

Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 29, 2018

Holy Day of Obligation

Solemnity of the

Ascension of the Lord Thursday, May 10.

St. Peter: 8:00 A.M. and 12 noon.

St. John the Baptist: 9:30 A.M. and 6:00 P.M.

Pro-Life Oratory Contest Winners

Congratulations to our winners, and all participants of our "Pro-life Oratory Contest" held last Sunday. The Speeches were all Amazing and showed great thinking, courage and character. The Participants included: Brooke Gerace, Michael Cox, Tom Maguire, Cara Gielski, Susan Gielskie, Alexis Gielski, and Patrick Sweeney.

The Third Place winner is Brooke Gerace, Second Place is Cara Gielski, and First Place winner is Patrick Sweeney. Patrick won \$50 and will have the opportunity to participate in the State Oratory competition next month. Congratulations to this great group of young adults.

Offertory Envelopes

Please remember to fill out your offertory envelope to help save time for our money counters. ★Both parishes desperately need more volunteers to help count!★



O'Come Holy Spirit!

Congratulations to our Confirmandi,
who will be confirmed on Wednesday.

Brook Gerace

Renzo Guevarra

Brodie Leahy

Meg Tomsley

Reconciliation: Saturday 3-3:30pm, St. John.

Bishop's Appeal 2018

Jesus Christ challenges us to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, comfort the afflicted, and to promote justice for every person. Please be as generous as you possibly can with your pledges and gifts for the 2018 Appeal. Attention: Snowbirds -- Remember to provide your seasonal address since billing statements and tax receipts are not forwarded by the post office.

Mark Your Calendars

Spring Enrichment 2018 will be held at the College of Saint Rose from May 16 to 18. The theme of this year's program is "*Companions Along the Journey.*" We will be remembering the past with gratitude, living the present with enthusiasm, and looking forward to the future with confidence. Experience ample opportunities to deepen your knowledge of the faith, find out how you can better share the Good News with others as well as renew your relationship with Jesus & His Church.

Access the schedule at spring.enrichment@rcda.org or contact the Catholic School Office at 518. 453.6602. [All registrations must be received by May 9.]

Ministry Schedule Updates Due May 13

If you would like to join any of your Church's ministries, please call the pertinent contact below to arrange for training. Submit your preferred Mass day, vacation, and contact info so you will be included on the next schedule.

Current Ministers: Away days during the second half of 2018? Contact Nancy, 865.6879, or Doreen, 865.6724, for St. John/Holy Family & Debbie, 746.2503, for St. Peter.

Marriage Revival

Give your marriage new life by attending one of the Marriage Encounter Weekends being held in New York. The next Encounters are April 27 to 29 in Huntington and November 3 to 4 in Albany. Information: 518.279.3243.

Marriage Moments Susan Vogt

Let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth. 1 John 3:18

Saying "I love you." is good. Doing an act of kindness is an even stronger testament of love. Use both "love languages" once today.

On the Vine

Jesus tells us in the Gospel that He is the true vine that God intended Israel to be - - the source of divine life and wisdom for the nations (Sirach 24:17-24). In baptism, each of us was joined to Him by the Holy Spirit. As a branch grows from a tree, our souls are to draw life from Him, nourished by His word and the Eucharist.

Paul seeks to be grafted onto the visible expression of Christ the true vine -- His Church. Once the chief persecutor of the Church, he encounters initial resistance and suspicion, but he is known by his fruits, by his powerful witness to the Lord working in his life (Matthew 7:16-20).

We, too, are commanded today to bear good fruits as His disciples so that our lives give glory to God. Like Paul's life, our lives must bear witness to His goodness. Jesus cautions us, however, that if we're bearing fruit, we can expect that God will "prune" us as a gardener trims and cuts back a plant so that it will grow stronger and bear even more fruit. He is teaching us how to look at our sufferings and trials with the eyes of faith. We need to see our struggles as pruning by which we are being disciplined and trained so that we can grow in holiness and bear fruits of righteousness (Hebrews 12:4-11).

We need to always remain rooted in Him, and we remain in Him by keeping His commandment of love, by pondering His words, letting them dwell richly in us (Colossians 3:16), and by always seeking to do what pleases Him. In everything we must be guided by humility, remembering that apart from Him we can do nothing.

Dr. Scott Hahn

Parenting Pointers Susan Vogt

Do you really listen to your child? Of course you do. Now be honest. Do you sometimes "listen with your answer running"? Today, just for today, pay attention to a request your child makes and look for the reason behind the request before automatically saying, "No."

Pastoral Care Ministry Update

Our Pastoral Care Ministry can be reached by calling the Church, 865.7394, and dialing Extension 207. You will then be contacted by one of our ministers, who will be happy to visit.

Call to Holiness: A Retreat with Pope Francis

God is calling us to be saints, Pope Francis tells us in his recent document, "*Rejoice and Be Glad: A Call to Holiness in Today's World.*" Through Pentecost Sunday, May 20, MISSIO is offering an email retreat with Pope Francis (in English and Spanish). These emails feature Pope Francis' inspiring insights, informative teachings, and invitations to active involvement and growth on the path toward holiness. Sign up for the series of emails (three/week plus one on Pentecost Sunday) at info.missio.org/retreatwithpope.

✿ Birthright Mother's Day Flowers ✿

Mother's Day annual carnation sale is around the corner and flowers will be sold at every Mass in support of Birthright of Sidney.

Annual Scouting Retreat

On Saturday, May 5, The Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting will be hosting the annual retreat at the Shrine of the North American Martyrs in Auriesville. The theme of the retreat is "**Quest for God**". The retreat is open to any youth ages 5 to 18 whether they are involved in scouting or not. Youths can come with their scout unit or just their family. If you are coming for the day, bring a bagged lunch or if you plan on camping out, please plan on a simple lunch -- not a lot of time for lunch.

Please preregister: www.rcda.org/offices/scouting. If you have any questions, email: peter.derway@rcda.org, scouting@rcda.org, or call/text 518.791.8095.

VOCATIONS

The newest Vocations brochure is available in our Church entrances. Please pick up the newest publication for interesting articles about: vocations are born in the family, personal reflections about priestly formation in Rome, and bringing back discernment groups for women to our Diocese. Don't forget your copy!

Family Perspective Bud Ozar

Like the vine grower in the Gospel, parents must "prune and cleanse" the branches in their family if their children are going to be rooted. Discipline, limits, and setting goals are a necessary part of parenting so our children will grow and "bear fruit."