

MAY 2, 2021

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY MENAHA, MN

Physical Address:
113 Aspen Avenue NW, Menahga, MN 56464

The Roman Catholic faith community of Assumption of Our Lady in Menahga, Minnesota, strives to create a welcoming environment for sharing the Good News of Jesus, the sacraments, and God's love and peace with our church family, along with our local and world community.



ST. FREDERICK VERNDALE, MN

Physical Address:
20 Mason Avenue NW, Verndale, MN 56481

St. Frederick Roman Catholic faith community in Verndale, Minnesota, strives to know, love and serve God through ongoing faith formation, celebration of the sacraments, and reaching out in service to others locally and worldwide.



ST. HUBERT BLUEGRASS, MN

Physical Address:
22008 County Road 23, Sebeka, MN 56477

The Roman Catholic faith community of St. Hubert in Bluegrass, Minnesota, welcomes all and "gathers them in" to share in the mission of Jesus Christ. Moved by the Holy Spirit, we grow in holiness by celebrating the sacraments; Life-long learning; and service to others locally and globally.



5th Sunday
OF EASTER

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower." - Jn 15:1A

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

PASTOR

Father Lauren Germann
218.445.5786
320.333.1363
vbmpastor@wcta.net

TRUSTEES

Assumption of Our Lady:
Marcia Cole and Larry Murphy
St. Frederick: Mary Ludovissie and Al Dolezal
St. Hubert: Lois Schoon and Gene Kern

TO CONNECT

PARISH OFFICE 218.445.5204
P.O. Box C, Verndale, MN 56481
(mailing address of Our Three Parish Communities)
OFFICE HOURS:
Monday 8:00am—2:00pm
Tuesday 9:00am—1:00pm
Thursday 9:00am—2:00pm
Bookkeeper: Connie DeVault
vbm catholicbook@wcta.net
Secretary: Shirley Malone
vbm catholic@wcta.net
Bulletin Announcements
Tuesday at 11:00am 218.445.5204
sthupert1771@hotmail.com
Website: vbm catholic.org

MASS TIMES

**St. Frederick, Saturday, 4:30pm,
Tuesday, 9:00am**
**St. Hubert, Sunday, 8:30am,
Wednesday, 9:00am**
**Green Pine Acres, Menahga
Thursday, 10:00am**

NEW PARISHIONERS

Welcome! To join one of our parishes, please contact the parish office.

PARISH NURSE

Lela Platt 218.234.8966 to arrange for a nurse visit and/or Communion.

CEMETERY CONTACTS

St. Hubert: Bryan Wegscheid
218.639.3618
St. Frederick: Dan Schmitz
218.639.1818
Assumption of Our Lady
218.445.5204

PRAYER CHAIN REQUESTS

St. Hubert: Shirley Malone, call or text
218.640.6113
Assumption of our Lady:
Sarah Bobst, 320.232.9828
St. Frederick: Tina Moenkedick
218.924.2163

Baptism and Marriage
Contact the parish office.

BULLETIN NOTES
Sunday, May 2, 2021
Fifth Sunday of Easter



We have turned the calendar once again to transition into a new month of May. I can't say everything in the world puts a smile on my face, yet, for some reason, turning the calendar at my home and office in Staples and in the rectory and office in Verndale, made me smile.

No, not because I have only two months left before retirement, but perhaps better understood how we have survived month by month these pandemic times.

Our liturgical seasons are coming and going pretty much as usual this year with the pandemic operating in the background of our minds.

Turning the calendar to May, means we are surviving the year! No, we are not totally "out of the woods" regarding pandemic issues, but are maintaining a quasi normal for the time being.

One year ago, we would not have had congregational singing in Mass. We would not have been able to attend a pancake breakfast sponsored by a VFW. We would not be having First Confessions, First Communions, or Confirmations. Most of the children would not be attending classes in school or playing sports games. Also, one year ago, people did not enjoy the opportunity to be vaccinated and be protected against COVID 19.

Unfortunately, there are countries in the world, who are begging for the vaccine to be available to them. Contrast that with the many people in the United States are "opting out" of the vaccination.

So many people ask when things will be back to normal. I think the answer lies in "when" all Americans will be vaccinated as a fight against the deadly virus.

One thing you might consider is the fact that you have been vaccinated before. Have you not? Most of you have had Small Pox, Measles, and Polio vaccinations. Many of you have had flu shots, pneumonia shots, shingles shots. Our country would be better off if everyone would get a COVID vaccination.

When we as citizens of the United States are fully vaccinated, we will be able to share more of the vaccine with other countries.

In other words, "step up to the plate" and get your vaccination ASAP.

Yes, I, your pastor, am vaccinated.

St. Hubert church in Bluegrass is being re-sided during the next few days. This project is long overdue. We voted at the March council meeting to go ahead with the project, but it takes time to get things started with the Minnesota weather.

We are blessed with a beautiful country setting for the Bluegrass parish, and the when the siding is finished, it will look like a new church!

Blessings and Peace,

Fr. Lauren

MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS

FOR THE WEEK OF May 2—May 9

St. Frederick, Verndale: Tuesday, May 4
9:00am +Jan Erickson

St. Hubert, Bluegrass: Wednesday, May 5
9:00am +LeRoy Wegscheid

Green Pine Acres, Menahga: Thursday, May 6
No Scheduled Mass due to COVID restrictions

St. Frederick: Saturday, May 8
4:30pm +Norman and +Rosie Brejcha

St. Hubert: Sunday, May 9
8:30am +Edward Burczyk

Assumption of Our Lady: Sunday, May 9
10:30am For the People of the Parishes

LITURGICAL MINISTER SCHEDULE

St. Frederick, Verndale

Saturday, May 8 4:30pm

Lector Kelly Youngbauer
Extraordinary Minister..... Annette Adamietz
May Ushers Pete Schmitz
Volunteer

St. Hubert, Bluegrass

Sunday, May 9 8:30am

Lector..... Vera Malone
Extraordinary Minister..... Shirley Malone
May Ushers..... Gary Kern
Alan Malone

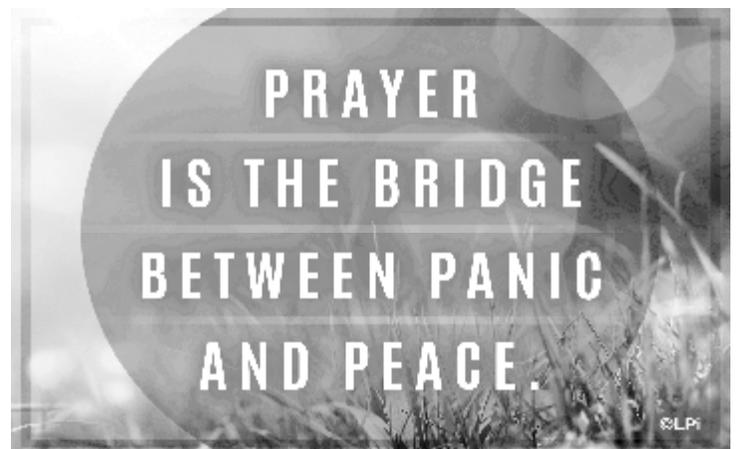
Assumption of Our Lady, Menahga

Sunday, May 9 10:30am

Lector..... Carol Ann Cleveland
Extraordinary Minister..... Carol Ann Cleveland
Ushers..... Al Cleveland
Carol Ann Cleveland

Readings for the week of May 2, 2021

Sunday: Acts 9:26-31/Ps 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32 [26a]/1 Jn 3:18-24/Jn 15:1-8
Monday: 1 Cor 15:1-8/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5 [5]/Jn 14:6-14
Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21 [cf. 12]/Jn 14:27-31a
Wednesday: Acts 15:1-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5 [cf. 1]/Jn 15:1-8
Thursday: Acts 15:7-21/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10 [3]/Jn 15:9-11
Friday: Acts 15:22-31/Ps 57:8-9, 10 and 12 [10a]/Jn 15:12-17
Saturday: Acts 16:1-10/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 5/Jn 15:18-21
Next Sunday: Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4 [cf. 2b]/1 Jn 4:7-10/Jn 15:9-1



GOSPEL MEDITATION
Sunday, May 2, 2021

“Spiraling out of control,” is a phrase that can easily describe the current display of human existence. In addition to the violence, unrest, uneasiness and turmoil that are common elements of our daily news, other essential pieces are misplaced or missing. Many lack an objective center around which to order and structure their lives or a clear set of definable goals or mores to act as guideposts and life directives. It appears that “feelings” have become a “new god” and traditional structures and ideals set aside. It is almost as if history only shows that we got this whole thing wrong and many are determined to finally set things right. The truth, however, is that while wrongs and errors are certainly a part of our often checkered past, it is hardly the case that all was wrong. It is not our task to rewrite the history of our lives, but to learn from mistakes that were made, and preserve the perennial wisdom at the root of our successes. Learning is an essential part of being human.

The question becomes, however, from whom do we learn? Some have such a hard time placing God in that position, but that is precisely where God needs to be. God is the Master Teacher from whom all of humanity learns and gets its cues. It is in and through this relationship with the Gardener of Life that we are fashioned and pruned into the people we are intended to be and can be. It is only in God that we are able to find our best selves. Sadly, many think that religion too, as well as history in general, has also gotten all this wrong. Yet, our resurrection faith tells us differently. We are reminded, today especially, that we are meant to remain in Christ as Christ remains in us. We are also reminded that Jesus, the Incarnate God, is the vine upon which we grow, the branches that flow from the source of God’s life.

Giving up our will to God’s can be a painful endeavor. It is not easy to set our own desires and wants aside and allow God to step in and direct and guide our growth. However, this is the only way to prevent deadly weeds from overtaking us and bringing us to a place of self-destruction. God’s commandments are the very guideposts and benchmarks we need, yet many seek to remove them from all public view because they appear to limit self-expression and suppress what is considered by many to be “human freedom.” They are the only way we can find freedom, however. Moreover, until we learn this fundamental lesson, we will continue to spiral out of control, never really knowing who we are, what our potential can be or how life really can be lived. We will not know peace. @LPI

NEWS AND NOTES FOR ALL

CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS APPEAL

Support the Catholic Home Missions appeal today! Right now, over 40% of dioceses in the United States and its territories are considered mission territory, because they are unable to fund essential pastoral activities needed in their communities. Your support funds religious education, seminary formation, lay ministry training and other programs that build vibrant faith communities right here in the United States. **An envelope was attached to the April 25th bulletin for your donation. Please write checks to your parish and Connie will send one check to the appeal.**

MASS SERVERS AT BLUEGRASS, MENAHGA, VERNDALE

In the latest protocols received from Bishop Kettler it was noted that Altar Servers are again able to participate during Mass. If you have previously served Mass before COVID and would like to serve again or if you would like to begin serving, please contact Shirley at the Parish.

SACRED HEART SCHOOL FUNDRAISER

Sacred Heart School is having an offsite fundraiser June 5, 2021. The school is looking for donated items for the silent auction or monetary donations are welcome. For questions contact: Tom Brichacek 218-831-5810.

THANK YOU FROM THE PRICES

Thank you so much for the cards, phone calls, kindness and concern shown to us during Ken’s illness and recovery. May God bless you all. **Ken and Joyce**

BARN QUILT SILENT AUCTION AT ST. HUBERT

Silent Auction bids are now being accepted for the large barn quilt which was painted and donated by former parishioner Dieter Meister. The barn quilt is on display in the narthex at St. Hubert and a sheet for bidding is available on the table. Proceeds of the auction will be used for the church siding project which will begin soon. Thank you for your participation.



BANNS II: Beth Schmitz and Ryan Arntson

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

St. Frederick:

Congratulations to Millie Schmitz and Kaydn Mertens who received their First Holy Communion today, Saturday, May 1, 2021.

St. Hubert and St. Frederick Confirmation Meeting Confirmation Student/Parent Meeting, Wednesday, May 5, 6:30pm, in the St. Hubert Church, Bluegrass.

This is a mandatory meeting for all students presently in 10th and 11th grades and their parents. You will receive a packet of information, requirements and forms that need to be completed leading up to Confirmation Mass on Sunday, October 17, 2021, 2pm. We will be going over all of the information and answering questions. **If for any reason you are not able to attend on May 5, please contact Shirley Malone: 218-640-6113 to make other arrangements to meet and receive the information.**

Assumption of Our Lady:

Classes to prepare for First Holy Communion will begin Monday, May 10, 3:15—5:00pm. A schedule of classes has been mailed to participating families. Any questions contact: Rose Ragole: 402-475-6109.

FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021

Thank you for your giving!

Assumption of Our Lady—Menahga

Needed each Sunday 2020/2021	\$1200.
Needed to date	51600.
Collected 4/25	1295.
Received to date	57362.
Surplus (Deficit)	+5762.

Saint Frederick—Verndale

Needed each Sunday 2020/2021	\$1600.
Needed to date	68800.
Collected 4/24	1484.
Received to date	83426.
Surplus (Deficit)	+14626.

Saint Hubert—Bluegrass

Needed each Sunday 2020/2021	\$1820.
Needed to date	78260.
Collected 4/25	1437.
Received to date	107762.
Surplus (Deficit)	+29502.

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