

Sunday, July 4, 2021 – Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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 Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary time.

It's already July. Now it's really summer. Happy Birthday to the USA, 245 years old this weekend. How it has changed in the last 245 years. Probably every generation has felt this way, but it seems like right now, we Christians, and especially Catholics, are being targeted for our faith, our principles, and our rights. Pray to God that He gives us the strength to withstand the onslaughts of the devil, which is where this is all coming from.

In the first reading from Ezekiel, these words could apply to our culture today. The Israelites have been exiled, and Jerusalem is about to be destroyed, because of the unfaithfulness of the Jews. Ezekiel is the first of the Jewish prophets to be called outside of the Holy Land; he is in Babylon. He is charged by God to turn the Israelites back to their God, but He warns Ezekiel that they may well not listen to him.

Paul, in the second reading, is dealing with the same things. He is struggling to overcome some false teachings being spread among the Corinthians. Rather than appeal to their logic and reasoning, he instead reminds them that he has given up everything to try to bring them to God, and that he, Paul, has suffered continuously with a "thorn in the flesh" since he turned to God. He reminds them that the way of God is not all sunshine and flowers, but it is a struggle. And we need to turn to God, all the time, and ask for His help, His support, His grace, to bring us through whatever we have to face in our lives.

In the Gospel, from Mark, this follows right after last week's Gospel, when Jesus cured the woman with hemorrhages and raised Jairus' daughter from the dead. He goes to His hometown, where you would think the people would be glad to welcome this hometown hero. But instead, they belittle Him; "Is he not the carpenter, the son of Mary?..." They don't even try to hear what He is saying. Just like Ezekiel's Israelites, and the Corinthians in Paul's time, these people aren't open to the word of God. They're happy in their secular world, enjoying the pleasures of life, ignoring the words of God, and the Word of God in their midst. Jesus had just seen the great faith of the woman and of Jairus, and in His own hometown He finds none.

Which one of the people are you? Are you ready to speak and live the word of God fearlessly and proudly, like Ezekiel, or like Paul, ready for the opposition you know will be coming? Are you ready to stand up to the insults and snide or hurtful comments of those who disagree with you, like Jesus had to endure in His hometown? Or will you just go along, not raise any fuss or objection when things happen that you know are not right, not according to God's will or His commandments? Jesus is looking at you right now, asking you who you will follow, God or man. Ask God for the strength to follow Him in every situation. He is with you.

God bless you.

RESERVED MASSES:

Sat 7/3	5:30p.m.	Helen Krzywonos <i>Req. by Kevin Liston, Jr</i>
Sat 7/10	5:30 p.m.	Anniversary remembrance of Magee Webster <i>Req. by Marck & Maureen. Webster</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.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Assisting Fr. Chris this week will be Deacon Bob. Next week, it will be Maureen Webster.

ATTENDANCE

Last week, we had 59 people at 5:30 mass.

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 arrange a priest to come and anoint them and pray over them. Call him at 845-706-1035.

SAINT ANN NOVENA

Saint Ann's Church, Sawkill, is having a return of their Novena from Sunday July 18th through Monday July 26th, ending with a Mass for the Feast of Saint Ann on the 26th. All these will be held at 7PM. This year's Novena will be to give thanks for all of us who made it through the year and to pray for the special intentions of those who are sick or have died.

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.

SECOND COLLECTION JULY 4TH

Each year the Archdiocesan Office for The Society for the Propagation of the Faith sponsors the Missionary Cooperative Plan. This year, the Covid-19 Pandemic is still affecting the Missionary Cooperative Plans' traditional way of interacting. There will not be a speaker on the weekend of July 4th for the Missionary Cooperative Plan, however, the Second Collection on July 4th weekend will be in support of the Propagation of the Faith.

Pope Francis reminds us of the many challenges missionaries face daily which we might take for granted. The second collection on the weekend of July 4th will be sent to the Propagation of the Faith Office to support the needs of mission Dioceses and Religious Communities. Evangelization is at the heart of the Church's mission throughout the world, and we ask that you be as generous as your means allows in the second collection.

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.

FOOD PANTRY ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

The Food Pantry is open on the First Saturday of every month between 10am – noon.

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.

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.

There are bags by the side door, as well as some in the shed, if you need a bag when the church is not open.



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, Richard Evans

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