ST. VIATOR
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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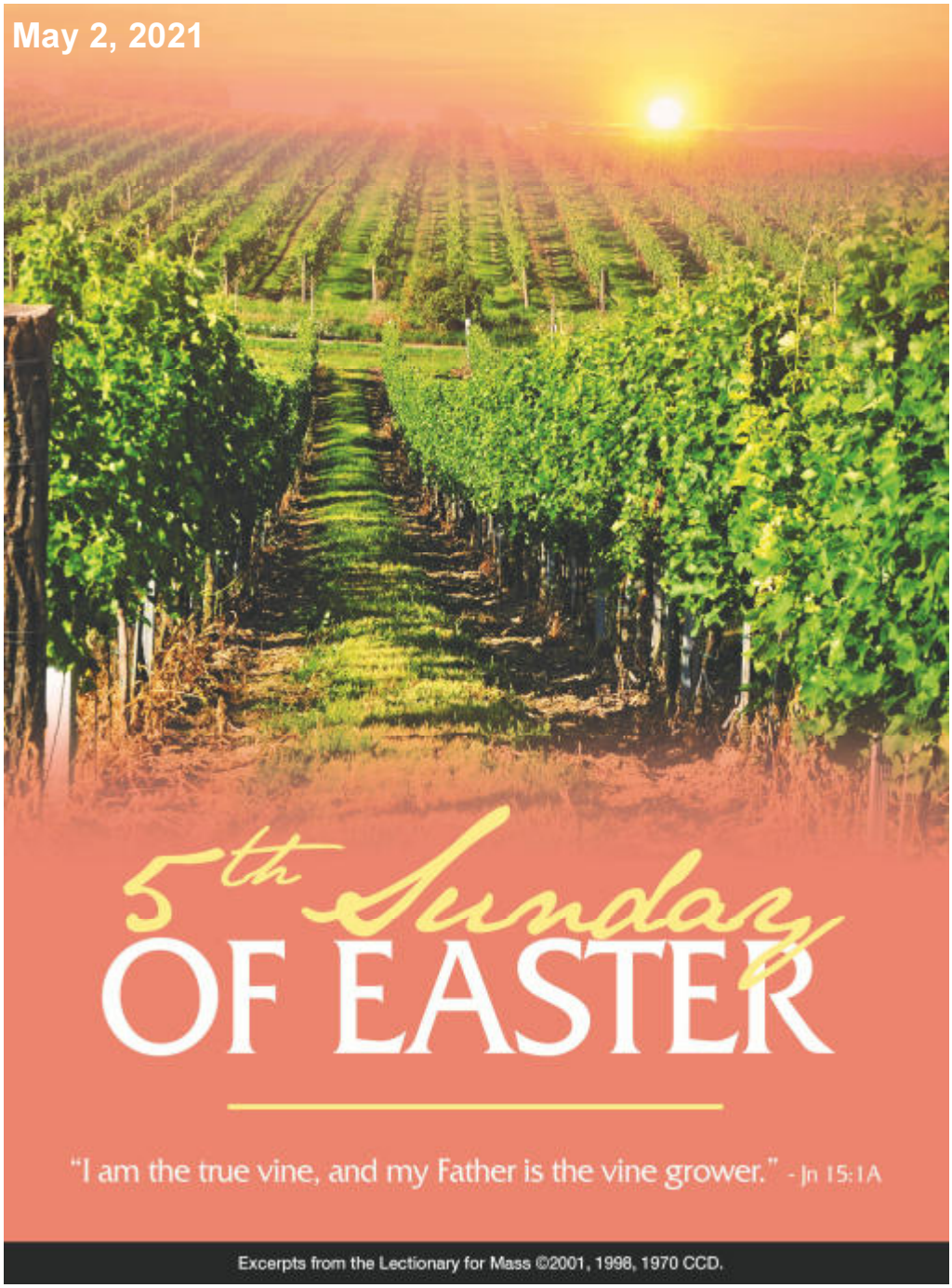

WELCOME!

Mass Schedule
May 3 - May 9

Weekday Masses
Monday - No Mass
Tuesday - 6:45 AM
Wednesday - 8:15 AM
Thursday - 6:45 AM
Friday - 8:15 AM

Weekend Masses
Saturday - 4:00 PM
Sunday
8:00 AM, 10:00 AM and Noon

Doors open 30 minutes before Mass begins

Reconciliation
Saturday 3:00 - 3:30 PM
In the Parish Center

Beginning May 1st
The diocese determined that we can utilize every pew in the church since distancing between households is now 3 feet apart.

Turn the page for more information

Updated Safety Protocols

After consultation with the Diocesan Restoration Advisory Council, Bishop Thomas and the Council have mandated the following revised protocols for **implementation beginning Saturday May 1, 2021:**

• The maximum number of people that may be in Mass at one time is now increased to 80% of fire code capacity. The social distancing mandate of six feet (6) has been reduced to three (3) feet. You must maintain three (3) feet of social distancing between congregants that are not of the same household. To that end, you may not be able to allow 80% of your occupancy limit due to the three (3) feet of social distancing requirement. To be clear, you must use the equation of both 80% of fire code occupancy **AND** three (3) feet of social distancing to arrive at the allowable number of congregants you may now have in any one location.

• The mandate to obtain information from attendees for contract tracing purposes is no longer required.

• Pursuant to Governor Sisolak's Emergency Directive 24 issued on June 24, 2020 ("Directive"), face coverings **MUST** be worn at all times during Mass, with the exception of consuming the host.

Safety ushers will continue the following:

- Sanitize the hands of all who attend Mass
- Guide each household to an appropriate pew
- Direct all to their designated Communion station
- Assist with organized exiting

Current Food Drive through May 16th to benefit the clients of

SAINT Therese CENTER HIV OUTREACH

Most needed items for the clients of St. Therese:

canned meat
canned tuna
canned chili
canned stew
canned vegetables
canned fruit
beans (all kinds)
Top Ramen noodles
pasta
pasta sauce
peanut butter
jelly
cereal
Bisquick
sugar
flour

Bring food donations to Mass and place in the collection bin or drop off items at the parish office during business hours.

Help Homeless Families Through "Just Neighbors"

In 1996, **St. Viator was one of the founding churches to be part of what is now called Family Promise**. Since then, we hosted homeless families in our Parish Center for up to four weeks each year.

When the pandemic hit, Family Promise knew they had to help their families in a safer way and they created "Just Neighbors."

With **Just Neighbors, we will adopt one family at a time and help them get back on their feet**. We will get to know our adopted family and their needs, then do what we can to fill those needs.

At this time, **all our contact with our adopted family will be virtually**, so you can do it from the comfort of your home.

How Can I Or My Family Help?

As you can see, this is an exciting opportunity for individuals and families to live out our faith and help others.

Do you like . . .

. . . talking with people?

. . . working with children?

. . . shopping?

. . . planning and coordinating activities?

then you will be perfect for Just Neighbors!

We are looking for **weekly volunteers: callers**, **organizers of donations**, **tutors for children**, **shoppers**, and **drivers** to deliver items to Family Promise.

If you would like to be part of this exciting new program, email your preferences to ministers@stviator.org.

Everyone dealing directly with the families must receive special training through Family Promise and fulfill the diocesan volunteer requirements.

WELCOME TO OUR FAITH COMMUNITY!

ST. VIATOR PARISH SCHOOL

We believe that investing in your child's future in both spiritual and academic principles, is one of the most important decisions you will ever make.
Whether you are seeking a "school home" for the next 10 years for your Pre-Kindergartener or looking for a warm, safe learning environment for your student, St. Viator Parish School is your Catholic Community.

ADMISSIONS OPEN

PREKINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 8

REGISTRATION FOR 2021 ONGOING

WHY CHOOSE US?

A long tradition of academic excellence and leadership.

A commitment to providing the highest quality of learning in both spiritual and academic principles for all students.

ST. VIATOR SCHOOL

CONTACT:
mjmarlow@stviator.org
stviatorschool.org
702.732.4477 X 100

New Members Welcome!

Registering in a parish is a declaration of your desire to be part of a Catholic community and a commitment to the life of the parish family. To clearly state your Catholic commitment in all its dimensions brings you advantages, recognition, and responsibilities of many kinds. Being a registered parishioner makes things much easier when it is time for infant baptism, school registration, weddings, volunteering for a parish organization, when asked to be a baptism or confirmation sponsor, and even funerals.

We are often asked to provide affidavits for baptism and confirmation sponsors. We can only do this if a person is a registered, active, and contributing member in our parish. How do you know if you are already registered? A registered parishioner receives all parish mailings.

So, are you a registered parishioner? If not, please consider registering. Registration forms are always available online at www.stviator.org and at the parish office.

Viatorian Vocations Corner

Who We Are and Where We Serve...
Walking with Sometimes Accounted of Little Importance

Viatorian ministry and community life prioritizes building relationships and raising communities in which no one is overlooked or forgotten. Maternity BVM Parish in Bourbonnais, IL holds Camp MOSH (Maternity Outreach Service for Humanity) to live this out. Every other summer, parishioners young and old team up to serve together at places like seniors' houses, shelters, and soup kitchens. Each day begins with Mass and breakfast folowed by a day of service at their sites. Pastor Fr. Jason Nesbit, CSV, says the MBVM parishioners are "planting seeds of charity, friendship, and goodness as they go out into the community." We pray this ministry of presence and encounter brings all of society closer together.

2019 participants lead music ministry and serve at an outdoor site.

Viatorians walk with people to discern God's invitation.
vocations@viatorians.com | (847) 894-8537 | @ViatorianUSA

Stewardship Reflection

Branching Out Isn't Always What It's Cracked Up To Be

"That's a really beautiful tree branch. Man, would you look at the bark on that thing? The others are real duds, but that low-hanging branch has really got it all together."

I've never heard anyone say this. Maybe I just need to hang out with more arborists, but I can't recall ever hearing someone admire the particular beauty of a single branch. When someone comments on a tree, it's usually the whole tree — perhaps a visual element of it, like the color of the leaves or its height. But people don't usually zero in on one branch.

Maybe that's because usually, if one branch is looking a little weak, chances are every other branch is, too.

The Bible tells us that when we bear fruit as good everyday stewards, it is for the Father's glory. We are the branch on His magnificent tree. What we have is from Him, and what we do likewise points back to Him. We also tend to reflect how well the other branches around us are incorporating the nutrients coming their way. That's all fine and good in theory. In practice, it can be an arduous exercise in humility.

When I do something virtuous or charitable or kind, there is a part of me that wants to stand out for it. I think that's true for all of us. We've given of ourselves in some way or overcome some human temptation to accomplish a little bit of good in this world, and even though we know God sees us, we'd really love for everyone else to see it, too.

It's a struggle, for sure. But we need to remember that our fruit belongs to the whole tree.

~ Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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Remember - no gift is too small.
Please turn in your pledge card!

Thank you, for your CSA donations!

2019 CSA Assessment:	$129,130
Donations to date:	$152,300

Every dollar over our assessment comes back to our parish!

While parishes rely on the support of parishioners through the weekly offertory collection, the ministry of the Diocese relies on those who participate in the Catholic Stewardship Appeal (CSA) to make possible the many services the church provides.

Each parish, based on its size and income, has a share of the total CSA budget. All money received in excess of the portion each parish is assessed is rebated back to that parish. **This year we will continue to finance security cameras around the church and replace the lights in front of our church entrance doors.**

But even as important as the rebates are, the main purpose of the CSA Campaign is to fund the ministry of the Catholic Church in southern Nevada.

Pastoral outreach

- St. Therese Center which serves those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.
- Catholic Charities helping legal refugees.
- Supporting our retired priests as they age.

Communication Outreach

- Televised Sunday services so that shut-ins and sick members of our faith may hear the Mass.

Faith Formation

- Training future priests and deacons.

Bishop Thomas' 2021 CSA Reflection

Please go to the Diocese of Las Vegas home page for Bishop Thomas' 2021 CSA video
dioceseoflasvegas.org

Office of the Bishop
PHONE: (702) 735-9605
FAX: (702) 735-8941

DECREE

Dispensation from the Obligation to Attend Mass
Extension – April 25, 2021 to May 30, 2021

While I have granted permission to begin the reopening of public Masses, due to the ongoing gravity of the present moment and the restrictions being placed on us during the civil reopening plan, I hereby extend the dispensation for **all Catholic faithful of the Diocese of Las Vegas and those Catholics visiting within the geographic boundaries of our Diocese, from the obligation of attending Sunday Masses and Holy Days of Obligation up to and including Sunday, May 30, 2021.**

While we recognize that many are eager to return to Mass in our churches, it remains important for those who are elderly and otherwise at risk to refrain from returning to public Liturgies until it is manifestly safe to do so. For all the faithful, especially those who are sick, at high risk of becoming sick, and their caregivers, the obligation to attend Mass is hereby dispensed.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ [signature]

Most Reverend George L. Thomas, Ph.D.
Bishop of the Diocese of Las Vegas

Date: April 21, 2021

Diocese of Las Vegas
336 Cathedral Way + Las Vegas, Nevada 89109

Life's emergencies never stop.

Serving with the American Red Cross makes a world of difference to the people of our community.

Es por eso que los voluntarios de la Cruz Roja – quienes representan más de 90% de la fuerza laboral de la Cruz Roja y ayudan para prevenir y aliviar el sufrimiento humano – siempre están listos.

*Usted también puede cambiar vidas al ser un voluntario en una posición que le guste y que le permite usar sus talentos especiales. La Cruz Roja depende de Gente como tú – los cuales ofrecen su tiempo y talentos para ayudarnos a cumplir con nuestra misión de salvar vidas.**

Use your camera to scan the QR code or visit www.redcross.org/volunteer to learn more. Fill-out the online form and one of us will contact you.

American Red Cross
Utah and Nevada Region

*Are you comfortable working in a community that uses both English and Spanish? We have an especially high need for bilingual volunteers.

Thursday, May 6th join in the National Day of Prayer and prayer for our country. Originally signed into law in 1952, National Day of Prayer is a day when people of all faiths are asked to pray for our nation.

Title 36, Section 119 of US law states:
"The President shall issue each year a proclamation designating the first Thursday in May as a National Day of Prayer on which the people of the United States may turn to God in prayer and meditation at churches, in groups, and as individuals."

This year's proclamation from President Biden begins:
"In our times of greatest need, Americans have always turned to prayer to help guide us through trials and periods of uncertainty. As we continue to face the unique challenges posed by the coronavirus pandemic, millions of Americans are unable to gather in their churches, temples, synagogues, mosques, and other houses of worship. But in this time we must not cease asking God for added wisdom, comfort, and strength, and we must especially pray for those who have suffered harm or who have lost loved ones. I ask you to join me in a day of prayer for all people who have been affected by the coronavirus pandemic and to pray for God's healing hand to be placed on the people of our Nation."

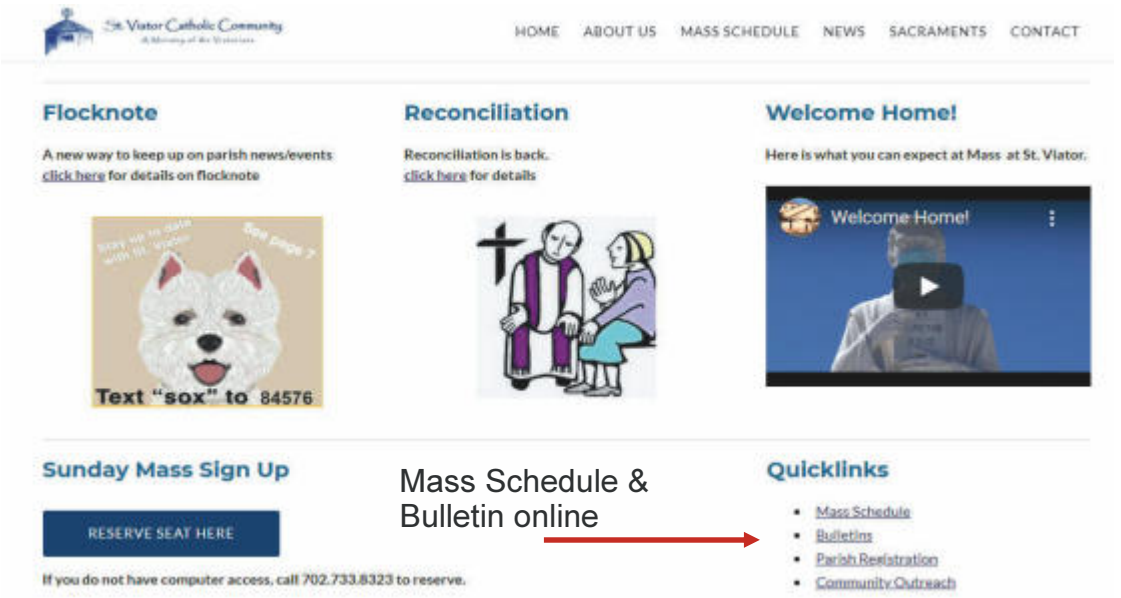
STAY CONNECTED!

Whatever your favorite social media platform - you can stay connected with St. Viator!

St. Viator Catholic Community

@stviatorlasvegas

www.stviator.org



Flocknote

And now you can receive text messages from our parish with the latest Mass schedule and other important news by joining flocknote.

Just text "sox" to 84576

Gospel Reflection

"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 real 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. But 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. And, 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.

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Readings of the Week

SUNDAY, MAY 2

Acts 9:26-31
Psalms 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32 [26a]
1 John 3:18-24
John 15:1-8

MONDAY, MAY 3

1 Corinthians 15:1-8
Psalms 19:2-3, 4-5 [5]
John 14:6-14

TUESDAY, MAY 4

Acts 14:19-28
Psalms 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21 [cf. 12]
John 14:27-31a

WEDNESDAY, MAY 5

Acts 15:1-6
Psalms 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5 [cf. 1]
John 15:1-8

THURSDAY, MAY 6

Acts 15:7-21
Psalms 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10 [3]
John 15:9-11

FRIDAY, MAY 7

Acts 15:22-31
Psalms 57:8-9, 10 and 12 [10a]
John 15:12-17

SATURDAY, MAY 8

Acts 16:1-10
Psalms 100:1b-2, 3, 5
John 15:18-21

SUNDAY, MAY 9

Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48
Psalms 98:1, 2-3, 3-4 [cf. 2b]
1 John 4:7-10
John 15:9-17

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Diocese of Las Vegas
Most Reverend George Leo Thomas, Ph.D.

Diocese of Reno
Bishop Randolph Calvo,

April 13, 2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

There are two bills in the Nevada legislature which would make doctor prescribed suicide legal in our state. Although there are differences in SB 105 and AB 351 each provides that if a patient has been diagnosed with a medical condition which may be terminal within six months, the treating physician is required to inform the patient that they may request their doctor to prescribe suicide pills.

In states such as Oregon and California, which have enacted doctor prescribed suicide, some medical insurance companies have refused to approve medical procedures requested by physicians, and have instead informed the treating physician that the insurance company will only approve prescribing the suicide pills. What will the insurance companies do next? Will the insurance companies deny treatment to people with medical conditions, or disabilities, which would be fatal without expensive medical procedures, and, instead, only offer to pay for the suicide pills? Will the elderly be denied potential lifesaving treatments, and be offered the choice to take a deadly poison, so they "won't" be a burden on their family? Stated differently, will the "right to die", turn into a "duty to die"?

What impact would these bills have on young people struggling with emotional issues and considering suicide. What about persons battling depression or suffering from traumatic brain injury? What is the message to our veterans, who are dealing with post-traumatic stress disorder? Do SB 105 and AB 351 send our veterans the message that suicide is an acceptable alternative? In Oregon, the total suicide rate has increased by more than twice the national suicide rate since physician assisted suicide was passed.

The proponents of SB 105 and AB 351 view these laws as progress. We believe that legalizing physician assisted suicide in Nevada will lead to the same issues which now plague Oregon and California.

We ask for your help in making our legislators understand the Church's position on physicians assisted suicide. Please make your opposition on SB 105 and AB 351 clear to Nevada Legislators by following the instructions in the attachments.

Please also call your Senator and Assemblyperson and leave a message that you oppose SB 105 and AB 351. Thank you.

In Christ,

+ George Leo Thomas

Bishop Randolph R. Calvo
Diocese of Reno

Bishop George Leo Thomas, Ph.D.
Diocese of Las Vegas