**To Have and To Hold**

Congratulations to **Samantha Pozza** and **Kevin Mrazik** (September 19) who got married at the Shrine this weekend!

And, please keep **Jacqueline Conroy** and **Alphonso Arevalo** (September 26) in your thoughts and prayers as they prepare for their wedding next weekend!

May they all experience God’s grace and abundant blessings!

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**The Turmoil of Job Loss: Support, Strength and Self-Empowerment**

There are few things that bring a person down to a low point as much as the loss of a job, whether it’s through being “fired,” “furloughed,” or “laid off.” And there are plenty of folks—millions, in fact—under each of these monikers, especially with the lingering impact of the Coronavirus pandemic. Maybe you are one of them. Losing one’s job can be devastating. It attacks everything: one’s physical, emotional and spiritual health, including self-confidence and self-esteem. New life and opportunity come not from denying the pain or grief or emotional strain, but from naming it, embracing faith and taking charge.

Here at the National Shrine we are offering two avenues of help. First, if you are in need of one to one help, we offer **Individual Counseling** from Fr. Jim Paradis, O.S.A. who is an experienced therapist and Certified Pastoral Counselor. Secondly, we are ready to offer a 10-session, weekly **Support & Empowerment Group** for those who’ve experienced job loss recently. This group will be limited to 10 people. The goal of the group is to gather for support and professional input, and to develop positive resources and skills for moving forward through a time of unique loss and adversity. Fr. Jim will also facilitate this group in a conference area of the Shrine. If you are interested in speaking to Fr. Jim about either or both opportunities for help, please reach out to him at **(215) 546-8333, ext. 1400**.

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**We Pray for Our Sick**

Anthony Acchione, Carol Antonelli, Isaiah Baker, Gregory Barbuto, Marie Biddy, Sarah Biddy, Bo Botto, Joseph Botto, Samuel A. Bowlen, Elizabeth Boyer, Anna Boyle, Deborah Brown, Pat Bruno, Alice Butterworth, Rita Cechetti, Sonia Celia, Cindy Chen, Anthony Cimini, Louis Cosenza, Rosemary Crescitiello, William D’Amato, April L. DeMatto, Philip DiChiaro, Raymond DiPalma, Cecilia Dougherty, Anthony Ferrara, Helen Glowacki, Roger Gronert, Gavin Horn, Grace Iatrala, Ignation José, Mila José, Brian Kuran, Rose Marie Lattanzio, Catherine Mahoney, Julian Mariutti, Rocco Mattio, Tara McCabe, Blaise Michaels, Robert Monroe, Joe Nuzzi, Joanna Palma, Kate Pepper, Courtney Pisano, Rita Pisano, John Politis, Annamaria Ranieri, Michael Reihl, Carolyn Sabatina, Maria Scocca, Audrey Seebarath, Fr. Jim Spenard, O.S.A., Sophia Haifa Zedan, & Joanne.

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**September 20, 2020**

**TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**Mass Intentions for the Week**

**Saturday, September 19**

*Saint Alfonso de Osorio*

8:00 a.m. † Catherine Turco
12:00 p.m. † Mario Calabrese
5:00 p.m. † Filomena Natale
Dolores Caserio

**Sunday, September 20**

*Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

10:00 a.m. † Stephen Costa
12:00 p.m. † Mogavero Family
† Michael Mafalda Jr. & Michael Mafalda III

**Monday, September 21**

*St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist*

8:00 a.m. † Ralph, Velia & Al DiCicco
12:00 p.m. † G. Fred and Rose DiBona

**Tuesday, September 22**

*Tuesday of the Twenty-fifth Week in Ordinary Time*

8:00 a.m. † Rose Twardzik
12:00 p.m. † Raymond Million, Sr.

**Wednesday, September 23**

*Saint Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest*

8:00 a.m. † Members & Benefactors of the Shrine
12:00 p.m. † Rose Pescatore

**Thursday, September 24**

*Thursday of the Twenty-fifth Week in Ordinary Time*

8:00 a.m. † Sr. Mary Agnes
12:00 p.m. † Anthony Giannini

**Friday, September 25**

*Friday of the Twenty-fifth Week in Ordinary Time*

8:00 a.m. † Ann Duffy
12:00 p.m. † Annamarie Christinzio

**Saturday, September 26**

*Saints Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs*

8:00 a.m. † Calum Lehman
12:00 p.m. † Mario Calabrese
5:00 p.m. † Marie Santa Maria
Rosalba Tigroyes

† = Deceased

**Bread & Wine Offering**

† Deceased Relatives of Augustinian Friars & Sisters

**Sanctuary Candle**

† Mario Calabrese

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**THIS WEEK’S SCRIPTURE:**

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<td>Mon Eph 4:1-7, 11-13</td>
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<td>Tues Prv 21:1-6, 10-13</td>
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<td>Sat Ecc 11:9-12:8</td>
<td>Lk 9:43b-45</td>
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A Few Simple Notes from the Director

Wearing a Mask at the Shrine
Over the past couple of weeks, we’ve had three separate incidents involving masks not being worn at Mass. Our policy is posted on every entrance and it is clear: masks are to be worn by all patrons when visiting the Shrine. If you do not have one, we are happy to offer you a new mask, without issue. If you have health issues that prevent you from wearing a mask for prolonged periods of time, we simply ask that you sit away from other patrons, near the back of the church when you are visiting. And, if your condition is severe, we invite you to call the Shrine office ahead of your visit so that we can coordinate our efforts. Our goal – and our prerogative – is to keep our patrons, staff, and Friars safe. Wearing a mask is one small, but important way for us to do this.

Unfortunately, all three incidents escalated in ways that were unnecessary and distracting during Mass. Our staff has discussed what went well and how we can improve our response moving forward. I’m grateful for Michael Anastasi’s diligent and charitable enforcement of our policies, and appreciate your willingness to help keep the Shrine a safe and healthy place for all our visitors. If you have concerns, or if you have suggestions on how we can improve our efforts, please don’t hesitate to let me know.

Month of the Holy Rosary
For those of you who received our All Souls Novena mailing last week, you’ll notice that we are inviting our patrons to join the Shrine Staff and Augustinian Friars for a daily recitation of the Holy Rosary throughout the month of October. More often than not, depictions of Saint Rita portray her with a rosary because this Marian devotion was an important part of her daily prayer routine.

There is no shortage of pain and suffering within our world, our community, our families, and our hearts. Praying the rosary offers us an opportunity to reflect on the life of Christ as we pray for an increase of healing, reconciliation, and peace. If you or a loved one are in need of a rosary, please call the Shrine office. We will gladly provide you with one, free of charge. Holy Mary, model of life for Saint Rita, pray for us!

We’ll save you a seat!
Theoretically, if you’re reading this on Saturday evening or Sunday morning, you’ve already participated in Mass for this weekend at the Shrine. Even if this is the case, I invite you to consider coming back for our Healing Mass at noon (Sunday, September 20, 2020). Fr. Joe Genito, O.S.A. a familiar, beloved Friar will be celebrating this special liturgy as we pray for spiritual, physical, emotional, and social healing. We’ll save you a seat... we hope to see you there!

Thank you for your continued generosity!

September 5 & 6, 2020 Collection: $2,574
September 12 & 13, 2020 Collection: $2,312

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
We are eager to expose the Blessed Sacrament and begin offering Adoration again, but we need regular adorers to commit to being present when Adoration is offered. The Church reminds us that “at no time should the Blessed Sacrament be exposed without anyone present,” and it is a good practice to have at least two people adoring at all times when the Blessed Sacrament is exposed. If you would be willing to make a commitment for at least an hour, please call Stacey at (215) 546-8333, ext. 1000.

Green Phase at the Shrine
For the most up-to-date schedule and additional Coronavirus information, please visit our website: www.SaintRitaShrine.org.

Please continue to practice social distancing and wear a mask while visiting the Shrine. Saint Rita, pray for us!

Save the Date & Mark your Calendars!
Gifts from the Holy Land
Make plans to stop by the display of beautiful handmade olive wood carvings from the Holy Land after Mass on Saturday, October 10, 2020 and Sunday, October 11, 2020. Proceeds from the sales benefit and support Christian families living in the Holy Land. The olive wood carvings are part of a tradition handed down from one generation to another. And, these carvings make a wonderful Christmas gift from the little town of Bethlehem!

All Souls Novena
November 2, 2020 – November 10, 2020
On Monday, November 2, 2020, the Church commemorates the Feast of All Souls Day, an opportunity to pray for our departed family and friends. If you didn’t receive our recent mailing, but want to enroll your loved ones in our annual All Souls Novena, call the Shrine Office at 215-546-8333.

We look forward to praying for and with you throughout this powerful period of intercession and prayer!