

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK



Monday, May 27th

8:00 am NO Mass
9:00 am Mass at St. Joseph Cemetery FC

Tuesday, May 28th

8:30 am Mass at Sacred Heart FC

Wednesday, May 29th

8:00 am For the Intention of Alvina Cruz

Thursday, May 30th

8:30 am Mass at Sacred Heart FC

Saturday, June 1st, Ascension of the Lord

4:00 pm + Margy Mercker

Sunday, June 2nd, Ascension of the Lord

8:30 am + Bill Weitekamp
10:30 am Mass at Sacred Heart FC



In honor of our Blessed Mother, throughout the month of May we are praying the rosary before weekend Masses. The rosary will begin approximately 20 minutes before Mass begins. Please join us!

Collection Counters this week are **Mike Rakers and Nancy Horsley.** Thank you for serving in this way.

Prayers for Those in Nursing Homes

Gloria Case, Millie Frese, Don Jackson, Dorothy Kuntz, Marie Riegel, Mary Ann Ryan.



Prayers for the Sick

Janet Ashby, Nancy Askins, Kay Bailey, Connie Brown, Phyllis Fehr, Msgr. Albert Hallin, Roy Harrold, Bev Hartsock, Mary Hirsch, Deacon John Leonard, Kathy Lockwood, Tina Mannix, Joni Mollet, Sally Waite, Sharon Stephenson, Angie Walden, Rita Williams, Brett Willits, Guy Wisegarver.



**Saturday, May 18th 4:00pm
and
Sunday, May 19th 8:30am**

Sunday Envelopes.....\$2,308.00
Loose.....\$491.00
Total Collection.....\$2,799.00

Outreach Donations \$115.00

Memorial Day Mass

Memorial Day is Monday, May 27th. Please make note that there will be **no 8:00am Mass** at St. John's Clinton that day. A special Memorial Day Mass will be offered at St. Joseph Cemetery in Farmer City at 9:00am. All are welcome.



Adult Education Opportunity

On **Tuesday, May 28th at 6:30pm**, there will be a gathering to talk about Mary. Since May is the month dedicated to Mary, there have been some requests to learn more about Mary and her role in the life of the Church. We will address some Theology and also touch on appearances of Mary and Marian Devotion. You are invited to join us in the Parish Hall on Tuesday, May 28th at 6:30pm.

Note Regarding Ascension of the Lord

Forty days after the Resurrection, Jesus returned to the Father. This is the feast of the **Ascension of the Lord**. In the past, this day was marked by the Church as a Holy Day of Obligation and Catholics were required to attend Mass. Today, most Dioceses have transferred this feast to the following Sunday. Now the 7th Sunday of Easter becomes Ascension Sunday. Next Sunday, June 2nd, we observe the Ascension of the Lord.

CCD Teachers/Choir Party

A reminder that St. John's CCD teachers and Choir members are invited to the Annual End of Year party at **Monical's Pizza** in Clinton following the 4:00pm Mass next **Saturday, June 1st**. Please RSVP to Sue Neuschwanger today! She needs to know how many to expect. St. John's parish would like to thank all of our teachers and choir members for their dedication throughout the year.



Catholic Funeral Planning

Recently, we have received several inquiries about the proper planning of Catholic funerals. Brochures for "*Understanding and Planning Catholic Funerals*" are now available on the table in back of Church. These brochures are free of charge and contain a lot of good information that will hopefully aid you in your advanced planning. Please feel free to take one home with you.

Wait! One More Graduate!

It was brought to our attention that there is one more graduate from St. John's parish. Congratulations to Rogelio "Roger" Diaz who graduated with a Bachelor's Degree from Millikin University last weekend. May God's blessings be on you, Roger.



Thank You, Nikki Welch for all you have done for St. John's



Clayton and Nikki
Mardi Gras Fun - Religious Ed.



Sue Neuschwanger and Nikki
at Pork Chop Dinner 2012



December
2011



Supervising
Swimming 2010



Family Photo
Parish Directory - 2011

Rest in Peace



The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary May 30

This is a fairly late feast, going back only to the 13th or 14th century. It was established widely throughout the Church to pray for unity. The present date of celebration was set in

1969, in order to follow the Annunciation of the Lord and precede the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist.

Like most feasts of Mary, it is closely connected with Jesus and his saving work. The more visible actors in the visitation drama (see Luke 1:39-45) are Mary and Elizabeth. However, Jesus and John the Baptist steal the scene in a hidden way. Jesus makes John leap with joy—the joy of messianic salvation. Elizabeth, in turn, is filled with the Holy Spirit and addresses words of praise to Mary—words that echo down through the ages.

It is helpful to recall that we do not have a journalist's account of this meeting. Rather Luke, speaking for the Church, gives a prayerful poet's rendition of the scene. Elizabeth's praise of Mary as "the mother of my Lord" can be viewed as the earliest Church's devotion to Mary. As with all authentic devotion to Mary, Elizabeth's (the Church's) words first praise God for what God has done to Mary. Only secondly does she praise Mary for trusting God's words.

Then comes the *Magnificat* (Luke 1:46-55). Here, Mary herself—like the Church—traces all her greatness to God.

638 SUNDAY OF EASTER



This section of John's Gospel is sometimes known as the **Great Discourse** or the Supper Discourse, but is generally known as the Farewell Discourse. It begins with Jesus answering Peter's question, "Lord, where are you going?" (13:36). It concludes with Jesus' High Priestly Prayer (ch. 17) that serves not only as a Last Testament to his ministry, but also as a commissioning of the disciples and the later church that would arise around them. Just before this section, Judas has just left the other Apostles at the Last Supper to carry out his betrayal, and immediately following, Jesus is arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane. It is in this atmosphere of uncertainty, darkened by an uncertain future, that Jesus brings his final words to the disciples. This narrative setting also gives us some clues to how John wants us to hear this material.



This opens the opportunity for Jesus to talk about the coming of a new Teacher who will help them remember and understand what he has taught. This leads to the final prayer of Jesus that is clearly future oriented, as he prays for the disciples who will remain in the world, and for those who will come to believe because of them.

The beginning of this reading is Jesus' answer to Judas' question about how Jesus would reveal himself to the disciples and not to the world (v. 22). This question arose from Jesus' first mention of the Advocate (v. 15-17), which he explained could not be received by the world but only by "those who love me". All of this is in the context of Jesus' announcement that he would be "with you only a little longer" (13:33). He assured the disciples that even though he was going away, his departure would not be an ending. It would actually be a new beginning of an even more important work in the world that his disciples and even those to follow later would continue.

Jesus' answer to Judas' question was not direct, because it seems obvious that Judas had misunderstood the nature of the revealing that Jesus has just mentioned. Judas seemed to have in mind an extraordinary manifestation of Jesus to the world, which he could not conceptualize in terms of the disciples only. This recalls the misunderstanding of the crowds after the feeding of the 5,000 in which they were willing to proclaim Jesus king because of his miracles, yet which Jesus rejected as being an inappropriate means to the Kingdom.

Jesus' answer here was very similar to his answer to the crowds in that instance. He returned to three themes that are the heart of this section: love, faithfulness in keeping Jesus' word, and the presence of God in an assuring way with the disciples. The relationship of these three concepts here, as elsewhere in John, is that those who truly love God will keep the commandment of God, which has already been summarized as "love one another" (13:34), and that God's presence will abide with those who do love God and one another even in Jesus' absence.

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