

Saint George Parish Community

Under the Guidance of the Holy Spirit

22 E. Cooke Avenue, Glenolden, PA 19036 - 610-237-1633 - www.stgeorgeparish.org

August 16, 2020

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time



At that time, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman of that district came and called out, "Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David! My daughter is tormented by a demon." But Jesus did not say a word in answer to her. Jesus' disciples came and asked Him, "Send her away, for she keeps calling out after us." He said in reply, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But the woman came and did Jesus homage, saying, "Lord, help me." He said in reply, "It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters." Then Jesus said to her in reply, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And the woman's daughter was healed from that hour.

~Matthew 15: 21-28

Contact Us!

New Parishioners

We are pleased to welcome new members to our Parish Community. Please call the Rectory Office at 610-237-1633 to make an appointment to register and to learn more about our parish, or visit www.stgeorgeparish.org. *Note: Students must be registered in the Parish before registering in the Parish Religious Education Program.*

Sacrament of Baptism

The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on the **second Sunday of the month at 11:30 AM**. Parents seeking baptism for their child are asked to please call the rectory. Pre-Jordan is required for parents with a first-born child or parents with additional children who have not attended within a two-year period. Pre-registration is required for Pre-Jordan and Baptism. Please contact Mrs. Lynda Batten at the Rectory Office for more information.

Sacrament of Matrimony

Couples planning a wedding are asked to call Father Oswald at the Rectory Office at least one year in advance of the wedding date. Couples are required to attend the Archdiocesan Marriage and Family Life Preparation Program.

Sick or Homebound

In case of serious illness or advanced age, please call the Rectory Office. Arrangements will be made for the Sacrament of the Sick and for Holy Communion. If you are going into the hospital and you would like to receive the Sacrament of the Sick, please call the Rectory. Also, when you are hospitalized, please contact the hospital Chaplain and the Rectory Office.

Tree of Life Memorial

If you would like to have a leaf (\$150) or a boulder (\$600) permanently inscribed in memory of a loved one on the Tree of Life, which is located in the vestibule at the main entrance of the church, please contact Mrs. Mary Ann Zeller at 610-237-1633.

Vigil Candles

Vigil Candles, which are located in front of the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph statues in the front of the church, are available for your intentions. Small candles are \$2 and will burn for two days. These can be purchased by placing your donation in an envelope and dropping it in the slot provided by the candles. Large candles are \$100 and will burn for an entire year. Large candles can be purchased by contacting Mrs. Mary Ann Zeller at 610-237-1633. A gold label with your loved ones name will be placed on the candle and it will remain there throughout the year.

Godparents

Only one godparent is required for Baptism. If two are chosen, one must be male and one must be female. A godparent must be a fully initiated Roman Catholic (Baptized, Confirmed and receiving the Eucharist), at least 16 years of age, if married, must be married in the Church, and in good standing with the Church. A baptized non-Catholic Christian may be chosen as a "Christian Witness" provided there is one Catholic godparent. A former Catholic may not serve as either a godparent or Christian witness.

R.C.I.A.

If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about the Catholic faith, or if you were baptized Catholic but did not complete your sacraments, please contact Sr. Lorraine Muglie, SSJ at the Rectory Office at 610-237-1633 to learn more about our Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults Program.

Mass Cards

Mass cards are available at the Rectory Office. If you would like to have a Mass celebrated in memory of a deceased loved one, or for special intentions, please contact the Rectory Office **Monday, Wednesday or Friday, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM (temporary hours)**. Standard cards are available for a \$10 stipend and booklets are available for a \$20 stipend.

Food Pantry

Our Parish Food Pantry is available for parishioners and friends who are in need of a meal but cannot provide one for themselves. If you or a friend needs temporary food assistance, please contact Mrs. Batten at 610-237-1633. All calls are confidential. Donations of non-perishable food items, in addition to turkeys and hams during the holidays, are always welcome. Gift cards are also welcome.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Eucharistic Adoration is held in the Church **every Friday from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM, followed by daily Mass**, unless otherwise announced.

Quote of the Week

"Always pray to have eyes that see the best in people, a heart that forgives the worst, a mind that forgets the bad, and a soul that never loses faith in God."

~Anonymous

Parish Staff

Rev. Leo P. Oswald, Pastor

Rev. Martin E. Woodeshick, Pastor Emeritus - Holy Spirit

Rev. Ignatius Marneni, Retired in Residence

Rev. James McBurney, OSA and Rev. James McCartney, O.S.A., Weekend Assistants

Mrs. Lynda Batten, Parish, Secretary/PREP Coordinator Ext. 101

Mrs. Pat Dinan, Receptionist, Ext. 113 (Wednesdays)

Mrs. Marie Dunleavy, Receptionist, Ext. 113 (M&F)

Mrs. Chris Guidetti, Youth Minister, Ext. 125

Mrs. Kathleen Lerro, Director of Music, Ext. 101

Mr. Patrick McCullough, Maintenance, Ext. 104

Sister Lorraine Muglie, SSJ, Dir. of Adult Faith, Ext. 103
and Pastoral Care

Mr. Al Zeller, Bingo - 610-532-8271

Mrs. Mary An Zeller, Business Manager, Ext. 04

Parish Information

Rectory Hours

Monday thru Thursday
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Friday 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Summer Hours 9AM to 4 PM daily
For more details, see page 5.
Phone Number: 610-237-1633
Fax Number: 610-237-9626
Email: st.georgesec@rcn.com
Receptionist: Mrs. Marie Dunleavy
Mrs. Patricia Dinan
Secretary: Mrs. Lynda J. Batten
Parish Business Manager:
Mrs. Mary Ann Zeller

Convent

11 E. Lamont Avenue
Glenolden, PA 19036
Phone Number: 610-237-1633

Office of Religious Education

Director of Adult Faith Formation
Sr. Lorraine Muglie, SSJ
Phone Number: 610-237-1633
Fax Number: 610-237-9626

PREP Coordinator

Mrs. Lynda Batten: 610-237-1633
Mondays Only 4-6 PM: PREP Office
484-425-7390

Bereavement Ministry

Mrs. Mimi Ednie

Bingo Program

Mr. Al Zeller

Holy Name Society

Mr. Al Zeller

Legion of Mary

Mrs. Theresa Murray

Ministry Outreach Program

Mrs. Lynda Batten

Choir Director and Music Ministry

Mrs. Kathleen Lerro

R.C.I.A.

Sister Lorraine Muglie, SSJ

Youth Group

Mrs. Christine Guidetti

Join us on Twitter!



Rite of Reconciliation

3:30 PM - 4:15 PM Saturday afternoons

Care of the Sick

Please contact the Rectory Office in the event of sickness or hospitalization.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

Thursday 6:30 PM - Sept. to Easter

Baptism

Second Sunday of the month at 11:30 AM

Please call the Rectory Office for an appointment to schedule a Baptism and Baptism Preparation (Pre-Jordan)



Devotions

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament - Fridays 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM
Miraculous Medal Devotion - Following the 8:00 AM Mass on Saturdays
Holy Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet - Thursdays 7:00 PM

Daily Readings & Mass Intentions

Sunday, August 16: Isaiah 56: 1, 6-7; Romans 11: 13-15, 29-32; Matthew 15: 21-28 - 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM Mike Yulinetti

Requested by: Pat Yulinetti

10:30 AM Howard and Mildred Klein

Requested by: Marie Dunleavy

Monday, August 17: Ezekiel 24: 15-23; Matthew 19: 16-23

4:00 PM Patricia McCullough

Requested by: Anna Notte

Tuesday, August 18: Ezekiel 28: 1-10; Matthew 19: 23-30

4:00 PM Marshall Notte

Requested by: Anna Notte

Wednesday, August 19: Ezekiel 34: 1-11; Matthew 20: 1-16

4:00 PM Proschka and Notte Families

Requested by: Anna Notte

Thursday, August 20: Ezekiel 36: 23-28; Matthew 22: 1-14 - St. Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church (Memorial)

4:00 PM James Collett

Requested by: Kathleen Collett

Friday, August 21: Ezekiel 37: 1-14; Matthew 22: 34-40 - St. Pius X, Pope (Memorial)

4:00 PM John Murray

Requested by: Kathy Lerro

Saturday, August 22: Ezekiel 43: 1-7ab; Matthew 23: 1-12 - The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Memorial)

8:00 AM Ambrozone Romney

Requested by: Ronnie Tinsley

4:30 PM Pro Populo

Sunday, August 23: Isaiah 22: 19-23; Romans 11: 33-36; Matthew 16: 13-20 - 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM Josephine Battagliese

Requested by: Bill Battagliese

10:30 AM Ivar and Jerry Nyhus

Requested by: Joe & Rita D'Urso

Daily Mass

4:00 PM Monday thru Friday

8:00 AM Saturday

Weekend Mass

4:30 PM Saturday

8:00 AM and 10:30 AM Sunday

Holy Days

As Announced

Holidays: 9:00 AM



St. George Parish is now offering on line giving. You can donate simply by visiting <https://www.osvhub.com/stgeorgeparish/funds/offertory> and then click the icon that reads "Give Now."

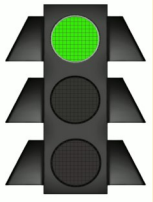
This allows for electronic contributions to be transferred without the need of

writing a check or dropping off your envelope at the Rectory Office.

Mass Counts and Contributions

This issue of the Parish Bulletin was printed in advance. For Mass counts and contributions, please contact the Rectory Office.

Special Announcement



Directives for Mass in the Green Phase

Pennsylvania has moved into the Green Phase of statewide reopening. The green phase is the least restrictive phase of Governor Wolf's three-color reopening plan. Under the green phase, you won't have to worry whether a specific business is allowed to be open. In almost every case, it is. And this will be as close to "normal" that we have had since first going under the stay-at-home order in March. Green does not mean a return to normal, although the governor called it a step "near normalcy." Concerts, festivals and large sporting events are still restricted — as are other "large recreational gatherings." Workers who can telecommute are urged to continue doing so. Nursing home visitation remains restricted. And you must still wear masks in public and continue to practice social distancing. All businesses must still follow guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the state Department of Health. And specific guidelines will be released this coming week, according to Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine. "I must emphasize that moving into the green phase will still require precautions to keep our communities and our families safe," Wolf added during a Friday press conference. "COVID-19 continues to be a threat to our health and welfare."

Yes, things are opening up and life is reflecting some semblance of normalcy. But this does not mean that we stop taking precautions. The virus is still out there. And so, for your health and the health and safety of those around you, please remember that we must still *proceed with caution*. Masks must be worn in church, visitors must remain at least six feet apart, hand sanitizer must be used and all directives must be followed. We have only just returned to church after nearly three months of stay at home regulations. Please help us to keep our Church a safe haven by following these protocols. Thank you.

GENERAL POINTS

- * The obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation continues to be lifted during the Green Phase. You are not obligated to attend Mass at this time.
- * Please stay home if you are sick.
- * Please stay home if you are at higher risk of severe illness with COVID19.

MASS SCHEDULE

- * *The church is open for private prayer from 3:0 PM to 4:00 PM Monday thru Friday.*
- * *Daily Mass Monday thru Friday - 4:00 PM and Saturday morning 8:00 AM*
- * *4:30 PM Saturday, 8:00 AM Sunday, 10:30 AM Sunday*
- * *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the church from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM on Fridays.*

BEFORE COMING TO MASS

- * Please wash your hands for 20 seconds using soap and water.
- * Before entering the Church, please put on a face mask or cloth covering. Exceptions to this are "children younger than 2 years old, anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, and anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance" (CDC Guidelines).
- * Please do not come to Mass if you are sick or are at higher risk for severe illness with COVID19 (see above).
- * Missalettes will not be in the pews during this period. You are welcome to bring your own missal/readings with you.

ENTERING THE CHURCH

- * Please maintain reverent silence in respect for the Blessed Sacrament and others who are in prayer.
- * Please enter the side doors of the church (Blessed Mother and St. Joseph sides). With the exception of those who are handicapped, we ask all visitors to exist thru the main front doors.
- * Hand sanitizers will be available at the church entrances. Please use the hand sanitizer upon entering and exiting the Church.
- * Foreign cups or containers are not permitted in the church at this time.

SEATING

- * When taking your seat, please honor all posted signs about where you may sit. Pews will be marked to ensure proper social distancing. Members of the same household may sit together as normal. Please place 6 feet between your household and members of a different household.

DURING MASS

- * There will be no Sign of Peace during Mass during the Yellow Phase.
- * The Precious Blood will not be distributed during Mass during the Green Phase.
- * There should be no holding of hands during the Lord's Prayer.
- * Bulletins will only be available on line or by contacting the Rectory for a copy.

RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

- * Holy Communion will be single file only.
- * Please maintain social distancing in the Communion line. Please keep several pews between yourself and the person in front of you while in line and when returning to your pew. Follow the main isle yellow guideline tape.
- * During the Green Phase, the faithful are asked to receive Holy Communion in the hand. Please remove your mask before receiving Holy Communion.

- * **EXITING THE CHURCH** - Please leave your mask on until you exit the Church.

- * At the conclusion of Mass, please exit the Church and proceed directly to your car. Please do not congregate for any reason.

Parish Information and Outreach Ministries



Don't forget to watch Father Oswald's weekly reflection at www.stgeorgeparish.org or on our Facebook page at St. George Church, Glenolden, PA.

**"God bless you all.
It's wonderful to have you back!"**

Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass

October 17, 2020 at 5:15 PM with Archbishop Nelson Perez at the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter & Paul. Visit www.phillycatholiclife.org or call 215-58-0500 for details.

Mass Intentions - Open for 2020

If you would like to schedule a Mass for a deceased loved one, please call the Rectory Office **Monday, Wednesday or Friday from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM**. Mass stipends are \$10 for a regular card and \$20 for leatherette booklets. Masses are available from **August 2020 thru August 2021**.



Happy Birthday

We wish everyone who is celebrating a birthday this week a happy and healthy year ahead: Amaka Ideh, Kelsey Joines, Roseanna Cerino, Augut LeComte, Melissa McCullough, Linda McErlean, Marguerite Rodalewski, Thomas Duffy, Jr, Nicole Floyd, Abby Kiely, Kimberly Bosak, Matthew Boyd,

Charles Dougherty, Lawrence Gilchrist, Thomas Hendrick, Mary Miller, Darren Piner, Matthew Schoen, Oscar Uduma, Curtis Barringer, Jr, Rebecca Bosak, Nikki Giordano, Shaun Mapp, Jean Richards, Jerry Richards, Christine Tomassian, David Zeller, Mario Basile, Breanne Christie, Colin McGovern, Connor Hogan, Ken Ilonze, Laila Dogum, Christopher Southern, Meaghan Henderson, Paul Marklin, Barbara Porrini, Gina Robinson, Stacey Tozer, Robert Downey, Heidi Dunleavy, Joseph Fischetti, David McBride, Steven Orange, III, and Steven Orange.



From the Mouth of Babes

Q: Why did Noah have to punish the chickens on the Ark?

A: Because they were using "fowl" language.

Q: What excuse did Adam give to his children as to why he no longer lived in Eden?

A: Your mother ate us out of house and home.

Q: Who was the 1st surfer in the Bible?

A: Paul. In Acts, he "came ashore on a board!"

A: Which Bible character had no parents?

Joshua, son of Nun.

A: Why didn't they play cards on the Ark?

A: Because Noah was standing on the deck.



Irene Bechara, Helen Belcher, Kay Bittle, Suzie Carboni, Rose Celia, Louis Cerino, John Cianciarulo, Fred Cuccunello, Lenora Cuccinello, Msgr. Gregory Akata-Daniels, Betty DiGrasso, Leonard DiGrasso, Sr. Eileen Eden, SSND, Robert Foltz, Brian Gallagher, Cass Hart, Joan Hatch, Jack Hawkins, Emily Hudson, Christina Kearney, Patricia Lerro, Madeline Loftus, Margie Loftus, Maureen Malley, Rosemarie Mazzio, Madelyn McBride, Peg McCann, Julia McGlinn, John Meehan, Michael O'Neil, Rev. Leo P. Oswald, Tom Pavese, Christopher Perdue, Madeline Pfaff, George Phillips, Marie Prince, Margaret Richardson, Thomas Salvatore, Ted Stevens, Carmella Young, and all those infected by COVID-19. **Names remain for 30 days. If more time is needed, please contact the Rectory Office.**



Pray for Our Beloved Deceased

As we pray for our own families and friends, we ask you to please remember **those who have died as a result of the coronavirus.**

May all our loved ones rest in the loving arms of Jesus.

Rosary Group

Our Rosary Group meets on **Thursdays at 7:00 PM**. To ensure social distancing, we gather in the church. All are welcome and invited to join us as we pray the Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet. Please remember, masks are required.



Eucharistic Congress Postponed

Due to the coronavirus, the Eucharistic Congress, which was scheduled to take place **October 9-10, 2020**, has been canceled.

Our national fast from the celebration of Mass and the reception of Holy Communion during the COVID-19 pandemic awakens in all of us our need for the Eucharist and our gratefulness for so wondrous a Gift from Jesus to His Church. And so, although we cannot participate in the Eucharistic Congress at this time, we are grateful that the public celebration of Mass has been reinstated and we encourage all of our parishioners and friends to join us for Mass. **Daily Mass is celebrated at 4:00 PM, Monday thru Friday, Saturday morning Mass is 8:00 AM, and our weekend Masses are 4:30 PM Vigil Mass on Saturdays and 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM on Sundays.** The church is also open for daily private prayer, **Monday thru Friday, from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM**, and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on **Fridays from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM.**

Please see Page 4 of today's Parish Bulletin for social distancing guidelines and church protocol.



Parish Information and Local



In order to effectively communicate with our parishioners, we are asking parishioners to contact us with your current email address and cell phone number so that we can add this information to our database. You can reach us via our website email or simply send an email to st.georgesec@rcn.com with your name, email and cell phone number. This data will not be shared with anyone. This is simply needed to allow us to communicate with you should the need arise. If you do not have an email address, please feel free to call the Rectory with your cell phone number. Our office number is 610-237-1633. If no one is available, you can leave a message in the general mailbox at extension 101. Parishioners who have a landline phone only (no cell) or do not have an email address are asked to stay connected through their Extraordinary Ministers, family members, neighbors or friends. Our Parish bulletin is always available to you in the Rectory Office or by requesting a copy in the mail. For those who have a computer, you can also obtain a copy on our website at www.stgeorgeparish.org.

Father McCartney 50th Anniversary Celebration

On **Saturday, August 29**, Father James J. McCartney, OSA, Ph.D will celebrate his 50th anniversary to the priesthood at the **4:30 PM** Mass. Father McCartney has been a weekend assistant at St. George Parish since June of 2012. We are grateful for his service to our parish community and we are looking forward to celebrating with him. Please join us!



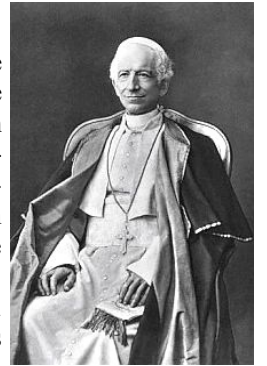
Visits to Homebound Reinstated

We are pleased to announce that Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are now permitted to bring the Eucharist to our homebound parishioners. We encourage ministers to call ahead to ask if it is permissible to enter one's home. If a visit is approved, ministers are reminded that masks should be worn and hand sanitizer used before and after distribution of the Eucharist. If a minister is experiencing signs of fever or sickness, the visit must be postponed. Please keep visits brief and practice social distancing, with the exception of the distribution of Holy Communion. Please remember to bring a Parish Bulletin so our homebound parishioners may stay connected.

We are happy to share this little prayer (listed at right →) with our homebound parishioners. Know you are in our prayers and we look forward to the day when we can celebrate Mass together with you in church. In the meantime, may God bless you, heal you and bring you His everlasting peace.

Prayer to St. Michael

Can a prayer be inspired by a battle? Pope Leo XIII (pictured at right) wrote the Saint Michael prayer, printed below, in 1884, after supposedly seeing a frightening vision: evil spirits, trying to fulfill Satan's boast to destroy our Lord's Church within a century, were engaging in fierce attacks against it.



Although the Pontiff also saw St. Michael casting Satan and his demons back into Hell in his vision, he was so horrified by what he had seen he felt compelled to help defend our faith in this struggle. St. Michael the Archangel, whose name means, "one who is like God," led the army of angels who cast Satan and the rebellious angels into hell; at the end of time, he will wield the sword of justice to separate the righteous from the evil (cf. Rv 12:7ff).

The early Church Fathers recognized the importance of the angels and archangels, particularly St. Michael. Theodore of Cyr (393-466) in his Interpretation of Daniel wrote, "We are taught that each one of us is entrusted to the care of an individual angel to guard and protect us, and to deliver us from the snares of evil demons. Archangels are entrusted with the tasks of guarding nations, as the Blessed Moses taught, and with those remarks the Blessed Daniel is in accord; for he himself speaks of 'the chief of the Kingdom of the Persians,' and a little later of the 'chief of the Greeks,' while he calls Michael the chief of Israel."

In the Spring of 1994, Pope John Paul II, urged the faithful to offer the prayer to St. Michael the Archangel. He also made the strong suggestion that the recitation of the prayer be instituted at Mass once again. Clearly, the Holy Father was responding to the grave evils we see present in our world — the sins of abortion, euthanasia, terrorism, genocide, and the like.

In this year of 2020, we clearly see that Satan and the other fallen angels are still doing their best to lead souls to Hell. We need the help of St. Michael! For this reason, many parishes have offered the prayer at the end of Mass or after the petitions.

St. George Church has once again began the recitation of the *Prayer to Saint Michael*. For those of you who can't join us for Mass, we have printed the prayer below. Please include this prayer in your daily prayers.

Saint Michael, the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, thrust into Hell Satan and the other evil spirits who prowl about the world for the ruin of souls. Amen.

I live alone, dear Lord; stay by my side. In all my daily needs, please be my guide. Grant me good health, for this I pray, to carry on my work each and every day. Keep pure my mind, my thoughts, every deed. Let me be kind and unselfish, in my neighbor's need. Spare me from fire, flood, from malicious tongues, from thieves, and fear, and evil ones. If serious sickness or an accident befall, then I humbly pray, please hear my call. When I'm feeling low or in despair, lift up my heart and help me in prayer. I live alone, dear Lord, yet have no fear, because I feel Your Presence forever near. Amen.

Parish Religious Education

PREP Special Announcement

We are pleased to announce that the St. George Parish Religious Education Program will open for the 2020-2021 school year. Due to the coronavirus there will be some changes.

- ⇒ Online lessons will be offered for Levels 1-6 with online reviews and regular follow up. Students will attend any Advent, Lent, or other special activities that may be added to the calendar.
- ⇒ In addition to online lessons, the First Penance/First Holy Communion class will meet in church once a month to review online lessons and prepare for their sacraments.
- ⇒ The Confirmation class will meet weekly, on Sunday mornings at 9:00 AM, in the church with follow up reviews online. Since they are preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation, class and Mass attendance are imperative.
- ⇒ Students in Catholic school who will be receiving First Communion and Confirmation will meet with the sacrament class in church once a month. Students from the 2019-2020 PREP year will have an in-class session in the church, followed by rehearsal and First Holy Communion on **October 17 at 4:30 PM.**
- ⇒ Catechists will provide video link introductions weekly with lesson assignments and follow-up.
- ⇒ Mrs. Batten, Coordinator of Religious Education, will provide a weekly Zoom link for all students. This will include announcements, opening prayer, and instruction.
- ⇒ As usual, Mass is a prerequisite for all grade levels. Masks and social distancing protocols will apply.

There are many benefits to online instruction, including not having to deal with inclement weather in the fall and winter months. We will also have a well-established system in place should we be forced back into the yellow zone due to higher pandemic concerns and possibly combined with the flu epidemic.

Times and start dates will be announced next week and a calendar will be provided for all students and their parents.

Letters will be going out next week to all parents who are registered in the Parish Religious Education Program. There will be a parent/student/catechist meeting in the church in September. Parents and students will be given the specifics as to how the program will work this year, along with student workbooks, calendars and additional information.

Please pray for our Parish Religious Education Program to remain strong throughout these challenging days of COVID-19 restrictions. We count on your prayers and ongoing support!

The Meaning of Catechesis

In his beautiful apostolic exhortation entitled, *“Catechesis in Our Time,”* Pope John Paul II stated that *“before Christ ascended to His Father after His resurrection, He gave the apostles a final command – to make disciples of all nations and to teach them to observe all that He had commanded.”* This is how Jesus wants the Good News of God’s love to reach every person, so that together we may become a People of God. Today, we call the “Good News” *the Gospel*, the “People of God” *the Church*, and the mission to teach and make disciples of all nations *catechesis*, which in Greek means “instruction by word of mouth”.

A catechist is a person who is called to this mission by the Holy Spirit – and for Catholics, that means all of us. We are all called to proclaim the “Good News” in how we live our lives. The first and foremost catechists in the life of every child are his or her parents. Parents are the fundamental source of their child’s faith formation.

The Office for Religious Education here at St. George Parish is devoted to helping parents in their efforts to raise their children in the Roman Catholic faith, so they might become disciples of Christ. What does it mean to be a Disciple of Christ? A Disciple of Christ:

- Lives a moral Christian life
- Meaningfully participates in liturgical and sacramental worship
- Prays on his or her own and in Communion with the Church
 - Provides service to the Church and to those in need.
 - Is knowledgeable about the faith
- Shares the Good News of Jesus Christ with all people!

We invite you to contact us at the Rectory Office with questions about our Parish Religious Education Program for grades 1-8, our Adult Faith Formation Program (Rite of Christiana Initiation for Adults, also known as RICA) and our Bible Study Program.

Now, more than ever, we need to remain steadfast in our faith. With the trials and tribulations that life often can bring, it is comforting to know we can turn our fears, anxieties and troubled hearts over to God and He will listen to us, bring us His comfort, and bring us His peace. Norman Vincent Peale, an influential and inspirational American religious leader and author, once said, “Faith supplies staying power. Anyone can keep going when the going is good, but some “extra ingredient” is needed to keep you fighting when it seems that everything is against you.” Simply put, but it speaks volumes!

During these days of COVID-19, political turmoil and racial indifference, our children can find hope in knowing that God is with them through it all, that these times of unrest will pass, and that having a relationship with Jesus Christ will bring them peace in their hearts, and teach them about compassion, forgiveness, kindness, love, and, ultimately, lead them to everlasting life!

May God bless you and all those you love.