







### MASS INTENTIONS

**Tuesday, July 15** Saint Bonaventure Tom Duda (Carole & Maddie)

Wednesday, July 16 Our Lady of Mount Carmel Thomas Nolan Gallagher (John & Mary Reimold)

**Thursday, July 17** Margo Gallagher Juliano (Family)

#### **Friday, July 18** Saint Camillus de Lellis

Regis Reash (Anita Powell)

#### SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday, July 19

4:30pm David Muscarella Sr. (Anniv.) (Family)

**Sunday, July 20** 8:00am For The People of the Parish

11:00am Deceased Members of the Waleff & Grasso Families (Betty Grasso)

# SANCTUARY CANDLES

#### July 16-31 (Saint Michael)

Gigi Marshall Weaver (Marshall Family) Beth Yurisic (Mom)

#### July 16-31 (Saint Margaret)

Carol Moore (Robert Moore) Beth Yurisic (Robert Moore)

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

July 16: Confessions - 8pm-8:30pm.

July 19: Confessions 3pm-4pm.

### PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH

**Be Vigilant:** It is vitally important that we are constantly vigilant concerning the behaviors of those who interact with children and communicating our concerns to the appropriate parties. Each one of us important can play role an in strengthening this culture of prevention. For example, we can better prevent abuse by ensuring that the signs of abuse are identified and reported. Noticing these warning signs, taking them seriously, and reporting them could prevent abuse in When the future. we witness inappropriate behavior or something that just doesn't seem quite right, we must concerns through report our the appropriate channels. In the Diocese of Erie for particular questions, you may call the Office for the Protection of Children and Youth at 814-824-1195

### **OFFERTORY ENVELOPES**

The next batch of envelopes will be delivered before the end of July for the August, September, and October giving. You will see a new look on the designated envelopes color and updated funds to support (formerly the green envelopes). If you have any questions about your envelopes or you do not receive them, please call the office, ext. 133. The envelopes are mailed by the printer, not the Church.

# A WORD FROM FATHER BRANDON

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I'm sure most of you have been seeing the terrible news and the death toll rising with the flooding in Texas. As I write this, the count of the deceased sits at 110 (over 40 children) and over 160 missing! Just gut wrenching to even consider the breathless panic and unimaginable grief those moms and dads are going through as they learn of their baby's body being found or waiting to see if hope will pan out and bring their baby home safe. Another layer to this that, at least to me, makes it an even more heartbreaking story is that it sounds like, though these were catastrophic flood waters, there seems to have been either a breakdown in the chain of communication that prevented getting word down to the low lands - especially the camp with the little children - or there simply was not even a communication system in play! It seems like, from some sources, that the county at the epicenter of this tragedy, sought to put sirens down along the river, but the state rejected their request for funds. Supposedly, from old county council minutes, unearthed by journalists, the siren system would have been \$1M, and that was too much to pay...it was too much for the government to pay. For some reason, that data point - as isolated as it might be from the larger reality of Kerr County TX politics which I and you know nothing about - just breaks my heart and, to be honest, kind of angers me! In America, between every tier of government: Local, State, and Federal, the governments of our nation bring in a staggering \$7 trillion in taxes! Everything from State Sales Tax to your FICA, \$7 trillion are collected by the government - big and small - to fund whatever it is governments fund! I know I'm isolating one data point from a complicated constellation of data points, but from the trove of \$7 trillion, the government could not throw some sirens on poles, and buy some Radio Shack equipment to create an emergency communications protocol...Dozens of children and, it appears, hundreds of adults died a horrifying and painful death because 1/ seven-millionth of one year of taxes was too much to protect them.

Government, politics - it is all a reflection on what and who people in power prioritize and deem sacred. It just is. You and I, gratefully and thankfully, live in a nation that, though it takes \$7,000,000,000,000 away from its citizens EVERY YEAR, we are still the wealthiest, freest, and most prosperous people in the history of people, and yet we somehow could not put some sirens on poles and buy some radios...We live in a nation where the powerful take \$7T from us, and yet: children go to bed hungry; fully employed adults live in their cars and on the streets; veterans take their lives after defending ours; healthcare is costly, slow, and confusing; minimum wage hasn't changed in over a decade; drinking water and air is unsafe for millions; our infrastructure is a crumbling patchwork of neglect; and yet we somehow are in debt to magnitudes that are absurdly impossible to ever eliminate!

Government and politics are simply the incarnation of who and what the powerful deem sacred. We live in a bankrupt system of the powerful gobbling trillions upon trillions from the masses and yet the masses are still underserved and ill-treated. That's government; that's politics; that's the system we find ourselves in. It is too often power and profits over people. This drives home, deeper, the idea that neither party is the 'Catholic party' - it doesn't exist! We as Catholics look at and understand the world through our Source and Summit: Jesus Christ who is *our* incarnation of what is sacred! In the life of Christ, which is life in the Church, we are to give our lives to seeing Jesus in the poor and vulnerable, in the veteran, and especially our children. These are not constituents to woo for their vote, talk a good talk to rouse enthusiasm, then abandon them (but still take the money, of course)! In Christ, societies and communities and families *are* the sacred, they are the goal and the aim, not power or profit. Our politics is what it is, but may we always be at the ready to offer something counter-revolutionary in the way we radically live and love like Christ; and serve those who are most vulnerable and in need of care, protection, and love! Let not our hearts be jaded, but may we be re-emboldened to do the work of the Church, and not bow to the carnage!

Love, Father Brandon