

# ST. MARY CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

518 South 2nd Street; PO Box 847; Gutenberg, Iowa 52052

Newsletter: May 21, 2020

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## Where do we go from here?

With all of the uncertainty of the pandemic, many people are fearful of what might lie ahead. They don't know where to go from here or how to move forward. This weekend's scriptures give us the guidance we are seeking ...

Focus on Knowing God:

In the Second Reading we are encouraged to Focus on Knowing God. Ephesians 1:17 prays that God "give you a Spirit of wisdom and revelation resulting in knowledge of Him." By knowing God, we will be able to discern His guidance for us during this time of uncertainty.

Anticipate the Holy Spirit:

In the First Reading Jesus has told his disciples to stay in Jerusalem and anticipate the coming of the Holy Spirit. Jesus then goes on to tell us in Acts 1:8 "you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you". We too need to look with anticipation for the Spirit's coming so that He can fill our hearts with a passion for God's purpose in our life rather than having a fear of the unknown.

Witness for Jesus:

A key message of both the First Reading as well as the Gospel is that once you have received the Holy Spirit you will "be my witnesses ... to the ends of the earth." With all of the fear, unknown, and confusion in today's world because of this virus it is more important than at any other time in our life that we boldly witness to Jesus' saving power and positive impact in our life in order to help others lessen their fears, recognize God in their own life, and draw them closer to Jesus.

## Focus, Anticipate, Witness

Dear God ... Help our people recognize a way forward in their lives this week by helping them Focus on knowing you, Anticipate the coming of the Holy Spirit, and fearlessly Witness to your power and love in their life so that more people are drawn to you. I pray this in Jesus' name.

Fr. Marvin Bries

### Streaming Live Sunday Mass

Guttenberg Channel 6 and Facebook

**Sunday, May 24: 10 AM**

**Sunday, May 31: 10 AM**

**Sunday, June 7: 10 AM**

Archbishop Jackels has announced that starting May 30/31, Pentecost Sunday, the parishes in the Archdiocese of Dubuque are able to gather for outreach to the poor, for faith formation programs, and for the public celebration of Mass and Sacraments. Thanks be to God! We will be asked to wear masks, practice social distancing and for Holy Communion to receive the Host in the hand.

### **A Prayer for all Graduates**

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*  
- [Jeremiah 29:11](#)

Dear God, we thank you that you have indeed given our children great hope and a future. We pray for the days you have purposed for them to walk in, every single one, and ask you to fill them with your spirit and power as they live out their destiny. We ask that you inspire them to never be afraid to dream big, run strong, and soar high.

We pray that nothing be allowed to hold them back in this life. May they fulfill every calling you have on their lives. Would you strengthen them to live a life of so much love, passion, influence, hope, and determination that this world is changed for the better. May they always know that anything is possible for him who believes, for our God is always greater. May they have a deep desire to serve faithfully and a heart to work hard. Shine over them. Fill them with your spirit. Bless them with your favor and peace. In Jesus' name, amen.

~ by Debbie McDaniel



1. Drop off at parish office
2. Mail to the parish office(address above)
3. Donate Online:

[maryicjoseph.weshareonline.org/](http://maryicjoseph.weshareonline.org/)

**Thank you for the generous gifts we have received this past month!**

**Mass Readings for May 24, 2020, The Ascension**

**Reading 1 [Acts 1:1-11](#)** In the first book, Theophilus, I dealt with all that Jesus did and taught until the day he was taken up, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. He presented himself alive to them by many proofs after he had suffered, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While meeting with them, he enjoined them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for “the promise of the Father about which you have heard me speak; for John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” When they had gathered together they asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” He answered them, “It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has established by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” When he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight. While they were looking intently at the sky as he was going, suddenly two men dressed in white garments stood beside them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will return in the same way as you have seen him going into heaven.”

**Responsorial Psalm [Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9](#)**

**R.** God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

All you peoples, clap your hands, shout to God with cries of gladness, For the LORD, the Most High, the awesome, is the great king over all the earth. /**R**/

God mounts his throne amid shouts of joy; the LORD, amid trumpet blasts. Sing praise to God, sing praise; sing praise to our king, sing praise. /**R**/

For king of all the earth is God; sing hymns of praise. God reigns over the nations, God sits upon his holy throne. /**R**/

**Reading 2 [Eph 1:17-23](#)** Brothers and sisters: May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a Spirit of wisdom and revelation resulting in knowledge of him. May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened, that you may know what is the hope that belongs to his call, what are the riches of glory in his inheritance among the holy ones, and what is the surpassing greatness of his power for us who believe, in accord with the exercise of his great might, which he worked in Christ, raising him from the dead and seating him at his right hand in the heavens, far above every principality, authority, power, and dominion, and every name that is named not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things beneath his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of the one who fills all things in every way.

Alleluia [Mt 28:19a, 20b](#)

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.** Go and teach all nations, says the Lord; I am with you always, until the end of the world. **R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Gospel [Mt 28:16-20](#)** The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them. When they saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted. Then Jesus approached and said to them, “All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”

**Spiritual Communion Prayer**

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally,

Come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace you as if you were already there

And unite myself wholly to you.

Never permit me to be separated from you.

Amen.

“Reflect, today, upon the abiding and intimate presence of our Lord in your life. Know that Jesus invites you to share in His mission. From His glorious throne He wants us to “preach everywhere.” He wants to invite each one of us to do our part. The part of the Father’s plan entrusted to each one of us is not entrusted to another. We all have a share in that plan. What is your part? How does Jesus direct His mission through you? Ponder this question today and know that He accompanies you as you say “Yes” to your part in the glorious unfolding of His perfect plan.

*Lord, I do find that my life is filled with many ups, downs, twists and turns. There are joys and sorrows, moments of confusion and clarity. In all things help me to continually say “Yes” to Your plan. Jesus, I trust in You.”* Excerpt from catholic-daily-reflections

What do you call a snake that is exactly 3.14 meters long? ~ A π thon!

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