



Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast

May 4, 2025 – Small Acts of Kindness

Bible Verse for the Week

"Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience." (Colossians 3:12, NRSV)

A Kind Stranger

In 2018, Alexis Agnew, 24, went to her doctor for a routine check-up, only to receive unsettling news: an irregularity in her test results requiring a biopsy. Overwhelmed by fear, she left the exam room in tears. As she passed the front desk, an office employee noticed her distress and immediately reached out, asking, "What's the matter, baby? Are you OK?" That simple gesture of kindness made Agnew break down even more.

The employee patiently listened as Agnew shared her fears, then offered a hug, holding her until her sobs subsided. She prayed with Agnew, reassuring her that she would be okay, just as she would comfort her own granddaughter. In that moment, Agnew truly believed her. Thankfully, her biopsy results later came back clear. But that spontaneous act of compassion left a lasting imprint on Agnew's heart, a reminder of the power of human connection in times of vulnerability. (the full story: <https://www.npr.org/2025/04/28/nx-s1-5377411/worried-cancer-stranger-comfort>)

A Reflection on Faith

"Then, they prayed together." In that moment, fear met faith, and uncertainty was embraced by compassion. The receptionist's spontaneous act of kindness was more than just a comforting gesture: it was a reminder that divine love is often delivered by human hands. This is a lesson from last week's Gospel reading, John 20:22, when the risen Jesus breathed the Holy Spirit into the disciples. Alexis Agnew, overwhelmed by the possibility of illness, found solace, not in medical assurances, but in the warmth of a stranger's hug and the power of prayer.

Faith is not just about believing in miracles; it is about finding strength in the presence of fear and uncertainty. In the quiet reassurance of others that we realize we are not alone. The employee's words carried the weight of the Spirit and her hug the depth of understanding. Alexis did not know the outcome, but she knew that hope was stronger than fear. In that sacred exchange, Alexis found peace.

Sometimes, faith is not about knowing but about trusting. And ... sometimes, that faith walks among us, disguised in a kind stranger.

God's Peace. Vance

Prayer box: Let us pray for healing for Lynn, Bruce, Patty, John H., Debbie, John C., Holland, Steve, Brenda, Mia, and Vicki. Pray for the soul of Wanda and comfort for her grieving family. Pray for Israel, Palestine, Ukraine, Russia, and the United States. Pray for those suffering from natural disasters. Let us also pray for those who seek God or a deeper knowledge of God. **Lord, hear our prayers!**