



 PRAYER REQUESTS

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

- Anonymous, Paul Amyot, Oksana Bajko, Joan Bellanger, Michael Birmingham, Sylvia Boulger, John Brady, Daniel Burnett, Michael Burnett, Charlotte Chase, Eleanor Chase, Major Jeffrey Chase, Susan E. Cotsonas, Barbara Domigan, Michael Doyle, Beth Drzymala, Sammy Evans, Gianni Farinacci, Concetta Florientino, Michelle Fouch, Donald Gaylord, Charlene Genaway, Mary Ann Goodine, Lesha Hardgraves, Robert Havelka, Mary Hayes, Ed Helfer, 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, 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, Eileen Scott, Maddi Sidarous, Ralph Sitcer, Special Intentions, Bonnie Sperr, Sean Spicer, Kevin Sutton, Nolan Thompson, Joan Torcello, Nancy Troutman, Matthew West, Edward Wheeler, Dan Wiltse, Marybeth Wiltse, Gary Wickes, Chrissy Wills, Carol Wisenhunt, Veronica Wistar, Robert Woodward, Erica Wordon

Faith Formation Resources for Families

What is a sacrament? How many sacraments does the Catholic Church have? The Religion Teacher offers a “Seven Sacraments Lesson Plan” for families to learn more about our sacramental life as Catholics. Access the free downloadable activities (plus a short video) by [clicking here](#). Jared Dees of The Religion Teacher has also put together a video that explains the meaning of the word “Amen.” Watch it by [clicking here](#).

~For adults: the next “Words with Wine” event, hosted by St. Bernard’s School of Theology and Ministry, will be held online via Zoom on Thursday, July 16th at 7:30 P.M. The topic of this session will be “Fellini’s classic film, *La Strada*.” To register for this event, [visit the website](#).

~Have you ever visited the Dominican Retreat and Conference Center in Niskayuna? They’re offering virtual events that you can experience as a family from the comfort of your home. [Click here to view the complete list](#), which includes an online Taizé prayer session.

***** BLOOD DRIVE*****
 Thursday, July 9th 1 -7pm at the
Kinderhook Elk’s Club

NO WALK INS...Appointments necessary

Sign up online or call the Red Cross.

Bonus.. Red Cross will do an antibody test of your blood!

“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.” - Mt 11:28-30

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time/July 5, 2020

SUNDAY’S READINGS

First Reading:
 See, your king shall come to you;
 a just savior is he,
 meek, and riding on an ass,
 on a colt, the foal of an ass. (Zec 9:9b)

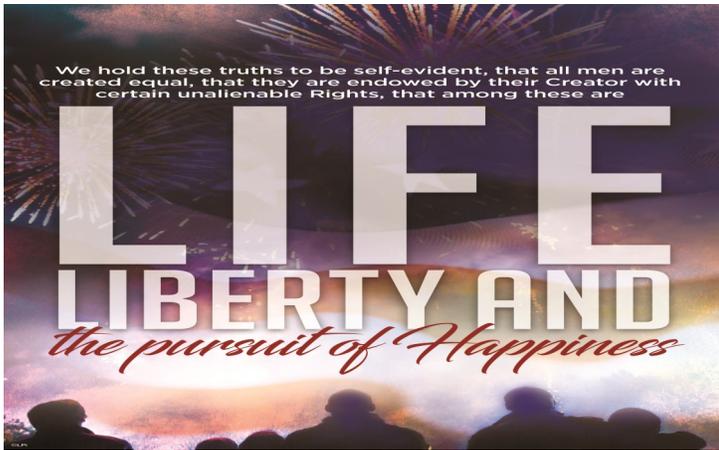
Psalms:
 I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God. (Ps 145)
 or Alleluia

Second Reading:
 For if you live according to the flesh, you will die,
 but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body,
 you will live. (Rom 8:13)

Gospel:
 “Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened,
 and I will give you rest.” (Mt 11:28)

WEEKLY READINGS

- Readings for the week of July 5, 2020**
- Sunday: Zec 9:9-10/Ps 145:1-2, 8-9, 10-11, 13-14 [cf. 1]/Rom 8:9, 11-13/Mt 11:25-30
 - Monday: Hos 2:16, 17b-18, 21-22/Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [8a]/Mt 9:18-26
 - Tuesday: Hos 8:4-7, 11-13/Ps 115:3-4, 5-6, 7ab-8, 9-10 [9a]/Mt 9:32-38
 - Wednesday: Hos 10:1-3, 7-8, 12/Ps 105:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 [4b]/Mt 10:1-7
 - Thursday: Hos 11:1-4, 8e-9/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16 [4b]/Mt 10:7-15
 - Friday: Hos 14:2-10/Ps 51:3-4, 8-9, 12-13, 14 and 17 [17b]/Mt 10:16-23
 - Saturday: Is 6:1-8/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5 [1a]/Mt 10:24-33
 - Next Sunday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 65:10, 11, 12-13, 14 [Lk 8:8]/Rom 8:18-23/Mt 13:1-23 or 13:1-9





Pastors Blog,

“You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way, to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.” -Luke 1:76-79

If you are reading this week’s blog as a parishioner of St. John the Baptist, you might be experiencing a feeling of déjà-vu or thinking that perhaps I submitted a copy of last week’s blog by mistake. Of the three separate blogs I wrote last week for our different parishes, I wrote last to St. John the Baptist in honor of our patron’s feast day -- but these words began to describe to me the experience of our soft reopening.

For the first time in more than 100 days, I celebrated liturgies with our people at all four churches. Beginning on last Wednesday in Stottville and then during three week-end liturgies at the other worship sites, my heart was filled with the moving experience of seeing parishioners celebrate their faith as an assembly of believers and as a Eucharistic people.

The soft opening allowed parish leaders to have a run-through and acquaint themselves with the procedures and tasks at hand. To be able to come together in prayer reminded us what we are all about. These leaders follow in the footsteps of St. John the Baptist in preparing us as we prepare His way. I am so grateful for all of you who are lending a hand and extending a prayer for the benefit of our brothers and sisters.

When I celebrated my 25th anniversary last year, I never could have imagined the future impact that these last few months would have on me and on how I envision my priesthood. As challenging as these weeks have been, they have also been liberating. I am captivated by a new understanding of not only the priesthood that I cherish but also the Body of Christ, which has continued to thrive through the prayers, dedication, and outreach of our people. . You have heeded St. Paul’s directive: “Put on Christ” (Romans 13:14) -- even as you have had to stop and put a mask on first!

Our abbreviated and adjusted liturgy schedule comes as a hardship on us all, especially while we are at 25 to 33 percent capacity. I am confident that we are going in the right direction, but this requires a slow and steady return to a new normal (or, as someone said, “a new next”). We will keep you updated, and while office hours have been limited, someone will always get back to you in a timely manner.

We are united this year in a special way as we re-enter the church and begin worshiping together as a family. As I typed those words for St. John the Baptist, I had to correct a typo: I originally wrote *untied* by mistake instead of *untied*. I am struck, however, by how fitting that term could describe us. We have been tied down for more than three months, and only now is it possible to begin loosening some of the restrictions that have kept us bound and restricted.

As last year united us in joy and recognition of our past, present, and future, this year unites us in the conviction that nothing can close us from Christ’s mission. As five communities, four churches, and three parishes, we are now more united (as well as untied) than ever before. Thanks to amazing parish leaders, including our staff, we have continued to provide incredible service to our community through our outreach and prayer. Now, we are reaching back home where we can celebrate together and pray for all of our concerns.

It is now our mission to **prepare** His way -- to **prepare** others to experience Christ in the Sacraments and in the community! It is now our mission to **provide** the knowledge necessary for health and well-being. It is now our mission to **proclaim** the compassion of our God who will bring salvation and forgiveness! It is our mission to **propel** a people in darkness to the way of peace! United we stand; Untied we can move forward together (at a safe distance, of course!).

In my final words, I want to acknowledge that many of us are still struggling. We are facing difficulties as never before and are overwhelmed by not only our own problems but also those of our community and society. We must remember Jesus’s words in this week’s Gospel; **“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest”** (Matthew 11:28). These words of comfort and assurance couldn’t come at a better time.

P.S.: For all of you who are celebrating Independence Day differently this year, please know that our beloved country and all of you are in my thoughts and prayers. I know that we are facing particular struggles this year, especially when we reflect on whether true freedom can exist when it is not shared by all. Still, we have been given the hope of freedom and a call to equality that reminds us that all are precious in God’s eyes. God bless you! ~Fr. George