

Greetings from Father Jim:

Celebrating Freedom and Faith: A Fourth of July Message for All Saints Catholic Parish

As we approach the joyous occasion of Independence Day, we at All Saints National Catholic Church extend our warmest greetings to you and your families. This Fourth of July, we commemorate not only the birth of a nation founded on the principles of liberty and justice but also the enduring values of faith, community, and service that define our parish family. What an awesome family it is!

On this sacred day, we gather not only to revel in the splendor of fireworks and the camaraderie of picnics but also to reflect upon the blessings bestowed upon us by our Creator. As Catholics, we are called to recognize the divine gift of freedom and to uphold the dignity of every human person, embracing the teachings of Christ as our guiding light.

At All Saints, we honor the rich tapestry of our nation's history while reaffirming our commitment to building a society rooted in compassion, solidarity, and love. As we join in prayer and celebration, let us give thanks for the freedoms we cherish and recommit ourselves to the pursuit of justice and peace for all. Together, let us lift our voices in praise and gratitude, giving thanks for the countless blessings that abound in our lives.

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In the spirit of unity and camaraderie, we invite you to join us in a variety of parish activities that offer opportunities for spiritual growth, joyful gatherings, and meaningful connections with one another. Whether it's embarking on a local tour to explore the rich history of our area, participating in the Youth Convo to deepen your faith alongside fellow young Catholics, or embarking on an overnight road trip to Buffalo, there is something for everyone to enjoy and engage in.

Additionally, mark your calendars for the upcoming church picnic, Sunday, August 25th, a beloved tradition that brings together parishioners of all ages for food, fun, and fellowship. And don't miss out on the chance to participate in the Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, where we come together in prayer and adoration before the presence of our Lord.

As we embrace the summer season, let us also take time to share the harvest of our gardens with one another and to simply visit and cherish the company of our fellow parishioners. In these moments of shared joy and community, we are reminded of the blessings that abound when we come together in faith and friendship. I encourage each of you to seize these opportunities to participate in parish activities, to deepen your connection to our faith community, and to enjoy the warmth and hospitality of All Saints. Together, let us celebrate the freedoms we hold dear and the faith that unites us all.

May God bless you abundantly on this Fourth of July and may the spirit of patriotism and faith continue to inspire us as we journey together in love and fellowship.

In His Service,

Father Jim

Requesting Mass Intentions: Offering a Mass for a special intention is a long-standing tradition in the Catholic Church. Masses are offered for many reasons:

- In remembrance of someone deceased
- A living person who is sick or suffering
- A living person who is celebrating a birthday, anniversary, or another special moment in their life
- In thanksgiving to God (including the Lord Jesus or the Holy Spirit)
- For a special prayer intention

To request a Mass intention for your friends and family, please contact Father Jim via email, jploskonka62@gmail.com, text or call (216.650.5596) or send your request by US mail to the parish office: 5555 17 Mile Rd., Sterling Height, MI

Please provide the following information in your request:

- The Mass intention (see list above; if for an individual, please note if they are living or deceased)
- Your name, phone number, and email



Crowning of Mary and Marian Devotions



The observance of May Devotions commenced with the solemn ceremony of the Crowning of Mary. Preceding our initial May Devotions, a newly blessed crown was presented and blessed on the Sunday prior. This symbolic gesture inaugurated a period dedicated to honoring Mary through various forms of devotion, including hymns, prayers, scripture readings, and the proclamation of the Word of God. This tradition marks the commencement of a sacred time dedicated to Marian veneration and spiritual reflection.



Clean – up Day. On May 4th, we were blessed with an ideal day for enhancing the grounds. The tasks at hand included pulling weeds, hauling debris, washing windows, organizing various areas, and constructing a modernized outdoor storage space. Participants were rewarded with Coney Island hotdogs complete with all the fixings. It was truly remarkable to witness the amount of work that can be accomplished when working together as a family. Despite the soreness many of us felt afterwards, the day provided an excellent opportunity to bond with our loved ones and enjoy each other's company.



POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH
SUNDAY WORSHIP IN THE ABSENCE OF A
PRIEST/DEACON



Special appreciation and gratitude are extended to the team of lectors: Sarah, Mike, Gloria, and Jennifer, for leading worship in Father Jim's absence while he attends diocesan and national church gatherings and meetings. Blessed is those who proclaim the Good News and provide a path for others. Thank you for stepping forward and utilizing the gifts that God has bestowed upon you.

Mother's Day Card Making through the School of Christian Living



In preparation for Mother's Day, the children devoted their time and creativity to crafting heartfelt cards, each one a labor of love. These handcrafted tokens of affection are cherished treasures, bearing the unique touch of each child's imagination and devotion to their beloved mothers. As they carefully selected colors, adorned their creations, and penned

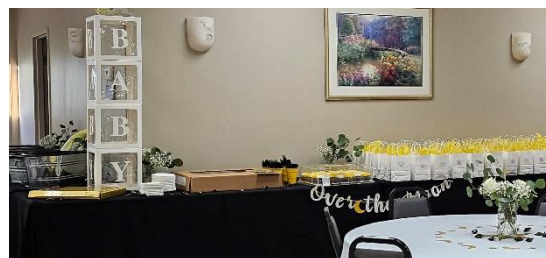


heartfelt messages, they infused each card with the warmth of their affection and gratitude. These handmade cards symbolize more than just a simple gift; they embody the deep bond between parent and child, expressing appreciation for the love, care, and sacrifices mothers selflessly provide every day.

Hall Rental: Our fellowship hall, with a capacity of 125, is open for rental. Recently, we joyfully celebrated an



impending birth, welcoming friends, family, and guests. The hall, depicted here, was skillfully adorned, and inviting. For inquiries regarding hall rental and its utilization for special occasions, gatherings, or regular meetings, please reach out to Dwight.



The **National Board of the PNCC United Choirs** convened at St. Mary's PNCC in Parma, OH on Friday, April 26th, and Saturday, April 27th. The gathering commenced with a luncheon on Friday featuring delectable cold cuts and more. Father Jason Soltysiak led a retreat for the group, commencing with afternoon prayer followed by a comprehensive SWOT analysis of the organization.

During this analysis, the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (**SWOT**) were meticulously compiled, with some issues addressed in real-time and others slated for discussion during the official meeting the following day. The Right Reverend John Mack, Bishop-Ordinary of the Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese, presided over a special 4:30 pm Holy Mass for the NUC board, with attendance from curious members of the congregation. Father Jason and Father Jim Ploskonka served as concelebrants. Father Jim serves as secretary of the National United Choirs and serves on the Music Commission.



After breaking for dinner, the group reconvened the next day for a morning of meetings to address the agenda and the group's objectives for the upcoming period. The gathering was deemed productive and enlightening.

The Clergy Circle of the Western Diocese Conference and Retreat was assembled May 13 - 15, 2024 at the Joseph and Mary Retreat House, Mundelein, IL.

In attendance were Prime Bishop Mikovsky, Father Senior Zawistowski, Father Senior Nowak, Father Senior Kowalczyk, Father Senior Czaja, Father Soltysiak, Father Alvarado, Father Aranda, Father Galas, Father Salas, Father Rowinski, Father Rojas, Father Pawelec, Father Kutek, Father Cramer, Father Zochowski, Deacon Lazenby, Deacon Scott, and Father Ploskonka



Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

Matthew 19:14 But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven."

3 John 1:4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.



The 7th Annual Bishop Stanley Bilinski United YMS of R Men's Spiritual Retreat took place from June 12-15, 2024, at the serene Spojnia Farm in Waymart, PA. With the theme "Iron Sharpens Iron,"



inspired by Proverbs 27:7, the retreat brought together men from five states to strengthen their faith and fellowship.

Arrival and Opening Ceremony

On Wednesday afternoon, attendees gathered at the Bishop Hodur Retreat and Recreation Center, choosing rooms and renewing friendships. A notable event was the raising of a new cross on Kicker Hill, led by Chuck Daehn from Lancaster, NY. The evening continued with a welcoming dinner in the renovated Great Hall, featuring pizza, wing bites, and stromboli, courtesy of Carl Cwikla of Cwikla's Bakery. The retreat formally began with a prayer and the blessing of new vestments by Rt. Rev. John Mack, Bishop-Ordinary of the Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese. Very Rev. John Kowalczyk then led the opening liturgy, focusing on the Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Thursday: A Day of Reflection and Activities

Thursday began with a hearty breakfast followed by a flag-raising ceremony. Bishop John Mack celebrated the first Mass, and Very Rev. Charles Zawistowski delivered a homily via Zoom. The morning featured a presentation by Fr. Sr. John Kowalczyk on "The Brotherhood of St. Paul," exploring relationships within the ministry.

Lunch was memorable with a variety of pierogi and a kielbasa tasting contest featuring 22 different types. The afternoon included diverse activities such as a limousine tour of Lake Wallenpaupack, a golf outing, and visits to local PNCC sites. The day ended with a poolside BBQ, Eucharistic devotions, and evening activities like watching a hockey game, relaxing by the bonfire, or viewing the film "Man of God."

Friday: Spiritual Growth and Keynote Speaker

Friday began with another robust breakfast and the blessing of a new American Flag. Deacon Justin Daviault led a session on his experiences as a neo-deacon. Rev. Jim Konicki then celebrated Mass, and Very Rev. Joseph Krusienski delivered an enthusiastic sermon on the PNCC's sacramentology.

After lunch, the men observed an hour of silent reflection before attending a session led by Rev. Jim Ploskonka on the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. The afternoon was marked by a downpour, leading to a light dinner and the

keynote speech by SSG. Earl Granville, who shared his inspiring life story and answered questions on various topics, including faith and national defense.

Saturday: Closing and Reflection

The final morning began with morning prayer and flag-raising, followed by breakfast. The Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky delivered a session on the theme “Iron Sharpens Iron,” emphasizing the cultural and literal significance of the phrase. The retreat concluded with a Mass for Health, celebrated by Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid, and a homily by Rev. Jason Soltysiak on the Sacrament of Anointing. The men were anointed for their needs before enjoying a final meal together.

The retreat ended with words of gratitude from Fr. Jason Soltysiak, Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky, and President Nick Kazinetz. Special thanks were given to all who contributed, particularly those who assisted with kitchen and cleanup duties.

The 7th Annual Bishop Stanley Bilinski United YMS of R Men’s Spiritual Retreat was a profound experience, blending worship, fellowship, and recreation. It continues to grow in both numbers and spirit, providing a meaningful and enriching event for the men of the Polish National Catholic Church and beyond.

Trivia night:



What a remarkable and challenging evening we had at our Trivia Night fundraiser! The event featured six rounds of questions that tested teams' knowledge of current events, history, music, sports, Michigan, and global topics. This unique fundraiser required each

table to have a team captain responsible for providing food and beverages for the team members. The tables were adorned with an array of subs, pizza, tacos, soda, coffee, and adult beverages, creating a convivial atmosphere.

The event served as a fantastic bonding experience, providing an excellent opportunity to get to know everyone in the packed house better. I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Pat for his leadership and guidance, which were instrumental in making this event such a success. We are pleased to announce that we raised over \$1,400.00.



June was clergy appreciation month. Father Jim thanks everyone for their continued prayers, gifts and kind words. May the Holy Spirit through the grace of God continue to bless All Saints.

★ July Birthdays and Anniversaries ★

26 th	Dima Dauo	20 th	Marianne/Craig Markiewicz
28 th	Pat Kotelnicki	21 st	Elaine/Father Ploskonka
30 th	John Darr	25 th	Ellen/Rody Yezman

★ August Birthdays ★

9 th	Russell Filips
18 th	Darise McGee
23 rd	Donald Wechselberger
24 th	Rosemarie Richard
26 th	Shannon Carr



Friends of Sunday School (FOSS) **NEWS** by Gloria Bawol

All Saints Sunday School concluded its program on Sunday, June 2, 2024. Congratulations to Davida D., Dima D., Cindy H., Jacob K., Nardin K., Michael P., Hank R. and Jack R. on their continued learning about the Liturgy of the Word that all parishioners hear during Mass. Each week the lesson adapted the Liturgy of the Word toward the lives and experiences of children. A video reinforced the Gospel. Thank you, Mary C. for providing these videos each week. It gave them the opportunity to understand the Gospel message and participate at their own level. Weekly the children read aloud Scripture readings from their Bibles. They acknowledge something they are thankful for and one intention each week.





A big thank you goes to Father Jim this year. He oversaw the religious aspects of our program. Sunday School could not happen without the volunteering of the teachers. Special thanks to: Linda A., Gloria B., Mary C., Tracey H., Andrea P. and our first-year teacher – Olivia K. A

few other items of note: Olivia is coordinating the Operation Christmas Child project – be sure to see the monthly reminder that is requesting donations. Olivia and Father Jim also taught the altar servers more specific skills to enhance their job as they serve Mass each week. Andrea P. and Mary C. run the technology during Mass and they are finding and providing new music to play during the service. Congratulations on a successful Halloween party and Easter Egg hunt thanks to our teachers.

On the last day every child received a certificate of completion and we all had ice cream sundaes that we shared with the Parish members. The members of FOSS would like to thank all the members of All Saints Church that were able to give a donation to our group in the Church envelope during the month of June. We greatly appreciate your financial support for the youth of our parish. I personally want to acknowledge the officers of FOSS: Gloria B. – President, Andrea P. – Vice Chair, Jill C. – Treasurer and Jennifer K. – Secretary. It takes a village to accomplish what we do in Sunday School and with FOSS. I thank you all for being a part of our village.



FOSS has three new and important projects for the near future:

- First, God willing, we will be offering Vacation Bible School this summer for the first time in six years.
 - When: July 15-19, in the morning from 9-11 AM
 - Cost: \$5.00 per child for the entire week
 - Ages: 3-15
 - What can you do to help? Call me if you can do anything: 586-419-6531
 - Pray for a successful VBS
 - Advertise – word of mouth, bring kids, grandkids, family, friends, neighbors to join us. Registration forms are on the table in the hall
 - Volunteer: Teachers, musicians, helpers, section leaders, set-up decorations.

- Second: We will be hiring a company to refurbish and stain the swing set outdoors to help preserve it for years to come. The cost is \$700.00
- Third: We will be contacting a landscaper to relandscape the area all around the playscape as the lawn cutters are causing some destruction to the wood bases as they are in the grass and when they weed whip, it is destroying the base of the set. Not sure of the cost yet.

In addition to VBS at our church, this summer the PNCC is offering Convos and Camps for the kids. FOSS helps families with tuition.

- Convo 2024 is July 22-26 at Mercyhurst University in Erie, PA. The theme is “Running the Race.” With Olympics in Paris this Summer – we shift to ultimate competition – The Race of Faith, with the eternal prize of Life in Jesus Christ. Cost is \$425.00
- Holy Cross Summer Camp is August 4-8 at Brighton Recreation Area. No Charge for the week.
- Lots of fun and learning at these camps.

The next FOSS meeting will be Sunday, August 18, 2024. You do not have to have children in the Sunday School program to participate in our group. We have our meetings via Zoom in the evening.

The first day of Sunday School for the 2024/25 school year will be **September 8, 2024**. There is no charge for children to attend Sunday School. Please encourage your children to attend. If you know any families that are looking to join a Sunday School program, please share what a gem we have at All Saints Church in Sterling Heights. We accommodate children from age 3-17 in our program.

“Some people brought children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples scolded the people. When Jesus noticed this, he was angry and said to his disciples, ‘Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, because the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I assure you that whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it.’ Then he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on each of them, and blessed them.” Mark 10:13-16.

A look Forward:

Diocesan Synod: The synod will commence with the initiation of the Novena via Zoom at 7:00 PM (CST) / 8:00 PM (EST) on Monday, October 7, 2024. Your participation in this collective liturgical event for the diocese is encouraged. Let us partake in this unified prayer within the diocese, as such opportunities are rare. Could we get 15 parishioners from All Saints parish to actively engage in the Novena.

The official commencement of the synod will be marked by Holy Mass at All Saints Cathedral in

Chicago at 4:00 PM on Tuesday, October 15, 2024. This Mass will be presided over by Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky, with intentions dedicated to +Bishop Jaroslav Rafalko.

The focal point of the synod will be the future of the diocese and will be the main topic of the three-hour morning session. The synod is scheduled to conclude at approximately 3:00 PM on Wednesday, October 16, 2024.

Sunday School Registration Opening SOOOOOOOON!



**The Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese of the
Polish National Catholic Church Presents...**

CONVO 2024: Running the Race

RULES AND REGULATIONS

FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS, GUESTS, CLERGY AND CHAPERONES:

*This list is for everyone in attendance and is intended to allow you to have an enjoyable
and safe experience at Convo 2024 at Mercyhurst University*

We encourage you to...

- ✓ have an awesome time at Convo 2024
- ✓ be aware that you are responsible for your own conduct at all times
- ✓ attend all sessions, activities, Mass and Prayer Services
- ✓ dress appropriately at all times, wearing modest non-revealing clothes; this includes bathing suits.
- ✓ be sure to limit all social activity to public areas only
- ✓ Use of recreation equipment and facilities in a proper and safe manner, and return all recreation equipment that was used.
- ✓ respect your fellow neighbors at night and be considerate of their needs, especially those younger participants
- ✓ stay on the property of Mercyhurst University at all times
- ✓ act in a respectful and mature manner at Waldameer and Water World
- ✓ follow all rules and regulations of Convo 2024 and Mercyhurst University



Golf Tournament The 10th Annual National YMS of R Golf Tournament will be held at the Kis 'n Greens Golf Course in Alden, NY (Buffalo, NY area) on Saturday, August 24th. There are three divisions: YMS of R division, where all members of the foursome are YMS of R members; Open Division, with nonmembers of the YMS of R in any combination of men and



women; and Open Women's Division, where all four team members are women. All seniors and women will hit from the appropriate tee box. Cost is 125.00 per person for golfing, which includes cart, lunch, door prizes and dinner. If you are interested in attending, please contact Father Jim or Bill. We are hoping to fill a few teams for the event.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: The first Friday for the summer months (July 5, and August 4th) at 7:00 pm, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Litany to the Blessed Sacrament will be offered. The exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is one of the most beautiful and powerful devotions. Eucharistic exposition entails the ceremonial presentation of the Blessed Sacrament outside the tabernacle, typically within a monstrance, allowing the faithful to publicly venerate it. This communal observance of God's glory manifested in the Blessed Sacrament provides believers



with a heightened understanding of the connection between the consecrated Eucharist, reserved for adoration, and the sacrificial nature of the Mass, from which our worship outside of the liturgical celebration derives its purpose.

Summer Picnic: Is scheduled for August 25th at the conclusion of the Holy Sacrifice of Mass.

Operation Christmas Child



The All Saints Youth Group is putting on early donations for our annual Operation Christmas Child drive where we try to make a child's Christmas just a little brighter and spread the Christian message through an organization called Samaritans Purse.

If you would like to participate in these months to month drive, please take this flier and refer to the calendar below for our "Gift of the Month" and the next two months!

Month	Do's	Don'ts
July- School Supplies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Notebooks -Crayons -Markers -Colored pencils -Pencils -Erasers -Pens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Used or Damaged Items -Scary or War related Items -Breakable Items -Liquids or Gels (liquid glue)
August- <u>Clothing/Accessories</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Clothing/Undergarments -Flip flops/shoes -Cold weather items -Sunglasses -Bags/purses -ect. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Used or Damaged Items -Scary or War related Items
September- <u>Crafts/Activities</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Puzzles -Etch a Sketch -Binoculars -Jump ropes -Coloring books -Stickers -Playdough 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Used or Damaged Items -Scary or War related Items (Toy Guns, Squirt Guns, Foam Sword, ect.) -Liquids or Gels

For Any Questions Contact Olivia at: 810-358-5864

A Few Words from the Chairman of the President

Dear Parishioners,

I hope you are enjoying your summer so far. I can't believe it's already the 4th of July, it feels like summer just started. I just wanted to give you a little update as to things happening in and around All Saints. I would like to thank Larry Bawol and Bill Konrad for their hard work on replacing the fence around the air conditioning unit. Also thank you Bill for completing the necessary repairs in the men's bathroom and installing two new security cameras around the parish. Our trivia night was a huge success, around \$1,300 was raised. Thank you to Pat Konrad and Jennifer Kotelnicki who organized the event and everyone who volunteered and participated, if you weren't there you really missed out on a great time. It was so much fun we are planning to do it again. Some upcoming projects are the installation of mulch under the playscape along with the refurbishment of the playscape and the painting of the side door that was installed last fall. An upcoming event will be the parish picnic on August 25th after mass filled with food and fun! Father Jim has graciously offered to provide all the meat for the barbeque. Bring a dish to pass, a sign-up sheet for side dishes will be coming soon. Have a safe holiday and look forward to seeing you all Sunday.

-Jeff



SORREL SOUP {ZUPA SZCZAWIOWA}

Ingredients

- ½ cup unsalted butter
- 1 cup sliced onion
- 5 large cloves garlic, minced
- 12 cups tightly packed sorrel leaves, stems and veins removed
- 4 cups chicken stock
- 2 cups water
- 3 potatoes, peeled and diced
- 1 large carrot, peeled and cut into matchsticks
- 1 cup chopped fresh parsley
- 3 sprigs fresh dill, chopped, or to taste
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

Directions

Melt butter in a large Dutch oven over medium heat. Add onion and garlic; cook and stir until soft, about 5 minutes. Add sorrel in batches, stirring well until wilted, 5 to 8 minutes in all.

Pour chicken stock and water into the Dutch oven. Stir in potatoes, carrot, parsley, dill, lemon juice, black pepper, and cayenne pepper. Simmer soup until flavors combine, about 1 hour.

Interested in submitting a recipe or article for the September publication--or have pictures, or events to share. Contact Father Jim

Parts of the Holy Mass Word Search

W P N S R P Q Y L I M O H R O
 Z O M J S G L O R I A R Z M G
 V G R A W N A Q L V T E I I N
 Q T L D E G M I V E Y Y Q Q I
 I M E U C E X F Z L P L H Z T
 E U C H A R I S T E A S X R E
 O E C A F E R P G I I G O G E
 R A Z Z V Y X N T C I R N G R
 W P P R I B I N C S R K Y N G
 I W G S D S E P A S O E I K C
 V G I J S T B K N O E A E L G
 P G J E I I T T O R R Z T D S
 P Y L N Q E Q K N C P T C Q P
 L B E H O E O R S O A X Y P L
 O P R R U B B V O L W X L O Y

Psalm	Eucharist
Preface	Blessing
Kyrie	Gloria
Cross	Creed
Word	Gospel
Penitential	Homily
Canon	Greeting

Sophie sends her love and greetings!!



A visit to our beloved sister Sophie is consistently enriched by her vibrant storytelling, particularly as she delves into the origins of All Saints, reminiscing about cherished memories with family, devoted parishioners, and the revered Altar Society. Her affectionate and reverent recounting of the parish's history resonates deeply, often invoking the names and legacies of the diverse priests and bishops who have graced the parish with their presence or service.

Though her heart yearns to join us in worship, circumstances prevent her from traveling currently. Nevertheless, Sophie remains an invaluable gem within our church community, embodying a wealth of wisdom and a profound connection to our shared spiritual heritage.

Q: Where is baseball mentioned in the bible?

- * In the big inning (Genesis 1:1)
- * Genesis 3:6- Eve stole first and Adam stole second
- * Rebekah went to the well with a "pitcher"
- * Exodus 4:4 "And he put out his hand, and caught it"
- * Numbers 11:32 "Ten homers"
- * Proverbs 18:10 "The righteous run into it, and is safe"
- * Ezekiel 36:12 "Yea, I will cause men to walk"

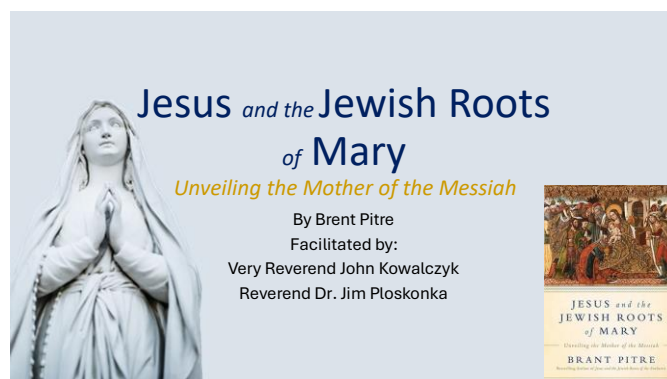
Summer VBS



- When: July 15-19, in the morning from 9-11 AM
- Cost: \$5.00 per child for the entire week
- Ages: 3-15
- What can you do to help? Call Gloria if you can do anything: 586-419-6531
- Pray for a successful VBS
- Advertise – word of mouth, bring kids, grandkids, family, friends, neighbors to join us. Registration forms are on the table in the all.

Volunteer: Teachers, musicians, helpers, section leaders, set-up decorations . . .

Coming Soon (Word of God Study via Zoom)



Confession of Faith of the Polish National Catholic Church

Article 10

I believe that all people have an equal right to life, happiness and those ways and means which lead to the

preservation of existence, to advancement and salvation, but I also believe, that all people have sacred obligations toward God, themselves, their nation, state and all of humanity.

God's Field (Rola Boża)

Official Publication of the Polish National Catholic Church: Volume 102, June 2024, Issue #6

https://pncc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/jun_2024_gods_field_online.pdf

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SERMON: Easter 6B "I call you friends."

The introductory passages of today's Scriptures underscore the profound significance of believing in Christ and adhering to His commandment of love, encapsulated in the directive to "Love one another as I have loved you." The initial reading, articulated by Peter, elucidates that God's love

transcends all boundaries and is extended impartially to both Jews and Gentiles. This inclusivity is exemplified in the acceptance of the Roman centurion Cornelius as the inaugural non-Jewish convert to Christianity. Furthermore, the passage emphasizes that Gentiles, upon hearing Peter's message, were bestowed with the same Holy Spirit and divine gifts as their Jewish counterparts experienced on Pentecost.

The Responsorial Psalm, echoing this theme, celebrates God's boundless love and benevolence, which extends salvation to all humanity. John, in the subsequent reading, portrays God as the embodiment of love, underscoring that divine love was manifested through the sacrificial offering of His son for the redemption of humanity's transgressions. This divine love not only commands but compels reciprocation, impelling individuals to love others as they have been loved by God. The precedence of God's love engenders the capacity and obligation to extend love to others, treating them with the reverence they deserve.

Continuing from the parable of the vine and branches, Jesus, in today's Gospel, enjoins



His disciples to abide by His commandment of love, mirroring His unwavering obedience to the will of His Heavenly Father. Jesus' love, characterized by its unconditional, forgiving, and selfless nature, sets

the benchmark for human interactions. The epitome of this love lies in the willingness to selflessly sacrifice, akin to Jesus, even for those perceived as undeserving. The ultimate fruition of abiding in God's love is the attainment of perfect joy, as Jesus elevates His followers from mere servants to esteemed "friends," assuring them of their chosen status and encouraging them to beseech the Father in His name.

The overarching message underscores that Jesus exemplified God's love through His selfless life and sacrificial death, thereby calling His disciples to emulate this ethos by becoming altruistic individuals who prioritize the welfare of others. This sacrificial love finds resonance in parental sacrifices for their children, epitomizing the most effective means of conveying God's love by treating everyone with the dignity and respect befitting a friend. It admonishes against harboring thoughts of retaliation, emphasizing the universality and inclusivity of Christ's love.

An illustrative exemplar of such sacrificial love is found in the life of Joseph F. Padewski, a Polish American bishop dispatched to Poland during World War II.

Despite enduring Nazi aggression and subsequent communist oppression, Bishop Padewski remained steadfast in his commitment to his faith and community, ultimately sacrificing his life in captivity for his principles. His unwavering dedication epitomizes the profound love and selflessness advocated by Christ. The 73rd anniversary of his Martyrdom was recognized on May 10, 2024.

In conclusion, Jesus' proclamation of His followers as "friends" signifies an

unparalleled intimacy with God, surpassing the esteemed titles of servitude bestowed upon revered figures in biblical history. This intimacy invites individuals into a profound relationship with God, transforming Him from a distant entity into a cherished confidant and ally.



Amen



SERMON: Easter 7B

“Keep Them from the Evil One.”

The primary focus of today's sermon is the plea for divine protection against malevolent forces. Jesus, in his intercession to the Father, prayed fervently for safeguarding his disciples from the assaults of evil. The premise is clear: should followers of Christ falter, it's often due to their reliance on personal strength, neglecting the presence of their protective deity and failing to seek divine assistance.

As we assemble today, it's imperative to contemplate Jesus' profound prayers for his disciples, prayers that echo across generations and resonate deeply within our souls. Jesus, in his wisdom, beseeched his Father for the well-being of his cherished followers amidst the relentless onslaught of evil. This serves as a poignant reminder that despite the complexities of modern existence, we encounter numerous trials and temptations. Yet, our stumbling is frequently attributed to overconfidence in our capabilities, disregarding the omnipresent guidance and protection of our benevolent God. Let us, therefore, humbly implore divine aid in all our endeavors.



Furthermore, Jesus petitioned for the consecration of his disciples through truth. Consecration transcends mere segregation; it entails being designated for a divine purpose, endowed with the virtue's requisite for forthcoming duties. As exemplified in the narratives of Jeremiah and Exodus, God summons and dedicates us to a special vocation—to adore and obey Him, and to guide others along the path of righteousness.

Nevertheless, we mustn't perceive ourselves as solitary agents in fulfilling this sacred obligation. Rather, it is through God's grace that we are empowered and equipped for our calling, provided we entrust our lives to His benevolence. This constitutes the aspiration

for our congregation, for All Saints—to stand unified, shielded, and imbued with love, both in giving and receiving. We endeavor to cultivate a community firmly grounded in the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Hence, let us stand resolute, cognizant that with God's grace and our unwavering devotion, we can construct a bastion of faith and love, a beacon of hope for those seeking solace and guidance. Together, let us advance with steadfast faith, united in our mission to disseminate the radiance of Christ's love—a sanctuary amidst the tumultuous currents of the world.

In a few moments, we shall join in reciting the sacred words of the Lord's Prayer, entreating deliverance from evil, from the clutches of the malevolent adversary.

The passage under contemplation underscores the perils posed by the "world" and the "evil one." Let us not be deceived—the malevolent adversary, known as the devil, is not a mere figment of myth or folklore. He is real, harboring deep-seated animosity towards humanity, tirelessly endeavoring to ensnare and derail our lives. He whispers deceitful promises, peddles hollow pleasures, and fomenters selfish desires. From time immemorial, he has been a purveyor of falsehoods, perpetually sowing seeds of deception.

During His forty-day fast at the onset of His public ministry, Jesus confronted a series of temptations from the devil. He permitted Himself to undergo temptation to exemplify His solidarity with humanity, urging us to fix our gaze upon loftier truths and eternal values.

Let us heed the lesson of Jesus' unwavering resolve, adhering to the tenets of our faith—truth, diligence, and resilience. Let us eschew the seductive allure of worldly enticements, instead seeking the enduring riches of spiritual gratification and divine favor.

In the contemporary milieu, characterized by the pervasive influence of media and global political culture, the pressure to conform to prevailing norms weighs heavily upon us as Christians. We find ourselves tempted to align our beliefs and actions with what is popular and socially acceptable, often at the expense of our faith.

Indeed, we are inundated with a secular "gospel" of moral relativism, where truth is mutable and subjective, easily swayed by public opinion. The ubiquitous reach of the internet and media has exacerbated this phenomenon, precipitating a widespread erosion of moral rectitude and a blurring of ethical boundaries.

Amidst this cultural deluge, the timeless words of Jesus resonate with renewed urgency: "Your Word is Truth." Now more than ever, we must anchor ourselves in the immutable truths of the Gospel, the teachings of our Catechism, and the revelations of our faith. This divine Truth must serve as our guiding light, our unwavering compass in a world adrift in moral ambiguity.

Let us take a moment to ponder the extent to which secular culture has permeated our hearts and minds. Have we succumbed to the pressures of conformity, embracing the secular "gospels" of our era? It necessitates immense fortitude and conviction to resist these pervasive fallacies, to stand firm amidst temptation.

Therefore, let us consecrate ourselves to the Truth, entrusting our hearts and minds to the eternal wisdom of God's Word. May we find the strength and discernment to navigate through the morass of deceit enveloping us, steadfast in our commitment to righteousness and purity of spirit.

Lord, we dedicate ourselves to You, for You embody Truth. Your Word serves as our sanctuary and our bulwark, guiding us

through the shadows of this world. Grant us the fortitude to resist the temptations of the malevolent adversary and draw us ever closer to the brilliance of Your eternal love. Jesus, we place our unwavering trust in You. "Keep us from the Evil One."

AMEN



SERMON: Solemnity of Pentecost

"Receive the Holy Spirit."

The purpose of Pentecost is to serve as a reminder to every Christian of the profound implications of Christ's sacrifice for humanity's sins. Through the Sacrament of Baptism, followed by Confirmation, believers embrace the forgiveness of sins and receive the Holy Spirit, enabling them to engage in the discipleship work set before them. Pentecost marks the bestowal of the Church by Jesus Christ, inclusive of its authority, members, organizational structures, and hierarchy.

The reception of the Holy Spirit is emphasized in the Sacrament of Penance, where sins are absolved through the agency of the Holy Spirit, manifesting Christ's redemptive actions through the priest. The belief in divine mercy instills hope and catalyzes personal transformation. It is posited that the grace of the Holy Spirit can empower individuals to embody saintliness, navigate adversity victoriously, cultivate patience in challenging relationships, and



enhance effectiveness as emissaries of faith. Christ's assurance of enduring divine empowerment precludes any lapse into spiritual stagnation, urging believers to progress from experiencing mercy to embodying Christ's transformative essence, thereby bearing witness to His salvific message.

One prevalent human challenge is the pervasive lack of self-confidence, evident in the proliferation of self-help literature and strategies aimed at bolstering self-esteem. Even individuals projecting confidence, such as professional athletes, often grapple with underlying insecurities. The arduousness of life, coupled with inevitable setbacks and societal standards of success, fosters apprehension and aversion to risk-taking, perpetuating a cycle of self-doubt and avoidance of challenges.

In the gospel narrative of John 20:19-23, the disciples, encountering the resurrected Christ, epitomize uncertainty and fear despite prior indications of His victory over death. Their seclusion behind locked doors underscores their profound apprehension

about the future. Christ, appearing amidst their distress, offers reassurance and peace, dispelling their fears through the tangible evidence of His resurrection. Subsequently, He commissions them to proclaim His message, exemplifying unwavering confidence in their capacity to fulfill His mandate. The disciples, humbled by His trust, are empowered by the bestowal of the Holy Spirit, signaling a transformative shift from timidity to emboldened faith. Christ's provision of spiritual guidance alleviates their insecurities, enabling them to embrace their divine calling with assurance and efficacy.

These narrative prompts reflection on personal hesitations and the need to transcend self-imposed limitations. Encouragement is derived from acknowledging Christ's abiding presence and unwavering confidence in individual capacities. Embracing one's divine calling necessitates venturing beyond comfort zones, engaging in relational outreach, service within the faith community, and bearing witness to Christ's transformative power. Confidence is derived from the assurance of divine empowerment and the recognition of inherent worthiness to fulfill the mission entrusted by Christ. Hence, believers are urged to embody the assurance of the Holy Spirit and embrace opportunities for transformative impact in alignment with their calling.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty;
Maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary;
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and buried;
he descended into hell;



This week, I encourage you to embrace the bold calling that Jesus has entrusted to you with unwavering confidence. Consider reaching out to a friend with whom you've hesitated to discuss your faith journey, fostering meaningful dialogue about your relationship with Christ. Reflect on the families that God may have placed on your heart to support and minister to, extending compassion and guidance where needed. Assess the needs of your local church community and discern how you can contribute your talents and resources to serve and uplift others. Evaluate your role as a minister within your workplace and home environment, striving to embody Christ's love and grace in your interactions and endeavors. Lastly, be attentive to those around you who may benefit from hearing the assurance and confidence you possess in them, offering encouragement and support where it's needed most. Remember, as you step out in faith, trust in the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit, empowering you to fulfill your divine calling with conviction and purpose. "Receive the Holy Spirit." **AMEN**



the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven;
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from where he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic Church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.

SERMON: Holy Trinity Sunday

*“In the Name of the
Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit.”*

The mystery of the Most Holy Trinity stands as a cornerstone of Christian belief, surpassing mere intellectual grasp to resonate deeply within the human heart. It unveils the presence of three distinct Persons within a singular Godhead, unified in a divine essence that is both co-eternal and co-equal. This concept challenges conventional understanding, as it posits that 1+1+1 equals 1 rather than 3. Nevertheless, this profound Mystery is embraced based on the authority of Jesus, who, as God incarnate, unequivocally conveyed this teaching. Recorded by the Evangelists and expounded upon by the Church Fathers, the Councils of Nicaea and Constantinople formalized it as a central dogma of the Christian faith.

Every prayer in the Church is initiated and concluded in the Name of the Holy Trinity, underscoring its foundational significance. Moreover, all sacraments, including baptism, confirmation, anointing, reconciliation, marriage, and ordination, are administered in the name of the Holy Trinity. Additionally, the act of blessing, both self-benediction and that bestowed by a priest, is performed in the Name of the Holy Trinity.

The New Testament offers explicit teachings on the Holy Trinity:

- The Annunciation (Luke 1:26-38): This narrative recounts the Angel Gabriel's message to Mary, revealing



the divine plan whereby the Holy Spirit would overshadow her, and she would conceive the Son of God.

- The Baptism of Jesus (Matthew 3:16-17): At Jesus' baptism, the Holy Spirit descends in the form of a dove, while the voice of God the Father affirms Jesus' identity as His beloved Son.
- Jesus' Teachings on the Holy Trinity (John 15-18): These chapters elaborate on Jesus' teachings regarding the distinct roles of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:
 - God the Father as Creator and Sustainer.
 - God the Son as Redeemer and Reconciler.
 - God the Holy Spirit as Sanctifier, Comforter, and Guide.
- The Great Commission (Matthew 28:19; John 10:30): In His parting instructions to His disciples, Jesus commissions them to baptize in the triune name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The Gospel narrative today recounts Jesus' fulfillment of His earthly mission and His return to the Father. Just before His Ascension, He entrusted His disciples with the task of spreading the Good News and baptizing believers in the Name of the Holy Trinity. Through His Ascension, Jesus enters fully into divine glory, inviting humanity to share in this transcendent destiny.

Humanity is called to mirror the Triune God in relational dynamics, echoing the divine image in which we are created. As God exists in a Trinitarian relationship, our full humanity is realized only within a network of relationships involving both God and others. This principle counters the prevailing individualism and consumerism of modern society, urging Christians to embrace a paradigm of "I-and-God-and-neighbor" in their interactions.

Trinitarian spirituality underscores God's steadfast commitment to humanity and its history, emphasizing solidarity among individuals and communities. This spirituality is expressed through living out the Gospel values of justice and rightly ordered relationships.

As we celebrate Trinity Sunday, acknowledging God as Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier, we are reminded that good things also come in threes. Despite our limited understanding, akin to our utilization

of natural phenomena like light and electricity without complete comprehension, we are invited to embrace the Mystery of the Trinity with faith.

This liturgical occasion calls us to live in communion with God and one another, embodying the divine unity. We are summoned to foster communities that reflect the splendor of the Trinity and proclaim the Gospel through acts of love and solidarity.

As we conclude the month dedicated to the Virgin Mary, we entrust ourselves to her guidance. Mary, who uniquely comprehended and revered the Mystery of the Most Holy Trinity, beckons us to perceive God's presence in the world and to cultivate communities of hospitality and communion, where all are welcomed as beloved children of God.

AMEN



Sermon: Solemnity of Corpus Christi

"This Is My Blood of The Covenant, Which Will Be Shed for Many."



The profound reverence for the Eucharist is encapsulated in the humble acknowledgment of my brother, who recognizes his unworthiness to receive it. This respect underscores the necessity of spiritual preparation before partaking in the sacrament. The final precious gifts bestowed upon us by Jesus are of immense significance: the Holy Eucharist as our spiritual nourishment, given on Holy

Thursday, and Mary, His mother, as our spiritual mother, given on Good Friday. These gifts represent the deep, abiding love and care Jesus has for His followers.

The Solemnity of Corpus Christi commemorates the perpetual presence of God among us as Emmanuel. It is an occasion to collectively express our gratitude for Christ's continual presence in the Eucharist. This celebration invites us to deepen our understanding of the Real Presence of Jesus in the sacrament, enhancing our appreciation and the spiritual benefits we receive from it.

Our belief in the Real Presence is founded on several key events: Jesus promised the Eucharist after the miraculous feeding of the 5000; He instituted the Holy Eucharist at the Last Supper; He commanded His disciples to repeat this in His memory; We trust in the omnipotence of God. The doctrine of transubstantiation explains that the substance of the consecrated bread and wine becomes the substance of the glorified Body and Blood of Christ, while the accidents (appearance, taste, etc.) remain unchanged. The Eucharistic Miracle of Buenos Aires, one of 107 confirmed Eucharistic Miracles, is one among many that affirm this belief.

In the Old Testament, covenants were sealed with the blood of sacrificed animals. Jesus established the New Covenant with His own Blood, as described by St. Paul. In the Gospel, Jesus transforms this ancient ritual into a sacrament by offering His Body and Blood as spiritual nourishment. His words, “Take, eat; this is my Body” and “Take, drink; this is my Blood,” emphasize the literal presence of His Body and Blood in the Eucharist. Our belief in the Real Presence is grounded in the literal interpretation of Christ's promise in John 6 and the accounts of the Last Supper in the synoptic Gospels and 1 Corinthians. The theological concept of transubstantiation, affirmed by the Church, maintains that the essence of bread and wine becomes the essence of Christ's Body and Blood, though their outward properties remain unchanged.

Jesus' institution of the Eucharist fulfills and surpasses the Old Covenant established on Mount Sinai. He replaces the animal sacrifices with His own sacrificial Blood, establishing a New Covenant that offers the most perfect union with God. Through the

Eucharist, believers are spiritually transformed and united with God.

The Holy Eucharist serves as both a sacrament and a sacrifice. As a sacrament, it is an outward sign through which we encounter the risen Christ, who nourishes and strengthens us. The Eucharistic celebration reenacts the sacrifice of Christ's death and resurrection, making these events present to us in a mystical and unbloody manner. This re-presentation assures us of Christ's love and forgiveness.

The Eucharist teaches us about community and the bond formed through Christ's sacrifice. As St. John Chrysostom noted, the Eucharist unites us as the Body of Christ, just as many grains become one bread and many grapes become one wine. We must approach Holy Communion with a pure heart, repenting of our sins and seeking sacramental confession if necessary. St. Paul warns against receiving the Eucharist unworthily, urging us to examine ourselves and receive it with reverence. By receiving Holy Communion, we become bearers of Christ, tasked with conveying His love, mercy, and forgiveness to others. As we celebrate this profound mystery, let us echo St. Thomas Aquinas in recognizing the Eucharist as the greatest miracle, and St. Augustine in venerating it as a sacrament of devotion, unity, and charity.

In the Eucharist, we find the ultimate expression of Christ's love and the promise of eternal life. As we partake in this sacred mystery, may we always be mindful of its profound significance and transformative power. Let us reflect on the words of Jesus: “This is my Blood of the Covenant, which will be shed for many.” **AMEN †**

***SERMON: Solemnity of
the Word of God***

***“In the beginning was
the Word, and the Word
was with God, and the
Word was God.”***



Today marks a sacred milestone in the history of our faith—a momentous occasion as we gather in reverence to honor the Word of God as a Solemnity within the Polish National Catholic Church. Let us pause in awe and gratitude, for it is a first today, etching a new chapter in our spiritual journey. Our hearts swell with humility and gratitude as we embrace this profound acknowledgment of the Word of God as a Sacrament.

Reflect with me for a moment on the journey that has brought us to this sacred recognition. Over nineteen centuries have passed since the inception of the Church, and yet, through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we stand united in this revelation. It was at the Second General Synod of the Polish National Catholic Church, convened in Scranton, Pennsylvania, on that hallowed September 28 and 29 in 1909, that this understanding began to take shape. The Synod's official report, published in our Church's official organ in 1913, bears witness to this divine truth: "Hearing of the Word of God preached according to the teachings of Christ the Lord and the Apostles, has sacramental force, that is, it causes in us the same effects as does the receiving of the other sacraments."

The roots of this sacramental understanding trace back to the intimate relationship God has always sought with humanity—the pinnacle of His creation. From the dawn of time, God's voice resonated, speaking directly to Adam, calling out to Abraham, and communing with Moses. Despite

humanity's faltering steps and the shadows of sin that clouded our journey, God's communication persisted. The pages of the Old Testament bear witness to His unwavering desire to renew, restore, and regenerate His chosen people, sending prophets as messengers of His divine will.

Yet, in the fullness of time, God's ultimate revelation dawned upon us in the person of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. As St. John eloquently declares, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us" (John 1:1-5, 10-14). Through Christ, God's message of love, forgiveness, and reconciliation resounded with unparalleled clarity.

Jesus, our Lord and Savior, entrusted His disciples with the sacred duty of spreading His message to the ends of the earth. As He ascended to heaven, He imparted to them the Great Commission, charging them to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey His commandments.

In obedience to this divine mandate, the Apostles and their successors took up the

mantle of preaching and teaching, passing on the precious deposit of faith entrusted to them. This Apostolic Succession continues unbroken to this day within the Catholic Church, including our beloved Polish National Catholic Church.

As participants in the Sacrament of the Word of God, both preachers and listeners, we are called to approach this sacred encounter with reverence and preparation. Just as the priest must earnestly prepare to deliver the Word with dignity and clarity, so too must the congregation ready their hearts to receive it as nourishment for the soul.

May we heed the words of St. Paul, who reminds us of the vital importance of preaching: "How are they to believe in One of Whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim Him? And how are they to

proclaim Him unless they are sent?" (Romans 10:14-15). As The Apostle. John stated about St. John the Baptist, "***He was not the light, but came to testify to the light.***"

As we partake in this sacred sacrament, let us remember that God's desire to communicate with His people knows no bounds. Through the proclamation of His Word, He continues to reach out to us, inviting us into deeper communion with Him. May our hearts be open, our minds attentive, and our spirits receptive as we engage in this divine encounter.

Amen



SERMON: 13th Sunday Ordinary Time B

"Who Touched me?"

Reflecting on the influences in our lives, both positive and negative, is essential in theological discourse. Today's readings for the 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B, reveal that God desires nothing but life and goodness for us, if only we will let Him rescue us. The readings emphasize the importance of faith and the call to share our blessings. The first reading explains that God desires life for us, not death. The second reading tells us that God desires abundance for all His children. In the Gospel, Jesus brings a young girl back to life and heals a woman who has been suffering for years. These stories show that Jesus knows what He is doing, and we must trust Him even when we are confused or impatient. He contrasts our culture's focus

on



material possessions with the teachings of the Word of God that every individual is priceless and meant for eternity.

These themes highlight God's love and our call to live with faith and generosity. This Sunday invites us to trust in Jesus and share our blessings. Let us reflect on who has touched us in a positive way towards Christ and who we are positively influencing towards Christ. With that, let us revisit our penance and summarize today's readings as

we prepare to address the theme of our homily: "Who touched me?"

As He walked down a crowded street, hundreds of hands reached out to Him. Yet He felt the thin, sickly hand of faith. He felt it! He felt her touch, and He stopped. He turned and spoke to her. He was not offended or angry at her, nor was He too busy or too tired to bother with her. Think about it. He, whom all the forces of hell could not stop, was diverted by the touch of a sickly hand! This woman did by her touch what Satan himself could not do—she stopped Jesus in His tracks. There are no "untouchable" people. In Jesus' eyes, everyone is touchable. Thank God, there are no hopeless cases with Him.

He spoke to her as if she were the only person in the crowd. When He turned, it was just Jesus and her. No one else mattered. Talk about undivided attention. He loves you as if there were only one person in all the universe to love. He hears you as if you were the only one speaking to Him. He attends to your needs as if yours were the only needs in all creation. What a Christ!

There is significant use of the word "touch" in the Bible. Isaac, blind and unable to see, had to touch the hands of the disguised Jacob to determine whom to bless. When the angel wrestled with Jacob, he touched him on the hip. When the Israelites finally crossed the Jordan, the water parted when the priests' feet touched the water. An angel touched Daniel and gave him strength. Jesus was constantly asked to bless little children with His touch. In fact, on one such occasion, the apostles tried to stop the blessing of children, but Jesus told them, "Suffer the little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven." He took them into His

arms, placed His hands on them, and blessed them.

There is something powerful about touch. In our Gospel, the woman believed and had faith. What do you do when you are at your wits' end? What do you do when your money is gone? What do you do when you are depressed? What do you do when there is nobody else? This woman had heard about Jesus, and she took a chance. It says she heard about Jesus; it does not say what she heard. Maybe she heard He healed a paralyzed man whose friends had lowered him through a roof. Maybe she heard He healed Peter's mother-in-law when she was sick. Maybe she heard He spoke to the wind and told it to be still.

I don't know what she heard, but when she found out He was back in town, she took her sick, broken, depressed, unclean self to where He was. Some of us need to find Jesus for ourselves. We need to get out from in front of the television, get off the telephone, stay away from the alcohol, the blunt, the gaming, and we need to find Jesus. Some of us want to sneak our blessing. We don't want folks to know that we are down with this Jesus person. Some of us hide from Jesus because we don't want to look as if we are in need. So, she sneaks behind Him and touches His garment. And immediately two things happened! She feels healed, and Jesus knows that power has left His body. You know when you have felt the power of Jesus. Anybody here ever felt the power of Jesus?

Belief in Jesus gives you access to His power. Believers know there is power in the name of Jesus. There is power in the name of Jesus. And Jesus turns around and says, "Who touched Me?"

AMEN †

