



Holy Trinity

Catholic Church and School

2926 Beaver Ave DSM IA 50310 515.255.3162 www.holytrinitydm.org



May 24 2020 The Ascension of the Lord/7th Sunday of Easter

Faith Service Respect



“Go make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”

Matthew 28:16-20

ALL PUBLIC MASSES CANCELED – WATCH ONLINE [HERE](#)



FROM FATHER MARK MAY 24 2020

GREETINGS.

As Bishop Joensen has now approved the resumption of public weekday Masses in select parts of our diocese, there is some information that will be very important for you to have in anticipation of the time when we will resume public weekday Masses here in the metro area. To be clear, no date has been set at this time for the resumption of public weekday Masses in the metro area. You will be notified when this happens. Saturday evening and Sunday Masses continue to be suspended until this is changed by the Bishop.

The church will not look like it normally does. We will have designated seating areas. I ask your cooperation and patience as this will be a work in progress. I suspect there will be a few glitches along the way as we settle in to our "new normal." I have no doubt that working together we will get through them.

Coming to Mass: Those in vulnerable populations (60 years old and over, and those with underlying health conditions) will still be encouraged to stay home. Once current restrictions are eased this recommendation can change. The suspension of the Sunday Mass obligation will continue to be in effect. Masses will continue to be available virtually. You are asked to not attend every day as we begin so that we can get a handle on how many wish to attend in person and so that we can accommodate as many people as possible. You are also asked by Bishop Joensen to attend Mass only in your own home parish. Those coming to Mass are asked to arrive at least ten minutes before the scheduled start time so that all can be seated. We may conduct a survey to see how many we might expect. This has not been decided yet.

Schedule: We will try to alternate Masses between morning and evening to allow for more people to attend and to allow for cleaning of the church. The schedule will be adjusted as needed.

Use of Masks/Face Coverings: All those attending Mass, including children age 5 and up are strongly encouraged to use a mask or other face covering during Mass. If anyone wishes to donate masks, homemade or otherwise, for those who do not have one, this would be greatly appreciated. We plan to have masks on hand for those required to use them who do not have one. Ushers will need to wear a mask or face covering. Eucharistic ministers will also need to wear a mask.

When You Arrive at Church: As we need to follow the directions we received from the diocese, all people will be asked to enter through the doors at the back of the church (near the restrooms). Please maintain adequate social distance while waiting to enter the church. You will be directed to a specific area/seat. Please sit where you are asked to be seated. We want to be able to accommodate as many people as possible. As we begin phase one, we will use every other row. There will be visual cues as to where not to sit (indicated by blue tape, etc). There will also be directions for where to sit. There will be some exceptions. For example, families arriving together in the same vehicle do not need to be distanced. Larger family groups will be seated in longer pews. Again, please plan to arrive at least 10 minutes before Mass begins so all can be seated. We will not be able to have anyone standing or congregating in any part of the church before or during Mass (including near the end of Mass) as we are required to comply with the guidelines we have received from the diocese and will need to have proper social distance and ask that those in attendance be seated.

There will be no offertory procession. The gifts will be prepared at the altar.

Collection: There will be no baskets passed around for any collection. We will have tithing/donation drop boxes in the church. You can also continue to mail in or drop off your tithing donation if you wish. If you would like to begin ACH tithing, please contact the parish office. We will be glad to help you begin this.

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FROM FATHER MARK MAY 24 2020

(cont'd.)

Sign of Peace: There will be no physical exchange of peace.

Communion: As we will start out using every other row, Communion may be brought to you so that we do not have to maintain social distance while in line. If we elect to have a Communion procession, it will need to be a single line with appropriate social distancing. You will likely need to wait until the row in front of you has received as we need to maintain social distance in the Communion line. A final decision on which method will be used will depend on how many people attend a given Mass. Direction will be given. When you receive Communion, please put your hand out as flat as possible so the host can be placed in your hand with as little contact as possible. If there is skin to skin contact, the Eucharist Minister will need to sanitize their hand before continuing. **As an act of concern and charity toward others, all are strongly encouraged to receive in the hand.** If you feel you need to receive on the tongue, please wait until the end. Communion from the cup remains prohibited. You are not required to receive Communion each time you participate in Mass. The Easter obligation has been dispensed by the Bishop.

Eucharistic Ministers: All who help distribute Communion will need to wear a mask while distributing. Eucharistic ministers will need to wash their hands before Mass and sanitize their hands before and after Communion.

Exiting the Church: At the conclusion of Mass please wait for your area to be directed. As with coming into the church, we will also need to maintain social distance when leaving. Depending on where you are seated, you will be directed either to the exits near the baptismal font, the plaza doors, or the door by the restrooms. If we all cooperate this process should not take more than a few minutes. Visiting after Mass should take place outside as we will need to disinfect the church after each Mass

****Additional Help Will be Needed**** As many of our regular Eucharistic ministers, lectors, and ushers are in the vulnerable population and will be encouraged to continue to stay home, we will need more volunteers if we are to be able to restart the public celebration of Mass. It will be especially important that we have additional ushers to help get people seated. We will also need one lector for each Mass and 2 Eucharistic ministers. Perhaps more, perhaps less, depending on how many people attend. Please contact the office if you are willing to volunteer in any of these ministries. Mass servers will not be used during this time.

More information will be passed along as we receive it.

As we prepare to once again gather as a community of faith, this is truly a blessing that we can give thanks for. As we prepare for this time, may God bless and protect us all, and may God bless Holy Trinity.

FR. Mark

PLEASE DONATE ONLINE AT <https://holytrinitydm.org/donate>

Want more information? Go to www.holytrinitydm.org or call 515 255 3162



NOTES FROM THE CHURCH MAY 24 2020



Q & A WITH FATHER MARK WEDNESDAYS AT 7PM Please join Father Mark in a Facebook LIVE meeting – he will answer your questions about our parish, Church, faith, religion and more. Our [FACEBOOK](#) page is public – no account required. Please email your questions to fmneal@holyltrinitydm.org or the parishoffice@holyltrinitydm.org

It is everyone’s earnest desire to resume public worship together as soon as prudentially possible. When public worship does resume, please remember:

1. Participating at Mass is a health risk for any individual. For those who do not attend Mass during this time God’s infinite grace and mercy remain abundantly available.
2. The Sunday obligation remains suspended, and that the elderly, vulnerable individuals, individuals who live with vulnerable individuals, and those who are ill or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 like symptoms should not attend Mass.
3. **For those who will attend Mass, please cultivate an occasional presence, and not a daily presence.** This is an act of charity toward others, as it can allow more people to participate in daily Mass and better serves the common good.
4. **Only attend Mass at your own parish. Traveling to neighboring parishes creates a greater health risk for all, and hinders the diocese in its efforts to make the sacraments publicly available in the safest way possible.**

CORONAVIRUS: FROM THE DIOCESE AND BISHOP JOENSON

- ALL CATHOLIC SCHOOL BUILDINGS CLOSED
- Please see the following pages from the Diocese as we prepare to reopen for Mass
- COVID-19: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW Here's some basic information from [MercyOne](#) about what the coronavirus is and precautionary measures to take.

PRAYER RESOURCES

- [Prayer for the Sick](#) (English & Spanish)
- [Prayer for Spiritual Communion](#) (English & Spanish)
- [Liturgy of the Hours](#) (USCCB)
- [Daily Reflection Video](#)

MASS INTENTIONS

- May 24 Jim Mahoney, Larry Ihrig & For the Parish
- May 25 For all Military who died fighting for our country
- May 26 Ron Chamberlain
- May 27 Alice Marks
- May 28 Helen Steinbach
- May 29 Bill Frasier
- May 30 Colin Witt
- May 31 Bev Hunter, Ray Schneider & For the Parish

PLEASE REMEMBER THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED...

Jerry T. Hassett
Parishioner of Holy Trinity Parish



FINANCIAL BLESSINGS ENDING WEEK OF MAY 10 2020

Budget - July 2019 - June 2020	\$1,008,000	YTD Overage (Deficit)	\$12,830
YTD Budget through May 10	\$879,711	Tithing for the week ending May 10	\$31,203
YTD Actual Tithing through May 10	\$892,541	Number of Donations Received	256



NOTES FROM THE DIOCESE MAY 24 2020

May 17, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

I write to convey my decision to permit entry into Phase 1 liturgical practices for daily Masses **FOR SELECT COUNTIES (only)** within the Des Moines Diocese beginning later this week. After my most recent consultations with our regathering task force and with infectious disease clinicians from both UnityPoint and MercyOne medical staffs, who track all data from the Iowa Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control, **I accept the recommendation that select counties in the Des Moines Diocese have reached a place where the faithful might reasonably regather to celebrate daily Masses (Monday-Saturday morning).**

I have established Thursday, May 21, 2020, as the first permissible date to resume daily Masses. This permission is not a hard mandate; it remains left to local priest pastors to decide whether your parish can dutifully fulfill the hygienic cleansing, social distancing, and other guidelines that will best mitigate the risk of further contagion, and thus celebrate public Masses with more than ten persons.

This positive permission extends to parishes in these counties, running roughly from east to west: **Wayne, Lucas, Clarke, Decatur, Madison, Union, Ringgold, Adair, Adams, Taylor, Cass, Montgomery, Page, Fremont, and Harrison Counties. Mills County will be permitted to regather for daily Mass beginning on Monday, May 25, 2020.**

Other counties, on account of the still rising or insufficiently diminished incident of contagion are NOT permitted to enter Phase 1 celebration of daily Mass at this time. **Those counties that are prohibited from celebrating daily Masses with more than ten persons present are: Polk, Warren, Dallas, Guthrie, Audubon, Shelby, and Pottawattamie Counties.** When parishes in these counties reach the point where risk has appropriately abated, I will communicate the Phase 1 permissible date.

For those seeking greater detail about liturgical guidelines, I attach them with this message. I also attach some helpful graphic instructions and reminders that will be posted at your parish church. Please note: the wearing of face masks at Mass is a key way to protect one another and oneself!

Thank you for your close reading of this message and the revised guidelines and graphic posters. Please know of my prayers that God's mantle of protection will surround you and your loved ones in your great desire to commune with Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life.

Faithfully in Christ,

+Wm. M. Joensen, Ph.D.
Bishop of Des Moines

[haga clic para español](#)



Welcome Back!

As we gather to celebrate Mass as a community of faith, we ask that everyone do their part to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Please follow these guidelines as a means of showing charity to our neighbors.



Stay home if you are elderly, vulnerable to COVID-19 or live with someone who is vulnerable. The Sunday Mass obligation remains suspended. For those who do not attend Mass, know that God's infinite grace and mercy remain abundantly available.



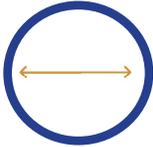
Consider attending Mass occasionally instead of daily. This is an act of charity toward others; it allows more people to participate and better serves the common good.



Everyone ages 5 and up should wear a face mask for face covering in church and on church property. Place it on before leaving your car. It can be removed before receiving Holy Communion and put back into place as you return to your seat.



Bishop William Joensen strongly urges that we only receive Holy Communion on the hand for the common good.



Please observe social distancing throughout your time on parish property: before, during and after Mass. Individuals or household units should remain 6 or more feet away from others.



Place your offertory gift in the basket by the door. Thank you for supporting our ministry and outreach during these historic days.



Use hand sanitizer when entering and leaving the church. Bring your own, if possible, to use before receiving Communion.



Guidelines provided by the Diocese of Des Moines based on recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



How to Safely Wear and Take Off a Cloth Face Covering

WEAR YOUR FACE COVERING CORRECTLY

- Wash your hands before putting on your face covering
- Put it over your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin
- Try to fit it snugly against the sides of your face
- Make sure you can breathe easily
- Do not place a mask on a child younger than 2



USE THE FACE COVERING TO PROTECT OTHERS

- Wear a face covering to protect others in case you're infected but don't have symptoms
- Keep the covering on your face the entire time you're in public
- Don't put the covering around your neck or up on your forehead
- Don't touch the face covering, and, if you do, clean your hands

FOLLOW EVERYDAY HEALTH HABITS

- Stay at least 6 feet away from others
- Avoid contact with people who are sick
- Wash your hands often, with soap and water, for at least 20 seconds each time
- Use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available



TAKE OFF YOUR CLOTH FACE COVERING CAREFULLY, WHEN YOU'RE HOME

- Untie the strings behind your head or stretch the ear loops
- Handle only by the ear loops or ties
- Fold outside corners together
- Place covering in the washing machine
- Wash your hands with soap and water



Cloth face coverings are not surgical masks or N-95 respirators, both of which should be saved for health care workers and other medical first responders.

For instructions on making a cloth face covering, see:

[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)



Receiving the Eucharist

When we come together as a faith community to celebrate Mass during the pandemic, we must observe safety precautions to protect the health of all those gathered. When you approach to receive the Eucharist, we ask you to follow these guidelines.



Wear your mask as you approach for Holy Communion.



Bow.



Place your hands out in the usual manner and receive the Eucharist.



After responding "Amen," step to the side.



Lower your mask, place the Eucharist in your mouth, and pull the mask back up.



Return to your seat.



Guidelines provided by the Diocese of Des Moines based on recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



Should I be going to Mass?

Deciding whether or not to go to Mass may be a tough choice. Your love of the Lord, your desire to be nourished by the Eucharist and to be with our community is life giving during these difficult days. At the same time, you must weigh the risk to your own health and that of those around you. Attending Mass may create fear and anxiety during the pandemic.



Participating at Mass is a health risk for any individual.

Before deciding, we encourage you to ask yourself these questions.

- Am I elderly and therefore in a group more vulnerable to COVID-19?
- Does my health make me more vulnerable to becoming ill from the virus?
- Do I live with someone who would be considered a vulnerable person?
- Have I been exposed to someone with COVID-19?
- Am I experiencing COVID-19-like symptoms?

If your answer to any of these questions is "Yes" we urge you to remain at home. Bishop William Joensen has suspended the Sunday obligation to attend Mass for everyone during the pandemic, not just those who may answer "Yes" to any of the questions above. For those who do not attend Mass during this time, know that **God's infinite grace and mercy remain abundantly available.**

If you choose to remain at home, there are two ways you can join us spiritually.

- ✓ Use the Prayer of Spiritual Communion (For those who may wish but for whatever reason are unable to receive holy communion)

Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament,
I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen

- ✓ Our parish is posting a video of the celebration of the Mass. Here is how to find it online:



Guidelines provided by the Diocese of Des Moines based on recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



NOTES FROM THE DIOCESE MAY 24 2020

Phase 1 Liturgical Guidelines Diocese of Des Moines May 15, 2020

Anticipatory Remarks

- All the faithful remain dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass until further notice and are dispensed of their Easter Duty for 2020. In addition, those who have been in contact with the virus, exposed to the virus, or shown symptoms at any time in the previous 14 days are to stay home. It is preferable and prudent to ask parishioners to take their temperature at home prior to coming to Mass.
- Parishes are encouraged to continue livestreaming Mass.
- Holy Water fonts are to remain empty until further notice.
- Hand sanitizer may be made available to the faithful. All ministers should wash hands thoroughly before Mass and refrain from any handshakes or acceptance of materials from parishioners before Mass. Arrangement should be made for any materials that need to be dropped off at church in a specific place or container.
- The faithful aged 5 and above are strongly encouraged to wear a mask¹ at Church and during the Mass, except for the brief moment of receiving Holy Communion. Parishes may require the use of masks. Extra masks should be made available for parishioners, preferably accessible prior to entrance. Ushers and other volunteers are required to make use of masks.
- Priests and other ministers are required to wear masks to distribute Holy Communion. If a priest cannot maintain a minimum of 15 feet distance from parishioners throughout the Mass they are required to wear a mask. Priests and other ministers (e.g. lectors) are permitted to wear masks throughout Mass if they so choose.
- The other guidelines laid out in the re-opening document and cleaning document are assumed here.

Mass Itself

- Traffic in and out of the Church should be monitored and staggered. Doors should be propped open by a stand if possible, or by an usher or another device to prevent people from touching doors.
- Ushers should –where possible- direct people to seating. The faithful will likely need to be told they may need to surrender usual spots/patterns of seating.
- A six feet social distance must be maintained between one family/household unit and another. Individuals [who did not arrive in the same car] must sit six feet apart.
 - Pews may need to be blocked off to achieve the six foot perimeter in all directions
- Altar servers should not be used. Parishes should only use a single Lector/commentator per Mass.

¹ When this document refers to masks, medical masks, cloth face coverings, or face shields are all implied as sufficient.



NOTES FROM THE DIOCESE MAY 24 2020

5 CREATIVE WAYS TO PRAY FOR OTHERS

Not so long ago, my prayer time consisted of presenting a long list of requests to God. Although they were heartfelt and genuine, I gradually became aware that I was doing all the talking, describing the problem to God (which He clearly knew anyway!), and telling God what I thought ought to be done about it. I didn't give God much opportunity to guide my thoughts while I was praying.

But gradually, I've begun to explore different types of intercessory prayer (ways to pray for others). Rather than bombarding God with my ideas and requests, I'm learning to listen as I pray. I spend a few minutes silently considering each situation and wait to get a feeling about what to pray. Sometimes I don't verbalize a specific prayer – I simply whisper the person's name a few times. Here are a few suggestions to inspire you toward more creative intercessory prayer.

1. Making my prayer journal creative

My prayer journal has become much more than a notebook filled with names. I use a large scrapbook, and each page is different. For example, Gambia (where I live for several months each year), has recently gone through a period of turbulence, so my Gambia prayer page includes a map and some of my favorite photos. My journal also has a photo montage of my family. On several pages, I've written someone's name and embellished [it with felt pens and watercolors as I pray for them](#). On others, I've recorded scripture verses I feel prompted to share with them.

2. Creating a prayer tree

Last summer I created a [prayer tree](#) by arranging some twigs in a large vase. I cut leaves from cardstock, added a hanging loop, and then wrote the name of each person I prayed for on a leaf. As the summer progressed, the twigs became increasingly festooned with leaves. Each time I entered the room, the tree was a gentle reminder to pray. This method was also a great encouragement because I could look at older leaves and thank God for answered prayers.



3. Praying with crafts

Make use of your crafting ability to pray for others by crocheting blankets for the homeless, making [twiddle muffs](#) or [fidget quilts](#) for patients with dementia, or knitting small hats for babies born in prison. As a keen crafter, I felt moved to knit some tiny burial gowns to help families whose babies were stillborn. As I knitted each gown, I prayed for the parents who would receive it, that God would soothe their suffering. This holds good for your friends and family too – while I sewed fleecy tops as Christmas gifts for my grandchildren, I prayed for them. While I believe that the very act of such crafting can be a practical prayer, there's also the opportunity to pray as you work, or perhaps listen to a recorded meditation, such as a [Rosary CD](#).

4. Using a printable calendar

Printable calendars are great for creative prayer. We can insert prayer requests in advance, adding important dates like a friend's birthday or upcoming surgery. We can use it like an Advent calendar, by noting important prayers for each day beforehand, then covering it with another paper layer containing doors. Open one door each day to reveal the prayer topic. Printable calendars can also be used progressively. Spend a few moments in quiet contemplation then fill in each daily square as you feel directed by God, like this [Easter calendar](#). [Praying in Color](#) has free printable calendars as well as many other creative prayer resources to inspire you.

5. Going on a prayer walk

A [prayer walk](#) can be done on your own or with friends. It could be as simple as taking a walk along your street and praying briefly for each house as you pass. Taking your walk further afield gives you the opportunity to pray for your wider community, including those who work at places such as the hospital, local government offices, emergency services, or neighborhood stores. Include churches, schools, community centers, and those helping others like homeless shelters or a food pantry. Even the smallest community has a host of needs.

Praying for others doesn't have to be a rote practice. Once we begin using more creative ways to pray, we can find dozens of sources of inspiration. When we learn to listen more carefully to God's gentle prompting throughout the day, we really can ["pray without ceasing."](#)



NOTES FROM THE SCHOOL MAY 24 2020



PARENT TRAPPED PODCAST

The coronavirus pandemic has turned our lives upside down. Parent Trapped is here to help. Each week, host Ann Marie Baldonado checks in with authors, educators and celebs to

bring you real-world stories and tips. You'll hear from experts and listeners on everything from juggling work and school with kids at home to awesome pillow fort designs (!) and great family movies. Common Sense created Parent Trapped to capture parents' candid stories and moments when reality meets (comic) relief. Because, let's face it: Raising kids in quarantine is a challenge none of us saw coming. Find out more at CommonSense Media online

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/parent-trapped/id1510846733> or listen on ApplePodcasts



ENROLLING NOW

We invite all families to visit our school online and discover the Holy Trinity Catholic school difference. We provides an exceptional learning environment for your child, filled with faith, academic excellence and exceptional teachers. **To enroll your student, please go to <https://holytrinitydm.org/school/enroll/enroll-now>**

CALLING ALL HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS – (public and Holy Trinity) we are trying to reach you! If you have not received an email from Gigi, our youth minister, regarding a HS video please reach out to the parish 515 255 3162 ext 226 or gigiw@holytrinitydm.org and let us know how to get a hold of you!!! Grandparents and family members please help us track each grad down!

DISCOVER THE CATHOLIC SCHOOL DIFFERENCE AND EARN A

\$1,500 TUITION GRANT

FIND OUT MORE AT HOLYTRINITYDM.ORG

Current Family \$500 Referral Bonus




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OUR [FACEBOOK](#) PAGE IS PUBLIC -- NO ACCOUNT REQUIRED



Your contribution to the Annual Diocesan Appeal makes an impact!

ENCOUNTERING CHRIST
ministries that bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to all

- 1,761 new members of the faith through Baptism
- 11,000 adhere to the Catechism in parish faith formation
- 400 engaged couples undergoing marriage preparation
- 17 Catholic Schools with professional training, supervision and oversight
- 1,533 Catholics visited with the gift of the Holy Spirit
- 35,000 households receive the Good News in the Catholic Home

SHEPHERDING THE FAITHFUL
supporting our faith leaders

- 36 retreats with medical care and retirement issues
- 52 retreats with medical care and retirement issues
- 19 parishes with 11 Clergy and 11 lay ministers
- 112 retreats and retreats with medical care and retirement issues
- 15 retreats with medical care and retirement issues

HELPING PEOPLE IN NEED
ministries that open the door for people to receive God's mercy

- 4 Catholic hospitals offering Palliative, Communion and Anointing of the Sick
- \$115,000 in local flood relief grants
- 175 refugees recruited as members of the Body of Christ
- 25,000 individuals served by Catholic Charities

SUPPORTING LOCAL COMMUNITIES OF FAITH
supporting parishes/organizations

- 21,000 employees and volunteers undergo screening and training to ensure a safe environment for our children
- 1,765 employees with managed benefit plans
- 40,000 Hispanic Catholics with outreach and ministry needs
- 80 parishes with ministry and administrative services

OUR PARISH GOAL:
\$108,155

Visit dmidiocese.org/giving for more information on the ADA and charitable giving.

Thank you who have been able to give!
We are close to our goal but not quite there yet. Please pray about being able to give to the Annual Diocesan Appeal. Thankyou for your ongoing generosity.

FOOD PANTRIES REMAIN OPEN... BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

During this time of closures and social distancing we have established a protocol allowing us to continue providing pantry essentials to those in need.

Both pantries are open for business by appointment only. Pantry appointments and pickup times are Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

As needs run high, supplies run low. We would like to ask that as a friend of SVdP that you participate in our **#foodpantrychallenge**. Just think, if you donate \$10 then either tag on social media or challenge 3 friends to do the same, we will generate enough funds to not only keep the pantries open during this dangerous time, but also continue with our mission to provide healthy food choices to our clients.

Donations can be made on our website at www.svdpsm.org.

If you know someone in need, appointments can be scheduled by calling the numbers below:
1426 6th Avenue: [515-282-8327](tel:5152828327) Ext. 14
520 SW Army Post Road: [515-282-8328](tel:5152828328) Ext. 30

It is because of friends like you that we have been able to continue serving clients during this stressful time, and we are grateful for your continued support.

Can we count on you?



BRING THE GOSPEL HOME MAY 24 2020

READING I: Acts of the Apostles 1:1-14

PSALM: 47:2-9 / 27:1, 4, 7-8

READING II: Ephesians 1:17-231 Peter 4:13-16

GOSPEL: Matthew 28:16-20 / John 17:1-11

Question for Children: Jesus helps us be strong in our faith. When do you need to be really strong in faith?

Question for Youth: Prayer is essential to being a disciple, because it is the way we build or relationship with God—through talking and listening. What is one way you can take more time this week to listen to God in prayer?

Question for Adults: In these heartfelt instructions from a leader of the church, what are the ways in modern life that we sometimes suffer for our faith? Or are there no such ways?

SAINT OF THE WEEK

Charles Lwanga and Companions, Martyrs

Charles Lwanga lived in Uganda, Africa. He was baptized on the very day that his own teacher was murdered for the faith. Because he refused to take part in the immorality of the day, he was sent to prison. Enroute, three of his companions, including Lwanga, were murdered, burned to death along with two soldiers. Saint Charles Lwanga, together with twenty one other martyrs, was canonized in 1964 by Pope Paul VI. He has been named the patron of African youth. He and his companion martyrs are honored by a memorial on June 3. What strong faith this young man had! Knowing that it would probably lead to his own martyrdom, he persevered in his request for Baptism. Then he stood up to the king, defending himself and others against what he knew to be wrong.

Charles' message today: What strong faith this young man had! Knowing that it would probably lead to his own martyrdom, he persevered in his request for Baptism. Then he stood up to the king, defending himself and others against what he knew to be wrong.

Think of some ways that you can help a young person affirm their faith. Pray for those in your parish who are to be confirmed this year.





NOTES ON THE MASS MAY 24 2020

SPIRITUALITY OF THE READINGS

Ascension

He has been telling the apostles about his crucifixion and death, remember? The possibility of losing him had terrified them, as we saw.

But then he rose again.

This too was a shock, a huge one. It was “unbelievable” for many of them, in the full sense of that word. Some simply refused to accept it! But in time they got over “resurrection-shock.” All of them, even Philip, could let go of the sorrows of Jesus’ crucifixion and death and have some real joy for a change.

And then he told them he was going away, this time forever.

He did not exactly tell them, he let them overhear his great prayer to the Father. (7 Easter [Gospel](#)) A really huge jolt. Whiplash material. First it involved insurmountable sorrow and loss, followed then by out-of-your-mind astonishment and joy, but resulting in goodbye forever. Jesus’ great prayer in the [Gospel for the Seventh Sunday of Easter](#) is one very helpful way in which he consoled them.* There he is praying not for the world but for the ones his Father gave him. His words aren’t about separation but just the opposite: the disciples are always to be with him, and with the Father as well, even to the end of time!

You and I, just like the disciples, need a lot of time to understand this.

Here is what Jesus is saying, in one interpretation: The Father and I are one. When you see me you see the Father. And I will be one with you in the same way the Father is with me. We all will be present to each other in the oneness of love.

Then a funny thing happens. Instead of breaking in with a clownish “couldn’t you just show us the Father and forget all this talk about unity and oneness,” Phillip begins to listen as Jesus prays in a remarkable way.

In essence, Jesus says, they have accepted your words, Abba, and they truly understand the fact that I came from you. They believe that you sent me.

What is it that they have accepted and believed? It is the power of God’s love even amid departures and loss. And something else, something we saw last week, but could not identify yet. Jesus was so wide open to God that the two were completely at one. “Whoever sees me sees the Father,” he said. That is a very deep description of such love.

How does this make sense to us?

We need to have the Holy Spirit of God come to us tenderly and lift us into flight so we can see how the risen Christ works.

From such a vantage point, maybe Jesus would say something like the following to us: I have shown you who God is and who I am. Now I go, like all human beings, back to the Father—your Father and my Father. This Holy Spirit of God I have been describing? It is no fantasy. I am going to send it into you, and as often as you accept it you are one with me and with the Father.

Next week, on Pentecost, we will celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit. For now we are waiting. Let us drink a lot of spiritual coffee so that we will not sleep through it.

John Foley, SJ



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