

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHEDRAI

ST. MICHAEL

OF PADUA

ANTHONY

ST.

P

ORATORY

SACRAMENT

BLESSED

# of Catholic Parishes





Oldest parish in the Buffalo diocese.



780 Main Street (at Edward), Buffalo, NY 14202 StLouisRCChurch.org 716-852-6040 ChurchOffice@StLouisRCChurch.org

# BLESSED SACRAMENT

"The Bishop's Chapel"



1029 Delaware Ave, Buffalo, NY 14209 BlessedSacramentBuffalo.org (716) 884-0053 office@BlessedSacramentBuffalo.org

July 13, 2025 I The Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

### **FAMILY MASS TIMES**

### **SATURDAY VIGILS**

- St. Louis Parish: 4:00 pm
- Blessed Sacrament Church 4:30 pm
- St. Michael's: 5:30

### **SUNDAYS**

- St. Louis Parish: 9:00 & 11:00 am
- Blessed Sacrament: 10:30 am
- St. Michael's: 12:00 pm

### WEEKDAYS: MONDAY, TUES-DAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY

- St. Louis Parish: 12:05 pm
- Blessed Sacrament: 8:00 am
- St. Michael's: 6:45 am
- St. Joseph's: 12:10 pm (M-F)

# CONFESSION: ON REQUEST AFTER ANY MASS

- St. Louis: Saturdays: 3:15-4:00 pm
- St. Joseph's Cathedral: Wed & Fri 11:45 am; Saturday 4:00 pm
- St. Michael's: after 6:45 am daily until 9:00 am, or by appt.
- St. Anthony's: 30 mins before all Masses

### **BAPTISMS:**

New parents must participate in a virtual pre-baptismal instruction class. Information and registration forms are available on the St. Louis website for the Downtown Family of Parishes. Questions? Contact the Faith Formation Office at religioused@StLouisrcchurch.org.

# WEDDINGS: AT ST. LOUIS OR BLESSED SACRAMENT

Registered parishioners should call the family office to discuss and check available dates. Arrangements should be made 8 months in advance.

# NEW PARISHIONERS: AT ST. LOUIS OR BLESSED SACRAMENT

We welcome you to the Downtown Family of Parishes! Registration forms can be found on the websites.

### **ANOINTING OF THE SICK**

Anointing in preparation of surgery or illness can be done after any Mass. Communal anointing takes place the last Sunday of the month after the Noon Mass at St. Michael's.

### **BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS**

Email to dbfpbulletin@gmail.com

# July 13, 2025 The Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Week of July 13 <sup>,</sup> 2025			
Saturday, July 12			
St. Louis 4:00 pm	Faye Lois S. Grobe Req by: The Grobe Family		
Blessed Sacrament 4:30 pm	Angelo Di Liberti Req by: Barb and Tom Bielicki		
Saint Michael's 5:30 pm	Amy Betros Req by: St. Michael's Parishioners		
Sı	ınday, July 13		
Saint Louis 9:00 am 11:00 am	Lief Jonassen Req by: Michael McPherson E. Alan Nordstrom, Jr. Req by: Donna Arnone		
Blessed Sacrament	Stephen Rogacki		
10:30 am	Req by: John Kopera		
Saint Michael's 12 noon	All Souls Req by: St. Michael's Parishioners		
Monday, July 14 - St. Tekakwítha			
St. Louis 12:05 pm	Tim and Mary Jerge Reid Family Req by: Mary Jerge		
Blessed Sacrament 8:00 am	Columbia Verolini Req by: Richard Lehner		
Saint Michael's 6:45 am	Michael Banaziak Req by: The 6:45 am Mass Friends		
Tuesday, July 15 - St. Bonaventure			
St. Louis 12:05 pm	David Jackson Req by: Diocese of Buffalo Audit Department		
Blessed Sacrament 8:00 am	Isabell, Ricky, Hokan, Olivia		
Saint Michael's 6:45 am	Req by: Peter and Tracy Cromwell  Marjorie Dolan Reg by: Estate		
Thursday, July 17			
St. Louis 12:05 pm	Intentions of Pope Leo Reg by: St. Louis Parishioners		
Blessed Sacrament 8:00 am	All Souls Req by: Blessed Sacrament Parishioners		
Saint Michael's 6:45 am	Downtown Family of Parishes Req by: St. Michael's Parishioners		
Fríday, July 18 - St. Camíllus de Lellís			
St. Louis 12:05 pm	Florence Remboldt Req by: Estate		
Blessed Sacrament 8:00 am	Bonnie Werdein Req by: Richard Lehner		
Saint Michael's 6:45 am	All Souls Reg by: St. Michael's Parishioners		



Pastor   Associate Vicar   Rev. Raymond Corbin   Rev. Raymond Corbin   Rev. Jacek Mazur   Japioma@hotmail.com	ranning of Parisites		
Tic-852-6040 x 202 FrRayssp@gmail.com  Family Clergy Msgr. Salvatore Manganello Rev. Ben Fiore, S.J. Rev. Richard Zanoni, S.J.  Dir. of Religious Education Ashlee Campbell  Saint Louis 35 Edward St  Parish Life President Pearl Brown  Dir. of Music Frank Scinta  Business Manager Kevin Brayer  Blessed Sacrament 1035 Delaware Ave  Parish Life President Peter Rizzo Parish Life President Peter Rizzo Paul F. Jones Mary C. McCracken  Dir. Of Music Anthony Domzal  Saint Michael's 651 Washington Ave.  Trustees Mary Devid Granville Steven Nosek Musicians  Mary D. Grampaolo, Istvan Hernak	Pastor	Associate Vicar	
FrRayssp@gmail.com  Family Clergy Msgr. Salvatore Manganello Rev. Ben Fiore, S.J. Rev. Richard Zanoni, S.J.  Carmelo Gaudioso  Dir. of Religious Education Ashlee Campbell  Saint Louis 35 Edward St  Parish Life President Pearl Brown  Dir. of Music Frank Scinta  Business Manager Kevin Brayer  Blessed Sacrament 1035 Delaware Ave  Parish Life President Peter Rizzo Parish Life President Peter Rizzo Parish Life President Poir. Of Music  Cantors Frank Scinta  Business Manager Kevin Brayer  Blessed Sacrament 1035 Delaware Ave  Parish Life President Peter Rizzo Paul F. Jones Mary C. McCracken  Dir. Of Music Anthony Domzal  Cory James Gallagher  Frustees Baint Michael's 651 Washington Ave.  Trustees Musicians  David Granville Steven Nosek Musicians	Rev. Raymond Corbin	Rev. Jacek Mazur	
### Family Clergy   Msgr. Salvatore Manganello   Thomas LaBelle   Itabelle1012@gmail.com   Carmelo Gaudioso     Dir. of Religious Education   Ashlee Campbell   A43-744-0354     Saint Louis   35 Edward St     Parish Life President   Trustees   John Beller   Erin Peradotto-Tehaar     Dir. Of Music   Cantors     Frank Scinta   James Mrozek   Erin Peradotto-Terhaar     Blessed Sacrament   1035 Delaware Ave     Parish Life President   Trustees     Free President   Trustees     Dir. Of Music   Cantors     Frank Scinta   James Mrozek   Erin Peradotto-Terhaar     Business Manager   Kevin Brayer     Free President   Trustees   Paul F. Jones   Mary C. McCracken     Dir. Of Music   Cantor     Cantor   Cantor   Cory James Gallagher     Saint Michael's   651 Washington Ave.     Trustees   David Granville   Steven Nosek     Musicians   Mark Di Giampaolo, Istvan Hernak     Trustees   David Granville   Steven Nosek     Musicians   Mark Di Giampaolo, Istvan Hernak     Trustees   David Granville   Steven Nosek     Mark Di Giampaolo, Istvan Hernak     Trustees   David Granville   Steven Nosek     Mark Di Giampaolo, Istvan Hernak     Trustees   David Granville   Steven Nosek     Mark Di Giampaolo, Istvan Hernak     Trustees   Mark Di Giampaolo, Istvan Hernak     Trustees   Trustees   Trustees   Trustees     Trustees   David Granville   Steven Nosek     Mark Di Giampaolo, Istvan Hernak     Trustees   Trustees   Trustees   Trustees   Trustees     Trustees   David Granville   Steven Nosek     Trustees   T	716-852-6040 x 202	Japioma@hotmail.com	
Msgr. Salvatore Manganello Rev. Ben Fiore, S.J. Rev. Richard Zanoni, S.J.  Dír. of Religious Education Ashlee Campbell  Saint Louis 35 Edward St  Parish Life President Pearl Brown  Dír. Of Music Frank Scinta  Business Manager Kevin Brayer  Blessed Sacrament 1035 Delaware Ave  Peter Rizzo  Parish Life President Peter Rizzo  Parish Life President Poir. Of Music  Business Manager  Contors  Frank Scinta  Business Manager  Kevin Brayer  Blessed Sacrament 1035 Delaware Ave  Parish Life President Peter Rizzo  Paul F. Jones Mary C. McCracken  Dir. Of Music  Cantor  Dir. Of Music  Dir. Of Music  Dir. Of Music  Anthony Domzal  David Granville Steven Nosek Musicians  Mark Di Giampaolo, Istvan Hernak	FrRayssp@gmail.com		
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Rev. Richard Zanoni, S.J.  Dir. of Religious Education Ashlee Campbell  Saint Louis 35 Edward St  Parish Life President Pearl Brown  Dir. Of Music Frank Scinta  Business Manager Kevin Brayer  Blessed Sacrament 1035 Delaware Ave  Parish Life President Peter Rizzo Parish Cof Music  Parish Life President  Port. Of Music  Cantors James Mrozek Erin Peradotto-Terhaar  Business Manager Kevin Brayer  Cory James Gallagher  Saint Michael's 651 Washington Ave.  Trustees Musicians  David Granville Steven Nosek Musicians  Mark Di Giampaolo, Istvan Hernak	Msgr. Salvatore Manganello	Thomas LaBelle	
Dír. of Religious Education   Ashlee Campbell   443-744-0354	Rev. Ben Fiore, S.J.	tlabelle1012@gmail.com	
Ashlee Campbell  Saint Louis 35 Edward St  Parish Life President Pearl Brown  Dir. Of Music Frank Scinta  Business Manager Kevin Brayer  Blessed Sacrament 1035 Delaware Ave  Parish Life President Peter Rizzo  Parish Life President Peter Rizzo  Parish Life Saint  Dir. Of Music  Parish Life President Peter Rizzo  Paul F. Jones Mary C. McCracken  Dir. Of Music Anthony Domzal  Cory James Gallagher  Trustees  David Granville Steven Nosek Musicians  David Granville Steven Nosek Mark Di Giampaolo, Istvan Hernak	Rev. Richard Zanoni, S.J.	Carmelo Gaudioso	
Saint Louis 35 Edward St  Parish Life President Pearl Brown  Dir. Of Music Frank Scinta  Business Manager Kevin Brayer  Blessed Sacrament 1035 Delaware Ave  Parish Life President Peter Rizzo Paul F. Jones Mary C. McCracken  Dir. Of Music Cantor  Trustees Paul F. Jones Mary C. McCracken  Dir. Of Music Anthony Domzal  Cory James Gallagher  Trustees Pavid Granville Steven Nosek Musicians  David Granville Steven Nosek Musicians	Dír. of Religious Education	religioused@stlouisrcchurch.org	
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Pearl Brown  John Beller Erin Peradotto-Tehaar   Dír. Of Music Frank Scinta  James Mrozek Erin Peradotto-Terhaar  Business Manager Kevin Brayer  Blessed Sacrament 1035 Delaware Ave  Parish Life President Peter Rizzo Paul F. Jones Mary C. McCracken  Dír. Of Music Anthony Domzal  Cory James Gallagher  Frustees Saint Michael's 651 Washington Ave.  Trustees  David Granville Steven Nosek  Musicians  Mark Di Giampaolo, Istvan Hernak			
### Erin Peradotto-Tehaar    Dír. Of Music	Parísh Lífe Presídent	Trustees	
Dír. Of Musíc       Cantors         Frank Scinta       James Mrozek         Busíness Manager       Erin Peradotto-Terhaar         Kevin Brayer       Blessed Sacrament         1035 Delaware Ave         Parísh Lífe President       Trustees         Peter Rizzo       Paul F. Jones         Mary C. McCracken         Dír. Of Musíc       Cantor         Anthony Domzal       Cory James Gallagher         Saint Michael's         651 Washington Ave.         Trustees       David Granville         Steven Nosek       Mark Di Giampaolo, Istvan Hernak	Pearl Brown	John Beller	
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Trustees David Granville Steven Nosek Mark Di Giampaolo, Istvan Hernak	Anthony Domzal	Cory James Gallagher	
Steven Nosek  Musicians  Mark Di Giampaolo, Istvan Hernak			
No. 1 . 1 D. 1	Trustees		
Cantor Michael Dobrasz	Musicians	Mark Di Giampaolo, Istvan Hernak	
	Cantor	Michael Dobrasz	

### ST. JOSEPH'S CATHEDRAL

50 Franklin 716-854-5855 Cathedral@BuffaloDiocese.org

### ORATORY OF ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

160 Court St 716-854-2563 StAnthonyBuffalo@yahoo.com







### THANK YOU, CONOR SHEA!

A huge thank you to Conor Shea *and the many members of the St.*Louis Choir for hosting the picnic after the 11:00 Mass on June 29th!

There was a great turn out and parishioners, visitors, friends had a great time and good food!

Thank you again, Conor and St. Louis Choir for setting this up and feeding many!

### MEMORIAL PRAYER CANDLES

**The Sanctuary Candle** burns this week to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Noreen Mary Lynch by Donna and Dennis Burns.

**The Pieta Altar Candle** burns in Loving Memory of Noreen Mary Lynch by Donna and Dennis Burns.

**The St. Joseph Altar Candle** also burns in Loving Memory of Noreen Mary Lynch by Donna and Dennis Burns.

If you desire to have a Memorial Prayer Candle lit in memory of a loved one or for your special intention, please use the envelope available for that purpose.

We try to honor requested dates as they are available.

### IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please pray for all those who are sick, suffering, recovering and hospitalized, especially Fran Angelo, Diane Andriaccio, Gabriella Parisi, Rosemary Bloch, Laurie Hoehn, Tracy Allen Abram, Greg Joseph, Marcella Ng, Beverly Grover, Kim Bach, Bill & Donna Reeves, Richard Shepheard, Joseph Barba, Sr., Dr. Fred Luongo, Michael MacPherson, Patricia Guerra, Jay Deveau, Sondra Schreiber, Christine Maciejewski, David Marchetti, Frank Zawistowski, Bernadette R. Crawford, Ryan Crnic, Carrie W., Joyce Persico, Jeanine L., Richard J. Wall, Gail Neil, Fred Wolf, Ed Kast, Dr. Richard Saab, Linda Holben, Rachel Gaiser, Michael Hawkins, Allie Urbanski, Dr. William Fiden, Sharon Hunger, Margaret Foegen.

Please contact the Parish Office to have a loved one placed on the Prayer List. If their condition continues to warrant our prayers, we will gladly include them as long as necessary.

We remember all those recently deceased, especially our deceased parishioners and loved ones.

### SPIRITUAL AND FINANCIAL REPORT

We warmly welcome all who come to St. Louis for Mass—tourists, visitors, parishioners and friends. Your generosity is deeply appreciated. It enables the preservation, ministry and maintenance of our historic church. It assists us in reaching out to the people of our neighborhood.

OUR COLLECTION FOR LAST WEEK WAS \$4,925.00 OUR WESHARE COLLECTION WAS \$864.16. OUR TOTAL COLLECTION LAST WEEK WAS \$5,789.16

# THE NUMBER OF PARISHIONERS WHO ATTENDED WAS 345.

\*\*Please Note: We are only accepting online giving through WeShare.

WeShare is a Catholic owned and operated company whose rates benefit the Parishes. Please visit the Parish website for instruc-

tions to switch. You can also support the parish by mailing your donation or using our **WeShare** account on our web page or the QR code on the bottom of the page.



Thank you for your support.

Please remember St. Louis Parish in your will. To learn more about making a charitable contribution or leaving a bequest to St. Louis Church, please contact Mike Riester at 716-803-5773.

### LECTORS/EUCHARIST MINISTERS JULY 19 & 20, 2025

### **Lectors:**

Saturday - 4:00 July 19 Krysta Doefler

Sunday - 9:00 July 20 Steve Nosek

**Sunday - 11:00 July 20** Tom Caraher

### **Eucharistic Ministers**:

Saturday - 4:00 July 19 Ann Dumansky

Sunday - 9:00 July 20 Patricia Doyle

Sunday - 11:00 July 20 Lisa Mc Carthy

**Emily Schimert** 









# The Catholic Academy OF WEST BUFFALO

# PARISH SCHOOL CATHOLIC ACADEMY OF WEST BUFFALO

1069 Delaware Ave, Buffalo, NY 14209

716-885-6111

Principal - Mr. Earl Schunk

# LECTOR/EM SCHEDULE - JULY 2025 Lectors:

Sat. 4:30 pm	Sun. 10:30 am
July 5 - R. Lehner	July 6 - M. Flores
July 12 - F. Conti	July 13 - L. Bauer
July 19 - M. Cusack	July 20 - M. Pitek
July 26 - P. Jones	July 27 - S. Falleta

### **Eucharistic Ministers:**

Sat. 4:30 pm	Sun. 10:30 am
July 5 - Deacon Tom	July 6 - Deacon Tom
July 12 - D. Russell	July 13 - J. Knab
July 19 - C. Jones	July 20 - M. J. Carroll
July 26 - P. Manz	July 27 - Deacon Tom

### **COLLECTION FOR JULY 6, 2025**

The collection report for last week is as follows:

E-giving - \$3,498.51 Weekly - \$2,251.00

Total - \$5,749.01

There will be a second collection next week, July 20, for Peter's Pence.

From Dennis Galucki, Center Study of Art & Architecture;

History & Nature (C-SAAHN) & IMAGINE Buffalo

Center for the Study of Art & Architecture; History & Nature & IMAGINE Lifelong Learning.com
Creators of C-SAAHN 'IMAGINE' Video, Lecture & Discussion Series

Noon-Hour Tuesdays, September - June, Since 2009

### Recipient of the:

WNY Library Resources Council 2018 Outstanding Library Advocate Award;

The Buffalo History Museum 2017 Red Jacket Augspurger Award; New York State Senate 2017 Proclamation by Senator Timothy M. Kennedy;

Erie County Executive "IMAGINE" 2017 Recognition; Niagara Legacy Council 2015 Recognition Award; AIA Buffalo/WNY "Friends of Architecture" 2013 Community Service Award



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STAINED GLASS

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BLESSED SACRAMENT - ST. LOUIS - ORATORY OF ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
ST. MICHAEL - ST. JOSEPH CATHEDRAL

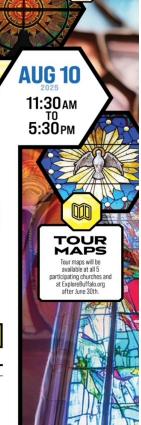
Travel by Foot, Car or Rail! Create Your Own Tour Route & Discover Buffalo's Stained Glass Jewels.

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SPONSORS:







### (PRACTICING) CATHOLIC - BENEATH THE SURFACE

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Mini Reflection: Too often, life falls short of my expectations - an opportunity didn't work out, a day didn't go the way I planned - so I ball up my fists and stomp my feet. And God takes the Book of the Gospels and opens it to Luke, Chapter 10.

On Pilgrimage: Before I embarked on my trip to the National Eucharistic Congress last summer with a group from my archdiocese, we had an orientation meeting. At that meeting, the coordinator of the trip shared with us "The Five Rules of Pilgrimage."

If you're not familiar with them (I wasn't), here they are:

1) Don't complain. 2) Don't complain (It's so important, it's listed twice). 3) When you see a bathroom, use it. 4) When someone offers you something, receive it. 5) When someone asks you for something, give it.

It's great advice for a pilgrimage, but more than that, I think it's great advice in general. So when I read today's Gospel and I hear Jesus say essentially the same thing to His disciples as they set out to evangelize (well, minus the bathroom tip, but those weren't as much of a thing in biblical Judea), I come to an important realization.

The whole Christian life is a pilgrimage.

Too often, life falls short of my expectations. An opportunity didn't work out. A day didn't go the way I planned (*like, at all*). A person didn't accept me. And I ball up my fists and stomp my feet like a full-grown Veruca Salt, and I yell: I cannot work in these conditions!

And then, I imagine God, on His celestial throne, sighs and opens the book of the Gospels (surely He keeps it handy, don't you think?) to Luke, Chapter 10. And He whispers in my heart what He said to His disciples 2,000 years ago.

Don't complain. Be open and give of yourself, and in turn, receive what comes your way, whatever it is. If it's good, rejoice. If it's not good, move on. And in the end, remember where you're headed - the place you're trying to go.

Oh, and again: don't complain.

SAINT

716-854-6726



### MICH&EL'S

651 Washington St.

### ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH ATTENDANCE & COLLECTIONS

6/22/25 - 131

6/29/25 - 161

7/6/25 - 109

6/22/25 - \$2,061.00

6/29/25 - \$3,512.00

7/6/25 - \$2,732.00

### IN YOUR PRAYERS FOR ST. MICHAEL'S

Evan, Fran, and Mo Angelo, Judith Barone, Alexander & Michael Brickel, Lorraine Brown, Alonso/Caceres/Rios Santa Cruz, Peter Caruso, Annie Feldman, Phyllis Galie, Mary Biuttner Gutierrez, Gloria Knight, Mark Lisiecki, Elain Love, Dr. David Marchetti, Jean McCarthy, Tom Passmire, Fr. Richard Poblocki, Cheryl Radwan, Arlo Thomas Stadler, Jack Stepniak, Mark Szpakowski, Angelo Tomsello, Ann Weihing.

### ST. MICHAEL'S INFORMATION

Email: StMichaelChurchBuffalo@gmail.com

Musicians: Mark Di Giampaolo, Istvan Hernak

Cantor: Michael Dobrasz

**Holy Hour:** Join us Sundays for a Holy Hour starting at 1pm, featuring exposition, adoration, rosary, and silent prayer until 2pm at which time the church will close.

### St. Michael's Update:

The Vatican has upheld the Diocese's decision to merge St. Michael's with St. Louis. An appeal has been filed to a higher Vatican Court. There is a 60 day waiting period for a decision. Updates forthcoming.

News

### Mater Ecclesiae

# The Downtown Family of Parishes





Please join us with a Triduum in honor of St. Ann on July 24th, 25th, & 26th at St. Louis Church, Main & Edward Streets.

Thursday, July 24, 2025 at 6:30 pm - Lecture and Litany hosted by Fr. Peter Calabrese, CRSP

Friday, July 25, 2025 at 6:00 pm - Lecture and Litany hosted by Fr. Peter Calabrese, CRSP

Saturday, July 26, 2025 Feast Day of St. Ann -4:00 pm Mass said by Fr. Peter Calabrese, CRSP, Litany to follow.

Parking is available directly behind the church, handicap accessible.

Parish contribution plan for fulfill Ch. 11 settlement terms:

Downtown Family of Parishes, #22.

"The participation of the entire Catholic family is necessary to bring to a close this painful chapter of our Diocese and achieve a level of restitution that is owed to the many who have had to carry the tremendous burden of physical, emotional and spiritual harm of sexual abuse throughout their lives."-Bishop Michael W. Fisher.

Contribution percentages range from 10 to 80 percent of each parish's 'unrestricted' savings, its interest and investments. Nothing is being taken from operating funds. Those parishes on the possible closed or merged list waiting for decisions from the Vatican are asked for 80% of assets. 50% of the parishes of the diocese have claims. All proceeds provided through insurance carriers would be added to collected parish suggested contributions.

- St. Michael-80% at \$2.4 million. PAID. A percentage will be given back if St. Michaels would stay open.
- Bl. Sacrament-originally 25% at \$80K, minus new roof cost, now 10% at \$22,350. PAID
- St. Anthony of Padua Oratory, 45%, \$261K. PAID
- St. Joseph Cathedral- No contribution made.
- St. Louis-75%, \$3.2 million. Contribution To Be Determined.

I would like to thank all the parishioners who have been supportive in this very painful time to our clergy and Diocese. A HUGE thank you to the parishioners, 'the angels', who have written the parish donation checks to help cover these contributions. Please be assured that **ANY** weekly donations will not leave the parish and are not applied to any contribution to the bankruptcy settlement. We will get through this together and begin to move on as a church and Diocese.

In Christ, Fr. Ray Corbin, pastor.

## GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

### Luke 10:25-37

I used to be a bad neighbor. I'd get wrapped up in my life and ignore those around me. Then I found sage advice from Benjamin Franklin to this effect: to be a better neighbor, ask someone to do a favor for you. It's a counterintuitive, isn't it? Tell strangers that I need their help? Yuck. I'll risk looking needy. Worse, I'll be indebted to them. But I tried it, and it works like a charm. Recently I asked my neighbor Alan for a hacksaw, and Inga for an egg. They kindly obliged, and our friendship is growing.

This week we hear a scribe of the law cynically ask Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" (Luke 10:29). Like him, we prefer to keep the list of our "neighbors" as short as possible. It requires less interruption and inconvenience. But when Jesus tells the parable of the Good Samaritan, He exposes the lonely, cold-heartedness tendency of the scribe's (and our) heart. My "neighbor" is anyone I encounter who manifests a concrete need. There isn't time to require any other credential because human need opens us to the happy reciprocity which is love.

Jesus' words challenge us this week to ask a neighbor for help in some small way. How marvelous that God Himself shows us how. He moves into our world and asks us to love Him with small deeds of love. Maybe that's where Ben Franklin got the idea.

Father John Muir ©LPi

