

THE 18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

AUGUST 2, 2020

SUNDAY COLLECTION – July 26

July 26: \$1,611-\$300 for
Renovations-\$50 Peter's Pence

Please do not forget to mail or drop off your weekly offerings for our collection.
Any and all help is greatly appreciated.

MASS SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

| <i>THE 18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i> | | |
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| Sat. Aug. 1 | 5:00 PM | Spec. Int. for the health of Lynn Cross |
| Sun. Aug. 2 | 9:00 AM | Special Int. for the Living & Dead Members of our Parish |
| Mon Aug 3 | | No Mass |
| Tue Aug 4 | 8:30 AM | Spec. Intentions of Jerry & Eileen Ehlman |
| Wed Aug 5 | 6:30 PM | Special Int. for the Living & Dead Members of our Parish |
| Thur Aug 6 | 8:30 AM | For Mike Skeen |
| Fri Aug 7 | | No Mass |
| <i>THE 19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i> | | |
| Sat. Aug. 8 | 5:00 PM | Spec. Int. of Ken Steffen |
| Sun. Aug. 9 | 9:00 AM | Special Int. for the Living & Dead Members of our Parish |

PRAYER LIST

Jerry Ehlman, Eileen Ehlman, Sherri Moffett, Kenny Neuspickel, Kathy Barth, Yandell Schneider, Charles Taylor, Ed Gripshover, Joy Sowder, Kathy Proctor, David Roland, Steve Elmlinger, Richard Bacon, Albert Proctor, Sarah Hoffman, Mary Louise Cross, Ken Steffen, Cotton Teegarden, and everyone touched by the Corona virus.

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays - July 25—Warren Richardson, July 28—Darlene Schutte, July 31— Summer Gullion, August 4-Brandy Kiser, August 16-Mitchell Ryan, August 17-Isaac Ryan, August 22-Cheyenne Kiser **Anniversaries** - July 28—Bill & Rita Funke, July 31—Clifford & Terri Straub

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

MASKS – Bishop Foys has mandated the wearing of masks for those attending Mass. We ask for your patience and prayers as we continue to deal with the coronavirus.

DPAA – You should have received a letter in the mail from the diocese on behalf of the DPAA. This important collection to support the work of the diocese will be conducted through the mail. Please be generous in helping us reach our goal. Please prayerfully consider pledging and contributing to this cause.

Parish Goal: \$10,700 Total Commitments (as of June 30): \$4,110

MASS VIEWINGS – There is a link to our videotaped Mass through our website (www.stmatthewskenton.org) if you are unable to get to Mass or know anyone who cannot attend. You can also watch Mass on your TV – the Cathedral Mass is broadcast on MeTV channel 5.2 Sundays at 5:00PM, or on the following websites: *WatchTheMass.com*, *EWTN.com*, *TheSundayMass.org*

BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN – Baby bottles are due back **this weekend**. If you forgot it today or if you have not picked one up yet, you may return it any weekend in August. We will make sure it gets to Care Net.

CONGRATULATIONS ON BAPTISM – Luca Mark Cooper, son of Kevin Cooper and Kaylynn Jackson, was baptized at St. Matthew on Sunday, July 26. Let's all join in welcoming our new brother Luca and in praying for him to grow into a life which glorifies God and brings blessings to others.

RAFFLE TICKETS & FESTIVAL – Our raffle tickets should be coming in soon. We will make a determination on the status of our September festival soon as well. We'll need all the help we can get to make our festival go well!

READINGS – With the new format for the bulletin, we will no longer be posting the schedule of readings for daily Mass. You can find this schedule posted on the US bishops' website (usccb.org; look for the calendar in the bottom right) or you can grab one of the *The Word Among Us* booklets available in the back of church. You will find the weekday readings on the table with the bulletin and other worship aides.

UPCOMING MASS TIME CHANGE – Effective this week, our weekday Masses will be on Tuesday at 8:30AM, Wednesday at 6:30PM, and Thursday at 8:30AM. There is no change to the weekend schedule.

FROM THE PRIEST – LIVING AMID THE CORONAVIRUS

These past four or five months have seen our country and our world gripped in fear of the novel coronavirus. We shut down our schools and our businesses, we stayed home and waited, all the while wondering when this panic would relent. As for our churches, we stopped offering public Masses and sacraments and prayed for an end to the virus. But when will the end to all of this panic and fear come?

The problem now is what should be our attitude as the concern over the coronavirus continues. Many are still terrified to leave their homes or even go to the store lest they contract this virus and die. Many are calling this virus and the panic accompanying it a hoax or a conspiracy to take down our government. Reactions have been various and conflicting. How are we as Catholics to act in such times?

Our first duty as Catholics is to avoid excessive fear. Fear can be a natural and good reaction to something that is different or threatening to us. Yet we cannot allow fear to dominate our actions to where we do not act rationally or logically in addressing the situation which is happening before us. We must approach the worries of life using our intellects and our understanding so as to act rightly and justly as God commands us to do.

We must also begin to practice two different virtues. The first is the virtue of prudence. This is the virtue which disposes a person to discern the good and choose the correct means to accomplish it. We should not be so brash as to ignore the public health concern of this virus nor so panic-stricken as to abandon all activities. We can exercise prudence to do what we need to do safely for ourselves as well as for those around us. If masks are helpful, then we should wear them. If we have symptoms, we ought to self-quarantine to be sure that we are not infected.

The other virtue we must practice is the virtue of hope. I believe that what is driving much of the public fear we see today is ultimately a fear of death. We are frightened that our lives shall end and we shall no more pass across this precious earth. Yet the Christian should not fear death but God. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." (Psalm 111:10) To practice hope is to trust that God will provide everything we need to not only endure through the sufferings of this life but to receive eternal joy in the life to come. To hope in God is to trust that He is with us in these strange times.

Let us pray to overcome fear and to act as God calls us to act. Let us trust in the mercy and grace of God to be given when we ask and need them. Let us prudently act for our good and the good of our neighbor. Let us not give in to panic and fear but fear the loss of God and eternal life more than all else. May Christ carry us through this time unto the eternity without fear but only endless joy.

Fr. Jacob Straub