The Basic Sacraments

Every week we celebrate the Sacrament of the Eucharist. Sometimes the Sacrament of Baptism is included in the celebration. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated every Saturday, and right now we have 62 second graders preparing to receive that sacrament for the 1st time.

In the next couple of weeks though, we are going to lift up two other sacraments, Marriage, at the celebration on Friday, Feb. 9th with married couples, and Anointing of the Sick, on the next two weekends. Did you know that World Marriage Day is always the 2nd weekend in February, or that Feb. 11th is always the World Day of the Sick (instituted in 1992 by Pope John Paul II)?

But let’s start with first things first. Perhaps you are thinking “I know about the 7 sacraments”. But what are the two basic sacraments? Baptism – that is how we begin the journey? Eucharist, for it sustains us on the journey? Well here is a hint. Sometimes a tiny word makes a difference. Referring to the 7 sacraments, the Catechism speaks of sacraments “in” the church.

The Primordial Sacrament of God’s Presence is Jesus Christ. From #774 in the Catechism “For there is no other mystery of God except Christ. The saving work of his holy and sanctifying humanity is the sacrament of salvation, revealed and active in the Church’s sacraments.” “Christ is the visible sign of the hidden reality of salvation.”

Continuing in that paragraph: “The Church, then, both contains and communicates the invisible grace she signifies.” # 775: “The Church, in Christ, is like a sacrament – a sign and instrument, that is, of communion with God and unity among all men.”

“She is taken by him also as the instrument of salvation for all,” “the universal sacrament of salvation,” …

So, Christ is the first sacrament. The Church is the second. The seven are sacraments in the church. Think about it. It will stretch your thinking, but also give you a deeper appreciation of the meaning of sacrament. Sacraments aren’t ‘things’, but actions of God. Sending his Son, instituting the church, and then …..How would you name the other seven as actions of Christ? A nice conversation starter at home!

Next weekend the homily will focus on the Sacrament of Anointing. The following weekend we will offer that Sacrament of the Sick. Here are questions to set the stage. What is God doing in the Sacrament of or Anointing of the Sick? When should one seek that sacrament? Is it better that the person be conscious, alert, and able to actually celebrate? What would they be celebrating? What would others be doing if present? Why is it no longer called Extreme Unction? Or Last Rites? A real challenge: What are the last rites? Come next week and let’s get a clearer picture, and find reason in the process to give thanks to God, and bring that gratitude to the Eucharist in this Year of the Eucharist! Peace, Fr. Bob
Mass Intentions for This Week

Monday - January 29
2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13/Mk 5:1-20
11:00 am Betty Butler - Paul & Geri Dolan
5:15 pm Cleason Jay Leasure - Frank & Nancy Cappellino

Tuesday - January 30
2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30–19:3/Mk 5:1-20
11:00 am Betty Butler - Paul & Geri Dolan
5:15 pm Cleason Jay Leasure - Frank & Nancy Cappellino

Wednesday - January 31
2 Sm 24:2, 9-17/Mk 6:1-6
11:00 am Betty Butler - Doris Schmidt
5:15 pm Maria Phach Hoang - Ho Tran & Family

Thursday - February 1
1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12/Mk 6:7-13
6:45 am Margaret Cooper - Pittsford American Legion
11:00 am Lillian Jabbour - Pastoral Care

Friday - February 2
Mal 3:1-4/Heb 2:14-18/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32
11:00 am Mary Baric - Jean & Kevin Parker
1:00 pm Mass at the Highlands - Laurelwood for the People of the Parish
5:15 pm Marcella Schaarschmidt - Jim & Linda McCauley

Saturday - February 3
1 Kgs 3:4-13/Mk 6:30-34
9:00 am Maria Phach Hoang - Ho Tran & Family
4:30 pm Nelly & Patrick O’Connor - Sons & grandchildren

Sunday - February 4
Jb 7:1-4, 6-7/1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23/Mk 1:29-39
7:30 am John & Lillian Schwan - Family
9:00 am Eileen Wilmont - Lawrence & Marilyn Brule
11:15 am Cassandra Krenzer - Dr. & Mrs. Martin Gingras & Family
5:00 pm Agnes Sweeney - Regan Family

Special Intentions This Week:
We invite you to have a Sanctuary Lamp lit at the Blessed Sacrament to have your very special intentions remembered for a week.
To reserve a candle, please call or visit the Ministry Center.

One Lamp will burn In Loving Memory of Harland Thayer, Jr. By Wife, Carol & Family
All are welcome to spend an hour this Friday, February 2, for First Friday Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament between 11:30 am - 4:00 pm.
Join us at the Tabernacle Chapel.

Requiem Aeternam
Margaret Cooper

Saturday & Sunday, February 3 & 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Altar Servers</th>
<th>Extraordinary Ministers of The Eucharist</th>
<th>Lector</th>
<th>Sacristan/LA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Sunday Communion Service - February 4
The Highlands - Peggy O’Neil Midgley
Heather Heights - Richard Caruso
A Tough Act to Follow
Following a charismatic leader is never easy. When a community’s identity is as closely linked to their leader as the Hebrew people’s identity was linked with Moses, it is tremendously difficult. The traditions behind the book of Deuteronomy were inspired by God, passed on, gathered, compiled, written, and edited, under God’s inspiration, to ensure that the prophetic office would continue as a perpetual institution after Moses’ death, and that there would always be respected leaders to serve as mediators between God and God’s people. The point of this passage: God will continue to send prophets like Moses, who will teach with authority. For the first Christians, it was evident that Jesus was not only another prophet sent by God, but was THE ONE, sent by God, God’s Son, who spoke with such authority that he could command unclean spirits, and they obeyed.

Keep It Simple
By the time he wrote Romans, Paul began to realize that the last days and Jesus’ return might not come immediately. But when he wrote Corinthians, he was still convinced Christ would return any day, the world would soon be destroyed, and a new world would begin. In that context, Paul wrote to the Corinthians suggesting that by remaining single, it would be simpler to prepare for the last days, and might make pleasing the Lord easier in the short run. Remember, these letters are occasional literature: written to offer immediate advice to a specific group of people about a pressing concern at the time. Yet when understood in that context, there is tremendous value to seeing how an apostle, guided by the Spirit, sorted through issues of the day. The timeless insight: regardless of when Christ returns, we are called to please the Lord. We should think twice about things that so compete for our time and attention as to pull us away from our relationship with Christ. With the longer view of history, and the Spirit’s guidance, we now know that marriage is a sacrament, a privileged place to experience the Lord. Living the sacrament faithfully is one path to pleasing the Lord. (Married folks, have you marked your calendar for our Valentine’s Day/World Marriage Day celebration of marriage on Friday, February 9th?)

Unclean Spirits
In the ancient world, people believed the world was filled with spirits, some good, but many, evil and dangerous. On top of that, another ancient Hebrew category we aren’t so familiar with is clean and unclean. Unclean wasn’t so much a moral category, it was a term for anything that ‘didn’t fit’, was incomplete, imperfect or ‘out of order.’ Without our modern insight into medicine and psychology, illnesses and psychological aberrations that were ‘out of the norm’ were considered unclean, and often attributed to possession by an unclean spirit. Fact is, the literature of the time includes a variety of leaders who performed successful exorcisms. But usually there were a variety of parts to the exorcism. Jesus is the only one to be able to successfully heal people with a word of command, and Mark has Jesus begin his ministry revealing that the power of evil must now face a worthy opponent – the Son of God.
Welcome!
Are you visiting with us today? Welcome! We love to have you with us, and hope that you felt warmly welcomed, at home even. Our home is your home! We pray your experience of liturgy here was uplifting, and helped you experience God’s presence in the Word proclaimed, the prayers prayed, music sung, the Eucharist, offered and shared. If you were able to contribute to the collection, we are very grateful! Have you ever formally registered to be a member of our parish? If not, please consider picking up a registration form, or calling the office. We would love to welcome you into the St. Louis parish family!

A Huge Thank You!
To all who have so generously supported our diocesan family of faith by supporting the annual Catholic Ministries Appeal, THANK YOU!! We are ahead of where we were this time last year, well over 96% of the way to our goal. That connection to and support of our wider church is truly part of what it means to be Catholic. We are hoping though for an increase in the participation rate, at any level. If you have not contributed previously, or haven’t this year, could you please consider making even a modest contribution? Even if you can only afford to pledge to the CMA the amount you contribute to the parish weekly, it would do wonders in encouraging our CMA team! Again, to those who have brought us so close to our goal, God bless you!

RAIHN has numerous volunteer opportunities ranging from greeting guests at a host location, cook or provide part of a meal, plan a children’s activity, shop for breakfast food and supplies, inflate/deflate air mattresses, drive the RAIHN van (no special license needed), maintenance, fundraising, guest mentor, office staff and much more! If you can share some of your time, please call our St. Louis RAIHN coordinator, parishioner Ann-Marie DeSantis at 406-6013 or email amdesantis@frontiernet.net. Information about RAIHN (and upcoming events) can be found at www.raihn.org.
Public Policy Weekend—Support Dreamers

Bishop Matano and the Diocese of Rochester Public Policy Committee are asking us to join them and the U. S. Catholic Bishops to advocate for passage of The Dream Act. During the weekend of February 10-11, St. Louis Parish will provide an opportunity for parishioners to advocate on behalf of these young people.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus speaks in the synagogue and casts out an unclean spirit. Those who are present react with amazement. Later this becomes a cause of division among the people. As a nation we suffer many divisions including opinions about who we will accept as legal residents of our country. The DREAM Act has strong bi-partisan support because those who are eligible have already fulfilled certain conditions. They have been educated in our schools and earned a college degree or its equivalent in a two year training program or have served honorably in our military. Persons who qualify got through a step by step process including eight years of conditional residence to apply for legal permanent residence. Applying for citizenship status may require up to another five years of residence.

In my Message for the 2018 World Day of Migrants and Refugees, I suggested that our pastoral response to the challenges of contemporary movements of migration can be expressed by four verbs: to welcome, to protect, to promote and to integrate [emphasis added]. Welcoming means expanding legal and secure programs of reception for those who arrive, as well as offering suitable and dignified accommodations that guarantee their personal safety and access to basic services. Protecting involves offering trustworthy and verified information to migrants and refugees prior to their departure, defending their basic rights independent of their legal status, and watching over the most vulnerable, the young children. Promoting essentially means ensuring the conditions for the integral human development of all, migrants and natives alike. Integrating entails expanding opportunities for inter-cultural encounter, fostering mutual enrichment and promoting active citizenship.

Pope Francis, 9/22/17

Respect Life Prayer

O God, source of all life and goodness, you fashion human lives in your image and likeness, and through your love, give each human life dignity, sanctity and priceless worth; awaken in every heart new reverence for the least of your children, and renew among your people a readiness to nurture and sustain your precious gift of human life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.
GROWING IN THE
LIGHT
OF GOD

OPEN REGISTRATION FOR NEW FAMILIES BEGINS ON MONDAY, JANUARY 29.

Are You Curious About What Catholics Believe? Have You Thought About Becoming Catholic? Do you want to brush up on your faith?

All are welcome to join us Wednesday evenings to explore the Catholic faith.

If you are seeking something more, come and see!

Dates: Wednesdays
Time: 7:15-8:30 p.m.
Where: The Manse

Please register!
kathryn.mcalarney@dor.org
586-5675, ext. 224

GREAT GIFT IDEA FOR THE LADY IN YOUR LIFE!

The Rochester Catholic Women’s Conference proudly presents The Power of the Eucharist, Glorifying God and Sanctifying the World, Saturday, March 10, 2018, 8:00 am at the Aquinas Institute in Rochester.

This is a wonderful gift idea for your wife, mother, daughter, sister, grandmother, aunt or best friend! She will appreciate the opportunity to be refreshed spending the day with other Catholic women.

Her day will include Mass with our Bishop Salvatore R. Matano, national speakers Dr. Edward Si and Danielle Bean. Catholic devotions, local vendors for shopping, and a delicious lunch.

Please visit the website at Rochestercwcc.org/ for complete details.
On-line registration now open!

Life Long Learning

St. Louis School • 586.586.5200 • slspittsford.org

Fr. Juan and Don Murray are hosting a reflection group called “Word of Life”, which is part of the Focolare spirituality. You are most welcome to join us on the third Monday of each month at 7:15 pm in the O’Connor Library in the Manse. (This is the brick building to the right of the main church entrance.) Meets next on Mon. Feb 19.

The Word of Life, a sentence of Scripture, is offered monthly as a guide and inspiration for daily life. We read that sentence and the commentary (which is translated into 96 different languages and dialects and reaches more than 14 million people worldwide), and then offer our thoughts about how it applies to our lives. At the start of the next session, we share how we applied that verse in our lives as we encourage each other to imitate Christ.

For more information please email Fr. Juan at Fr.Juan.Benitez@dor.org or Kathryn at Kathryn.McAlarney@dor.org.

St. Louis School • 585.586.5200 • slspittsford.org
The Faith Formation department would like to thank Dr. Jean Baric Parker & Karli Norville for sharing their passion and great understanding of Catholic Bioethics with the young people of St. Louis Confirmation & Youth Ministry program.

Catholic Bioethics is governed by three basic principles.
- All Human Life has Dignity
- All Humans have a Right to Life
- Human Life should be generated in the physical act of love within a marriage between a man and a woman.

This time of year tends to be when we buzz a little more about Bioethical issues in our culture. Several of our parishioners and young people joined thousands in Washington D.C. last week for the March for Life.
We wanted our young people to have a clear understanding of the Catholic Church’s position on many of these issues.

If you would like more information, please contact the Faith Formation office (585-586-5675) and we will be able to direct you to more information or to a good source for answers.
Unwrapping the Gift

There are two Christmas season gifts you should definitely open: *At Home with the Word*, and our Christmas Book gift, *Resisting Happiness*. Many folks have already reported reading Matthew Kelly’s book and loving it. But truly unwrapping it may require picking it up again, and spending some time with each chapter, one at a time, especially the action steps! Let’s see, reading through the book in a few days is like watching a video on how to play football, or how to play the piano. Entertaining, but neither would make one a football player or a musician, or necessarily a happier person or better version of our self. But take time with each chapter, establish some new habits, and amazing things can happen! Similarly, in using *At Home with the Word* each week experience the gift it is meant to be. One more suggestion - discover more of how the sacrament of marriage is a precious gift on Friday, February 9th at 7 PM. Blessings for the New Year, all! Fr. Bob

A Gift for You: Please take a copy of *At Home with the Word*. Read the introduction to the Gospel of Mark, the Gospel of John, and to St. Paul and his letters. Use *At Home with the Word* to prepare for the bible readings you will hear at Mass, increasing your ability to really engage those passages. In time, you will have stepped into every part of the Bible. Each week *At Home with the Word* offers a section, Scripture Insights, which provides just enough background to open up readings, while helping the beginner get their feet wet.

Renew Your Marriage Vows!

Come to a prayer service to celebrate your vows.
Friday, February 9th at 7 P.M.
Reception following in the Parish Meeting Hall

Each couple is asked to bring a dessert to share. Please drop it off in the Parish Meeting Hall before proceeding to the service in church at 7:00 pm.

Please Register by contacting Kathryn at Kathryn.McAlarney@dor.org or call the ministry center at 586-5675.

Would you like to support marriage but are currently widowed, divorced, or single? You are invited to help set up this gift for others. Contact Kathryn.

Book Study

Praying the Rosary Like Never Before: Encounter the Wonder of Heaven and Earth

When: Tuesdays
Time: 1:00-2:30 pm or 7:15-8:45 pm
Dates: Jan 30, Feb 6, 13, 20, 27, Mar 6
Where: Parish Meeting Hall
Cost: $12 for the paperback (or bring your own)

Do you struggle with praying the rosary? Come and explore:

- How the rosary is Christ-centered
- How devotion to Mary doesn’t distract us from God
- The power of repetition and meditation in prayer
- Biblical insights for praying the twenty mysteries

Please register by contacting Kathryn at Kathryn.McAlarney@dor.org, online at stlouischurch.org, or calling the ministry center at 586-5675.

Enjoy Dr. Edward Sri’s book and then hear him at this year’s Rochester Catholic Women’s Conference on Mar 10th (see page 6.)
Fresh Wind in Our Sails
Sponsored by the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Rochester

February 2018 programs

Parents and Adolescent Culture Today
Thursday, February 1 ~ 7 to 8:30 pm
Panelists: Christine Deutsch, parent and school advocate; Miriam Zinter, not-for-profit banker with the Community Preservation Corporation; and facilitator Barbara Legere, youth minister, St. Pius X Parish, Chili

Youth culture today contains threads of self-expression, emerging meanings of sexuality, distance from organized religion, drug use, technology addiction and the ordinary challenges of growing to maturity. Join us as we discuss how parents can navigate kid and teen issues in this day and age with a faith-filled perspective.

Susan B. Anthony: Rochester’s Gift to the Nation
Wednesday, February 7 ~ 7 to 8:30 pm
Presenter: Barbara Blaisdell, historical reenactor

Susan B. Anthony is one of Rochester’s treasures. We know a lot about her work in women’s suffrage, her association with other notable women in the movement, and even her last words, “Failure is impossible.” But what don’t we know about this historic figure? Join us as we explore the breadth of Susan B. Anthony’s story.

To register, call 585.733.2555 or email jsobala@ssjrochester.org.
PARISH STAFF DIRECTORY

PARISH OFFICES - Ministry Center
64 S. Main Street, 14534
(585) 586-5675; Fax 387-9888
MINISTRY CENTER SUMMER HOURS ARE:
MONDAY - FRIDAY, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

PASTORAL STAFF:
Rev. Robert Ring, Pastor,
ext. 225, Fr.Bob.Ring@dor.org
Rev. Juan Benitez, Parochial Vicar
Fr.Juan.Benitez@dor.org
Deacon David Snyder,
1deacondave@gmail.com, 586-5675
Stephanie Honz, Pastoral Associate for
Liturgy and Liturgical Music,
ext. 251, Stephanie.Honz@dor.org
Cathy Malik, Pastoral Associate for
Pastoral Care
Ext. 228, Catherine.Malik@dor.org
Kathryn McAlarney, Pastoral Associate for
Evangelization
ext. 224, Kathryn.McAlarney@dor.org
Pat Spinelli, Parish Visitor,
ext. 232, Pat.Spinelli@dor.org
Michelle Andrews-Smith,
Director of Faith Formation, ext. 233,
Michelle.Andrews-Smith@dor.org
Lorrie Fairey
Faith Formation Administrative Assistant
ext. 230, Lorrie.Fairey@dor.org
Leila Kaczmarek,
Youth Ministry Coordinator
ext. 234, Leila.Kaczmarek@dor.org
Laurie Martin, Finance Director,
ext. 222, Laurie.Martin@dor.org
Sally Schrecker, Operations Manager,
ext. 235, Sally.Schrecker@dor.org
Shannon Toot, Accounting & Media Admin.
ext. 227, Shannon.Toot@dor.org
Sue Whitaker, Administrative Assistant
ext. 223, Suzanne.Whitaker@dor.org
Barbara Thomas, Bulletin Editor,
ext. 236, Barbara.Thomas@dor.org
Bea Hack, Liturgy Coordinator,
ext. 231, Bea.Hack@dor.org
Suzy Ward, Chair,
Pastoral Council, 746-5676

Brendan Donnelly, Chair,
Finance Council, (585) 267-7338
Debbie Hoeft, Chair
Stewardship Team, 734-9705
debbie53hoeft@yahoo.com
Isabel Miller, Executive Director,
Saint’s Place, 46 S. Main St.
Phone: 385-6860
saintlady@saintsplace.org

In Residence at the Rectory:
Msgr. Gerard Krieg
Fran Barr, Principal,
St. Louis School, 11 Rand Place
Phone: 586-5200 Fran.Barr@dor.org
http://slspittsford.org/

Michael DeCocq, Grand Knight,
St. Louis Knights of Columbus
Phone: 585-314-8835
deppsi@twc.com

Like us on Facebook:
http://www.facebook.com/
stlouischurchpittsford

Page Ten St. Louis Church, Pittsford, NY January 28, 2018