

MAY: MONTH OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

FIRST SATURDAY 6 MAY: EASTER FERIA

8:30AM (Saint Thomas): *Jane Gibbons, r.i.p., by Barbara Gosda*
4:00PM (Saint Joseph: Sunday Vigil): *Mamawal Family by Linda Siner*
5:30PM (Saint Thomas: Sunday Vigil): *Father Bob Phelps, a.i.d., by the Basini Family*

SUNDAY 7 MAY: EASTER IV

7:30AM (Saint Thomas): *Josephine Kerielle by William & Susan Cotton*
9:00AM (Saint Thomas): *Bridie Gray, pro sal, by the Rich Family*
11:00AM (Saint Thomas): *Theresa A. Buckley, r.i.p., by Marty & Liz Stallone*
12:30PM (Saint Joseph): *pro populo*

MONDAY 8 MAY: EASTER FERIA

8:30AM (Saint Thomas): *Jeanette Ross, r.i.p., by Barbara Newnan Mannex*
6:30PM (Saint Joseph): *Terry Earl by Mary Abbruscato*

TUESDAY 9 MAY: EASTER FERIA

8:30AM (Saint Thomas): *Mary Skinner, r.i.p., by St. Thomas-St. Joseph Staff*

WEDNESDAY 10 MAY: MEMORIAL OF SAINT DAMIEN de VEUSTER

8:30AM (Saint Thomas): *Damien Paul Rutkowski, a.i.d., by Melissa Nosenchuck*

THURSDAY 11 MAY: EASTER FERIA

8:20AM (Saint Thomas): *Jane Gibbons, r.i.p., by Jeff & Stephen Gosda*

FRIDAY 12 MAY: MEMORIALS OF SAINTS NEREUS & ACHILLEUS; SAINT PANCRAS

8:30AM (Saint Thomas): *Louise Costella, r.i.p., by Peter Costella*

SATURDAY 13 MAY: MEMORIAL OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA

8:30AM (Saint Thomas): *Sam & Anita Lombardi by the Staudle Girls*
4:00PM (Saint Joseph): *Mother's Day Novena*
5:30PM (Saint Thomas): *Mother's Day Novena*

NEXT SUNDAY 14 APRIL: EASTER V

7:30AM (Saint Thomas): *Mother's Day Novena*
9:00AM (Saint Thomas): *Mother's Day Novena*
11:00AM (Saint Thomas): *Mother's Day Novena*
12:30PM (Saint Joseph): *Mother's Day Novena*



"I am from Heaven."

OUR LADY OF FATIMA
MAY 13

r.i.p. (requiescat in pace: rest in peace), *a.i.d.* (ad intentionem donoris: for the intention of the donor)
pro sal. (pro salutem: for health), *pro populo* (for the people)

EASTER COLLECTION TOTALS:

Easter Gifts: \$33,232.22

LAST WEEK'S OFFERING:

Regular Collection: \$9261.65
Central & Eastern Europe: \$2326.00
Pantry: \$61.00

THIS WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION

Capital Project Fund

NEXT WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION

Collection for the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

MOTHER'S DAY MASS CARDS

Available in the church entrances!
Place in collection baskets this weekend or next.
Mother's Day intentions will be offered in a
Novena of Masses.

PLEASE NOTE

The 2017 Mass Intention Book is full. There are no more available announced Masses. Unannounced Masses may be requested at any time (cards are provided). When the 2018 book opens an item will be in the bulletin.



PANTRY NEEDS

Solid white tuna, coffee, & tea, paper towels, toilet paper, tissues, laundry detergent, toothpaste.

FATIMA

Each year, *America Needs Fatima* holds the Public Square Rosary, with thousands of Rosary Rallies in towns/villages and cities all across the country. May 13, 2017 is the 100-Year Anniversary of Our Lady's first appearance to the three shepherd children in Fatima, Portugal. Our parish will commemorate this Centennial Anniversary by participating in a Rosary Rally along with other parish ministries and organizations, on Saturday, May 13, 2017 at 3:00 P.M. at the St. Thomas school parking lot, in front of the statue of Our Lady of Fatima. Refreshments to follow in the school gym. *For more information, please contact Mary Ann & Bart at 534-5060.*



PLEASE HELP!

A recent call for volunteers to help with lectoring (reading the scriptures) at Sunday Masses was met with a lukewarm response (only two people responded). Contact Chris at cmscas18@aol.com if you can able to help with this ministry.

Similarly, our volunteers for parish bingo on Thursdays have worked for many years and with little acknowledgement to provide an evening of fun and entertainment for many of our elderly and less fortunate of the area. Our parish bingo is a very real ministry (if not thought to be chic) and provides funding for parish events and other needs. Contact the rectory office if you can help (office@stt-stj.com)

Lastly, if you regularly attend one of the Sunday Masses in St. Thomas Church or St. Joseph, we could use a few steady ushers to offer a hospitable welcome to visitors, help people find seats, and take up the collection. Contact Fr. Doughty at the rectory office (office@stt-stj.com).

WHILE WE'RE AT IT...

If you'd like to see where our parish is headed, see the article on America's largest parish in America magazine:

<http://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2017/04/05/welcome-largest-catholic-parish-united-states>.

In the same issue is an article about the efforts to repair a religious education program with a family-based approach in Brooklyn. Featured in the article is Dennis Corcoran who is helping our parish to build up its infrastructure AND implement a family-based religious education program of our own! <http://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2017/04/20/repairing-religious-education-family-based-approach>

PRAYERS FOR OUR FIRST COMMUNICANTS

William Alva	Max Juneau
Brandon Barbier	Leyla Kaufman
Antonio Bulusan	Penelope Kulic
John Burke	Jasmine Lyle
Benjamin Cabrera	Colin Lynch
Michael Chrismon	Anthony Mackey
Jayden Ciccarello	Gavin Mahon
Scarlett Quito	Sean McGrail
Kayleigh Cicuto	Connor Melendez
Alexander Clayton	Liam Morrow
Mackenzie Coiro	Brian O'Hagan
Gabriel Colsant	Tara O'Hagan
Natalia Costanzo	Sean Paez
Anthony Czumak	Danica Petti
Nora Hogan	Rylie Pikarsky
Kyle Rose	Jake Pryne
Alyvia Delacruz	Claudia Rosellon
Alyanna delaCruz	Alana Sargeant
Matthew Deloughery	Samantha Sarkodie
Tyler Dilello	Mia Seigel
Shay Devlin	Lydia Semo
Savannah Fahrback	Patrick Sherry
Tyler Fuger	Owen Souza
Joseph Geraci	Audrey Torres
Noemi Goitia	Brian Violetti
Oliver Grammerstorf	Kathryn Walsh
Emma Hartwig	Jake Wazolek
Kaitlyn Hartwig	Victoria Weber
Sebastian Iagrosse	Kaleigh Wolfe
Karleigh Johnson	Callista Yunker
Thomas Jolly	Gavin Yunker
Jason Juneau	Troy Yunker

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12 MONTHS OF CHRISTMAS DRAWING

May's Prize: For your May Grad!

Rogaska Crystal Clock & Pen set.

MSRP: \$200

Celebration Crystal Heritage 5x7 Picture Frame.

MSRP: \$75



2017 CARDINAL'S APPEAL: As of 4/21

Parish Goal: \$116,500.00

Pledged to Date: \$50,680.00

Donors: 173

DARE TO BELIEVE, DARE TO LOVE

by Father Doughty

[This weekend, many of the boys and girls of our parish receive their First Holy Communion.]

Some time ago, a letter written by Albert Einstein to a friend of his, another physicist fetched \$404,000 at auction. Nothing else ever written by him, except love letters to his wife, has been valued as highly. Why? The buyer, it is said, was interested in what Einstein had to say about religion. In the missive, Einstein refers to the Bible as “childish” and, though himself Jewish, found the claim that the Jews are the chosen people of God a conceit.

This is not to suggest that Einstein was not “religious”. Overwhelmed by the complexity and order of the universe, he was quoted to have said, “God doesn’t play dice.” He denied he was an unbeliever, describing atheists as people who can’t hear the music of the spheres. He admitted that the problem of God was too vast for his limited mind. His religious sensibility seemed to consist in “an unbounded admiration for the structure of the world so far as science could understand it.”

It should be no wonder that this man of extraordinary insights into the physical nature of our universe found fascinating the Church’s explanation for the transformation of matter, bread and wine, into the infinite presence of the Divine in our time and space. When he was a young priest, the late Father Charles McTague (d. 2007) visited Einstein at his home in Princeton where they discussed the Eucharist and the concept of *transubstantiation*. The possibilities suggested by this teaching of the Church apparently fit into musings about matter and infinity of the father of the Theory of General Relativity.

That Catholics believe bread and wine consecrated through the prayers of the priests reciting the words of Jesus at the altar become the very Body and Blood of the Son of God who was born of the Virgin Mary in history is not in dispute. How they believe is attributable to faith. What they mean by it – Transubstantiation – should be stated here:

While after the consecration there is nothing physically discernible in the host or the wine of the chalice that resembles in any way the stuff of which we’re made, *transubstantiation* tells us that what made the bread, bread and the wine, wine – not the material elements, but the “something” which underlies it, i.e., the form that makes it real (*my philosophy training fails me here!*) – is taken to heaven and replaced by the Real Presence of Jesus, who sits at the right hand of his Father in

Heaven. So, from the first Eucharistic Prayer of the Mass, we hear: “*We pray that your angel make take this sacrifice (the bread and wine) to your altar in heaven. Then as we receive from this altar the sacred Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us be filled with every grace and blessing.*”

As in the old saying *Lex orandi, lex credendi* - as we pray, so we believe - the Mass tells us that this is Jesus, body and blood, soul and divinity. The substances of bread and wine are taken up to heaven and all that is left *before our eyes* is their *accidents* or mere appearance. What is newly present behind their appearance is the Real Presence of Christ who is with His Father in Heaven. It strains credibility, but when Dr. Samuel Johnson, the great English literary figure, was asked what he thought of the way Catholics worship a piece of bread, he is said to have objected: “[But] They believe God to be there and they adore Him.”

In truth, recognizing the presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament requires Faith, always a gift from God. Faith acknowledges the love of God first evident in His act of creating the material world Einstein loved so much, and revealed in the saving act of His Son who wondrously became part of creation so he could save it. Seeing this saving act in the very presence of His Son in the Eucharist requires an act of love on our part: so daring an act perhaps, that we will ignore the witness of our senses and even our intellect to greet, adore, and receive Him in a way that confounds human wisdom. It seems that even the genius of someone like Albert Einstein is not enough to get past the evidence of the material universe to see God; only those who dare to believe and dare to love possess the key.

CONGRATULATIONS!

The Court Rita Chapter of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas is pleased to announce that Timothy Fenton was selected to receive our annual scholarship. The committee was very impressed with Timothy’s application outlining his intentions and hopes for the future. He was presented his award at our monthly meeting on Monday, May 1st.



YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Raffle

One-week vacation in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina! \$5/ticket or \$20/5. Proceeds to benefit the Youth Group’s Camp Veritas Scholarship Fund. Tickets available in the Religious Education office and will be sold after all Masses next weekend.















