The Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Intention

SUNDAY, July 2 – The Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00 A.M. For the People of St. Francis
9:30 A.M. Sergio Demesa
11:00 A.M. Victoria Marino
12:30 P.M. Rino Del Carro
Filomena Tenaglia
Santo Mazzeo

MONDAY, July 3— Saint Thomas, Apostle
9:00 A.M. Michael Rauch

TUESDAY, July 4– Weekday
9:00 A.M. John Marchasalla

WEDNESDAY, July 5 – Saint Anthony Zaccaria
9:00A.M. Anthony Dalevia

THURSDAY, July 6– Saint Maria Goretti
9:00 A.M. Rita O'Brien

FRIDAY, July 7 – Weekday
9:00 A.M. Marie Salamone

SATURDAY, July 8– Weekday
9:00 A.M. Purgatorial Society
Peter Barbini Sr.

5:00P.M. For the People of S. Francis

SUNDAY, July 9 - The Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00 A.M. Holy Name
9:30 A.M. Phyllis Gleeson
11:00 A.M. Emeric Arus
12:30 P.M. Rino Del Carro
Maria Mendez

Today's Readings

The Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16a
Romans 6:3-4, 8-11
Matthew 10:37-42

Readings for the Week

MONDAY: Ephesians 2:19-22
John 20:24-29

TUESDAY: Genesis 19:15-29
Matthew 8:23-27

WEDNESDAY Genesis 21:5, 8-20a
Matthew 8:28-34

THURSDAY: Genesis 22:1b-19
Matthew 9:1-8

FRIDAY: Genesis 23:1-4, 19; 24:1-8, 62-67
Matthew 9:9-13

SATURDAY: Genesis 27:1-5, 15-2-
Matthew 9:14-17

The Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Zechariah 9:9-10
Romans 8:9, 11-13
Matthew 11:25-30

Welcome New Parishioners

We welcome those who registered in our parish during the month of June 2023.

Carol Marino
Carmen El Allali
Andres & Amanda Ortega

Baptisms

We welcome those who were Baptized during the month of June 2023.

Preston Frederick Ott
Delilah Rome Ortega
Victoria Esther El Allali

Marriage

Congratulations to those who were married in our Parish in the month of June 2023.

Alberto Auriti
&
Nicole Giordino

Purgatorials

The following names have been enrolled in our Purgatorial Society for the month of June 2023. Please remember to continue to pray for their families.

Helena Handermander
Eileen McGuire
Sandra Swanson Bilotto

Recently Deceased

The following have passed away during the month of June 2023. We continue to pray for the recently deceased members of our parish.

Darrin T. O'Connor (Hili)
Philip Kraft
Antoinette Lavelli
Mary Leighton

Monday, July 3, 2022
The Feast of
Saint Thomas the Apostle

Little is recorded of St. Thomas the Apostle. Thomas was probably born in Galilee to a humble family, but there is no indication that he was a fisherman. He was a Jew, but there is no account of how he became an apostle to Christ. Nevertheless, thanks to the fourth Gospel his personality is clearer to us than some of the other Twelve. Thomas' name occurs in Matthew (10:3), Mark (3:18), Luke (6) and Acts of the Apostles (1:13), but in the Gospel of John he plays a particularly distinctive part. Thomas is often condemned for his lack of belief, but Thomas was equally courageous, willing to stand by Jesus in dangerous times. He also relentlessly sought the Truth. Like an inquisitive child, he constantly asked questions. And, his wonderful profession, "My Lord and my God," is the clearest declaration of Jesus' divinity in Holy Scripture. When Jesus announced His intention of visiting the recently deceased Lazarus in Judea—a few miles from Jerusalem and dangerously close for someone as unpopular as He—Thomas said to his fellow disciples: "Let us also go, that we may die with him" (John 11:16). When the worried disciples wanted to keep Jesus from going for fear He would be stoned, Thomas, in a moment of bravery not often expressed by the Apostles before Pentecost, rallied the others to stay by their Master come what may. Later, in John 14:1-5 it was St. Thomas who raised an objection prior to the Last Supper: *"Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way where I am going."* Thomas said to Him, *"Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?"* With the keenness typical of the Twelve, Thomas misunderstands Jesus' reference to His death and resurrection. Thomas' question provides Jesus an opportunity to teach one of the most profound and difficult truths of His ministry. Jesus said to Thomas: (John 14:6) *"I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."* Lastly, and more famously, St. Thomas is remembered for being absent from the Upper Room the first time Jesus appeared to the disciples after His Resurrection. Thomas dismissed the accounts of the others by saying, *"Unless I see the mark of the nails in His hands and put my finger into the nail marks, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe"* (Luke 20:25). Eight days later Thomas made his act of faith. He fell at the feet of Jesus and said, *"My Lord and my God!"* and Jesus replied, *"Because you have seen me, Thomas, you believed. Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet believe"* (John 20:25-29). This incident gave rise to the expression "doubting Thomas." To this day, Saint Thomas is venerated as the Apostle of India. In fact, there exists a population of Christians along the Malabar Coast, on the western coast of India, who lay claim to conversion by St. Thomas. Their tradition holds that he built seven churches, was martyred during prayer by a spearing on the "Big Hill" near Madras, and was buried in Mylapore, on the east coast of India. Ultimately, St. Thomas' remains were transported to Ortona, Italy, where they reside today.

Remember in your prayers all those in our parish who are sick, that they may find health and comfort:

John Ross, Steven Joyce, Judy Hanley-Brickner, John Wrenn, Augustin Cisneros, Thomas Leiter, James Nunez, Vincent Wytak, Carol Ross, Jeffrey Hyans, Marie LoVolpe, Jessica St. Preux, Al Ciani, Alesha Moses, Nancy McCaffrey, Connie Fontana Christopher Wojtalik, Theresa Pacheco, William Goss, Luke Pacheco, Vincenza Papa, Jim Schneggenburger, Anthony Criscuolo, Samantha O'Sullivan, Marilyn Miller, John Carmody, Rosario Duran, Vivian Papa, Joel Steinmann, Anna Governali, Tim Graham, Antonio Postiglione, Mario Tamburello, Christopher Araimo, Charles Principato, Jim Kreitler, Humberto Cordova, John Schakir, Margaret Culhane, Benedicto Randazzo, Angelo Niakas, Peter Lopez & Catherine Caravana.

Also remember in your prayers all the deceased of the Parish. Please remember to continue to pray for vocations to the priesthood, religious life, diaconate, and married life.

Pray for Vocations

The Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time.

July 2, 2023

"As for you, go and proclaim the Kingdom of God"

Consider a vocation as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life.

Contact the Vocation Office at (718) 827-2454 or email:vocations@diobrook.org

FOCUS:

We are called to carry our cross and follow Jesus.

The readings today reflect on what we gain through sacrifice. Sacrifice is not just about what we give up, but rather what we discern to be unnecessary or in vain. When we put things aside, we then can find what is most important. Jesus teaches us that through sacrifice, we find our true reward with Him.

MASS COUNTS FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE 2023

The average attendance for the month of June (4 weekends) is as follows:

5pm	**77**
8am	**56**
9:30am	**92**
11am	**110**
12:30pm	**49**

Holy Name Society

On Sunday, July 9TH, the 8:00am Mass is the Holy Name Mass. The mission of the Holy Name Society is to promote devotion and reverence for the Holy Name of God and Jesus. What better way than to participate in the Holy Name Monthly Mass. All are invited to join in this celebration

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Eucharistic Adoration has concluded for the summer. I am grateful for our Deacons and their support in this service. Also, I appreciate all those who come to spend some time in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. Adoration will resume on Tuesday, September 5th at 8:00AM to 8:50AM.

PLEASE NOTE that Church will open in the summer at 8:15AM.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish Weekly Offering

Thank you for your continued generosity of giving each week. Your weekly offering helps us pay our monthly bills.

Sunday Collection	**$4,273.00**
Second Collection-Peter's Pence	*$585.00*

School parents must use church envelopes.

The Rectory office will be closed all day Tuesday, July 4th, in observance of Independence Day.

The office will reopen on Wednesday, July 5th, at 9:00AM.

Annual Catholic Appeal 2023
DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

THANK YOU to all who have supported the Annual Catholic Appeal. Our goal this year is **$41,679.**
As of June 26th we have pledged **$35,357** and paid **$25,128.68** towards our goal.
If you have not contributed to the Appeal, I ask you to prayerfully consider what you are able to give to help us reach our goal. Your generosity and support is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your support.

Next weekend, July 8TH and 9TH, the second collection will be for Maintenance & Repair.

Please be as generous as your means allow.

Thank you for your continued support.

June 2023 Winners

First Prize
Laura Salerno

Second Prize
Mrs. Lucy Kratz

Third Prize
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Bromley

Congratulations!

Cook Position

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION RECTORY NEEDS A COOK: FULL OR PART TIME. MONDAY TO FRIDAY. BENEFITS INCLUDED. CONTACT MSGR. FERRARESE AT 718-728-1613.

Associated Vincentian Charities of Brooklyn

For each car, truck or van, running or not, The Associated Vincentian Charities of Brooklyn will give back to St. Francis of Assisi $50/100 per vehicle. Maybe you don't have a vehicle, but a family member, friend or neighbor has an old or neglected vehicle in their driveway that they would like to donate.

Call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul at **(718) 491-2525.**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THIS WEEK

July 2—July 8

Sunday, July 2

Monday, July 3

Tuesday, July 4
Rectory Office Closed

Wednesday, July 5

Thursday, July 6
10-11:30AM-Legion of Mary—SFR

Friday, July 7

Saturday, July 8

NEXT WEEK

July 9—July 15

Sunday, July 9
8:00AM—Holy Name Mass

Monday, July 10

Tuesday, July 11
6:30PM AA Meeting

Wednesday, July 12
7:00PM-Baptism Class

Thursday, July 13
10-11:30AM-Legion of Mary—SFR

Friday, July 14

Saturday, July 15

Growing in FAITH™

Discovering **hope** and **joy** in the Catholic faith.

July 2023

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

Msgr. Ralph J. Maresca V.F., Pastor

One Minute Meditations

Room for God

"Make room therefore for Christ, and refuse entrance to all others. When you have Christ, you are rich and have need of (nothing) else." Thomas À Kempis

Give love

One way to give thanks to God for all the gifts He Has bestowed on you is to work for the poor and vulnerable. Sharing your gifts with those less fortunate is how God intends you to use what He gives you. *"Much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more"* (Luke 12:48).

Say, "Amen!"

The proper form when receiving Communion is to reply "Amen" when the Eucharistic minister raises the Host or Chalice and pronounces it, "The Body (or Blood) of Christ." By responding this way, you openly state your belief in the presence of Christ in the Eucharistic bread and wine, as well as in His Body, the Church.

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Respond to the gift of the Holy Spirit

God loves us so much, He gives us what He values most – His only Son (John 3:16) and His Holy Spirit in Baptism (Romans 5:5) so we can have access to God's divine life and love. The Holy Spirit's presence with the entire Church throughout the centuries is as a comfort, consolation, leader and guide. To accept this gift, we can …

Listen for Him: Spending time with Scripture can help tune our hearts to hear the *"still small voice"* (1 Kings 19:12) of the Holy Spirit. The better we are attuned to God's voice, the more likely we'll hear Him amidst the noise of the world.

Consult Him: Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit, the Counselor, to lead His disciples to truth (John 14:6). He helps us to see, evaluate, and choose like Christ. Call on the Holy Spirit when you're facing a difficult situation or decision.

Take refuge in Him: Every day, entrust yourself to the Holy Spirit and dedicate your day to His service. Let Him guide your actions.

Actualize Confirmation graces: Upon our Confirmation, the Holy Spirit fortified and empowered our souls with His seven Gifts: Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety, and Fear of the Lord (Isaiah 11:2). When we rely on the Holy Spirit, we can overcome temptations to fear, distrust, and selfishness with His powerful gifts.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

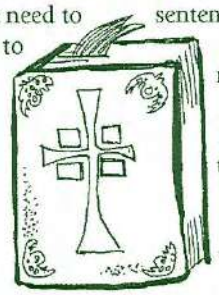
Why do Catholics fold their hands when they pray?

The custom of folding our hands comes from ninth century Europe where folded hands symbolized obedience by those subordinate to the lord or king. This gesture was also used by priests to show respect to bishops. The faithful adopted it to signify obedience to God's will.

In some cultures today, such as India and other parts of Asia, clasped hands are also a sign of reverence. In fact, Mother Teresa was often photographed greeting people with this gesture.

Use the Bible well

There's a saying, "Bibles that are falling apart usually belong to people who aren't." The Church wants us to read the Bible daily because it contains everything we need to know to live a full, Christian life. Try these ideas to use your Bible well.



Choose the right version. We hear the New American Bible during Mass but any of the approved Catholic translations will do. Most important is having a modern edition that you can understand. If you need advice, ask your pastor or priest.

Use the aids. The Bible contains customs and terms that are foreign to us. Read the introductions and footnotes for helpful explanations.

Focus on passages. The Bible will make more sense if you read the sections that are grouped together rather than sentence by sentence.

Mark it up. Underline passages and make notes in the margins as you read to make your book more useful.

Read aloud. The Bible began as an oral tradition. Hearing the passages may help them become clearer than just reading them.

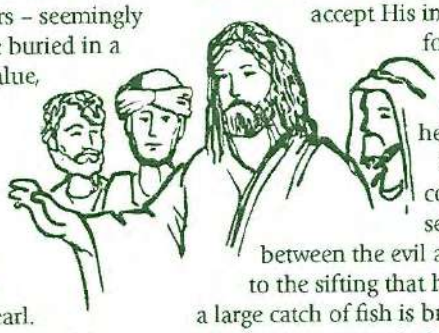
Read slowly. Let the words sink in.

Place yourself in the scene. What would you do? How would you react?

Put it to use. What you read in the Bible will help you find strength to meet the challenges of life. Don't just read it. Live it.

from Scripture — Matthew 13:44-52, The only thing worth everything

Jesus used the parables in this Gospel passage to emphasize the life-changing value of the Kingdom. In the first parable, a man discovers – seemingly by accident – a treasure buried in a field. Recognizing its value, he sells everything he has to buy the field. In the second story, a merchant finds a valuable pearl after diligent searching. He also sells everything to possess the precious pearl.



By these parables, Jesus taught that being part of God's Kingdom – accepting His love for us and loving others as He loves – is the only way to live that will completely fulfill our hearts. God's unconditional love is worth everything we have. If we accept His invitation (He forces no one), our lives may change as our hearts change.

Finally, Jesus compared the separation between the evil and righteous to the sifting that happens when a large catch of fish is brought ashore. When we put our whole life in service to God's love, then the individual pieces fall into place around that love, and anything contrary to it falls away.

Q & A — Is there a special prayer I can pray for healing of a serious illness?

Jesus knew that sickness can bring misery and isolation, and He dedicated much of his ministry to healing every kind of illness – physical or spiritual. He wanted us to see in His healing ministry God's saving power and concern for His children.

The Church continues Jesus' concern for the sick in the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. It is administered by a priest to a baptized person who may be in danger of death because of illness or old age, through prayer and the anointing of the body with special oil. The effects of the sacrament include a special grace of healing and comfort, and the forgiving of the person's sins.

Anyone baptized Catholic, regardless of age, can receive the sacrament if his or her health is seriously impaired. It can also be administered before surgery and can be received more than once if the original illness gets worse or if another serious sickness is diagnosed. Please see your pastor or parish priest to receive this important Sacrament.

Feasts & Celebrations

July 16 – Our Lady of Mt. Carmel (1251). The Blessed Mother appeared to St. Simon Stock in England, carrying the brown scapular, a sign of her favor of the Carmelite Order, and promised whoever wore the scapular until death would avoid the fires of hell.

July 23 – St. Bridget of Sweden (1373). Born in Uppland, Sweden to nobility, she was a wife, mother, reformer, and mystic. She is known for founding the Order of the Most Holy Savior, which was approved in 1370.

July 25 – St. James the Apostle (1st Century). When Jesus called St. James and his brother, St. John, to become apostles, they promptly left their father in a fishing boat. He was one of the three apostles to witness Jesus' Transfiguration.

July 29 – Saints Martha, Mary, and Lazarus (1st Century). These holy siblings often hosted Jesus at their house in Bethany. Although Martha was corrected for being anxious about many things, Jesus rewarded her tremendous faith by raising Lazarus from the dead.

Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

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(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the *Revised Standard Version* and the *New American Bible - Revised*)

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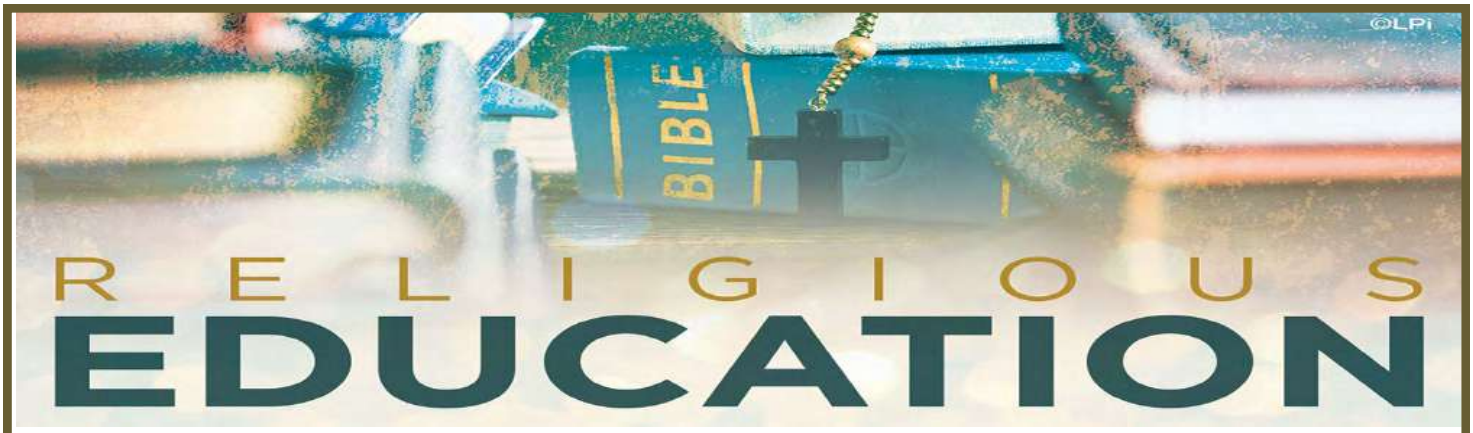
JULY 2023
LECTOR ASSIGNMENTS

	THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	SEVENTEENTHSUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
	JULY 1-2	JULY 8-9	JULY 15-16	JULY 22-23	JULY29-30
Saturday 5:00 P.M.	Dolores Ratkowski	Edward Kubina	Debbie Skinner	Dolores Ratkowski	Edward Kubina
Sunday 8:00 A.M.	Robert Laucella	Andrew Soltesz	Robert Laucella	Andrew Soltesz	Robert Laucella
Sunday 9:30 A.M.	Josephine Corso	Patrick O'Toole	Maria Brooks	Marta O'Toole	Josephine Corso
Sunday 11:00 A.M.	Jane Di Donato	Carol Hickey	Jane Di Donato	Carol Hickey	Jane Di Donato
Sunday 12:30 P.M.	Jackie Macchia	Anna Maria Del Carro	Concetta D'Angelo	Anna Maria Tenaglia	Marie Valentini

***** REMINDER *****
Once you are scheduled, if you cannot fulfill your assignment, please make every effort to call and get a replacement. Thank you

We are the Land of the Free
because of the Brave.
From our first flag to our current flag, I stand and salute! God Bless America! Happy Independence Day!!!
The Priest, Deacons & Staff of St. Francis of Assisi
wish you a Safe and Happy Independence Day.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TEACHER NEEDED

St. Francis of Assisi Religious Education Program is in need of a 2nd Grade teacher.

Classes are on Sunday mornings following the 9:30am Mass. Class begins at 10:30am and concludes at 12 Noon. If you are interested in helping form our young people in our Catholic Faith, or have any questions, please call Msgr. Maresca at the rectory, 718-728-7801 or Sister Francesca at 718-278-0259.

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The *Role of a Religious Education Teacher* is to bring our young people closer to Jesus and grow in their faith as Catholics. Through their service the catechist nurtures and mentors the faith and spiritual growth of the children they teach so that they may form a firm commitment to follow Christ. A catechist must be at least 18 years old, a practicing catholic in good standing who attends weekly Mass regularly, has a love for children, the desire to grow in faith and share that journey with young people, the ability to relate well to others, and a willingness to be of service to the Church.

Please prayerfully consider this wonderful opportunity.

It is never too early to register or re-register for Religious Education.
Classes for all 1st through 8th Grade Public School students.
Call the Religious Education office for more information at (718) 278-0259
or email us at **dre@sfaacademy.org**.

The registration form can be found in the back of the church and in our weekly Bulletin.

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Classes begin on Sunday, September 17th for all grades.

Keep in mind that Diocesan guidelines require ***two years*** of instructions prior to the reception of a Sacrament.

St. Francis of Assisi Office of Faith Formation
REGISTRATION FORM – 2023-2024

Registration remains open all year. *If you have any financial questions or scheduling conflicts, please do not hesitate to call our office so we can discuss your situation and work together to find a solution.*

Tuition for the 2023-2024 year

Tuition for Grades 1-7:	**1 child**	$100	**2 children or more**	$175	
Additional Fees:	First Communion Fee	$150	Grade 8 Confirmation Fee	$150	

Family Last Name: _____

Father's Name: _____ Living/Deceased *(circle one)* Religion: _____

Mother's Name: _____ Living/Deceased *(circle one)* Religion: _____
Include maiden name

Student Address _____
Street Town State Zip

Home Phone: _____ Work: _____

Cell (Mother): _____ Cell (Father): _____

Email: _____ School: _____

Are you registering a NEW or Grade 1 student: Yes: _____ No: _____
If you are registering a new or Grade 1 student you must include a copy of the child's Certificate of Baptism.

	Student Name	Date of Birth	Grade in Sept 2018
1.			
2.			
3.			

EMERGENCY CONTACT: In case of emergency who should we contact other than Parent/s.

Name: _____ Relationship: _____ Contact Number: _____

Is there any additional information we should know? (family situations, medical conditions, allergies, special needs, etc.) If "NO" please write "NONE".

_____
_____
_____

Are you registered in the Parish? _____

☐ I am interested in volunteering as a catechist, hall monitor, office assistant, or class parent. Please contact me.

Office Use ONLY

Date: _____ Amount: _____ Form of Payment: _____

Office Notes: _____

SUMMER Schedule

Summer Rectory Office Hours - 2023

Summer Rectory office hours will begin Monday, June 26th and conclude on Monday September 4th. Regular office hours will resume on Tuesday, September 5th.

Summer Hours:

Monday—Thursday	9:00am to 12 Noon * 1:00pm to 5:00pm
Friday	9:00am to 12 Noon * 1:00pm to 3:00pm
Lunch Hour	12:00 Noon to 1:00pm
Saturday	9:00am to 2:00pm
Sundays and Holidays	Closed

Summer Weekly Collections

As the nice weather provides us with weekend opportunities to get away, please remember the importance of your weekly offerings. While the summer months bring a dip in our Mass attendance and weekly offerings, it is important that we try to meet our normal operating expenses. Those expenses do not change with the summer season.

Please consider submitting your summer envelopes before you leave for vacation. Those monies help us pay our summer bills and keep our budget balanced. As you know our fiscal year ends August 31, 2023, so it is important we maintain a balanced budget. I appreciate your cooperation in this matter. As always, thank you for you understanding, your generosity and your spirit of sacrificial giving.

Have a peaceful, prayerful, enjoyable and safe summer!

When going on vacation and you need to know the nearest Catholic Church, www.masstimes.org Will assist you.

SUMMER WEATHER

As the warm weather approaches, we are blessed to have air conditioning in our church to keep us cool. Unfortunately, it is not easy to please everyone. Some say it is too cool, others say it is not cool enough. A suggestion that you bring a sweater might help to solve the situation if you feel the cold. Also, if it is sunny, you may want to sit on the schoolyard side of church where it is usually warmer from the suns rays coming through the windows. THANK YOU.