



HOLY CROSS CHURCH

651 East Springfield Road • Springfield, Pennsylvania 19064

AUGUST 4, 2019 • EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Parish Office / Rectory..... 610-626-3321 • 610-626-3322
 Parish School610-626-1709
 Religious Education.....610-626-1057
 Convent610-626-2491
 Pastoral Minister.....610-259-8266
 Music Director.....215-431-2883
 Website..... www.holycrosscatholics.org
 E-mailcontactus@holycrosscatholics.org

Rev. Eugene C. Wilson..... Pastor
 Rev. Edward C. Kelly..... Resident/Faculty COHS
 Rev. Thomas J. Furey St. Joseph Villa/Retired
 Deacon Robert Frankenberger..... Retired
 Deacon Joseph N. Gousie..... Retired
 Mrs. Theresa Carey..... Business Manager
 Mrs. Judy Vacca Pastoral Minister
 Mrs. Mary Rose WorriLOW Principal
 Mrs. Kelly Meliti Director of Religious Education
 Mr. Timothy Reilly Music Director

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Evening 4:30 PM
 Sunday, Upper Church 8:30 and 11:00 AM
 Holy Day Vigil (night before Holy Day) 7:00 PM
 Holy Day 8:30 AM
 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Saturday 8:30 AM
 Thursday..... No Mass
 Friday..... 12:15 PM

NEW PARISHIONERS

All Catholics living in the parish should register. Our Welcome Center is open on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month. Please call the Parish Office for more information.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

(Entrance through the middle, rear door of the Church)
 Monday-Thursday only... 8:00 AM-4:00 PM
 Friday..... 8:00 AM-2:30 PM
 (Closed for lunch 12:00-1:00 PM)
 Saturday & Sunday..... Closed

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday, Lower Church: 3:30 to 4:15 PM

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Baptisms are celebrated the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month at 12:00 PM.

First time parents and godparents are required to attend a Baptism Preparation Session which is held on the 1st Monday of the month at 7:00 PM. Please call the Parish Office for more information.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Arrangements are to be made at least six months before the intended wedding date. Weddings are reserved for active parishioners. Pre-Cana Session is required. Please call Parish Office for more information.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

Please call the Rectory of Mrs. Judy Vacca, Pastoral Minister, when a parishioner is hospitalized or home bound.



It was sky blue with white trim and made of terrycloth. As a tike, I would don my summer beach poncho along with this goofy white cap that looked as if it came right off Gilligan's head. I was so attired as my parents, aunt, cousins, and I trekked the three blocks to the beach from the hotel where we always stayed for two weeks during the summer. Depending on who the observer was, I either looked like the cutest little kid in Wildwood Crest or the greekiest this side of the Atlantic. I'll opt for cute. The three block trek that we made almost every day was a trek, indeed. It was a three-block journey. It was not just a matter of proper attire (beach poncho), but proper shoes as well (dollar store flip-flops) and the transport of all things necessary in order to spend several hours on the beach. My father was in charge of the beach umbrella. He would

carry it every so carefully like a knight preparing for a joust. My father would lead us proudly onto the beach and then do what all men do: claim territory and plant a flag. The middle of our beach-bound caravan usually consisted of my cousins carrying a cooler filled with cold drinks, assorted sandwiches (I don't know why baloney and cheese tasted especially good at the beach), and snacks (pretzels, chips, and cheese puffs that I liked). Next in our procession to the periphery of terra firma, came my mother and my aunt with the biggest beach bags on the planet. Those bags contained absolutely every possible thing needed for survival - whether at the beach for a few hours or in the midst of a nuclear blast. These women were survivalists to the extreme. I mean, come on! Safety pins? Check. AM/FM radio? Check. Spare batteries for crying out loud? Check. Magazines and books and Band-Aids?? Check, check, and check! Following up the rear, of course, was yours truly, little Gilligan, with his little beach chair and little beach blanket and whatever toy it was to get him through the day. Did I mention my Mickey Mouse sunglasses? Never mind! I always seem to get barked at. Careful crossing the street! Hurry-up! Stop dilly-dallying! Are you tired? Almost there! Keep up! Finally, we arrived. The long trek was over. The hot sand felt so good under my feet. I plopped down under our planted flag beach umbrella for a Coppertone massage ready to begin a day of adventure at the beach.

I so loved those days and I so miss them. Summer can be a time of reminiscing and remembering things that once were. Past people and events can evoke a certain nostalgia and sadness, yet each summer is a time to engage in new adventures and make new memories. We have so many opportunities in the present that we often overlook. We can be so busy reminiscing and sometimes feeling sad for once was or we can be so busy and stressed trying to anticipate and plan for the future that we miss the adventure of the present moment. God is also present and it is where we should be too. The past is over, but the memories can be great. The future is not yet here, but we can and should be hopeful. In the meantime, there is a whole beach under our feet and a ocean before us. Live in the present moment. It's quite the adventure really. It's where God is and if you're keen, you might even spot the Big Guy Sporting a ridiculous beach poncho and a pair of dollar store flip-flops!

Peace!
Fr. Wilson

John Boyle
Joanne Marks
Margaret Cook
Barbara Mc Custer
Maryanne Convery
Lee Anne Mc Gough
Stephen Collins
Catherine McNulty
Samuel Dephillipo
Thomas Miller
Sharon Diemer

PRAY REMEMBER
the sick of our parish

Dan Murphy
Kathleen Dixon
Francis O'Callaghan
Lillian Donahue
Charlotte O'Leary
Mary Ann Farrell
Paige O'Leary
Nicola Giordano

Lauren Palermo
Donna Giorgio
Francis Romano
Stephen Henderson
Jim Sandusky
Stefanos Karas
Rose Marie Santos
Carole Kime

Joseph Sindoni
Mary Kull
Adeline Sulpizio
Kendall Lambert
Anthony Torelli
Rose Leto
George Vrettos
Patricia Lyons
Lily Walker
Helen Lyons
Nadia Waltanski

Weekly **MASS** Intentions

Monday

August 5

Saint Martha

8:30 AM

Catherine Armstrong

Tuesday

August 6

The Transfiguration of the Lord

8:30 AM

Joan B. Landermann and
Cornelius Mc Crossen

Wednesday

August 7

Saint Sixtus II, Pope and Companions

Martyrs, Saint Cajetan, Priest

8:30 AM

Daniel McDevitt

Thursday

August 8

NO MASS

Friday

August 9

Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, Virgin
and Martyr

12:15 PM

Cornelius Dunleavy

NEXT WEEKEND MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday

August 10

4:30 PM

Tom Mc Devitt

Sunday

August 11

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 AM

Jim Cleary

11:30 AM

People of Holy Cross



First Reading: Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23

This book begins with a famous negative: "All things are vanity." The author describes a man who delights in the fruits of his labor, but then becomes frustrated when he realizes that he must leave it all to somebody else.

Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11

Paul reminds his readers that we love all others in Christ, and then he lists the sins of the community. He also tells them that what makes us virtuous is how we live out our baptism.



Gospel: Luke 12:13-21

This section begins a long reflection on the negative effects that possessions can have on us. Our Lord cites greed as a problem yet endorsed by false teachers. He then tells one of His masterful parables.



IMPORTANT NOTICE

THE 2020 MASS BOOK WILL OPEN ON MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 16 AFTER THE 8:30 AM MASS.

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

June 23 - \$9,785

June 30 - \$11,721

July 7. - \$9,486

July 14. - \$9,047

July 21. - \$8,469

Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

The unknown wag first said it, likely hoping to appeal to a wide audience. This is what he said: “Money isn’t everything but it’s way ahead of whatever is in second place.”

You can certainly smile at that, and I suppose many of us feel that way at certain times, especially when we face a pile of bills just after learning about the latest “Power Ball” winner.

Today we meet up again with our old friend Qoheleth, whose name means something like “wisdom gatherer.” He wrote about a century and a half before Christ, and he gave us his famous commentary on life: “Vanity of vanities, all things are vanity.” Not very uplifting when you sum up all the good things in your life.

Clearly, that anonymous cynic I just quoted accurately describes the popular wisdom in our culture on the subject of money. But just as clearly does Qoheleth give us another way to look at earthly wealth. St. Paul in his letter joins in with his warning that “greed is idolatry.”

And oh! Does Jesus not run right into one of the most contentious times in family life concerning money: the reading of the deceased member’s will and the whole matter of who gets what. Over the years I have listened to the woes in many families that have split apart over somebody’s will.

As so often happens in the gospels, Jesus weighs in on an issue with one of His inimitable parables that shows Him living up to His acquired title of “the Master.” This story involves a rich man thinking of building bigger storage barns. That notion fits right in with the current decision lots of people make these days to rent a storage unit. I read an article earlier this summer about how to meet this craze in an urban setting minus the acres available for such in the suburbs and rural areas. The solution: build upward! So now we have huge multi-story buildings, with now windows looking like giant boxes going up in Philadelphia and other cities just for storage. The late comedian George Carlin would insist on building these things because people need places to “store their stuff.” What does God say to the rich man in the story? “You fool!”

So where does all this leave you and me on this summer Sunday? I would guess somewhere in that elusive middle where they tell us “virtue lies.” We know our basic needs. We just have to resist this stubborn desire for more “stuff.” Be grateful for what we already have and cut down on what more we want. Resist the clever sales person whose goal has nothing to do with your spirituality. In all fairness, the seller is not the problem here.

There’s a consequence to our consumer mindset that you might not experience. That is never to think of our death. I’ve been told that some of us avert our eyes when we see a hearse on the street because it jars our reverie. I’ll never forget the imagery of a typical Saturday shopping scene with a Costco in the background as other drivers were forced to stop and let a funeral procession pass with the hearse as the first car in line. Worthy of a photo to accompany this Gospel. We know what the Lord says, but we’d rather not think about it. That hearse you might call a “cautionary Cadillac!”

Remembering that our loving God really does have our best interests at heart. Much like the good parent who just has to say “No!” to his/her child once in a while to make him accommodate to real life. In the Bible, God often has to shock us into reality, as He does here, to announce boldly that “one’s life does not consist of possessions.”

Jesus should know this first of all because He said “I am the Life,” and secondly because all He ever owned were the clothes on His back. And Roman soldiers stripped Him of those while He was dying on the cross above them.

So we have to keep on trying for a sense of balance on this matter of how much “stuff” we really need. To stay balanced, may I suggest that we also keep on laughing at ourselves for getting it wrong. For instance, look how funny it is that a dollar can look so big when you take it to church but so small when you take it to the supermarket.

Isn't It Time for Peace of Mind?

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