

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 14, 2019

Please pray for the soul of John Kane.
May he rest in the peace of our Lord.

Dish-to-Dish Luncheon with Father Manerowski

St. Peter is hosting a luncheon for Father Manerowski today the 14th at noon. Please bring a dish to pass. Beverages and tableware will be provided and all are welcome!

Looking for

items for the fall Penny Social. When doing your summer clean-up (or -out), don't forget to donate items to St. John. Drop items 10 to 3 pm Monday thru Friday. If you need a pickup, contact Jim at 865.7394 extension 203.

Natural Family Planning

Did you know that Natural Family Planning Awareness Week runs from July 21 to 27? Not sure what Natural Family Planning is? Visit the website: perpetualifecare.org and find out.

Courses at Institute of Theology

The annual Hartwick Summer Institute of Theology is right coming up the week of July 28. Take a course on the Old or New Testament, the Parables, Visiting the Sick, Encounters with Jesus, Scripture in Song, and more. Check out seminars and courses being offered on our bulletin board. Register by July 15. Seminars: \$45; courses: \$75.

Camp Esther

Enjoy a pro-life teen leadership weekend for youth interested in changing the world hosted by NYS Right to Life August 2 to 4. This is an exciting time of intensive training with opportunity for fun and building friendships with pro-life students.

Because of the generosity of our friends at The Good News Center, NYS Ancient Order of Hibernians, Knights of Columbus and other faithful donors, the weekend (tuition, supplies, room, meals, & t-shirt) cost is only \$150. Scholarships available. Space is limited -- deadline is July 12! 518.434.1293 or admin@nysrighttolife.org.

LECTIO DIVINA

LECTIO

Our Gospel opens as disciples gather around Jesus to listen to Him teach. Jesus is seated next to an expert in the law of God. This scholar stands thus assuming the position of a student (as seated figures, they are equals) to ask Jesus a question, A public inquiry of this kind would be perceived as a threat. Is he trying to trip up Jesus? This explains why Jesus responds with a question of His own and His response reveals His own genius as a scholar. The man asks, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus responds with His own question, "What is written in the law? How do you read [or interpret] it?" The scholar replies with a summary of the law that mirrors Jesus' own response (Mt 22:37-40), and Jesus tells him, "You have answered correctly; do this and you will live," but the exchange is not over. The scholar poses a follow-up to try to reclaim his own honor: "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus now sets up His next question to the scholar with the parable of the Good Samaritan. (Jesus' parables are stories, not references to events from the local headlines.) Each is intended to reveal a surprise element that leaves the listener in doubt as to its precise meaning. The parables are open ended, with the application of the teaching left to the listener.

The parable opens ominously. A man traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho is waylaid by robbers, beaten, and left half-dead on the roadside. He is naked and unconscious. The scene is set for the failure of the priest, and the listeners are not disappointed. A priest appears in the story, sees the man lying in the ditch, and passes by on the opposite side. In the Torah a primary means of ritual defilement is contact with a dead body, and in the Jewish oral law this was expanded for priests to include defilement by any contact with a non-Jew. This priest did not want to risk potential defilement, which would require an expensive journey back to Jerusalem and a two-week delay of his return to his home village.

The next person to appear in the story is a Levite, a member of a priestly family. He follows the example of the first character. If he stops to assist the wounded fellow, he would be criticizing the priest's interpretation of the law. He too passes by on the other side of the road. Finally, the expected hero of the story appears; the pious and caring Jewish layperson. This is where Jesus shocks the audience. The Jewish layperson is replaced by a Samaritan. Samaritans were renegade Jews who denied the legitimacy of the temple in Jerusalem. They had shared mutual animosity with the Jews of Judea and Galilee for over 700 years! The audience would expect a Samaritan in the story to finish off the wounded man. Instead he offers aid and assistance.

MEDITATIO

"And who is my neighbor" is a question that continues to require interpretation by students of the law. Is your neighbor only someone like you, or is there a broader interpretation that calls for acts of love and service to be extended to everyone in need you encounter? Jesus points us toward the latter interpretation. Your neighbor is not just your fellow Israelite but can also be a hated enemy. The Samaritan character upsets expectations and challenges those who hear to reconsider their long-held assumptions.

How do you respond to the question? Who is your neighbor? What boundaries have you placed on the category of neighbor in your life? What would it take to break those boundaries down? What kind of service opportunities would work best toward this goal?

Kevin Saunders

Family Perspective Bud Ozar

Children learn by watching us. Do they see you helping others like the Good Samaritan, or do they see you avoiding others like the Levite in the Gospel? Worry more about what your children see in Your Life than what they see on the television or the big screen.



Summer is for Reading

Check out our parish libraries to pick out a book or two to take on vacation or for a leisure read during the summer months. No late fees charged!

Marriage Moments Susan Voigt

It's July. It is probably hot (unless you live in the far southern hemisphere). How do you and your beloved cool off: an iced drink? a swim? find a place with air-conditioning? Think of a way to help someone who doesn't have air-conditioning to cool off on a hot day.

Future Marriage Encounters:

Two upcoming weekends:

July 12-14: Manchester, CT October 18-20: Albany

Please contact Ed & Rhonda for more information at 518.279.3243 or wwmenyalb.org.

Gospel Thoughts

When is it that we are most moved with compassion? Whenever we come across someone engulfed in a suffering that we ourselves have suffered? Perhaps it was this memory that moved the Good Samaritan to approach the victim, refusing to accept that the beaten person on the road was already dead.

The commandment to love our neighbor is "something very near to you, already in your hearts" -- that is, in the experience of the compassion that others have shown us. Once we have experienced the compassion of Christ Jesus, "the firstborn from the dead," it makes us eager to reach out to the half-dead waiting for us on our path.

Parenting Pointers Susan Voigt

"Love God ... and your neighbor as yourself."
Luke 10:27

Easy to say but hard to do. Make it practical for your child. Talk about an age appropriate favor that your child can do for someone on your block (give a flower, make cookies, mow the lawn ...)

Free Summer Movie

Don't forget St. Paul's FREE movie nights this summer at the Hancock Cinemas at 7 pm (schedule posted in Church). Here are the next two movies:
July 16: For Greater Glory & July 23: Road to Hope

August 16-18: A Weekend Retreat for Men and Women ~ *A Window into Thomas Merton*

Come explore some of the concepts that Thomas Merton developed in his own spiritual journey: the concept of true self and false self; the necessary balance between being and doing and the freedom in finding that balance; and the awakening to the ongoing transformation of rebirth.

\$205 (65 and over: \$190)

Dominican Retreat Center 518.393.4169