



Mass Intentions for the Week

- 9-2 Mon 9:00 AM Michael Willsey
By Jean McKilligan
- 9-3 Tues 9:00 AM Madeline Mertz
By Ellen Hogan & family
- 9-4 Wed 9:00 AM All deceased parishioners
- 9-5 Thurs 9:00 AM All deceased parishioners
- 9-6 Fri 9:00 AM Communion Service
- 9-7 Sat 4:00 PM Nancy J. Green
By Tony & Joan Barber
- 9-8 Sun 10:30 AM Gregory John Tiska
By Marge Suriano

Catholic Home Missions

Thank you for your generous support of last week's Catholic Home Missions Appeal. As a parish, we raised \$668.00 to strengthen the Church at home and spread the Gospel across the United States. If you missed the appeal, it's not too late to give! Just visit www.usccb.org/home-missions. #iGiveCatholicTogether also accepts funds for the collection-see usccb.igivecatholictogether.org

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!
Many thanks to all who contributed to FORMED. Your generosity means we will be able to renew our parish subscription! May you be blessed for generously sharing your treasure with the parish.

From July 2024 to August 2024 as a parish we have collected \$19,756.00

The Parish Offices will be closed Monday, September 2nd in observance of Labor Day.



Weekend of September 7th & 8th, 2024

First Reading-Isaiah 35:4-7

Saturday 4:00 PM

- Celebrant:** Fr. Ben
- Lector:** Ray Keckeisen
- Eucharistic Ministers:** Mary Early
- Altar Servers** Brock Porter & Gabriel Harris

Second Reading- James 2:1-5

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel- Mark 7:31-37

Sunday 10:30AM

- Fr. Ben
- Kerri Green
- Lorraine Keckeisen
- Jack, Henry & Ella Grigoli

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
God desires our sincerity, not lip service.

The Christian life is a call to holiness, authentic faith, and sincere service. God who calls us to a life of faith desires sincere service from us, and not lip service. He does not want us to be pretentious and hide behind the external acts of religious rules, laws, traditions and rituals.

But as Christians, we sometimes fall into the traps of hypocrisy, self-deception, and lip service. We appear holy and righteous on the outside but inside us are ungodly and ugly things.

The readings for this Sunday challenge us to examine the authenticity of our faith and service to God. The readings urge us to follow the Lord with pure and sincere hearts and by our good example draw others to God.

In the first reading, Moses stressed the importance of the commandments of God. Moses instructed the people of Israel and all of us to follow the statutes and decrees of the Lord so they could grow in wisdom and flourish in life. He admonished them to obey God's laws and by their ways of life become a model and shining example for the other nations.

In the gospel, the Pharisees and Scribes accused Jesus and his disciples of failing to follow the traditions and custom of their elders. The disciples ate their meals without washing their hands first. In the view of these religious leaders, the disciples broke an exterior ritual, a tradition and custom they so cherished. They made a big deal of the disciples' behavior and called for their heads.

Jesus blasted the Pharisees and Scribes for placing human traditions over divine commands. He challenged them to sit up, to overcome their hypocrisy, and lip service to God.

Jesus made it clear that real uncleanness comes from what is within the human heart. He pointed out that evil thoughts and actions such as fornication, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, jealousy, envy, slander, pride and arrogance emerge from human hearts.

Each of us needs to examine what is inside us. Is my heart pure or impure? What efforts do I make each day to prevent myself from entertaining evil thoughts? Do I succumb to immoral acts, impure imaginations, vengeful feelings or view pornographic images?

Jesus teaches us to keep ourselves clean on the inside. He calls us to open our hearts to his words and act on them. Saint James emphasizes this message in the second reading by telling us to be doers of God's word, and not just hearers, deluding or deceiving ourselves.

Saint James reminds us that authentic religion is the type that maintains personal purity before God and reaches out in love and compassion to the distressed and afflicted, especially the orphans and widows.

The psalmist tells us that those who act justly will live in the presence of the Lord forever. As we gather around the table of the Lord to celebrate the Eucharist, let us seek to be transformed in the power of God's love and grace. Let us ask the Lord to wrap us in his goodness and help us to live in a way that expresses the right relationship with his divine laws.

God bless,

Have a wonderful Labor Day weekend!

Rev. Dr. Ben

Offerings from August 17th & 18th, 2024 Regular collection, \$2,031.00; Repairs, \$70.00; Catholic Home Missions, \$10.00; Feast of the Assumption, \$873.00

Offerings from August 24th & 25th, 2024 Regular collection, \$1,937.00; Repairs, \$80.00; Catholic Home Missions, \$658.00;



Religious Education 2024-2025

Registration paperwork has been mailed to all families who had children in the program in 2023-24. Please return your registration for 2024-2025 to the Faith Formation Office as soon as possible so that textbooks can be ordered in time for the start of classes in September.



Harvest Festival 2024

The Harvest Festival this year is on October 11th & 12th! We need crafts for the Craft Booth, items for the Farmer's Market, Treasure Chest, soups and baked goods. Please bring your donations for the Treasure Chest and Craft booth to the Parish Center before October 4th so the items can be priced. All donations must be brought in a week before the festival, donations brought in after the 4th will not be accepted.

- **NO CD's, DVD's, and VHS** (donate to the Nex-to-New)
- **Paperback books only, no cookbooks**
- **No stuffed animals** (donate to local ambulance squads)
- **No clothing** (donate to Nex-to-New)
- **No electronics (computers, printers, tape players, etc.)**
- Donations of glassware, ceramics, and dishes must be **CLEAN** and should be chip free.
- Small kitchen appliances and all electrical items must be clean and in working order.
- Holiday decorations especially; Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter would be most appreciated.
- Donations of uniquely crafted handmade items are needed for the Craft Booth.
- Treasure Chest and Craft Booth **donations should be brought inside** the Parish Center during office hours. Please contact the Parish Office, 563-1591, if you are unable to come during office hours to arrange for a time to bring in your donations.
- **Donations left outside the Parish Center cannot be accepted per Catholic Mutual guidelines.** *Please do not leave items outside the doorways or inside the hallways. This is so we are in compliance with fire and safety codes.*

Sign-up sheets for volunteers for this year's Harvest Festival will be in the vestibule of the church on September 25th and 26th.

September Bulletin Quotes

"Suicidal individuals—with or without a terminal illness—typically do not want to die... The patient requesting assisted suicide is often asking, 'Does anyone want me to be alive, or care enough to talk me out of this request and support me through this difficult time?'"

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

"Every Suicide is Tragic" usccb.org/every-suicide-tragic

Pastoral Associate Formation Program

A new leadership program for those interested in gaining knowledge and skills for a collaborative role with a pastor in the administrative, operational, and pastoral needs of a parish will begin in October 2024. If you are interested there is information posted on the bulletin or you can contact Erin Muir at the Diocesan Offices at PAFormaton@rcda.org or 515-453-6670.

Project Rachel is the Catholic Church's ministry to those who have been involved in abortion. The tagline of Project Rachel is *No matter what you are feeling, you are not alone*. It is the hope of Project Rachel that a healing approach of options and resources can help each person know that God loves them, forgives them and wants to be in their life. Project Rachel is a diocesan-based network of specially trained priests, religious, counselors, and laypersons who provide a team response of care for those suffering, both women and men. Call our confidential helpline 518-312-3825.

Covers of Love

The Covers of Love at Saint Paul's Church on River Street in Sidney can always use donations of:

- CLEAN Queen/King quilts, comforters
- Blankets any size and bath towels and wash cloths
- Size large and XL men's pants, t-shirts, & undershirts
- Children's size 10 and above- t-shirts, pants
- tuna in a pouch
- individually wrapped peanut butter or cheese crackers
- applesauce, Nutella or peanut butter to go

Donations can be dropped off in the receptacle in the vestibule or you can take your donations to Saint Paul's on Wednesday mornings between 9:30-11:00 AM. If you have questions contact Karen Jones at 607-829-8327.

Please pray for the following people, who have requested our prayers: Gussie Shifflett, Steve Pickwick, Joe LaFave, Ginni Roe, Gabi Bakeman, Kimberlee Roe, Kevin, Michael Bell, Grady Charles Weigand, Barbara Bennett, Daniel Rickard, Mark & Andrea, Kim Sumski, Dorothy Kashuda, Alyson Sabillon, Linda Falk, Debra Barnard, Diane, Bonnie La Voie, Doug Williams, Faith Williams, Don Butler, Debra Patterson, Ed Nicol, Dawn Maruszewski, Carey, Madlyn Sumski, Alex Roberts, [Paul J. Hamilton, Sr.](#), Ray & Mary Munetz, Jazmers Moore, Bruce Allen, Kimberly Bosket, David Rivera, Jackie Bargher, [Matthew Baxter](#), Darline Smith, Joseph Dermody, Alice Anderson, Sandy Kemp, [George Walters](#), Lorraine Keckeisen, Maria LaBar, [Patrick](#), John McCann, Natalie Stone, Marian Heeps, Mary Kolermous, Clare Sterchak, Terri Cristofaro, Liliana, Nancy Daugherty, Mark Morotwe, Sharon Guenther, Kira Cronk, Terry Yackel, Jack Yackel, Jim Mylotte, Alice Walters, [Rev. Steve Deckard](#), Terry Nicolini, Nick Gibson, Andy Woods, Bob Jenks, Jane, Dolores Storzinger, Alexis Spencer, Ines Warlock, Susan Chidester, Alyce Hopkins, [Bob Oliver](#), Rose LoCasci, Eugene & Yvonne Cutler, Timothy Bell, Barb Doyle, Tom DeMulder, Ruth Glaum, Holly North, Dixy Pflug, Stefanie Smith, Celeste Hartman, Aidan Burns, Bill, Alicen Knapp Feroletto, Assunta Siniscalchi, James Jennings, Marge Suriano, Marlena Keath, Marian Agyemang, Frank Holley, Nicholas Gaedeke, Pat Hamilton, Gary Maraia, Rachel Feyh, Marge LaFave, Denise Dinato, Joe Maggio, Olivia Ross & family, Eric Roll, Barbara Haynes, Renee Joseph, Susan Pondolfino, Charlie Washburn, Sean Granan, Marge Ramsey, Beverly Pierce, Fran Groshans, Marion Kiselica, a dear friend, Pat Nabinger, James Stanley, Chris Smith, Marlena, Pat Elbrecht, Bonnie De Salvo, Lori White, James Rattrie, Danielle Guglielmo, Ellen Reuter, Jaxson Beadle, Francis & Alfredine Duguay, Joan Rice, Rowan DeCocker, Stephanie Saldinger, Bonnie Tabone, Austin Kilmer, Daniel, John Gilmore, Will Sterchak, Donna Khan, Anthony Barber, Jr., Payton Lakin, Theresa Zieno, Joan & Tony Barber, parishioners with COVID, Kyle Roy, Phyllis Blincoe, Bill Babbage, Michael Gregory, Maggie Hoffman, Bob Ostrander

Please Note: All names will remain on our list and will be prayed for unless our office is notified to remove an individual.

