

# the Web of Grace

september 2011

"for all of you  
share in God's grace"

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM AROUND THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN NEW YORK

## What makes a church vital?



*Bishop Franklin*

What makes a church a vital part of

people's lives? A vital part of a community?

I believe churches that provide compelling worship experiences and vibrant preaching become a vital part of people's lives because these encounters have the power to transform people's lives. And when an individual is transformed, that transformational grace expands outward, encompassing a wider and wider ring of people. In this way, the Church and its members can change society. This is my vision for our Episcopal churches here in Western New York. I call it the Web of Grace.

Those of you who follow my blog ([www.jerusalem-crossing.com](http://www.jerusalem-crossing.com)) know that the term

"the web of grace" was first used by Bishop John Henry Hobart, who was the bishop of New York when all of the state of NY was one diocese. The time was 1812. Here at the western edge of what was then the frontier, many of our cities and towns and the churches in them were burned to the ground by the English and the Indian tribes who were allied against us. Using the phrase "web of grace," Bishop Hobart called for us to stand together as a people against the challenges of the time.

Bishop Mark Sisk employed this same phrase when he described the way the people of the Diocese of New York, the State of New York, and the entire Episcopal Church, responded to the 9-11 crisis.

We face challenges here and now in WNY.

Industries that once flourished are gone and our economy is sluggish. We seek growth and relevance among a quickly changing social landscape. But surely these challenges are no greater than those faced here in 1812 or in the City of New York just ten years ago.

At the heart of the "web of grace" is a spirit of purpose and cooperation, a willingness to take risks and to embrace change. It is with these gifts of grace that we will be able to achieve together more than we could ever achieve alone.

I pledge to be a human link that enables this web of grace to grow and flourish. I hope you will too.

## What's Happening?

*Matthew Morris* - I attend Canisius High School. Part of the Jesuit tradition there is going on retreat. I attended the sophomore retreat known as Emmaus. It was an incredible experience. I loved it, but it was very tiring. The day Emmaus ended, all I wanted to do was go home and sleep.

When my mom and brother came to pick me up, my mom told me I was going to do Happening, but I didn't know it was going to be right after an intense yet amazing religious experience like Emmaus. I didn't want to go, and I begged Mom to just take me home. But she wouldn't listen, and, much to my dismay, took me back to Angola to Camp Pioneer.

Upon arriving I met Liz, whom I never could have survived the weekend without. I told my mom as she was leaving that I'd get back at her for taking me there.

Boy, am I glad that she was so stubborn! Happening turned out being, next to Emmaus, the most amazing religious experience I've ever had. I met so many awesome new people, all of whom I still talk with. I learned more about God and my relationship with him than I ever would have thought of.

It helped me learn that I have so many awesome people in my life; a notable example is my then friend, now big sister Taylor, who is one of the most important people in my life.

The best part of Happening is that it is open to any religious denomination. Anyone who is considering Happening should do it without question. I can 100% guarantee you won't regret it. For more info on Happening of WNY please visit [Eyouthwny.org](http://Eyouthwny.org)

"Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est"

## Come & enjoy



*The Bishop & Friends  
Making Music*

The Bishop & Friends Making Music from 2-5 pm on Sunday, September 25, will feature both Bishop Franklin and Bishop Bowman, as well as some mighty fine musicians from

churches around the diocese, as well as a sing-along of hits from the great American songbook. Proceeds will benefit future programming at the diocesan center.

Plan to attend with friends. Tickets are: \$25/adults, \$20/seniors 65+, \$15/students. Or for \$50 enjoy both the concert and the Bishop's Reception following the concert. Send check to 1064 Brighton Rd., Tonawanda, NY 14150.

Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy an afternoon of music with your friends and our bishop. Questions? Call 716-881-0660 for more information.

## Dunkirk priest saves the day

*Jay Phillippi* - Sometimes you just need to ask for a little help. Less than two weeks before Junior High Camp I discovered a vitally important email had been swallowed by the world wide web. With it went the service projects I had anticipated to be part of our program. What to do?

I picked up the phone and called the Rev. Helen Sam.

As priest for St. John's, Dunkirk and a long time member of the Dunkirk community I was hoping she might have a couple ideas. What I got was quite simply a gift.



Within two days Helen arranged a full day of projects working with her congregation and three other organizations in the area. She knew how many were needed at each location and the names of contact people.

Our young people helped with cleaning and organizing at St. John's, cleaning up after a major event at the United Way, setting up for a community party at the public library and cleaning and organizing at the Salvation Army store. Sometimes all you need to get the blessing of a little grace is just being open to asking for it.

## Fun is guaranteed

The great diocesan softball tournament takes place on Saturday, September 24, at the baseball diamonds at Como Lake Park in Lancaster. Teams from St. Paul's Cathedral; Trinity, Buffalo; St. Matthias', East Aurora; Calvary, Williamsville; St. Martin's,



Grand Island; and St. Mark's, Orchard Park will vie for the championship title. The fun

begins at 9 am and is expected to last all day. Pack a picnic lunch and a lawn chair and be prepared to cheer on your favorite team.

## Niagara Deanery bustles with activities

*Judith Lee* - On Saturday, September 24, the Niagara Deanery is having a Chili Cook-Off and Basket Auction from 4 to 6 pm at St. Paul's, Lewiston to benefit the Episcopal Relief & Development Disaster Relief Fund. Bishop Franklin and Carmela Franklin will judge.

St. John's, Wilson Rummage Sale will take place Friday, September 30, 9 am to 3 pm and Saturday, October 1, 9 until noon.

On October 2 St. John's, Wilson will have Bring your Pet to Church Sunday, for a Blessing of the Animals during the morning service, which will be held outside, weather permitting. St. Andrew's, Burt will have a streaming video of pets, with prayers of blessing for animals, including stuffed animals.

Diane Frade, founder of Our Little Roses School for Girls in Honduras, will speak at a 6 pm dinner at St. Andrew's, Burt on Saturday, October 8. The event will benefit the school.

On Saturday, October 15, St. Andrew's will host a Red Cross workshop for the community

on CPR and the use of an Automated External Defibrillator from 9 to noon. Anyone taking the class will be certified for two years.

Finally, you won't want to miss Applefest at St. John's, Wilson on Sunday, October 16 from 10:30 am to 3:30 pm. People come from throughout Erie and Niagara counties to enjoy the luncheon, baked goods, crafts, fresh produce, and the large basket auction offered at the event.

## Join the party

St. Mark's and All Saints', Riverside will hold their first fall Towel Party on Saturday, October 1. Doors open at 6:30 pm and games begin at 7. Admission of \$3 includes one game board and refreshments—desserts, popcorn, coffee, tea, lemonade. Extra boards are \$1.25.

The event will be held in lower parish hall at 256 Riverside Avenue off Ontario St. which is handicapped accessible.

## Take a break from cooking

### Chicken BBQ

*Rhonda Berner* - On Wednesday, September 21, enjoy a delicious Chiavetta's Chicken Barbecue for dinner served up by Grace Church, Lockport. Dinners will be available for take-out (drive-up) only between 3 and 6 pm. Chicken, side salads and dessert are just \$8. Presale tickets are available by calling the parish office at 716-433-2878 between 8:30 am and 3 pm Monday through Thursday.

Grace Church is located at 100 Genesee Street in Lockport.

### Hand Carved Beef On Weck

*Alice Brown* - Take a scenic autumn drive to historic East Aurora and enjoy a Harvest Festival Dinner at St. Matthias Church on October 22. Feast on hand-carved roast beef on weck. Savor a colorful and delicious roasted vegetable medley. Then treat yourself to a luscious homemade dessert. The meal also includes a refreshing salad and beverage.

Seatings are at 5 and 6:30 pm. Tickets are \$12 per person or \$15 at the door. There will even be door prizes! Call Cathy at 716-652-0377 to make your reservations. St. Matthias is located on the corner of Main and Maple Streets in East Aurora.

## Celebrate home

*Sue Stansislawski* - The parish family at St. Patrick's invites all former parishioners to Come Home on September 18 for the 10 am worship service.

Come celebrate all that St. Patrick's has been and all that we have yet to become! Share in the "remember when" stories. Join in worship at 10 am. Then please join us for a fish fry luncheon.

All who have been a part of St. Patrick's at any time over the past 54 years are welcome!

To help us plan lunch for you RSVP by 9/12 to 716-684-4206 or stpatrickswny1@aol.com.