“I give you a new commandment: love one another.” With these words, Jesus sums up the law and the prophets in one concise phrase. Love one another. After 2,000 years, you’d think we’d have it figured out by now! But all too often we fail in this commandment. Perhaps we mistake “love” for mere “common decency.” Perhaps we’ve been betrayed, or our own visions of love have been tarnished or misrepresented in our lives. Blessedly, Jesus doesn’t leave us without a guide.

“As I have loved you, so you also should love one another.” Jesus himself modeled what this love should look like. So what are some of the characteristics of the love of Christ? Humility, for one. St. Paul writes that Jesus “emptied Himself.” In becoming man, Jesus puts aside the full splendor of the Godhead. Not only does he become human, but he takes on many of the mundane privations of human life. He spent most of his life in relative poverty - especially by our standards - as a common laborer. When he began gaining popularity as a preacher, he still traveled on foot and spent nights in other people’s homes or outdoors.

Jesus’ love is generous. He was always available to the crowds and to being interrupted by people in need. He invested time in his disciples and patiently taught them about the kingdom of God. The love of Jesus is also courageous. He encountered many people deemed less worthy of human respect, due to being public sinners or having a physical or mental disability. Jesus was brave in breaking these social boundaries to show care and concern to the outcast. These traits are possible for us to imitate! Indeed, we are hardly identifiable as Christians without them. “This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

5th Sunday of Easter

Jesus said, “My children, I will be with you only a little while longer. I give you a new commandment: love one another.” Jn 13:33a, 34a
Dear Friends in Christ,

“As I have loved you, so you also should love one another” (John 13:34).

When we are in difficulty and need help, it is then that we most appreciate the selfless gift of self by others to assist us in our need. Too often we feel self-sufficient, forgetting how much we need others, especially in daily life when things are going well. We can even forget how much we need God. That is one of the great dangers of living in a society where most people have a pretty good life, materially speaking. Yet even when things are going well, materially speaking, we are in need not only of material things, but spiritual goods as well, especially selfless love to be received and to be given. When we stay close to Jesus and experience the depth of his love for us, to the extent we can, we know what that love is like and are empowered to love others with that kind of love. May God help everyone to be true lovers of God and others!

Thank you for your pledges and donations to the Diocesan Appeal. If you have not yet made a pledge, please do so in the coming weeks. God will not be outdone in generosity!

Due to the Memorial Day holiday, we have to submit our bulletins for the weekend of June 2nd on this coming Wednesday, May 22nd. Please call or send any announcements for that weekend to the appropriate offices by noon on this Wednesday.

In Christ,
Fr. Dennis

St. Anne Society
St. Anne Society meets monthly in Hanover at St. John’s church hall.

Knights of Columbus
Fr. Ron Conro Knights of Columbus meet the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm in the church hall at The Church of St. Mary in Elizabeth

Respect Life Corner
Word Of Life
For parents placing their children for adoption: May they encounter the Father’s love through our words and actions; We pray to the Lord.

Stewardship Report May 11th & 12th
Envelopes 675.00
Offertory 55.00
Easter 70.00
DSP 320.00
Parish and Community News

Our Parish target goal for DSP for 2019 is $5,977.00. Beginning next weekend we will print the income to date and also keep up on what we still need to meet our goal. Thank you for your generosity and for the efforts to meet our goal.

Please contribute a baby item to the cradle in the vestibule to help support the unmarried mothers.

This will give these young women a better start in life with their young child.

Vocation Corner 5/19/2019
By Fr Kyle Manno

As human beings we are men and women of habit. We get up and have the same morning routine every single day. When we go to the store we must likely park in the same area of the parking lot that we always park in. When we go to our favorite restaurant we probably get the same meal each time.

This is not because we are boring but because we love what we know and God made us to be creatures of habit. Since we are indeed human being of habit then the best way to grow in our prayer life is to make it habitual. So the question today is, ‘Where is your habit of prayer in your daily life?’ Now to make the question more specific, ‘Do you pray at least 15 minutes every single day?’

If not then let’s start with a plan and if so, then bump it up to 20 or 25 minutes a day!

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CRE Coordinator: Laura Kuzniar
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Website: www.stmaryelizabethil.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/stmary.eliz.il.61028

Mass Schedule*
Weekday:
Monday: No Mass
Tuesday: 5:00pm (SJ)
Wednesday: 8:30am (SM)
Thursday: 8:30am (SM)
Friday: 8:30am (SM)

Weekend:
Saturday: 4:00pm (SJ) 6:00pm (SM)
Sunday: 8:30am (SM) 10:15am (SJ)

First Thursday-8:30AM-Mass, Holy Hour and Healing Service (SJ)
First Friday-8:30AM-Mass, Holy Hour & Healing Service (SM)
* Subject to change due to holy days

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturday 9:00-10 am (SM), 3:15-3:45pm (SJ) or by appointment. Contact St. Mary’s office for an appointment.

Sacrament of Marriage
Engaged couples must call Fr. Morrissy to begin their preparation at least six months before their wedding date.

Sacrament of Baptism
Call Fr. Morrissy to begin preparation.

Sick or Hospitalized
Please notify Fr. Morrissy of family members who are ill or in the hospital.

Pregnant?
There are alternatives to abortion!
If pregnant and in need of assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local assistance, call the Freeport Pregnancy Center at 815-232-5433.

(SJ)-St. John • (SM)-St. Mary

Liturgical Roles
Saturday MAY 25TH
Lector B. Tonne
EM Maria, Peg
Sacristan Maria
Altar Serv. Joe

Sunday May 26th
Lector Rita Resh
EM Ellie, Deb, Lorraine
Sacristan Mary
Server Stevie

READINGS OF THE WEEK
May 19, 2019
Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21 [cf. 12]/Jn 14:27-31a
Wednesday: Acts 15:1-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5 [cf. 1]/Jn 15:1-8
Thursday: Acts 15:7-21/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10 [3]/Jn 15:9-11
Friday: Acts 15:22-31/Ps 57:8-9, 10 and 12 [10a]/Jn 15:12-17
Saturday: Acts 16:1-10/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 5 [2a]/Jn 15:18-21

ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK
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