

# Corpus Christi Parish

EMBRACING A FUTURE FULL OF HOPE!

#### Welcome!

If you are new to our community, we hope you have felt welcome!

If you are a visitor, we're glad you joined us!

If you're considering parish membership, please introduce yourself to Fr. Gary after Mass.



## **Parish Mission Statement**

Rooted in the Word, nourished by the Eucharist, and strengthened by the sacraments, Corpus Christi Parish is a vibrant, welcoming Catholic community of many parts united in the one Body of Christ. Seeking to reflect the unconditional love and embrace of Christ, we strive to live out our baptismal call as disciples and enthusiastic witnesses to our faith.

# Fourth Sunday of Easter

# Immaculate Conception Church 98 Summer Street

#### Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil 4:00 PM

8:30 AM 10:30 AM 4:30 PM Sunday

Monday - Saturday 8:00 AM

#### Confessions

Monday-Friday 8:30 AM

Saturday 8:30 AM and 3:00 PM, Sunday 3:45 PM

#### **Eucharistic Adoration**

Monday-Saturday 7:00-7:55 AM Wednesday 8:30 AM-6:00 PM

#### Doors Open For Prayer

Weekdays 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM

#### Parish Center & Parish Office

845 Woodbury Avenue, Portsmouth, NH 03801 603-436-4555 603-436-0344 Fax: 603-433-4401

> www.corpuschristinh.org parishmail.ccnh@gmail.com

#### Calvary/St. Mary Cemetery

Kate Gordon, Cemetery Manager 603-436-9239

#### St. Patrick Academy

315 Banfield Road 603-436-0739

### Vianney House

98 Summer Street Residence for Fr. Garv

email address

436-4555

Ext 120

Parish Staff

Dominic Paradis

Dave Perrella

Brenda Stinson

Fr. Gary Belliveau	Pastor frgary.ccnh@gmail.com	Ext 125
Fr. David Affleck	Assisting Priest	
Lisa Boucher	Music Director musicdir.ccnh@gmail.com	
Kate Gordon	Business Manager businessmgr.ccnh@gmail.com	Ext 112
Carol Jacques-Dow	Pastoral Minister pastoralassoc.ccnh@gmail.co	Ext 115
Kathy Kelleher	Administrative Assistant aa7.ccnh@gmail.com	Ext 113
Mary Kay Linscott	Admin Assistant/Bulletin aa1.ccnh@gmail.com	Ext 110

Facilities

buildingmgr.ccnh@gmail.com

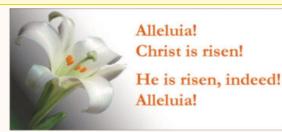
faithformdir.ccnh@gmail.com

voungadultmin.ccnh@gmail.com

Young Adult Minister

Faith Formation Director

#### The Week at a Glance



#### Monday, May 9th

Young Adult Bible Study-7:00 PM (JPII)

#### Tuesday, May 10th

Sunday Readings Scripture Study-9:00 AM (C LL) Prayer Cenacle—2:00 PM (C)

Martha & Mary Rosary & Letter Writing—6:00 PM (C) RCIA-6:30 PM (PC LH)

Finance Council Meeting—6:30 PM (PO)

#### Wednesday, May 11th

Exposition/Adoration—8:30AM-6:00 PM (C) Walking w/Purpose Group Leader Mtg—9:15AM (PC)

#### Thursday, May 12th

Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting—1:30 PM (PC LH) Wedding Rehearsal—5:00 PM (C)

Lay Carmelite Community Meeting—6:30 PM (PC LH) Men's Ministry Rosary, Song, & Prayer—7:00PM (CLL) Choral Evensong Rehearsal—7:00 PM (C)

#### Friday, May 13th

Wedding Liturgy—4:00 PM (C)

#### Saturday, May 14th

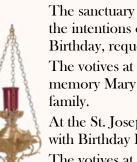
Baptism-10:00 AM (C) Rosary-3:30 PM (C)

#### Sunday, May 15th

Televised Parish Mass-10:00 AM, Channel 98 Family Faith Formation Closing Celebration— 10:00 AM (PC UH)

Choral Paschal Evensong & Benediction—7:00 PM (C)

# Sanctuary Lamp & Votives



The sanctuary lamp will burn this week for the intentions of Colin Cavanaugh, on his Birthday, requested by Aunt.

The votives at the Mary altar will burn in memory Mary Gogan, requested by her

At the St. Joseph altar, the votives will burn with Birthday Blessings for Francis Riddle. The votives at the Black Madonna shrine will burn in memory of Jean Mulhern, requested by Marilyn Chavez and Mary Kay Linscott.

#### The Pastor's Letter

Dear Family in the Lord,

This Sunday's Gospel gives us an image that summarizes all that we have celebrated in the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Jesus' description of the Good Shepherd in John 10 shows us how He saw His mission in the world, and His mission in each of our lives. Jesus did not come as a political powerhouse, a domineering leader, or a demanding referee. He came as a Shepherd. He came to care for us and to lead us gently, as a shepherd leads His sheep. He is not just *the* Good Shepherd, He is *our* Good Shepherd. He is the Shepherd for each of us. He came to lead us to life. He came to call us by name. He came to bring us home to eternal pastures.

If Jesus is my Shepherd, then I am a sheep in the flock of Jesus. Jesus knows me. He calls me by name. I know His voice. Jesus seeks me out when I am lost. Jesus places me tenderly on His shoulders. Jesus invites me back to the flock when I go astray. Jesus guides me gently to the place that is best for me. How powerful it is to experience this in prayer. To imagine how Jesus looks at you. To imagine Him seeking you out when you are lost. To imagine His joy in finding you, picking you up, and placing you on His shoulders. The Parable of the Lost Sheep (Luke 15:1-10) can be a great help in this way. Jesus is not a Shepherd who restricts, controls, or enslaves us. He does not seek to capture us in His grasp. He wants to carry us gently and lead us lovingly, that we may have life. He tells us, "A thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). Having life more abundantly is not about having a more glamorous wardrobe, or taking expensive vacations. It is not about having a more stylish house or a greater variety of entertainment. Having life and having it more abundantly is truly living. It is living deeply. It is living to the full. It is seeking the things that bring us life and that bring life to other people. It is knowing God's love for me and loving others in return. This is eternal life. This is heaven. Totally receiving God's love and sharing this love with all of humanity. Jesus gives us this life. It begins already, here and now, as members of the flock of the Good Shepherd.

Jesus not only gathers each of us as individuals, He gathers us together as a flock. Jesus does not save us individually, one-by-one. He saves us together. He comes to give us life together. He not only relates to each of us personally, He is also in the midst of us, uniting us as one, bringing us together, and leading us forward together. Life in abundance is not just each of us enjoying him or herself in the comfort of his or her own solitude. Life in abundance is not just being left unbothered by my neighbor. Life in abundance means coming together as brothers and sisters. It means sharing with others the life that we receive. It means rejoicing in one another. It means seeing each other as a gift. It is taking the time to encounter one another, even in little ways. Taking a moment for an unexpected conversation instead of wishing you were left undisturbed. Smiling at someone who looks down. Writing to a family member or friend. Volunteering to help people in need. All of these bring us together as a flock. All of these show us that we are not alone. Even through simple gestures, we can show others that they are not alone either.

Jesus continues His work of being our Good Shepherd through His Church. This is an important but often difficult message in our world today. It does not mean that the Church shepherds us perfectly. Jesus alone is the Good Shepherd. But He uses His Church to try and lead us through life in this world. He does not save us individually but together. There is a German hymn, "He who believes is never alone." And again a French saying, "A Christian alone is a Christian in danger." We do not live our faith in isolation. Jesus does not just relate to us individually in a vacuum. We are not lone sheep in the world. We are members of a flock. We belong to one another, and together we belong to Christ. We are sometimes scattered, divided, but Jesus seeks to bring us together, to unite us in one fold. He not only brings us together as Catholics, or Protestants, or Christians. He wants to bring all of humanity together and He uses us as instruments of this peace and unity.

Jesus' image of the Good Shepherd reveals to us who He is, for each of us and for all of us together. It also shows us how He is at work in the world, bringing us to Himself and uniting us together. Through this beautiful image that He gives us, may we see how Jesus brings us close to Himself, and learn from Him how to come closer together with our fellow sheep, as members of His fold.

With you on the Journey,

# Fourth Sunday of Easter



# **Intentions for Holy Mass**

Monday MAY 9 Easter Feria (weekday) 8:00AM T J Bassett, by the Maloney Family

Tuesday MAY 10 St. Damien de Veuster

8:00AM Kathleen M Morrissey,

by Kathleen A Morrissey

Wednesday MAY 11 Easter Feria **8:00AM** Eric Holding, by his Family

Thursday MAY 12 St. Nereus, St. Achilleus

St. Pancras

8:00AM Robert and Dante Tosi, by Annie Osborn

Friday MAY 13 Our Lady of Fatima

8:00AM Mr. & Mrs. Gino Longo, by their Grandchildren

Saturday MAY 14 St. Matthias

8:00AM Donald Loiodice, by his wife Patti

> Vigil Fifth Sunday of Easter

4:00PM Francis & Helen Hyland,

by Ann, Catherine, and Frank

Sunday MAY 15 Fifth Sunday of Easter

**8:30AM** Joanne Schepis Stone, by her Parents

**10:30AM** Rose & John Ehnstrom, by their Family

4:30PM Mary & Al Homicz, by their Family

To schedule Mass intentions or to request sacramental records, please contact Kathy Kelleher at the parish office at 845 Woodbury Avenue, or call 603-436-0344.

### Our reflection of God's generosity to us!

#### Weekend of April 30/May 1, 2022

Online Giving \$ 3.158.00 Envelopes \$ 8.837.05 \$ 2,049.19 Loose \$ 14,044.24 Total

Last weekend 153 envelope/73 Online Giving users contributed 85% of our income.

Poor Box /SHARE Donations 642.00

Capital Campaign a/o 5/2/22 \$ 2,420,367.00

#### Save the Date!



# **JOIN US!** 7:00 PM SUNDAY, MAY 15!

We happily welcomed an outstanding choral group and organists from NH and the Boston area for an inspiring and beautiful choral experience of prayer in mid-Lent. We are happy to invite you to join us as we welcome them back for an Easter Season special opportunity!

# Choral Paschal Evensong and Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament

Invite friends to join us in the inspiring beauty and rich acoustics of our church for this time of praise and moving musical inspiration!



# **JOIN US!** For an evening of prayer and song!

All men are invited! WHO:

Join the Men's Ministry of our parish for an WHAT: evening of praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet, singing hymns (led by Tim Lena), and

praying for those in need!

WHEN: Thursday, May 12th, 7:00 – 8:00 PM

WHERE: Immaculate Conception Church Lower Level

FMI: Frank Schoenrock Tom Kaseta 860-978-7090 860-916-1369

#### NEWD Recently Baptized

We warmly welcome **Daniel Monteiro** and **Ethan LaPointe**, who were given new life through water and the Holy Spirit in our parish community! To their parents and godparents we extend our congratulations and prayerful support as they live out the commitment they made to be "the first teachers of these children in the ways of faith." In the words of the rite, "may they be the best of teachers, bearing witness to the faith in what they say and do."

#### **Wedding Bells!**

Next Friday, Carly Gaffey & Brendan Moynihan will pledge life and love in the sacrament of Marriage in our parish. We extend our congratulations and prayerful best wishes to them! May He who brought you together bless you in abundance in the years ahead as you live out this wonderful vocation.

#### NEWD Called Home to the Lord

We remember in prayer the repose of the soul of **Bob Dow**, father-in-law of Corpus Christi Pastoral Minister Carol Jacques-Dow. To his family we extend our heartfelt sympathy and prayerful support as well.

#### NEWD Martha & Mary Rosary

Join our Martha & Mary Ministry in supporting our seminarians **this Tuesday, May 10th**, at 6:00 PM. We will meet first in the church to pray the rosary, and then we'll gather downstairs afterwards for fellowship and to write cards/notes to all the Seminarians from our Diocese!

#### NEWD Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet at 1:30 PM **this Thursday, May 12th**, in the Lower Hall at our Parish Center. Are you interested in seeing how you can participate? For more details, please call Elaine Wilder at 436-8379.

#### Name Thank You to Seacoast Laser-Tek

Our thanks to parishioner John Lemieux, owner of Seacoast Laser-Tek of Portsmouth, for his pro bono work on the parish printers, and donation of a color printer. If you ever need copiers, imaging equipment or parts/supplies, call John at 603-433-2040, and tell him you heard of him here.

#### Parish Scholarships

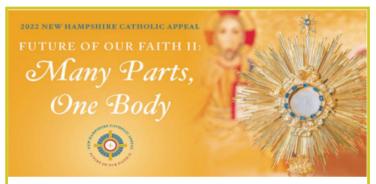
Each year, Corpus Christi parish offers a number of partial scholarships to students who will be/are attending college for undergraduate studies. Father David Alexander Sullivan Scholarships are available to parish members who've attended area high schools. Applications are available from the parish office or at www.corpuschristinh.org. The deadline to apply is May 27th.

#### Videographers Needed

We are in need of volunteers for our videography ministry to videotape our Saturday afternoon Mass and other special Masses on occasion. No experience necessary, training will be provided. If you're interested in helping, please contact Carol Jacques-Dow, Pastoral Minister at 603-436-4555 or pastoralassoc.ccnh@gmail.com. Our sick and homebound parishioners will be forever grateful to you.



We extend our best wishes for many blessings to all our moms, and we lift up the souls of all departed mothers today. All enrolled in our Mother's Day Spiritual Bouquet are included in the basket before the altar for this weekend's Masses and then will remain on our Lady's altar through May 31st.



Dear Friends,

This weekend we kick off the New Hampshire Catholic Appeal: *Future of our Faith II, Many Parts, One Body*, a new initiative by our Diocese to grow and expand ministries in the Church in New Hampshire. It will also consolidate several of our annual collections under one Appeal. I am grateful for your continued generosity to our parish and to these vital ministries.

The New Hampshire Catholic Appeal will fund essential services and ministries like the care for our retired priests, vocations ministry and the education and formation of seminarians, Catholic education, Parable magazine, Catholic Charities NH, and more.

Everyone in our parish will receive a copy of the Appeal materials so that you can learn more about the NHCA and how you can participate. Together, we are many parts of the Church in New Hampshire, but one body of Christ and we can make a difference in the lives of many people. To make your gift, please return the gift envelope that you will receive in the mail, visit the Appeal's website: **www.catholicnh.org/nhca** or call the Appeal Office at 603-663-0170.

With gratitude, *Fr. Gary* 

The QR code below works similarly to barcodes at the supermarket. This individual, unique code, when scanned, will automati-



cally bring you to the Diocesan website for the NH Catholic Appeal. To use: 1) Open the camera app on your smartphone. 2) Focus the camera on the QR code and gently tap the link that will appear. 3) Follow the instructions on the screen to complete the action

## Taking a Closer Look



Catholics can always come home! Sometimes hurts need healing. Other times the real heart of Catholic faith was never really fully grasped, and it was easy to get busy, drift, or let little things get in the way. Sometimes weakness of human nature—found in all of us—seems to have won out over the power of grace that endures. There are many reasons people can drift, walk away, or fall away. But the bottom line is that Catholics can ALWAYS come home! Have you recently begun to return to the practice of your Catholic faith? Do you know someone who is thinking about it? If yes, we invite you, and we invite YOU to invite THEM to join us for a relaxed informal get together that can help folks in their journey home, or at least their consideration of the possibility. No obligations. No commitment. Just come and see and hear about opportunities that will be offered as we move forward in our renewed parish evangelization efforts. Who can you invite? Pray about it. Extend the invitation!

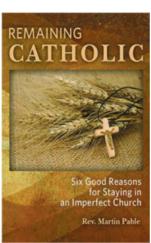
#### JOIN US! TUESDAY, JUNE 7TH ~ 6:30 PM AT VIANNEY HOUSE

(the rectory building next door to the church, 98 Summer St)

Just ring the front door bell.

RSVP by June 6th so we can plan for refreshments and seating by email to Fr. Gary at frgary.ccnh@gmail.com.

#### A GREAT BOOK IS AVAILABLE FOR YOU TO READ & PASS ON TO OTHERS AS A WAY OF INVITATION



Copies of Remaining Catholic: Six Good Reasons for Staying in an Imperfect Church are available in the back of the church. Many of the points contained in it will be opened up in this process of welcoming and "taking a closer look." Pick up a copy today! If possible, we ask for a donation of \$10 to cover the cost of the book. It's a great read! Highly recommended as a great tool and inspiration for all of us who want to embrace the call to evangelization—restoration and being a source of healing in our church and for our parish!



#### Just a Few Notes of Thanks!

**OUR GARDENING ANGELS** are gearing up for another season of caring for the grounds of our church, rectory, and office/parish center campuses. Talent, time invested, and TLC will be obvious in days ahead as all areas are renewed for the coming season and then cared for, weeded, and enhanced for the coming summer into autumn days. With many hands, and folks taking responsibility for individual areas, much is accomplished and all is kept looking great! So, thank you to all who are organizing, all who helped last year and are jumping in again, and all who are getting involved for the first time! If you're interested in helping or getting more info, please give a call to Mary Kay or Kathy in our office to leave your name and you'll be contacted with details.

**EASTER EXTRA EFFORT COLLECTION** is still on the rise with over \$35,000.00 having been contributed, whether on Easter day itself, or from those who were away but have taken the time to mail in or hand deliver their offerings to support our parish operations and development. We certainly were blest with glorious Holy Week and Easter celebrations, and are blessed with a very appreciative and generous parish family in so many ways—time, talent, and treasure—that makes so much possible!

INVESTMENT ALREADY PAYING OFF! As we are about to end the heating season, we are happy to report that this year, a cold and brutal winter, our cost for heating the church for our use every day came to less than half the cost of last year thanks to the installation of the new boiler. We are so grateful to those who came forward with some "extra offerings," in addition to their Capital Campaign offerings, that enabled us to undertake this costly but much-needed project! It was nice to not see lots of \$\$\$ going up in smoke!

LAST PHASE OF RESTORATION will get underway this Summer when the brick and limestone facade of our church and the bell tower exterior and interior will receive restorative work, repair, cleaning, and sealing. We are in final stages of the bidding process and then scaffolding will begin to appear in these areas for the Summer months. The final part, the protective coverings for the stained glass windows, is projected for completion in the early Fall, thus bringing this major interior/exterior restoration project to its close. We are so grateful for the Capital Campaign pledges and gifts that made this possible and the small amount still outstanding that has been steadily coming in as we enter this last phase and reach the end of the third year of the three year Campaign, this October. Thank you for tremendous support from so many of you in so many ways!

## 20/20 WINNER\$

\$25 Winners—Week 11

# 26 Stan Nice

# 42 The Pierog Family

# A JOYFUL AND FRUITFUL YEAR IN THE RCIA PROCESS!

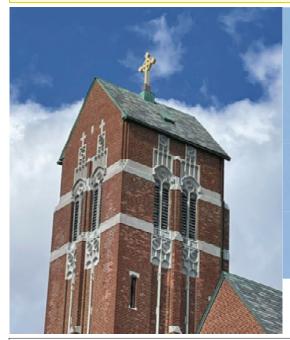


#### WANT MORE INFO ABOUT THIS PROCESS OF EXPLORATION?

If you, or someone you know, was never baptized, or baptized in another denomination, or baptized Catholic but not brought up in the faith, we invite you to bring them, or come for yourself, as we offer an informal INFO NIGHT on **Tuesday, May 24th, at 6:30 PM** at our parish rectory, Vianney House, the building next to the church at 98 Summer Street. Just ring the bell at the front door! No obligation, just info about what this process is about to help those who might be considering it for this coming year. (To plan for seating/refreshments, RSVP to Fr. Gary at **frgary.ccnh@gmail.com** or see him after Mass.) Who can you invite, and offer to come with them?

Come and see!

# New Additions to Our Parish Church





NEW COPPER/GOLD LEAF CROSSES



One can't miss, especially as they sparkle on a sunny day, these two new additions to our church facade and bell tower that stand tall (and larger and clearer) as indicators to all around us that here the Lord lives among His people and we seek to live for His greater honor and glory! The crosses feature clover ends, symbolic of the Trinity, as did the one on the old school, now located in the memorial monument on the corner of Austin and Winter Streets. The circle at the center symbolizes the eternal nature of God - without beginning or end—and the gift of sharing in that eternal life won for us by Christ's victory on the cross!

The cross on the church facade is in memory of Sally Griffin from a memorial offering made many years ago by her husband that was to be used for something to enhance the church. It was in a fund, unused for decades, and we thought this need (since the old crosses were greatly deteriorating) was a fitting memorial. The cross atop the bell tower is in memory and in honor of all those whose names you submitted a few months ago with contributions to enable us to undertake this project. These names are contained in a box directly below that cross in the upper level of the bell tower.

Whenever we glance up, or see them, now visible from quite a distance, may our hearts echo the familiar prayer from the Stations of the Cross devotion: "We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, for, by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world!"



#### CUSTOM DESIGNED & HANDCRAFTED FESTIVE VESTMENT SET

A number of months ago a parishioner offered to fund the custom design and hand fabrication of a set of festive vestments to be used for solemn feasts in our parish. The set, which is highly symbolic, was designed to match our church interior, and was handmade by the highly regarded *Altar Worthy Custom Vestment Company*. It was commissioned to honor and celebrate the 10th anniversary of Fr. Gary's pastorate here.

The beautiful set, made of cloth of gold with intricate design, along with matching chalice veil and burse, was used for the first time at Easter and will be used for great feasts such as our patronal feast, Corpus Christi, and the Anniversary of the Dedication of our Church each October. We are most grateful for this generous gesture and this beautiful addition to the Sacred Liturgy! Note some features detailed below:

The front center panel has the image of the Victorious Lamb, with blood from pierced side flowing into a chalice, thus symbolizing our share in the life and victory of the Risen One, the Lamb once slain who lives forever, as we share in the Eucharist—the "Lamb's Supper." From the Book (The Living Word of God) upon which the Lamb sits, hang seven pearls, symbolic of the life shared as Christ lives in His church and her seven sacraments.



A lower panel on the back  $\uparrow$  depicts instruments of the Passion and the symbol of Golgo-

tha (the place of the skull). Embroidery on all the burgundy panels features Passion flowers and the "fleur de lis," symbolic of purity and chastity, used as a symbol of our Lady. This symbol is found all over our church—in plaster, carved pew ends, stained glass door panels, marble altars, bronze candlesticks and other features.

← In the center of the back, where panels form a cross that goes over the priest's shoulders, there is the Pelican feeding her young. This is an ancient symbol of the Eucharist recalling the legend of the pelican, if unable to find food to sustain her young, pierces her breast to nourish them with her own flesh and blood, and gives her life for them.

# Young Adult Ministry

Here are some upcoming opportunities open to all aged 18 to 30-something. Bring friends! Check out our Corpus Christi Young Adults Facebook page, as well as watching this weekly column.

BIBLE STUDY happens on Mondays, come to any or all. Each week we break open the scriptures of the preceding Sunday's Liturgy. We start at 7PM, but feel free to bring your own food and come at 6:30 if you'd like to share fellowship time. We meet in the JP II room (lower level of the parish office building, next to the Parish Center on 845 Woodbury Avenue campus). The side ground level door has JP II sign on it. Questions? Reach out to Dominic at bballindmp44@gmail.com.

SIENA SORORITY—Women are invited to join in a time of informal food, fellowship, and faith enrichment on the third Tuesday of each month starting at 6:30 PM in the JP II Room (see details above). This month we meet on May 17th, and need you to RSVP by next Sunday the 15th so we have a food count. Email Liz at emfaiella@gmail.com.



FRASSATI FRATERNITY—Guys are invited to

come together for food, fellowship, and faith enrichment on the third Thursday of each month starting at 6:30 PM in the lower level of the church on Summer Street (enter through the door in the parking lot behind church). This month we meet on **May 19th** and you need to **RSVP** by Tuesday, May 17th to Fr.



Gary at **frgary.ccnh@gmail.com** so we have a food count.

#### **KEEP CONNECTED & INFORMED:**

- **Discord group**—The Young Adult Ministry has a group chat on the app Discord, where we coordinate group activities. FMI, please contact Pat Hampson at **pathampson@protonmail.com**.
- Facebook group—Corpus Christi Young Adults
- Questions about YA Ministry?—Please contact Dave Perrella, our Young Adult Minister, at youngadultmin.ccnh@gmail.com.

#### DEI VERBUM BIBLE STUDY

Join us each week, or any time you can, as we take a deeper look at the scripture readings of the preceding Sunday and enjoy some fellowship! We begin THIS Tuesday, May 10th, and will continue each Tuesday in the lower level of the church (use the door in back of the church, off of the parking lot). Coffee will be on right after 8AM Mass, and we will get started at 9AM sharp, wrapping up by 10:15. Hope to see you there! After a number of requests, Dominic is happy to offer this "going deeper" opportunity once again, as he did in Lent.

# Pilgrimage to Italy



# A Few Spaces Left—Don't Delay!

Side tracked by Covid when scheduled for Spring 2020, then rescheduled for last Fall, but canceled due to restrictions still in place that would have made travel cumbersome and with too many variables, we now are happy to announce that we are set to embark on our pilgrimage to Italy with Fr. Gary and Fr. Joseph! If you were planning to join us in the past we hope you'll sign up again, and, if you were not able then, but can now, we would love to have you with us!

The pilgrimage is set for **October 10 through 19**, and includes round trip airfare, breakfast and dinner, hotel, motor coach, and full time tour manager. Brochures with details and info on how to register can be obtained from Fr. Gary after Mass in the sacristy or by dropping in to the parish office. Space is limited, so first come, first served! At this point, we have more than half the slots filled, so if you're interested, don't delay!



# Men's ACTS Retreat Invitation

The Men's Prayer Group from St. Therese Liseux in Sanford, Maine will participate in a spiritually uplifting retreat weekend and invite the men of Corpus Christi Parish to attend. Get away from your busy schedule by joining men like yourself to seek God's answers for your life, for your family, for eternity. **May 19—22**, at Camp Mechuwana in Winthrop, Maine, \$175/pp (financial difficulty should not prevent anyone from attending). Meet Thursday, May 19, at 6PM at Holy Family Church, 607 Sabattus Street in Lewiston for the bus trip to Winthrop, returning Sunday afternoon, May 22. FMI, David Murphy at 617-319-0447.

# United Parish Prayer in May PLEASE JOIN US!

In this month of May, traditionally set apart to honor our Lady and seek her intercession, we ask that every household join in offering the prayer in the opposite column to Our Lady of the New Evangelization, that she might intercede for us in these formative days. In a sense, she was the first to evangelize as she carried the newly conceived "Word made Flesh," after her "yes" at the Annunciation, to her cousin Elizabeth in the event we call the Visitation. Perhaps pray a decade of the rosary reflecting on this second joyful mystery of the Rosary and then add this prayer? Maybe cut it out? Post on the fridge, or make a little May altar in your home with an image of Mary and place it there. We will use this until we formally begin the Novena to the Holy Spirit, in preparation for Pentecost, on Friday, May 27th.

The following is from the Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis called Evangelii Gaudium (The Joy of the Gospel) and it expresses well yet another factor determining the renewal of evangelization efforts in our parish in the coming months as we establish an Office of Evangelization & Discipleship, and renewed Offices of Families of Faith and Youth Ministry, and welcome new staff members to spearhead these efforts: Dominic Paradis, Lisa Bald and Tom Miller. A Visioning Team will be formed in these days of the Easter Season to begin to set a course for initial steps.

#### Pope Francis wrote:

"The parish is not an outdated institution; precisely because it possesses great flexibility, it can assume quite different contours depending on the openness and missionary creativity of the pastor and the com-While certainly not the only institution which evangelizes, if the parish proves capable of self-renewal and constant adaptivity, it continues to be "the Church living in the midst of the homes of her sons and daughters." This presumes that it really is in contact with the homes and the lives of its people, and does not become a useless structure out of touch with people or a self-absorbed group made up of a chosen few. The parish is the presence of the Church in a given territory, an environment for hearing God's word, for growth in the Christian life, for dialogue, proclamation, charitable outreach, worship and celebration. In all its activities the parish encourages and trains its members to be evangelizers. It is a community of communities, a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey, and a center of constant missionary outreach. We must admit, though, that the call to review and renew our parishes has not yet sufficed to bring them nearer to people, to make them environments of living communion and participation, and to make them completely missionoriented."



O Mary, Star of Evangelization, intercede with your Son to bring about in each of us a renewed enthusiasm for our faith. Inspire in us the courage and zeal to live the Gospel and to bring Christ to everyone we meet. Open our hearts to the gift of the Holy Spirit, the agent of evangelization, and enable us to transform the world in the image of your Son. O Mary, Star of Evangelization, enlighten us with the radiance of your Son, walk with us in faith, strengthen us in hope, and unite us in love as we strive to become disciples in mission. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

Amen.





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