Roman Catholic Church
OF
SOUTHERN FRANKLIN COUNTY

St. Aloysius/Sacred Heart
Royalton
St. John the Baptist
West Frankfort
St. John the Baptist Website:
stjohnschurch-wf.org
St. Aloysius/Sacred Heart Website:
stalsacredheart.org
Church Email: johnthebaptist@mchsi.com

May 1 & 2, 2021

Rev. Eusebius Mbidoaka, Ph.D., S.T.D.
Administrator
Rectory: 703 E. Main St.
West Frankfort, IL 62896
Phone: 932-2828 Fax: 937-0200

St. Aloysius/Sacred Heart Church
212 S. Pecan Street
Royalton, IL 62983
Phone: 932-2828

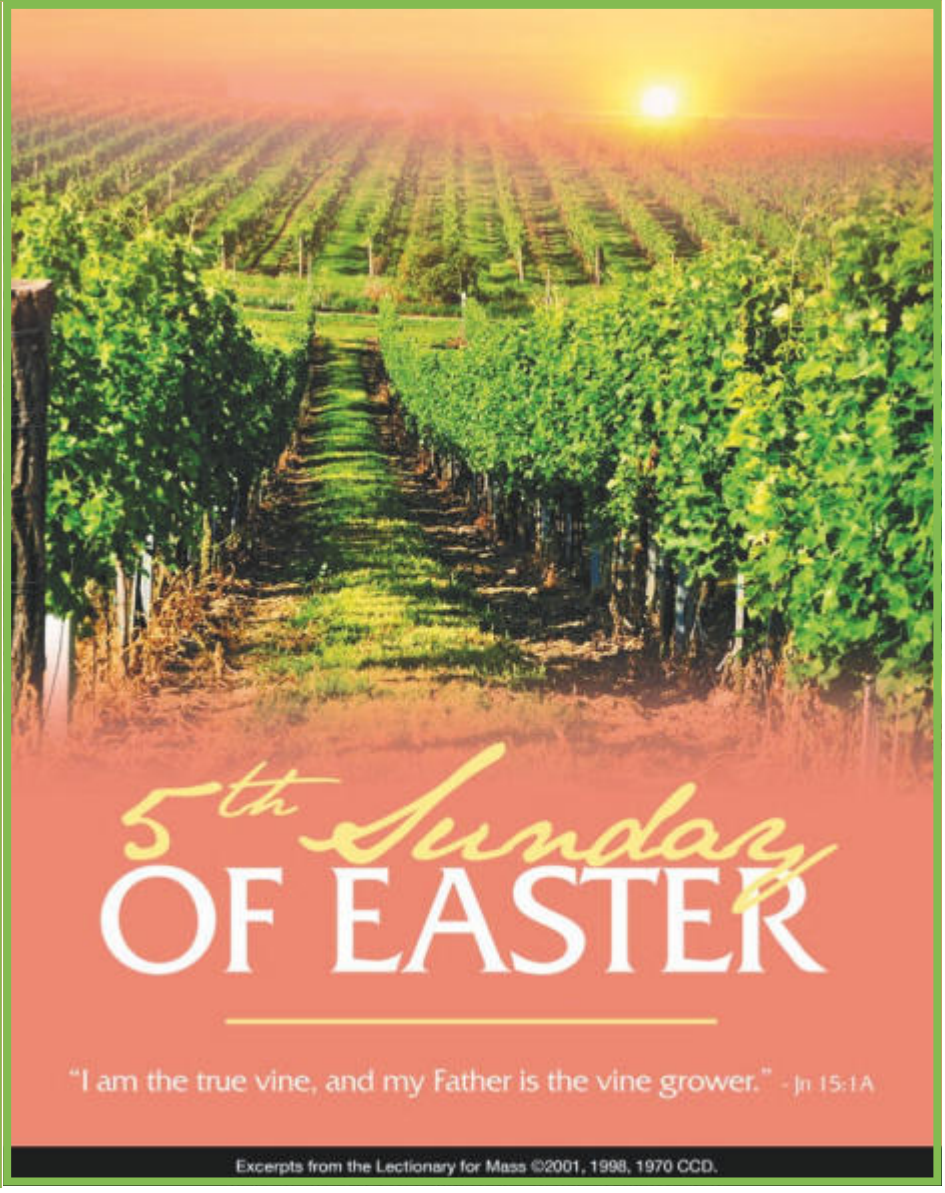
St. John the Baptist School
702 E. Poplar Street
West Frankfort, IL 62896
Phone: 937-2017
www.stjohnswestfrankfort.com
Debby Powell, Interim Principal
Nikki Mitchell, Secretary,
johnthebaptist@mchsi.com
Debra DeGoricia, Music Director
Christy Goforth, PSR
christygo4th@hotmail.com

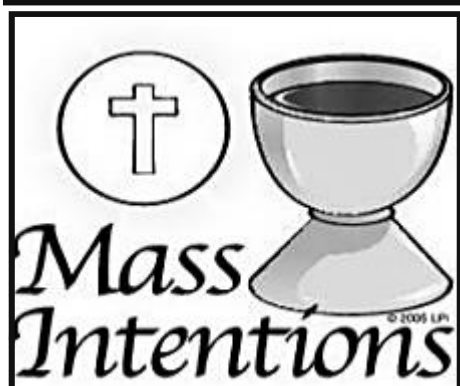
Mass Schedule
St. John's Saturday 5:00 pm
Sunday 10:00 am
Thursday: 5:30 pm
St. Aloysius Sunday 8:00 am
Wednesday 5:30 pm

Weddings
Please make arrangements with the pastor eight months in advance.

Baptisms
Please make arrangements by contacting the office at 937-2017.

Funerals
Please make arrangements with the pastor or with the funeral director.





Our Sanctuary Candle for the month of May is in memory of:

Frank Sakonyi

**May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God,
Rest In Peace**

Please pray for our sick:
Jeanie Kretz, Jonny King, Billy Glodich, Dick McPhail, Virginia Calonne, Eric Westray, Mark Glodich, Albena Rice, Jim Wangler, Karen Jamrozek, Maxine Brown, Dale Krepel, Bryce Levanti, Dr. Art Lenzini June Glenski,
Mary Lou Sakonyi, Fr. Urban Osuji. C.M., James Leposky, Jeff Carson, Carolyn Freeman

Saturday, May 1, 2021 @ 5:00 P.M.
St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
Fifth Sunday of Easter

**In Memory of: ***George Sr. & Gladys Hopkins*
Lector: *George Hopkins Jr.*

Sunday, May 2, 2021 @ 8:00 A.M.
St Aloysius/Sacred Heart Church

In Memory *of:* **Louis & Lena Garavaglia &*James & Elizabeth Mclaughlin by Paul & Betty Lynn Muentzer*
**Daryl Dobill*
Lector: *Shirley Jones*

Sunday, May 2, 2021 @ 10:00 A.M.
St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

**In Memory of: ***Mary Migielicz*
Lector: *Bailey Neibch*

Wednesday, May 5, 2021 @ 5:30 p.m.
St Aloysius/Sacred Heart
**In Memory of: ***Louis & Lena Garavaglia*
By Paula & Betty Lynn Muentzer
:
Thursday, May 6, 2021 @ 5:30 p.m.
St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

**In Memory of: ***St. John the Baptist Church family*

Friday, May 7, 2021 @ 8:15 a.m.
In Honor of: *St. John the Baptist Catholic School*

Saturday, May 8, 2021 @ 5:00 p.m.
St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
Sixth Sunday of Easter

**In Memory: ***Zygmunt & Wanda Orlowski*
Lector: *Michael Scales*

Sunday, May 9, 2021@8:00 a.m.
St Aloysius/Sacred Heart

**In Memory: ***Lana Dobill by Rockne & Joann Bleyer*
**Rick Schablaska, by Joann Sanders*
***Lector**: Chris Labuwi*

Sunday, May 9, 2021 @ 10:00 a.m.
St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

In Memory: **Linda Zygaldo*
Lector: *Amanda Neibch*

2021 CSMA Campaign

We have received our CSMA goals from The Diocese of Belleville.

St. John the Baptist: $6,141.00
To Date……$2,326.00

St Aloysius/Sacred Heart $3,592.00.
To Date……..$2,984.46

Please give generously. Thank you.

GIFTS TO GOD & PARISH

St. John the Baptist, April 24 & 25, 2021

Envelopes	$1,920.00
Loose	$129.00
School	$845.00
Special collections/other	$306.00
TOTAL	$3,200.00

St. Aloysius/Sacred Heart, April 25, 2021

Envelopes	$1,321.00
Loose	$12.00
Special Collections/other	$110.00
TOTAL	$1,443.00

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Branching Out Isn't Always What It's Cracked Up to Be

"That's a really beautiful tree branch. Man, would you look at the bark on that thing? The others are real duds, but that low-hanging branch has really got it all together."

I've never heard anyone say this. Maybe I just need to hang out with more arborists, but I can't recall ever hearing someone admire the particular beauty of a single branch. When someone comments on a tree, it's usually the whole tree — perhaps a visual element of it, like the color of the leaves or its height. But people don't usually zero in on one branch.

Maybe that's because usually, if one branch is looking a little weak, chances are every other branch is, too.

Is Gossip a Sin?

To really ask this question, we must consider the Eighth Commandment: "You shall not bear false witness."

In its reflections on this commandment, The Catechism of the Catholic Church invites us to not only think about what bearing "false witness" means, but to also consider how we understand the truth and how we communicate more broadly. This is why so much of this section of the Catechism has to do with the gift of language. With this in mind, we will notice that the word "gossip" isn't used by the Catechism. Instead, we find the words "detraction" and "calumny," which are actually two forms that gossip can take, and both can be quite serious.

First, detraction is the of revealing "another's faults and failings to persons who did not know them," without morally valid reasons. Calumny, by extension, is saying something about another person that is untrue, and it is sinful because it "harms the reputation of others and gives occasion for false judgements" (see no. 2477).

In all of our communication, we have to always recognize that we have a moral obligation to the truth and to always work to protect the reputation and honor of our neighbors (see no. 2479).

Gossip can, in fact, prove to be a very serious sin. After all, the Catechism reminds us: "No one is bound to reveal the truth to someone who does not have the right to know it" (no. 2489). When we have gossiped, especially if we are aware we have damaged another person's good name or reputation, we want to make every effort to undo the damage we have done, including seeking the grace and forgiveness offered in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

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Readings for the week of May 2, 2021

Sunday: Acts 9:26-31/Ps 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32 [26a]/1 Jn 3:18-24/Jn 15:1-8

Monday: 1 Cor 15:1-8/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5 [5]/Jn 14:6-14

Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21 [cf. 12]/Jn 14:27-31a

Wednesday: Acts 15:1-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5 [cf. 1]/Jn 15:1-8

Thursday: Acts 15:7-21/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10 [3]/Jn 15:9-11

Friday: Acts 15:22-31/Ps 57:8-9, 10 and 12 [10a]/Jn 15:12-17

Saturday: Acts 16:1-10/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 5/Jn 15:18-21

Next Sunday: Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4 [cf. 2b]/1 Jn 4:7-10/Jn 15:9-17

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Observances for the week of May 2, 2021

Sunday: 5th Sunday of Easter

Monday: Sts. Phillip and James, Apostles

Tuesday:

Wednesday: Cinco de Mayo

Thursday: National Day of Prayer

Friday:

Saturday:

Next Sunday: 6th Sunday of Easter; Mother's Day

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GOSPEL MEDITATION

"Spiraling out of control," is a phrase that can easily describe the current display of human existence. In addition to the violence, unrest, uneasiness and turmoil that are common elements of our daily news, other essential pieces are misplaced or missing. Many lack an objective center around which to order and structure their lives or a clear set of definable goals or mores to act as guideposts and life directives. It appears that "feelings" have become a "new god" and traditional structures and ideals set aside. It is almost as if history only shows that we got this whole thing wrong and many are determined to finally set things right. The real truth, however, is that while wrongs and errors are certainly a part of our often-checkered past, it is hardly the case that all was wrong. It is not our task to rewrite the history of our lives, but to learn from mistakes that were made, and preserve the perennial wisdom at the root of our successes. Learning is an essential part of being human.

The question becomes, however, from whom do we learn? Some have such a hard time placing God in that position, but that is precisely where God needs to be. God is the Master Teacher from whom all of humanity learns and gets its cues. It is in and through this relationship with the Gardener of Life that we are fashioned and pruned into the people we are intended to be and can be. It is only in God that we are able to find our best selves. Sadly, many think that religion too, as well as history in general, has also gotten all this wrong. Yet, our resurrection faith tells us differently. We are reminded, today especially, that we are meant to remain in Christ as Christ remains in us. We are also reminded that Jesus, the Incarnate God, is the vine upon which we grow, the branches that flow from the source of God's life.

Giving up our will to God's can be a painful endeavor. It is not easy to set our own desires and wants aside and allow God to step in and direct and guide our growth. But this is the only way to prevent deadly weeds from overtaking us and bringing us to a place of self-destruction. God's commandments are the very guideposts and benchmarks we need, yet many seek to remove them from all public view because they appear to limit self-expression and suppress what is

continued on page 5

Everyday Stewardship continued from page 3

The Bible tells us that when we bear fruit as good everyday stewards, it is for the Father's glory. We are the branch on His magnificent tree. What we have is from Him, and what we do likewise points back to Him. We also tend to reflect how well the other branches around us are incorporating the nutrients coming their way. That's all fine and good in theory. In practice, it can be an arduous exercise in humility.

When I do something virtuous or charitable or kind, there is a part of me that wants to stand out for it. I think that's true for all of us. We've given of ourselves in some way or overcome some human temptation to accomplish a little bit of good in this world, and even though we know God sees us, we'd really love for everyone else to see it, too.

It's a struggle, for sure. But we need to remember that our fruit belongs to the whole tree.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

Gospel Meditation continued from page 4

considered by many to be "human freedom." They are the only way we can find freedom, however. And, until we learn this fundamental lesson, we will continue to spiral out of control, never really knowing who we are, what our potential can be or how life really can be lived. We will not know peace. LPi

St. John The Baptist Catholic School

All grades open house
May 11 & 13th from
4:30-7:00 p.m.
Call school for an
Appointment. 937-2017

Upcoming School Events

May:	**First week: Mrs. Powell will be Giving the Final Star Reading Test**
May 11:	**All Grades open house. 4:30-7:00 Call the office for an appointment.**
May 13:	**All Grades open house. 4:30-7:00 Call the office for an appointment.**
May 16:	**First Communion at 10:00 a.m.**
May 21:	**Fun day**
May 27:	**Teacher Institute Day/no students.**
May 28:	**Last day of Student Attendance.**

St. John's 2021-2022

St. John the Baptist School is now enrolling students in grades K-6 for the 2021-2022 school year. Our PreK program has a waiting list at this time, but K-6 grades do have openings.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST SCHOOL
702 EAST POPLAR STREET
WEST FRANKFORT, IL 62896
Phone (618) 937-2017 • Fax (618) 937-2287

Dear Families,

As most of you know, a tragedy struck one of our families yesterday. I have been in touch with them and it is going to be a long road to recovery. I have talked with several people about the best way to help and our solution was to ask for donations. No amount is too small. If you are unable to give, you could give by saying a prayer for them for a quick recovery. If you would put it in an envelope, put your name on it if you would like, or if you would like to remain anonymous that would be perfectly acceptable as well. It will go directly to the family to pay for meals, gas or anything that they will need to complete the trips to the hospitals. No matter what happens at St. John's we are still a family and must try to help each other because we never know when our turn could come.

Thank you very much and God bless each and every one of you!

Rev. Eusebius Mbidoaka, Ph.D., S.T.D.

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paul.kosco.cdhi@statefarm.com

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Gemilo Resaba, MD
MEDICAL DIRECTOR
201 BAILEY LN., BENTON, IL 62812

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