

## CHRIST THE KING

BENTON, PENNSYLVANIA

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

"What I say to you in the darkness,  
speak in the light;  
what you hear whispered,  
proclaim on the housetops."

-Matthew 10:27



JUNE 25, 2023

**REFLECTION BY FR. ANDRE FW**

## **MAKING THE LITURGY 'LESS PELAGIAN' AGAIN**

One obstacle that contemporary American Catholics create in being disposed to grace in the Liturgy is Pelagianism. Pelagianism was a heresy in the early Church named after a Celtic monk named Pelagius. He lived in the Christian City of Rome and later in North Africa between 390-418 AD. This monk taught that God's grace was not necessary for salvation, since human nature had not been truly corrupted by original sin. Our human weakness was due more to the environmental effect of bad example. Jesus' saving act was to offer an example of pure love that could be imitated. God's favor could be obtained by a kind of moral rigorism alone and outside of God's grace.

The most vigorous opponent of Pelagius was St. Augustine. We as Catholics share Augustine's belief that we have been deeply damaged by the rebellion of Adam and Eve, although not totally corrupted. This damaged human nature leaves us unable to achieve what is good without God's help. Original Sin refers to our fallen human condition, which leaves us prone to commit actual sin.

In other words, here's the bad news: we are broken, outside of a saving relationship with God, and we ourselves can do nothing about it. The highest human standard will always fall short of God's standard. We cannot merit it

The Good news is that God has not left us to our own devices, but has sent his Son to save us. The Good news of salvation resounds and is received as Good News only if we have truly grasped the bad news of our fallen condition. The news that I am cancer free really will mean nothing to me if I have never realized that I was cancer-ridden. The good news of being healed only resonated if I have truly accepted the bad news of my sickness.

Pelagianism paralyzes the believer's ability to receive the Good News precisely as Good News. The Pelagian lives with the mindset, whether they know it or not, that Jesus does not save, but simply inspire. In the end, I can save myself. A Pelagian Church is one that does not truly know the radical, scandalous mercy of God. Either we do not need to be forgiven, or forgiveness is not an option.

What would you say if you were to die tonight, appear before God, and be asked: "Why should I let you into heaven?" Most of us would mention all the kinds of things we do for God. All of our answers would be wrong - because it is not about what we have done, but what God has done for us.

Pelagianism in the Liturgy Today:

I have experienced many funerals that, rather than being a proclamation of the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ, became instead a proclamation of the righteousness or goodness of the deceased. The Scriptures during the Mass are chosen to eulogize the deceased rather than proclaim the grace of God's merciful love.

When we have pelagianistic tendencies, there are three consequences to how we approach the liturgy:

1. It will breed a culture of minimalism - which is more pagan than Christian
2. The Mercy of God cannot be fully known or experienced
3. No desire to missionary discipleship.

**STEWARDSHIP**  
**JUNE 18, 2023**

Offering	\$1426.00
Catholic Communication	\$434.00
Rainy Day	\$90.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1950.00</b>

**BECOME A SPONSOR OF OUR NEW BULLETIN**

If you have a business and want to advertise, or if you want to put a personal message for a loved one or in memory of someone, we have space on the last page of our new bulletin.

Please call the office at 570-925-6969 or contact Adam Snyder at ASnyder@Diocesan.com or 814-771-8628

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Saturday, June 24**

Carol Ann Edwards by Don & Mary Wilce

**Sunday, June 25**

Deborah Haden by Amy & Pete Yastishock  
Ann Talanca by Diane & Doug Talanca

**Monday, June 26**

Daniel Bauman by Joe & Lee Ann Boiwka

**Friday, June 30**  
**No Mass**

**Saturday, July 1**

Joseph Dell by Mary Ellen Neal

**Sunday, July 2**

Dolores Strazdus by David Strazdus

Mass intentions are available in memory of, or in honor of a loved one. The donation for having a Mass said for a personal request is \$10.00. You can drop your request in the collection or contact the parish office.

**IN YOUR PRAYERS, PLEASE REMEMBER:**

- INTENTIONS OF THE HOLY FATHER,
- ALL PRIESTS INCLUDING:
  - FR. MOWERY
  - FR. ST. HILAIRE
  - FR. SOLA
- CARL BARCHIK
- MICHAEL BARDI
- MAUREEN BECK
- LORENA BENNET
- BUTCH BOGART
- NANCY BOGART
- CHRISTINA CAPRIOLA
- RUSSELL CASTROGIOVANNI
- COBERT FAMILY
- HONOR DELL
- RYAN DELL
- VIVIAN WHITENIGHT HYNICK
- BOB KALIE
- MARGARET KALIE
- AUSTIN KELSEY
- JOSEPH LABONTE
- MARY ANN LEVAN
- DOROTHY O'HANDLEY
- NANCY OMAN
- RICHARD SCAVONE
- JACKIE SCHERER
- MARK SULLIVAN
- BARB TREIER
- MARISA WHITENIGHT
- JOSEPHINE WILSON
- NANCY WISBAR
- SONNY WOMELSDORF
- MARY ANN ZEVENY



**LITURGICAL ROLES**

<b>Lector Schedule</b>	<b>Extraordinary Minister</b>
June 25 - Anne Eustice	June 25 - Meg Geffken
July 2 - Paul Haden	July 2 - Judith Scavone

**Collection Stewards**

June 25 - Charlotte & Joe Casarella  
July 2 - Sharon Tishler & Flo Tapsak

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**What I say to you in the darkness, speak in the light; what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops.**

Saint Paul tells us that Jesus brings the grace of God as pure gift. And we know that God cares for us so much that he counts the hairs on our heads. Nothing is secret with God - all is finally and perfectly revealed in his Son, Jesus. We ought not fear to share this Good News, acknowledging Christ and announcing the Gospel to the world.

Jeremiah fears turbulent times and impending siege, but also trusts in God. Saint Paul writes to the Romans that sin entered the world through Adam, but redemption through Jesus overflows all the greater to save everyone. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples to fear no one, and that all who acknowledge him he will acknowledge before the Father.

**CARD SHOWER FOR TWO FORMER  
PARISHIONERS**

Pat Scardigli's 80th birthday is on June 22.  
Her address is 301 S. Parkway Blvd.  
Apt. S212, Broomall, PA 19008

Joseph English will be turning "90" on July  
2nd. His address is 47 Hemlock Circle,  
Newville, PA 17241

**UNBORN CANDLE DONATIONS**

\$3.00/ week,  
\$5.00/ 2 weeks or  
\$10.00/ month.  
Month of June - Richard & Tamara Lindner

**BENTON FOOD BANK**

For the month of July we will be collecting toilet paper  
due to the Food Bank by July 16th. The Food Bank at the  
N4C's is the 3rd Tuesday of every month.

**CHRISTMAS IN JULY TEA**

On Sunday, July 23, a two-hour afternoon tea will be  
held at St. Columba, starting at 1:00 p.m. Tickets for  
the Tea will be available for \$30 at the Parish Center  
(570-784-0801). The event promises to be a true  
celebration, with all proceeds from your contributions  
dedicated to the welfare and betterment of St. Columba  
School. Be prepared to immerse yourselves in an  
afternoon filled with delightful conversations,  
delectable treats, and a warm ambiance that captures  
the essence of the holiday season, even in the midst of  
summer. All attending should bring a non-perishable for  
the Bloomsburg Food Cupboard.

**SAVE THE DATE FOR VACATION BIBLE  
SCHOOL THIS YEAR AT ST. COLUMBA**

July 17 to July 21. VBS will be held at the same  
time, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at St. Columba  
Church. Hope to see you all there! Watch the  
bulletin for registration and volunteering  
information.




## **ARE YOU ABLE TO SPEND AN HOUR A WEEK WITH JESUS?**

The Adoration Chapel at the Basilica of St. Cyril and Methodius in Danville IS NOW OPEN with adoration hours from Wednesdays at 7:00 AM through Thursdays at 8:00 PM. We need another adorer for the 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. and 4:00- 5:00 p.m. hours on Thursdays. Adoration is also open for First Saturdays 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. at the Chapel due to requests. Sign-up sheet is at chapel desk, or call Judy Dobson. Unsure about committing? Team up with a friend and back each other up, or go to pray together! Contact Judy Dobson for more information at 570-594-7175 or go to our web site. <https://adoration24hours.wordpress.com>

### **WELCOME OUR NEWEST PARISHIONERS**

**Please welcome our newest Parishioners to our Christ the King Family - Renata and Jacob Evans along with their two children, Jacob and Thomas.**



### **PIEROGI MAKING**

**Will be on Fridays at 8 a.m. starting June 23 through August 4th.**

**The Bloomsburg Fair is our biggest Fundraiser. Volunteers needed and welcomed!**

### **SEND BISHOP GAINER YOUR WELL WISHES:**

**In just a few short weeks, our Diocese will welcome Bishop Timothy Senior as our new shepherd. As we plan to welcome Bishop Senior, join us in praying for and wishing Bishop Emeritus Gainer a happy retirement. To send Bishop Gainer your well wishes, visit <https://www.hbgdiocese.org/wellwishes> STAFF**

**Sisters of Saints Cyril & Methodius** will be having their Summer Festival in Danville on Saturday, July 8. The event is scheduled from 10:30 - 5 PM

Also, a job posting:

Sisters of Saints Cyril & Methodius in Danville is looking for a Full-time Maintenance Technician. For more information, please contact our HR Department 570-275-3581 ext. 156.

**THE DIOCESAN ANNUAL CAMPAIGN** provides resources, expertise, guidance and support for more than 90 ministries and programs throughout the 15 counties of the Diocese of Harrisburg. Gifts from donors like you sustain, expand and support our ongoing evangelization efforts, provide continuing education programs for our Catholic schools and Religious Education programs, seminarians, clergy and permanent deacons, and investments in pro-life activities.

Now, more than ever, the programs and ministries that received funding from the Diocesan Annual Campaign need your prayers and steadfast support. Your gift, no matter the size, truly makes a difference. On behalf of those who benefit from our ministries, please accept our heartfelt appreciation and deep gratitude. Checks should be payable to the Diocese of Harrisburg. If you did not receive an envelope but would like to contribute, envelopes are at the entrance of the Church, or go to <https://www.hbgdiocese.org/diocesan-annualcampaign/ways-to-give/>

### **WORLD YOUTH DAY**

We have the opportunity to sponsor two of our parishioners here at Christ the King who will be attending World Youth Day 2023 in Lisbon, Portugal. Eric Weibel and Father Andrew are attending this year and will personally be absorbing the cost of \$2,998 per person.

It is for young adults ages 18-39 who will have the opportunity to experience this exciting adventure to convene with the Holy Father and young people from around the world. The pilgrimage will take place July 30th - August 7th and will also include a visit to Fatima where our Blessed Mother famously appeared to the three shepherd children. The costs include lodging, flights and other travel accommodations.

If you are interested in donating to help with their expenses, please make your check payable to Catholic Campus Ministry which can be tax deductible. You can drop it in the collection or give to Father Andrew or Lee Ann. Please mark on the envelope "World Youth Day", Thank you in advance for your generosity!