

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, 2019

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

If we were to make a list of activities which bring out the worst in human nature, driving a car would probably be near the top. Because other drivers can be impatient, inconsiderate, selfish and rude, we tend to respond in kind. Our lower nature asserts itself. We get angry at others. Apart from others' bad driving, we can still be impatient, feeling that we need to get where we are going quickly, even when there is no real deadline. Our selfishness and worldliness seem to take over when we get behind the wheel. (I might also note that those who depend on Septa are faced with equal if somewhat different challenges – late buses, inconsiderate passengers, rude drivers, bad traffic, etc.)

Why is driving as a Christian so hard? I think several factors contribute. It is a social situation but without personal contact: we see the other people and react to what they do, but don't speak with them. This invites us to treat them as things or forces and not as persons. Again, we can take travel time as "wasted" time – thus inevitably and perhaps unconsciously breeding impatience. In addition, there is that "self" within all of us, which is ready to act as though *I* am more important than anyone else: drivers should not get in my way.

So how do we drive as Christians? A couple of suggestions. When a judgmental thought or anger arises against another driver, pray for him instead. If he really is being selfish (and not just inconveniencing you), he needs the prayer. Second, seek the grace to be aware when you are being impatient or driving aggressively. When you notice, take a deep breath, and ask Jesus to give you His peace. Third, whenever you get behind the wheel to start the car, ask Jesus for the grace to be pleasing to Him in your driving. And remember to include your driving when you are making a self-examination, whether the brief one every night or the more thorough self-examination before confession.

If it turns out that you have some bad habits that are hard to break, then your struggles will draw you closer to Jesus, because they will persist for a while. In such we learn our need for Him. In any case, we should be grateful for every trip which we complete without injury: God is protecting us, whether we notice it or not. If he also preserves us from sin, we should be grateful for that as well.

As a help for our physical as well as spiritual safety, I will offer the blessing of cars after Mass on the Sixth Sunday after Trinity, July 28th. During coffee hour, we'll begin with the Ford Street parking lot and the cars on Ford Street, and continue with the ones in the Union Avenue lot. We'll have holy cards (courtesy of James Griffin) for the event which you can keep in the car to remind you that God is with you, even in the car.

Outreach

We have scheduled a second Evangelization Day to knock on doors in Bridgeport, following up on our successful Day in June. It is set for Saturday, October 19th, and will again be done with the help of the Legion of Mary. The format will be the same: Mass, breakfast, preparation & training, calling on homes, then coming back for lunch and sharing of results. We will try to cover the blocks which we missed in June. Please put the date on your calendars now. If you missed the last one, here is your chance. Speak with Edel Lukens for further details.

I commend to you Bishop Lopes' comments on the mission of evangelization of the Ordinariate in the recent *Ordinariate Observer*. We should take his words to heart. Page 7 if you missed it.

Last month, I gave out copies of the *Missionary of Wall Street*, and invited everyone in the parish to read it. I hope you have enjoyed it. (I still have copies if you have not gotten yours.) I would invite you all to share your reflections on the book with me and with one another – during coffee hour on August 25th. The mission in Lower Manhattan which is described in the book is obviously quite different from ours in Bridgeport. But at the same time, mission is mission, and I'm interested in what you think after reading the book. Please come.

Outreach presupposes service. One of our service programs at SJB is the support of the food bank at Our Lady of the Assumption in Strafford. There is a collection box in the parish hall where we have Sunday coffee hour. Kindly get into the habit of bringing canned goods or imperishable

foods and leave them in the box. Mary Ann McCluney will see that they get to OLA for those in need.

Community Cookout

This year's edition of the annual Bridgeport Community Cookout is set for Saturday, September 7th, 11-1 (set up begins at 9). We have two goals: to help foster a healthy community life in Bridgeport, and to introduce people to SJB. We welcome any and all, and feed them for free. David Livezey is again overseeing the effort. Help is of course needed: set-up, serving, clean-up, bringing baked goods, etc. In addition, we need to be here to welcome and get to know our neighbors. This event is a great complement to our Evangelization Days.

We will also have the help and support of the Holy Family Council of the Knights of Columbus with the cookout as we have had in the past. This Council is not a parish council, but rather serves the Catholic Churches of Bridgeport. The men of SJB are encouraged to consider joining the Knights of Columbus in the Holy Family Council, which meets in our parish house. They are involved with a variety of good works for the Church. (The recent *Ordinariate Observer* featured the many ways around the country that the Ordinariate is involved with the Knights and vice versa.)

A side note: you may have noticed a dumpster in the parking lot recently. The Knights were doing a thorough reconstruction of their room in the parish house, where they share the space with the Catholic War Veterans of Bridgeport. I'm glad to have both groups here.

Saint Cecilia Choir

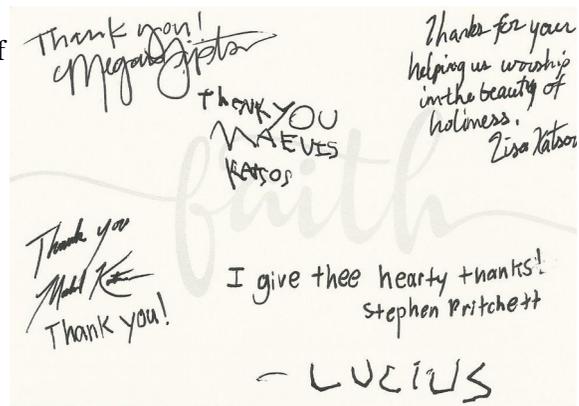
The Saint Cecilia Choir for young people will be starting up again in September. This year it will be under the direction of Georgia LaRue, one of the members of the adult choir and a music teacher in Upper Darby. This is a great opportunity for kids to learn to sing and sing well, and receive a good (and free) musical instruction. It also gives them the opportunity to serve and glorify God in our worship at Mass. It is open to kids from outside SJB as well as within.

Saint Aelred's

With Fr Tipton's ordination as a priest the end of June, St Aelred's (our companion Ordinariate community in Georgia) has begun weekly Sunday morning Masses – a milestone in their life. I had asked Fr Tipton about material needs, and he mentioned needing hymnals and sanctus bells. We were able to help with this, since we have multiple sanctus bells, and had some old, melody edition hymnals. I'm happy to share the thank-you note with you.

Vacation Bible School

The VBS scheduled for July was canceled, which is a disappointment. While we had a good response of volunteers to teach and put on the program, we had very few kids signed up. The program was intended as outreach to Bridgeport, to provide some fun to the kids in town, along with an introduction to Jesus. Any outreach needs to meet a need. It would appear that, at least in the form we had this year, VBS does not meet a need in Bridgeport. This is useful information, and we will build upon it as we consider what to do next year. That discussion has already begun. I am in any case enormously grateful to those who offered themselves to teach and staff the program. You will be rewarded for your generosity!



Thank you!
Megan Tipton

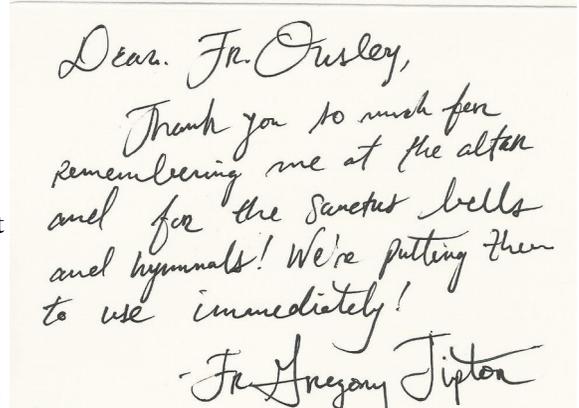
THANK YOU
MAEVES
KATSON

Thanks for your
helping us worship
in the beauty of
holiness.
Lisa Katson

Thank you
Matt K
Thank you!

I give thee hearty thanks!
Stephen Pritchett

- LUCIUS



Dear Fr. Ousley,

Thank you so much for remembering me at the altar and for the Sanctus bells and hymnals! We're putting them to use immediately!

- Fr. Gregory Tipton

Calendar

July 28, Blessing of Cars (during coffee hour after Mass)

July 31, Patricians adult discussion group, 6:45 p.m.: *The Crusades: a Just War?*

August 2, Youth Group, 7-8:45

August 6-16, No weekday Masses (there will be a Vigil Mass for the Transfiguration on August 5 at 6 p.m.)

August 25, Adult Forum: discussion of *Missionary of Wall Street*

September 7, Bridgeport Community Cookout, sponsored by SJB & the Knights of Columbus

October 15, Ordinariate form Mass at the Cathedral Basilica in Philadelphia, celebrating the canonization of St John Henry Newman. The Vicar General of the Ordinariate, Fr Timothy Perkins has agreed to come and celebrate (Bishop Lopes will be in Rome at the time)

October 19, Evangelization Day (door to door calling in Bridgeport)

November 8, Ordination of Matt Hummel and Roger Converse as Deacons at SJB

Yours faithfully,

Fr David Ousley