Saint Maria Goretti Church

Reverend Seth Wasnock, Pastor
Reverend Dr. Michael Imbrogno - Deacon
42 Redwood Drive, Laflin, PA 18702
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Fax # 570-655-1746
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www.stmariagoretti-laflin.org

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 4:30PM **Sunday:** 9:30AM **Weekdays M-W-F (only): 8:00AM**

Holy Days of Obligation: SEE BULLETIN

WELCOME

A warm welcome is extended to all who visit our faith community. We hope you have received a warm greeting as you entered our church today for worship. Carry our blessings home with you and be a light to your family.

PENANCE/RECONCILIATION

Every Saturday 3:30PM-4:00PM; First Friday's from 8:30AM to 9:00AM or anytime by request or appointment. Please do not hesitate to approach Father Seth at any time concerning your desire for confession.

ST. MARIA GORETTI NOVENA

Every Wednesday following the 8:00AM Mass.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Baptisms are scheduled by appointment.
Please call the Parish Office at 570-655-8956.

ROSARY

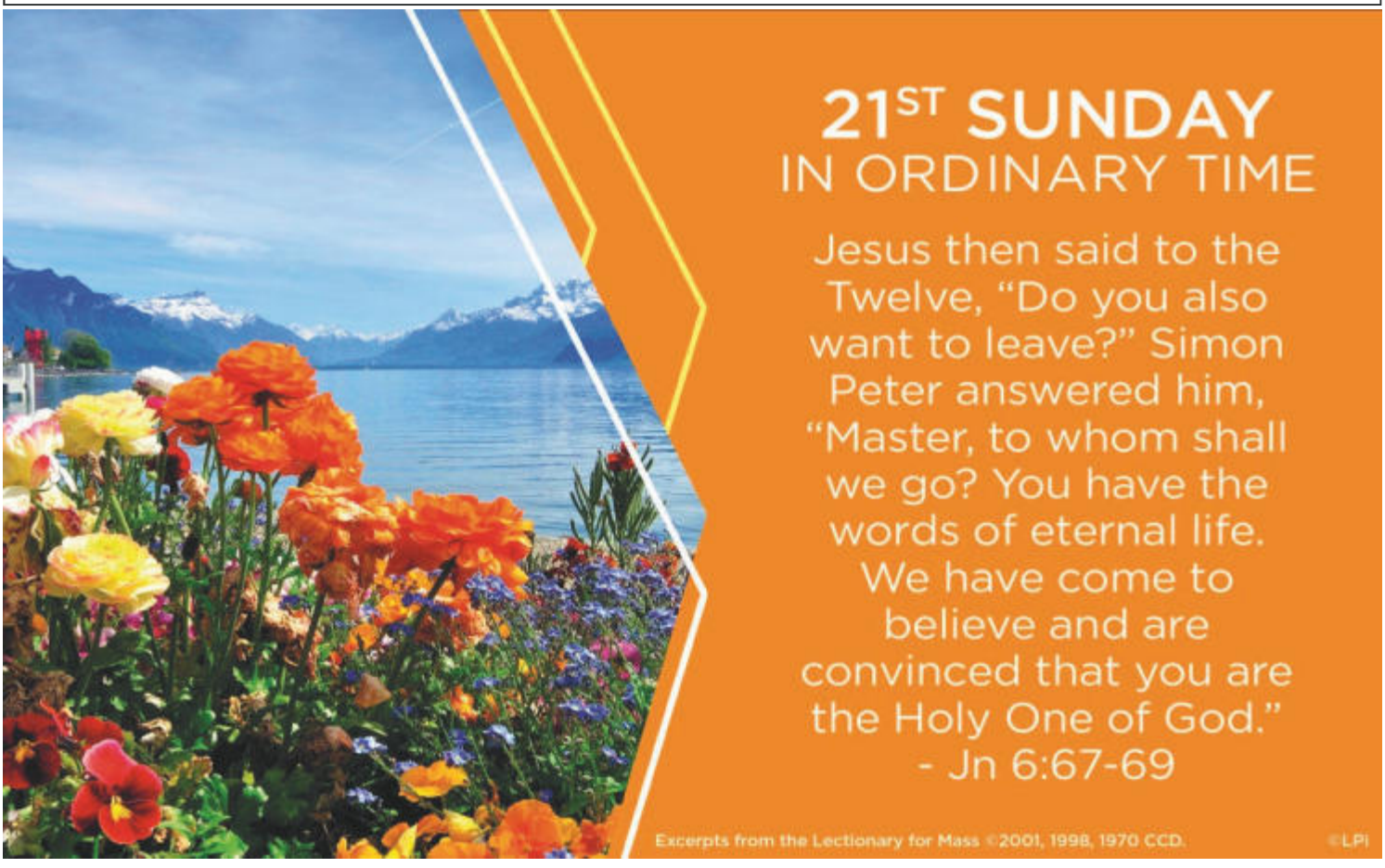
The Fatima Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet are recited each Friday morning after Mass (except on the First Friday of each month). We invite men and women to join us in these beautiful acts of charity.

FIRST FRIDAY

A Holy Hour with Benediction, Exposition and prayers is held the First Friday of every month 8:00AM - 9:00AM. Confessions are offered from 8:30AM TO 9:00AM

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday from 9:00AM to 2:00PM



August 22, 2021 – 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

PASTORAL NOTES

SCRIPTURE INSIGHTS: In the reading from John's account of the Gospel the disciples are grappling with a difficult teaching from Jesus that they do not entirely understand, mainly because they cannot see beyond the literal interpretation of his words.

Paul's Letter to the Ephesians contains a text that is troubling for many today. The command for wives to be submissive to their husbands has been taken out of context and misused for centuries. In this section of Ephesians, Paul has been exhorting his listeners to give up all manner of vices, becoming people of love and forgiveness. He also envisions a different way for people to relate in marriage. Paul understands marriage as a metaphor for Christ's relationship with the Church and develops an image to express that relationship: the Church as a body with Christ as its head. Paul uses this image to frame his understanding of the marriage covenant.

Marriage was seen as a metaphor for God's relationship with Israel long before Paul used it to describe Christ and the Church. Paul adds the element of mutual reverence and love, using the image of the head and body to include interdependence in the hierarchical marriage relationship of that time. The body and the head work together in life. This is the obedience that Paul advocates for wife and husband—one that allows them to live as a united whole. Paul adds that the head must love the body, countering the notion of wives as property that was common in Paul's time. The husband must love his wife as Christ loves the Church. If such love is the foundation of the husband's part in the marriage, he cannot abuse or neglect, cannot be faithless, cruel, or cold. These are the vices that followers of Christ give up. Just as disciples become new people, husbands and wives become a new unity in the marriage covenant, practicing kindness and forgiveness. In the same way, Christ and his Church become a single entity in the new covenant.

How can mutual respect and self-sacrificing love be expressed in the marriage covenant today?

LITURGY AND LIFE: We cannot deny it; many young people step away from practicing their faith—at least temporarily. Like some of the disciples in today's Gospel, they find the ways of Jesus and the Church hard to accept. What is our response? Scripture makes it clear that Jesus and the Lord of Israel never forced adherence but instead invited, urged, and appealed. That is still how God works. Look up the Catholic campus ministry at the nearest college or university; volunteer, send a donation, or write a note of support. Pick one young person in your life, someone who has set aside faith life. Pray for that person and, if it feels appropriate, send a note that is encouraging but not condemning.

LIVE THE LITURGY (Inspiration for the week): Many people give their allegiance to something until it asks them to do something challenging or radical. Then, they find themselves rethinking whether they want to be associated with it. The same holds for God. Either we serve God, or we don't. There can be no lukewarm stance with regard to faith. If we are in, then faith in Jesus Christ asks us to do some difficult things: work in service of God's kingdom, love our enemies, offer no resistance to injury, and trust that the Eucharist is in fact Jesus' very Body and Blood. For some, buying into these things may prove too difficult and a return to a life without them is preferred. But truth is truth and it can only be found in God. If we find it hard to accept it from the mouth of Christ, where else can we go to find it? The task before us is to commit to the truth even when it may be easier to pursue something else. Truth is always worth obtaining even when it is difficult. Jesus offers us the truth of life, a life that is found in his own flesh and blood and a life of discipleship.

PENANCE/RECONCILIATION: Every Saturday 3:30PM-4:00PM or anytime by request with appointment. Please do not hesitate to contact Father Seth at any time concerning your desire for confession. **N.B.:** Father Seth will also be hearing Confessions during the First Friday Holy Hour beginning at 8:30am and ending at 9:00am.

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK—YOU ARE INVITED TO REFLECT AND RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE

First Reading: Joshua, who helped settle the Israelites into the Promised Land, knew the struggle ahead lay in Israel's fidelity to God. How does anyone best show fidelity to God?

Second Reading: Toward the end of his letter, Paul takes up the topic of husbands and wives. He speaks of the importance of mutual subordination and love. What do you see as secret to a successful marriage?

Gospel: Jesus' bread of life discourse ends with the report that "many of Jesus' disciples" no longer followed Jesus. How should we respond to family or friends who choose to walk away from Jesus?

August 22, 2021 – 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekend of August 15-16, 2021

Sacrificial Offering	**$5,835.25**
Diocesan Collections	**210.00**
Care & Education of Priests	

Thank you for your continued generosity in supporting your parish.

National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children

The ninth annual National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children will be held on Saturday, Sept. 18 when pro-life Americans will honor the memory of the nearly 61 million unborn victims of abortion since its legalization in 1973. The event on Sept. 18 will include a Memorial Service for Victims of Abortion to be held at 11 a.m. at Mount Olivet Cemetery, 612 Mount Olivet Road, Carverton. The pro-life gathering will take place at Mount Olivet’s Wyoming Valley Knights of Columbus “Tomb for the Unborn,” located on the top of the hill on the cemetery grounds. During the memorial observance, the Rosary will be recited in remembrance of all aborted babies. All faithful are invited.

Local Church Events

ANNUAL LEBANESE FESTIVAL

When: Sunday, September 12 11am—5pm
Where: St. Anthony & St. George Maronite Church
311 Park Ave., Wilke-Barre

Lebanese food and pastries, grand raffle cash prizes, basket raffle, baskets of cheer, DJ music, kids games and prizes, and pictures with super heroes.

ASCENSION PARISH 2021 RAFFLE

Where: Ascension Parish, Forest City

When: October 11

Ascension Parish is holding a raffle on October 11, 2021 with **cash prizes totaling $50,000!** 1st prize: $15,000, 2nd prize: 10,000, 3rd prize $5,000, 4 thru 13: $850, and 14 thru 23: $650. Only 1000 tickets will be sold. $100 per ticket. For more information and a ticket application go to apskdp.org or contact John Mayers at 570-960-1322 or email at ramsey@nep.net or Pat Litz at 570-878-7631 or email at ptlitz1@gmail.com.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS
Submission and Stewardship

We aren't comfortable with the idea of submission. Our society champions equality, and rightly so — but it's a mistake to think that submission is at odds with equality. To submit ourselves fully, we must first be free. We must first be our own masters. God has granted us that freedom with the salvation He offers. We are no longer the slaves of sin. Now He asks us to be subordinate to one another, in the name of Christ.

What a completely uncomfortable task! What He's asking is for us to be subordinate to the person who irritates us the most. The person we really can't stand. The person who doesn't respect us or appreciate what we have to offer. The person we think we're smarter than, more talented than. The person we envy.

That's the real challenge of stewardship, isn't it? Subordination. Inconveniencing myself by giving of time, of money, of relationship. Putting the needs or wants of another above my own when they haven't done anything special to earn it.

I invite you to consider the cross — the most radical expression of submission, and of stewardship, that ever existed. If there was ever someone who deserved superiority, isn't it the God who let Himself be nailed to a tree, who gave so freely of His life, His body, His blood, His everything?

To look at him in his agony is to truly understand the beauty of submission — of laying down what you have for the good of the other.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 22nd, 2021

Sunday 8/22:	Jos 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b/Ps 34:2-3, 16-17, 18-19, 20-21, 22-23 [9a]/Eph 5:21-32 or 5:2a, 25-32/Jn 6:60-69
Monday 8/23:	1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b [cf. 4a]/Mt 23:13-22
Tuesday 8/24:	Rv 21:9b-14/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18 [12]/Jn 1:45-51
Wednesday 8/25:	1 Thes 2:9-13/Ps 139:7-8, 9-10, 11-12ab [1]/Mt 23:27-32
Thursday 8/26:	1 Thes 3:7-13/Ps 90:3-5a, 12-13, 14 and 17 [14]/Mt 24:42-51
Friday 8/27:	1 Thes 4:1-8/Ps 97:1 and 2b, 5-6, 10, 11-12 [12a]/Mt 25:1-13
Saturday 8/28:	1 Thes 4:9-11/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9 [9]/Mt 25:14-30

Welcome Back - All Students

I would like to invite all students to attend the Sunday Liturgy at 9:30 on August 29—this will be a welcome back to your parish and, as we anticipate the beginning of the new school year, I will give a special blessing to all the students and teachers. Looking forward to meeting all of you.

Fr. Seth

Welcome Back - Altar Servers

Following the "back to school mass" on August 29, there will be a brief meeting for all the altar servers, as well as those students who wish to become altar servers at St. Maria Goretti. Your parents are also invited to attend (cookies and milk will be served). At this meeting, Fr. Seth and I will discuss the scheduling process for the upcoming year and answer any questions you or your parents may have. Looking forward to seeing everyone again.

Deacon Mike

In Loving Memory

John Baran
Regina Baran
Eileen Hoban Clancy
Anthony N. Colonna
Elizabeth Colonna
James L. Conlon, Jr.
James A. Dougherty
William J. Emmel
Robert Faber
Mary & Martin Gallagher Family
James J. Giamas
Walter & Celestine Gottlieb
Stanley Harenza
Thomas L. Mahle
Cheta & Mario Malvizzi
Helen Marykwas
Leonard & Gen McHale
Chester & Mary Pietras
Giuseppe Rinaldis
Mr. & Mrs. William Shea
Michael P. Yazurlo

Weekly Sunday Mass video available each weekend on our website at www.stmariagoretti-laflin.org, our Facebook page and YouTube channel. Feel free to contact the office with questions.

Website YouTube

ST. MARIA GORETTI
&
ST. MARK
PRAY FOR US!

RELIGIOUS SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

Monday, Aug. 23, 2021 *Saint Rose of Lima, Virgin*
8:00am Sal Conigliaro by Wife, Ann Marie

Tuesday, Aug. 24, 2021 *Saint Bartholomew, Apostle*
NO MASS

Wednesday, Aug. 25, 2021 *Saint Louis, Saint Joseph Calasanz, Priest*
8:00am Mrs. Martin Gallagher
by Estate of Margaret Gallagher

Thursday, Aug. 26, 2021
NO MASS

Friday, Aug. 27, 2021 *Saint Monica*
8:00am Kathy Gavin by M/M Robert Kandrac

Saturday, Aug. 28, 2021
4:30pm Thomas Ledoretti by Jeannie Rizzo

Sunday, August 29, 2021
Back to School Mass
9:30am Joseph Bachkosky by Margie Burke

ALTAR CANDLES FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2021

In Loving Memory

† Mary Neary *by Helen & Joe McAndrew*

† Alberto A. & Ruth Ann Agostini
by Maria Elena Agostini

† Celestine & Walter Gottlieb *by Susan & Dan*

† Mr. & Mrs. Gerard Morrissey
by Michael & Mary Ann Morrissey

† Bruce Pascucci *by Family*

† For a Speedy Recovery *by brother John Bergen*

SANCTUARY CANDLES FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 22, 2021

In Loving Memory

† Josephine Pascucci *by Family*

† Peggy Sosnak *by Pete Wagner*

IN LOVING MEMORY

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Mary Ruskey who entered into eternal life this past week.

Welcome

Welcome to our newest parishioner
Margaret Giovagnoli

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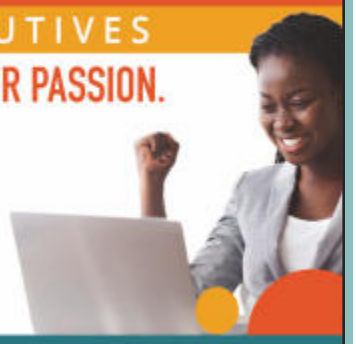

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