



RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear friends in Christ,

Warm days have arrived, and the heat of summer will soon fill our Central Pennsylvania valley. I gladly welcome this change, even if it means starting my daily Claritin regimen. The change in weather serves as a good reminder, and a much needed one these days, that nothing lasts forever.



During this pandemic, the simplest acts of life have been altered, and now church will be, too. How we gather, pray, worship, and serve as a parish will feel and look different. It simply can't continue as before; then again, nothing can. We're in a much different place, and we have all entered into a new season that none of us asked for or wanted. But we're in this together, trying to adapt to this new reality. While we've all been forced to change how we do things, what has not changed—what has stayed the same—is the source and purpose of our lives: God's love and faithfulness revealed to us in Jesus Christ.



Here at Saint John's, we, too, are beginning to explore what life will look like. I'm grateful to do this work with our vestry, as well as with other leaders and pillars of our parish. By now you should have received our parish reopening plan, which sets a way forward for

our common prayer and worship. Please take the time to read it. While I don't want to rehash what's laid out in the plan, I do want to remind you that our first Sunday for public worship is **June 7** (Trinity Sunday). I also want to remind you of our new service times: **9:00 A.M. & 10:30 A.M.** Please visit our website to view the reopening plan, including our worship registration process.

During this season, we will safely and prudently explore how we can continue to pray, worship, and serve God. We will discover how we can



continue to be united during these difficult times. Some of us will do this in our beautiful sanctuary, while some of us will do so through our livestream. However, we will be together in prayer and worship, just as we always have been. After all, our greatest act as Christians is to come together and offer our petitions and thanksgivings, both for ourselves and

on behalf of others. The Church has done this successively for 2,000 years: in grand cathedrals and in people's homes; on glorious marble altars and on everyday kitchen tables; in great metropolises and in quaint villages. What matters most is that we continue to come together, carefully and wisely, in person or online, to offer our prayers and worship unto Almighty God.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Carlos†



FROM THE DEACON'S PERCH

As we begin our journey into the season of Pentecost on May 31, let us focus on the Holy Spirit in our lives. I got the idea for this article from my good friend, Frank, in NY, whose friend died from the



coronavirus. This was a eulogy given for his volunteer work at a monastery, which touched me deeply.

“Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.” —Matthew 25:23

Jesus begins the story, “For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter the joy of your master.’”

“FAITHFUL OVER A FEW THINGS”

Notice that in the parable, the master effectively said, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things." In other words, "I did not ask you to do a lot of things. I did not require of you what was out of your reach or beyond the strength I was willing to give you. No, I gave you just a few things to do in your life, and you did them well." To be a good servant, one must always be aware of what needs to be done, and to do it as quickly and efficiently as possible; but one must be knowledgeable and have a great understanding of the master's will and desires in order to do this. One must be responsible and a good steward, ensuring the continuity of the master's domain; yet one must have

learned the basics of stewardship and caretaking before taking such a job.

One must also not be afraid of using and standing in the master's authority; but one must never abuse the trust involved with it. It is difficult, but extremely rewarding. A servant of such caliber is of unmentionable value to his master!

We can often become overwhelmed with the idea of joining God in his plan for his kingdom. We see big issues around the world and in our own communities. We also have the tendency to compare ourselves to others who seem to be accomplishing big tasks for God. Unfortunately, that is where we often miss the significant opportunities already entrusted to us every day. Sometimes we need to take a step back and see what God has already entrusted to us: specifically, what are the relationships where we need to invest more time and energy; what are the obvious spiritual, physical, and social needs in our church and communities?

What are the talents and abilities that we need to use to make a difference? Jesus challenges us to move forward courageously with what God has already entrusted to us; then He will give us more. The first step we need to take is to pray about what we are to entrust to God, and pray what we are to invest for God's glory. No matter how small you think your relationship is, God expects you to be a good steward. This can seem like a daunting task, but it can also be the most rewarding as we hear, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

This week, let's focus on becoming the best servant of Christ we can be, allowing Him to trust us with everything. Are we ready for such a challenge? If you're anything like me, probably not, but we all can certainly learn and grow in our skills so that when a

greater challenge occurs, we are ready. Right now, we all have been entrusted with little, but soon, very soon, much is coming!



As always, a big *Thank You* for supporting the Deacon's Discretionary Fund.

~Deacon Alex†

100 lbs. of hamburger were donated to the food pantry.

AROUND THE PARISH FAMILY TABLE



Scott Mauger is celebrating 44 years of employment at Supelco, a part of MilliporeSigma, in Pleasant Gap. Onward to 45 years!

Gage Smocer-Hilderbrand recently graduated from Penn State and has been accepted into the U.S. Navy Nuclear Program. He is stationed at Great Lakes (Illinois) Naval RTC.

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June 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 10:00 am Virtual Coffee Hour via Zoom	3 9:30 am Monthly Parish Requiem via Facebook	4	5	6
7 Trinity Sunday 9:00 am Low Mass 10:30 am Sung Mass	8	9 10:00 am Virtual Coffee Hour via Zoom	10 9:30 am Low Mass via Facebook	11	12 Birthdays: Heidi Eminhizer	13 Birthdays: Blanche Raymond
14 Corpus Christi 9:00 am Low Mass 10:30 am Sung Mass	15	16 10:00 am Virtual Coffee Hour via Zoom	17 9:30 am Low Mass via Facebook 7:00 pm Vestry Birthdays: James Green	18	19	20
21 Third Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 am Low Mass 10:30 am Sung Mass Birthdays: Adela Germano 	22	23 10:00 am Virtual Coffee Hour via Zoom	24 9:30 am Low Mass via Facebook	25	26 Birthdays: Matthew Fitzgerald	27
28 Fourth Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 am Low Mass 10:30 am Sung Mass	29	30 10:00 am Virtual Coffee Hour via Zoom				