



Saturday, July 25, Feast of James, apostle

4:00 p.m. † Francis Szalsky

Sunday, July 26, 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. For the Parish

10:30 a.m. † Nicholas & Norma Troilo

Monday, July 27, Weekday

8:30 a.m. † Dec'd. Members of Campisano Fam.

Tuesday, July 28, Weekday

8:30 a.m. † Charles Pirone

Wednesday, July 29, St. Martha

8:30 a.m. † Patsy & Helen Bucci &
† Joseph & Ann Bucci

Thursday, July 30, Peter Chrysologus, bishop

8:30 a.m. † Albert & Mary Hrobak

Friday, July 31, Ignatius of Loyola, priest

8:30 a.m. † St. Gertrude Rosary Society

9—12 N Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday, August 1, Aphonusus Liguori, priest

8:30 a.m. † Joseph Nemitz

4:00 p.m. † Ann & Kathy Filo

Sunday, August 2, 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. For the Parish

10:30 a.m. † Dec'd. of Savastano Family



Servers Schedule

August 1 & 2

4:00 p.m. - Joey Caporali & Jordan Kiebler

8:00 a.m. - Billy & Tim Johnson

10:30 a.m. - Aaron Waner & Angelo Principe

SANCTUARY LAMP

In memory of Francis Szalsky by Mom, Dad & Brother Jim

MEMORIAL CANDLES

In memory of Emily Maszgay from her children
In memory of Aunt Lezia by Martha and Betty Rose

PLEASE PRAY FOR Thomas Ceraso, from our parish, who passed away last week. Our prayers and sympathy go to his family.

PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS AND FRIENDS who are hospitalized, invalids or seriously ill at home: Martin Carricato, Mary Cavenar, Genevieve Foreman and all the sick who need our prayers.

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS of AMERICAS COURT #1008 ~ annual picnic on Tuesday, August 4, 2009 at St. Gertrude Social Hall at 6:30 p.m. Cost \$4.00. Reservations to Helen Schmiech 724-568-2326 or Dorothy Klugh 724-845-1701. Deadline July 28, 2009.

The Vandergrift Festa Italiana Committee, meeting on Monday, July 27 at 7 p.m. Bari Social Hall. Officers and all committee members are requested to please attend. Your attendance, support and work is greatly appreciated.

Knights of Columbus, Kiski Valley Council #3174, meeting on Tuesday, July 28 at 7 p.m. in the church hall. All officers and members are requested to please attend.

Novena to Our Lady of Czestochowa, August 18—26. On August 18, Solemn Opening Mass and Novena Prayers. All are welcome to attend! For info call 724-335-8212.

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING ~ the next CM-BBT Family Planning Session will be held Monday, August 17 at 6 p.m. at the Catholic Charities office in Greensburg. PRE-registration is required. Contact Mary Ann Newhouse at Catholic Charities at 724-837-1840 ext. 658 for additional info or to register.

50th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY ~ Bishop Brandt invites all couples celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary during the calendar year 2009 to participate in a special Golden Jubilee Mass to be held at the Blessed Sacrament Cathedral on Sunday, September 20, 2009 at 3 p.m. The Jubilarians, their children, relatives or friends should contact their local parish office to register couples for this celebration. Even though they may not be able to attend the Mass, they will receive a scroll signed by the Bishop commemorating their anniversary.

St. Gertrude Men's Club will hold the August 3rd meeting at the Longfellow St. picnic grove, weather permitting, if it rains, the meeting will be in the church hall.

Mt. St. Peter, New Kensington, 28th Annual Festa Italiana, Thursday, July 30, Friday, July 31, 5—10 p.m. and Saturday, August 1 after 4 p.m. Mass until 11 p.m. Children's games, Live Entertainment and Italian Favorites. Bus transportation available from Valley High School.

St. Agnes Church, North Huntington will hold their 47th annual bazaar on the parish grounds on August 7, 8, and 9, from 5:30—10:30 p.m. Featuring nightly live entertainment, ethnic foods, games of chance. All are welcome! Rain or Shine.

BIG BEN'S BBQ COOKOUT is coming to Vandergrift Public Library, Sunday, August 9, 12-2 p.m., parking lot below Casino Theater. 25% of Sales Benefit Vandergrift Public Library. Enjoy great BBQ for a great cause-Vandergrift Public Library. A portion of Ben's proceeds is donated to The Ronald McDonald House. BBQ can be eaten on site or packaged for take out.

Interested in Classes in Theology, Scripture, or Lay Ecclesial Ministry? Through its Ecumenical institute of Theology, St. Mary's Seminary and University offers fully accredited graduate-level courses, certificates, and degrees in theology and church ministries to qualified women and men throughout the Archdiocese. **August 15** is the application deadline for the fall term, which runs from September 8 through December 17. For more info contact Patty Rath at 410-864-4200.

dear Padre

July 26, 2009

What is palliative care?

My friend has stopped fighting her cancer and receives only palliative care. Isn't this just a passive way to commit suicide? What does the Church teach about it?

Barbara

Dear Barbara,

Giving palliative care means being spiritually present to people as they get ready to die as naturally as possible. It doesn't prolong life, nor does it cause life to end. The bishops are quite clear that palliative care is neither euthanasia nor assisted suicide, which are always sinful.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says treating or not treating a patient in a way that will cause death is always murder (2277). However, a patient's choice to discontinue "burdensome, dangerous, extraordinary (emphasis added)" treatment "can be legitimate" when it's done not to cause death, but in recognition of "one's inability to impede it" (2278). But even when death seems to be close, "ordinary care" that would be given to any sick person cannot be interrupted (2279).

Palliative care doesn't cause death, it simply gives terminally ill people spiritual support and relief from their physical symptoms. An excellent resource on this topic, "Killing the Pain, Not the Patient: Palliative Care vs. Assisted Suicide," is available at www.usccb.org/prolife/programs/rip/98ripdoe.shtml.

The Catechism says palliative care "should be encouraged" (2279). It helps the dying person and the family focus on the gift of life and the blessing each person is. The patient who legitimately chooses palliative care is not waiting to die, but rather living those last moments to the fullest as comfortably as possible.

Patrick Keyes, C.Ss.R.

CONGRATULATIONS to Frank and Cecilia Gapinski on the occasion of their 50th Wedding Anniversary on July 18. God Bless!

Mission Appeal ~ the Brothers of the Sacred Heart will be asking for your prayers and financial support at all Masses this weekend. Your contributions will especially benefit young men who are preparing to enter religious life and needy students in the African countries of Kenya, Lesotho, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Please be generous.

High School ~ juniors or seniors and their families are invited to Get Acquainted Day Open Houses at Saint Vincent College, Latrobe, on Sunday, August 9 and Sunday, August 16. Registration is from 11:30 to 11:45 a.m., followed by an introduction to Saint Vincent College and a student panel as well. The day will conclude at 3 p.m. For information or reservations, phone 1-800-782-5549.

Vacation Bible School ... A Big Success! Christ the King Parish and St. Gertrude Parish partnered together again this year to host one of the two regional summer Vacation Bible Schools. Approximately 40 children from those parishes, ages 4 through 12 participated this year. Over 17 volunteers coordinated and led the sessions. Many thanks to the children, parents and all the volunteers. We hope to see you all again next year!

Cardinal Maida aCadeMy

Bingo ~ Sunday

Jackpot 54 ~ no's

Church Hall ~ Doors open 5:15 p.m.
Proceeds benefit the Cardinal Maida Academy

Tithing: God's Plan for Giving: July 18 & 19

Sunday Offertory.....	\$4,991.00
Loose Collection.....	418.00
Children.....	1.00
Utilities.....	181.00
Benedictine	725.00

*You may give without loving,
but you can't love without giving!
Thank you and God bless!*