

Saint John the Evangelist Church

470 Broad Avenue, Leonia, New Jersey

www.stjohnleonia.org

Rev. Bryan F.J. Adamcik SFO, KCHS, Administrator
Fr. Richard Kwiatkowski, Pastor Emeritus
Fr. Arlou Buslon, Parochial Vicar

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Deacon

Sr Jeanne Gilligan FSP Sr Maureen Colleary FSP
Sr Elaine Maguire FSP Sr Kathryn King FSP
In Residence-Convent

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Dir. of Religious Education

Dennis De Santis, *Director of Music*
David Macfarlane, *Associate Music Minister*

Marilyn Badami Deacon Brian Burke
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High School Youth Ministry Junior Youth Group

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CYO Basketball

Julie Diemer
Parish Secretary

Julie Diemer Cecile Arcebido
President Parish Council Chairman Finance Council

THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE/CONFESSION:
Monday - Friday 8:30am - 8:50am. First Friday at 6:30pm
Saturday at 4:00pm - 4:30pm

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:
To register for Baptismal preparation and Baptism, call the rectory.

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION:
Call the Religious Ed Office for requirements/class schedule.

THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY:
Please call the rectory for an appointment.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE SICK/LAST RITES:
Call the Rectory for sick calls at any time in emergency.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY ORDERS AND VOCATIONS:
Anyone contemplating a vocation to the Priesthood or Religious
Life should contact the Vocations Office at 973-497-4365.

FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM
Sunday—Grades K through 7 meet 10:30 am-12:00 noon
Monday—Grades 1, 2, 3 & 4 meet 3:15-3:45 p.m.

**SUNDAY, June 7, 2020 A.D.
Trinity Sunday**



WELCOME

**To the Parish Family of
St John's in Leonia
Founded in 1912
COME WORSHIP WITH US**

Mass Schedule

Saturday:5:00pm

**Sunday:.....7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am,
and 6:00pm**

Weekdays:.....9:00am Mon-Sat

SPECIAL MASSES OR DEVOTIONS:

First Friday: 7:00pm, Mass of Sacred Heart & Devotions
First Saturday: 9:00am, Mass of Immaculate Heart of Mary

Novenas prayed after 9:00 a.m. Mass:

Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal: Monday

St. Jude and St. Anthony: Wednesday

Infant of Prague: 25th of the month

Rosary: Recited Mon - Sat after 9:00am Mass.

Wednesday: Holy Hour with Adoration & Benediction 7:00pm

St John Rectory
Phone: 201-947-4545
Email: parishoffice@stjohnleonia.org

St John Fax
201-947-3891

Religious Education
201-944-4346

St. John Convent
201-944-4362

St John the Evangelist, Leonia NJ

PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Please **PRAY** in the name of **JESUS**, the Healer, that the **SICK** of **ST. JOHN PARISH** may be restored to health and all those who **ASSIST** and **CARE** for the sick will be given the **STRENGTH** to continue **GOD'S GOOD WILL**: Nancy, Ben, Ed, Gio & Raul, Baby Declan, Connie Bizyk, Michael Brady, Maria Buljevic, Corazon Canare, Steven Chang, Joseph Corbo, Valerie Czermak, Nestor DelPrado, Nelia DelValle, MaryEllen Diakakis, Carla Errico, Peggy Horan, Lori Hulle, Peter Indiveri, Lori Lepore, Mary McGrath, Lenny Moriarity, Alphonsus O'Farrell, Gloria Petti, Rebecca Piro, Aristedes Ramirez, Fr. Roy Regaspi, Margie Sagara, Betsey Sileo, Nicholas Storms, Ann Vaughan, and Mary Wagnes.

SPIRITUAL EXCERPT

"Holiness is attained with the help of the Holy Spirit, who comes to dwell in our souls, through grace given us by the sacraments and as a result of a constant ascetical struggle. My son, let us not have any false illusions about this. You and I—I'll never tire of repeating it—will always have to struggle, always, until the end of our lives. We will thus come to love peace, and we will spread peace around us, and we will receive our everlasting reward."

St. Josemaria Escriva - **THE FORGE** pg. 152.

ARE YOU A REGISTERED PARISHIONER?

Occasionally there is a misunderstanding on Parish Registration; every family should be properly registered on our Parish Census by filling out a Parish Registration Form. Couples married at St. John's who continue to live in the Parish should register shortly after the marriage as a new family. The Parish where you receive your Sacraments does not continue to be your Parish unless you are properly registered. Sponsor Certificates for Baptism and Confirmation and reference letters can only be given to those who are registered parishioners.

RESPECT LIFE

At the instant of physical conception, a human life is in existence. To deliberately kill or destroy that human life, THE GREAT LAWGIVER AND SUPREME JUDGE says, is **MURDER**, punishable by eternal and final **DEATH!** Regardless of human lawyers, human courts, human judges, or even Supreme Court Justices, abortion is an act of murder, in defiance of the supreme almighty GOD. Those who commit it, and order it, or "legally" by man's law authorize it, will be held in contempt of THE SUPREME COURT OF HEAVEN, and answerable to the great **SUPREME JUDGE**.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday: 1 Kgs 17:1-6; Ps 121:1bc-8; Mt 5:1-12
- Tuesday: 1 Kgs 17:7-16; Ps 4:2-5, 7b-8; Mt 5:13-16
- Wednesday: 1 Kgs 18:20-39; Ps 16:1b-2ab, 4, 5ab, 8, 11; Mt 5:17-19
- Thursday: Acts 11:21b-26; 13:1-3; Ps 65:10-13; Mt 5:20-26
- Friday: 1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-16; Ps 27:7-9abc, 13-14; Mt 5:27-32
- Saturday: 1 Kgs 19:19-21; Ps 16:1b-2a, 5, 7-10; Mt 5:33-37
- Sunday: Dt 8:2-3, 14b-16a; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; 1 Cor 10:16-17; Jn 6:51-58

My therapist says I have a preoccupation with vengeance. We'll see about that.

MARY GARDENS

Christians of the early Church frequently used floral symbolism to honor the Blessed Mother. The Church Fathers, for example, took passages from the Scriptural passages from The Song of Songs to liken Our Lady to the rose of Sharon and the lily of the valley. By the Middle Ages, nearly 700 flowers and herbs had come to be associated with the Blessed Virgin. Some were associated through tradition, such as the rose of Sharon and the lily of the valley. Some were associated through legend. Our Lady's bedstraw is an herb said to have been placed by Mary in the manger. Columbine was called Our Lady's slipper because it was said to have grown where Mary's feet touched the earth. Here is a list of some common annuals and perennials named after or dedicated to Our Lady:

Annuals

- Sweet alyssum—Mary's flower
- Marigold—Mary's gold
- Petunia—Our Lady's praise
- Sweet pea—Our Lady's smile
- Cornflower—Our Lady's crown
- Pansy—Our Lady's delight
- Forget-me-not—Eyes of Mary

Perennials

- Morning Glory—Our Lady's mantle
- English daisy—Mary's rose
- Snowdrop—Our Lady's tears
- Lily of the Valley—Our Lady's tears
- Daffodil—Mary's star
- Bleeding heart—Mary's heart
- Iris—Our Lady's sword

THE BASICS ABOUT ALL CHURCH MINISTRY

Jesus Christ our High Priest is the source of every Church ministry, for He is the one and only Priest. He 'adorns' each baptized Christian with a share IN His Priesthood; so all ministers: social, liturgical, catechetical, administrative, etc., are vehicles through whom Christ now functions in the world. From among the baptized Christ, "with a brother's love," calls some men to particular roles as teachers, leaders and officiants - not for their own glory - but to serve God's People.

Father's Day

As Father's Day will soon be upon us, if you would like to have someone remembered at Mass during the Father's Day Novena Masses from June 21st through June 29th, (please use the form attached) mail or drop off their names in the Rectory Mail Slot on Kingsley Street, along with your donation.

APOLOGETICS

Defend your Catholic Faith but first learn more about it. Check out this site to learn more about Roman Catholicism @ <http://www.biblechristiansociety.com>

JUST A REMINDER

The Fridays of the year, outside of Lent, are designated as days of penance, but each individual may substitute for the traditional abstinence from meat some other practice of voluntary self-denial as penance.

POST-ABORTION COUNSELING

Contact PROJECT RACHEL - 732-388-8211

Palm Collection

There is a basket in the Broad Avenue Entrance Foyer to collect your old palm.

DAILY OFFERING

O My Jesus, I include myself in all the Holy Masses which are celebrated this day throughout the world, and offer them to You in union with the intentions of You Sacred Heart. I implore You to reserve for me, from each Holy Mass, Your most precious Blood to atone for my sins and their punishment.

St John's Knights of Columbus

All men over 18 are invited to join the St. John's parish Knights of Columbus, the world's largest men's fraternal organization. For more information or to join, please contact Mike Minetti at 201-370-2061.

How to Become a Saint

It was Saint Peter who, after reflecting on this prophecy: "May another take his office." (Psalm 109:8b), directed the approximately 120 brothers to nominate someone to take Judas' place after he hanged himself after betraying Jesus. The only criterion was that the candidate had to have been with them throughout our Lord's earthly ministry. They proposed two men: Joseph, called Barsabbas, also known as Justus, and Matthias; after praying they drew lots which they took as the sign God has chosen Matthias. (The white smoke came centuries later; besides, this was not a papal election for Peter's replacement) Before the 1960's liturgical reforms of Vatican II, the Feast of Saint Matthias was February 24. It was moved to May 14. Why? The Acts of the Apostles (1:15-26) records how, after Christ's Ascension, the Apostles and others gathered with Mary, the Mother of Jesus, in the Upper Room where they had eaten the Last Supper. This was the Church's first novena, nine days of intense prayers, from the Ascension to the Coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. The Feast of St. Matthias now often falls during the time he was actually added to the college of Apostles!

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Every week, some treasures from our tradition are shared here in our parish bulletin. Where does all this history come from? The history of God's people of prayer is always coming to light, mostly because scholars have dedicated their lives to research. They translate and ponder prayers and songs; explore the places used for worship; look at the vessels, books, and vestments; and read works from legal documents to letters and diaries. In the 1930s, Hitler's rush to arm Germany closed seminaries as priests and seminarians alike were drafted into service. One professor, Father Josef Jungman, forced from his classroom, spent the war years in an Austrian library. His careful work disclosed much of what we know of the history of the Mass. His great work, The Mass of the Roman Rite, describes the evolution of Eucharistic celebration and inspired generations of scholars to explore a tradition surprisingly rich and varied. It was said of him that he had a command of the past that cast new light on the present, and opened up a clear direction to the future. His contributions to the Second Vatican Council helped shape the way that we worship today. At the end of his life, in 1975, his studies completed, he told a friend that he was waiting patiently for the Lord's knock at the door to take him to the heavenly banquet.

STEWARDSHIP

MY FAMILY – MY PARISH – MY RESPONSIBILITY

Did you ever notice that the price of a movie is now over \$10, milk is almost \$3 a gallon, and there is no longer such a thing as penny candy? The price of everything around us has increased, **but has your weekly donation to the Church ever increased?** That one dollar donation doesn't buy as much as it once did. As your expenses increase, so do those of the Church, but we rely on your generosity to meet our expenses. Please be generous.

Just a reminder since the school building is still currently not rented we are asking for all our parishioners to please try to give an additional \$10 a week.

Join Us Live-Stream

Due to health concerns in light of the Coronavirus Pandemic, **Cardinal Tobin, Archbishop of Newark** has dispensed the faithful of the Archdiocese of Newark from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass and has suspended the public celebration of Daily Mass until further notice. During this time, St. John's continues to Live Stream Sunday Mass at 9:30am and 11:30am and Daily Mass at 9:00am. Join us at Facebook Group LIVE MASS AT ST. JOHN ,or watch the recorded video approximately 1 hour later on YouTube at St. John the Evangelist Leonia.

CHRISTIAN?????

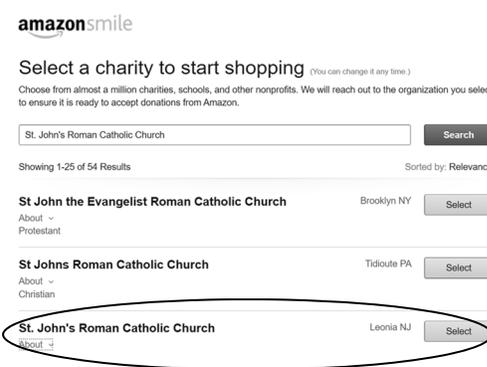
A man was being tailgated by a stressed-out woman on a busy boulevard. Suddenly, the light turned yellow in front of him. He did the right thing, stopping at the crosswalk, even though he could have barely beaten the light by accelerating through the intersection. The tailgating woman was furious and honked her horn, screaming in frustration, as she missed her chance to get through the intersection, dropping her cell phone and makeup. As she was still in mid-rant she heard a tap on the window and looked up into the face of a very serious police officer. The officer ordered her to exit her car with her hands up. He took her to the police station where she was searched, fingerprinted, photographed, and placed in a holding cell. Later an officer let her out of the cell and escorted her back to the booking desk where the arresting officer was waiting with her personal effects. He said, "I'm very sorry for this mistake. You see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn, flipping off the guy in front of you, and cussing a blue streak at him. I noticed the 'What Would Jesus Do' bumper sticker, the 'Choose Life' license plate holder, the 'Follow Me to Sunday School' bumper sticker, and the chrome-plated Christian fish emblem on the trunk. Naturally, I assumed you had stolen the car.

QUESTION??

Why are many coin banks shaped like pigs? Long ago, dishes and cookware in Europe were made of a dense orange clay called 'pygg'. When people saved coins in jars made of this clay, the jars became known as 'pygg banks.' When an English potter misunderstood the word, he made a container that resembled a pig. And it caught on.

St. John's is on Amazon Smile!

Thanks to those who have registered St. John's as their choice of Charity on Amazon Smile. The first quarter 2020 contributions received were just received from Amazon in the amount of **\$ 62.37**. For those who would like to register, go to **smile.amazon.com** from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. To register, login or register at AmazonSmile, search **St. John's Roman Catholic Church** select **St. John's Roman Catholic Church (verify the location is Leonia, NJ)** to



receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Your selection is saved so every eligible purchase you make at **smile.amazon.com** will result in a donation to St. John's. You can change your charity any time

by simply selecting "Change your Charity" in "Your Account."

HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY

BREAKFAST

When I was a kid, my mom liked to make breakfast food for dinner every now and then. And I remember one night in particular when she had made breakfast after a long, hard day at work. On that evening so long ago, my mom placed a plate of eggs, sausage, and extremely burned biscuits in front of my dad. I remember waiting to see if anyone noticed! Yet all my dad did was reach for his Biscuit, smile at my mom and ask me how my day was at school. I don't remember what I told him that night, but I do remember hearing my mom apologize to my dad for burning the biscuits. And I'll never forget what he said: "Honey, I love burned biscuits." Later that night, I went to kiss Daddy good night and I asked him if he really liked his biscuits burned. He wrapped me in his arms and said, "Your momma put in a long hard day at work today and she's real tired. And besides... a burnt biscuit never hurt anyone!" You know, life is full of imperfect things... and imperfect people. I'm not the best at hardly anything, and I forget birthdays and anniversaries just like everyone else. What I've learned over the years is that learning to accept each others faults and choosing to celebrate each others differences, is one of the most important keys to creating a healthy, growing, and lasting relationship. So...please pass me a biscuit. And yes, the burned one will do just fine! And please pass this along to someone who has enriched your life! Life is too short to wake up with regrets... Love the people who treat you right and forget about the ones who don't.

Prayer for the Safety of Soldiers

Almighty and eternal God, those who take refuge in you will be glad and forever will shout for joy. Protect these soldiers as they discharge their duties. Protect them with the shield of your strength and keep them safe from all evil and harm. May the power of your love enable them to return home in safety, that with all who love them, they may ever praise you for your loving care. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Cpl. Matt Brady	Lt. Col. Christopher Caldwell, O.D.
Maj. Michael A. Franson	Airman Matthew Gonzales
Lt. Robert Lucieri, MD	Cmdr. Alexander McMahon
Sgt. Joseph Gonzales	

THINK ABOUT IT

"You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift. You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong. You cannot help the wage earner by pulling down the wage payer. You cannot further the brotherhood of man by encouraging class hatred. You cannot help the poor by destroying the rich. You cannot keep out of trouble by spending more than you earn. You cannot build character and courage by taking away man's initiative and independence. You cannot help men permanently by doing for them what they could and should do for themselves."

William Boetcker German Clergyman 1873 - 1962

DEFEND YOUR CATHOLIC FAITH

Over the course of the last generation, Christianity and in particular our Catholic Faith has been under attack. Anti-Catholicism is the last acceptable prejudice. What can we do about it; besides prayer, all Catholics should join The Catholic League at 450 7th Ave, NY, NY 10123 or www.catholicleague.org and receive the journal *The Catalyst*, which has articles detailing where Catholicism is under attack and by whom.

"Why are you afraid? Don't be afraid.
Christ is with you. Christ is with you."

Fr. Benedict Groshel's last words to Fr. Mariusz

MASS INTENTION

REQUESTED BY

SATURDAY, JUNE 6, ST. NORBERT, BISHOP

5:00 PM DANIELLE LEMBO & FLORENCE TURSO LEMBO FAMILY

SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2020

9:30 AM MATILDA YANG JULIA CHOI

ROSINA TARANTO ANNETTE CIRILLO

11:30 AM WALTER B. ALLEN RICHARD SAMPERI

FOR BLESSINGS ON JULIE DIEMER & FAMILY JOE & CAROL RILEY

MONDAY, JUNE 8, STS. MEDIAD & GILDAD

9:00 AM JOSEPH RILEY, SR. CAROL & JOE RILEY

BARBARA LOUGHMAN JANET O'DONNELL

TUESDAY, JUNE 9, ST. EPHRAIM, DEACON & DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

9:00 AM CELINE DILWORTH MARY RAUSCH

JODI DEMICHELE MARY RAUSCH

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND

9:00 AM MONTEJARO FAMILY

JODI DEMICHELE CATHY & JIM TREACY

THURSDAY, JUNE 11, ST. BARNABAS, APOSTLE

9:00 AM CATHERINE SCIRE JOHN & RITA LORENZO

PETER LOMBARDI ELAINE LUPETIN

FRIDAY, JUNE 12, ST. JOHN OF FACUNDO

9:00 AM PAULINA GUERRERO DUMLAO MENCHIE DUMLAO

PETER LOMBARDI ELAINE LUPETIN

SATURDAY, JUNE 13, ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA, PRIEST & DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

9:00 AM CUOMO FAMILY

5:00 PM TERRENCE MCMAHON ROSEMARY MCMAHON

SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2020 CORPUS CHRISTI

9:30 AM EDMUND MUCCI CONNIE, TIM & TOM MUIR

ROSARIO CASTRONOVO PAT CARBONERI & MARYANN FUSCO

11:30 AM RALPH RADICS BETSY TRAUTSCH

SALOMIE PARK JULIA CHOI

Sanctuary Memorials

The Altar Bread & Wine is in memory of

Dorothy Menist

requested by **Marilyn Badami**

The Sanctuary Lamp burns in memory of

Dorothy Menist

requested by **Marilyn Badami**

Sanctuary Offerings

The Altar Flowers, Bread and Wine, the BVM Votive Lamp, and St. Joseph Votive Lamp, the Sanctuary Lamp in the Church and in the Convent can be dedicated on a weekly basis.

CLOTHING BINS

We congratulate and rejoice with all our graduates. The celebrations for the graduates are well-deserved. For some families, however, a full meal on any evening is a cause for "celebration" as often times, their tables are bare or sparse with food, Please help us to continue to distribute much-needed food throughout the Archdiocese. Your contributions to the Catholic Charities clothing bins (**NOW OPEN**) help to provide the funding for the continuation of our many programs. Thank you .

KIDZ KORNER ANSWERS

1. God.
2. Jacob.
3. Zechariah.
4. Joachim.
5. Adam.

"We have been called to heal wounds, to unite what has fallen apart, and to bring home those who have lost their way."

St. Francis of Assisi

June is dedicated to the Sacred Heart.

Prayers Which May Be Said at the Offertory When the Priest offers the Host.

Through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and in the Holy Will of God, I place upon the paten my heart; the hearts of all those near and dear to me, especially the hearts of my relatives; the hearts of all those for whom I have promised to pray; the hearts of all those who have injured me; the hearts of all those whom I may have injured; the hearts of all the agonizing. Jesus when Thou changest the bread and wine into Thy Body and Blood, change our hearts into hearts pleasing to Thee. Jesus, gaze into my soul, purify, illuminate.

YOU HEARD IT SAID

"Catholics should follow their conscience in all things ... whether it's abortion, birth control, or women's ordination." It's true -- the Catechism says quite plainly, "Man has the right to act in conscience and in freedom so as personally to make moral decisions. 'He must not be forced to act contrary to his conscience. Nor must he be prevented from acting according to his conscience, especially in religious matters'" (1782). This teaching is at the heart of what it means to have free will. But that doesn't mean that our conscience is free from all responsibility or may remain ignorant of God's law. This is what the Catechism refers to as having a "well-formed conscience." The Catechism assigns great responsibility to a person's conscience: Moral conscience, present at the heart of the person, enjoins him at the appropriate moment to do good and to avoid evil. It bears witness to the authority of truth in reference to the supreme Good to which the human person is drawn, and it welcomes the commandments. When he listens to his conscience, the prudent man can hear God speaking (1777). In other words, our conscience isn't just "what we feel is right" -- it's what we judge to be right based on what we know of the teachings of God and the Church. And in order to make that judgment, we have a responsibility to study and pray over these teachings very carefully. The Catechism has a section dedicated entirely to the careful formation of our conscience -- that's how important it is in making right decisions. And in the end, whether right or wrong, we're still held accountable for our actions: "Conscience enables one to assume responsibility for the acts performed" (1781). When properly formed, it helps us to see when we've done wrong and require forgiveness of our sins. By seeking a fully formed conscience, we actually experience great freedom, because we're drawing closer to God's infinite Truth. It's not a burden or something that keeps us from doing what we want; it's a guide to help us do what is right. "The education of the conscience guarantees freedom and engenders peace of heart" (1784).

KIDZ KORNERS

1. Who is the Father of Jesus?
2. Who was the father of Joseph?
3. Who was the father of John the Baptist?
4. Who was the father of Mary?
5. Who was the father of Cain and Abel?

Answers on page four.

"For my own part, I sincerely esteem the Constitution a system without the finger of God, never could have been suggested and agreed upon by such a diversity of interests."

Alexander Hamilton

Did you know that dolphins are so smart that within a few weeks of captivity, they can train people to stand on the very edge of the pool and throw them fish?

F Y I

From Rev. Msgr. Thomas P. Nydegger, Ed.D.

Vicar General for the Archdiocese of Newark May 19, 2015

In September 2005, information was sent to all Pastors and Priest Administrators in the Archdiocese of Newark regarding the establishment of a Decree in March 2004 by the Bishops of the Province of New Jersey reaffirming that the **Mass Stipends (Offerings) for public Masses will remain at \$10.00 for weekday, Sunday and Holyday Masses.**

SAINT PETER'S BASILICA

Those who have visited Saint Peter Basilica know its immensity; just the nave or main aisle is 610 feet long! [Our center aisle is 62 feet, a football field is 300 feet long!] Our first Pope's statue is near the Basilica's midpoint, which means its hundreds of feet from the yellow alabaster window of the Holy Spirit which is above the back wall's Altar of the Chair. How appropriate that the Basilica's central focal point is not Peter but the Holy Spirit. As the Church's first history book, the Acts of the Apostles attests - and as her endurance and growth through SO MANY far less-than holy Popes or Cardinals, Bishops, Priests or Deacons, Religious Sisters or Brothers, lay men and women also attests: the Church must be truly divine - for she would have collapsed long ago if she were merely a human enterprise! For from the start, the Church has been rocked by scandals, split by schisms, marred by her sinful leaders and members, persecuted by internal and external forces and mired in countless controversies. Yet she endures.

All are Led and Guided by the Holy Spirit. Only Bishops, who have the fullness of the Sacrament of Holy Orders, also have the fullness of the Holy Spirit's gifts and graces; so when the Pope acts in union with the Bishops, they are free from error in matters of faith and morals. We call this the Doctrine of Infallibility; while only defined in 1867, it was practiced in theory ever since Peter and the Apostles [the first Pope and Bishops] declared as 'truth' all that must be believed by Christians. This 'power' is based on what Christ told them: "Whoever listens to you listens to me. Whoever rejects you rejects me." [Luke 10:16a] and to Peter: "I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven" [Matthew 16:19]

However, Bishops are not the only ones empowered by the Holy Spirit! Every Christian receives a 'dose' of the Spirit's sevenfold gifts at their Baptism and Confirmation; in the Anointing of the Sick the infirm receive a boost of courage among other things; at their Ordination Deacons and Priests are infused with special gifts; in Matrimony, the Spirit imparts the graces without which marriage would be impossible; in Penance those who confess their sins hear these beautiful words in the Prayer of Absolution: "God, the Father of mercies, through the Death and Resurrection of his Son has reconciled the world to himself and sent the Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sins." And without the Holy Spirit, we would not have - or at least understand as best we do, the ultimate of gifts: the Eucharist.

In fact, without the Holy Spirit, every liturgical time [which we once called 'season'] would lose its spiritual meaning; Christmas and Eastertide would succumb to their secular meaning. Without the Holy Spirit we could not understand the Bible or Church teaching - or make sense of - or at least see how God's plan unfolds through this world's many challenges - like the Cross. Without the Holy Spirit our prayers of thanks and our deeds of gratitude for God's many graces and blessings would be devoid of any meaning or effectiveness. Without the Holy Spirit even our joy would be incomplete, for the Bible often states that one main 'fruit' of the Spirit ... is JOY!



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