

Fourth Sunday of Easter

MAY 8, 2022



THIS WEEKEND'S READINGS

First: Acts 13:14, 43-52

Second: Revelation 7:9, 14b-17

Gospel: John 10:27-30

FOCUS: Our God knows and loves each of us.

What a blessing it is to have a God who knows each one of us. Each of us is created and gifted with our own unique purpose. As Jesus says in today's Gospel: My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me. Let us celebrate Jesus' presence in our lives and follow after him.

LITURGY OF THE WORD:

In the first reading, the preaching of Paul and Barnabas is rejected by the Jews and welcomed by the Gentiles. In the second reading, John sees a diverse remnant of people who survived the great tribulation. They give worship to the Lamb of God, who shepherds them. In the Gospel, Jesus says that his sheep know his voice and follow him. He leads them to eternal life, for he and the Father are one.



MASS INTENTIONS

Masses this weekend are for:

**All mothers in our St. Paul's family,
living and deceased**

TREASURER'S REPORT

April 24-May 1: Totaled \$ 7,673.55

Envelopes: \$ 4,964.00 – Online: \$ 2,709.55

Additional Easter (envelopes): \$ 100.00

THANK YOU

CONDOLENCES

Sadly, Fr. Sean's older brother, Eric, passed away last week. Please keep the Harlow family in your prayers.

CALL TO JUSTICE

The future needs us to say 'Yes'

By Nancy Sylvester

Institute for Communal Contemplation and Dialogue

Both Mary and Jesus were facing impossible situations. Mary, an unwed mother, is with child. Not the proper pedigree for someone who would be asked to bear and raise the chosen one of God. I'm sure she struggled, as any woman would, finding herself in such a situation with the feelings of guilt and shame. How would she afford to care for him? Where would she get support? What does it mean for her own life?

Jesus, too, having tried to live his life faithful to the spirit within him, faces arrest, torture and crucifixion – the ignominious death of a common criminal. How much easier would it have been to answer Pilate in ways that

would have freed him. Feelings of failure must have flooded him as his closest friends deserted him at this critical time. Questions any one of us would have asked were probably his: Was it worth it? What did I do wrong? How could I have let so many people down?

Mary and Jesus could have said "No," but they said "Yes."

Their "Yes" continues to reverberate and emerges in each of us, as does our freedom to say "No." I began to reflect on when we say "No" to the invitations of the Spirit. How do we know when such invitations are offered?

A good place to start is by becoming aware. Aware of what is going on around us and in us – the world-view through which we see things. Alert to the subtle shifts within our body, realizing that "sensing" is another way of knowing and complements thinking.

Contemplative practice helps us do just that. Allowing oneself to become present to the moment helps to silence the extraneous noises within and outside us. We drop down and into the spaciousness where Divine Love dwells.

Being aware of the subtle shift from one's regular responses and behaviors to those more reflective of one's truest self helps strengthen us to continue saying "Yes" when more difficult invitations arise in us.

Living in this time of chaos brings forth multiple situations that invite us to respond out of the depths of our being – to respond from Christ's consciousness.

For easy access to the full article, visit our website, www.stpaulsbullville.org, click on "Read More" under "A Call to Justice" on the home page and double click on the article(s) you wish to read.





CAUGHT UP OVER COFFEE

Sure the coffee, cinnamon buns, cookies and croissants played a role. But the real magnet was the long overdue need for community and camaraderie.

Thanks to Rick and Julie Dzurilla and their cadre of volunteers, scores of parishioners seized the opportunity – along with a brownie bite or doughnut – and spent about 20 minutes or so milling about after Mass, catching up with casual conversation.

“People were speaking of dinners. And lots of folks also commented about a barbecue,” said Rick, hinting at what might be on the horizon. “Those who helped were very happy to have something going on again. ... The support was wonderful.”

WHO'S WHO?

Our **Parish Council** consists of nine elected members and serves in an advisory capacity to Fr. Sean. Its chairperson is Julie Laurenzi. The other members are: Christine Forbes, Peter Adams, Pam Vogt, Rosa Gonzalez, Tom Fobert, Beth Schick, Michael McGovern and Hector Hernandez. Ex-officio members, or members who serve because of other positions they hold, are Fr. Sean, Deacon Carl and Deacon Michael.

Parish Council meetings are held on the second Monday of the month and are open to all parishioners, who should contact the office first if they have a particular concern they want placed on the agenda.

Additionally, in order to maintain transparency and accountability with regard to the church's finances, there is a **Finance Committee**. Its members are Jim Lancellotti, Sal Lucido, Patricia Sullivan, Maxine Martin and Bill Sullivan. Along with ex-officio members Fr. Sean, Deacon Carl and Deacon Michael are our two parish trustees, Ray Andidero and Rose Ann Kuzmiak. Parish trustees also serve separately as advisors to Fr. Sean.

IN THE LOOP



Those Gremlins were at it again, messing with the May calendar! **Mass on Sunday, May 22, is NOT at 10 a.m.**, but at 9 and 11 a.m., the times to which we have returned.



The deadline is next week to let the office know if you are celebrating either your **25th or 50th wedding anniversary** in 2022. Golden anniversary couples have the option of attending the Jubilee Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral on June 5. Couples celebrating either milestone will be recognized at Mass the weekend of May 28-29 at St. Paul's.



Summer Outreach Week runs from June 27-July 1, during which Capuchin Youth & Family Ministries mobilizes middle- and high-school-age teens, adult volunteers and friars to serve children, the elderly and infirmed, the poor and the homeless. Participants can spend a day or two or the whole week. Registration fee of \$50/day or \$225/week includes meals and transportation to worksites from St. Joachim's Church in Beacon. Registration (<https://bit.ly/CYFMSOW2022>) deadline is May 30. Call (845) 718-0218 for information.



Thus far, the Archdiocese of New York has forwarded more than \$600,000 in **emergency aid to the Church in Ukraine**, which included \$3,665 from St. Paul's. We will pass along any additional donations with the scheduled special collection on May 16, "Aid to the Church in Central and Eastern Europe."



Do you know someone who is carrying the grief of a past abortion? A "Day of Prayer and Healing," sponsored by the **Sisters of Life**, offers the opportunity to experience the love and mercy of God and begin the journey of healing. The next date in the New York City area is May 21. For information – or to just talk to a sister – call (866) 575-0075 or visit www.sistersoflife.org



If you are able, please remember our busy **food pantry** when you do your grocery shopping. We, and the families we serve, are grateful for any assistance you can provide.

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