

## MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR:

Dear Parents and Families,

We have shared some memorable moments in parish life during the month of May; First Eucharist and the enrollment of our Confirmation Candidates.

I could not be more proud of our young people and all those smiling faces in our community. When I look out and see our families celebrating the Sunday Eucharist my heart is filled with joy. Often parishioners will comment on the life, energy and spirit they experience when our children go out for Children's Liturgy of the Word or Church Mice or how active Youth Ministry is in the parish. I think of the words of Jesus: *"Let the children come to me and do not hinder them."*

Our children and teenagers learn from our example and actions. Please make every effort to bring them to share at the Table of the Lord. Remember, you are the way they get to church and together with the worshipping community they grow in faith and love of God.

Enjoy the summer months and remember to stop, thank, praise and worship God on Sunday wherever you are and His blessings will pour forth into your lives.

Blessings, Fr. Burke

## Summer Opportunities for Teens!

The following are chances for teens to participate in a variety of experiences to live a fuller life in the faith. They will meet other teens, and spend valuable time learning about who they are meant to become. Our Lady of the Assumption has a policy of asking families to pay only 1/3 of the total costs of these events, the other 2/3 coming from the parish and from the various Youth Ministry fundraising activities that take place all year long. No teen will be turned away for an inability to pay. There are also scholarship monies available. Please read through these carefully with your teen, check out the websites where available and pray on it. Deadlines are fast approaching, so please let Mrs. Gavin know if you are interested. 785-1605 or [youthola@nycap.rr.com](mailto:youthola@nycap.rr.com).

### Saint Isaac Jogues Youth Conference (for high school youth) Friday, July 10-12, 2016

SIJYC is the premier Catholic Youth Conference in the Northeast. It is hosted by the Diocese of Albany and St. Ambrose Church. The weekend includes awesome speakers who share their own faith journey to teach, encourage and inspire. Teens experience the Sacraments throughout the weekend, and learn the richness of the Catholic Faith through workshops, daily mass, group discussions, games, skits, great live music, fun, food, and free time! The cost for the SIJYC is \$120. Teens and chaperones stay at the Holiday Inn Express on Columbia Turnpike and Old Loudon Road for an additional \$140, but rooms accommodate up to 6 people so it is split.

## God has the power to provide.

### SALT (Service Action Learning Team) (for youth 15-18 years old) Sunday, July 31-Thursday, August 4

SALT is a locally organized service immersion experience for high school youth. Young people will explore many of the important social justice issues that confront our community. Each day is filled with hands-on service opportunities. The goal of SALT is to understand how to put faith in action. The cost for the SALT experience is \$275, and includes all supplies, meals, lodging, and travel to sites. See Mrs. Gavin for more information. Deadline to register...June 10.

Our Lady of the Assumption  
Faith Formation and Youth Ministry  
498 Watervliet-Shaker Road  
Latham, NY 12110  
(518) 785-1605

Spring 2016  
Volume 2, Issue 1

# Living in Faith

A Newsletter from the Faith Formation and Youth Ministry Office

## Faith at Our Lady of the Assumption

We all look forward to relaxation this summer, but that does not mean that the joy of the Gospel and growing in faith should stop.

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12).

This verse tells us that we should embrace the summer light. This means not only simply embracing more sunlight, but more Sonlight. We have a little bit more time to relax, so why not think of ways to use this tremendous light? Why not soak up the Son by taking 15-20 minutes to read Scripture? We could make it one of our goals to go through one of the Gospels.

Mark's Gospel emphasizes ministry and evangelization, so this Gospel could motivate us to use some of our time for charity and love of neighbor.

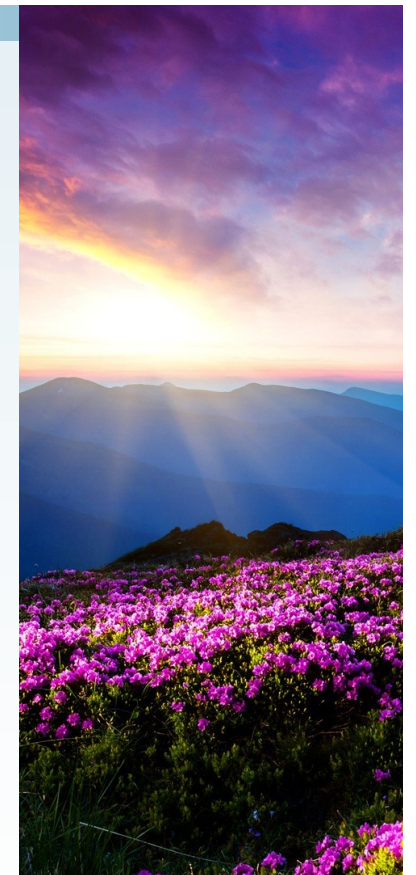
Matthew's Gospel emphasizes Old Testament fulfillments and the family of God. So this Gospel can remind us that family should never get old, but always be made anew by being rooted in one another and growing towards God.

Luke's Gospel emphasizes what it means to be the perfect person since he traces Jesus' genealogy back to Adam, the son of God (Luke 3:38). For example, Luke shows us through Jesus, that being a perfect person means to be filled with God's love (the Holy Spirit), to embrace God's mercy (see the mercy parables of Luke 15), and always to take time to pray. So from this Gospel, we could be prompted to use some of the "extra time" we now have to pray a Rosary or the Lord's Prayer.

John's Gospel starts with the divine and embraces the humanity of Christ. With this Gospel we could challenge ourselves to pray for the gift of wisdom to slow life down and think about how God is trying to speak to us through the ordinary things in life.

We must challenge ourselves to be a light to future generations by continuing to love, embracing the good news in the Gospels, and taking in as much Sonlight as possible.

*(Shared with permission from Catechist Magazine April/May 2016)*



### Inside this issue

Big Changes.....	2
VBS—Cave Quest.....	2
Welcome Families.....	3
Faith Formation Staff.....	3
Message from Fr. Burke.....	4
St. Isaac Jogues Youth Conference.....	4
SALT.....	4

### Dates to remember!

- Kickball and BBQ July 11,18, 25
- VBS July 25-29
- St. Isaac Jogues July 10-12
- SALT July 31-August 4

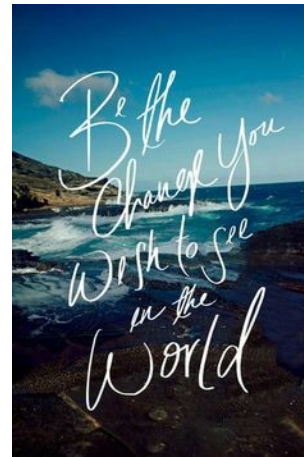
## Big Changes in the Elementary Faith Formation Program

Beginning in September 2016, elementary sessions for grades 1-5 will be held on **Sunday mornings from 9-10:15 am.** (One time for all children.)

Several sacramental sessions and the Christmas Pageant will be held on Saturday mornings. A complete calendar is enclosed. Grade 6 youth will attend on Tuesday evenings from 7-8 pm at the same time as the youth in Grades 7 and 8.

There will be no Elementary Faith Formation sessions on the first Sunday of each month. For a smooth transition, we will need the help of not only our Catechists, but from other volunteers as well. The building is open to the public on Sunday

mornings and we feel it is imperative that the safety of our children be our top priority. We will be asking for parents or other family members to serve as hall monitors, keeping an eye on our children before, during and as sessions transition to mass. We will also need the help of parents outside to manage traffic between our dismissal at 10:15 and the start of the 10:30 mass. Much like the concessions stand at a sporting event, we will be asking all our families to lend a hand! Thank you in advance!



# Jesus gives us Love.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL—JULY 25-29, 2016

### CAVE QUEST:

#### Following Jesus, The Light of the World!

**Send your kids on an over-the-top underground adventure!**

At Cave Quest VBS, kids explore the rock-solid foundation of Jesus' love. Cave Quest VBS is filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences kids see, hear, touch, and even taste! Sciency-Fun Gizmos™, team-building games, cool Bible songs, and tasty treats are just a few of the standout activities that help faith flow into real life. (Since everything is hands-on, kids might get a little messy. Be sure to send them in play clothes and safe shoes.) Plus, we'll help kids discover how to see evidence of God in everyday life—something we call God Sightings. Get ready to hear *that* phrase a lot!

Registrations for children and teens available NOW in the Gathering Space!

*Deadline to register...July 1, 2016! Don't miss out!*

Mark these dates on your calendar:

**July 25-29, 2016**

**Your Cave Quest VBS Team**



## Welcome Families!

In the middle of this newsletter, you will find a registration for the 2016-2017 faith formation year. Please take a few moments to complete, **sign**, and return the form as soon as possible. If you are a family new to the Faith Formation program, and your child was not baptized here at OLA, please be sure to include a copy of the Baptismal certificate.

Most of our communication is printed in the bulletin. You may check the bulletin at [olalatham.org](http://olalatham.org). We do very few mailings home.

Be sure to include your payment of \$50.00 per family. (Payable to Our Lady of the Assumption Church.) Our fee is low in comparison to many other parishes. If, however, this payment creates a hardship, please contact our office at 785-1605 so that other arrangements may be made. The cost of this program will never prohibit someone from participating. Returning families are reminded to register by June 1, 2016. After June 1, 2016, returning families will need to pay \$60.

Your payment covers only a small portion of the full cost to run our program. Your weekly

contribution in your envelope to the parish covers our remaining costs. Thank you for your continued generosity.



## Prophets foretell the Light of the World. (John 1:1-34; Isaiah 9:2)

**Our primary communication with Junior High and High School youth is by email. Please be sure that the parent email address is up to date and add [youthola@nycap.rr.com](mailto:youthola@nycap.rr.com) to your contacts.**



**Join us for Kickball and a BBQ every Monday evening in July. (July 11, 18 and 25.)**

### Faith Formation Staff:

**Mrs. Kristi Pegarella** serves as the Pastoral Associate for Elementary Faith Formation. Her primary responsibility is the Elementary Faith Formation Program (Gr. 1-6) and sacramental preparation for Reconciliation and First Eucharist. She works with the website and other new technology the church is exploring. Her email is [kbpola@nycap.rr.com](mailto:kbpola@nycap.rr.com).

**Mrs. Rosemary Gavin** serves as the Pastoral Associate for Youth Faith Formation responsible for Junior High and High School Faith Formation (Gr. 7-11), sacramental preparation for Confirmation, and the dozens of other youth opportunities here at OLA. Her email is [youthola@nycap.rr.com](mailto:youthola@nycap.rr.com).

**Mrs. Linda Berkery** serves as the Pastoral Associate for Adult Faith Formation responsible for the RCIA process and adult spirituality. Her email is [lberkola@nycap.rr.com](mailto:lberkola@nycap.rr.com).

**Mrs. Felicia Hunter** serves as the Administrative Assistant for Faith Formation and Youth Ministry. Her email is [fmhola@nycap.rr.com](mailto:fmhola@nycap.rr.com).

Our offices are open 9am-4pm, Monday-Wednesday and Friday and the phone number is 518-785-1605.