

## PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear Parishioners,

## The Work of the People

*The Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time*

For the last several weeks I have been writing about the objects within a church building and the intended purpose for those objects. At this point it is probably a good thing to once again state the context of this discussion. The primary reason for a church building is as a place for the People of God, the Church, to gather to celebrate the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. The purpose of any and all of the objects within the church building is to support that primary reason for existence. Hence, the more important objects, such as the altar, are important because they are essential to the celebration of the Mass and the other sacraments.

What is the purpose of artwork such as statues within the church building? "Images in painting or sculpture, as well as tapestries, cloth hangings, banners and other permanent or seasonal decorations should be introduced into the liturgical space upon consultation with an art consultant. Like the furniture and other objects used in worship, they become part of the environment and are subject to its criteria of quality and appropriateness. In addition, their appropriateness must take into account the current renewed emphasis on the action of the assembly. If instead of serving and aiding that action, they threaten it or compete with it, then they are unsuitable" (*Environment and Art in Catholic Worship, #98*).

"The placement of images can be a challenge, especially when a number of cultural traditions are a part of a single parish community and each has its own devotional life and practices. Restraint in the number and prominence of sacred images is encouraged to help people focus on the liturgical action that is celebrated in the church. Separate alcoves for statues or icons can display a variety of images through the year" (*Built of Living Stones, #137*).

Sacred images are also to support the personal piety and private prayer of the members of the Eucharistic assembly. "Devotional prayer is another way for people to bring the very personal concerns of life to God and to ask the intercession of the saints and of other members of the Christian community. Sacred images are important . . . in devotional prayer because they are sacramentals that help the faithful to focus their attention and their prayer" (*Built of Living Stones, #131*).

Sacred images do have a part to play in the devotional life of a Catholic and, therefore, do have a place (when chosen wisely) within the worship space. They, however, are not primary and should not be given greater emphasis than the Eucharistic action itself. Several years ago, I heard of a situation in a church in Erie that took place at Christmas time. After the church had been decorated for the season, the pastor walked in one morning to preside at daily Mass and found that the tops of all the Christmas trees had been cut off. It later was found out that a parishioner had destroyed the work of many and the environment because "the trees were blocking my view of Mary." How unfortunate that some are selfish enough to make decisions for the entire community and destroy in the name of prayer and devotion. Sometimes values and priorities can be misplaced.

**CATHOLIC EDUCATION COLLECTION**

The 2019 Catholic Education Collection will take place the weekend of September 14 - 15. This important collection supports lifelong faith formation for all generations throughout our diocese. Please give generously and know that half of what you give will remain at St. Anthony and St. Bernadette parishes to support our own religious education and faith formation programs. We couldn't raise the funds to support these faith formation projects without your help, so we thank you for your past support and for your participation this year.

**A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE**

Family life well lived confirms the words of Jesus in today's gospel, "Those who humble themselves will be exalted." Commitment, intimacy, loyalty and love are the rewards of humble service and care for one another.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 1**

Monday: 1 Thes. 4:13-18/Ps. 96:1 & 3, 4-5, 11-12, 13/  
Lk. 4:16-30

Tuesday: 1 Thes. 5:1-6, 9-11/Ps. 27:1, 4, 13-14/Lk. 4:31-37

Wednesday: Col. 1:1-8/Ps. 52:10, 11/Lk. 4:38-44

Thursday: Col. 1:9-14/Ps. 98:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6/Lk. 5:1-11

Friday: Col. 1:15-20/Ps. 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Lk. 5:33-39

Saturday: Col. 1:21-23/Ps. 54:3-4, 6 & 8/Lk. 6:1-5

Sunday: Wis. 9:13-18b/Ps. 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14-17/  
Phlm. 9-10, 12-17/Lk. 14:25-33

**WANTED**

St. Anthony of Padua is looking for an interested person to clean the rectory, three to four hours, one day a week. If interested, please call 398-4234, 9 am - 3:30 pm, Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri.

## WORSHIP

Monday, September 2  
 8:00 am + Living & Deceased Members of PNA Lodge 1540  
 Tuesday, September 3  
 8:00 am + Margaret Styborski (Stacy Mott)  
 Wednesday, September 4  
 8:00 am + NO MASS  
 Thursday, September 5  
 8:00 am + John Auer  
 Friday, September 6 - FIRST FRIDAY  
 8:00 am + Ancestors of Rembielak Families  
 (Joan Rembielak & Phyllis & Bob Wronko)  
 Saturday, September 7  
 4:30 pm + Robert J. Pflieger (Shawn Pflieger)  
 Sunday, September 8  
 8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE  
 Living & Deceased Parishioners  
 9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY  
 Pat Cahalan (Sue Parkin)

## PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Monday - Wednesday - Friday AT ST. BERNADETTE  
 (Except Holy Days)  
 7:00 am - Communion Service  
 Tuesday, September 3  
 After Mass - St. Anthony's Novena  
 Saturday, September 7  
 3:45 - 4:15 pm - Confessions  
 Sunday, September 8  
 Before Mass - Confessions AT ST. BERNADETTE  
 After Mass - Confessions AT ST. ANTHONY  
**NOTE: Latin Mass will be the last Sunday of every month**

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

**ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA**  
**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 - 4:30 PM**  
 Eucharistic Ministers: Judy Hermann/Judy Kingston/Jim Samson  
 Lector: Shawn Pflieger  
 Altar Servers: Payton Leandro/Robert Moats

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 - 9:30 AM**  
 Eucharistic Ministers: Ginger Beck/Christine Krzysiak/  
 Don Marteeny/Harriet McLaren  
 Lector: Julie Hobson  
 Altar Servers: Sophia Mott/Andrea Walker

**ST. BERNADETTE**  
**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 - 8:00 AM**  
 Eucharistic Ministers: J. Acker/C. Greco/J. Weagraff  
 Lector: B. Smith  
 Ushers: D. Nowak  
 Altar Servers: B. Greco

**STEWARDSHIP**

<b>8/25/19</b>	
Offertory	\$449.00
Votives	15.00
Share the Faith	10.00
Assumption	15.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$489.00</b>

CSA:  
 Pledged - \$8,205  
 Paid - \$7,125

**NOTE**

*In this age when personal data can be issued by scam artists, please be aware that the Roman Catholic Diocese of Erie, its clergy, and entities such as parishes and schools will never solicit your personal or business information by any method unless initiated by you. Should you receive an unsolicited request for such information - including a request for gift cards of any type - exercise extreme caution. Contact the person or entity by using official contact information only. Do not use contact information provided in the potential fraudulent request.*

**NEEDED**

Our Religious Education program is in need of an elementary teacher to team teach for this upcoming year. If interested, please contact the rectory at 398-4234.

**- CRAFTERS WANTED -**

St. Anthony of Padua will hold a Craft Fair on Saturday, October 5 from 9am - 3pm. For more information please contact Sue (814 398-8265) or Kathleen (814 282-6707).

**2019 Faith, Light and JOY**  
**Ministries Retreat**

You are invited to join the Faith Light and JOY Ministries on Saturday, Sept. 28 at Presque Isle Pavillion #3 (enclosed pavilion at Waterworks), 301 Peninsula Dr. from 10:00 am - 5:00 pm for "Be attitudes" - a day retreat led by Steve and Vicky Washek. Fee for the retreat is \$10 payable at the time of the event. Reservations need to be made by Friday, Sept. 20 to Michele Inter at 814 824-1257 or minter@eriercd.org

*"Lord, thank you for the people in my life who have encouraged me."*

**BINGO** - The next scheduled BINGO at St. Anthony's will be Monday, September 16. Early Bird BINGO starts at 6:00 pm and the regular BINGO starts at 6:30 pm. Doors and kitchen open at 5:00 pm. A Lasagna Dinner will be available at a cost of \$5.00.

**UPCOMING EVENTS AT ST. BERNADETTE'S**

Sun. Sept. 8 - Holy Name Sunday

**STEWARDSHIP**

Offertory	\$1,522.00
Maintenance	306.00
Assumption	15.00
Latin America	20.00
Candles	25.00
Donation for Roof	200.00
CSA	380.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,468.00</b>

Catholic Services Appeal  
 Pledged: \$23,596    Paid: \$18,521

**CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA**

**CHURCH NO.:**

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

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