

**JULY 24, 2016**  
**SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**



**Monday, July 25, 7:30 am**

Tomasa Morales

**Tuesday, July 26, 7:30 am**

Louise Vollmayer

**Thursday, July 28, 7:30 am**

Margaret Kudyba

**Friday, July 29, 7:30 am**

John Werko

**Saturday, July 30**

5:00 pm Mary Vail

Emma Territo

**Sunday, July 31**

7:30 am Michael Ippolito

9:30 am John Budzinski

11:30 am Deacon Andrew Cavaliere

**Celebrant Schedule** – July 30-31

5:00 pm Fr. Mark

7:30 am Fr. Peter

9:30 am Fr. Peter

11:30 am Fr. Mark

**SHARING OF OUR TREASURE**

Thank you for your support and generosity!

July 19, 2015 \$ 13,801.00

July 17, 2016 \$ 12,519.00

2016 Collection For Retired Religious \$ 3,090.00

Next Weekend's Second Collection is for  
The Beacon Diocesan Newspaper

**BIBLE STUDY**

***Unlocking The Mystery Of The Bible***

This study provides the easiest way to understand the Bible. It helps uncover the story woven throughout Scripture so that you can get the big picture of the Bible and understand what it is all about. The Bible is a story of the Father's unfailing love for you—a love that you are now called to share with others. Make sense of the Bible and see how it relates to your everyday life. Discover the remarkable connections between the Old and New Testaments. See how the Sacraments, the Church and our entire Catholic Faith are rooted in Scripture. More info to follow on how to sign up for Bible Study Class on Ascension Press. **Save the date:** First class is Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm at the Ministry House.

**MINISTRY NEWS**

**ROSARY SOCIETY**

Please join us on Sunday mornings after the 9:00 am Mass in the Cry Room to pray the Rosary. All are welcome! For more information on the Rosary Society please call Stephanie Travers at 973-227-4197.

**CARING CRAFTERS**

The next meeting of the knitters and crocheters will be held on **Wednesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00 am** at the Ministry House. For more information, call Barbara Sanders at 973-334-6884. What do we do? We use our talents primarily to craft hats and scarves to provide comfort and support to chemotherapy patients. We also assist and donate to other charitable causes and their needs.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

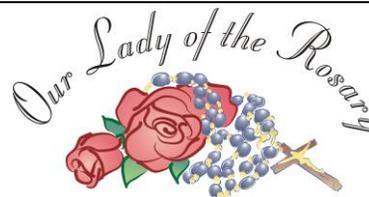
**Next Meeting – Monday, August 1<sup>st</sup> at 8:00 pm** in the Knights of Columbus Room. Visit our website at: <http://StPiusxKofC.org/>.

**PRAYER GROUP**

St. Pius X Spirit of Love Prayer Group meets semi-monthly on the **second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 12:45 pm in the Chapel at the Ministry House**. What do we do? We offer prayers for our parish family including those listed in the bulletin and for the petitions written in the Book of Intentions in the Deacon David Library.

**RCIA**

The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults is the process the Roman Catholic Church has for the introduction of the faith and the formation of new adult members. During the year process, the candidates will learn about their spiritual path in Christ culminating at the Easter Vigil. If you are an adult seeking Baptism, Confirmation or Eucharist, please contact Peter O'Brien at the Ministry House.



Please join the Knights of Columbus and Rosarians after the 9:30 am Mass in the Cry Room, **Sunday, July 31<sup>st</sup>**, to pray the Rosary.



*Some parishioners asked to have a copy of Deacon Jim's homily from this past weekend. The homily was prepared by Deacon Joseph P. Orlando, St. Damien, Ocean City, NJ, with modifications by Deacon Jim.*

*Peace & Blessings,  
Fr. Mark*

For us Americans, the fourth of July is a day of parades, fireworks, patriotic songs, political speeches and backyard barbecues. But most of all it is a day of celebrating our Independence; an independence which was won and is maintained by the sacrifice of many American lives. We are the home of the free because of the brave. But it's also important to remember and reflect that we are celebrating an Independence that is not Absolute.

Only God has Absolute Independence. We are all dependent beings. So, our Independence is rooted in our Dependence on God.

Our founding fathers understood that Dependence on God so well they wrote it into the Declaration of Independence. The Declaration begins like this, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, and that they are endowed by their Creator with inalienable rights." The Declaration ends "with a firm reliance on Divine Providence we pledge our lives, our fortunes and our honor..."

Our nation was founded on belief in God. Our Presidents take the oath of office by placing their hand on the Bible, the Word of God, and they end the oath by saying, "So help me God." In our Pledge of Allegiance we say, "One nation under God." Engraved on our money is "In God We Trust." Our Congress has a chaplain, who begins each session with a prayer, and our nation provides for chaplains for those serving in the Military.

Our founding fathers came from a country where the free expression of religious belief was suppressed because there was an official "state religion" having the monarch as its head. So, they opted for a separation of Church and state so that government could never establish a "state religion," and therefore people could worship freely.

But what they never opted for was a separation of God and state. AND THAT'S A VERY IMPORTANT DISTINCTION FOR US TO CONSIDER. They understood that in the nation they were forming there could be no brotherhood of man without embracing the Fatherhood of God. There is not now, there never

was and there never can be anyone or anything which is not Dependent on God.

What the Constitution guarantees is not freedom FROM religion, but the freedom OF religion, the freedom to freely practice one's religion and live their lives according to their religious beliefs.

The irony, the contradiction, is, that there are those who have worked to distort and change the meaning of the founding fathers' words. They have overturned laws that guarantee the Right to Life, and the definition of marriage. They have successfully made God unwelcome in our schools, and our public places.

They are pushing for freedom FROM religion, but what they are actually pushing is THEIR OWN RELIGION, a religion which is called secular humanism, where the Supreme Being is man, not God.

History has it that, as he left the Constitutional Convention, Ben Franklin was asked, "What kind of government have you fashioned?" He responded, "A Republic – if you can keep it."

A Republic is defined as a form of Government that has no King, no absolute power, but rather, has an elected official, usually a President. It is administered by elected representatives, who are sent forth to speak for and do the will of those they represent. It's a system where the will of the many outweighs the will of the few. But in recent times we have seen the will of the many put aside in favor of the will of the few.

Franklin's comment, "If you can keep it," clearly indicates his keen awareness that it would always be a struggle for the citizens of this new nation to preserve, build upon and protect this innovative, never before seen form of constitutional government, known as the United States of America.

Until recent times each successive generation of U.S. citizens has been able to honor the founding principles, to work, to sacrifice, in order that we can keep this precious gift of our nation both as a blessing from God and under God, and as the fruit of human wisdom and collective endeavor. And so we celebrate freedom and we recall the basic principles that prompted the Declaration of Independence and our Constitution, namely, our unchanging and unchangeable conviction that we enjoy certain inalienable rights and that the laws of the land – should – recognize and protect those rights for individuals and for lawful associations of individuals.

*(continued next page)*

As we celebrate our nation's independence today with pride, joy and gratitude we cannot afford to ignore that we are presently engaged in a public debate and struggle of great consequence to religious freedom.

The mounting threats to religious liberty and the increasing threats against the First Amendment rights of people of religious conscience require a clear, firm and persistent response, if we are to meet Franklin's challenge and "Keep the Republic."

The outcome of this conflict will determine whether our generation will be true to the past and guarantee for the future the truths and principles that are foundational to these United States.

In our struggle to preserve religious liberty the important truth is that being right with God is more important than anything else. We need to be concerned that our lives are ordered to that purpose above all else and not fear whatever judgments might be directed at us by those who oppose our values.

We must believe what is true. We must firmly resist what is not true. We must not grow tired or despair of prevailing in the battle. We must educate others by our words and our example. We must remember that we were founded as "One Nation Under God", and we must defend the Religious Liberty our founding fathers understood so well and enshrined in our Declaration of Independence and our Constitution.

So, as we prepare now to receive our Lord, the God of our freedom, we must pray with conviction, perseverance and hope, so that our generation and future generations will meet Franklin's challenge and keep the Republic – keep the Republic strong, brave and free – free to follow God's will, free for all people of religious conscience, and free to be One Nation, under God. And may Almighty God Bless You, and Our Lady always keep you safe. God Bless America.

**Religious Formation**  
**Online Religious Formation Registration**  
**2016/2017**

Religious Formation Registration for the new School Year will be completed on line again this year. An E Mail has been sent out to all Religious Formation Families. If you have not received the E Mail, that means we do not have a correct E Mail address for you. Please contact the Ministry House to update our records. Please make sure E Mail from St. Pius X does not go into your Spam Folder.

**How To Register Online**

1. Visit the parish website at [www.st-pius-x.org](http://www.st-pius-x.org).
2. Click on the *Religious Formation* tab at the top of the screen.
3. Click on the correct *Registration Form*.
4. If your family was part of our program last year, please click on *Re-Registration Form*.
5. If you are a new family registering for Religious Formation for the first time, please click on *The New Family Registration Form*.
6. Please complete the form.
7. Your registration will not be accepted without payment. The same company that handles Automated Giving for the parish will be handling the Registration Fees.

**How To Volunteer Online**

Please follow Steps 1, 2 and 3 under **How To Register Online**. Click on the appropriate *Volunteer Form*. Please complete the form. Our office will contact you and *Thank You* for volunteering!



Praying for fellow parishioners who are sick is an important component to our Faith. Due to privacy issues, however, people do not always appreciate their names being published. Requests for published names will only be taken from a family member accompanied by a phone number.

*Alvira Condurso, John Farkas, Lilliana Elyse Mahan, Dawn Pandorf, Leslie Kondek, Corey Forlenza, Frank J. Somsy, Pattie Prezioso, Marie Cavallero, Eileen Scharwath, Ann Dimaira, Victor Marmo, Jason McGaha, Marilyn Geffken, Tom Clayton, Barbara Capsouras, Elizabeth Krone, Christine Paglia, Ragan Kilkell, Adrian Simone, Paul Perrone, Janet Babbitt, Bruno Stillo, Michael Mascari, Marjorie McArthur, Charlie Auskings, Eileen Kapotes, Stephen Kocz, William Schicke, Remedios Gatuz, Annarita Gardinella, Linda Bitetto, David Tafe, Gregory Sugra, Jose Nunez, Kevin Deege, Pasquale Amoresano, Jason Fass, Terry Cox, Al Beatrice, Daniel DePaul, Giovanna Mele, Pasquale Mastriani, Christina Adamski, Dolores Patrisso, Gary Nagurka, Françoise Wagener, Brooklyn Auskings, Raymond Ervey, Paul DiPiazza, David Douglas, Maryann Halleran, Walter Sedlacik, Joseph Egan and Joseph Horvath, Sr.*

Please remember to notify the office when your family member has recovered.

**Youth Ministry**

**August**

- 9 – Homeless Solutions, 3-7 pm  
Need volunteer to cook and serve meal
- 12 – Eric Johnson House, 3-5 pm
- 27 – Parish Picnic Set-up
- 28 – Parish Picnic, Social & Service Day  
9:30 am-5 pm
- 29 – Search Leadership Meeting

Please contact us at [youth-ministry@st-pius-x.org](mailto:youth-ministry@st-pius-x.org). We can also be found on Facebook (St Pius X), Twitter (@spxyminj) and Instagram (st.piusxyouthministry).