

Sunday, March 14, 2021 – The Fourth Sunday of Lent

Goal: As a community may we seek to be of one heart and one mind, to know, love and serve our Lord by Letting His love and light shine through each of us.

From the Cluttered Desk and Mind of Deacon Bob

Blessings to everyone here at St. John the Evangelist Church in Centerville-Saugerties. And welcome to the Fourth Sunday of Lent.

I don't know if you've noticed, but we've slipped from reading from the Gospel of Mark into the Gospel of John. Mark's Gospel recounts the events of Jesus' ministry, His travels, His miracles, His healings. His Gospel is directed at showing us Jesus' works, to prove, if you will, His divinity, that He is the Messiah. John's Gospel, on the other hand, is written to show us how Jesus manifested His love by words and deeds.

This week, as a follow-up to Jesus saying He would raise up His body in three days, He talks to Nicodemus about the lifting up of the serpent in the desert by Moses, to save the people who were bitten by serpent serpents. They were being bitten because they had complained against God, saying He had brought them into the desert only to die of hunger and thirst. When they turned back to God and asked for His forgiveness, God directed Moses to mount a bronze serpent on a pole for the people who were bitten to look at and be saved from death.

Nicodemus was a Pharisee, who knew well the Jewish testament. He also believed in Jesus as the Messiah. Jesus had just explained to him how everyone needs to be reborn in the Spirit. Now He says that "everyone who believes in him may have eternal life." John now moves from Jesus speaking to John speaking, in that famous verse, John 3:16. But I think John 3:17 is equally important: "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him."

God loves us. John uses the euphemism of "the world" to indicate that God's love applies to everyone, not just the Jews. We, too, need to love everyone as God's creation. As you've heard before, that doesn't mean we need to like them. But every person, even the evil person, is God's creation. That person may not reflect God in their life, in their morals, in their language, or in how they treat you or others. But God created them, to fulfill His purpose in the world. Sort of like mosquitos. What earthly purpose could God have had in creating mosquitos? Just to annoy us? I don't know. Why did God, why does God, allow evil people in the world? God has a purpose. I don't know what it is, but I can pray to God to let me know what He would have me do with or for that evil person.

This Lent, try using your prayer, fasting, and almsgiving as an offering for someone who is unkind, hurtful, mean, violent, or in some other way evil to you or others. Make your offering to God for that person, that perhaps God will touch them and change their heart. It worked for St. Paul. Maybe this person will be the next St. Paul.

God bless you.

RESERVED MASSES:

Sat 3/13	5:30 p.m.	Anniversary remembrance of Agnes & Joseph Straub <i>Req. by Judy Snyder</i>
Sat 3/20	5:30 p.m.	Birthday remembrance of Stanley Niedzialek <i>Req. by his wife & daughter, Rose & Terry</i>

COMMUNION SERVICES:

St. John's has a Communion Service every Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday at 8:30 AM. All are welcome. Morning Prayer is prayed immediately before the service at 8:15 AM. Please come.

Please call 845-217-3333 to reach Alison at the Parish Office or for Religious Education. To reach Fr. Chris in an EMERGENCY, please call 845-246-4913.



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY to
Deacon Bob who celebrated on
March 10th.**

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

This sacrament is one of the seven sacraments. As St. James says in his Letter, “If someone is sick, let him call the priest to pray over him and to anoint him with oil.” If you or anyone you know would like to receive the Anointing of the Sick, please let Deacon Bob know, and he will try to arrange a priest to come and anoint them and pray over them.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

Assisting Fr. Chris this week will be Deacon Bob. Next week will be Olivia Salerno.

ATTENDANCE

Last week, we had 51 people at 5:30 Mass.

HOLY WEEK/EASTER

All Holy Week activities and celebrations will take place at St. Mary of the Snow. We will have a Mass at St. John’s on Easter Sunday, probably at 8 AM. I am hoping we can have an outdoor procession as we have had in past on Palm Sunday, just not out to Route 212.

CONTACTING MISSING PARISHIONERS

I’m sure you are aware that many people have not returned to church after the shutdown because of COVID. I would like to try and reach out to those who are not here, and see if they need assistance, encouragement, or support. Please try to remember who used to sit next to you, on either side, in front or in back of you, and give me, Deacon Bob, their names. With the help of other parishioners, I would like to contact them, by phone or by mail, and let them know they are missed, they are cared about, and see if there is anything we as a parish can do for them. Thank you for your help with this.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

We will have the Stations of the Cross every Friday at 7pm here at St. John’s during Lent. Please add this devotion to your Lenten practice. Recall and relive what Jesus did for you because of His great love for you.

SAINTS & SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Wed – Saint Patrick, Bishop
- Thu – Saint Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop & Doctor of the Church
- Fri – Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

JACK ROSE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

For the next several months we will be collecting loose change at St. Joseph’s, St. Mary’s and St. John’s. This spring we will be accepting applications from graduating seniors from these parishes who will be continuing their education. If you are interested in mailing in a donation, please send it to: St. John’s Jack Rose Scholarship, 36 Cedar Street, Saugerties, NY 12477. Thank you!

DISPENSATION FROM MEAT

Fasting on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday and abstinence from meat on Fridays are important Lenten obligations for every Catholic bound by age and health. Every few years, our Lenten austerity is interrupted by one or two solemnities. The Solemnity of St. Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and patron saint of the universal Church is commemorated on March 19 and this year that celebration falls on a Friday of Lent. His Eminence is happy to grant a dispensation from abstinence from meat to all within the archdiocese as part of the observance of this Solemnity during the Year of St. Joseph. If you decide to make use of this special dispensation, you are encouraged to choose another day during the week to abstain from meat as part of the Lenten observances.

CONSECRATION OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK TO ST. JOSEPH

His Eminence will offer the Consecration of the Archdiocese of New York to St. Joseph on Friday March 19 following the 7:00 am Mass at St. Patrick’s Cathedral. The Mass and consecration will be live streamed and archived on the web page at www.saintpatrickscathedral.org. All of the parishes and schools in the archdiocese may make the consecration simultaneously with the cardinal or at another appropriate time. The consecration prayers can be found on the website of the archdiocese at www.archny.org.

COMMUNION CALLS

If you or someone you know would like to receive Communion at home, either because of illness or infirmity, or because they don’t feel safe in church, please call me, Deacon Bob, and I will arrange for someone to come and bring Communion to them or to you. Call me at 845-706-1035. I have been contacted by a couple of people who would like to receive Communion. I do not have the time to do this. If anyone is willing to bring Communion regularly to two people or couples at their homes, please contact me, Deacon Bob, at 845-706-1035, and I will give you the details. If you are considering becoming an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist, please contact me. There is some instruction that is needed which I will be glad to provide. It is a most rewarding experience.



YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:

Vincent Saturn, Gene Woodruff, Jane Fiore, Peter Kandora, John Lynch, Nancy Dwyer, Claire Miller, “Smokey” Woods, Zac Swart, Ann Deacon, Debbie Lieberman, MaryLou Dengler, Anne Monfrini, Joan O’Leary, Dan Kelly, Richard Teitter, Ann Nelson, Vinnie & Hilda McDermott, Loretta Beisel, Joanne Sussman, Brittney Ruskie, Thomas Houlihan Sr., Frankie Cullen, Walter Johnson, Charles Bowls, Joe Font, Debbie Volkle, Mike Leung, Pam Murphy, Debra Trees, Fred Belfance, John Bechtold, Paul Donlon, Olivia Trees, Joe Nista, Frances Riccio, Carol Loesch, Bruce Meservey, Mark Moore **To place or remove name from sick list, please call 217-3333**