



THE PARTNER PARISHES OF Saint Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe & Saint Mary, Mother of God



*Parishes of the Diocese of Greensburg
Pennsylvania Charitable Trusts*



As baptized Catholics, we are called to continue the mission of Jesus Christ by sharing the Love of God.

SAINT MARY, OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE KITTANNING

101 W High Street
Kittanning, PA 16201
724-548-7649
www.stmarykittanning.org

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday
9 am - 12 Noon & 1 pm - 4:00 pm
Friday 9 am - 12 Noon

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday.....4:00 pm
Sunday.....9:00 am

Weekday Mass Schedule

Monday & Friday.....8:00 am
Wednesday.....7:00 pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Wednesdays...6:00 to 6:45 pm
or by Appointment

**St. Joseph & St. Mary
Cemeteries**
Contact the parish office.

KITTANNING STAFF

Erika Dragunova
Administrative Assistant
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Larry Bandura, Maintenance

**The Reverend Ronald Maquiñana
PASTOR**

rmaquinana@dioceseofgreensburg.org

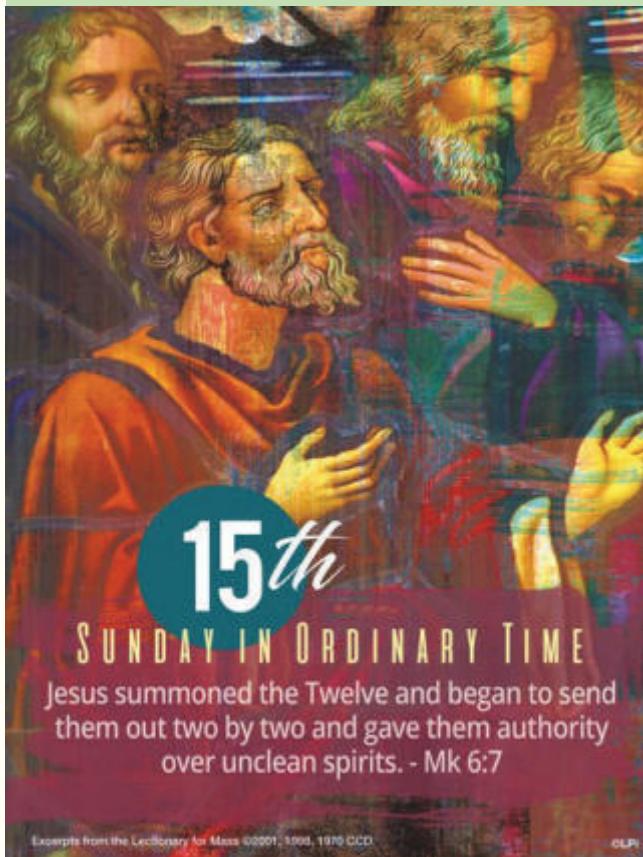
The Reverend Alan W. Grote
Regional Chaplain for Northern Armstrong County
agrote@dioceseofgreensburg.org

SACRAMENTS OF Baptism, Marriage, Anointing of the Sick

*Please contact the parish office
for more information.*



*St. Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe
and St. Mary, Mother of God*



SAINT MARY, MOTHER OF GOD YATESBORO

P.O. Box 327, 109 2nd Street
Yatesboro, PA 16263
724-783-7191
www.saintmaryyatesboro.org

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday
9 am - 12 Noon & 1 pm - 4:00 pm

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday.....6:00 pm
Sunday.....11:00 am

Weekday Mass Schedule

Tuesday & Thursday...8:30 am

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Thursdays...9:30 to 10:30 am
or by Appointment

**Sacred Heart & St. Mary
Cemeteries**
Contact the parish office.

YATESBORO STAFF

Betty Rose Walker
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Bonnie Frailey
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Bob Skamai, Choir Director

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ July 11, 2021



Worship Aid

Partner Parishes of St. Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe & St. Mary, Mother of God
15th Sunday in Ordinary Time—Year B—July 11, 2021

ENTRANCE The Summons

1. Will you come and follow me
If I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
And never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
Will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown
In you and you in me?
2. Will you leave yourself behind
If I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
And never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
Should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer
In you and you in me?
5. Lord, your summons echoes true
When you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
And never be the same.
In your company I'll go
Where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
In you and you in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949, © 1987, Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us
your salvation.

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven
and earth, of all things visible and Invisible.

I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son
of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God,
Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not
made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all
things were made. For us men and for our salvation he
came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was
incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he
suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the
third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended
into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

Nicene Creed (Continued)

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who
proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father
and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through
the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I
confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look
forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the
world to come. Amen.

COMMUNION: Taste and See

Refrain: Give us, O Lord, the bread of your word,
give us the bread of your table.
Be in our prayer, be in our labor
as we seek to do your will.

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St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in
battle. Be our protection against the wickedness
and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we
humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the
heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into
hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who wander
through the world seeking the ruin of souls.
Amen.

SENDING FORTH

Lord, You Give the Great Commission

1. Lord, you give the great commission:
'Heal the sick and preach the word.'
Lest the Church neglect its mission,
And the Gospel go unheard,
Help us witness to your purpose
With renewed integrity;
With the Spirit's gifts empower us
For the work of ministry.
2. Lord, you call us to your service:
'In my name baptize and teach.'
That the world may trust your promise,
Life abundant meant for each,
Give us all new fervor, draw us
Closer in community;
With the Spirit's gifts empower us
For the work of ministry.

Text: Jeffery Rowthorn, b. 1934, © 1978, Hope Publishing Co.

SUNDAY'S READINGS

FIRST READING:

The LORD took me from following the flock, and said to me,
“Go, prophesy to my people Israel.” (Am 12:15)

PSALM:

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your
salvation. (Ps 85)

SECOND READING:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us in Christ
with every spiritual blessing in the heavens,
as he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world,
to be holy and without blemish before him. (Eph 1:3-4)

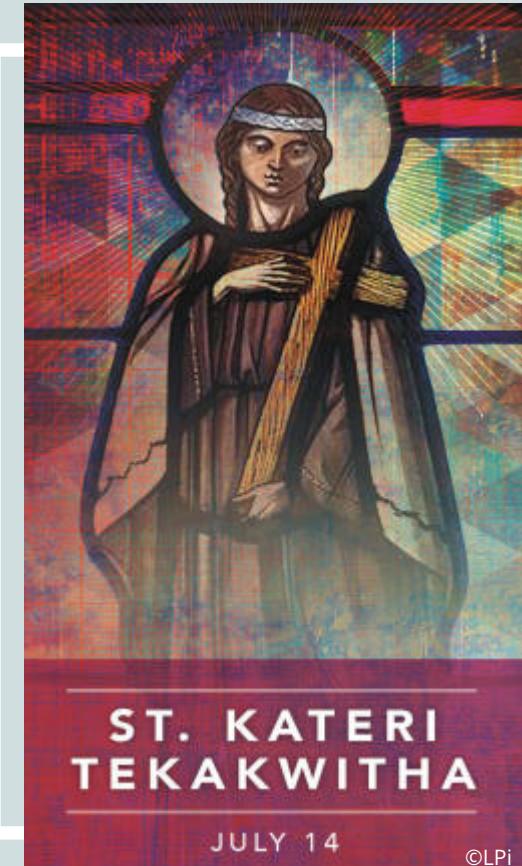
GOSPEL:

Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them
out two by two
and gave them authority over unclean spirits. (Mk 6:7)

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OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 11, 2021

Sunday:	15th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Tuesday:	St. Henry
Wednesday:	St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin
Thursday:	St. Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Friday:	Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Saturday:	BVM
Next Sunday:	16th Sunday in Ordinary Time



ST. KATERI
TEKAKWITHA

JULY 14

©LPI

REFLECT

FIRST READING

The priest Amaziah was threatened by the visions of the Lord received by Amos that warned of Israel's destruction. Amos' defense is that he was chosen by God to prophesy. When has your faith been a threat to others?

SECOND READING

Paul speaks of the abundance of blessings we receive from God as believers in Jesus Christ. Paul asserts these blessings make us "holy and without blemish" before God. To whom in your life should you share this message of hope and redemption?

GOSPEL READING

During his public ministry, Jesus commissioned the Twelve Apostles to evangelize by preaching repentance and healing the sick and demon possessed. What do you see as effective tools for evangelization today?





As summer is in our midst and restrictions with COVID-19 are lifted, many of us would plan for family vacation or summer camps to relax and enjoy the beautiful weather. Some would have an outdoor picnic with neighbors and friends. Others would organize different events to have fellowship.

Well, last week you heard at St. Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish announcement that Kittanning will hold once again *The Fort Armstrong Folk Festival* on August 5-8, 2021 with involvement of juried artisans, entertainers and business partners that present an entertaining, educational and community driven event.

As shared by the organizers, this festival aims to pay tribute to Armstrong County's heritage and stimulates strength and growth of the local businesses and organizations by attracting visitors to the area.

Our parish, St. Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe, expresses its support and willingness to join in this community event. As done in the past, we will be selling our popular and delicious apple dumplings at booth in the park. We will have bingo in our big and air-conditioned parish hall. And the parish parking lot will be open for paid parking.

In order to make our participation a success, we will be needing volunteers to help us in preparing the apple dumplings, in staffing the booth, in holding the bingo and manning the parking lot.

In this bulletin, you will find a form where you can volunteer your time, your talent and skills in the said event. Please fill out the form and return it to the parish office. You can also call our parish office if you have other inquiries. Meeting will be scheduled soon for all volunteers for planning and organizational structure.

I hope that you will be one with us in this noble endeavor and support our parish in participating in this community event.

On the other hand, our homebound ministers recommenced their visits to the homebound where they bring communion to them. I restarted also the pastoral visits to the homebound and the sick where in some cases the sacraments of anointing of the sick, confession and communion are administered.

This is what our gospel this Sunday is all about. So, if you know of anybody in need of visit or pastoral care, please let us know or call the parish office.

Father Ron

A MESSAGE OF JOY & HOPE



God calls us to bring His Word to all corners of the earth. What does that mean for you and me? We are just simple and humble folks trying to find our way through the Gospel and our world. After all, we are not professional preachers but gentle servants. Jesus summons us to take his message on the road and bring it from the pew to the pavement. We cannot keep the joy of the Gospel to ourselves but must bring it into every aspect of our lives: our families, our schools, our work, our corporations, our politics, our social circles, and our philosophies. We cannot just accept the wisdom of the world as true and conduct our lives as if the Good News is a separate matter. They are one. Jesus never asked his friends to go and construct buildings where people could come to hear the truth. He asked them to go to their homes and meet them one on one, face to face. When the rubber meets the road and the message is challenging, rejection is quite possible. That's the litmus test for whether we're really doing what we have been asked.

Please remember in your prayers the soul of Kittanning parishioner **Leona Latini** who passed away last week. May God grant her eternal rest and peace.



The Sanctuary Candle in Kittanning is burning this week in **memory of Angie Turco** by Angelo, Maria, Dominic & Families.

The Tabernacle Candle in Yatesboro is burning this week in **Birthday Remembrance of Ida Ondich** by Husband, Paul.



LITURGICAL SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

Saturday, July 10 **Vigil**

4:00 p.m. *Kittanning* Joseph Mundy (Birthday Remembrance) by Family

6:00 p.m. *Yatesboro* Lucio & Frances Palilla's 75th Wedding Anniversary Remembrance by Children

Sunday, July 11 **Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

9:00 a.m. *Kittanning* Anne Montebell by Michele & Randy Berardi

11:00 a.m. *Yatesboro* For All Living & Deceased Parishioners

Monday, July 12 **Weekday**

8:00 a.m. *Kittanning* Sally Sypulski by Lowell & Colleen Schantz

Tuesday, July 13 **Saint Henry**

8:30 a.m. *Yatesboro* Martha Lezanic by Frank & Delores Palilla

Wednesday, July 14 **Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin**

6:00 to 6:45 p.m. *Kittanning* *Sacrament of Reconciliation*

7:00 p.m. *Kittanning* Living & Deceased Family Members by Frank & Cheryl Battaglia

Thursday, July 15 **Saint Bonaventure, Bishop & Doctor of the Church**

8:30 a.m. *Yatesboro* Ida Ondich by Family

9:30 to 10:30 am *Yatesboro* *Sacrament of Reconciliation*

Friday, July 16 **Our Lady of Mount Carmel**

8:00 a.m. *Kittanning* Leno Golla by Friend, Joseph Giotto

Saturday, July 17

4:00 p.m. *Kittanning* Wedding Anniversary Remembrance of Joseph & Joy Hagofsky by Carol, Kathy & Joe

6:00 p.m. *Yatesboro* Peter Lazzeri by Frank & Delores Palilla

Sunday, July 18 **Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

9:00 a.m. *Kittanning* For All Living & Deceased Parishioners

11:00 a.m. *Yatesboro* Zach Hudak by Parents, John & Jennie

Helpful Phone Numbers

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg	724-548-1009
Divine Redeemer Regional Catholic School	724-763-3761
St. Mary Parish Hall Rental, Kittanning	724-548-7649
St. Mary/St. Gabriel Hall Rental, Yatesboro	724-783-7191
St. Vincent de Paul Helpline, Kittanning	724-543-2134
Prayer Chain, Yatesboro	724-783-6717 or 724-354-4545
Good Samaritan Ministry, Yatesboro	724-783-7936

St. Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish News

Fort Armstrong Folk Festival Thursday, August 5 ~ Sunday, August 8



**Can you give a few hours of your time
to this fundraiser which
will benefit our parish?
We need YOU to make it a success!**

Don't delay and let us know you can help!



**Help with Apple Dumpling Booth,
Bingo, Hall Kitchen or Parking.**

Make sure to fill out the
volunteer form included in this
week's bulletin, available in the church and
on our parish website.

*Drop it off in the offertory basket, at the parish
office during the week, or by mail by July 25.*

Thank you in advance for your help & support!

St. Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish is accepting donations of non-perishable food items for our local Food Bank in Kittanning. Please donate dry or canned goods only and within the expiration date. Your donations may be placed in the containers located in the back of the church. **Thank you for your generosity to those most in need in our area.**

Stay Up-to-Date on Your Giving!

Online Giving is an easy, safe and convenient way to make offertory contributions in support of our parish.

It is also a great way to catch-up on offertory during the summer months or to schedule recurring or one-time donations.

Visit our parish website www.stmarykittanning.org and click on About tab ► Online Giving for more information or to sign up.

Your giving makes a difference.



Thank You Received from American Red Cross



American Red Cross would like to thank all who donated blood at recent Kittanning Community Blood Drive held on June 17 at St. Mary Parish Hall, Kittanning in partnership with St. Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish and CD of A, Court Patricia #998.

Blood Drive Goal - 22 Units

31 donors scheduled appointments
4 donors were deferred
20 total units were collected
91% of the goal
60 lives will be saved!

Many thanks again to St. Mary Parish and CD of A for assisting with this blood drive. The lifesaving and hope restoring impact would not be touching 60 precious lives without the work of your church to promote and provide such warm hospitality.

Mark Your Calendar!

Our next Kittanning Community Blood Drive will be held at St. Mary Parish Hall, Kittanning on **Thursday, August 19, from 1:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

St. Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Kittanning is seeking a part-time Hall Coordinator.

As Hall Coordinator, hours will vary depending on the type and number of events in the parish and must be able to work on as needed basis. Primary function of this person is to handle any parish and rental events in the hall and oversee the effective and efficient operation of the parish hall. Minimum qualifications are high school diploma or equivalent, ability to work with people in a friendly manner and ability to honor and maintain confidentiality. Starting rate is \$10.50 per hour. Job duties and responsibilities include collaborating with the pastor in implementing the mission of the parish, collaborating with the sales coordinator and the parish administrative assistant for scheduling of events in the parish hall, providing other general assistance as needed, coordinating volunteers for different events and overseeing the cleanliness of the parish hall. If interested, please submit resume by mail to Father Ron Maquiñana, St. Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, 101 W High Street, Kittanning, PA 16201 or by email to rmaquinana@dioceseofgreensburg.org.

St. Mary, Mother of God Parish News

You are Invited!

....to join our team of catechists at Saint Mary, Mother of God Parish.

This fall children and youth of our parish will return to in-person faith formation classes and youth ministry. You can help them learn and grow in faith by becoming a catechist or catechist's aide.

CALLED TO BE
A CATECHIST

"Serving as a catechist is more than simple volunteerism. It is more than performing a function. It is more than filling a slot. It is a VOCATION: a call from God to serve His Church!"
www.catechistsjourney.com

This is not only an opportunity to share your love of God and the gifts He has given you; it is an opportunity to grow in your faith, in your relationship with the Lord, and in holiness.

For additional information or to join this important, rewarding and joy filled ministry, contact Bonnie at 724-664-5377
bfrailey@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Seeking Applicants for Maintenance Position

The Maintenance position has become available at Saint Mary, Mother of God Parish. Interested individuals must possess knowledge and skills to perform ordinary maintenance tasks for all parish facilities and routinely inspect parish grounds, buildings and equipment. Additional duties include clearing snow and ice from walkways on parish grounds; obtain estimates when needed for special projects, coordinate and oversee any professional services being performed by contractors; assist parish staff and arts and environment needs in preparing for liturgical seasons; keep Pastor advised of any maintenance issues. Starting rate of pay is \$10.50 per hour.

Interested individuals should submit a letter of interest to Father Ron listing qualifications and experience, no later than Monday, July 19, 2021, via email at rmaquinana@dioceseofgreensburg.org.



Shannock Valley Food Pantry

The Food Pantry is asking St. Mary, Mother of God Parish for donations of soup for July distribution. If you can help in this cause, please place the soup in the containers under the narthex table.

All involved with the Food Pantry THANK YOU for your assistance.

FEED MY SHEEP

After Jesus public ministry He commissioned His disciples to proclaim the gospel and show His love to the world especially through the Sacraments particularly the Eucharist. Today, we are asked to do the same.

Since the pandemic restrictions were put in place, many of our homebound have been anxiously waiting to receive Jesus in the Eucharist. This restriction has been lifted and our "Ministers to the Homebound" are preparing to resume their ministry by visiting and taking the Holy Eucharist to them again.

However, we need more volunteers from St. Mary, Mother of God Parish to this very special ministry and we are asking if you would be willing to share your love, time and talent once a month to help the Ministry for the Homebound continue their pastoral care for our homebound.

For more information, questions, or concerns, please contact Yatesboro Parish Office at 724-783-7191.



VOLUNTEER SIGN UP FORM

2021 Fort Armstrong Folk Festival

Thursday, August 5 – Sunday, August 8

Festival Hours:

Thursday 5 - 10 pm Friday Noon - 10 pm Saturday Noon - 10 pm Sunday Noon - 6 pm

We need YOU to make this fundraiser a success!

Please choose a work station indicated below and the time you are willing to help.

You will be contacted prior to the festival to confirm your availability.

Please list each family member able to help: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

I (we) can help by working at the time(s) indicated below with an "x":

APPLE DUMPLING BOOTH:

<u>THURSDAY, AUG. 5</u>	<u>FRIDAY, AUG. 6</u>	<u>SATURDAY, AUG. 7</u>	<u>SUNDAY, AUG. 8</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> 4:30 – 7:30 pm	<input type="checkbox"/> 11:00 am – 2:00 pm	<input type="checkbox"/> 11:00 am – 2:00 pm	<input type="checkbox"/> 11:00 am – 2:30 pm
<input type="checkbox"/> 7:30 – 10:00 pm	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:00 – 5:00 pm	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:00 – 5:00 pm	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:30 – 6:00 pm
	<input type="checkbox"/> 4:30 – 7:30 pm	<input type="checkbox"/> 4:30 – 7:30 pm	
	<input type="checkbox"/> 7:30 – 10:00 pm	<input type="checkbox"/> 7:30 – 10:00 pm	

BINGO:

<u>THURSDAY, AUG. 5</u>	<u>FRIDAY, AUG. 6</u>	<u>SATURDAY, AUG. 7</u>	<u>SUNDAY, AUG. 8</u>
No Bingo	<input type="checkbox"/> 6:00 – 9:00 pm	<input type="checkbox"/> 6:00 – 9:00 pm	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:00 – 4:00 pm

HALL KITCHEN:

<u>THURSDAY, AUG. 5</u>	<u>FRIDAY, AUG. 6</u>	<u>SATURDAY, AUG. 7</u>	<u>SUNDAY, AUG. 8</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> 4:00 – 7:00 pm	<input type="checkbox"/> 11:00 am – 3:00 pm	<input type="checkbox"/> 11:00 am – 3:00 pm	<input type="checkbox"/> 11:00 am – 4:00 pm
<input type="checkbox"/> 7:00 – 10:00 pm	<input type="checkbox"/> 3:00 – 7:00 pm	<input type="checkbox"/> 3:00 – 7:00 pm	
	<input type="checkbox"/> 7:00 – 10:00 pm	<input type="checkbox"/> 7:00 – 10:00 pm	

PARKING:

<u>THURSDAY, AUG. 5</u>	<u>FRIDAY, AUG. 6</u>	<u>SATURDAY, AUG. 7</u>	<u>SUNDAY, AUG. 8</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> 4:30 – 6:30 pm	<input type="checkbox"/> 4:30 – 6:30 pm	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:00 – 3:30 pm	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:00 – 3:00 pm
<input type="checkbox"/> 6:30 – 8:30 pm	<input type="checkbox"/> 6:30 – 8:30 pm	<input type="checkbox"/> 5:00 – 7:30 pm	

Please drop off this form in the offertory basket, at the Parish Office during the week, or return it by mail by Sunday, July 25.



Bishop Kulick desires to recognize all couples celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary during the calendar year 2021.

The Jubilarians, their children, relatives or friends should contact the couple's parish office: St. Mary, Kittanning at 724-548-7649 or St. Mary, Yatesboro at 724-783-7191 to register couples for this recognition by July 21.

Ideally, the Jubilarians will be invited to join the bishop for a special Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass to be celebrated in Blessed Sacrament Cathedral on Sunday, September 19, 2021. Even though personal circumstances may not permit participation in this Mass, all couples who are registered will receive a scroll signed by the bishop commemorating their anniversary.



Because of the early Fourth of July holiday publication deadline of this bulletin, the Offertory Collection report for the weekend of July 3 & 4 will be included in the next week's bulletin.

WIN 18 HOLES OF GOLF FOR A FOURSOME!



The St. Lawrence Festival committee is raffling 18 holes of golf for one (1) foursome at Mystic Rock or Shepherd's Rock at Nemacolin Woodlands Resort. The drawing will be held at the St. Lawrence Festival on Saturday, September 18th. This prize is courtesy of 84 Lumber. Tickets are \$10 each and only 300 tickets will be sold. To purchase tickets, please call Ceil Bartolovic at 724-763-3305 or Shari Fuller at 724-763-4159.

LITURGICAL MINISTER SCHEDULE - JULY 14-18, 2021

ST. MARY, OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE PARISH, KITTANNING

	Altar Servers	Extraordinary Ministers Of Holy Communion	Lector	Cantor	Hospitality Ministers
Wed., July 14 7:00 p.m.			Patty Swartzlander		
Sat., July 17 4:00 p.m.	Christian Shuster	Debbie Johnson Sabrina Streightif	Bruce Fleeger	Anna Oberneder	Debbie Johnson Roseann Rybicki
Sun., July 18 9:00 a.m.	Michael Grantz Emily Kuntz	Bob Ashley Dan Lorigan Cindy Milz	Amber Ritrosky	Sadie Jageman	Mary Anne Galonski Cindy Milz

ST. MARY, MOTHER OF GOD PARISH, YATESBORO

	Altar Servers	Extraordinary Ministers Of Holy Communion	Lector	Cantor	Hospitality Ministers
Sat., July 17 6:00 p.m.	Cathy Wranich	JoAnn Clopp (T)	Karen Kintz	Amy Skamai	Don & Helen Gardner
Sun., July 18 11:00 a.m.	Lucy Rearick	Bob Skamai (T)	Anna Skamai	Amy Skamai	Steve & Sue Champion

Sunday, Jul 11, 2021

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Each one, bring one

A lot of things in life are lonely. Being sick, being wrong, and being broke are hours difficult to share with anyone not inside the experience. Happily, religion isn't intended to be a solitary undertaking. Jesus formed a community before he engaged his ministry, and he urged his followers to go out in pairs. If you're struggling to ground your prayer life, make a deeper commitment to Bible study, or get a work of service or justice off the ground, remember: Companions in faith make the way more joyful and fruitful.

TODAY'S READINGS: Amos 7:12-15; Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:7-13 (104). *"Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out two by two."*

Monday, Jul 12, 2021

Cross purposes

No one said the path of Christian discipleship was going to be a bed of roses—but it is indeed the way of love. “The temptation is to follow a Christ without a cross,” Pope Francis said—that is, to succumb to an easy albeit empty life that the world offers. Instead, “If we live our lives for the Lord, set on fire with love, then our lives will be fruitful and we will have genuine joy,” said Francis. What's more, there's food for the journey, he reminds—we rediscover the mystery of Christ's cross every time we participate in the Eucharist.

TODAY'S READINGS: Exodus 1:8-14, 22; Matthew 10:34—11:1 (389). *“... whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me.”*

Tuesday, Jul 13, 2021

MEMORIAL OF HENRY

Words matter

Holy Roman Emperor Henry II championed the Nicene Creed. He encouraged its official recitation during the Mass, a practice that didn't gain papal approval until the 11th century. And he promoted the *filioque*. *Filioque* is Latin for the four small words—“and from the Son”—used in the Nicene Creed to describe the origin of the Holy Spirit, who, Catholics and Protestants believe, “proceeds from the Father and the Son.” Draw strength from our Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer God, and honor the Blessed Trinity today by praying a “Glory Be.”

TODAY'S READINGS: Exodus 2:1-15a; Matthew 11:20-24 (390). *“Jesus began to reproach the towns where most of his mighty deeds had been done, since they had not repented.”*

Wednesday, Jul 14, 2021

MEMORIAL OF KATERI TEKAKWITHA, VIRGIN

See with the eyes of faith

Some people survive trials and adversity with a faith that cannot be explained. Saint Kateri Tekakwitha (1656-80) is one of those people. At the age of 4, Tekakwitha was physically scarred and left nearly blind by a smallpox epidemic that took the lives of her parents. Though she continued to live among her people, she followed a different path than most. Baptized Kateri (Catherine) at the age of 19, she soon found a distant village of Christian Native Americans who accepted her desire to remain single and devote

her life to Jesus. The life of this first Native American saint was short, but her kind and deep faith left its own lasting mark. Visit the website: Shrine of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha.

TODAY'S READINGS: Exodus 3:1-6, 9-12; Matthew 11:25-27 (391).

“Although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike.”

Thursday, Jul 15, 2021

MEMORIAL OF BONAVENTURE, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Bask in reflected glory

Understanding and proving the existence of God has been a human pursuit since the beginning of time. For medieval Franciscan philosopher Saint Bonaventure, vestiges of God's existence are found in all God's creatures and, indeed, in all creation. Thus, he posits, we see God, “through a mirror.” As our understanding of God increases, we begin to see God “in a mirror”; that is, we see the image and likeness of God in all things. For Bonaventure, signs of God's existence are all around, and God is present in each of us. “Therefore,” says Bonaventure, one “who is not brightened by such splendors of created things is blind.” Open your eyes to our all-around God.

TODAY'S READINGS: Exodus 3:13-20; Matthew 11:28-30 (392). *“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.”*

Friday, Jul 16, 2021

MEMORIAL OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

The view from on high

If there were such things as spiritual “power points” on Earth, Mount Carmel would have to qualify as one. A range on the Mediterranean coast in Northern Israel, Mount Carmel has been a crossroads for religious traditions, military strife, monastic life, biblical archeology, and now, modern urban living. There is something for everyone on Mount Carmel, which is perhaps why it has a long and contentious history. Today, join your prayers for peace in the Middle East with those of Carmelites the world over. Our Lady of Mount Carmel, pray for us!

TODAY'S READINGS: Exodus 11:10—12:14; Matthew 12:1-8 (393). *“If you knew what this meant, I desire mercy, not sacrifice, you would not have condemned these innocent men.”*

Saturday, Jul 17, 2021

No one is without dignity

Bruised reeds and smoldering wicks were commonly discarded in ancient society because they were no longer useful for the purpose they served. People were often treated the same way. If a person was blind, lame, or suffered leprosy, they were essentially discarded by society because they were seen as a burden that couldn't be sustained. But Jesus taught of the sacred dignity of all human life regardless of health or usefulness, and that our final judgment would be based on our treatment of the least among us. Can you take a moment today to in some way lift up a lowly or outcast person?

TODAY'S READINGS: Exodus 12:37-42; Matthew 12:14-21 (394). *“A bruised reed he will not break, a smoldering wick he will not quench.”*

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time



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