



ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

May 17, 2020

6TH
SUNDAY
OF EASTER

“ *I will not leave you orphans;*
I WILL COME TO YOU”

- JOHN 14:18

WELCOME TO ALL!

No matter what your present status in the Catholic Church, no matter what your current family or marital situation, no matter what your past or present religious affiliation, no matter what your personal history, age, background, race, or color—you are invited, welcomed, accepted, loved, and respected at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church.

CONTACT US

Phone 513-777-6433 • Fax 513-777-9741 • info@stjohnwc.org • www.stjohnwc.org



St. John the Evangelist Church, West Chester

Parish Phone Numbers

Pavilion 513-755-4973 • Parish Center 513-755-4973 • For emergencies, please call 513-777-6433 and press 5.

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 8:30am - 5:30pm
Friday 8:30am - Noon

Saturday (Church Office) 3:30pm - 6:00pm
Sunday (Church Office) 7:30am - 1:00pm

Pastoral Team

Rev. Don West Pastor
Ext. 133 dwest@stjohnwc.org
Sarah Chivers Director of Communication
Ext. 116 schivers@stjohnwc.org
Lynn Meisberger P.A. of Music
Ext. 128 lmeisberger@stjohnwc.org
Annie Mesewicz P.A. of Youth Ministry
Ext. 114 amesewicz@stjohnwc.org
Mary Montour P.A. of Children's Faith Formation
Ext. 118 mmontour@stjohnwc.org
Joan Seibenick Business Manager
Ext. 124 jseibenick@stjohnwc.org
Scott Steinke P.A. of Liturgy
Ext. 115 ssteinke@stjohnwc.org

Parish Staff

Katie Behrle Early Childhood Coordinator
..... kbehrle@stjohnwc.org
Karen Hake Office Manager
Ext. 110 khake@stjohnwc.org
Brigid Loebig Bookkeeper
Ext. 119 bloebig@stjohnwc.org
Deacon Fred Merritt Senior Ministry
Ext. 132 fmerritt@stjohnwc.org
Kirt Robb Facilities Manager
Ext. 122 krobb@stjohnwc.org
Karen Simmons PSR Administrative Assistant
Ext. 111 ksimmmons@stjohnwc.org
Deacon Jerry Barney jbarney@stjohnwc.org
Deacon Rick Reder rreder@stjohnwc.org
Darren Coe Maintenance
Ellen Krumme Weekend Office Assistant
Janet Raters Weekend Office Assistant
Bette Vorbroker Weekend Office Administrator

Fiscal Year to Date as of May 5, 2020

Sunday Offerings.....\$1,117,196
Weekly Offerings Budget.....\$1,144,000
Difference from Budget.....(\$26,803.79)-2.34%

Total Monthly Amount:

Actual: \$102,962 (April)
Budget: \$104,000
(under by \$1,038, or 1%)

Thank you to all who are able to give!

FATHER DON'S REFLECTION

JN 14:15-21

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows him. But you know him, because he remains with you, and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you."

The gospel is filled with good news from Jesus. He makes it very clear that he will never leave us alone. He has our backs and will not let anything come between us. If we but only keep his commandments - the commandments of love. Love God with your whole being and your neighbor as yourself. Very simple, but also very challenging for us to follow. But if we follow, what a wonderful life we will have.

Jesus promises us another Advocate, the Spirit of truth. An advocate that will speak up for us and defend us in this world that sometimes fails to see Jesus among us. This Spirit of truth will open our hearts to the love that Jesus has for us; the love we are called to share with others. That is the gospel call to be people of love. But the reward is great. Jesus says: "And whoever loves me will be loved by my Father and I will love him and reveal myself to him." In that revelation we see the power of the trinity unfold. From the Son to the Father who sends the Spirit to dwell among us.

My heart is racing with the possibility of the communion coming into my life. How comforting in these times of unknowns to know that Jesus remains constant, ever revealing himself to those who are open to that revelation. Jesus promises that we will not be orphans. He remains faithful to us and continues to meet us when our fears get the better of us. Jesus sending the Spirit of truth can be the calming force that can bring a peace to our lives. As Jesus continues to reveal himself to us, we become more aware of the goodness that is in our lives. A spirit of gratitude comes over us when we realize how generous Jesus has been to us and the gifts that he has placed in our hearts.

I am drawn to the Eucharistic experience that takes place each time we are celebrating the Mass. To know that Jesus is present in the bread and wine we offer at each Mass. While we all do not get to receive the Eucharist physically currently, we recognize the gift and receive spiritually that gift of life from the Lord. My heart aches when I realize that so many cannot receive the gift of life. It isn't the same to celebrate Mass without you there. But as we do gather, I always envision the family of St. John with me at Mass.

The Spirit is among us and runs through each of us. Jesus has not and will not ever leave us orphans. He is always present to those who keep his commandments. Do not lose sight of him for he longs to be with each of us. Jesus is never more than a prayer away from us. The Spirit he offers us is one that gives us the courage to remain faithful to the gospel's call to love one another. We are the Body of Christ and as such we are called to reach out beyond ourselves. It is out of love that we are to reach beyond ourselves. Let us pray for one another. Let us be aware of those around us and help those who are hurting in these trying days. The Body of Christ works in communion with one another and now is the time to show our bond with the community. Know that you are loved deeply. Jesus reveals that love everyday of our life if we are open to it. Know you are loved by this community and this pastor for we are in this together. Trust that God is in this somewhere and somehow. We will be together soon, in God's time. Be well and stay safe. Have a great week!



PRESIDER SCHEDULE: May 23 / 24

SATURDAY

5:00 p.m.....Fr. Don West

SUNDAY

8:00 a.m.....Fr. Don West

9:30 a.m.....Fr. Don West

11:30 a.m.....Fr. Don West

(Please note that this schedule is subject to change.)

Readings for This Week: May 18-22

Monday	ACTS 16:11-15; Ps 149; JN 15:26-16:4A
Tuesday	ACTS 16:22-34; Ps 138; JN 16:5-11
Wednesday	ACTS 17:15,22-18:1; Ps 148; JN 16:12-15
Thursday	ACTS 18:1-8; Ps 98; JN 16:16-20
Friday	ACTS 18:9-18; Ps 47; JN 16:20-23

Next Weekend: May 23 / 24

First Reading: ACTS 1:1-11

"It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has established by his own authority."

Second Reading: EPH 1:17-23

"May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened, that you may know what is the hope that belongs to his call."

Gospel: MT 28:16-20

"I am with you always, until the end of the age."

Painted Rock Garden Area

Looking for a creative outlet? Want to keep yourself or your kids busy this week? We are hoping for some inventive contributions from parishioners to create a painted rock garden area on the island in front of the church entry. We are thinking of rocks painted to form the shape of bright flowers, similar to the photo here. Be original! Interested in helping? Contact Karen Simmons in our parish office at 513-777-6433.



Can We Pray for You?

Let us know if we can pray for you or someone in your circle of family and friends. Email prayer requests to info@stjohnwc.org.

St. Vincent de Paul

Mary is the Patroness of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. She is a powerful intercessor and model of charity. Mary leads us to Jesus. Like Mary, Vincentians say "yes" to the will of God. If you are in need of help at this time or want to help others in their time of need, contact the Society at 513-777-6433, ext. 120. A Vincentian will return your call.

Thank You Notes!

Thank you to Lisa Wolff and Sharon Miller who lovingly sewed masks for our parishioners. These ladies donated their time and talent for an important task! Are you in need of a mask? We have a small supply in the parish office. Call 513-777-6433 and ask for one to be set out for a touch-free pickup.

Thank you to Ed McDermott who cuts our grass every week! Ed is a professional pilot and spends his down time on a lawn mower at St. John. We truly are thankful for his choice of charity!

Thank you to the generous donor who gave us shares of Facebook stock valued at over \$3,000. Your gift helps us to pay our bills!

A heartfelt thank you to the PSR catechists, who prepared and presented lessons weekly, until the PSR year was cut short! We appreciate your gifts!

Thank you to the generous donor who sent a check for \$2,500. Donations like this mean so much to us at this time. Our parishioners are just amazing!

Thank you to Michelle Deustch who has continued our Yoga Ministry on Mondays at 6:30 via a Zoom class. Michelle focuses on movement and breathing while incorporating Christian prayer and reflection. She shares her gift of peace with us!

Thank you to the parishioner who donated \$1,600 to pay for the repair of our final two chapel windows that have broken glass. If you are interested in donating to our wish list, check it out on our parish website at www.stjohnwc.org.

Every day during this Pandemic, our parish staff has seen an overwhelming amount of kindness and charity. Have someone to thank? Email Joan at jseibenick@stjohnwc.org and let us know.



New Parish Signs and YOU

We miss seeing you! Please take a photo of you or your-family standing in front of one of our two new parish signs and email it to jseibenick@stjohnwc.org. We will do a feature in a future bulletin with all of the photos that are sent in! Here is a photo of our newly installed main entry sign.



Bits and Pieces

People important to you, people unimportant to you. They cross your life, touch it with love and carelessness and move on. There are people who leave you and you breathe a sigh of relief and wonder why you ever came into contact with them. There are people who leave you and you breathe a sigh of remorse and wonder why they had to go away and leave a gaping hole. Children leave parents, friends leave friends. Acquaintances move on. People change homes. People grow apart. You think on the many who have moved into your hazy memory. You look at those present and wonder. I believe in God's master plan in our lives. He moves people in and out of each other's lives, and each leaves his mark on the other. You find you are made of the bits and pieces of all who have ever touched you; you are more because of them, and you would be less if they had not touched you. Pray to God that you accept the bits and pieces in humility and wonder, and never question, never forget. Bits and Pieces. People.

Author Unknown

Copied from a wall hanging in Fr. Don's office

Important Update

The Catholic Bishops of Ohio have issued a letter extending the suspension of Masses through May 29. The goal is to be able to gather to celebrate Mass on the weekend of Pentecost on May 30/31. That date may be extended.

Fr. Don wants everyone to know that we are going to take the proper amount of time and precautions with re-opening. His goal is to keep us all healthy and safe. We will post further updates as they come.

Stay Connected with St. John Parish

We miss you! While you are home, be sure to stay connected to St. John through the following communications:

- Follow us on **Facebook**: St. John the Evangelist, West Chester.
- Download the **MyParish App** and add St. John the Evangelist.
- Make sure that your e-mail is updated with your parish record and that you opt in to our **Weekly E-Memos**. You will receive reminders for any upcoming events, announcements and updates for parish groups and activities.
- Be sure to access the weekly **Bulletin** on the St. John **Website** at www.stjohnwc.org.
- The **Church** building is open from 8am-3pm Monday through Thursday and from 8am until noon on Fridays for individual prayer. Copies of the bulletin, music programs and other items are available in the church Gathering Space and Chapel Hallway.

As always, feel free to contact your parish office at 513-777-6433 if you have questions or if there is anything that you need.

CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION

MARY MONTOUR • MONTOUR@STJOHNWC.ORG • 513-777-6433, EXT. 118

Cancellations/Changes!

First Eucharist

Masses have been rescheduled for September. All families were notified to choose a Mass; please check your email and respond as soon as you can. Questions? Contact Mary Montour (mmontour@stjohnwc.org).

VBS is cancelled for this year. We will go forward with Rocky Railway: Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through in June, 2021.

Parish School of Religion (PSR)

If any family would like your child's book from this year, please contact Karen Simmons (ksimmons@stjohnwc.org) or Mary Montour (mmontour@stjohnwc.org) and we will have the book ready for you in the Parish Office (open M – Th, 8 – 3, and Fr, 8 – 12).

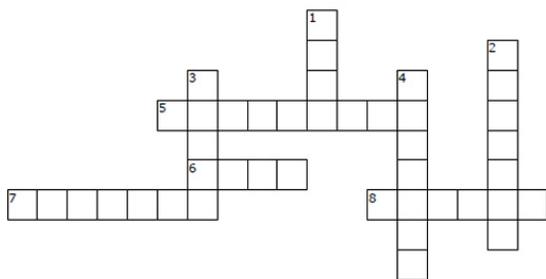
Home Study PSR

Thank you to families and students for your attention to faith formation in your home. If your child has outstanding chapter assessments please submit them as soon as possible.

Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit

"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever." John 14:16 (NIV)

This puzzle is based on John 14:15-21 (NIV)



ACROSS

- 5. One who gives help or advice
- 6. To have a strong affection and attraction for someone
- 7. To give an order with authority
- 8. The first person of the Trinity; God the _____.

DOWN

- 1. To be alive or have life
- 2. For all time; time without end
- 3. The whole earth and all the people on it
- 4. Children who have no parents

FATHER	FOREVER	WORLD	LOVE
COUNSELOR	LIVE	COMMAND	ORPHANS

From Sermons 4 Kids www.sermons4kids.com

Talking About the COVID with Children

During this time, remember, when talking to your children to:

- Empower them to be helpers in fighting this disease. Encourage them to wash their hands and not touch their faces; both actions help decrease the spread of the virus.
- Truly listen and hear children's concerns. Let them know that you are listening to them when they voice their feelings of fear and anxiety. Keep lines of communication open.
- Model faith formation in everything you do. Include children in every conversation. Don't become the expert with all the answers. Admit when you don't have an answer; pursue an answer together.
- Put God first and others second. Take this time to teach your children compassion for others. Pray for others. Model putting others' needs before yours.

Youth Ministry Continuing Community

Community has always been an important thing to Annie, the St. John Youth Minister. Ever since the quarantine, her vision of community has been forced to shift dramatically. This applies not only to her personal life but also for her ministry serving the teens of our parish community.

As the pandemic grew, she thought to herself, *how am I going to make this time valuable and sacred for the teens at St. John?* The answer for her was simple: look for ways to bring community amidst the roadblock of quarantine.

With the technological world we live in, it's easy to find ways to connect. Zoom specifically helped to continue the Youth Group nights "as normal." This blessing of continual community has brought so many graces and ideas, including writing letters to elderly parishioners in strict quarantine and isolation. If we cannot gather physically, we will gather spiritually. Annie invites all teens at St. John to join us each Sunday as youth ministry comes together as the Body of Christ.

Zoom dates: May 17, 24, 31
(all sessions are from 7-8pm)



Youth - Refugee Pen Pal Opportunity

Catholic Charities SW and Saint John are pairing up for another Cross Cultural Experience. We will be assigning pen pals between refugee teens living in Ohio and students at St. John that are interested in participating. For all students who are interested in this project, we will be handing out letter writing packs with stamps, paper, cards, envelopes, and prompts for writing. To express interest please email amesewicz@stjohnwc.org.



Cancellation Notices:

Campton Mission Trip (Hope Mountain Camp) scheduled for June 17 – 20, 2020 is now officially cancelled.

Junior High Summer Camp scheduled for June 23 – 26, 2020 is now officially cancelled as well.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, we will not be able to ensure social distancing and proper health measures for the kids and teens for these events.

**We look forward to JHSC and
Campton in 2021!**



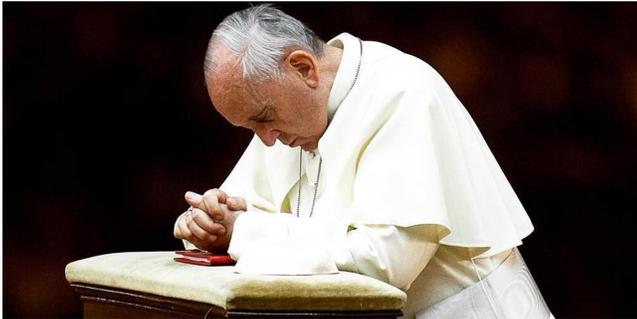
YOUTH MINISTRY

ANNIE MESEWICZ • AMESEWICZ@STJOHNWC.ORG • 513-777-6433, EXT. 114

Prayer from Pope Francis

O Mary,
you always shine on our path
as a sign of salvation and of hope.
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,
who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping
your faith firm.
You, Salvation of the Roman People,
know what we need,
and we are sure you will provide
so that, as in Cana of Galilee,
we may return to joy and to feasting
after this time of trial.
Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
to conform to the will of the Father
and to do as we are told by Jesus,
who has taken upon himself our sufferings
and carried our sorrows
to lead us, through the cross,
to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.

Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother
of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in
trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and
blessed Virgin.



Parish Festival Update

We are very sad to announce that we feel it is in the best interest of our parishioners and community to cancel our festival this year. Until there is a vaccine, we just don't feel safe sharing our space with hundreds of people.

However, we ARE going to do two things associated with the festival! We are going ahead with our grand raffle ticket sales and drawings. With early bird prizes of \$250 (twice) and first, second and third prizes of \$10,000, \$2,000 and \$1,000, the total winning opportunity is \$13,500. You will be receiving the tickets in the mail at the end of this month. Please consider buying all of your tickets! Ticket sales will be online as well. Ticket prices are \$10 each and 6 for \$50. We would love to be able to earn a good amount on this drawing, as our festival income is an important piece of our annual budget. We will do the early bird drawings in June and July and the big three drawings on Friday, August 7.

Secondly, we are going to do a Basket Bonanza. We are still working out details, but our current plan is to have the basket tickets online and sold in our Parish Center where the baskets will be on display for a week in early August. More information on that will come as soon as we have figured this all out!

If you usually work at or attend our festival, please consider buying grand raffle or basket tickets. Or, you can make a donation to our festival income fund! We are blessed here at St. John. Thank you for all that you do!

Our St. John Stephen Ministry

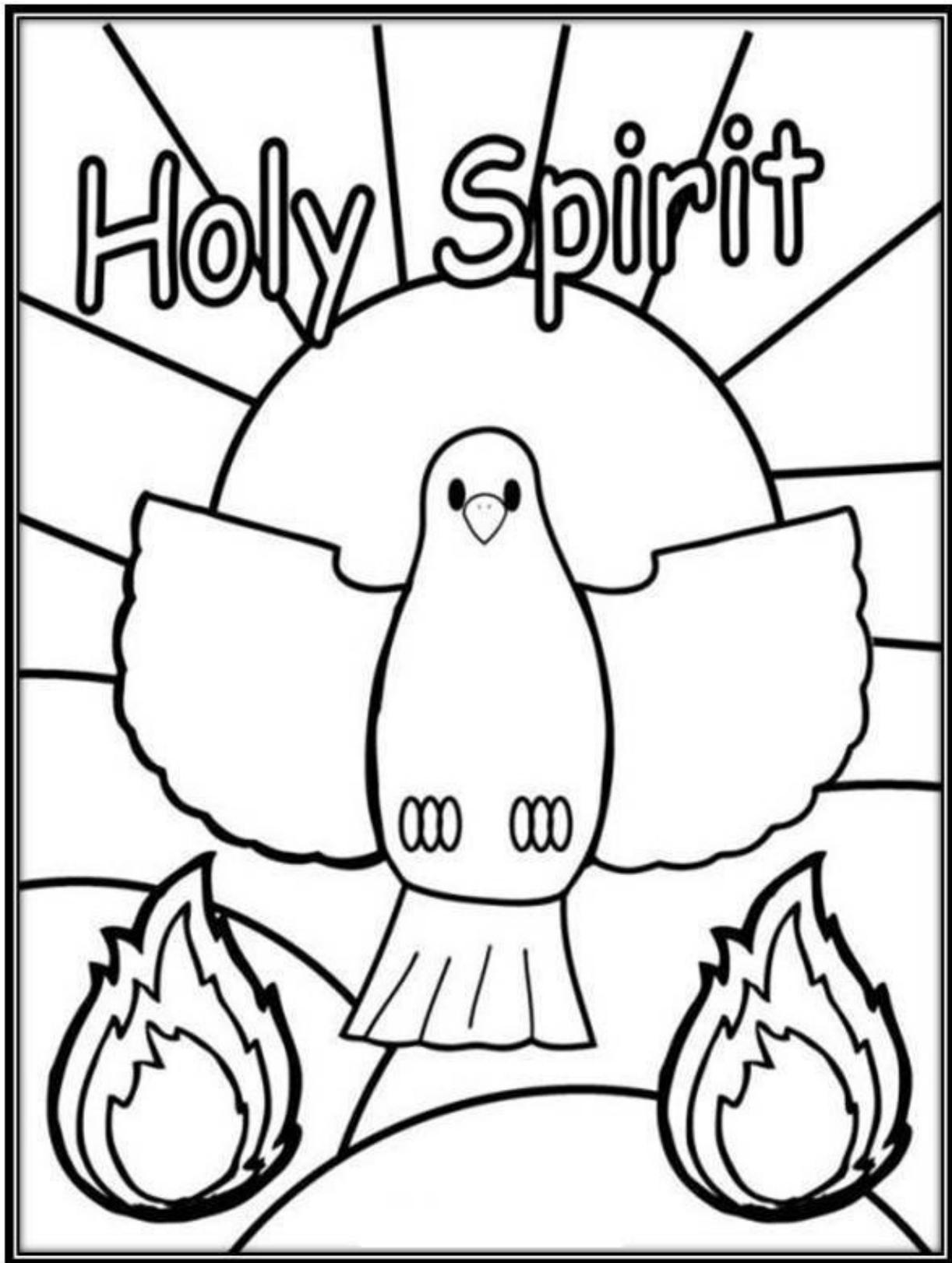
There are two important truths at the foundation of our St. John Stephen Ministry.

1. People will always need care, and that's as true now as it has ever been. Individuals in our congregation and community are facing a variety of challenges—including ones that may not be directly related to the current crisis.

2. Our Stephen Ministers are excellently equipped to provide great one on one care. They are a crucial source of support for those who are struggling in our congregation and community.

Congregations all over are continuing to care for people through their Stephen Ministers—even when they aren't able to meet in person. We have been doing phone calls and video chats with our current care receivers in our ministry. We will not stop giving care to those in need. We find ways to connect. The COVID-19 crisis has impacted everyone—raising the level of stress and anxiety for many. That is why our one on one care giving Stephen Ministry is still very active and here for you if you need someone to talk to.

All of us Stephen Ministers at St. John hope and pray that you, your loved ones, and the people you care for are healthy and safe. If you would like to talk with a Stephen Minister about a current struggle in your life, contact Scott Steinke at the parish offices.



Sixth Sunday of Easter

John 14:15-21

PARISH OUTREACH, RESOURCES & ORGANIZATIONS

Parish Ministries

Baptism

Scott Steinke 513-777-6433, ext. 115

Communion to the Sick/Shut-Ins

Julie Chapman 513-807-8004

Companions on the Journey

Grief support for those who have lost a loved one; meets the 2nd & 4th Thursdays of the month in the Hospitality Room at 7 p.m.

Ron Meyer 513-376-1277

Confirmation Preparation

Annie Mesewicz 513-777-6433, ext. 114

Funeral Preparation

Scott Steinke 513-777-6433, ext. 115

Hospital Notifications

If you know that you are going to the hospital and would like to be remembered at Mass or have a pastoral staff member visit, please call the parish office at 777-6433. We are no longer notified by hospitals or chaplains about parishioners who are ill.

Liturgical Ministry

Opportunities available as Altar Attendants, Eucharistic Ministers, Hospitality Ministers, Lectors and Sacristans.

Scott Steinke 513-777-6433, ext. 115

Meal Ministry

Joan Seibenick 513-777-6433, ext. 124

Music

Opportunities available in the Adult Choir, High School Choir, Youth Choir, or as Singers & Instrumentalists.

Lynn Meisberger 513-777-6433, ext. 128

Prayer Network

If you or someone you know is struggling w/ a difficulty or crisis, contact the Prayer Network. They will ask members of the Network to pray.

..... prayernetwork@stjohnwc.org

Margaret Kellogg 513-777-4253

Mary Moore 513-492-9015

RCIA / Ministry to Returning Catholics

Scott Steinke 513-777-6433, ext. 115

Sacrament of the Sick

Contact the Parish Office 513-777-6433

Small Church Communities (Journey of Faith)

Annie Mesewicz 513-777-6433, ext. 114

St. Vincent de Paul

Guy Lavergne 513-777-6433, ext. 120

Stephen Ministry

Scott Steinke 513-777-6433, ext. 115

Wedding Preparation

Fr. Don West 513-777-6433, ext. 133

Formation & Education

Early Childhood Program (during 9:30am Mass)

Katie Behrle kbehrle@stjohnwc.org

Liturgy of the Word with Children

Scott Steinke 513-777-6433, ext. 115

PSR (grades 1-8), 1st Eucharist, 1st Reconciliation

Mary Montour mmontour@stjohnwc.org

St. Gabriel Consolidated School ... stgabeschool.org

..... 513-771-5220

St. Gabriel Consolidated School in collaboration with our three parishes, St. Gabriel, St. John - West Chester and St. Maximilian Kolbe, in partnership with the families of our diverse student body believe Christ is the center of all that we do.

Shaylen Gettelfinger Marketing Coordinator

513-578-3640 segettelfinger@hotmail.com

Amy Tanaka Parish Representative

..... 513-702-8361

Parish Organizations

Boy Scouts Troop #940

Steve Bush 513-206-2937

Festival Committee

Kevin & Gina Kohls 513-256-8934

Finance Committee

John Insko 513-755-7594

Girl Scouts

Laura Smith 513-378-6709

Knights of Columbus

Patrick Leeper 513-604-4449

Knights of Columbus Membership

Bob Heglin 513 509-6537

Justice & Peace Commission

Tony Klimek 513-787-0038

Pastoral Council

Dan Woods pastoralcouncil@stjohnwc.org

Spirited Seniors

Deacon Fred Merritt 513-777-6433, ext. 132

Worship Commission

Scott Steinke 513-777-6433