

FROM THE PASTOR



Mosaic of the Dormition of Mary in the Basilica of the Assumption in Jerusalem

SOME ASSUMPTION ASSUMPTIONS

Each year on August 15th we celebrate the Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary, and most years Catholics are obliged to participate in Mass on this occasion. What are we celebrating on this feast and why is it such a big deal?

The Bodily Ascension of Jesus

“...We believe in the resurrection of the body and the life of the world to come. Amen” The Second Person of the Trinity, who had neither a body nor a beginning, descended from heaven “for us men and for our salvation.” Jesus, full God and full man, had both a beginning and a body. It was Jesus who suffered, died, rose, ascended, and has entered into the Trinity. Since the Ascension of Jesus, there is **a human body in God! Matter matters.**

The Bodily Assumption of Mary

“When her time on earth was completed” (our Tradition neither teaches that Mary did die nor that Mary did not die), Mary was assumed body and soul into heaven, into Christ and therefore into the Trinity. At that moment, Jesus’ body was not the only body in God; at that point, Mary’s body—because it was in Christ—was in God. In celebrating the Assumption of Mary into heaven, we are celebrating our belief that our own bodies are destined to be in God. As we profess our faith each Sunday we say, “we believe in the resurrection of the body and the life of the world to come.” **Matter Matters.**

Our Cemetery is a Lively Place

Our Parish Cemetery is an active place, as its sign reads:

*Welcome to Saint Ann Cemetery,
an Act of Saint Ann Parish.*

*Here bodies of our beloved await the Resurrection
and the Life of the World to come.*

*Here we acknowledge their mark
on this earth and in our lives.*

*Here we pray for the repose of their souls
as we pray for the repose of our own souls.*

*Here we come to seek and profess faith,
to have hope renewed, and to continue
our love in the Communion of Saints.*

*In and through these bodies
Christ himself has loved and was loved.*

Even More

We pray in the third Eucharistic Prayer, “**all creation** rightly gives you praise.” In the Psalms we pray, “**sun** and **moon** bless the Lord, **stars** of heaven, bless the Lord.” At Christmas we sing, “Joy to the World...Let heaven **and nature** sing.” At Easter we sing, “**All creatures** (monkeys; broccoli; rocks; water; etc.) of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing, Alleluia!” Pope Benedict XVI wrote about the cosmic dimensions of the Christ event. **Matter matters.**

Moral Matter

In Western moral reflection, the meaning or morality of an act has often been seen as being composed of and of being determined by the interplay of three factors, namely: 1) Matter, 2) Intention, and 3) Circumstances. Matter is the act itself and its “beyond-me” effects; intention is what I mean when I do the act; circumstances are the larger contexts within which the act and my intention occur.

A gun is fired. A man is killed. Meaning? Morality?

While taking a life is always and everywhere grave matter, the moral meaning of the act can vary tremendously. This is expressed legally in such determinations as: 1st degree murder, 2nd degree murder, manslaughter, negligent homicide, justifiable homicide, accidental death. We say that “the penalty must **fit** the crime,” and at times, the act of killing, while always grave, is no crime at all.

Yet, because of the **gravity** of such an act, even after a justifiable homicide, law enforcement officers must take time off, see and be cleared by a psychiatrist before they can be returned to duty. The act bears meaning in itself. **Matter matters.**

FROM THE PASTOR, cont.

“The Dictatorship of Relativism”

On the one hand, the meaning of an action cannot be reduced solely to the act itself. On the other hand, the meaning of an act cannot be reduced merely to my intention. This is what Pope Benedict is referring to when he speaks of the “dictatorship of relativism” which pervades Western culture. So often, we speak and act as though our intention is the only thing that matters, that is moral matter.

“I Didn’t Mean It”

“I didn’t mean it.” This expression that everyone one of us has uttered contains an important, but often missed, point. What **I mean** when I do something does not exhaust **the meaning** of the act. **IT** has meaning. Actions speak. Actions mean. Actions matter. Actions have weight, gravity, gravitas. The actor-comedian Robin Williams said that he knew he had grown up when he realized that “life was about more than me.” The best selling book *The Purpose-Directed Life* opens with the words, “It’s not about you.” Although I would modify those words to say, “It’s not only about you,” the point is: **Matter matters morally.**

Purgatory

In meditating on our crucified Lord’s words to the criminal on his right, “This day you shall be with me in Paradise,” I have at times engaged in the following prayer exercise.

“Lord, this man, who has admitted that he and his partner “deserve to die,” tortured and killed my entire family. I am now alone, homeless, penniless, and incapacitated by grief.

Jesus, you are God and you can do what you choose. I have nothing to say about who you forgive and let into heaven, but: what about my wife, my son, my daughter, my mother, my aunt, my cousin—and me. Don’t they **matter?** Don’t I **matter?**”

I believe that the Catholic teaching about post-death and post-judgment purgation is an attempt to wrestle with not only the moral but even more the spiritual material-ness of our actions. When we speak of purgatory, we are taking into account the more-than-me-ness of our actions. We are factoring in the effects of our actions on creation,

others, God and our own souls. **Matter matters spiritually.**

“Set Out Into the Deep”

Toward the end of his life, Pope John Paul II, quoting Jesus (Luke 5:4), encouraged us to “set out into the deep.” I think that our annual celebration of the Assumption of Mary is a fit occasion for us to examine our assumptions about some things that lie bellow the surface of life. Mary herself gave voice to some of her assumptions in her song, *The Magnificat* (see Luke 1:46-57)

“My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior.

For he has looked upon his handmaid’s lowliness; behold, from now on all ages will call me blessed.

The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

His mercy is from age to age to those who fear him.

He has shown might with his arm, dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart.

He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones but lifted up the lowly.

The hungry he has filled with good things; the rich he has sent away empty.

He has helped Israel his servant, remembering his mercy, according to his promise to our fathers, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

THANK YOU FOR ADJUSTING #1 – Please note that while the new HVAC system is being installed in St. Ann Church:

Our **Sunday 9:30 AM Mass** will be celebrated in **Sacred Heart Church.**

Our **weekday 8:00 AM Masses** (Mon. – Thu.) will be celebrated in **St. Ann Chapel** and Chapel will be open these days from 7:00 to 9:00 AM.

THANK YOU FOR ADJUSTING #2 – Our Sunday 6:00 PM Mass is cancelled during August and will resume on Sunday September 10.

**THE WEEK OF AUGUST 13, 2017
NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

SUNDAY

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 AM Mass in Chapel
9:30 AM Mass in Chapel
9:30 AM Spanish Mass in Sacred Heart Church
11:30 AM Mass in Chapel

Baptism - Within the 9:30 AM Mass today we will welcome Nikhil Dasari into the Church and our parish community through the sacrament of Baptism.

12:30 PM - Parish Registration (Parish Office)

7:00 - 9:00 PM - Catholic Young Adults Theology on Tap at Manayunk Brewing Company Jazz Room, 4120 Main St.

MONDAY

St. Maximilian Mary Kolbe

8:00 AM Mass in Chapel

TUESDAY

*Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Holy Day of Obligation*



**9:00 AM
6:30 PM
Masses in Chapel**

Happy Feast Day – to our friends in St. Mary of the Assumption Parish as they celebrate their parish feast this Tuesday.

7:00 PM - Bible Study (Parish Office)

WEDNESDAY

St. Stephen of Hungary

8:00 AM Mass in Chapel

7:30 PM - ESL Classes (Parish Office)

7:30 PM - Charismatic Group (Parish Office
Counting Room)

WEDNESDAY, cont.

7:30 - 9:30 PM - Catholic Young Adults Social Night at East Goshen Park, 1661 Paoli Pike, West Chester. We'll meet up at the Ira Hicks Pavilion (near the playground, across from the baseball diamonds). If the pavilion is booked with a formal event, we'll meet at a nearby picnic table, close to the playground. This night is all about socializing - whether you want to join in a game of ultimate frisbee, basketball, volleyball, etc. (please feel free to bring equipment for your favorite game or simply hang out and chat at one of the picnic tables.) This is also a great night for parents to bring the kids. We hope to see you there. Snacks to share are always welcome, but not necessary. Please keep in mind that East Goshen is a dry park, no alcoholic beverages.

THURSDAY

8:00 AM Mass in Chapel

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

St. John Eudes

3:45 PM - Confessions (Sacred Heart Church)

Vigil of Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

5:00 PM Mass in Sacred Heart Church

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

Sun: 1 Kgs 19:9a,11-13a/Rom 9:1-5/Mt 14:22-33
Mon: Dt 10:12-22/Mt 17:22-27
Tues: Rv 11:19a;12:1-6a,10ab/1 Cor 15:20-27/
Lk 1:39-56
Wed: Dt 34:1-12/Mt 18:15-20
Thu: Jos 3:7-10a,11,13-17/Mt 18:21-19:1
Fri: Jos 24:1-13/Mt 19:3-12
Sat: Jos 24:14-29/Mt 19:13-15
Next
Sun: Is 56:1,6-7/Rom 11:13-15,29-32/Mt 15:21-28



**Table Fellowship for the
WEEK OF AUGUST 13
St. Peter's Church
121 Church St.**

**Lunch - Monday - Friday
Noon to 1:00 PM**

**Monday (August 14)
Dinner 5:00 - 6:00 PM Pantry 6:00 - 7:00 PM**

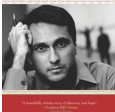
UPCOMING EVENTS



SPECIAL COLLECTION – Next weekend we will take up the annual collection for the support of the **Catholic University of America**, located in Washington, D.C. Each year our national Catholic University provides an academically rigorous education guided by Catholic intellectual tradition to nearly 7,000 students. More than 4,000 students directly receive scholarship aid from this Collection, including many from our own archdiocese and several from our own parish. Please use the special Catholic University Collection envelope that was mailed to your home and make any checks out to "St. Ann Parish."

12 STEP SPIRITUALITY GROUP - A discussion meeting for anyone involved or interested in Spirituality as practiced in the 12 Steps used by addiction recovery groups, will be held on August 20 at 7:00 PM in the Parish Office Dining Room. Anyone involved with addiction recovery or affected by substance abuse, is welcome to attend. For questions please contact Deacon Giblin at 610-952-3765, or deacongiblin@gmail.com.

CASSEROLES FOR ST. JOHN'S HOSPICE is located in Philadelphia and serves men who have no place to stay. The brothers provide them with a hot meal (the casserole), a bath and a bed. Pans and recipes for an easy-to-make casserole are available at the Parish Office. In order to be in compliance with Food Safety Regulations, put the date your casserole was prepared on the cover of each dish. Drop your frozen casserole off at the back porch of the Parish Office by **10:00 AM on August 30**.



PARISH BOOK CLUB - The purpose of the Parish Book Club is to build community through the shared experience of great stories. Our conversations about the books are accompanied by tea and coffee, cookies and good cheer. We invite anyone to join us, who has read the month's selection and wants to share in this rather pleasant diversion.

AUGUST SELECTION: "ACTS OF FAITH" BY EBOO PATEL is a remarkable account of growing up Muslim in America and coming to believe in religious pluralism, from one of the most prominent faith leaders in the United States. Eboo Patel's story is a hopeful and moving testament to the power and passion of young people—and of the world-changing potential of an interfaith youth movement. Book Club will meet at 10:00 AM on August 31 in the Parish Office. Contact Madelyn O'Hara at 610-639-0923 or stannadulter@gmail.com to register.

HOLY FAMILY CYO is holding a **Chili Cook-Off** on September 9 from 5:30 - 9:00 PM at the St. Joseph's Pavilion, 3640 Schuylkill Rd. Join us at 4:30 PM for Mass under the Pavilion where Fr. O'Hara will offer a special blessing for all CYO athletes. There will be a live music, food, drink and entertainment for the whole family. If you would like to be one of the chili cook-off chefs, call Stephanie at 315-256-8589.



PARISH PICNIC - Mark your calendars and plan to attend our Parish Picnic on **Sunday September 17** on our Parish Lawn from 12:30 to 3:00 PM. More details to follow....

SUNDAY SCHOOL - Registration for Sunday School for the 2017/2018 school year is now open. Sunday School is for children ages 3 and 4 and meets during the 9:30 AM Mass in Griffin Hall. Classes will begin Sunday, October 15 through May 13.



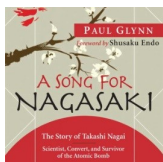
A variety of lessons and activities will be taught by a certified elementary school teacher. The focus of the program will be to teach the Sunday Gospel message. Concepts will be introduced simply and powerfully, Jesus becomes immediate and real, and make-and-do projects will match preschoolers' skills. The tuition is \$30 and financial assistance is available. Children need to be potty trained before the first class. Spots are limited so please register early. To register, please contact Madelyn O'Hara at stannadulter@gmail.com or 610-639-0923.



FORMED is loaded with religious material for people of all ages. Log onto www.FORMED.org and enter our Parish Code: W2HQ93.

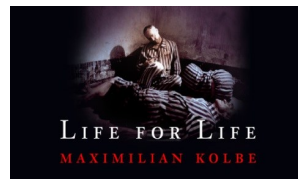
August 12/13

This week we remember St Maximilian Kolbe – the saint of Auschwitz – and the dropping of the A-bomb on Nagasaki. Take time to reflect on God's mercy and providence with these two stories that show incredible goodness coming out of incredible evil and suffering.



A Song for Nagasaki
In LISTEN: Audiobooks

Life for Life:
Maximilian Kolbe
In WATCH:
Movies/Modern Day Saints



“GIVING HOPE TO ALL” – is the theme of the **2017 Catholic Charities Appeal**. This annual appeal is our main corporate effort as the Body of Christ in the five counties of the Archdiocese, serving hundreds of thousands of our neighbors in need of material and social assistance. For more visit <http://www.catholiccharitiesappeal.org>.



CHURCH A/C UPDATE - As of last Monday we had reached **\$41,933** toward the new air-conditioning system for St. Ann Church. Of this total **\$12,968** has been received from **56** households and **\$28,965** has been received in memorial contributions. Thank you!

ARE YOU CALLED TO BE AN ALTAR SERVER?
What are the qualifications to be a Youth Altar Server?

- 5th-12th grade
- Reliable and willing to serve Mass
- Able to attend training sessions



Training will be held this fall. Watch the bulletin for dates. Please contact Madelyn O'Hara at stannadulted@gmail.com or 610-639-0923 for more information.

NEED A RIDE - HOPE volunteers drive people in need to appointments or on essential errands, Monday - Friday, 7:00 AM - 4:00 PM. Schedule a ride 4 days in advance.

August 1 - 15: Sally Freed at 610-933-7660
August 16 - 31: MaryAnn Fennell at 610-933-1058

Necesita un "RIDE" - Nuestro Ministerio HOPE tiene voluntarios disponibles para llevarlo a citas esenciales de lunes a viernes, de 7 AM a 4 PM. Para coordinar esta actividad por favor llame a Rosa Padilla al 484-302-6056 con 4 días de anticipación.



AID FOR FRIENDS

FOOD AND FRIENDSHIP FOR THE HOMEBOUND

If you can assist by creating single-serving meals

with leftovers for the homebound in our community, you can pick up empty trays and supplies and meals can be dropped off at 602 S. Main St.

Sunday 8:00 AM - 12:30 PM

For more information call Kate at 610-933-3814 or katecommiskey@msn.com.

REMEMBER OUR SICK

Alicia Andrews, Gene Bernat, Chad Berish, Beth Booth, Carolyn Boring, Ashley Rose Bukay, Ed Cain, Eleanor and John Calvecchio, Leroy Campbell, Dave Cocci, Angeline Costello, John Daly, Al DeMola, Joe Demyan, Michael DiArcangelo, Lida Dickinson, Lucille Dickson, Loan Doan, Tom Fedick, Dan Fennell, Daniel Flores, Sally Freed, Ryan Gerhold, Joe Gibson, Gordon Gladden, Jennifer Pacifico Golaszewski, Christine Greger, Jim Havrilla, Jean Hoffman, Angela Hogan, Ann Hovanec, Michael Hudak, Jeanette Jelus, Ann Johnson, Irene King, Larry Kirk, Jack Klenk, Patrick Koch, Joan Kough, rene Layden, Denise Long, Ray Long, Claire Maestrale, Steve & Joanne Mardi, Marie Marosek, Thomas Mastrangelo, Heather McCann, John McKenzie, Michele Mellon, Ron Motzer, Tom Moyer, Karen Nesspor, Jacob Nichols, Georgene O'Donnell, Marcelo Opiela, Steve Pannella, Cindy Patton, Joan Pendergast, Abigail Pilcicki, Dianne Litishin Ponzio, Ann Racey, Christine Radoiss, Katherine Raggazino, Jerry Ratchford, John Riegel, Kris Roberts, Kathryn Rocky, Pat Scott, Ken Shackleton, Keith Sheridan, Patrick Sheridan, Eustachia Shtohryn, Margaret Sim, James Smith, Renee Smith, Jennifer Spencer, Evelyn Spitz, Christine Kulp Springer, Bob Stancavage, Marc Stevenson, Sherri Stover, Ethel Thomas, Glenn Thomas, Don Troncelliti, Helen Twargoski, Doris Valerio, Jeff Vance, Joe Vargo, Paul G. Weaver, Charles Wertz, Ann Wolff, Talan Wolstenholme, our homebound, parishioners in Nursing Homes, Hospitals & all serving in the Armed Forces.

	8/6/17 6th Sunday in Fiscal Year	Sunday Donations Fiscal Year to Date 7/1/17 - 8/6/17
Budget:	\$15,500	\$93,000
Offering:		
Envelopes	\$9,755	\$61,232
Loose	779	5,773
Online Giving	1,934	9,581
Mail	812	9,191
Total	\$13,280	\$85,777
Shortage	-\$2,220	-\$7,223
Thank you for your generosity!		