

NOV 16-17, 2019



## OUR LADY, QUEEN OF THE YOUGH CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

*Pennsylvania Charitable Trusts*

*Our vision is to lead all whose lives we touch  
into a living relationship with the person of  
Jesus Christ through Word and Sacrament,  
Service and Fellowship.*

**[www.youghcatholic.org](http://www.youghcatholic.org)**



**IT IS GOOD TO PRAISE THE LORD  
AND MAKE MUSIC TO YOUR NAME, O MOST HIGH.  
Psalm 92:1**

**To our visitors...** If you are just passing through, we are glad you chose to worship with us. If you are seeking a new church home, please know there is always room in our pews and a place in our hearts for you.

### DEVIVO CENTRE

116 South 2nd Street  
Connellsville, PA 15425

724.628.6840 (f) 724.628.0838

MON-THU 8:30am-noon / 1-4pm  
FRI 8:30am-1pm

### BRADY CENTRE

459 Ranch Road  
Dunbar, PA 15431

724.277.4236 (f) 724.277.8954

MON, TUE, THU, FRI 9am-3pm

**SATs 5:15-5:45pm at IC**

*Confession*

**and by appointment**

**We work with the Holy Trinity Conference of Saint Vincent DePaul** to help our neighbors in need. Their number is 724.562.3341.

**We are grateful for the advertisers** who cover the cost of printing our bulletins.

Please frequent their businesses in support of them.

This week's featured advertiser is **ETERNAL LIFE CREMATION SERVICES.**

Our Faith Community consists of the Parish Families of Immaculate Conception, Connellsville (1869), Saint Aloysius Gonzaga, Dunbar (1874), Saint John the Evangelist, Connellsville (1895), and Saint Rita of Cascia, Connellsville (1915).



We also embrace the former Parish Families of Saint Vincent de Paul, Leisenring (1888-2008), Sacred Heart, Dawson (1889-2007) Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Connellsville (1901-1913), Saint Emory, Connellsville (1903-1970), Holy Trinity, Connellsville (1903-2008), Saint Polycarp, West Leisenring (1917-1997).

## OUR STAFF - WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

### FR. PAUL LISIK

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### FR. JULIUS CAPONGPONGAN

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### DAVID BALLARD

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### DAVID PANZELLA

*Cemetery Care, Connellsville/Dawson*  
724.323.5365

## SAT-SUN, NOV 9-10, 2019 STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

### IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Adult.....\$4,354.00  
Loose.....462.50  
Maintenance.....90.00  
**Total:.....\$4,906.50**

Cemetery .....\$550.00  
Accent.....\$30.00  
Military .....\$10.00  
Retired Religious .....\$30.00  
All Saints.....\$95.00



### ST. ALOYSIUS

Adult.....\$3,186.00  
Loose.....226.70  
Children/Young Adults .....21.30  
Parish Improvements.....511.00  
**Total:.....\$3,945.00**

Accent.....\$38.00  
Retired Religious .....\$72.00  
All Saints.....\$151.00  
All Souls.....\$75.00



### ST. JOHN

Adult.....\$2,973.00  
Loose.....136.25  
Maintenance.....120.00  
**Total:.....\$3,229.25**

Cemetery .....\$351.00  
Retired Religious .....\$120.00  
All Saints.....\$160.00  
Thanksgiving .....\$5.00  
Accent.....\$5.00  
Seminary/Clergy.....\$5.00  
Mission Sunday.....\$5.00



### ST. RITA

Adult.....\$4,087.25  
Loose.....454.50  
Maintenance.....41.00  
**Total:.....\$4,582.75**

Cemetery .....\$504.00  
Retired Religious .....\$33.00  
All Saints.....\$130.00  
Accent.....\$10.00

### The COLLECTION FOR THE ARCHDIOCESE FOR THE MILITARY SERVICES, USA will be taken up at all Masses THIS weekend.

The AMS provides pastoral care for those in the US Armed Services, enrolled in US military academies, undergoing treatment at Veterans Affairs Medical Centers, civilians working for the federal government beyond US borders, and also for their families.



## 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12 THE HAPPY COMMUNITY

Living in community is hard. In a family, a school, or the workplace, it is hard to get along with others. There are benefits to community life. When you cannot make it on your own, others lift you up. You benefit from the skills and love they share. And when others need help, you are there. You feel satisfied when you use your gifts to help someone else. A happy community enjoys many blessings. The gifts of individuals are marvelous to behold, but even more so is the result - the community becomes its own living force, with its own love, devotion, and commitment.

It works as long as everyone helps out. As soon as someone does not,

resentment creeps in, and the beauty of the community is destroyed.

Paul the Apostle faced this problem when he and his companions visited the Thessalonians. Some people were taking advantage of others. It was not working, and it would never work. So the missionaries set an example. They were guests. They did not have to do anything to help out, but they did. "We wanted to present ourselves as a model for you," Paul wrote. "When we were with you, we instructed you that if anyone was unwilling to work, neither should that one eat." There is no such thing as a free lunch.

Your church is a community. It relies on your faith, your participation, and your help. You eat and drink the Eucharist. Do you also work?

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## The DIOCESE'S POVERTY RELIEF FUND/CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES COLLECTION will be taken up NEXT weekend.

There is an envelope in your packet. Three-quarters of the contributions will remain in the diocese to support the Diocesan Poverty Relief Fund, a quarter of which will be designated to Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg to provide funding for heating fuel and utilities during the particularly difficult winter months. The remaining quarter of the collection will go to CRS, the U.S. bishops' overseas relief effort.



## SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK:

MON: 1 Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63; Ps 119:53, 61, 134, 150, 155, 158

TUE: 2 Mc 6:18-31; Ps 3:2-7; Lk 19:1-10

WED: 2 Mc 7:1, 20-31; Ps 17:1bcd, 5-6, 8b, 15; Lk 19:11-28

THU: 1 Mc 2:15-29; Ps 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15; Lk 19:41-44

FRI: 1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59; 1 Chr 29:10bcd, 11-12; Lk 19:45-48

SAT: 1 Mc 6:1-13; Ps 9:2-4, 6, 16, 19; Lk 20:27-40

SUN: 2 Sm 5:1-3; Ps 122:1-5; Col 1:12-20; Lk 23:35-43

# What's Happening at home

**J. Christopher Pardini** will present the dedication recital for IC's new organ **THIS SUN, NOV 17** at 3pm. A reception with light refreshments will follow in the social hall.



**St. Rita Christian Mothers** need volunteers on **MON/TUE/WED, NOV 18/19/20** at 8:30am in Bucci Hall to make pizzelles. Please bring your pizzelle iron if you have one. All help is appreciated.

**St. Al's Altar Rosary Society** will meet on **MON, NOV 18** at 6:30pm in the social hall. Refreshments will be served. All women of the parish are welcome.

**Tom Severin's Bible study** on Job will continue on **WED, NOV 20** in IC's Sciberras Hall, from 6:30-8pm.

**RCIA Inquiry** continues **THUs** at 6:30pm in the IC Sciberras Hall.

The study "*Mary A Biblical Walk With the Blessed Mother*" continues **FRI** mornings for the next 5 weeks at St Al's, after 8:30am Mass, about 9:15am in the social hall. Call Molli at 366-9552 with any questions.



The **Children's Choir** will rehearse on **SAT, NOV 23** at 11am in IC's choir loft. Children in grades 3-6 in all 4 parishes are eligible for membership. In addition, junior/senior high students are invited to serve the Children's Choir as leaders and cantors.

**IC Christian Mothers** will be selling their nut, apricot and poppyseed rolls (\$12) and cinnamon rolls (\$5/half dozen), on **SAT, NOV 23, 11am-7pm** and **SUN, NOV 24, 8:30-11:30am**. Monetary gifts towards supplies are always welcome.



The **Christian Mothers' Advent/Christmas Party** for all 4 parishes, hosted by St. Rita, will be held at Nino's Restaurant on **SUN, DEC 1** at 3:30 pm. Cost is \$28, paid in advance.

Checks are payable to St. Rita Christian Mothers, marked Advent/Christmas Party, and may be dropped in the collection basket, or taken to the DeVivo Centre. Reservations are due by MON, NOV 25, and can be made through Mary at 628-6832 or Betsy at 603-3872. Please bring an unwrapped baby item for Alternatives. Yes.

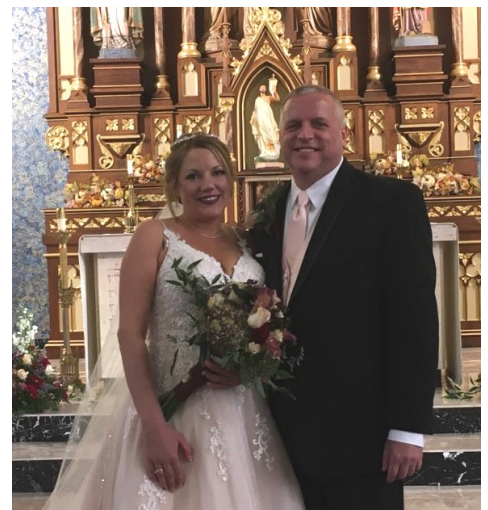
**Order pick-up for St. John's Pre-Order Slovak Food sale** will be **SAT, DEC 7** in Moravek Hall, 9-11am. To order call Liz at 628-7259 by **NOV 25**. Cabbage rolls (halupki) \$3.50 each, frozen pirohi \$10/dozen.

**St. Rita Christian Mothers' Christmas Cookie Sale** will be on **SAT, DEC 7** beginning at 9am in Bucci Hall. Donations of Robin Hood flour, Crisco, Imperial margarine, Domino granulated and powdered sugar and nuts would be appreciated. Also, monetary donations to help defray costs are being accepted by making checks payable to St. Rita Christian Mothers, and can be dropped in the collection basket, dropped off at the DeVivo Centre, or given directly to Rita Pratt.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **IRENE MARTRAY**, who died recently. May her soul and the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in eternal peace.

**MANNERS AT MASS:** We ask everyone who is physically able to abide by these minimal requirements of common courtesy:

- ♦ Please do your best to arrive at Mass at the start of Mass, and please stay until the final hymn is completed.
- ♦ Please consider modesty in apparel when attending Mass.
- ♦ Please allow for children at Mass - after all, we are family, and the sound of children is a welcome sound in our parishes. Sometimes a child really does need walked or tended to outside of Church. We encourage parents to take advantage of the entrance area for such needs.
- ♦ Please welcome the visitor or guest by a friendly smile, a warm greeting, a personal introduction.
- ♦ Please follow rules of patience and courtesy when entering, parking or exiting the parking lots.



Congratulations to **CHRISTINA SURIANO & RICHARD HITLAN**, married at IC on **NOV 9**.

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am very happy to be with you here at Immaculate Conception, St. Aloysius, St. John and St. Rita parishes as I begin my sixth pastorate. I want to thank you for all the warm greetings and welcomes that I have received from all of you this past week. It not only shows me the warmth and kindness of the parishioners here, but also the heart of these beautiful parishes.

I can only promise you that I will do my best to accomplish the ministry of being your pastor in the spirit of mutual trust, common prayer and general concern for all of you, and for the area of our parishes. As I seek God's counsel, guidance, advice and grace as I begin my assignment here, I will also seek yours because these are our parishes and together we can bring the kingdom of God into reality here.

I ask for your continued prayers and assure you that I will keep you in mine.

In Mary, Our Mother,  
*Fr. Paul*



**Thanksgiving Day Mass will be celebrated at St. John on THU, NOV 28 at 9am.**  
This year's Thanksgiving Collection will go to the Holy Trinity Conference of St. Vincent DePaul, which serves our local communities.

#### EARLY HOLIDAY BULLETIN DEADLINES



<u>SUBMIT INFO BY</u>	<u>BULLETIN DATE</u>
<b>MON, NOV 18</b>	<b>NOV 30/DEC 1</b>
<b>THU, DEC 5</b>	<b>DEC 21-22</b>
<b>FRI, DEC 13</b>	<b>DEC 28-29</b>
<b>TUE, DEC 17</b>	<b>JAN 4-5</b>

#### USE YOUR TALENT.

Having only modest talent  
is no excuse for not using it.  
Think what the morning would be  
like if only talented birds sang!  
*Anonymous*



Congratulations to WREN ELIZABETH HENRY, daughter of Brandon Henry & Elizabeth Porterfield, baptized at St. John on NOV 10.



**Nar-Anon will meet on WED, NOV 20 in St. John's Moravek Hall, 7-8pm.**

**Come enjoy the beautiful music presented by the Choirs of the Roman Catholic Churches of Uniontown on FRI, NOV 22, 6:30pm at St. John the Evangelist Church, Uniontown.**

Non-perishable food items and monetary donations will be collected at the door to benefit the local St. Vincent DePaul Society. There will also be a basket raffle. Light refreshments will be served in the SJE Parish Center following the concert.

**The Greater Scottdale Area Choral Society will present their Christmas concert series as follows:**

- |            |                           |
|------------|---------------------------|
| SUN, DEC 1 | Perryopolis UM Church     |
| MON, DEC 2 | Cochran UM Church, Dawson |
| SUN, DEC 8 | St. Pius, Mt. Pleasant    |
| MON, DEC 9 | 1st Baptist, Scottdale    |

All concerts start at 7pm and admission is free.

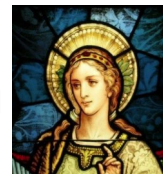
**The Christian Mothers of Sts. Cyril and Methodius, Fairchance, will host a vigilia FRI, DEC 6 at 6pm.**

A traditional meatless Slovak dinner will be served, and the Pittsburgh Area Slovak Folk Ensemble will perform. For reservations, contact Jean Thompson at 564-2641 or [jean.thompson.1961@gmail.com](mailto:jean.thompson.1961@gmail.com).

**A Memorial Mass for Father William Kiel will be celebrated at St. John the Evangelist Church, Uniontown, TUE, DEC 3 at 6:30 p.m.** The rosary will be prayed at 6pm and a fellowship gathering will follow Mass. For info, call 437-7569.

**THIS FRI, NOV 22, IS THE FEAST OF ST. CECILIA.** Cecilia probably was martyred sometime during the 3<sup>rd</sup> century. The earliest information about her, a writing from the late 4<sup>th</sup> century, refers to a church that was named after her. The church had been Cecilia's home, so she probably was a person of wealth. Later legends portray Cecilia as a young woman of a noble Christian family in Rome. Against her wishes she was given in marriage to a young pagan named Valerius, who later became a Christian. Valerius and his brother were arrested while burying martyrs, and they too, were martyred. Cecilia buried them but was caught. Because she was a noble, the

authorities put her under house arrest instead of throwing her into prison. An executioner came to her home and struck her with a sword. It was said that on her wedding day, while the musicians played, she 'sang in her heart to Christ' in prayer. Perhaps this is why for centuries she has been considered the patron saint of musicians. When the Academy of Music was founded in Rome in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, it was named for her. To this day, many choirs and music societies bear St. Cecilia's name. Her remembrance day has become a celebration of music and song.

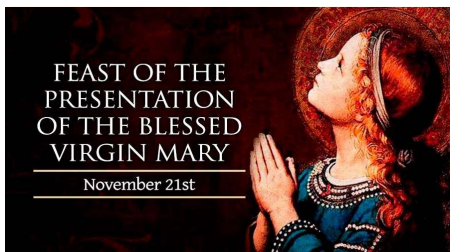


## PRAYER requests

Hank Adair, Victoria Altimus, Arlene Argiro, Scott Aronhalt, John Auer, Maureen & Stephen Austen, Peter Babyak, Janice Bailey, Al Balow, Heather Bardin, Meghan Bayer, Scott Bell, Lorena Beni, Maya Bennett, Marissa Bercik, Seth Beveridge, Scott Bigley, Anise Black, Betty Blacka, Jeffery Blystone, George Bordas, Gail Boucher, Devin Brad-dock, Mary Bredesen, Brian, Michael Brienza, Elizabeth Brown, Quinn Bu-kovac, Divinia Calinao, Bob Camilli, Jamey Camp, Joanne Camp, Margaret Carbonara, Kay Caringola, Grace & Larry Carroll, Cecil Casini, Anthony Cecchini, Toni Cellurale-Kuhlman, Mallory Chaikcic, Patty Check, David Coldren, Heather Collins, Jack Conko, Steve Conko, Cindy Costello-Ford, Rose Cowan, Gloria Cross, Ron & Donna Cross, Robert Cumberland, Pat DeCara, Frank Decker, Debbie Del Sordo, Aidan DeMarco, Lavonne Dillinger, Paul Dillon, Albert Disson, Joyce Doppelheuer, Agnes Dowling, Sandy Drury, Mike Dunaway, Cathi Dunn, E.J. Duritza, Alberta Dusha, Melody Dynes, Ronald Egnot, Joan Emanuel, John Emanuel, Charlotte Eu-tsey, Tony Fao, Ron Farina, Michael Farris, Michelle Farris, Joan Fattori, Sandra Fletcher, Frankhouser & Hager Families, Cameron Frame, Sr., John Frick, Jason Friguglietti, Nicholas Gaborko, Christopher Galik, Marge & Ralph Galley, Robert Gallo, Sr., Jean Gallo-Ciscon, Machaela Garlowich, Greg Garred, Sr., Timmy Gibbs, Barry Glotfelty, Tanya Gray, Allie Guilian, Garrin Haggerty, Paul Hammaker, Jim Haney, Lola & Bill Hardy, Connie Hat-ter, Betty Healey, Nancy Heinbaugh,

Paul Helinsky, Frederick Helms, Alexia Herchko, Bill Herman, Angela Hill, John Hohmann, Arlene & Jay Hon-eycutt, Dennis Hough, Ruthie Hough, Herk & Connie Hubbard, Barry S. Huey, Grady Humbert, Dominic lanel-lo, Dolores laquinta, Brittany Johnson, Jackie Johnson, Darlene & Donnie Johnston, Kevin Jones, Karen, Rich Kazmierczak, Chase Kemp, Larry Ken-nison, Larry Kent, Lora Keslar, Joann Kieta, Carol King, Jeff King Lorraine Kinnick, Alcuin & LaRena Kirsch, Bob & Melissa Kish, Zachary Knabenshue, Judie Kosisko, Kathy Kovac, Trish Ko-val, John Kuzyck, Bernadine Lafko, Su-san Lake, Kevin Lape, Sean Lewan-dowski, Michaelene Lint, Michael Lit-man, Anita Grasso Lizza, Maryann Lloyd, Justin Loncala, William & Adina Long, Alvera & Michael Long, Savannah Longanecker, Ruth Lonigro, Shannon Lown, Donald Lowry, Jeffrey Madarish, Koochie Maiese, Noah Manges, James Marnell, Roger Marshall, Christine Martin, Daniel Martin, Marie Martin, Ted Martin, Theresa Martin, Kim Mari, Bret Martuc-ci, Ann Matthews, Betty Mazurik, Rob-ert Mazurik, Jean McCormick, Janet McCune, Dave McMullan, Jeanne Meagher, Hunter Meese, Michael, Jus-tin Miller, Kayia Miller, Sarabeth Miner, Terri Molinaro, Barb Molitor, Kay Molnar, Diane Monaco, Stephen Monaco, Fotenie Mongell, Adam Morgan, Kim-berly Morrell, Edward Mulhorn, Tom Mullen, Carmella Mullins, Irene Nakles, Anna Newton, Fred Niemits, Eugene Onusko, John Orazi, Sr., Mike Ozorowski, Caroline P., John Pessa-mato III, Jonathan Philburn, Tom Pierce, Frank Pilla, Daniel Piper, Doug & Joyce Pirl, Velda Plesz, Sylvia Pock-staller, Barry Premoshis, Gemma

Premus, James Price, Marisa Primo-izic, Scott Prinkey, Ruth Ann Puskar, Jo-seph Ranker, Theresa Ranker, Susan Reagan, Dexton Reed, Imogene Rega, Joe Rega, Maryann Reid, Freda Rennick, Tammy Renzi, Jeannette Roley, Ellen Romanko, Terry Rose, Terry Ross, Ronald Rozell, Mary Margaret Ruck, Robert Ruck, Jay S., Joe Sages, Lorelai Santangelo, Parker Scarry, Betty Schott, Theresa Schott, Gavin Schuller, Bren-nan Sechrist, Susie Seman, Lisa Sezawick, Ray Shamberger, Mary Ann Shandorf, Steve Shandorf, Linda Shank, Martha Sheets, Kelly Huffman Sherbondy, Gen Sherwood, John Shields, Michele Sholtas, Jackie Shrum, Lester Shultz, Sr., Jeff Sigado, Erin Sigwalt, Breanna Silbaugh & baby, Gunnar Skrobacz, Kendal Skrobacz, Eric Smearman, Mattie Smith, Thomas Soberdash, Den-nis Soisson, Mark Soisson, Marian Sol-dano, Sonya Spaw, Heather Spennati, Evelyn Sperry, Charles Spicola, David & Lori Stofan, John & Janet Stroncheck, Sadie Swank, James Thompson, Stephanie Tober, Michael Tonarelli, Karla Tress-ler, Carol Trimbath, Turner Trimbath, Amy Tungate, Ronnie Umble, Shaun Valente, David Voda, David Voda, Jr., Denise Voda, Ursula Vozar, Carol Ward, Doug Ward, Millie Warnick, Melvin Washington, Chuck Watson, Nancy Watson, Lois Weibl, Henry Whipkey, Marcella Wilburn, Evelyn Williams, Lee Williams, Roianne Wilson, Teri Winterhalter, Barbara Wisilosky, Beth Ann Wisniewski-Lee, Bernie Wolfe, Becky & Bob Wurst, Frank & Margaret Zadell, Sr. Mary Mark Zavatsky, Anita Zentarsky, Richard Zientarsky, Esther Ziska, Sammy Zorichak, John Zurich, Amy Zvara.



This THU is the Feast of the Presentation of the Virgin Mary. Many celebrations honoring Mary began in the Eastern Church in the early centuries of Christianity. A Church in Jerusalem was dedicated to Mary on this day in the year 543. In the 15<sup>th</sup> century the Feast of the Presentation of the Virgin Mary was brought to the West.

The title came from an ancient legend that Mary's parents, Ann and Joachim, had offered her to God when she was 3 years old. They brought her to the Temple to consecrate her to God's service. For Christians in the East, this day is an important holiday, and it is called the "Entrance of the Mother of God into the Temple". Mary herself is called God's Temple, the place where God came to live. The Feast turns our thoughts to Advent, when Christ comes in glory, when all of us will be God's Temple.

**MINISTERS:** Please call/email Chris Sparks with any dates you are UNable to serve in DEC.  
628-7510 or  
crsparks1@zoominternet.net

## MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

<b>MON, NOV 18</b>		<b>DEDICATION OF THE BASILICAS OF STS. PETER &amp; PAUL, APOSTLES &amp; ST. ROSE PHILIPPINE DUCHESNE, VIRGIN</b>
8:00am	St. Rita	John & Frances Karaffa (Family)
8:30am	St. Al	Josephine Knez (Sister, Anna)
<b>TUE, NOV 19</b>		<b>WEEKDAY</b>
8:00am	St. John	Deceased Members of the Riedmann & Kosinski Families (Joe & Pam Kosinski)
8:30am	St. Al	John Canada (Billie Staszal)
<b>WED, NOV 20</b>		<b>WEEKDAY</b>
8:00am	St. Rita	Kathy Herbert (M/M Tony Bucci)
8:30am	St. Rita	Adoration until 4:30pm
<b>THU, NOV 21</b>		<b>PRESENTATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</b>
8:00am	IC	George Puskar (Family)
8:00am	St. Al	Prayers for Priests & Padre Pio Devotions
8:30am	St. Al	Harry & Dorothy Lizza (Sandra Lincoln)
<b>FRI, NOV 22</b>		<b>ST. CECILIA, VIRGIN/MARTYR</b>
8:00am	St. Rita	Edward Schott (Wife, Kathleen & Family)
8:30am	St. Al	George Trimbath (Wife, Carol)
<b>SAT, NOV 23</b>		<b>VIGIL/ST. CLEMENT I, POPE/MARTYR, ST. COLUMBAN, ABBOTT &amp; BLESSED MIGUEL AGUSTIN PRO, PRIEST/MARTYR</b>
4:00pm	St. Rita	Deceased Members of Sons & Daughters of Italy Ladies Lodge #1686 (Ladies Lodge #1686)
5:00pm	St. Al	Pat Orlando (Family)
6:00pm	IC	Cecilia Rosendale (The Rosendale Family)
<b>SUN, NOV 24</b>		<b>OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE</b>
8:00am	St. Rita	Pro Populo
9:00am	St. Al	Eugene & Jackie Baker (The Brooks Family)
9:30am	IC	Angeline Colatch (Michelle & Valarie McCune)
11:30am	St. John	Michael Grego, Mickey Grego & Josephine Shaw (Family)

Altar flowers at St. Rita during the week were in memory of Roger & Josephine Shaw, given by Family. Weekend flowers at St. Rita are in memory of Pauline C. Rose, given by Daughters & Family.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE - NOV 23				MINISTRY SCHEDULE - NOV 24			
	SR-4PM	ST. AL-5PM	IC-6PM	ST. RITA-8AM	ST. AL-9AM	IC-9:30AM	ST. JOHN-11:30AM
ACOLYTES/ SERVERS	E Rittenhouse E Bohinski	M Pascoe R Trimbath	H Bechtold A Lincoln	G Joseph T Barrett	R Barron J Hustosky	C Jones L Keller	D Piasecki K Yoders
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	J Rittenhouse R Pratt T Bohinski	T Nedrow M Vinoverski K Andolino	N Holonich E Aquino J Geary	D Gephart B Bielecki L Kozel	T Dull A Trimbath K Martray	M DeFazio I McKenna M Lazor	L Martin B Knizner E Smith
CROSS BEARERS	M Martray	W Trimbath	G Holonich	C Joseph	N Mongell	A Zavatchan	R Gaudiello
LECTORS	A Davin	T Szepesi	R Goron	E Long	G Heller	N Keller	T Severin
ROSARY		J Connell			B Klotz		

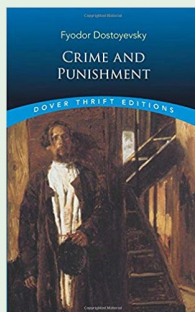


I am an avid reader and have been since I was a child. On occasion, I intend to share some of my favorites with you and why.

We'll start with my "favorite", although I don't like designating a favorite book because there are different books for different occasions. I would rather call it the "most important" book to read (besides the Bible). Sometimes I read for entertainment, sometimes to learn something, and sometimes to probe the depths of human existence. This latter is why I read classic novels - they get at the heart of what it means to be human. In my opinion, the very best books shed light on the beauty, ugliness, glory, and shame of humanity.

In my personal opinion, the very best author at this is Fyodor Dostoyevsky. While I have only read two of his books, I imagine they are all similar: he is capable of capturing in words the desolation, the desperation, and the exasperation of the human condition without falling into despair. Dostoyevsky's characters, although very much engaged in the cultural Russian Orthodox beliefs, attends to modern concerns and wrestles with trends such as atheism and secularism.

The book that impacted me the most is *Crime and Punishment*. It follows Raskolnikov, a character who has set his heart



on murder and theft, and follows him as he prepares, executes, and then deals with the consequences of his deed. The "punishment" described in the title is not imprisonment or exile but the physical, mental, and emotional anguish as he wrestles with what he has done and attempts to pick up his life and move on.

I read this book when I was preparing to hear confessions for the first time. Dostoyevsky captures the essence, reality, and effects of sin perfectly. The following passage is one of my favorites, describing how Raskolnikov's foil in the story, Sonia, decides to sell herself for the sake of her family because her father wastes their money on drink and her mother is too proud to help the family financially. Her father tells the tale to Raskolnikov at a bar:

**"At six o'clock I saw Sonia get up, put on her kerchief and her cape, and go out of the room and about nine o'clock she came back. She walked straight up to Katerina Ivanovna [her mother] and she laid thirty roubles on the table before her in silence. She did not utter a word, she did not even look at her, she simply picked up our big green *drap de dames* shawl (we have a shawl, made of *drap de dames*), put it over her head and face and lay down on the bed with her face to the wall; only her little shoulders and her body kept shuddering...And I went on lying there, just as before...And then I saw, young man, I saw Katerina Ivanovna, in the same silence go up to Sonia's little bed; she was on her knees all the evening kissing Sonia's feet, and would not get up, and then they both fell asleep in each other's arms...together, together...yes...and I...lay drunk."**

That story captures the essence of humanity. Amid such horrors, sad-

ness, and sin we find such tenderness and beauty. After reading such a paragraph, I feel like I could visit this dysfunctional family - that they truly exist. This is Dostoyevsky's genius and is why it is worth taking the time to read one of his lengthy books. While movies, TV shows, and music can also do this, good books allow our minds to engage ideas at their own pace - to reread, to reflect, to contemplate, and to connect. Good reflection takes time and a willingness to be bored - something modern media refuses to allow us to do.

The Bible is the great story of the human heart and God's pursuit of it and cannot be ignored in its primary place of revealing humanity to us. However, more contemporary works can help us see and connect thoughts more clearly because they come from a more modern society. One of our formators in seminary explained that a book does not have to be about the Bible or about revelation to be considered spiritual reading. Dostoyevsky, Tolkien, Chesterton, Tolstoy - they may not write about revelation but they reveal man as made in the image and likeness of God. In *Pastores Dabo Vobis*, St. John Paul II says that "It is necessary that, following the example of Jesus who 'knew what was in humanity' (Jn 2:25; cf. 8:3-11), the priest should be able to know the depths of the human heart, to perceive difficulties and problems, to make meeting and dialogue easy, to create trust and cooperation, to express serene and objective judgments." We are all baptized into Christ's priesthood and we are all called to understand more deeply the human heart so that we can be Christ to others. I firmly believe that a good book can help us to do just that.