



# St. Patrick

## CHURCH OF HARTLAND-FOUNDED 1837

**St. Patrick Parish-Hartland**  
15012 St. Patrick Road  
Woodstock, IL 60098  
815-338-7883  
www.stpatrickofhartland.org

**Office Hours**  
Tuesday and Thursdays  
9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.  
Or by appointment.  
815-790-3643

### *May 16th - The Ascension of the Lord*

*We are a Catholic Faith Community, united in Christ through Sacrament, dedicated to charity, community, service and spiritual growth.*

#### **Parish Staff**

Pastor.....Fr. Burt Absalon  
Associate.....Fr. Adalberto Sanchez  
Deacon ..... Joe Kayser  
Deacon.....815-236-3803  
Business Mgr. ..Jeanine Nowakowski  
Jeanine.....815-790-3643  
Bldg & Grds.....Matt Weidner  
Sacristan.....Ray Wagner  
Keyboardist.....Braedon Sullivan  
Keyboardist.....Aron Olivares  
Cantors.....Madison Kenyon,  
Avery Hill, Jordyn Kratochvil,  
Caroline Stumpf and Hannah  
McNulty

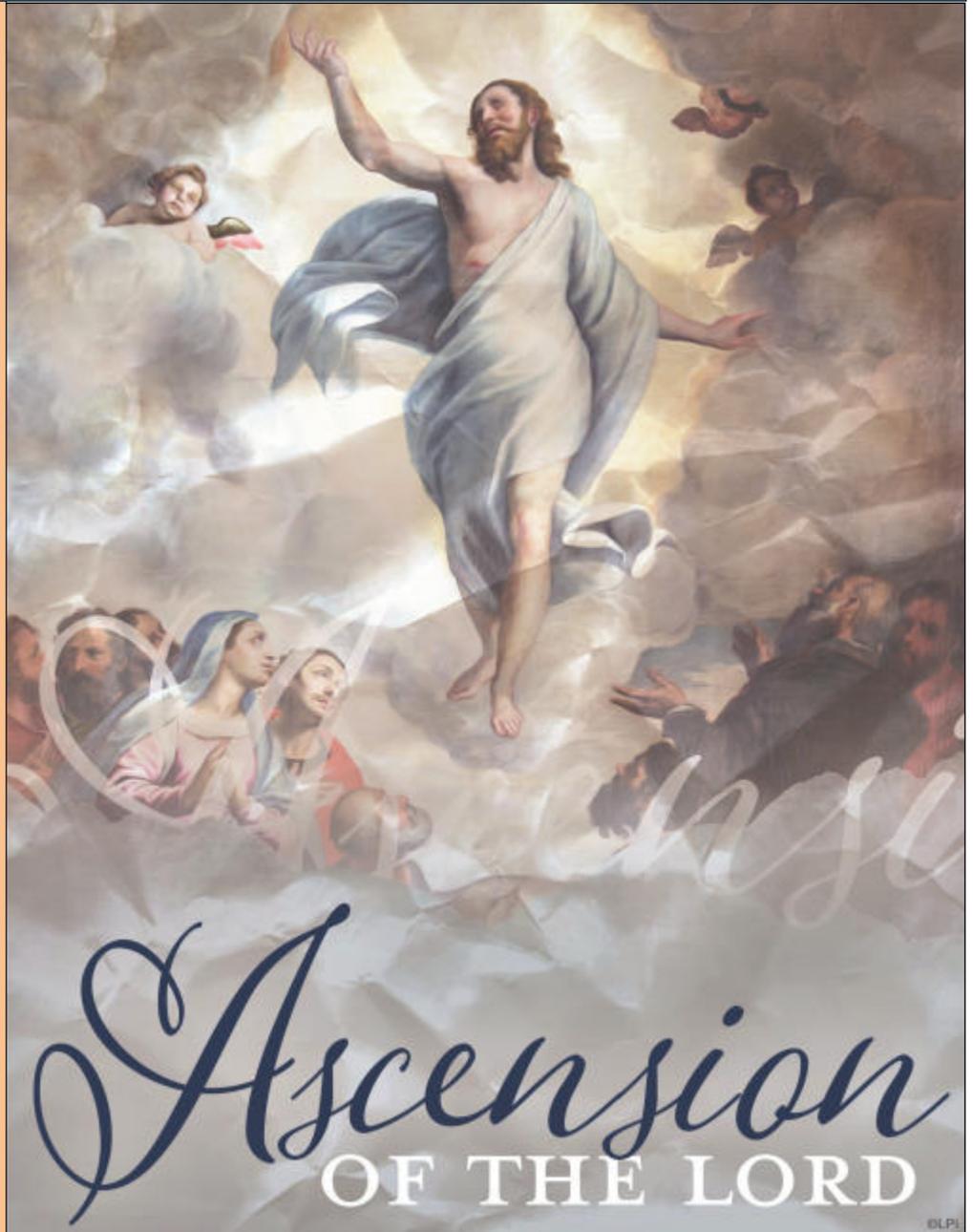
#### **Sunday Masses**

8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.

#### **Confessions**

30 Minutes prior to each Mass.

We need your help! If you are able to act as a greeter/cleaner for either of our Masses, easy instruction will be provided. Please contact Jeanine at 815-790-3643. Thank you!



# Ascension

## OF THE LORD

**Disciple Stewardship:** ☩ Jesus ascended into heaven, blessing His disciples and promising that they would soon receive the power of the Holy Spirit. We who have received that promised gift of the Spirit are now empowered to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth—to use our time to spread the good news of salvation.

## SCRIPTURAL READINGS Pentecost Sunday

### First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11

On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was sent to the disciples in the form of fiery tongues. They began to speak in different tongues “as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.”

### Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 104:1

Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

### Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7

The apostle Paul wrote that there are many gifts but the same Spirit, different ministries, but the same Lord.

### Gospel: John 20:19-23

Jesus appeared and told his disciples, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.....Receive the Holy Spirit.”

## Greeter Schedule:

### May 23rd

8:00 a.m.: The Vanderstappen’s  
10:15 a.m.: The Witt Family

### May 30th

8:00 a.m.: The Riley Family  
10:15 a.m.: The Blalock Family

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## Vocations Corner: Job and His Wife

Job is described in the bible, as a man who stands out for his righteousness and his respect for God. In that book of Job, it is also mentioned how he is well known because of his wealth. He had “seven sons and three daughters, many servants, owned seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred donkeys.” (Job 1:2-3)

Job’s story tells us how God allowed Satan to attack him, first in his position, losing sons and daughters, servants and animals. Then, his body was wounded with incurable sores from the feet to the head. (Job 2:7) After all of that, Job never cursed God. His story is the story of a just man’s suffering; a man who loves God, and although he does not understand the reason for his sufferings, nevertheless accepts them, confident that there will be a better future.

My attention is especially drawn to verse 9 of chapter 2, in the same book. “His wife said to him, ‘Do you still persevere in your faith? Curse God and die!’” It is neither the invitation to curse God, nor the questioning of faith that attracts my attention, but instead, the fact that his wife, up to this moment in history, is still present and at the side of Job. Job has lost sons, daughters, possessions, and even his health, but not his wife. We could make many conjectures, or conclude with a bad-tasting joke that “the devil didn’t want Job’s wife”, but I think there is a deeper truth. There are some ideas that can help us better understand this part of history.

First of all, we must say that Job’s wife is not a “possession” of his. She is a person; free, independent, with dignity --- not a *something*, but *someone*. She is his partner, not to be “owned”, therefore, she was not attacked when satan attacked Job’s possessions. This first approach continues to leave the possibility that in the second attempt in which satan attacked Job, she would have been attacked since as spouses, the two are one. She was not attacked, and in spite of not being Job’s best counselor, during all the time of suffering, she was always with him.

Perhaps the answer is in the nuptial blessing that is given to the spouses on the day of their wedding: “....God, you who have wanted the union of man and woman and have blessed this community; established from the beginning, with the only blessing that was not abolished neither by the pain of original sin, nor by the punishment of the flood...”. The union of man and woman narrated in the book of Genesis, in which each one is a help and inseparable company to the other, is protected by God throughout the history of salvation. The book of Job is not the exception. Marriage is also respected in this passage of scripture.

Certainly, there have always been imperfections in marriages, and the story of Job addresses this point. That is why it is necessary to constantly look to God's plan for marriage, and thus purify our intentions, heal our past wounds, and learn to be a better spouse every day.

Dear parishioners,



Today we celebrate the Ascension Sunday. This feast commemorates Jesus going up to heaven forty days after His resurrection. The 40<sup>th</sup> day should have been last Thursday but for pastoral reason; most Dioceses including ours move the celebration of this most important feast to Sunday to ensure a wider participation. Ascension marks the end of Christ mission on Earth. Also, it meant for the disciples end of their training and the beginning of their mission to “go and proclaim the Good News to the whole world.” The disciples had a daunting task. But part of Jesus’ parting words to them is the assurance that they wouldn’t go it alone. He would send the Holy Spirit to guide and protect them. As today’s disciples of the Lord, we have the same blessed assurance of His faithful and abiding presence as we walk through the path life.

The presence of God is in us and indeed “if God is for us, who can be against us?” But sometimes we don’t feel strongly God’s presence in our lives as much as we ought to. It is because we at times are not present to God as God is present to us. It is said that Jesus always knocks at the door of our hearts but a lot of times we are not home. We are not present when he comes. We either dwell in the past in the form of regrets or in the future in the form of worries and anxieties. We need to be in the present to encounter the Lord. The Lord said: “*Be still and know that I am God.*” To be still means to dwell in the present and become aware of God, experiencing His transforming presence. This is what prayer means at the deeper level. Praying is encountering the Lord in the present moment. In a stressful world we live in, to be still is crucial and life-saving, both physically and spiritually.

On this feast of the Ascension where Jesus promised the divine presence of the Spirit to walk with us every step of the way in our earthly pilgrimage, we need to take to heart that this promise has already been fulfilled in our lives. The Holy Spirit’s presence is a present reality for us. Let us pray that our hearts are always open to Him. **HAPPY ASCENSION SUNDAY**



## People of God

Your prayers are requested for the sick;

Casey Porch	Jeff Kruzan
Erwin Arendt	Cindy Kruzan
Lisa Ash	Robert Kutella
Mary Bassett	Barb Lanphier
Emily Davis	Henry Kranz
Renee Biestek	Steve Welch
Rich Biestek	Bill Matussek
Mary Lou	Billy Matussek
Draper	John Ferraro
Barbara Dye	Harold Johnson
Wayne Dye	Paul Kries
Steve Fitzgerald	Melissa Rath
Mary Watson	Karen Scimeca
Dennis Gallagher	Jeremy Scully
Mary Gillis	Geraldine Slarai
Nancy Golbeck	Derrick Verona
Art Holt	Rita Hagenbruch
Gayle Johnson	Viola Huff



## Mass Intentions

### Sunday, May 23rd

8:00 a.m.: People of the Parish  
10:15 a.m.: Urban & Dorothy Decker  
Requested by the Wagner Family

Intentions available starting in September—please feel free to call or email to schedule one.

## Sacramental Policies

**Baptism:** Contact the parish Office to participate in the Sacramental Baptismal preparation program.

**First Eucharist:** Children will be permitted to approach First Eucharist upon completion of the Parish Religious Education Program required for the reception of Holy Communion.

**Matrimony:** Rev. Burt Absalon, should be contacted at least one year prior to the anticipated date for the marriage. It is the policy of the Rockford Diocese that those to be married be at least 19 years of age, and will be required to participate in instructional programs: including Pre-marriage and Natural Family Planning Seminars. One of those to be married must be a registered member of the St. Patrick Parish of Hartland.

**Confessions:** The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available 30 minutes prior to the 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. Sunday Masses.

**Anointing of the Sick:** For reception of the Sacrament of the Sick, and visits, please contact the Parish office at 815-338-7883.

**New Members:** New members to our community are asked to fill out a registration form found in the back of the church and drop it in the collection, or contact the Parish office.



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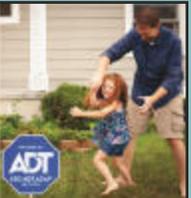
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