

Sunday, September 5, 2021 – The Twenty-Third 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 Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary time. It's been three weeks since I had a chance to write. The retreat was wonderful and enlightening, and the vacation was sorely needed. But now we are back.

We have been reading from the early Books of the Old Testament. But this week we move to Isaiah, the greatest of the Old Testament prophets. If you remember, there are three parts to Isaiah, pre-Exilic, Exilic, and post-Exilic, before, during and after the Babylonian exile. Today's reading is from the Exilic period, while they were in a foreign land. Isaiah's purpose here is to encourage the Israelites, to remind them that God has not left them, forgotten them, or abandoned them. God has sent His servant, the prophet, to remind the people of God's presence, to be God's presence in their midst. They are to listen to him, to follow him, and to continue to trust in God and His care for His people.

The letter from James is different from many of the other letters in the Bible. James emphasizes that what we do matters, that our works, as well as our faith, are important. We can't just walk around being holy. We have to give evidence of that faith, just as Isaiah said the Israelites had to give evidence of their faith by the practice of their religion. James emphasizes the love of neighbor that is the second of the great commandments. Care for all God's people, not just the ones who the world considers good or worthwhile. Every person is special to God, whether favored by the world or not. God loves and knows each one of us.

The reading from Mark's Gospel this week is interesting in a few ways. Jesus is in the district of Tyre, a commercial, Gentile area on the Mediterranean coast. He leaves and goes by way of Sidon to the Sea of Galilee. So He first headed north, into more Gentile areas, and then turned south and went to the Sea of Galilee. Even though He said He was sent to the people of Israel, He is going into Gentile areas, non-Jewish areas, and performing miracles there, healing people there. When He comes into the area of the Decapolis, around the northern end of the Sea of Galilee, "the people" bring a deaf man to Him. Not the disciples, but the people of the area who have heard of what He is doing.

So Isaiah tells the people to remain close to God, to trust in God. James tells his people to do the will of God by loving your neighbor through good works. And Jesus does the will of God, shows God's love for each one of us. What we hear today is that I must remain close to God, be aware that He knows me and loves me, show that love, not by just praying to God, but by being open to Him, seeing the opportunities God gives me today and every day to be a witness to Him by my good works, and by giving of myself, as Jesus did, and be Jesus for someone today. So today, show God's love to someone, a family member or a stranger.

God bless you.

RESERVED MASSES:

Sat 9/4 5:30p.m. Birthday remembrance of
Margaret Howe
Req. by Howe family

Sat 9/11 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.

CONCERT – SEPTEMBER 19, 2021

Please join us in the hall at St. Mary of the Snow on September 19th at 2pm for a concert put on by the Civil War Band. This is a free-will offering fundraiser. Please be generous! All proceeds will go to our parish of St. Mary, St. Joseph and St. John. Thank you!

MAINTENANCE HELP NEEDED FOR OUR PARISH

1. We are looking for an insured company to put siding up at St. John the Evangelist Church on Rte. 212, and to clean off moss growing on the roof.
2. We are looking for a cleaning person to work in the school building three days a week.
3. We will need volunteers to set up the hall at St. Mary of the Snow for a concert fundraiser in late September.
4. We will need volunteers for The Garlic Festival on October 1st, 2nd, & 3rd.

PLEASE CALL CHRISTINE MOLINELLI AT 845-246-6381 AND LEAVE YOUR NAME AND PHONE NUMBER

THANK YOU.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

Have you wondered who the people are who serve at Mass? They must be special, since they are “extraordinary”. What “Extraordinary” means in this sense is that they are not “ordinary” ministers. The priest and deacon are ordinary ministers, the people who are ordained by the Church to distribute Communion. Those who are given the temporary authority, without being ordained, are called extraordinary ministers, outside of the usual ministers, because of need.

We have need of extraordinary ministers. Right now, there are three people who are extraordinary ministers who serve at Mass. If you would like to help the parish, please contact me, Deacon Bob. It is not difficult to be trained as an extraordinary minister (yes, there is training). It will take about an hour to learn what to do, when to do it, and how to do it. Please consider helping. Thank you.

ATTENDANCE

On August 14, we had 59 people at 5:30 PM Mass. On August 21, we had 66 people at 5:30 PM Mass. On August 28, we had 59 people at 5:30 PM Mass.

FOOD PANTRY ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

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

If anyone has any time to help with setup, distribution, or planning, please contact Gabby Baker at g.baker1@ppcsd.org.

LECTORS

What does it take to be a lector? In the old Church, lector was one of the steps to becoming a priest. Since Vatican II, lector is one of the functions the Church wants the laity to fulfill. Unfortunately, because of age, illness, and other factors, we have very few lectors now. We are in serious need of people willing to be lectors.

To be a lector, you need to be able to read. That’s it! You read the announcements, then the first reading, the Responsorial, and the second reading, and then the intentions after the Creed. No knowledge of Scripture is required, no special training, nothing but the ability to read. Please consider becoming a lector. The Church wants you to be involved in the Mass, and so do we at St. John’s.

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.

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, 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, Carol Loesch, Bruce Meservey, Mark Moore, Richard Evans, Joe Defino, Sr., Angela Mastracchio, Bobbi Matthews, June DeAngelis