

Sunday May 4, 2025 Third Sunday of Easter

The disciples make a big splash and eat breakfast with the risen Jesus. Wading in the water (remembering baptism) and eating with Jesus (celebrating holy communion) is our weekly encounter with the risen Christ. Jesus asks us again and again: Do you love me? And Jesus invites us, again and again, to follow him, bringing the Easter life to others.

WELCOME! We are glad to have you join us in worship today. Here are a few notes to help you feel more at home participating in our worship.

Worshiping. Today's service is printed in this bulletin. Parts in **bold** indicate responses by everyone in which you are invited to participate.

Communion: Lutheran Christians believe that the Lord Jesus Christ feeds us with his true body and blood "in, with, and under" the bread and wine in the Lord's Supper. All baptized Christians who receive Communion in their own churches are welcome to receive the sacrament. Please note that the darker wine is non-alcoholic and is available from the Lector. Communion will be distributed continuously, in procession. Please come forward as directed by the ushers.

Coffee Hour. We hope that you will join us for coffee and conversation in the lobby following the worship service.

ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

270 South Broadway + Hicksville NY 11801

Church Office: Monday - Friday 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Church Office: 516/931-0710

Barbara Barcavage, Church Council President (email ststephenstreasurer1@gmail.com)

Kate Lenzo, Parish Administrator (email ststephenoffice@msn.com)

Church Website www.ststephenshicksville.com

Join us on Facebook: St. Stephens Lutheran Church, Hicksville, NY

+ GATHERING +

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

- P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. C Amen.
- P Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. C Amen.

GATHERING SONG: As We Gather at Your Table (ELW 522)



- 1 As we gath-er at your ta-ble, as we lis-ten to your word,
- 2 Turn our wor-ship in to wit-ness in the sac ra ment of life;
- 3 Gra-cious Spir-it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred. send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife. where tri - um-phant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.



Nour-ish us with sa-cred sto-ry till we claim it as our own; Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for - give as you for - gave; There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho-ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known. may we still be-hold your im-age in the world you died to save. as we join with saints and an-gels to re-peat the sound-ing joy.

GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. C And also with you.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE





PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Eternal and all-merciful God, with all the angels and all the saints we laud your majesty and might. By the resurrection of your Son, show yourself to us and inspire us to follow Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C** Amen.

+ WORD +

FIRST READING: Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]

A reading from Acts.

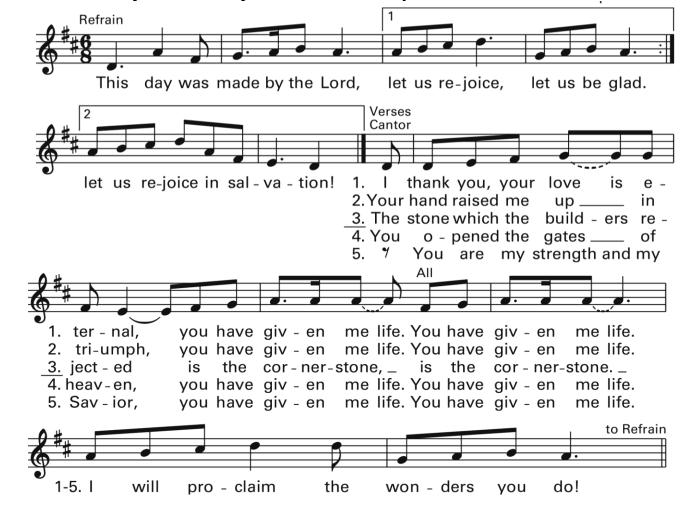
¹Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ²and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" ⁵He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." ¹The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. ⁸Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." ¹¹The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, ¹²and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." ¹³But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; ¹⁴and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." ¹⁵But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; ¹⁶I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." ¹⁷So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, ¹⁹and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, ²⁰and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."

... The word of the Lord. C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: This Day Was Made by the Lord ~ Christopher Walker



SECOND READING: Revelation 5:11-14

A reading from Revelation.

¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹² singing with full voice,

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"

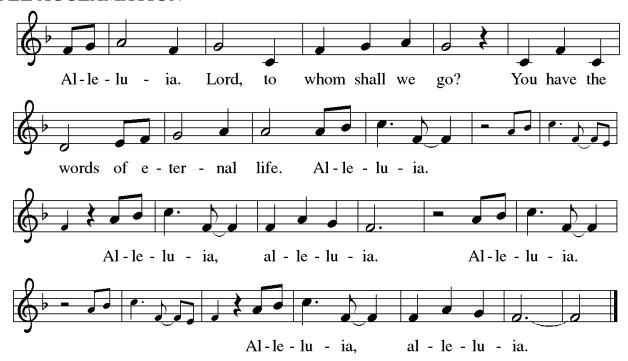
¹³ Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea and all that is in them, singing,

"To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"

¹⁴ And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the elders fell down and worshiped.

...The word of the Lord. C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: John 21:1-19

P The holy gospel according to John. C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ After [he appeared to his followers in Jerusalem,] Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he showed himself in this way. ² Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. ³ Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

⁴ Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach, but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵ Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." ⁶ He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. ⁷ That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he had taken it off, and jumped into the sea. ⁸ But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

⁹ When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. ¹⁰ Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." ¹¹ So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them, and though there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the

dead.

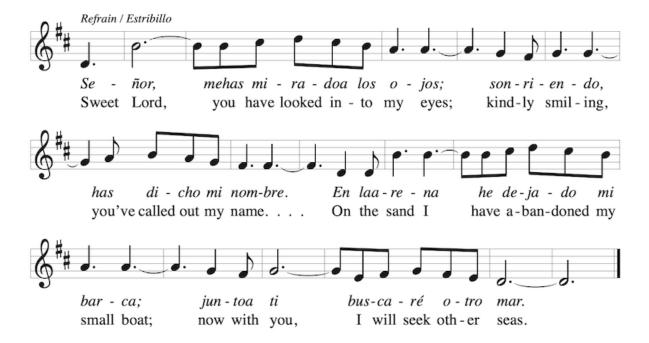
¹⁵ When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." ¹⁶ A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." ¹⁷ He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. 18 Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." 19 (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

... The gospel of the Lord. C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore (ELW 817)





APOSTLES' CREED

A With the whole Church, we confess our faith.

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A Your love sustains the church and its ministries. By that love, equip youth directors, Sunday school teachers, and all who guide formation in the church to nurture vibrant, living faith among your people. Hear us, O God. **C** Your mercy is great.

A Your abundance is made known throughout creation. Preserve oceans and rivers, lakes and estuaries so that all creatures living in them might flourish. Make us wise stewards of our local watersheds. Hear us, O God. **C** Your mercy is great.

A Your wisdom guides all who strive for justice and peace. Strengthen the work of grassroots organizers, especially among communities on the frontlines of justice work. Amplify the voices of those most in need, that their leadership guides the way forward. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Your compassion surrounds all who are in need. We pray for all people experiencing poverty and food insecurity, and for all struggling with debt and economic uncertainty. Reassure all who experience hopelessness or need your tender care. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

- A You invite all people to your table of grace. Make this a community of radical hospitality where all feel loved and celebrated. Show us how to better welcome visitors and bless the ministries of hospitality in this place. Hear us, O God. C Your mercy is great.
- A We praise you for the witness of your saints of all times and places. May their lives of faith guide us in our own journeys with you, today and every day. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. C Amen.

PEACE

- P The peace of Christ be with you always. C And also with you.
- P Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

ADDITIONAL PRAYERS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAY SONG

+ MEAL +

OFFERING: Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ (ELW 674)





Je-sus lives a-gain, earth can breathe a-gain, pass the Word a-round: loaves a - bound!

OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C** Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

P The Lord be with you. C And also with you.

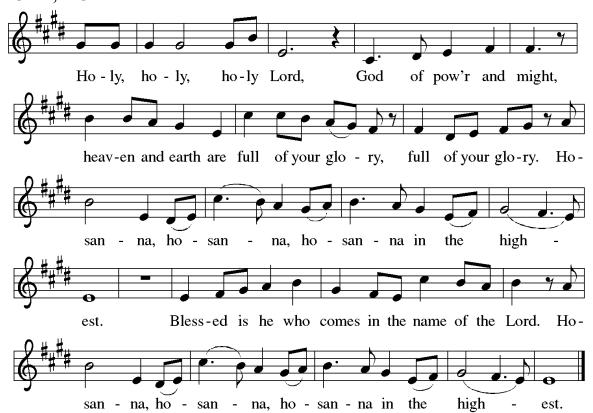
P Lift up your hearts. C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **C** Amen.

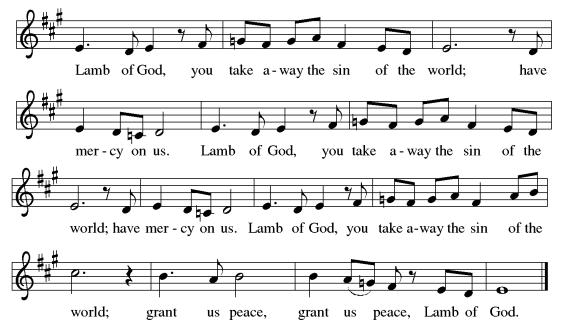
LORD'S PRAYER

- P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.
- C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

LAMB OF GOD



SONG DURING COMMUNION: Here I Am, Lord (ELW 574)



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray. Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. C Amen.

+ SENDING +

BLESSING

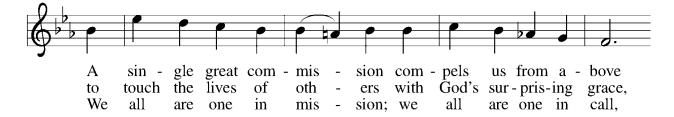
- P Alleluia! Christ is risen! C Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!
- P The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope bless you now and always. C Amen

SENDING SONG: We All Are One in Mission (ELW 576)



- 1 We all are one in mis sion; we all are one in call,
- 2 We all are called for ser vice, to wit-ness in God's name.
- 3 Now let us be u nit ed, and let our song be heard







to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love. so ev - 'ry folk and na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace. our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Share the good news. C Thanks be to God.

Upcoming Commemorations

Monica, mother of Augustine, died 387 Sunday, May 4, 2025

Monica was married to a pagan husband who was ill-tempered and unfaithful, but whom she helped bring into the Christian faith. She repeated the influence on her son Augustine, who went on to become one of the greatest church teachers.

Julian of Norwich, renewer of the church, died around 1416 Thursday, May 8, 2025

When she was about thirty years old, Julian (or Juliana) reported visions that she later compiled into a book, Sixteen Revelations of Divine Love, now a classic of medieval mysticism. The visions declared that love was the meaning of religious experience, provided by Christ who is love, for the purpose of love.

Victor the Moor, martyr, died 303 (TFF) Thursday, May 8, 2025

Also known as Victor Maurus, this native of the northwest African nation of Mauritania was a soldier in the Roman Praetorian Guard. Under the persecution of Maximian, Victor died for his faith at Milan.

Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, renewer of the church, hymnwriter, died 1760 Friday, May 9, 2025

When he was 22, a group of Moravians asked permission to live on Zinzendorf's land. He agreed, and eventually worldwide Moravian missions emanated from this community. Zinzendorf participated in these missions, and is also remembered for writing hymns characteristic of his Pietistic faith.

Announcements for the week of May 4, 2025



Roger Engert - May 18th Dorothy Eberhardt - May 19th



Gail & Anthony Agarenzo - May 24th

~Coffee Hour Sign-up Sheet for April - June is available in the Narthex. Please consider hosting a coffee hour by suppling refreshments and/or serving.

~ A chart on the lobby bulletin board allows us to designate weekly <u>Sunday service</u> altar flowers or the monthly sanctuary lamp candle as special memorial/in honor of gifts. Use the envelopes provided to forward the gift (\$25.00 for flowers; \$15.00 for candle). Be sure to include information concerning who is being honored/memorialized by your gift as well as your name, address and telephone number. You may also contact the church office at 516-931-0710.

~ Lutheran Bible Study:

Topic: A six-week course on the Acts of the Apostles

Dates: Tues, April 29 - Tues, June 10

Time: 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Zoom Link

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86449108753?pwd=R79zyFKLG12zYgCi66AGshu4eOrZa1.1

Meeting ID: 864 4910 8753

Passcode: 782457

~ From the Altar Guild:

Our numbers are few; and the Guild would welcome your assistance. We are a small assembly dedicated to arranging the sanctuary for the Sunday services of Holy Communion, festive worship services, and the Services of Word and Light. Don't feel overwhelmed with what you see as our worship space changes with each season or with the task to be done. The work is done as a team of two or with the entire Altar Guild when necessary, and on occasion with assistance from the Property Committee. It is a labor of love and service to the Lord, a small but important charge. If you are interested, even if you just have questions, you can speak with Lauren, Bill, Beth, or Jane.

~ Also from the Altar Guild:

Please feel free to take an Easter plant (or two) for your home or yard. Replant the blubs when the flowers are done, and enjoy the blooms next year. Just a reminder to bring back the gold foil pot cover. Thanks.

~ St. Stephen's Newsletter

Do you have news, events, photos, or reflections you'd like to share with our church community? We'd love to include them in our monthly newsletter! **Please submit all items by the 23rd of each month** to ensure they make it into the next edition. Submissions can be emailed to tmaurer145@aol.com or called in to the church office. Thank you for helping us stay connected and informed!

~ The U.S. Postal Service's Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive will take place on Saturday, May 10th. This year, the goal for Long Island is to collect 500,000 pounds of food, which will be distributed to various agencies across Nassau and Suffolk counties. Food insecurity continues to rise among our Long Island neighbors, especially as funding cuts reduce support for vital anti-hunger programs. Your participation can help fill the gap.



~ Movie Night - Cool Runnings



Sunday May 18th | 4:30 pm Pastor's Lounge

You'll love *Cool Runnings* - the outrageously funny comedy hit inspired by the true story of Jamaica's first Olympic bobsled team. A GREAT MOVIE FOR EVERYONE! Refreshments, Pizza! **Please sign up**: call Maureen 938-7706 or email mozieob@gmail.com

PARISH CALENDAR THIS WEEK (May 4th - May 11th)

<u>DAY</u> <u>EVENT</u> <u>TIME</u>

Sunday, May 4 th	3 rd Sunday of Easter	Holy Communion 9:00 am
Tuesday, May 6 th	Back to Basics	7:00 pm
	Zoom Bible Study	7:00 pm
Wednesday, May 7th	N.A.	7:00 pm
Saturday May 10 th	Gregory Museum	9:00 am - 4:00 pm
	Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive	All Day
Sunday, May 11 th	4th Sunday of Easter	Holy Communion 9:00 am

SERVING AT WORSHIP TODAY

Sunday, 9:00 AM

ASSISTING MINISTER: Barbara Engert

LECTOR: Jaclyn Shurman

ACOLYTE: Natalie Mangiaracina

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Mason Griffin

USHERS: Rick Mosebach

GREETER: Maureen O'Brien

AUDIO/VISUAL: Tyler LaVorgna

ALTAR GUILD: Beth Feeney

PARISH PRAYER LIST



If you would like to have your name or your friend or family member's name added to the Prayer List, please call the office. Please remember to keep the office updated.

PRAY FOR OUR CONGREGATION

Vinny Aiello

Bill Artus

Lauren Artus

Dottie Eberhardt

Jane Ebersberger

Barbara & Roger Engert

Richard Engert

Pastor Ron Klose

Claire and John Parrett

Ilona Riggers

Lenny Schiliro

PRAY FOR OUR FAMILIES

Vinny Aiello (husband of Laureen Aiello)

Fred Barrell (brother-in-law of Paul and Susan Portz)

Joe DiSalvo (cousin of Maureen O'Brien)

James Ebersberger (brother of Jane Ebersberger)

Jim Fritz (cousin of Lauren Artus and John Langbehn)

Lucky Hagner (beloved new dog of Joan Hagner)

Vicki Maurer (daughter-in-law of Nan and Bob Maurer)

John Peck (nephew of Christel LaVorgna)

Tom Portz (brother of Paul Portz)

Jean Riolo (mother of Christine Carlson)

William Stanton (cousin of Kellie Barone)

PRAY FOR OUR FRIENDS

Angela Capo (friend of Laureen Aiello)

Rich Carlstrom (friend of the Staton family)

Maryellen Collins (friend of the Staton family)

Cheryl Glasini (friend of the Ahlers-Pendas family)

John Judge (friend of Jane Ebersberger)

Jim Lasurdo (friend of the Maurer family)

Ellen Motoi (friend of Maureen O'Brien)

Betty, John & Mary Beth Ott (friends of Jane Ebersberger)

Martina Schmid (former member of the congregation)

John Sheridan (friend of Bob and Nan Maurer)