



**September 4 - September 12**

**Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Saturday**

5:00 Dominic and Philomena Macaluso  
RB Family

**Sunday**

7:30 All Parishioners Living and Deceased

9:00 Deceased Members of the  
Martello and Vetre Families  
RB Anthony Martello

10:30 Louise and Charles McCarthy  
RB Family

12:00 Debra Francis  
RB Fortuna and Silva Families

**Monday**

8:00 Michael deMayo, Mitch deMayo, and  
Thelma Cameron  
RB Jim and Ann Gerrity

**Tuesday**

8:00 Collective Intention

**Wednesday**

8:00 Kenneth Card  
RB Hentz Family

**Thursday**

8:00 Krysanski Family  
RB Family

**Friday**

8:00 Michael Cylwik  
RB Family

**Saturday**

8:00 All Souls of 911  
5:00 William Savoca  
RB Josephine & Maria Giudice

**Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Sunday**

7:30 All Parishioners Living and Deceased

9:00 Kelly and Haines Families  
RB Mary Ann and Martin Kelly

10:30 Bensko - Koller Families  
RB Family

12:00 Frank and Adeleine Rutolo  
RB Family

**The readings for this Sunday may be found in:  
Catholic Community Hymnal in  
Section 646 / 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**The Missionary Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe** will visit the Church from September 3rd - 12th. Please join us for the Rosary after the Noon Mass on September 12th.

**Update on Fr. Fernando Suarez' Healing Mass** on *Friday, September 10th at 7 PM.*

Tickets were mailed on last week to all parishioners who requested them. The Church doors will open at 6 PM. Parishioners with yellow tickets for the Church and blue tickets for the Church Hall are asked to enter through the main entrance at the back of the church. We are allowed to sit 12 to a pew in the church, so please be mindful of this fact. Parishioners with pink tickets for the Upper Room are asked to enter off the parking lot side entrance to the church by the elevator. Parishioners with green tickets for the Parish Center are asked to use the main entrance to the Parish Center at the back of the parking lot. Please consider car pooling to the church. We ask that you enter the parking lot from the Wigwam entrance at the front of the church and exit from the back of the parking lot on Nemergut Drive. The Entrance on Wigwam Lane by the farm will be closed off.

**Parish Penance Service** will be held on Thursday, September 9th, at 7 PM in the Church in preparation for the Healing Mass and Confirmation. All are welcome.

**Confirmation 2010** - *We were informed by the Bishop's Office last week that Archbishop Cronin will celebrate Confirmation on Friday, September 17th, at 7 PM* at the Parish. Anyone who plans on being confirmed this fall but did not receive this confirmation mailing needs to contact Mrs. Patricia Nettleton at 203-377-3158 immediately, so you may get the information needed for the final preparation for this sacrament.

**Guild Dinner:** The Guild Of Our Lady Of St. Mark will hold a membership buffet dinner on **Monday, September 20, 2010**, in the Parish Center, at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$16.00. Call Jo Peschell at 203 378-3944 for reservations by September 16, 2010.

**Men's Bible Study** will resume on Tuesday, September 21st, in the Upper Room at 7:30 PM. We will study the second part of Israel's Story. New members are heartily welcome. For more information, contact Charlie Ciuci at 375-4542.

**Knights of Columbus** will be holding an organizational and informational meeting Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 7:30 PM in the Church Hall. This meeting is open to men of the parish 18 yrs. and older who are interested in joining the new council at St. Mark. We will be discussing the final steps of starting the council.

**New Altar Servers** - Are you interested in becoming an Altar Server? Fr. Birendra will hold classes this fall for children in grade 4 and up. Please call the Parish Office at 203-377-0444 to sign up.

**From Fr. Don ... HUMILITY:  
THE QUEEN OF THE VIRTUES**

Humility is the “queen” of virtues because it is a virtue that belongs essentially to Christ, not only as man, but more especially as God. God cannot exalt Himself above what He is, in His most high Being, nor can He increase His vast and infinite greatness; but He can and did lower Himself. By joining his divine nature with a lower human nature, God humbled Himself. St. Augustine tells us: The Immortal One took on mortality so he could die for us; the Mighty One was brought low; the Lowly One was slain...so He could teach us the path of humility.” So when we act in humility, we are behaving like God.

Listen again to the wisdom of Sirach: “My child, conduct your affairs with humility...humble yourself the more, the greater you are and you will find favor with God.” Did you notice the play on words here...”humble yourself the more, the greater you are...” In the Gospel story, Our Lord offers a similar lesson. Jesus was invited to a banquet in the house of one of the leading Pharisees. He noticed how the guests, as they arrived, took up the most honorable places at table. How typical this is of human nature. Taking “the places of honor” implies exalting oneself. It is really a tendency to look for honor, or to assume a position that is superior to others. The parable Jesus tells is intended to root out this spiritually deadly tendency called pride. Jesus wants us to know our place, to avoid being blinded by ambition and letting life become a frantic pursuit of trying to look better than other people. He turns the pride of the world upside down when he says, “For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Sadly, humility is a virtue that is largely forgotten and undervalued in our high tech world. One spiritual writer tells us: *Excessive individualism, exhibitionism, anxiety for success, image and power; an insatiable need for admiration...a God complex, a distorted image – I am the center of the world; I am the greatest!... We live in the “culture of the I”, in the “generation of narcissism”. Where is the cure for this spiritual sickness? Whatever our state in life, we are each called to embrace something greater than our own existence and indulgences. That “something greater” is God, the very one who gave us our existence.*

St. Augustine wrote about an experience he had during prayer, in which he was overcome with a sense of being a creature, of having received his existence from God:

*Urged to reflect upon myself, I entered under your guidance into the inmost depth of my soul. I was able to do so because You were my helper.*

*On entering into myself I saw, as it were with the eye of the soul, what was beyond the eye of the soul, beyond my spirit: your immutable light. It was not the ordinary light perceptible to all flesh, nor was it merely something of greater magnitude..., shining more clearly and diffusing itself everywhere by its intensity. No, it was something entirely distinct, something altogether different from all these things; and it did not rest above my mind as oil on the surface of water; nor was it above me as the sky is above the earth. This light was above me because it had made me; I was below it because I was created by it. He who has come to know the truth knows this light.*

That light is God, who gave us our very being. We are below God because He made us. To know this truth and to live by it is the best cure for pride, arrogance, haughtiness or the tendency to look down on others since it applies to every human being, regardless of social status. To know and live by this truth is humility, the Queen of virtues, and to possess humility, is to possess all that is most pleasing to God and the key to the gate of heaven. AMEN.

**The Litany of Humility**

O Jesus! meek and humble of heart,  
*Hear me.*

From the desire of being esteemed,  
*Deliver me, Jesus.*

From the desire of being loved...

From the desire of being extolled...

From the desire of being honored...

From the desire of being praised...

From the desire of being preferred to others...

From the desire of being consulted...

From the desire of being approved...

From the fear of being humiliated...

From the fear of being despised...

From the fear of suffering rebukes...

From the fear of being calumniated...

From the fear of being forgotten...

From the fear of being ridiculed...

From the fear of being wronged...

From the fear of being suspected...

That others may be loved more than I,

*Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.*

That others may be esteemed more than I...

That, in the opinion of the world,

others may increase and I may decrease...

That others may be chosen and I set aside...

That others may be praised and I unnoticed...

That others may be preferred to me in everything...

That others may become holier than I,

provided that I may become as holy as I should...



## Our Stewardship of Treasure

Budget for this Week \$12,000.  
 Sunday, August 29, 2010 \$ 9,315.  
 Sunday, August 30, 2009 \$ 9,372.

*"Everyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple." - Luke 14:33*  
 When we first hear this statement, it seems that Jesus is making an unrealistic demand upon us. How can we renounce all of our possessions? We need them to live. However, what we must renounce is the belief that they belong to us. Everything that we have belongs to God alone. All of our resources are entrusted to us not only for our own use, but also so that we can help others. Once we renounce the idea that we possess, or are entitled to anything, it is much easier to share the many gifts that God has given us. Then we truly are His Disciples.



Lorraine Studley, Bob Haborak, Fedare Hrinak, Jeff Mastroni, Barbara Manning, Arlene Liscinsky, Julie Koloules, Bob Wargo, Mark Burry, Jose Millet, Kathy Skinner, Diane Vanderwaylan, Matthew Freetas, Caroline DiRiusso, Toni Stabile, Kathleen Hampton, Shirley Fenn, Michael Howard, Katie Bleekrod, Mary King, Christina Alterio, Evelyn Garafolo, Andy Yankowski, Carol Gay, Elaine Hauge, David Gallo, Eugene Greytak, Julia Sellers, Julie Porzio, Lawrence & Emma Cannon, Mary Kahanec, James Whelan, Lillian Butler, Michael Hostetter, Jr., Rachel Maietto, Joan Watkins, Marilyn Lonzenski, Carl Blumenthal, Mark Bensen, Florence Steele, Yvonne Wilson, Henry Pawley, Marie Pfrommer, Bea Fiocca, Martha Reynolds, George Fountain, Samantha Frattarola, Claire Hromjak, Eddie Corcoran, Mary Hovan, Constance Papp, Bette Stumpp, Bill Maloney, Mike Czech, Kevin Collins, Arlene Zayas, Spencer Grady, Joan Shannon, Eleanor Cornese, Lee Everetts, Frank Vitucci, Sr., Terri Nardone, Cayden Morin, Felizardo Cipriano, Connie Dezso, Gail Bergers, Chelsea Wheeler, Joan Green, Andrea Timchak, William Flynn, Paul Iwanoski, Mark Morreale, Charles Petrino, Michael McLoughlin, Gary Iadarola, Charles Falzone, Donna Bizak, John Semosky, Alex Convertito, Edward Recuperero, Jim Garrity, Daniel Marzella, Yolanda Arkilander, Marcella Barr, James Conway, Quinn Faerdy, Linda Bates, William Flynn, Kathleen LaLuna, Henry Sroka, Douglas Selmont, Susan Herron, Evelyn Lesko, Victor Crespo, Elmer Klosterman, Sharon Rotunno, Jane & Jim Daly, Anthony DeLarosa, Mike Paternoster, Lisa Sinise, Margaret Mazeau, Claire Duff, Al Krafcik.



*Let light eternal shine on them,  
 O Lord, with Your saints forever,  
 for You are merciful.*

Caryl Soucy

## Readings for the Week of September 5

Sunday: Wis 9:13-18b/Phlm 9-10, 12-17/Lk 14:25-33  
 Monday: 1 Cor 5:1-8/Lk 6:6-11  
 Tuesday: 1 Cor 6:1-11/Lk 6:12-19  
 Wednesday: Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30/Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 or 1:18-23  
 Thursday: 1 Cor 8:1b-7, 11-13/Lk 6:27-38  
 Friday: 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22b-27/Lk 6:39-42  
 Saturday: 1 Cor 10:14-22/Lk 6:43-49  
 Next Sunday: Ex 32:7-11, 13-14/1 Tm 1:12-17/Lk 15:1-32 or 15:1-10

**Parish Office will be Closed** on Monday, September 6th, in observance of Labor Day; we will be open on Tuesday at 9:30 AM.

**The Second Collection** this weekend is for the Catholic University of America. Next weekend's second collection is the Monthly Collection for the extraordinary expenses in the parish. Thank you for your generosity.

**Adoration Chapel** - All are welcome to spend some time in adoration with Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. New regular adorers are most welcome. Please call or email Gary or Scott at the contact information below the schedule to sign up for an hour.

### Adoration Chapel Schedule

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
12am	X	X	O	O	O	O	C
1am	X	X	X	X	X	X	C
2am	?	X	?	O	O	X	C
3am	O	O	O	O	O	O	C
4am	O	X	O	X	O	X	C
5am	O	O	O	O	X	O	C
6am	O	X	O	X	O	X	C
7am	X	X	O	X	O	O	C
8am	O		O	O		O	C
9am	O						C
10am	O	O	O	O	O	C	C
11am	X			O	O	C	C
12pm	O	O	O		X	C	C
1pm	O	X		O	O	C	C
2pm	X	O		O	O	C	C
3pm	X	O	X	O	X	C	C
4pm		O	?			C	C
5pm	O	O	O	X	O	C	C
6pm	O	X	O		X	C	O
7pm					X	C	O
8pm	O	X		X	O	C	X
9pm	X	O	O		O	C	X
10pm	O		O	O	O	C	O
11pm	O		O	O	O	C	X

**ADORERS NEEDED FOR ALL "X" and "O" HOURS!**

X = NO ADORER SCHEDULED

O = One Adorer Scheduled

C = Chapel CLOSED (for now)

Update: Jun 03, 2010

Please call Gary Tennyson at 203-953-1200

or Scott Goodfellow at 203-394-2248 or

Email to [StMarkAdoration@comcast.net](mailto:StMarkAdoration@comcast.net)

with questions or to volunteer for an hour

**Still Time to Register for Religious Education Classes** for 2010/11: Registration forms may be found on-line at the Parish website ([www.stmarkstratford.org](http://www.stmarkstratford.org)) and at the doors of the Church. Please mail your completed form and tuition to the R.E. Office by September 13th. Please call Mrs. Patricia Nettleton, D.R.E., at 203-377-3158 if you have any questions.

**St. Mark Girls Basketball Tryouts 2010-2011** Season: Tryouts for girls interested in playing for the St. Mark Girls' Basketball teams will be held on Saturday Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> at the Parish Center. Tryout times are as follows: JJV Girls (3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade) will take place from 1 - 2:15 PM, V Girls (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade) will take place from 9:30 - 11 AM (this tryout is open to any 6<sup>th</sup> grade girl who thinks she can compete at this level), JV Girls (5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade) will take place from 11:15 AM - 12:24 PM. *Please note time changes from last week's bulletin.* At least 1 Parent must be present for all tryouts. If you have any questions, call Walt Brown, 203-377-3987.

**St. Mark Boys Basketball Tryouts 2010-2011** Season: Tryouts for boys interested in playing for the St. Mark Boys Basketball teams will be held on Monday Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> at the Parish Center. Tryout times are as follows: JJV Boys (3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade) will take place from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM; JV Boys (5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade) will take place from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM, V Boys (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade) will take place from 8:00 PM to 9:00 PM. At least 1 Parent must be present for all tryouts. If you have any questions, call Tom Kulhawik, 203-378-5210.

**Light Weigh is ongoing to St. Mark!** Would you like to learn how to overcome temptation and eat the foods you enjoy, while you grow closer to God and lose weight? *Prevention Magazine* chose *Light Weigh* because it met their criteria for a safe and healthy faith based diet program. There are no weigh-ins. *The Light Weigh Bible Study* DVD series is ongoing at the Parish. To find out more information and to register, please call Sue Osenbach at 203-385-0033.

**Virtus Training** is planned for Monday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 PM at St. Mark School. All adults who volunteer at the parish are required to take this Diocesan Training. This is a special 3-hour awareness training that teaches adults in the Catholic community to create safer environments and become part of the solution to prevent child abuse. Participants are provided with an overview of the Diocese of Bridgeport Code of Conduct and our Diocesan Policy relating to Sexual Abuse of Minors. To register for the awareness training please go to [www.virtusonline.org](http://www.virtusonline.org) and select Registration. Then select Bridgeport, CT.

Acct # 04-0152

Saint Mark Church  
Stratford, CT.

04-0152 wk# 41c  
Sunday, September 5  
tom@hitekrcing.com  
Questions: Call Susan  
203-377-0444