

ST. MARY'S CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Our Lady of Fatima Parish
134 South Washington Street
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18701
Telephone(570)823-4168
Fax(570)822-3477
E-Mail: OLFSTMARYS@AOL.COM
Internet Home Page—
www.OLFSTMARYS.weconnect.com
SEPTEMBER 5, 2021
23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time



PARISH STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Joseph D. Verespy
Assistant Pastors: Rev. Fidel Ticona
Rev. Mark J. DeCelles
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Msgr. Thomas V. Banick
Deacon: Deacon Joseph Sudano
Administrative Assistant: Ms. Rita D. Bevan (Ext. 105)
Office Manager/Secretary:
Ms. Martha S. Callahan (Ext. 103)
Human Services/Social Concerns: Mrs. Terri Nowak
Ministry Scheduler: Miss Amanda Curcio (Ext. 106)

WE CELEBRATE EUCHARIST

SUNDAY EUCHARIST

Saturday 4:00PM
Sunday 10:00AM
12:10PM
7:00PM

WEEKDAY EUCHARIST

Monday through Friday
12:10PM
St. Therese Chapel



HOLY DAY EUCHARIST
AS ANNOUNCED

WE CELEBRATE SACRAMENTS

PENANCE/RECONCILIATION

At St. Nicholas Church—Mondays: 5PM—6PM.
For Confessions in Spanish, please call Father Fidel at 570-823-7736.

BAPTISM

Please contact the Church office when your child is born.

MARRIAGE

Couples planning marriage should notify the parish priest at least one year prior to the date on which they wish to marry.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please call the rectory anytime for visitation of the sick at home or in the hospital/health care facility.

SCHOOL OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/(CCD)

Our program serves children grades PrK to Confirmation Preparation.

BEQUESTS TO YOUR PARISH

Please remember St. Mary's Church with memorial gifts and in your will

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday 1:00PM to 4:30PM
Tuesday through Thursday from 8:30AM to 4:30PM
Friday 8:30AM to 2:00PM

PARISH REGISTRATION

We always welcome new members to our Parish Community. To join the parish or to give notice of change of address/telephone, please call 570-823-4168.

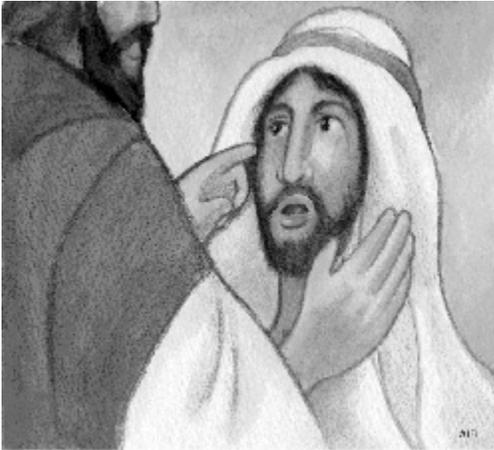
Siempre damos la bienvenida a los nuevos miembros a nuestra parroquia Community. To unirse a la parroquia o para dar aviso de cambio de dirección / teléfono, por favor llame al 570- 823 - 4168.

Nous sommes toujours heureux d'accueillir de nouveaux membres de notre communauté paroissiale. Inscrivez*vous à la paroisse ou de donner un avis de changement d'adresse/téléphone, veuillez composer le 570-823-4168.

Chúng tôi hoan nghênh thành viên mới vào cộng đồng giáo xứ của chúng tôi. Để tham gia các giáo xứ, xin vui lòng gọi 570-823-4168 cho một cuộc phỏng vấn với các Pastor.

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SEPTEMBER 5, 2021



THIS SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

ISAIAH 35:4-7a

JAMES 2:1-15

MARK 7:31-37

NEXT SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

ISAIAH 50:4-9

JAMES 2:14-18

MARK 8:27-35

**LORD GOD,
YOU CHOOSE THE POOR
TO BE RICH IN FAITH.**

(second reading)

OPEN OUR EARS

(gospel reading)

TO YOUR PROMISES,

(first reading)

AND LOOSEN OUR TONGUES

TO PROCLAIM YOUR LOVE,

(responsorial psalm)

THAT ALL MAY BE

ENRICHED BY GRACE

AND INHERIT YOUR KINGDOM,

IN CHRIST JESUS, OUR LORD.

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.

"Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible"

Many Catholics want to read the Bible but get bogged down by the long stretches that seem not to make sense or get lost among the sea of Old Testament names and places. Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible, a twelve-part Bible study helps you uncover the “big picture” of the Bible and understand what it's all about. Aided by a unique color-coded Bible Timeline Chart that arranges the key people, place, and events of the Bible in chronological order. Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible will help you pick up the Bible with confidence and understand how you fit into God's plan.

**St. Nicholas/Our Lady of Fatima will begin the
"Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible" study
on Wednesday, September 8th at 7PM
In St. Nicholas Community Room**

Participants will meet every week to view an engaging video presentation followed by a time of lively group discussion and fellowship.



Sacrificial Giving

WE ARE A STEWARDSHIP PARISH God's Plan For Giving

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INCREASED OFFERINGS

AUGUST 29, 2021

Sunday Offering	\$	2,924.00
Sunday Loose	\$	690.00
12:10 Masses	\$	53.00
Parish Membership	\$	632.00
Diocesan Charity	\$	91.00
Assumption	\$	56.00
Catholic Education	\$	67.00
Insurance	\$	277.00
Un Bazaar	\$	120.00
Diocesan Priest Health	\$	46.00
Religious Education	\$	61.00
Propagation of Faith	\$	5.00
Spiritual Development	\$	10.00
Air Conditioning	\$	30.00
Utilities	\$	25.00
Human Services	\$	50.00
Parish Maintenance	\$	20.00
TOTAL	\$	5,157.00

Mass Count

4PM— 141 10AM - 104
 12:10PM— 98 7PM— 118
 Weekend Total— 461

PARISH MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Phone No. _____

Please check one:

I am new in the parish & wish to register

Change of Address

Moving out of Parish

Please drop Membership Form into the offertory basket or mail to the Parish Office: 134 S. Washington Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701.

MISSION STATEMENT

WE, THE CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, ARE CALLED TO A FOUR*FOLD MISSION:

- TO PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION REVEALED IN JESUS CHRIST;
- TO WORSHIP GOD IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH;
- TO BE TRANSFORMED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT IN A COMMUNITY OF FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE;
- TO BRING GOD'S JUSTICE AND PEACE TO OTHERS THROUGH SERVICE.

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



NOT CATHOLIC? WANNA BE? WANT TO RECEIVE YOUR SACRAMENTS?

The Rite of Christian Initiation or R.C.I.A. is for:

- ◆ Those who were baptized in other faith traditions, but now feel called to become Catholic.
- ◆ Those who have never been baptized or do not belong to a faith tradition, but now feel called to become Catholic.
- ◆ Those who were baptized, but never received Confirmation and First Holy Communion.
- ◆ Those who have received both Baptism and First Holy Communion, but were never Confirmed.

Interested? Call or text Deacon Joe Sudano at 917-692-2640 or email faithformation@stnicholasrc.org. He'd love to hear from you!

"BE A CATHOLIC MAN" EVENT

A Catholic Men's Conference is planned for **Saturday, October 30, 2021, at Holy Redeemer High School, 159 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Wilkes-Barre.** This will be the sixth such Event. The theme is "**Called to Fatherhood**" under the patronage of Saint Joseph and is sponsored by Be a Catholic Man. This event (from 8AM to 3PM) will be blessed with nationally known Catholic Speakers who will challenge all men --- single, married, and clergy, to live virtuous lives in this very secular world. There will be Rosary, Eucharistic Adoration, and Sacramental Confession --- a lunch break. Mass will be offered by the Most Reverend Bishop Joseph Bambera. Interested men, please contact Michael Kilmer 570-746-0100 or michaelkilmer71@gmail.com.

Masses For The Week

MONDAY— SEPTEMBER 6(WEEKDAY)

LABOR DAY

St. Nicholas 9:00AM *Edward Waskevich*

St. Mary's 12:10PM *NO MASS*

TUESDAY— 7 (WEEKDAY)

St. Nicholas 6:30AM *James Navin*

St. Mary's 12:10PM *Edward J. Loftus*

WEDNESDAY— 8 (THE NATIVITY

OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY)

St. Nicholas 6:30AM *Robert Bambrick*

St. Mary's 12:10PM *Deceased Members
Of the Sinconis Family*

THURSDAY— 9 (ST. PETER CLAVER)

St. Nicholas 6:30AM *Thomas Hynes*

St. Nicholas 8:00AM *John Matiska*

St. Mary's 12:10PM *Helen Mercadante*

FRIDAY— 10 (WEEKDAY)

St. Nicholas 6:30AM *For Intentions
Of Mary Williams*

St. Nicholas 8:00AM *Joseph R.
and Mary V. Proeller*

St. Mary's 12:10PM *Rose and Dick McNulty*

WEEKEND SCHEDULE

SATURDAY— SEPTEMBER 11

St. Mary's 4:00PM *Vigil Mass*

St. Nicholas 5:00PM *Thomas Porzucek*

SUNDAY— SEPTEMBER 12

St. Nicholas 8:00AM *George Rider*

St. Mary's 10:00AM *Mass*

St. Nicholas 10:00AM *Lenny Snyder*

St. Nicholas 12Noon *Spanish Mass—Living
and Deceased of the Parish*

St. Mary's 12:10PM *Mass*

St. Mary's 7:00PM *Mass*

REST IN PEACE

This past week our Parish Community celebrated two funerals

David Plich

Doughlas D. Doromal

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to their family.

Please remember her and all the faithful departed in your prayers.

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

At St. Nicholas Church—Mondays: 5PM—6PM.

For Confessions in Spanish,

please call Father Fidel at 570-823-7736.

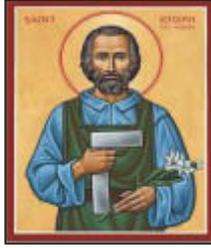
ST. NICHOLAS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Happy Labor Day! The office is closed on Monday September 6 and open on Tuesday the 7th at 6pm. Remember that next Sunday is the Annual Membership Meeting for the adult members of SNFCU. Come to the credit union office for coffee and donuts (Dunkin') and learn how your credit union survived 2020. Starts at 10:00 A.M.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS — We are currently taking names of those who would like to help distribute Holy Communion, Lector or be a Hospitality Minister at weekend Masses. If you are able please call Amanda Curcio at 570-823-4168 ext 106 so that you can be scheduled.



**OBLATES TO HONOR ST. JOSEPH
OVER LABOR DAY WEEKEND**

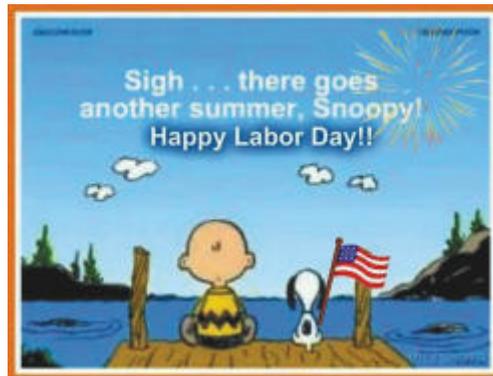


The Congregation of the Oblates of St. Joseph will hold their 39th annual Labor Day Triduum (three-day spiritual preparation) honoring St. Joseph the Worker at their chapel located on Route 315, Laflin. ***Masses will be offered every evening at 7PM on September 3-4-5 (Friday - Sunday).*** Homilies will be offered during the triduum by Deacons Jim Rose, Andre' Kabacinski and Alan

Baranski. Devotions to St. Joseph will follow every Mass with special prayers for all workers and the unemployed.

A special Mass will be offered on Labor Day morning (September 6) at 10:30AM with the Very Rev. John V. Polednak, newly appointed Diocesan Vicar for Clergy, serving as principal celebrant and homilist. For more information, contact the office at (570) 654-7542. All are welcome to join in the celebration during this Year of St. Joseph. **All Masses will be broadcast live on JMJ Catholic Radio 98.9 FM.**

Lord, on this Labor Day,
We thank You for the blessing of work.
We ask for strength to complete each day.
We ask for rest when we are weary.
We ask for Your guidance
for everyone seeking employment.
And we ask that You be with those whose faces
we might never see but who work tirelessly each
day for the good of us all. Amen.



**The Rectory Office will be closed Labor Day.
Mass at St. Nicholas will be at 9AM and
NO 12:10 MASS ON MONDAY at St. Mary's**



**REGISTRATION FOR FFC
(RELIGIOUS EDUCATION)
CONTINUES THIS WEEK:**

in the Community Room at St. Nicholas (the church's lower level).

The times for SEPTEMBER 11/12 are:
**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11,
10AM—3PM**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12:
After all the Masses
(except the 7 pm mass at St. Mary's)**

POOR BOXES IN THE VESTIBULE

Our deepest thanks to all who give to the poor via our parish poor boxes. God bless you for your Christian generosity.

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