



*Photo by Fr. Andiy*

# **St. Joseph Parish Bulletin**

**June 21, 2009**

# *Farewell for Now!*

A few weeks ago, I took the opportunity to let you know that a transfer of assignment was in the works for me, and that the time for being “uprooted” and “replanted” had once again arrived in my life. Since then, I’ve learned that my new home will be the **Church of St. Lawrence the Martyr**, in Sayville, and that Wednesday, June 24<sup>th</sup> is moving day.

So very much has changed in my life since I first arrived at the rectory doorstep six years ago . . . my hair is certainly a bit more gray, and I can no longer boast that I’m only in my thirties! Just a year after arriving here, I was gently but firmly confronted with the hard reality of alcoholism, and was blessed (and terrified) to be whisked off to a place of skillful healing called Guest House, in Rochester, MN, to begin my recovery. Coming back to Garden City a few months later, I was moved to tears by the loving and encouraging welcome-home I received from so many of you. I will *never forget* the gift of that happy return to St. Joseph’s.

These six years have also stretched my heart and—I hope—deepened my capacity as a minister of the Gospel. Each parish has a distinct “personality,” and I’ve been singularly blessed to live this part of my priesthood in the good company of such a vibrant, spirited, and Christ-centered parish. The friendship I’ve found in Father Joe and the other priests with whom I’ve lived has been a priceless treasure, and the parish and rectory staff have all become so much more than colleagues; their good-heartedness, care, and camaraderie have meant the world to me.

I do buy into the idea that change can be a positive and healthy thing, and I look forward to the chance to make a fresh new beginning at St. Lawrence (it will be my first assignment in Suffolk in 19 years!). I think my priesthood will benefit, and hopefully I can offer something of the Lord’s love to a whole new community of folks. But saying good-bye is *not* an easy thing.

*I want so much to thank you*—each and every member of this wonderful parish family. Your hospitality, encouragement, fidelity, and joy have made these six years a pleasure for me. And the way in which you bring the Gospel to life by your goodness to one other, and your care for those in need, has inspired my own discipleship. You will certainly be in my prayers as you continue to mirror the face of Jesus so beautifully. Please pray for me, and for Father Greg, as we each embark on something very new—something I hope will be both challenging and life-giving. God bless you all!

With gratitude, prayers, and love,

*Father Brian*

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK****Sunday, June 21 (Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time)***Jb 38:1, 8-11/2 Cor 5:14-17/Mk 4:35-41*

7:30am John Coffey  
 9:00am John J. Durand  
 10:00am (Aud.) No Mass  
 10:30am Robert A. Bradbury  
 11:45am Antonio Negro  
 1:00pm Gino Papa, Joseph Gentile,  
 Raymond McGrath, Joanne Finn,  
 Ann Meringolo, Michael Ventricelli,  
 Arthur Anderson, Jr., Mary Sweeney  
 5:30pm Marco Minuto

**Monday, June 22 (Paulinus of Nola, bishop; John Fisher, bishop and martyr; Thomas More, martyr)***Gn 12:1-9/Mt 7:1-5*

8:00am Timothy J. Shea, Sr.  
 9:00am Dr. Grant Harrison  
 8:00pm Deceased Parishioners

**Tuesday, June 23***Gn 13:2, 5-18/Mt 7:6, 12-14*

8:00am Jacqueline Vincent  
 9:00am William Stuberfield

**Wednesday, June 24 (Nativity of John the Baptist)***Is 49:1-6/Acts 13:22-26/Lk 1:57-66, 80*

8:00am Irma Menicucci  
 9:00am Ellen Ann Gordon

**Thursday, June 25***Gn 16:1-12, 15-16 or 16:6b-12, 15-16/Mt 7:21-29*

8:00am In Thanksgiving  
 9:00am Mary Kelly

**Friday, June 26***Gn 17:1, 9-10, 15-22/Mt 8:1-4*

8:00am Mary Ann Schultz (34<sup>th</sup> Anniv)  
 9:00am Kevin M. Flanagan

**Saturday, June 27 (Cyril of Alexandria, bishop and doctor of the Church)***Gn 18:1-15/Mt 8:5-17*

8:30am Monica McFeely  
 5:00pm Eleanor and Edward Pries, Lysiane Beau,  
 Joseph John Podwojski, Austin Delaney,  
 Fred Fuller, Gloria McCoy

**Sunday, June 28 (Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time)***Wis 1:13-15; 2:23-24/2 Cor 8:7, 9, 13-15/Mk 5:21-43 or 5:21-24, 35b-43*

7:30am The People of St. Joseph Parish  
 9:00am Vivian Powers  
 10:00am (Aud.) No Mass  
 10:30am Anthony Imbarrato  
 11:45am Brain Lawrence Gray  
 1:00pm Joseph A. Cella, Rose Ann Palmer,  
 Military Personnel and Wounded Warriors,  
 José Sabat, Vivian Powers, Jack Kearney,  
 In Thanksgiving to St. Joseph,  
 H. Arthur Anderson  
 5:30pm Laurence J. Rice, Jr.

**SECOND COLLECTION  
PETER'S PENCE**

Next Sunday, there will be a second collection taken for the support of the Holy Father's spiritual and charitable efforts around the world. If you are donating by check, please make checks payable to St. Joseph's Parish and write Peter's Pence on the memo line. Thank you.


**ALTAR SERVERS**
**Saturday, June 27**

5:00pm C. Allen, J. Aneser, M. Waters

**Sunday, June 28**

7:30am M. Kenny, A. Rouse, V. Rouse  
 9:00am C. Noonan, C. Rieger, E. Rieger  
 10:30am J. Biscardi, S. Biscardi, C. Regan  
 11:45am A. Africa, E. Austria, V. Austria  
 1:00pm K. Kiernan, D. O'Malley, J. O'Malley  
 5:30pm A. Auricchio, S. Auricchio, A. Zinga

**SERVERS' TIP FOR THE WEEK**

I've been writing these weekly "tips" for quite a while now, and I suspect I'm going to miss doing it! Tossing out a little reminder each week has given me the chance to stay in contact with you, and who wouldn't want to keep in touch with such a well-trained, conscientious, generous, and responsible group as our altar servers? It's given me a lot of pride to watch how you've grown into such a great team of young people, and I'm so grateful to have had a part in your ministry to St. Joseph's.

Please know how much our parish values the gift you give each time you put on your alb . . . and how much your prayerfulness and know-how add to our celebrations of the Eucharist each week. I know I speak for the other priests, for Deacon Jack, and for so many of our parishioners when I say that you are a real credit to St. Joseph's, and I hope that you'll continue in this ministry for years to come.

I have no idea if I'm going to be responsible for the altar servers out in St. Lawrence (my next parish), but if I am, I hope the kids I work with there will serve at the Lord's table with the same reverence, attentiveness, and eagerness to help that you do. I'll miss you!

Love,  
*Fr. Brian*

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK**

"If anyone is sick among you, ask the community to pray..." Please pray for: Page Accetta, Robert Auricchio, Ryan Bradley, Mary Brosnan, Lorraine Cagliostro, Mary Ellen Clark, Gina Corleto, Margaret Cullen, Sheila Dollard, Charles Dunleavy, Eleanor Falk, Mell Farrell, Keith Fox, Dolores Gallo, Patricia Gilvary, Joseph Gottlieb, Virginia Gunzel, Evelyn Hemersbach, Edward Johnson, John Kelly, Joan Kiely, Carole Koehler, Madison Claire Lewinger, David Lieson, Mildred Lopinto, Antoinette Mastromatteo, Donald McCabe, Margaret McCabe, Bobby Menges, Jim Molloy, Thomas Moringiello, Angela Munnely, Marianne Piscopo, Kevin Quill, Emma Tynan Quinn, Diana Renton, Sally Richards, Stephanie Ryan, Charlie Schmitt, Little Julia Schwartz, Little Catherine Vogt, Martha Widner, Michael Winnicki, Carol Woods, Joan Zilins

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**WANTED – Volunteers for the ministry of Catechesis**  
 People who love God, who pray, who are excited about their faith, and who love children are needed to teach in our Religious Ed. Program. Please consider sharing your faith with the children of the Parish. Please call Susan Mirabella or Barbara Roche 741-7787 if you can help or would like more information. We are in need of Teachers as indicated below:

Grade	Day	No. Needed
1	Thursday	1
3	Tuesday	1
3	Thursday	2
4	Tuesday	1
4	Wednesday	1
4	Thursday	2
5	Tuesday	1
5	Wednesday	1
5	Thursday	1
6	Mon. (5-6:15pm)	2
7	Mon. (7:30pm)	1

Also needed are aides for special needs children in all grades. We are in need of two to three aides on each grade level.

**ST. JOSEPH'S MEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

Come and spend an hour of discussion of the Gospel and current events in the Church. Why not stop by on Tuesday evenings from 7:30 to 9:00pm in the Convent Center. For further details call Jack McGowan at 741-8420.

**PRAYER GROUP MEETING**

*Convent Chapel, Monday at 10:00 a.m.  
 All Are Welcome!*

**WEDDINGS**

Congratulations and best wishes for a happy, holy married life to

**Sean Quinn and Catherine McKenna**  
 who were married here recently.



**DECEASED**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of:  
**Rita Stahl**

**STEWARDSHIP**

**A Way of Life**

How appropriate the readings on this Father's Day reflect on God's providential care! God shares with Job the creation of the sea and all the earth and the care that was given to each part of creation. Today we celebrate fathers, step fathers, uncles, priests, teachers and coaches, who love, care for, feed and provide support for children. As Jesus was moved to compassion for his apostles, you image tenderness as you look with eyes that are kind, just and forgiving. Yours are Christ's hands as they teach, coach, hold and comfort children. The love you share with children reflects God's love. *Be sure that you are a high-quality mirror.*  
 Sr. Louise Cullen RSM – Stewardship Coordinator



Today we salute and thank **Fr. Brian Ingram** for the gifts and talents that he has shared with our parish. We are especially grateful for his care of the altar servers, the lectors, the RCIA participants and his work with the fifth and sixth graders in religious education as well as his frequent presence in the school. We thank him for the gift of his presence and wish him well in St. Lawrence.

**FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP**

The following is a comparison of the weekly collection for 2008 and 2009

Body and Blood of Christ

<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
\$23,740	\$23,768

**BAPTISMS**

We welcome with joy the following children newly baptized in our faith:

- Stefano Andrea Cipitelli**
- Courtney Ann Bremer**
- Mae Rose Gaffney**
- Emma Mary McMaster**
- Willing Austin Curley**



**Bulletin Request**

Due to the **JULY 4th HOLIDAY**, all items for the July 5<sup>th</sup> bulletin must be submitted no later than the morning of **Wednesday, June 24<sup>th</sup>**. Items received after that date will not make it into the bulletin. Thank you for your cooperation.

## CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES

Congratulations to the St. Joseph School Class of 2009 who graduated on Saturday, June 13th! An awards breakfast at the Cherry Valley Country Club was followed by the Graduation Mass where the following students received their diplomas:

Enrique Austria Jr, Francesca Barjon, Dominick Castoro, John Clark III, Michael Douilly, Taylor Fioravanti, Emily Gricco, Ryan Ilardi, Kimberly Lewis, Joseph Malandro, Katherine McCabe, Jack McKay, Jack O'Malley, Nicholas Perry, Nicholas Philippides, Vidia Ramadin, Brendan Reis, Brittany Rodriguez, Brendan Shea, Jae Woo, Ashley Zambrano, Deirdre Zuluaga

The Following Students Received Academic Awards:

Brendan Shea - General Excellence

Enrique Austria - Music  
 Francesca Barjon - Spanish  
 Dominick Castoro - Mathematics  
 Emily Gricco - Art  
 Kimberly Lewis - Mathematics  
 Joseph Malandro - Physical Education  
 Katherine McCabe - Library/Research  
 Jack McKay - Science  
 Jack O'Malley - Social Studies  
 Nicholas Philippides - Language Arts  
 Vidia Ramadin - Technology  
 Brendan Reis - Religion  
 Ashley Zambrano - Science

The Presidential Gold Award for Educational Excellence:

Dominick Castoro  
 Jack O'Malley  
 Jack McKay  
 Nicholas Philippides  
 Brendan Shea  
 Brendan Reis

The Presidential Silver Award for Educational Achievement:

Enrique Austria  
 Francesca Barjon  
 Emily Gricco  
 Kimberly Lewis  
 Vidia Ramadin  
 Ashley Zambrano

Additional Awards Presented:

St. John's University Women in Mathematics and Science Society Award:

Francesca Barjon  
 Vidia Ramadin  
 Ashley Zambrano

Stephen K. Tompsett Character and Citizenship Award:

Jack McKay  
 Jack O'Malley  
 Ashley Zambrano

Kindness Award donated by Mary Campbell in honor of her Uncle Mike:

Enrique Austria

St. Joseph School Service Medals:

Vidia Ramadin  
 Brittany Rodriguez

St. Joseph School Spirit Medals:

Taylor Fioravanti  
 Ryan Ilardi

Sportsmanship Medal:

Brendan Shea

St. Joseph Rosary Altar Society Awards for the best essays with the theme: Living My Life in Today's World as a Catholic School Student:

Ryan Ilardi  
 Brittany Rodriguez  
 Ashley Zambrano  
 Deidre Zuluaga

American Legion Award for Excellence in American History:

Jack McKay

New York State Attorney General Triple "C" Award presented to students who best exemplify character, courage, and commitment:

Francesca Barjon  
 Brendan Shea

New York State Comptroller Achievement Award for academic excellence and the potential for leadership:

Jack O'Malley

We are very proud of our 2009 St. Joseph School graduates and all they have achieved. We hope they hold dear all the wonderful memories of St. Joseph School and we ask our Lord to bless them as they go forth from here onto high school.

<b>RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE</b>
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The Church's Teaching on Life: "Laws which legitimize the direct killing of innocent human beings through abortion or euthanasia are in complete opposition to the inviolable right to life proper to every individual; they thus deny the equality of everyone before the law. It might be objected that such is not the case in euthanasia, when it is requested with full awareness by the person involved. But any state which made such a request legitimate and authorized it to be carried out would be legalizing a case of suicide-murder, contrary to the fundamental principles of absolute respect for life and of the protection of every innocent life." (John Paul II, *Evangelium Vitae*, para. 72).

How You Can Help: The Diocese is asking us to call our elected officials in Albany to oppose three recent initiatives: (1) the Reproductive Health Act (S. 5808), which would remove all New York state regulations on abortion, including current restrictions on late-term abortion; (2) Same-Sex Marriage legislation (A. 7732/S. 4401), and (3) expanded funding for abortion through S.3257/A. 8397. Please call Sen. Kemp Hannon at 518-455-2800 and Assemblyman Tom McKeivitt at 518-455-4100 and ask them to oppose these three legislative initiatives. It will take only five minutes of your time. For more details or to contact your representatives by email instead, you may visit [nyscatholic.org](http://nyscatholic.org) and click on Take Action Now!

How to Get Help: The Diocese is offering a Natural Family Planning class on Thursday, July 16, from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Center Hall, 455 Hunter Ave., West Islip. The \$20 fee will be waived for engaged or newlywed couples. Please call Diana Tellis at the Diocesan Respect Life Office at 516-379-8292, ext. 215, for details.

## THE QUESTION BOX

*Just for fun—and some ongoing education—each week's bulletin offers a question on our Catholic spirituality and tradition. Enjoy!*

**Q:** Do priests have anniversaries?

- (a) No. They are not permitted to marry.
- (b) Yes. A priest considers his anniversary to be the date on which he entered the Seminary.
- (c) No. An anniversary is a secular observance, and priests are asked to put aside worldly concerns.
- (d) Yes. A priest celebrates his anniversary on the date he received the sacrament of Holy Orders (ordination).

**A:** This one should be easy, especially if you've heard that **Msgr. Brian McNamara is celebrating his 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary** on June 29<sup>th</sup>. Granted, most people immediately think of married couples when they hear the word "anniversary," but there are many other important dates in life that can be spoken of as anniversaries. The anniversary of one's baptism, for example, should be a very significant date on the calendar, if we believe that our baptism into Christ marks the beginning of our membership in the Church, and of our intimate kinship with Jesus. People in recovery from some form of addiction will often look at the date they first set aside alcohol, drugs, etc., as their anniversary of sobriety.

Priests celebrate the date on which they were ordained—that is, the date on which the bishop administered to them the sacrament of Holy Orders—as their anniversary in God's service. Deacons, and women and men in religious life do the same. The date of a priest, deacon, religious sister or brother's anniversary is a very important occasion for him or her, especially if (as in Msgr. Brian's case), the number of years being celebrated is a special milestone. The correct answer is (d).

# Imagine...

...that you are standing in the vestibule of the Church, the organ begins to play, and you process with the singing sound growing stronger and stronger as the congregation joins in, moved to praying in song...

...there is candlelight throughout the Church bringing the glow of Christmas all around as we lead the congregation in the carols and hymns of the season...

...making new friends who attend many different schools and all love to sing together, sharing your faith with others...

## **WANT TO SHARE IN THIS GREAT MINISTRY?**

**JOIN**

**THE ST. JOSEPH CHURCH BOYS CHOIR**

**OR**

**THE ST. JOSEPH CHURCH GIRLS CHOIR**

AUDITIONS FOR THE BOYS AND GIRLS CHOIRS ARE BEING HELD  
THIS MONTH

PLEASE PICK UP AN AUDITION INFORMATION PACKET IN THE RECTORY  
OFFICE, ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL OFFICE, OR THE RELIGIOUS ED. OFFICE FOR  
MORE INFORMATION.

WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU JOIN US IN SINGING OUR PRAISE TO THE LORD!

## **HUMAN SERVICES**

“Teacher do you not care that we are perishing?...Why are you so terrified? Do you not have faith?”

This exchange of questions in today's Gospel due to the storm at sea can be applied to so many happenings in our daily living that generate fear and anxiety. One such happening is the recent economic downturn. If we are able to be inspired by hope, we can in faith struggle through our troubles, knowing that God's love is beyond our comprehension. The disciples needed the support of each other as well as Jesus' support to get beyond their fears.

For those of you who may be experiencing anxiety in this financial climate the information below may be helpful for you. Please do not hesitate to call if there are other ways that the parish can offer assistance.

### **Recently Unemployed? Support is Available...**

Dr. Thomas Demaria, a renowned clinical psychologist who has assisted our faith community at various times of crisis in the past, is facilitating a group for people who have experienced the loss of employment. The group is intended for those who are going through a life transition to:

- Initiate strategies that will help with future employment
- Help deal with existing and future financial concerns
- Help maintain self-esteem
- Strengthen connections with others
- Rebuild or reorganize life priorities
- Provide opportunities for networking

Please join us on Wednesdays at 8:00am  
Lower level of Saint Anne's Rectory  
35 Dartmouth Street, Garden City

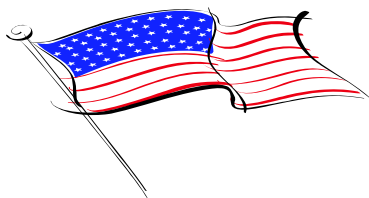
For any information, please call Linda Leone from Saint Anne's Parish Social Ministry at 352-5904 OR Sister Ginny Maguire at 747-7120.

### **Parish Networking...**

Challenging economic conditions have caused some accomplished and talented people to seek new employment. If you or the firm you work for is looking to hire, please let us know and we will send word to the members of this group, who may then follow up individually. Thank you for your consideration and support.

### **Mass for Deceased, Monday, June 22, 2009 at 8:00pm**

There will be a Mass in the Convent Chapel to remember those parishioners who died during the month of May. Family and friends are welcome.



## PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

**Let us continue to pray for peace and in a special way  
Let us continue to pray for all those who are serving in the military**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Lt. Connor Dwyer – U.S. M.C.                                 | Lt. James L. Hegarty, M.C. – U.S. Navy.            |
| Commander Thomas D. Chase – U.S. Navy                        | Capt. Ryan Delaney – U.S. Army                     |
| Capt. James Bithorn – U.S. Army                              | Lt. Timothy Tuck – U.S. Navy                       |
| Capt. Kevin Joyce  | Keith McNeish – U.S. Army                          |
| Lt. Commander Kevin Byrne – U.S. Navy                        | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. Michael Morley Quin – U.S.M.C. |
| Major William J. Gordon – U.S. Army                          | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. Lindsay Kelly – U.S. Army      |
| Capt. Andy Macyko – U.S. Navy                                | Lance Corporal Timothy E. Kelly – U.S.M.C.         |
| Colonel E. David Woycik, Jr. – U.S. Army                     | Lt. Lowell Wallace – U.S. Air Force                |
| Chaplain Fr. Timothy Valentine, S.J.S. – U.S. Army           | Major Luke Holian – U.S.M.C.                       |
| Captain Rory Kent – U.S.M.C.                                 | Col. David Lee Close – U.S.M.C.                    |
| Lt. Commander Thomas Q. Gallagher – U.S. Navy                | Lt. Col. Cathleen Engels Close – U.S.M.C.          |
| Private Matthew Brustien – U.S. Army                         | 1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. T. J. Valley, IV – U.S.M.C.    |
| Pfc. Jonathan Schiffer – U.S. Army                           | Lt. James Fallon – U.S. Army                       |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Class Petty Officer John Krupica – U.S. Navy | Sgt. William Barna, II – U.S. Army                 |
| Lt. Col. James Todd Dell'Olio – U.S. Army                    | Lt. Michael F. Wendelken – U.S. Navy               |
| Sgt. John E. Giacinto – U.S.M.C.                             | Major John J. Thomas – U.S. Air Force              |
| Sgt. Thomas Joyce – U.S.M.C.                                 | SFC Rene Sanchez – U.S. Army                       |
| Airman Emilio Lazia – U.S. Air Force                         | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieut. Thomas Ryder – U.S. Army    |
| Sgt. James Moore – U.S. Army                                 | Lt. Col. Steven P. Kaegebein – U.S.M.C.            |
| Sgt. Dennis Cashin – U.S.M.C.                                | Staff Sgt. Edmundo Lobaton – U.S.M.C.              |
| Cpl. Richard Quinlan – U.S.M.C.                              | 1Sgt. Chris Smith – U.S. Army                      |
| Colonel Thomas McFarland – U.S.M.C.                          | Capt. James Tierney – U.S. Army                    |
| Capt. Patrick Little – U.S. Air Force                        | Capt. Michael Petit – U.S.M.C.                     |
| Colonel David Everett – U.S. Army                            | 1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. Marc Vielledent – U.S. Army    |
| SFC Alex Torres – U.S. Army                                  | CWO Paul Allen – U.S. Army                         |
| SPC Steven Lauderdale – U.S. Army                            | Master Sgt. Jim Dupont – U.S.M.C.                  |
| Lt. JG Margaret Brown – U.S. Coast Guard                     | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieut. Douglas Holewa – U.S.M.C.   |
| Corporal Christopher Florea – U.S.M.C.                       | Spec. Brian Banules – U.S. Army                    |
| Pfc. Christopher Gupta – U.S. Army                           | Captain Thomas J. Seery, M.D. – U.S. Army          |
| CW2 Michael McDaniels – U.S. Army                            | Capt. Jacob Kaldor – U.S. Army                     |
| AFC Matthew E. Berrell – U.S. Air Force                      | S Sgt. Dustin Millett – U.S. Army                  |
| S Sgt. Tim Larmore – U.S. Army                               | Lt. Col. John Kelly – U.S. Army                    |
|  | Lance Cpl. Jessica Jackson – U.S.M.C.              |

**If you know of anyone in the military that you would like to include in this weekly prayer intention, please let us know.**

**Include the branch of service involved and your name and phone number.**

**Also, please let us know when your loved one has safely returned home.**

## **A Summer Psalm**

*Praise the God of summertime!  
Praise the Lord of hot days and cool nights,  
Who gives us this most playful season of the year  
To kick off our shoes and feel warm air on our skin again.*

*Praise God for the sun,  
Our great golden friend in the sky,  
Whose fiery face smiles down on us,  
And brightens the earth with her glowing rays!*

*Praise God for the swaying trees,  
With branches dressed all in green,  
Dancing to the music of the wind,  
Catching kids and kites in their leafy arms!*

*Praise God for water—  
Sloshing in kiddie pools  
And spritzing from sprinklers,  
Dropping from storm clouds  
And crashing on the sand of the seashore,  
Refreshing the earth, and cooling our skin!*

*Praise God for birds and bugs,  
For fish and frogs,  
For puppies and butterflies and earthworms and crabs  
And all the wild things of summer!*

*Praise God for the sounds of this season—  
For the crack of thunder on a muggy afternoon,  
And the sizzle of hot dogs on the grill,  
For the thwack of tennis balls bouncing off a racket,  
And the slurp of ripe watermelon,  
For the zizz of pesky mosquitoes,  
The bang of July firecrackers,  
And the giggles of children splashing in the pool!*

*Praise God for the chance to rest,  
To lie in the warm sunshine  
And soak up the gift the sun sends us  
From 93 million miles away;  
To read a little, and sleep a little,  
To tend the garden, or hit the mall,  
To catch a movie, or skate to the park,  
To travel, or just stay at home,  
To discover once again how wonderful life is!*

*Praise the God of summertime!  
Alleluia!*

*Rev. Brian J. Ingram*

