am in the School Cafeteria ~ ALL PARENTS MUST ATTEND !**

9th Religious Education Classes ~ **Baptism 2:30 pm~ in the Church**

16th **No** Religious Education Classes

23rd Religious Education Classes

March 2019:

2nd Religious Education Classes ~**2nd Meeting for First Holy Communion 11:30 am School Cafeteria ~ ALL PARENTS MUST ATTEND!**

9th Religious Education Classes~ **Reconciliation for 2nd Grade 10:00 am in the Church**

16th Religious Education Classes~ **Communion Rehearsal 10:00 am**

23rd Religious Education Classes ~**Confirmation Rehearsal 10:00 am**

30th Religious Education Classes

Mass Schedule for the week of

January 27, 2019 to February 3, 2019

Mass are daily at 8:15 and 12:05 in English and in Spanish on Thursdays at 7:00pm

Below are the Special Intentions for this week

Sunday, January 27, 2019:

7:30 am— For the Parishioners

9:00 am— Joaquim Neto

Rita Lopez

11:00 am— Elizabeth Del Bene

Mary Ann Del Bene

Monday, January 28, 2019:

12:05 pm— Cesar Dominici

Julia Diaz

Tuesday, January 29, 2019:

12:05 pm— Vincenzo Trioli

Mary Ellen Scopino

Wednesday, January 30, 2019:

8:15 am—Ramon & Paula Navarro

Josefa Navarro

12:05 pm— Joseph Kattukaran

Family

Thursday, January 31, 2019:

12:05 pm—Vincenzo Trioli

Mary Ellen Scopino

Friday, February 1, 2019:

12:05 pm— Carl & Vee Motta

Son George Motta

7:00 pm— Sacred Heart of Jesus

Saturday, February 2, 2019:

5:00 pm— Mark Mc Feeley

Anthony Felicisimo

7:30 pm— Legion of Mary

Sunday, February 3, 2019:

7:30 am— For the Parishioners

9:00 am— Joaquim Neto

Rita Lopez

11:00 am— Julio P. Rodriguez

Julius Rodriguez & Family