



Welcome to St. George Church

A Parish with Spirit and Heart!

74 Old Glenwood Rd. West Falls, NY 14170-9704

Web: www.stgeorgercchurch.org

Email: stgeorge.wf@gmail.com

Office: (716) 652-3153 Fax: (716) 687-1336 Faith Formation Office: (716) 652-0126

Fr. Pascal (Pat) Ipolito, Pastor

Sr. Margaret Donner, Pastoral Associate

Kathy Kita, Pastoral Associate & Director of Faith Formation

Week of July 26, 2015

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

From the Pastor's Desk

St. John Chrysostom, who lived in the last half of the fourth century, raised an interesting question in connection with the feeding of the multitudes. Why didn't Jesus simply create food out of thin air rather than multiply the food that was there? After all, the bread and fish were pretty simple fare, lowbrow food—not unlike saltines and canned sardines. Could Jesus, who in John's Gospel is depicted as the one through whom all things were made, not have conjured up something more exciting for the gathered multitude? Chrysostom responds to his own question, saying that it was because Jesus wished to use "the creation itself as a groundwork for his marvels" (*Homily 42 on the Gospel of John*). Rather than create something anew, Jesus takes what is already at hand and transforms it by multiplying it. And in doing this, Jesus is teaching us two things.

First, he is reminding us that creation itself is already miraculous. Jesus works miracles not to convince us that God can, on occasion, do extraordinary things, but to awaken us to the fact that God does an extraordinary thing—holding our world in existence—all the time. The ongoing existence of our world is the greatest of God's mighty acts, and the miracles of Jesus should reinforce this truth and not undercut it.

Second, he is showing us that the way God works in the world is not by discarding the ordinary realities of creation and substituting for them something new and different, but rather by taking what is already at hand and transforming it. As an old adage of Catholic theology puts it, grace perfects and does not destroy nature. Just as Christ uses the simple food provided by a boy to feed the multitude, so too he can use the simple substance of our daily lives to do his work in the world. We might look at ourselves and ask, like Andrew in today's Gospel, "What good is this for so many?" But today's Gospel shows us that it is good enough, if Christ takes it and blesses it.

Lord Jesus, you take our lives into your hands and bless them. May we become spiritual food for others through the power of your Spirit by leading lives of holiness. Amen.

- Do I appreciate the miraculous nature of my daily life and thank God for the gift of my existence? What hinders me from doing so?
- When have I seen God use ordinary events to do something extraordinary?

Shalom! Fr. Pat

Excerpted with permission from *Living the Word* (www.wlp.jspaluch.com)

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

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| Saturday, July 25 | 5 pm | In Celebration of Thomas & Lynn Marie Szymanski's 29 th Wedding Anniversary, by Mother (Fr. Dan) |
| | 2 pm | Wedding of Marie Bofinger and Travis Mealer |
| Sunday, July 26 | 8:30 am | Chet Kupka, by Mary Ann Pietrzak |
| Sunday, July 26 | 11 am | Florence W. Miller, by Trish (Struzik) Drum & Cynthia Haynes Baptism of Frank William Wahl |
| Monday, July 27 | 8 am | Souls to be remembered from All Souls' Day |
| Tuesday, July 28 | 8 am | Souls to be remembered from All Souls' Day |
| Wednesday, July 29 | 8 am | Communion Service and Novena |
| Thursday, July 30 | 8 am | Communion Service |
| Friday, July 31 | 8 am | In Remembrance of and Honoring all Mothers |
| Saturday, August 1 | 5 pm | George Gebhard, by the Family |
| Sunday, August 2 | 8:30 am | In Thanksgiving for Frederick S. Happy, by Mom & Dad |
| Sunday, August 2 | 11 am | Melanie Benedict, by the Family (Fr. Dan) |

**First Friday Mass will be at 9:00 am with Adoration to follow.
The next First Friday is August 7th in the Chapel.
Confession: Saturday from 4:00 - 4:30 pm**

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK, especially: Vivianne Dibe, Loretta Ellis, Doris Ellis, Angie Antonelli, Peter Brady, Kathy Grover-Castro, Maryanne Mueller, JoAnna Dussias, Michael Schafer, Madeline Abate, John Branicky, Mackenzie Walsh, Richard Kruse, Janelle Spider, Marsha Shuler, Kevin McCarthy, Don Appenheimer, Dorothy Knaier, Louise Zelonis, Gina Reger, Jill & Jeff Bahret, Richard & Antoinette Pucillo, Joe Arcara, Lou Williams, the Urbanski family, Mary Rose, Jared & Kristina Williams, Delores Gebhard, Mike Hayhurst, Grace Finch, Jeanette Dipiano, Susan Dorobiala, Judy Zielinski, Nancy Service, Mary Nemec, Mary Pasco, Jocelyn Tragarz, Shawn Henning, Gary Klaja, Barbara Simpson, Pat Parker, Rick Emerling, Sr. Mary Dee, GSNH, Tony Russo, Ray Deibel, Brian Byrne and Allison Kruger.



Mary Ann O'Donnell thanks you for all your prayers and kind, good wishes during her recent surgery and recovery. God Bless you all!

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU to our ever-ready volunteer, Bob Wieczorek, for his persistence and diligence in locating the cause of our recent floodings!! Now we can all rest a little easier! ***You're the best, Bob!***



CONGRATULATIONS! to Marie Bofinger and Travis Mealer as they celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage on Saturday, July 25th. Marie has been an active and spirit-filled member of our parish, a former catechist and music minister, and she is the daughter of Mark & Tricia Bofinger.



ALTAR FLOWERS THIS WEEKEND are In Celebration of Travis Mealer and Marie Bofinger's wedding! *Our sincere thanks to the Bofinger family for donating the flowers!*



A HUGE THANK YOU!

To all of you who contributed in so *many ways* to our **Chicken BBQ, Cash Raffle, and Theme Basket Auction** last Sunday! **This event would not be possible without the helping hands of so many willing volunteers!** It would not be *successful* without the support of everyone who bought/sold raffle tickets, dinner tickets and theme basket auction tickets!

Our net proceeds were \$5,227.19!

THE WINNERS OF THE CASH RAFFLE WERE: Paul Rose, \$250.00; Joy Woodrow, \$150.00; Ann Tara, \$100.00; Greg Castiglia, \$50; and Jack & Pam Shanahan, \$50.00. Congratulations!

AND, A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS BUSINESS SPONSORS:

Comfort Funeral Home
Wurtz Funeral Home
Pizza Del Aureo's
Bob-O-Link Golf Club
The Aurora Theater
The Dog Bar
Salvatore's Italian Gardens
Country Coiffures Family Hair Care
Southtowns Tireman
Weber's Landscaping
Designing Dish
Waste Management
Bob's Deli

If you brought in a donation from a business and would like the parish to send a thank you letter to the donating business, please call or email the office. Thank you!



If you're new to our parish this summer, we encourage you to enroll your children *now* for our **Growing In Faith Together Faith Formation** classes for **K-12**. Brochures for our GIFT program are on the table at the back of church, next to the registration forms. If you have any questions, please call **Kathy Kita** at **652-3153**.

Our thanks to all the parents who've already submitted their 2015-16 Registrations!

WELCOME, FRANK WILLIAM WAHL! We celebrate the sacrament of the Baptism of Frank William Wahl this weekend. Congratulations, and best wishes to his parents, **Frank Wahl** and **Brittany Whelan!**



STEWARDSHIP Weekly offerings last week totaled **\$2,334.25**. Offerings for **Maintenance and Capital Improvements** were **\$55.00**. Our parish needs **\$3,800.00** each week in order to meet our financial obligations. *Our sincere thanks for your continued generosity!*

Peter's Pence Collection
Be a Witness of
CHARITY

Thank you for your generous support of our Holy Father's charitable works in the Peter's Pence Collection, totaling \$576.00. Your contributions will be combined with those of our brothers and sisters around the world to help Pope Francis provide essential relief to people in need. Your generosity is an act of solidarity with the universal Church, answering the call to be a witness of charity. **May God bless you.**

Yes, we ARE still in need of Teachers for GIFT and time is running out! *Won't you please consider joining our Faith Formation Team? Our children in Grades 4 & 6 are desperately in need of your time and talent.* We provide you with all the training and resources you need. *All we need from you is your time and a willing spirit!* For more information, call **Jan Gawrys at 826-5946** or **Kathy Kita at 652-3153**.



COME ON OUT TO THE COLDEN COMMUNITY FARMER'S MARKET



Every Saturday from 8:30 am - 1 pm at the Bread of Life Outreach Center on Supervisor Ave. in Colden. Blueberries, cherries, corn, and lots of beautiful produce. All local and fresh from the farm! Hall's famous pies! Organic sprouts! Yummy cookies and breads! Doggy treats! Eggs! Honey products! Have you tried the **MAPLE ICE CREAM**? Goats' milk fudge! Herbs and things! Beautiful plants! Garden turtles! Live music! Mikey's BBQ! \$1 Sahlens Hot Dogs! **FREE** coffee and Timbits! *And it all supports the programs of the Bread of Life Outreach!*

CRUISE THE LOCKS! Enjoy a Lockport Locks Cruise and Canalside Lunch on Wednesday, August 12th. Everyone is welcome for this 50+ Group-sponsored trip. We'll all meet at **9:30 am** at **Tops Market** on Transit & French Rd., carpooling from there to Lockport. We'll have **lunch at 11:15 am** followed by the canal **lock cruise from 12:30 - 2:30 pm**. The cost is **\$35 per person**. Please reserve your space no later than **August 1st** by mailing your check, payable to **St. George's Over 50 Group**, to Diane Marts at 5134 Alder Ct., Hamburg, NY 14075. Call **Donna LaValley at 652-3759** with your questions, or visit www.lockportlocks.com for more information.



Please note: Our September group trip is cancelled due to lack of interest



WEST FALLS VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY MUSIC FEST

SATURDAY, JULY 25th! Come out and enjoy **free country music by Route Two40 Ride** from **6 pm - ??** at the Fire Hall, located at **1864 Davis Rd.** in West Falls. Food and beverages will be available to purchase, and **bring your lawn chair**. *It promises to be a fun and relaxing summer evening!*