

# Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 24, 2008



## Announced Masses

Sat 08/23 4:00 pm Elizabeth Brunick/ Anne Rocaneella

Sun 08/24 10:30 am Michael Croce/ Wolek Family

12:00 pm Open

Mon 08/25 8:00 am Agnes Jackson (Birthday)/  
Joe Nikituk

Tue 08/26 8:00 am Open

Wed 08/27 8:00 am Helen O'Shea (Birthday)/ Family

Thu 08/28 8:00 am Fr. Timothy Pisik/  
Fr. Hallahan & Parish Family

Fri 08/29 8:00 am People of the Parish

Sat 08/30 4:00 pm Joseph Rocaneella (13th Anniv.)/  
Daughter, Anne

Sun 08/31 10:30 am Joe Iobbi/ Debbie Carroll

12:00 pm Open

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### Second Collection Next Weekend

Our second collection next weekend is our 5th Sunday Collection. Proceeds received from this collection will be used for Special Offering.

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### The People's Tithe

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time: \$  
Thank you for your continued generosity!

## Sick List

Please pray for those who are ill and those who care for them:

## What's Happening Around SJOA

### Monday, 08/25/08:

Youth Group Meeting 6-8:00 pm Rectory

### 2008-09 Religious Education Program

Registration for our Fall Religious Education Classes will take place Monday through Thursday, 9:00 am to 7:00 pm at the rectory. For more information, call the rectory at (856) 962-8642.



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## RCIA

**ARE YOU AN ADULT CATHOLIC WHO HAS NOT RECEIVED ONE OF THE SACRAMENTS OR ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING CATHOLIC?** If so, we would like to assist you through discussion groups which will be formed in the fall as part of the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA). It is never too late...you are never too old! Please contact the rectory at (856) 962-8642.

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## Fairview Farmer's Market

Early Closing of our 2008 Fairview Farmer's Market.  
For more information, please call (856) 966-4003.

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The rectory will close at 1:00 pm on  
Fridays now through Labor Day.





# Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time



## From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

While on vacation at the seashore, I was informed about the article in the Courier Post regarding the merger of St. Joan of Arc and St. Bartholomew. I purchased a copy and read it. I would like to thank Steve Pipito and Eliza Pena for their comments in the article. I believe that both Steve and Eliza showed that the people of St. Joan of Arc parish realize the necessity of the merger and are willing to bring a positive spirit of cooperation to the processing of uniting the parishes.

Eliza and Steve showed that we have already begun a lengthy conversation with the leaders of St. Bart's and that we look forward to future cooperation. Eliza also pointed out the cultural differences between the English and Spanish parishioners that already exist in our parish. Our differences have become a source of enrichment rather than conflict. I would also like to thank Fr. Gerard and Mrs. Rhoda Trinity for their comments in the article. Fr. Gerard has demonstrated true leadership by facing a difficult situation in which very strong feelings are involved. I give him my wholehearted support. Mrs. Trinity noted that the leadership of St. Bart's parish is working towards a successful merger, but recognizes that some parishioners are very upset by the merger. She points out that the unhappy people must be wary of projecting their own unhappiness onto the behavior of other people.

I applaud Ms. Kim Milford, the author of the article. She consulted with leaders of both parishes, referred to national studies and university experts, and demonstrated that, although the leadership and the major portion of the people in both parishes realize the need for a merger, that a small number of people in St. Bart's are very upset. One challenge raised by the Concerned Parishioners from St. Bart's is the full disclosure of accurate financial and attendance records. I would welcome such a move, because I have seen the numbers and they argue convincingly for the merger!! If we compare the numbers of the finances, as well as the Sunday attendance, from the 1960s with today, we'll see that there has been a serious decline in both parishes. A merger is needed for both parishes, in order that a merged parish might flourish.

After reading the critical comments in the Sunday article, I have chosen not to take these comments personally, but to recognize that the comments are made by people who are hurting because of the anxiety and frustration caused by a major change in their lives. I'm sure it is difficult for them. I'm equally sure that no one from St. Joan of Arc intentionally showed any disrespect or hostility towards them. The next couple of years will present many challenges and will involve some decisions that will make some people unhappy. I encourage everyone to bring the whole experience to their life of prayer and meditation. We can all remember that the Church and our two parishes in particular, have undergone many changes in the past. The future will provide many challenges, but it will also offer many blessings.

Thanks,

To everyone for your faith, your hope and the charity that you show to others.

This week, I've asked Ms. Mariatu Turay to share some of her reflections from the week-long retreat and training at Los Altos, California. I hope that you enjoy her sharing.



Peace,  
Fr. Hallahan

**P.S. Please remember our secretary,  
Debbie Carroll, in your prayers.  
Her recovery from surgery is progressing.**

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On July 31 to August 6 I was blessed with the opportunity to head out to beautiful Los Altos California, where the homes are a million dollars, to a Jesuit Retreat house to better understand the process of changing a community through organizing the people within the community. The retreat house's surrounding was perfect for meditation and for one to connect with God and one's self. It was like a labyrinth that was miles long with statues of saints at each bend. I went out for morning walks each day and I found myself speaking more to God and tuning myself completely to nature. In the quiet of the morning, I spotted deers and heard sounds that are found only in nature, without interruption from the noise of the world.

Thanks to CCOP (Camden Churches Organized for People) which is under PICO (People Improving Communities through Organizing) I learned that there are other communities throughout the United States that are facing the same urban issues that Camden is suffering through and that faith organizations can be instrumental in bringing about change. During this trip, I not only came to an understanding of organizing, but also to a better connection with my faith life. Prior to going, I had little understanding of the Jewish and the Unitarian Universalist faith, but thanks to this trip I can truly say that we are more similar than we are different.

God Bless,  
Mariatu Turay

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## A Family Perspective

*Like Jesus in today's gospel, we are seen by other in different ways. Perhaps the name our family gives us is closest to our identity. They know us best. Who do they say you are?*

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## Stewardship Reflection

*Stewards Know the Lord*

*"I will espouse you to me forever. I will espouse you in right and in justice, in love and in mercy; I will espouse you in fidelity and you shall know the Lord." (Hosea 2:21-22)*

Stewardship marries us to a way of life where our discipleship lead us to recognize God as the origin of life, the giver of freedom, and the source of all we have, are and will be.