



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021



SATURDAYS 5:00 PM
SUNDAYS 10:30AM MASS
Watch it live!!

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WEEKEND MASSES:
SATURDAYS AT 5PM
SUNDAYS AT 10:30AM
DAILY MASSES:
TUES & THURS 8AM
RECONCILIATION:
SATURDAYS 3:30 - 4:30PM
HOLY HOUR:
WEDNESDAYS 6 - 7PM
NO HOLY HOUR MAY 5TH

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**THE PARISH OFFICES
ARE CLOSED UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE.**

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Mark Gryl
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MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, May 1

8:00am: Deceased Parishioners of
Immaculate Conception Parish
5:00pm: William & Maria Vena
Martini Families
Jerome Stachniw

Sunday, May 2

10:30am: Parishioners of Immaculate
Conception Parish
Anna Marsiglio
Anna Cortesi
John De Rose

Monday, May 3

8:00am: Ida Santi

Tuesday, May 4

8:00am: John De Rose

**Wednesday, May 5**

8:00am: Mary Ellen Wolf

Thursday, May 6

8:00am: Jerome M. Stachniw

Friday, May 7

8:00am: Joaquin Rosales

Saturday, May 8

8:00am: Deceased Parishioners of
Immaculate Conception Parish
5:00pm: Angelina Sidari
Antoinette "Annie" Duley
Illa Dachs

Sunday, May 9

10:30am: Parishioners of Immaculate
Conception Parish
Marie "Dolly" Venturi

Catholic Charities of Lake County has new volunteer opportunities

New Senior Calling Campaign.

This time we are reaching out to seniors by phone to see if they have received their COVID vaccination. If they have not, we are helping them sign up. This can be done on each volunteer's own scheduled in their own homes. Sue Fowler will send out a list of 25 names with phone numbers and a calling script. Call Sue Fowler for more details.

Volunteers to help with the Catholic Charities vegetable garden.

We grow produce that is distributed to people served by our food pantry and people who attend our evening suppers. Specifically, we are looking for small groups of 3-5 volunteers to commit to a 3-week period where they would come to our garden 2-3 times a week. We would provide training and then they would receive hands-on experience. See the attached flyer or visit our website, <https://www.ccofchicagovolunteer.com/opportunity/a0C5A00000qZniDUAS>, for more details.

Father Mike's Homiletter – May 2, 2021 Fifth Sunday of Easter

Scripture: Acts 9:26-31; Psalm 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32; 1 John 3:18-24; John 15:1-8

Well, we've had a couple of warm days, bringing nature to life. The new crop of leaves is visible on the trees – tiny little light green blobs at the ends of the branches. And there are all kinds of activities going on in our Parish as well – Confirmation next Wednesday, First Communion next Saturday, and we're celebrating several Covid-postponed infant Baptisms. Just like plants underground, there's lots of quiet growth happening!

Our first reading describes Paul's first visit to Jerusalem. Since he had persecuted Christians, the early Church did not trust his claim that he had seen the Lord and converted. Then Barnabas, whose name appropriately means "Son of Encouragement", "took charge" of Paul – which must have been quite a feat, considering that Paul was a pretty strong personality – and presented him to the Apostles. In other words, he got Paul a hearing with the guys in charge. When Paul gave them a coherent account of his conversion and subsequent actions, they accepted his story. The community forgave Paul his past, and gave him a second chance. How could they do that? It seems to me they were acting on the message of the second reading and the Gospel.

In our second reading, John continues a favorite theme of his and exhorts the early Church members to "love not in word or speech, but in deed and truth." He is saying, don't just talk the talk – be sure you walk the walk as well. That seems to be what the Church in Jerusalem did – they showed their love by accepting Paul's explanation, and including him in to the community. At the time, the Christians were a group centered on the message of Jesus, a devout Jew, but still part of the wider Jewish community. When other groups within the Jewish community clashed with Paul and tried to kill him, the Christian community acted to protect him – they hustled him to the seaport Caesarea, and packed him off to his hometown of Tarsus (in modern Turkey) until things died down. Having dealt with the unfortunate effort to kill Paul, the Church was at peace, guided by the Holy Spirit – who seems to have been especially busy while Paul was in town – and adding to their numbers.

But how did they, and how do we, have the strength and wisdom to walk the walk of love? Jesus tells us in His Last Supper discourse, part of which is our Gospel reading. He starts with the heart of the message: "I am the true vine and my Father is the vine grower....Remain in me, as I remain in you." Most often when we hear this line, we think of Jesus as the vine, and ourselves as the branches. The Father is nowhere in the image. But Jesus is very specific: His Father is the vine grower and He is the vine, we are the branches. He is doing the will of the Father, and telling us stay connected to Him, which will keep us connected to the Father!

The Greek word Jesus uses to describe himself, which we translate as "true" has a more expansive meaning in Greek - "a lack of forgetfulness." I find that comforting: Jesus seems to be saying He has a "lack of forgetfulness" – in other words, He does not and cannot forget us: we are *always* in His consciousness. And He is telling us He should *always* be in *our consciousness*. The vine is a good image – we know they spread everywhere, always reaching further, and the fruit appears on the branches – plentifully! That's *us*. Early Christians would have been very familiar with vines – they knew how to plant and tend them. Pruning at the right time and in the right spot would remove the dead branches which had given up and produce additional branches which could bear more fruit. Today, we might use the image of electricity: Jesus is the power and we need to stay plugged into Him – in short, Jesus is the juice! Today, we wander around with cell phones, tablets, laptops, etc. – all in an effort to "stay connected" 24/7 to things which are much less essential than staying connected with Jesus. He can't get us out of His consciousness. Keeping Him in ours will enable us to walk the walk of love. In some translations, "remain with me" is translated "abide in me". It suggests we take up residence in Jesus' presence – if we do, we can stay plugged in and connected to the "Juice"!

Peace be with you!

Father Mike

Food for Thought...

Discipleship is not a status; it is a never-ending process.

-John Shea

*Eating with the Bridegroom
The Spiritual Wisdom of the Gospels*



After Mass on Mother's Day (Sunday, May 9) from 11:45am to 12:15pm, parishioners can drive by to get a carnation and prayer card in celebration of Mother's Day. Louie Vignocchi, our Deacon, will provide a special blessing to all who come by.

In the spirit of this Day, please consider driving a family member or friend who cannot attend Mass in-person to this event.



Due to Confirmation, there will be **no Holy Hour** on Wednesday, May 5.



In the coming week our IC Prep students will celebrate Confirmation and First Communion. Please remember them in your prayers.

We invite all of you to participate in IC's Confirmation and First Communion services via livestream. You can access the link from our parish website or the links below.



May 5th
7:00 PM

watch it live here:

<https://vimeo.com/530910438>



May 8th
10:00 AM

watch it live here:

<https://vimeo.com/530911481>

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



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Spring, 2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Mothers are the great unsung heroes of the pandemic. And they need our help.

The responsibilities and stresses of motherhood have increased tenfold over this past year. Keeping family members healthy, housed, fed, on-task with schoolwork, and supported amidst fear and uncertainty is a staggering undertaking.

Add to this the hospitalizations or deaths of loved ones from COVID-19; lost jobs, wages, and child care; and the complete erasure of what little stability many families could count on, and you begin to understand the devastation the pandemic has wrought for so many mothers.

The health and economic repercussions of COVID-19 have been disproportionate for people already facing the challenges of poverty, food insecurity, mental health challenges and lack of health care. This is particularly true for women of color, who have experienced higher rates of infection, more loss of life, and greater job losses.

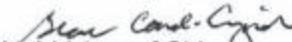
Your gift to the Catholic Charities Mother Day Collection means those bearing the most direct impact of this crisis don't have to struggle and lose ground they've worked so hard for. Your gift means they can access the resources—food, rental assistance, counseling—and professional help they need to ensure their families don't fall further behind.

What better way to honor our own mothers and other women we admire than by helping another mom provide for and strengthen her own family? To be part of their resilience and success? To live out the lessons our mothers—many of whom had their own struggles—worked hard to ingrain in us.

You have my sincere gratitude for your past support of the Mother's Day Collection, and my most urgent plea to give again. Contributions can be made at www.catholiccharities.net/donate, or mail your gift to Catholic Charities, 721 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, IL 60654.

This Mother's Day, the face of need is mothers and their children; the face of hope is you. Please join Catholic Charities in bringing God's infinite mercy and profound hope to thousands of mothers who are heroically shepherding their families through this unprecedented time.

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Archbishop of Chicago

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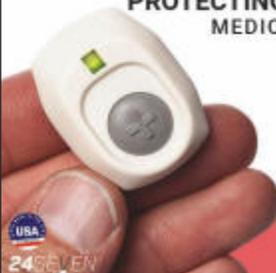
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Meditation Garden Update

We are finally getting ready to begin with the Meditation Garden project. We will begin on Wednesday, May 5 at 1:30 pm (weather permitting of course) with clean up and preparation for planting. We will begin the planting process in the weeks after.



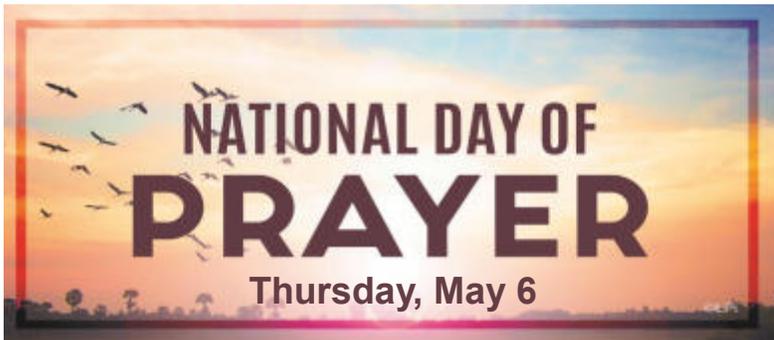
All are welcome, even if you would like to just sit and chat with us while we work. Please contact Midge Berardi with any questions you may have at midgeberardi@comcast.net or 224-619-5864.



Please be aware that no emails or texts would ever go out from Fr. McMahon or any Parish staff “asking for a favor”, so please beware should you ever receive something like this.

Should you receive something, and are unsure of the originator, please contact Natalie in the Parish office (nhennigan@icparish.org) rather than directly replying to the email or text.

Also, please note that all emails from the Parish will come from an email address ending: icparish.org



PREP

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

Registration for the 2021-2022 PREP year is now posted on the parish website. Don't miss out on the early bird registration incentives!

The learning and teaching that took place during Zoom was incredible! We have an amazing team of students and catechists. **Come join us** as we learn about our faith and prepare for the sacraments **in person** this fall.

Any questions please contact our Director, Barb, at PREPOffice@icparish.org.

