

DECEMBER 31, 2017

“Brothers and sisters: Put on, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. (Colossians 3)

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

A special note of thanks to Bishop Matano, Fr. Endres, Fr. Leone, classmates of Fr. Shatzel, fellow priests, St. Rita and nearby parishioners and everyone who attended the wake and funeral for Fr. Shatzel. Your support and kind words were much appreciated by his family and by me.

Today we celebrate the **Feast of the Holy Family** of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. On this day we also thank God for the gift of our own family.

In our reflection we must not forget that Jesus was born into a human family too. He would have experienced the parental love of Mary and Joseph. Like all good Hebrew parents, the infant Jesus was brought to the temple area to be consecrated to God. The Holy Simeon and Anna recognized immediately that this child was to be the fulfillment of God’s plan of salvation. While still growing up, Jesus at the age of twelve, would, at the distress of his searching parents, remain behind in the temple after the Feast of Passover only to return with his parents back to Nazareth. This same Feast of Passover would mark a new chapter in our salvation when Jesus, now as an adult, would become the Good Shepherd, and the Lamb of God, by accepting death on the cross, a death leading to our Salvation through His resurrection. God Himself spares us from unending death so that we, His family, may pass over to Eternal life.



May God bless you and your family this week!
Fr. Gonyo

From the Desk of Marie Marton . . .

WHY DO CATHOLICS WORSHIP MARY AND THE SAINTS?

Well, the simple answer is that we don’t.

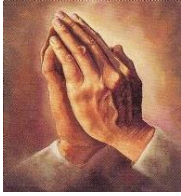
Catholics do not worship Mary and/or the Saints. We do, however, honor Mary and the saints with great reverence and devotion.

Mary is the perfect model of love and obedience to God. We believe that God preserved Mary from sin from the time that she was conceived. This made the Incarnation of Jesus possible, since upon saying “Yes” to God, Mary was impregnated by the power of the Holy Spirit and filled with grace.

The Miracle at Cana (Jn 1:32-2:11) shows the special relationship Mary had with her son. Jesus had not yet begun His public ministry. At the time that He and a few of His disciples joined His mother at the wedding, He had not yet spoken to crowds or worked any miracles in their midst. When His mother told Him that the bride and groom had run out of wine, He asked her, quite bluntly, what that had to do with Him? Yet, ultimately, He did respond to His mother’s request and changed the water into wine. For many in the Catholic Church, this indicates Jesus’ special relationship with His mother and the recognition that He will continue to respond to whatever Mary asks of Him.

Saints are ordinary and typical human beings who lived holy lives in obedience to God’s will and are now in heaven for eternity. Quite simply, they are close to God and have access to His ear. If you had a friend that worked in the front office of Wegmans and your son was looking for a summer job, you might take the initiative to talk to your friend and ask him or her if there were any openings, and request that your friend give your son’s resume to the proper person and office. Well, that is a lot like how we ask a Saint to bring our petitions to God. Of course, we pray to God and make our own intercessions. But we also take advantage of the Saints and their special access to God to bring these matters to God’s attention on our behalf. After all, the squeaky wheel does get the oil. So keep on asking, right?

In essence, we do not pray to Mary or the Saints. We ask them to pray and intercede for us to God. They add their prayers to ours. We recognize that they have a very special relationship with God and that they will persist in prayer when we are overwhelmed by a particular issue or general circumstances of our lives. We have been given an extraordinary gift at Baptism: we become members of the family of God. Jesus gave us His own mother at the cross. Through Baptism, we have become brothers and sisters of the Saints. Family! And what a family tree! Wouldn’t you ask your human family on earth to pray for you? Well, this is a mere extension of that family. We are encouraged to ask our Mother Mary and our brother and sister Saints to pray for us while they are in the presence of God. We are truly blessed!



EUCCHARIST INTENTIONS

Among the intentions for those who gather for the Eucharist this week will be

MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 2018

Holy Day – Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
9:00AM RUTH BOLGER – Diane & Tom

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2018

8:15AM PATRICK MC CARTHY – Therese Bishop

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2018

8:15AM HELEN R. YOUNG – Husband

9:15AM ST. RITA SCHOOL LITURGY - All are Welcome!
FATHER RICHARD SHATZEL – St. Rita School Family

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 2018

8:15AM DAVID MALONEY – Joan & Jim McGrath

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 2018

No Mass on Fridays

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 2018

5:00PM LOUISE FALVO – Family

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2018

7:30AM DANIEL RECCHIA – Mr. & Mrs. Robert Patti
9:00AM MICHAEL COOK – Dorothy Stevens
10:30AM BRIDGET MARY MC NULTY – Janet, Dave, Carrie & Gerry

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This week the Tabernacle Light will burn in loving memory of Father Richard Shatzel

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ATTENTION DAILY MASS PARTICIPANTS!

For your safety - If you see on TV that Webster Central Schools are closed due to inclement weather, our 8:15am morning Mass will be cancelled as well.

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COMPANIONS IN GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Thursday, January 18 at 7:30pm in Room 1

All who have experienced the loss of a friend or loved one through death are invited to attend. All are welcome!

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The Parish Offices will be closed on Monday, January 1 for the New Year's Holiday



St. Rita School

Where Faith and Knowledge Meet!

All are invited to:

ST. RITA SCHOOL'S PROSPECTIVE FAMILY INFORMATION NIGHT

Thursday, January 18 at 7:00 pm (Meet in Church)

St. Rita School offers PreK3 through Grade 5 for the 2018-2019 School year. Join us for a brief presentation by our principal, Ms. Wagner at 7:00pm in Church with school tours to follow. Teachers will be present for a "Meet and Greet" and to answer any questions you may have.

Babysitting will be available for all those who need it.

Pass the word – come learn about our school.

We hope to see you there!

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All are Welcome to our next St. Rita Society event

Soup & Sandwich Lunch

Tuesday, January 16 at 11:00am in Room 1

With Guest Speaker: Karen Backus from Genesee Valley Physical Therapy

Bring a sandwich with you and we will provide soup and dessert!

Before lunch, we will have a special presentation by Karen who will demonstrate several exercises that will improve your balance and if you do fall, she will show you the proper way to get yourself up.

There will be a question and answer period to address your specific needs. **Reservations are suggested. Please call Elaine at 671-4930.**

Please bring unwrapped health care products (shampoo, toothpaste, soap, etc.) that will be donated to those in need in shelters and nursing homes.

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DIOCESAN MASS FOR LIFE

All are invited to join Bishop Matano at the Diocesan Mass for Life on Saturday, January 13 at 4:30pm at St Patrick's Church, 115 Maple Avenue in Victor. Light reception to follow. Come to this Mass to support the dignity of human life from the moment of conception to natural death, in preparation for the national March for Life in Washington, DC.

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Please join us for the **2018 "MARCH FOR LIFE" BUS TRIP** to Washington, DC. The bus leaves on Thursday, January 18th at 9:00pm. For more information please see our website at: <http://march4life.gmsander.info> and fill out a reservation form. The cost is \$40.00 per person. You may also call Gerry Sander at 585-503-3256 or email: committeeforlife@yahoo.com. All are welcome!

PLANS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 31, 2017

SUNDAY 12/31 No Breakfast Club - Happy New Year!

MONDAY 1/1 No Faith Formation Classes

TUESDAY 1/2

9:00-10:00am WEROC Women's Group – Rm 3
10:30-Noon Prayer Shawl Group – Parish Office

WEDNESDAY 1/3

8:45am Pray the Rosary – Church
8:45am Reconciliation Available in Church

THURSDAY 1/4

9:00-10:30pm Men's Basketball – Gym

SATURDAY 1/6

8:15-8:45am Pray the Rosary – Church
10:00am-Noon Confirmation Workshop Group B – Gym
2:00-6:00pm Confirmation Workshop Group A – Gym
3:30-4:30pm Reconciliation Available in Church

PARISH SUPPORT

Due to the Christmas Holiday
our Parish Support and Christmas Totals
will be published next week.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!
We all grow spiritually when we share

Glorifying the Lord by our Lives

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL UPDATE:

Catholic Ministries Appeal Goal \$160,859
Pledges Received to Date \$115,398
Balance \$ 45,461

of Gifts: 519 Households

The Catholic Ministries Appeal affords each of us the opportunity to meet real needs throughout the Diocese.

We are currently at 72% of our goal of \$160,859 in our Catholic Ministries Appeal. Consider making a year-end gift. We need your help!

Each gift – no matter the size – is needed. If you have already made your gift this year, please accept my heartfelt gratitude. If not, there are extra pledge cards are available in Church or you can give online at www.dor.org (you can make your gift by credit card if you like). Be sure to indicate St. Rita Church # 327.

Thank you for your generosity to the appeal! Whatever you decide, know that I am personally grateful for your prayers for the success of our appeal.

**Thank You,
Fr. Gonyo**

BIBLE READINGS:

- 31 Sun **Feast of the Holy Family** Gn 15:1-6;21:1-3 or Sir 3:2-6,12-14 Ps 105:1-6,8-9 or Ps 128:1-5 Heb 11:8,11-12,17-19 or Col 3:12-21 Lk 2:22-40
- 1 Mon **The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God** Nm 6:22-27 Ps 67:2-3,5-6,8 Gal 4:4-7 Lk 2:16-21
- 2 Tue **Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen** 1 Jn 2:22-28 Ps 98:1-4 Jn 1:19-28
- 3 Wed **The Most Holy Name of Jesus** 1 Jn 2:29-3:6 Ps 98:1,3-6 Jn 1:29-34
- 4 Thu **St. Elizabeth Ann Seton** 1 Jn 3:7-10 Ps 98:1,7-9 Jn 1:35-42
- 5 Fri **St. John Neumann** 1 Jn 3:11-21 Ps 100:1-5 Jn 1:43-51
- 6 Sat **St. Andre Bessette** 1 Jn 5:5-13 Ps 147:12-15,19-20 Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-28
- 7 Sun **The Epiphany of the Lord** Is 55:1-11 or Is 42:1-4,6-7 or Acts 10:34-38 or 1 Jn 5:1-9 Is 12:2-6 Mk 1:7-11

**ALTAR SERVERS SCHEDULED
NEXT Weekend ~ January 6 & 7**

Saturday, 5:00pm:

Confirmation Candidates will serve

Sunday, 7:30am:

Lindsey Coumou, Justin Coumou, Maggie Childs

Sunday, 9:00am:

Matthew Frontuto, Nicholas Frontuto

Sunday, 10:30am:

Arielle Atmosfera, Adrianna Atmosfera,
Michael Piersall, Gabrielle Thompson

CARE FOR GOD'S HOUSE:

Week of December 31 Parish Staff

LINENS:

Next week January 7 Carol Seitz

BREAKFAST CLUB NEWS!



This isn't a "club" you need to join – All are Welcome Sunday mornings from 8:30-11:00am in the Parish Center for a warm delicious meal served with a smile! We offer a "Special" each Sunday but always have our full menu offering eggs, bacon, sausage, pancakes, etc.

NEXT WEEK: Team 1's special is: The FATHER SHATZEL OMELET SPECIAL served with warm buttered toast and a bottomless cup of coffee. This ministry runs on donations only which are greatly appreciated!