



The Season of
EASTER

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 5, 2024

Monday, May 6

5:00pm (SPJ) - Deceased Members of the Carver Family
by John & Sue Carver

Tuesday, May 7

8:30am (SE) - The William & Ellen Keenan Family
by the Estate
Followed by *Holy Hour*

Wednesday, May 8—Holy Day Anticipated Mass

4:30pm (SE) - Intentions of the Celebrant

Thursday, May 9

The Ascension of the Lord—Holy Day of Obligation
5:00pm (SPJ) - Kristina Steeves Knox, 5th Anniversary
by Margaret Smith

Friday, May 10

8:30am (SPN) - Msgr. Stephen J Wojciechowski
by the Estate
Followed by *Adoration until 9:30am*

Saturday, May 11

4:30pm (SE) - For the Souls of the Faithful Departed
from the Elizabethtown Parish

Sunday, May 12

8:30am (SPN) - Pro Populo
10:30am (SPJ) - Special Intention for Rose Mary Rogers
by John O'Hara

(SE) = St. Elizabeth, Elizabethtown
(SPJ) = St. Philip of Jesus, Willsboro
(SJ) = St. Joseph, Essex
(SPN) = St. Philip Neri, Westport

Readings for the Week of May 6

Monday: Acts 16:11-15/Ps 149:1-6, 9/Jn 15:26—16:4a
Tuesday: Acts 16:22-34/Ps 138:1-3, 7-8/Jn 16:5-11
Wednesday: Acts 17:15, 22—18:1/Ps 148:1-2, 11-14/Jn 16:12-15
Thursday: Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-9/Eph 1:17-23 or Eph 4:1-13
or Eph 4:1-7, 11-13/Mk 16:15-20
Friday: Acts 18:9-18/Ps 47:2-7/Jn 16:20-23
Saturday: Acts 18:23-28/Ps 47:2-3, 8-10/Jn 16:23b-28
Next Sunday: Acts 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26/Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20
1 Jn 4:11-16/Jn 17:11b-19

THOUGHTS ON EVANGELIZATION

Readings: Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48/1 Jn 4:7-10/Jn 15:9-17
Love one another. Love is not the warm fuzzy feeling but the gift of self to others. As Jesus has loved us, by his total self-gift, so we are to love others. This is our mission; this is what our Lord commands. Love one another. It is through this love that we will bear fruit and others will come to follow, for love knows no bounds. Everyone is welcome.

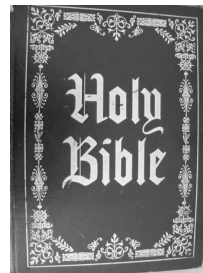
Last Weekend's Collection

Saint Elizabeth—Attendance: 27
Envelopes: \$592.25; Plate: \$40.00
Fuel: \$100.00
Total: \$732.25
Mother's Day: \$41.00

Saint Philip Neri—Attendance: 38
Envelopes: \$335.00; Plate: \$58.00
Total: \$393.00
Mother's Day: \$10.00

St Philip of Jesus—Attendance: 51
Envelopes: \$545.00; Plate: \$249.00
Total: \$794.00
Mother's Day: \$80.00

BIBLE QUIZ (Get to know your Bible)



1. Which king of Israel was renowned for his wisdom?

Hezekiah, Solomon, Isaiah, David

2. Elijah defended the Lord against the prophets of which pagan god?

Baal, Zeus, Astarte, Isis

3. Judith is known for what action?

A) Propheying in the court of Nebuchadnezzar

B) Saving the Jewish people by killing Holofernes

C) Giving birth to Solomon

D) Writing a book of religious poetry

4. Whose fidelity to the Lord did Satan test by a series of trials?

Abraham, Job, Moses, David

5. The Book of Proverbs advises its readers to seek what thing of value?

Popularity, Riches, Wisdom, Serenity

*Last weekend's answers are:

1. Jericho 2. Esther 3. 10
4. Judges 5. Saul, David, Solomon

*Answers will be available in next weekend's bulletin

TRUE PRESENCE CLUB

We are starting a new initiative to educate and inspire the next generation on the genius of Catholicism and the true presence of Christ in the Eucharist. This program is geared towards ages 5-15 and we'll be receiving a new package every three months! The package will include books, booklets, medals, prayer books, prayer cards, and lots of surprises to make learning about the Eucharist fun. We will plan on ordering one box per interested family. Dates of box opening parties TBD. Please contact Father Justin or Sarah Bosley at adironackmommy@gmail.com if you are interested in participating.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord (May 9th) commemorates the fortieth day after the Resurrection when Jesus ascended body and soul into Heaven and took His seat at the right hand of

His Father. The Ascension marks the completion of Jesus' earthly mission. He first united His divine nature with human nature through the Incarnation at the moment of the Annunciation. Saint Thomas Aquinas teaches that from that moment on, Jesus, the Son of God, experienced **three types of knowledge**. First, being God, He had beatific knowledge, that is, direct knowledge of His essence, the Father's essence, and the Holy Spirit's essence. **Second**, He had the perfection of infused knowledge, that is, a bestowal of all truths given to the angels in Heaven, especially those truths necessary for the completion of His divine mission. **Third**, He began to acquire learned knowledge or experiential knowledge. This was the form of knowledge attained through His human nature from the senses and his human reason. As Jesus fulfilled His mission through life, His learned knowledge continued to grow until it was perfected in human form. It was never imperfect in the sense of sin, but only in the sense of growth through human experience and human love. He experienced all things, allowed the perfection of His beatific and infused knowledge to guide His human experiences, and brought those human experiences and knowledge to perfection. His free embrace of the Cross manifested the perfection of divine love in human form, and His Resurrection brought that perfect unity of human and divine love to a new and transformed resurrected state of human existence. But that was not all. Today we commemorate the fact that Jesus took His perfected human nature into the Beatific Vision, enabling humanity itself to follow.

With Love and Prayers....  Fr. J.T.

REMINDERS:

May 9th is a **HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION**. Please try to attend one of the Masses Scheduled in our parishes. Thank you.

Westport: Re-structuring of the flowerbed around the Sacred Heart Statue will be **commencing soon...** Thank you to all who made a few donations last year. The **Donation Box** is still available at the back of the Church for anyone who wishes to contribute. For questions, please contact Tom who will be overseeing the project (518-524-5809), or the Pastor. Thank you.

Things to Ponder.....

Encourage anyone trying to improve!



THE GIFTS AND FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT-V



Piety, the sixth gift of the Holy Spirit, is the perfection of the virtue of religion. While we tend to think of religion today as the external elements of our faith, it means the willingness to worship and serve God. Piety takes that willingness beyond a sense

of duty, so that we desire to worship God and to serve Him out of love, the way that we desire to honor our parents and do what they wish.

The Perfection of Religion:

Perhaps in none of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is this instinctual response more obvious than in piety. While wisdom and knowledge perfect the theological virtue of faith, piety perfects religion, which, as Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J., notes in his Modern Catholic Dictionary, is "The moral virtue by which a person is disposed to render to God the worship and service he deserves." Far from being a drudgery, worship should be an act of love, and piety is the instinctive affection for God that makes us desire to render worship to Him, just as we voluntarily honor our parents.

Piety in Practice:

Piety, Father Hardon notes, arises "not so much from a studied effort or acquired habit as from a supernatural communication conferred by the Holy Spirit." People sometimes say that "piety demands it," which usually means that they feel compelled to do something that they don't want to do. But true piety makes no such demands but instills in us a desire always to do that which is pleasing to God (and, by extension, that which is pleasing to those who serve God in their own lives). **(To be continued...)**

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND

The monthly fuel collection will take place next weekend at all the Masses. Thank you in advance for your anticipated generosity.



The parish of St. Philip of Jesus is planning a **gathering following the 10:30am Mass on Sunday, May 19th** to celebrate our newest members—Bill, Desiree & Clark who were confirmed at the Easter Vigil. There will be a sign-up sheet at each of the churches next weekend. Let us gather as a family of Christ to show our joy and support!

SPECIAL ORDINATION CELEBRATION

Father Scott R. Seymour, celebrates his 25th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood (May 29, 1999) with a **special Anniversary Mass of Thanksgiving at 2:00 p.m., Sunday, June 2nd at St. Alexander's Church, Morrisonville**. Bishop Terry R. LaValley will preside. Anniversary Dinner follows. Info on parish website rcaalexanderaugustinejames.org. Click on "Parish Bulletin" or call Parish Office 518-561-5039. Father's mailing address: PO Box 159, Morrisonville, NY 12962.



The Season of EASTER

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 12, 2024

Monday, May 13—Our Lady of Fatima

8:30am (SE) - Intention of the Celebrant

Tuesday, May 14—St. Matthias, Apostle

8:30am (SE) - Communion Service, Followed by Adoration

Wednesday, May 15

No Scheduled Mass

Thursday, May 16

5:00pm (SPJ) - Special Intention of Rose Mary Rogers
by John O'Hara

Friday, May 17

8:30am (SPN) - Special Intention by Nancy Belzile

Followed by Adoration until 9:30am

Saturday, May 18

4:30pm (SE) - Deceased Members of the Grieco Family

by Jim & Kim Matthews

Sunday, May 19

8:30am (SPN) - Pro Populo

10:30am (SPJ) - Special Intention of William O'Connor
by John O'Hara

(SE) = St. Elizabeth, Elizabethtown

(SPJ) = St. Philip of Jesus, Willsboro

(SJ) = St. Joseph, Essex

(SPN) = St. Philip Neri, Westport

Readings for the Week of May 13

Monday: Acts 19:1-8/Ps 68:2-7/Jn 16:29-33

Tuesday: Acts 1:15-17, 20-26/Ps 113:1-8/Jn 15:9-17

Wednesday: Acts 20:28-38/Ps 68:29-30, 33-36/Jn 17:11b-19

Thursday: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11/Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-11/Jn 17:20-26

Friday: Acts 25:13b-21/Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20/Jn 21:15-19

Saturday: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31/Ps 11:4-5, 7/Jn 21:20-25

Next Sunday: Acts 2:1-11/Ps 104:1, 24, 29-31, 34

1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13 or Gal 5:16-25

Jn 20:19-23 or Jn 15:26-27; 16:12-15

THOUGHTS ON EVANGELIZATION

**Readings: Acts 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26
1 Jn 4:11-16/Jn 17:11b-19**

As you sent me into the world, so I send them into the world... We are to be a leaven in the world, not to hide away and separate ourselves from the world. We can only affect the world around us if we enter into the world, if we make connections, build relationships. We are to be Christ to the world today, and this will not be without struggle or opposition. But our Lord who has consecrated us, prayed for us. With him at our side, who are we to be afraid or hesitant. Let us boldly go and announce the good news.

Pray Your Rosary

...because Mary asked us to...

Last Weekend's Collection

Saint Elizabeth—Attendance: 31

Envelopes: \$642.25; Plate: \$73.00

Fuel: \$95.00

Total: \$810.25

Mother's Day: \$40.00

Catholic Charities: \$20.00

Catholic Home Missions Appeal: \$20.00

Saint Philip Neri—Attendance: 38

Envelopes: \$326.00; Plate: \$66.63

Fuel: \$30.00

Total: \$422.63

Mother's Day: \$10.00

St Philip of Jesus—Attendance: 54

Envelopes: \$565.00; Plate: \$368.00

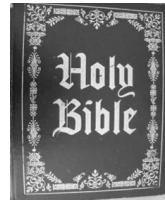
Fuel: \$150.00

Total: \$1,083.00

Mother's Day: \$90.00

Catholic Charities: \$50.00; Ascension: \$10.00

Catholic Home Missions Appeal: \$50.00



BIBLE QUIZ (Get to know your Bible)

1. The Song of Songs includes poetic dialogue between what two people.

- A) A mother and a daughter
- B) A father and a son
- C) A prophet and a king
- D) A bride and a groom

2. Which prophet resists his call because he thinks he is too young?

Jeremiah, Jonah, Joel, Jehosaphat

3. To avoid God's call to preach repentance, Jonah does which of the following?

- A) Hides in a mountain cave.
- B) Boards a ship sailing to a different city.
- C) Pretends he has laryngitis.
- D) Moves to Egypt

4. From which book of the Bible does the phrase "seeing the handwriting on the wall" come?

Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel

5. Which book of the Old Testament is the shortest?

Zephaniah, Obadiah, Nehemiah, Zechariah

*Last weekend's answers are:

- 1. Solomon, 2. Baal,
- 3. Saving the Jewish people by killing Holofernes,
- 4. Job, 5. Wisdom

*Answers will be available in next weekend's bulletin

SPECIAL ORDINATION CELEBRATION

Fr Scott R. Seymour, celebrates his 25th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood (May 29, 1999) with a special **Anniversary Mass of Thanksgiving at 2:00 p.m., Sunday, June 2nd at St. Alexander's Church, Morrisonville.** Bishop Terry R. LaValley will preside. Info on parish website rcalexanderaugustinejames.org. Click on "Parish Bulletin" or call Parish Office 518-561-5039. Father's mailing address: PO Box 159, Morrisonville, NY 12962.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Very little is known about **Saint Matthias (May 14th)**, except that he replaced Judas Iscariot among the apostles. He was most likely living in Galilee at the time that Jesus began His public ministry because he fits the description as "...one of the men who accompanied us the whole time the Lord Jesus came and went among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day on which he was taken up from us..." (Acts 1:21-22). He certainly was among Jesus' first followers. One significant theological point to consider is that because it was Peter who organized the elevation of a disciple to the responsibility of the Apostle, it is clear that the Apostles did not believe that Jesus intended the role of the Apostle to end with the deaths of the Twelve. Jesus intended their ministry to continue and expand beyond twelve as the Church expanded beyond Jerusalem. The appointment of Matthias as an Apostle exclusively teaches us that the pope, the successor of Saint Peter, has the authority and responsibility to appoint new Apostles—bishops—as needed. The Church Father from a century later, Saint Clement of Alexandria, quotes Saint Matthias as follows: "It behooves us to combat the flesh, and make use of it, without pampering it by unlawful gratifications. As to the soul, we must develop her power by faith and knowledge." This quote reveals the deep spiritual knowledge Saint Matthias had regarding the importance of the mortification of the flesh and the spiritual necessity of faith. There is little doubt that the three years he spent as a disciple of Jesus prepared him for his ministry as a bishop. There is little doubt that his ministry as a bishop brought about the conversion and sanctification of many during his time. **St. Matthias, pray for us...**

With Love and Prayers....  Fr. J.T.

REMINDERS:

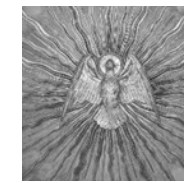
...I will be away for the Annual Presbyteral Gathering (Retreat) in Ogdensburg from **13-15**. Please note that the Mass on Monday will be in Elizabethtown and there will be a Communion Service in Elizabethtown on Tuesday followed by Adoration. Please pray for our Bishop and all our priests in the Diocese as they gather in fraternal unity.

...On **July 28th** Bishop will celebrate the Holy Eucharist in Essex (at 10.30 am and **NO Mass in Willsboro** that Sunday) as St. Joseph's Church celebrates its 150th Anniversary. More information to follow but **please mark your calendar** and try your best to be there to show our love and support towards our Bishop. Thank you.

MOTHER'S DAY APPEAL

This Mother's Day, let us take a moment to cherish and honor the maternal figures who have touched our lives. As we celebrate their love and guidance, let's also extend our support to those who may be in need. Your generous contribution not only aids in this noble cause but also aligns with our commitment to social teaching, fostering a community built on compassion and care. Donate online at cathcharities.org or mail in check. For more info: (315) 393-2255 or cathcharities.org

THE GIFTS AND FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT-VI



The **seventh** and final gift of the Holy Spirit is the **Fear of The Lord**, and perhaps no other gift of the Holy Spirit is so misunderstood. We think of fear and hope as opposites, but the fear of the Lord confirms the theological virtue of hope. This gift of the Holy Spirit gives us the desire not to offend God and the certainty that God will supply us with the grace that we need to keep from offending Him. Our desire not to offend God is more than simply a sense of duty; like piety, the fear of the Lord arises out of love.

Confirming the Virtue of Hope:

The gift of the fear of the Lord, Fr. John A. Hardon notes in his Modern Catholic Dictionary, confirms the virtue of hope. We often think of hope and fear as mutually exclusive, but the fear of the Lord is the desire not to offend Him, and the certainty that He will give us the grace necessary to keep from doing so. It is that certainty that gives us hope. The fear of the Lord is like the respect we have for our parents. We do not wish to offend them, but we also do not live in fear of them, in the sense of being frightened.

What the Fear of the Lord Is Not:

In the same way, Father Hardon notes, "The fear of the Lord is not servile but filial." In other words, it is not a fear of punishment, but a desire not to offend God that parallels our desire not to offend our parents. Even so, many people misunderstand the fear of the Lord. Recalling the verse "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom," they think that the fear of the Lord is good to have when you first start as a Christian, but that you should grow beyond it. That is not the case; rather, the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom because it is one of the foundations of our religious life, just as the desire to do what our parents wish us to do should remain with us our entire lives.

CONFIRMATION CELEBRATION RECEPTION



The parish of St. Philip of Jesus is planning a **gathering following the 10:30am Mass on Sunday, May 19th** to celebrate our newest members—Bill, Desiree & Clark who were confirmed at the Easter Vigil. We will also celebrate Phoebe & Isaac Bosley who will be making their Confirmation on June 2nd at Holy Name Church in AuSable Forks at 10:30 Mass, with other area students. There is a sign-up sheet at each of the churches. All parishioners from Elizabethtown, Westport and Willsboro are invited. Let us gather as a family of Christ to show our joy and support!





PENTECOST SUNDAY

May 19, 2024

Monday, May 20

The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church

5:00pm (SE) - Anna Musto by Richard Musto

Tuesday, May 21

8:30am (SE) - For the well-being of our Parish Family

Followed by Holy Hour

Wednesday, May 22

No Scheduled Mass

Thursday, May 23

5:00pm (SPJ) - Deceased Members of the Wells &

McCarthy Families by Margaret Daby

Followed by Adoration until 6:00pm

Friday, May 24

8:30am (SPN) - Charles H Scampini by Marie Scampini

Followed by Adoration until 9:30am

Saturday, May 25

4:30pm (SE) - Deceased Members of the Matthews Family

by Jim & Kim Matthews

Sunday, May 26

8:30am (SPN) - Pro Populo

10:30am (SPJ) - Richard & Matthew Sukel by the Family

(SE) = St. Elizabeth, Elizabethtown

(SPJ) = St. Philip of Jesus, Willsboro

(SJ) = St. Joseph, Essex

(SPN) = St. Philip Neri, Westport

Readings for the Week of May 20

Monday: Gn 3:9-15, 20 **or** Acts 1:12-14/Ps 87:1-3, 5-7
Jn 19:25-34

Tuesday: Jas 4:1-10/Ps 55: 7-11, 23/Mk 9:30-37

Wednesday: Jas 4:13-17/Ps 49:2-3, 6-11/Mk 9:38-40

Thursday: Jas 5:1-6/Ps 49:14-20/Mk 9:41-50

Friday: Jas 5:9-12/Ps 103: 1-4, 8-9, 11-12/Mk 10:1-12

Saturday: Jas 5:13-20/Ps 141:1-3, 8/Mk 10:13-16

Next Sunday: Dt 4:32-34, 39-40/Ps 33:4-6, 9, 18-20, 22
Rom 8:14-17/Mt 28:16-20

THOUGHTS ON EVANGELIZATION

Readings: Acts 2:1-11/1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13

or Gal 5:16-25/Jn 20:19-23 or Jn 15:26-27; 16:12-15

The Spirit of truth will guide you to all truth. This truth is not just knowledge about Jesus, but is about living in right relationship with Jesus, so that the fruits of the Holy Spirit will be manifest in us. The fruits of the Spirit are self-control, gentleness, faithfulness, generosity, kindness, patience, peace, joy and love. This is the fruit we are to bear which will draw others to know Jesus Christ. Let us pray this day for the Holy Spirit to enkindle his gifts within us.



Pray Your Rosary

...because Mary asked us to...

Last Weekend's Collection

Saint Elizabeth — Attendance: 31

Envelopes: \$702.25; Plate: \$46.00

Fuel: \$120.00

Total: \$868.25

Mother's Day: \$73.00

Ascension: \$115.25; Catholic Charities: \$54.00

Saint Philip Neri — Attendance: 45

Envelopes: \$290.00; Plate: \$90.00

Fuel: \$32.00

Total: \$412.00

Ascension: \$55.00; Catholic Charities: \$97.00

St Philip of Jesus — Attendance: 52

Envelopes: \$1,445.00; Plate: \$198.00

Fuel: \$187.00

Total: \$1,830.00

Mother's Day: \$125.00

Ascension: \$185.00; Catholic Charities: \$60.00

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND

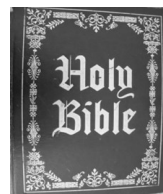
Next week, we will take up the **Catholic Home Missions Appeal**. Today, nearly 40% of dioceses in the United States and its territories are unable to fund the essential pastoral work their communities need. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this appeal; its success helps these dioceses meet faith formation and sacramental needs. Learn more at www.usccb.org/home-missions.

BIBLE QUIZ (Get to know your Bible)

1. What is the longest chapter in the Bible?

A—Genesis 1 B—Numbers 7

C—Psalm 119 D—Revelation 22



2. What is the shortest verse in the Bible?

A—1 Thessalonians 5:16 B—John 11:35

C—Matthew 1:1 D—Psalm 150:6

3. What is the longest verse in the Bible?

A—Ezra 3:4 B—Esther 8:9

C—Ezekiel 20:21 D—Matthew 26:27

4. What Old Testament book has just one chapter?

A—Ruth B—Joel C—Obadiah D—Nahum

5. How many New Testament books have just one chapter?

A—One B—Two C—Three D—Four

*Last weekend's answers are:

1. A Bride and a groom 2. Jeremiah

3. Boards a ship sailing to a different city

4. Daniel 5. Obadiah

*Answers will be available in next weekend's bulletin

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Today, we celebrate the most glorious **Solemnity of Pentecost**, the promised Gift of the Father, and the Son to Jesus' disciples, and of course the birthday of the Catholic Church. After rising from the dead, Jesus appeared to His disciples for forty days. During those appearances, He offered them proof of His resurrection, continued teaching them, and reminded them of all He had revealed about His death and Resurrection, preparing them for the next step of their mission. Do you think there was a "noise like a strong driving wind" at this first outpouring of the Holy Spirit? And do you think there were "tongues as of fire" that came and rested on everyone? Well, there most likely was! Why else would it have been recorded that way in the Scriptures? These physical manifestations of the coming of the Holy Spirit were made present for numerous reasons. One reason was that these first recipients of the full outpouring of the Holy Spirit would have concretely understood that something amazing was happening. By seeing and hearing these physical manifestations of the Holy Spirit they were more properly disposed to understand that God was doing something awesome. And then, upon seeing and hearing these manifestations, they were touched by the Holy Spirit, consumed, filled, and set on fire. They suddenly discovered within themselves the promise Jesus made and they finally began to understand. Pentecost changed their lives! God wants to set our hearts on fire with His love, strength, and grace to live lives that effect change in the world effectively. Pentecost is not only about us becoming holy but also about us being given all we need to go forth and bring the holiness of God to all those we encounter. Pentecost enables us to be powerful instruments of the transforming grace of God. And there is no doubt that the world around us needs this grace. May the Holy Spirit empower us to be more committed in our faith journey.

With Love and Prayers....  **Fr. J.T.**

REMINDERS:

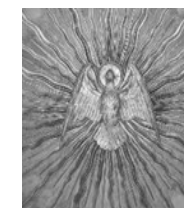
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CONFIRMATION CELEBRATION RECEPTION



The parish of St. Philip of Jesus is **gathering following the 10:30am Mass today** to celebrate our newest members—Bill, Desiree & Clark who were confirmed at the Easter Vigil. We will also celebrate Phoebe & Isaac Bosley who will be making their Confirmation on June 2nd at Holy Name Church in AuSable Forks at 10:30 Mass, with other area students. **Let us gather as a family of Christ to show our joy and support!**

SUMMARY OF THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



God gives us the gifts of the Holy Spirit to learn more about our faith, be more enthusiastic about our faith, and share that in an ordinary way with the people of our time. God gives us the gift of understanding — to enlighten our minds to the beautiful truths of our Christian faith. The gift of wisdom so that we will seek him above all things and put him "first" in everything we do. He gives the gift of knowledge to recognize his blessings around us in creation. The gift of counsel or good judgment helps us to make the right decisions and to follow God's commandments. God also gives the gift of Piety, or reverence, so that we can love him with the trusting love of a child. And the gift of courage or fortitude so that we can deal with the challenges and temptations we face in our faith daily. Finally, the Holy Spirit gives us the gift of fear of the Lord, the gift of wonder and awe at God's love and power, to help us avoid occasions of sin and temptations caused by our weaknesses. So, these gifts will enable us to be active members of the Church, alive in Jesus Christ, and actively living our faith each day. So, my dear brothers and sisters, let us try to live by the Spirit and follow the Spirit. Let us try to look for new ways to share the fruits of the Spirit with people around us — love, joy, and peace; patience, kindness, and generosity; faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

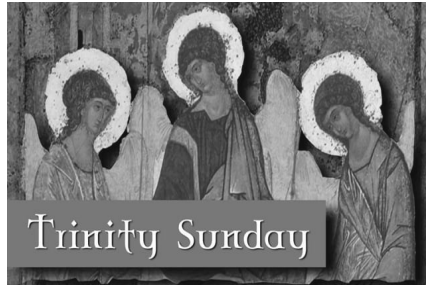
ANECDOTE

"Lower your bucket-- taste and see": More than a century ago, a great sailing ship was stranded off the coast of South America. Week after week the ship lay there in the still waters with not a hint of a breeze. The captain was desperate; the crew was dying of thirst. And then, on the far horizon, a steamship appeared, heading directly toward them. As it drew near, the captain called out, "We need water! Give us water!" The steamship replied, "Lower your buckets where you are." The captain was furious at this cavalier response but called out again, "Please, give us water." But the steamer gave the same reply, "Lower your buckets where you are!" And with that, they sailed away! The captain was beside himself with anger and despair, and he went below. But a little later, when no one was looking, a yeoman lowered a bucket into the sea and then tasted what he brought up: It was perfectly sweet, fresh water! For you see, the ship was just out of sight of the mouth of the Amazon. And for all those weeks they had been sitting right on top of all the fresh water they needed! What we are seeking is already inside us, waiting to be discovered, waiting to be embraced: the Holy Spirit of God who has been living within us from the moment of our Baptism. **The Holy Spirit is saying to us at this very moment, "Lower your buckets where you are. Taste and see!" from deep in our hearts: Come, Holy Spirit! Fill our hearts and set us on fire! Amen.**

ELIZABETHTOWN THRIFT SHOP



Once again, many thanks, for the generous donation of \$1,393.13 from the thrift shop to St. Elizabeth's Church. This represents 1/4 of their profits for the month of April. We are Blessed!



THE MOST HOLY TRINITY
May 26, 2024

Monday, May 27
8:30am (SE) - For the Souls of the Faithful Departed from the Elizabeth parish
Followed by Holy Hour until 9:30am

Tuesday, May 28
No Scheduled Mass

Wednesday, May 29
No Scheduled Mass

Thursday, May 30
No Scheduled Mass

Friday, May 31
The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
4:30pm (SPN) - Intention of the Celebrant
Followed by Adoration until 5:30pm

Saturday, June 1
4:30pm (SE) - Pro Populo

Sunday, June 2
8:30am (SPN) - Leo Larose by Murial Larose
10:30am (SP) - Deceased Relatives of Carolyn, Jane & Nick

(SE) = St. Elizabeth, Elizabethtown
(SPJ) = St. Philip of Jesus, Willsboro
(SJ) = St. Joseph, Essex
(SPN) = St. Philip Neri, Westport

Readings for the Week of May 27

Monday: 1 Pt 1:3-9/Ps 111:1-3, 5-6, 9-10/Mk 10:17-27
Tuesday: 1 Pt 1:10-16/Ps 98:1-4/Mk 10:28-31
Wednesday: 1 Pt 1:18-25/Ps 147:12-15, 19-20/Mk 10:32-45
Thursday: 1 Pt 2:2-5, 9-12/Ps 100:2-5/Mk 10:46-52
Friday: Zep 3:14-18a or Rom 12:9-16/Is 12:2-6/Lk 1:39-56
Saturday: Jude 17, 2025/Ps 63:2-6/Mk 11:27-33
Next Sunday: Ex 24:3-8/Ps 116:12-13, 15-18/Heb 9:11-15
Mk 14:12-16, 22-26

THOUGHTS ON EVANGELIZATION

Readings: Dt 4:32-34, 39-40/Rom 8:14-17/Mt 28:16-20
Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. Through baptism we have been incorporated into the life of the Holy Trinity and are called to share that life with all we meet. Through baptism, they, too, can become adopted children of God. They, too, can live in freedom by observing all that Jesus commanded, namely, to love God and love our neighbor as ourselves and then Go and make disciples. It takes a disciple to make a disciple. Let us not be afraid to go and live our faith out loud, for the Lord it with us always, until the end of the age.

Don't forget to patronize and thank our advertisers!

Last Weekend's Collection

Saint Elizabeth — Attendance: 33
Envelopes: \$473.25; Plate: \$103.00
Fuel: \$170.00
Total: \$746.25

Saint Philip Neri — Attendance: 51
Envelopes: \$1,998.00; Plate: \$118.00
Fuel: \$25.00
Total: \$2,141.00

St Philip of Jesus — Attendance: 67
Envelopes: \$635.00; Plate: \$215.00
Fuel: \$95.00
Total: \$945.00

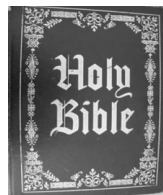
Mother's Day: \$10.00; Fathere's Day: \$12.00

SECOND COLLECTION

Today's Catholic Home Missions Appeal helps to fund sacramental and formation needs in Nearly 40% of dioceses in the United States and its territories which are mission territories, unable to sustain themselves. Your generous support will help fund religious education, seminary formation, lay ministry training, and other programs and build vibrant faith communities for our neighbors. **More info is available at www.usccb.org/home-missions.**

BIBLE QUIZ (Get to know your Bible)

- How many Psalms are in the Psalter (the Book of Psalms)?
A – 41 B – 72 C – 150 D – 151
- Into how many books is the Psalter (the Book of Psalms) divided?
A – Two B – Three C – Four D - Five
- Which Old Testament book is not a book of History?
A – Judges B – 1 Kings C – Esther D – Job
- Which Old Testament book is not a book of Poetry?
A – Ruth B – Job C – Psalms D – Song of Solomon
- Which Old Testament book is not one of the Major Prophets?
A – Ezra B – Isaiah C – Jeremiah D – Ezekiel



*Last weekend's answers are:

- 1. C–Psalm 119**
- 2. B–John 11:35**
- 3. B–Esther 8:9**
- 4. C–Obadiah**
- 5. D–Four**

*Answers will be available in next weekend's bulletin

COFFEE HOUR



To create a Culture of belongingness and a sense of parish family between our three parishes we will have a Coffee hour after 10:30 Mass in Willsboro every Third Sunday of the Month. We plan to start this in June (on the 16) and it will be coordinated by Susan Fahey. It will simply be coffee / tea and donuts / muffins. Looking for teams of 2 people each to take a month and be in charge. **Contact Susan at: cell #**

518-837-2023 or email: sjf94@yahoo.com.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Of all the great feasts we celebrate within the Church throughout the year, today's Solemnity presents us with a Mystery so deep and transcendent that our eternity will be spent in perpetual contemplation. **The Most Holy Trinity**, the life of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, will never get old, never be fully understood, and will be the reason for our everlasting adoration and joy. Though the Church has used philosophical concepts to explain the Trinity, no human concept or description will ever fully explain Who God is. Though we can point to some general truths about God, we will never be able to fully depict the inner essence, depth, beauty, and omnipotence of the Trinity. It's important to understand that the Trinity is not *first* a theological mystery we try to define. Rather, the Trinity is *first* a communion of Persons we are invited to know. We do not primarily come to know God through intellectual deduction. We come to know God through prayerful union with Him. Though theology is exceptionally useful and important, the essence of God is beyond any and every philosophical concept we can define. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are Persons. And as Persons, they want to be known. And they want to be known primarily through a life of deep and intimate prayer. Praying to One Person, of course, is praying to all since they are One God. But we are, nonetheless, called to a relationship of love with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Though our feeble minds may not be able to comprehend the essence of God, He will draw us deeper and deeper into a knowledge of Him if we let Him. Try to humble yourself before the great Mystery of the inner life of God. Humility before the Mystery of God means that we know how little we know about Him and how little we know of Him. But that humble truth will help you move closer to the deeper relationship of love to which you are called. On another note, I wish all of you a Happy Memorial Day weekend.

With Love and Prayers....  **Fr. J.T.**

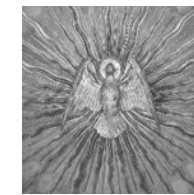
REMINDERS:

...On July 28th Bishop will celebrate the Holy Eucharist in Essex (at 10:30 am and **NO Mass in Willsboro** that Sunday) as St. Joseph's Church celebrates its 150th Anniversary. More information to follow but **please mark your calendar** and try your best to be there to show our love and support towards our Bishop. Thank you.

...All who wish to subscribe to **NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC** (Diocesan weekly Newsletter) could subscribe online (<https://www.northcountrycatholic.org/>) or make a check for \$37 and drop it in our regular weekend collection. Please note, that if you have dropped the renewal fee or subscription fees before without making proper reference will not be forwarded to the Diocese. Contact the pastor if you have questions regarding your existing subscription or to start a subscription.

...Next weekend, Phoebe and Issac from our Parish Family will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation from our Bishop in Holy Name Church, AuSable Forks. Please keep them and their family in your prayers.

THE FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT—I



As we have refreshed our memory on the 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit, let us now turn our attention to the Fruits of the Holy Spirit. The Catechism of the Catholic Church #1832 States "The fruits of the Spirit are perfections that the Holy Spirit forms in us as the first fruits of eternal glory. The tradition of the Church lists twelve of them: charity (Love), joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control, chastity." Let us look at them in a little more detailed way.

LOVE: Christ laying down his life for us is the ultimate example of love. The Bible's definition of love differs from our world and culture's definition today. While many define love as romance or a warm feeling, the Bible's explanation is fundamentally active, based not on what we feel but rather on what we do. Love is self-sacrifice, putting others' needs before our own, following Jesus' example, and humbling ourselves as servants. As the familiar passage states: "Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."

Outside of God, however, we are unable to love perfectly. It is only through the work of the Holy Spirit that we can set aside our sinfulness and our selfishness. Because God has shown us mercy, we can show mercy to others; because he has shown us love, we can show love to others: "We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, 'I love God,' but hates his brother, he is a liar; for whoever does not love a brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. This is the commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother." – 1 John 4:19-21

JOY: Joy is more than temporary happiness; joy is lasting and based on more than simply an emotional reaction to our circumstances: it is an active choice of attitude. As followers of Christ, we rejoice, because in him, we have redemption, and we transmit that joy around. When the troubles of this world assail us, we can rest in the comfort that only God can bring, and have joy, no matter our circumstances. The reason we can have joy is because we have eternal hope in Christ.

PEACE: This world is full of strife and division, frustrated by sin and evil. As Christians, we are not spared from sin's effects on the world, but we can take our worries to God through prayer. We also are able to take heart in the fact that Christ has triumphed over sin and death. In Him, we have peace in the knowledge that He is in control, and that no matter what struggles we face in this world, we will be granted ultimate eternal peace in Him. "I have told you this so that you might have peace in me. In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world." – John 16:33 (To be continued)



Pray Your Rosary

...because Mary asked us to...