

JANUARY 25, 2026

The Crossbeam

A NEWSLETTER FOR OUR ST. JOHN'S PARISH MEMBERS
AND FRIENDS



Sunday, January 25, 2026
3rd Sunday after Epiphany,
Year A

JESUS BEGINS HIS PUBLIC MINISTRY BY CALLING FISHERS TO LEAVE THEIR NETS AND FOLLOW HIM. IN JESUS THE KINGDOM OF GOD HAS COME NEAR. WE WHO HAVE WALKED IN DARKNESS HAVE SEEN A GREAT LIGHT. WE SEE THIS LIGHT MOST PROFOUNDLY IN THE CROSS—AS GOD SUFFERS WITH US AND ALL WHO ARE OPPRESSED BY SICKNESS, SIN, OR EVIL. LIGHT DAWNS FOR US AS WE GATHER AROUND THE WORD, THE FONT, AND THE HOLY TABLE. WE ARE THEN SENT TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS THAT OTHERS MAY BE “CAUGHT” IN THE NET OF GOD’S GRACE AND MERCY.



From the Pastor's Desk

PSALM 27:1, 4-9

1 THE LORD IS MY LIGHT AND MY SALVATION; WHOM THEN | SHALL I FEAR?
THE LORD IS THE STRONGHOLD OF MY LIFE; OF WHOM SHALL I | BE AFRAID?
4 ONE THING I ASK OF THE LORD; ONE | THING I SEEK;
THAT I MAY DWELL IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE; TO
GAZE UPON THE BEAUTY OF THE LORD AND TO SEEK GOD | IN THE TEMPLE.
5 FOR IN THE DAY OF TROUBLE GOD WILL | GIVE ME SHELTER,
HIDE ME IN THE HIDDEN PLACES OF THE SANCTUARY, AND RAISE ME HIGH UP- |
ON A ROCK.
6 EVEN NOW MY HEAD IS LIFTED UP ABOVE MY ENEMIES | WHO SURROUND ME.
THEREFORE I WILL OFFER SACRIFICE IN THE SANCTUARY, SACRIFICES OF
REJOICING; I WILL SING AND MAKE MUSIC | TO THE LORD. R
7 HEAR MY VOICE, O LORD, | WHEN I CALL;
HAVE MERCY ON ME AND | ANSWER ME.
8 MY HEART SPEAKS YOUR MESSAGE— | “SEEK MY FACE.”
YOUR FACE, O LORD, | I WILL SEEK.
9 HIDE NOT YOUR FACE FROM ME, TURN NOT AWAY FROM YOUR SER- | VANT IN
ANGER.
CAST ME NOT AWAY—YOU HAVE BEEN MY HELPER; FORSAKE ME NOT, O GOD OF |
MY SALVATION.

“THANKS FOR PRAYERS THAT THOU HAST ANSWERED,
THANKS FOR WHAT THOU DOST DENY.
THANKS FOR STORMS THAT I HAVE WEATHERED,
THANKS FOR ALL THOU DOST SUPPLY.
THANKS FOR PAIN, AND THANKS FOR PLEASURE.
THANKS FOR COMFORT IN DESPAIR.
THANKS FOR GRACE THAT NONE CAN MEASURE,
THANKS FOR LOVE BEYOND COMPARE.
THANKS FOR ROSES BY THE WAYSIDE,
THANKS FOR THORNS THEIR STEMS CONTAIN.
THANKS FOR HOME AND THANKS FOR FIRESIDE,
THANKS FOR HOPE, THAT SWEET REFRAIN.
THANKS FOR JOY AND THANKS FOR SORROW,
THANKS FOR HEAV’LY PEACE WITH THEE.
THANKS FOR HOPE IN THE TOMORROW,
THANKS THROUGH ALL ETERNITY!”

—AUGUST LUDVIG STORM, 1891, FROM “THANKS TO GOD FOR MY REDEEMER.” THIS HYMN (ORIGINALLY IN SWEDISH BUT HERE IN ENGLISH TRANSLATION) IS NOTEWORTHY FOR THE WAY IT OFFERS THANKS FOR THE THORN AS WELL AS THE ROSE: FOR EXPERIENCES OF ADVERSITY AS WELL AS JOY. STORM WAS A SWEDISH SALVATION ARMY OFFICER WHO SUFFERED PARTIAL PARALYSIS BEGINNING AT AGE 37 AND DISABLING BACK PAIN THEREAFTER.

PEACE AND BLESSINGS THIS DAY.
PASTOR V.



IN-PERSON WORSHIP

THE HOLY SPIRIT GATHERS PEOPLE AROUND THE MEANS OF GRACE—
THE SAVING WORD OF GOD AND THE SACRAMENTS.

FEATURED THIS WEEK:
SATURDAY SPOKEN WORD
5 P.M. - IN-PERSON

THE SUNDAY ASSEMBLY
9 A.M. SERVICE W/SCS

10:30A.M. - IN-PERSON SERVICE AND LIVESTREAM
BROADCAST ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE AND ON OUR WEBSITE!



[This Weeks Bulletin \(click here\)](#)



SATURDAY JANUARY 24@ 5PM
VICKY WIENKE- ASSISTING MINISTER

SUNDAY JANUARY 25@ 9AM
NATHAN SETLOCK-ASSISTING MINSTER

SUNDAY JANUARY 25@ 10:30AM
KAREN ROTHENBERGER- ASSISTING MINISTER



SUNDAY JANUARY 25@ 9AM
LEE DELANEY- USHER

SUNDAY JANUARY 25@ 10:30AM
SANDY STANGO- USHER

SUNDAY JANUARY 25@ 10:30AM
LANDON AMBELLAN- ACOLYTE

ALTAR GUILD FOR JANUARY:
BETH VOSSLER



ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

**FEBRUARY 8TH
SOUP SALE**

**FEBRUARY 15TH
YOUTH GROUP
SPAGHETTI FUNDRAISER**

**UPCOMING AGAPE MEAL DATES:
FEBRUARY 1ST
MARCH 1ST**

SOUPER BOWL

IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY!
WE'LL BE COLLECTING CANS OF SOUP TO BENEFIT OUR WEST
SENECA NEIGHBORS!

COLLECTION DATES: JANUARY 31ST - SUNDAY, FEB 8TH

GIVING STATEMENTS

GIVING STATEMENTS WILL BE READY AT THE END OF THE MONTH.
IF YOU WOULD LIKE ONE PLEASE LET THE OFFICE KNOW.
ONCE THEY ARE READY I WILL GET THEM TO THOSE THAT NEED IT.

716-668-2152 OR EMAIL SJLCWS@GMAIL.COM
PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE IT
PRINTED AND MAILED OR EMAILED.
THANK YOU!

VISITORS

IF YOU ARE A VISITOR, PLEASE SIGN OUR GUEST BOOK IN THE
ENTRANCE LISTING YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.

THIS WEEK 1/25 - 1/31

TODAY:

9 A.M. WORSHIP W/ SCS
10:30 A.M. WORSHIP
7 P.M. TRY AGAIN (AA)

MONDAY:

10 A.M. SPROUTS
1 P.M. ARTHRITIS WALKING GROUP
6 P.M. SPROUTS
6:45 P.M. ZUMBA
7:30 P.M. AL-ANON

TUESDAY:

9 A.M. ZUMBA
12 P.M. TAI-CHI
6:30 P.M. SA BUFFALO

WEDNESDAY:

1 P.M. ARTHRITIS EXERCISE GROUP
7 P.M. CHOIR REHEARSAL

THURSDAY:

9 A.M. ZUMBA
12 P.M. NA
5 P.M. ZUMBA
6 P.M. BARRE CLASS
7 P.M. NA

FRIDAY:

10 A.M. ENJOY LIFE (NA)
7:30 P.M. GARDENVILLE GROUP (AA)

SATURDAY:

9 A.M. ZUMBA
5 P.M. WORSHIP

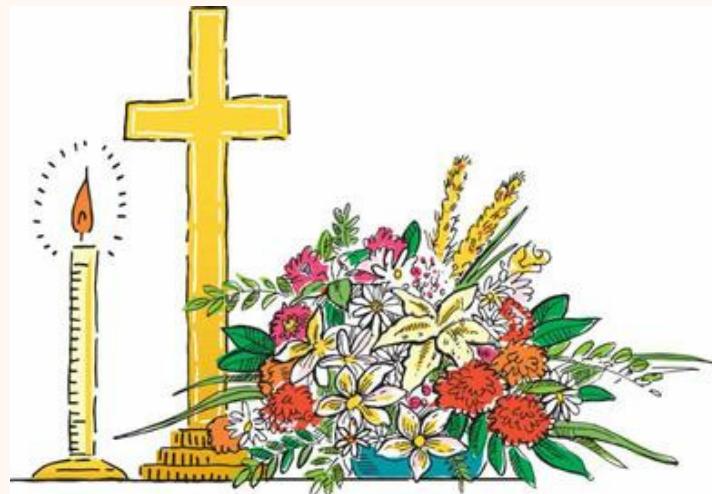
COUNCIL

WE WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME RICK LIPKA, KRISTEN HOCHULSKI
AND VICKY WIENKE TO COUNCIL.
THANK YOU TO NANCY KESSLER, EDIE SIMS AND KATHY MOODY
WHO CAME OFF COUNCIL.

COLLECTION FOR BOOK AND JIGSAW PUZZLE SALE

THE PLANNING IS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY FOR THE NEXT SALE.

START COLLECTING BOOKS AND PUZZLES TO DONATE. MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW ALONG WITH WHEN YOU CAN START BRINGING ITEMS IN. THANK YOU!



Altar Flowers

CELEBRATING RUSS THEN'S 70TH BIRTHDAY!

YOU CAN REMEMBER OR HONOR A LOVED ONE OR A SPECIAL OCCASION BY ORDERING A FLORAL ARRANGEMENT USING THE ALTAR FLOWER CALENDAR LOCATED IN THE NARTHEX.

BURRITO PROJECT

A VERY BIG THANK YOU! THIS PAST MONTH THE BURRITO PROJECT RECEIVED A VERY GENEROUS DONATION OF FLEECE JACKETS AND BLANKETS THAT WERE DISTRIBUTED.

READERS NEEDED

WE COULD USE MORE LITURGY READERS FOR THE 5PM SATURDAY SERVICE. PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU DO RECEIVE THE READINGS AHEAD OF TIME TO PRACTICE AND HELP IS AVAILABLE IF YOU NEED IT FOR PRONUNCIATION PURPOSES.