

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 17, 2020

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

SCHEDULE OF MASSES FOR MAY 16th – MAY 24th

ST. MARY'S

Saturday St. Mary's Parish Family
Sunday Special Intention
Monday 8:15 a.m. Rosary & Communion Service
Wednesday 8:15 a.m. + Rose Anna Abramovitz
Friday 8:15 a.m. + Anna Elizabeth Barsch
Saturday +Maury McDunner
Sunday +Eugene Wroblewski Birthday Remembrance

ST. AGNES

Tues. 8:30 a.m.
Thurs. 8:30 a.m.
Sun.

EVENTS OF THE WEEK:

Sunday, May 24 **The Ascension of the Lord**

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Monday, May 25 **Memorial Day**
Tuesday, May 26 **Memorial of Saint Philip Neri, Priest**

OUR GIFT TO GOD LAST WEEK: Collection Counters in May:

Our weekly budget is \$7,800.00 Last Week's Collection: \$ 2815.00

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

INFORMATION FROM THE DIOCESE: Concerning the directives from the diocese on the COVID-19 Virus you may visit their webpage at www.diocsg.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!

ANOTHER OPTION FOR DONATIONS AND TITHING: The Parish Council brought up the idea a few months ago about looking into the possibility of people making donations and tithing to the church through what is called "ACH". This is basically a way to direct your bank to automatically withdraw your money from your account and deposit it to another. St. Mary's now can offer this option to those who wish to take advantage of it. We have been told by the bank that there will be no charge for the service, we will be given notification of the amount, date and the names of those who donate or tithe to us in this way. There is a form on the website for this, should you choose to do this. I want to thank all those who did the leg work to make this happen.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ST. MARY'S 2020 8th GRADE GRADUATES: Marina Masri Braidan Reber

CONGRATULATIONS TO ST. MARY'S 2020 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES: Donielle Brottlund Jerika Brown
Blake Chapman Aaron Garner Gabriel George Aiden Kleinman Colten O'Hara Ethan O'Hara Mollie Parrigon
Garrett Schmidt Lilly Stocker Jordan Witt Ivy Wright

FAMILY PRAYER

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, as you lived God's plan for your family, you changed the shape and design of the human family. Watch over all families today as they struggle to live God's word in the midst of challenge and difficulty. We ask this in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

6th Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17
Ps 66:1-7, 16, 20
1 Peter 3:15-18
John 14:15-21

Monday May 18

Acts 16:11-15
Ps 149:1b-6a,9b
John 15:26-16:4a

Tuesday May 19

Acts 16:22-34
Ps 138:1-3,7c-8
John 16:5-11

Wednesday May 20

Acts 17:15, 22-18:1
Ps 148:1-2,11-14
John 16:12-15

Thursday May 21

Acts 18:1-8
Ps 98:1-4
John 16:16-20
or **The Ascension**
Acts 1:1-11
Ps 47:2-3, 6-9
Ephesians 1:17-23
Matthew 28:16-20

Friday May 22

Acts 18:9-18
Ps 47:2-8a
John 16:20-23

Saturday May 23

Acts 18:23-28
Ps 47:2-3,8-10
John 16:23b-28

this is why we worry so much about how others are judging us. If we honestly examine our consciences, seek reconciliation with God for our sins during the Penance Rite at Mass or in the Sacrament of Confession, and strive to improve, then Jesus says to us what he said to other sinners: "I do not condemn you; go and sin no more."

In John 14:15-21, Jesus tells us that the Holy Spirit is our "Advocate". Some scholars translate the word to "Counselor". In the original Greek, it means "called alongside". It's closely related to the verb "parakaleo" ("to call" or "summon") from which we get "Paraclete" as a name for the Holy Spirit. It referred to a legal assistant, a courtroom advocate.

Jesus is telling us that the Holy Spirit is our legal assistant when we're falsely accused, misjudged, or wrongly condemned.

Notice that Jesus refers to our Advocate as the "Spirit of Truth". No matter what other people think about us, no matter what wrong things they say about us, no matter what opinions they have of us, God always knows the truth. And the truth that sets us free from their bad attitudes is this: It's only God's opinion that really matters. And his opinion of us is better than we think it is!

We judge ourselves more harshly than we should, and



Don't you sometimes wish Jesus would come physically to your rescue when you're misjudged? He said that he will not leave us orphaned – his Holy Spirit will always be with us when we need to be defended, telling us the truth about our goodness.

Even when we sin, the Spirit of Truth defends us to our heavenly Judge: "Look, this precious child really does want to be holy." To us, the Spirit says, "Let me teach you how to grow in holiness and avoid this sin." And to others, the Spirit says: "If you love me, love this good friend of mine."

Reflect & Discuss:

1. How have you been unjustly accused and unfairly judged? Imagine what the Holy Spirit is saying to the Father about that. And to those who condemned you. And what is he saying to you about you?
2. Describe a time when God defended you. How did the Advocate manifest his help?
3. Who learned more from it: you or your accusers?

SIXTY SUNDAY OF EASTER

FROM THE PASTOR

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13TH AT 5:30 p.m. I RECEIVED AN EMAIL FROM THE SECRETARY TO BISHOP RICE. IN THAT EMAIL IS FOUND SOME HOPEFUL NEWS. IT IS BETTER THAN THE OLD CAMP JOKE ABOUT CHANGING SOCKS! GOOD NEWS MEN! TODAY WE ARE CHANGING SOCKS. JIMMY YOU CHANGE WITH TOMMY, TOMMY, YOU CHANGE WITH GEORGE ETC. ETC. VAUDEVILLE IS NOT DEAD, IT LIVES IN EVERY JOKE I USE! THERE ARE A VARIETY OF THINGS THAT HAVE TO BE ARRANGED IN ORDER TO GET A LIMITED ACCESS MASS AVAILABLE. BY THE TIME THAT I CAN GET A FEW THINGS FIGURED OUT AS TO HOW TO MAKE THIS WORK, THE JOKE WILL LOOK ABSOLUTELY HILARIOUS. I AM OF A MIND THAT THE RE-ENTRY WILL BE MUCH LESS THAN THAT. I CAN THINK OF NO WAY OF GETTING A LIMITED NUMBER OF PEOPLE, THAT IS FAIR, RESPECTFUL OF THE RIGHT OF ALL CATHOLICS TO WORSHIP ON SUNDAYS AND HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION, AND KEEP THE RESTRICTIONS THAT ARE MANDATED BY THE BISHOP AND THE GOVERNMENT. BE READY AND AWARE FOLKS, THERE ARE GOING TO BE WRINKLES, AND LIKELY SOME HURTS INVOLVED IN ALL THIS. NO BIGGER THAN THE HURT OF BEING LOCKED OUT OF CHURCH AND MASS THOUGH. THE BISHOP HAS DIRECTED THAT THE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT BE THE ARBITRATOR FOR THE SIZE OF CONGREGATION, AS WELL AS OTHER CONSIDERATIONS. A GOOD PERCENTAGE OF THIS WILL DEPEND ON THE LAWRENCE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT FOR ST. MARY'S AND THE NEWTON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT FOR ST. AGNES. WHEN THAT ALL COMES TOGETHER, THEN THERE ARE SOME REGULATIONS THAT THE DIOCESE HAS SET DOWN CONCERNING COMMUNION AND OTHER ASPECTS. THERE IS SOME HOPE THAT THERE WILL BE WEEKEND MASSES, WITH LIMITED ATTENDANCE AVAILABLE BY THE WEEKEND OF THE 23RD OF MAY. NO PROMISES AT THIS MOMENT. EVERY PRIEST HAS TO FIGURE OUT HOW, ON HIS OWN, TO MAKE THIS WORK. FOR THE TIME BEING, THE ONLY THING THAT IS CERTAIN IS THAT, STARTING, MONDAY, MAY 18, THE BISHOP WILL BE RESCINDING THE LOCK DOWN OF THE CHURCH. MORE TO COME DOWN THE ROAD. WE WILL DO WHAT WE CAN TO GET THE WORD OUT, AND FIND A WAY TO APPORTION MASSES. THIS IS GOING TO TAKE A TON OF PATIENCE ON EVERYONE'S PART.

THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE EASTER SEASON, ALTHOUGH A SUNDAY IN ITS OWN RIGHT, IS A PREPARATION FOR THE FEAST OF THE ASCENSION, WHICH WILL BE CELEBRATED IN THE MASS ON NEXT SUNDAY. IT ACTUALLY FALLS THIS COMING THURSDAY. FIGURE THAT ONE OUT. THE GOSPEL READING FOR THIS SUNDAY IS A CONTINUATION OF THE LAST DISCOURSE IN ST. JOHN. IF YOU HAD TIME TO READ THE ENTIRE LAST DISCOURSE LAST WEEK, YOU WOULD BE BLESSED TO CENTER IN ON THE PORTION THAT THE CHURCH PUTS BEFORE US AS WE PREPARE FOR ASCENSION. OF COURSE AS WE COME TO A GREATER APPRECIATION OF CHRIST'S ASCENSION, WHICH IS TO PREPARE A PLACE FOR US, WE ALSO LOOK TO THE FEAST OF PENTECOST, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CHURCH AND THE ONGOING WORK OF CHRIST IN THE WORLD, THROUGH HIS CHURCH, THE MYSTICAL BODY OF CHRIST, UNTIL HE RETURNS IN HIS GLORY.

THERE IS PROBABLY MORE THAN WANTS WRITING AT THE MOMENT, BUT FOR NOW, I AM GOING TO CALL IT GOOD. God Bless Fr. Matt