



Saint
Maria Goretti
Church

Reverend Seth Wasnock, Pastor
Reverend Dr. Michael Imbrogno - Deacon
42 Redwood Drive, Laffin, PA 18702
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www.stmariagoretti-laffin.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—Closed on Holidays

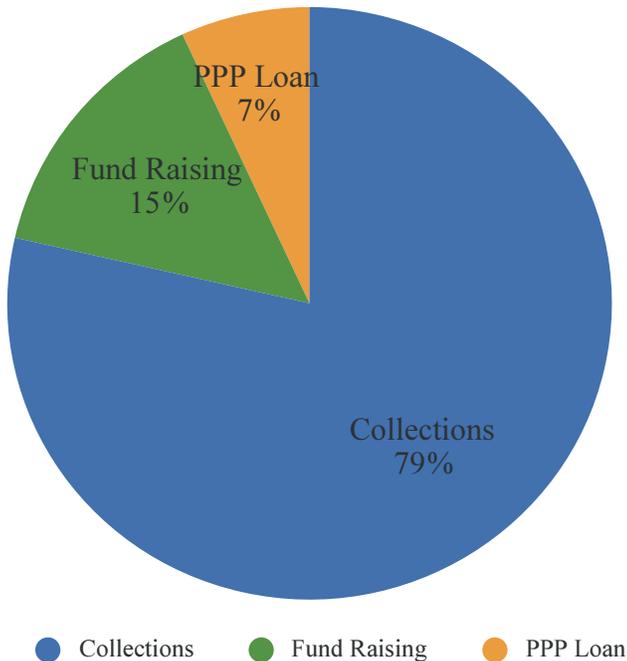


23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

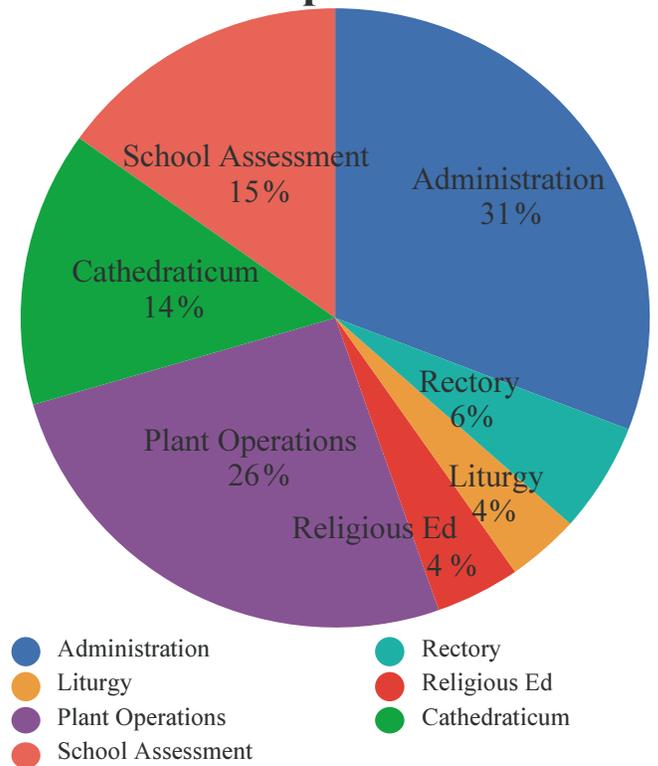


And people brought to him a deaf man who had a speech impediment and begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him off by himself away from the crowd. He put his finger into the man's ears and, spitting, touched his tongue; then he looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him, "Ephphatha!"—that is, "Be opened!" - Mk 7:32-34

Income



Expense



Income

Collections	\$339,758.59
Religious Ed Programs	\$1,855.00
Fund Raising	\$63,224.25
PPP Loan	\$30,000.00
Total Operating Income	\$434,837.84

Expense

Administration	\$136,438.60
Rectory	\$25,237.93
Liturgy	\$16,492.51
Religious Ed Program	\$19,236.23
Plant Operations	\$114,116.34
Cathedraticum	\$63,604.00
School Assessment	\$66,900.00
Total Operating Expense	\$442,025.61

Dear Parishioners,

One goal of mine as your pastor is to be transparent when it comes to the finances of St. Maria Goretti. Each year I will provide you with the help of the Finance Council a general end of year report on the operations of our great parish so that you can see how your contributions are used to run this parish. The charts above show the income and expenses we have here at the parish in a given year.

The revenue is rather straight forward collections and fundraising make up the majority of our income here. The total Operating Income is \$434,873.84. This year we had the benefit of the PPP Loan from the government to help offset some losses. We received \$30,000 which was about 7% of our revenue. This is a once time loan and will not be seen again.

The expense are more diverse. The total Operating Expense is \$442,025.61. The expense of the buildings that make up the parish along with the running of the office make up just over half of our expenses. Almost 30% of the revenue goes back to the Diocese of Scranton in assessments that are given to all parishes in the diocese. Cathedraticum is an assessment to help run the diocese and its offices. The School Assessment is again given to all parishes in the Diocese of Scranton to help finance the school system and keep it running.

We had a deficit of about \$7,000 which with all things considered is not horrible because Covid has affected so much. I thank you for all of your generosity from the bottom of my heart. As we look to this new fiscal year I ask to please consider your ongoing support and possible increase to your contribution to St. Maria Goretti so we can continue to serve the great people of this parish.

Once again, thank you for all that you do and give to St. Maria Goretti.

In Heartfelt Thanks,
Fr. Seth

September 5, 2021 – 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

PASTORAL NOTES

SCRIPTURE INSIGHTS: Isaiah's vision of the coming day of God reveals a world turned upside down. The blind see, the deaf hear, the mute speak and waters spring up in the desert. This is a world of the unexpected and surprising. It is a result that is as unsettling as it is joyful for it is not what nature has intended. In the presence of the divine, anything needed is provided; anything broken is made whole. The laws of nature, created by God, are suspended when God comes in glory.

Mark's account of the Gospel describes the living fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy when Jesus touches the deaf and mute man so that he hears and speaks. As in the other healing stories, Jesus demonstrates mastery over the limits of the human body. Already he has made the lame walk (see Mark 2) and the dead live (Mark 5). The next time he heals (see Mark 8:22-26), he will cure a blind man. Where Jesus walks, life in its wholeness abounds. The astonishment of the people suggests that they remember the prophecy of Isaiah and wonder if this might be the sign that God has come to save them.

In what way might these texts illuminate the epistle from James? James addresses a particular fault of a Christian community in the first century. The people show favoritism to the rich and well-dressed. James reminds them that God's preference is for the poor and disenfranchised. God did, after all, rescue poor Israel from wealthy Egypt. In that act, God displayed a fondness for turning things upside down. James reminds the Church that God's power is not limited to healing the sick or sending manna. God also has control over economic and social injustices. A society that allows these things will be surprised, unsettled, and ultimately changed at the coming day of the Lord. Just as God will heal our broken bodies, God will heal the broken relationships caused by unjust uses of wealth. That will be good news to some, but for those who define themselves by their wealth and the privilege it buys them, it will be a painful transformation.

How do we follow God in making a preferential option for the poor?

LITURGY AND LIFE: The Letter of James continues to challenge us, perhaps even to the point of discomfort. He names a human tendency played out across time and cultures; we give preference and honor to the rich and easily dismiss the poor. Catholic social teaching instructs us to work against this instinct and give preferential option to the poor. This means creating conditions for marginalized voices to be heard, defending the vulnerable, and evaluating lifestyles, policies and social constructs in terms of how they impact the poor in society.

LIVE THE LITURGY (Inspiration for the week): Life can be challenging and frightening. Sometimes, it really hurts to be a human being. We face brokenness of all kinds: physical, emotional, and spiritual. For no apparent reason, life can quickly fall apart. What we knew to be familiar is gone and something we relied upon is taken away. We are left sitting with our incompleteness and swimming in the pools of our sadness. Be strong! Fear not! These admonitions flow from the mouths of prophets and are echoed by Jesus. It is difficult to trust that restoration, healing, and rejuvenation will one day come, and remain steadfast in our faith. But we are here because of a God who loves us, not as the result of a random occurrence. When we reach for that truth about who we are and who God is, life changes for us. We are healed from our old distorted way of seeing things. Our eyes, heart, and soul are opened to the beauty and magnificence of life. The pulse of our loving Creator is felt in all things and we can't wait for God to come and touch us again. God made us, God loves us, and God keeps us. He has done all things well.

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.

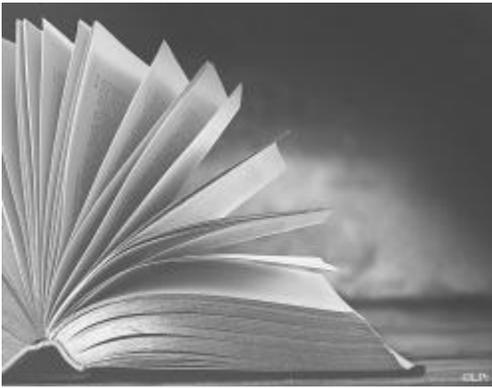
QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK—YOU ARE INVITED TO REFLECT AND RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE

First Reading: As Moses prepared the Israelites to settle and live in the Promised Land he urged them to stay close to God's commandments and statutes in order to become a "great nation". Why do you think so many nations stray from this idea?

Second Reading: In the opening verses of his letter, James urges his readers to be "doers of the word and not hearers only, deluding yourselves". Why do you think this is wise advice?

Gospel: In returning to the Gospel of Mark, we hear today how the religious leaders from Jerusalem questioned Jesus about keeping "the tradition of the elders." Jesus responded with the importance of being clean of heart. Why is this such a challenging spiritual exercise?

Worship & Meditation



FIRST READING

Then will the eyes of the blind be opened,
the ears of the deaf be cleared;
then will the lame leap like a stag,
then the tongue of the mute will sing.
(Is 35:5-6)

PSALM

Praise the Lord, my soul! (Ps 146)
Or Alleluia.

SECOND READING

Did not God choose those who are poor
in the world
to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom
that he promised to those who love him?
(Jas 2:5)

GOSPEL

“He has done all things well.
He makes the deaf hear and the mute
speak.” (Mk 7:37)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998,
1970 CCD.

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GOSPEL MEDITATION

ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

September 5, 2021 -23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

From the time we are born into this world until we die, our human radar picks up signals about how to respond to life. What we picked up on when we were very young carries an even greater power. The messages we receive and process tell us what we are “supposed” to do with our feelings, how to understand and cope with disappointment, anxiety, failure, death, illness, and what to expect out of life. As life unfolds for us, these radar messages kick in and resonate in us at very deep levels. Sometimes what we have learned is helpful and sometimes it is not. The stories we have been told, especially when we are young, about how life is best lived and how to negotiate its pain carry a heavy weight.

Life can be challenging and frightening. Sometimes, it really hurts to be a human being. It also can be quite unpredictable and, at times, unfair. We face our vulnerability and brokenness of all

kinds: physical, emotional, and spiritual. It doesn’t take much for life to quickly fall apart. What we knew to be familiar and true is gone and something we relied upon, physically, emotionally, or spiritually, can be taken away. It is hard to confront our limitations and sit with our incompleteness. Often, life hurts us so much that we find ourselves sitting in a pool of sadness, not sure what we are supposed to do. It is particularly hard when the signals we have inherited tell us that we need to be successful in what we do, and we have to avoid life’s unfairness. We can feel like a failure, wondering what precisely we did to deserve this fate, or ruminate about what we did not do correctly. But it’s really not about us. We are part of a bigger picture and a much more fascinating story!

If we cease doing battle with life’s incompleteness and see ourselves, as God does, on a journey toward wholeness and completeness we can better accept our disappointments and stand firm. The prophets told us, and Jesus reassured us: Be strong! Fear not! Sometimes we have to update our stories and replace them with newer, more accurate ones. When we make God’s story our own and tune our radar into His voice, what we hear is all about restoration, healing, and rejuvenation! This is true even when we think we have hit rock bottom and can go no further. There is always hope. Remember the words of Julian of Norwich: God made us, God loves us, and God keeps us. Now, listen to God when He says, “be opened!” Be healed and allow your stories to change. ©LPi

September 5, 2021 – 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekend of August 28-29, 2021

Sacrificial Offering \$4,696.00

Diocesan Collections

Care & Education of Priests 35.00

Thank you for your continued generosity
in supporting your parish.

ATTENTION ALTAR SERVERS

There will be a training session for altar servers after the weekend masses on September 25th (after the 4:30 mass) and 26th (after the 9:30 mass). I am looking forward to training new altar servers for the parish so all (who have already received their First Holy Communion) are welcome. Existing altar servers who wish to have a “refresher” course are also welcome.

SAVE THE DATE



HARVEST TEA
OCTOBER 13th

Deacon Mike



EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

Choosing Deafness

If you're a parent, you know that hearing evaluations are usually done at a child's annual physical exam starting around age four. The little person gets hoisted up onto the exam table, fitted with a pair of special headphones, and then they need raise their hand when they hear a sound.

I bet all of us parents who have sat through one of these tests with a preschooler — especially a particularly strong-willed one — have experienced a moment where we ask ourselves: I wonder

if there's something wrong with her hearing. Is that why she doesn't listen to me? 'Come here, put on your shoes, pick up your toys, finish your carrots, don't touch that' — she isn't being naughty, she just can't hear it!

And then that moment, for those of us whose kids passed the hearing test with flying colors, comes crashing down into a realization that, yep, they can hear just fine. They're just choosing deafness.

But how can we really get mad when we remember that we do the same thing to God day in and day out? I often wonder if God, sitting in His Heaven, tires of calling to us in the same way young parents tire of calling out unheeded directions to their small children. Help that person. Hear My voice. Open your heart. Give of yourself here. Talk to Me.

What is the call He wishes you to hear today? Can you hear it? Are you listening?

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS @LPi

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 5th, 2021

Sunday 9/5: Is 35:4-7a/Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10 [1b]/Jas 2:1-5/Mk 7:31-37

Monday 9/6: Col 1:24—2:3/Ps 62:6-7, 9 [8]/Lk 6:6-11

Tuesday 9/7: Col 2:6-15/Ps 145:1b-2, 8-9, 10-11 [9]/Lk 6:12-19

Wednesday 9/8: Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30/Ps 13:6ab, 6c [Is 61:10]/Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 or 1:18-23

Thursday 9/9: Col 3:12-17/Ps 150:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6 [6]/Lk 6:27-38

Friday 9/10: 1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14/Ps 16:1b-2a and 5, 7-8, 11 [cf. 5]/Lk 6:39-42

Saturday 9/11: 1 Tm 1:15-17/Ps 113:1b-2, 3-4, 5a and 6-7 [2]/Lk 6:43-49

September 5, 2021 – 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Notice Regarding Reporting Sexual Abuse of a Minor

It is the policy of the Diocese of Scranton to report any allegation of sexual abuse of a minor to law enforcement. If you are a victim of sexual abuse committed by a priest, deacon, religious or lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton, you are encouraged to immediately report the matter to law enforcement. If any priest, deacon, religious, lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton has cause or reason to suspect that a minor has been subjected to any form of abuse, including child sexual abuse, the matter will be reported to law enforcement. It is also the policy of the Diocese to adhere to all civil and state regulations. In accordance with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Child Protective Services Laws, reports of suspected child abuse should also be made immediately by phone to the 24-Hour Child Abuse hotline (ChildLine) at 1-800-932-0313 or electronically at www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis To this end, the Diocese is equally committed to adhering to the norms of the Code of Canon Law and to upholding the tenets of the USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, which includes supporting victims of sexual abuse in their pursuit of emotional and spiritual well-being. As such, information regarding an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor should also be reported to the Victim Assistance Coordinator, Mary Beth Pacuska at (570-862-7551).

Lighter Side

Being Holy



One pastor invited all the children to come down front on Sunday morning. His sermon was about 'The Holy' and he asked if any of the children knew what 'holy' meant.

One child answered, "Being holy means that you do what your mother asks the first time she asks."

Bishops and Motors

Four bishops were on a plane. During the flight, the pilot announced the loss of one of the plane's engines. "No cause to worry," the pilot announced. "We have three good motors working."

An elderly woman asked a stewardess: "Are you sure there is no danger?"

The stewardess replied: "No danger, ma'am. Besides, we have four bishops on board."

The elderly woman replied: "I would rather have four motors and three bishops than three motors and four bishops."

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



**Food
Collection**

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST FOOD PANTRY

We are once again accepting non-perishable food donations for the Food Pantry. Donations can be dropped off in the vestibule of our church.

St. Maria Goretti Laflin *The Sunday Mass*



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, Sept. 6, 2021 *Labor Day—Office Closed*
8:00am Bernadette Ledoretti by Tina & Pat Fisher

Tuesday, Sept. 7, 2021
NO MASS

Wednesday, Sept. 8, 2021 *The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary*
8:00am Anna Geary by Sandy Wagner

Thursday, Sept. 9, 2021 *Saint Peter Claver, Priest*
NO MASS

Friday, Sept. 10, 2021
8:00am John Dohmann by Estate of Mildred Adonizio

Saturday, Sept. 11, 2021
4:30pm Alberto & Ruth Ann Agostini
by Maria Elena Agostini

Sunday, Sept. 12, 2021
9:30am People of the Parish



SANCTUARY CANDLES FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 29, 2021

(should have been in last week's bulletin)

- † Michael Demko by Stan & Rosemary Grebeck
- † Stanley Harenza by Wife, Genevieve



SANCTUARY CANDLES FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 5, 2021

- † Ben & Madelyn Jason by Mrs. Stanley Harenza
- † Peggy Sosnak by Brenda Harvey



Welcome to our newest parishioners

William Hughes,
Anthony & Kathleen Bruno,
and
Gail May



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