

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME JULY 26, 2020

Mr. Matthew F. Boyer, Esq., a parishioner and Permanent Diaconate Candidate for the Diocese of Wilmington will be instituted into the Ministry of Acolyte, the 3rd and final step of canonical preparation for diaconate by Bishop Malooly on Saturday August 8th at St. Margaret of Scotland, Glasgow. While the ceremony is invitation only due to the pandemic, let us pray as a community for Matt and his family as he takes this further step toward ordination to the diaconate tentatively schedule for the summer of 2021. Currently, Matt is exercising his Ministry of Reader at daily and Sunday Mass. After August 8th he will begin assisting the priest at the altar and distributing Holy Communion at Mass. We are grateful to Matt and his wife Mary, for undertaking this 5 year commitment in addition to his full-time legal practice, volunteer ministries at St. Ann's and his family responsibilities.

Congratulations to the first group of our First Communion candidates!!! Please keep these young disciples in your prayers as they receive Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time during special Masses for them and their families.

The St. Ann "APP": Associate Pastor's Perspective - This year, the feast of St. Ann falls on Sunday, July 26. As she is our parish's patron saint, here are some prayers to pray not only today but in the days ahead:

Prayer In Honor of Saint Ann

O Glorious St. Ann, you are compassionate toward those in need who invoke your heavenly intercession. Burdened with life's difficulties, I place myself before you, and ask that you assist me with the petitions and intentions I now recommend to your special protection.

(Here mention your requests.)

Place my concerns before Our Lord Jesus Christ, and seek the loving aid of your daughter, the Blessed Virgin Mary. Please continue interceding for me until my requests are granted.

Above all, obtain for me the grace of one day seeing Almighty God face to face, with you and Mary and all the saints, honoring and praising God through all eternity.

Pray for us, good St. Ann. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ. Gracious God, who chose St. Ann to bring into the world the mother of Your only Son. Mercifully grant to us who devoutly honor her memory, the grace of happiness in this life, and the joy of life with You for all eternity. *Amen.*✠

Grandparent's Prayer to Saint Ann

O Good Saint Ann, help me to recognize the great dignity of being a grandparent. Direct my paths to understand and experience all the graces God wishes for me in this vital role within my family.

When all is well, grant that I may fully share in the joys and accomplishments of all my loved ones. When life is difficult, lead me to be a source of encouragement, support and hope for everyone. During times of illness and suffering, give me the strength to guide my family to firmly trust in God's loving care and kindness.

As you did, Saint Ann, help me to know and practice all the ways God wishes for me to be an encouraging presence of faith, charity and unity within my family. Watch over and protect me, my children and my grandchildren. Inspire us to lead good and virtuous lives.

Through the intercession of Jesus and Mary, I ask for God's continued blessings on my family, that dedicated to God's service on earth, all the members of my family may one day share together in the eternal happiness of God's unending love in Heaven. *Amen.*

Reflections on St. Ann's (Catholic Online) - July 26th was, liturgically speaking, the feast of St. Ann and St. Joachim. Growing up it was a popular day to celebrate St. Ann with parish festivals and fireworks (the St. Ann feast in Hoboken, NJ is legendary). With a grandmother named Anne, it was also a day to give special thanks for her and to remember the ways in which she mirrored St. Ann.

Catholics, for the most part, are probably pretty familiar with the Feast of the Holy Family that is celebrated on the Sunday after Christmas, a day set aside to honor the Holy Family into which Jesus was born, a family that provides a model for families today, regardless of their specific composition. But in reality, there was an earlier Holy Family of Nazareth, the family into which Mary, the immaculately conceived Mother of God was born, the family of Ann, Joachim, and Mary.

While it is common to relate to Ann and Joachim as the grandparents of Jesus and the parents of Mary, I think it is beneficial today, particularly in an era where diversity in the composition of families is more prominent and (unfortunately) sometimes more contested, to consider the first Holy Family of Nazareth.

Much of what we believe about Ann and Joachim comes to us through tradition based upon the Protoevangelium (or Infancy Gospel) of St. James. In our minds, we understand Ann and Joachim to be somewhat older, perhaps around the age of Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist, who tradition holds was the first cousin of Ann (or at least that is what I recall learning). So here we have the first Holy Family of Ann, Joachim, and Mary.

To understand the family, it is important to understand Ann and Joachim as individuals, as a couple, and as parents. Faithful, prayerful, devout. These three powerful adjectives tell us a lot about them. Trusting, confident, and hopeful. These three adjectives tell us a lot as well, about our own vocational calls.

But let's think, too, about what we don't often focus on, the preoccupations, concerns, and worries they must have had as they raised Mary and as they grew older. Clearly faith and, yes, spirituality (although that would not have been a common term at that time) were essential components of their lives.

I can see them in my mind's eyes participating in the rituals and worship of the Jewish tradition on a regular basis. I can see them relying on the Scriptures of the Torah, and I can hear them engaging in the psalms as their way to connect with the Most Sacred God.

I can imagine them working daily and toiling to sustain a home where God was all and all lived for God and one another. I can see Ann and Joachim raising their daughter to be a woman who would be betrothed to a man of God. Could they ever have imagined that she in fact would be the Spouse of God and bear in her own body the Savior of the World?

In that way, Ann and Joachim are beautiful models for parents and caregivers today. They provide us with real life people who dealt with all the unknowns life has to offer and faced the uncertainties of life with trust, faith, confidence, hope, and surrender.

---author, Lisa Burke

From our Music Ministry - In our Gospel today, we hear three more parables about the kingdom of heaven: the story of the buried treasure, the pearl of great price, and the net thrown in the sea. All three allude to the end of time when God's angels will separate the wicked from the righteous. In our daily lives we strive to live in a way that will help us attain the ultimate reward of heavenly life. Our last hymn, "Lead Me, Lord" is an echo of these sentiments: with the text "Be my way, be my truth, be my light, O Lord, and lead me, Lord, today."

-Peter Solecki

Mass Intentions

****Priests will be saying Mass Intentions privately for each 6:30am daily mass & the 8am Saturday Mass starting on Monday June 1st with the beginning of public Masses.**

Saturday July 25

**8:00 A.M. Robert Vanderloo

4:00 P.M. M/M Francis & Stella Smith

Sunday July 26

7:30 A.M. Eldon Homsey

10:30 A.M. Living & Deceased members of St. Ann's Adoration Chapel

Monday July 27

**6:30 A.M. Ella Savarese

8:00 A.M. Patrick De Luca

Tuesday July 28

**6:30 A.M. Coleman Homsey

8:00 A.M. Deceased members of the Michael & Catherine Irwin family

Wednesday July 29

**6:30 A.M. Joseph Benjamin Roy

8:00 A.M. Theresa Deptula

Thursday July 30

**6:30 A.M. Peter Visco

8:00 A.M. Jane Scott Mahoney

Friday July 31

**6:30 A.M. David Kearns

8:00 A.M. Sr. Anne Marguerite Potchen VHM

Saturday August 1

**8:00 A.M. Bob Wright

4:00 P.M. Theresa Ann Faulkner

Sunday August 2

7:30 A.M. David Kearns

10:30 A.M. Georgina Sheing & Henry Salacki

Pray for the sick, shut-ins and elderly of our Parish.

ST. ANN'S PRAYER LINE – to place a name on the prayer line contact Joe/ Shirley Ackerman at 384-7513 or joeshirl7@comcast.net.

Offertory for the weekend of July 12th was \$10,519. As always – thank you for your kind and generous support to St. Ann's.

Emmanuel Dining Room - Thank you to all the generous parishioners who contributed food items or a donation toward a "Grab and Go" meal for Emmanuel Dining Room on July 8. They were very grateful. Our next delivery is August 8. For questions: email Clair at clair2413@gmail.com or Tim at Tmcm303770@comcast.net.

PLEASE DON'T FORGET US!!! Parish Giving is available for Online Offertory Giving – To set up your account, visit our website and click the Parish Giving Button. If you have questions, please feel free to contact the rectory at 654-5519 or email stannschurch@stannwilmington.com

PREP - Faith formation for children who do not attend Catholic Schools

Attention PREP Parents! We have begun registration for the 2020-2021 school year. If you did not receive an email this week, you can go online and download the registration forms from the parish website. If you have an incoming 1st grader we will also need to have a copy of your child's Baptism certificate.

Children's Sacrament Preparation

If you have a child who has completed the 1st grade religion curriculum requirement, s/he may be eligible to register to prepare for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion. Even if your child is already enrolled in a Catholic School or a PREP program, you must also register for these Sacraments. If you have not already received the forms through email, please go online to the parish website to download them.

Prayer Partner Program - Are you looking for a way to connect with other parishioners? Would you like someone to pray for your special intentions? Then join our Prayer Partner Program! This program matches parishioners (individuals and families) together to pray for one another. It is a great way to get in touch with other parishioners and feel more connected to our St. Ann's family. If you are interested in joining this program, or if you would like more information, email Lottie Zapisek -welcometostannswilmington@gmail.com

St. Ann's Church is open for Private Prayer on Monday through Thursday after the 8am mass until 10am. On Fridays, the church is open after the 8am mass until 10am and then again from 12-3pm.

Just a note that the Rectory Office is open – For entrance to the office, masks are required. The Chapel of Divine Mercy is closed until further notice, due to the pandemic.