

MASS INTENTIONS

- Saturday September 3, 2016**
Vigil for Sunday St. Gregory the Great
 5:30pm Margaret Rita Dean requested by Margaret Dean
- Sunday September 4, 2016**
Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
 7:30am All Parishioners SFX
 9:30am Joseph Milone requested by Joan Milone
 11:15am Salvatore Picone requested by Debbie Picone
 12:30pm Rosaria and Luigi Rampino requested by
 The Nigro Family
- Monday September 5, 2016**
 7:30am Guido Cimador and Deceased Parents requested
 by Silva Cimador
 9:00am Mary and Joseph Kelly and Michael Manniello
 requested by Catherine Manniello
- Tuesday September 6, 2016**
 7:30am Clara King requested by Aleena Gil & Family
 9:00am Neil O'Donnell requested by Marie Smith
- Wednesday September 7, 2016**
 7:30am Maria Savoca requested by Marta Fensore
 9:00am Tina Cosenzo requested by Rosemary Russo
- Thursday September 8, 2016**
The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 7:30am Lucia Moscatiello requested by Carmela Manua
 9:00am Jerry Vitolo (4th Anniversary) requested by
 Meda Vitolo
- Friday September 9, 2016 St. Peter Claver**
 7:30am Arben Smajlaj
 9:00am Special Intentions Jilleba Family
 and Special Intentions Brian Gillick (Living)
 requested by Ughette Jilleba
- Saturday September 10, 2016**
 7:30am Frances Hangee requested by Fred Carlantone
 9:00am Antonio Cipollone requested by Dominick Cipollone
- Vigil for Sunday Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**
 5:30pm Lucy Coscia requested by Hannibal Coscia
- Sunday September 11, 2016**
Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
 7:30am All Parishioners SFX
 9:30am Thomas J. Hefter requested by Holy Name Society
 11:15am Leo Mayer requested by Joan Mayer
 12:30pm Remembrance of 9/11

The Rectory Office will be closed on Monday, September 5th, 2016 in observance of Labor Day.

Next Week's Readings (Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time): Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14; Psalm 51:3-4, 12-13, 17, 19 (Luke 15:18); 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-32



Mother Teresa canonized today, September 4th, 2016—Rome, Italy.

People are often unreasonable and self-centered. Forgive them anyway. If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.

If you are honest, people may cheat you. Be honest anyway. If you find happiness, people may be jealous. Be happy anyway.

The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough. Give your best anyway.

For you see, in the end, it is between you and God.

It was never between you and them anyway.— **Mother Teresa**



Congratulations to Gerard Hveem and Cristina Souza Who were married here on Friday, September 2nd.



Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults: If you are interested in receiving the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist) and being received into the Catholic Church at Easter, or if you are already baptized but not yet received First Holy Communion and/or Confirmation, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is meant for you. If you are interested, please call the Rectory at 718-892-3330. Sessions will begin the end of September.



St. Francis Xavier School: Office will be open Monday - Thursday 9:00am until 2:00pm. School begins Thursday, September 8th. Visit School website. UPK and Kindergarten received a letter outlining dates and times. Applications and scholarship information is available at www.ApplyCatholicSchoolsNY.org.



Religious Education—Learning to live our beautiful Catholic faith 24/7: Jesus is waiting for you in the Eucharist!

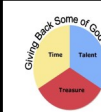
Classes will begin Sunday, September 18th at 9:30am in the School. Parent meeting is scheduled during class time in the gym. Re-registrations forms are available in the Vestibule of the Church and the Rectory. For new families registering, please contact the Rectory.



Prayer List in bulletin: If you no longer need to be included in the bulletin "for those to be prayed for," please call the Rectory at 718-892-3330 so that we can take your name off the list and make room for other parishioners who are in need of prayers. Thank you.

Holy Cross Church, Eastchester & Gun Hill, Bronx, NY:

September 7th, Catechetical lecture on Extraordinary Form at 7pm and September 14th Solemn High Mass in the Extraordinary Form at 7:30pm. For information, please call 718-370-4432



Weekly Collection (Parish Pay included) 2016

August 28, 2016 : \$4,275

Collection last year (Parish Pay included) 2015

August 30, 2015: \$5,070

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time: Luke 14:28

Today's reflection is based on the verse "Which of you wishing to construct a tower does not first sit down and calculate the cost?" Jesus looks at the large crowd traveling with Him and says that their allegiance to Him must be total and that they must be committed. Jesus gives them the example of constructing a tower. Before anyone can construct a tower there are several things to think about especially the cost. So too before becoming a disciple of Jesus, one must also consider the cost of discipleship.

First, what does it mean to be a disciple? The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines a disciple as a follower of Jesus: who "must not only keep the faith and live on it, but also profess it, confidently bear witness to it, and spread it" (CCC 1816). We are not only called to learn the teachings of Jesus Christ, we are also called to live His teachings and share His teachings. It is when we ask Jesus to be our Savior, that He will begin changing us from the inside.

The next question is how does God change us from the inside? God changes us by making us more prepared to listen to the Holy Spirit, who lives within us. He helps us resist temptation and overcome trials. We learn how to examine our thoughts, actions, and words. It is The Holy Spirit who creates the fruit in our lives—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. The effect is that we then start loving other people through our actions and share our faith joyfully with others.

Discipleship is a decision that requires a serious commitment and at the same time the surrendering of our will. We can't just say we will be a disciple only when it is convenient for us. Jesus warned His followers that it isn't always easy to follow Him.— There is a cost, the cost of commitment and the cost of loyalty. Are we willing to place Jesus in first position or are we placing the order of the day in first position? Is the stress of working, making ends meet, or just plain running around holding us back from attending Mass and/or praying because we don't have time?

Jesus said, "Anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple." Jesus carried His Cross to Calvary. It was on that Cross that Jesus gave His life so that we could have everlasting life. When we choose to carry our cross, it means that we are willing to trust Jesus and give up everything to follow Him.

Mother Teresa, of Calcutta, who is being canonized today certainly had what it takes. In 1979 Mother Teresa was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, "for work undertaken in the struggle to overcome poverty and distress, which also constitutes a threat to peace." She refused to accept the banquet and asked that the \$192,000 be instead given to the poor in India. She said that earthly rewards were important only if they helped her help the world's needy. As she made her life "something beautiful for God," St. Teresa of Calcutta showed the determination of a true disciple of Jesus. "The first step to becoming holy," she once said, "is to will it."

This can seem overwhelming. But Jesus wants to share what Mother Teresa and every other saint discovered: sheer willpower isn't the whole story—it's also God's desire.

If you want your life to be "something beautiful for God," know that He wants the same thing. Know that He also has all the Grace you need to accomplish it. He has filled you with His Spirit; He gives you His Body, His Blood, His Soul and His Divinity at Mass; He walks beside you every day, helping you when you stumble and cheering you on when you succeed. He is totally behind your desire to build a "tower" for His glory.

Whenever you sit down to "calculate" the cost of following Jesus – especially when that cost seems too high – think about the words of St. Teresa of Calcutta: "You belong to Him." Nothing can separate you from Him. Jesus will be your joy (your inner joy) and your strength (your inner strength). Even if difficulties arise in your life, nothing will break you.

So, today and every day may each and every one of us, answer Jesus' call to discipleship with a simple yet profound:

"Yes, Jesus, I will follow you no matter the cost."

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**SFX FEAST DAY
50/50 RAFFLE**
Tickets are \$20 each
or
3 Tickets for \$50



Tickets will be sold before and after every Mass on weekends in the Church Vestibule and in the Rectory throughout the week. The drawing will be held Saturday, December 3rd, 2016 at a reception celebration immediately following the 5:30pm Mass in honor of our Patron Saint.



Please remember the following

members of our parish community in your prayers:

William Ahearn, Dennis Aiello, Edwardo Alicea, Mary Annunzio, Judith Arriaga, Betty Barbagallo, Nettie Bianchini, Joe Blandino, Nellie Calderon, Louis Campisi, Flavia Chiappa, Theodore Civetta, Jenny Cioffi, Loreen Clavin, Lorraine Capozzi, Angelo Caruso, Brenda Colon, Joanne Cunneen, Richard Daum, Margaret Mary Dean, Carlann Defedele, Antoinette DeLillo, Baby Colin Depriest, Dot DeSantis, Patrick Dolan, Baby Max D'Onofrio, Carmella Emily DonVito, Mario Esguerra, Cheryl Espinoza, John Esposito, Esther Finn, Carmen Flores, Billy Fischer, Luis Paz Florencio, Sr., Peter Frenna, Bill Ford, Donald Gallagher, Maritza Garcia, Brian Gillick, Alexis Marie Gonzalez, Cora Gonzales, John Hastings, Charlotte Hayes, Kerry White Hemmer, Laura Liferieri Hernandez, Frances Jenkins, Felix Jaiman, Emily Koch (6-yr. old), Janet Kreage, Rosemarie Leo, Margaret Leonard, Ann Kittle, Angela Liferieri, Gloria Lisanti, Lucy Lorusso, Barbara Lyne, Andy Massa, Vincent (Jimmy) Mastrogiovanni, Paul McAllister, Theresa McDermott, Jennie Miraglia, Maria Mayo, Maria Mazzella, Marjorie Morales, Brianan Murtagh, John Muzzillo, Michael Nichols, Paige O'Donnell, Kerry O'Keeffe, Rosa Maria Ortiz, Louie Paone, Ralph Palumbo, Sylvia Pankovcin, Virginia Parchen, Richard Quatarone, Barbara R. and Mollie R, Giselle Ramos, Thomas J. Reardon, Blake Rosenn, Angela Rizzo, Alejandra Rosario, Rosa Russo, Gloria Santaniello, Maureen Dean Schmidt, Theresa Smith, Niko Stravrianopoulos (3-yr. old), Marie Swain, Paul Teehan, Frank Timpone, Sr., Frank Toapha, Justina Torres, Patricia Trainor, Lori Mayer Tricoli, Dominick Villara, Christopher Vitale, Kathy Vitale, George Walsh, Gary Wieler, Jonathan Wilson (12-year old), Ottilia Zangrandi, Madelyn Ziesel

In your prayers please remember all the men and women serving in our

Armed Forces, especially: Anthony Vincent Boccia, Nick Visconti, Christopher C. Cannata, Carlos E. Blanco, Emmanuel Martinez, Lt. Michael Tafone, Cpl. Christopher Antony, Cpt. Brian Pascuzzi, Master Sgt. Janelle Amador, Anthony Thomas Candito, Sgt. Troy Mastin, 1st Lt. Nicholas Cardiello



Pray for those who have died: Mary Villani and Roberto Li