

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Monday, 29th, Saint Martha**

No Mass

**Tuesday, 30th, Weekday**

8 a.m.: Betty Schaefer, by Betty Otten

**Wednesday, 31st, Saint Ignatius of Loyola, Priest**

11 a.m. (Mass at the Nursing Home): Melba Jean Buehler, by Jim & Janice Pautler

**Thursday, 1st, Saint Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop & Doctor of the Church**

8 a.m.: Norman Rahn, by Arnold & Vivian Bossler

**Friday, 2nd, Weekday**

8 a.m.: "Rover" Roche, by Welda & Carol DeRousse

**Saturday, 3rd, Weekday**

4 p.m.: Roger Koester, by Barb

**Sunday, 4th, Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

10 a.m.: Barb Kane; For the Parish

**LITURGICAL ROLES**

**Saturday, August 3rd, 4 p.m.**

**Eucharistic Ministers:** P. Ramsey, M. Berg, J. Meyer, A. Cowell, J. Walker

**Gift Bearers:** B. Maes family

**Lectors:** S. Heine

**Servers:** G. Maes

**Ushers:** D. DeMond, J. Keith

**Sunday, August 4th, 10 a.m.**

**Eucharistic Ministers:** E. Hess, M. Poirrier, R. Chausse, J. Cowell, Volunteer Needed

**Gift Bearers:** J. Hooten family

**Lectors:** T. Blacharczyk

**Servers:** P. Steibel, P. Kreher

**Ushers:** A. Deterding family

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

We humans make provision for this life as if it would never end, and we make provision for the life to come as if it would never begin.

**ON THE LIGHTER SIDE**

After Mass Father saw little Joey staring intently at the large plaque in the Church entrance. The plaque was covered with names, and flags hung on either side of it. "Father," little Joey asked, "what's this?" He replied, "It's a memorial to all the men and women who died in the service." Both stood together in silence for a moment. Finally little Joey asked with genuine concern, "Was it the 4 p.m. or the 10 a.m. Mass?"

**PLEASE PRAY FOR ...**

Harvey Hoffman, Marlene, Alice Proctor, Nursing Home Residents, Homebound Parishioners  
*Names remains for 4 weeks. Call the rectory.*

**SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS:**

Pechacek Funeral Homes, Inc.

**READINGS**

**1st Reading: Genesis 18:20 - 32**

The Lord was outraged at the sinfulness of Sodom and Gomorrah and was determined to destroy them, but Abraham interceded on behalf of the innocent who lived in those towns, and the Lord relented.

**2nd Reading: Colossians 2:12 - 14**

The author of Colossians wrote, "You were buried with him in baptism...also raised with him." God has forgiven all our transgressions and "removed it from our midst, nailing it to the cross."

**Gospel: Luke 11:1 - 13**

Jesus taught his disciples the "Abba" prayer. He encouraged them to pray with persistence and to keep knocking on the door. "For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds."

**FROM THE DESK OF FR. DENNIS**

In the first reading from Genesis on this Seventeenth Sunday, we see Abraham at prayer with God. Far from how we might imagine conversing with God (kneeling, head bowed, alone) Abraham stands before the Lord, draws near, and begins a frank discussion over the requisite number of righteous people who must be in Sodom and Gomorrah for God to agree not to destroy the city. As Jesus instructs in the gospel, Abraham's prayer is certainly persistent. He questions God six times, slowly moving the number of righteous people required from fifty to ten. At one point Abraham exclaims, "See how I am presuming to speak to my Lord, though I am but dust and ashes!" Jesus wants us to have this same boldness in approaching God the Father in prayer.

In prayer we give God thanks and praise, but we are also invited to converse with God freely about our needs, anxieties, frustrations, and even our anger. Nothing is out of bounds when it comes to prayer. All that is required is that like Abraham, we show up, draw near, and share what's in our hearts.

Don't forget Friday is the first Friday of August. Adoration will be held from 1-4 p.m. in Church at St. John's. Come and spend time with the Lord. Let our prayer be as persistent as Abraham's was!

Have a blest week! Where has the month of July gone? Remember that St. Joseph's has their picnic next Saturday. Pray that they have good weather! Remember, don't worry so much and know that you are loved! ~ Fr. Dennis

**PRAYER GROUP**

Have you ever wanted to thank the Lord for all His gifts, graces and love He has given you? Need to pray for a special request? Come pray the rosary and the prayers on the 7<sup>th</sup> of each month in the Church at 1 p.m. Bring a friend August 7<sup>th</sup>. Open your heart and mind to Jesus and Mary in prayer.

**HAPPENINGS THIS WEEK**

Sun.: Annual Novena at the Shrine, 7:30 p.m.  
Tues.: Bible Study at 8:45 a.m. in Church; Parish Council mtg. at St. Patrick's at 7 p.m.  
Wed.: 11 a.m. Mass at the Care Center  
Thurs.: Visit the Sisters on 3rd floor at Ruma, 10:15 a.m.  
Fri.: Visit residents at Garden Place; Adoration from 1-4 p.m. at St. John's  
Sat.: St. Joseph's parish picnic  
Sun.: Meet & Greet Fr. Sebastian, and thank Fr. Dan & Fr. Dennis for all they have done. Reception at the Convent from 2-4 p.m.

**FEAST DAY MASS AT THE PARK**

Mark your calendar to join us for our annual celebration of the Feast of John the Baptist with our Bluegrass Mass on Saturday, August 24th at 4 p.m. at Ratz Park. After the Mass we will have our potluck meal. **Did you return the bottom portion of the insert that was in the bulletin last weekend? If you didn't get a copy, pick one up at the bulletin table or call the office and let Rhonda or Kelly know how many are coming.** Note: the flyer also tells what you are to bring. The meat dish and the drinks will be provided by the parish. PLEASE COME AND JOIN US.

**JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

Positions open at SJB: Aide for prekindergarten class - 3 days a week; After school care - 2 days a week; Custodian-part time negotiable hours. Email Kris Hill at sjbill@hotmail.com.

**PSR TEACHERS NEEDED**

We are in need of the following teachers for PSR: 1st, 3rd, 5th grade and a 3rd grade aid. Contact Lori Billingsley: 618-830-4442 or Amy Deterding: 618-410-1630.

**SCHOOL NEWS**

Final registration for school will be held on August 7th from 1-8 p.m. Back to School Mass and visiting the classrooms on Sunday, August 18th. First day of school for K-8 is Monday, August 19th.

**YOUR GIFTS TO GOD & PARISH**

Sunday.....	\$3,458.00
Loose.....	\$563.00
<b>Total (Goal: \$5,866.00).....</b>	<b>\$4,021.00</b>
Capital Campaign.....	\$25.00
School Support.....	\$25.00

**FALL FUNDRAISER**

Save the date of Sun., Sept. 29th for our fundraiser to make-up our 2019 picnic loss (official event name TBA!) Join us on Tues., July 30th at 7 p.m. in the school cafeteria for a planning meeting.

**BE A BLESSING GARDEN PROJECT**

We plan on meeting every Monday evening at 6 p.m., depending on the weather, for anyone that would like to join us or if that day doesn't work, feel free to go when you have time to help maintain the garden. You can find supplies in the little brown shed located next to the garden. Please be respectful and return in the condition you found them. Any questions call Sandy at 282-3176.

**PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION NEWS**

Registration is now taking place for PSR Religion Classes for the 2019-20 school year. Please stop by the Church entrances and pick up the registration information. Return your completed form with payment to the Church office. Thank you!

**PARTNERSHIP MASS SCHEDULE: AUGUST**

Sat.: 4 p.m. St. John's; 6 p.m. St. Patrick's  
Sun.: 8 a.m. St. Joseph's; 10 a.m. St. John's; 11 a.m. Convent  
\*There will also be a 4 p.m. Mass August 3rd at St. Joseph's because of their picnic.

**POPE FRANCIS SPEAKS TO OUR HEARTS**

(A Christian Can Never Be Sad) Do not be men and women of sadness; a Christian can never be sad! Never give way to discouragement! Ours is a joy born not of having many possessions but from having encountered a Person: Jesus, in our midst. It is born from knowing that with him we are never alone, even at difficult moments, even when our life's journey comes up against problems and obstacles that seem insurmountable, and there are so many of them!

**YOU'RE INVITED**

On Sunday afternoon, August 4th, you are invited to meet and greet Fr. Sebastian at the Convent from 2-4 p.m. as he comes to our Partnership. Also come and say thank you to Fr. Dan and Fr. Dennis for all they have done for our Partnership.

**THE MESSENGER**

Need some good summer reading/reflection this summer? Subscribe to The Messenger at 618-233-8670. To subscribe to The Messenger online go to [www.bellevillemessenger.org](http://www.bellevillemessenger.org).

**WORD OF LIFE**

"O God, you are faithful, and you never abandon those who hope in you. I know that my redemption from sin and death has been purchased at the cost of your Son's blood. In return for this priceless gift, I resolve today to renew my trust in your unfailing mercy." ~ USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "Trust in God's Mercy" Prayer

## VOCATION CORNER

“Growing up, I had steadfast examples of always putting family and faith first. My father suggested that perhaps one day I would become a priest. At 15, I met the Oblates of the Virgin Mary at their parish near my home in Long Beach, CA. I was attracted to their passion for preaching God’s mercy and making the sacraments available around the clock. I maintained spiritual direction through the remainder of high school and a university program in computer science. Finally, only 10 days after my younger sister joined a Dominican congregation, I entered the seminary in Boston. I had embarked on an adventure that would take me to three continents on the path to ministry as an Oblate priest, just like those who had captivated me at 15 - and I love it!” ~ Fr. Paul M. Nguyen, O.M.V. Oblates of the Virgin Mary, Alton, IL; *Columbia* Feb. 2019, pg. 34

## REFLECTION

In following Jesus to Jerusalem, the disciples notice his praying and ask for help to do the same. He gives them and us the Lord’s Prayer. In RCIA this same prayer is not given to the elect until the midst of Lent. It is given as a summary of all the praying they have done in their many months of preparation for being buried with Jesus at Baptism during the Easter Vigil. ~ How does my baptismal faith keep me alive in the Lord? ~ How will I pray with persistence every day? ~ How will I let the mercy works of forgiving fill my prayer in order to guide my actions?

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Parish Picnic**, Aug. 3rd, St. Joseph’s, Prairie du Rocher. Mass: 4 p.m.; grounds open: 4 p.m.; quilt/cash bingo: 5-11 p.m.; chicken dinner: 3-7:30 p.m. Country Store, raffles, games, kid activities, laser tag, bounce houses, snow cones, food stand and more!

**Parish Picnic**, Aug. 3rd, St. James, Millstadt. Polka Mass: 4 p.m.; chicken dinner: 3-7 p.m.; quilt/cash bingo: 6 p.m. Music, raffles, country store, booths, kids’ corner, etc.

**Picnic**, Aug. 3rd, St. Anthony’s, Lively Grove. Chicken dinner: 4-8 p.m.; quilt/cash bingo: 6:30 p.m.; Polka Mass: 4 p.m.; music by Southern Thunder: 7:30 p.m.

**Chicken Plate Dinner & Auction**, Aug. 4th, St. Patrick, Tipton. Mass: 10 a.m.; Dinner: 11 a.m.-4 p.m.; Auction: 12 noon. Silent Auction, Country Store, Quilt Raffle.

**76th Annual Novena to Our Lady of the Snows**, July 28-Aug. 5, Mass at 7:30 p.m. “Mary’s Journey of Faith - Where Am I On The Journey?” Mass, music, scripture reflections, prayers, candlelight rosary procession. Info: 618-394-6276; snows.org/novena.