

Bethany Charismatic Catholic Church

June 2021

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Bishop: THE MOST REV. RAYMOND CONTOIS
Assistant Pastor: FATHER JUDE PAIYAGALA BADUGE DON
Deacon: REV. MR. ROBERT MORRISSETTE
Deacon: REV. MR. PAUL LAFLAMME

"At Bethany there is no Past, only the Present and Future Hope !"

When the Psalmist wrote, "O my God, my soul is cast down within me" (Ps. 42:6), it was evident that things weren't going very well in his life. Perhaps the enemy was close on his heels. I've found that if I'm feeling down, I can say, like that same Psalmist said a few verses later, "Hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God." In spite of appearances, he trusted God beyond anything else.

Prayer to our all-powerful Creator can dispel depressed and defeated feelings quickly and effectively. Whether we feel cut off from God or our focus on our own problems fills us with darkness, prayer to God, who loves each of us as His dear children, can release fresh hope and encouragement. God is as close to us as He was to the Psalmist, to help us leap over hurdles. And the psalms are universal – speaking today as they did thousands of years ago, to humanity's hunger for a God of comfort.

The psalms are filled with poignant moments of sorrow, lament, and even bleakness. Right on the heels of those moments – as in Psalm 42 – there is often confident celebration, praise, and affirmation of the power, presence, ability, and supremacy of God to overcome all suffering and limitation. The psalms declare that no one is ever apart from God's goodness and love.

The 23rd Psalm says, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." This deep connection with God – especially in overwhelming moments – is right now available for each of us as we turn to receive this gift with gratitude and openness.

We must never forget, as Scripture reveals, that we are created in the image of God. However, the Divine nature was best and fully expressed in Jesus Christ, who threw upon mortals the true reflection of God and lifted our lives higher than our poor thoughts would allow – thoughts which presented humankind as fallen, sick, broken, and dying.

The Divine nature of man – meaning every man, woman, and child – is indeed the image and likeness of God. In truth, it is the only identity we have. Being aware of this enables us to see that limited mortal concepts, such as feeling down about life, always have been false and are false now, because they are not concepts from God. They are not authorized by God and have no staying power or ability to direct our thoughts or decisions.

We truly are artists, working at various forms, molding and chiseling thought. What is the model before our mortal minds? Is it imperfection, sorrow, lack or suffering? Do we look to our limited abilities (individually or collectively) for our salvation? Rather, we must put on the mind of Christ or we shall never carve out our thoughts in grand and noble lives. Depressing or discouraging thought-models don't constitute who we are. Because the divine nature includes permanent spiritual models of harmony, joy, expectancy, and constancy, poor thought-models can vanish. Looking toward and living consistently with spiritual ideals gives us dominion over the ups and downs of life.

Nevertheless, looking to spiritual ideals doesn't mean ignoring the human situation or hoping it will just go away. It's really a kind of prayer that helps change our view from self-absorption and limitation to a willingness to turn to the ever-present power of the Divine Will. Then problems don't appear so impressive and predominant. Light-hearted expectancy of good becomes increasingly more real and substantial than whatever is confronting us. Indeed, a hopeful heart knows that good is here and expects to see it.

This spiritual perspective enables us to "carve out" more progressive conditions. If the difficult situation facing us doesn't change immediately, a growing patience, conviction, and refusal to succumb to discouragement will brighten the path and bring comfort.

God, our loving Father, continuously gives us improved, spiritual models, all based upon our inseparable relationship to Him. These good models are established in this relationship and, through Christ, are permanently available.

In His Light,

Bishop Raymond Contois

167 Dunhamtown Rd. Brimfield, Massachusetts U.S.A.
Just 1 mile off route 20

Web Page: www.bethanyccc.org
Phone: (413) 324 - 1164

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 607, Palmer MA 01069

WEEKLY MASSES

Saturday - - Cancelled

Sunday - 9:00 AM *

Wednesday* - Cancelled

RECONCILIATION & PASTORAL MEETINGS

By Appointment (413) 324-1164



June Schedule

Eucharistic Ministers

Ministers of the Word

6th Clergy Only

13th Clergy Only

20th Clergy Only

27th Clergy Only



Paula M, Beth

Ron, Heather

Paula M, Jayne

Sandy, Beth



Notify Deacon Paul 24 hours in advance if you are unable to serve.

Bethany Food Drive

We will continue collecting non-perishable food items for area food pantries. Please drop off your donations of canned goods and dry goods, and leave them in the foyer. Thank You for your constant generosity.



"Hunger never takes a vacation."



Be sure to Check out our Web Site at www.bethanyccc.org for more information about Bethany Charismatic Church.



Dates to Remember

June 2021

*Outdoor masses are being resumed again.



"Social Distancing" rules will be as the state mandates.

There will be no holding of hands for the "Our Father" at our masses. The Sign of Peace is non-contact. Likewise, the Chalice will be reserved for the clergy.

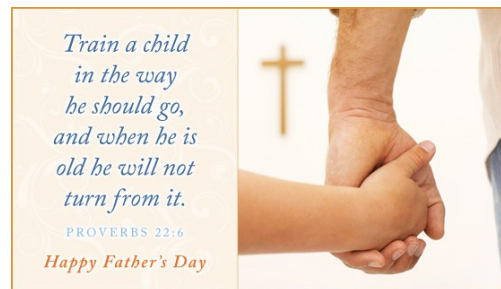
Thank you for your understanding and adherence.

***(Schedule can change in a moments notice, so please check back to the website often for updates.)**

6th: SUN. 9:00 AM Outdoor Mass

13th: SUN. 9:00 AM Outdoor Mass

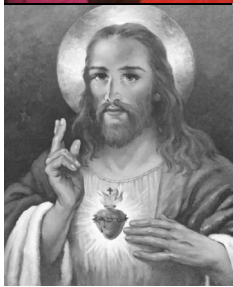
20th: SUN. 9:00 AM Outdoor Mass



27th: SUN. 9:00 AM Outdoor Mass



We remember at our Father's Day mass the souls of our first patriarchs: André I and André II. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, they co-founded the Catholic Charismatic Church of Canada and were consecrated bishops in 1968.



Almighty and everlasting God, Look upon the heart of Your well beloved Son and upon the praise and satisfaction which He offers You on our behalf; and as we seek Your mercy, be pleased to grant us forgiveness in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You forever and ever. Amen.



We will not be able to host our annual "Pancake Breakfast" this year.

Please continue to support the church, as we look forward to next year's event. Thank you.

Outdoor Masses

Our outdoor masses are resuming again, which will be held under our pavilion. (Weather pending) The website will show, each week, whether the mass will be held outdoors, or indoors.

When masses are outside, please make sure to bring a chair, such as a lawn chair, that you can use, and take home again. Thank You.



Stop judging, that you may not be judged. For as you judge, so will you be judged, and the measure with which you measure will be measured out to you.

Mathew 7:1-2

