Politics and Religion

Amos, the prophet of our first reading this weekend, faced a hard challenge, as did each of the classical prophets, of which he is the first. (See page three inside, or read the intro to his book in a Study Bible to learn more about types of prophets.) From the beginning of the history of Israel, the covenant with God and religion were not private things, but public. Moses confronting Pharaoh to lead the people out of Egypt was a preeminently political act. Giving the Promised Land, already occupied, to the tribes of Israel was a political act. The law given on Sinai includes more about external actions and ethics than about internal, personal spirituality. God was understood as the true ruler of the nation, with the judges, and later the kings, simply acting on God’s behalf. Elijah, Elisha, Samuel, they all confronted the powers that be, with Samuel being responsible, at God’s command, for the beginning of the Davidic dynasty.

But it is with the classical prophets that the tension between living the covenant and the political status quo hit hardest. At the time Amos was sent by God to the Northern Kingdom (Israel), the kingdom was at its apex, the height of territorial expansion and national prosperity. But ethically, it was at the nadir. There were gross inequalities in wealth; wealthy landowners amassed capital and estates at the expense of small farmers. The smallest debts were used to take farmers from their family farms. Amos speaks vividly and bitterly about the decadent lifestyle (“you cows of Bashan on your ivory couches”), and in his words, the wealthy “trampled the head of the poor in the dust of the earth.” Amos was called by God to warn of the fall of Israel to the forces of Assyria if the nation continued on its present path. He also foresaw an earthquake, to shake people up. There was an epic earthquake, and the nation did fall, with many taken into exile.

Speaking about national priorities, policies, and politics is always fraught with risk. But as Jeremiah put it, the message from God was a fire in his bones, he couldn’t run from his mission to speak the truth. St. Thomas a Becket and St. Thomas More were martyred for speaking the truth to power, and not remaining silent as did many of their contemporaries. Oscar Romero was martyred when he spoke about the deep corruption in El Salvador, and defended the poor. When St. John Paul II, or Pope Benedict, Pope Francis or those before them have spoken about spiritual matters, it is well received. When they have applied God’s Word to specific political matters, attacks can come from right, left and center. But how can we pray every day in the Our Father that God’s will be done, if we are only interested in keeping religion private, and not willing to hear about such things as justice and truth? How will we respond on the last day, when Jesus separates those who fed him in the hungry, clothed him when he was naked, visited him in prison, if we don’t even allow such discussions to take place in the context of living out the faith because “those issues are political ones”? Abortion, euthanasia, prison reform, immigration, these are all political issues. Who do we want to be, Amaziah, who buried his head in the sand, tried to silence Amos, and thus contributed to the fall of the nation, or Amos, who spoke the truth even when it was not welcomed? God give us wisdom and courage! Fr. Bob
**Mass Intentions for This Week**

**Monday - July 16**
Is 1:10-17/Mt 10:34–11:1
11:00 am  Ann Brimmer - Family
5:15 pm  Alexander Kopczynski - Marguerite Mayes & Family

**Tuesday - July 17**
Is 7:1-9/Mt 11:20-24
6:45 am  People of the Parish
11:00 am  Bob Rineer - Richard Baum

**Wednesday - July 18**
Is 10:5-7, 13b-16/Mt 11:25-27
11:00 am  Dorothy Dispenza - Bill & Marge Mancine & Family
5:15 pm  For Seminarians of our Diocese

**Thursday - July 19**
Is 26:7-9, 12, 16-19/Mt 11:28-30
6:45 am  Joe Salipante - Karl & Piroiska Mersich
11:00 am  Margie - Jerry Schmitt

**Friday - July 20**
Is 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8/Mt 12:1-8
11:00 am  Kenneth Rizzuto - Jeanne & Paul Petrus
5:15 pm  Healing Mass for Joe & Dorothea Skwierz - Paul & Neyde Szych

**Saturday - July 21**
Mi 2:1-5/Mt 12:14-21
9:00 am  Mary Ann McCabe - Rosemary & Bob Scholl
4:30 pm  Nicholas Durkin - Perham Family

**Sunday - July 22**
Jer 23:1-6/Eph 2:13-18/Mk 6:30-34
7:30 am  Jack Farnum Buckley - Beverly Moll - Laura L. Perham (Anniv.) - Maria Hoang Thi Phach
5:00 pm  Healing Mass for Joe & Dorothea Skwierz - Paul & Neyde Szych

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**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 For Tilly Haak by Jeane & Willem Begeman

One Lamp will Burn For Angela Murgo by Sandra Corsetti

One Lamp will Burn For Stanley Banas by Banas Family

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**Requiem Aeternam**
Thomas Blessing
Suzanne Grau
Alexander Kopczynski
Father B. Edwin Metzger, Jr.

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**Saturday & Sunday, July 21 & July 22**

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<th>Time</th>
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**Sunday Communion Service - July 22**
The Highlands - Peggy O’Neil Midgley  Heather Heights - Jim Haefner
Who Were the Prophets

At the time Amos left his farm in Judah and headed to the northern (Israel) kingdom, you might say there were two kinds of prophets. Court prophets were typically officials located either at the king’s court, or at a central sanctuary (in the southern kingdom, Judah: the temple in Jerusalem; in the northern kingdom, Israel: either the shrine at Bethel or Dan). Court prophets role was primarily to speak glowingly of the king, praise the powers that be, and the status quo, while issuing oracles against enemies. (Nathan was a notable exception. Though a court prophet for King David, he was inspired by God to deliver hard messages to the king.) Back to our 1st reading, Amaziah, the priest of Bethel was likely a court prophet.

The prophets whose messages we find in the Bible were mostly the second type, more independent, often social critics, inspired by God to warn that the status quo was not acceptable. By failing to live up to God’s commandments, people were putting the nation’s future at risk. Amos wasn’t even a prophet by trade, but even so he was called by God to leave home territory, decry the injustices that were growing ever worse in the northern kingdom, and warn of the impending doom if hearts didn’t change and the appalling treatment of the poor didn’t change. Not hard to understand why Amaziah wanted to send Amos back to the farm! One way to pray with this reading: Lord, help ME to hear warnings about right and wrong, even ones I don’t want to hear. Another way: Lord, help me understand that living the faith has essential implications about public life as well as private, about our spirituality and our political principles.

Start With A Doxology

Since not too many folks write epistles today, let’s shift from epistle or letter to personal prayer time. When you decide to take some time for prayer, how do you begin? Read our second reading a couple of times. Starting out with a doxology (from the Greek, doxa = glory, logia = saying) is always a great way to begin. What can I bless, praise and thank God for today? It isn’t an accident that often the opening song at Mass is a song of praise, or that the Gloria is part of the Introductory Rites. Beginning with gratitude and praise keeps things in perspective, and gets our relationship with God off on the right foot. Do you have a prayer journal? Do you begin entries with praise and gratitude? Try it for a week, and watch the difference it makes!

What Shall I Wear?

Why did Jesus send the disciples out and insist they not take a second tunic? Well, one possibility: at the time, a second tunic would make it easy to sleep outside, wrapped up against the cool night air. Without a second layer, a second tunic, you would more likely need to enter a house and stay there, as Jesus also directed. What better way to take people from the 1st threshold of discipleship, trust, to the second, curiosity, and possibly even to the third, openness, than staying in their home? Enter one house and stay there. By the time you leave, that family may be the core of a new community of disciples! No sack? The only thing Jesus wanted the twelve (or us) to bring home after being sent out was the joy of knowing they (or we) had done God’s work, shared salvation, and brought healing and joy to others.

Meet Grace Catalano, a wonderful young woman who is going through the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults/Children and will be received into the church on September 8th, along with our three adult candidates. Please remember her in your prayers.

“I want to become a Catholic because I feel a connection and sense of peace after attending Mass, and the Catholic Church teaches people to be the kind of person I’d like to be." ~ Grace Catalano
**Supporting Our Parish**

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**This Week’s Tithing Will Support Benincasa Hospice**

**Next Week’s Tithing Will Support Pittsford Food Cupboard**

The Pittsford Food Cupboard is a food pantry serving more than 4,000 households in Monroe County “Feeding Hope One Family at a Time.” The Pittsford Food Cupboard’s mission is to help alleviate hunger for families in need who live in a six zip code area between the City of Rochester, Pittsford, Brighton and East Rochester by supplementing 10 days of food supplies, ultimately contributing towards clients’ independence. Clients come from all walks of life, many just needing a little help to get through a period of unemployment or illness. Others need assistance because of inadequate fixed incomes, a disability or uninsured medical bills, single parenthood or an increase in household size.

This past year, the cupboard provided food supplies to over 4,000 households, totaling over 9,400 people. The Cupboard typically serves over 400 families per month. PFC relies on its staff of over 100 volunteers. The Cupboard has a variety of flexible volunteer programs that make it easy for members of the community, adults or students, to get involved and volunteer at group or individual levels. Besides collecting food, assisting clients, helping with office work, stocking shelves or picking up food, volunteers can “Adopt-A-Shelf,” hold can and bottle drives, or be a sponsor and coordinate food drives at their organization.

For details, visit www.pittsfordfoodcupboard.net. Thank you for your prayers, your food donations, and your critical financial support.

**Where Are They?**

For three weeks we have been asked to help cover Sunday Masses at St. Mary’s in Honeoye and St. Matthew in Livonia. Last Sunday Fr. Juan was there. This week Fr. Bob will be covering their Masses Sunday morning. He has also been assisting them with funerals. Please pray for their pastor, Fr. Hoan Dihn, who has been recovering from serious surgery.

**Emerging Churches**

Last weekend, July 7 & 8, we had the Collection for the Aid to the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. This collection supports the Church in over 20 countries, many of which are still struggling to recover in the aftermath of Soviet rule. Funds from this collection support pastoral care, catechesis, building renovations, and seminary formation. Your support restores the Church and builds the future in this region. Thank you for your generosity in supporting this collection last weekend. More information can be found at www.usccb.org/ccce.

~ PRAY FOR ROCHESTER ~

“But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you… and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.”

Jeremiah 29:7
DO NOT DROP OFF ANY ITEMS ON OUR BACK PORCH. CALL AFTER JULY 18TH TO SCHEDULE PICK-UPS. WE WILL BEGIN ACCEPTING DROP-OFFS AND SCHEDULING PICK-UPS ON THURSDAY, JULY 19TH.

All volunteers will be working on the Super Sale and unavailable to sort and organize donations. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

Discarded electronic devices contain harmful chemicals that can spread into groundwater. For a list of locations in New York that safely dispose of e-waste, follow this link (www.dec.ny.gov/docs/materials_minerals_pdf/ewcosites.pdf)

“Bridges”, Young Adult Group
Faith Formation
Register today!!

K-5 Faith Formation
6-12 Youth Ministry
Eucharist
Penance
Confirmation 1 & 2

Please visit StLouisChurch.org to register and get information.

To keep shipping and material costs to a minimum, the deadline for all registrations is July 15th.

**Eucharist and Penance Sacrament registration:**
All children must have completed either Grade 1 or one full year prior of Faith Formation or attend a Catholic School to prepare and receive both First Penance and First Eucharist. Both Sacraments are celebrated in Grade 2. Families need to register for both Penance and Eucharist for the upcoming year.

**Confirmation Year 1 and Year 2 Sacrament Registration:**
Year 1 Confirmation candidates must have completed one year prior of Youth Ministry or attend Catholic School to prepare for year 1 and year 2. Registration is required yearly for both years of preparation.
Ascension Garden Cemetery offers a variety of options to celebrate the lives of your loved ones. We embrace the beauty of our natural landscape by offering green burial options, peaceful wooded trails, and attractive garden sections. Our beautiful mausoleum offers a comfortable, temperature controlled environment, while the chapel can comfortably seat over 200 people. You may also opt to honor the lives of Veterans and First Responders in one of our specialty sections.

For additional information, appointment times and to schedule your tour, please call our offices. Bring this ad to Ascension Garden to receive a free $50 Visa gift card with the purchase of any grave, niche or crypt*.

*Limit one per person. Not valid on prior sales. Valid until August 31, 2018.
25 Catholic Books For Great Summer Reading

In 2007 only 1 percent of American Catholics read a Catholic book. I hope since then we’ve been doing better than that! If you’ve finished reading Resisting Happiness (our Christmas book giveaway) maybe you’re ready for some suggestions. See what might spark your interest from this diverse list! Read one, then let me know how you liked it.

1. The Bible (Of course this has to top the list!)
2. The Spiritual Combat: and a Treatise on Peace of Soul by Dom Lorenzo Scupoli
3. Orthodoxy by G.K. Chesterton
4. The Lamb’s Supper by Dr. Scott Hahn
5. Searching for and Maintaining Peace: A Small Treatise on Peace of Heart by Jacques Philippe
6. Five Loaves & Two Fish by Francis Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan
7. The Screwtape Letters by C.S. Lewis
8. The Silence of Mary by Ignacio Larranaga
9. The Road of Hope: A Gospel from Prison by Francis Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan
10. The Bible Compass: A Catholic’s Guide to Navigating the Scriptures by Edward Sri
11. The Christ of faith; The Christology of the church by Karl Adam
12. Confessions by St. Augustine
13. Rediscover Catholicism by Matthew Kelly
14. Jesus of Nazareth by Pope Benedict XVI
15. An Introduction to the Devout Life by St. Francis de Sales
16. My Sisters the Saints by Colleen Carroll Campbell
17. The Thrill of the Chaste by Dawn Eden
18. Story of a Soul by Therese de Lisieux
19. Forming Intentional Disciples: The Path to Knowing and Following Jesus by Sherry Weddell
20. The Virtue Driven Life by Benedict J. Groeschel
22. Tweeting with God: # Big Bang, Prayer, Bible, Sex, Crusades, Sin, Career by Michel Remery
23. Finding True Happiness: Satisfying Our Restless Hearts (Happiness, Suffering, and Transcendence) by Fr. Robert Spitzer
24. Three to Get Married by Bishop Fulton Sheen
25. Be A Man!: Becoming the Man God Created You to Be by Fr. Larry Richards

Enjoy your summer. Take a few minutes each day to read!

--Kathryn McAlarney, Pastoral Associate for Evangelization, Kathryn.McAlarney@dor.org
**Parishioners in Action**

**Jim and Patty Fienup: Homes of Hope India**

“A few years ago, Paul Wilkes gave a presentation here at St. Louis on a new orphanage, whose purpose was to save abandoned young girls from the streets of India, where they were being exploited and abused. Several months later, Jim had a conference in the state of Kerala, India, and it so happened that the orphanage, in Kochi, was in the same state, so we stopped by to see what it was like. We met with the Salesian Sisters and witnessed their amazing work first-hand. The girls were well housed and cared for and were receiving an education that would enable them to be productive members of society -- things that they had previously lacked. We also visited a school run by these Sisters and were so impressed by their work that we have been supporting Homes of Hope India ever since, both monetarily and with boxes of books for the girls to enjoy while learning English. Last year Jim was asked to join their board of directors, and we have been amazed to see how many new Homes of Hope orphanages have been springing up all over India, thanks to the generosity of people from many parishes across the country. We hope that others will share our in supporting this wonderful cause.” For more information visit: [www.homeofhopeindia.org](http://www.homeofhopeindia.org) ~ Jim & Patty

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**345 PAIRS OF SOCKS FOR THE HOMELESS!**

“Do not wait for leaders, do it alone, person to person”

Saint Teresa of Calcutta

Thank you so much for your incredible generosity in donating socks to provide comfort to the homeless who arrive at the doors of House of Mercy and Saint Joseph’s House of Hospitality. Our young adult parishioners will be delivering them this week. Also thank you for those who brought in towels, another very much needed item in every shelter.

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**MARK YOUR CALENDAR: JULY 28th**

**STAND OUT FOR LIFE**

*Saturday Morning*

**Pro-Life**

Prayer and Peaceful, Public Witness

9:00 - 10:30 AM

Rosary from 9-9:25

July 28, 2018

115 University Ave

Featured Speaker: Mike Warren

Theme: Unite Our Hearts (Psalm 86)

If you wish to carpool from the church we will meet at 8:40am. Please email Cynthia.Clarke@dor.org
Parish Staff Directory

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64 S. Main Street, 14534
(585) 586-5675; Fax 387-9888
Ministry Center Summer Hours are:
Monday - Thursday, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Friday, 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

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

Page Ten St. Louis Church, Pittsford, NY July 15, 2018