

# From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Today, on the Sixth Sunday of Easter, we hear in the gospel:

*Jesus said to his disciples:  
"As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love.  
If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love,  
just as I have kept my Father's commandments  
and remain in his love." JOHN 15:9-12*



This is the gospel that I proclaimed at my first Mass in 2007. It has special meaning for me and I think for all of us. We are being called to Remain in His Love. We do so by doing the best we can with the gift of life which God has given us. Jesus Christ shared with us the beautiful relationship that he has with God the Father in heaven. That intimacy is a model for us in our relationship with God.

In any relationship, there has to be time spent. That is how friendships develop. It is the same thing in friendship with God. Our prayer time is time spent in deepening the relationship between our God and ourselves. It is about building a friendship. It is about establishing intimacy between God and ourselves. Our God invites us into a deeper relationship with Him. We have the choice in friendship and in our choice to strengthen that heavenly friendship with God, just like in human friendships, it requires work and time. Do not get discouraged. Even many of the saints sometimes struggle in their prayer relationship with God.

We do receive help from God in this developing prayer-relationship with God. Christ sent us the Holy Spirit, as the Advocate to be with us to inspire us, to lead us, to love us and help us to love God and one another. During April and May, we will celebrate the anniversary of the day we each received our First Holy Communion. It is a special time to remember when we first received Christ truly present in the Heavenly Bread, the *Panis Angelicus*, and His true Flesh and Blood is given to us. May 13 is also the Feast of our Lady of Fatima. We pray through our Lady's intercession to watch over us, to lead us more fully to Christ in word and action. During these weeks before the celebration of the Feast of Pentecost, pray to the Holy Spirit to help you in your heavenly prayer relationship with God!

What's going on at St. Rosalie's?

CMA (Catholic Ministries Appeal)

Thanks for all who are getting your pledges in. Remember when we are able to approach and make the goal and hopefully go over, we will get a rebate which will help with our local programs here in the parish.

The Garden Committee

The committee will be working these days around the Church here in Hampton Bays. Thanks to Beth Perchuck and our parish volunteers. Also, thanks to Father Maddaloni for inviting the altar servers to assist with some helping hands. You can be the judge when we enjoy the flowers this summer!

Again, Congratulations to all our 2018 First Communicants and our newly welcomed brothers and sisters at the Easter Vigil receiving the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist!

*Continued Blessings of Easter Joy,  
Father Ed*