

Cor ad cor loquitur...

My dear parish family,

As you read this “double” column, I am down the shore trying to squeeze in three vacation days before the summer ends. I hope that all of you have been able to get away for at least a few days during these past two months. Doesn't it always seem that summer passes too quickly?

I am grateful to Father Ashley for celebrating all the Masses here at Sacred Heart this weekend.

There are three topics that I would like to cover this week, all quite different from each other.

Firstly, as promised last weekend, I send you the list of the seven capital sins and their opposite virtues. I sincerely hope that we will all continue to strive to live the virtues and not the vices.

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| 1. Pride | Humility |
| 2. Avarice | Charity |
| 3. Lust | Chastity |
| 4. Envy | Kindness |
| 5. Gluttony | Temperance |
| 6. Wrath | Patience |
| 7. Sloth | Diligence |

Some of you expressed an interest in the two quotes from Saint Augustine. They are “The God who made you without you, will not save you without you” and “Love and do what you will.”

Secondly, I want to share with you this excerpt from the spiritual diary of one of our parishioners who gave me permission to do so. I found that by reading it I gained an insight into her soul, into how she thinks. We all bring such different perspectives and spiritual gifts to the community!

Yesterday, I had the most amazing experience happen to me. I went off to 8 o'clock Mass as I normally do most Sunday mornings, by myself. I arrived with enough time to sit down and notice these two beautiful panels that seemed to be room dividers at the front of the church. I was instantly attracted to them. One was light with only hints of tan and clay coloring. The other was strictly black and white. The more I observed them, the more compelled I felt to have one. I could already hear my husband asking, "What did you need this for?" "You paid how much?" I knew buying one of these panels was probably not in the cards for me just because I didn't need it. Everything these days comes down to needing and wanting. I couldn't have too many wants with the economy this slow. However, I was undoubtedly attracted to these pieces.

Mass began and a gentleman sat right behind me. I felt somewhat uncomfortable because I could hear his breath was heavy with the added effect of a wheezing cough. (It was obvious that he had a cold as many of us do at this time of year.) I decided that when it was time to sit again, I would move slightly to my right so that I was no longer directly in front of him, providing him space and for me as well. As I was sitting there, I was remembering what Marianne Williamson once said, “That man is Jesus over there...and that woman is Jesus over there... and there's Jesus over there and over there... and he's Jesus and she's Jesus...” In other words, Jesus is in each one of us everywhere! With these thoughts, I felt more at ease and sent love to each

person in church that day. In the meantime, another two people walked in to church and sat diagonally behind me to my right this time. I didn't turn to see who they were. I didn't feel I needed to know.

We stood up once more to listen to the Gospel and then we sat down. Father Stephen asked to draw our attention to the objects to his left that he referred to as the Shroud. It was at that instant that I saw the face of Jesus in the panels. "Wow," I thought. It was another wonderful moment. I was just thinking of how Jesus is everywhere and there, before me, is His image on the cloths I was so drawn to. Father Stephen explained how the Shroud was the cloth in which Jesus was buried and how if you look closely you can see the image of Jesus. It was no longer a wonder why I was so utterly attracted to these panels that were displayed before me.

Father Stephen finished his homily and we began the Liturgy of the Eucharist. We stood up, sat down, and stood up once more to pray the Our Father. I don't normally reach my hands out for praying the Our Father as others do, however, I was feeling this strong pull as if the person who sat diagonally over my right shoulder was somehow touching me without physically doing so. I continued feeling this strong pull toward that person, even though no action was taken.

It was now time to offer the sign of peace. I turned over my right shoulder to shake that person's hand, only to find she was embracing the other person with whom she came to church. I proceeded to shake the hand of the gentleman who stood in my pew. Afterwards, I could see the two people behind me had finished embracing and were waiting to shake the hands of others. To my surprise and delight, it turned out that this woman happened to be my very best friend from town. God placed her there to reassure me that Jesus was behind me, all around me.

I experienced feelings of joy and laughter that day. I have experienced many times like this where I can see the works of God throughout my day, but not twice in one day, in quite some time. It reminded me of when I took the time to be in the present and how my life was so in line with God. I would hear and see God everywhere. Amen!

Finally, I want to keep you up-to-date with our monthly financial reports. When we planned our budget (balanced, of course!) for the new fiscal year that began on July 1, we estimated that the total Sunday collections for the month of July would be \$16,827. Thanks to your generosity, we exceeded that projection by \$115 as the total came to \$16,942. On Stewardship Sunday we will give you a full report on the fiscal year that ended on June 30. Thanks to your continued support of the parish, we had a good year overall. I am especially grateful to all of you who contributed so generously to the Repairs and Maintenance fund. Soon you will see some of the projects (such as the renovation of the front doors of the church) brought to fruition now that we have enough in reserves to make such expenditures. In closing, I want to express my sincere gratitude to the Finance Council members who have always given me such good advice.

Yours in the Sacred Heart of Jesus,

Fr. Stephen

Happenings

September 5, 10am Mass – Blessing of Book Bags
Bring your school book bags to church to be blessed!

September 11 & 12, after all Masses – Sacred Heart and Saint Mary's is sponsoring A Goods of Conscience Sale with Fr. Andrew O'Connor at St. Mary's Church in Closter. Clothing, placemats, vestments, etc. made by the Mayan people will be for sale in Fr. Troy Hall.

September 12, after all Masses – Knights of Columbus Annual Pancake Breakfast at Saint Anthony's School cafeteria in Northvale. \$6.50 for adults, \$20 for four people for kids, family max of \$25. Proceeds benefit our parishes, school, and local communities.

September 15, from 9am – 1pm – St. Peter's in River Edge will be hosting a Fair Trade Speaker's Tour with Senor Pedro Ascensio, a farmer of the Las Colinas Coffee Co-op in El Salvador.
For information, contact Mary Bertain at 201-783-3885.

September 24, 4:30pm – Lisa Pflug invites Sacred Heart to her annual fundraiser supporting ISMS Operation Kids 2011 mission trip to Kenya. Rockleigh Equestrian Center, 24 Piermont Road, Rockleigh. BBQ, Live Band, Dancing, Silent Auction, 50/50 and Tricky Tray. RSVP 201-934-3422. ISMSoperationkids.org Thanks for your support!

September 24 – January 22 – Statue of Liberty National Monument/Ellis Island Immigration Museum in New York will have an exhibit called "Women & Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America". The exhibit features nun's habits, artifacts, multimedia images, photos, and historic narratives depicting the impact Catholic sisters have had in the U.S. The exhibition's web site is womenandspirit.org.

September 25 – Haworth 5kRun/Walk. For information and to pre-register, please visit haworth5k.org.

October 2, 9am-3:00pm – Women's Retreat at Sacred Heart Parish Hall. Sr. Linda Klaiss, SSJ will speak on "Women of God – Called, Gifted, and Sent". Pre-registration is necessary. Registration forms can be found on the website sacredhearthaworth.com and in the church rack in the lobby. For more information, call Sr. Joanne or email at shpahaw@aol.com.

October 23, 6:30am-10:00pm – Marian Pilgrimage to the National Shrine in our nation's capitol. The deadline is September 20. The cost is \$30. Please contact Barbara LaPorte at 201-384-9753 or barbara.a.laporte@gmail.com. Forms can be found in the Church lobby bookcase.

Mass intentions for this week

SATURDAY, AUGUST 28TH

5:00 Yolanda Rogali

SUNDAY, AUGUST 29TH

9:00 **Our Deceased Members**

11:00 David Layne

MONDAY, AUGUST 30TH

8:30 Bill Heidelbergger

TUESDAY, AUGUST 31ST

8:30 Michael Jankiewicz

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1ST

8:30 Phil Marino

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2ND

8:30 Bill Heidelbergger

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD

8:30 Yolanda Rogali

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4TH

5:00 Bill Heidelbergger

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5TH

9:00 **Our Deceased Members**

11:00 Simonaro & Margherita
Emonuele (living)

Next Sunday's Scripture Readings:

First Reading: Wisdom 9:13-18b

Second Reading: Philemon 9-10, 12-17

Gospel: Luke 14:25-33



Pictured here with her parents Michelle and Douglas is Lauren Szukics who was baptized last weekend. Congratulations!

I saw God today

Children in our summer RE program were asked to write where they saw God today. Here are some responses...

"I saw God and heard Him when I was walking because you have to be very, very, very quiet."

"One time my mom sat near my bed when I was going to sleep. When she left it felt like God sat there."

More responses to come...