

COLLECTION RESULTS FOR SUNDAY

AUGUST 30, 2009

NO. OF CONTRIBUTION	AVERAGE OFFERING
2.....	Over 100.00
0.....	90.00-100.00
0.....	80.00 - 90.00
0.....	70.00 - 80.00
1.....	60.00 - 70.00
1.....	50.00 - 60.00
1.....	40.00 - 50.00
1.....	30.00 - 40.00
4.....	25.00 - 30.00
6.....	20.00 - 25.00
10.....	15.00 - 20.00
12.....	10.00 - 15.00
47.....	5.00 - 10.00
30.....	1.00 - 5.00

TOTAL NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTORS...115
 TOTAL ENV COLL.....\$1,903.28
 LOOSE CASH\$ 157.00
 GRAND TOTAL.....\$2,060.28
 AVERAGE CONTRIBUTION WAS...\$14.80
 THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY
 MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND YOURS.

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS THE SICK: especially for Gloria Kunkel, Audrey Eisenhardt, Arlene Hopkins, Larry Kiener, Jim Bowback, Mary Kometh, Sarah Benhatzel, Brian Heitman, and all those in hospitals.

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS: Our departed brothers and sisters, especially for Leo Rosolowski, (father of Rev. Romulus and Sister M. Rosalind Rosolowski) and Rev. John Aurelio.

Marriage Moment

Don't be too proud. The wise couple seeks help as soon as you notice that something is amiss. Whether it's counseling, a special program, or seeking the support of friends or a faith community, it's a sign of wisdom to realize that you can't do this thing called marriage alone. Call the Office of Family Life 847-2210 for your Tune-up Packet...it's FREE!

Please check the appropriate box:

- 1 [] Join Class on Being Catholic
- 2 [] To Become a Catholic
- 3 [] To Be Confirmed (for Adults)
- 4 [] Need Transportation to Mass

Complete the information below and drop in collection basket.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Getting Involved at IOP!



Ministers of Holy Communion

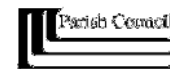
All ministers of Holy Communion presently serving at MDG and IOP, are asked to attend a special and important meeting on Thursday, Sept. 10th at 7pm in the School Hall at IOP. This gathering will enable us to share ideas and concerns and to plan for the future of this important and privileged ministry. For questions, or more information contact Marie at 634-3815.



RESPECT LIFE

COMMITTEE MEETING

The Infant of Prague Respect Life Committee enthusiastically welcomes all Mother of Divine Grace members to join us in doing what we can to defend life, from conception to natural death. We meet five times a year, beginning on Thursday, Sept. 17th at 6:30pm at Ann Carroll's house. For her address and other information, call Betty Ryan at 631-9529 before the 17th. Other meetings are agreed upon by the availability of the members and the projects we undertake. Join us!



Nominations for Parish Council

The nomination process for selecting new members of our Parish Council will begin next weekend, Sept. 12-13th with the distribution of nomination forms. Each nominee is contacted and invited to an Informational Meeting in mid-October. Each nominee, who agrees to commit themselves to serve our community as a council member for a 3-year term, will have their name added to the final slate of candidates. Four adult candidates will be selected "by lot" during the Masses the weekend of Oct. 24-25.



Workshop/ Reorganization

All lectors are asked to gather on Saturday, Sept. 12th at 10am at IOP Parish Center. This will be our opportunity to decide on the future of this important ministry. We will be reviewing procedures and techniques, and completing the rotation assignments for Oct., Nov. and Dec.

If you have thought about serving as a lector, either for weekend liturgies or weekday liturgies, now is the time to come and join us! Training and mentors will be provided. Any questions...don't hesitate to call Barb at 633-7786. See you on the 12th!

Calendar for the Week

Saturday, September 5th -

10:00 AM AA Meeting
 3:45 PM Confessions
 4:30 PM Mass (Derion & Kujawa Families From 11/28/09)

Sunday, September 6th - 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 AM Mass (George Eisenhardt)
 11:00 AM Choir Practice
 11:30 AM Mass (Arthur Duszynski)

Monday, September 7th - Labor Day

8:15 AM Mass (Floyd Stoeckl from 8/6/09)

Tuesday, September 8th - Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:15 AM Mass (Floyd Stoeckl from 7/20/09)

Wednesday, September 9th - St. Peter Claver

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

Thursday, September 10th -

8:15 AM Mass (Ida Kromkowski)

Friday, September 11th -

8:15 AM Mass (Richard Brueckman)

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)

Safeguard the Environment!

Every time you shop, use a re-usable bag. The Diocesan Care for Creation Committee is offering such a bag, made in WNY, manufactured by persons with disabilities, strong, durable and washable. To purchase a bag and learn more about Catholic Social Teaching on Care for Creation, contact Sr. Sharon Goodremote at 853-4424, ext 3006. Pope Benedict XVI dedicated a portion of his new social encyclical, "Caritas in Veritate" Charity in Truth to the urgent duty to share the earth's resources equitably and safeguard the environment for future generations.

Catechism Questions for the Week

The Sacrament of Matrimony

339. "How does sin threaten marriage?" Because of original sin, which caused a rupture in the God-given communion between man and woman, the union of marriage is very often threatened by discord and infidelity. However, God in his infinite mercy gives to man and woman the grace to bring the union of their lives into accord with the original divine plan.

340. "What does the Old Testament teach about marriage?" God helped his people above all through the teaching of the Law and the Prophets to deepen progressively their understanding of the unity and indissolubility of marriage. The nuptial covenant of God with Israel prepared for and prefigured the new covenant established by Jesus Christ the Son of God, with his spouse, the Church.

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. Why are the bishops insistent that health care reform be "abortion neutral"?

A. Abortion advocacy groups are trying to use health care reform to advance their agenda by having Congress or a federal official establish abortion as a "basic" or "essential" health benefit, guaranteeing "access" nationwide and requiring Americans to subsidize abortion with their tax dollars or insurance premiums. This would reverse a tradition of federal laws and policies that have barred federal funding and promotion of abortion in all major health programs for over three decades (e.g. the Hyde amendment, 1976), and have respected the right of health care providers to decline involvement in abortion or abortion referrals.

This agenda would also endanger or render irrelevant numerous local and state laws regulating abortion. The bishops cannot, in good conscience, let such an important and pressing issue as health care reform be hijacked by the abortion agenda. No health care reform plan should compel anyone to pay for the destruction of human life, whether through government funding or mandatory coverage of abortion. Any such action would be morally wrong and politically unwise.

WE ARE CATHOLIC, LET IT SHOW!



Labor Day

Labor Day is a national tribute to the contributions American workers have made to the strength and well-being of our country. You work hard to help our country remain strong and prosperous and you also show compassion and generosity by returning a portion of your hard earned money to your God and to help others through Catholic Charities. Enjoy your Labor Day and accept our gratitude for your labors and your gifts!

Word of Life

The decisive issue is the overall moral tenor of society.

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...environmental ecology. It is contradictory to insist future generations respect the environment when our educational systems and laws do not help them to respect themselves. ~Pope Benedict XVI, Charity in Truth (*Caritas in Veritate*), 51, 6/29/09.

Parenting Perspective

Memory making sometimes means sharing one of your own childhood memories with your son or daughter. Think of a funny, sad or meaningful experience (or even a mistake from your childhood) and entrust it to your child. It doesn't cost anything but it can bring you closer together. It may even open the door to deeper communication.

National Grandparents Day

Sunday, Sept. 13th is an opportunity to celebrate those elders who have nourished our lives. Our new revised 2009 FREE packet of materials is filled with ideas for celebrating BUT has items also for grandparents themselves to enjoy all year long. Call Family Life at 847-2210.

Happy Birthday:



- September 6th** - Anna M. Sicurella, Catherine Wagner, Audrey Senecal, Carol Morris, Nancy Manuella
- September 7th** - Matthew Ventura, Darrean Janes, Zachary Pittman, Jessica Yorke, Judith Ruggiero, Emily Dulekowsky, Peggy Allein
- September 8th** - Ronald Gronowski, Melissa Holt, Garry Chrosniak
- September 9th** - Alex Leader, Andrew Szewczyk
- September 10th** - James Dudish, John Walkowiak, Maryanna Stafflinger
- September 11th** - Mary Ussery, Marie Sellari, Marion Pilarski, Roxanne Pelletier, Michael Pelletier, Terry Hillyard, Gregory Halter
- September 12th** - Lynn Flett, Cheryl Passmore, George Zumbaris

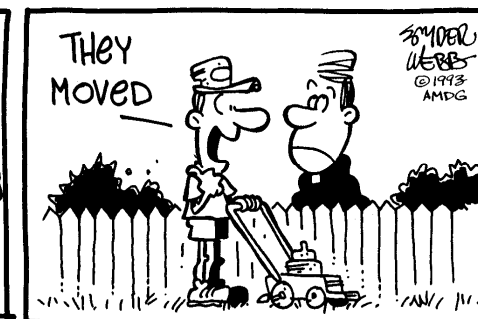
RESPECT LIFE

A former worker at a Dignitas suicide clinic told the *London Daily Mail* that she began to see the clinic not as a compassionate place for ending lives but as a money-making killing machine taking advantage of the disabled and terminally ill. (*Life News*, 6/1/09)

"Let us rejoice in the birth of Mary.."

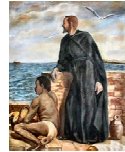
Mark Your Calendar!

October 4th will be the Respect Life Mass with Bishop Kmiec, so mark your calendar and save the date! Come and Celebrate Life and St. Joseph Cathedral, 50 Franklin Street, Buffalo. Bishop Kmiec will begin Mass at 10:30am to observe the unrepeatable Gift of Life. Afterward the Bishop will bless families, expectant mothers and babies. Mass will be signed for the hearing impaired. Light reception will follow downstairs in the Cathedral Social Hall. All are encouraged to attend.



St. Peter Claver

Peter was born of a distinguished family in Catalonia, Spain in 1581. He joined the Society of Jesus and after his novitiate was sent to the college at Palma in Majorca. There he met St Alphonse Rodriguez the humble porter of the convent. Alphonse set Peter's soul on fire to save the souls of the African slaves — thousands being lost because there was no one to minister to them. His superiors finally sent Peter to New Granada in April of 1610. He was never to return to his native Spain.



By 1615 Peter was ordained a priest in Cartagena. When he made his final vows, he added a personal one: *Peter, slave of the slaves for ever*. Here in this busy seaport city, Fr Claver spent most of his priestly life. Cartagena was the principal slave market for the New World. Thousands of blacks were brought there, herded into warehouses and auctioned to the highest bidder.

It was to these people that Peter would minister. He would meet each slave ship as it arrived. Peter would go to the warehouses and bring them food, water, medicine and clothing, for, as he said "We must speak to them with our hands, before we try to speak to them with our lips". But most of all, he brought them God. After twenty-seven years of devotion to the black slaves, St. Peter Claver died at Cartagena on September 8, 1654. Leo XIII canonized him on January 15, 1888, proclaiming him special patron and protector of the negroes.

Thank You, From the Catholic League

God bless you for your gift in the second collection last week. Never underestimate or take lightly the good and progress you have helped to accomplish for the Church through the further education of priests at the Polish Pontifical Institute, Polish Pontifical College both in Rome and the Polish Seminary in Paris. Be assured the student-priests remember you in their Masses.

"Christ is our wisdom, our hope of glory"

AREA EVENTS!

~ *St. Mary's Church*, 5 Saxton Street, Lockport will hold their Pig Roast on Sunday, Sept. 20th from 11:30am-2:30pm at the Parish Center. For more information call 434-6316.

~ *Bishop Timon-St. Jude High School* will hold their Open House on Sept. 23rd & 24th from 6-8pm. Three scholarships will be awarded that night. For more information, contact the Admission Office at 826-3610, ext. 237.

The Final Celebration "No tickets"

Our Final Mass on Sunday, Sept. 27th will be celebrated at 11am. This is the *only Mass* scheduled on that Sunday.

The Final Celebration Dinner will be held in the gymnasium from 1-5pm. The cost of the reservation includes a Family-Style Sit-down dinner, music with a Cash-Bar. We are limited to space (300 guests).

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.*

Who is Jesus? Why did Jesus Die?

These and other big and small questions are addressed in video and small group discussions. The 10-week Alpha course begins on Tues., Sept. 15th or Sept. 22nd at 6:30pm in the hospitality room at St. Stephen Parish, Grand Island. A simple meal is provided. Register with Cherie 773-7792.

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 6, 2009

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jesus "said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened."

I always admired the simple flowers, how they turn themselves toward the sun as soon as the first rays come. Of course it is nature that does that and a flower that turns down the gift of the sun is either dead or about to die. The sun is so essential for all life that it is not surprising that many ancient people considered it a god.

Jesus, in today's Gospel, heals a deaf man. Two things are extraordinary. One: the man was not Jewish. Two: his command: "Open!" The first thing, the cure of a gentile shows Jesus proclaiming salvation to man, without distinction. Jews always wanted God to be for them alone, but He cannot be limited by humans. His love and salvation are for all people.

The second thing: Open, or as the official translation puts it, "Be opened" means that man like the flowers should always turn to God to be receptive of his life-giving love. No need to wonder why did Jesus say "be opened" instead, be cured. He was doing more than just physically healing the deaf, he was doing spiritual healing as well. This is another example of a person asking God for a measly favor, like curing deafness and God doing that plus curing a spiritual deafness as well. As we reflect on our own lives, we find that God does that for us more often than we think.

Be opened to God is most important. However St. James in today's second reading talks about openness to each other. We must confess that what he says about the poor and rich, the well dressed and the poorly dressed hits home. For some dumb reason, we presume the rich to be honest and the

poor to be suspicious at least. If some well dressed person approach us on the street and asks for help, we tend to be less suspicious of him than if a poorly dressed does the same thing. The fault here is our lack of openness. We see the outward and ignore the inward. Being opened then would mean that we try to see the face of God in our neighbor, no matter his dress, race, color, religion or anything else. It is not easy. We have to fight against our innate prejudices, learned and ingrained in us. We must become like little children, who have not yet learned these prejudices.

Jesus heals people for one reason. He is showing God's compassionate love for us. The biggest obstacle that we face is believing that each one of us, unimportant to the world, is very important to God who loves us.

~S. Paul Ayoub



**Readings for the Week
 September 6, 2009**

Sunday: Is 35:4-7a; Jas 2:1-5; Mk 7:31-37
 Monday: Col 1:24-2:3; Lk 6:6-11
 Tuesday: Mic 5:1-4a; Mt 1:1-16,18-23
 Wednesday: Col 3:1-11; Lk 6:20-26
 Thursday: Col 3:12-17; Lk 6:27-38
 Friday: Tm 1:1-2,12-14; Lk 6:39-42
 Saturday: Tm 1:15-17; Lk 6:43-49
 Next Sunday: Is 50:5-9a; Jas 2:14-18; Mk 8:27-35

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.