The Ascension of the Lord

I travel a good bit, which means I am away from my wife and children for decent periods of time. But what makes it easier for me, besides being able to share the Good News of Jesus with people all over, is that I know I will not be gone forever. I will return, and then all will be well again. I have been called by God to be away from them at times, but God always brings me back to them.

Each liturgical year, we celebrate Jesus’ ascension into heaven. The feast speaks much to who Jesus is theologically. But in a very practical way, we also acknowledge that he has gone to be with the Father, but will return someday. Just as I return after a conference or visit with a parish to those God has entrusted to me and I love, Jesus will return to those entrusted to him and whom he loves.

But just like when I am away, there are things to be done. Life goes on for my wife and children with school, work, activities, and the basic responsibilities of family. In good stewardship, they are called to give generously to each other and devote themselves to God. Without them tending to things, upon my return I would find everything in turmoil and disarray. Then when I return, we become one again, and we are about the Lord’s work together.
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

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“*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).

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### 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

**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

### 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.

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### Altar & Rosary Society

The Altar & Rosary Society meets on the third Wednesday of every month at 6:30pm in the church hall at the Church of St. Mary in Elizabeth, but not in December, January or February.

### Knights of Columbus

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

10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer’s. This an educational program to help people recognize common signs of the disease and know what to watch for in themselves and others. Topics will include exploring typical age-related changes, describing the common signs for Alzheimer’s and dementia, offering tips for how to approach someone about memory concerns, and identifying helpful Alzheimer’s Association resources. This program is presented by Megan Pedersen of the Alzheimer’s Association. The date for this program is Tuesday, June 11 at 2pm. It will be held at Grand View Estates and the Elizabeth Nursing Home.

Take the best summer vacation you could have by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. Spend quality time with the person you vowed to love for a lifetime. Sign up today to renew and enrich your marriage on an upcoming Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend on June 28-30 in Rockford, IL. For more information visit our website at alifetimeoflove.org or call (888)574-5653.

Parish Office: St. Mary
Phone (SM) ..........................815-858-3422
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E-mail (SM) ...........................stmary-elizabeth@rockforddiocese.org
Web.................................www.stmaryelizabeth.org
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Rev. Stanislaw Kos (In Residence)
Parish Secretary
Marilyn Gollmer...............815-541-0354
Rel. Ed. Director & Bookkeeper
Norma Schwirtz, DRE, DYM(SM)..........
........................................815-238-2317

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)

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturday 9-10am (SM), 3:15-3:45pm (SJ) or call SM’s office for 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 1-800-798-4810. For local assistance, call the Freeport Pregnancy Center at 815-232-5433.

Liturgical Roles
Saturday, June 8 at 6:00pm (SM)
Commentator: Pat Brown
Lector: Pat Brown
EM: Nancy, Mary Mi, Mary Mo
Altar Servers: Trent
Greeter: Mina’s

Sunday, June 9 at 8:30am (SM)
Commentator: Jessica Engle
Lector: Cheryl Rife
EM: Brian E, Marilyn G & Karla
Altar Servers: Evie & Avery
Greeter: Ben & Bryton

Elizabeth Nursing Home–
EM: Karla Grube
*All Parishioners and residents of the Elizabeth and Hanover areas are welcome to access the many Catholic videos and other materials available at www.formed.org. Simply go to the web site, click “Enter Code,” sign in using access code 94TGXM, put in the requested information to create a personal account, and from then on just “login” with your e-mail name and a password you created.

Readings for the Week
June 2, 2019
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, 4-5acd, 6-7ab [33a]/Jn 16:29-33
Tuesday: Acts 20:17-27/Ps 68:10-11, 20-21 [33a]/Jn 17:11a
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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