The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Laudato Si Week | May 16-24, 2020
This year marks the 5th anniversary of Pope Francis’ encyclical, Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home. In celebration, he invites us to join Catholics around the world in committing to action that increases our response to “the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.” Visit www.LaudatoSiWeek.org for resources, action items and to see how Catholics around the world are making an impact.

Prayer to Care for our Common Home

Father of all,
Creator and ruler of the universe,
You entrusted your world to us as a gift.
Help us to care for it and all people,
that we may live in right relationship--
with You,
with ourselves,
with one another,
and with creation.

Christ our Lord,
both divine and human,
You lived among us and died for our sins.
Help us to imitate your love for the human family
by recognizing that we are all connected—
to our brothers and sisters around the world,
to those in poverty impacted by environmental devastation,
and to future generations.

Holy Spirit,
giver of wisdom and love,
You breathe life in us and guide us.
Help us to live according to your vision,
stirring to action the hearts of all—
individually and families,
communities of faith,
and civil and political leaders.

Triune God, help us to hear the cry of those in poverty, and the cry of the earth, so that we may together care for our common home.

Amen.
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During this time of isolation, our priests are available to celebrate the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick when someone is gravely ill or in danger of death. Please call the Parish Office at 614-882-2109 (phone messages are being retrieved remotely). In the event of a sacramental emergency, please call 614-285-7604.

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com
Reflecting on Today’s Gospel...

The Sixth Sunday of Easter (May 17, Cycle A)

First Reading: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17
Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:15-18
Gospel: John 14:15-21

Jesus promises his disciples that the faithful, those with eyes enlightened by faith, will be deeply aware that he is there with them. He will be not only “with” them, but “within” them, a source of inner strength and confidence. Christians are caught up into the very life of God! For us, this means the Spirit will enable us to find Christ in ourselves and each other.

Who in your life do you most often see Christ?

Describe a situation in which you knew that God was truly present and right by your side.

Share how you are handling the challenges during this pandemic.

Preparing for Next Sunday...

The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord (May 24, Cycle A)

First Reading: Acts 1:1-11
Second Reading: Ephesians 1:17-23
Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

Matthew’s Gospel quickly moves from the disciples’ discovery of Jesus’ empty tomb, to Jesus’ appearance to Mary Magdalene and the other Mary, to the commission that Jesus gives his disciples: go, make disciples of all nations. Jesus promises to be with them forever.

What are the key characteristics of being a disciple of Christ?

In the Gospel for the Ascension of our Lord, Jesus states what our mission is to be. What is your personal mission statement?

Does your family have a mission statement? If not consider creating one.

St. Paul the Apostle Church is now open daily from noon until 6:00 p.m. for prayer! However, please enter at your own risk. While we will be cleaning and disinfecting as we are able, we do not have the resources to daily disinfect all areas. Please wear a mask while on church property; practice strict hand hygiene before and after entering the building; and maintain physical distancing of at least 6’ with anyone who is not in your household. Additionally, kindly refrain from touching any surfaces with your hands. (Presume any surfaces you touch have been touched by someone else.) Thank you!
Registration for the 2020-2021 PSR year is now open! All children should receive Religious Education every year to nurture their faith. In addition, children must complete at least two years of Religious Education prior to their receiving the sacraments. PSR classes will begin in September and continue through April, with time off for holidays and school breaks. The PSR calendar will be available later this summer. We are currently planning for PSR classes to take place as usual. If schedule adjustments need to be made due to COVID-19 concerns, we will notify families immediately.

Our Parish School of Religious Education provides a variety of options to help make attendance convenient. Classes are offered for youth entering Kindergarten–8th Grade on Tuesday evenings from 4:45–6:00 p.m. and on Wednesdays from 6:30–7:45 p.m. for those who’ll be in Grades 1–8. The PSR Home Study program is also available for youth in Grades 1 and Grades 3–7.

Registration forms can be found at https://stpaulcatholicchurch.org/parish-school-of-religion-psr/ and are due by June 30. Please submit your forms soon to secure your choice of class time. Classes will close when enrollment capacity is reached. Forms can be mailed to St. Paul PSR, 61 Moss Rd., Westerville, Ohio 43082 or scanned and sent to psr@stpacc.org. If you are unable to print the forms, please contact the PSR office psr@stpacc.org so other arrangements can be made.

Registration for Sunday Preschool: Families can choose to enroll their children ages 3, 4, or 5 (and not in Kindergarten) in the 9:00 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. session at https://tinyurl.com/StPaulSP2020. Children must be 3 years old by September 30, 2020, and toilet trained. Registration is required.

NOTE: It is most important to register for our PSR classes now to reserve your choice of class session. Payment can be made in the fall. (PSR volunteers receive tuition discounts.) Religious education will not be denied due to the inability to pay.
Middle School Ministry: Our Middle School Youth Ministry meets for an Instagram live stream session starting at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday evenings. The Instagram handle is @stpaulyouthministry. They also meet on Monday nights for a community building game night starting at 8:00 p.m. via Zoom. We encourage all Middle School youth to join together on Monday, May 18 and Tuesday, May 19. Please contact Youth Minister Brad Romantic at bromantic@stpacc.org to obtain the Zoom meeting invitation and password.

High School Ministry: Our High School Youth Ministry meets weekly on Wednesday nights beginning at 8:00 p.m. via Zoom for a gospel reflection, small group discussion, fellowship, and prayer. They also meet on Thursday nights for a community building game night starting at 8:00 p.m. via Zoom. All youth in grades 9-12 are invited to the programs on Wednesday, May 20 and Thursday, May 21. Contact Youth Minister Brad Romantic at bromantic@stpacc.org to obtain the Zoom meeting invitation and password.

Young Professionals: Our Young Professional Ministry is intended for those age 19-39 with the goal of providing a Catholic community and a place for young adults to root friendships in Christ. Their next gathering will take place via Zoom on Wednesday, June 3 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. The guest speaker, Father Streitenberger, will lead a discussion on Evangelization. There will also be time for small group reflection and prayer. Please email to Brad Romantic for a Zoom meeting invitation and password: bromantic@stpacc.org

If you haven’t tried FORMED, consider accessing it to enrich your family’s faith life. There’s something for everyone and it is our parish’s gift to you! FORMED has credible Catholic movies, kids’ programs, eBooks, inspirational presentations and daily reminders to help you dive into the depths of God’s Word! To access FORMED:

1. Go to https://formed.org/ and click on “sign up” then “I belong to a parish or organization.”
2. Locate St. Paul parish by entering the parish’s zip code: 43082.
3. Enter your email address and you’re in! Just click on a program of your choice and enjoy!

formnote is a FREE and convenient way for the parish to communicate—especially during these times of isolation! If you are not yet using flocknote, we ask that you please consider giving it a try! Text stpacc to 84576 or go to https://stpaultheapostlechurch2.flocknote.com/. Via flocknote you will receive up-to-date information about parish news and upcoming events.

WORD ON FIRE/ENGAGED And, thanks to flocknote, there are countless digital videos, study programs and films you can access once you have established a flocknote account. Just go online to www.flocknote.com, log into your account, and then click on “visit WoFdigital.org” to enjoy!
Parish News . . .

Confessions

For the time being, confessions will be heard in the Klinger Center (the building adjacent to church) by appointment only from 1:00-4:00 p.m. every Saturday. Please call the Parish Office (614-882-2109) and leave a message on the extension indicated for scheduling a confession. You will receive a return call to confirm the time that you have been given.

A guide for making a confession during these times of isolation can be found here: A Guide to Making Confession in These Extraordinary Times.

Please use the Klinger Center entrance door closest to the front of the church. Also, please keep in mind that only a maximum of five minutes for each confession is allotted. Thank you!

Memorial Day Services and Masses for the Catholic Cemeteries of Columbus planned for May 25 have been cancelled. St. Joseph, Resurrection, Holy Cross and Mt. Calvary Cemeteries will open from 8:00 a.m. until sunset for visitation (Calvary Cemeteries will close at 4:30 p.m.) Burial locations and maps of the grounds can be emailed. For additional information, please call (614) 491-2751

There is always a special intention for every Mass celebrated. Our priests are indeed keeping up with the Mass intentions through our daily livestreamed Mass and through their own private Masses that they offer.

Sunday, May 17, The Sixth Sunday of Easter
Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; Ps. 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20; 1 Pt. 3:15-18; Jn. 14:15-21
People of St. Paul Parish
Carson Stout
Caroline Rose Bruggerman
Lucile Scanlon

Monday, May 18, Saint John I, Pope and Martyr
Acts 16:11-15; Ps. 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b; Jn. 15:26—16:4a
Americo Mastronuzio
James Maxwell

Tuesday, May 19
Acts 16:22-34; Ps. 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8; Jn. 16:5-11
Evelyn Sugiyma
Edward Kana

Wednesday, May 20, Saint Bernardine of Siena, Priest
Acts 17:15, 22—18:1; Ps. 148:1-2, 11-12, 13, 14; Jn. 16:12-15
Mary Hage
James Sullivan
Eddy Lott

Thursday, May 20, Saint Christopher Magallanes, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs
Acts 18:1-8; Ps. 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Jn. 16:16-20
Intentions of BH
Richard E. Schumaker

Friday, May 22, Saint Rita of Cascia, Religious
Acts 18:9-18; Ps. 47:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Jn. 16:20-23
Janet Julian
Deborah Waggoner

Saturday, May 23
Acts 18:23-28; Ps. 47:2-3, 8-9, 10; Jn. 16:23b-28
Lori Rako
Our Stewardship Collection on May 10, 2020

Fiscal Year Offertory Budget per Week: $54,375.35

Offertory:
- Envelopes: $14,899.00
- Loose: $10,364.08
- One-time WeShare contributions: $3,729.50

Average Auto Withdrawal (425 households): $23,150.00

Total: $52,142.58

Estimated Weekly Excess/(Deficit): ($2,232.77)

YTD Church Building Fund Collection: $63,578.91
Church Building Fund Loan: $5,247,769.27
YTD Reaching for Tomorrow Collection: $275,594.10
Reaching for Tomorrow Loan: $63,455.62

Our sincere thanks to all who so generously give to the parish offertory. Your continued giving is essential to our operations. May our Lord God bless you and yours!

Now is an especially good time to consider using WeShare, an online giving tool used to manage your parish offertory. WeShare is safe, easy and indeed convenient! You can make your donation from your cellphone simply by texting stpaulohio to 555888. Or go to https://stpaulcatholicchurch.weshareonline.org/. Should you have any questions about your offertory, please contact our Parish Accountant Loretta Nazario at lnazario@stpacc.org.

We invite all youth in our parish to come together to celebrate Mass! While they will are unable to do so physically at the present time, they can be connected spiritually by joining with us every Friday at 8:30 a.m. at https://www.facebook.com/stpacc/. Our PSR families are also strongly encouraged to join us for our all-school Mass each week!
Sister Therese Marie, daughter of parishioner Sharon Wong (Manager of our Marian Gift Shop) attended St. Paul School during her elementary years and has been a member of the Franciscan Sisters of Renewal since 2013. In reference to the current times in which we are living, Sister feels “He is inviting us, through this trial, to discover more of who He really is.”

I Am Still Father

By Sr. Therese Marie, CFR

There have been a few days throughout these past weeks when the weather has been gorgeous. I was outside (socially distanced, of course!)... I felt the sun’s warmth on my face, a gentle breeze, saw the clear blue sky. But I especially noticed the birds. soaring, dipping and diving – and singing.

“How can they be so carefree at a time like this? How can nature carry on, with all of this suffering, disturbance, and uncertainty swirling around in the hearts of the whole world?” Those were my thoughts.

I know it sounds foolish to ask these questions. After all, they are simply birds. And they were created to sing! But in this time of trial, affecting the world and turning everything upside down, I almost felt they should be acting a bit more “in tune” with the crisis. This singing felt to me like a contradiction.

And then I heard Him – responding very gently in my heart.

“I am still Father.”

And what kind of Father is He? Good. Understanding. Tender. Ever-present. That is why the sun can still warm our faces, why the trees can begin to blossom, why the birds can sing unashamedly. It’s almost like they “know” this truth. And they are trying to remind us. Is this naive, wishful, flowery thinking? Pretending that all is ok and ignoring the suffering? No. We acknowledge and look straight at the Cross. But we also remember that the Father has not changed. He has not left us or lost track of us. His love is here – in the midst of our uncertainty. He is holding out His Hand to steady us, if we’ll take it. He is yearning for our trust, if we will give it. He is waiting to be our solid ground, when it feels like the whole world is quaking. He is inviting us, through this trial, to discover more of who He really is.

“I am still Father.”

Sometimes I can let go a little and trust. And other times, I find myself wanting to know the outcome and duration of all this. I can’t see the future.

And I can hear Him replying, “But you can see Me. And I go before you! I light your path one step at a time. I’m standing right before you. There is no need to peer around My shoulder!”

Trust isn’t something I can coldly manufacture, like a product on an assembly line. Yes, it’s an act of my will – choosing to trust. But I think on a deeper level, it’s the response of a heart that knows it is loved.

Trust and surrender are responses to letting the Father love me. The more I open my heart to receive His goodness, His particular and tender love for me, the more I can trust.

Carry me, Father, into this trust that You desire of me. You are still Father. You are my Father.

“God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore, we will not fear though
the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in
the heart of the sea;
The Lord of hosts is with us;
The God of Jacob is our refuge.”

- Psalm 46: 1-2, 7
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