



Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Peace

YOUTH BULLETIN

Week of ... September 27, 2015

Gospel Reading for the 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark, 9:30-41. The disciple John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw a man using your name to force demons out of people. But he was not one of us, and we told him to stop." Jesus said to his disciples: "Don't stop him! No one who works miracles in my name will soon turn and say something bad about me. Anyone who is not against us is for us. And anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name, just because you belong to me, will surely be rewarded." The gospel of the Lord.

Welcome Back Families!

We are excited to kick off our new year! Your child will bring home a lesson plan this week. **Please remember that if your child is absent, we rely on the family to complete the lesson at home.** In late August you received a new year letter and calendar. Please refer to them throughout the year for information and to know when classes are in session.



EIGHTH GRADE CONFIRMATION CALENDAR

10/4: Confirmation practice during class.

10/11: Students and sponsors are to meet Deacon Matt in church at 10:00 am for a practice with the students. If Mass is running a little late please be respectful and wait outside until it has concluded. This will take the place of your regularly scheduled class.

10/13: Confirmation is at 5:00 pm. Please meet in the parish hall at promptly 4:00 pm. There will be a picture with the Bishop, Father Beck and Deacon Matt before preparing to process upstairs to Mass.

Dress code for the occasion: young men in dress slacks, dress shirt with a tie or a suit. Young ladies in skirt or slacks with a blouse or a dress. Attire should be modest and reverent. Students may wish to wear red as it is the color of Confirmation, however, it is not mandatory.



Communication is the key to any successful relationship and we have many ways for families to keep abreast of what's happening in faith formation:

- **Youth Bulletin:** Our primary form of contact is through this youth bulletin which will be sent home with your child each week. Please read it weekly to stay informed.
- **Email:** We send most information via email. If you gave us an email address at registration, you will receive emails periodically. If you are not receiving emails and would like to, please give us a call and we'll gladly add you to our list.
- **Parish Website:** queenofpeacehawley.com. We have a youth faith formation tab that contains bulletins, upcoming events and activities.

We love to hear from you! Please feel free to call us at 570-226-2955 during office hours which are: Mondays 9:00 to 12:00 and 1:00 to 4:00; Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:00 to 5:00; and Sundays 9:00 to 1:00.

"Communication leads to Community..." (Rollo May)



There will be **no classes on Tuesday, October 13th** for third, fourth and fifth grade students. Our eighth graders will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation on that day. Please keep them in your prayers!



All church offices will be **closed on Monday, October 12th** in observance of Columbus Day.

Office Hours:

Mon.— 9 to 12 and 1 to 4

Tues. & Thurs.—9 to 5

Sun.— 9 to 1

Closing Policy:

Please note that faith formation classes follow the Wallenpaupack School District's policies. If Wallenpaupack schools close for any reason, classes will be cancelled. If after school activities have been cancelled, faith formation classes will be cancelled. For Sunday Faith Formation classes, please listen to WDNH radio station 95.3 for announcements. You can also call the faith formation office, as long as there is electric power, for a voice mail announcement. Thank you!

Contact Info.

570-226-2955 or 6771

FAX: 570-390-4418

qpfaithkids@gmail.com

queenofpeacehawley.com



THE HOME IS THE FIRST SCHOOL-THE FIRST CHURCH

At baptism, parents make a solemn commitment to God to raise their child in the Catholic faith. In practical terms this means that they **promise** to:

1. Bring the child to Sunday Mass each week starting the Sunday after Baptism.
2. Bring the child to religious education starting no later than the first grade and continuing through Confirmation.
3. Teach the child by word and example at home to love God and neighbor as Jesus taught.

Parents have the most precious responsibility and privilege of being their children's first teachers. They must educate their children in the faith, prayer, and all virtues. However, today's secular culture, which teaches us from youth that devotion to God is a private matter, makes this difficult to see. Our society makes us ashamed not only to speak about God in the workplace or to our neighbors, we are sometimes even hesitant to show a vibrant faith to our own children. In fact, we often feel uncomfortable with our own religious desires. Parents trying to pass on the faith to their children, should cultivate and incorporate the faith into their own daily lives. In order to evangelize our children, we must first develop our personal religious life. You can't give what you don't have. Our lives need to revolve around Jesus Christ, we can't just hope He fits into our lifestyle somewhere.

It is an immense responsibility to provide for our family. But we do it gladly out of love. As parents we are concerned with providing an education for our children, looking to help them in the future. Of all the plans we make for our children, the greatest gift we can invest in is their future in eternity! Even more important than planning for education, we cannot leave our children's eternal destiny up to chance, hoping they get to heaven, but taking no care to do anything about it. If they have all they need (or even want) but they lose their souls for all eternity due to our neglect, what have we done for them?

As Catholic parents who have made this solemn promise to God at our child's baptism, let's renew our commitment to teach and practice our Catholic faith. It is not easy to be a Catholic in today's culture. It requires great self-discipline and sacrifice to put God first in all things. To ensure our eternal future and that of our child we must do as Jesus taught us: "You shall love the Lord your God with your whole heart, and with your whole soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment." Remember – "Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these." (Mark 9:14)