

JMJ

Dear Parishioners,

Today too, the Apostle Peter, like last Sunday, appears in the foreground of the Gospel. However, whereas last Sunday we admired him for his forthright faith in Jesus, whom he proclaimed the Messiah and Son of God, this time, in the episode that immediately follows, he shows a faith that is still immature and too closely bound to the mentality of “this world” (see Rm 12: 2). Indeed, when Jesus begins to speak openly of the fate that awaits him in Jerusalem, in other words that he will have to suffer many things and be killed in order subsequently to be raised, Peter protests saying: “God forbid, Lord! This shall never happen to you” (Mt 16: 22). It is obvious that the Teacher and the disciple follow two opposite ways of thinking. Peter, in accordance with a human logic, is convinced that God would never permit his Son to end his mission by dying on the Cross. Jesus, on the contrary, knows that in his immense love for mankind the Father sent him to give his life for them and that if this should involve the Passion and the Cross, it is right that it should happen in this manner. Moreover he knows that the last word will be the Resurrection. Although Peter’s protest was spoken in good faith and for sincere love of the Master, to Jesus it sounds like a temptation, an invitation to save himself, whereas it is only by losing his life that he will receive new and eternal life for us all.

If, to save us, the Son of God had to suffer and die on the Cross, it was certainly not by a cruel design of the heavenly Father. The reason is the gravity of the illness from which he came to heal us: it was such a serious, mortal disease that it required all his Blood. Indeed, it was with his death and Resurrection that Jesus defeated sin and death and re-established God’s lordship. Yet the battle is not over. Evil exists and resists in every generation, as we know, in our day too. What are the horrors of war, violence to the innocent, the wretchedness and injustice unleashed against the weak other than the opposition of evil to the Kingdom of God? And how is it possible to respond to so much wickedness except with the unarmed and disarming power of love that conquers hatred and of life that has no fear of death? It is the same mysterious power that Jesus used, at the cost of being misunderstood and abandoned by many of his own.

Dear brothers and sisters, in order to bring the work of salvation fully to completion, the Redeemer continues to associate to himself and his mission men and women who are prepared to take up their cross and follow him. Consequently, just as for Christ carrying the cross was not an option but a mission to be embraced for love, so it is for Christians too. In our world today, where the forces that divide and destroy seem to dominate, Christ does not cease to offer to all his clear invitation: anyone who wants to be my disciple must renounce his own selfishness and carry the cross with me. Let us invoke the help of the Blessed Virgin who followed Jesus first and to the very end on the way of the Cross. May she help us to walk in the Lord’s footsteps with determination, to experience from this moment, even in trial, the glory of the Resurrection.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Father Newcomb

All Masses will be in the Church

1. No sign of peace.
2. No holy water in the fonts.
3. No presentation of the gifts.
4. No collection baskets, kindly place your donation in the boxes in the narthex so designated.
5. Very limited congregational singing.
6. No clergy greeting at the end of Mass.
7. **Please socially distance when you come enter the Church, if you come up for Communion, AND when you leave.**
8. Confessions will still be held in the vesting sacristy.
9. Families kindly sit together, others please keep safe distance from others in each pew.

A few reminders about St. Mary’s Cemetery:

1. Personal belongings including but not limited to plaster images/figurines, photographs, and solar lights are not permitted.
2. Cut flowers may be placed in proper metal container. Artificial flowers are not allowed.
3. Kindly clean up after your dog which must be kept on a leash at all times.

For an entire list of the bylaws please stop by the parish office or request one via email.

There will be First Friday Adoration on September 4th following the 11:30 Mass. Please sign up in the Narthex.

You may still drop off Religious Education registration forms at the parish office Monday-Friday from 9:30 until 3 or during Religious Education office hours Tuesday and Thursday from 4pm-6pm. The 1st day of Religious Instruction will be Sunday, October 4th.

We have various Mass Intentions available. If you would like a Mass Intention for a loved one, living or deceased, please contact the parish office.

St. Mary's Food Pantry is still available to all in our local and area communities. The next date will be Friday, September 4th from 10am until noon. If you or anyone you know needs help, please have them come during those times.

St. Joseph's Table will resume on Friday, September 11th from 5pm until 7pm. Proper protocol and precautions including temperature scanning, and no more than four (4) people per table unless it is a family sitting together, will be in effect. If you would like to continue to volunteer please contact Deacon Rich at the parish office (845) 856-8212/ email: deacon@stmarysportjervis.com.

Save the Date! We will have an Avon fundraiser beginning October 14 to raise funds for the bus to Washington, DC in January for the March for Life. If you would like see a catalog, please stop by the parish office.

The Cardinal's Appeal is still ongoing. Our goal is \$34,500. We have received pledges totaling \$18,905 from 95 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**.

Boy Scout Troop # 173 will have their annual Clothing Drive and Car Wash on Saturday, September 26th from 9am until 3pm. They are accepting clothing, shoes, belts, and stuffed animals. Please bag like items alike. Clean out and help their Troop.

Join us at **The National Shrine of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel** on Wednesday, September 23rd for "Tailored Prayer: Finding the Way of Prayer that is Right for You" with Fr. Tim Ennis, O.Carm. Cost is \$10pp. Retreat will be held in the Shrine Church from 9:30 -11:15am followed by Mass at 11:30am. Shrine is marked off for social distancing. Please wear a face mask and use hand sanitizer upon entering. Our picnic area will be available, weather permitting, for those who wish to enjoy the outdoor grounds and bring their own lunch. Gift Shop will be open until 4:00pm. The Shrine is located at 70 Carmelite Drive, Middletown, NY. Call Carol Bezak, Shrine Director for reservations or further information at 845-343-1879.

Announced Masses

Monday, 9:00am	August 31 Edward Lindberg, by Carol Wittine
Tuesday, 9:00am	September 1 Intentions of Donald Trump, by Mary Connelly
Wednesday, 9:00am	September 2 Living and deceased members of the Radzikowski family, by Agnes & Mary
Thursday, 9:00am	September 3 (Gregory of the Great, pope & doctor of the Church) Intentions of Our Lady, by Mary Connelly
Friday, 11:30am	September 4 Peggy Klotz, by Helen & Ed Eckes
Saturday, 4:00pm	September 5 Mary Van Starrex, by Carol Wittine
Sunday, 8:30am 11:30am 1:00pm	September 6 The parishioners of St. Mary's Helen Costic, by the family <i>Hungarian Mass</i>

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, 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, Leticia Nuestro, Christina Nuestro, Vini Tankasali, Alice Drew, Catherine Scopino, Amelia Quinn, Tonya Addy, and Jackie Hamilton.

Nexamp, a leading community solar provider, is committed to helping residents save money while being good stewards to the earth. Community solar is an extremely easy way to support local clean energy & save up to 10% on your electricity costs, without installing rooftop solar panels. No catch. No hidden fees. Just a smart way to reduce your electric bills & do right by your home and your community. Contact Miriam Stiefel via phone (201)638-3032 or email: MiriamS@reflectediveES.com if you would like to sign up or have any questions about all the available energy saving products.

The collection for August 22nd/23rd was \$5,719.
Thank you for your continued generosity.