

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Catholic Parish—Spokane

1104 W Heroy Ave Spokane WA 99205 509-325-1321 Office hours Tues-Fri 9-12

May 9th, 2021



Pastoral Staff

Pastor: Fr. Michael Blackburn, OFM

Deacon: Dave Dudinsky

Parish Staff

Office Manager: Anitra Turney

Youth Ministry: Tammie Fabien

Maintenance: Brian Sandner

Choir Directors

Sun.: Betty Ross

Sat: Mary Lou Bentley

Mass Schedule

Saturday: 5pm

Sunday: 10am

Daily: 8am

Holy Days: 8am and 7pm

Parish Committees & Organizations

Pastoral Council: Frank Taylor

Finance Council: Wendy Sandner

Women's Club: Renee Lewis & Geri Wasson

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

Thurs. 8:30-4pm

Sacraments:

Anointing of the Sick:

Masses with anointing 2 or 3 times a year

Baptism:

Parental preparation is required

Marriage:

contact the parish at least 6 months in advance

Reconciliation:

Saturdays 3:30-4:30 or by appointment

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH

A WORD FROM FR MIKE



In today's First Reading, Peter announces that God does not play favorites, but sends the Holy Spirit upon those whom the "first people of God" thought were unloved by God, the "gentiles." God has chosen a wider definition of "God's chosen people." The Second Reading for this-week's liturgy is about love, and in some way, answers the question about how we can fulfill the First Commandment which is to love God with all our minds and hearts. How can we do that? Few of us have ever felt intense love for God as we might with spouses, family and friends. John gives us an insight by telling us, "Love then consists in this, not that we love God, but that He has loved us and has sent His son as an offering for our sins." Loving God has to do with letting God love us and allowing that love to be shown to us in the life, death and resurrection of His son. There is also the response to the reception of Jesus which is that we are to share His love through us with others. This theme is intensified by our hearing of the continuation of Jesus' words at the Last Supper, which is a very difficult commandment to complete in our every-day life. It would be an interesting exercise to try to rewrite these verses so as to make them a little more realistic. "Love one another as I loved you." That sounds wonderful at weddings and anniversaries, but did Jesus mean everybody and every day? Readings like these bring out the best in our excuse-making abilities. It is so embarrassing to realize that even though we understand exactly what He said and meant, we still play favorites with our affections, attentions and interests.. God plays no favorites with His Divine love for us and sends the Spirit upon the circumcised and uncircumcised as well. Jesus asks us to let the Spirit free us to love those we like and those we just do not know well enough yet. These are dangerous readings and we'd rather confine them to weddings, so that we wouldn't have to practice them ourselves, but rather the newly married couple would love each other well. What we place on the altar is the ultimate act of God's love for us and we are commissioned to extend that same love to others, but when we don't, then what? Jesus is still choosing us, forgiving us, sending us and is again laying down His life for His friends who find it hard to love totally.

May God bless you during this holy season of Easter.

Shalom.

FATHER'S FUNNIES



All my doctor does is send me to see other doctors. I don't know if he's really a doctor or a booking agent.

Two women were talking and one said to the other, "You have to stay in shape. My grandmother started walking five miles a day when she turned sixty. She's ninety-seven today, and we don't have a clue where she is."



the **Women's Club of St Francis of Assisi**

will again do a

virtual cookie sale

after both Masses

May 15 and 16

The monies earned will be turned over to our Brothers and Sisters at St. Charles Parish. We really love the support we have received from this community in our past fundraisers. We are hopeful for continued support for the "needy" at our sister parish.

Thanking you in advance,

The Women's Club of St. Francis of Assisi



WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 9, 2021

- SUN 5/09** Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4 [cf. 2b]/1 Jn 4:7-10/Jn 15:9-17
- MON 5/10** Acts 16:11-15/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b [cf. 4a]/Jn 15:26—16:4a
- TUE 5/11** Acts 16:22-34/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8 [7c]/Jn 16:5-11
- WED 5/12** Acts 17:15, 22—18:1/Ps 148:1-2, 11-12, 13, 14/Jn 16:12-15
- THR 5/13** Acts 18:1-8/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [cf. 2b]/Jn 16:16-20 Ascension: Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 [6]/Eph 1:17-23 or Eph 4:1-13 or 4:1-7, 11-13/Mk 16:15-20
- FRI 5/14** Acts 1:15-17, 20-26/Ps 113:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 [8]/Jn 15:9-17
- SAT 5/15** Acts 18:23-28/Ps 47:2-3, 8-10, 10 [8a]/Jn 16:23b-28
- SUN 5/16** Ascension: Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 [6]/Eph 1:17-23 or Eph 4:1-13 or 4:1-7, 11-13/Mk 16:15-20
Seventh Sunday of Easter: Acts 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26/Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20 [19a]/1 Jn 4:11-16/Jn 17:11b-19

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 9, 2021

- Sunday:** 6th Sunday of Easter; Mother's Day
- Monday:** St. Damien de Veuster, Priest
- Wednesday:** Sts. Nereus and Achilleus, Martyrs; St. Pancras, Martyr
- Thursday:** The Ascension of the Lord [holy day in some U.S. dioceses]; Our Lady of Fatima
- Friday:** St. Matthias, Apostle
- Saturday:** St. Isidore; Armed Forces Day
- Next Sunday:** The Ascension of the Lord; 7th Sunday of Easter; World Communications Day

LIVE THE LITURGY

Inspiration for the week

God is love. These three simple words deserve a great deal of attention. They have the power to transform our relationship with God from something that is static and distant to one that is personal and real. We all know the power of love and how important it is to completing all of the human and divine circuits of our lives. But we do not often consider the awesome fact that it is given to us as a gift and is not simply part and parcel of the human package. God is the author of love and love itself. When we truly love another human being, it is really God being God in and through us. The love to which we are called and the love of which the Gospel speaks is a selfless love that seeks the wellbeing of not only our significant others but of all of our brothers and sisters. This love, which is of God, is a love that will endure all things and bring immeasurable joy when experienced. It is the most sincere form of friendship.



LITURGICAL LIFE

RESPONDING *to the Call*

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

Choosing to Love One Another

Love one another. The greatest commandment, the simplest commandment — and if you've ever loved anyone, you know it's also the hardest.

I'm man enough to admit it. I've seen one or two of those cheesy Hallmark movies that are especially popular around the holidays. Boy meets Girl. Boy and Girl encounter a catastrophic roadblock to their relationship — they're coaches of rival high school volleyball teams, or he runs a dog kennel and she works at a feline rescue, so it could never, ever work out, right? But sprinkle a little movie magic over the whole situation and Boy and Girl find what Hallmark tells us is true love.

I could make a list of all the things that are inaccurate about these movies, and something I would put right near the top — maybe even above the sometimes-unbelievable storylines — is the idea that love is a feeling.

See, I'm not sure if it's accurate to call these movies love stories. Attraction stories, sure. But if you've ever forgiven someone who's hurt you, nursed a dying parent, gotten up for an infant's night feeding or let your kid have the last piece of cake, you know that real love is a verb. It's something you do. And it is almost always a choice.

Love one another. How often do we hear this? How often do we think about what it really means? How often do we take a moment to consider the action Jesus is asking us to take and the choice he is asking us to make?

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

PLEASE CONSIDER ONLINE GIVING

Our parish is grateful for your continued support. Thank you!



WHY DO WE DO THAT? Catholic Life Explained:

Question:

What is the difference between a "Saint" and a "Blessed"?

Answer:

The process of proclaiming someone as a saint in the Catholic Church has evolved over the course of many centuries. In the beginning, those honored as saints were almost exclusively biblical figures or martyrs. However, after the legalization of Christianity in the fourth century, new holy women and men came to be honored as saints, and this was often done by popular acclaim or by the local bishop or abbot.

It was Pope Gregory IX (who was pope from 1227 to 1241) who officially proclaimed that only the pope had the authority to add someone to the official list (the "canon") of saints. This is the meaning of the word "canonization."

Today, the saint-making process includes several steps, including detailed studies of the person's life and a recognition that they died as a martyr or lived a life of "heroic virtue." Once someone is recognized as a martyr or if a miracle is attributed to their intercession, they will be beatified and honored as "Blessed." This means that they can be celebrated by Catholics in a particular country or region or by the members of certain religious community. If another miracle occurs and is approved, then the "Blessed" is canonized and honored with the title "Saint," meaning that they are now officially recognized as a universal model of holiness and an intercessor.

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

"Remain in my love," and, "I call you friends," are powerful words that are found in John's Gospel.

Most of us probably have them committed to memory or have at least heard them proclaimed dozens of times. They are words that can easily become trite and quickly glossed over without fully pondering and digesting their profound beauty. When we take the time to immerse ourselves in them, they can radically change our lives and our relationships. They can open up new doors of adventure and hold countless possibilities for meaning. The essence of love and friendship are things that can easily be taken for granted. They have always been there and are a significant part of our lives. Many would say that they could not live without love and friendship, and they put a great deal of care into preserving, deepening and sustaining them. Love and friendship share a mutual relationship with each other that deserves more reflection.

Where does love come from? We can consider relationships that have not succeeded and conclude that they were somehow due to our "failures in love." In doing so, we assume that human beings are the ones responsible for love, its success and also its failure. While our weakness, emotional composition and sinfulness can easily impact our ability to love, its origin is not human. God is love. God is love's author and origin. When we love, it is God who loves in and through us. It is because of this divine closeness that Jesus is able to call us friends! It is not because of anything we have done but simply because of who we are. Realizing and contemplating this awesome reality becomes a game changer across the board. It gives us reason to clear the table of anything that can adversely affect the way we love so that we can open the door for its author to shine forth.

Coming upon this truth is what leads folks like St. Francis of Assisi to leave that which is comfortable and worldly and live a radical life. They relate with the love of God that radiates in and through all living things and appreciate their sacredness. It was having an intimate experience of God's love and friendship that propelled St. Francis and others to embrace simplicity, act nonviolently, pursue humility, love enemies, care for the earth and open up avenues for true justice. Understanding this profound truth will also help us find peaceful solutions to world's problems, restore relationships

with our sisters and brothers, bring the grace of loving stewardship to creation and heal many wounds. Once we begin to see how wonderfully holy all of life really is, we discover joy. We lose our need for fear, develop a fierce fortitude, act prudently and seek justice. There is great power in love because it comes from God. It will never fail. It also enjoys the company of two other friends who are eager to become our friends as well: faith and hope. These are just as important to have and to share.

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SUNDAY COLLECTION

Our annual envelope budget is: \$99,600.00
Year to date budget: \$84,070.97
Actual year to date collection: *\$87,096.50
Year to date: + \$3,025.53

Thank you to all who continue to support our parish whether through online donations, mail in donations or collection at mass.

***I mistakenly added Easter into the last report, it should not be counted in the ordinary collection.**



Frank Rose, Steve Rij, Don & Mary DeLuca, Florence Himelspach, Kathy Bromley, Rita Loft, Ramona Jones, Marylin Connolly-Overbey, Kathy

White, Ellen Turnbull, Michael Brick, Mike Arcondizy, MaryAnn Forcier, Gary Turnbull, Brian Chandler, Marlene Weller, Joyce Johnson, Helen Arnzen, Tom Bienemann, Jan Martin, Manny Baumbauer, Lindsey Fry, Sharon Stillwell, Stan Mundell, Mike Wojohowski, & Fran Hattenburg



Dianne McMicheal
Rosemary Morbeck
Jean Walters
Betty Rogers

