The Good News

St. Paul's Episcopal Church Chittenango, New York
May 2025

Family or Restaurant….

Inside This Issue

2| Prayer List

3| Anniversaries & Birthdays

3| Ministry Schedule

4| Change Collection

5| From the Diocese

The Mission of our Parish is to be an active community reflecting God's presence in Chittenango and other communities we represent.

Our Services
Sundays at 10AM

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Continued on Page 4

During Bible study recently, we were talking about church attendance and Fr. Leon made the comment, that if you lived in the South and didn't go to church, something was wrong with you. Yet in the Northern states, if you go to church, something is wrong with you. I can't help wondering WHY this is.
I just picked up a book that I had and honestly forgot about. The title is "The Agile Church" – kind of an interesting title, if you ask me. I came across a statement in the First Chapter that leapt out of the pages to me (it happens periodically) and I felt I needed to share it with all of you.
"When we read through the biblical narrative, we find that Jesus's disciples had a lot to learn about what it means to follow him. As we will see in chapter three, most of the time they seem fairly clueless, even in the presence of Jesus himself. "
I don't know about you, but sometimes that is what I feel – clueless. I still have a lot to learn and thankfully, we have a knowledgeable Priest, with Fr. Leon, who is willing to take the time and teach. Never be afraid to approach him during Coffee Hour – he is willing to listen and to explain. I really think, we need to have one of those Newcomer Classes, and all of us should go – there is so much about the Episcopal Church and its teachings that I need to brush up on and I'm sure I'm not the only one. Just a thought. You never stop learning, or at least you shouldn't. You should keep yourself open for perpetually learning.
As I progress thru "The Agile Church" there are statements that pop out at me. The first was the use of the metaphor's *family* and *restaurant*: "People with a Christian background have been raised with the idea of the church as a family. Families stick together. People show up at parties and celebrations, even if they don't like them. That's what family members do for one another. They are connected by loyalty, duty, and (hopefully) love. Most other people, at least in Amsterdam, view church as a restaurant. It is a place where you go when you are in the mood – in other words, when you feel a spiritual need. You may like this particular restaurant very much, but this does not imply that you will return next week." "The Agile Church" pg. 23
Wow. Let that sink in. "You may like this particular restaurant very much, but this does not imply that you will return next week."
Or this one: "After all, as Paas says, "'Community' is an ambiguous word for most modern people. They desire it and fear it at the same time. This is an age of 'light communities,' temporary and with many exit options." "The Agile Church" pg. 24
"Teenagers tend to approach religious participation, like music and sports, as an extracurricular activity: a good, well-rounded thing to do, but unnecessary for an integrated life." "The Agile Church" pg. 25

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Vestry Clerk

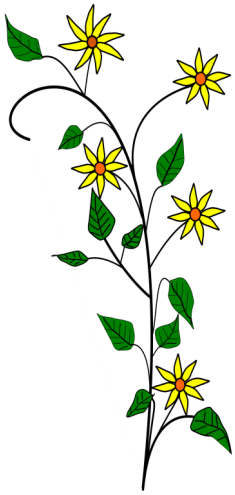
Robin Weisbrod
Newsletter Editor

Want to donate to St. Paul's? Not sure how to do it online?

Go to: https://cnyepiscopal.org/give/ click on "Give to my Parish" and look for St. Paul's Chittenango.

You will get an email stating your donation has gone thru and our Treasurer will get an email, with your name and amount given.

Prayer List



Ethel Barber, Ron Beaty, Hunter Brink, Catherine Carter, Stephen Cominsky, Barb Dayo, Ida Goins, the Rev. Charles Grover, Joan Grover, Neil Huebler, Violet Irwin, Diane Jillman, Amy Kenneson, Patricia Ladd, Don Lee, Betty Lesczynski, Woody McAllister, Suzie Miles, Carolyn Moredock, Kitty Munger, Sam Parker, Ed Pokorny, Roe Salamone, Bob & Barb Semian, Aiyana Tarbell, Mickey Temple, Ruth Williams, the People of Gaza and the West Bank, the People of Israel, the People of Lebanon, the People of Syria and the People of Ukraine.

New Prayer List for May/June 2025 has been posted on the bulletin board. If you wish to have someone added to St. Paul's Prayer list, please contact Becky Kraus at bak092364@gmail.com / 315 382-9056 or Robin Weisbrod at rdweisbrod@gmail.com / 315 655-4321.

If anyone would like a written copy of the weekly lessons/Gospel, Psalm, and Fr. Leon's sermon, either mailed to you or emailed to you - please contact the Church, by phone or by email and let Becky know. She will drop them in the mail to you weekly.

Please email
stpaulschittenango@gmail.com
Or call (315) 687-6304

Why Cows Don't Talk

God: you're a cow.

Cow: ok.

God: you're baby is a calf.

Cow: ask me why I'm tired after giving birth.

God: w-what?

Cow: ask me why I'm tired after giving birth.

God: why are you tired after giving birth?

Cow: i'm decalfeinated :)

God:

Cow: someone's laughtose intolerant

May

Birthdays

16 Clayton Weisbrod
21 Betty Lesczynski

Anniversaries

Ministry Team Schedule

May 4, 2025
Holy Eucharist
Rev. Dr. Leon C. Mozeliak, Jr.
Lessons: Tania Mousaw
Prayers: Tania Mousaw
Acolyte: Katherine Weisbrod
Organist: Cindy Wright Kolceski
Coffee Hour: Vestry

May 11, 2025
Morning Prayer
Robin Weisbrod
Lessons: Sue Gerling
Prayers: Sue Gerling
MIDI: Valerie Travers
Coffee Hour: Please Volunteer

May 18, 2025
Holy Eucharist
Rev. Dr. Leon C. Mozeliak, Jr.
Lessons: Claudia Jenson
Prayers: Claudia Jenson
Acolyte: Katherine Weisbrod
Midi: Valerie Travers
Coffee Hour: Please Volunteer

May 25, 2025
Morning Prayer
Robin Weisbrod
Lessons: Meg Hermann
Prayers: Meg Hermann
MIDI: Valerie Travers
Coffee Hour: Vestry

Altar Guild for May
Becky Kraus
Robin Weisbrod

Upcoming Events: May 3rd — Blessing of the Bikes
May 4th — Dish to Pass — Early celebration of Mothers Day
May 10th — Clothing Exchange
May 11th — Mother's Day
May 18th — Vestry Meeting
June 7th — Oz Fest
June 14th — Clothing Exchange
June 15th — Father's Day

"Why deal with those difficult people at church, have to serve on some committee, make a pledge, or otherwise be inconvenienced when life is already stressful and demanding enough as it is?" "The Agile Church" pg. 26
"The church wonders why, when faced with a choice between a Sunday morning youth sports tournament or church, families often choose the tournament. If you were to ask them, they would probably say it is because they find more meaning, community, and moral formation in the sports team than in church." "The Agile Church" pg. 32
I won't share any more of the book, at least at this moment. But there have been many "aha" moments for me, while reading. Following God is a journey. It doesn't end at the church – which is a physical building, wonderful to be able to come to and worship together, but it isn't the ONLY place you find God. That is something most, if not all who call themselves Christians need to come to an understanding of. If tomorrow, our beloved church was to be destroyed, it would be a heartbreaking, unspeakable tragedy. BUT things can be replaced, buildings can be replaced (maybe not the exact same, but a building can be replaced) and we could still gather somewhere together and say our prayers, listen to the readings and hear a sermon. We could even make a "joyful noise." Our little church is beautiful, we all love it – but it isn't the important part of being in a church community – being together is.
Our challenge is to become more agile. To meet our neighbors where they are. To learn what they are looking for, how we can help them find it, and offer to help. But to listen to them and not get hurt if they say "no." Because, God has taught us that repeatedly. "The pattern should be clear by now: God chooses unlikely people with faults and flaws and, through their fragile humanity, works in the power of the Spirit. God stands in solidarity with those who suffer along the way." "The Agile Church" pg. 42
On another note, I am happy to report that we served 38 families this past month at our Clothing Exchange/ Giveaway. I am so proud of all who help make this possible, be it by washing/sorting/sizing the clothes, folding them, setting up the tables and putting the clothes on the tables, to accepting the toys and equipment that our families bring, hoping to help someone else. Do we have space for all this? Probably not, but as evidenced every month, God works in mysterious ways, and I have seen this happen over and over again. So a BIG THANK YOU to all who help, who make suggestions and even to those who aren't too sure about what we are doing but go along with it.
Yours in Christ,
Robin W.

Children's and Babies Clothing Exchange

Every 2nd Saturday of the Month

10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Drop off donations in the St. Pauly's Box

Mark them for the Exchange
Thank you!

Join us in saving Quarters

From the Diocese

In times like these, it's easy to feel overwhelmed. The news is filled with division, injustice, and uncertainty. It can feel like nothing we do matters—that the world is just too big, too broken. But here's the truth: the actions of one person *do* matter. Your voice, your prayers, your choices—they ripple outward in ways you may never fully see.

In our Diocese, we are guided by a ***Rule of Life*** that helps us stay grounded and faithful, especially when the world feels uncertain. When we Pray, Listen, Connect, Speak, Respond, and Stand, we participate in God's work of love and justice. These are not just abstract concepts. They are real, practical ways we can live out our faith—and they start with each of us, right where we are. So, what can one person do?

Pray

We are in constant conversation with God. When we pray, we bring the needs of our world, our neighbors, and ourselves to God's heart. But prayer isn't just words—it's a way of being. Call someone who's struggling. Send a text to a friend. Ask how you can pray *with* them—not just for them. Pray for those directly affected by the recent ICE raids taking place in our area. In these small acts, God's peace and presence take root.

Listen

Listen to those whose voices are often ignored or silenced. Listen to people in your community who are struggling, to elected officials—even those you disagree with. Then let what you hear shape how you live and respond. Listening is not passive—it's the beginning of transformation.

Connect

Connection is how we hold each other up. Reach out to someone who might be isolated. Join a local ministry or community effort. When we are in relationship with others—within and beyond our congregations—we become the Body of Christ in action. Our strength multiplies when we work together.

Speak

Make your voice heard. Call or write to your elected officials—not just to demand change, but also to encourage them when they do what is right. Speak truth with courage and integrity. Let your life of faith be known. Let others see that you stand with love, justice, and dignity for all.

Respond

There are needs all around us, and we are equipped to meet them. Donate food or funds to local food pantries. Grow produce in your garden to share with those who are hungry. Concerned about supply chains or your own gardening skills? Join our diocesan **hydroponics initiative**—an easy and accessible way to grow food, even if you don't have a green thumb. Every tomato, every can of beans, every dollar matters.

Stand

Stand for the dignity of every person. Stand against injustice. Stand with your neighbors. One person standing in love and truth can inspire another to do the same—and another, and another. Together, we become a movement.

And here's something beautiful: you're not alone. Starting in June, our Diocese will launch **Take Action Sunday** on the first Sunday of every month. Join with others in your parish, your neighborhood, and your community to take *one meaningful action together*. Whether it's writing letters, serving at a food pantry, planting seeds, or making phone calls—your action, joined with others, becomes something powerful.

We can't fix everything. But we can do *something*. And when we each do our part, the Body of Christ grows stronger. Hope grows stronger.

What can one person do?

A lot more than you might think.

Let's take the next faithful step—together..

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Chittenango, New York

We are on the Web
stpaulschittenango.net

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The May 2025 Newsletter of

St. Paul's of Chittenango

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