

**ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**

The Ascension of the Lord

May 24, 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 23<sup>rd</sup> – MAY 31<sup>st</sup>**

**ST. MARY'S**

Saturday +Maury McDunner  
Sunday +Eugene Wroblewski Birthday Remembrance  
Monday 8:15 a.m. Rosary & Communion Service  
Wednesday 8:15 a.m. + Fr. Justine Monaghan  
Friday 8:15 a.m. + Poor Souls in Purgatory  
Saturday St. Mary's Parish Family  
Sunday + John & Cecilia Eck

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

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

Monday, June 1 **Memorial of The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church**  
Mon., June 8 – Fri. July 10 **Fr. Matt will be gone on Vacation**

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

Our weekly budget is \$7,800.00 Last Week's Collection: \$ 2018.00

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**INFORMATION FROM THE DIOCESE:** Concerning the directives from the diocese on the COVID-19 Virus you may visit their webpage at [www.dioscg.org](http://www.dioscg.org) or visit their Facebook page Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau

**PICNIC PLANNING IS UNDERWAY.** Due to COVID-19, we have pushed the date to Sunday, August 30th this year. If you haven't already and planned to donate towards the raffle prizes, you still have time! We'd like to have all donations by June 8th so that tickets can be printed and handed out in time for pre-sale.

You can contact the rectory, Mellanie Carder or Frances Boman. We can pick up, you can send or drop off at church. We do not have a chairperson(s) for the Trash and Treasures. So, no plans are being made to have this booth for the 2020 picnic. Thoughts are that this space will allow for the PCCW chicken/beef dinner to have more space and allow for any social distancing requirements that may still be in effect.

We are considering to have silent auction items - to take up a smaller space and raise funds. If you would like to donate items for the silent auction, that would be great. You may contact Mellanie Carder or Frances Boman. Donations can also be dropped off at the rectory....just be sure to clearly mark "silent auction item" on it. Mellanie Carder 417-737-2813 Frances Boman 417-693-0174

**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.

**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

## Ascension Sunday

Acts 1:1-11  
Ps 47:2-3, 6-9  
Ephesians 1:17-23  
Matthew 28:16-20

### Monday May 25

Acts 19:1-8  
Psalm 68:(33a)2-7ab  
John 16:29-33

### Tuesday May 26

**St. Philip Neri**  
Acts 20:17-27  
Ps 68:(33a)10-11,20-21  
John 17:1-11a

### Wednesday May 27

Acts 20:28-38  
Ps 68:29-30,33-36ab  
John 17:11b-19

### Thursday May 28

Acts 22:30;23:6-11  
Psalm 16:1-2a,5,7-11  
John 17:20-26

### Friday May 29

Acts 25:13b-21  
Ps 103:1-2,11-12,19-20ab  
John 21:15-19

### Saturday May 30

Acts 28:16-20,30-31  
Ps 11:4,5,7  
John 21:20-25

In the Gospel reading, Jesus states the Great Commission. He still repeats it today and at the end of every Mass when, through the priest, he sends us on our way. "Go," he says. "Go and make disciples wherever I send you."

A disciple is a student. Think of people you know who are mere followers of Christ, people who claim to believe in Jesus but who are not learning how to imitate Christ, adult Catholics who stopped their religious education a long time ago. Their faith is not enough to change the world, because they live more like the world than like holy representatives of Christ. Or they live more miserably, less joyfully than those who know how much Jesus cares about them. Or they are unpleasant to be around, because they have not developed enough humility to exude Christ.

You are called to disciple them! Jesus has commissioned you to do it. And it's not impossible to do. Take apart the word "commission" to see that you are "with" ("co") Jesus on his "mission". He says, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to Me" in the context of the Great Commission. This means that, when we share in Christ's mission, we share in his power.

If we are more than mere followers and have been disciples learning how to be fully alive in the Holy Spirit of



Christ, he will give us the words and the opportunities to teach others to observe and understand what he has commanded.

With Christ, we can change hearts by teaching the people around us what it means to be a follower of Christ who also learns from Christ. We teach first by our ex-

ample, but unless this is backed up with explanations of why we follow Christ, those whom we hope to influence will make no new discoveries about God's love, the benefits of God's commandments, or the need for God's merciful forgiveness.

"Behold!" he adds as an exclamation point on the Great Commission, "I am with you always. Together we will change the world, one disciple at a time."

### Reflect & Discuss:

1. Are you just a follower of Christ or are you also a student of his ways, his truths, and his commandments?
2. What can you do to learn more?
3. How does it feel to be a partner of Jesus in his mission of evangelization?
4. How have others evangelized you? What did they do that inspired you to become more active in your Christian faith?

ALTHOUGH THE FEAST OF THE ASCENSION IS PROPERLY OBSERVED FORTY DAYS FROM THE RESURRECTION, WHICH, OF COURSE OCCURS ON A THURSDAY IN THE SIXTH WEEK OF EASTER, IT IS LITURGICALLY CELEBRATED ON THE SUNDAY THAT FOLLOWS IN MOST DIOCESE IN THE WORLD. I AM NOT GOING TO GET INTO REASONS. I JUST MENTION THAT BECAUSE THERE IS A REASON WHY THE ASCENSION HAPPENED FORTY DAY FOLLOWING EASTER. EVERY TIME WE SEE "40" IN SCRIPTURE, IN THE PLAN OF GOD, WE ARE BEING TOLD SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT IS BEFORE US AND GIVEN TO US. THIS IS THE CASE. IN FACT, THERE IS SO MUCH INVOLVED, IT WOULD TAKE A TWO HOUR SERMON OR A TWENTY FIVE PAGE PIECE TO EVEN BEGIN TO TOUCH ALL THAT IS WITHIN. YOUR LUCK IN HOLDING... THAT ISN'T GOING TO OCCUR.

THE FIRST TO BE CONSIDERED IS THE ASCENSION ITSELF. CHRIST ASCENDS TO THE FATHER IN HEAVEN TO PREPARE A PLACE FOR US. IN THIS IS REVEALED THE DESIRED END OF EVERY HUMAN BEING. GOD DESIRES THAT WE COME TO THE FULLNESS OF RESURRECTED LIFE IN HEAVEN. THERE IS ALSO THE ASPECT THAT THE TEACHING, SHARING AND LIVING OF THE LIFE OF CHRIST IS ENTRUSTED TO US TO BRING TO OTHERS. CHRIST DOES NOT SIMPLY ACCOMPLISH THE PASCHAL MYSTERY AND THEN SAY. "O.K. ALL OVER NOW." HE GIVES IT TO THE APOSTLES TO BRING TO THE ENTIRE HUMAN RACE THROUGH GENERATIONS TO COME.

THE ASCENSION OPENS THE WAY TO THAT SHARING, AND IT BRINGS FORTH THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT INTO THE WORLD, CELEBRATED ON PENTECOST. IT IS CLEAR THAT WE CANNOT DO THE WORK OF THE COMING OF THE KINGDOM WITHOUT CHRIST. THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CHURCH, WHAT IS GIFTED US BECOMES MORE FULLY OURS BY OUR COOPERATION WITH THE VERY LIFE, PRESENCE AND GRACE OF CHRIST AMONG US BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. THUS THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH SPOKEN IN THE PREFACE TO THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER. CHRIST ASCENDS TO THE FATHER, NOT TO ABANDON US, BUT TO BRING US THE FULLNESS OF GRACE.

THE FINAL POINT OF MEDITATION FOR THE MOMENT IS THAT THE ASCENSION IS THE REVELATION OF THE RETURN OF THE LORD IN HIS GLORY, AND THE DAY OF JUDGEMENT. IN THIS WE COME TO REALIZE THAT THE TEMPORAL LIFE WITH WHICH WE ARE GIFTED FOR A TIME TO POSSESS IN THIS WORLD, IS THE MEANS BY WHICH ETERNAL LIFE IS COMMUNICATED TO US BY THE FATHER. THUS THE UNBREAKABLE INTERCONNECTION OF THE CHURCH MILITANT (ON EARTH) AND THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT (IN HEAVEN) IS BEFORE US AND IS OFFERED US BY GOD FROM THE MOMENT WE COME INTO BEING IN CHRIST.

\*\*\*\*\*NUMBER NEXT STUFF.++++

I KNOW THAT BY NOW, THE WORD HAS GOTTEN OUT THAT WE WILL BE HAVING MASSES AGAIN. THERE ARE RESTRICTIONS AND LIMITATIONS SET FORTH BY THE DIOCESE. I HAVE SENT A LETTER OUT TO ALL REGISTERED PARISHIONERS ABOUT THIS. YOU SHOULD GET IT EARLY NEXT WEEK. I AM GOING TO INCLUDE A SUMMARY ON THE WEBSITE FOR THIS WEEK. UPDATES AND REMINDERS WILL ALSO BE A PART OF WEBSITE NOTES AS TIME GOES ON.

A FEW BASIC REMINDERS:

1. THE DISPENSATION OF THE OBLIGATION TO ATTEND SUNDAY MASS CONTINUES.
2. PLEASE DO NOT COME TO CHURCH IF YOU OR A FAMILY MEMBER ARE SICK OR HAVE SYMPTOMS OF ILLNESS. (FEVER, DRY COUGH, SHORTNESS OF BREATH)
3. THOSE WITH PRE-EXISTING MEDICAL CONDITIONS ARE ENCOURAGED TO STAY HOME.
4. USE OF FACE MASK IS RECOMMENDED, BUT NOT REQUIRED.
5. OCCUPANCY IS LIMITED, SO YOU MAY BE DIRECTED TO CHANGE SEATS, OR POSSIBLY RETURN HOME BECAUSE TOO MANY PEOPLE ARE PRESENT.
6. FAMILIES SIT TOGETHER. SIX FEET IS TO BE MAINTAINED FROM NON FAMILY MEMBERS AT ALL TIMES.

IF YOU PREFER TO COME TO MASS WHEN THERE IS A SMALLER GROUP OF PEOPLE PRESENT, PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THERE ARE WEEKDAY MASSES, DIVIDED BETWEEN ST. MARY'S AND ST. AGNES.

FOR THE FIRST WEEKEND MASSES, THE OPPORTUNITY FOR MASS WILL BE STRICTLY "FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE." I KNOW THAT THIS IS NOT THE BEST SITUATION, AND MANY MAY HAVE TO RETURN HOME, BECAUSE WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH CAPACITY. THIS WEEKEND IT IS UNAVOIDABLE. PLEASE MAKE NOTE THAT CAPACITY AT ST. MARY'S IS 48 PEOPLE, AT ST. AGNES, 38.

ON WEEKENDS FOLLOWING, WE WILL BE USING A SYSTEM OF BREAKING UP OPPORTUNITIES ON WEEKENDS BY AN ALPHABETIC SYSTEM (LAST NAME) BLENDED WITH FIRST COME FIRST SERVED. THAT IS DESCRIBED MORE FULLY IN THE LETTER YOU SHOULD BE GETTING SOON. THIS IS GOING TO TAKE A GREAT DEAL OF PATIENCE AND CHARITY TOWARD ONE ANOTHER.

A FEW THINGS ABOUT MASS.

THERE WILL BE NO SINGING FOR AT LEAST A FEW WEEKS  
THERE WILL BE NO SERVERS FOR AT LEAST A FEW WEEKS  
YOU ARE ASKED NOT TO MOVE ABOUT IN CHURCH DURING MASS.  
COMMUNION WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AFTER MASS ENDS. THE BISHOPS STATE

THAT THEY DO NOT WANT PEOPLE MOVING IN CHURCH MORE THAN NECESSARY. I WILL GET INTO THE PARTICULARS A LITTLE MORE FULLY BEFORE MASSES. FOR NOW THIS IS SUFFICIENT TO GIVE YOU A HEADS UP CONCERNING SOME CHANGES.

WELL, I HAVE A PRETTY GOOD CASE OF TYPIST' S CRAMP, SO I MIGHT AS WELL LET THIS ONE FLY. GOD BLESS - FR. MATT