

To the Good People of Ss. Peter and John,

What a joyous noise we made to the Lord last week as we welcomed back a quartet from the choir at our 10 am service. It has been so long, and I knew I missed singing terribly, but I didn't know how much. Thanks to Vincent and the quartet members for their beautiful efforts. And what a beautiful occasion to welcome back singing on the very day of the feast of Pentecost. The day when the church welcomes the Holy Spirit.

And, in terms of worship, we'll start our Mass on the Grass series on June 6, for both 8 and 10 am. Outdoors we can all sing, (wearing masks) and have coffee hour. We will be serving only coffee, because distribution of food is still a complicated matter. I look forward to this change.

I wanted to conclude with a meditation on unity offered by the great theologian and mystic, Howard Thurman;

Long ago, Plotinus [205–270 CE] wrote, “If we are in unity with the Spirit, we are in unity with each other, and so we are all one.” [1] The words of this ancient Greek mystic are suggestive; for they call attention to the underlying unity of all of life. The recognition of the Spirit of God as the unifying principle of all life becomes at once the most crucial experience of humanity. It says that whoever is aware of the Spirit of God in themselves enters the doors that lead into the life of their fellow people. The same idea is stated in ethical terms in the New Testament when the suggestion is made that, if a person says they love God, whom they hath not seen, and does not love their brother or sister who is with them, they are a liar and the truth does not dwell in them [1 John 4:20]. The way is difficult, because it is very comforting to withdraw from the responsibility of unity with one's fellow people and to enter alone into the solitary contemplation of God. One can have . . . [perfect] solitary communion without the risks of being misunderstood, of having one's words twisted, of having to be on the defensive about one's true or alleged attitude. In the quiet fellowship with one's God, one may seem to be relieved of any necessity to make headway against heavy odds. This is why one encounters persons of deep piousness and religiosity who are intolerant and actively hostile toward their fellow people. Some of the most terrifying hate organizations in the country are made up in large part of persons who are very devout in their worship of their God.

The test to which Plotinus puts us, however, is very searching. To be in unity with the Spirit is to be in unity with one's fellow people. Not to be in unity with one's fellow people is thereby not to be in unity with the Spirit. The pragmatic test of one's unity with the Spirit is found in the unity with one's fellow people. We see what this means when we are involved in the experience of a broken relationship. When I have lost harmony with another, my whole life is thrown out of tune. God tends to be remote and far away when a desert and sea appear between me and another. I draw close to God as I draw close to my fellow people. The great incentive remains ever alert; I cannot be at peace without God, and I cannot be truly aware of God if I am not at peace with my fellow people.

Grace and Peace,

# John +

## ON-LINE WORSHIP

Here is the Zoom information for the Sunday on-line worship service @ 9:00 am.

### **Sundays - 9am Worship Service**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97774056978?pwd=ZytJSVZjWmt3MUdSMkI3U1JaaGNLZz09>

Meeting ID: 982 7706 2680

Passcode: 435902

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

### **Other Zoom Worship Schedule and Numbers**

#### **Tuesdays – 10am Bible Study**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/94333886777?pwd=WnNKSncyQkkzS1g0Yjc3ZGIVbk1PQT09>

Meeting ID: 943 3388 6777

Passcode: 577455

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

#### **Wednesdays – 12pm Worship Service**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95528786615?pwd=Z01DVGdvcG5XeVBIUVRMKzFFVVBjZz09>

Meeting ID: 955 2878 6615

Passcode: 634665

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

#### **Thursdays – 10am Coffee and Conversation**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97366952412?pwd=WUtQVFMjWlFKWmRBT1UyTHQ2Rm5Rdz09>

Meeting ID: 973 6695 2412

Passcode: 120228

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

**Monday – Tuesday – Wednesday – Thursday – Friday**

*MORNING PRAYER – RITE II*

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/john.rohde.16/>

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/92662278952>

Meeting ID: 926 6227 8952

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 926 6227 8952

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/ac4XCk34Dn>

### **Vestry Voice**

The May Vestry meeting began with an opening devotional. The April minutes were approved. The April financials were approved after discussing the high gas & electric costs. The gas & electric company was contacted and there was a mistake in the billing which they are correcting. They will then send a corrected billing. The church was approved for a second PPE loan.

Our fundraiser at Panera Bread will be May 19, 2021. Other suggestions for fundraisers were 50/50 raffles, turkey/ham raffle, music concerts, flower sale, sneaker drive. Bill Abdallah stated that the Syracuse Brass is working on their fall schedule and that hopefully SS Peter & John will be included.

The price list for what to charge for weddings/funerals is very outdated. It was suggested that Father John speak with other parishes and the diocesan office about their opinions on this subject and redo the list for the next Vestry meeting. William Andre's funeral will be May 22, 2021 at 3:00 pm.

The organ and piano have both been tuned. The new bush/tree outside the church doors has been planted.

Father John was contacted by Ms. Mersa from the Auburn Chamber Orchestra about using the parish hall on Tuesday nights for rehearsals. It would be from September to April. The group would not need a key as one of its members is from the Montessori School and already has a key. Father John will discuss what we should expect monetarily from this group with Ms. Mersa.

Father John plans on doing a Mass on the Grass service the first Sunday of each month beginning in June at 10:00 am, weather permitting. The diocese has approved singing outdoors and coffee hour outdoors. Masks will still need to be worn and social distancing. Father John will talk with the people who attend the 8:00 am service to determine if they would like to do an outdoor service as well.

The Soup Kitchen has received a check from the Westminster Presbyterian Church for \$2,000. SS Peter & John is teaming up with Westminster on May 22<sup>nd</sup> and will hold their free meal giveaway at Westminster that day. There are on-going discussions about possibly holding vaccination clinics at the Soup Kitchen.

Bill Abdallah has a catalog of plaques that he would like opinions on for the plaque for John McLane. It also needs to be decided where in the church to put the plaque and what should be on the plaque.

The meeting closed with Compline. Next Vestry meeting June 9, 2021.

## ***FUNDRAISING***

Our recent fundraiser at Penera Bread brought in 27 transactions with \$568.33 in sales. 20% of the sales was \$113.67 which will be coming to the church. Thank you to everyone who participated.



Have you got old sneakers laying around your house – maybe they don't fit anymore, or gone out of style, or maybe you just got tired of them?

### **BRING THEM TO CHURCH.**

We are collecting sneakers as a fundraiser. They will be sent to a company that breaks them down and then recycles them into useful items. It is only sneakers, no boots, heels, or dress shoes. Did you know most people throw away their unwanted sneakers after 250-400 miles, or every 125-200 days, without ever thinking about recycling? Since sneakers are manufactured with materials that are not biodegradable, they remain in landfills or are incinerated which leads to toxic chemicals in our air and soil.

The EPA estimates that 200-300 million pairs of shoes are thrown into our landfills each year contaminating our environment. With your help, we can keep sneakers out of landfills, reduce toxic chemicals in our air and soil, and raise money to support our church. Let's make a difference together!

So, start cleaning out your closets – tell your friends, family, neighbors, co-workers. There will be a box in the church for you to drop off your sneakers on Sundays or bring them to the parish office Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday from 8:30 am to 12:00 Noon.

### **Volunteers Needed**

We are in need of acolytes and readers for our 8:00 and 10:00 am worship services. We are only talking about 1 Sunday a month. Right now, our readers are doing at least 2 Sundays a month, and sometimes even more. As the summer months approach, members will be planning vacations away and our readers and acolytes will be asked to do even more. Please think about this and if this is something that you might be interested in doing, please contact Father John for more information.

