

JULY 5, 2026

The Crossbeam

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



*Sunday, July 5, 2026
6th Sunday after Pentecost,
Year A*

THE MYSTERY OF GOD'S WAYS IS SOMETIMES HIDDEN FROM THE WISE AND INTELLIGENT. THE PROPHET DESCRIBES AN EVERLASTING REALM THAT CONTRASTS WITH EARTHLY NATIONS, ONE MARKED BY PEACE, HUMILITY, AND FREEDOM. JESUS ASSOCIATES WITH THOSE EXCLUDED FROM THE RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY. LIKE PAUL, WE STRUGGLE WITH SELFISH DESIRES; WE LAMENT FLAWED SYSTEMS; AND WE SEEK GOD'S MERCY AND FORGIVENESS. WE GATHER AROUND WORD, WATER, AND MEAL BY CHRIST'S INVITATION: "COME TO ME, ALL YOU THAT ARE WEARY." HERE WE FIND REST FOR OUR SOULS AND HOPE FOR LIFE IN BELOVED COMMUNITY.



From the Pastor's Desk

ROMANS 7:15-25A

15 I DO NOT UNDERSTAND MY OWN ACTIONS. FOR I DO NOT DO WHAT I WANT, BUT I DO THE VERY THING I HATE. 16 NOW IF I DO WHAT I DO NOT WANT, I AGREE THAT THE LAW IS GOOD. 17 BUT IN FACT IT IS NO LONGER I WHO DO IT BUT SIN THAT DWELLS WITHIN ME. 18 FOR I KNOW THAT THE GOOD DOES NOT DWELL WITHIN ME, THAT IS, IN MY FLESH. FOR THE DESIRE TO DO THE GOOD LIES CLOSE AT HAND, BUT NOT THE ABILITY. 19 FOR I DO NOT DO THE GOOD I WANT, BUT THE EVIL I DO NOT WANT IS WHAT I DO. 20 NOW IF I DO WHAT I DO NOT WANT, IT IS NO LONGER I WHO DO IT BUT SIN THAT DWELLS WITHIN ME.

21 SO I FIND IT TO BE A LAW THAT, WHEN I WANT TO DO WHAT IS GOOD, EVIL LIES CLOSE AT HAND. 22 FOR I DELIGHT IN THE LAW OF GOD IN MY INMOST SELF, 23 BUT I SEE IN MY MEMBERS ANOTHER LAW AT WAR WITH THE LAW OF MY MIND, MAKING ME CAPTIVE TO THE LAW OF SIN THAT DWELLS IN MY MEMBERS. 24 WRETCHED PERSON THAT I AM! WHO WILL RESCUE ME FROM THIS BODY OF DEATH? 25A THANKS BE TO GOD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD!

“I’VE OFTEN HEARD THIS WALKING ON WATER STORY FROM MATTHEW PREACHED AS LIKE THE LITTLE DISCIPLE WHO ALMOST COULD. LIKE PETER COULD HAVE KEPT WALKING ON WATER IF HE JUST THOUGHT ‘I THINK I CAN, I THINK I CAN’ ENOUGH. THE MESSAGE BEING THAT WITH ENOUGH FAITH YOU TOO CAN WALK ON WATER ALL THE WAY TO JESUS. WHICH, ON THE SURFACE, SOUNDS INSPIRING.

BUT TAKEN TO ITS LOGICAL CONCLUSION, IT ALSO MEANS THAT IF YOU ARE NOT GOD-LIKE IN YOUR ABILITY TO OVERCOME ALL YOUR FEARS AND FAILINGS AS A HUMAN ... IF YOU ARE NOT GOD-LIKE IN YOUR ABILITY TO DEFY THE FORCES OF NATURE THEN THE PROBLEM ISN’T THE LIMITS OF HUMAN POTENTIAL, THE PROBLEM IS THE LIMITS OF YOUR FAITH AND YOU SHOULD PROBABLY MUSTER UP SOME MORE.

I GUESS I’VE JUST NEVER HEARD THAT WAY OF TELLING THE STORY AS GOOD NEWS. BECAUSE FOR ME, ALL THE ‘I THINK I CAN, I THINK I CAN’ IN THE WORLD DOESN’T MAKE THE STORMS OF LIFE ANY LESS TERRIFYING. ALL THE POWER OF POSITIVE THINKING AND HIGH SELF-ESTEEM ON THE PLANET DOESN’T SEEM TO DO THE TRICK TO MAKE ME LESS AFRAID WHEN THE DANGERS OF LIFE SURROUND ME. ...

SO IF YOU ARE WONDERING WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE TO HAVE FAITH, KNOW THIS: FAITH ISN’T YOU DOING THE IMPOSSIBLE — IT’S REMEMBERING THAT GOD CAN AND HAS AND WILL AGAIN DO THE IMPOSSIBLE.

AND TO HAVE FAITH IS TO KNOW THAT GOD IS GOD AND WE DON’T HAVE TO BE. —NADIA BOLZ-WEBER, “THE CASE AGAINST WWJD BRACELETS,” SUBSTACK.COM, AUGUST 13, 2023.

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 JULY 4 @ 5PM
VICKY WIENKE- ASSISTING MINISTER



SUNDAY JULY 5 @ 9:45AM
RON WIRTH- USHER
KRISTEN HOCHULSKI- USHER

ALTAR GUILD FOR JULY:
NADINE BROWN

HAPPY 30TH ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY PASTOR VALERIE!



**ANNOUNCEMENTS &
UPCOMING EVENTS**

AUGUST 2ND @ 9:45AM

AGAPE MEAL

OCTOBER 3RD

BURCHFEST

OCTOBER 15TH

PENNY SALE

BURCHFEST '26

"FALL INTO THE ARTS" ARTISAN, VENDOR & CRAFT SHOW,
SATURDAY 10/3

OUTSIDE VENDOR SPACES ARE AVAILABLE ON A LIMITED BASIS!
RESERVE YOUR SPOT NOW TO BE PART OF THIS
WONDERFUL FALL TRADITION.

EMAIL: BURCHFESTSTJOHNS@GMAIL.COM

THIS WEEK 7/5- 7/11

TODAY:

9:45 A.M. AGAPE MEAL
7 P.M. TRY AGAIN (AA)

MONDAY:

1 P.M. ARTHRITIS WALKING GROUP
6 P.M. KNITTING GROUP
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
6 P.M. THEATER GROUP

THURSDAY:

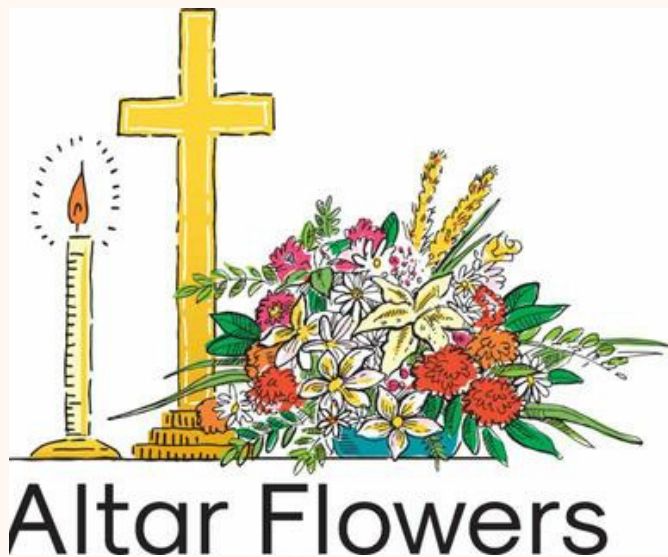
9 A.M. ZUMBA
12 P.M. NA
5 P.M. ZUMBA
7 P.M. NA
7 P.M. WORSHIP & MUSIC

FRIDAY:

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

SATURDAY:

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



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.

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

MEMBERS

PLEASE REMEMBER TO KEEP THE CHURCH OFFICE APPRAISED OF ANY CHANGE IN PHONE, EMAIL OR ADDRESS SO WE CAN KEEP THE CHURCH DIRECTORY UP TO DATE.