

Why Hospitality is Important to the Kingdom of God

by Tony Merida
www.crosswalk.com

Hospitality Taught and Exemplified by Jesus:

Many don't see how much Jesus taught and exemplified hospitality. Jesus ate with sinners throughout His earthly ministry. He received children gladly. He taught us to invite the lowly to parties and to welcome strangers. He prepared breakfast for His wayward disciples, including Peter who had betrayed Him. He ate with the Emmaus disciples after His resurrection. Before His departure, He said He was going to "prepare a place" for His people. Jesus also instituted the Lord's Supper, giving new meaning to the [Passover](#) meal, and told us that He will drink it again with us when "the kingdom of God comes."

Jesus' miracles were sneak previews of the kingdom of God to come. In the coming kingdom, there will be no demon-possessed men, no storms to calm, no sicknesses to cure, and no tears of the bereaved to wipe. Each time Jesus performed a miracle, He gave us a taste of what's coming. His first miracle was significantly at a wedding party. The King gave us a glimpse of the ultimate party to come. Happiness, joy, fellowship, and sweet [communion](#) with the King awaits His bride.

The promise of enjoying Jesus' glorious kingdom is made possible by His gracious provision. Paul tells us that we were formerly "strangers . . . having no hope and without God in the world" but then adds the good news: "But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought nearby the blood of Christ." Christ came out to us, to bring us in to the family, at great sacrifice and cost. Now we enjoy the unspeakable privileges of the King's hospitality.

The question that we must ask ourselves is whether or not we're practicing Jesus-like ministry. Many Christians see Jesus as a personal moral example (and rightly so), but not as a social example. But why not? When you become a Christian, your social life, how you interact with others, should change also. Do you have a reputation for hanging out with shady company for the purpose of showing them grace? Don't get me wrong. I'm not advocating a cavalier spirit, and



certainly not condoning sin. But I'm definitely advocating Jesus-like ministry. Jesus was separated from sin, but never isolated from people. And He definitely wasn't the incarnate kill-joy. Sinners loved being with Jesus. The poor and vulnerable found hope in Him. It was the religious neatniks that got upset with Him. What about you? Does your social life look like His?

In his book *Eating Your Way through Luke's Gospel*, Robert Karris says, "In Luke's Gospel, Jesus is either going to a meal, at a meal, or coming from a meal." Luke gives particular attention to Jesus' table ministry. Tim Chester reflects on this in *A Meal with Jesus*, as he looks at six particular chapters in [Luke \(5; 7; 9; 14; 22; 24\)](#). He poses an interesting question during the introduction, "How would you complete this sentence: The Son of Man came . . .?" Many Christians would answer (1) "The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many," and (2) "The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." That's correct. But Luke also adds "The Son of Man has come eating and drinking." Chester writes:

"The first two are statements of purpose. . . . The third statement is a statement of method. . . . His mission strategy was a long meal stretching into the evening. He did evangelism and discipleship 'round a table with some grilled fish, a loaf of bread, and a pitcher of wine."

Following Jesus includes following His practice of hospitality—joyous, authentic, generous, countercultural, and hope-filled hospitality. When Jesus says, "Come follow me," He isn't calling us to offer a class or start a program, but to follow His way of life. And that way includes opening up our homes and lives to others. But before we'll do this, we must open our hearts.

Opening Our Hearts

If we aren't showing hospitality, we must ask "Why not?" At the end of the day, it's a heart issue. The goal is to open our hearts to people, not merely pass the potatoes.

CONGRATULATIONS to TRACY TRIBENDIS

Tracy Tribendis, daughter of Frank and Sharon Tribendis, and a member of our parish is to be **INDUCTED into the LUZERNE COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME** on August 12, 2018.



Tracy, a 1994 Graduate of Meyers was selected to compete with TEAM USA in the Special Olympics in New Haven, CT. She was the first U.S. athlete to win a gold medal in the 400 freestyle. Tracy continues long-distance running and also participates in basketball training. She is already a 2007 inductee into the Pennsylvania Special Olympics Hall of Fame.

She works at Cracker Barrel and attends an art studio at least three days a week, where she has become an accomplished artist.

We Are PROUD of YOU, Tracy!

Parish Life Council

"There are Different Kinds of SPIRITUAL GIFTS, but the SAME SPIRIT; There are Different forms of SERVICE, but the SAME LORD; there are Different Workings but the SAME GOD who produces ALL OF THEM in EVERYONE. To EACH PERSON, the MANIFESTATION OF THE SPIRIT is given for SOME BENEFIT. (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

Community Life, Spirituality, and Pastoral Ministries are essential elements of Parish Life, drawing parishioners together in mutual support, prayer, activity, celebration and growth. There are many activities and ministries which reflect the truth that God comes to us as a community, and that, as a community, we can best serve and love God by utilizing and drawing forth the gifts He has given to each person.

Our hope is to help bring our diverse community together, to help parishioners connect and interact, to enjoy fellowship and prayer, build friendships and encourage a feeling of inclusion and welcome.

We are looking for volunteers who are committed to building community within our parish to serve on this integral council. If this sounds like something that would interest you, please contact Fr. Ken at the parish office (570-823-4988). **The first meeting is scheduled for August 23, 2018.**

Parish Prayer Intention

That all parishioners may grow in a desire to know God more fully and enter into a deeper relationship with Him.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS OF OUR SUMMER RAFFLE!

Thank You to all who supported our Summer Raffle, donated, sold tickets, bought tickets, and sold tickets at local grocery stores .

- \$1,000.00** *KEVIN SCHAPPERT*
- \$500.00** *DAN EVANS*
- \$250.00** *MARIE SEPELA*
- \$125.00** *HELEN ZUBA*
- \$75.00** *MARK POVILITUS*
- \$50.00** *CAROL SCHULTZ*

FINAL RAFFLE RETURNS	
Tickets printed	7,000
Tickets sold to date	5,430
Tickets unsold	1,570
Raffle Returns	\$10,86000
Donations	1,221.19
GROSS INCOME	\$12,081.19
Expenses—Prizes	2,000.00
Printing and Postage	625.19
NET INCOME	\$9,456.00
Raffle Goal	\$10,000.00
- Proceeds	-9,456.00
Short of Goal	-\$544

Helpful Information

Join the Parish

Anyone wishing to register for membership in the parish is asked to fill out a registration form and drop it in the collection basket.

Request Prayers

Our INTERCESSORY PRAYER MINISTRY provides prayer for anyone in need throughout the parish. Contact MARY ANN MAGDA at 570-655-1218 or make your intention known on our parish website at www.standrebbessettewb.com

Remember your Parish

Your parish serves you faithfully throughout your life. Please remember your parish with a memorial gift or a Bequest in your will. Make a return to the Lord for all the good He has done for you.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATIONS

Anointing of the Sick

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick may take place at any time, but, sadly, too many families wait until the last minute to call the priest to anoint their loved ones. If someone in your family is seriously ill, preparing for surgery, or suffering a prolonged illness, please contact the parish office to arrange a time for Fr. Ken to visit.

IN THE CASE OF AN EMERGENCY—or if Fr. Ken is unavailable to visit immediately, we will contact the first available priest to celebrate the Sacrament of Anointing with your loved one.

Funeral Preparations

We collaborate with the local funeral directors in arranging the times of the funerals. Please be aware that there is an additional fee for funerals on Saturdays imposed by most cemeteries in the area.

Baptismal Preparations

Parents of newly born infants may call the parish office to arrange a time for the Baptism of their child. Baptisms are celebrated, for the most part, on any Sunday, with the exception of the season of Lent.

Wedding Preparations

Couples contemplating Marriage are asked to contact the parish office at least one year prior to the contemplated date of marriage, before making other plans.

Liturgy of the Eucharist II a

by Fr. Gabe Huck
www.homilies.net

Every Sunday, we celebrate-this church celebrates-the Eucharist. We gather, we read the scriptures together, we make prayers of intercession, then we gather gifts for the poor and the church and we prepare the table with our bread and wine. Around the table, we join in speaking and singing thanksgiving for all God's gifts, all gifts gathered in the body of Christ given for us, the blood of Christ that is shed for the forgiveness of sins. To all of this we give our firm assent, our Amen. The presider concludes, ". . . all glory and honor is yours . . . for ever and ever." Amen! The Eucharistic prayer depends on and ends with this Amen. We say Amen. To say Amen is our duty and our right, as this people who died in baptism and live now in Christ. It is our right; it is our duty.

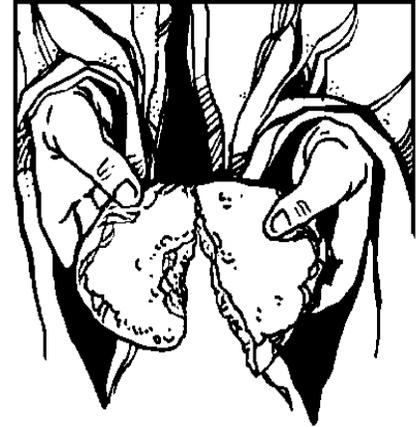
So then we are ready for that part of the liturgy we call communion, holy communion. After that Amen, we pray the dearest, hardest prayer we know, the Lord's Prayer. This prayer rightly comes in many places in our lives. It is a morning and a night prayer for many. It is a prayer at bedside and at graveside. Here it is a communion prayer. Recited or sung, it is everyone's prayer, the words we all own. And still they are the words that we never will own. What can it mean to pray that God's name be hallowed, be holy? What kind of courage and longing does it take to pray that God's will be done?

In the Eucharistic prayer, the assembly and the presider pray in a sort of dialogue; the affirmations and acclamations of the people flow back and forth with the words spoken by the presider. But when we come to the Lord's Prayer, we take the leading role ourselves, we the assembly, the people. We pray the Lord's Prayer together, then exchange the greeting of peace, and go on to the Lamb of God

litany. All-Lord's Prayer, peace greeting, Lamb of God-take us to the communion procession itself.

What sort of moment is the peace greeting? Why, after being together all this time, would we turn to one another and embrace or shake hands? Perhaps it is that, moments before we share the bread and wine, we give a sign for what that communion means. We turn to one and all alike and say, "Peace," or "Christ's peace." The communion means no walls. It means no first place and last place but all in the same place. It means today is God's reign, some little bit of it, here, among us. This goes beyond the hospitality we extend to one another on arriving for the liturgy. It is caught up in this word "peace," the greeting spoken by the risen Lord to the disciples. To say "peace" and to clasp hands or to embrace others is physically laying down whatever keeps us from communion with one another. Some of the people near us may be family, some may be friends, some will be strangers: We have the same word, gaze, and unity with all.

When we have extended this peace to one another, we slowly focus back toward the table. There, our ministers of communion have gathered with the presider, ready to prepare this tiny meal we call a banquet. The presider takes up the bread and breaks it for all to see. This simple gesture is, in a sense, only doing what must be done so that the bread can be shared with all present. But it is the single act that the early Christians fastened on; the name they gave to their Sunday assemblies was "the breaking of the bread." That act of taking a large loaf of bread and breaking it into pieces caught the essence of their gathering. Here was the one and the many; here was Christ of whom they were all members.



As the bread is broken and divided into serving dishes and as the cups of wine are prepared, we sing a litany. The first words are "Lamb of God, and the response sung by all is "have mercy on us." The communion procession itself may begin during this litany, this breaking of the bread. When all is ready for the communion, the final words we sing are "Grant us peace," and immediately the one presiding invites all to the table with these words: "This is the Lamb of God." And we say, "Lord, I am not worthy." And we are not. No one is. But that is exactly why we so need to come forward to eat and to drink the body and blood of Christ.

Do you see how it all depends on us, on all who gather in this room, and not simply on the priest? The priest is our leader of prayer and our servant. We are the ones who must do these rites of Lord's Prayer and Peace, Lamb of God and now communion. There is no audience. None. All are partakers because it is the loving deed of the church that gets done here, and no other.

To Be Continued

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Summer Ordinary Time

Weekend of July 28-29	4 pm Vigil Mass 5:30 pm Vigil Mass 8:00 am Mass 11:00 am Mass	Weekend of August 4-5	4 pm Vigil Mass 5:30 pm Vigil Mass 8:00 am Mass 11:00 am Mass
17th Sunday in Ordinary Time	SOCIAL JUSTICE COLLECTION SSCM Raffle Tickets on Sale	18th Sunday in Ordinary Time	CLERGY COLLECTION SSCM Raffle Tickets on Sale
Monday, July 30	No Morning Mass	Monday, August 6	No Morning Mass 6 pm St. Andre Faith Seekers 6:30 pm Development Committee
Tuesday, July 31	8 am Mass 5:30 pm NO CHOIR	Tuesday, August 7	8 am Mass 5:30 pm CHOIR RESUMES
Wednesday, August 1	8 am Mass	Wednesday, August 8	8 am Mass
Thursday, August 2	8:00 am Mass Noon Exposition 1 pm Admin Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Vespers 6:00 pm Parish Liturgical Council	Thursday, August 9	8:00 am Mass Noon Exposition 1 pm Admin Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Vespers 6:00 pm Social Justice Council
Friday, August 3 FIRST FRIDAY	8 am Mass 6 pm Confessions 6:30 pm Sacred Heart Devotions 7:00 pm MASS	Friday, August 10	8 am Mass
Saturday, August 4 FIRST SATURDAY	No Morning Mass 3:00 pm Confessions VIGIL of 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time.	Saturday, August 11	No Morning Mass 3:00 pm Confessions 6:15 pm COME and SEE: HOSPITALITY VIGIL of 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Get your Dancing Shoes Ready!
Our Fall Dance will be Friday, September 14th beginning at 6 pm in St. Mary's Hall. Tickets will go on sale in mid -August.

ALTAR SERVER TRAINING for anyone interested in serving at the Altar, Adult or youth, male or female, will be held in the church on Thursday August 9th following Vespers (meeting will start around 6:15 pm). Please call Mary at 570-823-4988 or Michael at 570-954-9818 if you are planning on attending.

Baskets are available for filling for our basket raffle which will be held in conjunction with the Dinner/Dance in September. Baskets can be picked up in the Vestibule. Please return by August 15th.

The Sisters of Sts. Cyril and Methodius will once again be selling raffle tickets in the vestibule. The SSCM raffle will be held on August 15th. Many parishioners have been past winners. This could be YOUR YEAR to win big!



There will be 2 opportunities to **COME and SEE** what a **HOSPITALITY MINISTRY** looks like.

They will be held on **Saturday, August 11 following the 5:30 pm Mass** and again on **August 12 following the 11:00 am Mass.** They will be held right in the church.

All parishioners are invited to **COME and SEE** how easy getting involved in welcoming the stranger (or even the regular cast of characters) can be.

FAITH SHARING

- ✘ **St. Andre's Faith Seekers with Michael Boris & Jackie Barkus** will meet at **6 pm on Monday August 6th** in the Fr. Murgas Meeting Room of the Parish Office.
- ✘ **Disciples of the Spirit of Jesus with Sr. Madonna** will meet on **Saturday, August 18th at 10:30 am** in the Fr. Murgas Meeting Room of the Parish office. There is still room in this group for anyone who might be interested.
- ✘ **Sharers on the Journey with Christ with Rosemary Shedlock** will meet on **Sunday, August 19th at 2:00 pm** in the home of Elaine Snyder.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCILS

All Administrative Council Meetings begin with Vespers in Church at 6:00 pm. Meetings follow immediately in the Fr. Murgas conference room of the parish office.

- AUGUST 2nd**—Liturgical Council
- AUGUST 9th** - Social Justice Council
- AUGUST 16th**—Pastoral Council
- AUGUST 23rd** - PARISH LIFE Council
- SEPTEMBER 20th** - Finance Council
- SEPTEMBER 27th**—Catechetical Council

PARISH COMMITTEES

- ◆ The **Development Committee** will meet on **Monday, August 6 at 6:30 pm** in the Lower Meeting Room of the Parish Office.
- ◆ The **Toy Bingo Committee** will meet on **Wednesday, August 22nd** immediately following the Coronation of the Blessed Virgin.
- ◆ The **Young at Heart Committee** will meet for their next monthly meeting on **Tuesday, September 18 at 1 pm** in the Fr. Murgas conference Room.



Loaves & Fishes

Food for AUGUST
Hot Chocolate

APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION *GAUDETE ET EXSULTATE* OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS ON THE CALL TO HOLINESS IN TODAY'S WORLD

CHAPTER FOUR: SIGNS OF HOLINESS IN TODAY'S WORLD

IN CONSTANT PRAYER

147. Finally, though it may seem obvious, we should remember that holiness consists in a habitual openness to the transcendent, expressed in prayer and adoration. The saints are distinguished by a spirit of prayer and a need for communion with God. They find an exclusive concern with this world to be narrow and stifling, and, amid their own concerns and commitments, they long for God, losing themselves in praise and contemplation of the Lord. I do not believe in holiness without prayer, even though that prayer need not be lengthy or involve intense emotions.

148. Saint John of the Cross tells us: "Endeavour to remain always in the presence of God, either real, imaginative, or unitive, insofar as is permitted by your works".^[109] In the end, our desire for God will surely find expression in our daily lives: "Try to be continuous in prayer, and in the midst of bodily exercises do not leave it. Whether you eat, drink, talk with others, or do anything, always go to God and attach your heart to him".^[110]

149. For this to happen, however, some moments spent alone with God are also necessary. For Saint Teresa of Avila, prayer "is nothing but friendly intercourse, and frequent solitary converse, with him who we know loves us".^[111] I would insist that this is true not only for a privileged few, but for all of us, for "we all have need of this silence, filled with the presence of him who is adored".^[112] Trust-filled prayer is a response of a heart open to encountering God face to face, where all is peaceful and the quiet voice of the Lord can be heard in the midst of silence.

150. In that silence, we can discern, in the light of the Spirit, the paths of holiness to which the Lord is calling us. Otherwise, any decisions we make may only be window-dressing that, rather than exalting the Gospel in our lives, will mask or submerge it. For each disciple, it is essential to spend time with the Master, to listen to his words, and to learn from him always. Unless we listen, all our words will be nothing but useless chatter.

151. We need to remember that "contemplation of the face of Jesus, died and risen, restores our humanity, even when it has been broken by the troubles of this life or marred by sin. We must not domesticate the power of the face of Christ".^[113] So let me ask you: Are there moments when you place yourself quietly in the Lord's presence, when you calmly spend time with him, when you

bask in his gaze? Do you let his fire inflame your heart? Unless you let him warm you more and more with his love and tenderness, you will not catch fire. How will you then be able to set the hearts of others on fire by your words and witness? If, gazing on the face of Christ, you feel unable to let yourself be healed and transformed, then enter into the Lord's heart, into his wounds, for that is the abode of divine mercy.^[114]

152. I ask that we never regard prayerful silence as a form of escape and rejection of the world around us. The Russian pilgrim, who prayed constantly, says that such prayer did not separate him from what was happening all around him. "Everybody was kind to me; it was as though everyone loved me... Not only did I feel [happiness and consolation] in my own soul, but the whole outside world also seemed to me full of charm and delight".^[115]

153. Nor does history vanish. Prayer, because it is nourished by the gift of God present and at work in our lives, must always be marked by remembrance. The memory of God's works is central to the experience of the covenant between God and his people. God wished to enter history, and so our prayer is interwoven with memories. We think back not only on his revealed Word, but also on our own lives, the lives of others, and all that the Lord has done in his Church. This is the grateful memory that Saint Ignatius of Loyola refers to in his *Contemplation for Attaining Love*,^[116] when he asks us to be mindful of all the blessings we have received from the Lord. Think of your own history when you pray, and there you will find much mercy. This will also increase your awareness that the Lord is ever mindful of you; he never forgets you. So it makes sense to ask him to shed light on the smallest details of your life, for he sees them all.

154. Prayer of supplication is an expression of a heart that trusts in God and realizes that of itself it can do nothing. The life of God's faithful people is marked by constant supplication born of faith-filled love and great confidence. Let us not downplay prayer of petition, which so often calms our hearts and helps us persevere in hope. Prayer of intercession has particular value, for it is an act of trust in God and, at the same time, an expression of love for our neighbour. There are those who think, based on a one-sided spirituality, that prayer should be unalloyed contemplation of God, free of all distraction, as if the names and faces of others were somehow an intrusion to be avoided. Yet in reality, our prayer will be all the more pleasing to God and more effective for our growth in holiness if, through intercession, we attempt to practise the twofold commandment that Jesus left us.

Intercessory prayer is an expression of our fraternal concern for others, since we are able to embrace their lives, their deepest troubles and their loftiest dreams. Of those who commit themselves generously to intercessory prayer we can apply the words of Scripture: "This is a man who loves the brethren and prays much for the people" (2 *Mac* 15:14).

155. If we realize that God exists, we cannot help but worship him, at times in quiet wonder, and praise him in festive song. We thus share in the experience of Blessed Charles de Foucauld, who said: "As soon as I believed that there was a God, I understood that I could do nothing other than to live for him".^[117] In the life of God's pilgrim people, there can be many simple gestures of pure adoration, as when "the gaze of a pilgrim rests on an image that symbolizes God's affection and closeness. Love pauses, contemplates the mystery, and enjoys it in silence".^[118]

156. The prayerful reading of God's word, which is "sweeter than honey" (*Ps* 119:103) yet a "two-edged sword" (*Heb* 4:12), enables us to pause and listen to the voice of the Master. It becomes a lamp for our steps and a light for our path (cf. *Ps* 119:105). As the bishops of India have reminded us, "devotion to the word of God is not simply one of many devotions, beautiful but somewhat optional. It goes to the very heart and identity of Christian life. The word has the power to transform lives".^[119]

157. Meeting Jesus in the Scriptures leads us to the Eucharist, where the written word attains its greatest efficacy, for there the living Word is truly present. In the Eucharist, the one true God receives the greatest worship the world can give him, for it is Christ himself who is offered. When we receive him in Holy Communion, we renew our covenant with him and allow him to carry out ever more fully his work of transforming our lives.

^[109] *Degrees of Perfection*, 2.

^[110] ID., *Counsels to a Religious on How to Attain Perfection*, 9.

^[111] *Autobiography*, 8, 5.

^[112] JOHN PAUL II, Apostolic Letter *Oriente Lumen* (2 May 1995), 16: AAS 87 (1995), 762.

^[113] *Meeting with the Participants in the Fifth Convention of the Italian Church*, Florence, (10 November 2015): AAS 107 (2015), 1284.

^[114] Cf. BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX, *Sermones in Canticum Canticoorum*, 61, 3-5: PL 183:1071-1073.

^[115] *The Way of a Pilgrim*, New York, 1965, pp. 17, 105-106.

^[116] Cf. *Spiritual Exercises*, 230-237.

^[117] Letter to Henry de Castries, 14 August 1901.

^[118] FIFTH GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN BISHOPS, *Aparecida Document* (29 June 2007), 259.

^[119] CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF INDIA, *Final Declaration of the Twenty-First Plenary Assembly*, 18 February 2009, 3.2.

Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation

Did You Know? Because of partnership with the University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation, the Diocese of Scranton can work with your pastoral council members, liturgical ministers, social concerns committees, small faith-sharing communities, or other groups within your parish to create a closed section for growing together in faith around a variety of topics.

Some courses could be:

- Theological Reflection: The Keys to Connecting Faith and Life
- Communication and Community
- Survey of Catholic Doctrine
- Introduction to Scripture
- Introduction to Liturgy

OR, other courses available (in English and Spanish!) through the VLCFF course catalog. See what courses are being offered in July! <https://vlcff.udayton.edu/calendar/> Members of the diocese can individually register to take any course of interest to them on the VLCFF website, as well! Sign up today!

LTP Virtual Workshops

Liturgy Training Publications is offering several different series of online workshops for cantors, lectors, extraordinary ministers of Communion, liturgists, teachers and catechists throughout the year. These virtual workshops are different than other webinars in that they invite participants to engage with the presenter and one another in providing feedback, reflections on the topic at hand, and discuss best practices and strategies for enhancing engagement in their ministries.

Here are just some of the upcoming virtual workshops:

- **The Role of the Parish Secretary in the Liturgical Life of the Parish**—August 2, 2018 at 1:00PM and August 8, 2018 at 1:00PM
- **Children's Liturgy of the Word in your Parish Community: Training Leaders in Theory and Practice**—August 28, 2018 at 7:30PM and September 5, 2018 at 1:00PM
- **Sing to the Lord, Part 1: A Theology of Parish Music Ministry**—August 20, 2018 at 7:30PM
- **Sing to the Lord, Part 2: Practical Approaches for Implementation**—August 27, 2018 at 7:30PM

The cost for each session is \$10-\$15. For more information or to register for any of these sessions or to see what other sessions are available throughout the year, please visit www.ltp.org/virtualworkshops.

Scranton Catholic Charismatic Renewal is sponsoring The 36th Annual Charismatic Conference "HE RESTORES MY SOUL!"

August 3-5, 2018 University of Scranton

The Conference will feature inspiring speakers and uplifting music.

Mass will be celebrated each afternoon

A well-stocked book/gift store will be available

The full weekend Registration fee is **\$50.00** until *July 23rd*. *after July 23rd*, it will be **\$65**

Single-Day registration is available on site.

Commuting and Brown bagging are encouraged

Dormitory housing and cafeteria meals are available at a separate cost from registration.

For Registration forms please see the bulletin board at

www.ccrscranton.org or e-mail: **ccrconference@comcast.net**

or
CCR Conference
PO Box 3306
Scranton, PA 18505
or call
570-344-2214

Diocese of Scranton Pilgrimage to the National Shrine Basilica of the Immaculate Conception

Saturday, September 22, 2018

Cost: \$55.00 per person + lunch and personal spending

TO REGISTER:
Call: MARY at 570-823-4988
Deadline for Reservations is July 31, 2018

Do You Want to Know More About the Annulment Process?:

In the Diocese of Scranton, the annulment process is now more "user friendly" than you might expect, and there is no longer a processing fee.

Please contact your pastor or the Diocesan Tribunal Office (570-207-2246) to begin a conversation.

It is possible to get clear answers to these questions and to renew your connection with the Church.

Invitation to Catechist Camp

The Office for Parish Life is planning a one-day Catechist Camp for everyone involved in catechetical ministry or family-oriented faith formation on

Wednesday, August 8 (1:00-8:00pm)

Gate of Heaven Parish, Dallas

FORMAT:

Welcome Prayer followed by the general session:

"The Family-at-the-Center Approach to Faith Formation" Catherine Butel

Breakout Session I and Breakout Session II

Camp-inspired Dinner

Practical Steps to Family Faith Formation

BREAKOUT SESSION TOPICS:

Family Service Projects: the Why? And the How? Jennifer Hayes Housel

From Faith Formation to Youth Ministry Shannon Kowalski

Living the Faith vs. Learning the Faith Luis Rivera

Rest for the Weary: Taking Sabbath Time Mary Anne Malone

Unlikely Disciples:

An Exploration of "Hidden" Gifts and Growth in Ministry Kitty Scanlan

What You Need to Know about Safe Environment Kathleen Bolinski

If you are a parent, a parish or school religion teacher/catechist, a youth minister or a volunteer in any parish or school ministry involving children, youth and families, this day is designed for you. Please join us at the location that is most convenient for you. Cost for the day is \$20. To register, click on [Catechist Camp 2018 Registration](#). For more information, contact Mary Anne Malone: (570) 207-2213 or mary-anne-malone@dioceseofscranton.org

Workshop for Music Ministers

The Office for Parish Life and the Scranton Chapter of NPM is sponsoring a workshop for all music ministers on **Saturday, September 29 from 9:00AM to 12:30PM at the Diocesan Pastoral Center in Scranton.**

This event will feature keynote speaker, **Dr. Elaine Rendler**, a nationally recognized musician, teacher, composer, pastoral liturgist, speaker, and author of *In the Midst of the Assembly* and *This Is the Day*, as well as the writer of weekly columns and music suggestions in *Today's Liturgy* for more than 30 years, offering practical wisdom to generations of pastoral musicians. All cantors, choir members, choir directors, organists, pianists, and instrumentalists are encouraged to mark their calendars and join us!

Some Thoughts about HOSPITALITY

www.churchjuice.reframedia.com

BEYOND GREETERS: Welcoming is a CHURCH- WIDE VALUE

by Jerod Clark

There is more to the company Zappos than just selling shoes. The ecommerce giant spends a lot of time [casting and sharing their core values](#) for running a business that values customers beyond them buying something.

In a tweet, there was a great quote about customer service from Zappos CEO Tony Hsieh. He said,

"Customer service shouldn't be just a department; it should be the entire company."

For me, there are some easy tweaks to make for this to be relevant for churches. Maybe something like,

"Being a welcoming greeter isn't just the role of a volunteer group; it should be a church wide value."

The core of the Zappos tweet and my adaptation are the same. You will never be a welcoming, person-focused organization unless everyone is committed to it.

Here's why.

Anyone can represent your church at any moment. You might have the friendliest, hand shaking greeters in all the land. But if a visitor walks into the worship center and gets a glare or unfriendly comment from someone, that reflects on your church, too. It ruins the work done by the greeters, church staff or anyone else focused on being a welcoming church. In fact, the bad experience will probably be more memorable than the good. To be a truly welcoming church, everyone has to be committed.

A true welcoming spirit can't be faked. Just like a company can't fake good customer service, a church can't pretend to be welcoming. As a visitor, it's easy to tell if a church cares about fostering community or if they're more interested in being an insiders club. Smiles, looks, questions and overall demeanor of friendly people are far different from people who are not. As a church leader, you have to intentionally share what it means to be a congregation that embraces people. You can't assume everyone really knows how to be welcoming. Equip them with practical ways to talk with people they don't recognize. Lace your vision with values

about what it means to be a welcoming congregation.

If you're not committing to welcoming visitors, your church will never reach its full potential. A welcoming church is a reflection of how Jesus reached out to all sorts of people to show them how their life could be different.



ARE YOUR SUNDAY SERVICE "GUEST- FRIENDLY"?

by Bryan Haley

Many churches want to do a better job of attracting guests and helping them get involved in the life of the church. More churches struggle with how to do that. And very few do that well. Part of the reason is that we don't think about our guests first. Instead, our guests are an afterthought.

What it means to think about guests first. So you want to start doing a better job of attracting and welcoming first-time guests. Awesome. But what does that actually mean? To be simple: your first thought needs to be the guest. In every aspect of your ministry, you need to think through the details. What does your guest need to know? What do they need explained? You're not dumbing it down; you're being purposeful and clear in your communication.

Thinking Guests First at the Building.

When you arrive at the church building this week, put yourself in the mindset of a first-time visitor. From the road, is it clear where your church is located? How about the parking lot? Is it clear where to go? Without being over-the-top, are your guests being welcomed as they enter the property and building? Think about the things guests need to know. Think about how they find out where to go, or how they find the information and directions they need.

Considering Guests Before the

Service. I hear a lot of churches that pride themselves on being a "welcoming" or "loving" congregation. Do your first-time guests feel that way about your church? While unintentional, we sometimes close ourselves off to first-time visitors. We use the time before service starts to catch up with friends that we haven't seen in a few days. Use these pivotal moments before the service begins to communicate with your guests. By the time the service starts, your guests will have already decided if they're going to make a return visit or not. So take every opportunity to communicate your church's mission. Make it easy for your guests to get needed information—where kids go, where the auditorium is, the location of restrooms, and even meet some people. A greeter at the door is a great thing. But that only welcomes them into the building. Make sure your church is paying attention to the guests once they get inside the building, too.

Guest-First Thinking During the

Service. While you don't want your guests to feel uncomfortable, you want to do your best to welcome them into the fold. Explain what each section of the service is, why it's important, and how they can take part. Encourage one simple next step for your guest to take, and repeat that throughout the service. Bonus points: Having to explain what you're doing and why is a great reminder for your regular congregation. It also helps you think critically about why you do what you do.

It's easy to get stuck in the mundane, trapped in the regular flow. Take time this week to stop and think about what your guests are experiencing as they arrive on Sunday and take part in your worship services.



INCOME		
July 21-22, 2018		
PARISH COLLECTION		
	In Church	Mailed In
Loose	287.39	-0-
Offering	3,600.00	1,033.00
Holy Days	-0-	28.00
Initial	-0-	-0-
Dues	136.00	85.00
Debt Reduction	90.00	52.00
Holiday Flowers	-0-	-0-
TOTAL PARISH COLLECTION	\$4,113.39	\$1,198.00
DIOCESAN COLLECTIONS		
Diocesan Collection	80.00	50.00
TOTAL DIOCESAN	80.00	50.00
OTHER INCOME		
Candles		65.00
Rental of Properties		-0-
Perquisites		-0-
Transfers		-0-
Miscellaneous		-0-
TOTAL OTHER INCOME		65.00
TOTAL INCOME		\$5,506.39

EXPENSES	
July 19-25, 2018	
Administration	2,019.64
Clergy Residence	-0-
Liturgy	500.58
Religious Education	-0-
Social Justice	-0-
Maintenance	3,905.75
Parish Assessment	-0-
Insurance	-0-
Taxes	-0-
Transfer	-0-
Diocesan Collections	-0-
Debt Service (Principal + Interest)	2,813.05
School Subsidy	186.95
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$9,425.97
Previous Balance	\$6,705.24
+ Income this week	+5,506.39
-Expenses this week	-9,425.97
Balance Forward	\$2,785.66

DIOCESAN ASSESSMENTS
(July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019)

	Diocesan Assessment	School Assessment	BALANCE
Prior Balance	0.00	93,788.02	93,788.02
Current Assessment	71,471.00	56,659.62	128,130.62
Amount Paid	0.00	186.95	186.95
BALANCE DUE	71,471.00	150,260.69	221,731.69

The Monthly Assessment Installment for the Diocese is \$5,956.00. (that is a little over 1 Weekend's collection)

The Monthly School Assessment Installment is \$4,724.40 (another weekend's collection)

To pay off the total current and past Schools Assessment, the monthly installment would be \$12,537.30 (3 weekend collections.)

PARISH DEBT SERVICE

	Parish Loan	Amount Paid	BALANCE Due
BALANCE	412,000.00	64,002.44	347,997.56

Please Note: The Parish Debt service has been paid to date. This Account is current.

Your Gift to God

July 21-22, 2018			
Over \$100.00	2	\$20	43
\$100.00	2	\$16-19	0
\$76-99	2	\$15	20
\$75	1	\$11-14	10
\$51-74	1	\$10	84
\$50	8	\$6-9	18
\$26-49	12	\$5	38
\$25	20	under \$5	18
\$21-24	1	Total Envelopes used	280

Is your gift to the parish each week an honest reflection of God's goodness to you?

Mass Attendance			
July 21-22, 2018			
	People	In-Church Collection	Average Offering per person
4:00 p.m.	136	1,716.39	12.62
5:30 p.m.	51	534.00	10.47
8:00 a.m.	68	982.00	14.45
11:00a.m.	130	881.00	6.78
Total	385	4,113.39	10.69

REMINDER: In order for our parish to remain solvent, the average weekly offering per person MUST equal or be greater than \$15.00 consistently.

Votive Offerings	
Bread and Wine	
Intention	Marion Berevich
Offered by	Friend
Sanctuary Candle	
Intention	Edward Baloga
Offered by	Marion Baloga, Marilyn, Bruce, August & David

Calvin and Hobbes
by Bill Watterson



JULY

27-29 St. Maria Goretti, Laflin

AUGUST

2-4 St. Robert Bellarmine (St. Aloysius), South Wilkes-Barre

3-5 St. Mary's Byzantine Church North Wilkes-Barre

9-11 St. John the Evangelist, Pittston

10-12 St. John's, Larksville

10-12 St. Jude's, Mountaintop

**CHOMAN'S
MOBILE CARE
Cemetery Care**

His services include steam cleaning of headstone, manicuring the lawn around the stone, mulching, flowering and more! He offers one time, seasonal and monthly packages. He also offers military and veteran discounts.

Automobile Detailing

We love our cars and rely heavily on them. But giving them the care they deserve is no easy task! Even dropping it at the detailing shop can be an obstacle. That's why we bring the detailing shop to you! We supply the water, power, tools and come right to your home or office! We'll have your vehicle looking like new with no worry or hassle to you!

Power Washing

Buildings lose their pristine look due to dirt, grime and motor exhaust. These can build up and severely damage your property and destroy its value. We'll restore your investment and help prevent the mess for coming back as well as increase the curb value of your property overnight. We build our service based on your desire and your budget. We remove mold, graffiti, tar, gum, oil and more. We clean buildings, houses, sidewalks, balconies, porches, rain gutters, decks and patios, windows, parking lots, garages and much more. Commercial and Residential services available.

You can contact Chris at
(570) 262-3109,
or Book your appointment online at
ChomanCares.com
or by e-mail at
ChomanCares@gmail.com.

**ECO-FRIENDLY CARE FOR YOU
AND YOUR INVESTMENTS**



Sts. Peter and Paul
Designer Bag Bingo

September 16, 2018
Bernadine Hall

Doors open 11:30. First Game 1 pm
Advance Tickets - \$20
At the Door—\$25

For more information call Nina at
570-825-6663 (ext. 3, then 1)

Sts. Peter and Paul
Quilt Bingo

October 7, 2018
Bernadine Hall

Doors open 11:30. First Game 1 pm
Advance Tickets - \$20
At the Door—\$25

For more information
call the Parish Office at
570-825-6663

St. Andre Bessette Parish
FABULOUS TOY BINGO

Sunday, November 4, 2018
St. Mary's Byzantine Parish Social Hall

Doors open at Noon,
First Game 1 pm
Tickets—\$10 advance or at the door

For More Information,
Call Pat Baran at 570-823-6280

HELP IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CANCER.



Volunteers needed to
provide transportation to
patients needing treatment.

Road to Recovery®

For more information,
please call **1-800-227-2345**
or visit **www.cancer.org/driver.**

Seventeenth Week in Ordinary Time			July 30– August 5, 2018	
Day and Date	Time	Intention	Offered by	Events
Monday, July 30 St. Peter Chrysologus Bl. Solanus Casey		NO Morning Mass Scheduled		
Tuesday, July 31 St. Ignatius of Loyola	8 am	Arthur Stofey	Wife	5:30 pm NO CHOIR
Wednesday, August 1 St. Alphonsus Liguori	8 am	Margaret White	Daughters	
Thursday, August 2 St. Eusebius of Vercelli	8 am	Frank Palute	Daughters	Noon Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 1 pm Administrative Staff 6 pm Vespers 6 pm Parish Liturgical Council
Friday, August 3 St. Peter Julian Eymard FIRST FRIDAY	8 am	Mary Migatulski	Anna Hudock	8 am Mass 6 pm Confessions 6:30 pm Sacred Heart Devotions 7:00 pm Mass
Saturday, August 4 St. John Vianney FIRST SATURDAY		NO Morning Mass Scheduled		3 pm Confessions

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

VIGIL	4 pm	George Amesbury	Mary Ann & Nancy Amesbury	CLERGY COLLECTION Dues Envelopes SSCM Raffle Tickets available
VIGIL	5:30 pm	Parishioners	Pastor	
SUNDAY	8 am	Living & Deceased members of the Andrew & Sophie Chupka Family	Mary & Theresa Chupka	
SUNDAY	11 am	Lillian & William Tomalinas	Terpak Family	

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

August 4-5, 2018		Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time		
	Servers	Lectors	EMOC	Hospitality
4:00 pm	Maggie Benish	Ann Bergold	John Bergold	Mary Ann Amesbury
5:30 pm	Michael Boris	Pat Baran	William Klukoske	Pat Baran Barb Deeb
8:00 am	A J Kondracki	Mary Ann Slavinski	A J Kondracki	Dolores Yesuvida
11:00 am	Patrice Rembish	Sandy Snyder	Elaine Snyder	Joe Stone



Notice Regarding the Sexual Abuse of A Minor

It is the policy of the Diocese of Scranton to report any allegation of sexual abuse of a minor to law enforcement. If you are a victim of sexual abuse, you are encouraged to immediately report the matter to law enforcement. If any priest, deacon, religious, lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton has cause or reason to suspect that a minor has been subjected to any form of abuse, including child sexual abuse, the matter will be reported to law enforcement. In accordance with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Child Protective Services Law, reports of suspected child abuse should also be made immediately by phone to the 24 hour Child Abuse Hotline (ChildLine) at [1-800-932-0313](tel:1-800-932-0313) or electronically at www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis. It is also the policy of the Diocese to adhere to all civil and state regulations. To this end, the Diocese is equally committed to adhering to the norms of the Code of Canon Law and to upholding the tenets of the USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, which includes supporting victims of sexual abuse in their pursuit of emotional and spiritual well-being. As such, information regarding an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor should also be reported to the Victim Assistance Coordinator, Mary Beth Pacuska at 570-862-7551 or to Diocesan Officials, including the Vicar General, Msgr. Thomas M. Muldowney, V.G. at 570-207-2269.