



CORPUS CHRISTI
PARISH COMMUNITY

234 SOUTHERN BOULEVARD
CHATHAM, NEW JERSEY 07928

(973) 635-0070 • Fax (973) 635-5518
www.corpuschristi.org

Rev. T. Kevin Corcoran, Pastor

ext. 5, frkevin@corpuschristi.org

Rev. Lemmuel Camacho, S.T.L., Parochial Vicar

ext. 6, lcamacho@corpuschristi.org

Deacon Sal Bonfiglio, Pastoral Associate, Marriage & Family Ministry, ext. 720, sbonfiglio@corpuschristi.org

Sr. Margaret Dincher, SCC, Pastoral Associate, Spirituality ext. 714, marga@corpuschristi.org

Brian Duemling, Middle School Religious Education ext. 740, bduemling@corpuschristi.org

Fran Guy, Business Office, ext. 713, fguy@corpuschristi.org

Brigette Hanley, Elementary Religious Education Coordinator Ext 715, bhanley@corpuschristi.org

Terri Janosik, Administrative Assistant

ext. 710, tjanosik@corpuschristi.org

Robert Long, Minister of Music, ext. 716, rlong@corpuschristi.org

Rev. Msgr. James T. Mahoney, Ph.D., V.G., Pastor Emeritus

Chris Medeiros, Administrative Assistant

ext. 711, medeiros@corpuschristi.org

Elizabeth Nowik, Handbell and Children's Choirs

ext. 716, liz@corpuschristi.org

Tricia Ott, Parish Administrator

ext. 725, triciaott@corpuschristi.org

Mary Anne (Psomi) Psomas-Jackloski, Pastoral Associate, Youth Ministry and Formation, ext. 718, psomi@corpuschristi.org

Maintenance Staff, ext. 721, maintenance@corpuschristi.org

FEBRUARY 3, 2019
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Welcome,
Father Kevin,
As the Third Pastor
In the history of
Corpus Christi

SACRAMENTS • PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

EUCCHARIST

WEEKEND LITURGIES:

Saturday—5:00 p.m.

Sunday—7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 12:15 p.m.

WEEKDAY LITURGIES: 7:30 a.m.—Mon. to Fri.

EUCCHARIST FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND:

Every first Friday; other times upon request

FIRST EUCCHARIST:

Usually celebrated in 2nd grade for children.

Celebrated at the Easter Vigil for adults.

BAPTISM

Infant baptism: for registered parishioners are celebrated two Sundays a month. A 1-hour baptism preparation class is required for all first-time parents. After the child is born, contact the parish office to schedule the baptism. Baptism prep classes are scheduled as needed.

Adults: participate in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). Through this process, the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation are received. For further information, contact the parish office.

CONFIRMATION

Parishioners of high school age are confirmed following a two-year preparation program, usually culminating with Confirmation in the beginning of junior year. Adult parishioners are usually confirmed at the Easter Vigil. For further information, contact the parish office.

PENANCE

For all parishioners: celebrated on Saturday from 4:15-4:45 p.m. in the Atrium Conference Room;

outside of these times, upon request.

Communal Penance services are held in Advent and Lent.

First Penance: Usually celebrated in the 2nd grade.

MARRIAGE

Please contact the parish office one year prior to the wedding. Preparation for Marriage includes: Pre-Cana or Engaged Encounter, as well as meetings with the Pastoral Associate for Marriage and Family, the Music Minister, and the Priest who will witness the marriage. Weddings may be scheduled any day Monday through Saturday. No weddings will be scheduled on Sundays, eves of holidays, holidays, or holiday weekends.

ANointing OF THE SICK

This sacrament may be celebrated with any person who is seriously ill. A communal celebration of this sacrament is held periodically. You may request this sacrament at any time, especially in case of emergency. Any parishioner who is in the hospital and wishes to see a member of the parish staff should notify the parish office.

CYO BASKETBALL PROGRAM

See Corpus Christi website (www.corpuschristi.org) or call Jim LeMon at 917-576-1619 or email jlemon1023@gmail.com

SENIOR CITIZENS

Priscilla Ursino, Coordinator

Meets first Friday of month at 12:30 p.m.

Liturgy and Lunch October – June

ALTAR SOCIETY

Coordinators: Kathleen Magill and Dorothy Shanahan

MEN'S SOCIETY Meets second Tuesday of the month during the school year at 7:30 p.m.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SESSIONS

The parish offers a comprehensive program in religious education for pre-school, elementary school, middle school, and high school. These sessions are held on Sundays or Mondays. We also offer a program for students who are educationally challenged. Adult education programs are scheduled periodically and announced in the bulletin. For further information, contact the parish office, x 715.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

For those in their 20s and 30s, through social, spiritual and service activities, young adults meet at St. Paul Inside the Walls in Madison (www.insidethewalls.org) and volunteer with the youth here at Corpus Christi. Contact Psomi for further information.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY

Most youth entering high school become involved in Youth Ministry through a 2 year Confirmation Preparation Program which includes, service, education and retreats. In this three pronged approach, youth learn, experience and grow in their love for self, others and God. After Confirmation, young people are invited into deeper involvement or leadership which includes retreat teams, justice and service, teaching, music and more.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The Knights of Columbus is an international fraternal, family and charitable organization. Locally, the Parcells Council of the Knights of Columbus jointly serves the parishes of Corpus Christi and Saint Patrick. Membership is open to all Catholic men over 18. Visit the Parcells Council on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/parcellscouncil>

For further information contact Dan Otten at 973-335-1435.

AL-ANON MEETING

Al-Anon meets every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. This is open to any persons in the community who are family members or friends of those suffering from any type of chemical dependency, such as alcohol, etc. The meeting is held in the double classroom area. Enter the parish center through the main doors from the rear parking lot. This is not affiliated with the parish, but the facilities are offered as a service to the community. The participants are to maintain strict confidentiality and require anonymity.

LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2

5:00 p.m. Barbara Hardin

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3

7:30 a.m. Diane Forier

9:00 a.m. Jay Conroy

11:00 a.m. Eileen Gilmartin

12:15 p.m. Christopher Molinaro

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4

7:30 a.m. Andrew Durkin; Sam Failla

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

7:30 a.m. Maureen Alexander

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6

7:30 a.m. Donald Hibar; Angelo Campanile;
Rosemary Bullen

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7

7:30 a.m. Flo Mortarulo

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8

7:30 a.m. Joan Fitzsimmons

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9

5:00 p.m. Christopher Leggiero

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10

7:30 a.m. Arthur and Gertrude Gordon

9:00 a.m. Margaret Haggerty

11:00 a.m. Christopher Molinaro

12:15 p.m. Regina and Robert Resco

IN REMEMBRANCE

For the week of February 3, Sanctuary Lights burn for a Special Intention. Bread and Wine is offered in memory of Maureen Alexander. Blessed Sacrament Chapel flowers are in memory of Maureen Alexander.

FLOWER MEMORIALS

Remember a loved one or offer a Special Intention by having a flower arrangement placed in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. The cost will be \$50 or more plus a \$10 offering. The Parish Office will coordinate the request with our florist, Carl Lemanski.

PRESIDER'S SCHEDULE FEBRUARY 2/3

5:00 p.m. Fr. Lem 9:00 a.m. Fr. Lem
7:30 a.m. Fr. Mahoney 11:00 a.m. Fr. Kevin
12:15 p.m. Fr. Kevin

PRESIDER'S SCHEDULE FEBRUARY 9/10

5:00 p.m. Fr. Lem 9:00 a.m. Fr. Mahoney
7:30 a.m. Fr. Kevin 11:00 a.m. Fr. Kevin
12:15 p.m. Fr. Lem

FEBRUARY 3, 2019 FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

TODAY

Souper Bowl Sunday Collection

Religious Ed Grades PreK—5

9:00 a.m. Children's Liturgy of the Word

9 & 11 a.m. First Communion Enrollment

9:40 a.m. RCIA

10:30 a.m. Extreme Faith

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4

4:00 p.m. Religious Ed Grades 1—5

8:00 p.m. Bible Study

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

9:00 a.m. Centering Prayer

3:30 p.m. Joyful Noise

4:15 p.m. Junior Bell Choir

6:00 p.m. Extreme Faith

8:00 p.m. Confirmation Team 1

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6

9:00 a.m. Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Praying the Rosary

8:00 p.m. Confirmation Team 1

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7

7:30 p.m. Adult Choir

8:00 p.m. Confirmation Team 2

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9

9:00 a.m. Food Bank

5:00 p.m. Marriage Sunday

5:00 p.m. Valentine Bake Sale



LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTION

Checks	\$12,903.50
Loose	\$ 2,406.00
Total	\$15,309.50

THANK YOU for responding with generosity to our financial needs. To give is an act of faith. We promise to be wise stewards with the funds that you entrust to us.

ONLINE GIVING is available for one-time and recurring donations conveniently and securely from our parish website at www.corpuschristi.org. You can make your secure donation via electronic check or debit/credit card by clicking on **ONLINE GIVING** at the top of the home page. **You will need your family ID/envelope number to complete the registration.** If you don't know your family ID/envelope number, please call the Parish Office.

WELCOME!

New parishioners are asked to register for the parish by going to our website at www.corpuschristi.org. Click on the **Parish Registration** tab at the top of the home page next to **Online Giving**. For more info, please call the Parish Office.

BAPTISMS

We welcome into the Church through the sacrament of Baptism, **Zeke Edward Jeffries**, son of Tyler and Emily; **Charley Joan Rickert**, daughter of Paul and Allison.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Patty Westerzelt, LaVerne Washburne, Brian Deasy, Mon Cassius, Pam Koch, Trish Dowling, David Natale, Donald de Castro, Megan O'Neil, Christopher Ciufio, Martin Dubel, Melina Hennigan, James Greendonner, Jeffrey Dowling, Donna Conforti, Carolyn Phalon, Wayne Parisi, Debby Conti, James J. Price, Pat Pierson, Florence and John Hefe, Hank Campbell, Amy Fitzgerald, Mary McHale, Father John O'Brien, Frances Primack, Dorothy M. Torick, Howard Daly, Katherine Brown, Conor Jennings, Barbara Layman, Peter Pietrucha, Craig Wisdo, John Petite, Raymond O'Connell, Joseph Doria, John Fleming, Donna Kugelman, Jeffrey Hodgeson, Kiran Kenney, Helen Dwyer, Margaret Pittaluga, Tina Errico, Nick McGann, John (Jack) Kaplan, Marie Orgo, Fr. Tony Duffy, Lucy Ryan, Joann Uibelhoer, Beth Abella, Hazel Townsend, Nicholas Ciufio, Peter Elder, Lori Abrams, Brandon Glynnyoung, David Carey, Marylou Perrini, Alan Fischer, Sarah Addison, Carol Murphy, Michelle Johnson, Likeu Lee, Susan Kosinski, Camille Moran, Michael Turinchak, Dorothy Norton, Sr. Barbara Takacs, Diane Allen, Nora and Callum Lemanski, Lucas Reiling, Dominic Ursino, Andrew Jenkins, Debbie Dwyer, Bridget Noe, John Cunningham, Mary Beth Driscoll, Denise Phalon Cascio, Abigail Brady, Frances Smith, Claudia Fernandez, Tom Warren, Marty Erickson, Mary Beth Bonkowski, Carey Jenkins, Aurora Tremaroli, Aubrey Baumbach, Christopher Green Cunningham, John VanDam, Ethel Gasda, Patrick Ford, David Kelly, Patrick Murphy, Jr., Helen Huk, Cathy Caputo, Rui Boos, Joseph Todisco, Marie Skurka, Arianna Khelil, Dorothy Craig, Stephanie Quiroga, Sal Guidone, Judy Broyhill, Tony Rios, Lois McGuire, Gina Pagnotta, Helen Huddleston, Mary Ann Allen, Mary Ellen Wagner, Ed Lord, Gina Pelillo, Thomas Singer, Gregory Malzberg, Kristine Ryan, Luis Gallardo, Susan McGeough, Marianne Conod, Mary McNiff, Joseph Cirella, Donna Gocking, Marti Sullivan, Lauren Gardner, Helen Marie Kravitz, Edward Cameron, Vivian Riley, Marie Viteri, Steven Hensle, Bob Whelan, William Cody, John Keelin, Richard Delaney, Mary Lou Carrier, Mary Conforti, Charlie Roussel, Jay Conroy, Richard Pelillo, Christopher Crahan, Ryan Lowe, Dominick Canavaro, Larry Califano, Frank Intagliato, Clifford McGuire, Don Stauber, Marie Meister, Marlenes Teixeira, John Crisp, Don Spagnuolo, Maddie Niebanch, Anthony Careccia, Martine Errico, Henry Von See, Michelle Benaim, Parker Watson, Kevin and Dorothy Franken, Adriana Martins, Frances Psomas, Eugene Iannocelli, Peggy Cox, Eileen Matt, Everett Farren, Connie McNamara, Ann Zerga, Peter Sussman, Cheryl Maiorini, Alfri Rundio, Barbara Marvin, Beth Cintron, Anna McGeough, Andrew White, Peter Perla, Adeline Lombardi, Caitlin Murray, Donald Hanson, Stephanie Gingeleskie, Giovanna Tagliaferri, Nancy Merola Miller.

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE GONE HOME TO THE LORD...

Marilyn Fox, mother of Tom

Theresa Caporaso, mother of Terry Carlin

Helen Cerza, mother of Robert and grandmother of Samantha Vezzosi



SPIRITUALITY—FAITH DEVELOPMENT

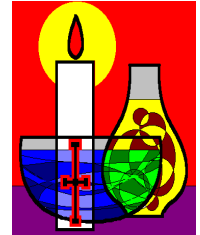


Contact:

Sister Margaret Dincher SCC
973-635-0070 x 714 (phone)
973-635-5518 (fax)
email: marga@corpuschristi.org

Christian Initiation of Adults

If you or someone you know wishes to prepare to receive Confirmation or Eucharist, please contact Sister Margaret. During Lent, sessions will be held to prepare for the celebration of these sacraments at the Easter Vigil, on Saturday, April 20, 2019.



LECTORS

Lectors who have not as yet picked up their 2019 Workbook are asked to contact Sister Margaret. The books will be placed on the window ledge outside the main office.

SPECIAL MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

All Eucharistic Ministers are asked to sign up for Sunday liturgies by email. If you are having difficulty with the process please email Richard at richardg653@gmail.com and check the bulletin board for the positions that need to be filled. Additional ministers are needed for this ministry.



PASTORAL CARE



If you or someone you know is in the hospital or is homebound and wishes to receive Communion or the Sacrament of the Sick, please contact Sister Margaret.

For those who wish to receive the Sacrament of the sick, our priests are available to celebrate the Sacrament of the sick with them.

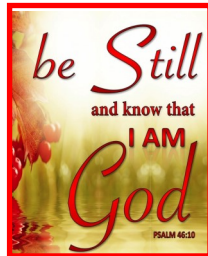
ALTAR SERVERS



Altar Servers are needed at Mass. At least one server is needed to process with the cross at the entrance to Mass, to lead those who bring the gifts to the altar and to lead the priest to exit at the end of the Mass.

CENTERING PRAYER

Centering Prayer is held each Tuesday in the Emmaus Room from 9 to 9:30 am. Everyone is welcome to come to begin the day centering on the presence of God with us at each moment of our daily lives.



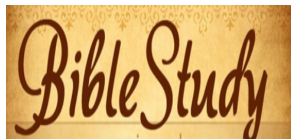
BIBLE STUDIES

Letter to the Hebrews

On Monday evening from 8:00 to 9:00 pm Bible Study will be on Paul's letter to the Hebrews. It is one of the most beautiful and most challenging books of the Bible according to some authors. The study is led by Lee Finch.

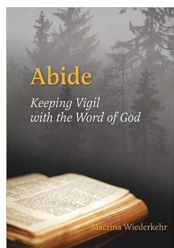
Gospel of John

On Wed. from 9—10 am, the Gospel of John is the topic of discussion and reflection. In the Gospel of John, the Word of God comes alive with meaning for our daily living.



The study is led by Sr. Margaret.

Abide Keeping Vigil with the Word



The session is held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 pm On February 12th the prayer/discussion will be Chapter 3, topic 3 and 4.

Facilitators:
Diane Radwill & Sister Margaret

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

During Lent, *"Boundless Compassion"* by Joyce Rupp will be the topic of Discussion and Prayer on Tuesday mornings 9:30 to 10:30 am and Thursday evenings, 7:30—8:30 pm. Sign-ups will be available next week.

FAMILY/MARRIAGE MINISTRY



Contact: Deacon Sal Bonfiglio
973-635-0070 x720
sbonfiglio@corpuschristi.org

Married Couples...

Do you remember the **FOCCUS** survey you completed during Catholic marriage prep? It helped identify areas in your new relationship that could benefit from further discussion between you and your fiancé.

REFOCCUS is the same concept, but for couples that have been married for a while. It's an online questionnaire that you and your spouse complete separately, then receive a report for you to review together. The cost is \$25.

Whether or not you did **FOCCUS** before you were married, and whether you've been married 1 year or 71 years, your relationship will benefit from **REFOCCUS**.

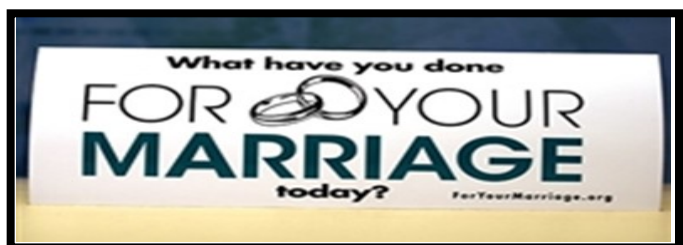
To learn more or to go ahead and take the survey, email Deacon Sal in the Corpus Christi Family Life office:
sbonfiglio@corpuschristi.org.



REFOCCUS Marriage Enrichment Inventory

World Marriage Week is Feb. 7-14

How are you planning to celebrate your marriage?





Nourish is for anyone juggling the challenges of life, health, career, and family, all the while caring for an aging parent or spouse, special needs child, or family member with physical or mental health disabilities.

Nourish provides family caregivers practical and emotional supports, shared experiences and useful tools, with a Christ-centered view. Discover blessings in caring for another.

This month's topic:

Roles in Caregiving And Decisions We Face

Caregiving is God's work.

As we embrace this concept, we are able to move with joy and fulfillment in all the tasks and responsibilities associated with caring for another. We become the hands and feet for our Lord to our loved one.

Nourish™ for Caregivers
at Corpus Christi Parish meets on the
2nd Wed. of the month.

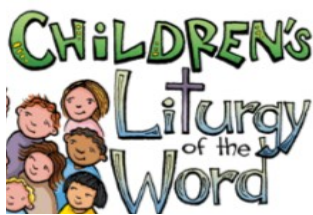
NEXT *Nourish™* MEETING:

Wed., Feb. 13th

7:00-8:30 PM

Atrium Conference Rm

RSVP: sbonfiglio@corpuschristi.org



**Feb. 3rd
9:00 Mass**

*Parents are always
welcome to sit in*

**For children ages 5 to 10,
or under 5 with a parent**

Children hear God's Word on their level, connect it to their experience, and respond in dialog, prayer, and song. They return to their families in main church after the *Prayer of the Faithful*.

Marriage Moment

Imagine your child's wedding day. The bride is radiant, the groom is confident. They are both hopeful. Children of divorced parents have more difficulty trusting others and forming lasting relationships, and are more likely to get divorced themselves.

The foundation for happily married couples begins with happily married parents. Instead of watching the divorce rate rise, let's help young people by demonstrating a more positive trend -- life-long marriage.

www.SusanVogt.net <http://www.ruthinstitute.org/>

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Contact: Brigitte Hanley 973-635-0070 x715 (phone); 973-635-5518 (fax) or email: bhanley@corpuschristi.org for PreK—Grade 5
Contact: Brian Duemling 973-635-0070 x740 (phone); 973-635-5518 (fax) or email: bduemling@corpuschristi.org for Middle School (Grades 6-8)
Contact: Psomi 973-635-0070 x718 (phone); 973-635-5518 (fax) or email: Psomi@corpuschristi.org for Confirmation Prep (Gr. 9-10)

Grades Prek-5

BHanley@corpuschristi.org

February 3/4 - Classes

February 10/11 - Classes

February 17/18 - NO Classes

February 24/25 Classes

Second Grade Families:

Make sure to pass the Activity
box onto the next family and
Altar cloth pieces are due on
February 28th

First Communion Enrollment

This Weekend

Saturday February 2nd, 5 pm Mass

Sunday, February 3rd, 9 am, and 11
am Masses



MUSIC MINISTRY

Contact: Robert Long, 973-635-0070 x716 (phone); 973-635-5518 (fax); email: rlong@corpuschristi.org

CORPUS CHRISTI CHOIRS SINGERS AND INSTRUMENTALISTS ARE WELCOME!

CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

Elementary and Middle School Instrumentalists:
Christmas Youth Orchestra
Children—Grades 3 through Middle School
Children—K-2: Cherubs & Chimes

ADULT CHOIRS

Corpus Christi Adult Choir rehearses on Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in the Emmaus Room.

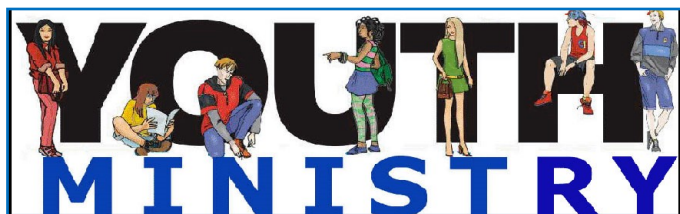
Corpus Christi Handbell Choir rehearses on Monday at 7:00 p.m. in the Emmaus Room

CONTACT: Bob Long or register online.

PLEASE HELP FEED AND CLOTHE THE HUNGRY

This week, the food donated will be going to the Hope House, Dover, NJ, one of our Catholic Charities agencies. Here are the items most needed by the Food Banks: Cold Cereal, Oatmeal/Hot Cereal, Pancake Mix and Syrup, Brown/White Rice, Pasta and Pasta Products (side dishes), Macaroni & Cheese, Soups (canned, mixes, ramen noodle), Cookies and Crackers, Canned Meats, Fish and Fruit, Peanut Butter, and Parmalat. Please consider purchasing low-sodium and low-sugar items.

Please help support our local programs by donating Clothing, Shoes, and Household Items in our donation bin located in our back parking lot.



Contact M. A. "Psomi" Psomas-Jackloski;
973-507-8718(desk); 201-572-1608 (cell) 973-635-5518 (fax);
email: psomi@corpuschristi.org; www.corpuschristi.org
www.facebook/chathamyouthministry

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

Registration Year 1 (9th grade) and Year 2 (10th grade)...on the parish website online.

www.corpuschristi.org—

Ministries—

Youth Ministry and Confirmation—
Confirmation Prep and Registration.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

7—8 PM, February 11

CONFIRMATION RETREAT

Year 1 & 2: Beach Retreat
February 22-23



EXTREME FAITH

Any singer or instrumentalist wishing to join Extreme Faith, at any time during the school year, is welcome. Please contact Psomi for more info.

BRIDGES

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Our next Bridges Run will be on Sunday, February 10 from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

We will be serving in Irvington. Anyone interested should contact Hannah Kelly (HKkelly5@gmail.com or Psomi).



SOUPERBOWL SUNDAY

This weekend, we will be holding pots after the masses and collecting money for our Bridges runs.

Throughout the country, churches and other organizations collect money on this day to support the hungry—either through a soup kitchen, food pantry, or like us, an organization like Bridges that reaches out to feed the hungry on the streets.

Thank you for your support of our youth and their service endeavors



MISSION '19

JUNE 23—29



We will be spending a week in West Virginia from June 23—29, 2019. The East coast floods have affected this area, and we will be doing much hammer and nails work to shore up people's homes that have been

damaged. Anyone who missed the organizational meeting, but still wants to come on the trip should contact Psomi.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST *THANK YOU!*

Many thanks to all the volunteers who came out to run the breakfast. You did a beautiful job! And thanks goes out to all who came to eat and support the breakfast. We very much appreciate your generosity!



U.S. can take the Lead

By Anne Gallagher

The US Senate recently endorsed the nomination of long-standing civil rights prosecutor, John Cotton Richmond, as new Ambassador-at-Large to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons. This statutory post, created under the Clinton administration, has been critical in shaping the outsize role that the US has occupied in pushing the rest of the world to do something about what is now commonly termed 'modern slavery.' But the position comes with heavy baggage. As the ambassador takes the helm, he should not underestimate the formidable task ahead of him.

The office of the ambassador was established in 2000 under the same federal law that also requires the State Department to produce an annual report documenting and assessing the response of every country (including its own, since 2010) to trafficking. Countries that receive a fail or near-fail grade are liable to a range of political and economic sanctions. While the report is subject to the approval of the Secretary of State, the ambassador is its author and public face.

Not surprisingly, this unilateral appraisal has been a source of great irritation to many countries. But few doubt its contribution to the global transformation that has taken place in our understanding of, and response to, trafficking. Put simply, the leverage created by the report has led to drastic changes in laws, policies and practices in every region of the world.

It has also helped improve our information position. Today it would be impossible for any country or corporation to deny the epic scale of human exploitation, from abused Asian construction workers in the Gulf to forced laborers on Thai fishing boats and Greek strawberry farms, forced marriage in the UK and forced prostitution in Italy. Estimates on modern slavery are notoriously unreliable. But there can be no doubt that millions of men, women and children are trapped in situations of exploitation from which they cannot escape.

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2018/11/here-are-four-challenges-for-the-new-us-ambassador-to-combat-human-trafficking/>



REFLECTION BY REV. LEONARD N. PETERSON...

A present day help wanted ad for prophets might read something like this: “Wanted: enthusiastic men with strong personalities to work as speakers for the Almighty. On call 24/7. Expect frequent hostility.” I daresay there would be no flood of applicants.

For proof of that scarcity, just read the accounts of Amos, Hosea, Isaiah, Micah, Ezekiel and today’s man Jeremiah. What each man had to face was a certain resentment from their audiences caused by a lack of faith among them. A case of “turned off hearing” greeted them, often coupled with violence. Such reactions have always greeted those who speak for God, mainly because God does brook indifference to His messages.

Obviously the prophets were chosen from “the Chosen” by the very Lord who made both choices. God wanted the covenant He made with the people of Moses’ time to last until the new covenant made by His Son. Coming as He did in that mysterious “fullness of time,” Jesus is the ultimate prophet.

Before the story of Christ was ever composed by any of the four Gospel writers, St. Paul wrote his Epistles. He meant them for the various communities of early Christians he had founded. But the Holy Spirit wants us to read them also. They are masterpieces of instruction in how to live the Christian life. Sometimes Paul adds autobiographical details. The scholars tell us that the middle section of today’s Second Reading describing love was deliberately inserted by Paul into this Letter. It is a jewel of composition. Its unbiased description of true love is hard to resist for the many couples who choose it for their weddings!

It makes for such a stark contrast with the hatred Jesus received after His prophetic remarks in the synagogue that day. Hatred to the point of murder. An interesting aside often missed tells us about the way Jesus was able to escape from the brow of that hill.

I felt a touch of that angry reaction to God’s ways as a retreat master two months ago as I was in the midst of leading nearly two hundred men at St. Joseph’s Retreat House in Malvern, PA. At the question and answer session scheduled, two anonymous retreatants vented their anger about the priest sex abuse scandal and how it has been largely mishandled. They were vexed over the way ex-cardinal McCarrick’s hitherto unchecked criminal behavior was apparently ignored as he rose high in the Church’s hierarchy.

There followed some heated oral exchanges between two of the retreatants which compelled me into the unwanted role of referee. All I tried to do was empathize with their pain as well as the shame. Suffice it to say that I was just a lightning rod offering them a chance to ventilate. But those moments were a taste of what the ancient prophets felt. I was glad when I could move onto other topics.

What is so beautiful to remember in this reflection is the fact that all the biblical prophets not only answered God’s call but stayed faithful to it. The same holds for our contemporary prophets like Mother St. Teresa and Archbishop St. Oscar Romero. I am sure they would agree with the following: *“A person is responsible to God for becoming what God has made possible for him or her to become.”* That includes you and me.

Sunday, Feb 03, 2019

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Take the leap of truth

In one guidebook, the place was oddly listed as the “Mount of Hurling.” While that sounds like a site for over eager partygoers, Mount Precipice, as it’s more widely known, is a hill overlooking Nazareth where Jesus almost met an early end. Citizens of his hometown loved having a celebrity to claim as their own, but when Jesus suggested that God might claim foreigners ahead of Israelites because of their welcome to prophets, the Nazoreans proved his point by attempting to run him off a cliff. Telling the truth rarely makes us popular. It can even be dangerous. Take the plunge!

TODAY’S READINGS: Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 12:31—13:13; Luke 4:21-30 (72). *“They rose up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill . . . to hurl him down headlong.”*

Monday, Feb 04, 2019

Reach out for assistance

The expression “inner demons” captures something of the helplessness that those in the grip of negative behaviors feel. The ancients took that phrase literally, believing that illness was due to divine punishment for sin or demons taking up temporary residence in a person. The remedy was to seek forgiveness or a healer who could rid you of the bad spirits. While most people nowadays don’t believe that sicknesses and personality problems come from evil spirits or God’s wrath, there is still the need for reaching out to others for help when you cannot help yourself. Medical and other professionals, counselors, family, friends, and especially Jesus the Healer in prayer provide that assistance.

TODAY’S READINGS: Hebrews 11:32-40; Mark 5:1-20 (323). *“Go home to your family and announce to them all that the Lord in his pity has done for you.”*

Tuesday, Feb 05, 2019

MEMORIAL OF AGATHA, VIRGIN, MARTYR

Torture is intolerable

The details of Saint Agatha’s life are not for the faint of heart. Born in Sicily during the third-century Christian persecutions, Agatha was continuously harassed and abused for her religious convictions. She was imprisoned in a brothel, but when she refused to serve customers, she was sent to jail, where she was repeatedly beaten and mutilated. She finally succumbed to death. Not surprisingly Agatha is the patron of torture victims. The church condemns torture as contrary to the Christian tenets of respect for life and human dignity. In honor of Saint Agatha and the countless victims of torture through the centuries, take time today to review the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ online instruction: “Torture Is a Moral Issue: A Catholic Study Guide.”

TODAY’S READINGS: Hebrews 12:1-4; Mark 5:21-43 (324). *“Jesus said to the hemorrhaging woman, ‘Daughter, your faith has saved you.’ ”*

Wednesday, Feb 06, 2019

MEMORIAL OF PAUL MIKI AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS

Citizens of two worlds

Imagine the trouble 16th-century missionaries had presenting Western Christianity to the Far East. Paul Miki was a Christian from Kyoto, Japan. He understood local religion and culture well enough to argue for Christianity to the point where he made

enemies. Religious and political leaders ran the missionaries out and burned down churches. Miki and his friends stayed and were put to death in 1597. His final Christian witness was to forgive his executioners before he died. Today we can consider ourselves Christian missionaries even in this culture, living our faith in a sometimes hostile environment.

TODAY’S READINGS: Hebrews 12:4-7, 11-15; Mark 6:1-6 (325). *“He instructed them to take nothing for the journey but a walking stick—no food, no sack, no money in their belts.”*

Thursday, Feb 07, 2019

All will be provided

Can you imagine starting out on a work trip and your boss insists that you must leave your money and food at home? But the message of today’s gospel is that just as Jesus was sent by the Father to preach the Good News, so he sent his disciples (and eventually that means us) to continue this mission. The clothes the disciples wore and the food they ate were not to be a source of worry. What mattered was trust that God would give them what they needed to preach repentance and minister to the sick.

TODAY’S READINGS: Hebrews 12:18-19, 21-24; Mark 6:7-13 (326). *“He instructed them to take nothing for the journey.”*

Friday, Feb 08, 2019

MEMORIAL OF JOSEPHINE BAKHITA, VIRGIN

Stop the traffic

Bakhita: “Fortunate One.” A slave owner gave this ironic name to a young girl kidnapped in Sudan in the 1800s. She was bought and sold many times. It was said that she forgot her birth name because of the great suffering she endured. Eventually she was transported to Italy and there gained her freedom. She joined the Canossian Sisters and was revered for her deep faith in God. Her name, once a symbol of oppression, became a symbol of hope. With Saint Josephine Bakhita, pray for freedom for the many people oppressed by human trafficking in the world today.

TODAY’S READINGS: Hebrews 13:1-8; Mark 6:14-29 (327). *“Herod feared John, knowing him to be a righteous and holy man, and kept him in custody.”*

Saturday, Feb 09, 2019

MEMORIAL OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Give yourself a break

Are you overwhelmed with things to do and deadlines to meet? Do you need a break? When *did* you last take time to “rest” and to “be refreshed”? Though we sometimes ignore it, faith binds us to the practice of taking a break to ensure the “proper relaxation of mind and body,” as the Catechism of the Catholic Church (2193) puts it. God rested while immersed in the work of creation. Jesus and the disciples took time to get away. Mary reflected in her heart. Find a way to take your own spiritual snow day: Do your best to find a way to allow everyday work to come to a halt and seek a bit of a respite.

TODAY’S READINGS: Hebrews 13:15-17, 20-21; Mark 6:30-34 (328). *“Come away . . . to a deserted place and rest awhile.”*

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time



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