



SAINT JOHN FISHER CHURCH

September 13, 2020



24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Mass Schedule

SATURDAY VIGIL: 4:00 PM
SUNDAY: 8:00, 9:30, 11:30 AM
WEEKDAYS (Chapel): Monday - Friday, 7:30 AM
HOLY DAYS: Vigil - 7:00 PM; 9:00 AM and 7:00 PM
HOLIDAYS: 9:00 AM
CONFESSION: Sat. 3:00 - 3:45 PM or by appointment

Business Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Friday 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM
Closed weekdays for lunch between Noon and 1:00 PM
Saturday 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Sunday 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Parish Staff

Pastor: Rev. Robert B. McDermott (ext. 3)
Permanent Deacon: Rev. Mr. Daniel Bingnear
Weekend Assistant: Rev. Francis X. Devlin, O.S.A.
Business Manager: Mr. Daniel Kinnik (ext. 4)
Director of Religious Education & Music Ministry:
Mrs. Kathleen Aaronson (ext. 5)
PREP Secretary: Mrs. Patricia Donnelly (ext. 8)
Parish Admin. Assistant: Mrs. Regina Robinson (ext. 6)
Communications Secretary: Mrs. Renee Devine (ext. 2)
Maintenance: Bill Casey (ext. 7)

Pastor Emeritus

Rev. John Sibel

4225 CHICHESTER AVENUE • BOOTHWYN, PA 19061

Website: stjohnfisherchurch.com Facebook: Saint John Fisher Phone: (610) 485-0441 E-mail: contact@sjf71.org



TODAY IS SEPTEMBER 13, THE 24th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME. THE GOSPEL READING IS MATTHEW 18:21-35.

To forgive is sometimes a difficult thing. In not wanting someone who hurt us to downplay or forget the gravity of their wrong, we cling to anger, resentment, and wrath, all expressions of deep hurt. We fail to realize that we hold ourselves hostage to these destructive feelings and actually become mired in our anger. All we gain is further alienation from our true selves, others, and especially God. Don't we really want to let it go? Fact is, we *need* to.

Do you think that offering forgiveness, even for the most grievous of wrongs, somehow excuses the person of their wrong and makes it almost acceptable? Do you see forgiveness as an eraser that wipes away the offense without consequence? Or, that in offering forgiveness, one must forget the wrong and be open to more pain in the future? This is what makes revenge, retaliation, and punishment so attractive. But, in fact, forgiving a person of their wrongful actions or attitudes does not erase anything, or position oneself as a doormat.

Forgiveness is an act of *freedom* that restores honest dialogue, shares true and heartfelt feelings, and acknowledges the consequences of an action. It admits that the wrong has caused a hurt that must be healed and squarely positions responsibility on the offender. The act of forgiveness recognizes sinfulness and brokenness. It also admits that the most saintly among us is capable of doing very grave and deep harm to another person. It sees that we all can be victims of our passions and that we are works in progress that deserve unlimited chances to get it right. With forgiveness, we release ourselves from the bonds of negativity and pursue a path of restoration, wholeness, and healing. It does not mean we forget the wrong or dismiss it. We may have to stay far away from the one who hurt us, but we can still heal internally and be free.

The journey to forgiveness can be an adventure in learning what brought us to this place and what is needed to move forward. This is exactly how God treats us. Why would we not want to do the same for others?

SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR PASTORAL COUNCIL

The Pastoral Council elections are usually held in the Spring, but were postponed until this Fall because of the pandemic. The Pastoral Council is the consultative body that assists the pastor with parish planning and issue pertaining to the life of the parish.

Anyone interested in serving our parish on the Pastoral Council is urged to fill out a nomination form. The nomination form can be found on the parish website (www.stjohnfisherchurch.com), or you may pick one up in the Parish Office. The terms last for three years and nominations are open to active parishioners.

The deadline for nominations is September 14. Please return the form to the Parish Office or Father McDermott.

THE AID FOR FRIENDS FREEZER IS RUNNING LOW ON MEALS. Can you help us restock it? Please pick up pans in the Parish Center kitchen, fill with a nutritious meal, and return it to the chest freezer. Thank you for helping feed the hungry!

PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY CAMPAIGN

The back-to-school service project for the Parish Religious Education Program (PREP) is underway. The students are asking the parish to join them in the collection of peanut butter and jelly for the next month. These pantry staples help feed hungry kids, especially this year when many are learning remotely from home. The peanut butter and jelly drive runs from September 15 through October 15. Please place your donations in the cupboards at the rear of the Church Hall or drop them on the cart in the lobby of the Parish Center. Thank you!



PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM (PREP)

Classes will begin this Week, on September 15 & 16. For the first day of class, one parent and the student(s) should arrive five minutes before class time and go directly to the Church for opening prayer. Please remember to wear a mask! On Tuesday, for grades 1 through 5, the afternoon session will run from 4:30-5:45; the evening class will run from 6:15-7:30. On Wednesday, for grades 6 and 7, class period is 6:15-7:30.



Check out the parish **facebook** page for an introductory video about PREP this fall! Our thanks go to the Mielnik family—Mom Michelle, and her four kids—Braiden, Danielle, Brent and Brody for their great acting skills!

SIXTH GRADE CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES MEETING SEPTEMBER 28

All 6th Grade students who are members of St. John Fisher Parish and attend PREP or a Catholic school and are ready to begin preparation for Confirmation, are required to attend an introductory meeting with a parent. This mandatory meeting is scheduled for **Monday, September 28, at 7:00pm in the Church.**



Preparation for Confirmation is a two-year process (during 6th and 7th Grades). Confirmation is celebrated as a Parish. While the children who attend Catholic schools will receive their instruction at school, they will receive the Sacrament at St. John Fisher and their attendance is required at the meetings and retreats held here. This year's 6th Grade students will be confirmed in 2022.

If you have any questions, please contact the Director of Religious Education, Kathy Aaronson, at 610-485-0441, ext. 5.

WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

The people of St. John Fisher Parish rejoice and welcome our newly baptized members:



SOPHIA ELIZABETH DeFONZO, daughter of Joseph and Kaitlin; and

EVELYN SUE SHAFER, daughter of Jonathan and Mary Catherine.

Please pray for these youngsters and their parents, as they commit to raising their children in the Catholic faith. God bless Sophia and Evelyn!

WELCOME BACK TO MASS

We are happy you are here! Please take the time to read the guidelines for attending Mass during this period:

In General, the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation continues to be lifted. Please stay home if you are sick, someone in your household is sick, or if your health is compromised, putting you at higher risk of severe illness with COVID19. We will follow the regular Sunday Mass schedule. Weekday Mass will be held in the church at 7:30 a.m. The Saturday Vigil Mass is available via live-stream. View it on our website home page (stjohnfisherchurch.com), or on the parish facebook page (Saint John Fisher).

Before coming to Mass, please wash your hands before leaving home. **Every person age 3 and older must wear a face mask or cloth covering when entering Church.**

Use the parking lot entrance or the main entrance nearest the parish center. Once inside, please use non-touch hand sanitizer, and have your non-touch temperature taken.



Every other pew is taped off for social distancing. Those living in the same household can sit together. Please sit 6 feet away from another person or family. The Church Hall is available for seating.

To receive Holy Communion. please leave 6 feet of space when walking in the Communion line. Parishioners are requested to receive the Eucharist in the hand. Wear your mask, receive the Sacred Host in your hands, step to the side, lift/lower your mask, receive Holy Communion, refit your mask and proceed back to the pew. Anyone who prefers to receive the Eucharist on their tongue is asked to join the end of the line for the priest.



Before leaving the Church, check the pew and make sure you have everything with you. You may pick up a bulletin from the table in the church foyers. When you exit the Church, please do not congregate; proceed directly to your car. Please leave your mask on until you reach your automobile.

Cleaning will be done after each Mass. We'll ask for volunteers to help disinfect the surfaces of pews and chairs. Supplies are provided. The Church and bathrooms will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected during weekdays in preparation for Sunday Masses.



**FINANCIAL OFFERING:
STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE**

WEEKEND OF AUGUST 30:

TOTAL: \$ 9,261
NUMBER: 269

AUGUST POOR BOX: \$ 439.00

Donations to the Poor Box in August benefit the St. Vincent DePaul Charitable Fund.



CATECHETICAL SUNDAY- SEPTEMBER 20

The theme for Catechetical Sunday 2020 is taken from St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, "I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you." This theme focuses on the essential work of catechesis, which is an invitation to a whole new life given by Christ Himself. It emphasizes that living faith necessitates movement, inspiring all those who hear the Word to share it as witnesses of the true and living God.

Since catechists are the instruments through which many come to encounter Christ and hear this invitation, they have a unique role in keeping people connected to the life of the parish. The goal of catechist formation is this: "Making catechists aware that as baptized persons they are true missionary disciples, meaning active participants in evangelization, to communicate the Gospel and to accompany and educate believers in the faith." Catechists are accompanied by their pastor and catechetical leaders to encounter Christ, in order to facilitate encounters with Christ for others.

Several dedicated women and men of our parish who will serve as catechists and classroom aides this year will be recognized and commissioned on **Sunday, September 20, at the 9:30am Mass.** Please pray for them and for a successful year of religious education for our youth.

A Prayer for Catechists

Loving Father, we pray today for our catechists. We thank you for their gift of ministry in your Church. Grant them your wisdom that they may grow in the understanding and teaching of your Word. Grant them also your love that they may be fruitful heralds of your Word and lead others to love you.

Pour forth your Holy Spirit upon them to grant them wisdom about what is important; knowledge of the truths of faith; understanding of their meaning; right judgement about how to apply them in life; courage to persevere even in the face of adversity; reverence before all that is sacred and holy; and that loving zeal which leads others to a transforming encounter with your Son.

We pray this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.



FEAST OF ST. ROBERT BELLARMINE

August 17

Robert Bellarmine was a Jesuit priest, born in Italy in 1542. He was an excellent student, eventually becoming a professor of Theology and then Rector of the Roman College. He was an important figure in the counter-reformation. An outstanding scholar, he outlined a position that is now regarded as fundamentally democratic: that authority originates with God, but is vested in the people, who entrust it to fit rulers. As Cardinal, he supported the reforms of the Catholic Church that were put forth at the Council of Trent. Cardinal Bellarmine wrote many books, including a catechism, which became the official teachings of the Catholic church for over 200 years. He died in 1621, and was canonized in 1930 and named "Doctor of the Church."

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

Sunday: Sir 27:30—28:7/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12 [8]/Romans 14:7-9/Matthew 18:21-35
Monday: Nm 21:4b-9/Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38 [cf. 7b]/Phil 2:6-11/John 3:13-17
Tuesday: 1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a/Ps 31:2 and 3b, 3cd-4, 5-6, 15-16, 20 [17]/John 19:25-27 or Luke 2:33-35
Wednesday: 1 Cor 12:31—13:13/Ps 33:2-3, 4-5, 12 and 22 [12]/Luke 7:31-35
Thursday: 1 Cor 15:1-11/Ps 118:1b-2, 16ab-17, 28 [1]/Luke 7:36-50
Friday: 1 Cor 15:12-20/Ps 17:1bcd, 6-7, 8b and 15 [15b]/Luke 8:1-3
Next Sunday: Is 55:6-9/Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18 [18a]/Phil 1:20c-24, 27a/Matthew 20:1-16a

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- Go to www.stjohnfisherchurch.com.
 - Scroll to the very bottom of the home page and click the button for "Give Online with **WESHARE**."
 - A new, secure page will open. Scroll down to "Sunday Collection".
 - Click the "Make a Donation" button.
 - You have a choice between "Recurring" and "One Time" donations...click the button you want.
 - A new page will open where you can fill in the amount of your offering and choose the way you wish to pay.
- We Share is a secure method of supporting our parish. You can control the amount and when the transaction is made. As always, we are thankful for your generous and continued support of the parish.

The Sanctuary Candle burns this week in memory of
ELEANOR McKENNA
through the generosity of
Larry McKenna



SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: Celebrated on the First, Second and Fourth Sundays of each month at 12:45pm. Pre-Jordan baptismal instruction is held on the Third Sunday at 12:45pm. Please call or visit the Parish Office to arrange baptisms.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturdays, 3:00 - 3:45pm; other times by appointment.

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY: One party must be a registered member of Saint John Fisher Parish. Couples must make arrangements with the Pastor at least six months prior to the intended date. Weddings can be held at Saint John Fisher or at Immaculate Conception Church. Couples are required to attend the Archdiocesan Sacramental Preparation Program for Marriage (four sessions) or a Pre-Cana program.

PARISH REGISTRATION: We welcome new members to Saint John Fisher! If you are new to our parish, please call or visit the Parish Office to register.

LETTERS OF ELIGIBILITY: If you need a Letter of Eligibility from Saint John Fisher Parish to be a sponsor for Baptism or Confirmation, you must be

- a registered member of the parish,
- at least 16 years of age,
- a practicing Catholic (have received the Sacraments and attend Mass regularly).
- If married, you must be in a 'valid' marriage.

The pastor is unable to sign a letter unless you meet these requirements. To request a letter, please speak with Father McDermott after any Mass or call the Parish Office at 610-485-0441, ext. 2.

PARISH ON-LINE GIVING: Visit the parish website, www.stjohnfisherchurch.com and click on the **We Share** icon to sign up for the electronic giving program.

PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM (PREP): The PREP program provides religious education for public school children from September through May. Please call the PREP office at 610-485-0441, ext. 5, for more information and to register.

HOLY FAMILY REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL: Grades Pre-K through Eight: St. John Fisher parishioners support Holy Family Regional Catholic School. Children from the parish who enroll there receive the supporting parish tuition rate.
Charles Hughes, Principal
Kristy Cobb, Business Manager 610-494-0147
3265 Concord Road, Aston, PA
www.holyfamilyaston.org

May They Rest in Peace

REVEREND ANTHONY ORTH

Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

Please Pray for Our Sick

Cass Powers, Barbara Shahadi, Shawn Bedwell, Scott Moyer, Glenn Capri, Wayne Casper, Helen Norton, Jane Holefelder, EllieMae McCreight, Andrew Montagna, Delores Verticelli, Marie Ouly, Ida Durning, Parker Millison, Bill Achuff, Jeanne Brown, Tom McDonald, Gail McCafferty, JoAnn Bezold, Rev. Greg Hickey, Linda Johnston, Hazel Neary, Frank Taylor, Norman Falkowski, Jr., Diane Kelly, Ruth Jobe, Ruth Ann Moffett, Connie Carney, Billie Hobdell, Gloria Patterson, John Grady, Bryan Snyder, Rose Liott, Betty Ann Deshullo, Ann Walley, Gladys Kinsler, Frank Breitmayer, Mary Giambri, Velia Brill, Peg Camero, Brian Allison, Pasquale Mignogna, Rob Busch, Judy & Jerry Frezetti, Paula Davis, Pat Oakes, Hank Granville, Colleen Hughes, John Rossi, May Graves, Amy Calcagno, Susan Curl, Marie Barker, Veronica & Joe Egan, Helen Brogley, Judy Giovan, Kevin Neary, Tom O'Leary, Nancy Finn, Barbara Rogers

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	Sept 12	
	4:00 PM	Joseph R. Devlin, 10th Anniv.
Sunday	Sept 13	
	8:00 AM	People of the Parish & Visitors
	9:30 AM	Bill and Helen Aaronson
	11:30 AM	Janet Kadyszewski
Monday	Sept 14	
	7:30 AM	Mary Castellano
Tuesday	Sept 15	
	7:30 AM	Patricia VanHorn
Wednesday	Sept 16	
	7:30AM	Marian Fisher
Thursday	Sept 17	
	7:30AM	Marshall Mancini
Friday	Sept 18	
	7:30 AM	Siblings Joseph Faverio, Jr. and Dorothy Faverio
Saturday	Sept 19	
	4:00	Mary Donnelly
Sunday	Sept 20	
	8:00 AM	Earl & Catherine Reed
	9:30 AM	People of the Parish & Visitors
	11:30 AM	Samuel Gullo

PRAYERS FOR THE INFIRM: To add a name to the prayer list, please email Renee Devine@SJF71.org. People remain on our prayer list for 30 days, except for those with long-term medical issues. If you wish to add a person again, after 30 days, please contact the office.

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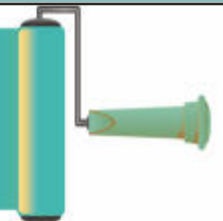


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