

FROM THE DESK OF FR. GENE NEFF:

Yard Signs: Speaking of a GREAT PARISH, there are yard signs still available for anyone. Now that those who participated in our Capital Fund Drive have had ample opportunity to pick up their free gift sign, the remaining yard signs are available for any St. George parishioners in the main entrance of the church. ONE PER HOUSEHOLD please. *There is NO charge, but a free-will donation will be used to complete refurbishing work on the church windows.* With the beginning of our celebration of 125 years as a Catholic Parish, this Autumn will be a great time to put these signs in your yard from Labor Day until Thanksgiving.

Preserving the Past for the Future: As we prepare to begin a year of celebrating our *St. George Parish history of 125 years*, we are constantly reminded of the many who preceded us in these sacred buildings, spaces, and grounds. Many of our predecessors are interred in one of our two cemeteries – sacred space that honors their lives with dignity, beauty, and respect.

During the past 12 years, you have worked hard and sacrificed much to honor the past and present of your parish. You have embarked on a journey that will shape the future of the Catholic Community of New Baden. The care and preservation of this legacy is a labor of love. But the future viability, growth, and relevance of this Catholic Church Community depends primarily on the continuing commitment of you, the parishioners. A community that embraces the sacraments, Catholic Social Teaching, the call to discipleship & service, ministry to our youth, the aging & dying, those in need, the widowed & divorced, families, the Scriptures (Word of God), the Mass, and prayer - and incorporates that in their daily lives – is a community that will grow.

As we prepare to begin our *Quasiquicentennial (125th) Celebration* with the **8:00 am Mass on Sunday, November 18, 2018**, I invite you to share, loan, and/or donate any historical items you may have pertaining to St. George Church and parish that we will exhibit in church throughout the year. All loaned items will be returned to the owners.

In addition, special events are planned throughout the year. Just a couple of items: attend the *Joint Parish Mission* opening Mass at 4:00 pm **Saturday, November 10** OR 9:30 am Sunday, November 11, at St. Mary, Trenton. Attend the 8:00 am Mass on **Sunday, November 18** at St. George to open this special year-long celebration.

LIVE BY FAITH...LOVE LIKE CHRIST!

Christ-like love can't be relegated to specific times and places, or to a single part of our being. Christ's love must engage the whole person, body, mind, and spirit/soul. We ought to allow Christ-like love to be in our every breath, in our waking and our sleeping, in our joy and in our sadness, in our successes and in our failures.

DEACON JOHN'S WORLDVIEW

I asked you last time if you ever wondered or have been asked: "Are the Seven Sacraments celebrated by the Catholic Church were in Scripture?" Well it turns out all have their roots in sacred scripture, although some are more prominent than others. For clarification, the references cited in this article come from *The Holy Bible*, Revised Standard Version, Catholic Edition (RSVCE), 2010. Also, as you would expect, all specific references come from New Testament writers', because baptism replaced the Jewish Tradition of circumcision (*Colossians 2:11-12*). However, The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) also states that Baptism is prefigured in the Old Covenant in *Genesis 1:2* and *Exodus*, to name a few. A good place to start is with **Jesus's Baptism** by John the Baptist at the Jordan River (*Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22; John 1: 28-34*) – **"He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned"** (*Mark 16:16*). Meanwhile, other scripture verses support baptism, such as: *1 Corinthians 15:21-22; Mark 10:14; Luke 18:15; John 3:5, 22* and many more. There is no doubt both Infant and Regeneration Baptism are all well supported in the Bible.

We have room for one more this week, so let's go on to **Confirmation**. Confirmation, though not specifically named in the Bible, is traced to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Jesus at his baptism and on his followers after Jesus' resurrection (*see Acts 19:5-5; Acts 8: 14-17; 2 Corinthians 1:21;22; Ephesians 1:13; Hebrew 6:2*). Again, the sacrament of Confirmation is well supported in scripture. We must continue our discussion of the Sacraments of the Catholic Church next week. Meanwhile, if you have questions or need clarification, bring your bible, stop me and ask away.

-- Peace Deacon John