

## SMC Newsletter August 2021

Hello everyone! Hopefully, the rainy season is behind us, and we will have more sunshine in August. Lou and I are headed out for vacation today and we are looking forward to being with our extended family – 20 of us! Lou has included a message on baptism this month, so please check it out. Please send me any information you would like included for next time. Many blessings, Patty

**Thank you to EVERYONE who helped with the church picnic. It was a great time and the food was awesome.**



### **An Update from Valerie for the ECW.**

Several parishioners have been assisting at the school breakfast program during the month of July. It is going very well and is very much appreciated by the children in the Hadley/Luzerne school summer program.

**Save the date- Friday, August 27. Spaghetti and Meatball Dinner. Spaghetti, meatballs, garlic bread, salad and brownies. \$12. Take-out or eat in. 4:30- 7:00.**

**Saturday, September 11 at 11:00** - Fr. Lou's Induction as Rector of St. Mary's. Outdoor celebration afterwards.

**Christmas Bazaar - Saturday, December 4th.** Please start now to purchase/put aside new items that can be used for the Fishbowl. will also need baskets.

**Next meeting - Sunday, August 1st** - 15- 20 minutes after the service. Please join us.



## An Update from Christ the King Healing Center

The Women's Retreat, Living Hope focusing on 1 Peter, will be **Aug 20-21**. With Guest speaker **Nana Dolce** from the **Charles Simeon Trust** and **Rev. Laurie Garramone** of St. John's Church, Johnstown.

Ladies! You are invited to gather at Christ the King Center for a rejuvenating retreat in the heart of gorgeous Washington County. Expect vibrant praise and worship, peaceful prayer time, a deep dive into God's Word in 1 Peter, fun activities, time with friends new and old and most of all, expect to be filled anew with the Holy Spirit.

[\*\*REGISTER NOW!\*\*](#)



## From Meryl and Operation Christmas Child.

Our launch date at St. Mary's this year for "Operation Christmas Child" is **Sunday, August 15th**. We hope to have the red and green plastic boxes available that day or soon after.

Now is the time to find quality and fun items at summer sale prices. Especially those much needed school supplies to fill your boxes.

Since 1993, more than 188 million children in more than 170 countries and territories have received an Operation Christmas Child shoebox. The project delivers not only the joy of what, for many children, is their first gift ever, but also gives them a tangible expression of God's love, along with the opportunity to attend The Greatest Journey, a follow-up discipleship course for shoebox recipients to learn about God's love for them. The 12-lesson program teaches them how to follow Christ and share Him with others.

*In previous years boxes from St Mary's have reached children in Honduras (3 times), Ukraine (3 times), Mali, Benin, Burkina Faso, Uganda and Peru.*

*Again this year, the \$9 donation with each box will enable us to pay on line and receive the barcode labels which allows our boxes to be tracked.*

*May God bless you as you bless these children. ❤️*



### Pack an 'Operation Christmas Child' Box

An invitation to take part in this fun way of reaching a child with God's love.  
MATTHEW 28:18-20



#### 1. Start with a Box

This can be a regular size cardboard shoe box or a plastic box available (we hope to have some) from OCC, or a sturdy 'Sterilite' plastic shoebox. Unfortunately dollar store plastic boxes are not recommended as they often become broken in transit. The sturdy cardboard 'photo boxes' from craft stores are also great.

#### 2. Age Groups (both boys and girls)

- 2 years - 4 years
- 5 years - 9 years
- 10 years - 14 years...

*A Baby or Barbie type doll for the girls.  
Toy Cars for the boys.  
A Ball, or a Jump Rope  
Beads. Playing cards. Small picture books.  
A Tote Bag or Draw String Bag.  
Clothing, T-shirt, Dress, Socks, Underwear.  
Hat/Gloves - Even in hot climates kids feel chilly.*

**And anything else you can think of!**

#### 3. Suggestions for Packing

*School supplies - many children are excluded from school if they don't have just the basic items.*

*Note Books, pencils, crayons, a sturdy pencil sharpener, eraser, kids scissors, ruler in centimeters (remember only 3 countries in the world use inches!!!)*

*A pencil case is useful too to keep it all safe.*

*Soap, Wash Cloth, Toothbrush - Often children share these items so are excited to receive their own!*

*A Soft Toy - Every child loves some thing cuddly even the older ones.*

**A full box is a fun box. ❤️**

### An Update from Meryl on Birthdays

Happy birthday to Frank, July 30<sup>th</sup>.

The birthdays for August are:

Barbara Breen Aug. 10<sup>th</sup>, Cathleen Mosher Aug. 4<sup>th</sup>, Bishop Bill Love Aug. 14<sup>th</sup>, Jack Gallagher Aug. 21<sup>st</sup>, Dave Van Auken Aug. 4<sup>th</sup>, and Dana Van Auken Aug. 10<sup>th</sup>.

The anniversaries for August are:

Jerry and Linda Sarles Aug. 2<sup>nd</sup>, Don and Paula Hughes Aug. 12<sup>th</sup>, Bruce and Sylvia Clark Aug. 19<sup>th</sup>, Dave and Dana Van Auken Aug. 28<sup>th</sup>, and Brent and Joyce Underwood Aug. 30<sup>th</sup>.

Please give Meryl your birthdate so we don't forget anyone's birthday! You do not need to give the year! Please notify Meryl of any upcoming anniversaries. Photos are also welcome from these occasions.

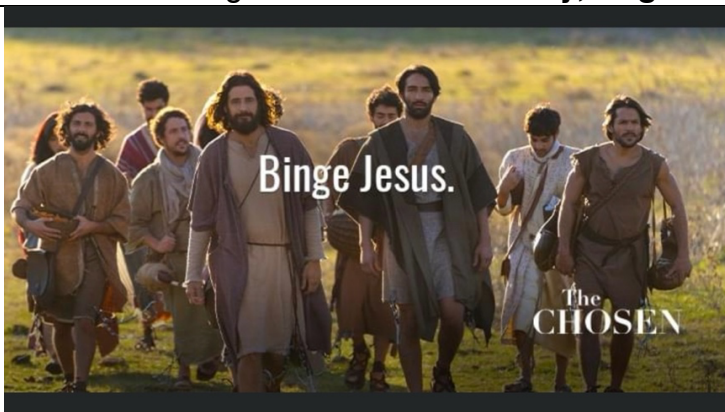


### Bible studies/Book Club/DOK.

Fr. Lou will continue to have a **service at 10am on Wednesdays - followed by a bible study** in the Parish Hall. We are studying Matthew. **We will not have morning service and bible study this Wednesday.**

Fr. Lou will continue to show and discuss episodes of *The Chosen* on **Wednesday nights at 6:30pm**. It is the #1 crowdfunded media project in entertainment history and the first multi-season show about the life of Jesus Christ and his disciples. It will be on going and all are welcome. (<https://watch.angelstudios.com/thechosen>)

The DOK continues to read Liturgy of the Ordinary. We are now reading Chapter 4. **We will be offering a DOK course for new members in the Fall.** Anyone interested please contact Patty. The next meeting for the DOK is **Sunday, August 8**, after church in the Parish Hall.



### Camp Scholarships.

St Mary's Church is offering several over-night full scholarships to **Beaver Cross Camps** in Greenwich, NY (<https://www.beavercrossministries.org/camps--retreats.html>). Recipients must live in the Hadley-Luzerne area. The camp emphasizes faith, friendship, and fun. Campers explore and deepen their faith through dynamic teaching and fun themed activities and games. Camps are from **July 4<sup>th</sup> – Aug 20<sup>th</sup>**, all ages.



### **Coffee Hour Update.**

Coffee hour is every Sunday after church. **Please signup to volunteer for August.** We need 1-2 volunteers per Sunday.

### **8am Services at the Park.**

St. Mary's Church is sharing with Rockwell Falls Presbyterian 8am Sunday morning services at the Benjamin C. Butler Pavilion Park in Lake Luzerne **through Labor Day.**



### **Prayer Requests.**

**Aug requests:** Mark P., Dick C., Baby Noah's family as they mourn his passing, Carmen, Cathy L.'s family as they mourn the passing of Jessica, Joyce L., Jack G., Alex, Liza, Spencer, Azel, Barbara L., Angela, Gayle, Alyce R., Pat S., Greta H., David & Beanie F., John and Jane, Peter & Nancy W., Nancy C., Delia R-D., John G, Rita & Tony G., Ted G., Wendy A., Mark, Alison M., Peter D., Mark M., our community's youth, the men and women in law enforcement and in the armed forces of our country, the victims and families of the COVID-19 pandemic, those who need healing from the virus, healthcare workers and first responders who are confronting this disease, and those who are struggling with isolation or emotional distress due to the pandemic.

**Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:** Bishops William Love & Daniel Herzog, and their families. For the Standing Committee and for Holiness of life in every Episcopalian. Additionally, please see: <https://albanyepiscopaldiocese.org/prayer/jnm>

Please contact Erich Kaminsky by email at [erichkaminsky@ yahoo.com](mailto:erichkaminsky@yahoo.com) or by phone or text at 518.502.4075 with updates.



### **Odds and Ends.**

Barbara Breen: Barbara's grandson Jonnie, on the right, after winning his lacrosse competition.

Mrs. Mayo is collecting school supplies for the incoming Hadley-Luzerne kindergarten class. They have requested backpacks, crayons, glue sticks, and Elmer's glue. Please see her for more info.

From Ruth:

LIFE IS HARD BY THE YARD, BUT WITH GOD, BY THE INCH IT'S A CINCH!

### **A message from Fr. Lou.**

Well, it's about time I've written something for this gem of a newsletter on which my wife has so painstakingly been working. I was thinking about what might be good to write about, and it dawned on me that I have been asked some questions lately about matters of what we believe as Episcopalian Christians. Notice I didn't just say "Episcopalians," but rather "Episcopalian Christians," because first and foremost, we are Christians. We are those who profess faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and the faith handed down to us by the Apostles and early church Fathers- all else is secondary. Each week we profess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed, the essentials of our faith. If one desired to delve further, one could begin by reading the 39 Articles located in the Book of Common Prayer. (BCP.867)

Recently I have been asked to articulate what I believe about Baptism and especially infant Baptism. Coincidentally, I have recently received numerous pamphlets from *The Living Church* publishing company titled "*What Anglicans Believe.*" Much of what you read below will be from that source as well as what I personally believe about the sacrament of Holy Baptism.

I believe Baptism is the most welcoming of our rites and rituals. When we are baptized, our representatives, or we ourselves, renounce the devil's works and promise to try and be obedient to God's will. We are making a statement-either on our own as adults, or with help as children- that we believe in the Triune God. In the sacrament of Baptism, we become united with Christ and are "marked and sealed as Christ's own forever."(BCP) We, as Episcopalians, believe that Baptism is the moment we are "born again," whether as a baby or an adult. After Baptism the priest prays the following prayer: "*Seeing now dearly beloved brethren, that this child is regenerate, and grafted into the body of Christ's church, let us give thanks to Almighty God for these benefits and with one accord make our prayer to Him, that this child may lead the rest of his/her life according to the beginning.*"

It is vitally important to understand that we believe "Baptism is all about grace from beginning to end." It is not something that I can do on my own, especially and obviously in the case of infant Baptism.

God does the work; all we do is receive from Him through grace. When we are baptized as adults, we make that same choice for ourselves, yet God is still doing the work by means of "prevenient grace" which, is simply the concept that God is at work within us before we even know it! God actually draws us to Himself. Amazing.

It is also vital to understand that God's offer of salvation does not rest on anything I do. I do not earn it. I cannot earn it. I do not understand it fully, nor do I have to. It is by God's initiative that it happens. Even when we feel called to respond on our own and are still growing in our faith, we remember that God has always preceded us. That is one reason the church continues the practice of infant Baptism- to remind us of who does the calling and the saving- God.

We recognize that Baptism is one of two sacraments of Christ our Lord in the Gospel (Article XXV). It is an "outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace." They are signs of grace, but they also are promises in that they are what they signify; "baptism represents and also is the washing away of sin and death."

The other sacrament, the Eucharist, belongs with Baptism, as in one we are joined to the body of Christ, and in the other, we are fed with the body of Christ. That is why before every Eucharist, I invite all baptized Christians, regardless of denomination, to the altar rail to receive the Eucharist. In communion, we become the body of Christ, prepared and fed to do ministry to the world. Baptism is the open door that leads to everlasting life through the Eucharist with Christ.

We only need to receive the sacrament of Baptism once because God is committed to us. He does not need to recommit. Unlike us, God is always faithful to His Word and promises. If one feels some sort of sign, or act of return is necessary, one can always reaffirm their baptismal vows. If one wants more concrete assurance of God's forgiveness, they can receive reconciliation by confessing to a priest and receiving absolution. Renewal is always a renewal of baptismal life, a renewal of baptismal grace, and baptismal calling.

It is essential to point out that the next step after Baptism is confirmation. In confirmation, a bishop-as a successor to the apostles- prays for the strengthening of the Holy Spirit and confers that grace by the laying on of hands. Traditionally confirmation marks the time when one is beginning their life as a Christian adult, is responsible for their own actions, and can make their own decisions.

In conclusion, we believe that Baptism is the decisive moment and the beginning of the Christian life. We believe that Baptism bestows grace. We also believe that a common Baptism is a means of growth towards the unity of the church. Christians are all baptized into the name of The Trinitarian God as we are baptized in the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Baptism is the great equalizer as it reminds us that we all share a common set of beliefs- we are all heirs, receivers, of His grace. We were all once poor and have now been made rich, and we are all now children of God through faith and have been clothed with Christ. Amen.

Grace and peace to you from God our Father,

Fr. Lou+