

JMJ

Dear Parishioners,

Today’s liturgy presents to us enlightening yet at the same time disconcerting words of Christ.

On His last journey to Jerusalem someone asked Him: “Lord, will those who are saved be few?” And Jesus answered: “Strive to enter by the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able”.

What does this “narrow door” mean? Why do many not succeed in entering through it? Is it a way reserved for only a few of the chosen?

Indeed, at close examination this way of reasoning by those who were conversing with Jesus is always timely: the temptation to interpret religious practice as a source of privileges or security is always lying in wait.

Actually, Christ’s message goes in exactly the opposite direction: everyone may enter life, but the door is “narrow” for all. We are not privileged. The passage to eternal life is open to all, but it is “narrow” because it is demanding: it requires commitment, self-denial and the mortification of one’s selfishness.

Once again, as on recent Sundays, the Gospel invites us to think about the future which awaits us and for which we must prepare during our earthly pilgrimage.

Salvation, which Jesus brought with His death and Resurrection, is universal. He is the One Redeemer and invites everyone to the banquet of immortal life; but on one and the same condition: that of striving to follow and imitate Him, taking up one’s cross as He did, and devoting one’s life to serving the brethren. This condition for entering heavenly life is consequently one and universal.

In the Gospel, Jesus recalls further that it is not on the basis of presumed privileges that we will be judged but according to our actions. The “workers of iniquity” will find themselves shut out, whereas all who have done good and sought justice at the cost of sacrifices will be welcomed.

Thus, it will not suffice to declare that we are “friends” of Christ, boasting of false merits: “We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets”.

True friendship with Jesus is expressed in the way of life: it is expressed with goodness of heart, with humility, meekness and mercy, love for justice and truth, a sincere and honest commitment to peace and reconciliation. We might say that this is the “identity card” that qualifies us as his real “friends”; this is the “passport” that will give us access to eternal life.

If we too want to pass through the narrow door, we must work to be little, that is, humble of heart like Jesus, like Mary His Mother and our Mother. She was the first, following her Son, to take the way of the Cross and she was taken up to Heaven in glory, an event we commemorated a few days ago. The Christian people invoke her as *Ianua Caeli*, Gate of Heaven. Let us ask her to guide us in our daily decisions on the road that leads to the “gate of Heaven”.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Father Newcomb

Religious Education classes will begin on Sunday, September 8th.

Liturgical Ministers for August 31st/September 1, 2019

Mass	Lector	Ministers of Holy Communion	Altar Servers
4:00pm	J. SMITH	H. ECKES, T. WEBB	N. AND A. WEBB
8:30am	J. HENDRICK	W. CARMODY, S. RIORDAN, J. TAYLOR	E. AND A. TRUJILLO
11:30am	M. ESLING	N. SMITH, H. MARINARO	J. ENNIS, K. EPPS, S. BHIKARRY

We still have some openings:

Little Lambs is now registering for September 2019. Full and half day Pre-K3 and Pre-K 4 programs are available. For information contact director, Mary Carver at 845 858-4208, or visit the school located at 44 Ball St.

This year's Parish Picnic will be at the Sparrowbush Firehouse on Sunday, Sept. 22nd at 1pm.

Family Name: _____
 Number of Adults: _____ Children: _____
 Bringing: _____
 (Please be specific)
 Telephone #: _____

Please return the reservation form to the parish office BEFORE Thursday, September 5th



To date our parish has received 112 pledges totaling \$17,703. Our goal is \$35,500. Any amount is welcome.

Anyone interested, or know of anyone, that would like to be initiated into the Catholic faith or complete their sacraments is encouraged to contact Deacon Rich Marino. RCIA classes will begin on September 11.

We are happy to announce that the 3rd annual Port Jervis Area Life Chain is scheduled for Sunday October 13th from 1:00-2:30 PM.

For more information contact: Nancy Smith 856-4610



SEPT. 25 - NOV. 3

For information on the 40 Days for Life, please call our Right to Life coordinator, Nancy Smith at 845-856-4610.

Take advantage of access to **Formed**! You can create your own account **FREE** of charge at: **stmarysportjervis.formed** or go on **formed.org** and use access code **WXXVJT**

You can sign up with your own email and password to gain access to multiple programs, movies, ebooks, and audios.

The collection for August 17/18 was \$3,534.50
Thank you for your continued generosity.

Announced Masses

- Monday, August 26**
9:00am Matthew Avella, by Deacon Rich and Joanne Marino
Donna Holmberg, by Stephanie Gaide and Roseanne Sillick
- Tuesday, August 27 (Monica)**
9:00am Christine Hoey, by Rich and Diane Quick
- Wednesday, August 28 (Augustine, bishop and doctor of the Church)**
9:00am Victor Szpakowicz, by Paul and Sophie Rosso
Donna Holmberg, by the Adamcik family
- Thursday, August 29**
9:00am Joseph Macchiarolo, by Maria Macchiarolo
Carlos Castro, by the Sierra family
- Saturday, August 31**
4:00pm Natalie Rimlinger and Raymond Smith, by Mary Rimlinger
- Sunday, September 1**
8:30am Joan Ann Wilcox, by Rich and Diane Quick
11:30am The parishioners of St. Mary's

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Donald Wolff, Carol Gomillion, David Lisker, Nancy Parsons, Debi Cotugno, Michael Barnes, William Lincoln, Jeannine Lincoln, James Lincoln, Charles Hildebrandt, Maureen Hildebrandt, Andrea Fedoruk, Walter Szpakowicz, Carmella Balsamello, Alva Bonet, Aedan Roach, Robin Radzikowski, James Roach, Catherine Simons, Brendan Carmody, Joe Formisano, Nico Nicolette, Jaryd Viserta, Steven Gaesser, Kacey Warner, Sandra Ramsey, Lorraine Mannarino, Antonino Mazzara, Elizabeth Startup Jones, Mary Lynn Beam, Jose Ramos, Carmen Ramos, Mercedes Rodriguez, Jose Brito, Michael Medaglia, Barbara Straub, Tress Loughrey, Sal Careri, Cody Bain, Robert Cinerar, Robert Witherow, Mary Ohl, Susan Upton, Theresa Fuller, Allen Lynch, Enid Decker, Jackie Mundy, Chris Marion, III, Carmella Balsamello, Barbara Lindsay, Robert Ackerman, Wayne DeMarco, Pat Essing, Ryan O'Connor, and Elizabeth Brennan.



We will commence choir practice on Wednesday, September 4th. The children's choir will begin at 6pm followed by the adult choir rehearsal at 7pm. All are welcome. *When we sing we pray twice.*

To report a complaint of sexual abuse by a member of the clergy or anyone acting in the name of the Church, recently or in the past, please contact the Director of the Archdiocese Safe Environment Office by email: emechmann@archny.org or call (212) 371-1000. You will be contacted within one business day.