

## FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



### ST. ATHANASIUS PARISH

St. Athanasius Church, 2050 E. Walnut Lane Philadelphia PA 19138,  
Rectory 215-548-2700, fax-215-5487453 www.stathanasiuschurch.us

Masses - Saturday 4PM, Sunday 10AM & 6PM, Daily Mass: 8:30AM Convent Chapel,  
7040 Limekiln Pk., enter at St. Joseph statue.

Holy Days: 7AM (Convent) 10AM & 7PM (Church)

St. Benedict Church, 1940 E. Chelten Avenue Philadelphia PA 19138 Mass - Sunday 10AM

Reverend Joseph F. Okonski, Pastor, Reverend Anayo Nna, C.S.S.R. In Residence

Reverend Saji G. Mukkoot, In Residence Pastor @St. Jude Syro-Malankara Catholic Church

Permanent Deacons Mr. James Mahoney, Mr. Fred Poellnitz, Mr. Stephen Hopkins, retired

#### St. Athanasius Parish Staff:

Mr. Ted Travis Jr.  
rectory@stathanasiuschurch.us

#### St. Athanasius School: 7105 Limekiln Pike

25-424-5045

Ms. Andrea Tomaino, Principal  
[www.saschool.org](http://www.saschool.org)

#### ST. ATHANASIUS MASS SCHEDULE: 7/15 – 7/23

Sat.	4:00pm	James Eaddy (decd.) req. by Lillian Eddy
Sun.	10:00am St. A.	Marielita Vital on the Occasion of her Birth Day req. by Lourdes Vital
	10:00am St. B	Rev. George B. Moore (decd.)
Sun.	6:00pm	People of the Parish
Mon	8:30am	Klosowski & Mateyko Families req. by Ann Kitson
Tues	8:30am	Rose & Eileen Logan (decd.) req. by Mary & Eileen Gallagher
Wed	8:30am	James Miller (decd.)
Thur.	8:30am	Patricia Derski (decd.)
Fri.	8:30am	Jeremiah Doolin (decd.)
Sat.	4:00pm	Edward Robinson on the Occasion of his Birth Day req. by Aunt Alice
Sun	10:00am St. B	Rev. George B. Moore (decd.)

#### St. Benedict Church Ministries:

Family Social Services

Mrs. Barbara Roberts

Food Cupboard 215-924-4401

Food Distribution Monday & Friday 10a-12p

Zip 19126 – 19138 – 19141

#### Guiding Star Ministry

215-924-2876

#### This Week at St. Athanasius Parish

Tues.	Jul 11	Adoration St. Athanasius	9:00am
		Divine Mercy Chaplet	6:30pm
		Bible Study St. A Rectory	9:45am
		Senior Social St. Athanasius Rectory Basement Mtg. Room	12-3pm
		Legion of Mary	7:15pm
Wed.	Jul 12	Adoration St. Benedict	12:00pm
		Divine Mercy Chaplet	6:30pm
		Bible Study	7:00pm

**As for me, in justice I shall behold your face; I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.**

Psalm 17(16):15

## St. Athanasius Ministries Schedule

**Jul 15 – Jul 23**

Sat.	<b>Jul 15</b>	4:00 pm	Beverly Harper	Lector Comm.
			Deacon Mahoney	Ordinary Minister
Sun.	<b>Jul 16</b>	10:00 am	Youth Sunday Youth Sunday	Lector Comm.
			Louise Frasier Janice Thomas	Extra- Ordinary Minister
		6:00pm	Betty Jo Robinson	Lector Comm.
Sat.	<b>Jul 22</b>	4:00 pm	Marlene Matthews	Lector Comm.
			Eileen Gallagher	Extra Ordinary Minister
Sun	<b>Jul 23</b>	10:00am	Tracy Brown Paula Jones	Lector Comm.
			Richard Mshomba Gene Frasier	Extra- Ordinary Minister
		6:00pm	Mary Gallagher	Lector Comm.

## St. Benedict Ministries

### Sunday, July 16, 10AM

Commentator	Louise Hill
1st reading	Vanessa Doughty
2nd reading	Valerie Grant
Extraordinary Ministers	M. Barnes / A. Taylor

### Sunday, July 23, 10AM

Commentator	Audrey Patrick
1st reading	Anitra Roberts
2nd reading	Diane Berry
Extraordinary Ministers	J. Durant / J. Travis

## SACRAMENTS at ST. ATHANASIUS CHURCH

**Baptism & Confirmation:** Please contact the Rectory.

**Confession:** Available after Mass

## Mass Intention Offerings

\$10 Mass Card. (Regular Mass Card)

\$15 Memorial Leatherette Mass Folder.

Contact the Rectory.



## 16<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**JULY 23, 2017**

**First Reading** Wisdom 12:13, 16-19

**Responsorial Psalm** Psalm 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16

**Second Reading** Romans 8:26-27

**Gospel** Matthew 13:24-43 or 13:24-30

The following members of St. Athanasius Parish will be remembered in prayer by the **Sisters of Saint Joseph**

Sunday	Neylan Olidge
Monday	Francis Oliver
Tuesday	Madell Olivier
Wednesday	Audrey Patrick
Thursday	Lillian Paterson
Friday	Paula Paul
Saturday	Shawn Paul

**PRAY FOR OUR SICK:** At each mass, we pray for all our sick, whether their name is on the sick list or not.

The list of names below is for those in the hospital or seriously ill. Thanks for letting us know whose names can be removed from the list.

James Marshall, Ayana Lacey, Patricia McDione, Lionel Boissier', Winnie Cannon, Deacon Stephen Hopkins, Rosabell Williams, MaryEllen Gibson, Gwendolyn Slaughter, Pricilla Werner, Maidy Colson, Gregory McGhee, Dolores Fields, Maketa Robinson, Dorothy Jenkins, Charles Oettle, Doris Blue, Gary Grey, Marge Walker, Joseph Temple, Juanita Hartwell, Allison Rogers, David Bindley-Taylor, John Pompey, Leda Reeves, Edith Roberts, Mrs. Dennis James, James Jones, Justin Graves, Henry Jackson, Gwen Jackson, William Lee & Linda Jean Mc Seed, Owen Human, Christine Human, Edna Poole, Marjorie Pace, Robert Garnett, Lillian & William Scott, Lunell Mobley, Jessie Harrell, Joanne McCoy, Katrina Smith, Theotis Holmes, Cheryl Cobette, Anthony Pettis, Bobby Roberts, Louise Johnson, Rubin Johnson, Clyde Carroll, Arthur Poole, Liz Pileggi, Paxson Nash, Harmon Philips, Louise Hughes, Willie Love, Carol Patton, Jeanette Brown, Danielle Clemens, Lashae Thomas, Gertrude Lawrence, Eleanor Jeffries, Geraldine Mitchell, William Fairfax, June Robinson, Robby Thompson, Edwin Walker, Matthew La Smith, Anthony McClendon, Elsie Gardner, Jean Love, C. MacFarland, Gloria Gaston, Jerome Johnson, Ethel Mabry, Alicia Dolly Johnson, Kevin Bell, Theotis Warfield, Eddie Allen, Linda Heard, Anna Gibson, Noah Goldman, Perry March, Marilyn Scott, Angela Turner, Jeanette Perkins, Keith Surfin, Shirley Brown, Sylvia Greene, Mattie Spradley, Janet Hardt, Theresa Mitchell, Sandra Parrott, Andrew Doffus, Makayla Kenner, Yvonne Minter, Delores Chesney, Beatrice Hardison, Helen Staron, James Burley

For those in homes: M. Tiley, L. Gaskins, M. Hill.

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**AUGUST 12, 2017**  
**7:00 PM TO 11:00 PM**  
**IN THE SCHOOL HALL**  
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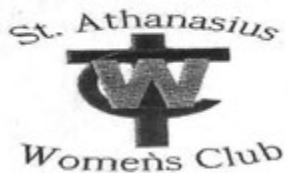


**TICKETS \$25.00/PER PERSON  
COME JOIN IN THE FUN**

For Tickets / Info Contact: Vera Spence 215-808-5593  
or Paula Jones 215-407-5304 or Rectory 215-548-2700



Saint Athanasius Catholic Church  
Limekiln Pike & Walnut Lane,  
Philadelphia, PA (215)548-2700



Dear Supporter:

Saint Athanasius Parish will celebrate Woman's Day on Sunday, September 24, 2017 at the 10:00 a.m.

Mass. The Women's Club asks all members, families and community businesses to support this annual fundraising event by purchasing an ad(s) and or a patron's list I the special Women's Day booklet.

(Patron's list can be found in church)

We appreciate your support and hope to see you at our annual Women's Day Mass.



**Reverend  
George Boyce Moore**

Fr. George B. Moore Memorial Hall

On behalf of he parish, I would like to extend my most sincere gratitude to Deacon Mahoney and

Mrs. Marlyn Barnes, chairpersons of the Father Moore Memorial Hall dedication Committee, the entire committee and all who worked so hard to make Our Feast day so special. I am grateful to the parish community for their show of support. In the many months leading up to the dedication a great deal of hard work and generosity went into the renovation of the hall. I am particularly grateful to Calvin Wallace, Fred Jarmin and Franny Bolduc who performed the bulk of the repairs. I am grateful to all who contributed and continue to contribute so that continued repairs and renovations may take place. May the Good Lord who has begun these things and who sustains us in His work bless you abundantly.

Fr. Joseph

Okonski.



### **St. Vincent de Paul Society**

St. Vincent de Paul Society works to serve the Parish through Material, Moral and Spiritual Support, as well as home visits. Anyone in need should contact the



Rectory 215-548-2700



### **PRAYER TO SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL**

**Saint Michael the Archangel,  
defend us in the battle.**

Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil.

May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do Thou O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the Divine Power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who roam throughout the world...seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.      Pope Leo XIII      0223

## FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### Today's Focus:

#### Imagine That!

*Jesus taught in parables, often from the natural world. Our sacraments use things that come to us from the natural realm, too. All can lead us to imagine God's reign among us.*

#### + Understanding the Word

Writing to the people in exile, the prophet known as Second Isaiah encounters hopefulness, using nature as his inspiration. Just as rain and snow fulfill their goal--- that of making the earth fertile--- so too will God's word be fulfilled. Set within an invitation to a banquet (Isaiah 55:1), Second Isaiah charges the people to "seek the Lord" by forsaking wickedness and turning to God, who is merciful (Isaiah 55:6-7). The prophet attempts to explain the mysterious nature of God (Isaiah 55:8) by appealing to the efficacy of natural phenomena. In our Gospel, Jesus will also appeal to nature to explain the kingdom of heaven.

The wages of sin are death (Romans 6:23), so Paul can rightly acknowledge that "creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation of the children of God" (Romans 8:19), because creation also experiences death. Paul does not accuse creation of sin. Rather, he recognized that the cosmic dimensions of salvation are meant not only for humanity, "who are lead by the Spirit" (Romans 8:14), but also for all creation. However, this redemption is yet to be complete, so "all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now" (Romans 8:22). Charged with hope, we are to "wait with endurance" (Romans 8:25) the fullness of redemption.

The thread of nature is woven throughout our three readings. In the first, nature is a metaphor of God's faithfulness. In Romans, creation shares in the same hope of redemption with humanity. And in today's Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the sower and the seed to describe receptivity to his word. While the explanation of the parable (vv. 18-23) likely belongs to the early church and on Jesus, both parable and explanation focus on who can and cannot receive understanding. When asked why he speaks in parables to those gathered, Jesus answers, "Because knowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven has been granted to you" (v. 11). The quote from Isaiah (vv. 14-15) is used to explain

why some accept Jesus' proclamation and others do not. "They have closed their eyes" (v.15). Like the seed that fell on unfavorable places and could not grow, so also some people were destined not to accept Jesus. The explanation of the parable (vv. 18-23) addresses the question of the early church: Why have so many not believed?

#### + Reflecting on the Word

St. Thomas Aquinas taught the grace builds on nature. To understand God more fully, look at and try to discover what nature teaches us. Discover what a sign or symbol's use in everyday life can reveal about its use in sacramental life. Jesus did that. He tried to open eyes and ears by using parables, everyday realities that could shed light on who God is and how God's Spirit works among us. The Gospel uses the parable of the sower. St. Paul uses the image of labor and childbirth. Isaiah uses rain and snow.

Are we open to hear what God is saying to us in the events of life and how we respond to them, or have we become as hard as the ground that cannot receive the seed? Do we labor to understand God when we are asked to change familiar attitudes or ways of living? Do we allow the rain of God's reign to fall upon us in ways that soften us so that seed of God's will can sow mercy, biblical justice, and reconciliation in us and our world?

Take time to reflect on the kind of soil that you are. What will it take for God's word to take root in you so that you remain as faithful in difficult times as in easy ones? What thorns of anxiety choke you and keep you from trusting God's promise to be with you at all times? What will it take to make the soil of your life rich and pliable rather than hard and unyielding? Open your eyes and ears to the world around and within you,. Invite God's grace to build on nature by raining into that soil that you are and letting God's presence bear fruit beyond imagining.

#### + Living and Praying with the Word

Open my ears to hear your word, O God. Open my eyes to see your presence at all times. May your Spirit cultivate my heart so that it can be fertile ground that bears the fruit of the love you made visible in Jesus Christ.



### PRAYER FOR THE CAUSE OF FATHER AUGUSTUS TOLTON



O God, we give you thanks for your servant and priest, Father Augustus Tolton, who labored among us in times of contradiction, times that were both beautiful and paradoxical.

His ministry helped lay the foundation for a truly Catholic gathering in faith in our time. We stand in the shadow of his ministry. May his life continue to inspire us and imbue us with that confidence and hope that will forge a new evangelization for the Church we love.

Father in heaven, Father Tolton's suffering service sheds light upon our sorrows; we see them through the prism of your Son's passion and death. If it be your will, O God, glorify your servant, Father Tolton, by granting the favor I now ask through his intercession, (*mention your request in silence*), so that all may know the goodness of this priest whose memory looms large in the Church he loved.

Complete what you have begun in us that we might work for the fulfillment of your kingdom. Not to us the glory, but glory to you O God, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord. Father, son and Holy Spirit, you are God, living and reigning forever and ever.

Amen.

#### PLEASE JOIN US

**Sunday August 6, 2017 Mass 10a.m.**

**@ St. Raymond of Peñafort**

#### TOLTON AMBASSORDORS INSTALLATION

Main Celebrant

**+MOST REVEREND JOSEPH N. PERRY**

DIOCESAN POSTULATOR FOR THE CAUSE OF

**FATHER AUGUSTUS TOLTON**

### Wine In the New Evangelization WINE: National Catholic Women's Conference Drawn by Love: SENT ON FIRE

**Saturday, October 21, 2017 8:30am-4:00pm**

**National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa**

**Register early, this events sells out quickly....**

**Please contact: Janice Paige @ 215-248-5468 to get registered a.s.a.p.**

### KNIGHTS OF PETER CLAVER PHILADELPHIA CENTRAL COMMITTEE

**First Annual Claver Family & Friends Picnic**

**Sunday July 30th 2017 12pm to 6pm**

**At Fun Filled \*\*\* 'MERMAID LAKE' \*\*\***

**Cost \$40.00 for Adults 9 years & older**

**\$21.00 for kids 8 years & younger**

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Contact : Janice Paige 267-496-9892**

<b>ST. ATHANASIUS PARISH</b>	
<b>St. Athanasius</b>	July 2, 2017
Saturday - Sunday	151 envelopes
Additional Offerings	\$ 380
Total**	\$ 4280
<b>St. Benedict</b>	June 2, 2017
Sunday envelopes	64 count 87
Additional Offerings	\$ 195
Total**	\$ 1832

<b>St. Athanasius</b>	July 9, 2017
Saturday - Sunday envelopes	\$ 4008
Additional Offerings	\$ 398
Total**	\$ 4406
<b>St. Benedict</b>	June 9, 2017
Sunday envelopes	120 count 150
Additional Offerings	\$ 1577
Total**	\$ 4689

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and Generosity to the Parish  
May God Bless You



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