Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 5, 2017

2015 Tax Statements

If you would like your 2016 offertory statement tor tax returns, call the office.

Bible Journey

Today the fifth at St. Peter -- **2** pm.

Men's Lives Changed

The impact from attending past IGNITE Catholic Men's Conference has affected men's families and parishes! It's all possible with God. The conference is on Saturday, March 25, at the SRC Center on the Onondaga Community College campus. The speakers will be:

Chris Horn -- NFL player, motivational speaker
Mark Houck -- author, lecturer, radio host
Msgr. Jim Lisante -- media personality, author

Register: igniteccatholicmen.org.

Young Voices (& Musicians) Needed

A Diocesan choir of young people (grades 7 through college) is being formed for the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Albany on Thursday, Aril 6 at 7 pm. There are two music rehearsals scheduled (attendance at one is required): Saturday, March 25 and April 1, from 11 to 1 pm.

Auditions for instrumentalists and cantors will be scheduled individually by contacting Marie Bernadett at mbernadett@nycap.rr.com. Registration forms can be picked up in the office.

World Day of Prayer Meeting February 5

A planning meeting for the World Day of Prayer in Walton will be held at the First Baptist Church, 55 Townsend Street at 2 pm.

2016 Bishop's Appeal

thebishopsappeal.org

Only six weeks left to pledge or gift!

Alzheimer Education Series

There is an upcoming Alzheimer education series being offered at United Ministry in Delhi at 2 pm:

February 20: ***The Basics*** --
Memory loss issues, normal aging, or is it Alzheimer's or dementia?

February 27: ***Communication*** --
More than talking and listening... attitude, tone of voice, facial expressions, body language, etc.

March 6: ***Behavior*** --
Learn to decode behavioral messages, identify behavior triggers, and learn intervention strategies.

This education series is provided by the Alzheimer's Association, and registration is required. Questions? Call Ann at 547.1650.

Marriage Moments — Susan Vogt

Overlook a little, love a lot. To motivate yourself, you need to let go of the trivial. Ponder for one minute the possibility that your spouse might die next week. We can never be certain about the future.

CRS Valentine's Gifts

Check out Catholic Relief Services Valentine's Day gifts produced with love for workers and the planet. In addition to offering great gifts- - decadent dark chocolate, pocketbooks, shea butter products, and unique jewelry--our partners ensure fair wages, safe working conditions, and environmental sustainability. Plus with every purchase, they will make a contribution to the CRS Fair Trade Fund, which invests in artisans and farmers around the world, and supports critical advocacy and education initiatives in the United States. Take a look at their collection of Valentine's gifts ♥ share the love with those in need at crs.org.

Gospel Meditation

Jesus used ordinary images, such as salt and light, to convey extraordinary truths that transform our minds, hearts, and lives.

Jesus used salt, which was a valuable commodity in the ancient world. It was used in trade, and it preserved food from going bad and being spoiled. His image of salt describes the transforming effect of God's work in our lives, and how the Holy Spirit wants to work through us to bring the power and blessing of God's kingdom to others. As salt purifies, preserves, and produces rich flavor for our daily food, we, too, as disciples of Jesus, are "salt" for the world. The Lord wants to work in and through us to purify, preserve, and spread the rich flavor of God's kingdom everywhere - His *"kingdom of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit."*-Romans 14:17

What did Jesus mean by the *expression "if salt has lost its taste... it is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trodden under foot"*?-Matthew 5:13 Salt in the ancient world was often put into ovens to intensify the heat. When the salt was burned off and no longer useful, it was thrown out on the ground where it would easily get stepped on and swept away. When we allow the world, sin, and Satan to corrupt us, we lose our "saltiness." The Lord wants us to preserve our "saltiness" through virtuous living and rejection of sin not only for our own sake but also for the sake of others.

Jesus used the image of light and a lamp to further his illustration of God's transforming work in and through us. Lamps in the ancient world served a vital function. The Jews also understood "light" as symbol or expression of the inner beauty, truth, and goodness of God. In His light we see light. -Psalm 36:9 His word is a lamp that guides our steps.-Psalm 119:105 God's grace not only illumines the darkness in our lives, but it also fills us with spiritual light, joy, and peace.

Jesus described how His disciples are to live in the light of His truth and love having His light shining in our hearts enabling us to see the heavenly reality of God's kingdom.

Our mission: be light-bearers of Jesus Christ so that others may see the truth of the Gospel and be freed from the blindness of sin and deception.

There is great freedom and joy for those who live in the light of God's truth and goodness. Don Schwager

Lord Jesus,
You guide me by the light of
Your saving truth.
Fill my heart and mind with
Your light and truth and
free me from the blindness
of sin and deception that
I may see Your ways clearly and
understand Your will for my life.
May I radiate Your light and truth
to others in word and deed. Amen

Family Perspective — Bud Ozar

The Gospel challenges us today to be a "light" to our family. Parents shine their guiding light, not in front but behind them, inviting their children to follow their "good deeds."

Tax Assistance in Walton & Delhi

On February 14 free tax counseling for the elderly (with low and moderate incomes) will be held at St. John's Senior Dining Center (sign-up sheet located in Father Willis Hall).

On February 6, 10, 20; March 1, 6, 17, 20, 27; April 3, 13, and 14 tax assistance will be available in Delhi at the Public Safety building. (Available by appointment only, call 832.5750.)

A list of items needed for your tax assistance is in the literature rack in Church.

Parenting Pointers — Susan Vogt

Share your bread ... Shelter the homeless...
Clothe the naked. Isaiah 58:7

Although this scripture is usually meant to urge people to go beyond their own families, if you are in the active parenting stage of life, it may be enough to feed, shelter, and clothe your own family. If you're stretched pretty thin this week, you are allowed to count that. It's holy.