

August 17, 2022

From Fr. John

Perhaps because of the number of funerals I have been a part of since the COVID pandemic began, or perhaps just because of the number of people whom Donna and I have lost in the last couple of years; whatever the reason, I have been thinking a lot lately about loss.

Jesus said that there were two Commandments – Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. And love your neighbor as yourself. Here are couple of important reasons he said that. Human beings were made to worship God. That is why we were created, to worship our creator. And this God who created everything that is, does not want to be worshipped because we are afraid that we will be sent to hell if we don't worship God. No, this God wants us to worship because we love the Lord completely – heart, soul, mind, and strength. And that love should be reflected out to our “neighbors,” those with whom we have relationships and those with whom we do not. But true love is not cheap.

When we risk truly loving other people, we become invested in their welfare. The kind of love that Jesus spoke of was what the Greeks called “Agape” (agápē). Agape is sacrificial love. It is love in action. It shows empathy. It desires and cares deeply about the good of the beloved. It wants what is best for the beloved. And it demonstrates good intentions toward all those who are loved. Jesus intended for his followers to extend agape to everyone.

It is not easy to love people with true agape. Loving this way means not always getting our own way. It means giving up something we want in order to ensure that someone else gets what they need. It means requiring us to act in the best interest of the other person – even when we would rather not. And it means showing empathy and understanding and extending grace, especially when it's hardest to do those things.

When we love with agape it deepens our other loves as well. It takes romantic love and the love of family members to deeper depths. When we love others deeply though, we risk the pain of losing that love. The loss of those we love, whether by death, or geography, or estrangement, can create lasting wounds that are difficult to overcome. But there is Good News in all this.

God knows and understands our pain. And just as we are to have agape for God and our neighbor, so does God have agape for us. Jesus promised us the Holy Spirit to be with us always, as our comforter, teacher, and guide. When you feel alone, empty, or left out, go to God in prayer. Call on the power of the Spirit. And call me. With the help of that same Holy Spirit, I will do my best to help you walk whatever difficult road you may be on. Oh ... one final thing. When you are feeling loss, go out and help someone else. It is amazing how much healing can come from showing agape to someone else who is in need.

God's peace be with you all.
Fr. John+

Home Communion
Tomorrow - Thursday - August 18
6:00 PM
Joan & Dana Brunson's Home
6170 Audubon Oaks
Alexandria, LA



Bring a salad, side dish, or dessert to share! Bring a friend, too! Enjoy faith and fellowship in a relaxed setting with family and friends!



ITEMS NEEDED FOR August 25th H2O (Helping 2 Overcome Homelessness)

St. James continues to participate in in this ongoing street outreach sponsored by Volunteers of America. This month we are looking for items to help people cope with the extreme heat we are experiencing:

- Medicated body powder (Target has cheapest)
- Undershirts (Men's M & L)
- Underwear (Women's S; Men's M, L, XL)
- Scrubbers/scrub brushes
- Ankle socks (men & women)
- Batteries (AA & AAA)
- Gatorade
- Non-perishable snacks

Bring your donations to church by Sunday, August 21, and place them in the blue bin in the narthex (church). Questions or want to help at the event? Contact Joy Owensby or Deacon Michael Parham. Thank you!

Good Food Project Workday Saturday, October 1st 7:30am – 9:30am

The Good Food Project of the Food Bank of Central Louisiana needs volunteers. As part of our Community Outreach, this is a wonderful opportunity for us to serve. Duties needing assistance are weeding, pulling tomato plants, and general upkeep. This will be a good opportunity for St. James to experience what it will take to facilitate our own future vegetable and flower garden.

You'll need a good set of gardening or work gloves, water, and a hat is recommended. Please email your availability to Josh Brown by emailing Joshua.d.brown2@gmail.com. If you are unable to physically assist in working that day and are interested in helping, please donate by clicking [here](#).



Worship



August 21st

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
In-person Worship at 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM
Childcare is available for the 10:30 AM service.

[Click here for the readings.](#)

August 21st
Evening Prayer
Online @ 5:00 PM

[Click on this link to join Evening Prayer.](#)

Meeting ID: 863 4898 4077
Passcode: 1620

[Click here for the order of service & readings.](#)



Prayer

Parish Prayer List

Please keep these members of our community in your prayers:

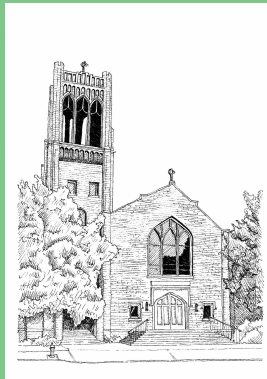
Grace Gennuso, Jonathan Rhea, Peggy Humbles, Laura Murchison, Amber Damico, Darriel & Charles, Minnie Mikell, Massi Jordan, Richard Norem, Bedingfield Family, Pepe Rizzo, Alice Gill, Bonnie McLellan, Devon Miller, Eileen DeBoer, Michael Sterne, Jim Leggett, Cackie, Rita and Bill Clancey, Bernard Parker, Rachel and Ben, Kristie Fresh, Janet & Carl Ahrens, Andrea, Jeff and Anne, Lillian DeVille, Shannon Norman, Bill Jarvis, Wilma Filipi, Stephen, Natosha and Family, Jack Bender, Fran Barbato, Kevin Delaney, Gail, Charlotte Sterling, Matthew Fontanille, Andrew, Shirley Christian, Susan Webster, Stacy, Chase Barnfield, Mattie Dean McNaughton, Johnnie Hart, Taylor Thompson, Jane Y. Harris, Kip Hogue, Kyle, James Jay Watts, Beth Virden, Glenn Guillory, Elda Schoolcraft, Jimmy Hurt, Mesta Bain, Dean M. Tyree, Jackie Jeanne, Dietrich DeBoer, Beverly Butler, Murel Trimble, Emily Warren, Bill Leibke, Sarah, Jackie Moody, Wayne Moorehead, Pat Carter, Kevin Hooter, Jane Tyson, Gerard, and Mehre Hajjhassem.

For those in the military:

Josh Duff, Samuel Hayes, Steven Brevelle, Franklin Watson, Kyle Jordan, Gill Tatman-Tyree, Donal McCarthy, Michael Geiger, Erskine Cook, Jr., Patrick Downs, and Chris Babcock.

For those celebrating birthdays in August (day):

Walter McLellan (2), Susie Randow (3), Becky Warren (4), Sonny Trammell (7), Linda Culpepper (8), Larry Menache (8), Fr. John Bedingfield (9), Suzanne Alexander (11), Catherine Davidson (12), Tish Fresh (12), David Lind (13), Claire Callis (14), Murel Trimble (14), Betty Ingrish (15), Scott Yeager (15), Gene Sterling (19), Paton Downs (21), Faye Flanagan (21), McKenzie Yeager (22), Jameson Milliner (23), Delores Brewer (24), Nancy Flournoy (25), Allie Malone (27), Sara Davidson (28) and Susan Frey (28).



Visit our
Website

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