

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY,	SEPTEMBER 19
8:00 a.m.	Alice Gogerty
5:30 p.m.	Alice Leyhan
SUNDAY,	SEPTEMBER 20
7:00 a.m.	People of the Parish
8:30 a.m.	William Prendergast
10:00 a.m.	Fannie Faye Meditz
12:15 p.m.	Shannon Mast
5:30 p.m.	Florence Ditty
MONDAY,	SEPTEMBER 21
7:00 a.m.	Gretta Moloney
12:05 p.m.	Patrick Cutaneo
TUESDAY,	SEPTEMBER 22
7:00 a.m.	Eileen Neary
12:05 p.m.	Helen Coyne
WEDNESDAY,	SEPTEMBER 23
7:00 a.m.	Henry Schreiber
12:05 p.m.	Edward Patalano
THURSDAY,	SEPTEMBER 24
7:00 a.m.	Jessie Valletta
12:05 p.m.	Shirley Szabo
FRIDAY,	SEPTEMBER 25
7:00 a.m.	Harry Santen
12:05 p.m.	Moses Lewis
SATURDAY,	SEPTEMBER 26
8:00 a.m.	Marylou Ferriss Naughton and Steve Brown
5:30 p.m.	Albert Kelly
SUNDAY,	SEPTEMBER 27
7:00 a.m.	People of the Parish
8:30 a.m.	Francis Scott Walker, Jr.
10:00 a.m.	Robert Delaney
12:15 p.m.	John "Jack" G. Gilfillan, III
5:30 p.m.	Adlyn Maurello

The Rosary is prayed every weekday 15 minutes before the 12:05 Mass.

Eucharistic Adoration is held every Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Notre Dame of Mt. Carmel, Cedar Knolls.

The Perpetual Novena in honor of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal is prayed every Monday immediately following the 12:05 p.m. Mass.

Perpetual Adoration is observed seven days-a-week, 24 hours daily at St. Margaret of Scotland in Morristown.

First Reading – Wisdom 2: 12, 17-20

Today's Bible readings continue last week's discussion of the costs of faithfulness to God. The Hebrew Scripture reading describes the fate intended for a "son of God," by which the author means any faithful Jew, who by living according to the covenant with God incurs the wrath of the wicked.

Second Reading– James 3: 16-4:3

In today's excerpt, the author of the Letter James continues to remind us of the obligations of discipleship. Members of the community of Christ must not seek prestige within the community, or power over one another, or be jealous of one another's gifts. God's way is one of mutuality and peace.

Gospel – Mark 9: 30-37

Despite Jesus' repeated instructions that believers must be humble and ready to share his self-sacrificing fate, the disciples continue to vie for dominance among themselves. This passage challenges our own behavior. Are we motivated by desires for social status and prestige, or by a spirit of service to others?

We invite you to prayerfully reflect on the readings for next Sunday, September 27, **Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

First Reading: Numbers 11: 25-29

Second Reading: James 5: 1-6

Gospel: Mark 9: 38-43, 45, 47-48

NOW MORE THAN EVER

Bishop's Annual Appeal
Diocese of Paterson

For your convenience you can make a gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal on-line by going to www.patersondiocese.org and click on the "Make a Donation" button by the Bishop's Annual Appeal Link. You can also make a credit card donation by completing the back of your pledge card or calling the Diocesan Development Office at 973-777-8818, extension 218. No matter the method that works best for you, please consider supporting the 2009 Bishop's Annual Appeal with a gift today. Now more than ever, your help is needed!

\$\$\$\$Financial Blessings\$\$\$\$

The collection for September 13 totaled \$20,150. Last year's totaled \$19,792. The collection for Project Faith totaled \$2,766. Thank you for your continued generosity and support!

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Twenty-Fifth Sunday In Ordinary Time

PLEASE REMEMBER AND PRAY FOR THE RECOVERY OF:

Pat and Bob Seely, Noelle Talarico, Lorraine McMahon, John Dingman, Judy Lynch, Romaine Rea, Agnes Hogan, Kathleen McCarthy Brennan, Tony Bersani, Mary Ascher, Irene Schreiber, Rita Ventre, Helen Bitondo, Gladys Mageau, Cindy Hogan, Becca Wishbow, Michael Garde, Joseph McGovern, Elsa McGlynn, Doris Lemieux, Patricia Barter-Varrichio, William Galligan, Doris Laurenti, Heidi Hertsgaard, Mary O'Connell, Janet Cloninger, Jerry Kwilos, Kathy Farrand, Robert Carduner, Sherry Rickely, Manuel and Delicia Calderon, Ariel Donnelly, Julie Ann Barlotta, Elaine Brady, Christy Lee Ascolese, Sabrina Sanchez, Miriam Frias, Jim Cavanaugh, Gabrielle Murtha, Jody Hartley, Doris Laurenti, Guy J. Palazzolo, Jane A. Mullins, Andy Scrone, Landa Martin, Mary Breen, Elizabeth Gibson, Theresa O'Connell, Maria Svaglinac, Christopher Scully, Malcolm Sutherland Foggio, Charles Lieb McCloskey, Marie Valvano, Charlotte Resz, Linda Rosenberg, Sheila Hare, Thomas Greer, Albert J. Kelly, Jr., Lucy Garchatorina, Monica Turner, David Monahan, Ricky Broesler, Alice Slattery, Brittany Somol, Eugene R. Fennimore, and Neil, Julia Sillo, Amy Villoresi Cooney, Kenneth Donohue, Susan and Jaime Trent, Rick Baiter, Kathy Hereghty, Cheryl Collins, and Dominick Vacca.

You are invited to call the Parish Office with the names of any loved ones who you would like included in the prayers for the good health of the sick and homebound.

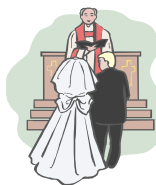
Please notify us when our prayers for recovery have been answered, so we may remove the person from the list.

YOUR PRAYERS AT WORK.....

"May God bless you and thank you for all your prayers for our Son Dillon. Our Lord Jesus has healed him. "By his stripes he is healed." He finished his last radiation treatment a couple of weeks ago and is now attending Morris County College Fall semester. Glory to God!!
– Maureen and Joe Pasapane

Joined Together in Holy Matrimony "And the two of them become one body"

*Kerry Hurley to Herbert McCooey, III
Denise Gabay to John Wennogle, Jr.*



We welcome into the Church through the Sacrament of Baptism

Amaya Jayde Banks
Daughter of Alfred and Subrina

Brendan James McGuire
Son of James and Dianne

Nicholas Michael Casale
Son of Anthony and Christine

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST SHINES AT ASSUMPTION

We believe that Jesus Christ breathes His Spirit on us so that we can strive to become a more perfect expression of the Good News in all aspects of everyday life.



This weekend marks the twenty-first annual celebration of Catechetical Sunday. This day is set aside to recognize and thank all who are involved with the faith formation of others. This year, Assumption will acknowledge and bless those who teach in the name of the

Church in our Religious Education program, Youth Ministry, religious formation at our school, Liturgy of the Word with Children and RCIA. We are thankful for the following people who, along with our priests, deacons and religious, have said "yes" to this vital ministry: Erin Manahan, Kathy Reed, Diane Spetrino, Patty Soriano, Noelle Hillebrecht, Trish Chobrda, Mary Klocksinn, Hope Zenker, Margaret Drury, Louisa Zimmermann, Andrea Japinga, Jill Weinschenk, Mary Ann Keiser, Adrienne Hanks, Joanne Knarr, Patti D'Esmond, Sandy Clyde, Gilda Gallo, Louise Johnson, Debbie Maulbeck, Rebecca DiDona, Christine Grilli, Michele Para, Deanna Peterson, Lorie Pezzuti, Janet Sullivan, Barbara Walsh, Eileen Scanlan, Donna Ciliberto, Fred Ciliberto, Gale Grennan, Peggy Lenahan, Lewis Monetti, Carolyn McLain, Terri Maier, Pat Logue, Milton Miyashiro, Pam Johnson, Nancy McGraw, Ali Van Loon, Liz Wilkey, Reine Velez-Moran, Laura Garrett, Kerry Mowry, Chris Suchocki, Laurie Wilkens, Elizabeth Omega, Bob Leach, Teddi Connor, Kate Huening, Marilyn Cuykendall, Tony Grilli, Bill Pezzuti, Jane Bender, Marilyn Rodda, JuliAnn Ferdenzi, Jennifer Geraghty, Mike Geraghty, Mary Dougherty, Elizabeth Andolino, Gail Heiner, Peter Broeman, Leonard Crann, Anne Marie Crann, Liz Fiore, Bill Kostyak, John Mroziuk, John Smith, Kelly Sullivan, Todd Talarico, Maria Vasold, Sophie Blavet, Denise Broesler, Janeen Burke, Nancy Delaney, Kate Devlin, Kathy Fadden, Caitlin MacCourtney, Steve Nicoloso, Cheryl Riehl, Jean Viotto, Sharon Bertram, Tara Speer, Linda Macios, Christine Mand, Karol Walker, Paul Walker, Laura Anderson, Linda Cannilla, Evelyn Costello, Francesca Fahmy, Alina Gomez, Cathy Hammond, Rebecca Horan, Greg Lombardi, Diane Marum, Susan Oths, Irene Perodin, Mary Romance, Kara Ryan, Diane Santillo, Safia Speer, Bernice Anglin, Carole Hires, and Lisa Cosenza. Please remember them in your prayers as they deepen their own understanding and appreciation of the treasure that is the Catholic faith and share it fully with others.

Mass Attendance for September 12 & 13

5:30 p.m.	313
7:00 a.m.	119
8:30 a.m.	208
10:00 a.m.	547
12:15 p.m.	<u>638</u>
TOTAL	1,825

TRUE GREATNESS

[...]Then he sat down, called the Twelve, and said to them, "If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all." Taking a child, he placed it in their midst, and putting his arms around it, he said to them, "Whoever receives one child such as this in my name receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but the One who sent me." (Mark 9:35-37)

This is my first column for Assumption Church and as I write I am still in the midst of unpacking and getting acquainted with parishioners in this outstanding parish. Thank you for all the ways that you have made me welcome here. I look forward to getting to know you and collaborating with you as we strive to continue to build God's kingdom in this portion of the Lord's vineyard. Usually, when I write here, I will comment and reflect on the Scriptures at Mass on Sunday.

We see Jesus teaching his disciples about his suffering and death. In last week's Gospel Our Lord explained that everyone who would follow him must pick up his cross. How do the disciples respond to this? Incredibly, they spend their time arguing about who is the greatest. They are ashamed to admit it to him but their confession of their egocentricity allows Our Lord another opportunity to teach them a lesson about true greatness. In God's Kingdom it is the servant of all who is the greatest. The Lord challenges each one of us to examine our lives. Are we living lives of humble service? Are we in any way preoccupied with ourselves and our positions? Here is a reflection I hope you enjoy.

"What do you think of the candidates?" That's what a reporter for a news magazine asked a young woman at Dartmouth University after a debate among presidential hopefuls. She didn't say a word about their positions on the issues or their skill at debate. She simply remarked, "None of them seems to have any humility."

Benjamin Franklin, the early American statesman, made a list of character qualities that he wanted to develop in his own life. When he mastered one virtue, he went on to the next. He did pretty well, he said, until he got to humility. Every time he thought he was making significant progress, he would be so pleased with himself that he became proud.

Humility is an elusive virtue. Even Jesus' disciples struggled with it. When Jesus learned that they had been arguing about who was the greatest, He responded, "If anyone desires to be first, he should be last of all and servant of all" (Mk. 9:35). Then He took a little child in His arms and indicated that we need to humbly serve others as if we were serving Christ.

If a news reporter were to talk to our friends, neighbors, or fellow church members and ask them to describe us, would they use the word humble? (Our Daily Bread, November 3, 1998)

As we begin this new school year Jesus teaches us about humility and how this virtue should be evident in all our relationships with one another. We ask the Lord to help us listen to the words of James in today's epistle. "Wisdom from above is first of all pure, then peaceable, gentle, compliant, full of mercy and good fruits, without inconstancy or insincerity. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace for those who cultivate peace." (James 3:17-18)

In Christ's Peace,
Father John

"He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8)

FAREWELL LETTER FROM FATHER JOHN'S PARISHIONERS AT ST. CECILIA AND SACRED HEART

Dear Fr. John,

With hearts filled with gratitude and love, we wish you a warm farewell and much joy in your priestly ministry at Assumption Church. We are truly grateful to God for your ministry with us at St. Cecilia's and Sacred Heart of Jesus. Thank you for celebrating Mass, hearing our confessions, Baptisms, First Penance, First Communion, Marriages, blessing us when we are ill, and comforting us in our times of loss. Thank you for breaking bread with us and nourishing our spirit by preaching the Good News. If the Sacraments, mission trips to New Orleans, pilgrimages to Italy, weren't enough, then we could always count on you for a name of a good book, excellent restaurant, movie review, round of golf, and the latest Jack Bauer rescue. Our children have been blessed to have you as their French teacher and for your support of CYO basketball, Christmas concerts, Spring concerts, and especially our school plays. You have been a wonderful example of living the Gospel and you will always be in our hearts. We have been truly blessed to have you as our Pastor, Priest, and Friend.

*With love and prayers,
Parishioners of St. Cecilia's and Sacred Heart of Jesus.*

"Go, God be with you. I entrust you to God. The God of strength, courage, comfort, hope, love, is with you." - Joyce Rupp



FROM THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR

LAMB OF GOD

By the time of Israel's enslavement in Egypt, it is clear that sacrifice occupies an essential and central part of Israel's religion. Pharaoh's overseers cruelly taunt the Israelites, saying that their frequent sacrifices are merely an excuse for avoiding work (see Ex. 5:17). Later, when Moses makes his appeal to Pharaoh, chief among his demands is the Israelites' right to offer sacrifice to God (see Ex. 10:25).

What did all these offerings mean? Animal sacrifice meant many things to the ancient Israelites.

+ It was a recognition of God's sovereignty over creation: "The earth is the Lord's" (Ps. 24:1). Man acknowledged this fact by giving back to God what is ultimately his. Thus, sacrifice praised God from whom all blessings flow.

+ A sacrifice could be an act of thanks. Creation is given to people as a gift, but what return can one make to God? (see Ps. 116:12) We can only give back what we ourselves have received.

+ Sometimes, sacrifice served as a way of solemnly sealing an agreement or oath, a covenant before God (see Gn. 21:22-32).

+ Sacrifice could also be an act of renunciation and sorrow for sins. The person offering sacrifice recognized that their sins deserved death; they offered the animal's life in place of their own.

Love, Fr. Dennis

Twenty-Fifth Sunday In Ordinary Time

A MESSAGE ON MARRIAGE FROM THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF NEW JERSEY (Continued)

For the past weeks we have been sharing with you the Catholic Bishops' of New Jersey message on marriage: "The Call to Marriage is Woven Deeply into the Human Spirit." The message is a call for an increased recognition of the importance of stable marriages in which mothers and fathers willingly sacrifice self-interest to foster long term commitment to each other, to their children, and to the future of our society.

We ask for your support of the petition drive that the Diocesan Office of Family Life will be conducting this month and early October in cooperation with the Knights of Columbus and the New Jersey Catholic Conference. **You are urged to sign the petitions that will be at the doors of the church.**

Also, please be aware that the Office of Family Life is sponsoring a seminar entitled "Catholic Considerations of Same-Sex Marriage." This presentation will be held on the following dates and locations:

October 1 – St. Ann in Parsippany, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

October 7 – Blessed Kateri in Sparta, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

All are invited to attend this seminar in order to be more informed about our Catholic teaching about the Sacrament of Marriage.

(There will be a **Stand for Marriage Rally** on Sunday, October 25 at the State House in Trenton. 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. For information please contact LarryVote@gmail.com or 202-306-6863.)

R.C.I.A.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS



Do you know someone who would like to join us in becoming a Catholic or are you a Catholic adult who would like to receive the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Communion, and/or Confirmation? You are invited to come and join us in this journey of faith. Inquire now for the session that will begin October 4 at the 8:30 a.m. Mass. Contact Karol or Paul Walker at 973-538-6844 for information, or you may call the Parish Office at 973-539-2141.

LEGATUS "AMBASSADORS FOR THE CHURCH" "NOW MORE THAN EVER"

Legatus, the International Organization of Catholic business leaders and spouses, is growing its membership in Morris County. If you are, or were, a business owner, CEO, President, Managing Director/Partner, Executive Vice President or Publisher, Legatus invites you and yours to be our guest on October 14 for Mass, Rosary, dinner, and a presentation which will feature Dr. Kevin T. Jackson, Business Consultant. Topic: "The Economic Crisis and the Common Good." There are 4,800 Catholic Legatus members in the United States and growing. For more information please contact Sheila Dwyer – Membership Coordinator at 973-462-9061 or email dwyer6@familink.com for details. Please visit the website at www.legatus.org.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS



LEAVING NEVER-NEVER LAND:

The child whom Jesus embraces in today's Gospel was a marginalized person in the ancient world. By asking his disciples to welcome a child, Jesus directs all of us to care for the least among us.

Adults: Do I know people who are struggling because of loss, sickness, or economic hardship? How can I serve them?

Children: Do I realize that those who I do not like are still loved by God?

A Family Perspective: Recall a recent family argument about household chores or an example of bickering among family members. Talk about what was at issue in the argument. Together imagine that Jesus entered the room just as the argument ended. What would you tell Jesus your argument was about? What might Jesus say in reply? How was your family argument like the argument among Jesus' disciples? What might your family do to remember that those who are great in God's Kingdom are those who willingly serve others? Pray together that your family life will reflect your commitment to serve one another with love.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD: Use one of these suggestions or one of your own to respond to God's word this week.

In the home: Identify someone who is in need of your time, and offer it to them.

In the workplace or in school: Choose to share your lunch time with someone who you know is coping with a difficult situation.

In the community: Use the internet or newspaper or some other source to become familiar with organizations that promote social justice.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES 2009-2010!

Confirmation Year Two candidates and their parents are requested to attend our first meeting on Sunday, September 20 immediately following the 5:30 p.m. Youth Mass.

Confirmation Year One candidates and their parents are requested to attend their first meeting on Sunday, September 27 immediately following the 5:30 p.m. Youth Mass.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd sessions will begin the week of September 20.

Fridays, Faith & Family will have their first session on Friday, September 25.

1st-8th Grade Sunday and After-School Classes will begin the week of Sunday, October 4.

If you have not yet registered/re-registered please do so at www.assumptionparish.org.



www.veritasfinancialministries.com/

Where financial advice is offered from a Catholic perspective. Features information about the workbook "Seven Steps to Becoming Financially Free" and the Seven Steps Workshop.

AN EXTRAORDINARY "YEAR FOR PRIESTS"

Pope Benedict has declared an extraordinary "Year for Priests", beginning with the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, June 19, 2009, and ending a year later on this same universal feast. We are challenged to root our lives in the priestly heart of Jesus and to mediate his presence to others in the world.



Abundant Water From the Rock: Traveling through the desert was a time of harsh testing for the Israelites, but it also helped them learn to trust. In this way their sojourn in the wilderness became an image for the journey of faith.

The wilderness account of the rock and its life-giving water provided images for early Christian reflection on Jesus, the gift of his Spirit, and the waters of baptism. When read in the light of the Risen Christ, New Testament authors understood these accounts as foreshadowing the abundant life God would give to the church through the suffering and death of his Son. In his letter to the Corinthians, Paul writes that the rock in the wilderness is Christ: "They drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ" (1 Cor 10:4).

The people of Israel remembered their sojourn in the wilderness every year with the festival of Tabernacles. A golden pitcher of water was carried to the temple then solemnly poured out over the altar of sacrifice. This liturgical action was a commemoration of God's providence to their ancestors in the wilderness as he brought forth gushing water from the rock. John's Gospel puts Jesus at this festival as he cries out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water'" (John 7:37-38). Jesus is the rock from which the living waters flow. In his saving death, streams of water will flow out from within him to be the source of life and grace for the world. *For reflection:* What was God teaching his people in the wilderness through the gift of water from the rock? What is the lesson for me? *The Sacred Heart of Jesus*, Twenty-Third Publications

Middle School Youth Ministry "Game Night"

On Sunday, September 27, from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. the 6th, 7th and 8th graders of Assumption Parish are invited to "Open Game Night" (basketball, volleyball, ping-pong, Playstation, Wii, etc.) plus participate in a service opportunity by helping to make bag lunches for the Community Soup Kitchen. Music and snacks will be provided. For information or to register for the event email us at MSYM@assumptionparish.org or call 973-267-5638. All youth must turn in a permission slip in order to attend.

Donations are being accepted for the items needed for the sandwiches: packages of ham, turkey and cheese (American or Swiss); bread; drinks (water, juice boxes, etc. – no soda); individually wrapped snacks (chips, pretzels, cookies, etc.); fruit (oranges, apples, pears); one gallon size clear Ziploc bags; and sandwich bags. Monetary donations are welcome also. Email us at MSYM@assumptionparish.org or call 973-267-5638 to make a donation.



GOOD SAMARITAN MINISTRY

Again, our thanks to our parish volunteers for their time and support for the Good Samaritan Ministry. The coordinator for September will be Pat Moore 973-267-5304.

**DOLORES HULVAT
CATECHETICAL AWARD 2009**

Each year, *The Dolores Hulvat Catechetical Award* is presented by Assumption Religious Education in memory of Dolores Hulvat. Dolores worked for over 25 years as a catechist in the Archdiocese of Chicago and here in Morristown. Dolores died in 1997 at the age of 59 but we pause today – on Catechetical Sunday – to remember her and to honor her contributions.

This year's 13th Annual Hulvat Award is being presented to **Claudia Nardi**. When asked about her role as Director of Music, Claudia responded, "Music is one of God's greatest gifts. My purpose at Assumption is twofold. As a teacher, I want to put that gift into your souls. As a Music Minister, I want you to share that gift with others". We have all witnessed the way Claudia has done just that throughout the past 20 plus years here at Assumption. As a child, Claudia found comfort and security in the soothing sounds of song that accompanied ritual in Church. Today, Claudia is a person of faith who holds credentials in music and has a thorough understanding of and certification in Roman Catholic liturgy. Claudia arrived at Assumption in 1986 at a time when the church was under renovation because of the fire. She has developed and nurtured four choirs plus a bell choir encouraging all, young and old, to share their talents with the parish community. She produced two CD's – one from Bishop Rodimer's 50th Anniversary Mass; the other of our own Children's Choir titled, "Yes, We Can." While cultivating her ministry here at Assumption, Claudia has managed numerous food and clothing drives to benefit the poor and homeless of Morristown. She played an integral role in the establishment of the Interfaith Food Pantry. Claudia at one time extended an invitation to Nova Chamber Ensemble, a string quartet from Ukraine, to play at Assumption. Their visit set the wheels in motion for the reopening of the Community Theater. Claudia is also a trained buddy for those with Aids. These many service oriented roles have grown out of Claudia's love of music and her ministry at the Church. As she will tell you, "Music is inseparable from the traditions of the Church. It is an expression of the rhythm of the liturgy and of the rhythm of our lives." Thank you, Claudia, for teaching us so much about music, about liturgy, and about all God calls us to be. Because of the way you, much like Dolores Hulvat, have influenced all members of this parish community, we are honored and proud to name you as the recipient of the Dolores Hulvat Catechetical Award, 2009. Congratulations, Claudia, and may God continue to bless you!

BE A SOUPER VOLUNTEER



Assumption's team for the Community Soup Kitchen is looking for volunteers to cook meals for those less fortunate in our community. You need not be an expert chef, you only have to be able to follow a recipe. Please call Annaliese Rush at 973-455-0391 for more information on this worthy ministry.

4TH ANNUAL SHARE THE HOPE WALK, OCTOBER 3

Please join us for our 4th Annual Share the Hope Walk. Registration 9:00 a.m. Step Off 10:00 a.m. Beginning and ending at Hope House 19-21 Belmont Avenue, Dover. Be a walker, sponsor or financial supporter. If you are unable to attend or participate, consider supporting them by sending a tax-exempt donation to: Hope House, Attention Walk 2009, 19-21 Belmont Avenue, Dover, 07801. For more information call 973-361-5555, ext. 121 or walk2009@hopehousenj.org.

Twenty-Fifth Sunday In Ordinary Time

HAITI FOOD DRIVE

Assumption Church will once again be participating in an area-wide food drive for Haiti beginning this weekend. For those who may not be familiar with the drive, our parish, along with Notre Dame of Mount Carmel, St. Virgil, St. Therese in Succasunna and St. Matthew the Apostle in Randolph, collect food items that are shipped directly to Missionaries of the Poor (MOP). MOP is a Catholic order that serves the poor, the destitute, the sick, the elderly, and the handicapped in the poorest areas of the world. For information on MOP, you can visit their website at: www.Missionariesofthepoor.org.

Our collection will be benefiting their mission in Cap-Haitien, Haiti. The items which we will be asking you to purchase are from a list of food items that the brothers have requested of us. Because the MOP Brothers and Priests cook for so many, we need large quantities of the same items (example 8 pounds of spaghetti). The food collected during the next three weeks will be the **only** food MOP will have for two to three months, as they rely solely on donations from groups like ours to exist. We are one of five groups throughout the United States that hold this drive for MOP throughout the year to provide their annual food supply.

This weekend, **September 19/20**, we will have our table set up with the food item samples and their respective cards. We ask that you seriously consider what item(s) you can purchase for this drive and then take the respective card that contains the detailed information about the food item. Please do not take the card unless you intend to purchase the item, as these cards represent for us the inventory we anticipate collecting. The table will remain up next weekend as well (September 26/27). You can return the food item(s) after any of the Masses to the rectory garage on **September 26/27 or October 3/4**.

For questions specific to this drive or if you would be willing to help, please call Mary and Jim Carr at 973-540-0607. Thank you in advance for your help and support!

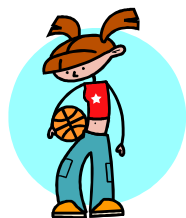
CYO BASKETBALL

CYO Basketball will be open to all boys and girls grades 5 through 8. Children must be members of the parish or attend Assumption School.

Sign-ups will be on Tuesday, September 22 in the school gym from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Please bring a copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate and a check for \$80 made out to Assumption Parish. Sample uniforms will be available at that time for proper sizing, so please bring your child if possible.

Practices will begin mid-October. Games begin mid-November and are mostly on Sunday afternoons. The season runs until mid-February with playoffs ending the first week of March. Please contact Paul Burke at 908-510-6677 or patburkehome@optonline.net with any questions or if you are interested in coaching.



HELLO AND GOODBYE PICNIC



Last weekend's **Hello and Goodbye** picnic was the biggest and best party I've ever had. It truly celebrated and honored Fr. John and me.

I thank God for the good weather and beautiful day. I thank Liz Wilkey and Mel Boesgaard for all of their work in preparing the wonderful flyer that went in the weekend's bulletin. I thank Claudia Nardi, Karen Chiappini, and our beautiful choirs for the inspiring music they provided for my final liturgies here as pastor. I thank the deacons and my fellow priests for being there with me to share the big day. I also thank the Knights of Columbus Honor Guard and our bagpiper, Tim Byrne, for escorting us to the picnic in style.

Liz Wilkey and the entire picnic committee deserve a big round of applause for this grand success. I am so happy that we had so many wonderful ways for the children to have fun at our picnic, and I thank Veronica Koons, members of the Religious Education Department, Home and School Association and our Youth Ministry teens for making sure it all went well. I thank the many members of the Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts and Knights of Columbus who helped with the set-up and clean-up. I thank the members of our 8th Grade Girl Scout troop who helped with all of the beautiful decorations. I also am grateful to many members of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, as well as Joan Barbarula, MaryAlice Lawless, and Enoch Rudolph, "Junior" who helped with so many other picnic logistics.

I thank Fr. Dennis and members of our Pastoral Advisory Committee who – on behalf of the entire parish community - arranged the wonderful surprise of a trip to Africa for me to visit my good friend and seminarian classmate, Fr. Damien. I thank the Knights of the Columbus who gave the beautiful plaque which will hang in the Community Room. I also thank all of you who have given so generously to me and to Hope House in my name. And last – but certainly not least – I thank Fr. John for making me feel welcome and affirmed in this beautiful parish community which will always be my home.

*"Friends are forever in Christ."
– Father Martin*

MARK YOUR CALENDARS PILGRIMAGE TO OBERAMMERGAU AND PASSION PLAY IN GERMANY SPRING 2010



Our Father John will serve as a spiritual escort for an eleven day pilgrimage to Oberammergau, Germany for the historic Passion Play conducted there every ten years. The group will be departing on May 29 and returning on June 8, 2010. In addition to Germany, the trip will include the countries of Switzerland, Austria, and Liechtenstein with visits to Heidelberg, Lucerne, Innsbruck, Salzburg, Munich and Garmisch. A cruise down the Rhine River is also planned. Space is limited and reservations must be made early. For information about this exciting pilgrimage and complete itinerary, please contact Fr. John or stop in the Parish Office to pick-up a brochure.

September 20, 2009

Poems from the Pew, From a Child's View

If you want to be first, you must be the very last.
You must be the servant of everyone.
Mark 9: 35

Number One

I live right here on First Street in apartment Number One.
I am the oldest child and my parents' favorite son.
I win each race I run in, and at soccer I'm the best;
I make it my sole purpose to always beat the rest.

I am a first-rate learner, for I have the sharpest mind.
You might say that I'm exceptional. . . unique. . . one-of-a kind!
I always have to be the first in order to be me.
The only time I can be last is in a spelling bee!

So when I went to church today and heard what Jesus said,
I thought that someone turned me topsy-turvy on my head!
If I want to be the first, I first must be the last?
Is this really possible? Dear Lord, I need to ask.

Humility and service – those are simply not the traits,
that I have ever thought about or tried to emulate.
But Jesus served his friends although he was God's only Son.
He didn't have a hang-up about being Number One!

So I will try to change my ways and hope that I can be,
like Jesus, and put other folks far ahead of me.
When I serve other people – now, I know it may seem odd –
I can become the Number One on God's "Good People" squad.

– Liz Wilkey
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Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
