

Sunday, July 18, 2021 – Sixteenth 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 Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Last week, if you remember, all three readings were about God calling someone and sending them to preach the word of God. This week, the readings are not so focused on one thing. But they still are about the call of God to each one of us.

Jeremiah is one of the Major Prophets. His book in the Bible is rather long, and he is focused on the coming of the Messiah. Many of his passages are seen as pointing to Jesus' coming for the Jews, to save them and return them to God. In today's reading, he is accusing the Jews and their king of listening to and following false prophets, who only tell the people what they want to hear. As a result, the people have no leader to show them what is right and what is according to God's way. This is why the sheep are scattered. But, he says, God will raise up a righteous shoot to David, Jesus, who will show the people what is just and right.

Paul, in his Letter to the Ephesians, also talks about how Jesus will draw everyone together in God. He will preach, and show, peace and justice for all people, breaking down all the walls that separate people, whether by race, skin color, political opinion, or whatever artificial division is created to separate us one from another and each of us from God. The biggest separation from God is the world, for those who are in the world and of the world. The physical world becomes their focus, what they have or want, what makes them feel good, ignoring the will of God. Paul says that Jesus has broken down that wall too and we all come together in Christ.

The Gospel from Mark today does not follow right after last week's Gospel. Between last week's and this week's Gospel, John the Baptist has been killed by Herod. Jesus had probably heard about this, but even though his cousin has just been killed, He still gives Himself to His Apostles as they return from their missionary journeys, listening to them tell Him all that they had been able to do. He is with a crowd when the Apostles return, and He is very busy, too busy to even eat. So they go off by themselves, to rest, to pray, to give thanks to God for all He had done through them, maybe even to eat. But the people of Jesus' time are starved for the truth, just as they were in Jeremiah's time, and they follow Him. And just like Jeremiah's people, these people are without a shepherd to give them true teaching and instruct them in God's way.

It might be good to ask yourself today if you are following the right teacher. Are you listening to shepherds who are leading you in God's way, who are teaching you the truth? Or are they of the world, telling you that whatever you want to do is okay? What are you reading? What music are you listening to? What speakers or commentators are in your life all the time? Are they speaking of God or of the world? You will become what you feed your mind. Feed yourself from God's word and God's law

God bless you.

RESERVED MASSES:

Sat 7/17 5:30p.m. Jean Brown
Req. by Maureen O'Neill

Sat 7/24 5:30 p.m. Robert Fennell
Req. by 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.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

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

LECTORS

The lector this week is Gaetana Sowles. Next week, it will be Mike Zollo.

ATTENDANCE

Last week, we had 57 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 845-217-3333