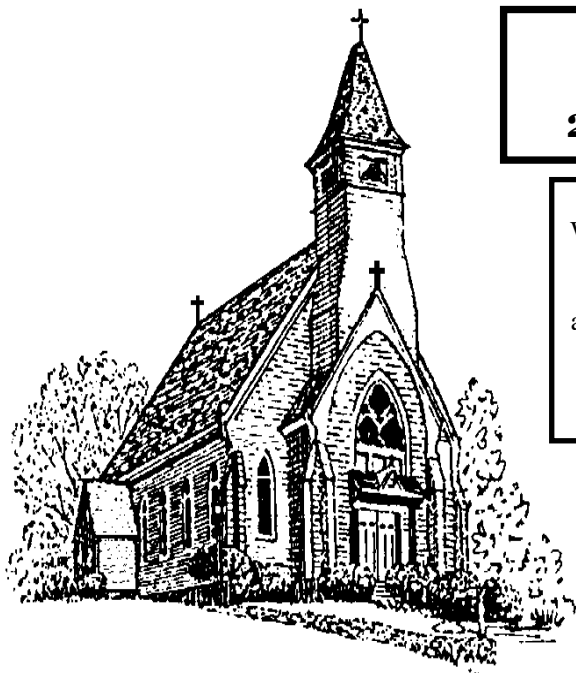




MAY IS THE MONTH OF MARY
PRAY THE ROSARY



SAINT ANNE PARISH

20 Boston Road Southborough, MA 01772

ST. ANNE PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We, the people of St. Anne Parish, Southborough, in the Diocese of Worcester are called through Baptism to become one faith family. We commit ourselves to embody the presence of Christ in Word and Sacrament; by using our ministries to welcome all who are seeking Jesus and to share in the life and work of our Catholic faith. In the spirit and truth of the Holy Trinity, we will use our time, talents and treasure to answer God's command to love one another as He has loved us, in holy worship, prayer, Catechetical formation for all, evangelization and service to others.

Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year A May 7, 2023

Lord's Day Mass Schedule:

Saturday ~ 5:00 p.m.
Sunday ~ 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., & 5:30 p.m.

Daily Mass Schedule:

Monday-Thursday: 9:00 a.m.
First Fridays: 9:00 a.m.

Healing Mass:

First Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m.

Confessions:

Saturday ~ 4:15 p.m.,
between Sunday morning
Masses, weekdays at 9:30
a.m., First Wednesday of each
month ~ 6:30 - 7:00 p.m.,
or anytime on request

Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

Wednesdays: 9:30 a.m. to
6:00 p.m.

Sacrament of Baptism

Call the Parish Office to
schedule a Baptism.
Baptisms are celebrated
during a scheduled Mass.

Sacrament of Marriage

Arrangements with a priest
required at least one year
prior to the wedding date.

Visitation of the Sick

Fr. Albert is pleased to bring
Holy Communion to
parishioners who are unable
to join us for weekly worship.
Call the Parish Office to
arrange a time.

*"The stone which the
builders rejected has
become the cornerstone."
(1 Peter 2:7)*

Every person has been
given gifts from the Holy
Spirit.

These are called
"charisms" and they are
used to build God's
kingdom of earth.

While many people are
able to recognize their
natural talents and
abilities, they may be
unsure of their charisms.

If you know someone who
is struggling for a
direction in life, give them
a little encouragement.

Help them discern their
charisms and how God is
calling them to use them.

Remember - no gift is too
small or insignificant in
God's salvation plan.

Office Hours:

Monday ~ Thursday
9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Friday ~ 9:30 a.m. to noon
Telephone 508-485-0141
Fax 508-460-0181

E-mail: stanne403@stannesouthborough.org
Web: www.stannesouthborough.org

Pastor: Fr. Albert Irudayasamy
fralbert@stannesouthborough.org

Parish Council: Nancy Denardo ~ Chair

Finance Committee: Rich Flathers ~ Chair

Director of Religious Education: Rachelle Carmony
rachelle@stannesouthborough.org
• Office hours available, by appointment

Parish Office Manager: George Stagno
stanne403@stannesouthborough.org

Bookkeeper: Nancy Denardo
nancy@stannesouthborough.org

Music Ministry

Choir Director: Paul Crivello 508-366-0821
pcrivello04@gmail.com

- Saturday 5:00: John Arnold
- Sunday 8:30 and 10:30: Paul Crivello
- Sunday 5:30: Kathy & Matt Bernier

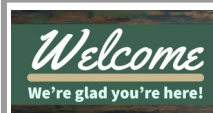
Maintenance: Matt Bernier
mbern@stannesouthborough.org

Webmaster: Amy Buttiglieri
webmaster@stannesouthborough.org

PARISH
CONTACT
INFORMATION

*Would you like to receive a copy of the
bulletin via email every week?*

*Please send an email to:
stanne403@stannesouthborough.org with
"St. Anne Bulletin List" in the subject line.*



We welcome all visitors to
St. Anne Parish.
If you would like to join our
faith community, please call
the Parish Office to register: 508-485-0141

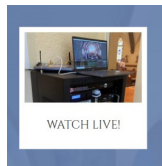
PARISH MASS INFORMATION AND MINISTRIES

St. Anne Parish Livestreamed Daily and Weekend Masses

Livestreamed St. Anne Masses

**ALL St. Anne Mass offerings will now be livestreamed:
5:00 p.m. Saturday, 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, and 9:00 a.m. daily Masses through website!**

- Go to parish webpage:
www.stannesouthborough.org.
- Scroll down and click on "Watch Live!" box.
- Scroll down to "eCatholic Live" box.
- Click on the arrow in the middle of the logo at 5:00 p.m. for Saturday evening Mass, 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. or 5:30 p.m. for Sunday Mass, and 9:00 a.m. for daily Masses Monday through Thursday and first Fridays.



SC LIVE

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

with **MASS INTENTIONS (May 6 through May 13)**

SATURDAY 6	5:00 pm	For Sarkes Tootalian (17 th Anniversary) by daughter Deb Tootalian Sanford
SUNDAY 7	8:30 am	For First Holy Communion children
	10:30 am	For Paul Brodeur by family
	5:30 pm	For parishioners of St. Anne
MONDAY 8	9:00 am	For Holy Souls in Purgatory by Helpers of the Holy Souls
TUESDAY 9	9:00 am	For Sarkes and Louise Tootalian (Honorary 70 th Wedding Anniversary) by daughter Deb Tootalian Sanford
WEDNESDAY 10	9:00 am	For Tom Livingstone by Lyda Livingstone
THURSDAY 11	9:00 am	For Mark Z. Tootalian (89 th birthday) by niece Deb Tootalian Sanford
SATURDAY 13	5:00 pm	For parishioners of St. Anne
SUNDAY 14	8:30 am	For Bob Myers
	10:30 am	For Bill MacIver (7 th Anniversary) by his sister Nancy Levangie
	5:30 pm	For parishioners of St. Anne

**SCHEDULE
CHANGE**

Sunday Evening Mass Schedule Change

The 5:30 p.m. Sunday Mass will be suspended for the summer.

There will be a 5:30 p.m. Mass on Sunday, May 28.

Father Albert on Retreat

Father Albert on retreat from Sunday, May 7 until Friday, May 12. Please leave a message with the Parish Office for church business during this period.

Liturgical Minister Schedule

To be trained, please call the Parish Office

May 6 & 7 - Fifth Sunday of Easter, A

Sat 5:00 pm	Lector	Deborah Sanford
	Communion Minister	Debbie Simon
		Laura Schroeder (cup)
		MaryBeth P-H (cup)
Sun 8:30 am	Lector	Elaine Yetman
	Communion Minister	Nancy Denardo
		Doris Campero (cup)
		Elaine Yetman (cup)
Sun 10:30 am	Lector	Jim Garden
	Communion Minister	Joe Cruciani (cup)
		(cup)
Sun 5:30 am	Lector	RE Students
	Communion Minister	Beth McGonagle
		MaryBeth P-H (cup)
	Collection Counting	Raymond/Draper/ Garden/Flathers

May 13 & 14 - Sixth Sunday of Easter, A

Sat 5:00 pm	Lector	Roger Jolicoeur
	Communion Minister	Laura Schroeder
		MaryBeth P-H (cup)
		Debbie Simon (cup)
Sun 8:30 am	Lector	Nancy Denardo
	Communion Minister	Doris Campero
		Nancy Denardo (cup)
		TBD (cup)
Sun 10:30 am	Lector	Joe Cruciani
	Communion Minister	Joanne Flathers
		Joe Cruciani (cup)
		TBD (cup)
Sun 5:30 am	Lector	MaryBeth P-H
	Communion Minister	Beth McGonagle
		MaryBeth P-H (cup)
	Collection Counting	Raymond/Draper/ Garden/Flathers

April 29 & 30, 2023

Saturday - 7:30 p.m.	76	Mass Attendance
Sunday - 8:30 a.m.	48	
Sunday - 10:30 a.m.	81	
Sunday - 5:30 p.m.	34	
Saturday - 7:30 p.m. Streamed	4	
Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Streamed	8	
Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Streamed	16	
Sunday - 5:30 p.m. Streamed	5	



Zachary



Averey



Carmine



Elizabeth



Tommy



Grace



Tessa



Grace



Sophia



Olívia



Michelle



Lílian



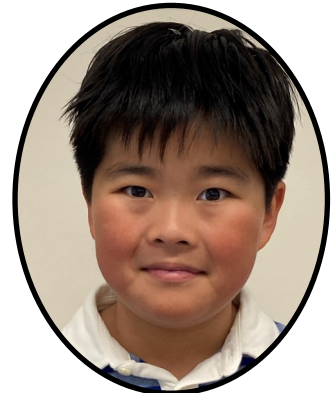
Greyson



John



Leighton



Luke



Clare



Neve



Chloe



Nick



Brooke



Valentina



Talia



Sanad

PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND STEWARDSHIP



Joseph Mark Groznik
received the
Sacrament of Baptism
on Saturday, April 29
at the 5:00 p.m. Mass.



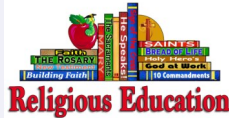
God bless Joseph and his family!



Going Forth Mass & Parish Coffee Hour
On Sunday, May 7 there will be a Going Forth Mass at 10:30 a.m. Children who received First Communion this weekend will be invited to process into the Mass.

There will be a parish-wide coffee hour to follow.

St. Anne Parish Pre-K through Grade 10+ Religious Education Classes



April/May RE Classes

Pre-K - 1, Grade 3 through Grade 5
May 7 & May 21 in the Parish Hall
9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Grade 2+ (FC Prep)

- Going Forth Class: Sunday, May 7, 9:30 a.m.
- Going Forth Mass: Sunday, May 7, 10:30 a.m. Mass
- RE Wrap-up led by DRE: Sunday, May 21, 9:30 a.m.

Grades 6 through Confirmation (Grades 9-10)
May 7 & May 21 in the Parish Hall
4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Raffle Ticket Sales to Support the 2023 St. Anne Parish High School Graduate Scholarship

St. Anne Parish will be selling raffle tickets to support our new annual scholarship program.

Tickets will be sold after all regular Masses this weekend,
May 6 and May 7.

Tickets are \$20 each and only a limited number are available.

Five \$100 prizes will be awarded along with two \$750 scholarships. Cash or a check made out to "St. Anne Parish" is acceptable.

Please buy a ticket and support our graduating high school seniors and this important program!



Secular Franciscans Meeting

The Secular Franciscans will be meeting on
Saturday, May 13 at 9:00 a.m. in the church.

We will be completing our discussion on the Franciscan concepts of Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation, and how they are important to living our rule.

All are welcome.

Baby Crib Quilts

Beautiful baby quilts blessed by Father Albert and sewn by Sandy Callinan are available in the Parish Office for sick infants and children in need of healing prayers.



Capital Campaign Update

Phase One



Total Goal:	\$2,000,000.00
Total Pledges to Date:	\$2,045,601.95
Payments Received to Date:	\$ 998,761.81
Number of Families Pledging:	162 families (35%)

Thank you again for your ongoing support!

PARISH STEWARDSHIP REPORTS FOR Through April 30, 2023

Regular Weekly Offering:	.....	\$5,779.00
Capital Improvement:	.....	\$ 20.00
Easter Offering:	.....	\$ 20.00
Blue Pay: Regular thru 4/30:	.....	\$ 445.00
WeShare: Regular thru 4/30:	.....	\$ 301.56
Holy Land thru 4/30:	.....	\$ 5.00

Online Giving: WeShare allows both onetime gifts, as well as regular, scheduled donations. Please visit our Parish website www.stannesouthborough.org for the link to WeShare.com or call 1-800-950-9952 and use option 1 to answer any questions.

St. Anne's Website: We have an **additional resource for online giving and online CE registration.** **St. Anne Parish partners with eCatholic and BluePay for easy on-line giving.** Our one-step on-line form allows both one-time gifts, as well as regular, scheduled donations. Please visit our Parish website www.stannesouthborough.org and select the Quick Link to the BluePay On-Line Giving page.

Thank you for your generous support!



Partners in Charity Appeal 2023-2024

2023-24 Parish Goal: \$76,000.00

Amount Raised As of 5/3/23: \$57,520.00

(75.68% of amount goal - 53 donors)

Can we reach the goal of 100 donors?

No gift too big or too small...



Collection Counting Ministry

Collection Counting follows the
10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass.

If interested in participating in this ministry, please contact the Parish Office at 508-485-0141.

Preventing Child Abuse is Everyone's Responsibility

It is every adult's moral responsibility to protect possible victims (any age) by reporting suspected abuse or neglect to the responsible authorities. For help you may call: The Office for Healing and Prevention, Diocese of Worcester, at 508-929-4363. The Diocese of Worcester requires Safe Environment training for all staff and volunteers.

PARISH RELIGIOUS NEWS AND EVENTS

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Children's Liturgy of the Word (CL) will be offered at the Sunday 10:30 a.m. Masses.



At the beginning of Mass, children (and parents, too!) are called forward and invited to process from the church to the Parish Hall to listen and discuss the Gospel with CL leader Charlotte Zakarian.

Younger children (Pre-K and younger) are invited to participate with a parent/older sibling.

United Parishes of Southborough Food Pantry

c/o Pilgrim Church
P.O. Box 281, 15 Common Street
Southborough, MA 01772

southboroughfoodpantry@gmail.com

508-485-4847



Food Items

- Coffee (regular - unflavored)
- White tuna
- Mayonnaise
- Canned chicken
- Chunky peanut butter
- Flavored oatmeal packets

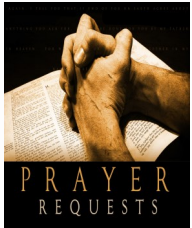
- Capri Sun juice pouches
- Brownie mix

Health and Household Items

- Cleaning supplies
- Laundry detergent (especially skin sensitive)

A big THANK YOU for all Food Pantry donations.

As most food items are date sensitive, please be sure that your donation is not out of date. Donations may be left in the foyer of the parish hall. If you know of anyone who could benefit from the Food Pantry, please encourage them to come. Pantry hours (located at Pilgrim Church) are Thursdays from 6:00-7:00 p.m. and Fridays from 9:00-10:00 a.m.



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Sr. Yvette, Fr. Thirburs F. Millot, Bob Seariac, Thomas Chemmanur, Janet Mattioli, Tim and Diane Higgins, Dave Lemoine, Laval "Val" Provencher; Father Conrad Pecevich, Michael Philbin-Pelland, Jamie Farley, Jim Garden, Brookie Sullivan, Beth Stephens, Susane Crioppa, Peter Bradstreet, Rob Germeroth, Michael, George Stagno, Steve Buttiglieri, Kevin Sanford, Cecilia Lynch, Catherine, Joy, Walter McClain, Mabel, Ellie

To have a name placed on or removed from the prayer list, contact the Parish Office.

Altar Servers Need



Both students (Grade 4 and higher) and adults are welcome to serve.

If you are interested in being an altar server, please call the Parish Office.

Training is provided and scheduling of service is determined by server based on their availability.

Weekly Adult Discussion Group

A weekly Discussion Group meets on Wednesdays from 6:05 to 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Discussion is on *The Catechism in a Year (with Father Mike Schmitz)* available on familiar podcast apps.

Attend any Wednesday you are available.

The discussion group will be facilitated by *Three Hearts Apostolate* members who are available to answer questions:

- * Gerry Levins, gerard@levinstaxlaw.com
- * MaryBeth Philbin-Hannigan, mbphilbin@gmail.com
- * Debbie Simon, dsimoninc@gmail.com

Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting

Prayer Shawl meets Mondays from 10:00 to noon to knit/crochet/weave for anyone who is ill or suffering who might welcome a blessed prayer shawl.

Do you or someone you know need a prayer shawl? Stop by the Parish Office during office hours to select a shawl. Free will donations collected for shawls are sent to our sister parish in Haiti to aid their rebuilding.



The Rosary portion of the Prayer Shawl meetings is live streamed via the parish website starting at 10:30 a.m. Password: shawls

Electronic Recycling Day

Please bring your small/large electronics and bicycles to the St. Anne parking lot on **Saturday, May 27** from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for recycling/reuse.

\$5 Fee items: computer towers, scanners, VCRs, printers, copiers, DVD, stereo equipment, lighting, vacuums, speakers, modems, fans, video equipment, etc.

\$10 Fee Items: lawn mowers, exercise equipment, small microwave, empty propane tanks, weight sets

\$20 Fee items: dishwasher, dryer, stove, large microwave, AC, dehumidifiers, dorm fridges, grills, lawn mower, TV, flat panel monitors

\$40 fee Items: large refrigerators, large projection TVs, snow blower

No Charge Items: keyboards, car batteries, golf equipment, cables, wires, cell phones, bicycles (all types)



Rosary Breakfast

The May Rosary Breakfast being held at Parish Hall on **Saturday, May 20, 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.**

Registration donation is \$25.00. Please call or email Marge Oliveri @ The Angel Connection 508-320-3498 or Email Faithful1111@aol.com to register.



Building Committee Reminder

Please take caution while traveling on Walker Street and the church's campus while water service upgrade and underground electrical facilities prep work is being completed.



PARISH AND DIOCESAN NEWS AND EVENTS

2023-24 Diocesan Youth Discipleship Team Sign-ups

The application period for the 2023-2024 Diocesan Youth Discipleship Team is now OPEN!

This program is open to all 9-12th grade youth (as of August 2023). If you are a high schooler or know of one in your parish or school who is interested in diving deeper into the Catholic Faith, looking to grow in relationship with Jesus Christ, and interested in Christian leadership and evangelization opportunities, then this is the perfect opportunity for you!

Complete details as well as the online application can be found at www.neworchester.org/diocesan-youth-discipleship-team

DISCIPLESHIP TEAM

Worcester Catholic Women's Conference

The next Women's Conference will be on **Saturday, October 7, 2023.**

All women are invited to the Worcester Catholic Women's Conference, "Male & Female He Created Them", to be held at St. Joseph School in Webster.

Hear dynamic talks from Catholic leaders, Dr. Deborah Savage, Dr. Christopher Klofft, Fr. Derek Mobilio, Fr. Colin Blatchford, and Patricia Sandoval. Diocesan priests will hear confessions and there will be many interesting exhibitors. Bishop McManus will celebrate Mass.

For more information and to register, visit our website at www.wcwconference.com or call Corinn Dahm at 508-277-3969. Seating is limited, register early!



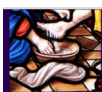
Learn about Becoming a Deacon

The Office of the Diaconate is accepting applications from married and single men between the ages of 31 and 60 for this fall's beginning formation process.

Applications will be accepted through May 1, with classes to begin in September. Inquiry sessions will be held on request with those who are interested in learning more about the permanent diaconate.

To schedule a session, email your request to diaconate@worcesterdiocese.org, or submit an inquiry form at worcesterdiocese.org/diaconate-inquiry.

More information is available at worcesterdiocese.org/diaconate-information.



OFFICE OF THE DIACONATE

"With Him are wisdom and might; To Him belong counsel and understanding" - Job 12:13



Thank you to HB Printing

A huge thank you goes out to the Hostage family of HB Printing in Framingham and Northborough for their support in printing the parish bulletin for us every week at no cost.

Pope Francis Prayer Intentions

May 2023

CHURCH MOVEMENTS AND GROUPS

We pray that Church movements and groups may rediscover their mission of evangelization each day placing their own charisms at the service of needs in the world.



Volunteers Needed—Birthright of Hudson-Marlboro

Volunteer Opportunity! Birthright of Hudson Marlborough, serving pregnant women and babies in our community for almost 50 years, needs volunteer friendship councilors.

We especially need volunteers who speak Spanish and/or Portuguese in addition to English, to meet with our many non-English speaking mothers. The commitment is 2-4 hours per month and training is provided.



Please join us in this mission of love.

Contact Birthright: 508-481-2055, or birthrightofhm@gmail.com

Saint John's Spring Preview Open House

Tuesday, May 23, 2023

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.



Join the Saint John's High School community on **Tuesday, May 23** for a Spring Preview Open House.

During this event, prospective families and students will have an opportunity to hear from Saint John's faculty, staff and students regarding the limitless opportunities available to Saint John students!

Limited space is still available for students hoping to enroll for 2023-2024; Both families interested in this coming school year and next school year are encouraged to attend!

To learn more and to register, please visit stjohnshigh.org/preview

St. Thomas More Law School Scholarship

Each year the St. Thomas More Society of our Diocese awards a scholarship, around \$3,000, to a law student attending an accredited law school in the fall.



Applicants or parents must be registered and active members of a parish in the Diocese of Worcester.

Applicants may be in any year of law school studies.

Applications may be obtained by visiting the diocesan website, www.worcesterdiocese.org/st-thomas-more-society, by mailing requests to: St. Thomas More Society, Chancery Office, 49 Elm Street, Worcester, MA 01609 or by calling Joan DeMasi at 508-929-4345. **Applications are due June 15, 2023.**

Should anyone wish to contribute to the scholarship fund, donations will be greatly appreciated.

READINGS FOR FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR A

READING I Acts 6:1-7

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

As the number of disciples continued to grow, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. So the Twelve called together the community of the disciples and said, "It is not right for us to neglect the word of God to serve at table. Brothers, select from among you seven reputable men, filled with the Spirit and wisdom, whom we shall appoint to this task, whereas we shall devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." The proposal was acceptable to the whole community, so they chose Stephen, a man filled with faith and the Holy Spirit, also Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicholas of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these men to the apostles who prayed and laid hands on them. The word of God continued to spread, and the number of the disciples in Jerusalem increased greatly; even a large group of priests were becoming obedient to the faith.

The Word of the Lord.

READING II 1 Peter 2:4-9

A reading from the First Letter of St. Peter

Beloved:

Come to him, a living stone, rejected by human beings but chosen and precious in the sight of God, and, like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

For it says in Scripture:

Behold, I am laying a stone in Zion, a cornerstone, chosen and precious, and whoever believes in it shall not be put to shame.

Therefore, its value is for you who have faith, but for those without faith:

The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone, and A stone that will make people stumble, and a rock that will make them fall.

They stumble by disobeying the word, as is their destiny.

You are "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own, so that you may announce the praises" of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19

R. Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

Exult, you just, in the LORD;
praise from the upright is fitting.
Give thanks to the LORD on the harp;
with the ten-stringed lyre chant his praises.

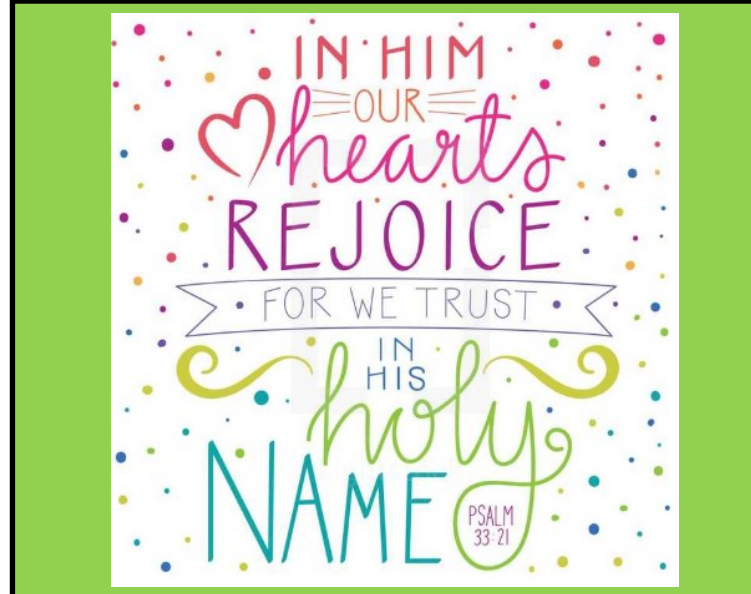
R. Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

Upright is the word of the LORD,
and all his works are trustworthy.
He loves justice and right;
of the kindness of the LORD the earth is full.

R. Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

See, the eyes of the LORD are upon those who fear him,
upon those who hope for his kindness,
To deliver them from death
and preserve them in spite of famine.

R. Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

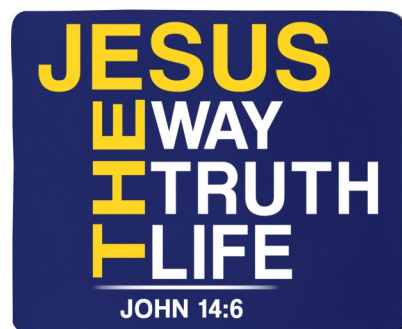


John 14:6

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the way, the truth and the life, says the Lord;
no one comes to the Father, except through me.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.



GOSPEL John 14:1-12

A reading from the Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples:

"Do not let your hearts be troubled.

You have faith in God; have faith also in me.

In my Father's house there are many dwelling places.

If there were not,

would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?

And if I go and prepare a place for you,

I will come back again and take you to myself,

so that where I am you also may be.

Where I am going you know the way."

Thomas said to him,

"Master, we do not know where you are going;

how can we know the way?"

Jesus said to him, I am the way and the truth and the life.

No one comes to the Father except through me.

If you know me, then you will also know my Father.

From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him,

"Master, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us."

Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you for so long a time

and you still do not know me, Philip?

Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.

How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?

Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?

The words that I speak to you I do not speak on my own.

The Father who dwells in me is doing his works.

Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me,

or else, believe because of the works themselves.

Amen, amen, I say to you,

whoever believes in me will do the works that I do,

and will do greater ones than these,

because I am going to the Father."

The Gospel of the Lord.



Introducing the Trinity

Fifth Sunday of Easter, A

May 7, 2023

Reading I: Acts 6:1-7

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19

Reading II: 1 Peter 2:4-9

Gospel: John 14:1-12

The first reading from Acts of the Apostles gives us another glimpse into the very early life and growth: the way, the truth, and the life of Christianity. At some point, the number of Christians (many of whom still practiced the Jewish faith) became too large for the 12 apostles to minister to adequately. The apostles realized they needed help, so the community of believers identified seven more well-respected men who were “filled with the Spirit and wisdom.” In an early form of ordination, the apostles prayed and “laid hands on them,” officially making them leaders as well. The church has preserved this early tradition; when deacons and priests are ordained today, the central part of the ritual is the bishop laying hands on the candidate and praying over him.

Today’s Gospel passage can be boiled down to two main points, but they may be hard to grasp because Jesus seems speak in circles. First, don’t let your hearts be troubled. Second, if you know Jesus, you know God. If you didn’t get those upon first reading, take heart; neither did the apostle Philip.

Jesus’ speech here takes place the night before he dies. Sitting with his friends, the apostles, after he washed their feet, Jesus is aware that they are troubled. Jesus had just predicted that one of them would betray him and that Peter would disown him. Naturally, they are confused and worried. As he does at other points in the gospels, Jesus offers them peace and reassurance and encourages them to trust him, even though things are not looking good.

Philip wants even more reassurance, and he wants to understand just exactly what Jesus is saying with his talk of dwelling places in his Father’s house. In a very roundabout way, Jesus tries to explain that if Philip believes in him, he can trust in the Father, too. This exchange is part of the origin of the Christian understanding of the Trinity. Jesus and the Father are somehow “one,” yet not the same. A few verses after this reading, Jesus talks about the Holy Spirit and the Spirit’s connection to himself and the Father. The description is something that we might not be able to grasp with our rational minds. If this is the case, we find ourselves back in Philip’s position, being asked by Jesus to “believe in me.” What is faith, after all, if there is no need for belief or trust?

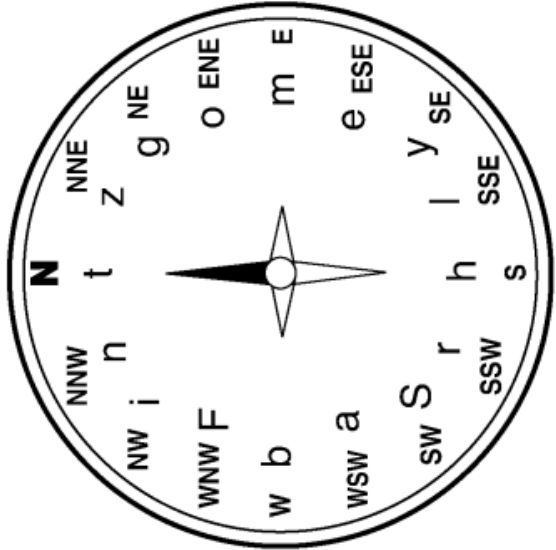
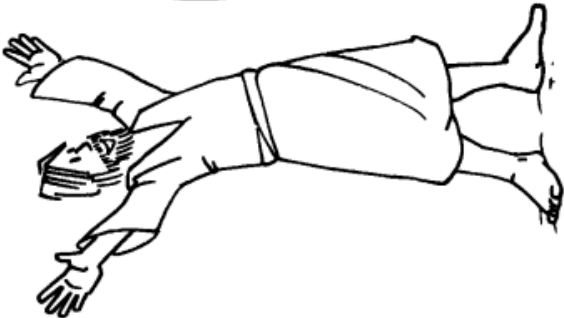
Questions of the Week

1. Have you ever felt an invitation to trust and to “not let your heart be troubled,” even though you sensed there was something troubling on the horizon?
2. Which person of the Trinity is it easiest for you to relate to: the Father, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit? Why?



Jesus said that He would do whatever they asked in His name. Why would He do that?

Use the compass code to fill in the blanks.



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Ages 7+

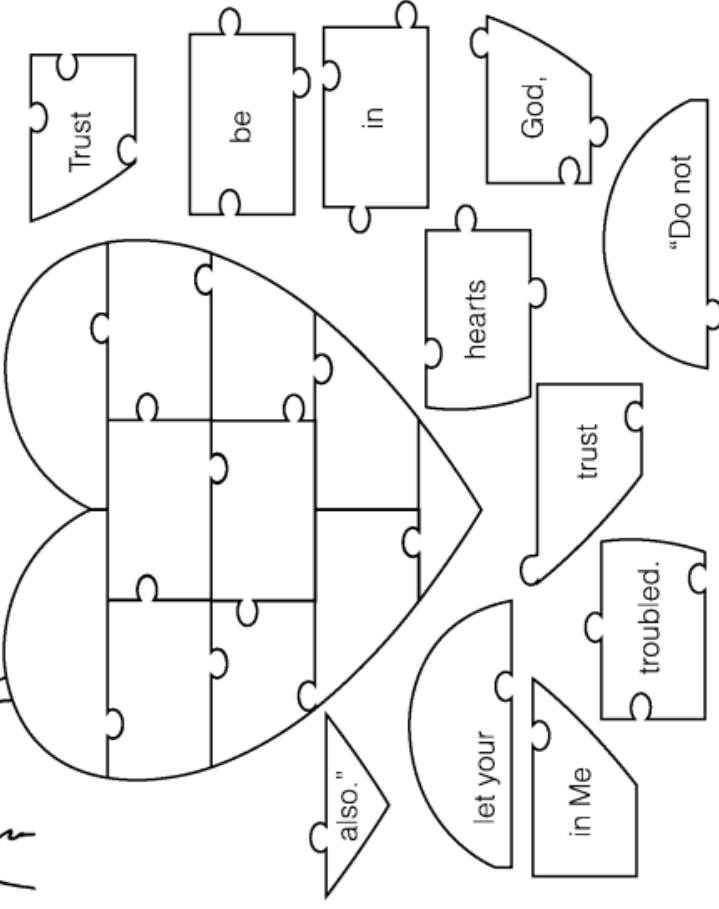
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Jesus Comforts His Disciples

Jesus told His disciples to not worry.
What did He say to them?



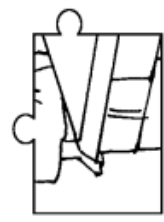
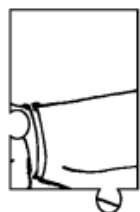
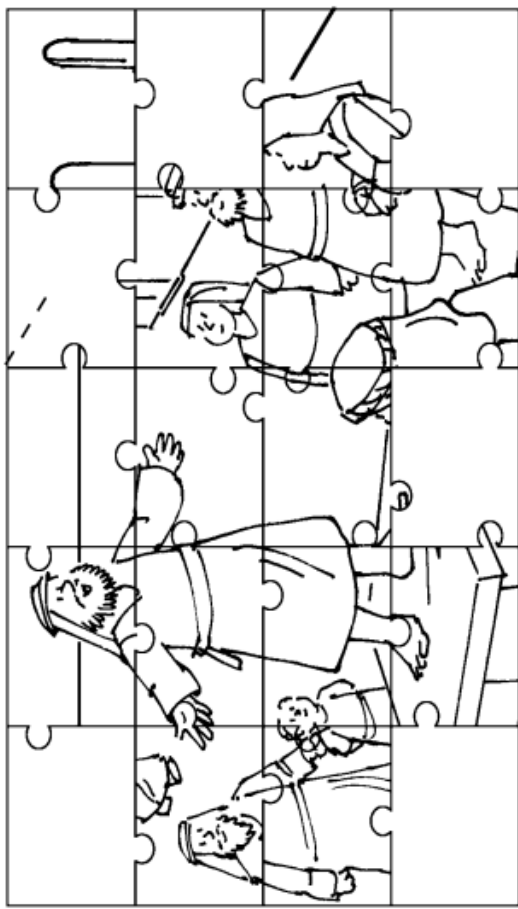
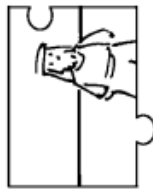
Fit the pieces of the puzzle together
to read the answer.



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“All who have faith in Me
will do the works I have been doing ...”

Match the puzzle pieces.



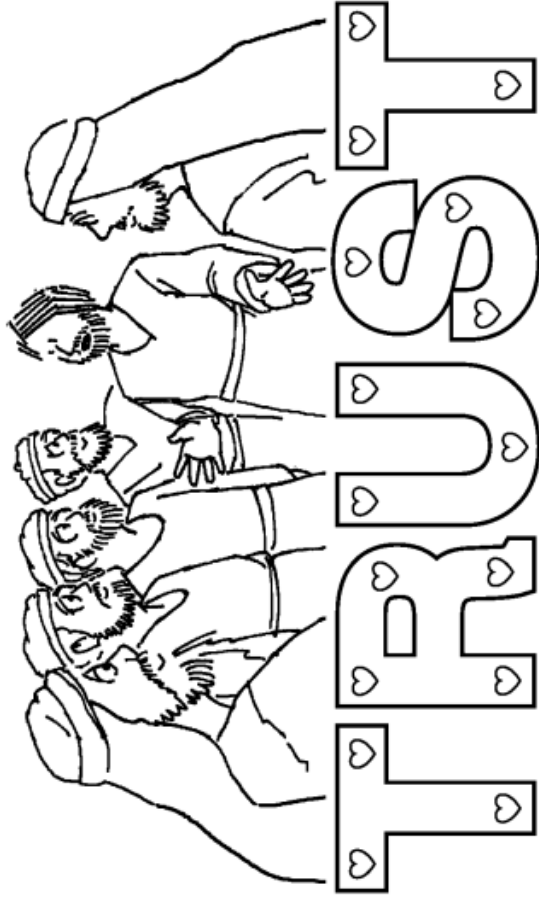
Ages 3+

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Jesus Comforts His Disciples

Jesus told His disciples
to trust in God and in Him.

Count and circle the correct number of ♥ s
found in the word TRUST .
13 14 15 16 or 17 ?



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3

Jesus also said, “No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

Connect the dots.

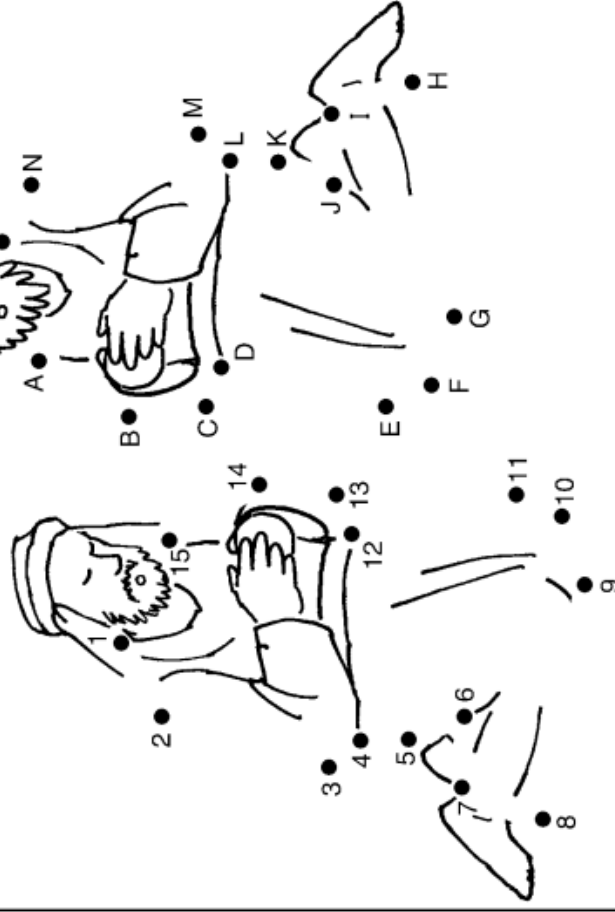
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