

# Church of the Incarnation

240 Main Street, Mantua, NJ 08051

Parish Office 856-468-1314 \* PREP Office 856-468-7566

Visit us at [www.incarnation-church.org](http://www.incarnation-church.org)



Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time \* September 6, 2026

We come together as a Christian community to minister the Gospel of Christ

## PARISH STAFF

Reverend Stephen J Rapposelli  
*Pastor*

Reverend Shaji Muttathottil  
*Parochial Vicar*

Thomas F. O'Brien  
*Deacon*

Peter Traum  
*Deacon*

Phil Curran  
*Deacon*

Mr. & Mrs. Casey Corigliano  
*Directors of Music*

Mr. Gerald Voltura  
*Director of Faith Formation*

Mrs. Patricia Houwen  
*Business Manager*

## PARISH MEMBERSHIP

### Welcome!

Please register at the parish office or online by visiting our website at [www.incarnation-church.org](http://www.incarnation-church.org).

## MASS SCHEDULE

Monday - Friday.....7 a.m. and 8:30 a.m.

(No 7 a.m. Mass from Memorial Day through early September)

Saturday.....8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Vigil Mass)

Sunday.....7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m..

Holy Days.....5 p.m. (Vigil Mass)

7 a.m., 8:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Holy Day

Eucharistic Adoration.....Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

## BAPTISM

Baptisms are held every Sunday and some Saturdays at 1:00 pm. Baptism Preparation Sessions are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month via Zoom. Please call the office for an appointment.

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confessions are heard Monday through Saturday following the 8:30 A.M. Mass and on Saturdays from 4:00 P.M. to 4:30 P.M. in church or by appointment.

## CARE OF SICK

Arrangements should be made through the parish office for home visits with the Eucharist for the sick and elderly. The office should be contacted for the Sacrament of the Sick.

## SACRAMENTAL SPONSORSHIP

Sponsors for Baptism or Confirmation must:

Be a registered member of a Catholic parish

Be at least 16 years of age

Received Sacraments of Initiation:

Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation

If married, according to the laws of the Catholic Church

## Sunday, September 6 Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Matthew 18:15-20

Jesus explains to his disciples how to respond to those who wrong them – with gentleness and practical wisdom. He promises that whenever “two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in their midst.”

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### Mass Intentions

#### Saturday, September 5

8:30am Frank Cristaudo r/b Lucy  
5:00pm Alice Schindler  
r/b Carlo and Mary Ellen Giovannitti

#### Sunday, September 6 –

##### Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30am Marie Collins r/b daughters, Brenda and Betty  
9:30am Anna Gandini (29<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)  
r/b daughter, Grace  
11:30am Joseph Schiavo r/b Knights of Columbus #6364  
Richard Francis Wilson  
r/b Joseph Schwarzman and Lynn Caruso  
Bill Reilly r/b Kitty Family  
Tom and Lisa Hengel r/b Beth Faust and Family  
Donna Cabot r/b Bill and Kathy Dougherty  
Robert Citrino r/b Zarzycki Family

#### Monday, September 7 – Labor Day

8:30am Thomas Dougherty r/b wife, Rose

#### Tuesday, September 8

##### Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:30am Living and Deceased Members of the Parish

#### Wednesday, September 9 – St. Peter Claver

8:30am For the Intentions of the Active Members of the  
Legion of Mary and Auxiliary

#### Thursday, September 10

8:30am In Thanksgiving to Blessed Frederic Ozanam

#### Friday, September 11 – Patriot Day

8:30am Nicholas Brandemarti r/b Family

#### Saturday, September 12 –

##### The Most Holy Name of Mary

8:30am Frank Schreiber r/b Reggie and Julie Santos  
5:00pm Michael Higgins r/b Kathy Higgins and Family  
Fr. John Aurilia, OFM r/b Carl and Irene Minniti  
Tom and Lisa Hengel  
r/b Campbell and Dougherty Families  
Linda J. LeBeau r/b Mark and Lisa Lacy  
Robert Wnek r/b Taylor and Gatti Families  
George E. Griner r/b Laurelli Family

#### Sunday, September 13

##### Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30am John and Craig Forsman r/b wife and mother  
9:30am Mary Hess r/b Maggioncalda Family  
Roxanne K. Day r/b Bob and Rita Hale  
Tommy and Lisa Hengel  
r/b Michael Groody and family  
Carol Flick r/b Rita and Robert Hale  
Roxanne K. Day r/b Parcells Family  
Tony Smilski r/b Gerwatoski Family  
11:30am Purgatorial Society

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### Readings for the Week

|                        |                                                       |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday, September 7    | 1 Cor 5:1-8; Lk 6:6-11                                |
| Tuesday, September 8   | Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30; Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 or 1:18-23 |
| Wednesday, September 9 | 1 Cor 7:25-31; Lk 6:20-26                             |
| Thursday, September 10 | 1 Cor 8:1b-7, 11-13; Lk 6:27-38                       |
| Friday, September 11   | 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22b-27; Lk 6:39-42                     |
| Saturday, September 12 | 1 Cor 10:14-22; Lk 6:43-49                            |

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### Prayer for Religious Vocations

**Priest:** Let us pray for vocations.

**All:** O God, we earnestly beseech you to bless the Church with many priests, deacons, seminarians and religious who will love you with their whole strength, be faithful to their vocation and gladly spend their entire lives to teach your truths, serve your Church and make you known and loved.

**Priest:** Bless our families, bless our children.

**All:** Choose from our homes those who are needed for your work.

**Priest:** O Mary, Queen of the clergy,

**All:** Pray for us. Pray for our priests, deacons, seminarians and religious. Obtain for us many more. Amen.

**Glory to God** in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise You. We bless You. We adore you. We glorify You. We give You thanks for Your great glory. Lord God, heavenly King, O God almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only-begotten Son. Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father: you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. You take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. You are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord, You alone, are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

### **First Reading – Ezekiel 33:7-9**

Thus says the LORD: "You, son of man, I have appointed watchman for the house of Israel; when you hear me say anything, you shall warn them for me. If I tell the wicked, "O wicked one, you shall surely die, " and you do not speak out to dissuade the wicked from his way, the wicked shall die for his guilt, but I will hold you responsible for his death. But if you warn the wicked, trying to turn him from his way, and he refuses to turn from his way, he shall die for his guilt, but you shall save yourself.

### **Responsorial Psalm – Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9**

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

### **Second Reading – Romans 13:8-10**

Brothers and sisters: Owe nothing to anyone, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; you shall not kill; you shall not steal; you shall not covet, " and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no evil to the neighbor; hence, love is the fulfillment of the law.

### **Gospel – Matthew 18:15-20**

Jesus said to his disciples:

"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have won over your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, so that 'every fact may be established on the testimony of two or three witnesses.' If he refuses to listen to them, tell the church. If he refuses to listen even to the church, then treat him as you would a Gentile or a tax collector.

Amen, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again, amen, I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

### **The Nicene Creed**

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven: and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

**To everything there is a season and a time  
for every purpose under heaven.**

**Ecclesiastes 3:1**

**“...a time to be born...”**

Olivia Jo Flannery  
Navy Anne Meehan

**“...a time to welcome...”**

**“...a time to be married...”  
...a time to be healed...”**

Ann Marie Agar, Sam Amaradio, George Austin, Kevon Baldwin, Verna Bisconte, Rita Bruno, Quincy Cao, Colleen, Bobby Cooper, Jerrolyn Covely, Bob D'Alessio, Robert Deegan, Ang DelGrande, Antoinette Deuber, Michael DiBernardo, Susan DiCicco, Alberta DiFabio, Barbara & Stephen DiTullio, Rich Donofrio, Judy Doyle, Donna Dluoik, Bill Dunbar, Ellie & Les Edwards, Thomas Fenerty, Rachel Feudale, Francis Ferry, Agnes Flood, Marylou and Terry Furfari, Linda Gerwatoski, Margaret Giordano, Patricia Griggs, Michael Groody, Donovan & John Gura, John & Joseph Hart, Kathy Heisinger, Carol Taylor-Kearney, Caroline Keenan, Marilyn Angelotti-Kelly, Fred Krumm, Steffanie Lerch, Patricia Manning, Anthony & Biago Marciante, Michelle Marhefka, Barbara Marker, Maryellen McAteer, Dorothy McKeever, Barbara & Ira McManus, Anne McMenamin, Christina McNasby, Jack & Tim McSorley, Hannah McStay, Timothy Malloy, Jennifer Morgan, Katie Mutek, Peter Myers, Frank Nowak, Nicole P., Bob Paley, William Pappernek, Giovanni Poloney, Rose Quigley, Janet Rainier, Joan Reilly, Mary Reilly, George Rein, Angie & Pete Richman, Patti Roberts, Jim Roche, Karen Rucci, Jason Russell, Denise Sacco, Marguerite Sadler, Caterina & Santi Saya, Loretta Scardino, Charlie Schmidheiser, Mark Serock, Linda Sesko, Nicholas Simeo, Sr., Eda Shannon, Jason Shipman, Chris Stalker, Nick Stansbury, Dot Stronski, Jason Tallarida, Tom Tull, Rosemarie Villari, William Walsh, Justin Weaver, John Werner, Nancy Taylor-Williams, Dianne Williamson, Richard Wilson, Theresa Woods, Lois Worthington, Lori Wotypka, Lois Wunsch, Maria Wyzykowski, Francesco Zarzycki, all others in need of our prayers.

**“...a time to die...”**

John Gilmore, Merrill Abele

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls.

## GENEROUS STEWARDS

*“You, son of man,  
I have appointed watchman for the house of Israel...”*  
-Ezekiel 33:7

Many of us are generous with our gifts. However, many of us are not generous in proportion to the gifts we have been given. How often do we give at the minimum level required? Remember, the Lord calls us to nurture and develop our gifts and to give back with increase. He calls us as **stewards** to be generous with all the gifts, especially the one that means the most to us.

### Stewardship Report

**Aug. 11 through Aug. 17: \$17,962.65**

**Aug. 18 through Aug. 24: \$17,261.30**

**Aug. 25 through Aug. 31: \$20,477.30**

### FORGOT YOUR ENVELOPES?

If you forgot your envelopes, are new to the parish or are visiting the parish and would like to make a donation, you can do so by scanning the QR code below. Be sure to select a one-time gift, as recurring is default. Thank you for your generosity!



### STEPHEN MINISTRY

#### The After People

**Stephen Ministers** are there for you ...

... after you find a pink slip with your final paycheck.

... after the doctor says, “I’m sorry, but there’s nothing more we can do”.

... after the phone call you hoped you’d never get;

... after the baby arrives, demanding more of you than you ever dreamed possible.

Stephen Ministers are the “After People.” They are ready to come alongside you and provide comfort and support for as long *after* as needed. For more information or to request a Stephen Minister, call 856-468-5536.

## OFFICES CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY

The Parish Office and PREP Office will be closed Monday, Sept. 7 in observance of Labor Day. We will reopen Tuesday, Sept. 8 at 9 a.m.

## 7 A.M. MASS RETURNS

Reminder: Our 7 a.m. daily Mass will resume on Monday, Sept. 14. We hope everyone had a wonderful summer!



## CASSEROLE DELIVERY THIS WEEK

This month, we will be delivering casseroles on **Tuesday, Sept. 8** because of Labor Day. The freezer will be available in front of the Kernan Center at Incarnation beginning **Sunday, Sept. 6 at 7 a.m. through Tuesday morning, Sept. 8 at 9 a.m.**

As a reminder, please make sure your casserole is clearly labeled with:

- the ingredients
- date it was prepared
- cooking directions.

Donations of bottled water, toilet paper, new or gently used towels and new socks/underwear for men and women are greatly appreciated. Thank you!

## THINKING ABOUT BECOMING CATHOLIC?

The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) is for adults who are interested in becoming Catholic, completing the Sacraments of Initiation, or simply exploring the teachings of the Catholic Church in a welcoming and supportive environment. If interested, please scan the QR code below and complete the information on the form. Deacon Tom O'Brien will be in touch with you when he receives it. Come and explore the faith!



## MANDATORY MEETING FOR EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS AND LECTORS

There will be an important Evening of Reflection for all Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and Lectors at 7 p.m. Sept. 9 in the Church. Father Tim Mulranen will give a presentation that will be followed by a discussion of procedures. **Your attendance is essential** if you wish to continue in these ministries. Make every effort to attend. If you have a conflict or cannot attend, please contact the parish office. Thank you for your service and for all that you do.

## COR MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Men, are you looking for an opportunity to grow your faith while connecting with other men of the parish? Join us every 2nd Tuesday of the month for Cor (Latin for "Heart"), a new video and discussion-based fellowship. Our next meeting is this Tuesday, Sept. 8 at 7:30 p.m. in the Kernan Center. For info, call/text Brian at (424) 274-2648 or Bob at (856) 994-3476.

## FOOD TRUCK FEST RETURNS!

We're kicking off the back-to-school season with our annual food truck festival in the church parking lot from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 11. Treat the family to something special! Food from Dominick's Tavern, Dave's Hot Dawgs, Carolina Blue and Mr. Softee, plus lawn games, wine and beer, desserts, live music from our house band The Hazardous Lederhosen, and much more! See you there.

## WELCOME BACK BREAKFAST AND HOAGIE SALE

It's the moment we've all been waiting for: Incarnation Council 6364, Inc. Sunday Breakfast is back from summer break! Join us for the first breakfast of the season from 8:30 to 11 a.m. Sept. 13 at the Kernan Center. Breakfast includes scrambled eggs, pancakes, French toast, omelets, bacon, sausage and more. Price is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children 12-and-under.

In addition, we will continue this year with the sale of the very popular Primo Hoagie vouchers from last year. Purchase a voucher for \$10 after Masses Sept. 20 and redeem them anytime at the Clarksboro Primo's location where you can choose from more than two dozen hoagies. Please note: We are not selling hoagies on-site this year, just the vouchers. Proceeds benefit Knights of Columbus Council 6364 charities.

## GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Bereavement group will resume at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 15 in the Office Conference Room. Join to find hope and healing during your grief! Info: Rita at 856-693-2932.

## PREP REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

Registration for Fall 2026-Spring 2027 Religious Education classes is now underway. Register online by visiting [www.incarnation-church.org/fall-25-prep](http://www.incarnation-church.org/fall-25-prep). For questions or assistance, call the PREP office at 856-468-7566.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Children in grades K through 8 with disabilities are welcome to join a PREP program tailored to their individual needs. Class sizes are small and we use the Loyola Press Adaptive Program called "Finding God: Response to God's Gifts." Classes are the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month during the 9:30 Mass from September to April. Meet us at the Kernan Center! For information and to register, visit our website: [www.incarnation-church.org/prep-for-children-with-disabilities](http://www.incarnation-church.org/prep-for-children-with-disabilities). For assistance, contact Heather Wilkie at [hwilkie@incarnation-church.org](mailto:hwilkie@incarnation-church.org).

## TEACH THE FAITH

A new year of PREP is about to begin **we are in urgent need** of teachers so that all classes can continue as planned. Classes begin Sept. 15. Depending on grade, we meet every other week at one of the following times:

Tuesdays from 4:15 to 5:30 p.m.  
Tuesdays from 5:45 to 7:00 p.m.  
Wednesdays from 4:15 to 5:30 p.m.  
Wednesdays from 5:45 to 7:00 p.m.

No experience is needed! If interested, contact the PREP office at 856-468-7566 or send an email to Abigail McCrane: [AMcCrane@incarnation-church.org](mailto:AMcCrane@incarnation-church.org).

## 🎵 YOUTH CHOIR AND TEEN BAND 🎵

Attention kids and teens: Your musical talents are needed! Youth choir for kids in grades K-8 sings at two Sunday 9:30 a.m. Masses a month. The teen band (grades 8-12) has openings for singers, guitar, bass, and drums. They sing twice a month at Saturday 5pm Masses. Please email Jen Drees at [jendrees@yahoo.com](mailto:jendrees@yahoo.com) for more info.

## WANT TO BE AN ALTAR SERVER?

If you've ever wanted to serve God, be more involved in what happens at Mass or learn about what happens "behind the scenes," sign up to be an altar server! Children in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade or above are eligible – we will teach you! Application is at the QR code below.

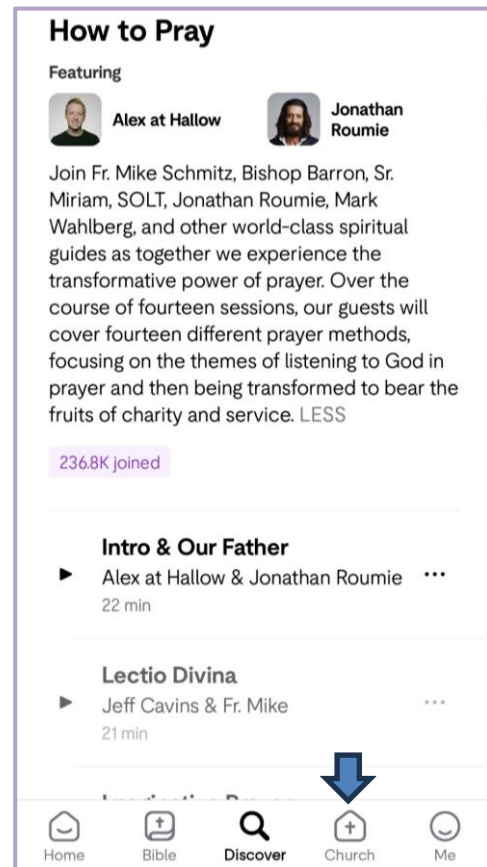


## SEPARATED AND DIVORCED SUPPORT

The Separated and Divorced Ministry of Mary, Mother of Mercy Parish resumes at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 9. Meetings are held every other Wednesday at Our Lady of Lourdes Mercy Hall, 500 Greentree Rd, Glassboro. This ministry provides support, comfort and spiritual guidance to those facing separation and divorce, regardless of religious affiliation. For info, email [divorce.separated.ministry@gmail.com](mailto:divorce.separated.ministry@gmail.com).

## PRAY WITH US ON HALLOW!

We'll be using Hallow to explore different styles of prayer from Sept. 14 through Sept. 28. It's free to join! Download the Hallow app on your phone or tablet and connect to us in the Church tab.



## LIVING AS MISSIONARY DISCIPLES

Our Scripture passage for this Sunday comes from the Gospel of Matthew 18:15-20. In this reading Jesus teaches us the importance of charitable correction for those who are harming themselves or the community. Disciples have the responsibility of helping others pursue a life of holiness, and sometimes that can require helping others turn away from serious and sinful actions. This passage is an important instruction for us on how we can seek the good of others in the most constructive and charitable way. The Lord knows that when we are offended, we will respond. In this passage, Jesus is teaching disciples to respond in the right way.

For a Christian disciple, the experience of loving our neighbor means that we seek what is good for them in the eyes of God. God created each of us in the hope that we would live our lives in fulfillment of the Lord's will. Sin causes us to become less than the person God created us to be. God hates sin because sin wounds and destroys the human person whom God loves. Christian disciples understand the responsibility of helping one another recognize and overcome our misguided desires and false values so that we may become fully the person God intends. When someone wrongs us, our instinctive response is usually one of defense or aggression. Oftentimes this instinctive response can manifest itself in destructive ways such as gossip, slander, anger, antagonism and so forth. The reality is that sometimes we can make ourselves feel better about our own flawed lives by pointing out the seemingly greater faults of others. When this dynamic occurs, someone else's sin can actually lead us to sin even more. Jesus teaches us a different way to respond. Our Lord instructs us to pursue a supernatural way of responding to another's wrongful actions. First, we are to make the other person aware of how their actions have harmed us. This is necessary because sometimes people simply may not even realize that they have caused harm. Paradoxically, the initiative for reconciliation is presented as the responsibility of the one offended. Pointing out the harm that another has caused, then, is not a matter of attaching blame or guilt but of assisting them in understanding the negative impact their actions have on the wider community.

Second, we are to be motivated by love that seeks conversion, reconciliation, and growth in holiness rather than by anger or hurt that seeks revenge, punishment, or humiliation. Fraternal corrections can be difficult because it risks misunderstanding, vulnerability, or even aggravating a situation, but it is part of discipleship. What parent does not manifest their love for their children by helping them correct their faults? What friend doesn't help another friend by wanting to help them become a better person? Fraternal correction is one of the most loving things we can do for another person. It's also something the Lord expects of us. Ezekiel warns us that we are, indeed, the watchmen for our neighbor and that our silence will condemn us if we fail to warn them of the harmful nature of their actions. Mere knowledge of another's harmful actions imposes on us an obligation to help them.

**Think about it:** With whom do I need to practice fraternal correction at this time? What action in my life is most harmful to others?

## PRAY FOR OUR TROOPS

**Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us.  
Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform in our time of need.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

We pray for all in our armed forces, especially: Andrew Archer, Greg Giordano, Dylan S. Johnston, Dane Kozlosky, James Tingle, Johnny McGowan, Vincent McManus, Vincent W. Abruzzese, John Robinson, Sean Owens, Matthew Cottrell, David Nahas, Colin Wexler, Liam Wahl, Ty Thuston, Brian Guzzetti, Leonard Puggi, Daniel Golden, Brett Govern, Ryan Lisle, Devin Kozlosky, Cory Carpenter, Christopher Hansen, Luke Wordelmann, Ryan Gilroy, Tyler L. Novak, Danielle Davis, Jesse Nester, Adam Stetser, Joseph Vaccarella, Matthew Murphy, Sara Huber, Robert Coughlan

## A PRAYER FOR SEPTEMBER 11TH

God of Peace and Mercy, on this anniversary of September 11, we lift up the souls who perished on that day. Welcome them with loving arms into Your kingdom. Comfort their families and friends. Help us to mourn alongside them with a constant compassion that can only be rooted in You. May we look to the first responders that day to inspire us to live bravely and courageously, and to selflessly protect others in need. May we look to those who opened up their homes to the stranded and displaced that day to stir us to be more hospitable. Having seen the face of evil and darkness, may we be steadfast and faithful in pursuing You, our perpetual Light. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.



## East Greenwich Troop 7059

### **Prepared. For Life.**

Dear Church of the Incarnation Parishioners:

August 31, 2026

I sincerely thank all of you for your generous donations, prayers, encouragement, and support of my Eagle Scout project at the Church of the Incarnation.

I am very happy to share that my Eagle Scout project is complete! I am incredibly grateful for everyone who helped make this project possible. Your generosity and prayers meant so much to me throughout the entire process, and I truly couldn't have accomplished this without the support of this wonderful church community.

I was also fortunate to receive donations above my original plans. This allowed me to expand and add additional cabinets. After completing the project, I was happy to donate the remaining funds back to the church.

I shared some pictures below so that you can see the completed project and the results of everyone's support. I am honored that my Eagle Scout project could give back to the Church of the Incarnation.

Thank you,

Peter Barone





Discovering **hope** and **joy** in the Catholic faith.

September 2026

**Church of the Incarnation, Mantua, NJ**

Rev. Stephen J. Rapposelli, Pastor

## One Minute Meditations

### St. Hildegard of Bingen

Born in 11th-century Germany to a noble family, St. Hildegard of Bingen experienced mystical visions from childhood, which she eventually embraced as a call to serve God and the Church. A Benedictine nun and later abbess, she became an influential spiritual leader, composer, writer, and scholar of the natural world. Popes, clergy, and political leaders sought her counsel. Recognized for the enduring depth of her theological writings, she is one of four women named Doctors of the Church.

### Stay anchored in the storm

A change of seasons often brings new routines, shifting schedules, and unexpected demands. When plans change before lunch, an urgent project lands on your desk, or your to-do list grows faster than you can manage, pause. Remember that our lives, our future, our peace, and our hope rest securely in the hands of the One who calmed the storm.

"God is the friend of silence...The more we receive in silent prayer, the more we can give in our active life. We need silence to be able to touch souls. The essential thing is not what we say, but what God says to us and through us." – Mother Teresa of Calcutta

## Living the Faith, sharing the Light

Jesus tells us to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world (Matthew 5:13-15). These images show two aspects of living our faith: preserving the distinctiveness of our faith and making that faith visible in our actions. Both communicate God's love.

**Keep the flavor:** In the ancient world, salt preserved what was valuable and gave food its flavor. Jesus warns that salt can lose its distinctiveness. Our faith can, too, when distraction, compromise, or indifference weakens our relationship with Him. Prayer is not another obligation to complete. It is time invested in the relationship that gives everything else its meaning.

**Light the lamp:** Faith is meant to illuminate, offering direction, warmth, and hope. But like a lamp, faith needs fuel. Through the Mass and the sacraments, we are continually renewed in Christ and strengthened by His grace. Nourished by Him, we are called to carry His light beyond the church and into our homes, workplaces, parishes, and communities through lives of

compassion, courage, and service.

**Share your gifts:** God gives each of us different strengths. It can be tempting to keep these gifts to ourselves, yet true humility isn't hiding our gifts but using them to glorify God and serve the Church.

**Serve in mercy:** The Works of Mercy make our faith concrete. When we are attentively present to those lonely

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*"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).*

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("hungry") for love, support our parish's charitable outreach, or choose goodness over retaliation, we reflect God's love in personal, immediate, and practical ways.

**Remember your first love:** God calls us to live in His love, and to share it with others. Living in God's love is the secret to preserving the faith and living it well. Our starting and ending point is always God's love for us.

## Why Do Catholics Do That?

### What is the Confiteor?

The Confiteor is a prayer of repentance we offer at the beginning of Mass to acknowledge our sins and ask for God's mercy. The word Confiteor means "I confess," reflecting the prayer's opening words: "I confess to almighty God." As we say "through my fault," we strike

our breasts as a physical expression of sorrow and responsibility for our sins. This gesture reminds us that we worship God with both body and soul and helps prepare our hearts to participate more fully in the Eucharist.

# Look closely; God is at work

We often expect God to work through dramatic signs or unmistakable miracles. Yet His providence frequently unfolds quietly and gradually. Pope Leo points to Jesus' parables of the Kingdom (Matthew 13:24-43) as an answer to an enduring question: Where is God, and how is He at work?

**God's providence is constant, even when hidden:** When events do not unfold as we hoped, we can assume God is absent or inactive. Jesus' parables invite us to trust that He is always at work, especially when His purposes are not immediately visible.

**God works through what is small and ordinary:** "God favors smallness, a sign of his discreet love, by which he

leaves us free to accept or reject him." For Pope Leo, wheat growing among weeds, yeast leavening dough, and a tiny mustard seed reveal a Kingdom that often advances quietly, patiently, and steadily.

**We are called to imitate God:** "God's way with us must also become the way in which we live." Building the Kingdom rarely requires extraordinary gestures. It begins with patience in difficulty, resisting rash judgment, fulfilling our responsibilities faithfully, and choosing love when it costs us. These ordinary acts become seeds through which God's Kingdom takes root and grows.

## from Scripture

### Matthew 21:28-32, The "yes" that matters

In this Gospel passage, Jesus tells of a father who asks his two sons to work in his vineyard. The first refuses but later repents and goes; the second readily agrees but fails to act. Jesus' point is clear: doing the Father's will matters more than merely professing obedience.

The parable challenges the religious complacency of the Pharisees, whose outward observance did not always reflect a heart open to God. By contrast, tax collectors and public sinners, though once far from God, responded to His mercy with repentance and conversion. Their former "no" became a genuine "yes," demonstrated not simply in words

but in a changed way of life.

This distinction remains essential for Christian discipleship. Faith cannot be reduced to appearances, good intentions, or religious language. A sincere "yes" to God takes concrete form through obedience, charity, repentance, and fidelity to our responsibilities. The parable is therefore both a warning against empty profession and a message of profound hope: our past does not determine our future. Whenever we turn back to God, He receives us with the joy of the shepherd who recovers the lost sheep (Luke 15:4-7).

sufferings with the same steadfast love.

**September 21 – St. Matthew the Evangelist** (1st Century). Also known as Levi, he was a notorious tax collector (Mark 2:14). Working for the Romans would have made him unpopular but very rich. Yet St. Matthew left everything when Jesus called him. He wrote the Gospel according to Matthew, addressed to Jewish converts to Christianity.

**September 26 – Saints Cosmas and Damian** (c.303). These saints were Arab brothers who studied medicine in Syria and lived their Christian faith by treating people without charge. They were martyred for their faith. Even in heaven, they continued to care for the sick and poor, as healing miracles were attributed to their prayerful intercession.

## Q & A

### How can I go to Confession after a long time away?

The Church encourages regular Confession (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1458), but travel and changing routines can make good spiritual habits easy to neglect. If it has been a while, come home to Reconciliation. Like the father in the Parable of the Prodigal Son, God waits to welcome, forgive, and restore us.

**Prepare your heart:** An examination of conscience is more than listing failures. Consider where you have fallen short in loving God and your neighbor. Recognizing what sin has damaged helps begin the work of repair.

**The priest will help:** Feeling nervous is normal. The priest can guide you through the Sacrament, offer counsel, and help you receive God's mercy with confidence.

**Penance begins healing:** Penance helps repair the harm caused by our sin and directs us toward conversion and renewed faithfulness.

**Grace offers a new beginning:** Confession does more than forgive the past. Through absolution, we are reconciled with God and strengthened by grace to resist sin, grow in virtue, and begin again with greater freedom and hope.

## Feasts & Celebrations

**September 4 – St. Rose of Viterbo** (1251). Born to poor parents in Viterbo, Italy, Rose used her gift of preaching to catechize her village. Though very young, she also spoke out in support of the pope against the anti-papal Ghibellines. The Poor Clares refused to accept her but allowed her burial there. She died at age eighteen.

**September 15 – Our Lady of Sorrows.** In Luke 2:35, Simeon predicted Mary's sufferings would be a sword piercing her soul. In her sorrow, Mary stood at the foot of the Cross, dignified and fearless while others ran away. Today, we can look to her to accompany us in our

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