

# 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, 1:30 pm (Extraordinary Form), & 5:00 pm*  
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 2:45 to 3:45 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.

ANOINTING 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.*

**February 14, 2021—Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

## **SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

*Jesus manifests the powerful, healing love of God by curing the leper who was forced to live under severe restrictions by Jewish legislation. He turned to Jesus in his need and was filled with joy. We are called to imitate the healing and compassionate Jesus.*

### **PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

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

*Friday - Closed*

**Pastor:** Fr. Michael Pierz

sje.priest@gmail.com

**Parochial Vicar:** Fr. Barrent Pease

sje.curate@gmail.com

**Deacon:** Deacon Dave Picard

sje.deacon@gmail.com

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

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

**Office Manager:** Andreana Perkins

sje.operationsmanager@gmail.com

**Reception Volunteer:** Mary Talarico

**Pastoral Ministry to Sick & Homebound:**

Francesca Brandt

sje.homebound@gmail.com

**Director of "In the Beginning"**

**Pre-School Ministry:** Claire Riberdy (Interim)

sje.religiouseducation@gmail.com

**Pre-School Teachers:** Gabriela Marafuge

**Director of Religious Education:** Claire Riberdy

sje.religiouseducation@gmail.com

**Director of Music Ministry:** Isabella Manning

sje.musicdirector@gmail.com

**Maintenance Supervisor:** Anthony Fernandes

sje.maintenance@gmail.com

**Child Advocate:** Mary Beth Swindell

Private Line: (860) 386-6009

### **Finance Council:**

Charles Calisti

Cecile Fragoso

Ted Muszynski

David Ross

Joseph Searles

### **Pastoral Council:**

Judy Cross-Donahue (Chair)

Ben Auld

Megan Baillargeon

Mikie Cook

Luke Hollwedel

Dorota Maliszewska

Leo Marinak

James Perkins

Sarah Ross

Jane Seaver

Cara Waterman

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,

How good it is that we are here! While I am writing this column a few days before, the sense of grace permeates in anticipation and thankfulness for our Parish Mission. Simply the thought that we will be united in speaking of faith and practice, rejoicing in the sacraments, and celebrating the mystery of our relationship in God, gives me encouragement, hope, and joy.

As you read this bulletin, I pray you have taken advantage of our parish mission this Thursday and Friday prior, and I am already grateful to Fr. Scott Hastings for offering the Mass and preaching the homilies. This encounter serves as a wonderful opportunity to turn towards Lent with resolve and eagerness.

To that effect, Lent begins this coming Wednesday. The season starts out with our recognition of penitence and humility before the Lord, before whom we stand with trust and confidence, knowing our very life flows from His grace and the Gospel of life in Christ.

Interestingly, we will encounter the prayers and rites of Ash Wednesday a bit differently this year. Firstly, the rite of distribution of ashes will involve less contact whereby ashes are sprinkled on the crown of the head rather than traced on the forehead. Although this may seem new in the United States, we will be more in line with the practice of the Holy See, typical European custom, and many parts of the world, where this has already been the cultural norm.

Also, there will be a small, perhaps almost unnoticeable variation, to the doxology at the end of the Collect we hear in the Introductory Rites of the Mass. The doxology (or "saying of praise") concludes the opening prayer that collects all our intentions as we pray to the Father through His Son. You will recognize "Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen."

Though we may barely hear the change, there will be a modification to the wording that more substantially reflects the Christological dimension of the prayer. Even though the prayer is directed toward the Father, its primary reference here is to our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus is not "one God" but one Person of the one Triune God. For a fuller reflection on this seemingly small, but certainly powerful, expression of the unity of the Trinity and the mystery of the divine Persons, I invite you to read the article found later in our bulletin.

Once more, thanks for your participation in our Parish Mission this week, and we look forward together as we enter in this season of Lent!

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

**Fr. Pierz**

## **MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

### **13TH SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

#### **Saturday, February 13th**

**4:00 pm—Donald Sorel†**

Requested by Ann and Family

#### **Sunday, February 14th**

**8:00 am—Ray and Laura—For Everlasting Love**

Requested by Laura's mom

**10:30 am—For the People**

**1:30 pm (EF) —Repose of the Soul of Francis Rodeo †**

Requested by Sarah Rodeo

**5:00 pm—Private Intention**

#### **Monday, February 15th**

**8:00 am—Rose Flebotte †**

Requested by Her Family

#### **Tuesday, February 16th**

**8:00 am—Virginia Francisco †**

Requested by Bob and Faith Simmons

#### **Wednesday, February 17th—Ash Wednesday**

**8:00 am—Italia Rossi †**

**12:10 pm—Irene Gallerani †**

**6:00 pm—Nazare Lopes †**

Requested by the Francisco Family

#### **Thursday, February 18th**

**8:00 am—Giusseppe and Gelsomina Lombardi †**

Requested by Rick and Cheryl Passanisi

#### **Friday, February 19th**

**8:00 am—Ruth Bitzas †**

Birthday Remembrance from her friend Jackie

### **FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

#### **Saturday, February 20th**

**4:00 pm—Ed Webber †**

Requested by His Wife Cindy

#### **Sunday, February 21st**

**8:00 am—Philip Duclos †**

Requested by the Catholic Women's Club

**10:30 am—Ronald Cloutier**

Requested by Debbie Whitehead

**1:30 pm (EF) —For the People**

**5:00 pm—Private Intention**

## **SANCTUARY LAMP**

**FEBRUARY 14-20, 2021**

WILL BE LIT IN MEMORY OF

**WALTER DeBARGE**

HIS FAMILY

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 our parish and diocese, especially Janet Houde.

**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.**

*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.



*If anyone else is interested in being a prayer partner, please call Pat or Mary.*

## Weekend of February 7th

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

Weekly: \$3,783  
Maintenance: \$775  
Fuel: \$282  
Loose: \$400  
Online Giving: \$2,385.33  
Loan Repayment: \$905  
**Total: \$6,307.10**

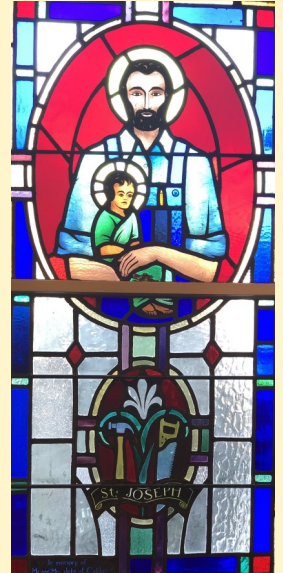
*"May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of His name, for our good and the good of all His holy Church."*

*Year of St. Joseph Activity:*

***Gather the family and your favorite snacks...***

Pick an afternoon or an evening, go onto FORMED, (Parish subscribed website), go to "Explore" or "Search" and key in... *Joseph of Nazareth: The Story of the Man Closest to Christ*".

The first feature film ever on the story of St. Joseph, who was a carpenter, the husband of Mary, and the foster father of Jesus Christ. Scripture tells us that St. Joseph was a "just man" and that God gave him the most daunting task ever asked of a man—to be the husband of the woman who would give birth to the Messiah and the father and protector of this Holy Family. He would be the man closest to Christ.



## Virtual Retreat Conference

During this time of the Pandemic, many feel stressed and forget all the blessings in their lives. This year, instead of men in the parish going to the Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center, you are invited to a virtual retreat conference on **February 27, 9:00 am—12:30 pm** via Zoom.

*For more information visit [holyfamilyretreat.org](http://holyfamilyretreat.org). Click on Themed Retreats or call Tom Wisniewski at 789-0671. Pre-registration is required.*



**National Marriage Week USA**  
MARRIAGE IS WORTH IT! • EVERY FEB 7-14



*May God ... keep you of one heart in love ... that the peace of Christ may dwell in you and abide always in your home.*

-Order of Celebrating Matrimony, 2nd edition

## **Lenten Gift & Challenge**

This Lent, we challenge ourselves to  
"Prepare the Way of the Lord."

St. John's is offering you both a gift and challenge to do just that! Copies of "I Heard God Laugh" by Matthew Kelly will be available at Church or the Parish Office during Lent.



## **Book Study Group**

During 5 Weeks of Lent we will discuss  
***I Heard God Laugh* by Matthew Kelly**

Thursdays, 10-11 am or 7-8 pm  
February 18, 25, March 4, 11, & 18

**Free**  
Registration Required  
through the Parish Office:  
786-8105





YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH  
December 8, 2020 – December 8, 2021

# ADORATION

OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT

The 19th of Every Month  
FEBRUARY - NOVEMBER

7 - 9 pm

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST PARISH  
AGAWAM

Join us to pray in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament during this year dedicated to St. Joseph by Pope Francis. Come grow closer to Christ through the intercession of good St. Joseph.



## Ash Wednesday Mass Times

February 17, 2021

8:00 am      12:10 pm      6:00 pm

*"Remember you are dust and unto dust you shall return"*

In accord with Vatican guidelines and its regular practice, ashes will be distributed by sprinkling on the crown of the head and not tracing on the forehead.

### **New Sunday Mass!**

To allow for spacing and opportunity to pray together, we have added another Mass on Sundays

This Mass is often *very lightly attended*.

**Sunday evenings 5:00 PM**  
*Come and pray! Be not afraid!*

### Charitable Contribution Statements

Charitable giving statements for 2020 are completed and available. For tax purposes, statements of total annual contributions of \$500 or more are auto-generated and automatically mailed. If you would like a statement and not yet received one, please call the office.

We are grateful for all contributions made by each of us, parishioners, faithful, and friends. Every dollar and coin plays a key role in working towards the mission of St. John the Evangelist Church.

*We pray for all parishioners, whether able to attend Mass in person, participate in pastoral activities, support charitable works, or are restricted at home. Let us be united in prayer and sacrifice!*

### **COMING UP AT ST. JOHN'S**

**Monday, February 15**

6:30 pm: RCIA (FJR)

**Tuesday, February 16**

6:30 pm: Knights of Columbus (FJR)

**Wednesday, February 17**

7:00 pm: Worship Commission (FJR)

**Thursday, February 18**

10:00 am: Book Study Group (FJR)

7:00 pm: Book Study Group (FJR)

**Sunday, February 20**

8:00 am: Take and Eat—Kitchen/FJR

### ***Call for Altar Servers***

Altar servers are welcome to serve at all our Masses! We also welcome new altar servers.

Contact the Parish Office and help us give glory to God in the Mass!  
786-8105.



*St. John the Evangelist Parish is offering*

***Beloved: A Marriage Preparation Program***

Six sessions will be covered  
in three afternoons:

**Sunday, March 14, 1-4 pm**

**Sunday, March 28, 1-4 pm**

**Sunday, April 11, 3-6 pm**

*Register through the Parish Office: 786-8105*



## Attention All Local Crafters! Outdoor Spring Craft Fair

Saturday, May 1, 9 am - 5pm  
(Rain date: Saturday, May 8)

We are seeking local crafters to join our spring craft fair with Mother's Day-friendly items.

Email [sje.information@gmail.com](mailto:sje.information@gmail.com)  
and we will send you a form.

*(Crafters only. No vendors or direct sellers please.)*

### K of C Lenten Fish Dinners

The Agawam Knights of Columbus will not be having our Lenten Fish Dinners this year because of the COVID-19 Pandemic. We will keep you in our prayers as we hope you will keep us in yours.



May God be with you always,  
Peter J Briancesco Grand Knight.

### Virtues

#### Virtue of the Week: Faith

CCC 1814: Faith is the theological virtue by which we believe in God and believe all that he has said and revealed to us, and that Holy Church proposes for our belief, because he is truth itself. By faith "man freely commits his entire self to God."<sup>78</sup>

*For this reason the believer seeks to know and do God's will. "The righteous shall live by faith." Living faith "work[s] through charity."*  
~Romans 1:17; Galatians 5:6



### Vision and Mission: 40 Days for Life

40 Days for Life is a focused pro-life campaign with a vision to access God's power through prayer, fasting, and peaceful vigil to end abortion.

The mission of the campaign is to bring together the body of Christ in a spirit of unity during a focused 40 day campaign of prayer, fasting, and peaceful activism, with the purpose of repentance, to seek God's favor to turn hearts and minds from a culture of death to a culture of life.

### 40 Days for Life Campaign

February 17—March 28

Light a red candle for the unborn and support St. John's prolife ministry and Bethlehem Hours (located at the Mary Shrine in the Church).



### Book Corner: A Special Recommendation by Mary Talarico



#### Bringing Lent Home with Pope Francis, St. John Paul II, and Saint Mother Theresa

By Donna Marie Cooper Boyle

Your friendly parish volunteer, Mary Talarico, suggests devotional Lenten books inspired by Mother Theresa, St. John Paul II, and Pope Francis.

Copies are available for sale at the parish office Monday—Thursday, 9 am—3 pm, or by appointment, 413-786-8105.

ENCYCLICAL LETTER  
*LUMEN FIDEI*  
OF THE SUPREME PONTIFF  
**FRANCIS**  
TO THE BISHOPS PRIESTS AND DEACONS  
CONSECRATED PERSONS  
AND THE LAY FAITHFUL  
**ON FAITH**

1. The light of Faith: this is how the Church's tradition speaks of the great gift brought by Jesus. In John's Gospel, Christ says of himself: "I have come as light into the world, that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness" (Jn 12:46). Saint Paul uses the same image: "God who said 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts" (2 Cor 4:6). The pagan world, which hungered for light, had seen the growth of the cult of the sun god, Sol Invictus, invoked each day at sunrise. Yet though the sun was born anew each morning, it was clearly incapable of casting its light on all of human existence. The sun does not illumine all reality; its rays cannot penetrate to the shadow of death, the place where men's eyes are closed to its light. "No one — Saint Justin Martyr writes — has ever been ready to die for his faith in the sun".[1] Conscious of the immense horizon which their faith opened before them, Christians invoked Jesus as the true sun "whose rays bestow life".[2] To Martha, weeping for the death of her brother Lazarus, Jesus said: "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" (Jn 11:40). Those who believe, see; they see with a light that illumines their entire journey, for it comes from the risen Christ, the morning star which never sets.

An illusory light?

2. Yet in speaking of the light of faith, we can almost hear the objections of many of our contemporaries. In modernity, that light might have been considered sufficient for societies of old, but was felt to be of no use for new times, for a humanity come of age, proud of its rationality and anxious to explore the future in novel ways. Faith thus appeared to some as an illusory light, preventing mankind from boldly setting out in quest of knowledge. The young Nietzsche encouraged his sister Elisabeth to take risks, to tread "new paths... with all the uncertainty of one who must find his own way", adding that "this is where humanity's paths part: if you want peace of soul and happiness, then believe, but if you want to be a follower of truth, then seek".[3] Belief would be incompatible with seeking. From this starting point Nietzsche was to develop his critique of Christianity for diminishing the full meaning of human existence and stripping life of novelty and adventure. Faith would thus be the illusion of light, an illusion which blocks the path of a liberated humanity to its future.

3. In the process, faith came to be associated with darkness. There were those who tried to save faith by making room for it alongside the light of reason. Such room would open up wherever the light of reason could not penetrate, wherever certainty was no longer possible. Faith was thus understood either as a leap in the dark, to be taken in the absence of light, driven by blind emotion, or as a subjective light, capable perhaps of warming the heart and bringing personal consolation, but not something which could be proposed to others as an objective and shared light which points the way. Slowly but surely, however, it would become evident that the light of autonomous reason is not enough to illumine the future; ultimately the future remains shadowy and fraught with fear of the unknown. As a result, humanity renounced the search for a great light, Truth itself, in order to be content with smaller lights which illumine the fleeting moment yet prove incapable of showing the way. Yet in the absence of light everything becomes confused; it is impossible to tell good from evil, or the road to our destination from other roads which take us in endless circles, going nowhere.

A light to be recovered

4. There is an urgent need, then, to see once again that faith is a light, for once the flame of faith dies out, all other lights begin to dim. The light of faith is unique, since it is capable of illuminating every aspect of human existence. A light this powerful cannot come from ourselves but from a more primordial source: in a word, it must come from God. Faith is born of an encounter with the living God who calls us and reveals his love, a love which precedes us and upon which we can lean for security and for building our lives. Transformed by this love, we gain fresh vision, new eyes to see; we realize that it contains a great promise of fulfilment, and that a vision of the future opens up before us. Faith, received from God as a supernatural gift, becomes a light for our way, guiding our journey through time. On the one hand, it is a light coming from the past, the light of the foundational memory of the life of Jesus which revealed his perfectly trustworthy love, a love capable of



triumphing over death. Yet since Christ has risen and draws us beyond death, faith is also a light coming from the future and opening before us vast horizons which guide us beyond our isolated selves towards the breadth of communion. We come to see that faith does not dwell in shadow and gloom; it is a light for our darkness. Dante, in the *Divine Comedy*, after professing his faith to Saint Peter, describes that light as a "spark, which then becomes a burning flame and like a heavenly star within me glimmers".[4] It is this light of faith that I would now like to consider, so that it can grow and enlighten the present, becoming a star to brighten the horizon of our journey at a time when mankind is particularly in need of light.

5. Christ, on the eve of his passion, assured Peter: "I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail" (Lk 22:32). He then told him to strengthen his brothers and sisters in that same faith. Conscious of the duty entrusted to the Successor of Peter, Benedict XVI proclaimed the present Year of Faith, a time of grace which is helping us to sense the great joy of believing and to renew our wonder at the vast horizons which faith opens up, so as then to profess that faith in its unity and integrity, faithful to the memory of the Lord and sustained by his presence and by the working of the Holy Spirit. The conviction born of a faith which brings grandeur and fulfilment to life, a faith centred on Christ and on the power of his grace, inspired the mission of the first Christians. In the acts of the martyrs, we read the following

dialogue between the Roman prefect Rusticus and a Christian named Hierax: "'Where are your parents?', the judge asked the martyr. He replied: 'Our true father is Christ, and our mother is faith in him'".[5] For those early Christians, faith, as an encounter with the living God revealed in Christ, was indeed a "mother", for it had brought them to the light and given birth within them to divine life, a new experience and a luminous vision of existence for which they were prepared to bear public witness to the end.

6. The Year of Faith was inaugurated on the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council. This is itself a clear indication that Vatican II was a Council on faith,[6] inasmuch as it asked us to restore the primacy of God in Christ to the centre of our lives, both as a Church and as individuals. The Church never takes faith for granted, but knows that this gift of God needs to be nourished and reinforced so that it can continue to guide her pilgrim way. The Second Vatican Council enabled the light of faith to illumine our human experience from within, accompanying the men and women of our time on their journey. It clearly showed how faith enriches life in all its dimensions.

7. These considerations on faith — in continuity with all that the Church's magisterium has pronounced on this theological virtue[7] — are meant to supplement what Benedict XVI had written in his encyclical letters on charity and hope. He himself had almost completed a first draft of an encyclical on faith. For this I am deeply grateful to him, and as his brother in Christ I have taken up his fine work and added a few contributions of my own. The Successor of Peter, yesterday, today and tomorrow, is always called to strengthen his brothers and sisters in the priceless treasure of that faith which God has given as a light for humanity's path.

In God's gift of faith, a supernatural infused virtue, we realize that a great love has been offered us, a good word has been spoken to us, and that when we welcome that word, Jesus Christ the Word made flesh, the Holy Spirit transforms us, lights up our way to the future and enables us joyfully to advance along that way on wings of hope. Thus wonderfully interwoven, faith, hope and charity are the driving force of the Christian life as it advances towards full communion with God. But what is it like, this road which faith opens up before us? What is the origin of this powerful light which brightens the journey of a successful and fruitful life?

(Pope Francis, ***Lumen Fidei***, vatican.va, June 29, 2013, 1-7)

### **FROM THE DESK OF FRANCESCA BRANDT**

Hello Parishioners of St. John the Evangelist Parish and all visitors. I am writing this review of our Pastoral Ministry to the Sick and Homebound with a heart filled with joy, thanksgiving and a heartfelt THANK YOU. The year 2020 carried the 'chill' of Covid-19, with a deep awakening the weekend of mid-March. Churches closed because of orders due to spread of Covid-10.

We witnessed many other closings. Small business, schools, self-employed services, barber shops, hairdressers, to name a few. The town of Agawam was not immune and was hard hit. The closing of St. John's Parish, no public MASS, no ease of access to the Holy Eucharist for distribution to the sick & homebound parishioners, the closing of area nursing homes, no personal access to loved ones (a two-fold hardship for families in this horrid situation), no in-church funeral Mass, and no in-church weddings. We have endured with faith, and with faith, we all went forward. So many of you parishioners refused to let this bring you to hopelessness. ALL of you soldiered on, all of you were instrumental to keeping St. John the Evangelist Parish alive and well, and all of you have not forgotten the people who were in need, who were hungry, and who needed a friend to talk too. All of you were participating in your parish sick and homebound ministry via your prayers, your many contributions of food cards, your ongoing contributions to the Take and Eat Ministry, under supervision per Deacon Dave Picard and volunteers who faithfully give their 'time of self' to those in need.

With much ingenuity fostered by a spiritual heart of love for his calling, our Pastor, Fr. Michael Pierz, laid out his plan with Fr. Barrent and the Pastoral Council members on how to reopen the church safely. It was with this group of dedicated parishioners, shared ideas, volunteers in place, and hard work for all, with one voice, on opening the church safely, with the help, 'again YOUR help' the parishioners, in making this a success. Parish volunteers are a precious commodity. You are Blessed indeed!

#### **2020 Acknowledgements:**

Donated food cards helped provide food on every table for the sick and homebound on Thanksgiving, 2020, as well as for families in need. An increase in need has been felt from past years. Thanks for donated food card, no one has been turned away from assistance. At Christmas time we ministered to the sick and home bound as well as 33 families in need with gift cards and food cards. Volunteers sent Christmas cards to the sick and homebound, along with phone calls and visitation outreach. Blessings to All,

*Francesca Brandt, Pastoral Minister, Ministry of the Sick & Homebound. May Our New Year, 2021, be a year of Healing, Compassion, Love n' Peace.*

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. 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.

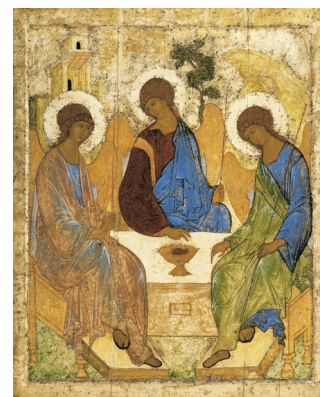
**HERITAGE WOODS AND HERITAGE HALLS:** No participation at this time.

**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.

## Following Concern of CDW, US Bishops Adjust Liturgical Translation, Omitting ‘One’ Before ‘God’

WASHINGTON — The US bishops' conference last week decreed that in the translation of the conclusion of collects in the Roman Missal, “one” is to be omitted before “God”. The conclusions will now read “God, for ever and ever”. The decision follows a letter sent in May 2020 to Anglophone episcopal conferences by Robert Cardinal Sarah, prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship, addressing a concern about the English translation. A Feb. 4 note from the USCCB’s Committee on Divine Worship said the correction will take effect in the dioceses of the US from Feb. 17, Ash Wednesday. Until now, in the conclusions to collects the Latin words “Deus, per omnia sæcula sæculorum” had been rendered in English as “one God, for ever and ever”. The committee’s note said that Cardinal Sarah had observed that “there is no mention of ‘one’ in the Latin, and ‘Deus’ in the Latin text refers to Christ ... The Cardinal Prefect has pointed out the importance of affirming this Christological truth amid the religious pluralism of today’s world.” The note added that English hand missals that preceded Vatican II “reflected the corrected translation ... however, when the post-conciliar texts were published in English, the word ‘one’ was added.”



The English-Latin Sacramentary, a missal published in 1966 during the period of transition from the Traditional Latin Mass to the Novus Ordo, omitted the word ‘one’ in the conclusion of collects. The English translation found in The English-Latin Sacramentary was copyrighted by P. J. Kennedy & Sons, and had been approved by the National Conference of Bishops Sept. 3, 1965. The USCCB committee wrote in its Feb. 4 note that it “should be noted that when the translation of the Missal currently in use was in progress, ICEL pointed out the discrepancy to the Congregation in Rome, but was told to retain the use of ‘one God’ in the new translation.” The note said that the Latin rite bishops of the US have voted to amend the country’s version of the General Instruction of the Roman Missal to reflect the change, and that it has been confirmed by the CDW. The most common formula, used when a collect is addressed to the Father, will read: “Through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.” The change is in harmony with the bishops’ conferences of England and Wales, Scotland, and Ireland, as well other English-speaking territories. The same change was effected by the English and Welsh bishops, beginning Nov. 29, 2020. The decree of the English and Welsh bishops’ conference said that “The addition of ‘one’ before ‘God’ in the conclusion of the Collects could be construed as mistaken and problematic. ‘Deus’ here refers to the earlier mention of ‘the Son’ and is a Christological, anti-Arian affirmation, and not directly Trinitarian in this context.”

The addition of “one” before “God” “could serve to undermine the statement of the unique dignity of the Son within the Trinity”, or “could be interpreted as saying that Jesus is ‘one God,’” an explanatory note to the English and Welsh decree stated. “Either or both of these interpretations is injurious to the faith of the Church.” Continuing, the note said that “one” “risks suggesting that Jesus became a god independent of the Blessed Trinity and is one god among many ... what we pray needs to express what the Church believes, requiring that, in liturgical formulae, we uphold the doctrine of the Blessed Trinity.” The Trinitarian doxology that concludes the collects “emphasises the divinity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, who as the Incarnate Son, intercedes on our behalf to the Father ... thus, the Son’s role of priestly mediation is made clear.” The explanatory note says the phrase was adopted in the fourth century “as a means to combat the Arian heresy,” which held that Jesus Christ became God, rather than having been God eternally. Moreover, the note adds, “one” is not used in the translations of the conclusion in French, German, Italian, Spanish, or Portuguese: “The English translation has, therefore, diverged from those of other major language groups.” The English and Welsh bishops’ explanatory note said that “since the addition of the word ‘one’ could obscure prayer and thus belief, the Congregation for Divine Worship “has ruled it should no longer be used in the translation of these texts into English.” The USCCB has been approving new translations of components of the Liturgy of the Hours, a new translation of the Roman Missal having been adopted in 2011. At its 2019 fall general assembly, the conference voted overwhelmingly to approve the ICEL grey book translation of the hymns of the Liturgy of the Hours.

<https://www.ncregister.com/cna/following-concern-of-cdw-us-bishops-adjust-liturgical-translation-omitting-one-before-god>