

THE PHILADELPHIA ORDINARIATE POST

A NEWSLETTER OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH
THE PERSONAL ORDINARIATE OF THE CHAIR OF SAINT PETER IN THE PHILADELPHIA AREA

WWW.SJBRIDGEPORT.ORG

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August, 2018

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

What are we thinking when we pray in the Our Father, “Thy will be done”? Do we regret that it is His will and not mine that we intend to be done? Do we just want His will to be the same as mine, so it will be easy? Do we skip over this petition lightly, so as not to think too much about it? Does it evoke thoughts of “nose to the grindstone” and burden? Or do we pray it with joy, thinking with delight of God’s will for us and for the world? Obviously, there is a considerable range of possibilities!

There are two factors in this: how we think of God’s will, and the relation between our will and His. God always wills our good. Even to the extent of His Son’s sacrifice on the Cross. His love for us means that He wills only what is good for us. Objectively, then, we have no reason to resist God’s will, and every reason to desire it. If we think anything less of God’s will, we misunderstand Him, and fail to do justice to His love. His will ought to be a source of delight and joy for us.

And yet ... Our resistance, which is real and deeply rooted, comes from our attachment to our own wills. “Ye shall be as gods.” We want things our way. We perceive God’s will as a threat to our will, and so it is. It is perverse but true: even when we recognize that God’s will is better for us than our own, we still cling to ours. We can be childish, getting into a snit when things don’t go our way. We can be rebellious, telling God He ought to do things our way. Even when we embrace God’s will, we can still grieve for the loss of our own.

All of which points to the importance of that petition in the Our Father. However we say it, we *need* to say it, and often. Jesus knew our need when He gave us the prayer. Ideally we say “Thy will be done” with joy, knowing that His will is glorious and good. To do this will require the profound purification of our will, that we will God’s will above all else: something (DG) God can do, even if we cannot.

Mass at the Basilica

We have again been invited to celebrate an Ordinariate Form Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul on Logan Circle in Philadelphia. This year’s Mass will be on the Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham, Monday, September 24th, 7 p.m. As it was last year, this is an opportunity for us to share the liturgical riches of our Patrimony with a wider audience. Fr Eric Bergman, Pastor of St Thomas More in Scranton, has agreed to give us a sermon reflective of our Patrimony. Mr Gatens is already at work on the music and the possibility of augmenting the choir (the basilica is, after all, a very large space). Bell Anderson has agreed to coordinate a simple reception in the Archdiocesan Pastoral Center next door after the Mass (feel free to offer your assistance). Please put it on your calendars if it isn’t already there, and remember to mention it to your Latin Rite (or Eastern Rite, for that matter) friends. I am grateful to the Rector of the Cathedral, Fr Dennis Gill, for his kind invitation.

Seminarian

During the month of September, we will have with us a seminarian from the Australian Ordinariate, Bradley Le Guier. Since the Australian Ordinariate congregations are generally quite small, Monsignor Entwistle, the Ordinary, wanted Brad to experience some of the American Ordinariate congregations, which are a little further down the road in terms of growth and maturity. He has been spending the summer months with Fr Scharbach at Mount Calvary in Baltimore, and will go to our Cathedral in Houston in October. I will be involving him in parish life while he is here. He is available should any of you be interested in entertaining him – supper, sight-seeing, whatever might give him a taste of Philadelphia, and give you some taste of Australia.

Saint Cecelia Choir

I am delighted to report that Kevin Chun has accepted the appointment as director of the new youth choir which we are forming at St John the Baptist. Some of you will remember Kevin from his days as organist at St Michael’s before Bill Gatens joined us there. To this particular responsibility he brings experience with choirs at Hallahan High School and St Peter’s elementary School in Philadelphia. This is something we can offer to those outside the parish. I hope the choir will be of interest to home school families, as a way to provide some music education, and to neighboring parishes which lack a children’s choir. Needless to say, the musical aim is for something worthy of our Patrimony (no kids’ ditties, in other words – good music). Here is Kevin’s invitation:

Learn the basics of music that will prepare you to sing in a church choir or join the chorus in your school. Learn how to read music (the dots on the paper), speak in a foreign tongue, sing in harmony (like the Pentatonics) and work cooperatively in a group setting. Just like in sports your voice becomes part of a team!

Our singing lessons will be based on a program that comes from Europe - the (English) Royal School of Church Music. As you progress there will ribbons and awards as you gain confidence in your singing. What does the singing sound like? Look up and listen to the singing at Prince William's and Princess Kate's wedding. - BEAUTIFUL!

Once we get the group going we hope to sing once a month at Mass at St. John's and perhaps at other parishes as we grow more confident in our singing. Maybe even sing a concert for the neighborhood or go Christmas Caroling!

Mr. Kevin Chun, our director, is also the music teacher at Hallahan Girl's High School and they sing their Masses at the Cathedral of Ss. Peter and Paul on the Parkway.

The choir is open to middle school and high school students, and those who may be younger who can read most of the words in the church hymnals. If interested please contact Mr Chun at Chun@jwhallahan.com or at St John the Baptist, 502 Ford Street in Bridgeport, 215-247-1902, for more information.

Our rehearsals are on Thursdays, 5:30-7 (supper is provided to make it easier for parents!) at St John's, starting on September 13th. Advance registration required.

Community Cookout

Planning is well along for our third Bridgeport Community Cookout. The date this year is the Saturday after Labor Day, September 8th, which is also our Lady's Birthday. The purpose is to welcome our neighbors, give them some food and fellowship, let us get to know them, and them get to know us. It is also an opportunity for us to introduce some of what St John's has to offer: Sunday School, which will be starting up right after the cookout; we will be recruiting for the St Cecelia's Choir; Wednesday Bible study; the high school youth group; and we will be giving tours of the church for those who are interested.

New this year: some of our young people will be providing music during the cookout. Come and see (hear, actually) what they are putting on for us. David Livezey has again agreed to oversee the operation. The Bridgeport Holy Family Council of the Knights of Columbus (which meets in our parish house) is both sponsoring the event, and also providing men to work with us on the day of the cookout. I hope you will all plan to be here, both to help out and to meet and greet. Since the purpose is to get to know folk and to let them get to know us, then obviously, we need to be here. We'll feed you for free! Cookout time is 11-1. Set up begins after the 9 o'clock Mass (for the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary).

Master Plan

After our discussions in the Pastoral Council, the Finance Council and the two congregational meetings, the emerging consensus is that the Master Plan proposed by Cram and Ferguson is good, supportive of our mission, and something we would like to implement. Cost is needless to say a concern. As the next step, the Finance Council is exploring the possibilities of a capital funds campaign, which would be necessary to begin implementing the plan.

Novena

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has invited the faithful to join in a National Novena for the Legal Protection of Human Life on the nine Fridays between August 3rd and September 28th. Whether or not one fasts (in addition to the usual Friday abstinence from meat), participants are asked to pray one *Our Father*, *Hail Mary*, and *Glory Be* for the intention of this novena. Our willingness as a nation to allow (and in many ways, encourage) the killing of the unborn, as well as our movement in the direction of euthanasia, not only hurts those involved, but undermines the moral order which alone allows our nation and society to prosper.

Calendar

- August 6-17, No weekday Masses at St John's
- Tuesday, August 21st, 7 p.m., High School Youth Group
- Wednesday August 22nd, Jonathan Mitchican's ordination as a priest at the Cathedral in Houston
- Wednesday, August 29th, 11:05, Wednesday Bible Study resumes
- Saturday, September 8th, Community Cookout (11-1), Thrift Shop reopens (10-3)

Thanks

I want to thank this month:

- Peter Korpel and Teresa Creciun for looking after the rectory when the Ousleys were away
- Therese Rawson for doing altar flowers when we were away
- Father Carbonaro for supplying in July (and Father Brentwood, for supplying in August)
- Raynor Sherlock for providing supper for the Youth Group

Yours faithfully,

Fr David Ousley