

ST. JOHN XXIII PARISH

1 Arcade Street • West Seneca, New York 14224
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Jennifer Lang, *Director of Faith Formation*
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May 5, 2024



6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

"It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain; so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. This I command you: love one another." - Jn 15:16-17

Masses: Sat. 4:00pm (Vigil), Sun. 8:30am & 10:30am
Weekday: 8:30am (M-F) Reconciliation: Sat. 3:00pm



From the Desk of Fr. John

Welcome to St. John XXIII. Today's Gospel emphasizes that the love that exists between the Father and Jesus *is the same love* that we must follow. *In fact, this love is so foundational that we are commanded to love one another.* If you examine the Scripture carefully, the noun *friend*, which Jesus uses to describe His relationship with disciples, is derived from the verb *to love*. Thus, this mutual self-giving is required (i.e., not casual relationships). It may seem easier than you think. Jesus is trying to expand all our individual hearts to love people who we struggle with. Here's our challenge, love those *easy to love* and those *hard to love* the same. Can you do it perfectly? Probably not — but if you try to follow Jesus' example, you will come close to His love. Try it. Let your love have no boundaries.

An active month has begun. **Our Chicken BBQ pre-sales have started for May 31**, and I encourage you to take part in the great dinner. **Marian Art is being explored by Fr. Benjamin Fiore, SJ, on May 15th** (specifically during the week of Mothers' Day), **our Spring Basket Sale is on the Week-end of May 18-19**. Also, help get the word out on our signature **Outdoor Masses** which take place beginning on Memorial Day Weekend. I'm also praying for you.

God's blessings, Fr. John.

frjohn@stjohn23.com

ASCENSION THURSDAY – HOLY DAY

Reminder: join us for the Ascension of the Lord, Wednesday (Vigil) 7:00 p.m.; Thursday 8:30 a.m.



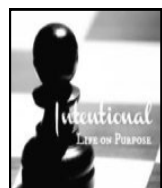
Welcome Visitors!

Consider joining us. Call the Rectory or visit us at www.stjohn23.com for a Registration Form. All are welcome.

MAY PRO-LIFE MOMENT

May is a Month Dedicated to Pro-Life Activities. Consider this statement: *"Life is the most basic human right, and without it, no other rights can be enjoyed or protected."* It's true, "life" is the first facet of Catholic teaching.

CAN YOU LIVE YOUR LIFE INTENTIONALLY?



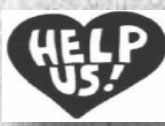
Our faith calls us to "live intentionally." *Intentionally* do good, *intentionally* love, *intentionally* forgive. It's a process. In fact, testimonies of how people came to live as "intentional disciples" are not usually from singular events or people; instead it's a gradual unfolding of faith.

It is often the culmination of several events and the work of more than one person that brings a person to the point of real decision. You can do it. The giving of yourself — and the surrender — can move human hearts like few other forces. God working through us can bring others to see that simply saying that "we believe" does not mean we will live our life differently. It takes **THOUGHT** and **REFLECTION** on our part to move past words to *intentional* acts with *intentional* results.

Stewardship in Faith:

For the week April 28, 2024

Not Available At Time Of Publication



Help Us! As you know, our collection revenue is down overall, and without regular contributions, we will experience problems with bills. Please prayerfully consider increasing your contribution if you are able. Help us help you. God's generosity can't be outdone.



"Dustbusters, Inc." ... Team #4 will clean the Church the week of May 5th. Thanks!



JOIN THE BINGO FUN ... WE'RE READY!!!

SATURDAYS 7:00 PM

Sat. Purple Progressive – Guarantee \$ 1,000.

Sat. Black Progressive – Always Growing Jackpot



St. John's "Lunch Bunch" — Let's Do Lunch!



Join us THIS Friday, May 10th, 12:00 Noon. Location: Connor's Restaurant, 3465 Seneca St., W. Seneca. Separate checks. Let us know you are joining.



THE MONTH OF MARY

May is a special time for Catholics to honor our Blessed Mother Mary. During this month, both in Church and in their homes — people offer up to Mary from their heart's prayer and veneration. It is the month we honor Mary as the Mother of Jesus and our Heavenly Mother. Mary has a unique role in salvation history as the Mother of God, conceived without Sin, who by her own free will agreed to bring the "*Word made flesh*" (Jn 1:14), our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, into the world. The *Hail Mary* is probably the most popular prayer to Mary and has its basis in Sacred Scripture. When the Angel Gabriel was sent to Mary by the Father, he greeted her. "*Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!*" (Lk 1:28). When Mary visited Elizabeth, Elizabeth exclaimed, "*Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!*" (Lk 1:41-42). The second part of the prayer is in response to the first, asking Mary to pray for us and addressing her as the Mother of God. *Live this month well — live it for God.*

We pray through the power of Christ for the healing of ... Stephen Boryszewski, Leo Schifflhaer, Alice Morrisley, Jeanette Watkins, Judy Kelly, Michael Weishaupt, Lynn McKenna, Fred Postolese, Rosalie Diaspara, Patricia Walczak, JoAnne Hahn, Max Wojciechowski, Tony Peters, Christopher Travis, Rick Stoddard, Kaylin Kline, Rick McEvoy, Gladys Roche, Mary Laubenthal, Heidi Sheehan, Beverly Smith, Harry Gray, Sharon Quinn, Hugh & Judy Bondanza, Phyllis Elbers, Alice Kowalewski, Patti Catanzaro, David Smith, Roslyn Hawthorn, Kevin Denecke, Jack Fadeley, Robert Loniewski, Rhonda Strumpf, Heather Gelster, Jim Peters, Joan Hoar, Jennifer Weber, Bill Stutz, Patricia Bieger, Fran Krajewski, Lee Herrmann, Alice Seger, Elizabeth Ruggiero, Angela Stout, Monica & Kevin Zielinski, Troy Blackchief, Janet Shamrock, Mary Lou Carr and Linda Sisti.

We pray for the faithful departed ...

Janet E. Andolina

"May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in Peace. Amen."



From the Desk of Jennifer Lang, Director of Faith Formation

Jesus teaches us that the greatest love someone can have for another person is to give up their life for them. Jesus did that for us. Nevertheless, He wants us to give up parts of our lives: our time, our friendship, our help, our care, even our money so that others will have a better life. All of this Weekend's Readings refer to the world, that is this planet we love and call Earth. In the First Reading "every nation;" in the Psalm "God's power is revealed to all the nations." In the Second Reading "God sent Jesus into the world" and the Gospel simply tells us to love one another. *Congratulations to Lucah Conway, Salena Dumas, Dakota Fagan and Mason Stevanovic on the celebration of their First Communion.*

Jennifer Lang, Director of Faith Formation

Email: faithformation@stjohn23.com



Catechetical Corner A Weekly Faith Growing Bulletin Corner

ASCENSION THURSDAY

The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord commemorates Jesus' Ascension into Heaven. Historically, this holy day has been celebrated 40 days after Easter Sunday – the Thursday in the sixth week of Easter. Most U.S. Dioceses, however, have moved the celebration of the Ascension to the Seventh Sunday of Easter. For this reason, it is now often referred to as "Ascension Sunday." The day of celebration – Thursday or Sunday – seems to vary from Diocese to Diocese and Country to Country in 2024. When celebrated on a Thursday, the Ascension of the Lord remains a holy day of obligation.



PASCHAL CANDLE MEMORIALS

In loving memory of...Families...(Anne Marie Agostinelli); Harezga, Kaniecki, Barria, & Battaglia Families...(Nancy Battaglia): Tom, Greg & Chris Bauer...(Bauer Family); Angelo & Adela Cecchini, and John & Gertrude Betker...(Don & Arleen Betker); Deceased Boylin Families...(Lori Boylin), Eugene Bracikowski & Brian Bracikowski, Bracikowski & Parucki Families...(Alice Bracikowski); Jack & Shirley Burgess, Lynn Burgess, & Brian Larner...(Gary & Cheryl Burgess); Fred & Mary Hahn, Clark & Edna Klinshaw, Ed & Mary Hahn, Gary Hahn...(Gary & Cheryl Burgess); Etta & Hector Capelli, Julia & Michael Gomlak, Mary & Al George...(Aimee & Peter Capelli); Damasiewicz & Mineo Families...(Diane Damasiewicz); Ignatius, Antoinette, Thomas & Melissa Piskor...(Toni Drzewiecki); Moran & Falkner Families...(Judy Falkner); Alfred Folaron, Sr., Alfred Folaron, Jr., Pat Deutsch...(Dorothy Folaron); John, Rozalia & Robert Golbert...(Ann Golbert); Rose T. Greco, Russell Greco, Sr., Sammy Greco, Russell Greco, Jr., Russell Gaglia, Jimmy Greco, & Joey Grisanti...(Micki Greco); Mike, Bob, & L. Mike...(Linda Hartnett); Tom Jarka...(Terry Jarka); Norm & Roberta Dailey...(Lyn Jarosz); Kathy Ellmann...(Lyn Jarosz); Joseph Kowalewski, Victor & Frances Jankowiak...(Alice Kowalewski); Mary Theresa Long, Rev. Msgr. James Connelly & Loretta Kranick...(Jack & Sue Kruczynski); Melissa Pearson, Crutchfield & Lewandowski Families...(Joyce Lewandowski); Deceased MacDonald & Lexner Families...(Pat MacDonald & Family); Sam & Mary Marrone...(Rae, Dennis, & Madeline Marro-ne); Adeline & Albert Mattucci...(Jeannette Mattucci); Daniel Olejniczak...(Barbara Olejniczak); Bernard Ruda...(Mariann & Family); Helen Schneller...(Don Schneller); Tom & Peggy Shea...(Maureen Shea-Keicher); Garguiolo & Sisti Families...(John & Linda Sisti); Maryanne Snyder...(Margaret Smith); Sandra Nowicki...(Lorraine & Henry Stahl); Harry L. Swierski, Harry J. Gray, Arlene Swierski, Dolores Gray...(Jerry & Leslie Swierski); Rosemary Spencer...(Susan Weber); Ted Wieleba, Ed & Alice Sobon...(Eleanor Wieleba); John & Margaret Currier...(Ruth & Robert Wright).



TRIALS HELP YOU GROW

It's easy to forget that God is always drawing us closer to Him. Many times, this requires us to endure some hardship or trial. If we can surrender those trials to His providence, then we experience grace. Father Jacques Philippe wrote in *Interior Freedom* about the need to maintain our peace in God. He writes, "*The most important and fruitful acts of our freedom are not those by which we transform the outside world as those by which we change our inner attitude in light of the faith that God can bring good out of everything without exception.*" Think of the healing power of God in your life. Doesn't it amaze you how good God is? Although no one wants a crisis, God works even amid these hardships to sanctify us and allow us to know His love.

DO WHAT I COMMAND YOU. This week we hear Jesus say to the Apostles and to us, "*You are my friends if you do what I command you*" (Jn 15:14). In Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, God entered the world of human suffering and transformed it into an avenue of friendship with Himself. Following His command — to love and to lay down your life for others — will always entail suffering. But this suffering only deepens your friendship with Him. His suffering is yours; yours is His. Become a friend of God. *This week, how might you share your suffering with the Risen Jesus?*

Go Make A Difference —
Truly "Love One Another."

Guided Meditation on Love with Relaxation Technique. Pray the meditation at www.stjohn23.com.

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, May 4, 2024, Sixth Sunday of Easter

4:00pm. Stanley Jurkowski, Sr. - *by Family*
AND: Gerald Spyche - *by Alice Bracikowski & Family*

Sunday, May 5, 2024, Sixth Sunday of Easter

8:30am. Natalie Clemens - *by Sister, Anne Marie*
AND: Robert Gavin - *by Family*
10:30am. Wallace S. Piotrowski - *by Val & Family*
AND: Victoria Dodges - *by Estate of Andrew Dodges*

Monday, May 6, 2024, Easter Weekday

8:30am. Jean Agostinelli - *by Anne Marie Agostinelli*
AND: Richard L. & Rita Niewczyk - *by Victoria Williams*

Tuesday, May 7, 2024, Easter Weekday

8:30am. Creina Ehrig & Helen Borowiak
- *by Dayna Stoddard*
AND: All Souls' Intentions

Wednesday, May 8, 2024, St. Damien deVeuster

8:30am. Mary Elizabeth Bauer - *by Estate*
AND: All Souls' Intentions

Wednesday, May 8, 2024, Ascension of the Lord Vigil

7:00pm. Parishioners of St. John XXIII

Thursday, May 9, 2024, Ascension of the Lord

8:30am. John Lucas - *by Estate of Andrew Dodges*
AND: All Souls' Intentions

Friday, May 10, 2024, Easter Weekday

8:30am. Laura Adamski - *by Estate of Nancy Adamski*
AND: All Souls' Intentions

Saturday, May 11, 2024, Seventh Sunday of Easter

4:00pm. Pat Jerard - *by Family*
AND: John & Margaret Kostek, Frank & Florence Jern
- *by Family*

Sunday, May 12, 2024, Seventh Sunday of Easter

8:30am. Ignatius & Antoinette Piskor - *by Toni Drzewiecki*
AND: Leona & Eugene Antkowiak - *by Annette*
10:30am. Kunigunde Woerner
- *by Families of Renee Wolf & late Billy Woerner*
AND: Donna Margarucci - *by Rosinski Family*



Scriptures for Next Sunday

First Reading: Acts 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26

Psalm: 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20

Second Reading: 1 Jn 4:11-16

Gospel: Jn 17:11b-19

The Sanctuary Light will shine this week for Robert Gavin by Gavin Family.



ST. JOHN OF AVILA (MAY 10th)

Born of wealthy parents at Almodovar del Campo, New Castle, Spain, St. John of Avila (1499-1569), was sent to the University of Salamanca when fourteen to study law. He was attracted to the religious life instead and left to live a life of austerity. Three years later he went to Alcala to study philosophy and was ordained. Left wealthy when his parents died, he disposed of his wealth to aid the poor. He preached all over Spain and was the spiritual adviser to St. Teresa of Avila, St. John of the Cross, St. Francis Borgia, and St. Peter of Alcantara, among others. St. John of Avila was canonized by Pope Paul VI in 1970.

This Week at St. John's

Sunday Mass. We're Open: Saturday 4:00 p.m. Vigil,
Sunday 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Also view Mass live
on Facebook, YouTube, and at www.stjohn23.com.

Healthy Living: Fun low-impact exercises while
sitting with Kathy Zawadzki. Monday at 9:30 a.m.

Rosary. Wednesday at 9:00 a.m.

Ascension Thursday — Holy Day of Obligation.

Wednesday (Vigil) at 7:00 p.m.; Thursday at 8:30 a.m.

Liturgy of the Hours: Morning Prayer. Thurs. at 9:00 a.m.

Lunch Bunch. Friday at 12:00 Noon. Connor's
Restaurant, 3465 Seneca Street, West Seneca.

Bingo. Saturday at 7:00 p.m.



MARIAN ART MASTERPIECES THROUGH THE AGES

REV. BENJAMIN FIORE, SJ
CANISIUS UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR
WED., MAY 15TH AT 7:00 P.M.
ST. JOHN XXIII HALL



Spring FLOWER SALE

\$22 per Basket
May 18 - 19



OUTDOOR MASS

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SUNDAYS @ 10:30 A.M.

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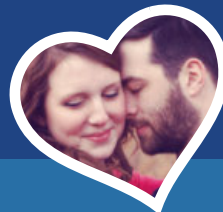
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