St. Mary Great Mother of God Catholic Church

We Welcome You!

May 16, 2021

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Website: stmarylowell.com

Fr. Aaron Ferris,
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Rhonda Fitzpatrick,
Parish Secretary and Business Manager
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Jennie Forney
Director of Religious Ed.
stmarylowelldre@att.net

The Parish Office is open
Monday-Thursday
8:00 am to 4:30 pm

Masses:
Daily Mass 7:45 am
Saturday 8:30 am
Saturday 5:00 pm
Sunday 10:30 am & Noon

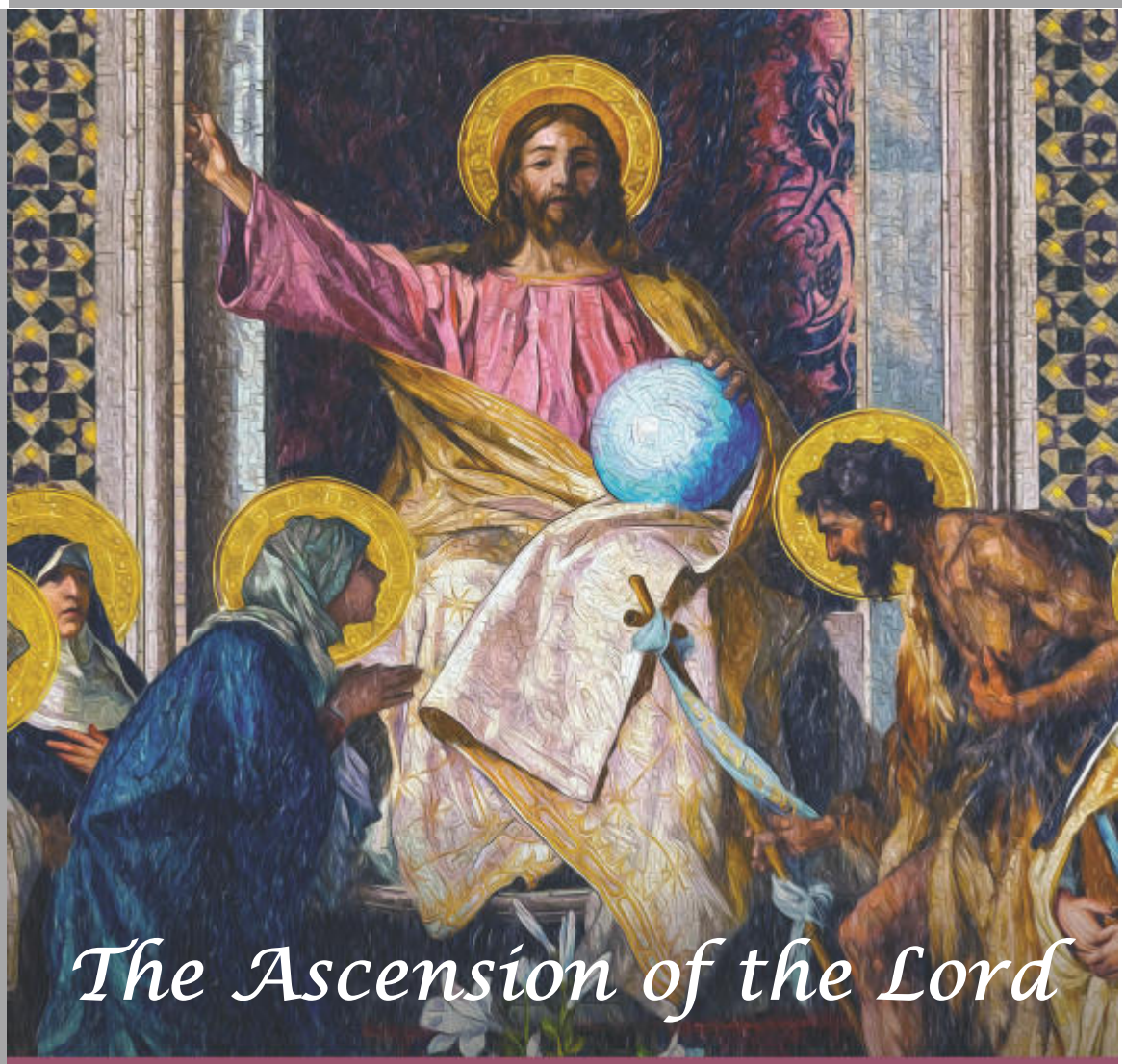
Please wear a mask.

Adoration:
Wednesdays
8:15 a.m. to 6:45 p.m.

Confession:
Wednesdays 5-6p.m.
Saturdays **3-4:30 p.m.**

Or by appointment

For other Sacraments please call the office



The Ascension of the Lord

7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

"I do not ask that you take them out of the world but that you keep them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. Consecrate them in the truth. Your word is truth." - Jn 17:15-17

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

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Masses for the week of May 17, 2021

Mon	May 17	7:45 am	Mass-for Thomas & Maureen Pfaller
Tue	May 18	No Mass today	
Wed	May 19	7:45 am	Mass-for the repose of the soul of Larry Mikulski
		8:15 am to 6:45 am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Thurs	May 20	7:45 am	Mass-for the repose of the soul of Paul Ebel
Fri	May 21	7:45 am	Mass-for our graduating seniors
Sat	May 22	8:30 am	For the perseverance of priests and religious
		5:00 pm	Mass-for a special intention
Sun	May 23	10:30 am	Pentecost—Mass -for all parishioners
		Noon	Pentecost- Mass-for all parishioners

Volunteer Opportunity: We are need of more lectors to join our schedule. If you can help, please contact the parish office.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR WEEKEND OF May 22 & 23

	Saturday 5:00 pm	Sunday 10:30 am	Sunday Noon
Lectors	**Christie Huhn**	**Lisa Mills**	**Deb Schultz**
Ex. Ministers of Holy Communion	**Rhonda Fitzpatrick**	**Neil Mills**	
Green Acres/Homebound	**Barb Boland**		
Flowers	**Beth Pfaller**		

Collection for 5/2/2021

Children's	**$00.00**
Loose	**$1833.00**
Adult Envelope	**$4873.00**
Total	**$6706.00**

Needed for Budget: $5500.00

Thank you for your generosity!

Vacation Bible School will be held in-person this summer!! We will be meeting outside from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. on June 21st - June 23rd. In the event of rain, we will cancel and make up the day on June 24th. Online registration is available on the parish website: stmarylowell.com, for both VBS kids and volunteers. We will be following diocesan COVID guidelines.

Attention graduating high school seniors! Father will be giving a blessing to graduates at the weekend Masses on May 22nd-May23rd. Please email Jennie at stmarylowelldre@gmail.com to let her know what Mass you will be attending.

Happy Birthday!!

5/18	James Breimayer
5/19	Ryan Nelson, Chiara Schmitz
5/20	Hanna Halfmann
5/23	William Poelma

Pentecost Celebration: All are invited to join us outside after all Masses next weekend on Pentecost (May 22-23) for cake and ice cream to celebrate the birthday of the church.

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME

Where do you get the best night's sleep? For me, it's in my own bed. I don't even really know why. There's something about the texture of the sheets, the groove I've worn in the pillow. The mattress seems to recognize my shape. I've got a job that sees me traveling often and I've stayed in plenty of nice places. But there's just no sleep like the sleep you get at home.

There's a feeling that we have when we're at home. Our bodies seem to recognize it when we walk in the door. There's a relaxation that kicks in, a peace that falls over us. I think that's what Heaven will be like. It won't be pleasure or happiness — those words aren't enough to describe what it feels like to be at home, are they? It's more than that.

If you ever wonder why there is pain in this world, it's because we're not at home.

That's not to say we don't belong here. Through God's mercy, this beautiful world is where we live out our earthly existence, and those existences can be filled with amazing relationships and profound experiences. In fact, we might enjoy our time here so much that we don't want to leave.

But there's a reason this life has so many things that don't make sense: loss, fear, anger, sickness, hatred. It's because we weren't made for this place. For our souls, it's like a never-ending night in a hotel bed.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THE LETTERS THAT PROFESSED RELIGIOUS HAVE AFTER THEIR NAMES?

The Catholic Church includes hundreds of religious communities. The priests, religious brothers, religious sisters, and nuns of these communities (which are often referred to as "religious orders") are committed to particular spiritual traditions and often to a particular charism (such as teaching, healthcare, social work, or pastoral care).

To help identify a person as a member of a particular religious community, the custom developed of including post-nominal letters that provide a sort of shorthand for the name of the community that the priest, brother, sister or nun is part of. So, for example OSB after a person's name would indicate that they are a member of the Order of St. Benedict (the Benedictines), just as SJ would indicate that a priest or brother is a member of the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits) or RSM would show that a woman is a Sister of Mercy.

Other common examples include:

DC = Daughters of Charity

FSC = The Brothers of the Christian Schools/ Christian Brothers

OCist = The Order of Cistercians

OCD = Order of Discalced Carmelites

OFM = The Order of Friars Minor (the Franciscans)

OFM Cap = The Capuchin Franciscans

OP = The Order of Preachers (Dominicans)

OSF=Franciscan Sisters

SC = Sisters of Charity

SDS = Society of the Divine Savior (Salvatorian Priests and Brothers and Salvatorian Sisters)

SSND = School Sisters of Notre Dame

SVD = Society of the Divine Word (Divine Word Missionaries)

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Rest in Peace-for our deceased & their loved ones; All of our fallen heroes and the faithful departed. **Support Prayer for comfort & healing to those who are ill or injured, for the homebound & for caregivers and those in the Military**; all those affected by the Corona Virus, Shirley Patrick, June Serne, Denise Washburn(Rog & Kathy Southland's daughter) Larry Mikulski, Kathy Noskey, Pat O'Connor, Jim Roskamp, Jeff Bowles, Christy Myles, Betsy Davidson (Dennis Dommer's daughter), Donna Roskamp, Dave & Martha Roskamp, Tim Hufstader, Gertrude Zygaj, Anna Organek, the unemployed, Michigan's economy, and war wounded, justice and peace in the world, and for all priests and religious, and the Holy Catholic Church.

LIVE THE LITURGY

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

When Jesus was physically with his disciples, he guarded and protected them. One of his greatest desires was that they share his joy completely. God's love is the source of all things and their sustenance. As we conduct the normal routines of our lives it is easy to get caught up in the immediacies of this world and lose focus. We become very self and worldly dependent, forgetting that God wishes to guard and protect us. The joy the resurrected Christ can offer cannot be found in this world. It takes a bit of faith to realize that God's will is a constant in our lives and that God desires only the sustenance and goodness of both our bodies and our souls. We need to trust in God's constant and rejuvenating love. This radical resurrection trust allows us to experience the joy of God's presence in all of the good and the bad, positive and negative, life building and life destructive events that we encounter. God remains where love remains.

"Wherever heresy has arisen it has first attacked the worship of the Blessed Sacrament and devotion to our Blessed Lady, wishing to begin its work of destruction by closing these two sources of divine grace."-- **Saint Mary Euphrasia Pelletier**

Thank you to all who ordered SCRIP last weekend; we raised $150 at no additional cost to you! God bless you for participating in this program!

Next week is Pentecost, the "birthday of the Church". Let's fill our church with the colors of fire-- the first manifestation of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles-- by dressing for Mass in reds, oranges and yellows.

7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER ©LPi

As we continue to reflect on the return to normal that we all hope for, it is good to pause for a moment and take stock of something. We have been doing a lot of reflection on what we are looking forward to, what we want to be different, how we have changed over the past year, and so on. These are important reflections so that we can be intentional about moving forward.

In the midst of these reflections, we need to pause for a moment and consider our emotions. Life is laden with emotions, both positive and negative (though I don't like calling them that). Emotions are part of who we are, part of how we experience life, the world, and other people. Emotions are attached to all parts of our lives. If we want to be intentional about moving forward, then we need to be attentive to our emotions.

In part, we need to be attentive to our emotions because they don't change overnight. That is not entirely true, of course, because emotions can change very quickly. However, emotions can also become more or less stable dispositions. If someone has been living in fear and anxiety for over a year, that is probably not going to disappear overnight. If someone has been angry with family and neighbors because of how people have been acting over the past months, that won't necessarily change overnight.

Undoubtedly, we all want to be ready for the day when restrictions are lifted and we can return to something more normal. We all want to be able to rejoice and celebrate that. To be ready, though, we do need to take stock of our emotions. What might need to be addressed in our hearts so that when the day arrives we can celebrate in joy and be with others in peace?
--Fr. Ferris

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE
May 16, 2021
Seventh Sunday of Easter

God remains where love remains. When a believer realizes without doubt that God is love, it is a powerful moment. Being able to place our resurrection trust in this fundamental truth allows us to experience God's presence in all of our experiences: the good and the bad, positive and negative, life enriching and destructive events we encounter. It is no wonder that St. Paul so accurately tells us that it is love that endures all things and lasts. How can God not endure or ever fade away? Because he is God, Jesus also guarded and protected his disciples as the endearing shepherd who always had their best interest at heart.

If we become too immersed in the world, we lose touch with these deeper realities. We can become so preoccupied with preserving what we have created or think that we need, forgetting that it is not building our city that really matters, but God's. Jesus clearly did not belong to the world and, by virtue of his resurrection, he tries to get us to understand that we do not either. The truth brings us to other worldly, more divine places and takes our eyes off of the concerns that often captivate our fears and storm our senses.

Life can easily erode our faith. Think of your life over the last couple of weeks. What challenged your faith and distracted your divine glance? Even being overly stimulated with technology and social media can erode our sense of confidence and cause us to forget who we really are. We need to distance ourselves from the world in order to experience the joy that Christ offers. The world will never like the word of God. It is too challenging and too perplexing. The world mistakenly believes that it can survive on its own. It is a mistaken judgment that may cost people a lot in the end. It is all so very simple: God remains when we love one another. If in all the business of our lives and all that each day brings, the good and the bad, we follow the call and path of love, we will walk with God. There is nothing to fear and anxiety finds no home. ©LPi

The month of May is dedicated to our Blessed Mother Mary. All are invited to pray the Rosary one half an hour before the weekend Masses during this month. Rosary leaders are needed. Please call Beth at 897-5771 if you would be available to lead even one Rosary before the weekend Mass you attend. **To Jesus through Mary!**

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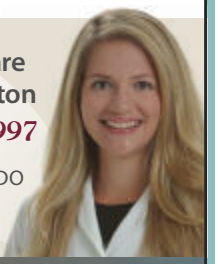
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