

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church
100 Broad Street, Hilltown, PA 18927
April 26, 2020



My Dear Parishioners,

We are in the last weekend of April and the second month of the pandemic. This weekend we also celebrate the Third Sunday of Easter, and our continued celebration of the finding of the most important discovery in history: the Empty Tomb!

It is also the second week of our Facebook Live Mass from our church. So thankfully, we can still be together spiritually through social media and prayer. Mass can be viewed live at 2:00 PM today, April 25th on our Facebook page as well as on our church website at olsh-hilltown.com and will then be available throughout the weekend to watch. I thank all of those who help to make the Facebook Live Mass possible.

The first reading of this Sunday's Mass comes from the Acts of the Apostles. The Acts of the Apostles was composed by St. Luke the Evangelist. St. Luke meant "Acts" to be read with his Gospel and as a continuation of his Gospel. His purpose was to show the Church growing by the power of the Holy Spirit, continuing the Mission, and reaching out from Jerusalem to the ends of the World.

Acts, moreover, is the very first "church history" ever written. Therefore, as we are reading and mediating with "Acts," we are reading about the history of our church family and learning from our Christian ancestors.

Since many of us are looking for good things to do, I encourage you to take out your favorite copy of the Sacred Scriptures and read "Acts" straight through. To help with this, I have included a basic outline of the book at the end of this email.

I have also included a homily from Saint Gaudentius of Brescia. While not a well know Saint nowadays, he was an important Saint from the fourth and fifth centuries and has left us a beautiful teaching on the Holy Eucharist. I hope you enjoy it.

Here also are some updates:

- Confirmation: In accord with new directives from the Office of the Archbishop, all Confirmations originally scheduled for this Spring, including ours, are now postponed to the Fall. As we receive new information, we will share it with you, and we apologize for any inconvenience.
- PREP: Of course, the hope is to resume our normal PREP schedule in the Fall semester. However, in case we cannot, we are developing a backup plan to make religious instruction available through virtual classes between our catechists and our children. Hopefully we do not have to use this, but we are developing a plan just in case. We are so grateful to our Director of Religious Education, Mrs. Joanne Roberts, and her staff for all they do for our children and our families.
- Confessions: Confessions are still heard in church during our regularly scheduled times of Saturday 8:00 - 8:30 AM and 3:15 - 4:00 PM
- Church and Chapel: the church remains open Saturday and Sunday mornings from 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM. The church is also open from 3:00 - 4:00 PM on Saturdays. The chapel is open on weekdays from 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
- May Crowning: a drive up May Crowning of our Blessed Mother, in our parking lot, is being planned for Sunday May 10, at noon (Mother's Day). More details to follow.

Lastly, let us continue to lay siege to Heaven and pray our Rosaries and our Chaplets for all those who have died, for their families, for all those sickened, for first responders, for doctors and nurses, and for an end of this disease. Hope to see you soon!



Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us!
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, pray for us!

Fr. Michael J. Pawelko

From a sermon by Saint Gaudentius of Brescia
The inheritance of the new Covenant: the Holy Eucharist



The heavenly sacrifice, instituted by Christ, is the most gracious legacy of his new covenant. On the night he was delivered up to be crucified he left us this gift as a pledge of his abiding presence.

This sacrifice is our sustenance on life's journey; by it we are nourished and supported along the road of life until we depart from this world and make our way to the Lord. For this reason he addressed these words to us: *Unless you eat my flesh and drink my blood, you will not have life in you.*

It was the Lord's will that his gifts should remain with us, and that we who have been redeemed by his precious blood should constantly be sanctified according to the pattern of his own passion. And so he commanded those faithful disciples of his whom he made the first priests of his Church to enact these mysteries of eternal life continuously. All priests throughout the churches of the world must celebrate these mysteries until Christ comes again from heaven. Therefore let us all, priests and people alike, be faithful to this everlasting memorial of our redemption.

Daily it is before our eyes as a representation of the passion of Christ. We hold it in our hands, we receive it in our mouths, and we accept it in our hearts.

It is appropriate that we should receive the body of Christ in the form of bread, because, as there are many grains of wheat in the flour from which bread is made by mixing it with water and baking it with fire, so also we know that many members make up the one body of Christ which is brought to maturity by the fire of the Holy Spirit. Christ was born of the Holy Spirit, and since it was fitting that he should fulfil all justice, he entered into the waters of baptism to sanctify them. When he left the Jordan he was filled with the Holy Spirit who had descended upon him in the form of a dove. As the evangelist tells us: *Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan.*

Similarly, the wine of Christ's blood, drawn from the many grapes of the vineyard that he had planted, is extracted in the wine-press of the cross. When men receive it with believing hearts, like capacious wineskins, it ferments within them by its own power.

And so, now that you have escaped from the power of Egypt and of Pharaoh, who is the devil, join with us, all of you, in receiving this sacrifice of the saving Passover with the eagerness of dedicated hearts. Then in our inmost being we shall be wholly sanctified by the very Lord Jesus Christ whom we believe to be present in his sacraments, and whose boundless power abides forever. Amen

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Outline of Acts of the Apostles (taken from *Inside the Bible* by Kenneth Baker, SJ., Ignatius Press, 1998, with some modifications)

1. Introduction and Statement of Purpose by St. Luke
2. The Christian Community in Jerusalem (2:14-8:3)
 - a. Peter's First Sermon on Pentecost
 - b. Communal Life of the Apostles and Disciples
 - c. Cure of beggar; Peter's Speech to Sanhedrin
 - d. Seven Deacons Appointed
 - e. Martyrdom of St. Stephen
3. The mission in Judea and Samaria (8:4-9:43)
 - a. St. Philip the missionary
 - b. Conversion of St. Paul
 - c. Peter works more miracles
4. Mission to the Gentiles (10:1-15:35)
 - a. The baptism of Cornelius
 - b. The Church in Antioch
 - c. Herod's Persecution
 - d. St. Paul's First Missionary Journey
 - e. The Council of Jerusalem
5. St. Paul's Other Missionary Journeys (15:36-28:31)
 - a. Second Missionary Journey
 - b. Third Missionary Journey
 - c. St. Paul a prisoner for Christ
 - i. St. Paul's arrest and sermon
 - ii. St. Paul before the Sanhedrin
 - iii. St. Paul transferred to Caesarea and King Agrippa II
 - iv. St. Paul's appeal to Rome
 - v. Voyage to Rome and shipwreck
 - vi. St. Paul's imprisonment in Rome



MASS Intentions

ALL MASSES WILL BE CELEBRATED PRIVATELY.

Monday, April 27th:

7:30 a.m. Tony DeGennaro
Request of the Family

Tuesday, April 28th:

7:30 a.m. John Breslin
Request of the McNally Family

Wednesday, April 29th:

7:30 a.m. Donna Moore
Request of Colleen & Neil O'Brien

Thursday, April 30th:

7:30 a.m. Michael Fitzpatrick
Request of John & Helen McDonald

Friday, May 1st:

7:30 a.m. Joseph Rumsey
Request of the Family

Saturday, May 2nd:

7:30 a.m. Frank Mauger
Request of the Family
4:00 p.m. Michael Faherty
Request of Don & Joanne Roberts

Sunday, May 3rd:

8:00 a.m. People of the Parish
9:30 a.m. Paul Rivest
Request of the Family
11:00 a.m. Fr. Daniel Bitsko
Request of Joanna Sekella

Please Pray for our sick including Baby Aiden Romoya, Ralph Bleiler, Jonathan Botelho, Vickie Brady, Peggy Brown, Thomas Brown, Eleanor Cavaggion, Valarie Class, Ann Clifford, Zachary Coco, Pat Costo, Mary Covino, Richard D'Amelio, Mary Jane DeGennaro, Lou DiCriscio, Claudia Epstein, Roni Epstein, Barbara Lynne Filippone, John Gambale, Jackie Godek, Anita Grasso, Lester Guinther, Edith Gross, Rose Harmon, Amy Hayman, Brian Healy, Jean Igusky, Marie Johannessen, Ray MacNamera, Ian Malin, Stella Marino, Michael Murphy, John and Suzanne Pelletier, Carolyn Pritz, Marge Quartucci, Francis Resuta, Dominic Sano, Andrew Savarese, Paul Sawyer, Florence Simons, John Suchodolski, Theresa Tackacs, Ted Talian, Luke Tynan, Richard Volpe, Jaime Whiteley, David Wilding, Theresa Wilson.



Pray also for our relatives and friends who have died including, Ray Cavaggion, husband of Eleanor; Mary Wagner, mother of Rosemary.

We respectfully ask that you continue to support our parish in the usual way you have done either weekly, monthly, or otherwise. We encourage you to mail in your envelopes or cash (by check) to our parish office, or by subscribing to our online giving link, Parish Giving. It's simple, secure, and convenient. Please visit our website at www.olsh-hilltown.com and click on Parish Giving for more information.

Christmas Bazaar Update

Are you cleaning out closets, drawers, the basement? Consider setting aside items for the Bazaar! There are a few changes this year in what we are looking for. Due to space constraints, please adhere to the list below. Drop off dates will be announced when we are able to move about more freely.

- Books: in good condition
- Gems and Jewelry: in good condition
- Santa's Attic: Holiday Décor, Toys, Games, Puzzles:

Please **NO HOUSEHOLD GOODS!!!**

If you have any NEW items or gift cards (new or partially used) that could be used in the raffle baskets.... that would be great!

We are also looking for someone to head up Publicity, someone to manage the Donations Teams and one more person to handle the Volunteers. Please consider helping out your church!

If you have any questions, about any of this information, please email:

olshbazaarhilltown@gmail.com

