

FROM THE RECTOR

My dear People:

The old saying: “April showers bring May flowers”, was about a month off target this year. We followed the torrential and devastating floods here in Rhode Island with temperatures that soared in late March and early April. The result was a beautiful Easter with Spring flowers in abundance. However, here we are at May and the Spring has pretty much come and gone! Everything seems to have been ahead of time: my allergies can attest to that! However, there continues to be the measured passage of the liturgical year; and, with the beginning of May we find ourselves at the latter half of Eastertide.

The month of May is traditionally dedicated to Our Lord’s Mother, S. Mary the Virgin, and this year it is no different. There are, though, parochial features which necessitate the Sunday celebration of Our Lady’s month around that of our Patronal Festival, Ascension, Whitsunday and Trinity Sunday. Normally, we would designate the first Sunday in May, this year Easter IV, as our May Festival. However, because I am returning from my post-Easter holidays the day before that doesn’t seem feasible. We want to honour Our Lord’s Mother with all the splendour and ritual we can muster; so, this year we will set aside the Sunday in the Octave of the Ascension to sing those splendid Marian hymns.

I shall be on my Spring SSC Retreat at Inisfada, a retreat center in the old Brady Mansion at Manhasset, Long Island from the 5th through the 7th. Our Patronal Festival falls during those days; so, we will defer the full celebration until the following Sunday, Easter V. I hope you will all appear Sunday, May 9th for the celebration of S. John before the Latin Gate, once the Patronal Feast of the Cowley Fathers, now our Patronal Festival. The primary feast of our Patron, S. John the Evangelist, December 27th, is overshadowed by the Christmas Octave. Taking the Spring feast of the Apostle, who, legend says, emerged unscathed out of a vat of boiling oil outside the Latin Gate of Rome, allows us to properly thank God for S. John and to implore the Apostle’s aid in spreading the Good News he witnessed to his whole life. It being our heavenly Patron’s feast, I expect all of you to attend Mass that day and bring a friend or two!

As many of you know, we’ve been struggling financially for the last couple of years and this year we faced an untenable shortfall in our budget. This shortfall necessitated our approaching you to see if you couldn’t see fit to increase your giving to the Parish, as we sought to cut expenses and find revenue from other sources. While we accomplished a great deal, and we thank everyone who has raised their pledge, we still fall short of our goal. This is not something that your Rector, Wardens and Vestry can solve by themselves. This is a Parish problem, and it must be solved with the attention and help of EACH AND EVERY MEMBER OF S. JOHN’S. I realize there can be a certain amount of fatigue which sets in; but,

if we all work together we can get this parish back on a solid footing. Elsewhere in this letter, and in the weekly bulletin, we will try to keep you abreast of our finances. We all need to ask ourselves, “What can I do to help?”

The solution to this and other issues, i.e. Acolyte, Altar Guild, Choir, Ushers, Coffee Hour people shortages, is to be evangelists. When was the last time you asked someone to church? Do we talk up S. John’s and the unique and wonderful things going for it? How friendly are we to our community? Do I let people know how important S. John’s is to me by my frequent, not just Sunday, attendance at Masses, classes and other events? These are serious questions which I hope you have been asking yourself. We will not grow if we do not show anything more than a passing interest in S. John’s. It begins with the Wardens & Vestry but it doesn’t stop there. We all have something to contribute, and we all have, by virtue of our baptisms, the calling to be sharers of the Good News of Christ’s love to the world.

One of the casualties of our recent financial distress has been the elimination of a paid Sexton. As you know, this position was filled for a number of years by our own Bill Bachus. It was with an heavy heart that Frank Jenks, my Rector’s Warden, and I spoke to Bill; and we were touched by the graciousness with which Bill took the news. Indeed, he has been exceedingly gracious to continue on in an honorary capacity. Bill has done a lot behind the scenes; for which we are very thankful. Most recently, he arranged to have our chancel light fixtures rewired and new bulbs put in by the Newport Fire Department as part of their training exercises. The chancel positively shines with the additional light! Bill is known to everyone in and around Newport, and we are so thankful for everything he does out of love for his Parish Church.

However, with no Sexton, we need to take responsibility for making sure our church and parish hall buildings are in good order, dusted, cleaned, light bulbs replaced, etc. Clint Dempsey, your People’s Warden, will be in touch with you, if he hasn’t done so already, to implore you to help keep our church looking as lovely as it has always been in the past. This is all part of our responsibility as members of Christ’s Body; and, I hope you will share the tasks with one another.

We are fortunate at S. John’s to have the full traditional liturgical calendar, and to have Mass six days out of seven. Yet, I am surprised that our daily Mass attendance isn’t much improved from the last time I asked you to consider making a commitment to attend at least one weekday Mass a month. You can do better! God is here, he wants to see you more than once a week. If the liturgical schedule is not meeting our needs, I am happy to re-arrange it. None of us sustains our bodies with food only once a week. Why would we wait six long days to add sustenance to our souls, IF, that is, we attend Mass every Sunday? It seems silly doesn’t it when we think of it this way, to attend Church only once a week for the Sacrament? Let’s all try to do better then, shall we?

Looking ahead, we will mark the Ascension of Our Lord with a Sung Mass at **6 p.m.**, with a Pot Luck dinner following. Our next weekday Mass with Reception will take place June 3rd, on the Feast of Corpus Christi. We are fortunate in having as our select preacher my mentor and colleague, Canon Barry Swain, Rector of The Church of the Resurrection, New York City. Mass begins that night at **6 PM**. I expect all of you to be present to welcome our guest and to give thanks for the Blessed Sacrament, the food which fills our souls with grace and is the pledge of eternal life.

Affectionately, your Friend and Pastor,
Fr R. Trent Fraser

MAY AGENDA

2nd: **EASTER IV**: Low Mass 8 a.m., Rector’s Forum 9.30 a.m., Sung Mass 10.30 a.m.

5th – 7th: Father Fraser is on Retreat from Wednesday afternoon until Friday noon. Father Spencer will be available for the Thursday Healing Mass.

9th: **PATRONAL FESTIVAL (observed)** [Rogation Sunday]: Low Mass 8 a.m., Rector’s Forum 9.30 a.m., Sung Mass & Rogation Procession 10.30 a.m.

11th: Monthly Meeting of Vestry at 6.30 p.m.

13th: **ASCENSION OF OUR LORD**: Procession & Sung Mass at **6 P.M.** Please join us for a Pot Luck Dinner in the Parish Hall following the Mass.

15th: **Women’s Guild Bake Sale**, in conjunction with the Point Association’s Plant Sale, beginning at approx. 8. a.m.

16th: **MAY FESTIVAL OF OUR LADY** [Sunday in Ascension]: Low Mass 8 a.m., Rector’s Forum 9.30 a.m., Sung Mass 10.30 a.m.

23rd: **WHITSUNDAY**: Low Mass 8 a.m., Rector’s Forum 9.30 a.m., Procession & Sung Mass 10.30 a.m.

30th: **TRINITY SUNDAY**: Low Mass 8 a.m., Sung Mass 10.30 a.m.

June 3rd: **CORPUS CHRISTI**: Sung Mass & Procession of the Blessed Sacrament at **6 PM**. Guest Preacher: Canon Barry Swain, Rector of Church of the Resurrection, NYC. Pot Luck Dinner follows the Mass in the Guild Hall. **ALL WELCOME.**

May is the Month of Our Lady.

1	SS. PHILIP & JAMES, App. MM.	Bishops, Priests & Deacons
2	EASTER IV	Parish
3	INVENTION OF THE HOLY CROSS	
4	Martyrs of England & Wales	Reunion with the Holy See
5	S. Pius V, PC	Pope Benedict
6	S. JOHN, Ap. Ev., before the Latin Gate	S. John’s, Westland, MI
7	Within the Octave	
8	Apparition of S. Michael, Arch.	S. Michael & All Angels, Denver CO
9	SUNDAY IN OCT. S. JOHN (<i>Easter V</i>)	Parish
10	Within the Octave (<i>Rogation</i>)	
11	Within the Octave (<i>Rogation</i>)	Vestry
12	Vigil of Ascension (<i>S. Pancras, M</i>)	
13	ASCENSION OF OUR LORD	Parish
14	Within the Octave of Ascension	The Sick
15	S. John Baptist de la Salle, C (<i>Octave</i>)	Teachers & Students
16	SUNDAY IN OCTAVE (<i>May Festival</i>)	Walsingham
17	Within the Octave	
18	Within the Octave	Church of the Ascension, Chicago
19	S. Dunstan, BC (<i>Octave</i>)	The Archbishop of Canterbury
20	Octave Day (<i>S. Bernadine of Siena, C</i>)	Society of the Holy Cross (SSC)
21	Monthly Requiem	May Chantry
22	Vigil of Pentecost	Thanksgiving for the gifts of the Holy Ghost
23	WHITSUNDAY	Parish
24	WHIT MONDAY	
25	WHIT TUESDAY	The newly Baptized
26	Ember Wednesday in Octave	Our Confirmation candidates
27	Thursday in Whitsun Octave	Increase of Faith, Hope & Charity
28	Ember Friday in Octave	Seminarians
29	Ember Saturday in Octave	Those being Ordained today
30	MOST HOLY TRINITY	Parish
31	OUR LADY, QUEEN	

FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

Holy Baptism “*You are marked as Christ’s own for ever*”
Sean Liam Williams, son of Michael George Williams & Stephanie (Chamberlin) Williams, born September 23rd, 2009, baptized in the Parish Church, Low Sunday, April 11th, 2010.

WOMEN'S GUILD ANNOUNCEMENTS SPRING & SUMMER 2010

The Point Association is holding their Annual Plant Sale in the parking lot on May, 15th. We plan to have a Bake Sale for this event to support the Hospitality Fund. More information will be forthcoming in the Sunday bulletins, as the time approaches; but start thinking about what you might want to contribute.

Scheduled for July 9th through the 11th, S. John's will participate in the Annual Secret Garden Tour by opening the grounds to the many participants touring gardens on the Point. In past years, S. John's has included our own garden as a part of the tour, in addition to providing a rest area. We sell water and bag lunches to visitors. This year we will need some volunteers to help support this event. Can you give some time to participate in getting the garden in shape? We will also need help in the preparation of bag lunches and greeting our visitors. Contact Teddi Shaw (846-7863) or the parish office, (848-2561), if you are willing to help.

The Annual S. John's Summer Fair is scheduled for Saturday, July 31st, on the Parish Grounds. Volunteer are needed for this important and fun event. Do you have a special idea or items to donate - Good used clothing, household goods, crafts, baked goods, gourmet items, books, etc? Time to clear out those items you don't need, want or use. A live Auction will be a focal point again this year. Lisa Babbitt and Ann Boyer are co-chairs of this event.