



St. Mary of Vernon Catholic Church

236 US Hwy 45
Indian Creek, Illinois 60061

The Ascension of the Lord

May 24, 2020

Welcome!

*We are pleased that you have come
to worship with us.*

*The doors and hearts of
our parish family of faith are
always open, and we invite you to
contact us at any time:*

Parish Office:
847-362-1005

Fax:
847-362-6375

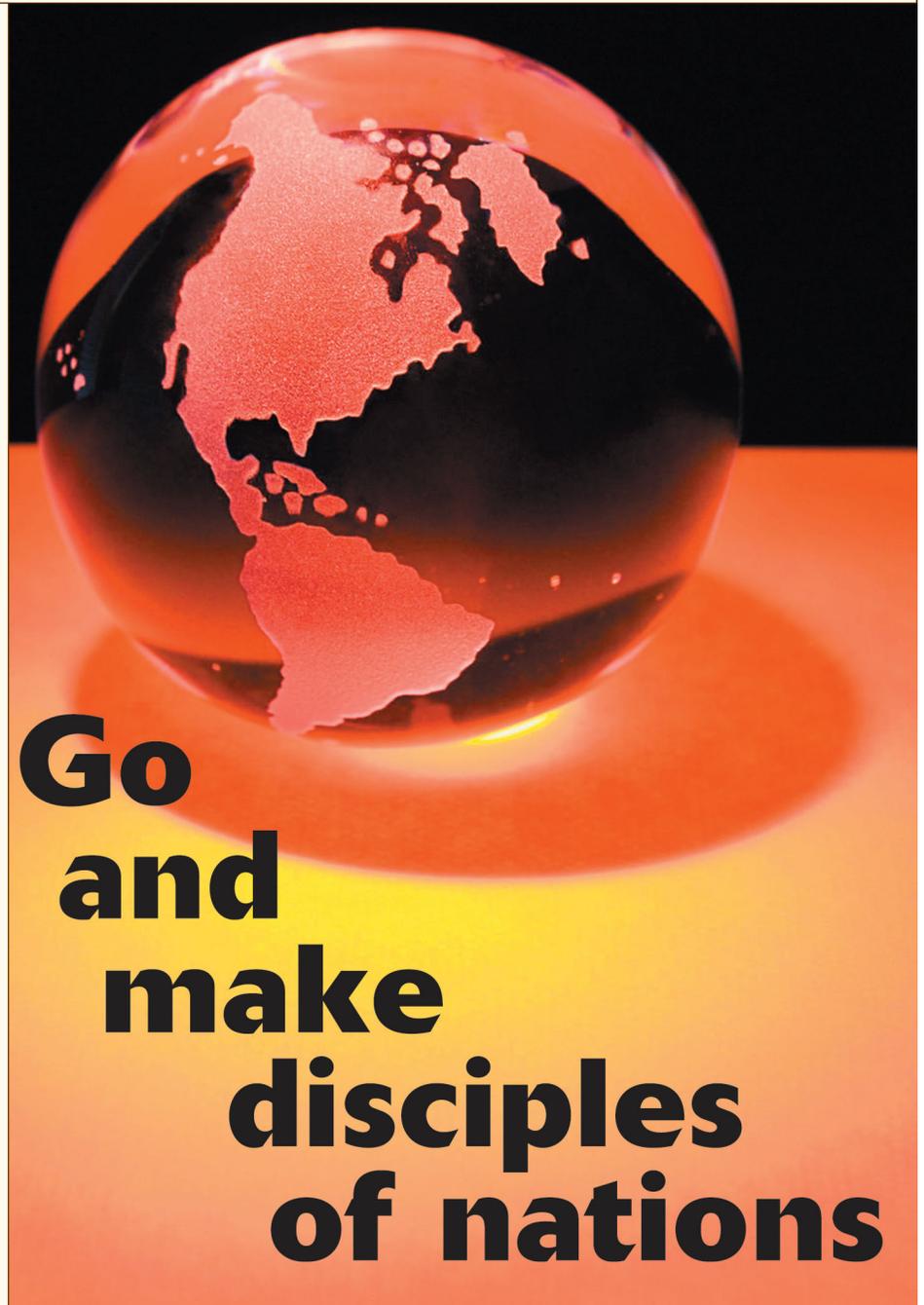
Religious Education:
847-362-0653

Youth Ministry:
847-362-1021

Parish Website:
www.maryofvernon.org



Assistive Listening Devices are available at the Reception Desk in the Church Narthex. Please ask the receptionist for more information.



Go and make disciples of nations

Parish Office Hours:

CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

SMV MASSES LIVE-STREAMED ON FACEBOOK!

Until the quarantine ends, St. Mary of Vernon weekend Masses will be celebrated on Saturday evenings at 7 p.m. on Facebook.

Go to St. Mary of Vernon FB Page. [Facebook.com/maryofvernon](https://www.facebook.com/maryofvernon). It is not necessary to have a Facebook account in order to view these events. Simply go to www.facebook.com/maryofvernon from any internet browser. When prompted to sign in or create an account, click “not now.” This should give you access to all our public posts, including the livestreamed Mass. Select “videos” on the left, and choose the one you wish to view.

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

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 into 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.

Chat with Friends on Zoom after Mass!

Grab your own decaf beverage (did someone say wine?) or dessert and join your parish friends for an informal chat immediately following our Livestream Mass. You may even meet someone new! Hosted by Maureen Evers, Pastoral Associate.

Saturdays from 8-8:30pm

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78922076333?pwd=MkN1TkhaSTISZklYMURxUGFFNGVyQT09>

Meeting ID: 789 2207 6333 Password: 7X9L5W

If you need help getting started on Zoom, just email Maureen at mevers@maryofvernon.org to set up a time for tech assistance.

RCIA –Formation Continues

The St. Mary of Vernon RCIA group continues to meet virtually each week while we comply with stay-at-home directives. The Archdiocese is still formulating plans for how we will be able to celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation once larger gatherings are allowed. Planning includes options or recommendations for

- A series of Scrutiny rituals (to replace those normally celebrated in Lent)
- The baptism of the Elect
- The reception of baptized non-Catholics (which can be done at any time during the year)
- Baptized Catholics completing their initiation

We are looking forward to the day when we can meet as a community to celebrate the Eucharist together and welcome Jessica, our Elect, and Hannah, our Candidate, into full participation of the Sacraments and unity with our community of faith.

The RCIA team continues to invite all our parishioners and guests to continue praying for Jessica, Hannah, and for Peyton, and Bryan – our Inquirers; we also encourage prayers for our neighbors who are being called back to the Church, and all those who are seeking to better understand their relationship with God. And we ask you to join us in prayer for all who have perished in wars and all who have fought bravely for our freedom as we celebrate Memorial Day.

Individuals who would like to know more about the Catholic Faith can connect with someone on our RCIA team for basic information or to set up an appointment to discuss specific questions or goals; contact Maureen Evers (847-362-1005 or mevers@maryofvernon.org) or Mark Zwolski (847-644-7073 or mrzwolski@gmail.com).

Evangelizing with Words

Today we hear Jesus' final commandment to "make disciples of all nations...teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." (Mt 28:20) This is a prophetic mission shared by all Catholics, one that has "peculiar efficacy" when lay people exercise it with "word and testimony of life." (Catholic Catechism 905)

For me, the commandment to use my mouth, to actually evangelize with words, is difficult. I grew up thinking it was impolite to talk about my religion. But if one never uses words, one cannot obey Christ's order to teach his commandments.

Experience has shown me three ways of evangelizing with words without getting a masters in theology, joining a study program or becoming offensive.

Family: My mother started teaching me about God when I was three years old. I think that was because I was already a committed candy thief. By my fourth birthday, I knew something about the Holy Family, Christmas, Easter, the Mass and heaven. This was a great help for me several weeks later when she unexpectedly died. Later, grandparents, my father, a cousin and then my stepmother continued my education. Catholic school supplemented my relatives; it did not replace them as my teachers.

Now some of the best evangelists I know are my children and their spouses. I am also constantly impressed by the men I see in Knights of Columbus, witnessing their faith to children and grandchildren through their words, their charitable deeds, and their sacramental lives.

Our children's characters are largely formed in the first five years of life. Children hunger for important information. Feed them! The best instruction starts with our prayers. Then get a Bible and a Catechism, and you are well on your way.

Our children and grandchildren will be attentive students. They will pick out hypocrisy, but imperfect teachers get by so long as they are sincere. Evangelizing children turns the whole family into better people.

Prayer: Eighteen years ago, I was on a plane flight to Rome when the man sitting next to me made the sign of the cross and said a silent grace before eating his dinner. In years of travel, I had never seen this. I talked to the man and learned that he had been a member of South Africa's 1960 Olympic team. Does it take the courage of a prize fighter to make a silent sign of the cross?

Wherever we are, blessing our meals should be automatic, but it becomes both a polite and profound "testimony of life and word" when we do it in public. When I do this with my family and friends, it brings us closer together for the entire meal. When I am alone, it has frequently led a stranger, usually an employee or manager, to come over and begin a conversation about faith.

Then, there is another way to evangelize with prayer. People are happy to ask for prayers, and they frequently say they will pray for one. Take the next step. Don't let the prayer promise become another casual "see you later" or "good luck" sign off. Ask the person if you could offer a prayer with them right then. A short sincere prayer, and your testimony has brought both of you closer to God.

Church: In those restaurant conversations I have after saying grace, I have twice met waitresses who converted because they visited Marytown and experienced the presence of God. Three members of my extended family began their conversions because of the feelings they had when they first came into a Catholic Church. One visit was made during Mass, but the other visits were quiet experiences of the Real Presence. In every case, evangelization was a simple invitation. Then God did the work.

And knowing that it is God who completes the work makes this all much easier.



BIBLE STUDY WITH FR. IGNATIUS IS CONTINUING!

Please check our website, www.maryofvernon.org, for dates and Zoom meeting codes, which change from week to week.



Need a little spiritual pick-me-up during these trying times? Then join the Knights from St. Mary of Vernon in daily prayer, gospel readings, intercessions, and the rosary. These will be “virtual” sessions offered via ZOOM; all you need is a computer with a built-in camera and microphone to participate in the comfort of your own home.

Sessions began Wednesday, April 1st at 7 PM and will continue during the mandated “stay-at-home” order. Attend daily or when your schedule permits. The Knights can also help you get setup with a free subscription to ZOOM if you require some assistance. If you are interested or have questions please contact Eric Fernandes.

AERICFERNANDES@YAHOO.COM 847-791-3911

THE 2020 ST. MARY OF VERNON RUMMAGE SALE HAS BEEN CANCELLED

SHARING HANDS IS HERE TO HELP

We hope our parish family knows about the great work of our **Sharing Hands Ministry**. Through the generosity of our parishioners, we have a fully stocked food pantry that is available to anyone in our parish community who is in need.

We know many local companies and businesses are closing for an undetermined period of time and many workers will be out of work without pay. We are here to help. If your family or a neighbor needs food due to this pandemic our pantry is available to you. Sharing Hands is open Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00pm and Saturday mornings from 9am to 11am. Distribution of food has been modified to put space between each guest and maintain best practices for social distancing. **If you would like to donate food to Sharing Hands, please come during their regular hours and volunteers will accept it from you.**

For more information you can call the parish office at 847-362-1005 (leave a message if we are not there) or by email to: smv@maryofvernon.org.

This is a difficult time for everyone and your parish is available to help. Let's keep each other in prayer.

PREP News . . .



First, we want to thank you for being a part of the PREP program. Passing on the faith to our children and inviting them into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ is the best gift we can ever give someone, as it opens the door to eternity.

As you may well know, Governor Pritzker has extended the stay-at-home-order for the state of Illinois until May 30, 2020. Due to this new executive order, the summer PREP program has been canceled. We do recognize this decision will impact the children enrolled in the program. However, the safety and protection of the children, catechists and parish staff is our top priority.

For those families who had registered for the Summer Program:

We can accommodate the summer PREP students into the school year program. The days and times are posted on the PREP page of the SMV parish website at: www.maryofvernon.org. Please notify Mary Winegard as to your preference for either Sundays or Mondays as soon as possible at mwinegard@maryofvernon.org.

For those families who have not yet registered:

We would GREATLY appreciate it if you have not already registered your children for PREP, that you would do so now. With the influx of this additional group of students, we need to plan accordingly. We will be reevaluating how we use the building, the size of the classes and how many more catechists and assistants we will need.

You can find the registration form on the PREP page of the St. Mary of Vernon website at www.maryofvernon.org. You can download the e-form, complete it and then print or you may also hand print the form as well. Please be sure to complete both the front and back of the form.

Once the form is completed, please mail the form to the parish as we are not open due to the stay at home order. As such, we are not available to take credit or debit card payments at this time.

Please submit both the registration form and either a personal check or a note that you have a payment plan on Give Central for the tuition.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns. Again, we thank you for your consideration and cooperation. We look forward to seeing you all once again. Let us continue to raise each other up in prayers.



UPDATES FROM LAKE COUNTY UNITED

First, the Lake County CoVid19 webpage now has a listing of all food pantries in Lake County. Not all of them require registration or even identification.

In addition, a new program called "CATCH" - Community Action to Counter Hunger - is working with the Northern Illinois Food Bank to ensure food is delivered to those unable to get out of the house or unable to have groceries delivered. This is especially useful going forward as there are long wait times (days-week) to have food delivered or even ready for pick up at the grocery stores. Add to this the fact that we may experience more serious food shortages in the coming month, and this new resource becomes especially valuable. This program is just getting underway and we will have more information next week; in the meantime, those interested in this program should contact the 211 center for more details and registration.

The second item of note is that the county is now looking to develop a database of Hispanic- and African-Americans citizens in order to reach out to the communities directly. Our parish may have already heard from J. Ashworth regarding this project. For further information, our parish staff can contact jashworth@lakecountyil.gov. We will continue to keep all updated on this.

Finally, the county has its first testing facility. The testing facility is located at the State Vehicle Emissions Testing Site, on Western Avenue, in Waukegan. It will only have access to the molecular test (nasal swab) results will be available in 5-7 days, and there will only be 500 tests given per day. The best part is that people will not need a doctor's order for the test. If someone has the symptoms, they will be allowed to test. Also, high-risk groups such as medical professionals, first responders, and essential workers, are permitted to be tested without symptoms. The Illinois National Guard will be administering these tests. If anyone is interested in reading all the information from every conference call, they can be accessed at <https://lakecountyil.gov/4428/conference-calls>.

The Ascension of the Lord TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

There was a curious custom years ago that perhaps developed in an age when Easter was seen less as a baptismal season than as a kind of tour through the deeds of the Risen Christ. The paschal candle, sign of Christ's presence, was removed from public view on Ascension Thursday, banished to the baptistery.

Ascension day does speak of the hidden aspects of Christ's life among us, but it does not have much to do with God's absence. Christ has not shed his human life like an inconvenient shell, but rather has taken humanity into heaven. The theologian Karl Rahner said that it is a festival of "the nearness of God." In vanishing from our sight, Christ has become utterly available to all at every time and every place, and is "closer to us than he ever was."

Today is the feast of believing that beyond our final breath is a presence that waits for us, a banquet prepared, a tender homecoming embrace. Rahner said that today is a festival of the future of the world, a day for anticipating the world's true destiny, and therefore hardly a day to be going around hiding candles!

Seventh Sunday of Easter TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

In the Easter season until now, we have heard accounts of the Risen Lord's appearances to his disciples, sometimes individually, but most often when they are assembled together, and very often at meals. Now they are faced with the mystery of the Lord's disappearance from their sight, coupled with a deepening awareness of his constant presence.

We recall the days when the church took shape from the quality of relationships forged among the first disciples through their following of Christ. From then on, they are meant to be the sign of Christ's presence in the world. As we, the baptized, gather week by week, we too are shaped into a sacrament of God's justice for the world. Like the first disciples, we too are "works in progress," unfinished works of art. Many of us are splashed with water at the beginning of Mass in this season, an effective and refreshing wake-up call for us to engage ever more fully with our baptism. We are nearing the end of ninety days of renewal. Lent and Easter are drawing to a rousing close. Has Christ "Eastered" in you yet?

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



ATTENTION TEENS (& PARENTS):

Thousands of teenagers from across the country are gathering on Sunday nights for the **BIGGEST YOUTH NIGHT EVER**. It's called ProjectYM Live and each week it'll feature some of the biggest speakers and worship leaders in the Catholic youth ministry world – last week they had **OVER TEN THOUSAND** students participate.

Our parish is signed up to participate – all you need to do is head to WWW.PROJECTYM.COM/WATCH this Sunday at 7pm Central.

Two quick notes:

The broadcast starts at 7pm CDT, but plan to have your student log in a few minutes early to make sure they're on when it starts.

They can access the event on any device with a web browser – but the faster the connection, the better. Hope you will join us!!

BULLETIN INFORMATION UPDATES

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic information has been changing almost hourly. While we are making every attempt to keep information current it is sometimes impossible. We will be sending out the weekly **epost**, (more often if necessary) and will keep our website updated as often as we can. Please check it often. **To add your name to the ePost distribution list, contact swogan@maryofvernon.org.**

Since the parish offices are closed the best way to leave a message is through email to: smv@maryofvernon.org. It is monitored daily.

A Fast Way to Support SMV

Announcing a new fast way to make contributions to St. Mary of Vernon—Text-to-Give through Give Central. Right now it is available to use for Easter, Sunday and the Building Maintenance Fund. Using the phone number in the article to the right you can use the following words:

Donate— to make a donation to the Sunday Offering

Maintain—to make a donation to the Maintenance Fund

If you already have a Give Central account it will take you right there. If you are new to Give Central there will be a place to enroll.

Any issues, email sgray@maryofvernon.org



Please join us as we prepare for the splendor and joy of Easter

St Mary of Vernon

Help us keep in touch with you!

Our text-to-give number is **312-313-6152**

Text **'EASTER'** to make a gift
Text **'QUICK'** to update your contact information



THE REFLECTION TRAIL

Anyone who has a mind to take a walk to the back end of our Reflection Trail now will see the amazing beauty of Spring ephemerals. The Gerry Rodell Memorial Woodland Garden is behind the basketball courts in the north-west corner of the trail. It used to be filled with invasive buckthorn and garlic mustard. Now it is filled with more than two dozen different kinds of native plants that are beautiful in the springtime. I hope you will take the time to enjoy its beauty.

—Mike Lawler



Virginia Bluebells



Wood Poppies



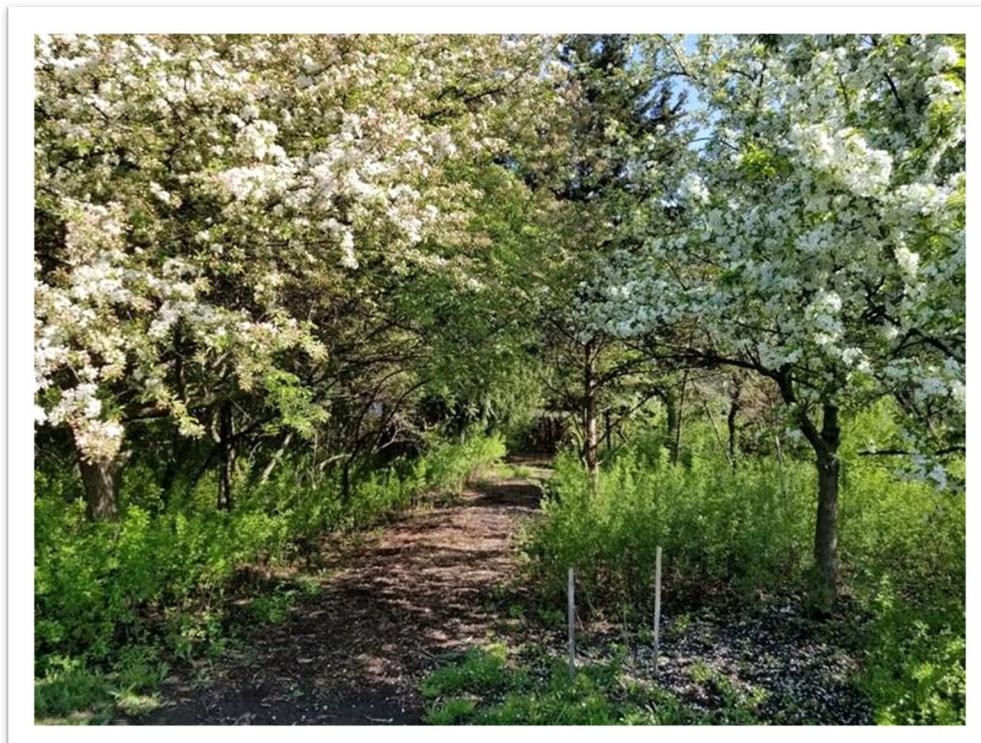
Jack-in-the-Pulpit



White Trillium



Wild Ginger



The Unemployment Line

WERC is wishing everyone a safe and healthy stay-at-home experience! And for those who continue to work – we are grateful for your service!

Per the recent Archdiocesan guidelines our monthly employment support group meetings are cancelled. *We will re-evaluate our schedule for future months as we learn more.*

Looking for work/Expecting to return to the office as restrictions are eased?

Experts are saying there are plenty of jobs to be had – even in this down economy. And many of us will be heading back to the shop/office in the near future. Here is something to know about as we “return to normal” work environments.

The decision not to return to a physical workspace at all might be one that some companies face, according to Nicola Smith, CEO, and Founder of REBEL & REASON, whose focus is on driving disruption and innovation for the brands they serve. “I anticipate a lot of small and mid-sized brands really taking a look at whether or not they need physical office space and at a minimum reducing that,” she says.

In addition to changes in a physical workspace, Smith predicts increased flexibility around when work will occur will happen due to both priority shifts and potential changes in school schedules for working parents. “Whether that’s starting earlier in the day or finishing later in the evening or only working two or three days during the workweek,” she says. “I think that we’re going to see a massive impact from that.”

We’re Still Here!

The St. Mary of Vernon WERC team is still available to help! Contact the WERC team at SMVWERC@gmail.com to pose questions, ask for advice, connect (virtually) for a shoulder to lean on...

The purpose of our Wellspring Employment Resource Community (WERC) ministry is to provide a safe and effective forum for sharing work search tools and techniques which can enable unemployed parishioners in their search for meaningful and rewarding work.

Around the Corner – From St. Joseph’s Unemployment Ministry – June 4: LinkedIn Strategic Guidelines (Zoom Meeting)

LinkedIn is a powerful tool for networking, research and marketing yourself to clients and potential employers. We are very pleased to welcome back **Bruce Bennett**, Career Coach and Public Speaker, to host this informative Zoom meeting focused on leveraging LinkedIn for your job search. This session teaches the strategic practices for building your LinkedIn internet presence. The use of hashtags and ampersands will be covered, as well as going mobile with the LinkedIn application. Our sessions are free, and all are welcome - please **preregister** at the Zoom link below and join us for this online session!

*Please note: As of June 4, we are switching our regular meetings from Wednesday evenings to **Thursday evenings**.*

Zoom meeting: **LinkedIn Strategic Guidelines**

When: **Jun 4, 2020** 7:00 -9:00 PM Central Time

Register in advance for this meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tJlkc-yvqjkuG9wBUxm2zI_FoM3tnMy2ycZD

The St. Joseph Employment Ministry assists the unemployed and under-employed in the pursuit - one with an interest in assisting job-seekers is also invited to attend. Meetings are usually held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month and feature topical presentations.

If you have questions, contact John Jennings at jfjennings@comcast.net. Employers are invited to post open positions by sending an email to John.

READINGS & FEASTS THIS WEEK

Monday, May 25—Acts 19:1-8; Jn 16:29-33 *Memorial Day; St. Bede the Venerable, St. Gregory VII, St. Mary Magdalene de Pazzi*

Tuesday, May 26—Acts 20:17-27; Jn 17:1-11a *St. Philip Neri*

Wednesday, May 27—Acts 20:28-38; Jn 17:11b-19 *St. Augustine of Canterbury*

Thursday, May 28—Acts 22:30, 23:6-11; Jn 17:20-26

Friday, May 29—Acts 25:13b-21; Jn 21:15-19

Saturday, May 30—Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; Jn 21:20-25

Sunday, May 31—Acts 2:1-11; 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13; Jn 20:19-23
Pentecost Sunday

Please Pray For Our SMV Loved Ones Who Serve in the Military

MAJ Jay Althoff, USA
FC2 Trevor A. Amos, USN
LTC Robert Bowen, USA
COL Steven Carozza, USA
Sgt Michael J. Cinnick, USMC
SGT Alyssa Cleary, USA
SGT Thomas Cleary, USA
LT Sara Dillon, USN
PO2 Swen Erickson, USN
LTC Grace Gallagher, USA
ETV2 Michael Gielczyk, USN
COL Matthew Hepburn, USA
LT Alex Hoersten, USN
SPC Kevin Holum, USA
LTJG Kendall G. Knorr, USN
LCpl Michael Kukula, USMC

LT Melanie C. Lecaroz, USN
LTC Michael Milas, USA
MAJ Paul J. Milas, USA
SN Abraham L. Moore, USN
CPT Christian A. Moree, USA
Capt Sean P. Morrow, USMC
Maj Thomas W. Morrow, USMC
PFC Nicholas J. Pagano, USA
SGT Anthony R. Powers, USA
SSG David Ptak, USA
CAPT Katie Schullian, USN
Maj Matthew Tegeler, USAF
CDR Matthew Wauson, USN
HN Anthony J. Wick, USN
2ndLT Michael D. Wick, Jr, USMC
CPT Stephen M. Woldridge, USA

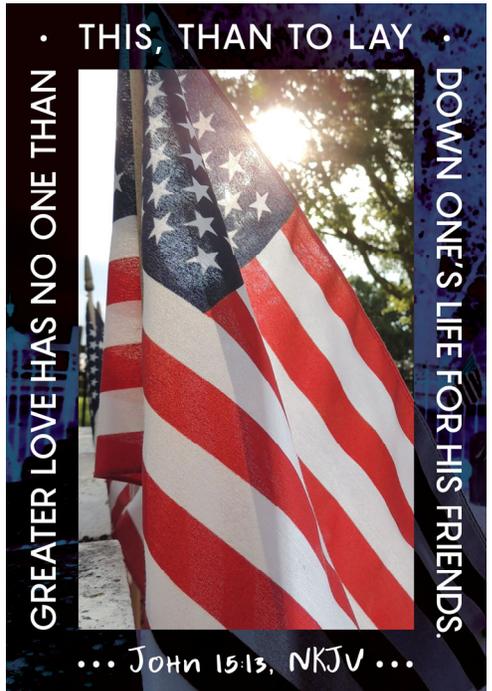
Please call Sue Wogan at 847-362-1005 if you would like to add your loved one to this list or have any changes to their information.

OUR SICK WHO HAVE REQUESTED PRAYER

Pat Slovak, Sarah Weigert, Helen Dorn, Chris Cwik, Ruth Nowak, Bill O'Shaughnessy, Sam Denton, Sr. Barbara West, AnneGene Fortman, Charlotte Afonso, Nathaniel Lee, Michelle Lucas Freer, Donald Dobrowski, Ed Tracz, Pat Cahill, Jim Wogan, Kay McNamara, Mary Rollo

SMV Week at a Glance

Until further notice, all group events are cancelled, including daily and Sunday Masses. Sharing Hands will continue operations to serve our neighbors in need. Sharing Hands on drive-up basis only.



Celebrating The Fifth Anniversary of *Laudato Si'*



**PROTECT LIFE.
PRESERVE THAT WHICH
SUSTAINS LIFE.
CARE FOR
OUR COMMON HOME.**

POPE FRANCIS, *Laudato Si'*



As Catholics, we are called to:

- uphold life and the dignity of each human person
- support families and future generations
- love the poor and vulnerable
- advocate for basic rights and a just economy
- be in solidarity with all, as one human family
- care for all of God's creation

Grounded in our Catholic Tradition, now is the time to protect the earth for our children and grandchildren.

PRAY to hear God's call to live our faith for the common good, knowing that everything is interconnected.

LEARN how the climate crisis is a profound moral issue greatly affecting the poor and vulnerable.

TELL your local and national leaders to protect creation.

Praise be to you, our Lord, God of all Creation!

Learn more!

usccb.org/environment
wearesaltandlight.org/cst101
catholicclimatecovenant.org

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