

Sunday, July 25, 2021 – Seventeenth 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 Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time.

This is the start of a pretty exciting time in the Church's year. For the next five weeks, including today, our Gospel comes from John, Chapter 6. This is called the Bread of Life discourse. Except that, on August 15, because of how the calendar falls this year, we will celebrate the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on what would be the fourth Sunday of the sequence.

What we will hear in the Gospel for the next five weeks is Jesus describing how His Body is the living bread come down from heaven. We must eat His Body and drink His Blood so that we may live forever, in heaven.

What does this mean? We receive Communion every week, so we are consuming His Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity. But is this what you believe? Do you realize this is the Body and Blood of Jesus that you are receiving every week? Does this strike you with awe? You are holding God, in the person of Jesus, in your hand, before you put Him in your mouth. God, the Real God, the only true God, is in your hand, giving Himself to you for your salvation. Do you realize what is happening, how great it is? This is what Jesus did at the Last Supper, when He took bread, broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying, "This is my Body, which will be given for you; do this in memory of Me." He, through the person of the priest, now gives us that same Body, that same Precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity, just as He did to his disciples.

This is why I want to have all those who, for whatever reason, are not back at church on Sunday, to receive the Eucharist at their home, if that is where they feel safe. Remember that the early Church, for the first few centuries, did not have a place to go to, a church building. The believers met in people's houses, in the catacombs (burial grounds), usually in secret, because the gift of Jesus of His Body and Blood was so important, so crucial to their faith and their continuing strength in the face of continual persecutions and deprivations.

We don't have those same risks in our country yet. But there are Catholics in the world, in the Middle East, China, India, and other countries, where they are being persecuted, and being killed, because they believe in the power and the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. And yet recent surveys among Catholics show that less than half of regular church-going Catholics believe that Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist.

This gets to the real question you need to answer for yourself. Do you believe that Jesus is present in the Eucharist, when you come up for Communion? Do you act with the proper reverence and awe at the presence of God in our midst? Do you realize what God is giving us as we take the Eucharist? That He is giving us salvation, grace, strength to continue in our belief in Him and in His true Presence? Try to think about that as you come up for Communion today and every week.

God bless you.

#### **RESERVED MASSES:**

<b>Sat 7/24</b>	5:30p.m.	Robert Fennel  <i>Req. by family</i>
<b>Sat 7/31</b>	5:30 p.m.	Anniversary remembrance of Charlie Webster <i>Req. by Marck &amp; 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 Olivia Salerno. Next week, it will be Deacon Bob.

## **LECTORS**

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

## **ATTENDANCE**

Last week, we had 58 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.

## **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.

If you are interested in volunteering in our program, please contact Alison at [smssjreligious@gmail.com](mailto:smssjreligious@gmail.com).

## **SEPTEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> – EXCITING NEWS!**

Back in November 2020, St. Mary of the Snow, St. Joseph & St. John the Evangelist officially become one united parish. On September 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 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.

## **SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**

Mon – Saints Joachim & Anne, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Thu – Saint Martha

Fri – Saint Peter Chrysologus, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

Sat – Saint Ignatius of Loyola, Priest

## **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](mailto: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**