

JUNE 7, 2026

# *The Crossbeam*

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



## *Sunday, June 7, 2026 2nd Sunday after Pentecost, Year A*

THOUGH JESUS WAS A DEVOUT JEW WHO PRACTICED HIS FAITH, HE WAS CRITICIZED FOR EATING WITH TAX COLLECTORS AND SINNERS—THE RELIGIOUSLY NONOBSERVANT. JESUS CRITICIZES THE SELF-RIGHTEOUS AND REMINDS US THAT MERCY IS TO BE AT THE HEART OF OUR RELIGIOUS PRACTICES. GOD CONTINUES TO BE MADE KNOWN IN THOSE ON THE MARGINS OF SOCIETY, LIKE MATTHEW THE TAX COLLECTOR AND THE HEMORRHAGING WOMAN. AS WE GATHER EACH LORD'S DAY WE RECEIVE THE HEALING THAT MAKES US WELL AND SENDS US FORTH TO BE SIGNS OF GOD'S MERCY FOR THE WORLD.



## *From the Pastor's Desk*

“DEEP RIVER, MY HOME IS OVER JORDAN,  
DEEP RIVER, LORD, I WANT TO CROSS OVER INTO CAMP-GROUND.  
DEEP RIVER, MY HOME IS OVER JORDAN,  
DEEP RIVER, LORD, I WANT TO CROSS OVER INTO CAMP-GROUND.  
OH, DON'T YOU WANT TO GO TO THAT GOSPEL FEAST,  
THAT PROMISED LAND WHERE ALL IS PEACE?

OH DEEP RIVER, LORD, I WANT TO CROSS OVER INTO CAMP-GROUND.  
THE BIBLICAL ALLUSION HERE IS TO THE CLASSIC THEME IN THE BIBLE OF DELIVERANCE. MANY OF THE OLD NEGRO SPIRITUALS ARE BASED ON THE THEME OF DELIVERANCE AND SALVATION. LIFE IS SYMBOLIZED IN THE SPIRITUAL AS THE DEEP RIVER AND HEAVEN IS THE CAMPGROUND. BURLEIGH MAKES A PARALLEL BETWEEN THE ISRAELITES AND AFRICAN-AMERICANS. BURLEIGH, AS A SONGWRITER, CONTINUES THE TRADITION OF BIBLICAL ALLUSION THAT BEGAN IN THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN TRADITION WITH THE SLAVE NARRATIVE. THIS SPIRITUAL FOLLOWS IN THE LITERARY TRADITION OF USING BIBLICAL ALLUSION TO DESCRIBE THE STRUGGLES WE ALL FACE ON EARTH. FREDERICK DOUGLASS RELATES HIS STRUGGLE TO JESUS CHRIST IN HIS NARRATIVE. HE DESCRIBES HIS DEFEAT OVER HIS MASTER WITH THE METAPHOR OF A 'GLORIOUS RESURRECTION.' HE HAS BEEN IN A SENSE DELIVERED OUT OF HIS FORMER STATE OF TOTAL HELPLESSNESS. THE RIVER IMPLIES A LONG HARD JOURNEY FOLLOWED BY A PLACE OF SUPREME RESPITE. HEAVEN IS THE COUNTERBALANCE TO THE INJUSTICE OF THIS WORLD.

'I WANT TO CROSS OVER,' IMPLIES THAT ONE IS PRESENTLY IN BABYLON YEARNING TO CROSS INTO THE PROMISED LAND. BURLEIGH WRITES OF THE TRIALS OF LIFE USING THE METAPHOR OF THE DEEP RIVER JORDAN. 'I WANT TO CROSS OVER INTO CAMP-GROUND . . . THAT PROMISED LAND WHERE ALL IS PEACE,' REFERS TO THE SOLACE ONE CAN FIND IN PRAYER AND JESUS IN ONE READING AND TO HEAVEN IN ANOTHER. THE SPIRITUAL DESCRIBES EACH PERSON'S RIGHTFUL PLACE IN THE PROMISED LAND, "MY HOME IS OVER JORDAN." THE SOUL CRAVES TO BE WITH GOD, 'OH, DON'T YOU WANT TO GO TO THAT GOSPEL FEAST?'

FREEDOM IS PROBABLY THE MOST PROMINENT THEME IN EARLY AFRICAN-AMERICAN WRITING SUCH AS THE SLAVE NARRATIVE AND IN SPIRITUALS. IN THE SPIRITUAL ABOVE, FREEDOM LIES OVER THE JORDAN, OR IN THE NEXT LIFE, IN THE HANDS OF GOD. 'DEEP RIVER' IS A PLEA FOR DELIVERANCE OUT OF OPPRESSION AND SORROW."

HOMILETICS, FEBRUARY 8, 2009  
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

9:45A.M. - IN-PERSON SERVICE AND LIVESTREAM  
BROADCAST ON OUR [FACEBOOK PAGE](#) AND ON OUR WEBSITE!



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



SATURDAY JUNE 6 @ 5PM  
VICKY WIENKE - ASSISTING MINISTER



SUNDAY JUNE 7 @ 9:45AM  
NADINE BROWN- USHER  
RON WIRTH- USHER

ALTAR GUILD FOR JUNE:  
LINDA BARROWS  
MARY BLAUFUSS

# ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

BIBLE STUDY @ 6PM  
JUNE 11TH

**NEXT AGAPE MEAL**  
**JULY 5TH**  
**@ 9:45 AM**

**ONE SERVICE AT 10AM WILL  
CONTINUE THROUGH SUMMER**

**BURCHFEST**  
FALL ARTISAN CRAFT SHOW  
FALL INTO THE ARTS  
CALLING  
**ARTISANS & VENDORS!**  
Join us for Burchfest  
at St. John's Lutheran Church!  
**OCTOBER 3RD, 2026**

SHOWCASE YOUR TALENT | CONNECT WITH THE COMMUNITY! | BE PART OF A WONDERFUL FALL TRADITION!

**VENDOR SPACES AVAILABLE!**  
*Interested?*  
✉ [burchfeststjohns@gmail.com](mailto:burchfeststjohns@gmail.com)

# THIS WEEK 6/7- 6/13

## TODAY:

9:45 A.M. AGAPE MEAL  
11 A.M. SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
7 P.M. TRY AGAIN (AA)

## MONDAY:

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

## TUESDAY:

9 A.M. ZUMBA  
12 P.M. TAI-CHI  
1 P.M. ALTAR GUILD MEETING  
6 P.M. ROCK VOICES  
6:30 P.M. SA BUFFALO

## WEDNESDAY:

1 P.M. ARTHRITIS EXERCISE GROUP  
6 P.M. LABYRINTH GROUP

## THURSDAY:

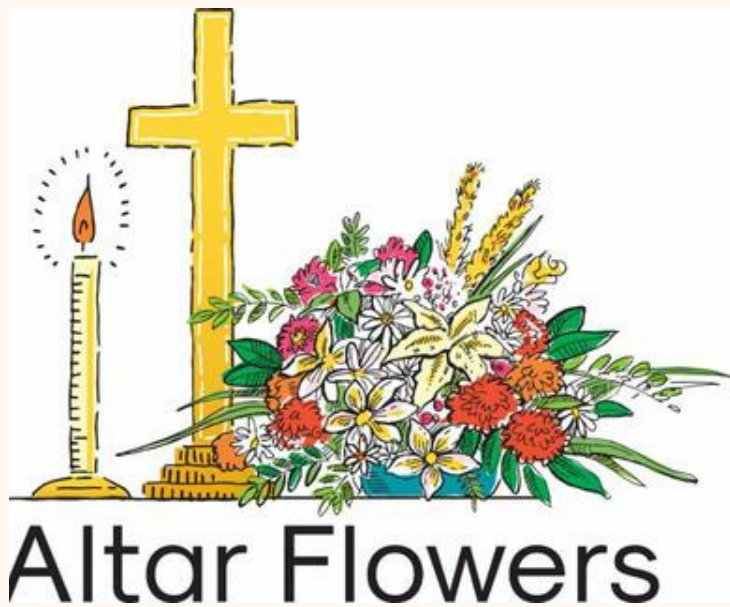
9 A.M. ZUMBA  
12 P.M. NA  
5 P.M. ZUMBA  
6 P.M. BIBLE STUDY  
7 P.M. COUNCIL  
7 P.M. NA

## FRIDAY:

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

## SATURDAY:

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



# Altar Flowers

## **TO THE GLORY OF GOD**

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.

### **LADIES DINING OUT**

ALL LADIES ARE INVITED TO COME TO LADIES DINING OUT  
ON TUESDAY, JUNE 9 @ 5PM  
COUNTRYSIDE INN, ALDEN  
PLEASE USE SIGN UP SHEET ON FOYER COUNTER  
ALL LADIES ALL WELCOME!!!  
ANY QUESTIONS CALL CONNIE 716-674-2409  
OR ANY WELCA MEMBER

### **HELP NEEDED**

THE CHURCH IS IN NEED OF SOME HELP WITH MAINTENANCE AROUND CHURCH. IF YOU HAVE ANY TIME TO SPARE WE CAN USE YOUR HELP. ANYDAY ANYTIME THAT WORKS FOR YOU. IF YOU CAN HELP PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE 716-668-2152



## **PENTECOST GERANIUMS**

THANK YOU TO BENTGERT'S GARDEN  
CENTER ON FRENCH ROAD FOR  
THEIR CONTRIBUTION OF FLOWERS  
BY THE CHURCH AND THE  
GERANIUMS

## **BURRITO PROJECT**

THE NEXT BURRITO PROJECT VENTURE WILL BE ON THE LAST  
TUESDAY OF JUNE. THAT IS THE 30TH. WE WILL ONCE AGAIN BE  
GOING INTO DOWNTOWN BUFFALO TO PROVIDE FOOD AND  
HYGIENE ITEMS TO HELP THE HOMELESS. THEY ARE  
UNBELIEVABLY GRATEFUL FOR WHAT WE PROVIDE TO THEM, AND  
THE NEED IS GREAT.

WE HAVE BEEN BLESSED BY THE GENEROSITY OF THE MEMBERS  
OF OUR CONGREGATION, AND OTHER KIND PEOPLE, WHO HAVE  
HELPED US BY PROVIDING THE MATERIALS THAT WE TAKE  
DOWNTOWN TO DISTRIBUTE. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP YOUR  
NEIGHBOR IN NEED, THESE ARE THE ITEMS THAT WOULD BE  
MOST USEFUL AT THIS TIME.

MEN'S UNDERWEAR  
SHAVING CREAM

WOMEN'S UNDERWEAR  
POCKET SIZE KLEENEX

WE WILL ONCE AGAIN HAVE A COLLECTION BOX AVAILABLE IN  
THE PARISH HALL.

THANK YOU!.