

## Reflections

My Brothers and Sisters,

How appropriate that next Sunday is October 4<sup>th</sup> – traditionally the feast day of Saint Francis of Assisi, one of the most beloved and “pro-life” saints of the Church... and also this year, *Respect Life Sunday* as celebrated annually by the Catholic Church across the United States on the first Sunday of October.

This year, our parish Sanctity of Life Committee is sponsoring an interesting life-awareness exercise created by the Archdiocese of Baltimore. St. Theresa Parishioners will have the opportunity to “spiritually adopt” a baby in the womb, praying for that baby – and the gift of life that child represents – each day over the course of the next nine months or so. The baby’s stages of growth will be chronicled in the bulletin during the “gestation period,” hopefully brining all of us to a deeper awareness of – and respect for – God’s gift of life. The spiritually-adopted baby will be “born” between Mother’s Day and Father’s Day; at that time, parishioners will be invited to bring a gift to benefit “their baby” – these gifts will be distributed to a local agency that assists pregnant mothers in a life-upholding way. I hope that you can plan to stop by the table in the Ramada following Mass next weekend, to learn more about the spiritual adoption program and to pick up a prayer card to pray that we all can grow in our ability to reverence the sanctity of human life, “from the womb to the tomb,” as the late Cardinal Bernardin of Chicago put it.

Life is such a gift – and it is one of those gifts from God many of us find easy to take for granted. As a community of Christ’s disciples, we are blest by a Church that teaches a *consistent ethic of life*: i.e., that God’s gift of human life is inviolable. So, any human act that diminishes or contradicts the gift of life (e.g., abortion, capital punishment, euthanasia or “mercy-killing”) is to be repudiated by one who is a disciple of Jesus Christ. Discrimination against other human beings on the basis of racial, economic, religious, cultural or social difference is also abhorrent to the one who takes his or her discipleship seriously. Always, though – consistent to the example and the command of Christ – we are to treat with compassion those who fail to live up to the standards of the consistent ethic of life (for example, the woman who has terminated her pregnancy through abortion). By our consistent compassion and consistent proclamation of the sacredness of all human life, God working through us can change hearts!

A long-standing tradition here at St. Theresa, celebrating life and God’s creation in honor of St. Francis of Assisi, is our **ANNUAL BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS**. **Next Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>**, pet owners and their companion animals will gather in **Our Lady of Guadalupe Courtyard** between Father Feeney Hall and the Convent at **1:00PM** to celebrate this brief rite of the Church. All animals and their humans are welcome – we ask that the animals be on a leash or otherwise secured, and that those accompanying the animals be prepared to “clean up” after their friends.

God is indeed so good to us! God gives us the gift of human life, from the very moment of conception until the time of natural death, created in God’s image and likeness. And God surrounds us with the beauty and the wonder of creation, including those animals that have a way of revealing to us God’s unconditional love. How blest we are – may we always cherish the life we are given and God’s gift of life all around us!

Blessings and peace,



Rev. Charles G. Kieffer, V.F.  
Pastor

## 26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### Liturgy And Music Notes & Notices

On Friday, October 2 at 7:30PM,  
Music Director Jim Sage and Soprano  
Stephanie Don Carlos Will Present  
An Evening of Sacred and Classical Music  
The program will include selections for organ,  
piano and voice, featuring works by Handel,  
Pachelbel, Gounod, Faure, Brahms and Puccini.

This is an opportunity to hear our beautiful  
instruments in a concert setting. Please join us!

**Taize Prayer Returns:** We are pleased to offer  
Taize Prayer on a monthly basis. Taize Prayer is an  
ecumenical, meditative style of prayer, centered on  
scripture, simple chant and periods of silence. Participants also have the opportunity to  
bring their prayers of petitions and thanksgiving to  
our Taize Cross. The first service will be Tuesday  
October 20th at 7PM in the church. We hope you  
will join us. As an ecumenical endeavor all faith  
traditions are welcome. Please invite your friends.  
For more information contact Jim Sage, Director of  
Liturgy, @ 602-840-0850 ext. 121 or Ann Couch,  
Taize Coordinator, @ 480-945-1050.

### Are You Interested In Serving In A Liturgical Ministry At St. Theresa Parish, Including Becoming A Lector, Minister Of Holy Communion, Or Altar Server?

Please contact Jim Sage in the Parish Office @ 602-  
840-0850 ext. 121 or via email at  
[jsage@diocesephoenix.org](mailto:jsage@diocesephoenix.org). Training sessions will  
be scheduled depending on interest. We are in  
need of volunteers for all of these Ministries, serv-  
ing at all Masses. Please note that even if you have  
served in these ministries at other parishes, you are  
still asked to go through our orientation, make  
sure your *Called to Protect* obligation is current, and  
be certified with the Diocese of Phoenix through  
St. Theresa Parish.

### Choirs Sing At

9AM, 11AM & 6PM Masses Weekly  
All Groups Are Looking For Members

Please consider joining this ministry which strives  
to call us to God and lead us in prayerful song. Re-  
hearsal for 9AM & 11AM is held on Wednes-  
days at 6PM; the 6PM choir rehearses before the  
liturgy at 4:30PM on Sundays.

## PARISH NEWS



**How Do I Find Out More About  
Becoming Catholic And The  
RCIA Process?** The best way is  
simply to begin! If you are an adult  
that has never been baptized, or have  
been baptized in another Christian  
tradition and want to learn more

about becoming Catholic, the **RCIA Inquiry** is your  
first step. **“Come and See,” Jn 1:39.** Join us for con-  
tinuing Inquiry Sessions every Sunday through October  
4th from 10:30AM-12NOON in the Convent Upper  
Room. For more information contact Patty or David  
Pettit, Adult Initiation @ 602-840-0850, ext. 116.

### **Birthday Wishes For Fr. Frank**

Fr. Frank Fernandez's birthday is Octo-  
ber 8th and any parishioner who would  
like to send a birthday card to Fr. Frank  
can mail/drop off a card for Fr. Frank  
to the Parish Office and we will for-  
ward the cards to Fr. Frank. If you have any questions,  
you can call Shannon Braccio in the Parish Office @  
602-840-0850.



**Respect Life Sunday Is Next Weekend!** This year we  
are initiating a spiritual adoption program. All parishion-  
ers are invited to spiritually adopt a baby to be born next  
year. As an adoptive parent, you will pray a daily prayer  
written by Archbishop Fulton Sheen for the next nine  
months and follow your baby's growth each month in  
the bulletin and on the monthly posters in the Church  
Ramada and inside the Church. Then, when the baby is  
born (sometime between Mother's Day and Father's Day  
of next year) you can bring a donation to benefit your  
baby. Your donation will be given to a local pro-life  
pregnancy aid agency. Prayer cards will be handed out  
next weekend and we will be in the Church Ramada to  
answer questions or provide more information on spiri-  
tual adoption.



**Club Crayola...** is a parent run co-op  
open to all children 1-4 years of age dur-  
ing the 9AM Sunday morning Mass. If  
you are interested in using Club Crayola,  
please call Shannon Braccio in the Parish  
Office @ 602-840-0850 or stop by Club  
Crayola on Sunday to speak with Anne Aubuchon,  
Club Crayola Coordinator. All parents that use Club  
Crayola are required to take SET (Safe Environment  
Training). Please contact Terez Barta @ 602-819-3016  
for further information on this.

**FAITH FORMATION**

**Religious Education Classes Have Started... BUT IT'S NOT TOO LATE!!!** We still have space available in the Religious Education program. Building Pebbles (Kindergarten–3rd Grade) meet Sundays from 10:30AM–12PM. Stepping Stones (4th & 5th Grades combined) meet Wednesdays from 6:15–7:45PM. These classes are a traditional-based program for the children. Stop by the Parish Office to pick up a registration form. \*Please note that if you have a child in 2nd or 3rd Grade they must still attend regular religious education classes as well as the Sacramental Preparation classes needed for the Sacrament they are receiving. Any 4th & 5th Graders who have received all Sacraments of Initiation except Confirmation need to attend the Stepping Stones program on Wednesday nights. If you have any questions feel free to call the Parish Office @ 602-840-0850 and ask for Rita Laguna. St. Theresa Parish is happy to make partial or full scholarships available to parishioners participating in religious education programs.

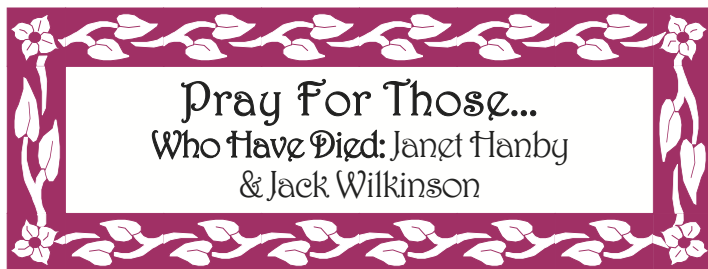
**2nd & 3rd Grade Sacramental Prep:** Parents, registration materials have gone out. Please fill out the required forms and return them to the Parish Office as soon as possible. Unless the forms are returned, your child will not be formally enrolled, and could miss out on their sacraments. Don't delay! Materials need to be ordered for the parish. If you have any questions, please call Gina Keating @ 840-8050, ext. 111.



**Christmas In September?** Now that we have your attention, don't forget to register your child for the Christmas Gospel play, "The Nativity," on December 24th at the 4PM Mass in the Church, or the 4:15PM Mass in Fr. Feeney Hall. Costumes provided, and two rehearsals are scheduled. Parent helpers needed to assist in dressing/collecting the costumes after Mass, and directing the children. Registration forms will be available in the Parish Office. Call Gina to say you'll help, 602-840-0850, ext. 111.

**PASTORAL CARE**

**Prayer For Our Service Men & Women** Every Thursday evening from 6-7PM in the Convent Chapel. What is the greatest gift someone could give to you if you had a child serving in the Armed Forces? Is there anything better than prayer? Thank you to all those who go through those Chapel doors every Thursday to pray for these dedicated servants!



**“Leading The Way To Jesus Through Mary”**

Please join the Pastoral Care Ministry for one of two workshops on either Wednesday, October 14th @ 12 Noon or Wednesday, October 21st @ 7:00 in the Parish Office Conference Room. We will study and follow the lives and example of St. Louis De Montfort and Pope John Paul's devotion to ‘Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary.’ It is a truism to say, ‘To Jesus through Mary.’ Attending one of these workshops will be time well spent and spiritually life changing! Please RSVP to the Pastoral Care Office @ 602-586-7429.

**Adoration Every Thursday** Come spend some quiet time with Jesus in the Convent Chapel anytime between 9AM and 9PM. Go beyond worry to Peace in this Holy Chapel with Jesus.

**Leading The Way Ministry** Monday, October 12th from 4-5:30PM in the Parish Office Conference Room. Come meet wonderful people who have experienced the death of a loved one and now move into a social life with those that understand their walk and at the same time help the Parish by with their ‘Random Acts of Kindness’. For more information, contact Pastoral Care Office 602 586-7429



***Seniors & Friends... Our Senior Luncheons Are Returning Once Again!!!***

*After a long, relaxing vacation, it's time to get serious again... sound good to you?*

*Well then, join us for our first 'get-back-together' luncheon with great friends and conversation.*

*Just the good old times. I'm anxious, are you?*

*Here's what you need to remember:*

*When: Wednesday, October 7th*

*Time: 11:30AM Registration 12Noon Lunch*

*Cost: \$7.50*

*RSVP: Margie Hubbard @ 602-840-2715  
no later than Sunday, October 4th.*

## 26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**Hope For Tomorrow Grief Support Group** Monday, October 5th from 4-5:30PM in the Parish Office Conference Room. We will continue studying the book 'Praying Our Goodbyes'. This group is open to all those who not only have experienced the death of a loved one but also have had a loss through divorce, job, etc. Each chapter stands on it's own, so come and join us, even if it's for only one time. You will enjoy yourself and be with some wonderful people. For more information call the Pastoral Care Office @ 602-586-7429.

**Pastoral Care Appreciation Week October 24th-31st** All Pastoral Care Ministers are invited to a lovely evening meal hosted by the Knights of Columbus in Feeney Hall on Saturday, October 24th from 6-8PM. We want to take this opportunity to thank all those who bring communion to the homebound, visit the sick in their homes, care facilities, and hospitals, those who send out cards, the Prayer Warriors, Random Acts of Kindness Ministers, Adoration facilitators, Ruth and Ministry of Praise Ministers, Health & Wellness Ministers, those who help with the Funeral Ministry... and the list goes on and on! This is your evening for us to THANK YOU! Please RSVP by Sunday, October 17th to Bobbie Stich @ 602-586-7429.

### SCHOOL NEWS

**Very Important CTODP News:** Some of you may have heard about CEF (Catholic Education Fund), a new program launched last month through CTODP whereby Arizona taxpayers can redirect their tax credit to a specific, donor-recommended student. This new program is currently being suspended until further notice; however, **all other existing CTODP programs will continue...** and are needed for many of your parish school's children. In sum; a person filing as an individual who pays Arizona state tax can redirect up to \$500 of their state tax obligation to Saint Theresa Catholic School, school code 190, and a couple filing jointly can redirect up to \$1,000 of their state tax obligation to Saint Theresa Catholic School for a full dollar-for-dollar tax credit, costing absolutely nothing to the taxpayer. Last year nearly \$300,000 of your tax dollars was redirected right back to Saint Theresa Catholic School helping many families keep their children enrolled. Now more than ever your redirected tax dollars are needed at your parish school, and it cost you nothing to participate and redirect your tax dollars and designate Saint Theresa Catholic School. For more information contact Tracey Michelle Theisen, Director of Development, @ 602.840.0010 ext. 204 or [ttheisen@diocesephoenix.org](mailto:ttheisen@diocesephoenix.org).

### DIOCESAN NEWS

**Adult Confirmation Program** The All Saints Catholic Newman Center at ASU is offering an 8-Week Confirmation Program for young adult Catholics who did not receive the sacrament when they were younger. Catholics 18 years of age or older who have made their First Communion and have graduated from high school may register online by going to [www.newmanasu.org/sacraments/confirmation/](http://www.newmanasu.org/sacraments/confirmation/) or by calling 480-967-7823. (Please note this program is not for high school students.) Sessions are on Mondays from 7-9PM starting on September 28th. There will also be a one-day retreat on Sunday, November 22nd. The Confirmation Mass will be held on Monday, November 23rd. Sessions are held at the Newman Center, 230 East University Drive, Tempe. Please contact the Newman Center @ 480-967-7823 with questions.

**Cathedral Community Rummage Sale** Saturday, October 3rd from 6AM-2PM in Smith Hall at Ss. Simon & Jude Cathedral (6351 N. 27th Avenue). Proceeds will support local and Cathedral communities.

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter** Jesus asks us to live our life as He has taught us - to love one another as He has loved us. Teach your children to love by showing them how you love your spouse. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is November 6th-8th in Phoenix. For scheduling purposes, registrations are due one month in advance. Call 602-242-6141 or email [Cwessel@csc.com](mailto:Cwessel@csc.com).

**Come Celebrate!** This year the Rosary Sunday event will honor Our Lady under her title, the Immaculate Heart of Mary and will celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Diocese of Phoenix and the Year for Priests. Plan to attend Rosary Sunday on Sunday, October 11th from 2-4:15PM at the Phoenix Convention Center. Relics of St. John Vianney will be present at Rosary Sunday. Admission is free. Please contact Nurse Ellen in the St. Theresa School Office @ 602-952-1208, Monday-Friday between 7:30AM-3:30PM for information on carpooling and/or riding the Light Rail!

**Night Of Hope 2009** Join Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted and many Catholic education supporters across the Diocese of Phoenix for *Night of Hope 2009*, Saturday, October 24th @ 6PM at the new Sheraton Downtown, 320 N. 3rd Street, Phoenix. All proceeds from this evening benefit the Diocese of Phoenix Catholic Schools Endowment Fund. Dinner tickets are \$100 per person. Please contact Margaret Hardy @ 602-354-2344.

Readings  
Week of September 27th, 2009

**Sunday** Nm 11:25-29; Ps 19; Jas 5:1-6; Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48  
**Monday** Zec 8:1-8; Ps 102; Lk 9:46-50  
**Tuesday** Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12a; Ps 138; Jn 1:47-51  
**Wednesday** Neh 2:1-8; Ps 137; Lk 9:57-62  
**Thursday** Neh 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12; Ps 19; Lk 10:1-12  
**Friday** Bar 1:15-22; Ps 91; Mt 18:1-5, 10  
**Saturday** Bar 4:5-12, 27-29; Ps 69; Lk 10:17-24  
**Sunday** Gn 2:18-24; Ps 128; Heb 2:9-11; Mk 10:2-16

# The Week Ahead!




- Sunday**  
 10:15AM Scripture Study (Conference Rm)  
 10:30AM RCIA Inquiry (Convent Upper Rm)  
 RE (School Classrooms)  
 1:00PM Baptisms (Church)  
 7:00PM LIFE Teen (LIFE Rm)
- Monday**  
 6:30PM SVDP Meeting (Conference Rm)  
 7:00PM Great Ad. Bible Study (Convent Upper Rm)  
 Boy Scout Mtg. (PJP Rm)
- Tuesday**  
 1:00PM Great Ad. Bible Study (Convent Upper Rm)  
 3:00PM Bear Den Mtg. (PJP Rm)  
 4:00PM Alzheimer Support Group (Conference Rm)  
 7:00PM Great Ad. Bible Study (Convent Upper Rm)  
 Great Ad. Bible Study (Feeney Hall)
- Wednesday**  
 9:30AM Centering Prayer (Convent Chapel)  
 6:00PM Choir Practice (Church)  
 RCIC (Club Rm)  
 6:15PM Edge (McMahon Center Gym)  
 Great Ad. Bible Study (Convent Upper Rm)  
 Stepping Stones (Feeney Hall)  
 6:30PM Rosary (Convent Chapel)
- Thursday**  
 9:00AM Adoration (Convent Chapel)  
 1:00PM Great Ad. Bible Study (Convent Upper Rm)  
 7:00PM Baptism Class (Conference Rm)  
 Great Adventure Bible Study (Feeney Hall)
- Friday**  
 7:30PM Sacred & Classical Music Recital (Church)
- Saturday**  
 8:30PM AIAnon (Classroom 16)  
 Alcoholics Anonymous (Classroom 17)

## Mass Intentions & Celebrants

(SEPTEMBER 28TH – OCTOBER 4TH)

- MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH**  
 6:30AM +ALFRED RYAN-FR. CHUCK
- TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH**  
 6:30AM +ERICA BOYCE-FR. MATHEW
- WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH**  
 6:30AM +JOE HUNZIKER-FR. CHUCK  
 8:30AM +COLLEEN SULLIVAN-FR. MATHEW
- THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1ST**  
 6:30AM +MATTHEW JIBBERSMITH-FR. MATHEW
- FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2ND**  
 6:30AM +ELEANOR V. SANDHOWE-FR. MATHEW
- SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3RD**  
 8:00AM +MELVIN N. THEISEN-FR. CHUCK  
 5:00PM FOR THE PARISHIONERS-FR. MATHEW
- SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4TH**  
 7:30AM +CHARLES & ANNE KUPCIK-FR. CHUCK  
 9:00AM +MR. & MRS. E. VITALIANO-FR. MATHEW  
 11:00AM+LOUISE FELIX-FR. CHUCK  
 6:00PM +ELEANOR V. SANDHOWE-FR. MATHEW

Please Note: The Priest scheduled to celebrate the Mass  
 IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.



**LIFE TEEN PROGRAM**  
 All High School Teens Welcome!

September  
 27) 3rd Annual Trivial Contest—Team Edition

Weekly Activities  
 Mass: Sunday @ 6PM LIFE Teen: Sunday After Mass  
 Open Life Room: Thursdays, 5-7PM Prayer Meeting: Thursdays, 7-9PM

[www.godtalk.org](http://www.godtalk.org)  
[www.twitter.com/stlifeteen](http://www.twitter.com/stlifeteen)