From the Pastor’s Desk

Dear Parishioners,

This Sunday, May 12, is Mother’s Day and the World Day of Prayer for Vocations also. I want to express the sentiment of every son and daughter of our Parish by giving a heartfelt “thank you!” to all our mothers for everything you have done for us. Even though my first thought certainly is of my earthly mother, whose name is Clara, my next thought immediately turns to my heavenly Mother, the Virgin Mary, to whom I owe as much as to my mother on earth. As I look back at the events that marked my life (good moments, difficult moments, and even dangerous moments), I have to acknowledge that there was always a silent reassuring presence that never abandoned me. It was the constant accompaniment of the Virgin Mary, whether or not I was aware at that very moment. I am convinced that like a good mother she was mostly present when I was in need to be protected or even rescued by my own foolish actions. She certainly played an essential role in the maturation of my vocation as priest. The Virgin Mary is surely a great inspiration to all Christian mothers. The Blessed Virgin Mary, more than any other mother, knew from the beginning the Son that was given to Her was not her own. He was entrusted to Her so that she could foster in Him His own divine vocation. She knew that her Son was called to greatness, yet this greatness would tragically pass through the mystery of suffering. She was called to accompany, not to prevent, this self-sacrificial offering. Ultimately, the Virgin Mary knew that her primary role was to be a model for all of us Christians in a new way of “being mother of Jesus”. That is to say, to conceive Jesus in us and make Him grow: “whoever listens to the Word of God and acts upon it, is mother, brother and sister of Jesus.”

Let us pray that God may inspire more and more mothers to live motherhood as the greatest of the vocations, the call to grow holy children for the kingdom of Heaven, as well as great individuals for our earthly society. Our prayers and our gratitude will always accompany our mothers --- always!

Have a blessed Sunday.

St. Theresa Reflection...

“Jesus does not ask great deeds from us, but only surrender and gratitude.”

St. Theresa

“...if people say they have faith, but do nothing, their faith is worth nothing. If you hope for a person to stay warm and get plenty to eat but you don’t give what that person needs, your words are worth nothing.”

James 2:14-17

As a parish we gave $7,281.00 ($908.00 through parish giving) as a Gift to God the weekend of May 4/5.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
First Reading: Acts 13:14, 43-52
Paul and Barnabas addressed many people, and large crowds gathered to hear them. Some of the Jews became jealous, and argued with whatever Paul said. But Paul and Barnabas continued preaching their message of salvation and everlasting life, until they were eventually forced to leave the town.

Second Reading: Revelation 7:9, 14b-17
John saw a vision of many people surrounding a throne and the Lamb. One of the elders told him these were the people who had survived great periods of trial, but maintained strong faith in God. Now they would receive eternal protection and comfort from God as reward for their loyalty.

Gospel: John 10:27-30
Jesus states that his sheep know his voice and follow him, and will receive eternal life. Jesus also says that no one can snatch his followers away, because God is greater than anyone who might try, and Jesus is one with God.

Fourth Sunday of Easter
Sunday
Acts 13:14, 43-52; Rv 7:9, 14b-17; Jn 10:27-30

Monday
Acts 11:1-18; Jn 10:1-10

Tuesday
Acts 1:15-17, 20-26; Jn 15:9-17

Wednesday
Acts 12:24—13:5a; Jn 12:44-50

Thursday

Friday
Acts 13:26-33; Jn 14:1-6

Saturday
Acts 13:44-52; Jn 14:7-14
**Save the date!**
First annual feast of Padre Pio at St. Theresa’s. Saturday, June 1, 2019. Solemn Mass at 3:00pm in the church, followed by procession in the street of our neighbors. Light refreshments in McVeigh Hall after the procession.

**Feast of St. Padre Pio**
Our Preparation for the Feast of St. Padre Pio is under way! If you are interested in helping by preparing some food for refreshments after the procession, please contact Maria Di Carlo at 732-770-8021. If you wish to help the organization with monetary donations, please contact John Calemme at 908-917-8245.

**David Brearley Spring Fling Tricky Tray**
Date: Saturday, June 1, 2019
Time: Doors open 3:00pm; Calling starts at 6pm
Place: Kenilworth VFW ~ 33 South 21st St
Cash bar
Tickets: $10.00 includes 1 free white sheet
Pre-Sale bundle: $30.00 /@ door: $35.00
( $40.00 value) To order tickets: www.dbptott@kenilworthschools.com

**Bible Camp**
Registrations are currently being accepted for St. Theresa’s Bible Camp. There are two sessions of Bible Camp to choose from: June 24 – July 5 OR July 8 –July 19 from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm Monday – Friday for children ages 4 -12. Camp is held in the school gym and includes Bible stories, singing, games, craft projects, making new friends, snack, creating a camp shirt and the staging of a play. Forms are available at the back of the church, from the CCD office (located above the school gym) or on the CCD website www.stcken.wordpress.com
Registration deadline is June 14, 2019.

**HOMEBOUND EUCHARISTIC MINISTRY**
Scott Califano is the new coordinator for this all important ministry. We are looking to identify those in need and kind souls who would help us deliver this sacrament. TRAINING IS AVAILABLE! Kindly contact Scott Califano at 862-596-0113, or email (preferable!) at scott.califano@gmail.com, I will be happy to discuss this with you at your convenience.
Salesian Spirit...St. Theresa School is a school in the spirit of St. John Bosco, and part of a world-wide network of Salesian Schools. Recently, we welcomed Sr. Chantal Mukase, representing Mother General Yvonne Ruengoat, to our school. As Sr. Chantal toured St. Theresa’s and spoke with the students, teachers, and staff (as well as having a meeting with Fr. Giovanni), she understood how "alive and well" the Salesian Spirit is at St. Theresa’s, where our students are taught with the methodology of Don Bosco, using Reason, Religion, and Loving Kindness.

During this same time our students had a Tag Day fundraiser for "Casa Monarca". We raised over $500 for this new Salesian mission to provide childcare and religious education for the migrants in Monterrey, Mexico.

A Retreat for those living with serious illness
Gennesaret, a retreat designed to provide a spiritual and temporal oasis for men and women suffering with a life changing illness, will be held the weekend of May 17, 18, 19 2019 at the Archdiocesan Retreat Center, located in Kearny NJ. The retreat will begin Friday at 2:15 pm and end with a closing Prayer Service Singay at 1:30 pm. There is no cost to you for the retreat.
For further information contact:
Hilare Reinsol 732-566-7327
Peggy Walsh 908-499-8667
Linda Capobianco 732-608-7277

Annual Fishing Derby
On Saturday, June 8th, 2019, at Black Brook Park, the Kenilworth PBA Local 135 will hold its 28th Annual Fishing Derby.
Registration is mandatory and will begin at 7:30 am. The Fishing Derby will begin promptly at 8:00 am and end around 10:30 am. This event is open to all children between 3 and 12 years old. Children who participate will receive a free tee shirt. Prizes will be awarded for the largest fish caught in each designated age group. Bait and food will also be for sale the morning of the derby. Permission slips with this information were sent home though the Kenilworth schools. Permission slips can also be picked up at Kenilworth Police Headquarters front desk or filled out at the event. Please bring completed permission slips to the PBA registration area on the day of the fishing derby. The event is rain or shine. Any questions, contact Valerie Smith at Kenilworth Police Department 908-276-1700.

Soup Kitchen Coordinators Needed
For many years St. Theresa’s 7th and 8th grade CCD & STS students have assisted with the food preparation and serving at the Cranford-Elmora Soup Kitchen in Elizabeth.
The students log community service hours towards the sacrament of Confirmation. This community service volunteer project is vital and important for our students and those who are less fortunate.
This spring the individuals who have graciously coordinated and served at the soup kitchen are stepping down. Sr. Monique is seeking a new organizer/organizers.
Our next soup kitchen is scheduled for early May, so if you are interested and have the time don’t delay. Please contact the St. Theresa’s Religious Education office at 908 276 4681 or at ccd@icatholiczone.org

Disabled American Veterans
This weekend the Disabled American Vets will be selling "For Get Me Not Flowers" at the Masses. By participating in this fundraiser you are helping to serve Disabled Veterans and Gold Star Mothers and Families in our Parish and local community. All monies donated will be allocated to the three New Jersey Veteran Administration Sites, East Orange Medical Center, Lyons Medical Center and Menlo Park Veterans Home for the benefit of all veterans.

Corpus Christi Procession
On Sunday, June 23, we will celebrate the Feast of Corpus Christi (The Most Holy Body and Blood). To commemorate this Feast, we will hold a Eucharistic Procession around the outside of the church and throughout our community at the end of the 12:00pm Mass. This great tradition of carrying Christ into our community has been around since the thirteenth century, and continues today, as a reminder of the importance of the Blessed Sacrament in our sacramental lives. We ask all our children who have just made their Communion to join the procession in your communion dress and suits. All are welcome and encouraged to join the procession.