

Our Christian Walk

The Gazette Of Grace

Jul, Aug, Sept. Issue 2017

Serving The Community Of Our Lady Of Grace



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Fr. Peter's Note

Rev. Peter Russo, Pastor

Since Easter the Church has been celebrating the mysteries of our faith at each of the Sunday liturgies. On the fiftieth day we celebrated PENTECOST and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Each and every one of us has been given a commission to GO OUT TO THE NATIONS AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL PEOPLE. The very next week we celebrated the FEAST OF THE HOLY TRINITY. We believe in ONE God in THREE persons. Many though we are, we are all one called to use our gifts to build up the Church.

Each of us is called to reverence the past, live in the present, and plan for the future. On the 18th of June the Church celebrated the FEAST OF THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST. Once again we heard in the Holy Scriptures that we are ONE body in Christ called to bring the kingdom of God to all people. Each parish community is called to be Christ's heart, his hands and his feet, in the local community.

The Church gives us guidance as to how we can do this, perhaps you remember the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.

(Corporal works)-Feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, visit those imprisoned, give shelter to the homeless, visit the sick, and bury the dead.

(Spiritual works)-Admonish the sinner, instruct the ignorant, counsel the doubtful, comfort the sorrowful, bear wrongs patiently, forgive all injuries and pray for the living and the dead.

During the summer months perhaps we all can take some time to reflect on how well we reflect the love of Christ in our lives.

Have a grace-filled summer! Fr. Peter

OLG Mission Statement

We are a welcoming community of believers, being disciples of Christ through worship, the Sacraments, ongoing faith formation, evangelization and Christian service to others!

My Walk With God

By Tim Mack

Like many in this congregation, my walk with God has been one of great blessings. One in particular helped me broaden my horizons, and provided tools for a lifelong spiritual journey.

I'm not proud to say it, but in high school I was effectively a religion class drop-out. My family had switched parishes, and along the way I'd missed the chance to be confirmed with classmates my age. A suggestion was passed along that perhaps the priest at our new parish, John Looby, might be willing to hold special tutoring sessions to get me back on track. I asked if he had the time to spare and as it turned out, he was willing. So every Sunday night, I'd meet Father Looby at the rectory of St. Joseph's Church in Dannemora, NY for lessons. That's where I began to broaden and deepen my understanding of the Church, and gained a lifelong friend in the process.

Lessons from Father Looby, or "Padre" as I like to call him, covered the fundamentals of Catholicism found in the standard faith formation textbook, but that only scratched the surface. If the sacrament of confirmation is meant to provide a young Christian soldier with the tools to develop a mature faith, then my time with Father Looby left me well armed intellectually, and widened my gaze to topics I'd never considered.

It turned out, both the Padre and I had an appreciation of Monty Python, and as it happens the guys in Monty Python had an appreciation of philosophy. That led us to explore that subject, the nature of knowledge and the study of the search for meaning, everything from Plato's Cave to questions of Determinism and Free Will. A student of history, archeology and language, the Padre explained how the books of the Bible were first recorded then translated to the texts we know today. We read publications like *America Magazine* and Catholic writers like James Martin, all of which taught me Catholicism is not an antiquated faith, chiseled in stone and frozen in time, but rather a vibrant faith with many contemporary Catholic scholars fully engaged in exploring the most difficult questions of the day. The study of Catholicism is the study of history, language, philosophy and much more. The topics we explored were not secular, but were in fact tied directly to the underpinnings of much of our Catholic faith.

Father Looby is retired now in much the same way as Father Jack. Which is to say, he's still saying multiple masses every weekend at parishes in the Ogdensburg Diocese. We still stay in touch - he visited us in Burnt Hills earlier this spring - and we exchange links to noteworthy articles about scientific breakthroughs or archeological discoveries (like any good teacher, he never stops learning). Among the traditional gifts bestowed by the Holy Spirit at confirmation are wisdom, understanding, knowledge, counsel, fortitude, piety, and wonder and awe in God's presence. The Padre gave me lessons in all of these virtues, as well as patience and compassion. My walk with God has been filled with good fortune. I am so fortunate indeed to have met Father Looby. Has someone made a difference in your life?



If you want to know if your life-work
is over,
And you are still alive,
it isn't!

Says the Sufi Master

PASTORAL VISITATION TRAINING OPPORTUNITY!

If you believe God calls you to serve our church as a parish pastoral visitation minister this message is for you! The diocese of Albany invites you to attend a six session 12 hour training program called Pastoral Visitation to the Sick, Elderly and Homebound. The next training will be at St. John the Evangelist, Schenectady. Topics include: the art of pastoral visitation, communication skills, illness issues, grief and loss, suffering and dying, and the use of prayer and sacraments in pastoral ministry. Sessions will be from 6:00-8:00pm Wednesday evenings – October 4, 11, 18, 25 and November 1, 8, 2017. The cost for the training is \$40 and covers the sessions and all materials. Attendance at all sessions is required. For more information including how to enroll please contact OLG parishioner Jack Pudney at 518-248-9764.

YOUR WEEKLY DONATION

It has been six years since we have asked you to increase your weekly donation. Our expenses continue to increase but our donations have not. Can you add an extra \$5-10.00 to your weekly offering, so we can continue to thrive and minister to the wider community?

If you cannot donate more, please talk to your friends about our vibrant and welcoming community and offer to bring them to our liturgy. We need your TREASURE as well as your TIME.

If you did not see John Lorenc's beautiful letter to us, the OLG community, please read it on the OLG website!

?????????

A man asked: "What would you gain by regularly praying to God"? His friend replied: "Nothing....but let me tell you what I lost! Anger, ego, greed, depression, insecurity and fear of death."

Sometimes the answer to prayer is not gaining, but losing, which ultimately is the gain!

SPRING FAIR—FUN AND FROLIC!!!!!!



Who was stung by a bee???




Kids Korner

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Mom or Dad: If your child has received his/her First Communion, please ask/encourage them to participate in the Mass by serving with Father. Whenever your schedule permits, we **really need** their help. Questions or interested, please call Lucille, parish secretary.



UNDER THE SEA

This summer, consider God's marvelous creation under the sea.

Directions: Write the animal names on the blanks. Then use the circled letters (they may not be in the right order) to create a new word from Psalm 148:7, NIV. Finally, match the words to their numbered blanks below.

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PSALM 148:7, NIV

SUMMERTIME

By Janet Troidle

Oh, the beauty and wonder of summertime! School is out and there is a wonderful feeling of freedom boiling in our souls.

Schedules have loosened up, homework—not till fall, light raindrops cooling the face as you gaze toward the sky, sensations of warm bright sunshine and lazy anticipation, time to do what **you want to do!**

BUT WAIT!

There is still something that you cannot EVER forget, even during summertime! Can you guess what that is?

Friendships are only nurtured with frequent communication. Keep in daily touch with your favorite friend, GOD!

Make sure he is driving the front of your bicycle, with you as the rear passenger. Thus, you will be following and trusting God's guidance wherever you go!

Can you draw a picture of you and God on your bike in summertime? We would love to publish it in our next issue! Send your entry to jantroidle@gmail.com

"DRAWING CONTEST"

Answers: lobster > Lord, sea horse > earth, hermit crab > great, stingray > praise, jellyfish > you, clownfish > from, sea star > creatures
Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures. Psalm 148:7, NIV



**That's why I chose to belong to Our Lady of Grace - a one word term,
HOME, that says it all for me!!!**

Why do you choose to belong to OLG? Canvas everyone that comes to OLG and I'm sure you will hear a variety of reasons: from our location, to the music, from bible study to serving meals at the City Mission, from Helping Hands to any number of service activities.

We would like to hear from you. That's what we're trying to do at the tables that have been set up across from our nametag tables. Why have you chosen OLG, what does OLG mean to you? Stop by the table and fill out an index card with your reason for being part of the OLG community!!!!

There are many people in this community who volunteer their time and talents to keep this community vibrant. In May we had many folks volunteering their time at the Spring Festival. There were the loyal members of the Pastoral Council who worked behind the scenes to get that festival off the ground. This newsletter, Our Christian Walk, is another example of people committing their time and talent to get the message out to the OLG community.

OLG has a wide variety of ministries, each offering an outlet for our individual talents. You don't have to invest boatloads of time either. We all know how busy life can be with work, appointments, kids and all their activities. Sometimes even prayer takes a back seat. But OLG's ministries offer us an opportunity to carry out work in the Lord's name. What better way to grow in faith and be an example for our children then to do the Lord's work.

Prayerfully consider what your talents are and where best they would fit to help address the needs of our wonderful community. A list of our ministries is located on wall as you enter/exit Church. Please take one home and see if your gifts fit in somewhere. We are always open to new ideas and suggestions too!

Plans to hold a ministry fair are being considered.
Watch the bulletin for dates.





Inside Plants

Our inside plants need a little tender loving care. Can you help water and maintain them, weekly or monthly? Only a periodic half hour commitment, but very much needed. Any help will be most appreciated. Call Diane Simpson if you can “minister” your green thumb for our community: 399-9322, or enercony@earthlink.net

Greetings and Congratulations To the William Egan Family!

In June, The Burnt Hills Ballston Lake High School has nominated William Egan to the Athletic Hall of Fame as a legacy inductee. As a 1933 graduate, Bill is being honored for his participation in basketball, baseball and track. Bill and his wife, Mary Joan, were lifetime members of Our Lady of Grace, and known for their loving exemplary lives serving both communities, church and town. Our best wishes to the Egan family as you continue to honor the legacy of your dad, named “The Good Samaritan”, by daughter, Maureen.



Can you help us trim costs by receiving your Newsletter via email? Please call or email the office that you can receive this quarterly!

A tiny seed is a wondrous creation because it does not give much indication of the life within it. Master Gardener, only You know what kind of plant will sprout from this humble beginning. Let the seed of my faith blossom and bear much fruit to further your kingdom.



Pyramid Life Center

Are you joining the OLG community for one or more days the week of July 23-28th? We have a boatload of fun and would love to have you part of it! For more info, www.pyramidlife.org.

If you wish to contact someone, email John at jparmbuster@gmail.com or Cindi at cindipa@nycap.rr.com. Hope to see you then!!!

Welcome to Our Lady of Grace We offer a warm welcome to the new members Of our parish family:

- The May Family, Gary and Kristen

“I’m originally from this area, but we have bounced around these last eight years, having 3 children, Levin (8yrs.), Maxwell (6 yrs.), and Penelope (2 yrs.). Our friends from the Holly family suggested we visit OLG. For a long time, Gary and I have been seeking a Catholic community that is more family-oriented, especially for one of my special needs children. We really like the welcoming accepting atmosphere at Our Lady of Grace.

(Editor’s Note: Our parish thrives as you bring your friends and family into our wonderful community. All they need from you is encouragement! Thank you to the Holly Family.)

- The Brigham Family, Ben and Therese

VBS VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL THIS AUGUST

Immaculate Conception is sponsoring VBS this year, August 7-11. They are seeking volunteers from 7th grade to adults. Please contact ICC for application to volunteer and/or register your child(ren). What a fun experience this is for your child! By the end of the week, the kids are really energized in friendship with their friends and of course, God!



The Nurse's Corner

By Nancy Michela, RN

Tick borne diseases! Yuk!

So, you think that Lyme disease is the only tick-borne disease to worry about this summer? Lyme disease is prevalent in upstate New York, but there are some other diseases or disorders caused by infected ticks about which you need to be aware. The National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health (NIOSH) lists other tick borne diseases:

Illness	Babesiosis
	Ehrlichiosis
	Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever
	Southern Tick-Associated Rash
	Tick-Borne Relapsing Fever
	Tularimia
	Anaplasmosis
	Colorado Tick Fever
	Powassan Encephalitis
	Q Fever.

Each of these diseases are caused by a pathogen or organism passed to humans by an infected tick bite.

- Ticks are found in ALL states except for Hawaii.
- Ticks can be infected by bacteria, viruses or parasites.
- Ticks cannot fly or jump- you brush up on ticks in vegetation or high grass.

To keep you and your family safe this summer keep in mind the flowing tips:

Use tick repellent with DEET (on clothes only –not on skin)

Wear light-colored long pants and shirts when hiking.

Shower after working outside to check for and wash off ticks.

Remove ticks with tweezers and keep for identification.

The Centers of Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) has an excellent reference manual for tick borne diseases at:

cdc.gov/lyme/resources/tickbornediseases.pdf



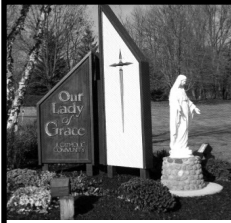
Summer Lunch Program

Once again, Our Lady of Grace will join with the six other churches in our area for the **Summer Lunch Program**. Last summer, between 55 to 78 children in the Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake School District received a bagged lunch each summer school day. In total, almost 1900 lunches were distributed over the six weeks. This year, lunches will be prepared at Our Lady of Grace Church and distributed **July 5 through August 11**. To make this much appreciated lunch program successful, volunteers are needed each day to help prepare or deliver the lunches to the designated Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake elementary schools. If you would like to assist, want to contribute to the program, or wish additional information, please call **Mary Ellen Hickey 399-5031**.



Summer Backpack/School Supplies

This summer, along with several local churches, our Helping Hands Ministry is organizing a "backpack program" for students in our area. If you would like to donate school supplies, you may drop them in the box in the entryway. Any school supplies would be appreciated—backpacks, pens, pencils, paper, crayons-24 count, folders, single subject notebooks, dry erase markers, scissors, glue sticks, index cards, earbuds, Kleenex, Clorox wipes etc. Thank you for your continued support in helping those in our community.



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Note From Editor:

We welcome your comments, suggestions and contributions. We would like to use this newsletter to share the faith and Christian action of our parishioners. Please send stories about your ministry, e-mail photos; tell us about a person, or bible passages which have had a positive influence on you or your family, your poetry, your journey.

We are published quarterly, with deadlines as follows:

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
Jan-Feb-Mar	Nov 25
Apr-May-Jun	Mar 1
Jul-Aug-Sept	Jun 1
Oct-Nov-Dec	Sept 1

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<http://www.stjosephschurchscotia.net>

Immaculate Conception Website:
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