

JULY 19, 2026

The Crossbeam

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



*Sunday, July 19, 2026
8th Sunday after Pentecost,
Year A*

IT IS AN AGE-OLD QUESTION: WHY IS THERE EVIL IN THE WORLD? IN THE PARABLE OF THE WHEAT AND THE WEEDS JESUS SUGGESTS THAT BOTH GROW TOGETHER UNTIL THE HARVEST. WITH PAUL, WE LONG FOR THE DAY THAT ALL CREATION WILL BE SET FREE FROM BONDAGE AND SUFFERING. HAVING BOTH WEEDS AND WHEAT WITHIN US, WE HUMBLY PLACE OUR HOPE IN THE PROMISES OF GOD, AND FROM THE LORD'S TABLE WE GO FORTH TO BEAR THE FRUIT OF JUSTICE AND MERCY.



From the Pastor's Desk

ISAIAH 44:6-8

6 THUS SAYS THE LORD, THE KING OF ISRAEL,
AND HIS REDEEMER, THE LORD OF HOSTS:
I AM THE FIRST, AND I AM THE LAST;
BESIDES ME THERE IS NO GOD.
7 WHO IS LIKE ME? LET THEM PROCLAIM IT;
LET THEM DECLARE AND SET IT FORTH BEFORE ME.
WHO HAS ANNOUNCED FROM OF OLD THE THINGS TO COME?
LET THEM TELL US WHAT IS YET TO BE.
8 DO NOT FEAR OR BE AFRAID;
HAVE I NOT TOLD YOU FROM OF OLD AND DECLARED IT?
YOU ARE MY WITNESSES!
IS THERE ANY GOD BESIDES ME?
THERE IS NO OTHER ROCK; I KNOW NOT ONE.

"IN FIJI, THERE'S A CUSTOM CALLED KEREKERE (PRONOUNCED KERRY-KERRY),
IN WHICH A RELATIVE OR NEIGHBOR CAN REQUEST SOMETHING THAT IS
NEEDED, AND IT IS TO BE WILLINGLY GIVEN WITH NO EXPECTATION OF
REPAYMENT. BEING A ONE-DIRECTIONAL ACTION MEANS THERE'S NO
TRANSACTION INVOLVED.

REPORTEDLY, THE PEOPLE OF FIJI HAVE SO ENCULTURATED THIS PRACTICE
THAT SHARING HAS BECOME SECOND NATURE TO THEM, THOUGH WE
SUPPOSE THERE ARE INDIVIDUALS HERE AND THERE AMONG THEM WHO ARE
IMPERFECT IN LIVING OUT THAT VIRTUE. NONETHELESS, WHEN A NEEDED
ITEM IS GIVEN, IT CREATES AN IMBALANCE THAT MAY AWAKEN GRATITUDE
AND GENEROSITY IN AT LEAST SOME RECIPIENTS.

BUT THE CONCEPT OF KEREKERE, WHICH IS A PURPOSEFUL WAY OF
OPERATING IN SOCIETY, IS VERY DIFFERENT FROM A TRANSACTION. AND
WHAT'S MORE, WHEN GOD HANDS US SALVATION WITHOUT ASKING US TO
JUMP THROUGH ANY HOOPS TO RECEIVE IT, THAT'S LIKELY TO ENGENDER
GRATITUDE AND GENEROSITY IN US, PROMPTING US TO WALK WILLINGLY IN
THE WAY OF THE LORD."

HOMILETICS, AUGUST 9, 2026

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

10A.M. - IN-PERSON SERVICE AND LIVESTREAM
BROADCAST ON OUR [FACEBOOK PAGE](#) AND ON OUR WEBSITE!



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



SATURDAY JULY 18 @ 5PM
VICKY WIENKE- ASSISTING MINISTER



SUNDAY JULY 19 @ 10AM
PAT LIPKA- ASSISITING MININSTER
LAURA LOEHR- USHER

ALTAR GUILD FOR JULY:
NADINE BROWN

CHICKEN BBQ

LIFE CHURCH'S IS SPONSORING A CHICKEN BBQ FUNDRAISER ON SATURDAY 7/25 FROM 2PM TO 5PM AND IT IS A DRIVE THRU CHIAVETTAS CHICKEN DINNER WITH TWO SIDES, DESSERTS, AND A DRINK. ONE HUNDRED PERCENT OF THE PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS OUR FEEDING MINISTRY.

CAN PURCHASE ON DAY OR PREORDER AT:
[HTTPS://LIFECHURCHBUFFALO.CHURCHCENTER.COM/REGISTRATIO
NS/EVENTS/3560983](https://lifechurchbuffalo.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/3560983)

**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

LUTHERAN CHARITIES BISONS NIGHT

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS: \$15

TICKETS WITH DISCOUNTED CONCESSIONS \$25
(INCLUDES 1 HOT DOG AND SMALL SODA)

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21ST @6:35PM

TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED TOGETHER TO SIT TOGETHER
TICKETS WILL NOT BE MAILED.

PICK UP AFTER 5PM TO THE RIGHT OF THE SWAN STREET
ENTRANCE TO THE BALLPARK

FORMS ON COUNTER FOR THOSE INTERESTED

THIS WEEK 7/19- 7/25

TODAY:

10 A.M. WORSHIP
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 P.M. ROCK VOICES
6:30 P.M. SA BUFFALO

WEDNESDAY:

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

THURSDAY:

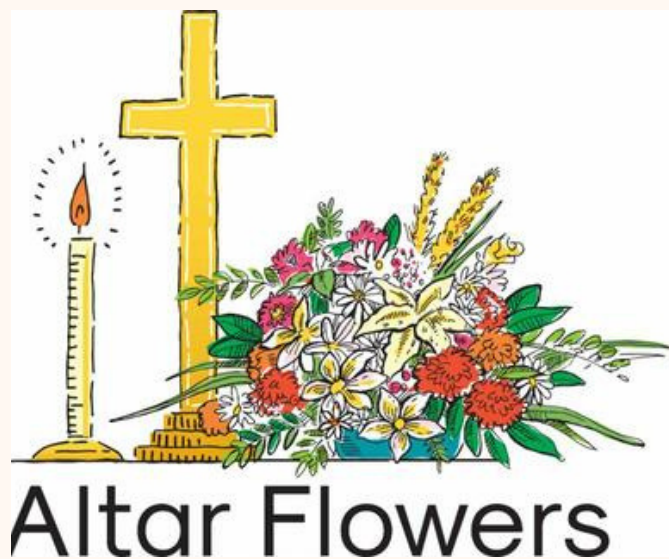
9 A.M. ZUMBA
12 P.M. NA
5 P.M. ZUMBA
6 P.M. ROCK VOICES
7 P.M. NA

FRIDAY:

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

SATURDAY:

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



**JUDY AND ROGER MCGILL'S
65TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY
JULY 22, 1961**

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.

WHILE WE REALIZE A LOT OF OUR MEMBERS TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SUMMER WEATHER TO TAKE A VACATION; HOWEVER OUR BILLS COME IN RAIN OR SHINE. WE ARE CURRENTLY RUNNING IN THE NEGATIVE SO PLEASE KEEP YOUR DONATIONS COMING IN!

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.