

14 SEPTEMBER - FEAST

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross



For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. John 3:17

Saint John Gualbert Cathedral

PO Box 807 Johnstown, PA 15907-0807
Office: 814-536-0117 <http://www.stjohngualbert.org>
johnstowncathedral@dioceseaj.org

Most Rev Bishop Mark L Bartchak, JCD
V. Rev Matthew Baum, Rector
Rev. Savarimuthu Simon, HGN
Deacon Rick Messina



Mass Times: Saturday 6PM

Sunday 7AM, 11AM, 5PM

Weekday Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri 7AM Sat 8AM

Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri 12:05PM

Confessions: 8:30AM Sat & 3PM Sun

3PM Thurs before 1st Friday

Saint Patrick Church

P.O. Box 806, Johnstown, PA 15907-0806
Office: 814-539-2186 <http://stpatrickjtown.com>
stpatrickjtown@dioceseaj.org

V. Rev Matthew Baum, Pastor
Rev. Savarimuthu Simon, HGN
Deacon Rick Messina



Mass Times: Saturday 4PM

Sunday 9AM

Thursday 8AM

Rosary: 30 minutes before all Masses

Confessions: Saturday 3PM



Week of September 14, 2025



1st Reading:
Numbers 21:4b-9

2nd Reading:
Philippians 2:6-11

Gospel:
John 3:13-17

ST JOHN GUALBERT

Saturday 8:00AM	Sept 13 23rd Week in Ordinary Time St. Anne Society
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Vigil—Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross 6:00PM	Judy O'Donnell <i>Birthday Remembrance</i> (Husband: Ed)
Sunday 7:00AM 11:00AM 5:00PM	Sept 14 Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross Walter C. Weaver (David & Carrie Weaver) Joe & Josephine Bachani (Family) People of the Parish
Monday 7:00AM 12:05PM	Sept 15 24th Week in Ordinary Time Deceased Members of the Beckman & Knox Families (Mary Beckman Knox) No Mass
Tuesday 7:00AM 12:05PM	Sept 16 24th Week in Ordinary Time St. Anne Society James Hecker <i>Birthday Remembrance</i> (Sister & Family)
Wednesday 7:00AM 12:05PM	Sept 17 24th Week in Ordinary Time St. Anne Society Dave & Rosemary Slavich (Family)
Thursday 7:00AM 12:05PM	Sept 18 24th Week in Ordinary Time No Mass Corita Huffman (Family)
Friday 7:00AM 12:05PM	Sept 19 24th Week in Ordinary Time St. Anne Society Fr. Jack Brezovec (Tim & Lori Harshberger)
Saturday 8:00AM	Sept 20 24th Week in Ordinary Time David Wilson (Wife: Valerie Wilson)
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Vigil—25th Sunday in Ordinary Time 6:00PM	People of the Parish
Sunday 7:00AM 11:00AM 5:00PM	Sept 21 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time Irene Feist <i>Anniversary</i> (Family) John Pencola (Wife: Palma Pencola) Helen Luberto (Carol Watson)

ST PATRICK

Saturday 4:00PM	Sept 13 Vigil—Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross James P. Kinley <i>Wedding Anniversary 9/8</i> (Wife: Monica Kinley)
Sunday 9:00AM	Sept 14 Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross Linda Burns (Diane Merberger)
Thursday 8:00AM	Sept 17 24th Week in Ordinary Time Mary Sanderson (Joyce Werner)
Saturday 4:00PM	Sept 20 Vigil—25th Sunday in Ordinary Time Francis Kinley (Connie & Ray Cassidy)
Sunday 9:00AM	Sept 21 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time Joseph Sinoply <i>1st Anniversary 9/8</i> (Wife Myra Sinoply)

Parish Staff & Volunteers

Finance: Gerald Foust gfoust@dioceseaj.org
Secretary: Brigid Starchok bstarchok@dioceseaj.org
Cemetery: Kristen Caddy kcaddy@dioceseaj.org
Music: Evonne Yanzetich-Homway 814-659-6240
St. John Maintenance: Mike Amenti 814-536-0117 ext. 207
St. Patrick Maintenance: Dan Schofield 814-792-5891

Faith Formation /Sacramental Prep

Christine Babik—Resurrection Parish
814-539-5788 / cbabik@dioceseaj.org

RCIA

Lonnie Rietscha: 814-244-6681
Harry Mangus: 814-525-9943

Prayer Chain

Dr. Joyce Werner: 814-288-1186

Catholic Outreach

St. Vincent de Paul
John Gualbert SVdP - (Mon or Fri) 814-421-4344
SVdP Human Needs Office - (Tues - Thurs) 814-535-8521
SVdP Family Kitchen: 814-539-7811

Catholic Charities

Altoona: 814-944-9388 Johnstown: 814-535-6538

Crisis Pregnancy/Pro-Life:

Birthright of Johnstown: 814-535-8231
Gabriel Project- Gail Bala: 814-418-1813
Rachel's Vineyard: 1-877-467-3463
Website - www.RachelsVineyard.org -
the world's largest ministry for healing after abortion.

Diocesan Family Life Office: 814-695-5579
Diocesan Website: www.dioceseaj.org

Physical locations:

St. John Gualbert Cathedral
117 Clinton Street
Johnstown, PA 15901

St. Patrick Church
609 Park Avenue
Johnstown, PA 15902

Sept. 15th at St. Peter in Chains Parish, behind the walls of SCI Somerset:
St. Anne Society

COLLECTIONS

Collection St John Gualbert 09/07/2025	
Weekly Envelopes	\$3,453.00
Cash	783.60
Second Collection	453.07
Online	205.00
Maintenance	514.00
St. Vincent de Paul	30.00
Mission Co-operative	767.00
Ascension	20.00
Retired Priests Medical	10.00
Peter's Pence	20.00
Exaltation of the Holy Cross	30.00
Father's Day	20.00
Total	\$6,305.67

St. John Gualbert



St. Patrick



Collection St Patrick 09/07/2025	
Envelopes	\$3,018.00
Cash	271.00
Children's Envelopes	7.00
2nd Collection	152.00
Online Donations	25.00
Maintenance	308.00
Fuel & Air	110.00
SVdP	37.00
Assumption	30.00
Retired Priests' Medical	30.00
Catholic University	5.00
Mission Co-operative	445.00
Votives	54.00
Total	\$4,492.00

Catholic Ministries Drive - 2025			
St. John Gualbert	Goal:	\$32,300.00	
	Receipts	14,047.00	
St. Patrick	Goal:	\$24,900.00	
	Receipts	14,967.00	

Shared Parish Information:

Office Hours: Monday through Friday 9AM - 3PM.

Parishioner Registration: If you would like to join either of our parishes, please contact the rectory/church office. Registration, the practice of stewardship and regular participation in the sacraments, indicates that a person is an active member of the parish and is eligible to act as a godparent or a sponsor. As a church community seeking to be faith-filled disciples and good stewards, the sacrifice of our time, talent, and treasure is essential for the common good.

Moving or joining a different parish: Please remember to notify us if you have a change of address or will be leaving either of our parishes so we can update our records and notify the diocese of the change.

Anointing of the Sick: Upon request for the sick or homebound.

Infant Baptism & Christian Initiation of Adults: Call the church office, (814)536-0117.

Marriage: 9-month notice; pre-marital preparation required.

Mass Intentions: ALL mass intentions are handled through the St. John Gualbert office. If you would like to have a mass offered, please fill out the form in the churches or available on the parish website, put it in an envelope with the mass donation (\$10) and drop it off in the collection basket or at the parish office. A copy of the rules and policies for Mass intentions are also available in the churches.

Do you know anyone who can't make it to mass? If you have a family member who is sick or infirmed and unable to attend mass, please let us know. Father makes periodic rounds to visit the sick. In time, we would also like to find Eucharistic Ministers to do the same. If there is ever an emergency, call the parish number and leave a message for Fr. Matt. It is very important that those who are seriously ill or in danger of death are able to receive the sacraments, but we don't know unless you tell us. Don't be afraid to call.

Weekly Contributions: If you would like your cash gifts to be reflected on your giving statement, please use an offering envelope. Be sure to write your name and the amount given clearly on the offering envelope to insure proper credit. If you attend at another parish, please use your envelopes as they will be returned to us.

Taking up the Gifts: If the mass intention is for your family and you would like to take up the gifts at that mass, please let the ushers know about 10 minutes before mass. We have had a few families ask at the last minute and we would rather not ask someone to take up the gifts and then tell them not to because the family of the mass intention has just showed up.

Daily Mass Missals—If you would like a copy of "the Word Among Us" daily missal that includes daily mass readings, antiphons, and reflections, please stop or call the St. John parish office. A subscription costs \$20 per person per year.

Bulletin Deadline: ALL submissions for the bulletin need to be submitted no later than Tuesday 12:00 PM in order to be listed in the following Sunday edition and must include the name of the submitter. Also, when there are multiple layers to an event, bulletin announcements need to be coordinated through the primary event planner to prevent conflicting submissions.

Flocknote: Flocknote enables us to send large group emails and text messages. If you would like to receive the general notices and reminders about upcoming events in the parish, requests for help/volunteers, the bulletin published to the website, and other updates, use these instructions to sign up if you have not already done so.

Keep in touch with us!

TEXT SJGC TO 84576

OR CONNECT WITH US ONLINE AT:

stjohngualbert.flocknote.com



Religious Education
Questions - contact DRE - Christine Babik at
814-539-5788, or email cbabik@dioceseaj.org.

Sunday, September 14: Religious Education 9:00-10:15 am
Resurrection Parish Center and Oratory Hall
Saturday, September 20: Women's Conference Mount Aloysius
Sunday, September 21: Catechetical Sunday, Religious Ed.
9:00-10:15 am Resurrection Parish Center and Oratory Hall
Sunday, September 28: Religious Education 9:00-10:15 am
Resurrection Parish Center and Oratory Hall **Deadline for
SHYCON registration forms**

Confirmation Discipleship Event:

Sunday, October 19 – SHYCON at the Stokes Center of St.
Francis University. The day includes mass with Bishop Mark,
keynote address and concert from Joe Melendrez, lunch, and free
give aways. Registration deadline is Sunday, September 28.
Forms are available at Religious Ed., the back of church or from
your Catholic School campus minister.

OCIA/Basics of Faith

Sunday, Sept. 14 - OCIA 6:30PM St. Joseph Room of the ACH.

Anyone interested in being a Sponsor for Candidates please let
Lonnie Rietscha (814)244-6681 or Harry Mangus (814)525-9943
know.

St. Vincent de Paul Conference of St. John Gualbert Cathedral:

St. Vincent de Paul Food Drive

The St. Vincent de Paul Society Johnstown Food Pantry
needs your help. Due to the recent government funding cuts to
Food For Families and Food Aid Programs, the St. Vincent de
Paul food pantry is feeling the effects. The food pantry serves 80
families each month, by providing approximately 40 pounds of
food in each food box. They distribute the food boxes on the
second Monday of each month, at 927 Franklin Street, from 3:00
P.M. to 6:30 P.M. Due to these funding cuts, the food pantry is
having difficulty filling these food boxes.

Our St. Vincent de Paul Conference will be holding a food
drive on **SEPTEMBER 27th and 28th**. Brown paper shopping bags
are available at the back of the church the weekends of
SEPTEMBER 13th, 14th, 20th and 21st.

Please take a bag home and place **NON-PERISHABLE**
food items inside. (There is a list of items needed on the outside of
the bag.) Please return your
bag on SEPTEMBER 27th and
28th. St. Patrick's parishioners
can return their bags to the
vestibule of the church. St.
John's parishioners can return
their bags to St. Anne's shrine.
Please accept our
appreciation for your generous,
caring compassion.

*"And what are we doing if we
are not doing God's will."
Saint Vincent de Paul*



Christian Life & Service: At SJG

Coming in September:

The annual March for Life will take place in Harrisburg, PA,
on Monday, September 22nd. The Christian Life and Service
Committee will be conducting the 2025 **Yellow Ribbon Campaign**
which helps to fund the March for Life & Citizens Concerned for
Human Life. Ribbons will be available before and after Masses on
Sept. 13th/14th for a good will donation. If you would like to
participate in the march, there will be a bus leaving the Galleria at
6:30AM on the 22nd. Tickets are \$20.00. To reserve a seat on
the bus, call Andrea at 8149659-3637.

Annual **Baby Shower for Birthright** - Please support
"Birthright of Johnstown" by participating in our 2025 event,
Saturday and Sunday, September 20th and 21st. Birthright
receives NO government funding. The Birthright missions of love
and compassion save babies lives by offering the mothers an
alternative to abortion by giving the moms both guidance and
support for up to a year after the birth of their child. Some of the
most needed items are wipes, diapers, hooded bath towels,
onesies, baby bottles and of course, cash donations. Birthright of
Johnstown and your CL&S committee thanks you for your
generosity in supporting this effort.

-St. John Gualbert Christian Life & Service

At SPJ

Bosco's Friends Helping Friends is Back!

Tickets are now on sale. Please help support St Patrick's
and have some fun shopping! Tickets are \$5.00 and you receive
an all-day discount shopping pass for October 22, 2025 from 8AM
to 11PM at Bosco's. Tickets will be available at the fall festival
and before and after Mass for the next several weeks. Contact
Lois Dipko at 814 288-2516 for further information.

-St. Patrick Christian Life & Service

Deacon Rick's Corner -

Quote:

"When the Sacred Scriptures are read in the Church, God
himself speaks to his people...."

-(GIRM, #29) - i.e. *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*

New Lector Training:

Deacon Rick will have training for new lectors, at St. John
Gualbert Cathedral, Monday, September 22nd at 6:30pm. We
welcome anyone who is interested in becoming a Minister of the
Word (i.e. lector!).

Fr. Simon Says: Handle Life Gracefully

Life will never go as per the plan. Problems arise;
obligations stop us. Unexpected situations strike us from
nowhere and in those time, all our hopes drop down with great
force, which sometimes makes us freeze with no idea what to do.
In those moments always remember that there is a reason
behind this grand event and the Divine wants you to walk on this
path so that you reach your true goal which is much bigger than
you could ever imagine. Hence, handle it gracefully; with an
immense positive attitude and an enchanting smile. You can't
change what happened, but you can change what will
happen; you can choose how you behave and live the
way you want to live. So don't let any moment break
you down, rather make every opportunity a wonderful
experience.



MINISTERS SCHEDULES:

ST JOHN GUALBERT CATHEDRAL Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sat Sept 20th, 6:00PM Mass

Reader	Susan Kamnikar
Reader	Joe Mazzarella
Eucharistic Minister	Anthony Kamnikar
Server	Rich Ott
Audio Operator	Michael Stoskey
Sacristan	Rich Ott
Cantor	Ryan Kucera

Sun Sept 21st, 7:00AM

Reader	David Weaver
Reader	Fred Oliveros
Eucharistic Minister	Melissa Gates
Eucharistic Minister	Rose Ann Schellhammer
Eucharistic Minister	Carmen Grasso
Server	Hayden Gates
Audio Operator	Patrick McClain
Sacristan	Gloria Stephens
Cantor	Peter T. Yanko

Sun Sept 21st, 11:00AM

Reader	Beth Stem
Reader	Lonnie Rietscha
Eucharistic Minister	Geoffrey Stumpo
Eucharistic Minister	Deacon Rick Messina
Eucharistic Minister	Matthew Krawczyk
Servers	Elizabeth & Charlotte Wills
Server	Jaycob Lavelly
Audio Operator	Russ Smith
Sacristan	Matthew Krawczyk
Cantor	Kathy Bumbernick

Sun Sept 21st, 5:00PM

Reader	Charlotte Amenti
Reader	Pat Loughlin
Eucharistic Minister	Susan Sandoval
Server	Paige Titus
Audio Operator	Evonne Yanzetich
Sacristan	Charlotte Amenti
Cantor	Kristen Caddy

ST PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sat Sept 20th, 4:00PM

Cantor	Ed Herdman
Server	Sydnee Dixon
Eucharistic Minister	Harry Mangus
Eucharistic Minister	Volunteer Needed
Eucharistic Minister	Jean Arcurio
Sacristan	Harry Mangus
Reader	Lisa Stofko

Sun Sept 21st, 9:00AM

Cantor	Rita Redden
Server	Kevin Malloy
Eucharistic Minister	Joyce Werner
Eucharistic Minister	Marge Sindler
Eucharistic Minister	Charlotte Ecklund
Sacristan	Joyce Werner
Reader	Mary Jo Podratsky

If you are not available for your scheduled time, please reach out ASAP.

For Ministry scheduling questions contact:

At SJG - Evonne Yanzetich - (814)659-6240

At SPJ - Charles Holtzman, Jr. (814)532-0199
Jean Arcurio - (814)241-9972

*** ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR BOTH PARISHES ***

The Chosen Class Continues:



The Chosen Class, Season 2 with Video and discussion **is cancelled on Thursday, Sept. 18th at 6:30PM**. It will resume on Thursday, Sept. 25 at the regular 6:30PM time. Sessions are held in the St. Patrick's Parish basement gathering room, (609 Park Ave.), you can park in the lot **behind** the Church and the door to the meeting is adjacent to the parking lot. All are welcome!

Diocesan Second Collections in September:

September 13th & 14th - the second collections at all Masses for both parishes will be for Mission Cooperative Effort.

September 27th & 28th - the second collections at all Masses for both parishes will be for the Retired Priests' Medical Collection.

There are envelopes in everyone's packets for these causes.

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross:

Today's readings focus on the personal, passionate, and merciful love of God which should fill us with unending gratitude to Him. This gratitude is the fuel, if you will, that keeps the stewardship way of life rolling along.

How can we demonstrate our gratitude to such a God? By living as His good stewards. We thank Him by offering back to Him the very best of ourselves – the talents He has given us (to use for His glory), the time He has given us (to spend with Him in prayer), and the material resources He has given us (to advance His kingdom).

In so doing, we can make the words of St. Paul, a former enemy of Christ, our own stewardship motto: "I am grateful to Him who has strengthened me, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he considered me trustworthy in appointing me to the ministry." We must keep rolling, Christian stewards!

St. John Gualbert

Current Events:

09-13 & 14 Mission Co-op All Masses; Cathedral

09-13 & 14 SJG CLS Yellow Ribbon Campaign at all Masses

09-14 9AM Religious Ed at Resurrection

09-14 11AM SJG Blue & White Mass at Proclaim TV

09-14 6:30PM OCIA Class; AC-SJ

09-16 5:30PM Catholic Daughters; AC-H

09-17 7PM SJG Choir; Cathedral

09-18 3PM SJG Eucharistic Adoration; Shrine

09-18 6PM SVdP Meeting; AC-SJ

09-20 9AM Diocesan Women's Conference; Mt. Aloysius

09-20 & 21 SJG CLS Baby Shower at all Masses

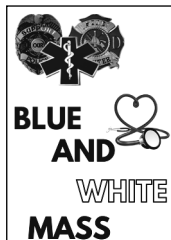
09-21 9AM Religious Ed at Resurrection

09-21 6:30PM OCIA Class; AC-SJ

09-22 6:30PM SJG Training for New Lectors; Cathedral

2025 Blue & White 1st Responders at Proclaim TV Mass!

It is time once again to honor our 1st responders, doctors and nurses, EMTs, RTs, PTs, OTs, all the various medical people, firemen and police who take care of us in times of emergencies, accidents, crimes, fires and healthcare issues.



We respect, honor, pray for, and thank you all, for all that you have done and all that you continue to do! Mass at 11AM at St. John Gualbert Cathedral on Sunday, September 14th, will be dedicated to all of you to the glory of God.

St. Patrick Church

Current events:

09-13 & 14 SPJ 2nd collection all Masses Mission Cooperative
09-14 9AM Religious Ed at Resurrection
09-14 6:30PM OCIA Class; AC-SJ

Basket Party: Get ready for a wonderful celebration! Our Basket Party is coming up on October 19, and we'd love your support to make it a great success.

How You Can Help - Donate to the party; every bit helps—your generosity fuels the fun and festivities. Bring a pre-made basket or gift card; we welcome thoughtfully assembled baskets or gift cards valued at \$25 or more. We truly appreciate every contribution—your kindness and involvement mean the world to us!

***** Around the Area *****

Pilgrimage to Washington, DC: Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception - October 17, 2025

Important Notice: We are still taking reservations for the buses traveling to Washington DC for the Jubilee 2025 Pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

The cost of the Bus is \$50.00 per person and includes the tip for the bus driver. The bus will depart at EXACTLY 6:30 AM from the HOME DEPOT parking lot, Galleria Extension Drive in Johnstown. 40 SEATS are available. To reserve a seat (s) and make payment to Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, please call Catherine Bennett, Secretary at 814-536-6110, x1.

You are advised to CARPOOL to the HOME DEPOT because of limited parking. More information and an itinerary for the day will be distributed closer to the event.

Come to the Novena! St Therese Church Johnstown will be holding their **Annual Novena in honor of St. Therese of the Little Flower of Jesus** starting Tuesday, September 23rd and will continue for nine (9) days. Masses will be held at 9AM and 7PM except on Saturday and Sunday, which will be Saturday at 9AM, 4PM, & 7PM and Sunday at 7:30AM, 10:30AM and 7PM. The closing of the Novena will be Wednesday, Oct. 1st.



2nd Annual Fatima Family Festival:

The Franciscan Friars would like you to join us on an afternoon of fun, fellowship and faith! Saturday September 13, 2025 beginning at 2PM located in the Sunken Gardens, Loretto PA. We will have food trucks, a bouncy house, face painting, confessions, property tours a rosary at 4:30PM and outdoor Mass at 5PM. For more information reach out to lweakland@franciscanstor.org or call 814-419-8885.

Enrichment Days at St. Bernardine Monastery:

The Franciscan Friars, TOR at St. Bernardine Monastery welcome you to join us for our Wednesday Enrichment Days. Each workshop includes a class on the given topic, Mass, and lunch with Friars.

- Feast of St. Francis – Day of Celebration Saturday, Oct. 4th, featuring a Pet Blessing 9:00 AM, with the Rummage/Garage Sale and Friar's Nook Gift Shop Fall Fling Sale following Pet Blessing, Food and Baked Goods for Sale, Rain or Shine!
- Oct. 8th: History of the Immaculate Conception Province (register by Oct 3rd)

The Monastery is located at 768 Monastery Road, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648. Pre-registration is required and space is limited, so please register early at 814-695-3802.

Join us for a

CANONIZATION CELEBRATION

of **blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati**

When: Saturday, September 20th

Where: The Quemahoning Family Recreation Area, Pavilion MP1

OUR CELEBRATION TIMELINE

10:00 am	Bike ride
noon - 3:00 pm	Lunch
4:00 pm	Mass celebrated by Fr. Dave
6:00 pm	Conclusion

children's games, hiking, volleyball, & kayaks available all day!

Come when you can & stay as long as you'd like! **All are welcome!**

Let us know you'll be joining us by scanning the QR code or texting Jerry at 814.659.9625



Please RSVP by Wednesday, September 17th

I would spend entire days on the mountains contemplating in that pure air the Greatness of our Creator.
 -Pier Giorgio



JOIN US FOR BREAKFAST ON OCTOBER 5, 2025

DOING FOR OTHERS IS DOING FOR CHRIST!

Benefits Laurel Highland's Alzheimer's Foundation.

October is Alzheimer's and Dementia Awareness Month.

This organization provides respite home care, a support group for patients and caregivers, and free early dementia screenings.

DATE: Sunday, October 5, 2025!

PLACE: St. Benedict Church Getstown School Cafeteria

TIME: 8:30 A.M. -11:00 A.M.

MENU: Scrambled eggs, ham, bacon, sausage, breakfast potatoes, toast, Waffles, Pancakes, Pumpkin Pancakes (Strawberry and Apple Compote), Sausage Gravy and biscuits, and

And new Egg Muffins (various kinds)!

Meal includes choice of coffee, tea, milk (white or chocolate) or juice.

COST: Adults \$10.00 - Children 6-12 \$5.00

Children 5 and under are FREE!

Immediate family members of four or more \$30.

Mastercard and Visa accepted!

We will once again be selling

Apple Dumplings after all masses while supplies last!

PLEASE JOIN US AND BRING A NEW FRIEND! THE GREATER THE ATTENDANCE, THE GREATER THE DONATION!

From the Rector/Pastor:

I remember growing up, I loved watching Sci-Fi shows and movies. It was interesting to see the different visions people had for what the future might hold. Some were adventure stories like Star Wars, as a new force started to rise in this troubled future world. Others were stories of journey and hope, like Battlestar Galactica (old and new) where a group left their old home to journey to a new one. Some stories, like Star Trek, imagined a utopia where humanity had come to terms with scarcity and now lived in a near perfect world, as they went out to explore and encourage others to accept and grow into a kind of universal peace. What's remarkable though, as I look back, is that nearly every one of those stories had something in common....In the not too distant future from our own time, the whole world collapsed in some apocalyptic nightmare. Then, from the ashes of the old civilization, a new and promising world had come forth.

I don't think I realized it at the time, but in a way, every one of those stories is ultimately modeled after the greatest story of all time, the story of salvation history. Ours is a story of a creator, who loved his people so much, he became one of us, so that at the moment when the powers of the world were at their greatest, they put the author of life to death on a cross...and yet He rose from the dead conquering death forever. That cross, once a symbol of death and fear, became the symbol of a new world.

In the early Church, can we even imagine those who had never heard of Christianity. These Christians met in secret and kept as their symbol, the image of the world's most brutal punishment, crucifixion. When they were caught and arrested, they went willingly to their deaths sharing the good news of this God who had gone before them. They forever transformed a roman word Martyr, which used to simply mean witness into a word that came to mean witnessing with one's very life. As the early Church father Tertullian said, the blood of the Martyrs became the seed of the Church, and soon they converted the whole world, spilling no blood other than their own.

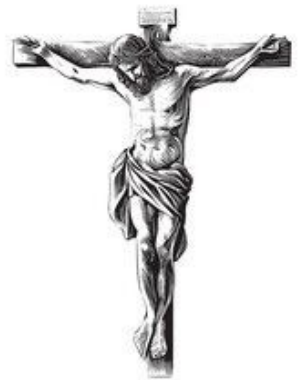
This weekend we celebrate the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, it's that very cross that is the symbol for our faith, and the symbol to the world of who we really follow.

Right now, in many ways, our world is beginning to feel like the worlds of those Sci-Fi books and movies just before the great crash. Everywhere, we see senseless violence and a people more willing to lash out than to discuss. When we see the stories of shootings of political speakers, schools, or even churches, the world can feel like it's falling apart at the seams. Everywhere, it can feel like what ought to be political discussions, quickly devolve into shouting matches that end up dehumanizing whoever happens to be the "other" until the only solutions imaginable are tragically final ones.

Right here though, we have the answer to a broken, dying world...because we follow a God who knows his way out of the grave. The answer to the mess that is our world, is

now and has always been the same. The answer, is the witness of the cross. In light of the chaos of our world, I just read this week that the initial investigations are beginning to see if the children who were killed at recent shooting in Minneapolis will meet the formal criteria for martyrdom. Following the cross means refusing to be controlled by the forces of the world that threaten us. Crucifixion was the most powerful threat the Romans had. A new faith that said, if our God can conquer death, we have nothing to fear, meant that the Romans could no longer have power over them. It was those first Christians, who went out into the world without fear, who changed the world. People looked at them and said, "I don't know what they have, but I want it...and so Tertullian's words came true as the blood of the martyrs became the seeds of the Church.

Are we prepared in our world to stand up anyway, in spite of all that is going on, and follow that same Cross? It's a certainly challenge and yet, it's no greater challenge than the ones faced by the saints of every age. It is the challenge of the cross, and the challenge of Christ.



In Parish News: I would like to give a special thank you to everyone who assisted with our annual St Patrick Festival, once again it was a tremendous success! Thank you all! While we all want to do great things as a parish, many of the things we want to do require resources. Events like the festival really help us get the bills paid.

*thank
you*

Speaking of Fundraising, recently, our cemetery committee made a decision that in order to help cover the ever-rising costs of grass cutting, we will be selling a calendar ticket. The tickets will be \$25/each and prizes will be \$20 on most days with larger prizes on holidays. Only 1,000 tickets will be sold, so it will give around a 1/3 chance of winning through the year. If you know anyone who might be interested in some tickets, we will be putting up a sign-up sheet for tickets in the next week or so. We hope to have the tickets available by October 1st. We haven't done a ticket here in many years, so please consider buying a ticket to help support the cemetery!

God bless you all!
Fr Matt

St. Patrick Church 2025 Fall Fest



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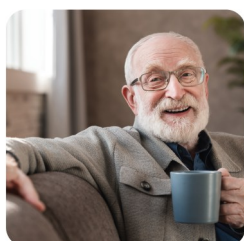
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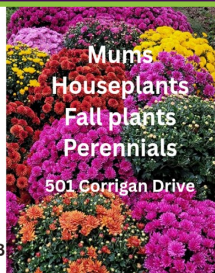


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