

COLLECTION RESULTS FOR SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 6, 2009

NO. OF CONTRIBUTION	AVERAGE OFFERING
7.....	Over 100.00
6.....	90.00-100.00
1.....	80.00 - 90.00
1.....	70.00 - 80.00
2.....	60.00 - 70.00
3.....	50.00 - 60.00
2.....	40.00 - 50.00
2.....	30.00 - 40.00
7.....	25.00 - 30.00
6.....	20.00 - 25.00
16.....	15.00 - 20.00
12.....	10.00 - 15.00
34.....	5.00 - 10.00
25.....	1.00 - 5.00
TOTAL NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTORS...124	
TOTAL ENV COLL.....\$3,525.00	
LOOSE CASH\$ 135.00	
GRAND TOTAL.....\$3,660.28	
AVERAGE CONTRIBUTION WAS...\$29.52	
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND YOURS.	

Mother of Divine Grace
Important Information

There are a few things going on during the next few weeks and your response to a couple of items is very important.

~ The Closing Liturgy Committee has ordered beautiful brass Christmas Ornaments as a memento of Mother of Divine Grace Church. These etched ornaments have been custom made to commemorate Our Mother of Divine Grace, the Church itself, the dates of Opening and Closing...and of course, our motto... "Ave Maria, Gratia Plena". The ornaments are available for \$7 each, and may be pre-ordered by completing the "coupon" at the bottom of this page. A limited number of these unique ornaments have been ordered, so place your request as soon as possible. Please drop your coupon in the collection basket with the payment. The ornaments will be arriving within the next 10 days or so. We will make arrangements for their pick-up.

~ In celebration of the many years we have carried on the tradition of our **Parish Monthly Coffee Hour**, we will have our Final Coffee Hour on Sunday, September 20th following the 9am Mass. This special breakfast will include Pancakes and Sausage. There is "no charge" (as there never has been!), but we kindly ask you to let us know you will be attending so sufficient supplies can be provided. Drop the coupon on this page in the collection basket at any Mass by Sept. 19th! If you have any other questions, or need more information please contact Pat at 832-2065.

~ Envelope Contributions Letters will be mailed during the first two weeks of October. Once the September envelopes have been processed after our last Mass on Sunday, September 27th, the information will be sent to you. Please retain this information for tax purposes.

~ New contribution envelopes: You should be receiving your contribution envelopes from Infant of Prague Parish shortly. If you do not receive your bi-monthly envelopes, please contact the Rectory at Infant of Prague. If you have chosen to attend Mass and register at another parish, please contact them to Register in person.

RESERVATIONS FOR THE LAST DINNER CELEBRATION ARE DUE BY MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH... NO EXCEPTIONS!

Calendar for the Week

Saturday, September 12th - Most Holy Name of the Blessed Virgin Mary

10:00 AM AA Meeting
3:45 PM Confessions
4:30 PM Mass (Joseph & Sophie Suminski)

Sunday, September 13th - 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 AM Mass (Dennis & Chester Fink)
11:00 AM Choir Practice
11:30 AM Mass (Angeline Smolarek from 10/17/09)
(Ruth Nolan, Mary Sullivan, Rose and George Keck, Frank Pytel & John Pytel)

Monday, September 14th - The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

8:15 AM Mass (Edward & June Phillips)

Tuesday, September 15th - Our Lady of Sorrows

8:15 AM Mass (Donald J. Bauer on the 1st Anniversary of this death)

Wednesday, September 16th - Pope Cornelius & St. Cyprian

8:15 AM Mass (Parishioners)
6:30 PM Benediction/Novena & Confessions
7:00 PM Choir Practice

Thursday, September 17th - St. Robert Bellarmine

8:15 AM Mass (Arthur Duszynski)

Friday, September 18th -

8:15 AM Mass (Dick Brueckman)

Saturday, September 19th - St. Januarius

10:00 AM AA Meeting
3:45 PM Confessions
4:30 PM Mass (Edward Roetzer)

Sunday, September 20th - 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 AM Mass (Jim & Jack Dolan)
11:00 AM Choir Practice
11:30 AM Mass (Arthur Duszynski)

The Welcoming Committee

is open to those who are interested in making Infant of Prague Church a warm and inviting worship community. If you would like more information, please contact Judie Kokmetz at 565-1550 or Bob Pellgrine at 633-9292.

WE ARE CATHOLIC, LET IT SHOW!

Catechism Questions for the Week
The Sacrament of Matrimony

341. "What new element did Christ give to Matrimony?" Christ not only restored the original order of matrimony but raised it to the dignity of a sacrament, giving spouses a special grace to live out their marriage as a symbol of Christ's love for his bride the Church: "Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the Church" (Eph 5:25).

342. "Are all obliged to get married?" Matrimony is not an obligation for everyone, especially since God calls some men and women to follow the Lord Jesus in a life of virginity or of celibacy for the sake of the Kingdom of Heaven. These renounce the great good of Matrimony to concentrate on the things of the Lord and seek to please him. They become a sign of the absolute supremacy of Christ's love and of the ardent expectation of his glorious return.

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops...

...has developed a series of questions and answers regarding the Catholic Church and the ongoing national debate over health care reform.

Q. Are the bishops promoting socialized medicine by advocating for universal access?

A. All people need and should have access to comprehensive, quality health care that they can afford, and it should not depend on their stage in life, where or whether they or their parents work, how much they earn, where they live, or where they were born. There may be different ways to accomplish this, but the Bishops' Conference believes health care reform should be truly universal and genuinely affordable.

Q. Health care is already expensive. Why advocate for legal immigrants to be covered too?

A. Legal immigrants pay taxes and contribute to the U.S. economy and social life in the same manner as U.S. citizens do. Therefore, there should be equity for legal immigrants in access to health care. In the Catholic tradition, health care is a basic human right, like education, and having access to it should not depend on where you were born.

Achieving equality in this case, i.e., means repealing the 5-year ban currently in effect for legal immigrants to access Medicaid, and ensuring that all pregnant women in the United States, who will be giving birth to U.S. citizens, are eligible along with their unborn children for health care.

Nominations for Parish Council

The nomination process for selection of new members of our Parish Council will begin this weekend with the distribution of nomination forms, and will continue until Sept. 23rd. All parishioners are asked to prayerfully consider nominating someone, including yourself, whom you feel would make a good council member. Each nominee will be contacted and invited to an informational meeting in mid-October. Each nominee who agrees to commit him/herself to serve our community as a member of the council for a 3 year term will have his/her name added to the final slate of candidates. Four adult candidates will be selected "by lot" during the masses on the weekend of October 24-25. Please look for a nomination form in the pews. Place your completed nomination slips in the collection basket, drop it off at the Parish Center (at IOP), or mail it to the address on the form by Sept. 23rd.

Liturgy of the Word Committee

Prayer and Eucharist are at the heart of our life together as Christians. If you share a love for Sunday liturgy and want to foster good worship in our new faith community at IOP, please consider being a part of the Liturgy of the Word Committee. We meet once a month (first Tuesday) from 6:30-8:30pm in the basement of the school. Among the things we do is prepare the Introduction to the Mass, the Penitential Rite, and the Intercessions for the weekend Masses. The next meeting will be on Oct. 6th. Come and see what the Committee is all about. Once you see, we hope you will join us. For further information, contact Donna Jeunker by phone (835-8106) or email (djuenker@aol.com). We will be at the front door of the school on Foisset St. to welcome you on Oct. 6th.

"Created things belong not to the few, but to the entire human family"
~US Catholic Bishops, *Renewing the Earth, 1991, pg. 8*

Happy Birthday:



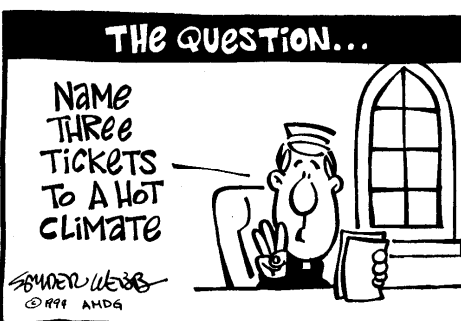
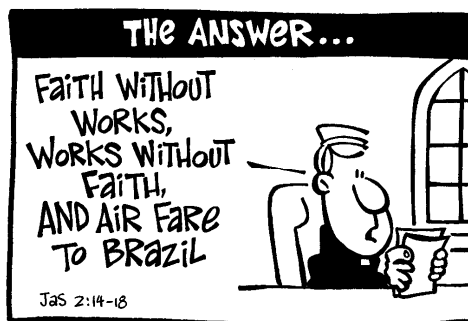
- September 13th - Barbara Schunk, William Fix, Rebecca Armenia
- September 14th - Dorothy Sams, Michael Rogala, Mary Healey
- September 15th - Gabriella Vicari, Jackson Taylor
- September 16th - Hazel Wittman, William Keller, Curt Taylor
- September 17th - Jessica Tabak
- September 18th - Mark Kopp, Arline Stoeckl, Alberta Roetzer, Walter Panek, Gary Aquila
- September 19th - Joseph Klosterman, Courtney Bates, Donald Holt, Corey O'Leary, Jill Kolpack, Catherine Chiarello

RESPECT LIFE

The logic of the modern age dictates, "Let us declare that God is dead, then we ourselves will be God. At last we no longer belong to anyone else; rather we are simply the owners of our selves and of the world. At last we can do what we please." These words of Pope Benedict XVI clearly highlight the thinking behind acceptance of abortion, euthanasia, and embryonic stem cell research. Pope Benedict XVI, *Jesus of Nazareth, 257.*

WORD OF LIFE

The social question has become a radically anthropological questions, in the sense that it concerns not just how life is conceived but also how it is manipulated, as bio-technology places it increasingly under man's control. In vitro fertilization, embryo research, the possibility of manufacturing clones and human hybrids: all this is now emerging and being promoted in today's highly disillusioned culture, which believes it has mastered every mystery, because the origin of life is now within our grasp. We must not underestimate the disturbing scenarios that threaten our future, or the powerful new instruments that the "culture of death" has at its disposal.



Exaltation of the Holy Cross:

This feast was observed in Rome before the end of the seventh century. It commemorates the recovery of the Holy Cross, which had been placed on Mt. Calvary by St. Helena and preserved in Jerusalem, but then had fallen into the hands of Chosroas, King of the Persians. The precious relic was recovered and returned to Jerusalem by Emperor Heraclius in 629. The lessons from the Breviary tell us that Emperor Heraclius carried the Cross back to Jerusalem on his shoulders. He was clothed with costly garments and with ornaments of precious stones. But at the entrance to Mt. Calvary a strange incident occurred. Try as hard as he would, he could not go forward. Zacharias, the Bishop of Jerusalem, then said to the astonished monarch: "Consider, O Emperor, that with these triumphal ornaments you are far from resembling Jesus carrying His Cross." The Emperor then put on a penitential garb and continued the journey.



This day is also called the **Triumph of the Cross**, Elevation of the Cross, Holy Cross Day, Holy Rood Day, or Roodmas. The liturgy of the Cross is a triumphant liturgy. When Moses lifted up the bronze serpent over the people, it was a foreshadowing of the salvation through Jesus when He was lifted up on the Cross. Our Mother Church sings of the triumph of the Cross, the instrument of our redemption. To follow Christ we must take up His cross, follow Him and become obedient until death, even if it means death on the cross. We identify with Christ on the Cross and become co-redeemers, sharing in His cross.

We made the Sign of the Cross before prayer which helps to fix our minds and hearts to God. After prayer we make the Sign of the Cross to keep close to God. During trials and temptations our strength and protection is the Sign of the Cross. At Baptism we are sealed with the Sign of the Cross, signifying the fullness of redemption and that we belong to Christ. Let us look to the cross frequently, and realize that when we make the Sign of the Cross we give our entire self to God — mind, soul, heart, body, will, thoughts. *O cross, you are the glorious sign of victory. Through your power may we share in the triumph of Christ Jesus.*

Italian Immigration to Buffalo

"Dear America: The Italian Immigrant Experience in Buffalo and the Thomas Sgovio Story" is the theme of an international conference and exhibit at Buffalo State College on Sept. 25th & 26th. As a framework to the Sgovio's story, Father Secondo Casarotto, CS will speak on "The Italian Labor Movement and the Catholic Church in Buffalo". A 20-panel exhibit may also be visited in the college library until Sept. 30th. For more information, and to register for the conference, call the Buffalo State College History Department at 878-5412 or 854-2563.

"...if there is a lack of respect for the right to life and to a natural death, if human conception, gestation and birth are made artificial, if human embryos are sacrificed to research, the conscience of society ends up losing the concept of human ecology and, along with it, that of environmental ecology."

~ Pope Benedict XVI, Caritas in Veritate

The Final Celebration

Our Final Mass on Sunday, Sept. 27th will be celebrated at 11am. (There will be a 4:30pm Mass on Saturday) This is the *only Mass* scheduled on that Sunday. All are welcome to attend the Final Mass.

The Final Celebration *Dinner* will be held in the gymnasium from 1-5pm. Attendance at the dinner is by *reservation only*. The cost of the reservation (\$25 per person) includes a Family-Style Sit-down dinner, music with a Cash-Bar. We are limited to space, so please respond as soon as possible.

The Invitation is open to anyone who wishes to attend the Celebration Dinner. We are not given out "tickets", just accepting *Reservations*. You may make a reservation by completing the Response Form below.

No reservations will be taken after September 14th.

Reservations for Final Celebration Dinner

Name: _____
Address: _____ Phone: _____
No. of people attending _____ @ \$25.00 per person = _____

(Please make check payable to Mother of Divine Grace Church and return to the Rectory via mail or drop in the collection basket by Sept. 14th.)

Mother of Divine Grace Church
120 Old Maryvale Drive
Cheektowaga NY 14225

Pastor - Rev. Msgr. S. Paul Ayoub

Email: ayoub@motherofdivinegrace.com
Website: www.motherofdivinegrace.com

Mass Schedule:

Mon-Fri8:15 am
Weds...Benediction/Novena..6:30-7pm
Saturday.....4:30 pm
Sundays.....9:00 am, 11:30 am
Holydays..... 8:15 am and 7:00 pm
Saturday...Confessions.....3:45 pm

Rectory Business Hours: Mon - Fri., 9am - Noon. If you need a priest, call anytime.

Fax Number :834-0335

Parish useful phones:

Rectory834-8488
Food Pantry.....835-0243

Business Manager :Judith Monaco

Parish Council:Michael Luksch

Parish Outreach ..Theckla Mullen...835-9489

Music:

Folk - Elaine Kishbaugh.....633-4677
Organ - Wanda Yoerg.....839-3329

Baptism - Last Sunday of Month at 12:30 PM. Call the Rectory to enroll in Baptismal Class.

Anointing of the sick... Sat after 4:30 PM Mass. If an emergency, call anytime

Marriage - Call Rectory for an appointment.

New Registration.... Welcome! Please call the Rectory to make an appointment to Register.

Pregnancy Emergency Services:

Women Health Services.....853-4438
Our Lady of Victory Choose Life.....824-4709
Post Abortion Reconciliation.....847-8789
'Project Rachel'.....847-2205
Pregnancy Hotline.....1-800-848-LOVE
Nurturing Network.....1-800-TNN-4MOM
Bethany Christians Services.....1-800-238-4269
Several Sources Foundation.....1-800-NO-ABORT
Birthright.....1-800-550-4900
Good Counsel Homes.....1-800-723-8331
Catholic Home Bureau.....1-800-592-HELP
Separated/Divorced (Link).....847-2209

Other Services in our building:

Alcoholic Anonymous.....853-0388
Kids Klub Day Care.....831-0550
Convent Apt.....856-4494-3037

Domestic Violence Emergency:

Haven House.....884-6000
Salvation Army Shelter.....883-9800
Safe Program(developmentally disabled victim of family member).....832-4444
Treatment - Catholic Charities.....856-4494

This Week At MDG

Mother of Divine Grace R.C. Church
120 Old Maryvale Drive
Cheektowaga, NY 14225

September 13, 2009

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Readings for the Week
September 13, 2009

Sunday: Is 50:5-9a; Jas 2:14-18; Mk 8:27-35
Monday: Nm 21:4b-9; Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17
Tuesday: Tm 3:1-13; Jn 19:25-27
Wednesday: Tm 3:14-16; Lk 7:31-35
Thursday: Tm 4:12-16; Lk 7:36-50
Friday: Tm 6:2c-12; Lk 8:1-3
Saturday: Tm 6:13-16; Lk 8:4-15
Next Sunday: Wis 2:12,17-20; Jas 3:16-4:3 Mk 9:30-37

Closing Liturgy of Mother of Divine Grace And Opening Liturgy of New Parish Community

On Sunday, September 27, 2009 at 11am, we will celebrate the Closing Liturgy of Mother of Divine Grace Church. This is the only Mass scheduled for that Sunday.

The following Sunday, October 3, 2009 the Opening Liturgy of our New Parish Community at Infant of Prague will take place at 10am. (This is the only Mass scheduled for that Sunday.)

The Dedication of the Mother of Divine Grace Chapel will take place on Saturday, October 3rd at 11am. Please join us for this wonderful, blessed occasion.

If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me

When someone campaigns for voters, usually he will promise whatever will please his hearers and hopes. When elected, they will forget their promises. That is how the world works. Not Jesus. He instead tells his potential followers the truth: that he, the Christ, will suffer greatly and will be put to death and will rise on the third day. 'If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.' It is no wonder that Peter, who, at first, won the compliment for giving the right answer, now receives a rebuke from Jesus for not being on the side of God but of men. Poor Peter, he thought that Jesus was being negative about his mission and tried to build him up.

The message that we receive from these readings this Sunday is

that Jesus is the Christ. The Jews were promised a Messiah, a prophet like Moses who will come and make things right once for all. They have been waiting for such a prophet. With the coming of Jesus and seeing his teachings proven by his healings and miracles, the Apostles realized that they were in the presence of the Christ. Jesus is the Christ.

What they did not know, and preferred not to know, is that this Christ was different from Moses. He wasn't a winner in the sense of Moses. He was going to suffer much and even be put to death by the very people he came to save. But on the third day, he will rise. A suffering Christ, like the one described in Isaiah in the first reading. That was difficult to accept.

Still, that was not all. Whoever wanted to follow the Christ had to share his fate, deny himself

and take up his cross. Why? Why the self denial and why the cross? That is because Jesus' campaign is against the 'world', the evil. And if we wish to join him and fight against the 'world', we must use the same weapons as Jesus uses, and these are the self denial. The world tells us to give in to any and all pleasures. We won't!

The world tells us to eat all what we like and as much as we like and whenever we like. We won't, even if the part of us that is unredeemed sides with the world. The world says: take care of yourself, we will care for others. Avenge yourself, we will forgive and love those who hate us. OK to be bad just don't get caught. No, we will be honest and just.

With Christ, using his weapons, we will win over the world.

~S. Paul Ayoub