What do you see?

Tuesday morning at Bible study, reflecting on today’s Gospel, we delved into John’s understanding of Jesus being lifted up. How does it connect with the first reading? How have different New Testament writers viewed the cross? Last week we heard St. Paul speak of Christ crucified as the power and the wisdom of God, a stumbling block to Jews, foolishness to Gentiles, but in truth the power and wisdom of God.

The earliest writers often had a sense of the scandal of the cross. Luke, looking at Jesus on the cross saw mercy and forgiveness. John could see Jesus being glorified, not separating death and resurrection, but seeing them together.

The question: what do you see? At Bible study, some of us remembered seeing, when gazing on the cross, the pain caused to Christ by our sin, the cost of salvation, an overwhelming sense that our sins nailed Jesus to the cross. A sense of responsibility consistently brought tears. But then the Holy Spirit led to a different perception. If you were able to come Monday evening for the tri-parish retreat, you heard Damien Zynda speaking about conversion moments. For some, a conversion moment was going from seeing Jesus paying the cost of our sins, to God revealing just how much he loves us. From a terrifying sign, leading to a sense of guilt, to a powerful sign of love, leading to a profound gratitude. Two different kinds of tears! What do you see? Have the conversation, a conversion moment may result!

Peace, Fr. Bob
Mass Intentions for This Week

MONDAY - MARCH 12
Is 65:17-21/Jn 4:43-54
11:00 am Christina Jackson
5:15 pm Janice Maxwell - Family

TUESDAY - MARCH 13
Ez 47:1-9, 12/Jn 5:1-16
6:45 am For Refugees
9:45 am Mass at Heather Heights for the People of the Parish
11:00 am Jose & Mary Jo Gomes - Isalina & Joe Gomes

WEDNESDAY - MARCH 14
DAY OF Penance and Mercy
Is 49:8-15/Jn 5:17-30
11:00 am Anthony J. Costello - Family
5:15 pm No Mass

THURSDAY - MARCH 15
Ex 32:7-14/Jn 5:31-47
6:45 am For Families who rely on the Food Cupboard
11:00 am Alex Berardicurdi - Fred & Elaine Suraque

FRIDAY - MARCH 16
Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
11:00 am William Kane - Mary Ellen & Family & Mario DeFends - Susanne DeFends
5:15 pm Wayne Harber - Nancy & Caroline Harber

SATURDAY - MARCH 17
Jer 11:18-20/Jn 7:40-53
9:00 am Kay McNamara Zara - Rose Smith
4:30 pm Charles E. Smith - Wife, Betty

SUNDAY - MARCH 18
Jer 31:31-34/Heb 5:7-9/Jn 12:20-33
7:30 am Gene Penzimer - Family & Jack Buckley - Farnam Family
9:00 am Michael Lillis - Bird Family
11:15 am Christopher Gingras - Janet & Ed Walsh & Don Murphy - Family
5:00 pm Marian Battle - Paul & Geri Dolan

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.

Requiem Aeternam
George Pierce
John Schwan

If you would like to remember your loved ones with the celebration of the Eucharist, stop by the Ministry Center and schedule a Mass time that is convenient for you. You may wish to have a Mass offered on the anniversary of death, a person's birthday or a significant date in the person's and your life. You can also arrange this by calling Sue or Shannon at 586-5675.

Saturday & Sunday, March 17 & 18

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Altar Servers</th>
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<td>G. Boehm, B. Boehm, L. Iati, P. Kessler, M. Romeo, S. Ward, L. Peckham, S. Schrecker</td>
<td>J. Smith</td>
<td>M. Romeo</td>
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<td>11:15 am</td>
<td>J. Schnell, E. &amp; S. Flannery, Sm. &amp; Sd. DiLiberto, P. Terei</td>
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<td>5:00 pm</td>
<td>D. &amp; G. Lewis, C. Goetz, B. Carr, J. Mk. &amp; Mt. Beckman</td>
<td>J. Brandt</td>
<td>K. Hester</td>
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Sunday Communion Service - March 18
The Highlands - Richard Caruso   Heather Heights - Fred & Marie Lapple
Retrieving Lost Sabbaths

“Until the land has retrieved its lost Sabbaths.” What in the world does that mean? Our 1st reading today begins with the Babylonian Exile, then concludes with King Cyrus of Persia ending the exile, by permitting, even encouraging the exiles to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the Temple. As the passage begins, the Chronicler minces no words about the infidelity to God and sins of the leaders and people, which led to the nation’s downfall and exile. Among the sins: not observing the Sabbath, nor the sabbatical years. Every seventh year was to be a sabbatical year, when the land was to remain uncultivated; what grew of itself was to be for the poor. The 70 years in exile, when the land was uncultivated, compensated for the previous years when the people ignored this instruction from God.

This reading strongly names human infidelity, while also naming God’s compassion and faithfulness. Not only did God bring the people back home after their sins had caught up with them. God used a foreign king to bring about the restoration. Our world and our country seem to be swinging toward a nationalism that is the opposite of the teachings of our faith about solidarity and the common good. In our 1st reading, a foreign king, easily deemed an enemy, was responsible for the rebuilding of the Temple in Jerusalem. That should give us something to think about! Cyrus believed that peoples other than his own should have their own land, and should be able to worship their God: what a forward thinking idea!

Everything is Grace

Our second reading is a powerful encouragement about grace. So what is grace? From the Catechism (2021) “Grace is the help God gives us to respond to our vocation of becoming God’s adopted sons (and daughters). It introduces us into the intimacy of the Trinitarian life.” Love, undeserved, freely given by God; that is grace (Amazing Grace!). Our second reading today is a great one to bring to prayer, and read three times. First just to read. Next to let it sink in. Third time, knowing the Holy Spirit is right here with us, and personally speaking these words to us.

Lifted Up

It is an intriguing, brief episode in Numbers. In the desert, the people spoke against God and Moses. In punishment, God sent lethal fiery serpents. Moses intercedes, and God instructs Moses to make a serpent and set it on a pole. If anyone bitten looks at it, they will live. Why such an odd way to respond to Moses’ intercession? Was it that looking at the bronze serpent would remind those who had been bitten of the reason they were suffering? That punishment and healing can sometimes be bound together in unexpected ways? The author gives no explanation. None the less, John picks up the story as a way to understand that Jesus being lifted up on the cross was healing, that to look at Jesus on the cross brings salvation. Most challenging yet, John sees Jesus on the cross as being one with His being glorified. What do you see when you gaze at a crucifix and reflect on this Gospel?

Our Weekend Scriptures:
4th Sunday in Lent

1st Reading: Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23
Finally returning home

2nd Reading: Ephesians 2:4-10
Saved by grace

Gospel: John 3:14-21
Live in the light

Looking Ahead:
5th Sunday in Lent

1st Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34
A covenant written in our hearts

2nd Reading: Hebrews 5:7-9
Learning through suffering

Gospel: John 12:20-33
The way to eternal life

At the Library

Our Library team continues to make great progress sorting and organizing the O’Connor Library in the Manse. We could use some nice bookends, other than the basic metal ones. Do you have any nice bookends sitting around that could use a new home? Please drop them off on the counter in the Narthex. Thanks!

Taize & Benediction

On Friday, March 16th at 7 pm, we will be praying using music from Taize, for a peace-filled evening of prayer, contemplation, and quiet time with the Lord, concluding with Benediction. A great Year of the Eucharist and Lenten opportunity. Please join us!
Our Offering of Time & Treasure

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This weekend’s contribution to the annual Collection for Catholic Relief Services provides funding for the USCCB Offices of International Justice and Peace, Migration and Refugee Services, and Pastoral Care for Migrants and Refugees; relief work of the Holy Father; and the Catholic Legal Immigration Network.

A note from:
Carol Thompson, MSN, RN
Advanced Illness Care Coordinator
Canandaigua VAMC

Thank you to the St. Louis Acafellas!

They helped make the memorial service for our veterans and their families wonderful. Our thanks to you for sharing your talents. We had overwhelmingly positive feedback from families and staff!

We Give

This Week’s Tithing will Support Rochester Area Interfaith Hospitality Network (RAIHN)

Next Week’s Tithing
St. Andrew’s Food Cupboard

St. Andrew’s Food Cupboard, 890 Portland Avenue, serves an area of highly concentrated poverty in the 14621 Northeast quadrant of Rochester. St. Andrew’s mission is to provide the best nutrition they can offer. They also provide diapers, some baby needs, and include toiletries with each household order. Clients are offered recipe and food handling advice and access to free clothing, coupons, used books and magazines, and phone usage. Furniture assistance through the adjoining St. Vincent dePaul Society is also available. Most importantly, they try to build relationships with those who come in need.

To learn more about St. Andrew’s Food Cupboard, please contact Margaret Oberst at 338-1764 (Cupboard), 254-3093 (home) or email Margaret.Oberst@dor.org. Volunteers come in on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday from 9:00 – 11:30 am.

Good Friday
American Red Cross Blood Drive
Sponsored by St. Louis Parish
March 30, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Reddington Hall Gym

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS to schedule an appointment. Please bring identification with you when you come to donate.

Give the gift of life! Give blood!

Pittsford Food Cupboard
The Pittsford Food Cupboard is looking for a part time Executive Director responsible for the overall management of the Cupboard, an individual with a passion for our mission, our community, and the clients we serve.

Skills
• management experience preferred
• non profit experience a plus but not required
• budget preparation and management
• excellent leadership, interpersonal, and communication skills
• computer proficient in MS Office Suite

Interested applicants should email their resume to: Pittsfordfoodcupboard2018@gmail.com
Half way through—still time to renew!
Visit our adult formation webpage:
StLouisChurch.org/lent

Lent 2018

| DATE      | TIME          | LOCATION | EVENT                                                      |
|-----------|---------------|----------|                                                            |
| March 14  | 12:30 - 7:30 pm | Church   | Day of Penance & God’s Mercy (No 5:15 pm Mass) (below)    |
| March 16  | 7:00 pm       | Church   | Lenten Friday - Taize Prayer (pg 3)                       |
| Mar 17/18 |               | Church   | Food Collection for St. Andrew’s Food Cupboard            |
| March 23  | 1:50 & 7:00 pm | Church   | St. Louis School Stations of the Cross - open to all! (pg 9) |
| March 29  | 7:30 pm       | Church   | Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord’s Supper                   |
| March 30  | 9:00 am - 3:00 pm | Gym     | Annual Good Friday Blood Drive                            |
| March 30  | 3:00 pm       | Church   | Good Friday Solemn Liturgy of the Lord’s Passion          |
| March 30  | 7:30 pm       | Church   | Seven Last Words Prayer Service                           |
| March 31  | 8:00 pm       | Church   | Easter Vigil Mass                                         |
| April 1   |               | Church   | Easter Sunday Masses: 7:00, 9:00, & 11:15 am, 1:00 pm     |

Day of Penance and Mercy

March 14, 2018
12:30 - 7:30 pm
St. Louis Church
http://forgiven.dor.org

“God’s love for us is infinite and His capacity for forgiveness and mercy is limitless. We are His noblest creation conceived by His perfect love for us. In this love by which He binds Himself to every person, He lifts us up again and again when we sin. In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Confession, we most perfectly experience this endless love and mercy.”

- The Most Reverend Salvatore R. Matano, Bishop of Rochester

Lenten Theology on Tap
Monday Nights at 7:00 pm
Three Heads Brewing
186 Atlantic Ave.
Rochester, NY 14607

March 12, ANSWERING THE CALL: A YEAR OF SERVICE IN A PHILADELPHIA SOUP KITCHEN
JESSICA TETTE, Coordinator of Children Ministries, St. Kateri

March 19, CAREER, CALLING, & CHRISTIAN VOCATION
DCN. ED GIBLIN, Director of Deacon Personnel, Diocese of Rochester

March 26, MY LIFE WITH THE SAINTS
FR. KEVIN MANNARA, CSB, Director of Campus Ministry, St. John Fisher College

Theology on Tap is an opportunity for young adults to discuss and reflect on issues of faith.

Sponsored by The Diocese of Rochester Department of Evangelization & Catechesis. Theology on Tap is a copyrighted program of Review International. Used with permission.
We are excited to announce this year’s theme:

**LEGO and Let God!**

Monday, June 25 –
Thursday, June 28

**What is Vacation Bible School?**

VBS is a four-day program for children who have completed grades K-4 by June 2018. Filled with crafts, songs, activities, and lessons about God, Vacation Bible School gives children a creative and fun way to connect to faith!

**How do I sign my child up?**

You may register online through the parish website: StLouisChurch.org **($50 charge per child)**

**Registration** closes May 14th or earlier if we reach our 100-slot maximum. REGISTER NOW!!!

Registration open to St. Louis Church & School Families.

Interested in volunteering? Please email our VBS coordinator, Anna Kuebler at annateresa.kuebler@gmail.com.
As Saint’s Place begins its 20th year of ministry, we are inspired by the commitment and support of our donors and volunteers. Without them, Saint’s Place could not happen. Refugees would have had an unwelcoming start; and the challenges of beginning a new life in a strange culture would have been intensified.

Now, we are frequently asked several questions. What are you doing if you don’t have newly arriving refugees? Why are you not accepting as many donations? Why do you still need volunteers? How can we help?

Answering these questions is not simple; there are no one- or two-word answers. Our needs change every day. Our first priority is to help refugees and we are staying true to that. We will serve an estimated 400 newly arrived refugees in 2018. In addition, we are helping many refugees already living in Rochester but living on the poverty level. We have also been assisting refugee families that found themselves homeless, others evicted from their home, many relocated here from another city, some having a new baby, and others requesting furniture to replace broken or worn items.

Saint’s Place is actively working with three other refugee organizations and several city schools to assist refugees living in poverty. Each week, Saint’s Place is also aiding Puerto Rican evacuees, homeless people, veterans, victims of fire, victims of domestic violence, and the list goes on.

The inconsistences of accepting furniture donations are directly related to the lack of newly arriving refugees. Our warehouse space is limited. We have been setting up newly arriving refugees with everything from beds, bedding, sofas, chairs, desks, tables, dressers, household items, lamps, toys, etc. Items moved very quickly out of our warehouse.

When helping families that have already been living here, their requirements are less. Often they only request a few things, not a whole houseful of furniture. So our needs change along with the need in the community.

We still require volunteers because there is always work to be done. The more volunteers we have, the more we can accomplish for those in need, refugees, homeless or the poor.

As always, your prayers are most welcomed. We continue to pray that refugees living in unimaginable conditions, just wanting to live in peace, will be allowed to enter the United States.

The times are challenging but the energy and dedication of our volunteers, donors, schools, businesses, Churches and the wonderful parishioners of St. Louis Church and Saint John of Rochester simplify our tasks and motivate us to do more. May God Bless each of you abundantly.

---

Saint’s Place, 46 S. Main St., Pittsford, NY 14534. Isabel Miller Executive Director.
Saint’s Place Ministry Hours: 46 S. Main St.: Mon. through Thurs.: 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. Closed Fridays.
St. John of Rochester: Mon., Tues., Thurs.: 9:15 am until 12 noon; Wed.: 9:15 am to 2:30 pm.; Closed Fridays.
Phone: 585-385-6860. Fax: 585-385-3963 or saintlady@saintsplace.org, or www.saintsplace.org
While government leaders remain too fearful to respond with meaningful action to end gun violence, retailers and service providers are responding to calls from consumers to break ties with the NRA and stop providing easy access to dangerous weapons. We may vary on how far we want to restrict weapons and access to them, but can’t we all support the principles put forward by Dick’s Sporting Goods?

- Ban assault-style firearms
- Raise the minimum age to purchase firearms to 21
- Ban high capacity magazines and bump stocks
- Require universal background checks that include relevant mental health information and previous interactions with the law
- Ensure a complete universal database of those banned from buying firearms
- Close the private sale and gun show loophole that waives the necessity of background checks

A good Lenten discipline: each day write or email one company thanking them for responding to gun violence with real action, either by breaking ties with the NRA or putting sensible restrictions on gun sales.

Below is a statement from 2/14/18 by the President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, His Eminence Daniel Cardinal DiNardo of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, on behalf of the bishops:

“We are deeply saddened by the shootings in Broward County, Florida, and by the needless and tragic loss of life. May the mercy of God comfort the grieving families and sustain the wounded in their healing. Catholics and many other Christians have begun the journey of Lent today. I encourage us to unite our prayers and sacrifices for the healing and consolation of all those who have been affected by violence in these last weeks and for a conversion of heart, that our communities and nation will be marked by peace. I pray also for unity in seeking to build toward a society with fewer tragedies caused by senseless gun violence. Our hope is in the Lord, as he promised after his resurrection, ‘behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age’ (Mt. 28:20).”

Praying for the Students

Bless our young people as they work
With wild hope to end gun violence,
To stop the slaughter, and to restrict
The proliferation of weapons in this country.

Bless these students, impatient for justice,
With both passion in the present,
And patience for the long haul,
The difficult labor of changing systems and structures.

Bless these students who want to be
The change they wish to see in this country.
Help them hold on to the wisdom that
The way to peace is through peaceful confrontation.

Bless these young adults, their teachers, parents,
Community members and all who support them
In solidarity for the common good,
All coming together to advocate for nonviolence.

Bless us as we strive to build a legacy
Of working for justice and peace,
So they may learn from our struggles
And keep speaking truth to power. Amen

- Jane Deren, Education for Justice

March For Our Lives

Local students are organizing a Rochester support rally against gun violence on March 24 from 3 to 5 pm at Washington Square Park. Learn more on their Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/events/173392860117037/.
Celebrate St. Patrick’s Day
March 17, after the 4:30 pm Sat. Mass

MENU:
$12/person
Corned Beef & Cabbage

BYOB

RSVP by Tuesday, March 13 to Sue or Shannon at 586-5675
Sign up ASAP! We take RSVPs first-come, first served. We can take a maximum of 48 reservations!

St. Joseph’s Day Mass
March 19th
9:10 am
All are welcome.

The Office of Evangelization and Catechesis has launched a website supporting the Year of the Eucharist. Here you will find a number of helpful resources including:

• A blog exploring Bishop Matano’s pastoral letter and what it can mean for us during this Year of the Eucharist.
• A listing of parish Mass times and when the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) is available so your experience of the Eucharist can be as full as possible.
• A set of parish resources that can help us explore the mystery of the Eucharist as a Diocese in each of our parish communities.

Over the course of this Celebratory Year, we hope you will check this site regularly and join us in prayer and celebration of Jesus’ Real Presence in the Eucharist: http://eucharist.ec.dor.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

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Stewardship Team, 734-9705
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Isabel Miller, Executive Director,
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In Residence at the Rectory:
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Michael DeCocq, Grand Knight,
St. Louis Knights of Columbus
Phone: 585-314-8835
depesi@twc.com

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Page Ten
St. Louis Church, Pittsford, NY
March 11, 2018