

## PASTOR'S NOTES

Dear Friends,

When meeting people for the first time they, if they have reached a certain maturity, often begin with, "Oh Father, I came from a good Catholic family. I'm number seven of twelve" or "third of eight" or whatever number you please of whatever number you please.

These good and faithful Catholics are, I think, the last of a long and honorable era. For centuries the Church has grown by birth. Catholic families were large, and it would not be a surprise if one son became a priest or a daughter entered the convent.

That era ended forty years ago.

Today, due to the invention and intervention of the birth control pill and many other fast-paced societal changes, families are smaller. While lamenting these changes and longing for a return to "the good old days" may make us feel better, wishing it different will not make it so.

But we can move forward with resolute faith that even if we won't "birth" our way to an evangelized world, we may still, with added effort, ensure a faith-filled world. We begin by evangelizing and catechizing our children and grandchildren. PSR, which begins today, as wonderful as it is, is only supplemental. It's the vitamin that complements the faith life at home.

So as we begin religious education this year, consider the ways you live the faith as a family and how it may be strengthened. Begin with praying together and letting your children and grandchildren see you pray. Celebrate saint's days, name days, and baptismal days. Reading and discussing the Sunday Gospel and other stories from Scripture will open up new venues of conversation and deepen those loving relationships you already share. Spend Saturday nights or Sunday mornings at the parish, and then with each other.

The young have an amazing receptivity to both God and what their parents and grandparents hold important. Seeing you make God THE priority above and before all others, they will do the same. Or if not, it will at least get them thinking about it.

Then the next generation, even if smaller, will say alongside previous ones, "I came from a good Catholic family." And that goodness and joy in our parishes will evangelize those who weren't so fortunate as to be born into it.

With gratitude and joy for the days ahead!

Fr. Seth

## OUR GIFTS TO GOD

### THE WEEK OF 9/10/17

St. Mary's \$1,806	Budget (\$1,900) -\$94
Sacred Heart \$843	Budget (\$900) -\$57
Visitation \$299	Budget (\$400) -\$101
St. Sebastian \$518	Budget (\$400) +\$118

### SECOND COLLECTION - Hurricane Harvey

St. Mary's \$733	Sacred Heart \$767
Visitation BVM \$432	St. Sebastian \$172

\$466.00 was mailed to our Sister Parish,  
St. Anthony of Padua on September 5, 2017.

## LONGITUDE

2017 Sept 17, Sun:

2:00 pm, Mass for Couples Married 50 Years of More, Cathedral, Spfld. Reception to follow in the Atrium.

2017 Sept 18-21:

Priests' Convocation at Pere Marquette Lodge. Fr. Seth will be in attendance. No daily Masses.

2017 Oct 1, Sun:

2:00-3:30pm, Life Chain, Springfield: South MacArthur, Sangamon Ave and Bruns Lane.

Jacksonville: Main & Morton at the Ferris Wheel.

2017 Oct 14, Sat:

4:00pm, White Mass for all Health Care Professionals, Cathedral, Spfld.

## PRAY FOR THE SICK

Floann Kirsch, Nancy Flach, Calyssa Richie, Zach Overton, Dale Fitzpatrick, Julie Bergschneider, Mary McCray, Carl Bertolotti, Heather Boudreau, Don & Margaret Laughery, Jane Ryan, Jean Knight, Tina Green, Sy & Judy Haber, Donna Reichart, Presley Kerber, Joyce Henn, Olivia Loving, Sam Haycraft, George Eck, Opal Sutura, Theresa Yates.

\*\*Call 488-3545 to submit names, which will appear with presumed consent\*\*

The Quad Parish NEW website,  
[quadpastoralunit.com](http://quadpastoralunit.com),  
has the current bulletin online.

St. Mary's Church has a FaceBook page.

Search 'St. Mary's Catholic Church New Berlin' and  
LIKE us to get the latest news!