

HIS WORD TODAY
by Rev. William J. Reilly

**Twenty-first Sunday
in Ordinary Time
August 22, 2021**

“When they stood in ranks before God, Joshua addressed all the people. ‘If it does not please you to serve the Lord, decide today who you will serve, the gods your fathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose country you are now dwelling. As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.’ ...Many of the disciples who were listening said, ‘This is a hard saying, who can accept it?’”

Joshua, the successor of Moses, challenged the people. How often in the scriptures we come to moments of great decision. Mary was asked to be the Mother of God. She said yes. Peter and the apostles were summoned to leave the fishing industry and tax collectors booth. Saints and Martyrs throughout the ages, made their heroic decisions. Missionaries traveled to bring the gospel to others. Now it is my turn.

Surely, as the hymn says, ‘We have decided to follow Jesus.’ But do we only when it is convenient? In moments of stress, or at the time to make a moral decision, what wins, convenience and ease or witness and commitment? Maybe we should begin by realizing that the Christian life is a challenge, supported by God’s gift of grace, allowing us to make a firm decision to improve.

The Christian life is not to be a life of comfort, but it is comforting to know that Jesus Christ supports my decision to follow.



CHURCH OF ST. DENIS

MANASQUAN, NEW JERSEY

STAFF

Reverend William J. P. Lago, Pastor
Reverend James Burke, Weekend Assistant
Rev. Joseph Miele, Weekend Assistant
Rev. Lewis Papera, Weekend Assistant
Mr. George R. Kelder, Jr., Deacon
Mr. Gary J. Pstrak, Deacon

Mrs. Eileen Ziesmer, Pastoral Associate
Mr. Mark Mataranglo, Director of Music Ministry
Sr. Mary Guyer, SSJ
Mr. Ralph Cabrera, Trustee
Mr. Robert Butler, Trustee

BEACH CHAPEL	554 East Main Street		
RECTORY	90 Union Avenue	732-223-0287	FAX 732-528-1901
CONVENT	117 Virginia Avenue		732-292-0772
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE	119 Virginia Avenue		732-223-1161
ST. DENIS CONFERENCE OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY			732-223-1383
CHURCH E-MAIL ADDRESS		st.denis@verizon.net	
PASTOR'S E-MAIL ADDRESS		wlago@dioceseoftrenton.org	
WEB PAGE ADDRESS		http://www.churchofstdenis.org	



MASS SCHEDULE:

Weekday Masses: 7:30 AM (Mon.-Tues.-Wed.-Fri.) – St. Denis Church
Saturday: 8:30 AM – St. Denis Church
Saturday Evening: 4:30 PM (fulfills Sunday obligation) - St. Denis Church
Sunday: 8:00 AM & 9:30 AM - St. Denis Church
Mass is shown on the Parish Facebook Page each weekend.
Sunday: 10:00 AM - Our Lady Star of the Sea Chapel
Holy Days: See bulletin or website for schedule

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: *By appointment only.*

MIRACULOUS MEDAL DEVOTIONS: Tuesday morning after the 7:30 AM Mass-St. Denis Church

BAPTISM: The sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Parents must complete the required preparation with the Pastoral Associate and obtain godparent eligibility letters before a date for Baptism will be given. Please call the rectory for further details.

MARRIAGE: Please contact the rectory office for more information about weddings. All couples contemplating marriage are asked to give the priests one year prior notice in order that all the requirements for marriage can be satisfied. Do not reserve the reception hall before contacting the church; your requested date may not be available.

CARE OF THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND: We will gladly bring Holy Communion to anyone who is ill or otherwise unable to get to Mass. Please call the rectory to make arrangements. The priests and deacon make regular visits to the local hospitals. Please call the rectory if any loved one is hospitalized.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL: At such times of deep pain and loss, we seek to offer our bereaved families comfort and hope as they commend their loved ones to God. Please note that, in accordance with Church regulations, eulogies are not permitted during Funeral Masses.

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS: Monday-Thursday 8:30 AM-12:00 noon & 1:00 PM- 4:30 PM, Friday 8:30 AM- 12:00 noon only. There are no office hours on Saturday & Sunday. Evenings are by appointment only.

NEW PARISHIONERS: Welcome! We encourage new families moving into the area to stop in or call the rectory to arrange for registration.

CELIAC SPRUE PARISHIONERS – Saint Denis provides a low gluten (<0.01% gluten content) host. Parishioners who are gluten-intolerant should see a deacon or priest prior to the start of Mass in order to be included in the reception of the Eucharist.

VISIT US ON FACEBOOK- Saint Denis Parish Facebook page: www.facebook.com/churchofstdenis. You don't need to have a Facebook account to read parish news and updates, but would need one to leave comments and feedback.



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, August 21, 2021

8:30 am Elizabeth Preston by the Prince Family
 8:30 am Thomas S. Coyle by the Vernaglia Family
 8:30 am Pauline Hayden by Mark & Martina Fox
 4:30 pm Russell Hilbert by his Wife
 4:30 pm Luke Wade by MCW
 4:30 pm Estelle Spillane
 by the Lay Carmelite Community of St. Dominic's

Sunday, August 22, 2021

8:00 am Frank Lineberry by Tom & Pat Coyle
 8:00 am Joan Tighe by Jim
 8:00 am Regina Sullivan by Bill & Jeanne Buble
 9:30 am For the People of the Parish
 10:00 am Nicholas Huth by Clare & Dan McAloon
 10:00 am Edward Reuter by the Berry Family
 10:00 am Teresa Beriont by Kathy Fenimore

Monday, August 23, 2021

7:30 am James Ward by the Ward Family
 7:30 am Matthew Guerriero by Lynn & Kevin Reynolds
 7:30 am Philip D. Brennan by Maureen & Philip White

Tuesday, August 24, 2021

7:30 am Patricia O'Keeffe by her Family
 7:30 am Nick Sciarappa by the Winterstella Family
 7:30 am Bob Halmi by MCW

Wednesday, August 25, 2021

7:30 am Jeremiah Gorman by the Gorman Family
 7:30 am Greg Deppeler by Margaret Heinrich-Hand
 7:30 am Jim Maywalt by his Friends at 7:30 am Mass

Thursday, August 26, 2021

No Mass

Friday, August 27, 2021

7:30 am Intentions of MCW by MCW
 7:30 am Emil DeJacomio by his Mother & Family
 7:30 am Jim Maywalt by Gene Bialas

Saturday, August 28, 2021

8:30 am Nancy Fox-Kyser by Kathy & Ray Bloetjes
 8:30 am John Robert Greco by Jane & John Terins
 8:30 am Kathleen Smith by the Lynch Family
 4:30 pm Bill Driscoll by Theresa Driscoll
 4:30 pm Rose & Jack Feeney by the Family
 4:30 pm Thomas Tanis by Mary & Charles Kavanagh

Sunday, August 29, 2021

8:00 am For the People of the Parish
 9:30 am Staci Anne Thornton by the Hickey Family
 9:30 am Nicholas Huth by James & Margaret Fagen
 9:30 am George & Margaret Samra
 by Michelle & Steve Schneider
 10:00 am Eugene Bejot by Jeanne & Bill Buble
 10:00 am Johnny Mazooka by Christine Elil
 10:00 am Christine Shaffer by Colleen & Rich Vermeulen

LOW-GLUTEN HOSTS – Those in need of these specially approved Communion hosts at Mass are invited to receive from the deacon (if present at Mass) or the priest. Look for the small cup attached to the minister's ciborium, in order to receive the sacramental Body of Christ with a low-gluten host.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE DECEASED especially Dennis Lafferty and Joan Sgherza.



MASS INTENTIONS for the weekend, as well as the coming week, can be found on our parish website on Friday mornings www.churchofstedenis.org



especially Mary Moran, Steve Ford, Elizabeth Ann Linden, Peggy Andrich, Mary Damico, Eileen Byrne, Amanda Castro, Dolores Palmisano, Holly Boyd, Mary Conlon, Albert Wood, Maiya Andrews, Velma Andrews, Katie Holbrook, Claire Meachum, Mike Pierce, Thomas Hayes, Jr., Thomas Evans, Catherine O'Connor, Edith Bean, Phyllis Van Salders, Joanne Panzarella, Taryn Rotondi, Kathy Wicks, Michael McNulty, Mary Jane Schaaf, Lisa Pirrello, Joseph Bick, Mary Collins, Robert Kelleher, Stephen Byrne, Denise Frank, Marie Tashjian, Angeline Hart, Cathleen Brenner, Nick Ljuljana, Sue O'Connor, Baby Cayden Joseph, Thomas Fahey, Baby Kelly Grace, Nair Messias, Jennifer Noble, Scarlet Slotnick, Belle & Ashton, Karen Brown, Elizabeth Morgan, Frank Lopez, Christina Roundtree, Eugene Karpinski, Charlotte Pentek, Phillip Graceffa, Christian Russo, Rose DeMarco, Dee Vulgaris, Michael McGonigle, Baby Evelyn Mizer, Herbert "Butch" Wolfe, Leanna Rawson, Nannette Forkan, Nicole Giambone, Lisa Dunfee, Albert J. Cifelli, Brian Alberse, Stanley Bevan, Windell Rainey, Sadie Svenson, Barbara Magda, Paul Tuyp, Nancy Murphy, Bernadette Bevan, George Leonard, Teresa Hayes, Jeanne Hayes, Irene Hayes, Ronnie Micciulla, Cindy Tomkins, Joseph Fiamingo, Baby Colton Gardella, Anita McCudden, Catherine Kelleher, Baby Siena Grace Pizzillo, Samara Pirrong, Donna Schwear, Helen McGowan, Karen Williams, Timothy Michal Przywara, Christopher Kurtanick, Wes Pal, Neil O'Callaghan, Siobhan Vuono, Linda Lowery, Tanner Koch, Linda Custode, Marty Pirrong, Bridget Korn, Vincent Azzollini, Scott Burdett, Joan Lipscomb, Baby Lucy, Stephen Whyte, Christine Fields, Chris Faraca, Kathy Larkin, Gordon Justin, Jim Kazenmayer, Frank Meidenbauer, Sean Campbell, Joel Rivera, Jimi Hood, Al Ricciardi, Eileen Beesley, Beverly Heinz, Pauline Naturile, Haley Keating, John Fossani, Donna Morgan, Bill Koch, Doris Abruzzo, Sandy Heitner, Randy Farmer, Joseph Pastore, Christine Coburn, Julianna Grusso, Frank Dugan, Lori Hurd, John Gondek, Lois Borton, William Liao, Marylee Monsell, Norma Friel, Tony Picinich, the Borgias, Patricia Wolfe, Marian Keefe, David Smith, Marie Woodrow, Elizabeth Clos, Reverend Joseph Miele, Gail Fallon, William Pavincich, Patsy Pindar, Lois Brookes, Andrew Chermack, Mark Clarkin, Duane Danish, Hank Przybylowski, Michael Martone, Werner Ziesmer, the Nesbitts and the Campbells.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS-

The month of August invites us to commemorate the witness of charity exemplified by Blessed Michael McGivney. In her wisdom, the Church placed his feast day (Aug. 13) between the day of his birth on earth (Aug. 12, 1852) and his entrance into eternity (Aug. 14, 1890). Pope Francis spoke about Father McGivney's witness to the universal Church in remarks the day after his beatification, "Dedicated to evangelization, he did everything possible to provide for the needs of the needy, promoting mutual aid. May his example be an impetus for us to witness ever more to the Gospel of charity" (Angelus Remarks, Nov. 1, 2020). As we celebrate Blessed Michael McGivney's witness to the Gospel of charity, may we show a similar impetus to those in need around us. In his Nov. 1 remarks, Pope Francis reminded the Church of the evangelical path taken by the saints and blessed: "Choosing purity, meekness and mercy; choosing to entrust oneself to the Lord in poverty of spirit and in affliction; dedicating oneself to justice and peace — all this means going against the current world's mindset, in respect to the culture of possession, of meaningless fun, of arrogance against the weakest." May Blessed Michael McGivney stir anew in us the charity that evangelizes. All men of the parish are invited to join the Knights of Columbus and continue the tradition of many men of faith in witness to Jesus through "charity that evangelizes." Please contact the parish office for more information.

WALKING WITH PURPOSE

Ladies, You were raised in the Catholic Faith. You are raising your children in the Catholic Faith. **But do you really understand YOUR faith?**

Walking with Purpose (WWP) is a women's study that dives into the Catholic faith in a way that is not intimidating or overwhelming. WWP will reveal your Catholic faith in a new way—giving you the answers and tools you need to raise your family in a world of uncertainty.

At WWP, we are moms too and we totally get it— life is crazy, raising a family these days is hard. At WWP we learn how to face life's uncertainties and "walk" through life with peace, joy, and purpose.

JOIN US FOR A WWP SUMMER SAMPLE.

Join us for one or both gatherings: August 24 & 31 7pm-8pm, St. Denis (School Building Cafeteria) Books provided. No cost, simply Open Your Heart.

Please call the rectory at 732-223-0287 to sign up. (Full WWP Study starts in October-- go to www.wwpnjshore.com for info.

MOVING? Please inform the rectory office if you are moving out of the area or if you have a change of address, so the envelope company can be notified. Thank you!



August 8, 2021

Weekly Collection- \$12,985.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY !

Are you willing to help our children be all they can be?

CATECHISTS/TEACHERS NEEDED AT DIFFERENT GRADE LEVELS FOR FALL RELIGIOUS ED.

Also, program volunteers for the office and hall monitors.

It's time for us to plan for Religious Education and recruit catechists for September.

Is the Holy Spirit calling you?

Please take some time to discern God's call to minister to our parish children and help build their faith and encounter Jesus!

Religious Education (CCD) classes are held on Mondays and Tuesdays, also on Sunday mornings, 2X a month.

GRADES AND DAYS NEEDED

MONDAY 4:15-5:30 pm

First Grade, Fourth Grade and Fifth Grade

MONDAY NIGHT 6:30-7:45 pm

Sixth Grade, Seventh Grade and Eighth Grade

TUESDAY 4:15-5:30 pm

First Grade, Second Grade and Fourth Grade

SUNDAY MORNINGS- 2X a month

First Grade, Fourth Grade and Seventh Grade

Contact the Religious Ed Office (732) 223-1161 or office@stdeniscd.com

You will grow in your own faith, learn the teachings of the Church, and deepen your relationship with Jesus.

Children, in today's world, more than ever, need to hear the Good News of Jesus and encounter role models of the faith.

SPORTS EQUIPMENT DRIVE- A sports equipment drive will be held from August 29th to September 4th. A collection bin will be placed on the front porch of the rectory office where you can donate any and all sports equipment. The goal of this drive is to help the underprivileged children of Monmouth County receive both the physical and mental benefits of sports. Thank you.

DIOCESAN RESPECT LIFE WEBSITE- Please visit the Respect Life website of the Diocese of Trenton at respectlifetoday.org. You will obtain important information concerning respect life issues in our diocese and our world.

GIVING THANKS FOR GOD'S BLESSINGS- Did you know that this August marks the 140th anniversary of the Diocese of Trenton? In 1881, Pope Leo XIII established the Diocese of Trenton to serve the Catholics of the southern part of New Jersey and named Father Michael J. O'Farrell of New York as its first bishop. At the time, the Diocese had 68 churches, 23 parochial schools and 51 priests spread out across Burlington, Mercer, Monmouth and Ocean Counties, as well as all of the territory that is now part of the Dioceses of Camden and Metuchen. For more on the history of the Diocese, go to dioceseoftrenton.org/our-history, and watch for a special feature in the August issue of The Monitor Magazine and on TrentonMonitor.com.



We welcome into our parish family the following children who were brought to the Lord through the Sacrament of Baptism:

Quinn Casey Moore
Clare Elizabeth Spinosa
Rory Edward Stanley

May the grace of the sacrament remain with them always.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT takes place First Fridays, from noon to 1:00 pm in the church. We look forward to the beautiful prayer of presence with our Lord.

GREETINGS FROM THE GRANDPARENTS' GUILD—Members of the Grandparents' Guild are truly motivated to move forward in our efforts to reach out to our faith community. We continue to share our vocation of passing our Catholic faith onto our grandchildren by modeling a Christian way of life. We welcome all seniors to embrace our vocation as well. The Grandparents' Guild is seeking those of you that may not necessarily be grandparents, but have long served as models of Christian devotion, to join us. We meet on the 2nd Sunday of every month. "You are needed in order to help build, in fraternity and social friendship, the world of tomorrow... There is no retirement age from the work of proclaiming the Gospel and handing down traditions to your grandchildren." (Pope Francis) Come and join us in this most important ministry. We ask the intercessory prayers of Saints Anne and Joachim for continued blessings in our mission.

BISHOP'S ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS—Couples celebrating their 1st, 25th or 50+ wedding anniversary during the 2020 or 2021 calendar year are invited to share the Eucharist, reaffirm your sacred wedding vows, and receive Bishop O'Connell's Episcopal Blessing. Anniversary Couples from Burlington and Mercer Counties may attend the Sunday, October 3, 2021 Mass and Blessing at 3 pm at St. Mary Cathedral in Trenton. Couples from Ocean and Monmouth Counties may attend the Mass and Blessing at the Co-Cathedral of St. Robert Bellarmine in Freehold on Sunday, October 10, 2021 at 3 pm. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, attendance at Mass is limited but both events will be livestreamed. Couples may register through their parish or online pending approval of their parish. For more information or to register online go to www.dioceseoftrenton.org/bishops-anniversary-blessing. The registration deadline for all anniversary couples is **September 15, 2021**.



St. Vincent De Paul Society's Food Pantry at St. Denis Church Phone: 732-223-1383

Location: Msgr. O'Connor Hall
(lower level of church)

There is curbside pick-up of prepackaged food with social distancing.

Questions or special food needs?

Please call our hotline number at 732-223-1383

Pantry hours:

Tuesdays: 1PM – 3PM and
3rd and 4th Saturdays from 10AM – 12 noon

Items needed at this time:

Vinegar, instant white rice, & black pepper
Thank you for your generous donations!



**WEEK OF AUGUST 22, 2021
IN LOVING MEMORY OF**

**VERONICA PFEIFER
REQUESTED BY FRAN & PAUL WEEKS**

HEALING THE WOUNDS OF ABORTION—The psychological and spiritual wounds of abortion can be sharp, deep and crippling. You may feel a deep numbness and may not be able to name the pain or recognize any of the symptoms. It can also have a devastating impact on the father or grandparents of the aborted child and friend/s of the mother. You do not have to continue to hide in shame and fear. Rachel's Vineyard's Retreat is a chance to focus on this painful time in your life through a supportive non-judgmental process, in an atmosphere of confidentiality, understanding, and compassion. It is designed to help both women and men experience the mercy and compassion of God. If you have suffered through an abortion and have isolated yourself from healing and forgiveness, you might consider attending one of our retreat weekends. For more information, call 732-536-6871. All inquiries are strictly confidential. 2021 Weekend Retreat-August 27-29, 2021.

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER— Please join in a tribute to Father Paul Engel for 54 years of dedication as founder of Downey Side Adoption Agency. The celebration will take place on Thursday, September 9, 2021, 6:00-10:00 pm, at the Lobster Shanty Sunset Ballroom, Channel Drive in Point Pleasant Beach. There will be dinner, cocktails, dancing, a silent auction, a 50/50 raffle and gifts. Tickets are \$100 per person. Please call the rectory office at 732-223-0287 for information on how to purchase tickets.

**THE SOCIETY OF
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**



In the Gospel, Jesus once asked, "Who are you looking for?" It could be asked, "What are you looking for?" Perhaps it is happiness we seek, but sometimes we are looking for happiness in selfish ways. However, we also find that when we look for ways to make others happy or a bit more secure, it is then that we become truly happy and witness God's love. The Vincentian Society witnesses God's love by embracing all works of charity and justice. The Society collaborates with other people of good will in relieving need and addressing its causes. As you give your gift or your time to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, know that you are a sign of God's love to those who are suffering, and you give them reason to believe and trust.

If you have an interest in learning more about helping those in need, **come to the Society's next meeting on Wednesday, September 15, 2021 at 7:00 pm in the cafeteria of the school building.**

If you need assistance, please call the St. Vincent de Paul hotline at 732-223-1383.



Summer Bible Series- Summer... a time to bask in the sun and bask in the Word of God in a more relaxed pace. Join in the following opportunity. This offering will be held twice, so choose which time works best for you – 11am or 7pm, Bring your Bible! Tuesday, 24 August: “Canticles and Prayer: Part 2” – In this final installment of our Lutheran/Catholic Dialogue, join Fr. Bill at the St. Denis Cafeteria for a further look at two other Canticles from the Bible – The Canticle of Zechariah (*Benedictus*) and The Canticle of the Three Young Men in the Fiery Furnace (*Benedicite Dominum*). We’ll look at them in their context of the Bible and their use in liturgical/personal prayer.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES GUARDIAN ANGEL BENEFIT OF HOPE-

Each year Catholic Charities serves over 100,000 people in the diocese. This annual event honoring community partners who help to inspire and give hope to so many is scheduled for September 9th from 6-7:30 pm. Due to Covid19, the Gala will again be virtual, and all parishioners are invited to attend at no cost. On September 9th, click on www.catholiccharitiestrenton.org/Gaboh2021 to hear a former client’s inspiring success story, enjoy the entertainment, join the silent action, and honor Catholic Charities’ friends from each county in the diocese.

Catholic Charities assists with food, housing, drug addiction, domestic violence, and immigration services. If you know of a parishioner who needs help, please call 800-360-7711 or contact www.catholiccharitiestrenton.org.

ITALIAN FESTIVAL- The Church of Epiphany invites all to its *Feast of the Assumption Italian Festival at the Jersey Shore*, August 19-22, 2021, 5-10 pm. The festival takes place on the church grounds at 615 Thiele Road in Brick. Admission and parking are free. For more info please call 732-458-0220.

SAINT JOSEPH BY THE SEA RETREAT HOUSE, 400 Route 35 North in South Mantoloking offers the following retreats in September:

September 7, 2021 – FRIENDS OF BILL W.– An Evening for Women in AA – Dinner and speaker. This event will occur once a month on the following dates: 9/7, 10/5, 11/9, 12/7, 1/4, 2/8, 3/8, 4/5, 5/10. Arrival: 5:30 pm/Departure: 8:00 pm. Cost: \$20

September 17-19, 2021 – BREATH OF GOD: SILENT RETREAT- Come to the Jersey Shore to encounter your God in the silent atmosphere of a private retreat. Eucharistic Liturgy and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be included, massage therapy will be available. Arrival: 5:00-6:00 pm/Departure: 1:00 pm. Cost: \$300.

Please call 732-892-8494 to register for either retreat or for more information.

JOIN OCEAN’S HARBOR HOUSE 25TH ANNIVERSARY RIDE FOR NEW BEGINNINGS-

The 2021 event is a summer-long in person/virtual/hybrid ride enabling participants to cycle and raise funds in the format of their choosing to benefit the youth served by Ocean’s Harbor House. The culminating event is a 25th Annual Celebratory Ride and Ceremony on 9/25/21 at Laurita Winery. The ride raises funds to provide the essential gifts of shelter, food, services and hope for vulnerable youth throughout Monmouth and Ocean counties. You can participate by *serving as a sponsor *registering to ride- join a group, or ride on your own in your neighborhood or park, or on your stationary bike *sponsoring a rider or *donating. For info visit <https://ridefornewbeginnings.org/>

MESSAGE FROM FATHER BILL

We continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in Haiti. In addition to prayer, an international outreach will be needed to respond to the disaster. We continue to collect for “Outreach to Haiti” if you would like to donate to those in need in that way (through our parish or directly on their website), or I invite you to visit Catholic Relief Services (www.crs.org) who has already been working in Haiti and so already has a base of operation and “feet on the ground” in that country and is responding to the crisis. Three priests serving in our Diocese are from Haiti, two of whom are from the region in Haiti immediately affected.

This year we celebrate the 140th anniversary of the founding of the Diocese of Trenton. There will be a Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral in Trenton on 17 October 2021 at 3p.m. Certainly there will be many people from all over the diocese in attendance, as it will also serve to mark the beginning of the diocesan phase of the Synod (meaning “gathering”) that Pope Francis has called for throughout the Universal Church. See more on this in this week’s bulletin. Let us pray in thanksgiving for God’s blessing on our Diocese for these past 140 years and entreat God for continued blessings to carry out the mission our Lord Jesus has entrusted to us.

Part of the way we continue that mission is through the ministry of the Priesthood of Jesus Christ. This year we have two new seminarians who will begin their discernment and preparation for the Sacrament of Holy Orders. These two men will join the other nine who have been on their journeys. Let us pray for their perseverance as we pray that more will follow by opening themselves up to God’s invitation to serve in the Church and the world as a deacon or a priest. If any men are interested in learning more, please contact me at the rectory.

THE 2022 MASS BOOK AND SANCTUARY LAMP CALENDAR are now open. Intentions are being taken at the rectory office during normal business hours. Please be aware that there is a limit of 4 Masses and 4 Sanctuary Lamps per person. There are still 2021 Masses and Sanctuary Lamps available.



especially Navy Lt. Rachael M. Honrath, Navy E3 Nora N. Honrath, Army Major Matthew Cauda, Navy LL. Edward P. Windas, Marine Lance Corporal Laura Licata, Contractor Benjamin Ostrow, Air Force Major David Smith, Army Major Sean Fessenden, Army Lt. Nikkole Crosson, Navy Captain Colin S. Walsh, Army Captain Dr. Justin Eisenman, Army Lt. Brian Quinn, Navy E4 Patrick Moynihan, Air Force 1st Lt. Dominic Celiano, Air Force Academy Cadet 2nd Class Slade Kelling, Air Force Academy, Coast Guard Petty Officer Joseph Beattie, Navy CM Taylor Nesbitt, Airman Devon Webster, Army Private 1st Class Cody Svenson, Lt. Jg. Mary T. Herman, Matthew Van Pelt, Army, USMC 2nd Lt. Philip Cahill, USMC 2nd Lt. Joanna Smith-Cahill, Navy MIDN Michael Zimmermann U.S. Naval Academy, Air Force 2nd Lt. Jason Trischitta, Allison M. Ingraham at West Point Academy, Lt. Col. Ivan Ingraham USMC, PFC Joseph J. Foley, Jr. USMC, Airman Andrew Halmi, Robert Halmi, U.S. Army, Corporal Jordan Basile USMC, PFC Neil Horenburg USMC.

A Message From Bishop David M. O'Connell, C.M.

The Catholic Church in recent years, particularly during the pontificate of Pope Francis, has become accustomed to hearing the expression “synodality” used to describe the nature of the Church in our day. The word itself is derived from two Greek words meaning “common road or path.” Synodality “is the specific *modus vivendi et operandi* (way of living and operating) of the Church, the People of God, which reveals and gives substance to her being as communion when all her members journey together, gather in assembly and take an active part in her evangelizing mission (International Theological Commission, “Synodality in the Life and Mission of the Church,” March 2, 2018, para. 6).”

While “synods” are not new to the Church, Pope St. Paul VI (1897-1978) formally established the “Synod of Bishops,” following the Second Vatican Council (1962-65), as a “permanent institution” in the Church “whereby bishops chosen from various parts of the world are to offer more effective assistance to the Supreme Shepherd ... providing information and offering advice (Paul VI, apostolic letter *motu proprio* “**Apostolica sollicitudo** (Apostolic concern),” September 15, 1965).” These synods are convened by the pope as “ordinary (held at fixed intervals)” or “extraordinary (held to treat a matter of urgent or specific concern)” gatherings of designated bishops of the world with the pope. Even when they are not in session, synods have a permanent secretariat or office in Rome.

Throughout his papacy, Pope Francis has expressed a desire to strengthen the unity and collegiality of Church governance on matters of faith and morals and ecclesial life. To that end, drawing from his November 24, 2013 apostolic exhortation “**Evangelium Gaudium** (The Joy of the Gospel),” Pope Francis issued an apostolic constitution “**Episcopalis communio** (Episcopal communion)” on September 15, 2018, “to profoundly reshape all the ecclesial structures to become more missionary ... (and) to become more and more an adequate channel for the evangelization of the present world more than for self-preservation ... a privileged instrument for listening to the People of God.”

On April 24 of this current year, Pope Francis announced the convocation of the Sixteenth Ordinary Synod --- originally scheduled for 2022 but postponed due to the pandemic until 2023 --- with the theme “For A Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission.” It will follow a newly revised programmatic structure:

This path toward the celebration of the Synod comprises of three phases, between October 2021 and October 2023, a diocesan phase and a continental phase that will give life to two different **Instrumentum Laboris** (Working Document), and finally a conclusive phase at the level of the Universal Church ... The Synod of Bishops is the dynamic point of convergence that calls for mutual listening to the Holy Spirit at every level of the Church's life (General Secretariat for the Synod of Bishops, “Note on the XVI Ordinary Synod,” May 21, 2021).

The Sixteenth Ordinary Synod of Bishops will open on Sunday, October 10, 2021 with a Mass celebrated in St. Peter's Basilica by Pope Francis. Every diocese throughout the world will initiate the diocesan phase of the Synod with a Mass celebrated by the diocesan bishop on October 17, 2021. In the Diocese of Trenton, that Mass will be celebrated in the Cathedral in Trenton at 3 p.m. The Diocese will also use that occasion to commemorate its 140th Anniversary Year.

After the conclusion of the diocesan phase, each particular Church will submit their contributions to their Episcopal Conference on a date determined by the Episcopal Conference itself. The Eastern Churches will submit their contributions to their corresponding bodies. Preparations for these elements of the diocesan phase of the Synod for the Diocese of Trenton are being made and will be announced soon.

Since there are two other phases to this Synod --- the “continental phase” at the level of the Episcopal Conference (that is, for us, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) and the “universal phase” in Rome --- the Sixteenth Ordinary Synod of Bishops will not be completed until October 2023.

At the conclusion of each Synod of Bishops, the Pope usually issues a post-synodal apostolic exhortation, summarizing the major emphases and conclusions of the synod. Along with the College of Bishops, these documents are considered part of the Pope's ordinary magisterium or teaching authority, to be believed by all the faithful.

I ask the clergy, religious and lay faithful of the Diocese of Trenton to pray for the Church as it prepares for this important spiritual endeavor. It is my hope, as Bishop of the Diocese, that we will all fruitfully participate in and benefit from the Synod at the diocesan level, listening to one another as we share our “stories,” experiences and hopes for the Church at this exciting time in its history. I will continue to keep the Diocese informed as plans develop.



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