

July 13-19, 2015

- July 13 • 6pm • Rc • Maria Goretti † Albert Rodgers
July 14 • 6pm • Rc • Kateri Tekakwitha † Joseph Kehrl
July 15 • 9am • Rc • Bonaventure † Thomas Coyle
July 17 • 6pm • Rc • † Special Intentions

July 18/19 • 16th Sunday of the Year

- 4pm • J † Annamae Flaim r/o Nick & Childen
5:45pm • M † Cele O'Brien r/o Dan & Kathy Milefsky
8:15am • J † Thomas Gulash r/o Donna & Jessica
10am • M † Sarah Kelmalis r/o Husband, Tony

❖ **STEWARDSHIP: M:** S:1089; Dues: 390; Campaign: 620
• **J:** S:2045; Dues:375; BF: 615; Campaign: 400
• myEoffering: M:\$45 • J: \$15
Stewardship of time, talent & treasure!

❖ **Scripture:** Am 7:12-15; Eph 1:3-14; Mk 6:7-13
• Next Week: Jer 23:1-6; Eph 2:13-18; Mk 6:30-34

❖ Fill out the forms, if you're healthy & would like to be prayed for in times of need!
.... • Roy Gius • Mary Balkiewicz • Bea Gius
• John Washko • Dorothy Yanuskiewicz • Rose Ann & Tracey Aponick • Jean & Alice Jarzinko • Joseph Washko • Ed & Sally McNamee • Jen Gilliam • Grace Snover • Loretta Zienkiewicz • Betty Lou Torpey • Vickie Hartz • John Tait • Bill Rydz • Ann Lewis • Bob Fellin • Francis Hillibush • Gordy Weikel • Nancy Blackwell • Kathy Milefsky

❖ **Birthday Blessings:** Pam Brown, Alexis Henschenski, Joshua Caddy: 7/12; Ashley Bright: 7/13; Ashley Campanici, William Hall; Toni Osborne, Ronald Savakinas: 7/14; Patrick Edmondson, Ellen Wiley: 7/15; Roseanne Pezzolla: 7/16; Richard Shadler: 7/17; Michael Schlauch, Scott Careyyva, Megan Grohol: 7/18; Anna Grabosky, Francine DeFederico: 7/19. • **†Peg Burns:** Eternal rest, grant unto her, O Lord...

❖ **N.B: Parish Office** 'til mid-August, the office is open only on an **as-needed basis**. We'll be praying for the health of our parish secretary, Mary & her family. Request items, we'll try to get them to you at the weekend Mass. Best to use email if you can! Your understanding is appreciated.

❖ **St. Joseph's 50/50:** July drawing is underway!
❖ **Bishop's Annual Appeal:** The Appeal continues as the \$4M mark has been achieved towards \$5M goal! If you haven't made your contribution yet, you can do so via the parish, web or mail.

❖ **A Parishioner is....** One who is registered, participates regularly in the liturgical life of the parish (e.g. Sunday Mass), demonstrates support by the gift of Time, Talent & Treasure!

❖ **Interested in our Catholic faith?** Ask, encourage, invite! Share the gift of faith!
❖ **Knights of Columbus:** Mtg. next Sun. 7/19 @ Mass @ M.
❖ **See us:** stmarystjoseph.net
❖ facebook.com/stmarystjosephrcc

❖ **Stewardship:** *No one can do everything, everyone can do something!* Make an offering of a gift in thanks for summer fun!

❖ **Adult Ed:** Our series picks up this Mon, July 13th @ 6pm Mass @ Rc. Topic: "**Who is Jesus?** Just a Good Man or Lord of Our Lives?" Bring your Catholic Bible, Catechism of the Catholic Church/YouCat. Let us know if you're joining us. Our sessions consist of a Video Presentation on the topic, some feedback & social.

❖ **Year of St. Mark's Gospel continues! Read it!**

❖ **Cards:** Birthday, Get well, Anniversary, etc are available for \$2 each. Place your offering in an envelope marked: Cards.

❖ **Choir @ M:** There are some great voices, we can hear you, why not join us in giving praise and thanks to God!

Reflection: 15th Sunday: The practical "instructions" of Jesus to the disciples today wouldn't be "practical" for most of us today, still there are those called to this radical type of living: I think of Venerable Dorothy Day, the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal. They live(d) divested of all possessions. So where does it apply to us? Consider what it is that hinders us from fulfilling the mission on which Jesus sends all of us by our baptism & the relationship that it establishes between God and us and others. We are all disciples who are sent! What distracts us from the urgency of this mission? For most of the greatest distractions probably don't come from our possessions, but from our inner emotions & attitudes. Divesting ourselves of these takes commitment (wonder why so few are practicing their faith: it's hard!), prayer & grace! What's so urgent, what's at stake? Reminding the world that it has been saved by Jesus, not Isis. By our Catholic faith, not home church, living faith on our own. The cost is our eternal salvation & that of those we love. Keep the faith.

☉ Be a saint...what else is there? ☉

Fr. Jim & 🐾

frjim.stmj@gmail.com

❖ **Amazon Purchases: Smile:** We're to receive our info for the smile purchase plan, visit our webpage or Facebook: hit the smile, taking you to your amazon page, the parish receives 5% on your purchase! For ease, we're using St Mary's, if you purchase & would like credit to go to St Joseph's, let us know. No cost to you!

❖ **Orange Ribbons:** Wear one as a sign of support that we wear the "color" that the "people of the Cross" wear when they're martyred. A few remain. Wear it!



❖ **Ringtown Yard Sale: NEXT Sat: July 18th: 6am-noon... Bleenies, Hot Dogs, Water/Soda, Walking Taco's, Snacks!** We seek bakers.... You were so generous at the Block Party/Picnic. Dare we ask again?! If

you've items to donate, the Knights have a table to sell them. Bring them to this week, we'll sell them! Many of us have something around that's a "treasure" to someone else. To sponsor supplies, donate, etc.. see a Knight/Parish Office.

❖ **SCRIP:** We've \$25 Applebee's, \$25 Cabela's, \$25 Weis, \$10 Bed, Bath & Body, \$10 Dairy Queen, \$10 Denny's, \$25 iTunes, \$25 Home Depot, \$25 Sheetz, \$25 Lowe's, \$10 Long John Silver's, \$25 PetSmart, \$25 Walmart \$10 Pizza Hut, \$25 Regal Theatres, \$10 Taco Bell on hand. Contact the office, we'll get them to you.

❖ **Ministry:** We've graduated some servers & have sought to replenish the pack, so we've a plan: adults to learn to serve as we make the transition to adult ministry while keeping our young people! A few disciples have responded to our request for Lectors, Servers & Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist! We're looking for more: what about you?

CH__CH: what's missing?



❖ **Flowers: this weekend @ M are offered "in thanks for God's blessings"** • Reserve them for a weekend in the coming weeks/months. Nothing more beautiful than to see the Church adorned with

fresh flowers! You can reserve flowers for the main altar for an offering of \$75+ and \$25+ for the side altars. Contact us via the parish office.

❖ **Ending Tax Exemptions Means Ending Churches:** Mark Oppenheimer of *The New York Times* is now calling for the government to remove tax-exempt status from churches. After I posted a link to his article on Facebook, a pastor friend commented: "I'm not sure our small church could survive." That, my friends, is the point. And Oppenheimer knows it.

Legal gay marriage is not the endgame for the gay-rights movement. It never was. Moral approval is the endgame. The agenda is not tolerance for different beliefs and lifestyles. The agenda is a demand that everyone get on board with the moral revolution or be punished. That means if you or your church won't get with the program, then the revolutionaries will endeavor to close you down.

But they aren't going to say, "We'll close you down," in so many words. They will cover it in propaganda that conceals their real aim. They'll say, as Oppenheimer does, that taxpayers are "subsidizing" churches, that ministers make fat-cat six-figure salaries, and that government should get those rich priests and preachers off the government dole.

Never mind that the average base salary of a full-time senior pastor ranges from \$33,000 to \$70,000. Never mind that ministers do pay income taxes. Never mind that it is absurd to suggest *not* paying taxes is a subsidy. Never mind that exemptions do function to keep church and state out of one another's business. That doesn't fit the fictional narrative activists wish to advance—that these churches don't deserve to have their "subsidy" continued in light of their intolerable views on sexuality.

No, the real intent of removing tax-exempt status is to cripple the institutions that continue their dissent from the sexual revolution. When tax exemptions are removed, donors will give far less than they are giving now. Churches will become liable to property taxes. That means that many churches will have to forfeit their property to the government because they won't be able to afford the taxes they have to pay on it. Many of them wouldn't be able to pay them now. If donations went down, they would be that much further from being able to pay them. As a result, churches that reside on valuable properties in urban locations would be immediately vulnerable. Eventually, so would everyone else.

Oppenheimer knows this. That is why he argues that if churches can't raise the money for their new tax burden, then they don't deserve to retain their property. After all, he argues, the government would do a better job than churches at meeting the needs of their community. He concludes, "So yes, the logic of gay-marriage rights could lead to a reexamination of conservative churches' tax exemptions... When that day comes, it will be long overdue."

So let's put aside the propaganda and say clearly what Oppenheimer is calling for. A call for ending tax exemptions for religious institutions is a call to close them down—or at least to plunder them of their property. That is what is going on here. Think of the irreparable harm that would follow if and when these many small churches are effectively forced to close their doors—harm that will come not only to these ministers and parishioners themselves, but also to the poor and vulnerable: lost foster-care services, tutoring of teens, material and spiritual relief for the poor, and character development, often in the places it is needed most.

I am wondering if the average gay-marriage supporter flying the rainbow on his or her Facebook profile knew he or she was signing-up for this when agreeing to support so-called "gay marriage?" I doubt it. Surely we can come up with more sensible ways for people of good will to hold their differing views—ways that don't involve annihilating one another. Oppenheimer's suggestion is not an encouraging sign. Hopefully cooler heads will prevail.

When some of us warned of the religious-liberty implications of making gay marriage a fundamental constitutional right, we were told that such things would never happen. What they really meant was, "That will never happen, but when it does you Christians will deserve it." Oppenheimer is making the case for why he thinks we deserve it. Oppenheimer says the Supreme Court has now "settled" the issue. Hardly. This is far from over. *Denny Burk is a Professor of Biblical Studies and Ethics at Boyce College. thefederalist.com/2015/06/29/ending-tax-exemptions-means-ending-churches/*

❖ **Immaculate Waters Hand/Body Lotion:** A faithful way to use Lourdes Water every day. We expect that our shipment has arrived for this weekend [listen for the announcement @ Mass/via social media]. We've Lavender, Rose & Unscented. If you're looking for a favor, relief, miracle: try it! We ask an offering of \$10. We'll have them at Church for you to pick up. Pass the Word!

❖ **Umbert the Unborn!** The unborn child has had a voice of his own! We welcome a new addition via social media, this comic strip by pro-life cartoonist Gary Cangemi. Umbert has appeared since 2001 in many publications dedicated to the sanctity of life. Fr. Jim & Gary have been friends since the early '70's, by our purchase of the rights to list Umbert, it's our prayer that will foster a greater respect for God's most vulnerable: the unborn child:

Umbert the Unborn



❖ **Outside Events:** ☞ **Trinity Academy** Register for Pre-K Call 462-3927. ☞ **Festival:** St. John the Baptist, Pottsville; 7/17-18, 5-9:30pm. ☞ **Marian Football Camp:** Grades 3-9, 7/13-15; Call 570-668-2225. ☞ **Community Picnic:** St. Paul's UCC, Ringtown, 7/19, Noon-7:30 @ Recreational Complex. ☞ **Sheppton Fire Co Bingo:** 7/12:1pm; ☞ **Healing Service:** Wed, 7/15: 6pm Service after Divine Liturgy: St Michael Ukrainian Church, 114 S Chestnut St, Shenandoah. ❖ **Diocesan Events:** ☞ **Infant Adoption Program:** Married couples interested, contact Teri @ 610-435-1541 ext. 334. ☞ **NFP Week: July 21-27** "All Natural! Good for the body. Good for the soul." Visit: AllentownDiocese.org/NFP