

JMJ

Dear Parishioners,

In the Gospel we have just heard, Jesus tells his Apostles to put their faith in Him, for He is “the way, and the truth and the life”. Christ is the way that leads to the Father, the truth which gives meaning to human existence, and the source of that life which is eternal joy with all the saints in His heavenly Kingdom. Let us take the Lord at His word! Let us renew our faith in Him and put all our hope in his promises!

Today’s first reading, taken from the Acts of the Apostles, speaks of linguistic and cultural tensions already present within the earliest Church community. At the same time, it shows the power of the word of God, authoritatively proclaimed by the Apostles and received in faith, to create a unity which transcends the divisions arising from human limitations and weakness. Here we are reminded of a fundamental truth: that the Church’s unity has no other basis than the Word of God, made flesh in Christ Jesus our Lord. All external signs of identity, all structures, associations and programs, valuable or even essential as they may be, ultimately exist only to support and foster the deeper unity which, in Christ, is God’s indefectible gift to His Church.

The first reading also makes clear, as we see from the imposition of hands on the first deacons, that the Church’s unity is “apostolic”. It is a visible unity, grounded in the Apostles whom Christ chose and appointed as witnesses to His resurrection, and it is born of what the Scriptures call “the obedience of faith”

“Authority” ... “obedience”. To be frank, these are not easy words to speak nowadays. Words like these represent a “stumbling stone” for many of our contemporaries, especially in a society which rightly places a high value on personal freedom. Yet, in the light of our faith in Jesus Christ – “the way and the truth and the life” – we come to see the fullest meaning, value, and indeed beauty, of those words. The Gospel teaches us that true freedom, the freedom of the children of God, is found only in the self-surrender which is part of the mystery of love. Only by losing ourselves, the Lord tells us, do we truly find ourselves. True freedom blossoms when we turn away from the burden of sin, which clouds our perceptions and weakens our resolve, and find the source of our ultimate happiness in him who is infinite love, infinite freedom, infinite life. “In His will is our peace”.

Real freedom, then, is God’s gracious gift, the fruit of conversion to His truth, the truth which makes us free. And this freedom in truth brings in its wake a new and liberating way of seeing reality. When we put on “the mind of Christ”, new horizons open before us! In the light of faith, within the communion of the Church, we also find the inspiration and strength to become a leaven of the Gospel in the world. We become the light of the world, the salt of the earth, entrusted with the “apostolate” of making our own lives, and the world in which we live, conform ever more fully to God’s saving plan.

This magnificent vision of a world being transformed by the liberating truth of the Gospel is reflected in the description of the Church found in today’s second reading. The Apostle tells us that Christ, risen from the dead, is the keystone of a great temple which is even now rising in the Spirit. And we, the members of his body, through Baptism have become “living stones” in that temple, sharing in the life of God by grace, blessed with the freedom of the sons of God, and empowered to offer spiritual sacrifices pleasing to him. And what is this offering which we are called to make, if not to direct our every thought, word and action to the truth of the Gospel and to harness all our energies in the service of God’s Kingdom? Only in this way can we build with God, on the one foundation which is Christ. Only in this way can we build something that will truly endure. Only in this way can our lives find ultimate meaning and bear lasting fruit.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Father Newcomb

**Until we return to public Masses, the Church will be open every
Saturday from Noon to 5pm for private prayer and Confessions will be heard from 3pm to 3:45pm
Sundays the Church will be open from 8am to 2pm for private prayer.
Adoration and Confessions will be from 9am to Noon.**

During these trying times we are still trying to keep our Church doors open after this pandemic is over. Contributions can be mailed to PO Box 712, dropped off in the mail slot at the rectory (46 Ball Street) or follow the link below to do online giving. We appreciate your generosity to our parish.

<https://stmarysportjervis.churchgiving.com/>

We have various Mass Intentions available. If you would like a Mass Intention for a loved one, living or deceased, email your request to st-marys-rectory@hvc.rr.com

St. Mary's Food Pantry is still available to all in our local and area communities. The next date will be Friday, May 15th from 10am until noon. If you or anyone you know needs help, please have them come during those times.

We are in need of 3 people to step up to be on the Parish Advisory Council for a 3 year term. We thank previous members Steve Riordan, Cheryl Lovelace, and Janet Smith for their 3 years of service. Please call the parish office to submit your name by Friday, May 22nd. Names will be picked on Sunday, May 31st-Pentecost Sunday. If interested, please leave a message at the parish office (845)856-8212 or email st-marys-rectory@hvc.rr.com.

Spiritual Communion Prayer

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally,
Come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace you as if you were already there
And unite myself wholly to you.
Never permit me to be separated from you.
Amen.

Little Lambs will hold an Open House on Wednesday, May 20th from 4:30 to 6: 30 by appointment only. Contact Mary Carver 858-4208 or email : littlelambs@stmarysportjervis.com

Blessed Sunday- Few reminders and suggestions:

1. 6pm pray the Rosary together with your family and our parish family from our homes.
2. If you haven't already set up an altar or place of prayer in your homes. Have a Crucifix, image of Our Lady, your favorite Saints etc.
3. If you view Mass online or on Television; try to take the normal postures you would in Church. (We won't be filming Mass online, because we do not have the proper technology to do so worthily) ewtn and our Cathedral do a wonderful job.
4. Continue to pray:
for those that are sick and suffering from the Coronavirus, those that will die, the nurses, assistants, orderlies, maintenance staff and doctors who are putting their lives on the line for all of us, our EMTs, police officers, firefighters, soldiers, and scientists who are all assisting us at this time.
Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, pray for us who have recourse to you.

Announced Masses

- Monday, May 11**
9:00am Elizabeth Jane Bosquez, by Matt and Liz Witherow
- Tuesday, May 12 (Nereus and Acilleus, martyrs; Pancras, martyr)**
9:00am John A. Carroll, by Ron and Doreen Semerano
- Wednesday, May 13 (Our Lady of Fatima)**
9:00am All essential workers, especially healthcare workers
- Thursday, May 14 (Matthias, apostle)**
9:00am Raymond Gansarski, by the family
- Saturday, May 16**
4:00pm The parishioners of St. Mary's
- Sunday, May 17**
8:30am Liza Rodriguez, by the Brito family
11:30am Friedrich Klostermeier, by Erika and family



The Sanctuary Lamp will burn brightly this week in memory of Michael McCarthy, by Catherine Westfall and family.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Donald Wolff, Carol Gomillion, David Lisker, Nancy Parsons, Debi Cotugno, Michael Bello, Michael Barnes, William Lincoln, Jeannine Lincoln, James Lincoln, Charles Hildebrandt, Maureen Hildebrandt, Walter Szpakowicz, Carmella Balsamello, Aedan Roach, Robin Radzikowski, James Roach, Catherine Simons, Brendan Carmody, Nico Nicolette, Jaryd Viserta, Steven Gaesser, Kacey Warner, Sandra Ramsey, Lorraine Mannarino, 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 Witherow, Susan Upton, Theresa Fuller, Allen Lynch, Enid Decker, Jackie Mundy, Chris Marion, III, Barbara Lindsay, Robert Ackerman, Wayne DeMarco, Ryan O'Connor, Elizabeth Brennan, Jerri Kavanaugh, Allan Garcia, Christine Haberzettl, Eric Hildebrandt, Rose Gotthardt, Georgia Gotthardt, John Olenick, John Hendrix, Stephen A. Odrechowski and fam., Scott Robertson, Eva Scopino, Jan Kaminski, Ana Anaya, Glenn Lagatol, Ellen Pentland, Shirley Simeone, Belinda Vazquez, and Melissa Rodriguez-Smith.

The Cardinal's Appeal is still ongoing. Our goal is \$34,500. We have received pledges totaling \$8,690 from 43 donors. You can visit Cardinalsappeal.org. All Donations can be mailed directly to : The Cardinal's Appeal PO Box 4020 NY, NY 10261. Our Parish number is **518**.

The collection for May 2nd/3rd was \$5,135.
Thank you for your continued generosity.