

# ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

833 Main Street  
Agawam, MA 01001

[www.stjohnagawam.com](http://www.stjohnagawam.com)

[sje.information@gmail.com](mailto:sje.information@gmail.com)

Office Phone: 413-786-8105 | Fax: 413-455-3100



## Welcome!

No matter what your present status in the Catholic Church,  
No matter what your family or marital situation,  
No matter what your past or present religious affiliation,  
No matter what your personal history, background, race or other,  
No matter what your own self-image or esteem,  
You are invited, welcomed, accepted, loved and respected here at St. John's.

## EUCCHARIST:

Lord's Day Mass: *Saturday 4:00 pm, Sunday 8:00 am & 10:30 am (Ordinary Form) & 1:30 pm (Extraordinary Form)*  
Weekday Mass: Monday-Tuesday and Thursday-Friday at 8:00 am & Wednesday at 6:00 pm | Adoration: Wed. 12:00 - 6:00 pm

CONFESSION: Saturday 2:30 to 3:30 pm, Wednesday 4:30 to 5:30 pm, or by Appointment.

BAPTISM: Please call Deacon Dave Picard through the parish office to schedule.

MARRIAGE: To be arranged at least one year in advance. Please call the office.

ANOIDTING OF THE SICK: Is available in the Confessional every Saturday or see Father after Mass. If you or a loved one needs Father to come to you, please call the parish office.

CONFIRMATION: Takes place in 11th Grade, please contact the Director of Religious Education to enroll in classes. If you are an adult and need to make your Confirmation, please contact the same office and ask about the RCIA program.

HOLY ORDERS: Are you thinking about a vocation to the priesthood or religious life? Please call Fr. Pierz at the parish office, or call the Office of Vocations at (413) 452-0811.

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT: *We are a Roman Catholic community inspired by the Holy Spirit to follow the example of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by sharing, growing and spreading God the Father's love through our parish ministries, and by coming together as a community in meaningful prayer and worship to celebrate that love.*

**Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time — August 16, 2020**

## Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

All peoples are invited to worship the Lord and to know his ways. God's gifts and his call are to Jew and Gentile alike. Jesus recognizes the universality of God's call in granting the request of the Canaanite woman.

### **PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

*Monday-Thursday - 9:00 am - 3:00 pm*

*Friday - Closed*

**Pastor:** Fr. Michael Pierz  
sje.priest@gmail.com

**Curate:** Fr. Barrent Pease  
sje.curate@gmail.com

**Deacon:** Deacon Dave Picard  
sje.deacon@gmail.com

**Priest in Retirement:** Fr. John Lis

**Priest in Residence:** Fr. Sinh Trinh

**Office Manager:** Andreana Perkins  
sje.operationsmanager@gmail.com

**Parish Secretary:** Sandy Ross  
sje.parishsecretary@gmail.com

**Reception Volunteer:** Mary Talarico

**Pastoral Ministry to Sick & Homebound:**  
Francesca Brandt  
sje.homebound@gmail.com

**Director of Religious Education:** Claire Riberdy  
sje.religiouseducation@gmail.com

**Director of Music Ministry:** Isabella Moser  
sje.musicdirector@gmail.com

**Maintenance Supervisor:** Anthony Fernandes  
sje.maintenance@gmail.com

**Child Advocate:** Mary Beth Swindell  
Private Line: (860) 386-6009

### **Finance Council:**

Alfred Casella (Chair)	Charles Calisti
Ted Muszynski	David Ross
Joseph Searles	Mary Socha

### **Pastoral Council:**

Judy Cross-Donahue (Chair)	Ben Auld
Craig Bourque	Dale Marie Breault
Mikie Cook	Leo Marinak
James Perkins	Sarah Ross
Jane Seaver	Debbie Whitehead

**Bulletin Submissions are due 9 days prior to print**  
**Email: [sje.parishsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:sje.parishsecretary@gmail.com)**

## **Thoughts from the Rectory ...**

Dear friends of St. John the Evangelist,

On August 15<sup>th</sup> of this year, the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we rejoice with the people, priests, and faithful across our diocese in celebrating the presbyteral ordination of five men to serve and offer sacrifice in the parishes of western Massachusetts.

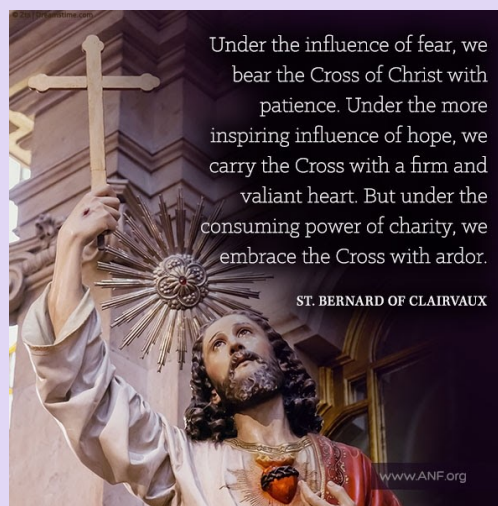
Please join me in congratulating Fr. Sinh Trinh, Fr. Michael Goodreau, Fr. Matthew Barone, Fr. Stanislaus Achu, and Fr. Valentine Nworah. Whether from near or far, they have responded to the invitation that God has placed deep in their hearts for their good and that of His people, and in so doing will enrich our parishes and diocese for many years to come.

Gracefully for our parish, Fr. Sinh Trinh, who was our summer seminarian in 2017, will be in residence here at St. John the Evangelist as he serves in the parish of St. Paul the Apostle on Dwight Road in Springfield. Let us offer him a hearty welcome and look forward to spending time with him when opportunity allows. Welcome Fr. Sinh!

As we celebrate these men and the many years of formation that have brought them to this day, let us also find courage to take on the task of prayer and discernment. Let us ardently work and fervently pray that many more vocations may be stirred up in our parishes, in our homes, in our families. Let us pray that our sons and brothers give serious thought to a life of priestly service. Let us equip them with honest conversation and good example in our families and homes for authentic discernment. Let us ask ourselves: Have I talked about the priesthood or religious life with my family?

...

*St. John the Evangelist, pray for us!*  
**Fr. Pierz**



## MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

### TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

#### Saturday, August 15th

4:00 pm William Skirvin †

Requested by Mom & Dad

#### Sunday, August 16th

8:00 am Nicola Trolio-Birthday

Remembrance †

Requested by Family

10:30 am Yolande Leblond-1st

Anniversary †

Requested by Her Daughter & Family

1:30 pm (EF) For the People

#### Monday, August 17th

8:00 am Chester & Mary Norton †

Requested by David & Paula Raiche

#### Tuesday, August 18th

8:00 am In Honor of the Assumption of  
the Blessed Virgin Mary

Requested by Marilyn Barbour

#### Wednesday, August 19th-St. John Eudes, Priest

6:00 pm The Riberdy's 3rd Wedding  
Anniversary

Requested by The Family

#### Thursday, August 20th-St. Bernard, Abbot & Doctor of the Church

8:00 am Repose of the Soul of Maria  
Waterman †

Requested by A Friend of the Family

#### Friday, August 21st-St. Pius X, Pope

8:00 am Beverly Ladizki †

Requested by John & Cathy McKenna

### TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

#### Saturday, August 22nd

4:00 pm Maria & Stanislaw Romanowski†

Requested by Their Family

#### Sunday, August 23rd

8:00 am For the People

10:30 am Willard Rivers-3rd

Anniversary †

Requested by His Wife

1:30 pm (EF) John & Cindy Mellen-  
Spiritual Healing

## **SANCTUARY LAMP**

**AUGUST 16TH—AUGUST 22ND**

WILL BE LIT IN HONOR OF

**THE NEWLY ORDAINED PRIESTS**

**IN OUR DIOCESE**

REQUESTED BY ST. JOHN'S PARISHIONERS

If you would like to request the Sanctuary Candle to  
be lit in honor of or in memory of someone, please  
contact the parish office.



### **Please remember in your prayers:**

Please pray for the sick and dying of  
our parish. Remember all who are  
in hospitals, nursing homes and  
homebound. Pray for the hungry,  
the unemployed and under-  
employed. Pray for an end to  
abortion and a true respect for all  
life, from conception to natural  
death. Pray for peace. In a concrete  
way we pray for all those who have died and all  
the deceased members of the parish.

**Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.**

*And let perpetual light shine upon them.*

**May they rest in peace. Amen.**

**May their souls and the souls of all the  
faithful departed, through the mercy of  
God, rest in peace. Amen.**

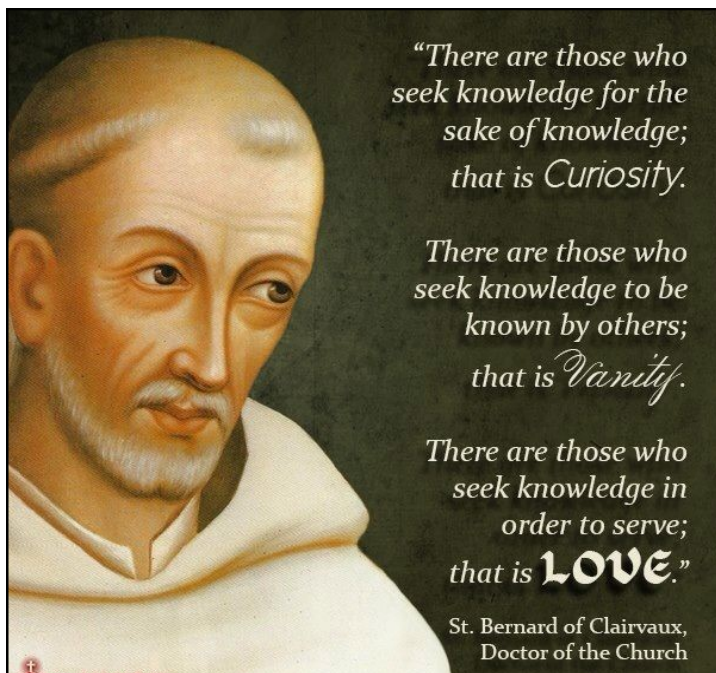
*Note: If you would like to include someone who  
has recently passed away, please call the parish  
office or email: [sje.parishsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:sje.parishsecretary@gmail.com).*

### **IN MY MOTHER'S ARMS PRAYER LINE:**

If you have a serious  
intention that you need  
prayers for: surgery,  
sufferings, medical, illness,  
cancer treatment, a sick child,  
or anything like that, please  
give Pat (786-3023) or Mary  
(786-9671) a call and you will  
have countless rosaries and prayers.







## Weekend of August 9th

*"Pray, brethren, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father"*

Weekly: \$3,289.00

Maintenance: \$195.00

Fuel: \$330.00

Loose: \$186.92

Online Giving: \$1,245.33

Loan Repayment: \$762.00

**Total: \$6,008.25**

*"May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of His name, for our good and the good of all His holy Church."*

## **THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CLUB OF**

**AGAWAM** would like to share their announcement of the 2020 recipients of their annual scholarship. Students receiving this award must be a child or grandchild of a club member.

**Alexandra Grimaldi**  
granddaughter of Judy Grimaldi,

**Ben Lepper**  
grandson of Peggy Lepper, and

**Paul Malinoski**  
grandson of Joan Malinoski.

The Club offers their CONGRATULATIONS to these students and best wishes as they continue their education!

## UPDATE ON OUR NEIGHBORHOOD FRIENDS IN NEED



Val, Alan, and Ryan are very grateful, and extend a big THANK YOU to all who have called, helped, and donated to them after losing their home and belongings in a fire. Their pod is now nearly full!

They are still in need of a few more things, but are unable to store anything more. If you are able to keep the items at your home for some time, the family would be grateful, but understanding if you cannot.

If you have any questions, please call the office. And thank you again for your generosity and prayers!

## ST. JOHN'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

YOU'RE INVITED !

TO AN INTRODUCTORY MEETING ON....

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2020**

Here we will begin to make plans for the upcoming 75th Anniversary of our parish — next year, 2021! We have some plans in the works, but welcome any and all ideas, help, and/or historic memorabilia you would be willing to share and celebrate our 75 years!

We hope to see you there in the Fr. Joyce Room at 6pm!

## Queenship of Blessed Virgin Mary

Father, You have given us the mother of Your Son to be our Queen and Mother. With the support of Her prayers, may we come to share the glory of Your children in the kingdom of heaven.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ... Amen.

**RADIO MARIA**  
RADIO MARIA USA - RADIOMARIA.US



# 4 STEPS for EUCHARISTIC ADORATION



<p><b>1 RECOGNIZE THE PRESENCE OF GOD</b></p> <p>Place yourself in the presence of Christ</p> <p>15 MINS</p>	<p><b>2 THANKSGIVING</b></p> <p>Give thanks for all the blessings God has given you</p> <p>15 MINS</p>
<p><b>3 PETITION</b></p> <p>Ask for the world, the people around you and your conversion</p> <p>15 MINS</p>	<p><b>4 ATONEMENT</b></p> <p>Express your sorrow for the world's sins and yours</p> <p>15 MINS</p>

## O, COME LET US ADORE HIM!

**Every Wednesday**  
 12:00pm — 5:45pm  
 with *Confessions* at  
 4:30-5:30pm,  
 and *Holy Mass* at  
 6:00pm



You are invited to sign up for an hour of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament!

We are in need of people to cover all hours, especially 3pm-4pm.

For more information, please contact Trish at 413-237-2662. Your time is so appreciated!

## OUR PASTORAL CENTER IS OPEN!

Per Diocesan directives, parish and church related meetings are now allowed within strict adherence to state guidelines to include capacity limitations, 6' social distancing, and mask wearing. Meetings should only be for church/parish related business or activities. For the time being, no outside groups are allowed, and all meetings should take place at the pastor/administrator's discretion.

As of *Sunday, August 2nd*, our *Parish Center is open*. The Parish Offices will be open for its normal office hours of Monday-Thursday from 9am to 3pm. Here is a list of rooms available for parish/church related events along with maximum capacity range for each depending upon layout and distancing.

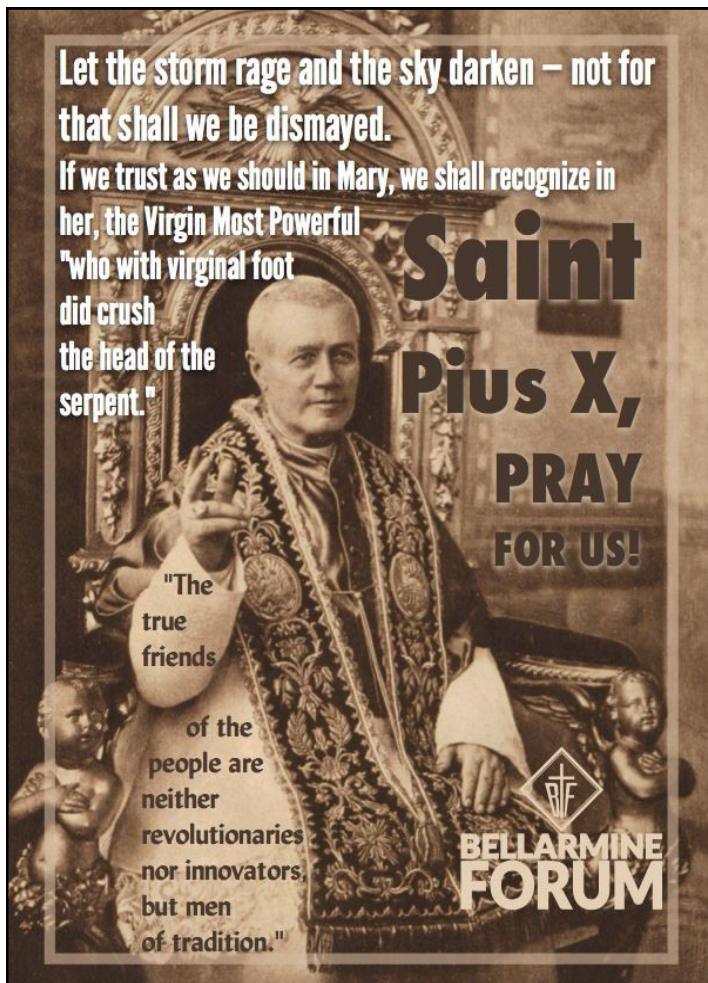
**Fr. Joyce Multi-Purpose Room: 16-20**  
**PCO (Pastoral Center Office): 4-8**  
**Entrance Foyer: 10-12**  
**Gym: 100-110**

Please call the parish office to schedule any meetings or events you'd like to have in these rooms going forward. The calendar starts anew so if there were any recurring meetings that were being held prior to the shutdown, please know they are NOT currently scheduled on the office calendar.

As part of using a room in the center, it is now the responsibility of the group booking the room to ensure that masks are worn by all who attend, that proper social distancing of 6' is maintained, and that the room is cleaned at the end of the meeting. Please build cleaning into the timeframe that you request. There will be a cleaning cart in the center across from the water fountain near the office entryway with everything needed to properly clean and disinfect. There will also be hand sanitizer in each room.

**Thank you for your patience  
 as we open our doors and begin this transition!**





## **BETHLEHEM WOOD CARVING**

*August 29th at 30th  
after the Masses*

“Due to the current situation and COVID-19 all over the world locked, the Catholic Christians of the Holy Land are struggling for a living since the wood carving is their only source of income.



Now pilgrims are banned from visiting until further notice and pandemic measures have affected all the business sectors and everything shut down, these people find themselves afraid and lost.

Your purchase supports the Catholic Christians of the Holy Land.”

- Louie Helal, Director/Founder

Ministry to Sick & Homebound  
**413-786-8105 ext. 105**

### **PASTORAL MINISTRY HOURS:**

Monday-Thursday from 9am-1pm.

Please leave your name and phone number, including area code, with a brief message if non-urgent. I will return your call as soon as I am able. ALL other calls requiring a priest, speak with our Parish Secretary, Sandy. Blessings and thank you for your patience.

**FOOD GIFT CARDS:** Your generosity of free will giving is gratefully appreciated by these families in their time of need. Thank you all for who you are and what you do in the name of Jesus Our Lord.

**PRAYER SHAWLS:** If you have a family member, friend, or know a person who is in need of extra comforting care, please feel free to contact our Prayer Shawl Ministry under Ministry to Sick & Homebound. Call Francesca at 413-786-8105 ext. 105. Leave a message and I will get back to you. Only requirement is that the Shawl must be picked up by the person requesting same, and delivered to the person in need of this comfort. There will be a Prayer Card placed with shawl of the knitter who crafted this shawl of prayerful love.

**BEREAVEMENT:** If you have experienced any loss and are in need of Spiritual consoling, please call the Parish Office at 786-8105 ext. 105 for direct line to Pastoral Minister, Francesca. Please leave your name, phone number, including area code, with a message for a return call. All calls are confidential. Blessings.

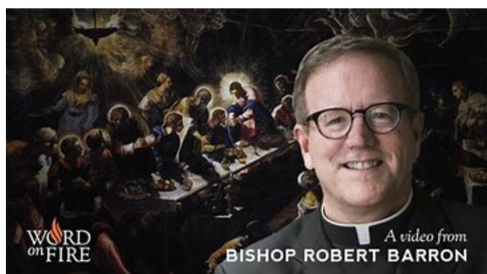
**HERITAGE WOODS:** No participation at this time.

**HERITAGE HALLS:** No participation at this time at all campuses.

**HOMEBOUND MINISTRY:** If someone is at home and unable to have their own hands on experience with Our Lord Jesus because of illness or decline in movements because of restrictions, please, if you feel this will help, call me, so that I can reach out to the person and until I can once again visit in person. I will make a personal phone call where we can get to know each other, share our fears, hopes and spiritual likes, if any, and pray together. I will read the Gospel of the day to the infirmed.

**HOSPITAL VISITS:** HIPAA Medical Law restrict access to patient admittance information. Please call the Parish Office if you have a family member admitted to a local hospital in need of a visit by Father Pierz. Follow up in-house visits will be provided per Francesca.

## So you think you know what the Mass is all about? Think again!



Your kids have said it. Your teenagers have almost definitely said it. Perhaps your spouse has even said it. Maybe you've even said it, once in a while, particularly if the liturgy seems plodding, or the priest seems distracted, or the music is...as bad as it can sometimes be: "The Mass. Really? Why bother? What is the point of this?"

That question inevitably leads to other questions:

"Can't I just worship God anywhere?"

"Why do we need this incense?"

"Why do we have to say the creed every week?"

"It's the same thing, every week, why doesn't it ever change?"

"What's with all the up-and-down?"

### Coming Soon...

#### Bishop Robert Barron's 'The Mass'

After so many weeks of being unable to attend Mass in our Church many have returned with a greater appreciation of what we may have taken for granted.

This new program from Bishop Barron will reveal aspects of the liturgy that will open the eyes of people who have gone to Mass for decades. It will even reveal to those on the margins and non-Catholics who may wonder about our intimate connection with The Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.

**Choose your day.** The program consists of six, one hour sessions.

We will be using the Fr. Joyce Room in the Pastoral Center.

**Registration is required as space is limited.**

A Study Guide will be available for \$20.

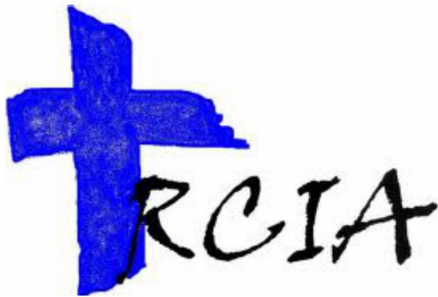
**Wednesday Mornings** 10-11, August 26 to September 30th.

**Thursday Evenings** 7-8, August 27 to October 1

**Sunday Afternoons**, 3-4, August 30 to October 4

To register: **Leave your name and contact information with the office staff at: [sje.parishsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:sje.parishsecretary@gmail.com) or call @786-8105.**





## Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

### AN INVITATION THAT NEVER ENDS

- *Have you been worshiping with us, but never officially taken the step to become Catholic?*
- *Have you been away from the Church, and have now returned, but want to know more?*
- *Have you been a Catholic all your life, but never celebrated all the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist)?*
- *Have you joined us from a different background and would like to find out more about the Catholic Church?*

If you (“or someone you know”) answers YES to any of these questions, you are invited to find out more through process called the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. It is a journey that begins with your questions. There is no obligation to join us as you discover more about your Catholic faith. The decision is ultimately yours to discern if this is to be your spiritual home.

The invitation is always open: RSVP when you are ready! On behalf of the Catholic faith and the community of St. John the Evangelist Parish we look forward to welcoming you.

Informational Meeting:

**Saturday, September 12th at 9 A.M. in the Fr. Joyce Room of the Pastoral Center.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Call the Parish Office @786-8105 and a member of the RCIA Team will contact you.



# St. Pauly Textile Inc.

1067 Gateway Dr.  
Farmington, N.Y. 14425  
585-924-7941  
Questions@StPaulyTextile.com

Est. 1996  
*"Making a World of Difference"*

Dear Friends,

We're reaching out to explain the temporary closure of your clothing donation shed. If your shed hasn't already been closed, then it's scheduled to be closed soon.

The COVID-19 pandemic has taken a massive toll on our business over the past few months. Our primary struggle has revolved, in large part, around the shutting down of international borders and the resulting inability to redistribute the majority of clothing that we collect. We've been storing millions of pounds of clothing in trailers for future distribution, while simultaneously relying on the government paycheck protection program, savings, loans, and depleted revenue to keep our operations up and running. Unfortunately, we've reached a point where this is no longer viable, and we have no other choice but to temporarily close down the majority of our sheds in order to keep our business stable.

We plan on reopening your shed as soon as we possibly can. The timing depends on what happens across the world in the coming months.

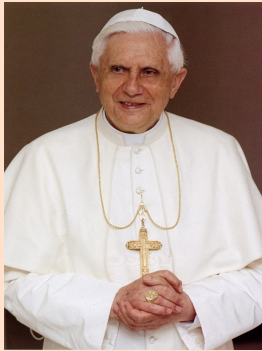
If we haven't already done this by the time you read this letter, we're going to be repositioning the large sign on the front of the shed to completely block off the donation chute. We'll also be attaching a laminated poster to this sign (where the donation chute would otherwise be) that explains the shed closure to the public.

We'll have a few key people remaining in our operations that will be doing their best to visit your shed occasionally to check on it. In the meantime, we would be incredibly grateful for your help with two key things, if you're willing:

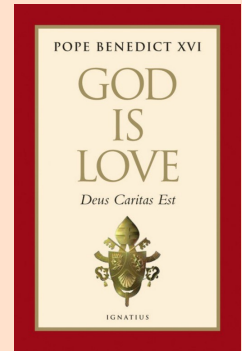
- A. If any items happen to be left outside the shed and there's still room, they can be put inside the shed
- B. If there's no room in the shed, then please call us at (585) 924-7941 or email us at questions@stpaullytextile.com so we can have our team visit to clean up

Either way, if you should need anything at all, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We just ask that you give us a little extra flexibility in our response time, because we anticipate a very large volume of calls over the next few weeks. We'll also be doing our best to proactively keep you in the loop. Thank you so much for your understanding as we work through this together.

Sincerely,  
The Team at St. Pauly Textile, Inc.



ENCYCLICAL LETTER  
**DEUS CARITAS EST**  
OF THE SUPREME PONTIFF  
**BENEDICT XVI**  
TO THE BISHOPS  
PRIESTS AND DEACONS  
MEN AND WOMEN RELIGIOUS  
AND ALL THE LAY FAITHFUL  
ON CHRISTIAN LOVE  
  
**PART I (CONTINUED)**  
**THE UNITY OF LOVE**  
**IN CREATION**  
**AND IN SALVATION HISTORY**



8. We have thus come to an initial, albeit still somewhat generic response to the two questions raised earlier. Fundamentally, “love” is a single reality, but with different dimensions; at different times, one or other dimension may emerge more clearly. Yet when the two dimensions are totally cut off from one another, the result is a caricature or at least an impoverished form of love. And we have also seen, synthetically, that biblical faith does not set up a parallel universe, or one opposed to that primordial human phenomenon which is love, but rather accepts the whole man; it intervenes in his search for love in order to purify it and to reveal new dimensions of it. This newness of biblical faith is shown chiefly in two elements which deserve to be highlighted: the image of God and the image of man.

*The newness of biblical faith*

9. First, the world of the Bible presents us with a new image of God. In surrounding cultures, the image of God and of the gods ultimately remained unclear and contradictory. In the development of biblical faith, however, the content of the prayer fundamental to Israel, the Shema, became increasingly clear and unequivocal: “Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord” (Dt 6:4). There is only one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, who is thus the God of all. Two facts are significant about this statement: all other gods are not God, and the universe in which we live has its source in God and was created by him. Certainly, the notion of creation is found elsewhere, yet only here does it become absolutely clear that it is not one god among many, but the one true God himself who is the source of all that exists; the whole world comes into existence by the power of his creative Word. Consequently, his creation is dear to him, for it was willed by him and “made” by him. The second important element now emerges: this God loves man. The divine power that Aristotle at the height of Greek philosophy sought to grasp through reflection, is indeed for every being an object of desire and of love—and as the object of love this divinity moves the world[6]—but in itself it lacks nothing and does not love: it is solely the object of love. The one God in whom Israel believes, on the other hand, loves with a personal love. His love, moreover, is an elective love: among all the nations he chooses Israel and loves her—but he does so precisely with a view to healing the whole human race. God loves, and his love may certainly be called eros, yet it is also totally agape.[7]

The Prophets, particularly Hosea and Ezekiel, described God's passion for his people using boldly erotic images. God's relationship with Israel is described using the metaphors of betrothal and marriage; idolatry is thus adultery and prostitution. Here we find a specific reference—as we have seen—to the fertility cults and their abuse of eros, but also a description of the relationship of fidelity between Israel and her God. The history of the love-relationship between God and Israel consists, at the deepest level, in the fact that he gives her the Torah, thereby opening Israel's eyes to man's true nature and showing her the path leading to true humanism. It consists in the fact that man, through a life of fidelity to the one God, comes to experience himself as loved by God, and discovers joy in truth and in righteousness—a joy in God which becomes his essential happiness: “Whom do I have in heaven but you? And there is nothing upon earth that I desire besides you ... for me it is good to be near God” (Ps 73 [72]:25, 28).



## **ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST IS ONLINE!**

### ***CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE!***



Go to *StJohnAgawam.com* and search our website! There you will find....

- Our weekly bulletin
  - Updates and information on our staff and various ministries
  - Information on Religious Education
  - Instruction and links on how to give online
  - And much more!
- 

### ***ALSO OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL!***



Look up *St. John the Evangelist Church* on YouTube, and find videos such as...

- Weekend & Daily Masses
  - Q & A's
  - Monthly Reviews
  - Night Prayer
  - Readings from various saints and authors
  - Informational videos on: our preschool, our policies, repaying our loan
  - And many other information and exciting activities!
- 

### ***AND THE FACEBOOK PAGE HOSTED BY FRIENDS & PARISHIONERS!***



Look up *Friends of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Parish — Agawam, MA* for our volunteer run Facebook page!

*Thank you to all of our volunteers and staff who work to keep these pages updated... especially Gary Lawrence (website), Ben Perkins (YouTube), and Leo Marinak (Facebook)!*