

Fifth Sunday of Lent

April 7, 2019

Communal Reconciliation at St. Peter

Monday, April 8, 2019 at 7 pm

Individual Reconciliation at St. Peter

Tuesday, April 9, 2019 at 7 pm

Mass of Anointing ~ Wed., April 10, 2019

St. Peter ~ 8 am; St. John ~ 9:30 am

Faith Formation Make-A-Meal Project

The Faith Formation program of St John the Baptist would like to make a meal on April 13 for the members of our community who do not leave the house very often. Whether they be Catholic or not, we would like to cook either lasagna or sausage/peppers and rice for them.

Please sign up on the sheet at the back of the church with your person's name, whether they are allergic to tomatoes, basil, meat, garlic, sausage, onions, green peppers or rice, their address, and a contact number of someone who will receive the meal (can be the same as the person we will be delivering the meal to).

If you are interested in helping us cook or deliver meals, we will be in Father Willis Hall on April 13, from 9:30 am until we get the meals cooked: please sign up, or contact Jeremy Kuhn at 376.1164. We are especially interested in seeing the kids come to be a part of this project. Also, if anyone would like to help with the costs of buying the ingredients, there will be a box in the back of the church as well. Thank you for your support.

The Easter Vigil Pot Luck

The Easter Vigil Pot Luck Dinner will follow the Vigil Mass service on Saturday, April 20.

Please bring a dish to pass -- main dishes, side dishes, and desserts are needed.



Rice Bowl checks due: April 28

Annual Palm Sunday Breakfast

There will be a Pancake Breakfast held Palm Sunday in Father Willis Hall at St. John in Walton following the 11:15 am Mass. It will be hosted by the group heading to the National Catholic Youth Conference this Fall. Please come and enjoy pancakes, good company, and support our trip to Indianapolis coming up this November.

Public School Districts' Control Over Our Catholic Schools

In response to concerns that have been raised over the education provided at a small number of Jewish schools, the NYS Education Department is enforcing oversight of all nonpublic schools -- including Catholic schools that meet and exceed the state's academic standards. Catholic schools can easily demonstrate their academic success and are independently accredited/approved to operate by the Board of Regents.

However, this new process will unfairly require local public school districts, who are competitors with our Catholic schools, to review our schools and then require local public school boards to vote on whether a Catholic school in their area can continue to operate (except in NYC).

Please urge your legislators to reject this plan and to support existing methods for the state to approve the operation of Catholic schools, which have provided superior educational opportunities for New York families for generations. It just takes a minute to be heard. Use link: votervoices.net/BroadcastLinks/aZJnzKT6_fvk_Wt6nyNFiw.

Marriage Moments

Susan Vogt

This coming week is National Week of Conversation (tinyurl.com/yxkccqml). In marriage there is plenty to disagree about. You don't need a special week to remind you to talk. The challenge is to talk about contentious issues in a respectful, productive way. Check tinyurl.com/yx9t22of for tips on Skills, Pitfalls, and First Aid.

Family Perspective

Bud Ozar

Stoning is not just an ancient act of violence. Each day in our homes we throw stones of ridicule, criticism, name-calling, and put-downs. ALL of it is deadly. Hear Jesus in the Gospel: "Whoever is without sin can throw the first stone." Rid your home of violence. Stop verbal stoning!

Catholic Charities Pasta Dinner

Catholic Charities of Delaware, Otsego, and Schoharie Counties is having a pasta dinner on Thursday, April 11, from 5-7:30 pm at the Quality Inn (formerly the Holiday Inn) in Oneonta. One hundred percent of ticket sales will go to benefit the programs and services of Catholic Charities in the three counties they serve.

Tickets for the "All You Can Eat" dinner: \$10--Adults, \$5--Kids (5-12), under 5--free (Gluten free pasta available upon request.) Tickets can be purchased from Alice Kane, 865.6289, Teresa O'Leary, 865.5345, or at door the evening of the event.

Catholic Charities serves all individuals regardless of race, religious affiliation, or lifestyle. To find out more information about the programs and services they offer, please visit their website: www.charitiesccdos.org. Thank you.

Parenting Pointers

Susan Vogt

Although National Week of Conversation is geared to adults, help your children learn conversation skills by practicing a difficult conversation -- maybe bedtime, chores, allowances, screen time, etc. Go to tinyurl.com/yx9t22of for some guidelines.

Give up your faults & direct your hands rightly,
& cleanse your heart from all sin. ✎ Sirach 38:10



Friday Lenten Stations of the Cross

6 pm at St. Peter and St. John

O God, who have mercy on all, take away my heart of stone, & give me a heart to love & adore You, a heart to delight in You, to follow & enjoy You.

~ St. Ambrose

Gospel Reflection

On Mount Sinai God engraved the Ten Commandments on two stone tablets. In the Gospel John tells how the Son of God writes on the Palestinian soil. Both inscriptions are interventions of grace.

Hoping to trap Jesus, some Pharisees and scribes present a woman caught in adultery to Jesus, insisting, "Now in the law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do You say?" Jesus does not argue with them but raises the argument to another level. On the limestone ground of Judea, He reinterprets what God wrote on the tablets of the law.

Jesus bent down and began to write on the ground with His finger. (v6b) Jesus traces in the thin topsoil the new law of grace. What did He write? A list of sins? A cast of adulterers present? Or, the new law: "Love your neighbor as yourself" or "Do not judge and you will not be judged" (see Luke 6:37)?

Jesus came not to judge but to forgive and save: "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her" (v7b), and thus He opens the way to grace, even as He reminds us that we are all sinners and we all need mercy. Konrad Schaeffer, OSB, SSD