



**This week our special collection will support the Catholic Campaign for Human Development..**

Each year our Parish purchases gifts for children through the **Bethlehem Tree**, but this year's COVID restrictions necessitated a few changes as we gather gifts for 21 children. In order for people to help, and avoid shopping crowds, we ask that you purchase gift cards in any amount from TARGET, WALMART, AMAZON, or donate cash. The committee that oversees this project will be sure the children receive gifts. Donations can be left during Mass, mailed to Faith Formation at the Church, or dropped off in the office by December 10th.

Father George will celebrate **Family Mass** at 4 pm on each of the 4 Sundays of Advent. The 1st and 3rd Sundays, the Masses will be held at St. James, while the Masses on the 2nd and 4th Sundays (**December 6 and 20**) will be here at St. John the Baptist. We are asking young people to volunteer as readers for each of the two Masses here. Please call Ruth Ellen if you are interested. Father will explain each part of the Mass as he celebrates, and will focus on each week's Advent theme: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love, in his homily.

**ONLINE ECUMENICAL SERVICE**

Join Father George and area clergy for a special Digital Ecumenical Thanksgiving Day Service sponsored by the Ichabod Crane Clergy Association. Hosted on the website St. Paul's Church in Kinderhook, this will also be available Wednesday evening, November 25th, on their Facebook Page. Now more than ever we want to show the strength of our community, pray for our nation, and give thanks to God for the blessings we share.

**KYLE STRONG WOOD-FIRED PIZZA Fundraiser**

**Sunday, Nov. 22 11am-3pm  
St. James parking lot**

All proceeds support Kyle, a young parishioner recently diagnosed with cancer

**Please call the office to reserve your seat:**

**Last name beginning with E-L Nov 28-29  
Last Name beginning with M-R Dec. 5-6**



**PRAYER REQUESTS**

**Please keep in your prayers the sick and homebound of our parish and those who care for them:**

Paul Amyot, Okgana Bajko, Joan Bellanger, Michael Birmingham, Sylvia Boulger, Br. Ed Boyer, Virginia Bradley, John Brady, Pat Bruno, Daniel Burnett, Michael Burnett, Charlotte Chase, Eleanor Chase, Major Jeffrey Chase, John Cimon, Susan E. Cotsonas, Dave Daly, Barbara Domigan, Michael Doyle, Beth Drzymala, Sammy Evans, Gianni Farinacci, Br. Frances Feeley, Concetta Florientino, Michelle Foutch, Donald Gaylord, Charlene Genaway, Mary Ann Goodine, Lesha Hardgraves, Robert Havelka, Mary Hayes, William Hernandez, David Jaffarian, Craig Kingsley, Doug LaBudde, Jack Law Jr., Pinky Laviano, Kristen Law, Kevin M. Lynch, William Lindberg, Dominick Lizzi, Cindy Mahony, Erica Matthies, Kevin McCann, John & Pat McCauley, Gary McDonald, Edin Mercado, Marianne Martinez, Judy Martino, Kaylee Rose Meyer, Luba Mykytiw, Amelia Nabozny, Richard Norton, David Nichlos, Rita Paladino, Tommy Palmer, Elise Panico, Bonnie Pelizza, David Picchione, Pam Polashenski, Helen Rayve, Claire Renn, Tim Renn, William Robinson, Lisa Rossello, Dawn Ruchel, Rita Ryan, Alice Salvatore, Maddi Sidarous, Ralph Sitcer, Special Intentions, Bonnie Sperl, Sean Spicer, Kyle Stickle, Kevin Sutton, Joan Torcello, Nancy Troutman, Br. David Turmel, Matthew West, Edward Wheeler, Dan Wiltse, Marybeth Wiltse, Gary Wickes, Chrissy Wills, Darrell Wilson, Carol Wisenhunt, Veronica Wistar, Robert Woodward, Erica Wordon

**CEMETERY**

**The cemetery will be closing soon for the winter.**

Please remove anything you wish to keep.

**150th Keepsake Ornaments - \$10.00**

**Stop by the rectory to purchase  
Mon. -Thurs. 9am—1:00pm**

**FOOD PANTRY BASKETS**

The Food Pantry is getting ready for the **Thanksgiving Baskets**. The pandemic has changed things as we all know. If you would like to contribute, note the donation is for Thanksgiving baskets and mail checks to **The Valatie Ecumenical Food Pantry. PO Box 266, Valatie, NY 12184.**

**Thank you for your kindness!**



**Can you sew a reusable mask??**

**Please drop completed masks at St. John's Rectory Mon.-Thurs. (9-1) or call Connie at 518-755-2082 for pick up.**

Pastors Blog:

*God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has freed you from sin, given you a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and welcomed you into his holy people. He now anoints you with the chrism of salvation. As Christ was anointed Priest, Prophet and King, so may you live always as members of His Body, sharing everlasting life.*

This weekend is the Solemnity of Jesus Christ, the King of the Universe ... I am going to repeat a theme or two from my pre-recorded homily because I have been giving it so much thought....what does it mean to be a king in today's world? Many of us have always been fascinated by the British monarchy and see their recent role as being vastly different from the despots who brought fear over centuries to the heroes of medieval folklore. For early Christians, they saw the role of Jesus Christ as king as a return of the King of Israel and something even more powerful. As believers that the Second Coming would be in their lifetimes, they anticipated that Jesus would truly come in glory and, frankly, militaristically in order to throw down the Emperor and all those in power.

In the Rite of Baptism for Children, the words above are shared immediately after Baptism as the celebrant marks the sign of the Cross with Sacred Chrism on those receiving the Sacrament. It is a powerful moment and I believe it is in context of the threefold mission to be Priest, Prophet and King that best captures the role of being a King.

These prayers are the same for women and men, girls and boys and each has a call to answer. In context of this, we are called to be priests, as in the priesthood of all believers, sanctifying each other with Grace. We are called to be prophetic in a world that ignores truth or goes silent. We are called to be heirs of Jesus Christ as participants and then proclaimers of the Kingdom of God. Our role is not to lord over others but to be compassionate companions and respectfully be servant leaders. Once we have experienced true faith, our impulse should be to share that experience.

When talking with children, I like to bring up the character of Simba from "The Lion King" and what kind of ruler he would be unlike his evil uncle. For adults, we remember the iconic scene from "Titanic" where the young hero Jack cries out in delight, "I am the King of the World!" Reports suggest this was a last-minute addition to the script that was meant to capture the awe-inspiring beauty, power and majesty before him. The character first experienced this with a friend from the ship but later in the film and then later shares the experience by bringing his new love, Rose, to the same place. Interestingly, when Googling this, most of what came up was the criticism of "Titanic" director James Cameron for exclaiming Jack's famous line when accepting his Oscar for Best Director. Critics then and now (including Cameron himself) judged the repetition of that line inappropriate. Cameron was accused of being arrogant and obnoxious. Worst of all, as his movie swept so many awards; he was seen as cruelly insensitive to those who were losing in his wake. (Pun intended)

As we are called to be proud Priests, Prophets and Kings, may we respond with humility. Next week we will begin the journey of Lent and we will make this journey together even if we are socially distant. In anticipation of a birth that will free us from sin, anoint us with healing and salvation and draw us together as one, our focus will rest on the themes represented by the Advent Candle: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. May we navigate the waters of troubled times with these gifts from God to direct our emotions, steer clear of the obstacles in our way and bring us safely home.

Please be generous in this week's collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, In the United States, one in six people live in poverty. With this collection, you support programs that address the causes of poverty and provide a sustainable future for those struggling across the country. In addition, 25% of the funds we collect will remain in our diocese to fund local anti-poverty projects. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this collection and work on the margins. More information about the Catholic Campaign for Human Development can be found at [www.usccb.org/cchd/](http://www.usccb.org/cchd/)

**FAITH FORMATION & PARISH OUTREACH**

**December Faith Formation Packets:** If you missed your December family packet pick up November 21, you may come to the office Monday or Tuesday 8-1 or call RuthEllen to make arrangements for pick-up.

If you wish to create your own fresh **Advent wreath**, please contact Ruth Ellen at 518-758-1828. Pickup will be Sunday, November 29. We ask for a freewill donation. There are a limited number of kits available, so reserve yours now! We also have a limited number of metal rings and Advent candles available.

We are continuing to help **Street Soldiers in Troy**. We are asking for new underwear and socks for children, women, and men during **November**, and hand-warmers and gloves for **December**. Please bring items to the Church during Mass, or to the Rectory between Monday and Thursday, 9 am to 1 pm.

**Readings for the week of November 22, 2020**

Sunday: Ez 34:11-12, 15-17/Ps 23:1-2, 2-3, 5-6 [1]/1 Cor 15:20- 26, 28/Mt 25:31-46  
 Monday: Rv 14:1-3, 4b-5/Ps 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 6]/ Lk 21:1-4  
 Tuesday: Rv 14:14-19/Ps 96:10, 11-12, 13 [13b]/Lk 21:5 -11  
 Wednesday: Rv 15:1-4/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 7-8, 9 [Rev 15:3b]/ Lk 21:12-19  
 Thursday: Rv 18:1-2, 21-23; 19:1-3, 9a/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5 [Rev 19:9a]/Lk 21:20-28  
 Friday: Rv 20:1-4, 11—21:2/Ps 84:3, 4, 5-6a and 8a [Rev 21:3b]/Lk 21:29-33  
 Saturday: Rv 22:1-7/Ps 95:1-2, 3-5, 6-7ab [1 Cor 16:22b]/Lk 21:34-36  
 Next Sunday: Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-

**THIS WEEK'S MASS SCHEDULE**

**Saturday, November 21st.**

**4:00 pm** Lois & Edwin Strehler by the family  
 Joan Minkler by John & MaryLynn Cimon

The Porreca Family By Groat family  
 Walter Sommer by Peggy O'Dea

**Sunday, November 22nd**

**7:30 am** Michael Le by LeNguyen family  
 The Lost Souls by LeNguyen family

