

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



JUNE 1, 2025

The Seventh Sunday of Easter, Year C, focuses on unity, love and faith. The readings highlight the steadfastness of Stephen, the promises of Jesus, and the prayer for unity among believers.

- **In the First Reading:** Stephen is filled with the Holy Spirit and sees Jesus in heaven. As he is stoned to death, he asks Jesus to receive his spirit and forgive his killers. Known as the Protomartyr, Stephen is the first to die for his faith in Jesus. His execution is witnessed by Saul, who later becomes St. Paul. Stephen's example encourages us to stay faithful and forgiving, even in difficult times.
- **Importance of Community:** Acts also tells the story of the early Christian Church, showing the spread of the Gospel and the growth of Christian communities despite persecution. Early Christians gathered together, supported each other and shared their resources. This sense of community is crucial for us today.
- **The Second Reading:** Every Mass is a glimpse of heavenly worship. As we come together in the Eucharist, we are part of a larger spiritual community, where heaven meets earth. This connection strengthens our faith and unites us with God and each other.
- **In the Gospel, Jesus as Alpha and Omega:** He prays for unity among his followers and declares that he is the way, the truth and the life. We are called to live in harmony.

MASS INTENTIONS

5 p.m.: Carlo Ditizio, Louis Ditizio and Henry Czeck

10 a.m.: Jessica Lancellotti, Mary Szulwach,
Renee Barth and John Horan

LAST WEEK'S MASS ATTENDANCE

5 p.m. – 75
10 a.m. – 157

TIME TO THINK ABOUT NEXT FALL!

Religious Education registration FOR NEW AND CURRENT STUDENTS will be held in Deacon John Hall after Mass this Sunday as well as next Sunday, June 8.

Yes, we know the last thing anyone wants to think about now is next September. However, for us to plan efficiently – including ordering the books at the best price – we need to have a sense of how many students will be enrolled in each grade.

And by registering and re-registering your children now, that's one less thing for you to think about in August!

Questions? Call Peg Hoblin, the program's director, at (845) 361-5816.



YOU SPOKE, WE LISTENED

'COMMUNITY TIME' THIS WEEKEND!

For four of the six groups at the third Listening Session, community was a priority.

So after both Masses this weekend, we will have the opportunity to mingle. On Saturday evening, there will be wine to sip and cheese to nibble – because no one wants coffee and doughnuts right before dinner – as you connect with your church community. On Sunday morning, baked goods and coffee will accent the conversations.

Please plan to stop in and say hello!

TREASURER'S REPORT

Regular Sunday Collection

May 19-25 – \$ 5,512.76

Envelopes: \$ 1,956.00 – Online: \$ 3,556.76

THANK YOU!

CARDINAL'S 2025 APPEAL

Still about 27% to go

Our parish goal is **\$50,600** of which **\$36,890** has been received/pledged from 94 families as of May 27. Please prayerfully consider your gift, which you can make online at www.cardinalsappeal.org. Thank you.

SUMMER HOURS

The church office will be closed Mondays through Labor Day. Happy Summer!



50 YEARS TOGETHER!

At last Sunday's Mass, Bob and Kathy Faiano were surrounded by family and honored for reaching the impressive milestone of their **Golden Wedding Anniversary**.

Spending about 18,260 days with the same person is not without its challenges. But to paraphrase Fr. Sean, life's ups and downs are easier when God is welcomed on the journey. And the journey continues for this couple with many opportunities ahead to serve each other, their family and the world.

Along with reciting a beautiful prayer of thanksgiving for their years together, Fr. Sean also blessed their rings once again – a symbol of their enduring love and commitment to one another

*"True love is not about finding
the perfect person,
but about accepting and loving
an imperfect person perfectly."*

- Saint John Vianney



RAFFLE TICKET UPDATE

We are in the throes of this year's raffle-fundraiser. As of May 27, 336 tickets have been sold, generating a total of \$8,400 – **or \$4,200 for St. Paul's**. Thank you to all who have participated. Tickets and payment are due to the office by **Tuesday, July 9**.

You can use, or share with others, the QR code at right to purchase tickets. It is specific to St. Paul's. Please note that this is NOT the same QR code found on the printed tickets; that QR code is there to thwart fraud.



Printed tickets are also available in the office or in the sacristy after Mass.

Last year, St. Paul's, St. Stephen's in Warwick and St. Mary's in Washingtonville each had a \$1,000 winner – and St. Paul's was a big winner with \$8,962.50 from those ticket sales!

Along with the top prize of a \$30,000 gift card, there's a \$10,000 gift card, an \$8,000 gift card and 20 additional \$1,000 gift cards

Any surplus funds after raffle expenses are paid are used for Catholic causes determined by the organizer, Catholic Parish Initiatives. This year, the cause could be to "reinvest" funds so each participating parish has a winner.

For information: www.catholicinitiatives.org

The livestreamed drawing takes place on **July 19** and can be viewed at parishraffle.com

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



The **Adult Faith Formation Committee** will meet after the 10 o'clock Mass on Sunday, **June 8**. Everyone is welcome.



Beginning Experience® is a Catholic peer ministry that serves those who have lost a spousal relationship. It is hosting "In the Beginning ... Coping with Life Alone," a one-day Zoom program from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday, **June 28**. For info, call Jim at (845) 220-7883 or Denise at (845) 325-3147.

The group is also holding its annual Spiritual Renewal Program from 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. on Saturday, **July 12**, at Mount Alvernia Retreat Center in Wappingers Falls. This year's theme is "Finding Hope." Contact Jim Cox at jcox1853@gmail.com or Charisse de los Reyes at calexareys@gmail.com to register.



Capuchin Youth & Family Ministries is returning to Appalachia **July 12-20** for its 32nd mission to one of the poorest communities in the nation.

Also, the Catholic Literature Arts summer program (CLASP) will take place **August 3-8** in Wappingers Falls. This theater-arts summer camp ends with the performance of an original musical. For info: cyfm.org.



The Carmelite Jubilee Italy Pilgrimage with The National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel will take place **October 21-30** and include stops in Florence, Assisi and Rome. The cost is \$5,599 per person, double occupancy; **\$500 deposit is due now**. Call Carol Bezak, 845-343-1879, for information and the complete brochure.

