

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

June 16	\$1,962
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MASS SCHEDULE

(L=Living, †=Deceased)

THE 12TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Sat. June 22	5:00 PM	For †Anna Menefee
Sun. June 23	9:00 AM	For the Living and Deceased People of the Parish
Mon. June 24	8:00 AM	For Jennifer Baumann & Family (L)
Tue. June 25	8:00 AM	For Joshua & Becca Cooper (L)
Wed. June 26	8:00 AM	For †Ann Price
Thur. June 27	XXXXX	NO MASS THIS WEEK [NO ADORATION]
Fri. June 28	XXXXX	NO MASS THIS WEEK

THE SOLEMNITY OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL

Sat. June 29	5:00 PM	For Wayne & Barbara Bach (L)
Sun. June 30	9:00 AM	For the Living and Deceased People of the Parish

PRAYER LIST—Jerry & Eileen Ehlman, Verna Payne, Imogene Fisk, Kate & Colton Sherold, Emmitt Thomas, Jeff suffering from Meniere’s disease, Tony Bach, Mike and Bill Lemming, Dave Neuspickel, Andy Sper, Billie Huffman, Larry Slusher, Roger High, Cheryl Miller, Sherry Jackson, Sarah Gripshover, Jeanne Eanes, Bill Schneider (Dominion Assisted Living 4009 Siegalman Dr. Florence, Room 215), Ree Wagner, Randy Goodhew, Sean Timmerding, John Jackson, Wanda Bach, Maverick Orth (3yrs old), Daniel Cahill, & Pax Minch.

BIRTHDAYS—June 1-Luca Cooper, June 3-Sandy Lyle, June 5– Linda Beck, June 9-Wanda Bach, June 22-Lisa Cooper, June 27-Austin Schroder

ANNIVERSARY– June 4-Adam and Kristen Bach, June 6-Andy and Andrea Hummel, June 7-Sandy and Allen Lyle, June 29-Tim and Jo Ann Schlachter

Please send any requests for prayers or memorials to the parish email or call to make a request. If anyone’s birthday or anniversary is not listed, let Linda Fryman know.



SAINT MATTHEW CHURCH

Pastor: Rev. Jacob Straub – Cell (859) 445-2436

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Parish Email: stmatthew13782@gmail.com – Bulletin submissions by Fri. afternoon

Parish Website: stmatthewskenton.org

Worship Schedule:

Saturdays – 5:00 PM

Sundays – 9:00 AM

Weekdays – 8:00 AM

Confession Times:

Saturdays – 4:00-4:50 PM

Sundays – 8:00-8:50 AM

Parish Staff and Volunteers

Religious Education – Roseanne Rawe (859) 635-1572

Bulletin/Prayer List – Linda Fryman (859) 240-2377

Parish History/Cemetery Info – Patty Neuspickel (859) 472-2508

THE 12TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JUNE 23, 2024

DPAA REMINDER—This year’s goal for our parish is \$13,000. As of the latest count, we have received \$9,836 in pledges and contributions. Pledge envelopes are available if you haven’t made your commitment yet or did not receive an envelope in the mail. Thank you for all you do for our parish and for our diocese.

MASS INTENTIONS—Feel free to submit any and all Mass intention requests. There are lots of available dates if you would like to request a specific date. Remember that you can have Masses offered for the living as well as the deceased.

BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN-Thank you for contributing to the baby bottle campaign this year. If you forgot to bring your bottle in, please do so as soon as possible.

2024 ANNIVERSARY COUPLES VESPERS CELEBRATION-Bishop John C. Iffert will celebrate Vespers at Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington, to honor couples celebrating significant Wedding Anniversaries in 2024. Married couples celebrating their 1st, 25th, 50th, or 60+ Wedding Anniversary in 2024 are invited to a vespers celebration on **Sunday, Sept. 15, 2024**, at 2:00 pm. Anniversary couples **RSVP by July 16, 2024**, at covidio.org/wedding-vespers/ or contact Lisa Taylor at 859-392-1533 to register. Reservations are only required for anniversary couples; family members and guests are welcome to attend.

FESTIVAL MEETING—We will have our first festival meeting on Monday, June 24, at 6:00 PM. Please come and help us plan for another great festival!

SAVE THE DATE!—The date for this year’s festival will be **September 22**.

LECTOR— June 23-Bernie Rawe, June 30-Bill Funke

CLEANING – May-Lisa and Jeanne Cooper

FROM THE PASTOR—FAITH VERSUS WORKS

One of the major sticking points between Catholic and Protestants is on the question of faith versus works. Protestants will argue that we Catholics reject the “biblical” truth that all we need to do is believe and we are saved, no matter what happens. They will quote Romans 5:1 which says (in the King James Bible): “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ”. They will argue that when we believe that Jesus is Lord and that He has mercy on us through the merits of His Passion and Death, then we are justified by Jesus and thus are saved. They argue that we have introduced a theology of works for a multitude of reasons, all of which boil down to our resistance to God’s grace. Yet the Catholic position on this matter has some points of agreement and cooperation.

We do indeed believe that our salvation begins through God’s grace and the justification Jesus has merited for us through His passion, death, and resurrection, but we must receive this justification starting with the sacraments. The sacraments are efficacious—they have an effect on us when we receive them. Baptism not only washes away our sins but revives us in Christ so that we may be called the adopted children of God. Without baptism, our salvation is extremely difficult to receive. However, our salvation is not an absolute guarantee, either.

We must believe that God saves us, but we are also called to cooperate with His grace and work together with Him for our salvation to be permanent. The Letter of Saint James greatly emphasizes this point: we are not merely saved by believing but this salvation comes through both faith and works. Saint James writes: “Demonstrate your faith to me without works, and I will demonstrate my faith to you from my works.” (James 2:18) Through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the apostle challenges the Protestants’ erroneous reading of the Scriptures, challenging them to show how they believe without doing works, while he emphasizes the true position coming from God.

Even our Lord stresses our need to cooperate and work for our salvation in the Gospel, when He declares at the end: “Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.” (Mark 8:34) How can one see this and argue that all we have to do is believe? To take up the Cross is to work with Christ, not against Him, in the great work of salvation. We are still weak creatures prone to temptation, and we are capable of losing our salvation if we err through sin or through pride in believing the lie of “once saved, always saved.”

We must understand our faith enough to rebuke the false teachings of other Christian denominations but also to bear witness to the fullness of truth which is found only in the Catholic Church. Let us pray for our separated brethren, that they may truly enter into the one fold of the Redeemer. Let us pray also for one another, that we may work together in this life to earn not only our salvation, but to rejoice in the rest God offers the faithful in everlasting life.

Father Jacob Straub