



Dear Friends,

God is not a Mathematician. He is a Poet

Now, what do I mean by that? Before you rush to a conclusion, I ask that you please place my claim within a theoretical context. In simple terms, I think that God's action and response to human hubris, to our flaws, our sins, are not calculated, abstract and objective in their make-up. Instead, they are spontaneous, subjective, personal, hearty, and compassionate in their revelation. I am looking at this assertion from the theoretical framework of the Enlightenment versus Romanticism. To put it in a rather simplistic way, the former view life from a cold and calculated window while the latter sees it generally from a subjective and spontaneous vista. I think God's approach to human failures, to the enormous debt incurred by our sins, is better understood when we see him in the mold of a poet rather than a mathematician. Only the mind frame and subjective heart of a poet will instruct an offended person to "forgive not seven times, but seventy-seven times" (Matthew 18:22).

Peter wanted Jesus to clarify how far or deep forgiveness should go. Be mindful that Peter is coming from a worldview where revenge, a calculated payback, or counter-punching sensibility held sway. In that world, you hit back when someone hits you. There is no room for turning the other cheek or letting go of the offense, even if the guilty begs for forgiveness. Our modern world is no different from that world. We want to hurt back who hurts us; we want revenge. That is what many of us would do.

Joyfully, there are instances contrary to the norm to inspire us. I was still studying for my doctorate at the University of South Carolina in 2015 when the news broke that a young man walked into the historic AME Church in Charleston and gunned down nine of her members sharing the Word of God with him. Reactions from family members of those who lost their lives in the hate crime showed me the possibility of a Christ-like response to those who inflict evil on us. "I forgive you," says Felicia Sanders, a survivor, and mother of one of the victims of the senseless shooting. At the sentencing of the shooter, instead of allowing herself to be eaten up by hate, anger, and vengeful spirit, she chose to forgive the one who brought her a lifetime loss and pain. She adds, "that's the easiest thing I have to do. But you don't want to help somebody who don't want to help themselves (sic). May God have mercy on your soul."

If only we think of God's extravagant mercy in forgiving us the debt of sin against him that we can never pay up and allow our actions to be influenced by his when we confront those who hurt us, the world will look more like the Creator intends it. Jesus says to the unforgiving servant and he says to us too, "I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to. Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?" (Matthew 18: 33). Such an act of mercy can only come from a God who is a poet, not a mathematician. So, is forgiving those who offend you the easiest thing you have to do? Is your approach that of a poet or a mathematician towards those who commit crimes against you?

As we celebrate the feasts of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross and Our Lady of Sorrows this week, let us ask for the grace to carry the cross of heartfelt forgiveness and share in the liberating sorrows of Our Lady of Sorrows.

Yours in Jesus of Extravagant Mercy,

Fr. Bernard Oniwe, OP



**MASS
INTENTIONS**

DAILY MASS: HISTORIC CHURCH (HC)

WEEKEND MASSES: CHURCH (C) & PARISH HALL (PH)

SAT, SET 12 VIGIL

5:00 PM For the Health & Well Being of our Parish
Family & Nation (C)

SUN SEPT 13

8:30 AM Rick Knowlton (C) Ann Shank

10:30 AM Doug Pfautz (C) Liz Pfautz

MON, SEPT 14

8:00 AM Norman Molz (HC) Millie Mealey

TUE, SEPT 15

8:00 AM Rita Burns (HC) Bill Yovanavich

WED, SEPT 16

8:00 AM Edward Miller (HC) Betty O'Neill

THUR, SEPT 17

8:00 AM Carmine Taglieri (HC) Bereavement

FRI, SEPT 18

8:00 AM Catherine McGinty (HC) CCW

SAT, SEPT 19 Vigil

5:00 PM Theo Greenly (C) Greenly Children

SUN SEPT 20

8:30 AM Brian Savage (PH) Desjardins Family

10:30 AM For the Health & Well Being of our Parish
Family & Nation (C)



Altar Flowers

Altar Flowers

In Celebration of

Pat & Mike Minick' s Wedding Anniversary

Given by the Minick Family

~

The Blessed Mother Flowers

Are in Loving Memory of

Dolores Ryan

Given by the Randy & Dolores Reidenbach

&

The St Joseph Flowers

Are In Loving Memory of

Maurice Cusatis

Given by the Vertucci Family

OUR SANCTUARY CANDLES ILLUMINATE THIS WEEK FOR:



~ HISTORIC CHURCH ~

In Celebration of
Pat & Mike Minick' s Anniversary

Given by the Minick Family

~ CHURCH ~

In Loving Memory of

Dolores Ryan

Given by Randy & Dolores Reidenbach

In Memoriam

~ **Vincent Fultano** ~

Grandson of Joyce & Ben Myers

~ **Gary Bright** ~

Husband of Teri Bright

**"Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them O Lord, and Let
Perpetual Light Shine Upon Them. May All of the
Faithful Departed, Through the Mercy of God,
Rest in Peace. Amen."**

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger,
and rich in compassion.** Are you
following in Jesus' footsteps? Pray for
the grace to forgive. (Psalm 103). If God
may be calling you to the priesthood or
consecrated life, visit our website at
www.hbgdiocese.org, call Father
Jonathan Sawicki at (717) 657-4804, or
write: frjsawicki@hbgdiocese.org.



Roman Catholic
Diocese of Harrisburg

THANK YOU
TO OUR BULLETIN SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

**BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
Homesale Realty**

Lethea Myers Parishioner
717-367-3866 or 717-572-9513

Scripture Readings
Week of September 13, 2020

Sunday	Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Sir 27:30—28:7; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12; Rom 14:7-9; Mt 18:21-35
Monday	Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross Nm 21:4b-9; Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38; Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17
Tuesday	Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows 1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a; Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5; Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35
Wednesday	Memorial of Saints Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs 1 Cor 12:31—13:13; Ps 33:2-3, 4-5, 12 and 22; Lk 7:31-35
Thursday	Saint Robert Bellarmine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church 1 Cor 15:1-11; Ps 118:1b-2, 16ab-17, 28; Lk 7:36-50
Friday	1 Cor 15:12-20; Ps 17:1bcd, 6-7, 8b and 15; Lk 8:1-3
Saturday	Saint Januarius, Bishop and Martyr 1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49; Ps 56:10c-12, 13-14; Lk 8:4-15
Sunday	Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Is 55:6-9; Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18; Phil 1:20c-24, 27a; Mt 20:1-16a

Do you have 30 minutes you can spare to help sanitize pews after two weddings??? We need help on Saturday, September 26th at 3:30 and Sunday, September 27th following 10:30 Mass. If you can help please call the Parish Office, 717-367-1255. **Thank you**



MASS ATTENDANCE

SEPTEMBER 5/6 2020

Saturday Vigil Mass
5:00 - 88
Sunday Masses
8:30 - 101
10:30 - 104
Streaming - 172 Views



September 5/6, 2020

SUNDAY ONLINE	\$ 5,703.00
ENVELOPES	\$ 7,048.14
TOTAL SUNDAY	\$ 12,751.14
SAINT VINCENT DEPAUL	\$ 15.00

“YOUTH MESSAGES OF STEWARDSHIP & TALENT”

“I peeled potatoes for my Dad”

“I got ice for my sister.”

“At school, I helped a boy who fell.”

+++++

**GROWING OUR FAITH & STRENGTHENING
OUR MINISTRY CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

TOTAL AMOUNT PLEDGED: \$2,105,144.48

TOTAL PAID TO DATE: \$ 1,779,202.37

TOTAL DUE: \$ 325,942.11

Thank you for your continued support!

SPECIAL COLLECTION

A special Collection will be taken up on the weekend of September 19 & 20 for those impacted by Hurricane Laura and other natural disasters. The funds collected will support the USCCB Bishops Emergency Disaster Fund. As Archbishop Gomez, President of the USCCB, states in a letter: “The funds collected in this special appeal will become part of the Bishops Emergency Disaster Fund and will be used to support the efforts of Catholic Charities USA and/or Catholic Relief Services, the official relief agencies of the U.S. Catholic Church, as they and their local agencies respond to immediate emergency needs for such necessities as water, food, shelter, and medical care, and aid in long-term rebuilding and recovery efforts; and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops for pastoral and reconstruction needs of the Church.” Bishop Gainer commented, “Just a few years ago I had the privilege of preaching the annual retreat to the priests of the Lake Charles Diocese. I was very impressed by their zeal and dedication. Now they and the people they serve need our help. I realize that the pandemic has impacted our families and parishes but I know the generosity of our Catholic faithful and trust that our sacrifices will not go unrewarded.” **Please be generous.**

- New Registration
- Change of Address
- Moving out of Parish
- Want Envelopes No Envelopes

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Street: _____ Email: _____

New Parishioners: If you are new in the area of our Parish, we invite you to register as members. Please drop this information into the Offertory Basket or mail to Parish Office.



YOU ARE INVITED

WHAT? R.C.I.A. (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

RCIA is a program designed to help non-Catholics and non-practicing Catholics learn more about Catholicism through a series of classes, discussions, prayer times and ceremonies. This program helps people grow in faith and knowledge of God as they consider becoming Catholic.

Meet and Greet

Join Us Tuesday, September 15 at 7:00pm

You can **REGISTER TODAY** by completing the form below or call Vicky Kern at 717-439-7955 or the Parish Office at 717-367-1255.

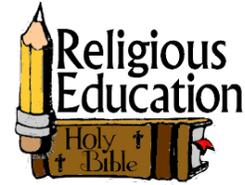
I am interested in learning more about the Catholic Church in the RCIA program. (Please print)

Name: _____

Home Phone: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____



Online registration for the 2020-2021 Religious Education school year will open on the parish website on September 21. Families will have a choice between in person instruction or online instruction, and classes are tentatively planned to begin mid October. Due to the pandemic, there will be necessary changes and requirements that we must implement in order to keep everyone safe. We thank you for your patience and humbly ask for your prayers for this ministry and all who are participating in Religious Education.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEEDS

In these challenging and unprecedented times, it is more important than ever to keep the momentum of our Religious Education program going. That being said, there are still opportunities to help in this ministry. **Our biggest need right now is for a Co-Catechist for 1st and 8th Grade.** Our 8th Grade class is preparing for Confirmation this year, and it would be WONDERFUL to have a TEAM of adults working together in this class to help students meet requirements and to guide small group discussions. Materials and support are provided. *Anyone interested in helping may begin the process of obtaining or renewing clearances as outlined on the Diocesan website.* **PLEASE consider being a part of this amazing ministry!**

Contact Georgann Azzalina at cre@stpeteretown.org if interested and/or want to learn more.

Shoe Drive Fundraiser for Brittany's Hope

We're excited about our latest fundraiser **because you don't have to buy ANYTHING!** We're collecting gently worn, used and new shoes to **raise money for food relief for abandoned children in Kenya.** Not only do you help us, but the shoes also get a second life with those in need. **It's a double donation!**

We want your shoes! We're collecting gently worn, used and new shoes and we need your help. **We're looking for all types of shoes: children and adult shoes, sneakers, boots, dress shoes, sandals, athletic and casual shoes.** Brittany's Hope receives money for our cause and the shoes are repurposed through Funds2orgs.

Our goal is **5,000** (or more!) pairs of shoes and the collection runs now through **September 30, 2020.**



Shoes may be dropped off at the back porch at the Brittany's Hope office at **1160 N Market St. Elizabethtown, PA 17022.** For info about the organization visit www.Brittanyshope.org

GOD'S HOUSEKEEPERS

Saturday, September 19, 2020

Pati Stark, Marilyn Kroesen, Betty O'Neill Theresia Treadway & Anita Paynter

Thank you for keeping our Church beautiful!!

Get Out of Your Car - Get Your Timing Bib
Run Your Race - Get Back In Your Car
Results Emailed & Prizes Mailed



Saturday, September 19

7:30 am - 11:00 am

Stone Gables Estate

Brittanyshope5K.org