



St. Francis & St. Clare Parish Weekly Bulletin

*Welcome, Parishioners and Visitors.
We are glad you attended Mass with us this week.*

Parish Office Address:
35 Center Street
Waterloo, NY 13165

Hours:
Monday - Thursday
8:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Closed Friday

Phone: 315-651-4349 or 315-539-2944
Fax: 315-539-8841
Faith Formation: 315-651-4351
E-mail: sfscparish@dor.org
Web Address: www.sfscrc.org
Facebook: St. Francis & St. Clare Roman Catholic Parish

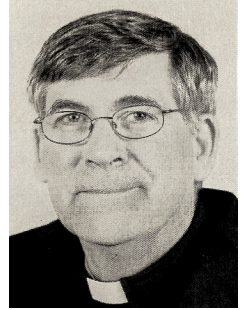
Pastor: Reverend James Fennessy
Finance Director: Rebecca Pizzirusso
Administrative Assistant: Anne Marie Adler
Catechetical Leader: Pamela Kane
Organists: Kate Small, Jennifer Cornwell
Pastoral Council: Vincenta Porretta
Baptism & Liturgy: Fr. Jim Fennessy
Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA):
Jennifer Cornwell
Finance: Vince Sinicropi
Social Ministry: Linda McCully
Parish Life: Volunteer Needed
Buildings & Grounds: George Strally
Cemetery Manager: Pamela Jones
Knights of Columbus: John Nesbit
Catholic Daughters: Sara Ryan
Music Ministry:
St. Patrick's - Jennifer Cornwell
St. Mary's 5pm - Kate Small
St. Mary's 9:30am - Bob Dinan



The Mission of St. Francis & St. Clare Parish

Through Baptism we are called by God, rooted in Jesus Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit, to support and nurture a Catholic Christian Community:

- To learn, to love and to share our faith
- To worship in word and sacrament centered in the Eucharistic celebration
- This calls us to social justice to service those in need and to work together for God and one another



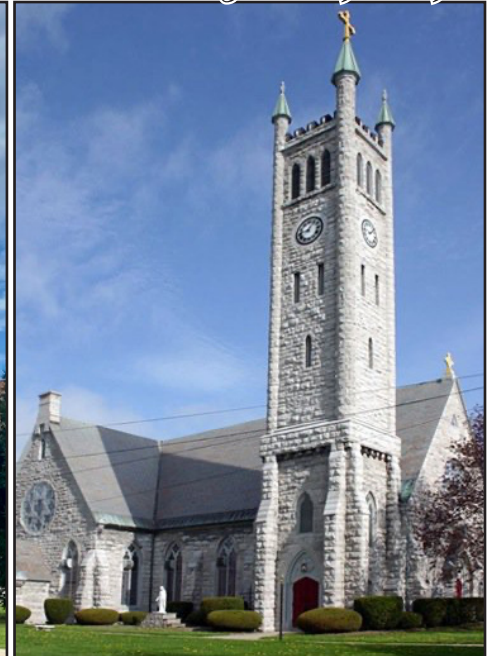
Rev. James D. Fennessy

St. Patrick's Church



95 West Bayard Street • Seneca Falls, NY 13148
Masses: Sunday 8:00 AM & 11:00 AM
Thursday & Friday 8:30 AM

St. Mary's Church



33 Center Street • Waterloo, NY 13165
Masses: Saturday 5:00 PM • Sunday 9:30 AM
Monday 5:30 PM • Tuesday & Wednesday 8:30 AM
Confession: St. Mary's Sat. 3:30-4:30 PM or by Appt.

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. Oct 14 (Gal 4 : 22-24, 26-27, 31-5 :1/Lk 11 : 29-32)
 5:30pm – (SM) Communion Service

Tues. Oct 15 (Gal 5: 1-6/ Lk 11: 37-41)
 8:30am – (SM) Frank & Rena Maleski by Frank & MaryJoan Maleski

Wed. Oct 16 (Gal 5: 18-25/Lk 11: 42-46)
 8:30am –(SM)Marilyn Murdock & Marilyn Kise by MaryAnne Adams

Thurs Oct 17 (Eph 1: 1-10/Lk 11: 47-54)
 8:30am – (SP) Anthony & Domenica Faiola by Anne & Rose

Fri. Oct 18 (2Tm 4: 10-17b/Lk 10: 1-9)
 8:30am – (SP) Joseph & Anna DiPasquale by Rita

Sat. Oct 19 (Eph 1: 15-23/Lk 12: 8-12)
 8:30am – (SP) Catherine Ann Moio by family
 5:00pm – (SM) Agnes Juris by Doug & Diane Hay

Sun. Oct 20 (Is 53: 10-11/Heb 4: 14-16/Mk 10: 35-45)
 8:00am – (SP) Esther Zona by Nick
 9:30am – (SM) Margaret & Nicholas DerCola by George & Marjorie Strally
 11:00am – (SP) Thomas Leone by Dave & Teresa LeBrun

ST. MARY’S

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES FOR 10/19 & 10/20/24

LECTORS/COMMENTATORS

5:00 pm –Lector: E Hughes, Commentator: T Rosata
 9:30 am –Lector: M Grillone, Commentator: S Scarpa

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

5:00 pm – J Bells, L Nightingale, T Smith
 9:30 am – L Shipley, C Struzik, D Duprey

ALTAR SERVERS

5:00 pm – as per sign-up sheet
 9:30 pm – as per sign-up sheet

MONEY COUNTERS FOR 10/15

Team #3

PANCAKE BREAKFAST CREW FOR 10/15

C DiCesare	E Hughes
S Carbone	D Hay
S Smith	C Felber
F Capozzi	

IN MEMORIAM

Timothy Kelsey
 Peter Hawker
 Kathryn Grover
 Stella Pokrzywa

CALENDAR

**Monday Oct 14 Columbus Day Holiday
 PARISH OFFICE CLOSED**

RCIA - Min Ctr 7:00pm

Tuesday Oct 15

Free Pancake Breakfast – Min Ctr 8:30-10am

Wednesday Oct 16

Eucharistic Adoration - SP Church 5-6:00pm

Bldgs & Grounds Mtg - SP Rectory 6:30pm

Thursday Oct 17

Eucharistic Adoration - SM Church 9:30am-4pm

Huntington Mass 2:30pm

Friday Oct 18

Saturday Oct 19

Sunday Oct 20

RE - Min Ctr 10:30-noon

Confirmation Yr 1 Retreat 8:30 - 3pm

(Mass at 9:30am)

Yr 2 assist with retreat through lunch

Confession - St. Mary's - Saturday - 3:30-4:30pm

St. Patrick's - 1st Friday's - 9:00-10:00am
 or by appointment

BAPTISMS

Lakelinn Ann Kimpel
 Dawson Kooper Trahms

Free Pancake & Eggs, Etc. Breakfast every Tuesday from 8:30-10:00 AM at St. Francis-St. Clare Parish's Ministry Center (former St. Mary's School), 35 Center Street in Waterloo. Parking is behind the church with the entrance to the breakfasts nearby. These breakfasts are held every Tuesday except for major holidays or a snow storm. For more information call 315-539-8006. ALL ARE WELCOME!

Free Pancake Breakfast is looking for substitutes. We are all getting older each year & need new help! If you are willing, please call Kathy at 315-539-8006 or kathy.nasal1968@gmail.com

A community choir will be singing again at the Real Christmas event on Saturday, December 7th! You are cordially invited to participate in singing about the true meaning of Christmas. Rehearsals will be on the four Mondays in November at 7 PM at the Waterloo Methodist Church. Please call me if you have any questions. 315-246-5318. Help us celebrate the birth of Jesus! Becky Pezzulo

Week of 10/12 – 10/18/24

St. Mary's – SANCTUARY LAMP

Marv, Tony & Mom
Offered by: Carol

ALTAR BREAD & WINE

Marv, Tony & Mom
Offered by: Carol

St. Patrick's – SANCTUARY LAMP

Offered by:

ALTAR BREAD & WINE

Offered by:

ANGELUS BELLS

10/14	SM SP	
10/15	SM SP	Ralph Leone
10/16	SM SP	Bill Muldoon
10/17	SM SP	Marsella, Didona, Miller, Kierst & DeRosa families & grandmother Marino
10/18	SM SP	Sonny Acor
10/19	SM SP	
10/20	SM SP	Charles & Kathy Irland

The cost to have the Angelus bells rung in memory of a relative or an occasion is \$10. There are many dates available.

Pray for our sick & homebound...Elizabeth Martin, Thomas P. Callaghan, Paul F. Deal, Matthew Enger, Dave Russell, Edith Greene, Helen Boenigk, H.A.D., Mila Rae, Frank & Joyce Tedesche, Christopher Podgorny, Richard Daugenti, Doug & Rosemary Plank & family, Bob & Dolly Steinhouse, Barbara Crosby, Joanna Gould, Dr. Steven Ryan, Amy Marie Maloney Farr, Dan Hogen, Sr. Catherine Judge, Judy, Glenn Paul, April Lanphear, Hannah & her family, Tenley Gurreri, Kensel McClenathan, Jayden Jensen, Kendra, Christopher Jones, Doris Crawford Mitchell, Brian Oddi, Elizabeth Babiarz, Kay & family, Lisa, Anna Boise, Nancy Versteg, James Pokrzywa, Bonnie Jones, Bruce Gilbert, Pat Panek, Todd Gaglianese, Sandy Lopez, Bill O'Hora, Georgine Rosata, Vince & Bonnie Piscitelli, Timothy Youngs, Margaret Mitchell, Linda Arichiello, Randy Doty, Don, S.M., V.C, Mary Emilius, Tish Zepp, Michele V., Parker Fisher, Anna Wilkes, Jimmy Lamson, Scott Jones, Marsha Ryck, Terri M., AMM, LMM, JAM, Madeline DiManno, Betty Bellomo Levesque, Fran Barbieri, Kaydi Heins, Kathy Harper, Keith Stahl, Bob Sandroni, Marylou Murdock, Laura Worden, Anna Ellis, Holly Jones, Judy Ellis, Stacey Jansen, David Vacca, Stanley Fisher, K.M., Patty Lewis, Cheryl DeMillo, Jeff Page, T.H., E.B.L., Joel Rivera, Kay Eighmey, Richard Schweitz Jr., Barb Twist, Megan Seneca, Jim Mooney, Gene Lopez, Dorothy Rizzo, Anne Cannuli, Keith Gibbs, Jeremy Andrews, Michele, Alexis Eldrige, Roxanne Starry, Mary Ann Dambrosia, Ellen Moon, Barb C, Bob B, Kathleen Talcott, Dolores Boeticker, Marie Ramson, Jonah Decory, Marcella Hill, Eleanor Jackson, Karen Jenkins, Jayden Moone, Loretta C, Dorothy & John Euchlund, R.C., Mary Jo Semler, Ron Barnhart, Joseph Lotto, William Cathy, Dale Trout Jr., Ellen Clark, Kathy Cole, LM, Jesse Alcott, Amber Moses, Eric Gelsomino, Felicia Strong, Asa Poorman, Marjorie Edmeston, William Johnson Jr., M. Claire M, Miranda Y, Colleen VanCamp, Cathy Woods, Tyler Sheldon, Marilyn, Amy Roepnack, Cindy Brown, Orion, John Gnell, Julia Kennedy, David Smith, Judy Walczak, Mary Harrin, Maria C. Norman, Judy Hoffman, Ann Passifione, Gianna, Ashley Stillwell, Lucille Cook, Mary Lou's Intentions, Kathy, Judy Bauer, Michael Cunningham, Judy Wheaton, Carol Eck, Mary Ebers, Rose Nehring, Margaret Nardi, Tim O'Mara, John Bennett, Kathleen Deal, Cory Steinbacker, Robin Ryan, Jarrod Ticconi, Cindy Schlegel, Emily, Venturelli, Wendy Goodman, Bonnie, Lauren, Maureen Jusko, Neal Wood, Robin Jock, Zachary M., Kelly, Jay Colin, Rebecca Carson, Rebecca Tuccio, Trevor Cauler, Judy, Patricia L., Gerald Goodman, Cheryl Lewis, Marilyn Dickinson, Lainie Forde, Seitz Family, Misty Clark, Kitty Allenza, Jesse Pardee, Pat Battley & all of our sick **Please note:** I am trying to keep the prayer list updated – if you would like to be added to or **deleted from** the list, please call the parish office at 539-2944 or 651-4349.

“It is better to be a child of God than king of the whole world.”

– St. Aloysius Gonzaga

**Asking God to Guide Our Vote
(Part Three in a Series on the Election
and NYS Proposal One 2024)**

Our first reading today (Wisdom 7:7) begins, “*I prayed, and prudence was given me; I pleaded, and the spirit of wisdom came to me.*” In this election year, **prayer is absolutely essential**. We need to pray for **prudence** and **wisdom** for ourselves and all in our nation who vote this year.

We also need to pray for the candidates. Election campaigning is very negative and angry. They seek to get our vote by making us hate the other candidate. The U.S. Bishops write, “But increasing, it seems, election seasons are a time of anxiety and spiritual trial. Political rhetoric is increasing angry, seeking to motivate primarily through divinization and hatred.” (USCCB, *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility from the Catholic Bishops of the United States with New Introductory Note*. (USCCB: Washington, DC. 2023. <https://www.usccb.org/offices/justice-and-peace/forming-consciences-faithful-citizenship>).

As you pray about your vote, you should be aware that the wording on NYS Proposal 1 that you will read on the ballot is not the exact wording of what will be passed. The wording leaves something to be desired when it speaks of “pregnancy outcomes” and “reproductive healthcare” without mentioning this includes allowing abortion. We must support the mother. We must also support the baby. The baby receives the gift of life at conception.

You can read the wording of Proposal 1 as you will find it on the ballot and in its entirety at <https://elections.ny.gov/2024-statewide-ballot-proposal>.

The latest edition of the Catholic Courier has some wonderful articles on Proposition 1. I encourage you to take a look at them.

Census

The collection of census data is coming to a close. This weekend we will be doing the in pew census, where we will have available census cards for those who opt not to use the QR code or the computer. Every household needs to be counted. If you know of someone who is homebound, feel free to bring them a card or fill out the census online for them. I ask that everybody fill out the beginning of the census, regardless of whether you filled it out online. After filling out your name then check the box that says that you filled out the census online, then you are DONE. I will walk everyone else through the procedure. It will only take a few minutes. I appreciate your cooperation to update the census and to add new people to it. The next phase is to compile all the data, which our staff is ready to do. Thanks again.

MONTHLY FOOD COLLECTION

St. Francis & St. Clare Parish will again be following a food collection schedule developed by several area churches. Each church will collect specific items for the House of Concern and CAP each month. Although we are given specific items to collect, we will graciously accept **any** food or personal hygiene items. For the month of **October**, we will be collecting the following items for the House of Concern and CAP: **condiments (ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, salad dressing, pickles), diapers**. Thank you so much for your continued support. Social Ministry Committee

**Spirituality of the Prayers at Mass
Alleluia**

Before the gospel is read the people sing Alleluia which means "Praise God." The gospel is the Word of Jesus and we are grateful to hear it because his words are words of nourishment, teach, healing and salvation.

Therefore we need to give praise.

1. How have the words of God been healing, and nourishing to you?
2. Have we shown our praise for the gifts that God has given us?

NEW COATS FOR CHILDREN & TEENS

The Social Ministry Committee will be collecting new coats for children and teens.

We are always in need of new coats in all sizes. Barrels will be in both churches from Sept. 14 through Oct. 18.

Any questions or if you need coats to be picked up please contact Ellen Hughes 315-539-3674.

Please help us keep local children warm this winter as you have so generously done in the past. Thank you.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

October 13, 2024

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." (MARK 10:25)

Jesus uses tough language that we may not want to hear. However, we are all called to be generous with all of our gifts. Not just the ones we pick and choose, but all our gifts, and especially the one that means the most to us! That includes our time in prayer to God, our talent in participating in parish ministries and our treasure supporting our local parish and other charities.

The Building & Ground Committee needs your help!

The Ministry Center Religious Education classrooms are in need of some facelifts. We have been alerted that the classrooms could use painting. We could use volunteers that would be willing to paint radiators and do various small repairs. Supplies will be provided.

If you are interested, please call Sara Ryan at (315) 539-3394. Once we get volunteers, we will organize to start this project.

If you have any questions about the project, our committee chairman is George Strally. His number is (315)530-2644.

FAMILY SPIRITUALITY WEEKLY TIP FOR:

10/13/24 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel: Mark 10: 17-30

After Mass, discuss these questions & brainstorm ideas & ways to implement them this week!

Adults: How can worldly comforts be barriers to my relationship with God?

Children: Am I willing to share my favorite toy or game with someone? Why or why not?

LET'S LIVE THE GOSPEL!!!!!!

The Christmas Craft Show Committee is looking for donations that you might have in your house...

NEW or LIKE NEW.... Examples:

Extra/new wrapping paper

Unused cards for all occasions

Candles you've never used

Vases & other dust collectors in good shape that you are tired of

Cooking devices still in packages that you will probably never use

Gifts you have received in the past that have never been used

You've got the idea!! Good time to clean and downsize before Christmas!

Please bring to Ministry Center

**WE NEED YOUR
TREASURES!**



NEED REP FROM OUR PARISH FOR REAL CHRISTMAS 2024

St. Mary's is the only mainline church that will not have a representative this year unless.... This year's event takes place on Peal Harbor Day, December 7 at the Waterloo Rec Center from 3-6pm. Items for Veterans will be collected. Every year for the past 25 years, our parish has had members to work with this ecumenical group. This year, our parish members, who have been active for decades, are getting old or have passed. **WE DESPERATELY NEED NEW REPS.** Meetings are once a month. **CAN YOU VOLUNTEER** to help our community remember the real reason for Christmas? If interested, please call Kathy at 315-539-8006. Thank you!

Advent By Candlelight: Save the Date! Ladies, Our Annual Advent by Candlelight will be held Sunday December 8th. Mark Your Calendars.

Please consider joining our planning committee and or signing up to host a table. Contact Sara Ryan or Pam Kane 315-651-4351 pamela.kane@dor.org

ST. FRANCIS & ST. CLARE PARISH HANDS OF CHRIST RECOGNITION 2025

The *Hands of Christ* is a recognition program which the Diocese of Rochester provides to assist parishes in affirming their high school seniors. These high school seniors have been the "Hands of Christ" in their church, home, school and community.

The Criteria to receive this very special recognition:

- Has *consistently* demonstrated a Christian attitude by word and example.
- Has been *actively involved* in the parish as well as their school or community.
- Has been a *positive role model* to their peers, younger children and adults.
- Is a *practicing Roman Catholic* in a parish in the Diocese of Rochester and attends Mass.
- Is currently a *high school senior.*

Please help us make sure we do not over-look anyone: If you know of a current high school senior who meets the above criteria, please contact the Faith Formation Office 315-651-4351 for a nomination form. If you are not sure if they would qualify, please submit a form and the committee which includes Fr. Jim will let you know the decision. Deadline for nominations is November 15th, 2024.

The Catholic Daughters will be making apple pies the week of October 22-25th. Fresh pies will be available from 2-4pm on October 23 -25th. Use the parking lot entrance to the Ministry Center to pick up the pies. The cost is \$14 per pie. We will sell frozen pies in November. Watch the bulletin for dates.

ST. FRANCIS & ST. CLARE PARISH CENSUS

THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who has joined the Parish Census! If you have not shared your information yet, **there is still an opportunity to participate** with either the **Census Booth** or the **upcoming In-Pew**. Follow the instructions below to submit your census information using the QR code today.



COMPLETE THE CENSUS

1. Open the camera function on your phone
2. Point and focus the yellow box so that it frames the QR Code
3. Tap the website displayed at the bottom of your screen "qualtrics.com"



CENSUS TIP OF THE WEEK:

Complete the census once per household, not per person

Your household's census form is designed to include everyone living under one roof. **Simply list all household members in the designated section**—no need to fill out separate forms for each family member.

What are the names of other individuals living in your home?
(Please list all names.)

	Name		Relation to You		
	First	Last	Child	Parent / Grandparent	Other Extended Family
Individual 1			<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Individual 2			<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Individual 3			<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Individual 4			<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Individual 5			<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Individual 6			<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



FINAL OPPORTUNITY FOR THE CENSUS BOOTH

Need help completing the census form? Come to **the Gathering Room after Mass** where volunteers are ready to assist you in submitting your census form.

QUESTIONS?

Email: sfscpaish@dor.org
 Call: 315-539-2944 for the Parish Office
 Visit the website www.sfscrc.org



REMINDER HUB



The In-Pew Census will take place on **Oct. 12 & 13, 2024**, offering guided assistance for completing the census.

Dear Parishioners of Saint Francis and Saint Clare's Parish,

I apologize for not having written in such a long time. I have been very busy with school. However, I finally got the chance to write something for my beloved church family. This Sunday, we hear the theme of wisdom and riches. The first reading, from the Book of Wisdom, talks about what a treasure wisdom is. The writer speaks about how he treasures wisdom more than any riches. Wisdom, like all virtues, isn't easy to acquire. It requires time and effort in order to have wisdom. Let's take a minute to compare and contrast wisdom and riches. Wisdom has to be worked for. In many cases, riches also have to be worked for. However, the motive for gaining each of these can be drastically different. People who work for riches and people who work for wisdom both want to gain something. Those who work for wisdom want to help others and themselves achieve Heaven by doing what is best on earth. Often those who wish for riches, want those riches for themselves and want to gain the world. What is the difference? The riches of the world fade away, but the joy of Heaven is eternal. It is important to know that although we all need money and some material things to get on in this world, riches are an illusion. They give a temporary happiness. They also give the feeling that the more riches you get, the more problems that you will be able to solve alone. Those with wisdom know that there is mountains and valleys in everyone's life and the only way to eternal happiness is through Jesus. We can't solve our problems alone. No material thing will be able to solve all our issues. We all need Jesus and we all need each other. Humans were meant to have compassion. It is very important to let others help you in your struggle. The Catholic Church is one in the Body of Christ. We are one Body with many parts. We all fall down together. You can think of it as being kind of like the immune system fighting off a disease. When one member of the Body of Christ is attacked by a "virus", many other members of the Body will come and help fight off that "virus". Good Catholics don't want other Catholics to fall into sin. They also want to be there for others when they are going through something hard. Many are willing to help others get through their temptations. They are also willing to help people through struggles. It is important to be there for others and also know who will be there for you. Above, I mentioned how we should always accept help from others, especially when it is about getting over a sin. One of the best ways to do this is by going to confession. I know that many people dislike confession. It can seem like a rather uncomfortable experience. As someone who goes to confession frequently, I can tell you that it is humbling. However, confession is the only way I can have my bigger sins forgiven, and it's a great chance to talk to Jesus about getting over my venial sins. Mortal sins are the big sins and venial sins are the lesser sins. Often, people are prone to commit the same venial sin again and again. This is why I like to talk with my priest about them in confession. When the priest is in confession, the priest is persona Christi, meaning that Christ is guiding him in a very special way at this time. Going to confession is like talking to Jesus. Through confession, we can get very valuable advice. It does take a lot of effort to get over a sin. What is important though, is that you continue to work on improving yourself and avoiding that sin. Everyone falls short and sins. It is very important to admit this. At the end of the second reading, St. Paul says that nothing is concealed from God. He sees everything. Going to confession is how we tell God that we are sorry. Now, before I wrap this up, I'd like to talk a little bit about the Gospel. This reading is very familiar to me and very difficult for me. Giving up all you own is hard to think about. I have had to surrender a lot of material things to Jesus in my life, but there is still so much that I wouldn't want to give up. God calls us to detach ourselves from things that pass away. Something that I have begun to try is surrendering things to Jesus. I'm not very good at this yet, but I encourage you to try it too. The rich man didn't want to surrender his riches. Jesus explained how hard it is to enter Heaven when you are attached to things of this world. Thus, it is important for us to surrender as best as we can. I know that this has been a very long article, but I hope that you benefited from it. I know that writing these helps me grow spiritually as the Holy Spirit guides my mind while I write. I hope that I will have time to write again soon. Have a blessed week!

With Peace, Carley

Wisdom and Proposal One – Sunday, October 13, 2024

By: Fr. Anthony Mugavero (Pastor of Holy Apostles, Rochester)

Today's first reading is about wisdom or prudence. The author says that he prayed and pleaded for wisdom. It was desired more than anything else. It was valued more than "scepter and throne, riches, and priceless gems. She is seen as more important than health and good looks and anything in comparison to her was seen as nothing or of little worth. "All gold in view of her is a little sand, and before her, silver is to be accounted mire ... In contrast to this, "...all good things come together in her company and countless riches in her hands."

As Bishop Barron indicates prudence is called the queen of the virtues because it is the capacity to be in control of one's innermost self and be able to live with a practical wisdom in dealing with the outside world. How we need this today, dealing with all of the challenges and struggles of ordinary life, its demands and stresses, our relationships, and that is going on in the world today.

No wonder the writer of the Book of Wisdom pleaded for this reality above all others. And this strong calling out and crying out for wisdom is repeated with great intensity with so many in many other books of the Bible, including the Book of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Sirach, the Song of Songs, The Book of Job, and the Psalms. In the New Testament Jesus tells numerous parables of those who are foolish in comparison to His followers who are to be wise, filled with wisdom and acting accordingly. St. Paul highlights that Wisdom belongs to God when he refers to the Wisdom of God in comparison to the foolishness of this world, and in answer to the simple question of how we are to get wisdom, we are encouraged to ask for it in the Letter of James: "But if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God Who gives to all generously" (James 1:5). Wisdom obviously comes from God, and it is one of the greatest gifts of the Holy Spirit! Today's Psalm cries out to God with this all this in mind as we try to make good decisions as we live in the everyday world: "Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain wisdom of heart... May the gracious care of the Lord God be ours; prosper the work of our hands for us! Prosper the work of our hands!"

Wisdom is always needed in our lives from day-to-day and even in moment-to-moment decisions. However, it is especially needed when the problems are challenging and could have significant consequences. Bishop Barron when referring to prudence or wisdom states, "It is that sure touch, that moral instinct that renders one capable of making the right decision under pressure and in the face of complex circumstances. It is a sort of accumulated theoretical and practical wisdom, a know-how that is for the most part instinctual, in the bones." In other words, it becomes like an x-ray vision that is able to penetrate through deceptive appearances and then act accordingly.

We will need the x-ray vision of wisdom as we go to the polls to vote in New York State this year because of a huge attempt at a deception that is being laid before us and that we must make a decision about... Anyone voting in New York State will be asked to vote on what is called Proposal One. It is the proposed Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). It will amend the New York State Constitution. The New York State Constitution supersedes any and all state laws, statutes, and regulations. On the surface it will sound like something we should have no problems with. It will say that no person shall be denied the equal protection of the laws of this state for any reason.

However, when it lists all the reasons why no one should be denied equal protection of the law... Among them are sex, gender identity and expression, and pregnancy outcomes and reproductive healthcare and autonomy... And then in addition to these and other reasons it adds the category of age, which means anyone of any age has a right to make these life-changing decisions whether they are a child or an adult... Once again, at first glance it seems like there would be no problem, but wisdom tells us otherwise!

Voting "Yes" for Proposal One, means that the New York State government could have more authority than parents in making medical and other important decisions for their children... And the question is, should children who are minors have the right to have chemicals put into them and to have irreversible surgical and non-surgical transgender procedures without parental notice or approval? Does that seem wise? Should schools not disclose to parents that their children may be struggling with their sexual identity or are becoming transgender?

Bulletin October 12 & 13, 2024

“Best Practices” statements from the New York State Department of Education say they should. Referring to gender identity I quote: “Students may begin their transition at school without parent/guardian knowledge.” And what about boys playing on girls only sports teams? ... Should we erase girls’ sports and allow biological males to compete against biological females in school sports without restrictions? Does that seem wise, fair, just? This is the only ballot initiative in the country to include transgender rights for minors. If Proposal One passes, it will give courts the authority to uphold policies that allow children to change their gender identity as early as pre-kindergarten, without the knowledge or consent of their mothers, fathers, or legal guardians. This is unfathomable... Countries once supportive of these transgender treatments and procedures are going in the opposite direction due to the overwhelming lack of scientific evidence of the long-term effects of these treatments and the backlash of those who have experienced such negative consequences.

Without great care and labor-intensive counseling with those considering such treatments, the ability to protect individuals from long term negative mental and other psychological effects evaporates. It goes against any reasonable logic or prudence or wisdom, and it does not seem wise at all! And as far as minors go, we don’t need more scientific research to tell us that children need parents. It’s obvious. Nevertheless, Proposal One would deny that... Taking away its deceptive label, “The Equal Rights Amendment”, it should be much more truthfully called “The Parental Replacement Act”!

It seems foolish and inconceivable not to have age restrictions for such life-changing things! We have always understood and operated from the perspective that age restrictions make sense. We set minimum ages to drive, to smoke, drink or consent to sexual activity for the protection of vulnerable youth. Why would we remove restrictions based on age to children regarding gender treatments and surgeries, as well as abortion and the ‘right to die’ with no parental consent?

Beyond all this, Proposal One could legalize on demand late-term abortion or abortion without restrictions, including for minors, during the second and third trimester of pregnancy right up to the time of birth - also without parental consent. Currently, New York State has one of the most extreme abortion laws not only in our country, but in the world. Check it out... Proposal One would not only reinforce this, but would enshrine this as a constitutional right, meaning it would make it nearly impossible to pass even the most limited restrictions to protect women and children in the future, even if the minds of New Yorkers were to change regarding abortion. This also could potentially undermine the religious liberty and freedom of individuals, charitable institutions, and churches who in good conscience do not believe in these made up so called “rights”, with the result that protections for these individuals, organizations, and churches could be eroded – meaning that a lot of people would no longer be able to be served by us...

We have information on this as you leave Mass today. It is provided by the Coalition to Protect Kids-NY. I hope you will take the information and share it with others at home, in your family, at work, in your neighborhood, and online with your social media contacts. Most people do not know what this truly entails, and if they did, I believe that a majority of people would oppose it... Please share this with all you can, and vote “No” on Proposal One. Bishop Barron concludes his comments on prudence or wisdom by saying of prudence or wisdom, “When placed in the Christian context, therefore, it is a feel for how Jesus would react, how He would think, how He would move in a particular situation. It is tantamount to having one’s soul gathered around Christ as its center, so that all one’s actions are informed by Jesus and His way of being in the world. Christian prudence or wisdom comes from apprenticing to Christ – that is to say, moving with him watching at close quarters how He lives and moves and gestures.”

Based on that, how do you think Jesus would react, think, and feel in reference to Proposal One? ... I hope that you and I are apprenticed enough by Him to know!

The Sunday 8:00am Mass as well as daily Masses are live streamed on Facebook which is accessible on the website at sfscrc.org

Total number of people at all the Masses on Oct 5 & 6 was approx. 579

The parish appreciates your attendance and support!!

Don't forget that we survive on the offerings of our parishioners. If you do not feel comfortable attending Mass, you can still send in your envelope or drop it off at the Ministry Center office. Online giving is also available now at <https://www.osvhub.com/sfscrcss/funds> God bless you for your support.

*The Mass, mail-in & online contributions for the week of Oct 5 & 6, 2024 was \$13,023.21
We thank you for your generosity!*

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