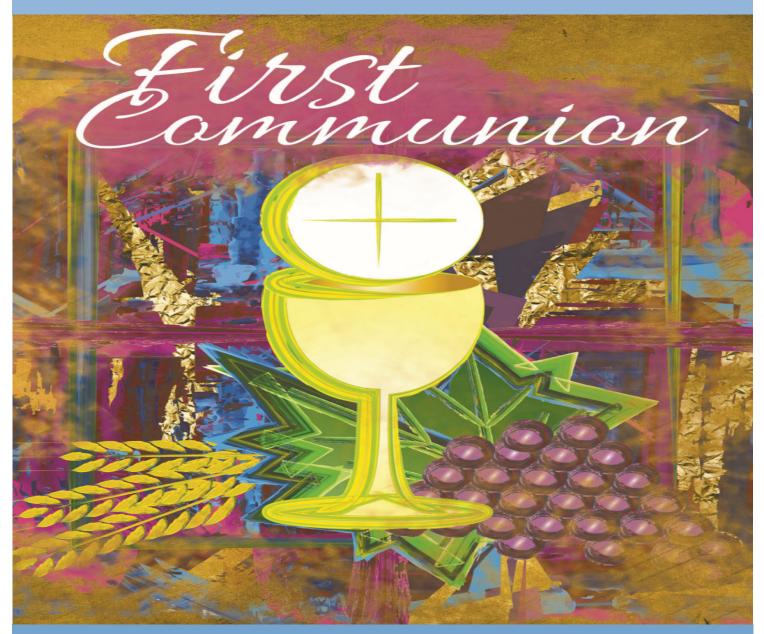
Our Lady of Peace Church May 1, 2022



CONGRATULATIONS!

This weekend Our Lady of Peace parish is celebrating **First Communion**! Please keep the children and their families in your prayers as they take part in this very special Sacrament for the very first time during this Year of the Eucharist.

Gavin Betters Nissa Burnett Violet Garey Carter Greene Chase Greene Cosette Grout Holland Herzig, Jr. Abraham Jagla Kate O'Brien Anthony Teng



My dear friends,

On this **Third Sunday of Easter** our readings continue to offer us much food for thought, focusing on the various Resurrection appearances of our Lord and their impact on the early Church community. Our first passage, Acts 5:27-32, 40-41, reports a dramatic encounter between the apostles and the Sanhedrin, the ruling religious body in Jerusalem. The reading begins, "When the captain and the court officers had brought the apostles in and made them stand before the Sanhedrin, the high priest

questioned them, 'We gave you strict orders, did we not, to stop teaching in that name? Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and want to bring this man's blood upon us.'"

Notice two things. First, the apostles, who had been incredibly afraid after the crucifixion to the point of locking the room in which they were gathered, now have equally incredible courage. Luke, the author of the Acts of the Apostles, attributes this to the workings of the Holy Spirit. Second, the members of the Sanhedrin are clearly frustrated and very angry that their authority is being questioned. They will not even utter the name "Jesus". Rather, they speak of "that name" and "this man".

Peter then begins his response with the statement of a moral principle that underlies everything the apostles will do and say. "Peter and the apostles said in reply, 'We must obey God rather than men.'" He then goes on boldly, making it clear that the religious leaders are indeed responsible for what happened. "The God of our ancestors raised Jesus, though you had him killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as leader and savior to grant Israel repentance and forgiveness of sins. We are witnesses of these things, as is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

The reading concludes by making it perfectly clear that the followers of Jesus intend to continue "obeying God rather than men." "The Sanhedrin ordered the apostles to stop speaking in the name of Jesus, and dismissed them. So they left the presence of the Sanhedrin, rejoicing that they had been found worthy to suffer dishonor for the sake of the name."

It should be remembered that for the first three centuries to be a Christian was illegal. Members of the Roman Empire were to consider the Emperor as divine, along with the whole host of Roman gods. It was a time of terrible persecution and death, and yet for those who had little hope otherwise, Christianity offered meaning and salvation—and Christianity spread like wildfire. Through it all, the early followers of Christ remembered Peter's statement, "We must obey God rather than men." Down through the centuries, and in our own time, there have been situations in which people have chosen to follow their consciences, even though they knew they were breaking the law of the state. Like Peter and the first Christians, they knew in their hearts that they had to obey God when the imperfect civil law contradicted divine teaching.

Our gospel reading, John 21:1-19, finds several of the apostles returning to the livelihood they had before meeting Jesus: fishing. "Together were Simon Peter, Thomas called Didymus, Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, Zebedee's sons, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, 'I am going fishing.' They said to him, 'We also will come with you.' So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing."

Then the appearance of the resurrected Jesus takes place. "When it was already dawn, Jesus was standing on the shore; but the disciples did not recognize him." It's interesting to note that, in his risen state, there was continuity; the nailmarks and the gash in the side were still there. But there was also a difference. We don't know what the difference was, but in all the accounts, the risen Jesus is not immediately recognized. After the disciples had spent a long time fishing, they had caught nothing. Jesus then tells them where to drop their net, and they have a miraculous catch. It is then that they recognize the risen Jesus.

The same thing can happen to us. While Jesus is not present to us in exactly the same way that he was present to the apostles, we do believe that he is with us. When difficulties come, when we suffer, when we see all the evil taking place in the world, we can begin to wonder: Where are you, Lord? In last week's gospel, Jesus reminded Thomas and the others that it was still a matter of faith and trust. Jesus said to Thomas, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." We have the testimony of the eyewitnesses, we know how their lives were dramatically changed, and we know they went to their deaths proclaiming: Jesus is risen! We are invited during this Easter season to listen carefully to their testimony to determine if it is credible. We are called to trust their word: Jesus is risen indeed!



Tickets are available for the K of C 9th Annual Charity Golf Tournament raffle and can be obtained by contacting: Dan Arsenault (413) 774.5258, Lou Grader (413) 774.2848, Bob Wanczyk (413) 774.2465, Paul Doran (413) 522.1800 or Jay Dillon (413) 325.5620. PARISH COMMUNITY OF OUR LADY OF PEACE • TURNERS FALLS, MA

MAY 1, 2022

Weekly Mass Intentions

Saturday, April 30

Sunday, May 1

4:00P

This year's STASH BASH!





THANK YOU! On behalf of the Women's Group, we thank the vendors, customers, those who donated items and our workers for a very successful 6th annual Stash Bash. The Stash Bash Committee

PARISH COLLECTIONS Amounts not available at press time ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL DONATIONS \$12,800.00 as of March 25 THANK YOU!

8:00A Jean Sulda by Paul Prunier 10:00A Jeff Watroba by the Eichorn family Saturday, May 7 4:00P John Pelis, Jr. by his wife Sunday, May 8

by their family

Clarence Allis & Marge Calcari

8:00A Paul Socquet by Margaret
10:00A Jill Mackin Betters by the Eichorn family

DAILY MASS

Monday, May 2 8:00A John Kiley family **Tuesday**, May 3 8:00A No intention Wednesday, May 4 8:00A Mary Piurkowski by Michelle Turner Thursday, May 5 8:00A No intention Friday, May 6 8:00A Holy Communion Service



Our Lady's Window April 26

Leo Woznakewicz by Helen

Mary Piurkowski by Michelle Turner

May 1 For all parishioners who are living with health issues

Parish Scholarships are now being offered: 2 for parishioners who are graduating from high school, 4 for those who are already in college. **Each scholarship is in the amount of \$1,500.00.** Application forms are in the sacristy, or you may call the rectory 413 863.2585.

Holy Trinity Church, 133 Main Street, Greenfield, will have a tag, jewelry, linen, toys, raffles and bake sale, Friday, May 6, 9:00A-2:00P and Saturday, May 7, 9:00A-1:00P.



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