

24th Sunday In Ordinary Time

SEPTEMBER 12, 2021



MASS INTENTIONS

- 5 p.m.: Maryanne Reynolds, Thomas McHale
Ray Davis and Carl Asaro
10 a.m.: Bernie Laurenzi, Joe Britto, Laura Hartell,
Ruth Hartell and Carl Asaro

CONDOLENCES

We extend our deepest sympathies to Zoe Faso and her family upon the death of husband, father and grandfather, Michael. Please keep them in your prayers.

CALL TO SOCIAL JUSTICE

We continue to share resources into social justice issues from a Church/Biblical perspective.

This week's topic is a 9/11 reflection written by Grace Doerfler, who was only two years old at the time, too young to have her own memories 20 years later.

"We can learn a great deal about what our society values from what is recorded, what is silenced and what is simply forgotten. My perspective as a history student makes me feel as though people my age have inherited a responsibility to others' memories of 9/11, to which we are so proximate. Passing on what we know and feel about this chapter in American history - not letting our loved ones' stories disappear - is a sacred task," she says.

To read the complete article, visit

<https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2021/09/07/sep-tember-11-anniversary-memory-241307>

TREASURER'S REPORT

August 29-September 5: Totaled \$ 5,049.03

Envelopes: \$ 2,906.00 – Online: \$ 2,143.03

THANK YOU!

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION AND MORE

Spiritual checkups are often performed during times of transition or crisis. And while our Adult Faith Formation Committee had planned a presentation on Spiritual Direction, the Spiritual Exercises and Carmelite Spirituality before the pandemic hit, these tools are probably even more relevant today to more people than ever before. The spotlight this week is on:

Spiritual Direction

Spiritual direction is not pastoral counseling or confession. Rather, it is an invitation to cultivate a deeper, more personal relationship with God.

The practice has biblical roots. After all, the apostles acted as "guides" who introduced others to Christ. But the universal call to holiness of Vatican II has enabled those roots to spread.

"As she has never failed to do, again today the Church continues to recommend the practice of spiritual direction," Pope Benedict XVI said in 2011, "not only to all those who wish to follow the Lord up close, but to every Christian who wishes to live responsibly their baptism; that is, the new life in Christ."

Spiritual direction is considered a journey of three presences: God, a qualified and trained spiritual director and a directee. Through examination of life's circumstances and choices, the director explores with the directee where God has been present.

Spiritual direction, an important and revered ministry, is an ongoing process and practice that includes meetings every four to six weeks. Confidential discussions focus on God's presence and movement as revealed through prayer, relationships and the events of the directee's life.

St. Paul's is fortunate to have spiritual directors available for sessions. Call the office for a referral.



IN THE LOOP



CLW, or **Children's Liturgy of the Word**, for first- through sixth-graders (give or take) will return to the 10 a.m. Mass Sunday, **September 19**.

Also, our pre-K/K program **Seeds** – for potty-trained three-, four- and five-year-olds – will be offered several Sunday mornings a month, beginning **September 19**. **Children must be registered**. Contact Jessica Carpino at 361-5816.



The Book Club will begin its five-week discussion of "**Learning to Pray: A Guide for Everyone**," by James Martin, SJ., at 10 a.m. this Tuesday, **September 14**, via Zoom, covering the first five chapters.

New members are very welcome and can contact the church office (361-3107) or Deacon Carl (carlloc@yahoo.com) for further details.

POWER, PRIVILEGE AND RACE

Do you want to address racism but don't know where to begin?

Faith & Racial Equity: Exploring Power & Privilege is an eight-session program that awakens a realization of how the economic systems, public policies, cultural norms and hidden biases empower some and oppress others.

The first half of the program lays the groundwork for understanding and identifying racial privilege. Sessions 5-8 take a deeper dive into specific issues related to power and privilege.

Following are testimonials from parishioners who have completed the program:

The Faith and Racial Justice program gave me an opportunity to discuss race issues in a non-threatening, faith-filled format. Although the words "Black Lives Matter" may conjure feelings of anger in some, this program is not about anger. It is about unity, brotherly love, compassion, understanding and faith. - Lourdes

Participating in the Just Faith Ministry Program on Social/Racial Justice has been a profound experience for me. Reading significant books and other materials, discussing with the group, praying for discernment has awakened me to the history and complexity of racism in our society and in our lives. It has evoked deeper empathy and compassion. - Julie

The Just Faith Ministries Racial Equity Program provided me an opportunity to learn, with humility, about the history of slavery in our country, as well as other topics. I feel gratitude, for the experience of sharing with others, praying together and noticing a change in my heart as our minds were opened to the injustices deep in our culture and society. - Pat

This program will be offered via Zoom starting at **6:30 p.m. Tuesday, October 5**, and continuing every other week thereafter. The co-facilitators are Peter Adams and Julie Laurenzi. There is no charge.

Contact Lourdes Eyer at 664-0171 or Pat Davies 704-726-1082 for registration guidance and information. To learn more visit:

<https://justfaith.org/faith-and-racial-equity>

PASS THE PARAPROSDOKIAN

Winston Churchill and Groucho Marx excelled at paraprosdokians, figures of speech that lead the listener down the garden path to an unexpected ending. For example, Churchill once said, "You can always count on the Americans to do the right thing - after they have tried everything else." And one of Groucho's many paraprosdokians: "I had a wonderful evening - but this wasn't it." Here's another:

"Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car."

We'll bring you a paraprosdokian chuckle weekly.



PETS ALIVE FUNDRAISER

Not only is the fundraiser hosted by Walkkill East Rotary to benefit **Pets Alive of Middletown** a family-friendly event, it's Fido-friendly, too.

Although your four-legged companion might not be thrilled to learn that the day's festivities include a doggie costume contest!

Also on tap are live music, food and snacks for purchase, raffles and more. It's a rain-or-shine debut event from **noon-4 p.m. Sunday, September 16**, under the pavilion at Thomas Bull Memorial Park in Montgomery. Tickets are \$10, \$5 for children ages 3 to 12. Children younger than 3 and fur-babies are free.

YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATE

Given that last week's meeting occurred only two days into the new school year – and was attended primarily by high-schoolers – the evening's "assignment" was to come up with a title for their imagined story of how this school year will unfold.

"Goosebumps" not only describes the extra angst associated with a return to an actual school building after more than a year away – and for some, the start of high school itself – but in this participant's case also reflects a resolve to work on personal anxiety.

"A Fresh Start," "About My High School Year" and "How I Got Through Ninth Grade" leave the doors open for tales of positive experiences and realized successes. It was noted that classes were already easier being present with teachers – many of whom were described as "cool." And it was also cool to be reunited with friends and meet new kids, too.

What can be said about "All the Times I Was Late to Class" - except how many of you still have those nightmares years later?

Finally, "Got It" and "That's All You Got?" were chosen with an attitude of confidence about what lies ahead. Can't keep these guys down!

As a matter of fact, the Youth Ministry is actively working on organizing a separate group for high-schoolers. Wonder what the story of their year will tell?

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