

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

833 Main Street
Agawam, MA 01001

www.stjohnagawam.com

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

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 the parish office to schedule.

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

The Most Holy Trinity—June 12, 2022

COLLECT OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

God our Father, who by sending into the world the Word of truth and the Spirit of sanctification made known to the human race your wondrous mystery, grant us, we pray, that in professing the true faith, we may acknowledge the Trinity of eternal glory and adore your Unity, powerful in majesty.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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

Pastor: Fr. Michael Pierz

sje.priest@gmail.com

Parochial Vicar: Fr. John Hurley

sje.curate@gmail.com

Deacon: Deacon Dave Picard

sje.deacon@gmail.com

Priest in Retirement: Fr. John Lis

Office Manager: Andreama Perkins

sje.operationsmanager@gmail.com

Parish Secretary: Debbie Whitehead*

Reception Volunteers: Mary Talarico,
Patricia Brown, Shirley Cusluski

Pastoral Ministry to Sick & Homebound:

Francesca Brandt

sje.homebound@gmail.com

Director of Religious Education: Claire Riberdy

sje.religioueducation@gmail.com

Director of "In the Beginning"

Pre-School Ministry: Claire Riberdy (Interim)

sje.religioueducation@gmail.com

Pre-School Teachers:

Lindsay Hagedorn, Mary Boulrice

Director of Music Ministry: Isabella Manning

sje.musicdirector@gmail.com

Maintenance Supervisor: Beth Thomas

sje.maintenance@gmail.com

Child Advocate: Mary Beth Swindell

Private Line: (860) 386-6009

Finance Council:

David Ross (Chair)

Dale Marie Breault

Stanley Ciempa

Cecile Fragoso

Albert Innarelli

Suzanne Lamkins

Pastoral Council:

Cecile Fragoso (Chair)

Trisha Brown

Judy Cross Donahue

Luke Hollwedel

Mary Kate Henle

Jeffrey Krause

Leo Marinak

Jessica Pokora

Jane Seaver

Jane Trevethan

Gianna Smith (Youth Representative)

Bulletin Submissions are due 12 days prior to print

Email: *sje.parishsecretary@gmail.com

Thoughts from the Rectory...

Dear friends of St. John the Evangelist,

Happy and Holy Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity!

Celebrating the great mystery of our redemption in Christ, won for us through His Passion and Crucifixion, Resurrection and Ascension, we enter into this new liturgical season of the year. We put into practice this great mystery, having united ourselves intimately to the life and death of Christ, so to be united to Him in the promise of Eternal Life. We practice holiness. We practice virtue. We practice the call to be saints.

As we find ourselves in the regular progression of our days, we are invited to ponder these mysteries of our faith in the profound perspectives of divine revelation. This week Holy Mother Church offers us the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, and I share with you the words of Pope Benedict as he greeted pilgrims on this feast several years ago

Today we contemplate the Most Holy Trinity as Jesus introduced us to it. He revealed to us that God is love "not in the oneness of a single Person, but in the Trinity of one substance" (*Preface*). He is the Creator and merciful Father; he is the Only-Begotten Son, eternal Wisdom incarnate, who died and rose for us; he is the Holy Spirit who moves all things, cosmos and history, toward their final, full recapitulation. Three Persons who are *one God* because the Father is love, the Son is love, the Spirit is love. God is wholly and only love, the purest, infinite and eternal love. He does not live in splendid solitude but rather is an inexhaustible source of life that is ceaselessly given and communicated. To a certain extent we can perceive this by observing both the macro-universe: our earth, the planets, the stars, the galaxies; and the micro-universe: cells, atoms, elementary particles. The "name" of the Blessed Trinity is, in a certain sense, imprinted upon all things because all that exists, down to the last particle, is in relation; in this way we catch a glimpse of God as relationship and ultimately, Creator Love. All things derive from love, aspire to love and move impelled by love, though naturally with varying degrees of awareness and freedom. "O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!" (Ps 8: 1) the Psalmist exclaims. In speaking of the "name", the Bible refers to God himself, his truest identity. It is an identity that shines upon the whole of Creation, in which all beings for the very fact that they exist and because of the "fabric" of which they are made point to a transcendent Principle, to eternal and infinite Life which is given, in a word, to Love. "In him we live and move and have our being", St Paul said at the Areopagus of Athens (Acts 17: 28). The strongest proof that we are made in the image of the Trinity is this: love alone makes us happy because we live in a relationship, and we live to love and to be loved. Borrowing an analogy from biology, we could say that imprinted upon his "genome", the human being bears a profound mark of the Trinity, of God as Love.

May the imprint of the Blessed Trinity find reflection in our lives, our actions, our very being. May we truly be found one in the unity and diversity of the People of God, saved in Christ, in our families, our parishes, our

SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

Saturday, June 11th

4:00 pm—Andrew Pierz †

Requested by His Loving Family

Sunday, June 12th

8:00 am—Al Taupier—12th Anniversary †

Requested by His Wife Elaine

10:30 am—FOR THE PEOPLE

**Monday, June 13th—Saint Anthony of Padua,
Priest and Doctor of the Church**

8:00 am—Elaine Smith †

Requested by Richard Smith

Tuesday, June 14th

8:00 am—Anthony Amato †

Requested by Jackie Morgan

Wednesday, June 15th

6:00 pm—Czeslaw Podhajski †

Requested by His Niece Dorota

Thursday, June 16th

8:00 am—Junior Lopez †

Requested by Carmen Frank

Friday, June 17th

8:00 am—Anthony Amato

Requested by Friends for Rose Palazzi's
Brother

**SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY BODY AND
BLOOD OF CHRIST**

Saturday, June 18th

4:00 pm—FOR THE PEOPLE

Sunday, June 19th

**8:00 am—Our Fathers, Living & Deceased,
and their intentions**

10:30 am—Teresa Marinak

Requested by Her Loving Children

diocese. May we show forth the great fire and dynamism of divine love as we seek to serve one another in holiness and truth, find solace and communion in prayer with the angels and saints, and to be truly conformed to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!

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

SANCTUARY LAMP

JUNE 12-18

WILL BE LIT IN MEMORY OF

MAURICE & CATHERINE MCKENNA

REQUESTED BY THE 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.

MEMORIAL LAMP FOR OUR CHILDREN

JUNE 12-18

WILL BE LIT IN REMEMBRANCE OF

**THE CHILDREN TAKEN TOO SOON FROM
THEIR FAMILIES IN UVALDE, TEXAS**

If you would like to request the *Memorial Lamp for Children* to be lit in honor or in memory of a child, including the unborn, 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 Walter Chmura, Barbara Lingham, Dennis Koob and John Martino.

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.

IN MY MOTHER'S ARMS PRAYER LINE:

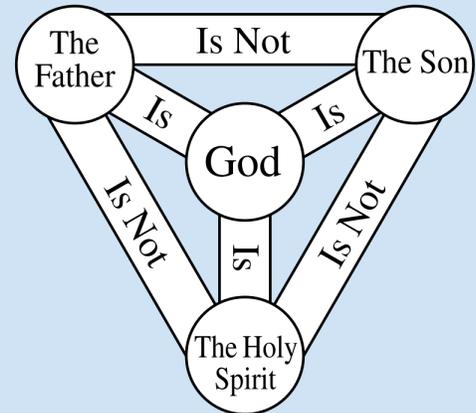
If you have a serious intention that you need prayers for: surgery, sufferings, medical, illness, cancer treatment, a sick child, or anything like that, please give Pat (786-3023) or Mary (786-9671) a call and you will have countless rosaries and prayers. ***If anyone else is interested in being a prayer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



The Most Holy Trinity

TE DEUM

You are God: we praise you;
You are the Lord; we acclaim you;
You are the eternal Father:
All creation worships you.
To you all angels, all the powers of heaven,
Cherubim and Seraphim, sing in endless praise:
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.



The glorious company of
apostles praise you.
The noble fellowship of
prophets praise you.
The white-robed army of
martyrs praise you.
Throughout the world the holy
Church acclaims you;
Father, of majesty unbounded,
your true and only Son,
worthy of all worship,
and the Holy Spirit, advocate
and guide. Amen.



FOOD COLLECTION FOR THE PARISH CUPBOARD

With assistance from the Christian Service Commission, the Parish will resume collecting non-perishable food donations for The Parish Cupboard on an ongoing basis.

Inflation has further contributed to food insecurity in our area, compounding the effects of the pandemic. The Parish Cupboard is a food pantry and lunch program serving families and individuals in West Springfield, Agawam, and Feeding Hills.

Beginning this month, collection baskets will be available at all three church entrances. The Parish Cupboard publishes a monthly wish list of food items and those will appear in the bulletin. If you are interested in helping to deliver the food to The Parish Cupboard in West Springfield once per month, please call the parish office and someone from the Christian Service Commission will contact you.

Current wish list:

Cereal, Box Meals (e.g., Hamburger Helper), Jelly, Spaghetti sauce, Pasta, Toilet paper, Personal Care items, Cat food

Let's be neighbors helping neighbors!



**GOD DWELLS IN OUR MIDST,
IN THE BLESSED SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR.**

- St. Maximilian Kolbe

WALK WITH CHRIST



EUCCHARISTIC PROCESSION

Feast of Corpus Christi

SUN. JUNE 19, 2022

After the 10:30am Mass

St. John the Evangelist Parish

833 MAIN ST., AGAWAM

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will continue at the church for one hour, following the return of the procession. Come and pray.

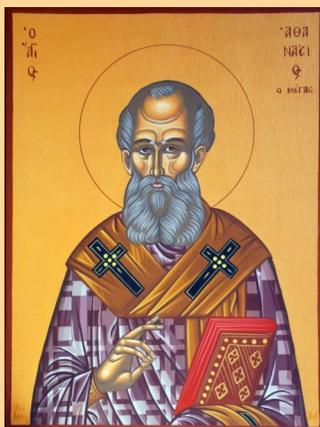
Light, radiance, and grace are in the Trinity and from the Trinity

It will not be out of place to consider the ancient tradition, teaching and faith of the Catholic Church, which was revealed by the Lord, proclaimed by the apostles and guarded by the fathers. For upon this faith the Church is built, and if anyone were to lapse from it, he would no longer be a Christian either in fact or in name.

We acknowledge the Trinity, holy and perfect, to consist of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. In this Trinity there is no intrusion of any alien element or of anything from outside, nor is the Trinity a blend of creative and created being. It is a wholly creative and energizing reality, self-consistent and undivided in its active power, for the Father makes all things through the Word and in the Holy Spirit, and in this way the unity of the holy Trinity is preserved. Accordingly, in the Church, one God is preached, one God who is *above all things and through all things and in all things*. God is *above all things* as Father, for he is principle and source; he is *through all things* through the Word; and he is *in all things* in the Holy Spirit.

Writing to the Corinthians about spiritual matters, Paul traces all reality back to one God, the Father, saying: *Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of service but the same Lord; and there are varieties of working, but it is the same God who inspires them all in everyone.*

Even the gifts that the Spirit dispenses to individuals are given by the Father through the Word. For all that belongs to the Father belongs also to the Son, and so the graces given by the Son in the Spirit are true gifts of the Father. Similarly, when the Spirit dwells in us, the Word who bestows the Spirit is in us too, and the Father is present in the Word. This is the meaning of the text: *My Father and I will come to him and make our home with him*. For where the light is, there also is the radiance; and where the radiance is, there too are its power and its resplendent grace.



This is also Paul's teaching in his second letter to the Corinthians: *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all*. For grace and the gift of the Trinity are given by the Father through the Son in the Holy Spirit. Just as grace is given from the Father through the Son, so there could be no communication of the gift to us except in the Holy Spirit. But when we share in the Spirit, we possess the love of the Father, the grace of the Son and the fellowship of the Spirit himself.

COMING UP AT ST. JOHN'S

Daily Mass Times: 8 am (M, T, Th, F) 6 pm (W)
Confession Times: Wed. 4:30 pm, Sat., 2:45 pm

Monday, June 13th

6:00 pm Ladies Exercise (PC3)

Tuesday, June 14th

6:00 pm Young & Catholic Women (PCR)
6:30 pm Knights of Columbus (FJR/Kitchen)

Wednesday, June 15th

10:00am Knitting Group (FJR)
12:00 pm Adoration (Church)
6:40 pm Music Ministry (Church)
7:00 pm Young & Catholic Men (LC)

Thursday, June 16th

6:00 pm Ladies Exercise (PC3)
6:30 pm Scouts (LC)
7:00 pm Family Adoration (Church)

Sunday, June 19th

8:00 am Take & Eat (FJR/Kitchen)
11:30 am Corpus Christi Procession

Music Ministry Hymn of the Month

"Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee. Holy, Holy, Holy, merciful and mighty! God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!"

This is the first verse of our hymn of the month for June. The words, written by Reginald Heber, celebrate and praise the Blessed Trinity and was intended specifically for Trinity Sunday, which we celebrate today! John Dykes, who composed the music, paid tribute to this trinitarian theme by naming its melody "Nicea" after the Ecumenical Council of Nicea, which affirmed the Church's belief of three Divine Persons in one God.

The verses are all filled with beautiful praises of our Lord and echo the eternal Holy, Holy, Holy hymn of the angels, making it suitable for singing on any Sunday. Please find it at number 554 in our hymnal and sing along!



Rosary Intention (week of June 5)

Pray the Rosary to ask for a blessing for our fathers, grandfathers, uncles and Godfathers, and a prayer of thanksgiving to God the Father.



Providing Clarity & Control

to women seeking abortion. Call 774-275-3330.

Springfield Office Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 10am – 4pm

Saint Monica's Club for men & women

If you're suffering the pain of a loved one leaving the Faith, you might feel very alone. But you're not.



Join Us the Third Monday of Each Month

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH
833 Main Street Agawam MA 01001 413-786-8105

9:00 AM Silent Prayer for 30 minutes in the Main Church
followed by fellowship in the Lower Church

&
7:00 PM Silent Prayer for 30 minutes in the Main Church
followed by fellowship in the Lower Church

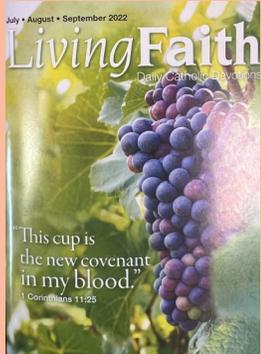
In the Beginning Preschool

While we continue to seek additional preschool teachers and volunteers, children enjoy classroom helpers such as Benjamin Perkins.



Answer Key to the June 5th Cryptogram

THEM THE FIRE OF YOUR LOVE.
OF YOUR FAITHFUL AND KINDLE IN
COME, HOLY SPIRIT, FILL THE HEARTS
Catholic Cryptogram!



Living Faith Booklet Now Available

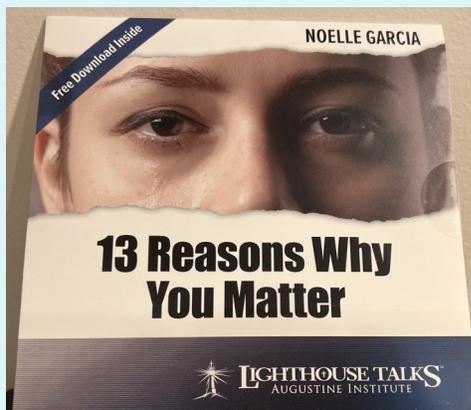
“This cup is the new covenant in my blood.” -1 Corinthians 11:25

The summer edition (July, August, September 2022) of Living Faith booklet is now available in the pastoral center.

KIOSK CORNER

Take a look at our Kiosk Corner inside the Main St. entrance to the Church. There are more than a dozen CD's to browse!

This week we are featuring:



Suicide is the second-leading cause of death for youth and young adults. Yet despite the many TV shows, movies, and articles on this topic, suicide, depression, self-harm, and loneliness remain difficult subjects for adults of any age to discuss. Speaking with honesty, humor, and personal experience, Noelle Garcia tackles these issues head-on, encouraging those who are struggling (or know someone who is) that God's mercy and love are waiting for them; that you, and your life, truly matter.

Ministry to Sick & Homebound

PASTORAL MINISTRY HOURS:

Monday-Thursday from 9am-1pm

Francesca Brandt, Pastoral Minister

413-786-8105 ext. 105 | sje.homebound@gmail.com

HOSPITAL VISITS: HIPAA Medical Law restricts access to patient admittance information. On arrival via emergency transport or self-transport, be sure to ask for in-house Clergy information to have a visit with a Catholic Priest for an anointing of the sick.

HOMEBOUND MINISTRY: If you or a family member are confined to home due to illness or are anticipating surgery, please contact the parish office to request a Pastoral visit with Francesca Brandt, P.M. She will bring Holy Communion, as well as, inform Fr. Pierz and Fr. Hurley of the visit.

FOLLOW UP VISITS: Upon request by contacting the pastoral minister, a follow-up visit will be made to the home post-surgery and/or illness during the recuperation period.

HOLY COMMUNION FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND: One on One home care visits to the Sick and Homebound residents. Please call if you or someone you know would like to receive.

HELP NEEDED: In this Spiritually Filled Vocation, help is needed to bring Holy Communion to confined Catholic residents, Home visits or Nursing home visits. Contact Francesca if you are interested in this Highly Spiritual Vocation, a given from your heart of Spiritual Love, bringing Jesus, the Holy Eucharist, to those who cannot receive HIM without help from you. Francesca will assist you and train you personally. ALL CALLS ARE CONFIDENTIAL.

BEREAVEMENT: A bereavement counseling visit may be prudent in helping the understanding of Our Blessed Lord's words of never being left alone. Fr. John Hurley and Francesca are here to assist you during your grief prolongment. Allow your "Tears of Sorrow" to warm into "Tears of Hope and Fulfilment of Blessings".

ALL CALLS ARE CONFIDENTIAL: 413-786-8105

PRAYER SHAWLS: If you have a family member, friend, or know someone who could benefit from a bit of extra comfort, please contact Francesca who will pass on the information to the Prayer Shawl Ministry. Each shawl includes the name of the prayer shawl Angel who crafted the shawl with prayerful love. Please note, the shawl must be picked up and delivered by the person who submitted the request. Call Francesca with your request and be sure to leave your phone number for a return call.

Weekend of June 5, 2022

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

Weekly: \$4,849
Maintenance: \$821
Fuel: \$217
Loose: \$285.60
Loan Repayment: \$639
Online Giving: \$1,634.50
Total: \$8,446.10

Loan Update:

Original Loan Amount: \$275,000
Loan Repayment Collected on June 5: \$639
Required Monthly Loan Payment: \$5,049.05
Loan Repayment Collected as of 4/30/22: \$120,376.58
Loan Balance as of 4/30/22: (\$126,962.21)

“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.”

Calling All 01001 Teens! You're Invited to a TEEN YOUTH CONFERENCE

**JULY 29-31, 2022 @ THE MASSMUTUAL
CENTER, SPRINGFIELD**



Watch an informative video:
https://youtu.be/ulpg1_HDCgE

Stuebenville East is a
TEEN YOUTH
CONFERENCE that is
FUN, ENGAGING,
and
INSPIRATIONAL.

Come join teens from
throughout the region.

ALL TEENS WELCOME
SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE
FOR AGAWAM TEENS

Contact St. John the Evangelist Parish,
(413) 786-8105

**The cost per teen is \$200; however, teens residing in Agawam (01001) might be eligible for a scholarship of \$75 from St. John the Evangelist Parish, lowering the cost to \$125 for the 3-day conference.*

Parishioners of St. John's: *If you would like to assist in further-reducing the cost for a teen to attend the Stuebenville East Conference, please contact Fr. Pierz.*



YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST

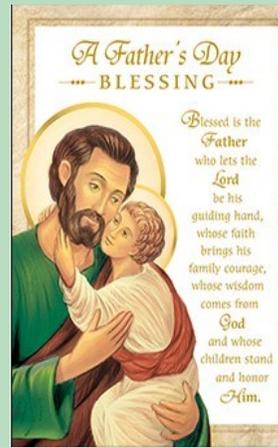
The Most Holy Trinity

One of the most admirable effects of Holy Communion is to preserve the soul from sin, and to help those who fall through weakness to rise again.”

– St. Ignatius of Loyola

(Ecclesia Eucharistia, #25, Pope St. John Paul II)

www.yearoftheeucharist.net



Father's Day

Spiritual Bouquet

If you would like a special man in your life, living or deceased, remembered in our priests' intentions at Mass, Holy Hours, and the Divine Office, consider a *Father's Day Spiritual Bouquet* Packet, available at the entrances of the church.



Pro-Life Corner

St. John's Pro-Life Coordinators:
Judy Cross-Donahue (Call Parish Office)

“In modern times, children in their mothers' wombs and those approaching the end of their lives are certainly among the 'least of these' in our world's estimation. Practices such as abortion and assisted suicide tragically reject the truth that human life is always to be cherished and defended with loving concern. ... Through the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, may Our Lord grant us the grace to truly and courageously live his Gospel of life.”

Live the
Gospel of *Life*

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, “Live the Gospel of Life” NABRE © 2010 CCD.

Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

June 2022

St. John Evangelist Church

Rev. Michael Pierz, Administrator

One Minute Meditations

Take your rightful place

As a baptized Catholic, your parish is your home by right.

As such, you have the right to a seat at your parish table.



You take it when you attend weekend Mass, and seek peace from sacraments such as the Sacrament of Reconciliation or Holy Matrimony.

Times change; God doesn't

The Bible tells of countless times when God gave his people victory in otherwise hopeless circumstances, provided for them when they had no resources, and guided them in their decisions. God is ready to work as powerfully for you.

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), "that it may be well with you and that you may live long on the earth." Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:1-4).



God waits for our "Yes"

God loves us and wants us to be happy with Him in Heaven forever, but He won't force Himself on us. Out of respect for our free will, God asks that we cooperate with His grace to save us, but leaves it up to us to say, "Yes!"

Cultivate your faith. The better we know our Catholic Faith the easier it is to know how to live it. The Catechism of the Catholic Church summarizes all major teachings of the Catholic Church. Read an article in it each day and learn a new term from the glossary weekly. Then, there will be no guessing about what Catholics believe.

Keep your conscience in shape.

A well-formed conscience signals us when a choice is virtuous (good) or sinful (bad). Review what

the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes require. Meditate on the examples of Jesus and Mary in the Gospels and how your behavior compares.

Stay close to the Sacraments. Through the Sacraments we directly encounter Christ. Attend Confession monthly and

Mass at least weekly. This is the best way to stay close to God and His Heart.

Perform Works of Mercy. God uses these opportunities to conform us more fully to Christ. Find ways to serve your parish in time, resources, or gifts. It is Jesus who ultimately receives our gift (Matthew 25:40).



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics use the different titles when we address the clergy?

After Jesus ascended, the Church grew so quickly that the spiritual needs of the Christian community demanded a global hierarchy of clergy to minister to them while maintaining the unity of the Faith. In response, the Apostles ordained deacons to assist so they could



focus on liturgy (Acts 6:2-4).

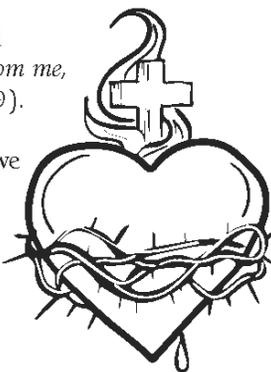
Today, there are different titles for different roles and levels of authority. For example, we are most likely to encounter

priests ("Father"), deacons, and bishops ("Your Excellency," or "Your Grace").

Three invaluable lessons from the Sacred Heart devotion

Attaining holiness can seem overwhelming and complicated, but Jesus makes it simple: *"Learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart"* (Matthew 11:29). Follow the lessons of His Sacred Heart.

Focus on Jesus. We often get in trouble when we lose sight of who Jesus is (God) and how much He loves us. Actually, God is always close and loves us with an infinite, intense, burning love. Keep an image of the Sacred Heart nearby for when you feel discouraged or disconnected from Him.



Give Him your "Yes." Instead of relying on your own strength and strategy, consecrate yourself to Jesus' Sacred Heart and let Him form and direct you. He is patient, gentle, and knows what we can handle. Say "Yes" to whatever He asks.

"Love is not loved!" Jesus wants our love but is often rejected by our sins. Love Jesus for those who won't. Spend time with Him and thank Him for what He's done for you. Offer Him your sufferings for a soul in need.

from Scripture

Luke 9:51-62, the cost of discipleship

Jesus' listeners often got swept up by his charismatic manner and professed eagerness to follow him. But they weren't always prepared for what it took to be a true disciple.

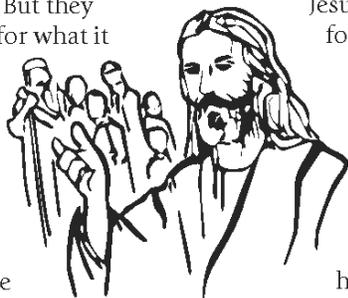
In this Gospel passage, a young man asked to follow Jesus but was deflated when Jesus pointed out that He had no home and none of the things considered necessary for a happy life. Jesus warned that it wouldn't always be comfortable to follow him.

The timing wasn't right for the second man. He promised to follow Jesus but

said he needed to fulfill his duty to his dying father first. In truth, Jesus sets the priorities we follow. Our duty is to obey.

Finally, Jesus used the example of plowing a field to make His point. If you look back while plowing it can ruin the job. He used that example to help the third man

understand that we need to have a singleness of purpose to be His disciple. We will have to make sacrifices to follow Jesus. But He promises us that the rewards will be worth much more.



Q & A Why are there different lists of Apostles?

Ever wonder why there seem to be different Apostles in different Gospels? For instance, there's a "Judas, not the Iscariot" at the Last Supper (John 14:22) who isn't mentioned anywhere else.



Likewise, Nathanael, who asked *"Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"* (John 1:46), is absent in the other Gospels.

Usually, the difference is because some of the Apostles had two names. For example, St. Matthew the tax collector, before joining Jesus, is "Levi" (Mark 2:14; Luke 5:27). The "other" Judas is called Thaddaeus. Nathanael is in the other Gospels, too, but under his Jewish surname, Bartholomew (Bar-Tolomai, "son of Tolomai").

Considering that half of the Twelve Apostles would have shared a name with another Apostle, some may have changed names to avoid confusion, e.g. Judas-not-the-Iscariot changing his name to Thaddaeus. All these differences show that the Apostles, who came from diverse backgrounds, were called for one mission of building up the Kingdom. Likewise, God calls us to build up the Kingdom, and gives each an important role in it.

Feasts & Celebrations

June 4 – St. Francis Caracciolo (1608). St. Francis was born in the Abruzzo region in Italy. He went on to found the Minor Clerks Regular with St. John Adorno. The Order was approved in 1588, and St. Francis became its superior for life.

June 6 – Mary, Mother of the Church (2018). On the Cross, Jesus gave us His mother to be our mother (John 19:27). Even in Heaven, she prays and cares for us as our spiritual mother.

June 19 – Corpus Christi Sunday.

On this solemnity, we celebrate the transformation of the bread and wine into Jesus' Body and Blood in the Holy Eucharist. This solemnity was established by Pope Urban IV in 1264 in response to the need for a Eucharistic feast day.

June 23 – The Nativity of St. John the Baptist (1st century). Before St. John was born, his father, Zechariah received a message from the angel Gabriel foretelling his birth. His doubt was punished by his being struck speechless until John's birth.



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