

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2020

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WITH THE SUSPENSION OF PUBLIC MASSES UNTIL FUTHER NOTICE, THE INTENTIONS THAT ARE LISTED IN THE BULLETIN ARE HERE TO ASSURE YOU THAT THE INTENTIONS THAT YOU REQUESTED ARE BEIBG PRAYED FOR AT THE PRIVATE MASSES OFFERED

SCHEDULE OF MASSES FOR MAY 2nd – MAY 10th

ST. MARY'S

Saturday + James Cahalan
Sunday St. Mary's Parish Family
Wednesday + Leo Vincent Bartsch
Friday + Dorothy Bourscheski
Saturday + Paul & Helen Keiling
Sunday For Mother's of the Parish

ST. AGNES

Tuesday
Thursday
Sunday

EVENTS OF THE WEEK:

Sunday, May 3 World Day of Prayer for Vocations
Wednesday, May 8 Father Matt's 28th Anniversary of Ordination
Sunday, May 10 Mother's Day

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Wednesday, 13 Memorial Our Lady of Fatima

YOUR GIFT TO GOD LAST WEEK: Collection Counters in April: Tim & Patty Osterloh
Our weekly budget is \$7,800.00 Last Week's Collection: \$ 3402.00

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

INFORMATION FROM THE DIOCESE: Concerning the directives from the diocese on the COVID-19 Virus you may visit their webpage at www.diosecg.org or visit their Facebook page Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau

PICNIC PLANNING FOR AUGUST 2020 --33RD YEAR --ARE UNDERWAY!!! Plans have begun for our 2020 Old Fashioned Church Picnic which will be held on **SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2020**. We are asking for donations towards raffle prizes by June 8, 2020 to have raffle tickets printed in time for presale. Cash or items are welcome! Make monetary donations with a check payable to St. Mary's. If you would like to donate, please call the rectory at 417-476-2827, Mellanie Carder at 417-737-2812, or Frances Boman at 417-693-0174 and we can arrange to pick up. Donations can also be mailed or taken to the parish rectory. We are always looking for ideas and ways to add to the picnic so, if you have any --please share!
We want the day to be full of fun, family activities so parishioners can enjoy the day visiting with family and friends from our parish family and surrounding communities. Thank you for the hard work and dedication in years past and we're looking forward to having another great picnic this year!!! **Updates will be posted on the church web page.** Thoughts and prayers to everyone. I pray that all our parish families are staying safe and healthy!

PRAYER FOR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY:

Almighty God, Father of all nations, for freedom you have set us free in Christ Jesus.
We praise and bless you for the gift of religious liberty, the foundation of human rights, justice, and the common good.
Grant to our leaders the wisdom to protect and promote our liberties;
By your grace may we have the courage to defend them, for ourselves and for all those who live in this blessed land.
We ask this through the intercession of Mary Immaculate, our patroness, and in the name of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with who you live and reign, one God, forever and ever. Amen

4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 36-41
Ps 23:1-6
1 Peter 2:20b-25
John 10:1-10

Monday May 4

Acts 11:1-18
Ps 42:2-3; 43:3-4
John 10:11-18

Tuesday May 5

Acts 11:19-26
Ps 87:1b-7
John 10:22-30

Wednesday May 6

Acts 12:24-13:5a
Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8
John 12:44-50

Thursday May 7

Acts 13:13-25
Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25, 27
John 13:16-20

Friday May 8

Acts 13:26-33
Ps 2:6-11ab
John 14:1-6

Saturday May 9

Acts 13:44-52
Ps 98:1-4
John 14:7-14

Are you at an impasse in your spiritual growth or emotional healing or a difficult relationship? Do you need a breakthrough? Do you feel stuck behind a fence that's keeping you on the outside of peace, joy, satisfaction, or healing?

This Sunday's Gospel reading tells us that Jesus is the gate in that fence. He helps us reach the heavenly side of the gate, outside the realm of earthly restrictions — not only when we die and enter eternal life, but also here and now in our earthly life, so that we might always "have life and have it more abundantly."

When our path seems blocked, we can only make progress by letting Jesus shepherd us around and through and over the obstacles. If people shut a door on

something that God wants us to do, Jesus is still our open gate and no one can close him out of our lives. He will lead us into a new opportunity for accomplishing the plans of God. If he's given us a frustrated holy desire or a passion for which there seems to be no outlet, instead of complaining or quitting, we must look at Jesus and see him as a gate that opens into a new direction or location.

Remember, however, that until we get all the way through this gate, we must stick close to him like dumb



sheep. There's a journey to take before we can reach the other side of the fence.

The thief that comes to steal and slaughter can only reach us when we stray away from Jesus and we take our eyes off of him.

Despair and worry are two common thieves, robbing us of peace, joy, satisfaction, and healing. But they're not as powerful as they

pretend to be. We defeat them easily by remembering that they do not speak the full truth. The truth is: Jesus is our Good Shepherd safely guiding us into a life of abundant victory!

Reflect & Discuss:

1. What breakthrough are you hoping for? What's frustrating you and seems hopeless? What's causing you to think that a problem you're facing might lead to disaster and destruction?
2. What will you do this week to follow Jesus more closely so that you can get through this with more peace?
3. Share the story of a time when you experienced obstacles and Jesus provided a breakthrough that led to victory.

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

FROM THE PASTOR

I KNOW THAT THIS WILL SOUND A BIT OUT OF CHARACTER, BUT AT THIS MOMENT, I REALLY DON'T HAVE MUCH TO SAY. THE LIKELY REASON IS THAT WRITING IS DIFFERENT THAN SPEAKING. ONE OF THE THINGS THAT WAS DRILLED INTO MY HEAD OVER TOO MANY YEARS OF EDUCATION THAT ONE'S WRITING SHOULD NOT BE THE SAME AS ONE'S SPEECH.

THAT BEING SAID, I MUST SAY THAT IT IS A SHAME THAT I AM AT SOMETHING OF A LOSS FOR WORDS, SINCE THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE EASTER SEASON ALWAYS REVOLVES AROUND THE THEME OF CHRIST, THE GOOD SHEPHERD. ALTHOUGH YOU ARE AWARE THAT I DON'T MUCH LIKE THE IMAGE OF THE FAITHFUL AS SHEEP, THERE IS MUCH MORE TO THE IMAGE THAN THAT. THE DEPTH OF THE IMAGE OF GOOD SHEPHERD IS ONE THAT VERY MUCH BRINGS TOGETHER ALL THE ASPECTS OF THE EASTER SEASON. CHRIST, RISEN FROM THE DEAD, HAVING SACRIFICED HIS LIFE TO BRING US THROUGH DEATH TO LIFE, SHARING ETERNAL LIFE WITH HIS PEOPLE THROUGH BAPTISM, NOURISHING US WITH AND THROUGH HIS PRESENCE IN THE EUCHARIST UNTIL THE END OF TIME THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CHURCH, FOUNDED ON THE APOSTLES WITH PETER AS HEAD. HE IS ALWAYS WITH US, AND HIS SALVIFIC WORK IS PRESENT TO US, WITH US IN EVERY MOMENT OF OUR LIVES. IT IS A REALITY THAT UNITES THE TEMPORAL TO THE ETERNAL. A REALITY REFLECTED IN THE TEACHING OF THE CHURCH CONCERNING THE UNBROKEN AND UNBREAKABLE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE CHURCH MILITANT (ON EARTH) AND THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT (IN HEAVEN). I AM FULLY AWARE THAT I GO ON ABOUT THIS A BIT TOO MUCH AT TIMES, BUT IT IS BASIS OF THE REALITY THAT THE GOOD THAT WE DO IN THIS WORLD IS A PART OF THE ETERNAL LIFE OF HEAVEN. IT IS A CONSEQUENCE OF UNITY WITH CHRIST, THE GOOD SHEPHERD, WHO LEADS HIS PEOPLE THROUGH LIFE INTO EVERLASTING LIFE BY SHARING WITH US THE CALL AND OPPORTUNITIES TO BRING THE ETERNAL INTO THE TEMPORAL. THE FOURTH WEEK OF EASTER IS A TIME WHEN WE ARE CALLED TO REFLECT A LITTLE ON HOW THAT HAPPENS IN OUR LIVES, WORKING WITH THE GRACE OF GOD, THROUGH THE INSPIRATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT TO BRING ABOUT THE GLIMPSES OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN THAT GOD TRUSTS US TO DO. I AM OF A MIND THAT IS ENOUGH OF THAT FOR NOW.

IF ONE IS FOLLOWING THE NEWS, WE ARE AWARE THAT THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE IS GOING TO BE TALKING ABOUT, "OPENING THINGS BACK UP." HE HAS SAID THAT HE WILL BE PRESENTING NEW GUIDELINES AND PROVIDING SOME DIRECTION CONCERNING PUBLIC WORSHIP. THAT CERTAINLY IS A HOPEFUL STATEMENT. IT WILL BE UP TO THE BISHOPS IN THE STATE TO COME UP WITH THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF THAT DIRECTION. WE WILL SEE HOW THAT ALL WORKS OUT. ALTHOUGH IT MAY SOUND STUPID TO SOME, I AM HOPING THAT WE CAN GET BACK TO MASS BY THE TIME THE PEONIES ARE IN BLOOM. I WOULD HATE TO SEE THE MAJORITY US MISS THE BEAUTY AND GLORY OF

NATURE, WHICH REFLECTS THE GLORY OF CHRIST'S REDEMPTIVE ACT, PRESENT TO US IN THE MASS. JUST IN CASE YOU MISSED IT, THAT IS MY FEEBLE ATTEMPT FOR THE WEEK TO BE POETIC. THAT IS AS GOOD A PLACE AS ANY TO STOP, LEST A GREATER EVIL BEFALL US. GOD BLESS - FR. MATT.