The Ascension of the Lord

What is the most common image you’ve seen of the Ascension? It’s typically Jesus hovering above the earth surrounded by brilliant light. The Ascension is a beautiful feast, but it’s about more than the distant glory of God. It’s about the blessing of God and the transformative power of trust.

"You are witnesses to these things." Before he ascends, Jesus reminds the disciples of the basic message of the Gospel and of the disciples' own important role. They are to proclaim the Gospel message by their personal witness to the saving power of God. "I am sending the promise of my Father upon you...clothed with power from on high." Jesus promises to equip the disciples for this important mission. Not only are they receiving a command, but they're receiving the empowerment they need to move. "He...raised his hands, and blessed them." Even now, though the fulfillment of Pentecost is still to come, Jesus gives them a parting gift before he ascends into heaven. Finally, "They...returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and they were continuously in the temple praising God."

The disciples faced an unknown future. Their teacher had left them, and the political and religious authorities weren’t exactly thrilled about Jesus and his growing movement. But the memory of our Father's redemptive love, the promise of the Holy Spirit, and the blessing of Christ sustained them. Jesus trusted them to act in his name. They could trust him in return. Do you face uncertainty in your own life? Remember, we are all called to be disciples and witnesses. We have received the indwelling of the Holy Spirit at our baptism. We are blessed by Christ beyond imagining in the sacraments. This Ascension feast, we too can trust in God! With this firm trust, we too can return to our daily lives, praising God with great joy!
St. Anne Society

St. Anne Society meets monthly in Hanover at St. John's church hall.

Knights of Columbus

Fr. Ron Conro Knights of Columbus meet the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm in the church hall at The Church of St. Mary in Elizabeth.

Respect Life Corner

Word Of Life

By 18 Weeks in your mother's womb, you could swim, somersault, suck your thumb, and even cover your ears if you heard loud music.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, June 1
4:00 pm (SJ) * For the People of SJ & SM
6:00 pm (SM) * † Jim & Sue Berlage
By Joe Berlage & Family

Sunday, June 2
8:30 am (SM) * † Josef & Magdalena Fabach
By Joseph Fabach
10:15 am (SJ) † Roland Petesch
By Mary Wild

Monday, June 3 - No Mass

Tuesday, June 4
5:00 pm (SJ) † Patricia Christensen & Family
By Father Dennis

Wednesday, June 5
8:30 am (SM) * † Ken Berlage
By Marilyn Berlage

Thursday, June 6 -

8:30 am (SJ) * † Msgr. John Mitchell
By Mary Cannizzaro

By Joe Berlage & Family

Friday, June 7
8:30 am (SM) * † Warren Gerleman
By Tracy Heidenreich

Saturday, June 8
4:00 pm (SJ) * † Deacon Dave Wilbricht
By Bob Gable
6:00 pm (SM) * † Marlene Chunes
By Tony Chunes

Sunday, June 9
8:30 am (SM) * For the People of SM & SJ
10:15 am (SJ) * † Doug Bonar
By Rita Resh

*Pastor scheduled to celebrate

“Pastor scheduled to celebrate

“The Ascension of Christ your Son is our exaltation, and, where the Head has gone before in glory, the Body is called to follow in hope” (from Collect of Mass of the Ascension).

Dear Friends in Christ,

This weekend we celebrate the Ascension of the Lord. As part of God’s plan of salvation for the human race, God the Son became a human being in Jesus Christ without losing his divinity, and in a human body was born, lived, suffered, died, rose, and then ascended into heaven. In ascending into heaven, the human race in Jesus Christ has begun the procession of glorified humanity into definitive unity with God. Where Jesus has gone, we hope to follow, relying on the Holy Spirit sent from the Father and the Son to guide us and strengthen us on our way, and to prepare us to see the brightness of eternity. We are not left as orphans: Jesus is still with us, but now in a deeper way, through the action of the Holy Spirit. This gives us great hope, despite whatever problems we now face or will face in the future.

We congratulate our recent graduates on their accomplishments. We pray for them as they embark on the next phase of their journey in life. May the love of the Lord be with you!

Please pray for our recently ordained priests! Three new priests were scheduled to be ordained on June 1st at the cathedral in Rockford. Please also pray for more vocations to the priesthood. If you know any young men who might make good priests, please consider asking them, “Have you ever thought about being a priest?” Even if they say “no,” if God is calling them to be a priest it might help them to be open to that call.

On a matter referred to in my column in last week’s bulletin, we will be getting estimates for “hearing loop” systems in our churches, which help people with hearing aids or cochlear implants (and other people) to hear more clearly what is said (or sung) at Mass. If you would like more information or would like to attend a demonstration of one of these systems, please call either office, or call and leave a message on my voicemail (815-388-8844).

Our diocesan stewardship appeal is off to a great start. If you have not already made a pledge, please do so, even if you can only offer a modest amount paid over ten months. Making a pledge is not just about giving our money, but about giving our heart in support of the diocese and the parish. God will reward you for your generosity.

In Christ,

Fr. Dennis

Stewardship Report

May 18th & 19th

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Liturgical Roles

June 8-Saturday
Lector J. Nolan
EM Minister Maria, JoAnn, Peg
Sacristan Sheila
Altar Servers Joe

June 9-Sunday
Lector Matt Wild
EM Minister Ellie, Deb, Sara
Sacristan Mary
Altar Server Millie

Readings for the week-June 2

7th Sunday of Easter: Acts 7:55-60/Ps 97:1-2, 6-7, 9 [1a, 9a]/Rv 22:12-14, 16-17, 20/Jn 17:20-26
Monday: Acts 19:1-8/ Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5ac, 6-7ab [33a]/Jn 16:29-33
Tuesday: Acts 20:17-27/Ps 68:10-11, 20-21 [33a]/Jn 17:1-11a
Thursday: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11/ Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 [1]/Jn 17:20-26
Friday: Acts 25:13b-21/ Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab [19a]/Jn 21:15-19
Saturday: Morning: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31/ Ps 11:4, 5 and 7 [cf. 7b]/Jn 21:20-25

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Secretary/Bookkeeper
Karen Harkness...815-291-4189
CRE Coordinator: Laura Kuzniar
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Fax (SM)........................................815-858-2622
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stmary-elizabeth@rockforddiocese.org
Website: www.stmaryelizabethil.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/stmary.eliz.il.61028

Mass Schedule*
Weekday
Monday: No Mass
Tuesday: 5:00pm (SJ)
Wednesday: 8:30am (SM)
Thursday: 8:30am (SJ)
Friday: 8:30am (SM)

Weekend:
Saturday: 4:00pm (SJ) 6:00pm (SM)
Sunday: 8:30am (SM) 10:15am (SJ)

First Thursday-8:30AM-Mass, Holy Hour and Healing Service (SJ)
First Friday-8:30AM-Mass, Holy Hour & Healing Service (SM)
* Subject to change due to holy days

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturday 9:00-10 am (SM), 3:15-3:45pm (SJ) or by appointment. Contact St. Mary's office for an appointment.

Sacrament of Marriage
Engaged couples must call Fr. Morrissy to begin their preparation at least six months before their wedding date.

Sacrament of Baptism
Call Fr. Morrissy to begin preparation.

Sick or Hospitalized
Please notify Fr. Morrissy of family members who are ill or in the hospital.

Pregnant?
There are alternatives to abortion!
If pregnant and in need of assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local assistance, call the Freeport Pregnancy Center at 815-232-5433.

(SJ)-St. John • (SM)-St. Mary