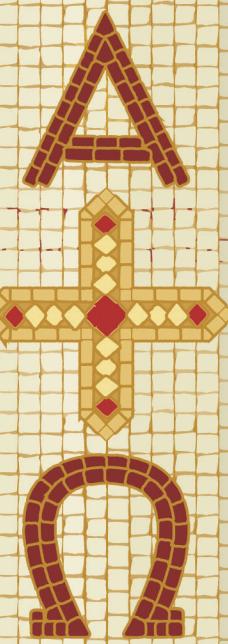


MAY
24
2020



SEVENTH
SUNDAY OF
Easter

ἉΓΙΑΠΟΛΙΣΙΕΡΟΥΣΑΛΗΜ

One thing I ask of the Lord;
this I seek:
to dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life.

PSALM 27:4

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Paschal Candle Illustration: Tony Ward for J. S. Paluch, 2020. Photo: Mosaic, the Cardo, Jerusalem; Andrey Shevchenko/Adobe Stock.

St. John the Evangelist Church 309 Lotz Avenue, Altoona, PA 814-942-5503 www.stjohnsaltoona.org

PASTORAL STAFF

Monsignor Michael Becker - mbecker253@aol.com

Deacon Gene Neral - gene@lifeinfocus.net

Mr. Chris Ringkamp - Parish Council President chris@icfdaj.org

Ms. Jena Bowman - Business Manager stjohnchurch@atlanticbb.net

Mrs. Deborah Johnson - Director of Music/Pastoral Associate dj219@msn.com

Mr. & Mrs. Bill & Norma Foose - Stephen Ministry norma.foose@yahoo.com

Mrs. Megan Swope - Director of Faith Formation mswope726@gmail.com

Mr. Mark Krepich - Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults mark.krepich@gmail.com

Mr. Ken Dunmire - Maintenance

St. Teresa of Avila Prayer



Let nothing disturb you,
Let nothing frighten you,
Though all things pass,
God does not change.
Patience wins all things.
But he lacks nothing who pos-
sesses God;
For God alone suffices.

Christ has no body now on earth
but yours,
no hands, no feet but yours.

Yours are the eyes
with which Christ looks out his
compassion to the world.

Yours are the feet
with which he is to go about do-
ing good.

Yours are the hands with which
he is to bless us now.

Trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.

A Few Words from the Pastor:

THE NOVENA IN HONOR OF THE HOLY SPIRIT is the oldest of all novenas since it was first made at the direction of Our Lord Himself when He sent His apostles back to Jerusalem to await the coming of the Holy Spirit on the first Pentecost. It is still the only novena officially prescribed by the Church. Addressed to the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity, it is a powerful plea for the light and strength and love so sorely needed by every Christian. It commemorates the nine days between the Ascension of Our Lord and the descent of the Holy Spirit on the first Pentecost Sunday. During this time Our Lady and the twelve Apostles prayed in the upper room for the coming of the Paraclete. You are encouraged to pray the Litany of the Holy Spirit daily, or to pray the Novena prayers as found on the parish website.

LITANY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Father all-powerful, *have mercy on us.*
Jesus, Eternal Son of the Father, Redeemer of the world, *save us.*
Spirit of the Father and the Son, boundless life of both, *sanctify us.*
Holy Trinity, *hear us.*
Holy Spirit, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, *enter our hearts.*
Holy Spirit, Who are equal to the Father and the Son, *enter our hearts.*
Promise of God the Father, *have mercy on us.*
Ray of heavenly light, *have mercy on us.*
Author of all good, *have mercy on us.*
Source of heavenly water, *have mercy on us.*
Consuming fire, *have mercy on us.*
Ardent charity, *have mercy on us.*
Spiritual unction, *have mercy on us.*
Spirit of love and truth, *have mercy on us.*
Spirit of wisdom and understanding, *have mercy on us.*
Spirit of counsel and fortitude, *have mercy on us.*
Spirit of knowledge and piety, *have mercy on us.*
Spirit of the fear of the Lord, *have mercy on us.*
Spirit of grace and prayer, *have mercy on us.*
Spirit of peace and meekness, *have mercy on us.*
Spirit of modesty and innocence, *have mercy on us.*
Holy Spirit, the Comforter, *have mercy on us.*
Holy Spirit, the Sanctifier, *have mercy on us.*

Holy Spirit, Who governs the Church, *have mercy on us.*
Gift of God, the Most High, *have mercy on us.*
Spirit Who fills the universe, *have mercy on us.*
Spirit of the adoption of the children of God, *have mercy on us.*
Holy Spirit, *inspire us with horror of sin.*
Holy Spirit, *come and renew the face of the earth.*
Holy Spirit, *shed Thy light in our souls.*
Holy Spirit, *engrave Thy law in our hearts.*
Holy Spirit, *inflame us with the flame of Thy love.*
Holy Spirit, *open to us the treasures of Thy graces.*
Holy Spirit, *teach us to pray well.*
Holy Spirit, *enlighten us with Thy heavenly inspirations.*
Holy Spirit, *lead us in the way of salvation.*
Holy Spirit, *grant us the only necessary knowledge.*
Holy Spirit, *inspire in us the practice of good.*
Holy Spirit, *grant us the merits of all virtues.*
Holy Spirit, *make us persevere in justice.*
Holy Spirit, *be Thou our everlasting reward.*
Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world, *Send us Thy Holy Spirit.*
Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world, *pour down into our souls the gifts of the Holy Spirit.*
Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world, *grant us the Spirit of wisdom and piety.*
V. Come, Holy Spirit! Fill the hearts of Thy faithful,
R. And enkindle in them the fire of Thy love.

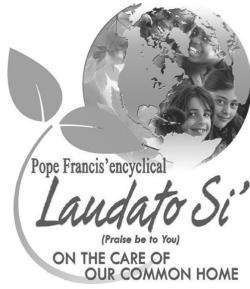
Prayer for a Spiritual Communion

My 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.

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES: We extend sincere congratulations to all our young men and women who have or will be graduating from any schools, colleges, technical, or professional training this year. May God's blessings guide you in accomplishing your goals throughout the coming years. Wishing you a future filled with great hopes, great things, for great are the plans of God.



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POPE FRANCIS ON OUR CARE

FOR THE EARTH: I exhort everyone to see the world through the eyes of God the Creator: the earth is an environment to be safeguarded, a garden to be cultivated. The relationship of mankind with nature must not be

conducted with greed, manipulation and exploitation, but it must conserve the divine harmony that exists between creatures and Creation within the logic of respect and care, so it can be put to the service of our brothers, also of future generations.

THE COMMON PRAYER FOR THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF LAUDATO SI'

Loving God, Creator of heaven and earth and all that is in them, You created us in your own image and made us stewards of all your creation. You blessed us with the sun, water and bountiful land so that all might be nourished. Open our minds and touch our hearts, so that we may attend to your gift of creation.

Help us to be conscious that our common home belongs not only to us, but to all your creatures and to all future generations, and that it is our responsibility to preserve it. May we help each person secure the food and resources that they need.

Be present to those in need in these trying times, especially the poorest and those most at risk of being left behind. Transform our fear and feelings of isolation into hope and fraternity so that we may experience a true conversion of the heart.

Help us to show creative solidarity in addressing the consequences of this global pandemic.

Make us courageous to embrace the changes that are needed in search of the common good. Now more than ever, may we feel that we are all interconnected and interdependent.

Enable us to listen and respond to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.

May the present sufferings be the birth pangs of a more fraternal and sustainable world.

Under the loving gaze of Mary help of Christians, we make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

TUESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY: Monsignor is holding a Bible study on Tuesday evenings at 7 o'clock. The focus of this study will be the readings to be proclaimed on the following Sunday. This meeting is conducted on ZOOM, and all are invited. Please email Monsignor at mbecker253@aol.com if you would like to join this study. May God bless us as we share God's word with one another.

ST JOHN'S PRAYER LIST

Please call Ginny Reeder (695-7671) or email her at gyny.reeder@gmail.com to add or remove someone from the prayer list. PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING and their caregivers and give thanks for those who have recovered. *Lord we ask for your blessings and care for these and all people in need:*

Baby Adam • Baby Aiden • Baby Maddie • Cari Ann
James Aubrey • Julie Beiswenger • Robert Cole
Millie Grace Capon • Betty Dennis
Michael DeStefano • Jim Duffy • Bernadine Farrell
Kathy Felty • Christine Finklestine • Helen Fornwalt
Leann Frazier • Molly Grenfell • Ken Hartman
Denny Horton • Randy Horton • Brian Kopp • Lisa
Joan Litzinger • Sherri Maffettone • Louis Jack Mathias
Bryson Miller • Mildred Miller • Susie Miller
Barbara Moore • Donna Moyer • Ailani Myers • Nancy
Patricia Olson • Mary Oricko • Linda Pletcher
Karen Price • Ron Peschock • Mary Rajnish
Allison Recker • Vicki Riley • Allison Ritchey
Olga Romerowicz • Cari Roth • Mike Rudolph
Fr. Robert Rustin • Peggy Seiler • Bruce Shank
Anne Showalter • Tim & Dina Temofonte • Patty Teufel
Rose Wargo • Lois Werfel • Carol White
William Wieland • Noah Wills • Milan & Family
Dorothy Yingling

Please respect the person's right to privacy and secure permission before placing a name on the Prayer List.

When a person recovers, please call the office and have their name removed from the list.

May Prayer Intention of Pope Francis *For Deacons*



We pray that deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church.

Stewardship at St. John's May 10, 2020

Envelopes	\$	3,856.00
Loose	\$	205.00
Catholic Communication Campaign	\$	45.00
Catholic Education	\$	25.00
Easter Offering	\$	80.00
Ascension of the Lord	\$	35.00
Food Bank Donations	\$	520.00
<i>SubTotal</i>	\$	4,686.27
Online Giving	\$	2,123.00
Total Offertory	\$	6,809.27

*Restore*Repair*Rejoice*

Payments/Donations \$146,344
Pledge Payment Committed \$29,709
Total Pledges/Donations \$176,053

Catholic Ministries Drive

Last Update: March 31, 2020
Target \$ 44,423
Payments/Donations \$ 24,105
Pledge Payments Committed \$ 1,200
Total Gifts \$ 25,305

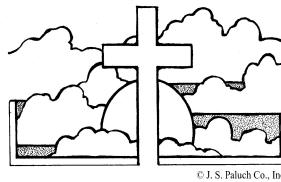
2020 WELGE SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE: The Independent Catholic Foundation is currently accepting applications from students of the parish who will be entering their Junior or Senior year at an accredited college or university. Please visit the "Grants" page of the Independent Catholic Foundation website, www.icfdaj.org to download, complete and sign the application, which should be emailed to grants@icfdaj.org no later than 4:00 PM, Friday, June 12. The Welge (WELL-ghee) Scholarship Endowment has grown sufficiently for the Foundation to issue three \$500 awards this July.



It is that time of year when we solicit names of those to be considered for Parish Council. Parish council meetings are normally held on the second Monday of the month, with the exception of the month of December and the summer months. If you discern that you would like to serve in this capacity, or if you know someone whom you would like to nominate, please call or email Monsignor Becker: mbecker253@aol.com



PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Parish Council members met on Monday, May 11, in a Zoom meeting. Among the topics discussed were the need for nominations for new Parish Council members to replace those who have fulfilled their 3 year term and resources and strategies for the re-opening of parishes in the diocese. Parish council talked extensively about various topics related to the many aspects of reopening our church. With the opening of churches for private prayer, we are currently in phase 1 of the Bishop Mark's 4-phase plan for reopening churches in the diocese of Altoona-Johnstown. We will continue to follow diocesan guidelines as we gradually work toward once again celebrating mass together.



Seventh Sunday of Easter
May 24, 2020

"They have kept your word."

— John 17:6b

Although we cannot celebrate mass together, Monsignor Becker will be saying Mass privately each day for the following Mass intentions.

Sunday Masses will continue to be live-streamed on Facebook at 10:00 AM and recorded to be posted on our website later that day.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday May 24 – Seventh Sunday of Easter

Mass for *People of the Parish*

Monday May 25 – Easter Weekday

Mass for *Bonifacio R. Javier* requested by Emilia Javier & Family; Janice Spencer & Lito Madlansacay

Tuesday May 26 – St. Philip Neri, Priest

Mass for *Clarence & Eileen Becker* requested by Mr. & Mrs. Don Price

Wednesday May 27 – Easter Weekday

Mass for *Joe Robeson*

Thursday May 28 – Easter Weekday

Mass for *Elsie McKnight* requested by Mr. & Mrs. Steve Pellegrine

Friday May 29 – Easter Weekday

Mass for *Carl Snyder* requested by the Fromknecht Family

Sunday May 31 – Pentecost Sunday

Mass for *People of the Parish*

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

READINGS FOR 5/24

Monday: Acts 19:1-8; Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab;
Jn 16:29-33

Tuesday: Acts 20:17-27; Ps 68:10-11, 20-21; Jn 17:1-11a

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

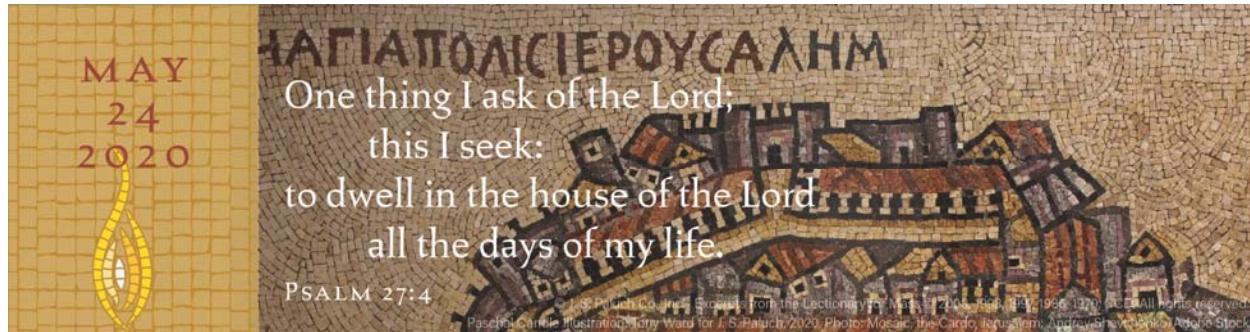
Thursday: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11;
Jn 17:20-26

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

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

Sunday: Vigil: Gn 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b or
Ez 37:1-14 or Jl 3:1-5; Ps 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-28,
29-30; Rom 8:22-27; Jn 7:37-39

Day: Acts 2:1-11; Ps 104:1, 24, 29-31, 34; 1 Cor 12:3b-7,
12-13; Jn 20:19-23



Sunday Readings

May 24, 2020

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Reading 1

Acts 1:12–14

After Jesus had been taken up to heaven the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away.

When they entered the city they went to the upper room where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these devoted themselves with one accord to prayer, together with some women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 27:1, 4, 7–8

R. (13) I believe that I shall see the good things of the Lord in the land of the living.

or:

R. Alleluia.

The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom should I fear?

The LORD is my life's refuge;
of whom should I be afraid?

R. I believe that I shall see the good things of the Lord in the land of the living.

or:

R. Alleluia.

One thing I ask of the LORD;
this I seek:

To dwell in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life,

That I may gaze on the loveliness of the LORD
and contemplate his temple.

R. I believe that I shall see the good things of the Lord in the land of the living.

or:

R. Alleluia.

Hear, O LORD, the sound of my call;
have pity on me, and answer me.

Of you my heart speaks; you my glance seeks.

R. I believe that I shall see the good things of the Lord in the land of the living.

or:

R. Alleluia.

Reading 2

1 Pt 4:13–16

Beloved: Rejoice to the extent that you share in the sufferings of Christ, so that when his glory is revealed you may also rejoice exultantly. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let no one among you be made to suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as an intriguer. But whoever is made to suffer as a Christian should not be ashamed but glorify God because of the name.

Gospel

Jn 17:1–11a

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come. Give glory to your son, so that your son may glorify you, just as you gave him authority over all people, so that your son may give eternal life to all you gave him. Now this is eternal life, that they should know you, the only true God, and the one whom you sent, Jesus Christ. I glorified you on earth by accomplishing the work that you gave me to do. Now glorify me, Father, with you, with the glory that I had with you before the world began.

“I revealed your name to those whom you gave me out of the world. They belonged to you, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you gave me is from you, because the words you gave to me I have given to them, and they accepted them and truly understood that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for the ones you have given me, because they are yours, and everything of mine is yours and everything of yours is mine, and I have been glorified in them. And now I will no longer be in the world, but they are in the world, while I am coming to you.”

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Rejoice to the extent that you share in the sufferings of Christ, so that when his glory is revealed you may also rejoice exultantly.

1 Peter 4:13

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF Easter

MAY 24, 2020

WE BELONG TO GOD

Today's readings describe the days after the Ascension. The apostles and those close to Jesus are trying to adjust to his absence. The apostles return to the upper room where they have spent so much time waiting. Acts tells of how they stayed together and prayed. First Peter reminds those still waiting that the suffering they experience joins them to Jesus. In the Gospel Jesus prays in order to remind us that he and the Father are one. Jesus' prayer is for those of us who are left behind. It is a reminder that we belong not to ourselves, but to the Father, and that everything, including the Son, is a gift from the Father.

THEY PRAYED

All of the readings recognize the sadness and fear that the apostles and we experience when we suffer the loss of Jesus again. Jesus dies and we suffer. He is risen and we rejoice. Now we are going to lose him again, not through death, but through his ascension. In Acts and in John's Gospel, the apostles and Jesus pray as a way to prepare for and adjust to his departure. The psalm is a prayer to sustain us when we are afraid by anticipating the time when we will be together again. First Peter urges us, during this time of separation, to join our sufferings with those of Jesus and respond as he responded. All these readings are reminders that it is through prayer that we are united despite time, space, distance, life, or death.

THIS IS ETERNAL LIFE

It is easy to remember the distress we feel when someone we love goes away. Death is the most profound loss, but we feel some of this same pain when someone moves away to take a new job or goes off to school or gets married. People we love leave us all too often. The days immediately after they leave are the hardest as we adjust to their absence. The days become easier as we experience the ways they remain with us by remembering the times spent together and anticipating the time when we will be together again. Jesus' prayer teaches us that by remembering and anticipating we experience the eternal life of love, a life and love that do not end with distance or death. Eternal life is rooted in the love of the Father, the Son, and the Spirit that remains with us. If our life, loves, and suffering are joined with Jesus, then we know eternal life and love even as we live in a world of loss.

TODAY'S READINGS

Acts 1:12–14
Psalm 27:1, 4, 7–8
1 Peter 4:13–16
John 17:1–11a

God's Word for Children

The apostles watched as Jesus was taken up to heaven in a cloud. Use the number code to color the picture.

1 - brown 2 - white 3 - pink
4 - blue 5 - red

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The Ascension of the Lord

Number these sentences in the right order so they tell the story of Jesus' ascension.

All of a sudden, two men dressed in white stood by the disciples.
The disciples came together and talked with Jesus.
The men said Jesus would return to earth in the same way he left.
They watched as Jesus was lifted up in a cloud.



A cloud took him from their sight. Acts 1:9



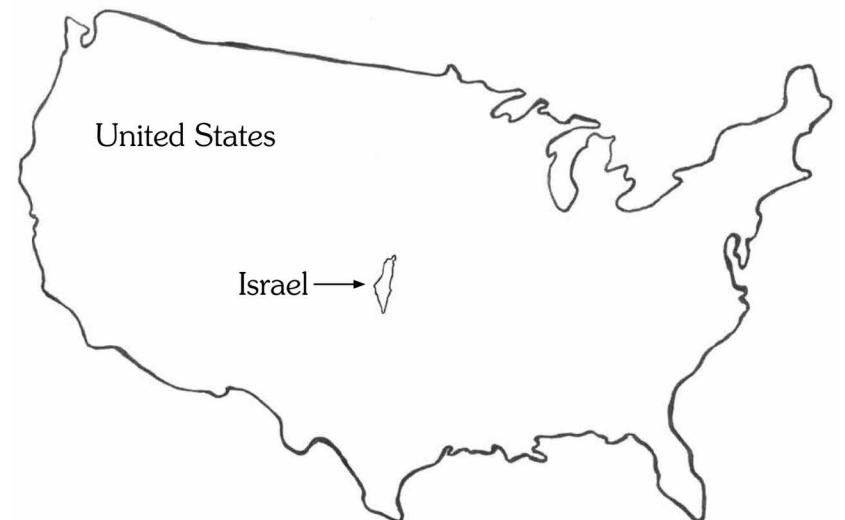
TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

All the apostles were gathered around Jesus as he ascended into heaven. They watched as he was lifted up and they continued staring at the sky after he disappeared from sight. Two men dressed in white suddenly stood beside them and asked, "Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky?" (Acts 1:11). What should the apostles have been doing instead of standing around?

The word "apostle" comes from the Greek *apostolos*, which means "messenger" or "person sent forth." Jesus sent the apostles to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8). Today followers of Jesus can be found in almost every place around the world.

The apostles were ordinary people when Jesus called them to follow him. They were fishermen, a tax collector, and other workers. They answered the call of Jesus to spread his Good News of God's love. The apostles began a very important work, and we continue that work because we are also Jesus' apostles. Think of the people you know who are sharing the story of Jesus with others.

Jesus began teaching about the kingdom of God in Israel. You can see how small Israel is compared to the United States. Now people share his teachings around the world. Color the land of Israel and the United States. Remember the good job the apostles did spreading the message of Jesus. Think about how you can do that this week.





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