MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

SATURDAY, September 16th
4:30 p.m. **JOSEPHINE BIANCO** by Friends

SUNDAY, September 17th – TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME CATECHETICAL SUNDAY
9:30 a.m. **JAMES CERA** by Havasi Family

MONDAY, September 18th – NO MASS

TUESDAY, September 19th
8:30 a.m. **SAM NAOMI** by Mike Nicholas

WEDNESDAY, September 20th – NO MASS

THURSDAY, September 21st
8:30 a.m. **D. JOYCE HEATHERLY** by Sister, Rose Williams

FRIDAY, September 22nd – NO MASS
SATURDAY, September 23rd
4:30 p.m. **SAMUEL MARAVOLA** by Julie Abraham & Jim Yuhasz

SUNDAY, September 24th – TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
9:30 a.m. **MIKE DANIHEL** by Joanne Luhaney

NOTE: If you would like to bring up the offertory gifts during a Mass that is scheduled for a family member or friend, please see the ushers before Mass.

PLEASE NOTE: If you need to have Communion brought to you at your seat, please notify the ushers **before Mass**.

PARISH NEWS

THEME*: AS GOD HAS FORGIVEN OUR SINS, SO WE MUST FORGIVE OTHERS.*

Today's Gospel reminds us that God freely and generously pours out his love and forgiveness upon us through our faith in Jesus and the sacraments of the Church. These gifts are given to us, not only for our salvation, but so we may share them with others, and so peace may be built up more fully in the world.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first readings, we are reminded that we will be forgiven as we have forgiven others. In the second reading, Saint Paul tells us that we belong to God in both life and death. In the Gospel, Jesus uses a parable to illustrate that our generosity in forgiving those who have wronged us must be lavish if we are to hope for the same consideration from our heavenly Father.

BECOMING CATHOLIC – R.C.I.A. – Sessions for RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) which assist people in becoming Catholic will begin Tuesday, October 3 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in Holy Family Hall at Mt. Carmel Church. This program is a collaborative program for St. Stephen, St. Rose, St. Mary's in Mineral Ridge, Our Lady of Perpetual Help and Mt. Carmel. If you, or someone you know, is interested in becoming Catholic, please call the rectory at 330-652-4396.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2017 – HONOR OUR CATECHISTS AND TEACHERS – The U.S. Bishops have designated today as Catechetical Sunday to honor all those who share in the evangelizing and teaching mission of the Church. At St. Stephen Parish, we are so grateful for the dedicated ministry of these persons who have accepted the call to catechize youth and children in our CCD program. **We acknowledge, with gratitude:** *Coordinator, Mary Ann McMahon, Teachers, Connie Brandt, Stacie Lehman, Carol Sylvester, Katie Ward, Valerie Sullivan, Dana Blank, Gina Helmick and Lisa Scheidegger.*

REST IN PEACE – Our prayers and sympathy are extended to the families and friends of Nancy Baldwin, Regis Patrick, David Patterson and Ursula Ruggiero who died last week.

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP:

ATTENDANCE

Saturday, September 2nd, 2017	4:30 p.m. Mass... 139
Sunday, September 3rd, 2017	9:30 a.m. Mass... 129

STEWARDSHIP: LAST WEEK YTD (11 wks.)

WEEKLY BUDGETED	**$5,456.00**	$ 60,016.00
SUNDAYS	$4,456.01	$ 54,943.59
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	($ 999.99)	($ 5,072.41)
Sunday envelopes – 150		

DEBT REDUCTION:

Owed to DOY September 5, 2017	**$ 212, 308.36**
Debt reduction envelopes	**$ 418.18**
NEW BALANCE September 11, 2017	**$ 211,755.18**

Thank you for your continued support of your parish.

**Any time there is a Diocesan second collection, we will suspend our debt reduction second collection for that week. Of course, you may still use your debt reduction envelope at any time.*

We ask God to show us the way as we pray for the success of "Preserving our Faith, our Heritage and our Church"

APPEAL UPDATE AS OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2017:

198 Gifts/pledges totaling.....$158,827.00
Paid to date $121,007.00

Thank you to all who have already offered their gift for the benefit of the parish for years to come! The next phase includes the painting of the exterior window trim, repair of the sidewalk out front and installation of handrails. Our new hard surface flooring and carpeting are slated to be installed near the end of October. If you have not already done so, please consider a pledge or gift to help us with these much needed projects! Any and all gifts will be gratefully received.

NOTE: *To those who have made a quarterly pledge… please use the Restoration envelope in your packet to make your payments when convenient for your budget. We will not be mailing out statements unless specifically requested.*

NILES CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CLUB MEMBERSHIP DRIVE – Members of the Niles Catholic Women's Club will be available after both Masses this weekend to answer any questions you might have and to invite all women of the parish to join their organization. Take this opportunity to make new friends, while making your parish stronger. If you are not able to stay after Mass this weekend, please contact the rectory or any member of the Niles Catholic Women's Club. We would love to have you join us!

PARISH PICNIC A GREAT SUCCESS! Thanks to EVERYONE who made our parish picnic such an enjoyable evening: those who planned it so well, set up, cleaned up, provided music along with delicious food and many yummy desserts to share. It was the kind of event that brings us closer together as a parish family, allows us to welcome our new parishioners and, all in all, just enjoy each other's company.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE:

Serving Mass September 23rd & 24th

	EUCHARISTIC MINISTER OF CUP	LECTOR
September 23rd	J. Dubaj/J. Kolesar	M. McMahon
September 24th	J. Abraham/L. Burgess	C. Burgess
	EUCHARISTIC MINISTER OF BREAD	**SACRISTAN**
September 23rd	A. Marzullo	L. Garland
September 24th	M. Cullivan	C. McGuirk
	ALTAR SERVERS	
September 23rd	A. Wilson/P. Wilson	
September 24th	J. Cullivan/S. Garcar	

BLESSING OF PETS – In honor of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals, and whose feast day is October 4, we will host a blessing of pets on Saturday, **September 30 at 2:30 p.m.** on the church grounds. Please have your pet on a leash or in a carrier. If it is difficult for your pet to attend, you may bring a picture.

MINISTRY DAY – "Embracing Our Call" – Those members of Parish Council who have expressed interest in attending the Diocesan Ministry Day on October 14 are reminded to turn their registration form in to the rectory office before the end of the month. To take advantage of the discounted fees, we have to turn our forms in no later than October 1. You can view the brochure listing the sessions and registration form at www.doy.org. Forms are also available at the parish office.

***A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE* BY BUD OZAR –** Unable to forgive another, means we are holding onto a past wrong and hoping for a better past. That is not going to happen. We must move on with our life by accepting we were unjustly treated and it will not be corrected. We aren't condoning the injustice. We just don't let it control our lives any longer. Forgiveness is critical to living a healthy life in the present.

STEWARDSHIP – SEPTEMBER 3, 2017, 22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – *"For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's" – Romans 14:8* This is the essence of stewardship – everything we have and everything we are is a gift from God. We aren't "owners" of anything, we are merely "stewards" of the gifts that God has given us, especially our very own lives. Pray to God, daily, and ask Him how He wants you to use the gifts He has given you.

2017 DIOCESAN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION – Couples observing their 25th, 40th, 50th and over wedding anniversaries may attend a Wedding Anniversary Celebration at the Basilica of St. John the Baptist Church in Canton on ***Sunday, October 22, at 2:00 p.m***. The celebration includes Mass with Bishop Murry, renewal of marriage vows, a personalized certificate for each couple and a reception for the couples and their families. Please call the rectory at 330-652-4396 **before September 20** to register.

FOUNDATIONS IN MINISTRY – Are you ready to take your faith, discipleship and ministry to others to a deeper level?

The Foundations in Ministry Program begins in October. The program

- Empowers laity to respond to the Baptismal call to holiness, discipleship and ministry
- Presents comprehensive theological content through interactive and inspirational sessions.
- Provides opportunities to discern God's will and empowers laity to serve
- Strengthens community through prayer, reflection and discussion.

Participants can earn approximately 45 Religious Education certification hours. Sessions will be held on Monday evenings at 7:30 p.m. beginning on October 2 at the Ursuline Center in Canfield. Contact Pete Schafer, Director of Lay Ministry Formation Program for more information at 330-744-8451, ext. 275, or pschafer@youngstowndiocese.org. Information and registration materials can also be found on the Lay Ministry Formation website http://www.doy.org/index.php/diocesan-offices/lay-ministry.

COMMUNITY NEWS

NILES COMMUNITY SERVICES – *SEPTEMBER COLLECTION* – Mustard/Ketchup/Syrup/Mayo

COMMUNITY SUPPERS – *SEPTEMBER – Niles First United Methodist Church* – Dinners are free and open to the public on Thursdays from 4:45-6:00 p.m.

HARRIET'S CUPBOARD – *SEPTEMBER* – Soap, Shampoo, Personal hygiene items. There is a large basket in the vestibule of the church for those who wish to help with this mission of Catholic Charities.

5K FUN RUN AND 1 MILE WALK TO BENEFIT MEN & WOMEN UNITED FOR LIFE – On Saturday, September 30, 2017, at 9:00 a.m. at the Canfield Fairgrounds there will be a 5K Fun Run and 1 Mile Walk to Benefit Men & Women United for Life – a pro-life group active in the Diocese of Youngstown, committed to promoting the sanctity and dignity of life. They offer programs to help teens learn about character development, making right decisions, and living a chaste lifestyle. They have sponsored nationally renowned professional speakers such as Chris Stefanick, Paul J. Kim, and members of the Culture Project. For more information contact Judy Welsh (Director) at 330-718-7746 or judywelsh54@gmail.com; or Diane Burke (Race Chair) at dburke5581@gmail.com or 330-727-9669.

RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY – OCTOBER 1ST – NATIONAL LIFE CHAIN SUNDAY – Warren- Elm Road NE at Genesee Ave. NE, 2:30-3:30 p.m.; For more info, contact Jim & Peggy Earl at trulife851@aol.com or 330-889-3722, or you may contact our parish Pro-Life representative, Anna Marie Granny.

PASTA DINNER – FUND RAISER – TO BENEFIT EMILY LUCAS – TODAY – Sunday, September 17th at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Center, 4500 Norquest Boulevard, Austintown. 12:00-5:00 p.m. Dinners include: Pasta and Meatballs, tossed salad, bread & butter, desserts and beverages. $8.00./adults, $4.00/children 6 and under 12, children under 6 Free. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus #3930. In March 2017, at the age of 29, Emily was diagnosed with Stage 4 breast cancer. Until graduate school, Emily had been a lifelong resident of Austintown. She is a 2005 graduate of Fitch High School, a 2009 graduate of YSU. Emily went on to be accepted into the veterinary program at Michigan State University. She became a veterinarian in 2013. After receiving the devastating diagnosis, Emily and fiance' Daniel moved back to Ohio where they can be supported by family and friends while she receives ongoing cancer treatment.

PIROHY – St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parish is selling pirohy and haluski on Friday, September 22. Four varieties available for $5.50 per dozen – potato, sweet cabbage, sauerkraut and lekvar (prune). Haluski (cabbage and noodles) is available for $3.75 per quart bag. Call the kitchen on Wednesday,September 20 or Thursday, September 21 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at 330-393-0781 to place an order. Pick up is at SS Cyril & Methodius Hall (school basement) 175 Laird Avenue, Warren from noon to 4:00 p.m. on Friday, September 22.

Save the Date: Sunday, September 24, 2017, Noon to 6:00 p.m.

EIGHTH ANNUAL FAITH & FAMILY FESTIVAL

Hoover Park at Walsh University, North Canton

Featured Speaker: **Dr. Ray Guarendi,** Kids & Youth Activities, Praise & Worship Bands, affordable Food, various Vendors & Displays. Plus Eucharistic Adoration, Confession, and Closing Mass with **Bishop George V. Murry, S.J.**

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www.faithfamilyfest.org

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