

Sunday, July 11, 2021 – Fifteenth 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 Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time.

It's the second Sunday in July already. In two more weeks, some of us will look back and say "Where did July go?" Make the most of each day this month. Revel in the glorious day God has given us, whether rain or sun, or whatever each day brings. Make today for God.

I like Amos, the author of the first reading. He has just finished, almost, a litany of the woes that will soon beset Israel. Israel is experiencing a very prosperous time, but Amos, a simple shepherd and arborist, is called by God to warn them that they are turning away from God and forgetting that it is God who has given them all that they have. The priest doesn't like what Amos is saying; it's bringing the people down. These are good times! We should all be happy and enjoying ourselves! Amaziah's solution is not to listen to the prophet God has sent to them, but rather to get rid of the prophet who says things the priest and the people don't want to hear.

The second reading, from the beginning of Paul's letter to the Ephesians, tells the people exactly what God had in mind for the Jews, and the Gentiles, even the people of Amos' time. "He has blessed us... with every spiritual blessing..." Paul doesn't say they are wealthy, happy, and enjoying the good life, but that God has given them *spiritual* blessings, adoption as sons of God, forgiveness of sins, chosen for the praise of God's glory. Who wouldn't want that? Those who are blinded by this world and the enticements designed by the devil to lead us away from God.

The Gospel from Mark follows right after last week's Gospel, where Jesus was rejected by His own people. They had little or no faith that He was speaking for God. But this doesn't discourage Jesus or divert Him from His path, that of bringing the Word of God to the whole world. He then sends the Apostles out in twos to preach, to heal, to drive out demons.

We hear the same theme in all three readings today. Amos is sent to the people to warn them of their sin, and to bring them to God. Paul has preached to the Ephesians and brought them to the truth and grace of God. And Jesus sends out His Apostles to preach and heal and show the power and the presence of God. In all of the readings, God is in their midst. The people ignore or intentionally disregard it, because it gets in the way of what they want to do. Make sure today, and this week, that you do not ignore or disregard the presence of God in your life and what He is saying to you.

And realize who God has sent to carry His message to the people. Amos is a farmer, with no history of prophecy. Paul was a persecutor of the church. And the Apostles being sent out are a bunch of fishermen and other nondescript people with no formal theological training. But God uses them to accomplish His purpose through His power. God can use you as well, as ill-equipped as you may think you are, to accomplish His purpose. Give Him the chance this week to show His power through you.

God bless you.

RESERVED MASSES:

Sat 7/10 5:30p.m. Anniversary remembrance of
Magee Webster
*Req. by Mark & Maureen
Webster*

Sat 7/17 5:30 p.m. Jean Brown

Req. by Maureen O'Neill.

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 Maureen Webster. Next week, it will be Deacon Bob.

ATTENDANCE

Last week, we had 64 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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Applications for the 2021-2022 school year will be available in the churches by the end of July. Our program begins in First Grade. Please share this information with families who may be interested in the program.

Teachers are needed. If you are interested in volunteering in our program, please contact Alison at smssjreligious@gmail.com.

SEPTEMBER 1ST – EXCITING NEWS!

Back in November 2020, St. Mary of the Snow, St. Joseph & St. John the Evangelist officially become one united parish. On September 1st, our finances will become one. I am excited to become the pastor of our merged parish and look forward to us continuing to grow together.

Also beginning September 1st, Alison will be returning to the office on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10:30am to 4:30pm. Religious education will be held in person this year as well. ☺ More information will be forthcoming over the next month.

We will have one bulletin which will share news pertaining to all 3 churches, including Mass intentions and other activities. The deadline for bulletin submissions will be Tuesdays at 1pm.

Thank you for your continued support. Together we can work to help our parish grow and thrive. May God bless each of you.

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.

We did have the Food Pantry last weekend, the first weekend of the month. If anyone has any time to help with setup, distribution, or planning, please contact Gabby Baker 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, Joe Defino, Sr.

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