

**“THE PRAYER THAT SAVED THE CONSTITUTION”** by Robert Morgan 2/5/20

June 28, 1787

*Unless the Lord builds the house, They labor in vain who build it. — Psalm 127:1*

After the British surrender, the American Colonies had a nation but needed a constitution. The old Articles of Confederation were inadequate. In May 1787, delegates gathered in Philadelphia for a convention to draft a constitution that would establish an effective federal government. They appointed George Washington as chair, but that’s about all they agreed on. From the beginning, the delegates quarreled over deeply held disagreements as to the extent and form of the new government.

That’s when venerable Benjamin Franklin, eighty-one, rose to make a motion:



**GOD BLESS AMERICA!**

In this situation of this assembly, groping, as it were, in the dark to find political truth, and scarce able to distinguish it when presented to us, how has it happened, sir, that we have not hitherto once thought of humbly applying to the Father of Lights to illuminate our understandings? In the beginning of the contest with Britain, when we were sensible of danger, we had daily prayers in this room for the divine protection. Our prayers, sir, were heard — and they were graciously answered. All of us, who were engaged in the struggle, must have observed frequent instances of a superintending Providence in our favor. To that kind Providence we owe this happy opportunity of consulting in peace on the means of establishing our future national felicity. And have we now forgotten that powerful friend?... I have lived, sir, a long time; and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth, *that God governs in the affairs of men!* And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid? We have been assured, sir, in the sacred writings, that “except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it.”<sup>1</sup>

Ben Franklin was quoting here from Psalm 127. His entire remarkable speech, short as it was, was filled with biblical quotations and allusions, but this psalm was at the heart of what he wanted to say. Unless the Lord is in any enterprise, it has a limited future. Even building a house without His aid is perilous. Raising a family or a home without His strength is hazardous. Guarding a city without His blessings is futile. Working hard to gain wealth without putting Him first is vain. How much more the establishing of a new nation, one unlike any ever seen on the earth. Surely such an undertaking requires the help of almighty God.

Franklin continued:

I firmly believe this; and I also believe, that without his concurring aid, we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel: we shall be divided by our little partial local interests, our projects will be confounded, and we ourselves shall become a reproach... I therefore beg leave to move, that henceforth prayers, imploring the assistance of heaven, and its blessings on our deliberations, be held in this assembly every morning before we proceed to business; and that one or more of the clergy of the city be requested to officiate in that service.<sup>2</sup>

Even this motion failed because, perhaps, the convention had no money to hire a chaplain. But a few days later, on July 4, 1787, General Washington led the delegates to a prayer service at Philadelphia’s Reformed Calvinist Lutheran Church, where Rev. William Rogers offered these words:

*As this is a period, O Lord, big with events, impenetrable by any human scrutiny, we fervently recommend to Thy Fatherly notice that august Body, assembled in this city, who compose our Federal Convention; will it please Thee, O Thou Eternal I AM, to favor them from day to day with Thy immediate presence; be Thou their wisdom and their strength! Enable them to devise such measures as may prove happily instrumental for healing all divisions and promoting the good of the great whole... that the United States of America may furnish the world with one example of a free and permanent government, which shall be the result of human and mutual deliberation, and which shall not, like all other governments, whether ancient or modern, spring out of mere chance or be established by force... We close this, our solemn address, by saying, as our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ hath taught us — Our Father, who art in Heaven ... 3*

The delegates joined in the Lord’s Prayer, then went back to work. Soon they had a document that began: “We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union.” James Madison, writing about the event later, said, “It is impossible for the man of pious reflection not to perceive in it a finger of that Almighty Hand, which has been so frequently and signally extended to our relief in the critical states of the revolution.”<sup>4</sup>

1. *Quotes in Timothy Pitkin, A Political and Civil History of the United States of America, vol.*

2 (New Haven, CT: Hezekiah Howe and Durrie & Peck, 1828), 246. 2. *Quotes in Timothy Pitkin, A Political and Civil History, 246.*

3. *The American Museum, or Repository of Ancient and Modern Fugitive Pieces, Prose and Poetry, for January 1788, vol. 3, no. 1 (Philadelphia: Mathew Carey, 1788), 17–18.*

4. *The Federalist on the New Constitution, no. 37 (Hallowell, ME: Masters, Smith & Company, 1857), 166.*



**MASS SCHEDULE**

**SATURDAY, July 3, Saint Thomas**

9:00 a.m. Mass for Jack Monnes req. by The Family  
Rev. Charles McGrath  
3:00 - 3:30 p.m. Confession  
4:00 p.m. Mass for All Veterans, Living and Deceased  
6:00 p.m. Misa en Español para todos los veteranos, vivos y fallecidos

**SUNDAY, July 4, 14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

7:30 a.m. Mass for All Veterans, Living and Deceased  
9:00 a.m. Mass for All Veterans, Living and Deceased  
11:30 a.m. Mass for All Veterans, Living and Deceased  
7:00 p.m. Missa Brasileira Para todos aqueles no Brasil que sofrem de COVID

**MONDAY, July 5, St. Anthony Zaccaria & St. Elizabeth of Portugal**

9:00 a.m. Mass for Jason Anthony O'Brien req. by Mom & Dad  
The Papiri Family req. by the McCarthy Family

**TUESDAY, July 6, Saint Maria Goretti**

9:00 a.m. Mass for Dolores Innes & Fred Koch req. by Chuck Cheroklye

**WEDNESDAY, July 7, Weekday**

9:00 a.m. Mass for Anne Walsh Cusano req. by Margo Burke  
Erik Zavorskas req. by Mom, Dad & Family

**THURSDAY, July 8, Weekday**

9:00 a.m. Mass for Leo Volpe req. by Karen Volpe  
Marilyn Pohorylo req. by Marilyn Carroll

**FRIDAY, July 9, St. Augustine Zhao Rong & Companions**

9:00 a.m. Mass for Betty & Ray Donahue req. by Mary Reynolds  
Evelyn & James McCusker req. by Judy McCusker

**SATURDAY, July 10, Weekday**

9:00 a.m. Mass for Charles Salerno req. by Barbara Cerruto  
Dick Dondero req. by The Family  
11:00 a.m. INTERMENT at St. Mary Cemetery for Arlene Dobbin  
3:00 - 3:30 p.m. Confession  
4:00 p.m. Mass for Thomas Silva, Sr. req. by Joann & John McCarty  
F. Thomas Pogwizd req. by John & Dorothy Pogwizd  
6:00 p.m. Misa en Español para Jorge Ortiz solicitado por la familia  
Sr. Cecilia Quecada solicitado por Angela Potesak

**SUNDAY, July 11, 15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

7:30 a.m. Mass for Robert Thompson req. by Florence Weber  
David & John Scagliarini req. by Mary Scagliarini  
9:00 a.m. Mass for Larry Joseph Pontillo req. by Amy Pontillo  
Richard Dittburner req. by Marcia Munson  
11:30 a.m. Mass for Arlene Dobbin req. by The Genua Family  
Anna Bednarczyk req. by Annmarie & Jim Scott  
7:00 p.m. Missa Brasileira Para todos aqueles no Brasil que sofrem de COVID

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Requested by Barbara Corcoran



**CONTRIBUTIONS**

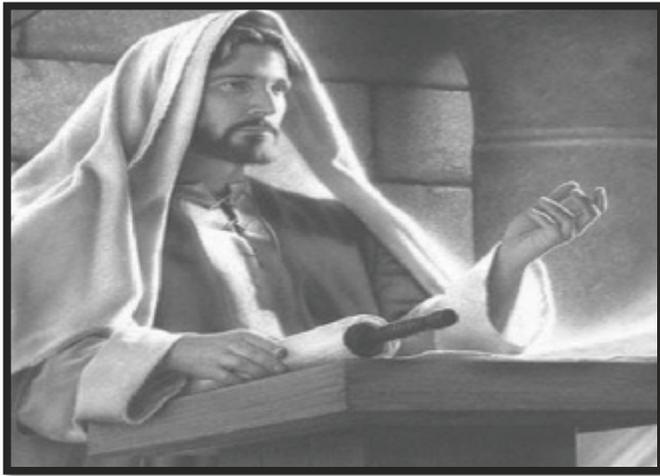
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God bless you!*

**WEEK OF JUNE 27TH**

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
English Masses	\$4,064.00	\$5,270.00
Spanish Mass	\$331.00	\$791.25
Brazilian Mass (Week + 1/4 of the monthly collection)	\$276.25	\$664.25



## Evangelho do domingo 04 de julho

(Mc 6,1-6)

Por ser uma pessoa humilde, filho de um carpinteiro e conhecido de todos Jesus não pôde fazer milagres na sua terra e no meio da sua gente. As pessoas que lhe eram próximas não queriam admitir que alguém tão simples pudesse ter tanta sabedoria e duvidavam de que o poder de Deus estivesse com Ele. dessa forma Jesus não conseguia ser escutado nem tampouco ser levado a sério. A história ainda hoje se repete quando não damos ouvido nem valor às pessoas que estão muito próximas de nós, ou àquelas que são humildes e simples. Precisamos nós, também, perceber a quem estamos valorizando, o que nos prende a atenção e ao que estamos dando importância: às coisas simples do alto, ou às coisas complicadas daqui de baixo ?

Mães que Oram  
pelos Filhos

Segundas-feiras  
7:30pm

Saint Mary Church of the Visitation  
54 Grove St, Clinton, Connecticut



## MORGAN SCHOOL CATHOLIC GRADUATES 2021

*Graduates Included in the TOP 10 of the Class of 2021:*

*Ryan Lam Nguyen (Valedictorian), Joshua A. Bardinelli (Salutatorian),  
Aiden Maurais (3rd), Abigail Kalin Eydman (6th), Caitlyn Grace Donadio (9th)  
Vanessa Horan (10th)*

Dylan Patrick Ayer, Evan A. Baptista, Louis Matthew Bradley, Julia Ann Bristol, Madison Catherine Corgan, Lauren Marie Dundon, Meagan Ann Dundon, Ciro Thomas Falanga, David Anthony Fortuna, Jr., Reagan Elizabeth Franzoni, Dylan Jacobus George, Ryan Thomas Inglis, Isabela Irizarry, Megan Finula Jenkins, Seamus Robert Jenkins, Zachary Johnson, Annalise Kennedy, Gavin Edward Krott, Timothy P. Lichack, George Christopher Mantilia, Michael James Monty, Christopher James Morris, Lillian Anna Morrissey, Owen Patrick O'Donnell, Philip Pádraig Pilletere, Olivia Ann Riccio, Riley Marie Saunders, Maxwell Caufield Skidmore, Francesca Monet Tino, Owen Trahan, Alexander Preston Urban, Aezandra M. Vera, Ryan P. Warner, Robert J. Zirlis

**Congratulations Class of 2021!! We are so very proud of all of you!  
May God bless you in your future endeavors!**



## Knights of Columbus Stipend

\*\*\* Special Announcement \*\*\*

\*\*\* Due to the pandemic disruptions last year, we will be giving out two (2) Stipend awards this year. One award for a 2020 graduate and one for a 2021 graduate.  
So, if you or a family member graduated in 2020 and went on to college,  
you/they are still eligible for the Stipend award. \*\*\*

The Rev. Walter J. Keenan Council of the Knights of Columbus here at St. Mary Church is again offering its \$750 Stipend to a deserving High School Senior who is a registered member of St. Mary's Parish or an immediate family member of our Council membership. The applications are available from the Parish Office and due back by July 14th. Please return the applications to the office, place in the office mailbox (marked "KofC") or mail to:  
Knights of Columbus, c/o St. Mary Church of the Visitation, 54 Grove St., Clinton, CT 06413.

## COMPARTIENDO EL EVANGELIO

“Nadie es profeta en su propia tierra”. Queridos hermanos y hermanas, el evangelista San Marcos nos presenta a Jesús rechazado por sus mismos paisanos quienes a pesar de ver sus signos le depreciaban trayendo a colación su origen humilde, su familia etc. Jesús vino a los suyos y los suyos no le aceptaron.

Desde este texto podemos preguntarnos, es esta también tu actitud o has aceptado a Jesucristo en tu vida y vives según lo que El te enseña en los evangelios?

Quizá también tu estés viviendo la misma situación de Jesús, porque a lo mejor luchas porque los de tu casa se acerquen a Dios, vivan según los mandamientos y tu misma familia no te acepta y no te cree.

Cuantos padres quisieran que sus hijos vengan a la misa y por mas que les motivan sus hijos no responden y eso crea frustración, dolor, de verlos que sufren muchas veces y que están tan alejados de Dios... A todos los que les sucede esto, es bueno y reconfortante este texto de hoy, también a Jesús no le escucharon los mas cercanos. A pesar de esto no pierdas el entusiasmo y sigue predicando y hablando de Jesús a pesar de que no te escuchen o no te hagan caso, Dios ira haciendo su obra y con tu testimonio de vida y tu oración, podrás ser canal de bendición para los de tu casa, puede ser que Dios te ha puesto a ti con ese esposo, con esos hermanos, con esos hijos, para que a través de ti entre la salvación a tu casa.

Dios te bendiga y buena semana.

QUE DICE EL CATECISMO DE LA IGLESIA CATOLICA SOBRE ¿Cuáles son las dificultades para la oración?

La dificultad habitual para la oración es la distracción, que separa de la atención a Dios, y puede incluso descubrir aquello a lo que realmente estamos apegados. Nuestro corazón debe entonces volverse a Dios con humildad. A menudo la oración se ve dificultada por la sequedad, cuya superación permite adherirse en la fe al Señor incluso sin consuelo sensible. La acedia es una forma de pereza espiritual, debida al relajamiento de la vigilancia y al descuido de la custodia del corazón.



\*\*\*\*\*

LA RISA ES SALUD: - Te caiste?

- No, el suelo estaba triste y fui a darle un abrazo

---

Nos vamos preparando para recibir la misión Mariana con Padre Juan de la Cruz. Si alguno desea que el Padre le visite y se haga la novena de la Purísima de Macas en su casa, déjelo saber a Sr. Gloria.

RECUERDA QUE CADA VIERNES A LAS 6:30pm tenemos una cita con la PALABRA DE DIOS, serás bienvenido. Trae tu biblia y un corazón abierto para recibir las bendiciones de Dios.

## DONATE TO FOSTER CARE, PLEASE!



Many children in foster care do not have the necessary toiletries that they need. **Please help our Girl Scout troop (61110)** collect the following items, so that kids can get items they use each day! A collection box is located at the entrance of the church & the halls.

Please consider donating:

Body Wash / Deodorant  
Toothpaste / Toothbrushes  
Diapers  
Feminine Products (pads, tampons)

**Any donation is appreciated. Thank you!**

## ST. MARY'S WIDOWS, WIDOWERS & SINGLES

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

Every Tuesday - Walk at Hammonasset, **10:30am**. Meet at outside parking lot on Route 1. Walk at your own pace, etc.

Exercise Class at St. Mary's Hall every Friday at 10:00am. (Led by Jeanne - Certified personal trainer/silver sneakers instructor). Class geared for all levels of fitness. Sit or stand. Bring hand weights if you have them and water.

*Check back next weekend for more upcoming events!!*

Next meeting is Wednesday, July 21, at 10:00am in the Church Hall.

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

**Any questions, contact Jeanne Perlman at (860) 669-5123, Cell phone (914) 525-0715.**

*"God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another."*

### ***We Need Your Help!***

**Stewardship opportunities have returned to the Church!**

**If you are interested in participating in the masses as a Lector, Altar Server or Usher, please contact the Parish Office (860)669-8512 to submit your name, phone number and mass preference. A schedule will be organized, posted and you will be contacted with the information. (Training will be provided.)**

**Currently, the Diocese has still instructed that the priests ONLY are to handle the Blessed Sacrament. When we can use the assistance of Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist again, it will be announced.**

## Alcoholics Anonymous MEETINGS

**AA meetings are held every:**

**Sunday at 7:30pm**

**Monday Women's Group at 10:00am**

**Monday at 7:00pm**

**Tuesday & Friday at 12:00pm**

**Wednesdays at 5:30pm**

**Thursday Women's Group at 9:30am**

**Thursday Women's Group at 11:30am**

**Visitation Hall of St. Mary's.  
Please wear a face covering if you are not vaccinated.**

ALL ARE WELCOME



## LOST & FOUND

Please be sure to check with the Parish Office if you may have lost an item at the church. Currently, we have a hearing aide, a ladies watch & black sweater, some jewelry items, glasses, hats, gloves, etc.

You can stop in or call (860)669-8512 to see if it matches your description.

Be safe, be well and enjoy your summer!

(The office will be closed July 5, 2021 in observance of the 4th of July holiday.)

## CONFIRMATION HAITI PROJECT

We will continue to collect soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste and face cloths throughout the summer months, but we will also add flip flops to this list as well as peanut butter and tuna fish in oil.

You have been so generous in the past! We deliver all items to the Haiti Health Foundation in Norwich.

Thank you again for your continued support!



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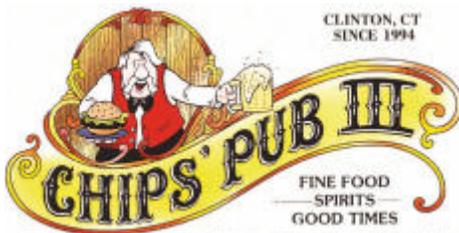
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