

Sunday, May 23, 2021 – Pentecost Sunday

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 Pentecost Sunday.

We are now at the end of the Easter season. Jesus completes His last promise to the Apostles and disciples. Last week, in the reading from Acts, just before His Ascension, Jesus told the disciples to go back to Jerusalem and wait for the Spirit He would send to them. They did not understand what that meant, nor did they know how long they were to wait. But they went and did as Jesus had instructed them to do. And in that locked room, Jesus came and breathed on them, and imparted the Holy Spirit upon them.

Many years ago, I was invited to a Bar Mitzvah just up the road at the Woodstock Jewish Congregation. It was the same day as Confirmation at St. John's, and was just before our Confirmation. The rabbi said that saying the name of Yahweh was like breathing out. Hebrew has no vowels, so "Yahweh" was said like "YHWH", just breathing out. Try that, not pronouncing each letter, but just saying the entire word. It's like breathing out. That's what Jesus did on the disciples. He didn't do it "to" the disciples, He did it "on" the disciples. He breathed the name of God, which Jews would not pronounce because it was so holy, onto His disciples. And the Spirit of God came into them. Not around them, not with them, but into them. And the sound, like a giant divine breath that everyone could hear, drew a crowd to where they heard that mighty sound.

And we know what happened next. Peter went out and gave a great, Spirit-filled sermon to the assembled Jews. Trusting in the Holy Spirit Jesus gave him and all the disciples there, he stood in front of a huge crowd and proclaimed Jesus as the Christ.

All of the readings this weekend talk about the presence of the Spirit of God in us. I said one day this week at the daily Communion service how great it would be if, at every Confirmation, the Holy Spirit would come down upon the confirmandi in tongues of fire, and they each would begin speaking in tongues and prophesying. We would then witness the physical presence of the Holy Spirit, and see His coming into us. It would make it so much easier to be inflamed with the Holy Spirit!

But Jesus said to Thomas, "Blessed are those who have not seen and believed." We do not see the physical manifestation of the Holy Spirit, any more than we see the physical manifestation of Jesus in His Body in the Eucharist. But Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist, and the Holy Spirit is truly present in the sacrament of Confirmation. We have received that Spirit ourselves at Confirmation, just as the disciples did in the upper room. Try to remember your Confirmation. What did you feel? What did you think about? Ask the Holy Spirit now to come down to you again on this feast of Pentecost, and to stir your heart, your will, to have the same strength as Peter, to be as courageous in your faith as the other disciples, and to be as ready to profess your faith as the first converts were in Jerusalem. The Holy Spirit be with you.

God bless you.

RESERVED MASSES:

Sun 5/22 5:30p.m. Anniversary remembrance of
David J. O'Leary
*Req. by family of Kris and
Bill Hodgson*

Sat 5/29 5:30 p.m. D. Richard Rafferty
Req. by Rafferty family

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.

FOOD PANTRY ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

If you might be interested in helping with this corporal work of mercy, please let Gabby Baker know. She can be reached at g.baker1@ppcsd.org.

EUCCHARISTIC MNISTERS

Assisting Fr. Chris this week will be Deacon Bob. Next week, it will be Mike Zollo.

LECTOR

The lector this week is Bob Hlavaty. Next week, it will be Bob Hlavaty.

ATTENDANCE

Last week, we had 52 people at 5:30 mass. On the Ascension Thursday Vigil Mass, 50 people were in attendance.

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. Call him at 845-706-1035.

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. It was good to see so many people I have not seen for a while at the Easter Mass. It reminded me again that there are many people who could be served by home Communion ministry, first by contacting them and then by bringing them Communion.

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 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. I had the joy of instructing two people a few weeks as ministers of Holy Communion at home. It is a most rewarding experience.

CLYNK

We are still doing Clynk with Hannaford. We are collecting deposit bottles in the shed out back, and then putting them in the specially-marked bags so that St. John's gets credit for the deposit value. You can also take a bag home with you and fill your own bag at home with all your deposit containers and bring it to Hannaford's yourself. Or leave it in the shed. Thank you for your continued support. This does help in our outreach.

PARISH OFFICE

The parish office has moved out of the school building and back to our former location in the parish center at 36 Cedar Street! We thank everyone for their patience and cooperation. Catherine will be available on Wednesday & Thursday between 10:30am – Noon for Mass card purchases.

JUNE FOOD BAZAAR

On June 24th & 25th, a food bazaar will be held at St. Mary's. Orders will be taken in advance for our famous fried dough, as well as delicious BBQ dinners from Stone Pony. If you would like to place an order or need more information, please contact Christine Molinelli at 845-246-6381 or via email: smsjfundraising@gmail.com. Order forms will be available in the church next weekend.

Fried dough: \$3.00 each

Dinners:

- 1. Dry rub chicken, cole slaw, baked potato, roll, brownie
\$15.00**
- 2. Pulled pork on a roll, cole slaw, baked potato, brownie
\$15.00**
- 3. Dry rub ½ Baby back ribs, cole slaw, baked potato, roll, Brownie
\$18.00**

There will also be a bake sale and raffles.



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, Carol Loesch, Bruce Meservey, Mark Moore

To place or remove name from sick list, please call 217-3333