

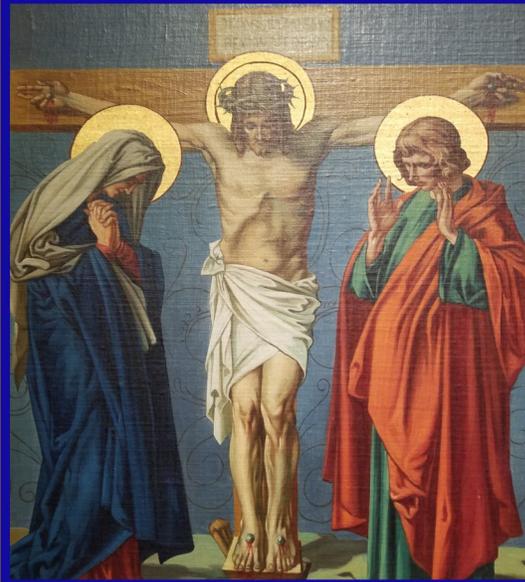


SAINT LOUIS CATHOLIC CHURCH
DIOCESE OF PEORIA PRINCETON, ILLINOIS
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER MAY 3, 2020



*"The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want."
-Psalm Response*

Contemplate



the humility of *Christ*

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER GIFFORD

Dear St. Louis Parishioners,

Well, friends, we reach a bit of a new phase. We know that the suspension of Public Mass will have to continue for a while still, as the shelter in place order has been extended through the end of May and we can still expect burdensome social distancing and sanitization requirements to remain in place for some time after that. However, as we continue to consider what it means that our faith is essential, during this unusual and unfortunate time when it is not possible to celebrate Mass publicly, we begin to have a few glimpses of silver lining in view. First, due to the governor's revised guidelines of what is considered essential, we have the good news that the Greenhouse Plant Sale is able to proceed on schedule (although under the necessary guidelines for social distancing)! Some of our children began the process of kicking off our greenhouse season, while our adult volunteers have mostly had to continue the process, amidst these days of quarantine. I hope you are able to help support this opportunity. Also, we now have new limited provisions for weddings and funerals, while observing the necessary restrictions. This enables us to celebrate this weekend the wedding of Ariel Pozzi and Jacob Swanson (only one week after the originally scheduled date). Since Jacob was our parish catechumen who would have been baptized, confirmed and received into the Church at the Easter Vigil and since his baptism impacts the sacramental character of matrimony, I have been given special permission to baptize and confirm him and receive him into the Church. This is a fantastic occasion to be able to celebrate, as a new parishioner is given the gift of rebirth by water and the Holy Spirit! Thanks be to God.

Of course, we also continue to make our liturgies and various devotional and even social opportunities available via online media. I do encourage small groups, prayer groups and bible studies to consider meeting via a phone conference or some televideo conferencing platform. I was blessed to be able to participate in one such bible study with some of our teens just the other day. I can't encourage and recommend this enough! Also, look forward to some dates for upcoming 20/20 Vision Holy Hours to be posted next weekend, which we know will have to be offered via livestream in May - beyond that, we'll have to wait and see.

DECORATIONS: Also, I want to thank Tom & Rita Tracey for arranging some beautiful, inspiring and encouraging outdoor decorations for us all, as well as attending to the church for some of our live-streams. I know so many of us were overjoyed by the cross display on Park Avenue beginning in Holy Week, into the early weeks of the Easter Season. As we transition to the Month of Mary, I encourage you to check out the new Marian display they have set up (also in front of the Church, along Park Avenue).

SPEAKING OF THE MONTH OF MARY: "Blessed is she who believed. Immediately after the narration of the Annunciation, the Evangelist Luke guides us in the footsteps of the Virgin of Nazareth towards "a city of Judah" (Lk. 1:39). According to scholars this city would be the modern Ain Karim, situated in the mountains, not far from Jerusalem. Mary arrived there "in haste," to visit Elizabeth her kinswoman. The reason for her visit is also to be found in the fact that at the Annunciation Gabriel had made special mention of Elizabeth, who in her old age had conceived a son by her husband Zechariah, through the power of God: "your kins woman Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a Son; and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible" (Lk. 1:36-37). The divine messenger had spoken of what had been accomplished in Elizabeth in order to answer Mary's question. "How shall this be, since I have no husband?" (Lk. 1:34) It is to come to pass precisely through the "power of the Most High," just as it happened in the case of Elizabeth, and even more so. Moved by charity, therefore, Mary goes to the house of her kinswoman. When Mary enters, Elizabeth replies to her greeting and feels the child leap in her womb, and being "filled with the Holy Spirit" she greets Mary with a loud cry: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!" (cf. Lk. 1:40-42) Elizabeth's exclamation or acclamation was subsequently to become part of the Hail Mary, as a continuation of the angel's greeting, thus becoming one of the Church's most frequently used prayers. But still more significant are the words of Elizabeth in the question which follows: "And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" (Lk. 1:43) Elizabeth bears witness to Mary: she recognizes and proclaims that before her stands the Mother of the Lord, the Mother of the Messiah. The son whom Elizabeth is carrying in her womb also shares in this witness: "The babe in my womb leaped for joy" (Lk. 1:44). This child is the future John the Baptist, who at the Jordan will point out Jesus as the Messiah. While every word of Elizabeth's greeting is filled with meaning, her final words would seem to have fundamental importance: "And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord" (Lk. 1:45).²⁸ These words can be linked with the little "full of grace" of the angel's greeting. Both of these texts reveal an essential Mariological content, namely the truth about Mary, who has become really present in the mystery of Christ precisely because she "has believed." The fullness of grace announced by the angel means the gift of God himself. Mary's faith, proclaimed by Elizabeth at the Visitation, indicates how the Virgin of Nazareth responded to this gift." - St. John Paul II (*Redemptoris Mater/Mother of the Redeemer*)



MODIFICATION OF SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK: If you are on the parish prayer chain, you may have seen that my step-grandmother (Donna Mae Silber) passed away, this past week. I will be traveling back to Peoria for a small and simple burial on Monday. For this reason, I will cancel the livestream Mass and the 3 PM Confessions in the parking lot. In its place, for our Facebook community, our neighbors at the Parish of the Nativity of Our Lord (Spring Valley) have agreed to allow us to host a "watch party" of their 7 AM Mass on our parish page, and for those who receive our emails, we will post a link to a LIVE Mass for Monday on Formed.org. Similarly, on Tuesday, we have a parish burial for William Joiner, which will prompt me to offer our livestream Mass earlier at 10 AM. Please keep William's family in your prayers, as well as praying for his peaceful repose.

STEWARDSHIP

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|--|------------------|
| Church Monetary Support through April 26, 2020 (7 weeks of Public Mass Suspension) | |
| Amount Budgeted | \$ 14,250 |
| Amount Received | \$ 10,061 |
| Easter | <u>\$ 3,000</u> |
| Amount Over/(Under) | (\$1,189) |
| Fiscal period July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020 | |
| Amount needed to date | \$311,750 |
| Amount received to | <u>\$304,330</u> |
| Over/(Under) budget to date | (\$7,420) |

Your continued desire to provide for your parish, despite the challenging circumstances we are all facing, is deeply appreciated. Parishioners are providing support in the following ways:

1) By mailing contributions directly to the parish. Registered parishioners receive a special white envelope addressed to the parish in each of their packets. A standard mailing envelope is fine too! Mail is processed regularly, and all contributions are recorded for your Annual Giving Statement.

2) By establishing St. Louis Catholic Church as a vendor in your own bank's bill payment system, and instructing the bank to send a check on a one-time, or recurring basis. This is a fee-free option for all, and you are spared the cost of postage!

Additionally, the Diocese has established a channel to contribute to St. Louis Parish, or any other parish you designate, online through its website.

We remain grateful for the personal sacrifice each contribution represents, and we pledge to remain careful stewards of the treasure you place in our trust.

St. Barnabas, pray for us!

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Trustees Dan Legner
 Mary Paula Schmitt
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 To continue to serve you, we are
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 Website: www.stlouisprinceton.org
 YouTube Channel: St Louis Parish in Princeton
 FaceBook Page: www.facebook.com/stlouisprinceton

Our Table: Due to the current COVID-19 situation. Our Table is closed until further notice. I just wanted to let everyone know that we had a few leftovers from the January Our Table. Shredded Pork, Spanish Rice, Salsa etc... We were going to use that for the March CCW meeting. Since those have been cancelled I donated the leftovers to the IV PADS shelter system for lunch. A couple of parishioners donated some desserts too! IV PADS currently has 35 clients. They were very happy to get the donation. Please keep the Our Table and IV PADS clients in your prayers. Thank you and God Bless you all. Marcia Obenhaus

"O soul steeped in darkness, do not despair. All is not yet lost. Come and confide in your God, Who is love and mercy."—Saint Faustina

UPDATED SCHEDULE FOR WEEK OF MAY 3RD

Livestreaming Mass Schedule
 Masses livestreamed on FaceBook
 Monday at 7am — livestreamed from Parish of the Nativity of Our Lord (Spring Valley)
 Tuesday—10 am
 Wednesday and Friday at Noon
 Thursday at 5:00 pm
 Saturday Vigil at 4:00 pm,
 Sunday *No Mass livestream on Sunday. The Sunday Mass will be livestreamed and posted the night before.*

Holy Hour is livestreamed on FaceBook Thursday from 3:30—4:30 pm
Confession: Drive-Thru Church Parking Lot
 Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 3pm
 Saturday 2:30—3:30 pm
Please note there will be no Confession on Monday
[Click here to watch video Confession Procedure](#)



Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and long for You in my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though You have already come, I embrace You and unite myself entirely to You; never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Mass Intentions

Masses will be livestreamed on FaceBook at times listed below and then posted on YouTube

*Monday, May 4 Easter Weekday

+Dave Sawitoski by Barbara Sawitoski (Mass will not be livestreamed)

Tuesday, May 5 Easter Weekday

**10 am +Pauline Arkels

Wednesday, May 6 Easter Weekday

Noon +Mary Peterson

Thursday, May 7 Easter Weekday

3:30—4:30 pm *Holy Hour*

5:00 pm +Gene Stocking by Joanne Stocking

Friday, May 8 Easter Weekday

Noon +Ron Hulslander by Annette Hulslander

Saturday, May 9 Vigil of Fifth Sunday of Easter

4:00 pm + Jill Bystry Thompson

Sunday, May 10 Fifth Sunday of Easter, Mother's Day

No Mass livestreams on Sunday. The Sunday Mass will have been livestreamed and posted the night before.

People of the Parish

+Stevie Puhr

+Antonette "Toni" Albert by Mike & Renee Toomey

**Mass will not be livestreamed (see Fr. Gifford's bulletin letter)*

***Please note time change*

O JESUS

IN UNION WITH YOUR MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD Poured OUT ON THE CROSS AND OFFERED IN EVERY MASS, I OFFER YOU TODAY MY PRAYERS, WORKS, JOYS, SORROWS AND SUFFERINGS FOR THE PRAISE OF YOUR HOLY NAME AND ALL THE DESIRES OF YOUR SACRED HEART; IN REPARATION FOR SIN, FOR THE CONVERSION OF SINNERS, THE UNION OF ALL CHRISTIANS AND OUR FINAL UNION WITH YOU IN HEAVEN.



Readings for the week of May 3, 2020

Sunday: Acts 2:14a, 36-41/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [1]/1 Pt 2:20b-25/Jn 10:1-10

Monday: Acts 11:1-18/Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4 [cf. 3a]/Jn 10:11-18

Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7 [Ps 117:1a]/Jn 10:22-30

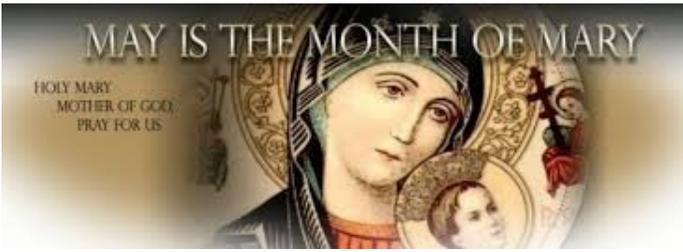
Wednesday: Acts 12:24—13:5a/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8 [4]/Jn 12:44-50

Thursday: Acts 13:13-25/Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27 [2]/Jn 13:16-20

Friday: Acts 13:26-33/Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab [7bc]/Jn 14:1-6

Saturday: Acts 13:44-52/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [3cd]/Jn 14:7-14

Next Sunday: Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19 [22]/1 Pt 2:4-9/Jn 14:1-12



**God's Lighthouse
Sister Anne Germaine Picard, SMP**

*I have been formed in God's hands.
To be God's presence wherever
I may land.*

I am God's Lighthouse.

*Within me is an eternal flame
That brings Hope to all who see;
I need to believe and trust
That God is living in me.*

I am God's Lighthouse

*My heart bursts with Love;
Empowered from above;
To shine, to glow, to show,
God's everlasting Love.*



I am God's Lighthouse

*The world around me
Is dark, is lonely, and is lost;
Only because it doesn't focus
On the light flowing from the
Cross.*

I am God's Lighthouse

*I am filled with awe
When I come to know,
God Chose Me
To make His Light show.*

I am God's Lighthouse.

Rest In Peace

Please pray for the repose of the soul of William "Bill" Joiner and for consolation for his family.
Eternal Rest grant unto him O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon his soul.



Please remember to pray for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life especially from St. Louis Parish!

St. Therese, Patroness of Vocations, pray for us!



We have received many inquiries regarding how the return of the Rice Bowls is going to be handled, in light of the restrictions enacted to decrease the spread of COVID-19. It is currently not feasible or recommended to accept the

physical containers, and we do not presently have a means to process a large quantity of coinage.

Proceeds from the annual Rice Bowl campaign supports Catholic Relief Services' critical mission to distribute food and other necessities to the neediest around the world. Their operations cannot be interrupted, despite the even more difficult conditions this worldwide pandemic creates.

You have several options to support CRS in their fight against global hunger, even though the Rice Bowls will not be collected at this time.

1) You may mail a contribution to St. Louis Parish, designated as "Rice Bowl." Checks may be made payable to either St. Louis Parish, or directly to Catholic Relief Services. All contributions will be forwarded to the CRS national office in Maryland.

2) Mail a contribution directly to the following address (write CRS Rice Bowl in check memo):

Catholic Relief Services
CRS Rice Bowl Campaign
PO Box 17090
Baltimore, MD 21297-0303

3) Call 877-435-7277, and inform the operator your gift is for CRS Rice Bowl.

Once public Masses are resumed, and the parish office is reopened, we intend to announce an opportunity for parishioners to return their Rice Bowls. So, simply retaining your boxes until that time is another option. But for those who desire to support the campaign during this urgent need, the options listed above are available to you now.

St. Louis Parish 2020 Greenhouse Plant Sale



Greenhouse sale opens this weekend
Saturday May 2 5:30 —7 pm and Sunday Noon—2 pm! Flowers, Tomatoes, Peppers, and other plants available. Price: \$2.00 per 6 pack or 4" Pot

NO CHANGE WILL BE GIVEN – Please give exact amount, up it to a donation amount or bring your checkbook! Thank

you! Jan, Jim, Julie and Cathy