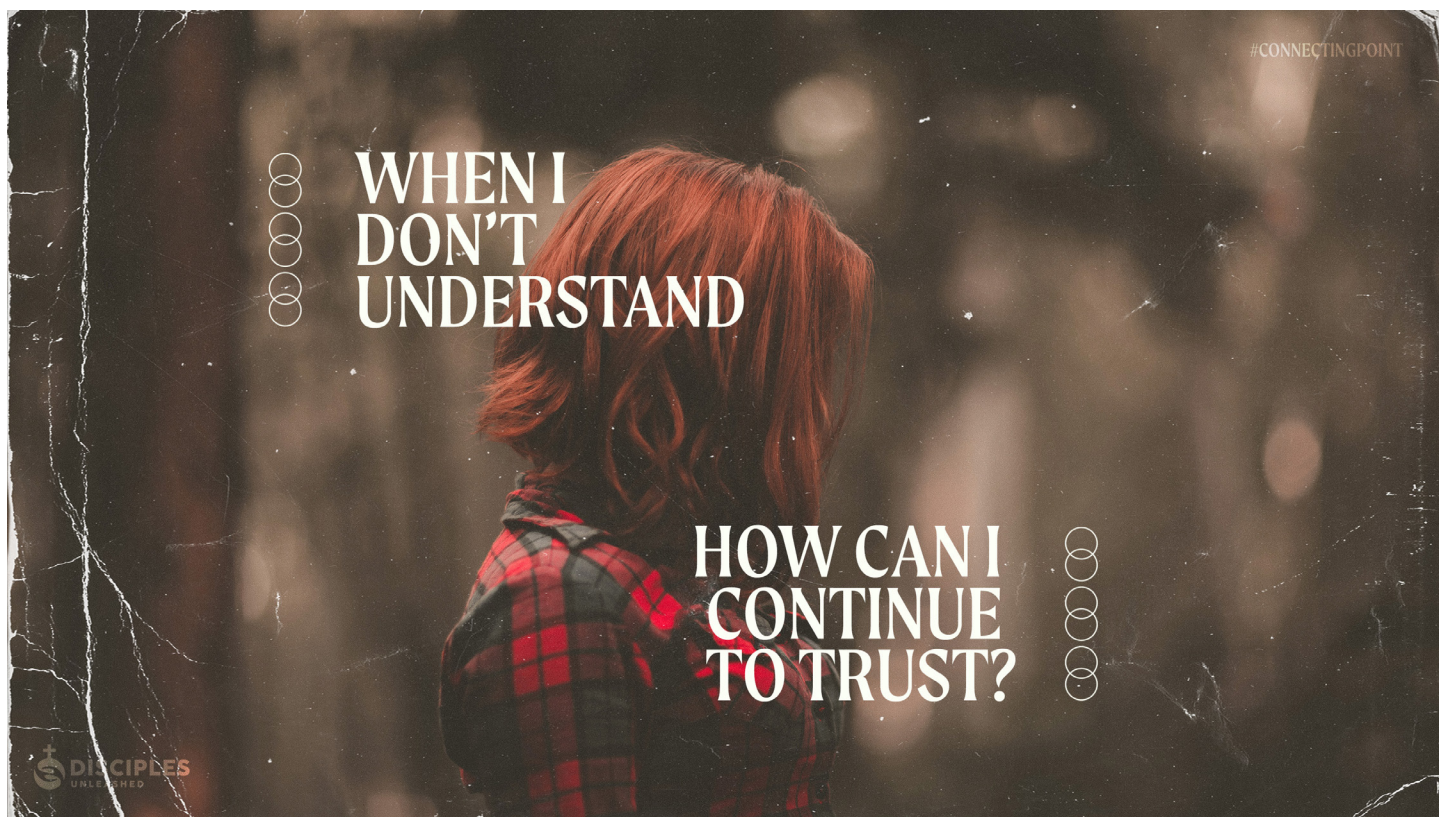


THE BULLETIN



St. Therese
OF LISIEUX

August 27, 2023
21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



MUSINGS + MESSAGES

👤 Msgr. John Kasza, Moderator ✉ frjohn@stol.church

It is always interesting to see who is put into a position of power or authority. Sometimes, a person gets there because of competency—they know how to do the job and do it well. Others are put there because no one else wants to do it. Some get into high positions because they are

sycophants (they know how to grease the right palms). But, when God puts a person in a position, what can we say?

Peter was probably the least qualified of the apostles, yet Jesus gave him the keys to the kingdom of heaven. The Lord put Eliakim in

a position of great power, but why did he deserve such an honor? When we see some of these events that cause us to shake our heads, how can we continue to trust? Think about the apostles: “Peter, why him? Who does he think he is?” We know very little about Eliakim (other than that he

continued on page 5

Connecting Point

👤 Amy Righi, Music & Liturgy Director - St. Isidore 📧 amy@stisidore.church

▶ When I don't understand, how can I continue to trust?

Life is messy, but God doesn't send hardships our way on purpose. He is simply not like that. Our misunderstanding of the conditions of our lives can be paralyzing, yet it can also be converted into an opportunity to trust.

Trust is a choice. We can choose to play the proverbial victim Eeyore, wallowing in our "woe is me" attitudes and disparaging our poor, needy selves, or we can choose to rise above each challenge as an invitation to come back to trust.

Trust puts us out there. Trust makes us vulnerable, especially when we have trusted before and that trust was broken. Fallible human beings break trust with one another all the time. That's why we have forgiveness and reconciliation! Making a decision to, once again, trust someone who has hurt you is very difficult. Yet, we must forgive and reconcile before we can trust. Trust is difficult for us humans because we are, generally, not very good at preserving it. We mess up often. Life and people let us down. Trusting God, however, is without risk because God doesn't break trust. God is all about

relationships, and he doesn't make mistakes.

Great Expectations

When my expectations for life and relationships are greater than my trust in God, I am doomed to perpetual disappointment.

What we hope for, here on earth, always falls short of what awaits us in the kingdom.

Facing a sudden financial crisis, loss of a home, death of a loved one, or even lost time with a precious friend or a distanced family member? When I don't understand why these things happen, how can I continue to trust in God?

"Have you not heard?
The Lord God is from of old,
Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary,
And his knowledge is beyond
scrutiny." -Isaiah 40:28

Although we may not understand,
we are always invited....to trust!





Did you know that all Catholics are called to spread the Good News? A great place to start evangelizing is with our youth. We need you to join our dynamic team of catechists as our faith community grows. Catechists play a vital role in the spiritual formation of children, helping them develop a deeper understanding of our rich Catholic faith as members of God's family.

To become a catechist, all you need is a genuine love for the faith and a willingness to share it with others. We will provide materials, lesson plans, training, and support. If you feel called to take up this fulfilling opportunity to help our faith community grow, please visit: stol.church/catechist

SUNDAYS | GRADES 1-5

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Children's Church leaders work with children in grades 1-5. All materials are provided in advance, and the classroom is set up for you. It meets during 9:45 and 11:45 AM Masses beginning Sep. 10. You can pick the weeks and Masses that are convenient for you.

SUNDAYS | AGES 3-5

LITTLE LAMBS

Little Lambs leaders work with children ages 3-5, meeting twice per month at either 9:45 or 11:45 Mass for its duration. Volunteers help the program leader with crafts and activities. Materials are provided, and all classes meet in the parish Resource Room.

MON/TUES | GRADES 1-6

GROW

Children in grades 1-6 rotate through different learning centers: Faith, Prayer, Activity, and Craft at each session, and catechists can select their preferred learning center based on where they think their strengths lie. Classes meet twice most months from September to May, either on Monday or Tuesday, from 5-6:15 PM or 6:30-7:45 PM. All materials, lessons, and setups are provided. Share your talents with our parish children, with a smaller time commitment than traditional Catechism programs. Experience enjoyable, interactive programming.

MON/TUES | GRADES 7-9

MISSION

Mission is our Confirmation preparation that helps teens better understand our faith. Table leaders provide a personalized experience by listening to and challenging the teen's point of view, asking probing questions, and sharing how God's love has touched their lives. Classes meet twice, most months, from September to May, on Monday or Tuesday, from 5:00-6:15 PM or 6:30-7:45 PM. All materials, lessons, and setups are provided.



CALENDAR

AUGUST 27 - SEPTEMBER 3

SUN **27**

9 AM OFFICE HOURS
 8 AM MASS
 9:45 AM MASS
 11:45 AM BACK PACK BLESSING
 11:45 AM MASS
 12:45 PM GROUP MISSION TRIP GATHERING
 2 PM RETROUVAILLE

MON **28**

9:30 AM STRETCH & STRENGTH
 2 PM ROSARY

TUE **29**

8:30 AM MASS

WED **30**

8:30 AM MASS
 9:30 AM STRETCH & STRENGTH
 10 AM FOP DISCIPLESHIP FORMATION STAFF MTG
 5:30 PM CHOIR REHEARSAL
 6:30 PM LIVING FAITH PARENT MTG

THU **31**

8:30 AM MASS
 9 AM EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
 3 PM CONFESSIONS
 6:30 PM SUMMER YOUTH SERIES MTG

FRI **1**

OFFICE CLOSED
 8:30 AM MASS
 9:30 AM STRETCH AND STRENGTH

SAT **2**

3 PM OFFICE HOURS
 4:30 PM MASS

SUN **3**

9 AM OFFICE HOURS
 8 AM MASS
 9:45 AM MASS
 11:45 AM MASS

► Musings + Messages (cont'd)

was loyal to God). Yet, these people were chosen by God to serve in high positions.

The same thing happens today. There are some people who don't understand why Jorge Bergolio sits on the throne of St. Peter. Yet, Francis was chosen, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, to be the Holy Father. We trust in the words of Jesus that the "gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against" the Church. We need to recognize that God is in charge of His Church and His World.

Yes, sometimes people get into positions for which they are ill-suited, but that is a result of the human condition and the fact that we have free will and intellect. But God also works through creation in order to bring about his kingdom in his time. We may not always understand why things are the way they are, but we still know that everything is in God's hands.

When we are tempted to despair about the state of things, remember that God has a plan and a purpose,

and our task is to discover how we fit into that plan. As disciples, God has a place and a task for all of us. Use times of confusion to ask the Lord for clarity as to what he wants us to do and who he wants us to be.

Please pray for those students and teachers who have returned (or will return) to the classroom. May this year be one of learning and discovery for all who serve in education.

Have a great week.

► Discover Disciples Unleashed in the New Testament

The "Encounter Year" of the Catholic Biblical School begins at St. Therese on September 21, continuing through May, with weekly meetings on Thursdays (7:00-9:00 PM) or in an on-demand, online class. Join to hear engaging, live lectures that unpack how thousands became disciples (followers) of Jesus in the 1st century and, through struggles, doubts, and challenges, were unleashed into a secular world. Teacher Tom Shaheen, MA, brings insight, humor, prayer, and a deep knowledge of the Bible and Church teaching to the class. Whether you want to start a new commitment to reading the Bible

daily or weekly, are looking for the confidence to share the faith with your family or friends, or are an experienced Bible-study leader, this class provides the expertise and community to transform your experience of God in the Bible. The course will cover the Gospels of Mark, Matthew, and Luke; Acts of the Apostles; Paul's Letters; and the Letter to the Hebrews. This is part of "The Bible Course," a multi-year series. All are welcome to join for just one year or participate in what more the series has to offer. Learn more >> cbsmich.org/yrb

CATHOLIC BIBLICAL SCHOOL COURSES

God spoke to me through this class!

IN THE DISCIPLES UNLEASHED PARISHES

EVENTS



TUES | AUG 29 | 10 AM - 3 PM | AUSTIN CATHOLIC HS

BLOOD DRIVE

A senior Caritas led project.



BEGINS AUG 23 | EITHER WED @ 6:30 PM OR THURS @ 9:30 AM

THE CATECHISM IN A YEAR

Join us for our ongoing study of *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC), using Fr. Mike Schmitz's podcast. This is a good opportunity to learn about the teachings of the Church in a safe space where all questions are honored. We

gather monthly on the second and fourth Wednesdays and Thursdays beginning in August. Choose the evening session, the daytime session, or both. Each session can stand on its own, so you can drop in at any time through early January.



SUN | BEGINNING SEP 10 | 1 PM

THE SEARCH FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Are you ready for *The Search*, a seven-week course for young adults? Cost: \$20, which includes workbook, appetizers, and refreshments.

Register: stol.church/the-search/. For additional info, contact Chris Piebiak, Director of Family Ministry, at chrisp@stol.church.

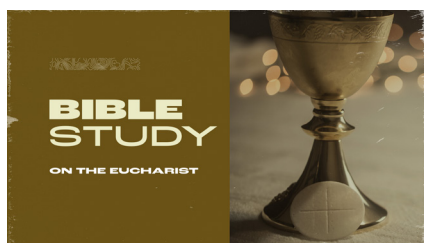


SAT | SEPT 16 | DOORS OPEN AT 5:30 PM

PAUL THE APOSTLE MOVIE NIGHT

Our K of C and ushers invite you to a viewing of *Paul the Apostle*. The movie depicts how the Church's greatest enemy became Christ's most prolific messenger. From the Emmy award-winning director, Roger Young, comes the spectacular story

of Paul and his mission to spread the faith in the earliest days of the Church. No tickets required, but a free-will donation is appreciated to benefit a charity not yet selected. Coney dogs, popcorn, chips, and soft drinks will be available 5:30 - 6 PM.



TUES | SEPT 19 | 9:30 AM

“EUCHARIST” - BIBLE STUDY

Starting on Sept. 19, this 10-week study will discuss the biblical roots of the Eucharist, using Dr. Brant Pitre’s study and including a study guide

and a video. We’ll meet on Tuesday mornings from 9:30-11:00 AM. Contact Peggy Casing to register: (586) 254-2944 X308.



THURS | SEPT 21 | 10 AM

BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION

Join us on Sept. 21 to discuss *Small Great Things: A Novel*, by Jodi Picoult. We’ll gather from 10:00-11:30.

New members are always welcome.

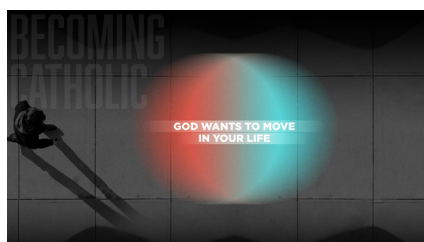


THURS | SEPT 21 | 7 PM

STUDY THE GOSPELS, ACTS, AND PAUL’S LETTERS

Beginning September 21, Catholic Biblical School of Michigan will offer a comprehensive study called “Encounter Jesus and Join His

Mission.” This two-hour study is sure to enrich your faith and knowledge of scripture. For more info, go to cbsmich.org. Register by Sept. 6.



SUN | SEPT 24 | 10:30 AM

RCIA / OCIA INVITATION

Are you, or someone you know, interested or curious about the Catholic Faith? Why we believe what we believe? Why all Christian faiths aren’t the same? Please join us

for this informational RCIA (Rite to Christian Initiation for Adults), now known as OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults), 2023 - 2024 kick-off meeting.



SUN | SEPT 24 | 11:45 AM

JUBILARIAN MASS

Celebrating a milestone anniversary this year (5, 10, 25, etc.)? Please join us to be honored. Each couple will have the opportunity to have their picture taken before Mass, and a reception will follow.

RSVP in the parish office with how long you’ve been married and how many will attend the reception (by Sept. 18). Bring a wedding or current picture (they will be returned) to the office to be published in the bulletin by Sept. 8.

► St. Therese Summer 2023 Highlights

As the summer winds down, we would like to highlight the activities that took place at St. Therese during the summer months, and we would like to thank everyone

who helped make these events successful! A baseball game at Jimmy John's Field, Food Trucks, and a Summer Fun Day highlight our summer season.



► Thank You - Teen Mission Trip 2023

On behalf of the Teen Mission Trip attendees and their families, I'd like to thank everyone who supported us through fundraisers and donations.

This year, our group was one of 16 from nine states, totaling almost 400 campers. Together, we formed 64 work crews, worked on 45 sites, and, in six days, put in 11,490 hours in Grand Rapids and the surrounding areas.

Our theme this year was *Forged*. In our daily devotions, we learned how our faith leads us through times of suffering and back to hope by building character and endurance. This was a powerful lesson

for both the teens and us adults!

Next year, we'll be going to Midland, MI, July 21-26, and we hope to bring an even bigger group of teens (and adults). We'll need your support again, so please look for some upcoming fundraising events.

If you, or someone you know ages 14 - 20, might be interested in joining us, please contact me at candelas@wowway.com or my cell at (810) 523-6818.

I practically guarantee all attendees will be transformed.

Paul Candela

► Backpack Collection Thank You!

Our parish responded generously to the Back to School Backpack collection sponsored by Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan. Thank you to all who contributed the necessary items that children need to begin their school year!



Examples of Holy Moments

Holy moments come in all shapes and sizes, and here are some every day examples:

- Control your temper, even if you are fully justified in losing it.
- Pray before making a decision.
- Encourage someone, coach someone, praise someone, affirm someone.
- Be patient with that person who drives you crazy.
- Do something that helps you become a better version of yourself, even when you don't feel like it.
- Give the person in front of you your full attention.
- Catch someone doing something right and praise them.
- Overlook an offense against you.
- Go out of your way to make a new person feel welcome at church, at work, or at a meeting.
- Take your spouse's car and fill it with gas.
- Give someone a life-changing book.
- Stand up for someone who is being bullied or belittled.
- Clean up a mess you didn't make.
- Pray for someone who is having the hardest day of their life right now.
- Teach someone about Holy Moments.

► Walking the Path

Discipleship Formation | 👤 Peggy Casing, D.F. Director 📧 peggyc@stol.church



I am repeating my article from last week because I want to make sure nobody misses out on participating in any of these adult formation events! If you haven't ever attended a study, maybe now is the time! Please reach out to me if you want more information about adult enrichment opportunities, or if you have suggestions for future studies.

On Thursday evenings, beginning on September 21, 2023, and concluding in mid-May, we will be hosting Catholic Biblical School of Michigan (CBSM), from 7-9 PM. The theme of this study is "Encounter Jesus and Join His Mission." This powerful, live teaching from Tom Shaheen, MA, includes an unpacking of the Gospels, Acts, and Paul's Letters, including their importance in our lives today. CBSM studies are a bit more serious than a traditional parish study, but not to the level of a college course. That niche might be just the right place for you! Know that there is also a fully online option that can be completed anytime. Find out more and sign-up by Sept. 6 at

cbsmich.org,
our use this QR
Code.



Next, On
Tuesday
mornings from
9:30-11:00 AM,
in honor of the current "Eucharistic Revival," we will be offering, from the Augustine Institute's "Lectio" series, a study entitled "Eucharist: Discovering the Mass in the Bible." In this study, acclaimed author and teacher Dr. Brant Pitre digs down to the biblical roots of the Eucharist, through its foreshadowing in the miraculous events of the Old Testament, the Gospels, and Apostolic teaching. Here we discuss "The Lamb of God," "The Bread of Life," "The Body and the Blood of Christ" (i.e., all phrases we know from the Mass). But, do we understand what they mean in the greater and deeper context of Scripture and Church teaching? We'll discover firsthand how Christ's Body and Blood are integral and wondrous parts of God's plan for our salvation. This 10-session study will begin on Tuesday, Sept 19, 2023. The cost is just \$10 for this great study! To register, go to our parish website: www.stol.church/adult-formation/, or call Peggy Casing at 586-254-2944 X 308.

Also, please consider joining us for our ongoing study of *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*, using Fr. Mike Schmitz's podcast "The Catechism

in a Year." After listening to his podcasts, we gather to discuss the content of the most recent episodes and the Catechism itself, watch related videos, and share in lighthearted, yet comprehensive, conversation about the faith. This is a good opportunity to learn about the teachings of the Church in a safe space where all questions are honored. We gather on the second and fourth Wednesday evenings (6:30 PM), and Thursday mornings (9:30 AM), of each month. Choose the evening session, the daytime session, or both. This study is already underway, but you can call me for more information and join at any time. I promise that each session can stand on its own, so you won't feel lost. These offerings will continue until early January.

Finally, we will also be conducting a study of Fr. Albert Haase's *Catching Fire Becoming Flame* as an evening offering. This is the same study that we conducted during the day, earlier this year, but we are offering it again because we wanted to be able to provide this powerful study for those who work during the day. I think this is one of the most foundational and impactful studies I have ever offered. More information will be forthcoming.



Each one of us is made unique - an original. God made us for the purpose of relating to him, first and foremost, and also for relationships with others.



The desire for God is written in the human heart, because man is created by God and for God; and God never ceases to draw man to himself.

CCC27

We had a nice time meeting with teens this summer. Thank you to all who participated!

As we wrap the summer series, we are looking for a few teens who would like to form an advisory committee to help us plan service opportunities and activities. If interested, please contact Veronica at VeronicaL@stol.church.

Meetings

- Thurs, Aug 31 // 6:30 - 8 PM // STOL

Questions about these events can be directed to Veronica at:

✉ veronical@stol.church
 🌐 stol.church/youth-ministry

To stay connected and reduce emails/texts, we use the app BAND. Use this QR Code to access our 'Summer Youth Series at STOL.'



Ministry Schedule

SAT | SEPTEMBER 2
4:30 PM

Lector 1: Iolanda Agazzi
 Lector 2: Sister Mary Andrew
 Altar Servs: Volunteers Needed
 Usher Team 4: Tomaz Dopico

SUN | SEPTEMBER 3
8:00 AM

Lector 1: Janet Webster
 Lector 2: Michelle Dziurgot
 Altar Servs: Volunteers Needed
 Usher Team 1: Ann King

SUN | SEPTEMBER 3
9:45 AM

Lector 1: Janis Fick
 Lector 2: Volunteer Needed
 Altar Servs: Volunteers Needed
 Usher Team 2: Sam Guzzardo

SUN | SEPTEMBER 3
11:45 AM

Lector 1: Volunteer Needed
 Lector 2: Volunteer Needed
 Altar Servs: Volunteers Needed
 Usher Team 3: Matt Stephan

► Mass Intentions

SAT. AUG 26 4:30 PM

For the Intentions in our Prayer Box
 † Joe Basirico
 † Alfred Saam
 † James Blaisdell, Jr.
 † Rosalia Pacella
 † Audrey Taylor
 Thomas Pilarcik (Bday)
 † Jack Kotter

SUN. AUG 27 8:00 AM

For the Intentions in our Prayer Box
 † Rachel Lemmon
 † Mary Zelasko (Bday)
 † Tom Westerlund
 † David Tamulevich
 † Tony Mancini
 † Petruzza Lorenzano (Bday)
 † Mary Sarna (15th Anniv)

SUN. AUG 27 9:45 AM

For the Intentions in our Prayer Box
 † Carmine Russo
 † Scott Dekoski (17th Anniv)
 † Dennis Stroh
 Richard Ludwig (90th Bday)
 † Marie Van Ryckeghem
 † Liam Panoff
 † Jim & Michael Bommarito

SUN. AUG 27 11:45 AM

For the Intentions in our Prayer Box
 † Alex J. & Irene Kujawski (Wed Anniv)
 † Gaspare Lombardo (1st Anniv)
 † Pamela Heinz
 † Morris Bolis (1st Anniv)

† Giorgio Calabrese
 † Steve Rafferty
 † John Accardo (4th Anniv) (Bday)

TUES. AUG 29 8:30 AM

Vocations to the Priesthood &
 Religious Life
 † Frances MacLean (Bday)
 † Doris Hoover
 James Smarr (Bday)

WED. AUG 30 8:30 AM

† Dave Kuptz
 † Skaria Geevarughese
 † Dennis Macciomei

THURS. AUG 31 8:30 AM

† Rose Serra (1st Anniv)
 † Sawson Haji
 † Maria Gentile

FRI. SEPT 1 8:30 AM

† Hub Kraemer (Bday)
 † Deceased Members of the Butkus &
 Sober Family
 † Joseph Hoffman
 † Mary Servitto

SAT. SEPT 2 4:30 PM

† Robert & Anne Boomer
 † Dennis Stroh
 † Joe Basirico
 † Alfred Saam
 † Ron & Betty Wesley & Family

† Don & Therese McCoy
 † Everett Lawson (8th Anniv)
 † Rosalia Pacella

SUN. SEPT 3 8:00 AM

† Margaret Mary Blue
 † Pamela Heinz
 † Steve Rafferty
 † Joseph Cone
 † P.T. Thomas
 † Ryszard Bruzdinski
 † Carmen Baffo, Jr.
 † Rose Andreski

SUN. SEPT 3 9:45 AM

† Germena Recchia
 † Dave Eineichner (Bday)
 † Gaspare Lombardo
 † Giovanna Zaratto
 † Domenico Iacovo
 † Bruce Watson
 Theresa Dedvukaj (Bday)
 † Richard Hamm

SUN. SEPT 3 11:45 AM

† Martin Gjolaj
 † Mary Jo Marchione
 † Kenneth Ciaciuch
 † Maria Vitale
 † Bob Pazdzierz
 † Maria Nguyen
 † Simon Vo
 † ThereseThuy Nguyen

Readings

SUNDAY

Is 56:1, 6-7;
 Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8;
 Rom 11:13-15, 29-32;
 Mt 15:21-28

MONDAY

Jgs 2:11-19;
 Ps 106:34-37, 39-40; 43ab
 & 44;
 Mt 19:16-22

TUESDAY

Jgs 6:11-24a;
 Ps 85:9, 11-12, 13-14;
 Mt 19:23-30

WEDNESDAY

Jgs 9:6-15;
 Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7;
 Mt 20:1-16

THURSDAY

Rv 21:9b-14;
 Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18;
 Jn 1:45-51

FRIDAY

Ru 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22;
 Ps 146:5-10
 Mt 22:34-40

SATURDAY

Ru 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17;
 Ps 128:1b-2, 3, 4, 5;
 Mt 23:1-12

SUNDAY

Is 22:19-23;
 Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 6, 8;
 Rom 11:33-36;
 Mt 16:13-20

Get In Touch

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Maintenance: Ben Boccomino, Nate
Chevalier, John Vella

✉ maintenance@stol.church

Office Hours

Monday – Thursday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Friday Closed

Saturday 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Sunday 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Lunch 12 - 1 PM (Mon-Thurs)

Bulletin Question?

Please direct all inquiries to Matt:

bulletin@stol.church

Content is due ten days in advance and must be
submitted online at stol.church/bulletin