

OCTOBER 4, 2026

The Crossbeam

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



*Sunday, October 4, 2026
19th Sunday after Pentecost,
Year A*

IN TODAY'S GOSPEL READING, JESUS TELLS A VINEYARD PARABLE, WHICH SERVES AS AN IMAGE OF ISRAEL, THE PROPHETS' MISSION, AND CHRIST'S DEATH. FOR CHRISTIANS, THE VINEYARD ALSO SPEAKS OF GOD'S LOVE POURED OUT IN THE BLOOD OF CHRIST, GIVEN TO US FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SIN. GRAFTED ONTO CHRIST THE VINE AT BAPTISM, WE ARE NOURISHED WITH WINE AND BREAD SO THAT WE MAY SHARE CHRIST'S SUFFERINGS AND KNOW THE POWER OF HIS RESURRECTION.



From the Pastor's Desk

PSALM 80:7-15

7 RESTORE US, O | GOD OF HOSTS;
LET YOUR FACE SHINE UPON US, AND WE | SHALL BE SAVED.
8 YOU HAVE BROUGHT A VINE | OUT OF EGYPT;
YOU CAST OUT THE NATIONS AND | PLANTED IT.
9 YOU CLEARED THE | GROUND FOR IT;
IT TOOK ROOT AND | FILLED THE LAND.
10 THE MOUNTAINS WERE COVERED | BY ITS SHADOW
AND THE TOWERING CEDAR TREES | BY ITS BOUGHS.
11 YOU STRETCHED OUT ITS TENDRILS | TO THE SEA
AND ITS BRANCHES | TO THE RIVER.
12 WHY HAVE YOU BROKEN | DOWN ITS WALL,
SO THAT ALL WHO PASS BY PLUCK | OFF ITS GRAPES?
13 THE WILD BOAR OF THE FOREST HAS | RAVAGED IT,
AND THE BEASTS OF THE FIELD HAVE | GRAZED UPON IT.
14 TURN NOW, O | GOD OF HOSTS,
LOOK | DOWN FROM HEAVEN;
15 BEHOLD AND | TEND THIS VINE;
PRESERVE WHAT YOUR RIGHT | HAND HAS PLANTED.

“WHAT IS THE RELEVANCE OF A ... “RESTORATION” FOR A PEOPLE WHO HAVE NOT BEEN FED ‘THE BREAD OF TEARS,’ AND WHO HAVE NOT BEEN GIVEN ‘TEARS TO DRINK IN FULL MEASURE?’ SO, THE PREACHER MAY ASK QUESTIONS THAT COULD ALERT THE CONGREGATION TO THE NEED FOR ‘RESTORATION.’ DO WE HAVE A SENSE THAT THE FACE OF GOD ‘SHINES’ UPON US? HAVE WE BEEN IN PRAYER AND CONVERSATION WITH GOD LATELY? OR HAVE WE BEEN A BIT BUSY? DO WE FEEL THAT OUR LIVES ARE SOMETIMES OUT OF CONTROL AND UNMANAGEABLE? IF WE THINK ABOUT LIFE SERIOUSLY, DO WE UNDERSTAND WHY WE ARE HERE? DO WE HAVE A PURPOSE? PERHAPS WE DO NEED TO BE RESTORED TO A PLACE WHERE WE LIVE IN THE LIGHT OF GOD’S PRESENCE, AND WE ARE SAVED FROM EMPTINESS AND MEANINGLESSNESS.”

HOMILETICS, DECEMBER 18, 2016
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 OCTOBER 3 @ 5PM
VICKY WIENKE- ASSISITING MINISTER



SUNDAY OCTOBER 4 @ 9:45AM
RON WIRTH- USHER
KRISTEN HOCHULSKI- USHER

ALTAR GUILD FOR OCTOBER:
SYLVIA DELANEY
BARBARA KWIECINSKI

OCTOBER IS ALL ABOUT STEWARDSHIP

ACCOUNTABILITY. "TIME AND AGAIN, JESUS (NOT TO SPEAK OF THE OT PROPHETS) TEACHES THAT GOD EXPECTS FRUIT. IF FRUIT IS NOT FORTHCOMING, THE RESULTS ARE DIRE." TODAY, GOD IS SENDING US - AS GOD DID IN ANCIENT DAYS - "PROPHETS" TO NUDGE US, PROMPT US, ENCOURAGE US AND CHALLENGE US TO LIVE RIGHTEOUS AND FRUITFUL LIVES. A PROPHET'S WORDS ARE NOT ALL GLOOM AND DOOM, BUT A REMINDER OF GOD'S LOVE AND PURPOSE FOR US ALL.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS &
UPCOMING EVENTS**

**BIBLE STUDY @ 6PM
OCTOBER 8TH, 15TH**

**OCTOBER 3RD
BURCHFEST**

**OCTOBER 11TH
SOUP/ CHILI SALE
NEW MEMBERS CLASS AFTER 2ND
SERVICE**

**OCTOBER 15TH @ 7PM
PENNY SALE**

**OCTOBER 25TH @ 10AM
REFORMATION SUNDAY
ONLY 1 SERVICE**

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN COMING TO THE NEW
MEMEBERS CLASS, PLEASE LET THE OFFICE KNOW
716-668-2152 OR SJLCWS@GMAIL.COM

ARE YOU A THRIVENT MEMBER?

IF SO, WE ARE IN NEED OF ACTION TEAMS. THIS PROVIDES \$250,
FREE TO YOU, FOR VARIOUS MISSION PROJECTS. EACH THRIVENT
MEMBER IS ALLOTTED TWO ACTION PROJECTS PER YEAR. THAT'S
\$500 THAT CAN GO TOWARDS A MISSION PROJECTS OF ST. JOHN'S.

PLEASE, CONTACT NANCY KESSLER IF YOU'RE A THRIVENT MEMBER
AND WOULD LIKE TO HELP.

THIS WEEK 10/4 - 10/10

TODAY:

9:45 A.M. AGAPE MEAL
11 A.M. CHOIR REHEARSAL
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:

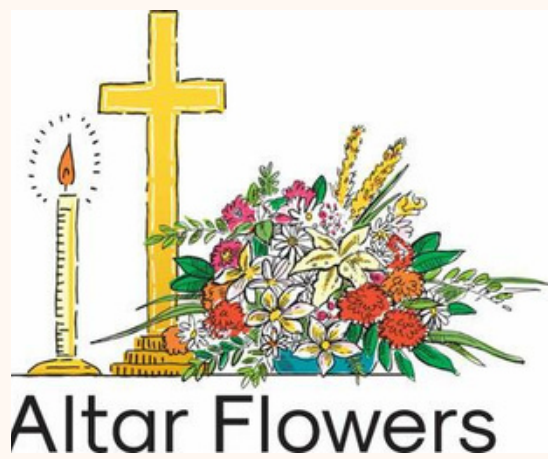
9 A.M. ZUMBA
12 P.M. NA
5 P.M. ZUMBA
5 P.M. NA BOOK CLUB
6 P.M. BIBLE STUDY
7 P.M. COUNCIL
7 P.M. NA

FRIDAY:

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

SATURDAY:

9 A.M. ZUMBA
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.



HELLO! MY NAME IS **CHRISTINA RUGGERI** AND I AM SO EXCITED TO BE AT ST. JOHN'S FOR MY MINISTERIAL FIELDWORK! I WAS BORN, RAISED, AND CONTINUE TO LIVE IN BUFFALO. I AM ENROLLED AT UNITED LUTHERAN SEMINARY AS A DISTANCE LEARNER, WHICH MEANS MOST OF MY CLASSES AND COURSEWORK CAN BE COMPLETED REMOTELY. I ALSO WORK FULL TIME AS A COORDINATOR OF DATA AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AT ERIE 1 BOCES AND PART TIME AS AN ADJUNCT PROFESSOR AT CANISIUS UNIVERSITY. I ABSOLUTELY LOVE SPORTS, ESPECIALLY HOCKEY AND THE BUFFALO SABRES. I ALSO ENJOY READING, BAKING, GARDENING, AND LEARNING NEW THINGS. I LOOK FORWARD TO LEARNING FROM AND GETTING TO KNOW ALL OF YOU THIS YEAR!

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE IN THIS NEW SECTION , PLEASE SEND A PICTURE AND FEW SENTENCES ABOUT WHAT MAKES YOUR LIGHT SHINE.

EMAIL THE OFFICE SJLCWS@GMAIL.COM



IT'S BACK!

THE (NOT SO WORLD FAMOUS) ALTAR GUILD PENNY SALE WILL BE HELD
HERE ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15.

DOORS OPEN AT 6:15, SALE STARTS AT 7.

TICKETS ARE \$5.00 PER SHEET WHICH INCLUDES YOUR ADMISSION, LIGHT
REFRESHMENT AND DRINK

(CUPCAKES, COFFEE, TEA, LEMONADE, AND WATER).

DOOR PRIZE CHANCE ALSO INCLUDED.

EXTRA TICKETS ARE \$3.00 PER SHEET

THERE WILL BE A DRAWING FOR 5- \$10.00 GIFT CARDS AVAILABLE AT 2/ \$1.00.

SO, WHAT IS A PENNY SALE-

IT IS SIMILAR TO A BASKET RAFFLE (WITHOUT THE BASKET)

EXCEPT THAT THE ITEMS OFFERED ARE NEW OR GENTLY USED ITEMS
THAT YOU TAKE A CHANCE ON WINNING.

EXAMPLE, KNICK-KNACKS, HOLIDAY ITEMS, GLASSWARE ETC.

THERE ARE LOTS OF GOODIES TO BE WON!

IT WILL BE A FUN EVENING OF FELLOWSHIP, SO MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND
BRING A FRIEND OR TWO ALONG AND MAYBE A BAG TO TAKE YOUR
WINNINGS HOME.

SEATING IS LIMITED TO 100.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THEN!

QUESTIONS , CALL OR SEE CONNIE 716-674-2409

OR ANY ALTAR GUILD MEMBER.

DONATIONS ARE WELCOME AND CAN BE BROUGHT IN ANY TIME AND LEFT IN
THE PARISH HALL OR BETWEEN THE FOYER DOORS LABELED "PENNY SALE ".

PLEASE, NO CLOTHES OR LARGE ITEMS.

PROCEEDS WILL GO TOWARDS ALTAR SUPPLIES.



4TH ANNUAL HARVEST HOUSE BABY SHOWER

ST. JOHN'S WILL AGAIN FOR THE 4TH YEAR BE PARTICIPATING IN THE ANNUAL HARVEST HOUSE BABY SHOWER.
PLEASE HAVE ALL ITEMS IN BY OCTOBER 25TH.

LAST YEAR, HARVEST HOUSE SERVED APPROXIMATELY 800 CHILDREN EACH MONTH; IN 2026, THAT NUMBER HAS GROWN TO AN AVERAGE OF 850 CHILDREN PER MONTH. THIS INCREASING DEMAND STRETCHES OUR RESOURCES AND MAKES THE SUPPORT OF FAITHFUL COMMUNITY PARTNERS ESPECIALLY MEANINGFUL.

AS IN PAST YEARS, WE ARE ASKING CHURCH PARTNERS TO CONSIDER
COLLECTING THE FOLLOWING HIGH-NEED ITEMS:

DIAPERS (SIZES 2-5)

BABY WIPES

NEW OR GENTLY USED CHILDREN'S CLOTHING (NEWBORN-5T)

NEW CHILDREN'S SOCKS

BOTTLES AND FEEDING SUPPLIES

BABY HYGIENE PRODUCTS

WE WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR CHURCH'S PRAYERFUL CONSIDERATION AND PARTICIPATION IN THIS YEAR'S BABY SHOWER OUTREACH.
THANK YOU FOR HELPING US EXTEND PRACTICAL CARE, DIGNITY, AND HOPE TO FAMILIES IN NEED.

EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY

ST. JOHN'S HAS APPLIED FOR A SPECIAL THRIVENT GRANT TO
RESTOCK THE EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY AT SENECA STREET.
WE NEED TO COLLECT 500 ITEMS IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE
FOR AN EXTRA \$500 FOR THE FOOD PANTRY.

PLEASE HAVE ITEMS INTO THE CHURCH BY OCTOBER 25, 2026

SUGGESTED ITEMS FOR
SENECA STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY

*NOTE: ITEMS NEEDED ARE CANNED,
NOT FRESH OR FROZEN*

STRAWBERRY JELLY/JAM
PEANUT BUTTER
BBQ SAUCE, CONDIMENTS
CHILI
BAKED BEANS
CARROTS
CORN
KIDNEY BEANS
SPAGHETTI SAUCE
TOMATO SAUCE, TOMATOES (CRUSHED DICED ETC.)
CANNED PASTA - RAVIOLI, SPAGHETTIOS, ETC.
SOUPS ESPECIALLY CHICKEN NOODLE
RAMEN NOODLES
TUNA, CANNED CHICKEN
GRAVY, INSTANT POTATOES
PASTA, RICE, CRACKERS
FRUIT
SINGLE SERVING CEREAL BOWLS
LEMONADE MIX
SNACKS

THANK YOU!