



# Feast of the Ascension—May 13, 2018



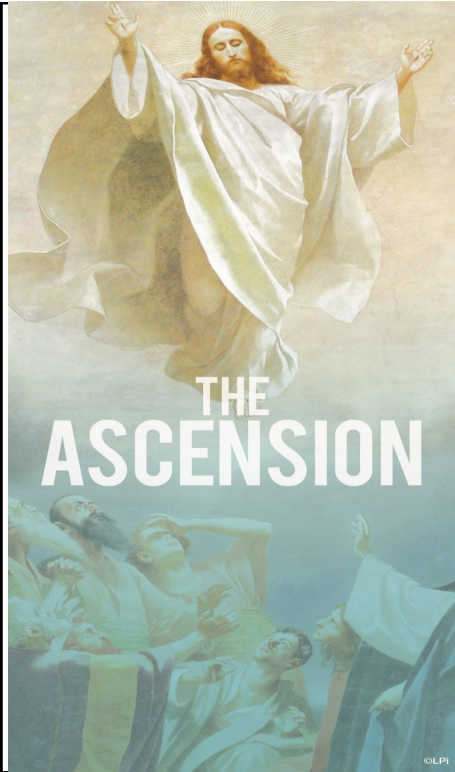
SAINT MARY'S & SAINT ELIZABETH'S CATHOLIC CHURCHES

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VICTOR DVORAK –DEACON



**“Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature.”**

A woman saw a little girl in the street playing with filthy trash.

The child was poorly dressed and ill-nourished.

The woman became angry and complained to God,

“Why do you let things like this happen? Why don't you do something about it?”

God gently replied, “I did do something about it. I created you.”

On the Solemnity of the Ascension, how seriously do I take the Lord's command to share the Gospel, the Good News, in everything that I say and do?

By my life, am I transforming our world into the kind of place God created it to be?

We must keep in mind that the Ascension of Jesus Christ into heaven does not represent His removal from earth.

No, He continues His presence through Christians who love and serve in His name.

## Happy Mother's Day to our Moms!

On this day dedicated to mothers, we thank God for the beautiful vocation of motherhood. How blessed our lives are because of the gift of our mothers. Our mothers have loved us unconditionally; they have helped us grow in faith; they have been a source of constant support; and they give of themselves sacrificially, expecting so little in return for their many labors of love. Mothers, may God bless you on this special day dedicated to you and thank you for faithfully fulfilling your vocation as a mother. We are forever indebted to you and we will always love you and appreciate you.



## Coming Soon!



Soon after Memorial Day, the second-hand store in the old Saint Mary's parish library will have its grand opening. Decorated with themes from *Alice in Wonderland*, it will be called the *Rabbit Hole*. We will start taking donations on May 15<sup>th</sup> and when the store is operational, donations can be accepted only during business hours (10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.) from Monday to Friday. Donations outside of these times are by appointment through calling Vivian Hernandez (701-206-0129), Fr. Gary (701-509-9504), or the parish office (701-579-4312). Thank you to Vivian Hernandez for spearheading this great effort and to all of the volunteers who have helped in preparing the room and those who have volunteered to assist in running the store. I am most grateful for the generous offering of your time and talents. May God reward you! Just a reminder that some items will not be accepted by Vivian, the store manager: tv's; computers; printers; mattresses; large furniture; VHS tapes; encyclopedias; exercise equipment; and old high school annuals with the '80's' look of Fr. Gary (thank you Vivian!). I look forward to this great venture, a gift for our parish and community.

## Flower Power



We will soon begin spring's work on the grounds of our parishes, including the planting of flowers. If you wish to donate to this effort, please drop your donation in the Sunday collection basket or stop by the parish office. Thank you for your part in adding beauty to our church grounds. And no, we will not be planting certain plants that personify the pastor's personality. I'm not a big fan of cactus!

**MASS & ADORATION SCHEDULE**

**Monday, May 14**

**7:30 AM SM—Communion Service**

**Tuesday, May 15**

**7:30 AM SM —+Mary Ficek by Lonnie & Donna Rohr**

**6:00 PM SE—Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

**7:00 PM SE—+Paul Schiwal by Francis & Shirley Schiwal**

**Wednesday, May 16**

**7:00 PM SM— Rosary & Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions**

**7:00 PM SM— +Living & Deceased family members of +Frank & +Seraphina Schmitt**

**Thursday, May 17**

**7:30 AM SM—+Eugenia Stagl by Robert & Cely Stagl**

**Friday, May 18**

**7:30 AM SM— SM Altar Guild**

**12-3:00 PM—Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

**Saturday, May 19**

**8:30 AM SM— +Keith Herold by Brian & Kim Herold**

**5:00 PM SM—Herberholz Families by Harvey & Vicki Herberholz**

**Sunday, May 20**

**8:30AM SE +Ralph Messmer by Curtis & Michele Wax**

**10:30AM SM-Pro Populo**

*Please Keep in Your Prayers:*

Nate Hernandez, Duane Dobitz, Andy Prokop, Henley Johnson, Duane Grundhauser, Pete Schaefer, Alice Candrian, Marilyn Jacobs, Leo Heck, Ross Thomas, Arlene Rohr, Brenda Barton, Elven Kaufman, Suzette Printz,, Linda Reisenauer, Rose Krebs (SE), Russ Lefor, Lori Lefor, Herbert Emmil, Reggie Gentz, Cindy Martin, Tim Theil, Howard Schiwal, Theresa Decker, Alyssa Binstock, Yvonne Fettig, Dale Reindel, Kim Kuhn, Don Miller, Shari Obritsch, Katherine Splichal, Bonnie (Krebs) Dick, Dorothy Kohl, Colleen Churchill, Thresiamma (Fr. Biju's mom)

**Assisted Living and Nursing Home Residents:** Aggie Wandler, Ken Stagl, Charlotte Krebs, Harvey Herberholz, Archie Jalbert, Benny Benz, Joan Binstock, Joe Wandler, Sylvia Koppinger, Leona Gordon, Joan Madler, Cecelia Jung, Donnella Koppinger, Marilyn Jeske, Willie Emmil, Frances Heick, Dale Schroeder

**Our Deceased Loved Ones** +James Gatzke, + Ed Koppinger +Eleanor Keck +Ardelle Kovar, +Eugenia Stagl, + Nick Lenhardt ,+ Mike Urlacher , + Keith Herold, +Carla Rohan +Alvin Rotering +Jeanne Kovar +Bridget Urlacher, +Laura Grundhauser, +Florian Urlacher +Paul Schiwal, + LeRoy Jacobs +Victor Roller +John Herold, + Viola Martin + Viola Neprash +Maggie Schoch, +Rose Lefor, + Mary Ficek

- ◆ **SE** will be having a Mother's Day breakfast on Sunday, May 20th, after 8:30 am Mass.
- ◆ Each year during the Annual God's Share Appeal, we pause & consider all the great things that are accomplished in the name of Jesus! Each & every gift is important. If you have not made your gift yet, we ask that you make your commitment today in order to provide the resources needed to continue the vital diocesan programs & ministries that benefit every parish & every parishioner. No gift is too small & every gift is sincerely appreciated.

**St. Mary's Liturgical Assignments May 19 & 20, 2018**

| MINISTRY              | Saturday 5PM       | Sunday 10:30AM       |
|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Lector                | Graduates          | Susan Schmitt        |
| Mass Servers          | Leonard G./Zack J. | Mark F./Gordon S.    |
| Eucharistic Ministers | Cely S./Robert S.  | Betty H./Larry H.    |
| Gifts                 | Graduates          | Dean & Mary Fitterer |
| Rosary Leader         | Martina Stagl      | Mary Fitterer        |
| Greeters              | Vicki Herberholz   | Victor & Lynn Dvorak |
| Homebound Minister    | David & Vivian H.  | David & Vivian H.    |

**Collection Report St. Mary's May 5 & 6, 2018**

| Adult         |             | Youth |
|---------------|-------------|-------|
| \$ 2411.00    | Envelopes   | \$    |
| \$ 75.00      | Loose Plate | \$    |
| \$ 2486.00    | Total       | \$    |
| \$ 2486.00    | Month       | \$    |
| \$ 12, 225.00 | God's Share |       |

**St. Elizabeth's Liturgical Assignments May 20, 2018**

|                       |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Lector                | Stetson           |
| Mass Servers          | Bailey            |
| Eucharistic Ministers | Darrell & Dorita  |
| Gifts                 | Dale & Elevera    |
| Greeters              | Craig & Trish     |
| Ushers                | Elvie & Dennis W. |

**Collection Report St. Elizabeth's May 6, 2013**

| Adult       |             | Youth    |
|-------------|-------------|----------|
| \$ 430.00   | Envelopes   | \$ 2.00  |
| \$ 110.00   | Loose Plate | \$       |
| \$ 540.00   | Total       | \$       |
| \$ 540.00   | Month       | \$ 43.00 |
| \$ 2,220.00 | God's Share |          |

The loveliest masterpiece  
of the heart of God  
is the love of a mother.

St. Therese of Lisieux



## **Difficult Moral Issues, "Why does the Church oppose euthanasia?"**

In the pro-life effort, it seems that the greatest danger to human life is abortion, which affects millions of woman and children each year. This may have been true in the past, but the greatest attack on the sanctity of human life may now be the challenge of euthanasia, or mercy killings."

Euthanasia advocates demand that individuals be in control of their dying process, whether they are terminally ill, chronically ill, or disabled. They believe people should have autonomy over their bodies, including the right to die whenever and however they wish. In their minds, if quality of life is lacking (pain, loss of bodily functions, dependence on others, etc.), then people should be allowed to end their own lives. This belief in the right to end one's life used to alarm most Americans, Catholics included. Remember the apprehension with Dr. Kevorkian and his assisted-suicide machine in the 1980's? But, the "death with dignity" movement has had great success in changing the hearts and minds of Americans and Catholics have bought into their arguments as well.

As a pastor, I hear more and more from the mouths of Catholics the belief in the right to die at one's own hands or with the assistance of others when one's situation in life becomes difficult. It is stated in various ways: "I don't want to be a burden on my family"; "I don't want to endure pain or have my family see me in pain"; "I don't want to be a vegetable"; "Don't resuscitate me, put me on a feeding tube, or put me on a respirator. Just let me die. " These statements are not Catholic, for they have a very negative attitude towards pain, suffering, and death. We have to challenge these views, because they deny the inherent beauty and goodness in the death and dying process, as understood from a Christian perspective.

First, pain is not a reason to ask for death, especially in developed nations. Never in human history have we been so able to treat physical pain. Great progress has been made in developing drugs and therapies (palliative care) that alleviate most physical suffering. Relieving the physical and psychological pain of others is important. In fact, it is our Christian duty, for in doing so, we imitate Jesus Christ, who spent much of His earthly ministry healing the pains that caused so much misery to many. In fact, if one is terminally ill, the Church allows for liberal usage of palliative care, even if it may hasten death. People don't have to suffer inordinately while they are dying; the fact that they are dying and must bid farewell to those whom they love dearly is suffering enough.

Second, and closely related to this, we should not lose sight of the fact that great good can come from suffering. Many sinners have been transformed into saints through physical suffering, such as Saint Francis of Assisi and Saint Ignatius of Loyola. For all Christians, suffering is an opportunity to ponder more deeply the great gift that Jesus Christ gave us through His suffering and death. Our Lord refused to escape the suffering and agony of His death by crucifixion. We need to ask Jesus for the strength to witness to Him to the very end of life, including by the witness of carrying our cross of suffering. The suffering of Jesus removes the stigma attached to suffering and shows that suffering has great meaning. Jesus Christ's sufferings brought us salvation; our sufferings, united with His, can bring about our personal salvation and the salvation of those whom we love if we generously offer our sufferings up to the Lord on their behalf.

Lastly, by serving those who bear the Cross of Jesus Christ in their sufferings, we are the ones who benefit. Our world would be impoverished if we did not have suffering persons in our midst, for they teach us Christian virtues. Their patience, fortitude, courage, hope, et.al. in then midst of great sufferings teaches us these essential Christian virtues in a way no Catechism can. They are teachers in the ways of our Faith; we would be lost without them. In addition, those who suffer and die before our eyes teach us how to die with Jesus Christ, for some day, we will have to walk the same path. By their holy example, they show us the beauty of Christian death and take from us any fears we may have as we approach our death. We are grateful, for they reveal to us that death is not an enemy, but a friend, taking us home to the Lord.

With this understanding of death and dying from a Christian perspective, we see the intrinsic evils of the contemporary euthanasia movement. It even rejects the ordinary means of sustaining life, such as feeding tubes (when the body can still digest food); iv's for fluids; and the temporary use of a respirator. To omit these, even in the name of mercy, is an act of murder, because these measures can offer hope of recovery. We simply cannot do what we want with our bodies, because our bodies are not our own. They are gifts from God; we are mere stewards of our bodies. We therefore should seek not what we want, but what God wants. God does not want us to kill innocent human beings, ourselves or others. This contradicts His commandments and the Gospel of Life. Through Baptism, a person is made a temple of the Holy Spirit and deserves the full reverence a temple demands.

### **A Great Camp for Catholic Kids!**

A reminder to our youth, entering grade four or leaving grade eight, that we have a great summer opportunity for you . . . Trinity Youth Camp. This camp has all the hallmarks of a summer camp: campfire songs; crafts; swimming; s'mores; and so much more. But, more importantly, there is daily Mass; prayer; faith lessons; and Confessions. The best news is that our parishes will help you to pay for the camp fees in their entirety, through the generous donations of others. If you wish to sign up your child(ren) for the camp session from July 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> at Camp of the Cross near Garrison, please contact Fr. Gary soon. I should add that a really cool priest (me) will be the chaplain for that week of camp. If you said, "Oh, you mean Fr. John Paul Gardner", I'll pretend I did not hear that!

### **On the Lighter Side**

"Where is my Sunday paper!?" the irate customer calling the newspaper office demanded loudly. "Sir", said the newspaper employee, "Today is Saturday. The Sunday paper is not delivered until tomorrow." There was quite a long pause on the other end of the line . . . "So, that's why no one was at church today."

### **A Point to Ponder**

*Mothers are like jewels that sparkle and shine; you cherish them more with the passing of time.*