

SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

The Crossbeam

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



Sunday, September 20, 2026
17th Sunday after Pentecost,
Year A

MATTHEW NARRATES ONE OF JESUS' CONTROVERSIAL PARABLES IN WHICH JESUS SAYS THAT THE REIGN OF GOD IS LIKE THAT OF A LANDOWNER WHO PAYS HIS WORKERS THE SAME WAGE NO MATTER WHAT TIME OF DAY THEY BEGAN TO WORK. WHEN GOD CHANGES GOD'S MIND ABOUT PUNISHING NINEVEH FOR THEIR EVIL WAYS, JONAH IS ANGRY. YET GOD IS GRACIOUS AND MERCIFUL, ABOUNDING IN STEADFAST LOVE. IN BAPTISM WE RECEIVE THE GRACE OF GOD THAT IS FREELY GIVEN TO ALL. AS MARTIN LUTHER WROTE, IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD'S MERCY WE ARE ALL BEGGARS.



From the Pastor's Desk

PHILIPPIANS 1:21-30

21 FOR TO ME, LIVING IS CHRIST AND DYING IS GAIN. 22 IF I AM TO LIVE IN THE FLESH, THAT MEANS FRUITFUL LABOR FOR ME, YET I CANNOT SAY WHICH I WILL CHOOSE. 23 I AM HARD PRESSED BETWEEN THE TWO: MY DESIRE IS TO DEPART AND BE WITH CHRIST, FOR THAT IS FAR BETTER, 24 BUT TO REMAIN IN THE FLESH IS MORE NECESSARY FOR YOU. 25 SINCE I AM CONVINCED OF THIS, I KNOW THAT I WILL REMAIN AND CONTINUE WITH ALL OF YOU FOR YOUR PROGRESS AND JOY IN FAITH, 26 SO THAT, BY MY PRESENCE AGAIN WITH YOU, YOUR BOAST MIGHT ABOUND IN CHRIST JESUS BECAUSE OF ME.

27 ONLY, LIVE YOUR LIFE IN A MANNER WORTHY OF THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST, SO THAT, WHETHER I COME AND SEE YOU OR AM ABSENT AND HEAR ABOUT YOU, I WILL KNOW THAT YOU ARE STANDING FIRM IN ONE SPIRIT, STRIVING SIDE BY SIDE WITH ONE MIND FOR THE FAITH OF THE GOSPEL 28 AND IN NO WAY FRIGHTENED BY THOSE OPPOSING YOU. FOR THEM, THIS IS EVIDENCE OF THEIR DESTRUCTION BUT OF YOUR SALVATION. AND THIS IS GOD'S DOING. 29 FOR HE HAS GRACIOUSLY GRANTED YOU THE PRIVILEGE NOT ONLY OF BELIEVING IN CHRIST BUT OF SUFFERING FOR HIM AS WELL, 30 SINCE YOU ARE HAVING THE SAME STRUGGLE THAT YOU SAW I HAD AND NOW HEAR THAT I STILL HAVE.

"FINALLY THERE IS THE MYTH WHICH GIVES ME THE GREATEST PAIN: THE MYTH THAT THE PURPOSE OF LIFE IS HAPPINESS, AND THAT YOU OUGHT TO HAVE FUN, AND THAT YOUR CHILDREN OUGHT TO HAVE FUN. WHERE WAS IT WRITTEN THAT LIFE IS SO CHEAP? WHERE WAS IT WRITTEN THAT LIFE IS, OR SHOULD BE, OR CAN EVER BE FREE OF CONFLICT AND EFFORT AND DEPRIVATION AND SACRIFICE? THE PURPOSE OF LIFE IS NOT TO BE HAPPY AT ALL. IT IS TO BE USEFUL, TO BE HONORABLE. IT IS TO BE COMPASSIONATE. IT IS TO MATTER, TO HAVE IT MAKE SOME DIFFERENCE THAT YOU LIVED."

—LEO ROSTEN, "THE MYTHS BY WHICH WE LIVE," THE ROTARIAN, SEPTEMBER 1965. (NOTE: THIS QUOTATION IS OFTEN FALSELY ATTRIBUTED TO RALPH WALDO EMERSON.)

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
9A.M.- WORSHIP W/SCS AND LIVESTREAM
10:30A.M. - IN-PERSON SERVICE AND LIVESTREAM
BROADCAST ON OUR [FACEBOOK PAGE](#) AND ON OUR WEBSITE!



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



SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 19 @ 5PM
VICKY WIENKE- ASSISITING MINISTER



SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 20 @ 9AM
NADINE BROWN- USHER

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 20 @ 10:30AM
PAT LIPKA- ASSISTING MINISTER
LAURA LOEHR- USHER

ALTAR GUILD FOR SEPTEMBER:
RHONDA DREZEK
CONNIE ARNOLD

**SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN. PLEASE
REGISTER YOUR CHILD HERE:
[HTTPS://TITHELY-5ED939B212C2C-
1939424.ELVANTO.NET/ADMIN/FORMS/FORM/?ID=0DF741C1-
58BF-4FE5-9A2A-B2917176CEA2](https://tithely-5ed939b212c2c-1939424.elvanto.net/admin/forms/form/?id=0df741c1-58bf-4fe5-9a2a-b2917176cea2)**



ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

**SEPTEMBER 19TH @ 2PM
CANDY BAR BINGO**

**OCTOBER 3RD
BURCHFEST**

**OCTOBER 11TH
SOUP/ CHILI SALE**

**OCTOBER 15TH
PENNY SALE**

**AGAPE MEAL DATES:
OCTOBER 4TH
NOVEMBER 1ST
DECEMBER 6TH**

DINING OUT
DINING OUT IS BACK!
JOIN US THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 5PM
AT JP FITZGERALDS
SOUTH PARK AVE, HAMBURG
PLEASE SIGN UP IN THE FOYER

THIS WEEK 9/20 - 9/26

TODAY:

9 A.M. WORSHIP W/ SCS
10:30 A.M. WROSHIP
11:30 A.M. CHOIR REHEARSAL
1 P.M. NA EVENT
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
2 P.M. ALTAR GUILD
6:30 P.M. SA BUFFALO

WEDNESDAY:

1 P.M. ARTHRITIS EXERCISE GROUP

THURSDAY:

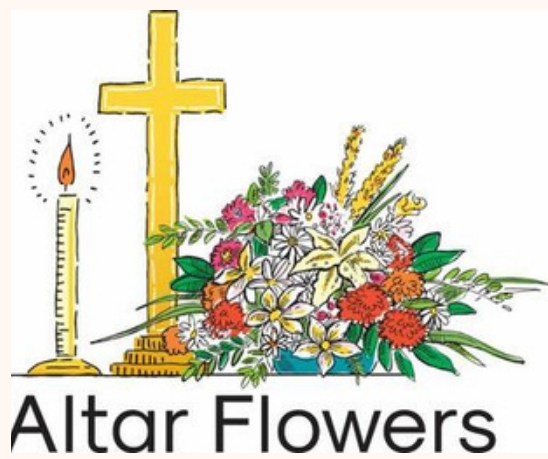
9 A.M. ZUMBA
12 P.M. NA
1 P.M. CEMETERY MEETING
5 P.M. ZUMBA
7 P.M. NA

FRIDAY:

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

SATURDAY:

9 A.M. ZUMBA
10 A.M. GIRL SCOUTS
2 P.M. OWENS WEDDING
5 P.M. WORSHIP



**IN LOVING MEMORY OF LISA GRIMMER
HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN HEAVEN**

JOANNE SCHOENTHAKER

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.

WEST SENECA COMMUNITY OF CHURCHES CROP WALK/ROLL &
WEIDNER CHICKEN DINNER
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, FROM 11AM-3PM OR SOLD OUT.
ST DAVID'S CHURCH
3951 SENECA ST (BEHIND SOUTHGATE PLAZA)
TAKE OUT AND CASH ONLY - \$16.

ITEMS NEEDED

ST. JOHN'S WILL BE HOSTING A TABLE AT BURCHFEST. THIS TABLE WILL
CONSIST OF GARAGE SALE TYPE ITEMS TO SELL. IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING
YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE WE ARE ACCEPTING ITEMS.

PLEASE NO CLOTHING!!!

LOOKING FOR NICE ITEMS.

ANY DONATIONS CAN BE PLACE ON THE BENCH IN THE SCHOOL HALL.
ANYTHING NOT SOLD AT BURCHFEST WILL BE DONATED TOWARDS THE
PENNY SALE.

PLEASE HAVE ANY ITEMS IN BY SEPTEMBER 20TH

KAREN MAIER HAS RECENTLY MOVED INTO A MEMORY CARE FACILITY,
WHERE SHE IS SETTLING INTO HER NEW HOME. WHILE THIS IS A BIG
TRANSITION FOR ALL OF US, WE'RE GRATEFUL THAT SHE IS BEING CARED FOR
AND SURROUNDED BY OTHERS.

MOM HAS ALWAYS ENJOYED RECEIVING CARDS AND MAIL, AND WE KNOW
THEY WOULD BRIGHTEN HER DAY. IF YOU'D LIKE TO SEND HER A CARD, WE
WOULD ABSOLUTELY WELCOME THEM!

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO CONTINUES TO THINK OF MOM AND OUR
FAMILY. YOUR KINDNESS, LOVE, AND SUPPORT MEAN SO MUCH TO US. 💕

KAREN MAIER
2330 MAPLE ROAD
APT 188
WILLIAMSVILLE, NY 14221

UPDATE

ISABEL HAS MADE IT TO REHAB AND SHE IS DOING PRETTY GOOD. SHE DOES
ABOUT 4-5 HOURS OF REHAB A DAY 6 DAYS A WEEK ITS AN INTENSE
PROGRAM. BUT SHE IS DOING IT AND SHE HAS BEEN SLOWLY PROGRESSING.
SHE HAS BEEN WORKING ON WALKING AGAIN, AND WHILE SHE ISNT
WALKING ON HER OWN, SHE IS MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. THE HOPE
IS SHE WILL BE WALKING BY THE TIME SHE LEAVES BUT WILL NEED TO
UTILIZE A WHEELCHAIR FOR DISTANCE FOR SOMETIME. SHE HAS STARTED
EATING AGAIN PUREED FOODS MOSTLY BUT WE ARE WORKING ON TRYING
SOLID FOODS AGAIN AND SHE GOT HER VOICE BACK ON FRIDAY! ITS WEAK
RIGHT NOW BUT ITS THERE AND ITS MUSIC TO MY EARS. I CRIED WHEN I
HEARD IT BUT I WAS SO HAPPY TO HEAR IT AGAIN. SHE IS SUCH A LITTLE
FIGHTER THATS FOR SURE. THANK YOU FOR ALWAYS KEEPING HER IN YOUR
PRAYERS.

BECKY AND ISABEL

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3RD!

WE'RE LOOKING FOR INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, YOUTH (COUNTS TOWARDS COMMUNITY SERVICE), AND FRIENDS TO HELP US HOST BURCHFEST '26 ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3RD!

WHETHER YOU CAN VOLUNTEER FOR A COUPLE OF HOURS OR THE ENTIRE EVENT, YOUR TIME AND TALENTS WILL MAKE A MEANINGFUL DIFFERENCE. BURCHFEST RUNS FROM 10AM TO 2PM. VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED ON THE DAY OF THE EVENT FROM 8AM TO 3PM.

PLEASE CONTACT KATHY AT 716-208-9043 (TEXT OR VOICEMAIL) OR SIGN UP AT CHURCH.

MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK—AND TOGETHER WE'LL MAKE BURCHFEST ANOTHER WONDERFUL COMMUNITY CELEBRATION!

BURRITTO PROJECT

WANT TO THANK EVERYONE WHO GENEROUSLY CONTRIBUTED ITEMS FOR THE HOMELESS BACK IN JUNE. IT'S AMAZING TO SEE THE GRATITUDE THAT THEY HAVE FOR WHAT WE PROVIDE. HOWEVER THE NEED DOESN'T END. ONCE AGAIN WE ARE GOING TO GO DOWNTOWN ON THE FIFTH TUESDAY OF SEPTEMBER (THAT IS THE 29TH) TO PROVIDE A MEAL AND PERSONAL HYGIENE ITEMS.

THERE IS GREAT NEED FOR THE FOLLOWING ITEMS FOR US TO TAKE THERE. IF YOU CAN, PLEASE PLACE WHATEVER YOU HAVE IN THE COLLECTION TOTE LOCATED IN THE PARISH HALL.

**MEN'S UNDERWEAR, WOMEN'S UNDERWEAR, SOCKS, DENTAL FLOSS
BAR SOAP, MOUTHWASH, SHAVING CREAM**

POPE FRANCIS IS QUOTED AS SAYING "YOU PRAY FOR THE HUNGRY. THEN YOU FEED THEM. THAT'S HOW PRAYER WORKS." THAT IS WHAT WE ARE DOING. THANK YOU FOR BEING A PART OF IT.