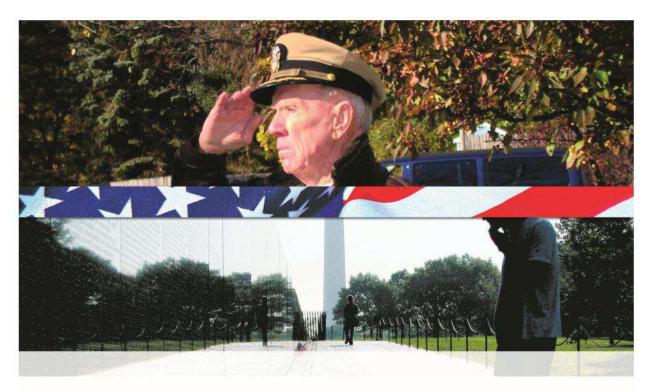


St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Diocese of Peoria 904 E Lake Ave Peoria Heights stthomaspeoria.org



Veterans Day



Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reading I: 2 Maccabees 7: 1-2,9-14
Reading II:2 Thessalonians 2:16-3:5
Gospel: Luke 20:27-38

The Sadducees in today's Gospel provide us with a model of a people without hope. Their cynical question portrays their unbelief in the resurrection of the dead. As Christians we may wonder about what life after death will be like. We may try to imagine what heaven will be. Even though our faith does not provide us with some specifics, it fills us with hope for an everlasting life of intimacy with God, the source of all love. As we reflect on death, we are footed in this hope. It gives us cause to live our lives differently. Our God is a God of the living. We are called to live as witnesses of this life. We do this as we share daily in the paschal mystery. By recognizing in our life the pattern of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, we are filled with hope.



Monday, November 11, 2013

7:00am Dec Mem Sweeney/Conlon Families/Frances Farraher

8:00am T Joseph Varkey/The Joseph Family

Tuesday, November 12, 2013

7:00am
8:00am
9:00am
Dr Paul Norris/Dr Gerald Schwab

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

7:00am Norma Mall/Ed & Cathy Mallow Family 8:00am James Kuchan/Len & Maureen Kuchan

Thursday, November 14, 2013

7:00am Russel Workman/James Denton 8:00am Mr & Mrs. Faszczyk/The Jeffrey Family

9:00am Carl & Pat Drone/Family

Friday, November 15, 2013

7:00am Paul Coogan/JoanCominiti 8:00am Fran Hafner/Thelma Antonacci

Saturday, November 16, 2013

8:00am Living & Deceased members of the Wolgemuth

Family

5:00pm Jim Schoeplein/Mark & Mary Markovich

Sunday, November 17, 2013

6:30am Joan Becks/Friends

8:00am Gerald Buckman/John & Cheryl Washburn 9:30am Paul & Agnes Grawey/Jim & Pam Wright

11:00am For the People

5:00pm Tony Gay/Pete & Kathryn Martin



HAITI MISSION CONNECTION will be selling coffee and vanilla after Sat 5:00 pm and Sunday 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 am Masses this weekend.

SENIOR CITIZENS will have lunch Monday, November 11 at noon at the 50's Diner at the Metro Center. All are welcome for good food and good fun.

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER GROUP Monday, November 11 at 7:00 pm.

ROSARY FOR PEACE Tuesday, November 12 at 10:00 am in the chapel.

BIBLE STUDY Tuesday, November 12 at 1:00 pm in parish office meeting room.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY Tuesday, November 12 at 7:00 pm in the parish office meeting room.

FIRST RECONCILIATION for second grade students from St. Thomas School is Tuesday, November 12 at 7:00 pm in the church.

BIBLE STUDY Wednesday, November 13 at 8:45 am in the parish office meeting room.

CCD Wednesday, November 13 from 6:15-7:30 pm in the school.

RCIA Wednesday, November 13 at 7:00 pm in the school library.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP Thursday, November 14 at 7:00 pm.

MEN'S CLUB Thursday, November 14 at 8:00 pm in the old gym basement.

KIDS KRAFT KORNER Saturday, November 16 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm in the school gym and cafeteria.

Our Sympathy

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED THIS

WEEK: Michael Wagner; Eileen Farrel, mother of Kathleen Travers and grandmother of Patrick, Caitlin and Bobby Travers; Sam Gudeman, brother of Sara Melton; Becky Domenighini.

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

Please keep the men and women in the military in your prayers:

James Blanchard
*Dan McDonough
*Glen Louthan
*Chris Lehman
*Bridget Kellev
*Travis Williams
*Alex Fritz
*Jason Kidd
*Roseanne Milrov
*Victoria Coers
*Scot Wettach
*Jacob Moody
*Liam O'Neill
*Erich Snyder
*Drake Comfort
*Mark Fagenkrant
*Fred Wilson
*Jason Thyne
**!!

- *Ricardo DeLaCruz *Dan Svymbersky *Jeff R. Dudley
- *Joe Espinosa *Jason Stevenor *Michael McKee Joe Kuchan *Tom Stimeling *Curtis Bohlman *Ryan Schatsiek
- *Joe Moran *JoanneMcGregor *William Kelley, III *Michael O'Brien *NaToane Russell *Casey Redington *Darren Hodgkins *Joshua Logan Stroot *Jeff Good
- *David Hodges Scott C. Powers
- *William Newport *Alexis Moran *Ben McCabe
- *Brian Behm *Christopher Miller *F.Michael Schachtrup
- *Maegan Brown *Jim Comfort
 - 'Jason Blankenship *Farrah Bramble
 - *Mackinzie Wilts *Lt. Blake Baldi *Craig Bohlman
 - Jordan Good *Anthony Alessi
- *Nathan M. Heiser *Lt. Col. James Godfrey



Christmas Ornaments

The Heading Avenue Franciscans are selling the Rolan Johnson Christmas ornaments as a fundraiser for the Retirement Fund for the sisters. They are introducing the nineteenth annual Rolan Johnson, limited-edition Christmas ornament, entitled "Joy to the World." They are available for \$34.



The sessions for RCIA —for anyone interested in joining the Catholic Church-began Wednesday, October 2 at 7:00 pm in the school library. Let us know if you are aware of anyone who might have an interest. Call Sr. Rachel at 688-3446.

The program has two dimensions: 1) for adults interested in exploring the Catholic Church; 2) for children, beginning at age 6 who have not been baptized or catechized in their grade school years.

Some of the candidates in the R.C.I.A. are in need of a sponsor. If you would be willing to walk with someone through the weekly meetings to support him or her in this discernment and study, please call Sr. Rachel, 688-3446.

Book of Remembrance

During the month of November there will be a Book of Remembrance in the Gathering Space of the church. You are welcome to enter the names of family and/or friends for whom you would like prayers. The book will be a part of each Mass, carried to the altar during the Offertory procession.

Prayer for Fall

God of the seasons, there is a time for everything; there is a time for dying and a time for rising. We need courage to enter into the transformation process.

God of autumn, the trees are saying goodbye to their green, letting go of what has been. We, too, have our moments of surrender, with all their insecurity and risk. Help us to let go when we need to do so.

God of harvest wagons and fields of ripened grain, many gifts of growth lie within the season of our surrender. We must wait for harvest in faith and hope. Grant us patience when we do not see the blessings.

God of life, you believe in us, you enrich us, you entrust us with the freedom to choose life. For all this, we are grate-

Fair Trade Coffee Sale



The Haiti Mission Connection will sell fair trade coffee and vanilla after the 5:00 pm Mass on November 9 and after the 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 am Masses on November 10 in the lower level of the church. A great gift for the Holidays!

Save the Date!! Mary of Nazareth, a film at Landmark about the Blessed Mother—December 7th.

Sponsor of the Week

We Need your HELP!

St. Thomas Food Pantry

Following is the suggested list of food items:

Spaghetti Sauce Rice Spaghetti Canned Fruit Pancake Mix Syrup **Dry Beans** Cereal Tuna Soup Crackers

Beef Stew

Canned Vegetables Peanut Butter Mac & Cheese

Instant Potatoes

We greatly appreciate your generosity. We especially need

Cereal Soup Tuna

Beef Stew Canned Fruit Instant Potatoes

Please remember St. Thomas Church in your will...

Weekly Collection

		10/27/13		Fiscal YTD	
Collections needed	\$	25,154	\$	427,618	
Sunday Collections	\$	15,732	\$	359,720	
Electronic Collections	\$	3,313	\$	43,891	
Total Collected	\$	19,045	\$	403,611	
Overage (Shortage)	\$	(6,109)	\$	(24,007)	

We appreciate your generosity.

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Support and Resources for Families, Caregivers, & those struggling with Alzheimer's & Dementia

To be held in the lower level of the church on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 10 am. Next meeting will be November 20.

> Please bring "Your Person", for social and recreational time as well!

Call 369-2339 for more information, or just drop in.



Men's Club Meeting

The Men's Club will meet on Thursday, November 14 at 8:00 pm in the old gym. All men of the parish are welcome.



Donate your car to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. The car will be picked up within 24 hours, the tax paperwork will be sent to you, and the donation stays in the community: www.svdpusacars.com, or call (800) 322-8284.

St. Thomas Website: stthomaspeoria.org St. Thomas e-mail: parishoffice@stthomas-church.net



Needed

Teachers for Liturgy of the Word at 9:30 am Mass on Sunday

See Sr. Rachel or call 688-3446.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

St. Thomas School

Grade 2

Collin Anderson Katherine Kube

Elly Bare Richard Kube

Katie Bruch Samantha Lard

Makenzie Buckardt Harper Lynch

Lillian Clark Anna Meister

James Crawford Nathan Oliver

Ava Fontana Adam Pham

Thomas Graham Liam Piper

Sean Hawkins Violet Schramm

Niamh Hinderliter Cullen Scoby

Jessy Hoang Bryce Seaton

Haidi Koci Elle Seshul

John Paul Sleiman

Mrs. Kathy Herr – Teacher

Mrs. Lynne Barisch – Teacher's Aide



An Autumn Tryptich

By John J. Conley

Interpreting texts of Pope Francis has become a 24/7 worldwide industry. For those accustomed to the precision of the theological treatise, interpreting the pope's thought is a challenge. His freewheeling interviews and informal sermons have permitted every commentator to construct his or her own Francis, complete with the cherry-picked quote that proves the pope endorses the commentator's particular political-theological program. Early in his pontificate Francis has given an indication of one of his central concerns. But it is neither a program nor a theory. It is an image.

Three talks Pope Francis gave during September point to the face of Jesus as central to the pope's spirituality, ethics and sense of ecclesial mission.

In the preface to his celebrated interview with Francis, published in **America** on Sept. 30, Antonio Spadaro, S.J., describes the furnishings of the pope's austere room. It is the faces on the statues and icons that capture the journalist's attention. "The spirituality of Jorge Mario Bergoglio is not made of 'harmonized energies,' as he would call them, but of human faces: Christ, St. Francis, St. Joseph and Mary." When Francis offers a spiritual self-portrait, he describes himself as standing under the gaze of Christ. "I am a sinner whom the Lord has looked upon." The pope illustrates this gaze of Christ by referring to Caravaggio's "The Calling of St. Matthew," a painting he had often contemplated in the Roman Church of Saint Louis of France in Rome. It is the gesture of Christ, not a simple interior movement of grace, that leads Bergoglio to a more authentic discipleship.

In his address to the International Federation of Catholic Medical Associations on Sept. 20, Pope Francis categorically condemned abortion and euthanasia. But his speech did not emphasize the customary philosophical, scientific and legal arguments. Rather, his critique appealed directly to the face of Christ. "Each one of us is invited to recognize in the fragile human being the face of the Lord, who, in his human flesh, experienced the indifference and loneliness to which we often condemn the poorest."

The condemnation of abortion drew a parallel to the infant Jesus marked for destruction by Herod even before his birth. "Each child who is unborn, but is unjustly condemned to be aborted, bears the face of Jesus Christ, bears the face of the Lord, who, even before he was born, and then as soon as he was born, experienced the rejection of the world." Similarly, the condemnation of euthanasia pointed to the face of Christ present in the elderly targeted for elimination. "Each old person, even if infirm or at the end of his or her days, bears the face of Christ. They cannot be discarded."

The homily he delivered on Sept. 21 for the feast of St. Matthew returns to the gaze of Christ that leads to conversion. "Matthew feels in his heart the gaze of the Lord who looked upon him.... It changed his life. We say he was converted." In the case of St. Peter, Christ's glance leads to remorse and repentance. "So did Peter change, who, after denying his Lord then met his gaze and wept bitterly." The countenance of Christ not only converts the sinner; it brings about a moral restoration that is nothing less than the reestablishment of human dignity. "And sinners....felt that Jesus had looked on them and that gaze of Jesus on them, I believe, was like a breath on embers.... Jesus lifted them up and gave them back their dignity." It is the destiny of the church to live under the haunting gaze of Jesus as he summons the church to mission. "All of us find ourselves before that gaze, that marvelous gaze, and we go forward in life, in the certainty that he looks upon us. He too, however, awaits us in order to look on us definitively and that final gaze of Jesus upon our lives will be forever. It will be eternal."

Pope Francis' September triptych on the face of Jesus bears nothing of the sentimental. Standing before the face of Christ is a call to repentance, to conversion of life and to costly solidarity with the innocents marked for death, just as it is a call to receive God's fathomless mercy. Pope Francis speaks naturally on the level of vision and intuition. His rhetoric of the image will both attract and perplex. It is neither a proof nor a refutation. There are no explanatory footnotes. It is an unvarnished call for the church and every Christian to undergo reform by standing under the gaze of Christ. In the transforming light of that face, the rest will follow.

John J. Conley, S.J., holds the Knott Chair in Philosophy and Theology at Loyola University Maryland in Baltimore, Md.

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SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Baptism class is held for all parents before the baptism of their child. Please contact Sr. Rachel to schedule the class. Next Baptisms: November 24 at 11:00 am Mass.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays: 4:00-4:45 pm & 7:00-8:00 pm or by appointment with a priest Confessions are held in the confessionals in the daily Mass Chapel

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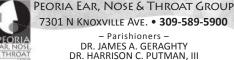
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