# St. Richard Parish

11223 Schuetz Road, St. Louis, MO 63146

(314) 432-6224

www.strichardstl.org

AS HE BLESSED THEM
HE PARTED FROM THEM
AND WAS TAKEN UP TO HEAVEN.

LUKE 24:51

# THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

MAY 29, 2022

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**OUR MISSION**
*Know Him more clearly,*
*Love Him more dearly, and*
*Follow Him more nearly, day by day.*

## Parish Contact Information

The office is open Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
You can contact the parish staff at
314-432-6224 or *info@strichardstl.org*.

### Parish Staff

| | |
|---|---|
| Pastor | Rev. Gene Robertson Ext. 1015<br>grobertson@strichardstl.org |
| Deacon | John Bischof 569-3855<br>jbischof@strichardstl.org |
| Admin. Assistant | Kathy Reznikov Ext. 1003<br>info@strichardstl.org |
| Business Manager | Mary Steingruby Ext. 1002<br>msteingruby@strichardstl.org |
| Music Director | Jim Randazzo<br>jrandazzo@strichardstl.org |
| St. Richard Choir | Jim Randazzo |
| Emmaus Choir | Ruth Ferris 991-6854 |

**If someone is in danger of death and needs the sacrament, please call: 314-432-6224 Ext. 1016**

### Mass Schedule

| | |
|---|---|
| Weekdays | 8:15 a.m. |
| Saturday | 5 p.m. |
| Sunday | 9 a.m. |
| | 11 a.m. |

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

| | |
|---|---|
| Saturday | 3:45-4:30 p.m. |
| | Or by appointment |

**BAPTISM**
Registered parishioners please contact the Parish Office to schedule a Baptism and necessary preparations. For your first child, a Baptism Preparation Class must be completed. Baptisms are typically held after the Sunday11 a.m. Mass.

**MARRIAGE**
Couples planning marriage should contact the Parish Office **at least six months** in advance for proper procedures.

**INTERESTED IN BEING A CATHOLIC?**
The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, or RCIA, program prepares all who wish to join the Catholic Church. Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

**HOMEBOUND COMMUNION**
Contact the Parish Office to arrange a visit by the Pastor or an Extraordinary Minister of Communion.

## Lector Schedule

| | |
|---|---|
| **Saturday, May 28**<br>5 p.m. Carolyn Siemer<br><br>**Sunday, May 29**<br>9 a.m. Lisa Sword<br>11 a.m. Pam McCaskill | **Saturday, June 4**<br>5 p.m. Carol Underriner<br><br>**Sunday, June 5**<br>9 a.m. Tom Kutz<br>11 a.m. Lisa Sword |
| **Saturday, June 12**<br>5 p.m. Doris Smith<br><br>**Sunday, June 13**<br>9 a.m. Sandra Kardis<br>11 a.m. John Tucker | **Saturday, June 18**<br>5 p.m. Mary Claire Hachmeister<br>**Sunday, June 19**<br>9 a.m. Dave Peters<br>11 a.m. Paul Wienke |

### Parish Office Closed

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, May 30 for the Memorial Day holiday.

We will resume normal hours on Tuesday.

### ST. RICHARD ACTIVITIES & ORGANIZATIONS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Liturgy Committee | Doris Smith | 872-7823 |
| Finance Committee | Rich Lewis | 567-6860 |
| Athletic Association | Bill Davidson | 732-3814 |
| Helping Hands | Kathy Peters | 569-0678 |
| Art & Environment | Kathy Engelbrecht | 808-0307 |
| Ladies' Club | Carolyn Sousa | 489-2358 |
| Leisure Club | Sharon Cusick | 482-3317 |
| Men's Club | Eric Vehige | 640-0786 |
| Prayer Chain | Mimi Minner | 650-7893 |
| SVDP Helpline | 289-6101 | #2292 |

### Masking Notice

We would like to remind everyone that our parish family has vulnerable members and as Christians we are called to care for our neighbors. We request that if you are not vaccinated or are sick that you wear a mask (over your nose and mouth) while inside any St. Richard building. Masks are available in each building for anyone who forgets one.

Thanks for helping keep everyone healthy and safe!

IF YOU VOLUNTEER AT ST. RICHARD, YOU ARE **REQUIRED** TO REGISTER ON THE ARCHDIOCESE'S NEW SAFE ENVIRONMENT COMPLIANCE SITE.

The Archdiocese of St. Louis has developed a new system for safe environment compliance called **Prevent and Protect STL**. Please register at: *www.preventandprotectstl.org* (passcode: **stlprotect**)

Contact Mary (*msteingruby@strichardstl.org)* with any questions. Thank you.

# PARISH CALENDAR

**Sunday, May 29**
9 a.m. - Mass
11 a.m. - Mass

**Monday, May 30—Memorial Day**
**Office Closed**
8:15 a.m. - Mass
7 p.m. - Rosary/Church

**Tuesday, May 31**
8:15 a.m. - Mass/followed by
Our Mother of Perpetual Help devotions
7 p.m. - Lectio Divina/Sacred Heart Room

**Wednesday, June 1**
8:15 a.m. - Mass
2 p.m. - Discussion Group/Marian Room
7 p.m. - Emmaus/Church

**Thursday, June 2**
8:15 a.m. - Mass
7 p.m. - St. Richard Choir/Church
7 p.m. - Ladies' Club/Sacred Heart Room

**Friday, June 3**
8:15 a.m. - Mass/followed by
24-Hour Adoration

**Saturday, June 4**
5 p.m. - Mass

## Dynamic Catholic, *Alive!* – Evangelization

Every Christian, through their Baptism, are called by God to spread the Gospel message. Jesus didn't just give the mission of evangelization to the Apostles or to a select few. Today we celebrate Christ's Ascension to the right hand of the Father. Jesus reminds His disciples, "Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that the repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem." Jesus reminded them that they would begin this mission, but each generation that follows is called to do the same. Not everyone is called to mission trips to far-away places. It begins within our own hearts and minds. We can strive to have a deeper relationship with Jesus, so we can share our experience with everyone we meet. During this week before Pentecost, we can spend some time in prayer to the Holy Spirit asking for guidance to know the individual mission God has given us and the strength and courage to accomplish it.

*~ archstl.org/dynamic*

## Stewardship Reflection - The Ascension of the Lord

*"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."*

*~ Revelations 22:13*

This is a reminder of how we should live our lives 24 hours a day, 7 days a week – putting God first in all that we do. Not only when I am at Mass and parish activities, but when I am in the world, at work or at school. Living gratefully and generously is an intentional lifestyle. Every decision you make either moves you closer to God or farther away. Choose wisely!

**Come join us at the 8:15 Mass on Monday, May 30, to remember all those who gave their lives in service to our country.**

The Little Ones — Jim Burrows

Jesus said to them, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." Acts 1:8

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Scripture from the New American Standard Bible ® (NASB), © by the Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. www.Lockman.org

## Weekly Offering

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**Offertory for 5/15/2022**

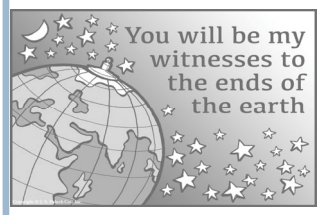
| | |
|---|---|
| General Offering | $2,956.00 |
| Capital Improvement | 10.00 |
| Repairs & Maintenance | 105.00 |
| SVDP | 84.00 |
| Other Collections | 100.00 |
| **TOTAL** | **$3,255.00** |

**Offertory for 5/22/2022**

| | |
|---|---|
| General Offering | $7,796.00 |
| Capital Improvement | 5.00 |
| Repairs & Maintenance | 45.00 |
| SVDP | 5.00 |
| Other Collections | 20.00 |
| **TOTAL** | **$7,871.00** |

# Know Him More Clearly

**Weekly Guide for Daily Prayer**
**Seventh Week of Easter**




On Sunday, most of the world will celebrate the Seventh Sunday of Easter. As if in preparation for Pentecost Sunday on June 5, we read in Acts of the stoning of Stephen, who is "filled with the Holy Spirit." In John's Gospel the poetic words of Jesus are a love song to us as He prays to His Father, "Father, they are Your gift to Me. I wish that where I am they also may be with Me, that they may see My glory that You gave Me...."

Tuesday is the Feast of the Visitation.

During the upcoming week, the first reading continues from the Acts of the Apostles. We are following the preaching and ministry of Paul. We can feel his intensity as he urges the Ephesians to follow his example in living the faith "I served the Lord with all humility and with the tears and trials that came to me..." He returns to Jerusalem to face persecution but remains under house arrest, teaching and meeting with followers.

The gospels are mostly from John's Gospel, chapter 16 and 17. Jesus warns His disciples that they will be scattered and says they will find trouble in the world but assures them He has conquered the world. Jesus' prayer reflects the passionate, inseparable nature between Him and His Father. "I glorified You on earth by accomplishing the work that You gave Me to do." "I pray ... that they may all be one ... as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us." Jesus challenges Peter three times to "feed my sheep" and the Easter season comes to a close with John's gospel on Saturday. Jesus reminds us, "It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain."

Sunday is the great feast of Pentecost, the birthday of the Church. The readings and the whole Church celebrate the coming and ongoing presence of the Holy Spirit among us. The Apostles who had been so frightened are now on fire. Now they can speak clearly, so everyone can understand them. In John's Gospel, Jesus breathes on His jittery followers and tells them, "Peace be with you" and fills them with courage, giving them the mission to forgive and sending them to carry out His desire that we all be one.

**Daily Prayer This Week**

We can hardly believe the message from this week's gospel. It is one of complete invitation to us. Jesus tells us of His intimate bond with the Father and invites us into the same kind of close relationship with Jesus Himself.

He does not promise us a trouble-free life, and is clear about the challenges we will face as His followers. He cautions us that the world will want to make us one of "its own" and Jesus lovingly protests that we are His, not the world's. He prays to the Father of us, "They are Your gift to me. I wish that where I am they also may be with Me..."

This kind of loving dialogue with the Father is what Jesus wants with us. It does not mean our lives will be trouble-free but we are offered the peace in our hearts that Jesus longs to give us.

Some days we may feel anything but peace in our hearts. That is the time to pause and open our hands and our hearts to the Lord. Just the simple physical act of opening our hands can send a signal to our hearts. We can stop thinking and start feeling the love that Jesus has for us.

We can begin each morning at the side of our beds, aware of the sacredness of the day ahead of us, and ask for peace, courage and guidance. On our way to work or while taking care of our family, cooking or running errands, we can stop for the briefest moment and ask again: "Lord, help me to feel how much You love me. Help me to accept that love and carry it to all those You send into my life today."

And at the end of the day, we can pause again at the side of our bed, reflect for a moment on our day and offer thanks for the moments where we felt in our hearts the love of Jesus. And, we can ask that tomorrow we can feel the Lord's own love and compassion for us - and beg that we can pass that along.

Like Peter in Friday's gospel, we have denied Jesus many times in our lives but He looks at us again with love and simply says, "Follow me."

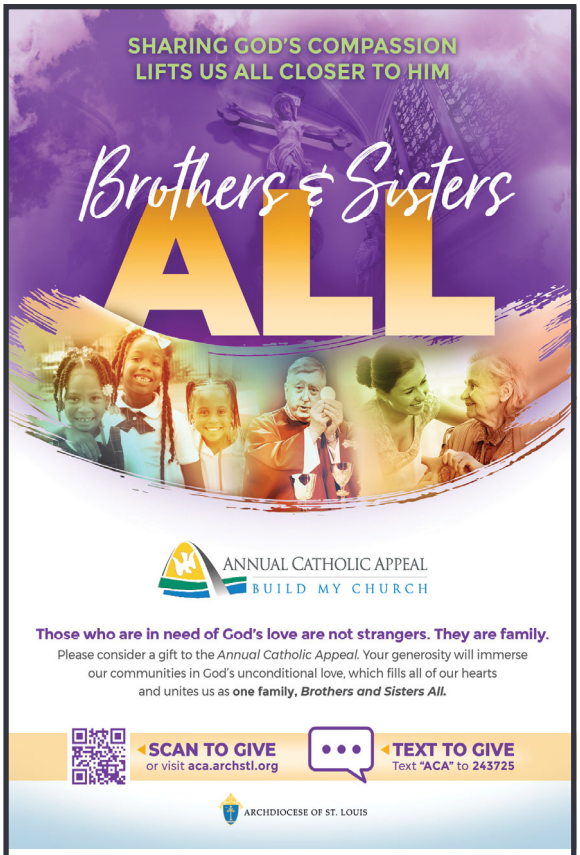
*Taken from 'Weekly Guide for Daily Prayer' on the Creighton University's Online Ministries website: http://www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html Used with permission.*

When SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital opened its doors as the nation's first free-standing Catholic pediatric hospital, a promise was made to the community that any child in need of care would be welcomed, regardless of whether their parents could afford to pay. That promise still holds true today.

The generosity of the faithful made Cardinal Glennon a reality in 1956. Still today, the faithful uphold our Mission of faith-filled services: *Through our exceptional health care services, we reveal the healing presence of God.*

Please join us in helping make miracles possible by making a gift during Glennon Sunday weekend, June 4-5, online at https://glennonsunday.org/faith. On behalf of our patients and families, may God bless you for providing hope, healing, faith and compassion to every child who walks through the doors at SSM Health Cardinal Glennon.

To donate online, **SCAN HERE:**




## Annual Catholic Appeal Update

Here's where St. Richard stands as of last Friday:

| | |
|---|---|
| 2022 Published Goal | $67,735 |
| Total to Date | $39,174 |
| Total Parishioners | 392 |
| Returned Cards to Date | 102 |

Your donation, large or small, combined with others' donations can positively make a difference in so many people's lives.

Cards that have not been picked up are being mailed to you. Please return them as soon as possible to the collection basket, drop them off at the Parish Office, or make your donation at *archstl.org*. If you donated to the ACA with the card the Archdiocese sent, or on the ACA site, you should not be receiving a reminder card.

It is important that you return your card, even if you are not making a donation (***please mark the appropriate box for this***), since those cards are counted by the ACA office as a "Returned Card."

Thank you for your kind attention to this, and your timely response.

# Love Him More Dearly

## DAILY MASS READINGS

**Sunday, May 29**
Acts 1:1-11; Ps 47:2-3, 6-9; Eph 1:17- 23 or
Heb 9:24-28; 10:19-23; Lk 24:46-53

**Monday, May 30**
Acts 19:1-8; Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab; Jn 16:29-33

**Tuesday, May 31**
Zep 3:14-18a or Rom 12:9-16;
Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6; Lk 1:39-56

**Wednesday, June 1**
Acts 20:28-38; Ps 68:29-30, 33-36ab; Jn 17:11b-19

**Thursday, June 2**
Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11; Jn 17:20-26

**Friday, June 3**
Acts 25:13b-21; Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab; Jn 21:15-19

**Saturday, June 4**
Acts 28:16-20, 30-31: Ps 11:4, 5, 7; Jn 21:20-25

***From the Voice of the Poor***
***a Committee of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul***

### 11 OF THE 20 LARGEST OCCUPATIONS IN THE U.S. PAY LESS THAN THE HOUSING WAGE

The "Housing Wage" is the full-time hourly wage a household must earn to afford a modest rental home at HUD's Fair Market Rent (FMR) while spending no more than 30% of their income on housing costs.

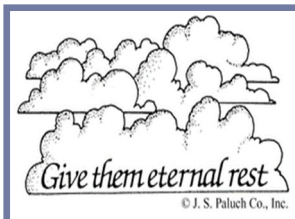
Nationally, the 2021 Housing Wage was $24.90 per hour for a modest 2-bedroom rental and $20.40 per hour for a modest 1-bedroom rental.

Eleven of the twenty largest occupations in the United States pay less than the wage needed to afford modest housing.

Your donations to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul assist workers when unforeseen expenses put their housing in jeopardy.

| | |
|---|---|
| Two-Bedroom Housing Wage | $ 24.90 |
| One-Bedroom Housing Wage | $ 20.40 |
| Secretaries and Administrative Assistants | $ 20.22 |
| Motor Vehicle Operators | $ 20.02 |
| Financial Clerks | $ 19.51 |
| Other Office and Administrative Support Workers | $ 17.69 |
| Information and Record Clerks | $ 17.41 |
| Material Moving Workers | $ 15.15 |
| Building Cleaning and Pest Control Workers | $ 13.99 |
| Home Health and Personal Care Aides; and Nursing Assistants, Orderlies, and Psychiatric Aides | $ 13.94 |
| Cooks and Food Preparation Workers | $ 13.35 |
| Retail Sales Workers | $ 12.95 |
| Food and Beverage Serving Workers | $ 11.87 |

Source: National Low Income Housing Coalition. (2021). *Out of Reach 2021*, p. 5. https://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/oor/2021/Out-of-Reach_2021.pdf.




Please remember in your prayers the repose of the soul of parishioner Gina Granata, wife of Biagio, who died on May 18, and was buried from St. Richard's this week. Please remember, also, her family who mourn her loss.

May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

## You Are Being Called!

We would like to have our Greeters, Ushers and Altar Servers back at each weekend Mass. We need your help. If enough people commit to a particular Mass, schedules can be created to accommodate your other commitments.

We would like two **Greeters** at each Mass welcoming and assisting our parish family members, as well as our visitors. Anyone high school age or older can minister in this manner. To learn more about this hospitality ministry, contact: Meg Kupferer (*kupferme@gmail.com*/314-994-7673).

We would like three to four **Ushers** at each weekend Mass. Anyone high school age or older can be an usher. To learn more about this service ministry, contact: Doug Meadows (314-504-5643 /*ramdoug2002@yahoo.com* ) or Larry Sokol (314-429-7500/*stl-imprints@msn.com*).

We would like one or two **Altar Servers** at each Mass. An altar server can be male or female, in fifth grade or above - including adult men and women. To learn more about this service ministry, contact the Parish Office (*info@strichardstl.org* /314-432-6224).

***Others have served us, now we are called to serve.***

North City Deanery REVIVAL
*For a Synodal Church: That All May Be One!*

June 6 & 7 at 6:30 p.m.
Praise and Worship at 6:15 p.m.

St. Matthew the Apostle
2715 N. Sarah St. 63113

Revivalist - Rev. Canon A. Gerard Jordan

Sign-up: http://evite.me/XmAR1KfFGp

Masks are required for the health of all gathered.

***"You are all Sock Angels!"***

This is what Brenda Mahr, the coordinator of the Sock Angel Campaign, told our St. Richard family on Sunday, May 22 at the 11 a.m. Mass, as she thanked the parish for its participation in the 2021 campaign. She and other members of the Knights and Ladies of St. Peter Claver, the group that organized the campaign, presented St. Richard with a certificate recognizing the parish as the "Champion Sock Angel" for our " 'Over the Top' Sock Angel contribution of 6,339 pairs of socks." Fr. Gene was presented with a handmade stole; a similar one was presented to Archbishop Mitchell Rozanski during the group's visit with him earlier in the month.

Fr. Gene shared that during the meeting with the Archbishop, they learned that socks are the number one clothing request from shelters. Not only do the homeless use them to keep their feet warm and dry, but they put socks on their hands for the same reason.

The 2022 Sock Angel campaign will begin later this year. Please watch the bulletin for more information on how you can participate and help those in need.

God bless you all!

Congratulations
Bob and Mary Ann Kriegshauser
on your 70th Wedding Anniversary!
(May 28)

May God continue to bless you!

## ALL THINGS NEW

STEADFAST IN FAITH • FORWARD IN HOPE

Heavenly Father, you sent your Son Jesus as the first Evangelizer of the Good News.

Send forth the power of the Holy Spirit upon the Church of St. Louis and grant us the gift of true discernment so we may do your will in all things.

Help us be totally free to follow wherever you lead us, totally generous to be good stewards of your many gifts, and totally passionate to suffer all in order to be more closely united to you.

Commissioned by your Son and empowered by the Spirit to "Go and Make Disciples of all Nations," strengthen us by the power of your grace as we bring the Good News of Salvation into the lives of all those we touch, so that individual hearts and all of society may be converted to you and all things might be made new.

Inspired by the apostolic zeal of previous generations, as we begin the process of planning for the future, may our only desire be to do all things for the greater glory and honor of your name and for the good of your people in the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS

## Please remember in your prayers:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Anna Angert | Cathryn Kinamore | Florence Rahubka |
| Jane Concannon | John Klein | Thomas Reuther |
| Pat Corkery | John McCormick | Bernard Ruthmeyer |
| Patricia Daher | Dorothy Meyer | Denise Sahrmann |
| Betty Eise | Cheli Ohms Mosby | Jerry Saxe |
| Patricia Filko | Jennifer Mosier | Gloria Smythe |
| Marie Graves | Patrick Nickens | Eileen Thomson |
| Jerry Huelsman | Jean O'Keefe | Mike Underriner |
| Toni Jodlowski | Betty Penn | Phyllis Walsh |
| Patricia Kelley | Jonathon Penne | |

To add or remove a name from this listing, please contact the **Parish Office** at **432-6224.** If you would like to add or remove a name from the Prayer Chain, please contact **Mimi Minner** at **650-7893.**

**O Prince of Peace, humbly we ask your protection for all the men and women in service of our country.**

**CAPT David Butz**
Fort Bliss, TX
Grandson-in-law of Fran Waelterman

**SGT Thomas M. Euson**
Camp LeJeune, NC
Great Nephew of Neil & Paulette Byrne

**1LT Anna Ferris RN**
Fort Bliss, TX
Granddaughter of Fran Waelterman

**CAPT John Andrew Floro**
Scott AFB, IL
Nephew of Marcella & Deacon Del Leonardo

**L CPL John M. Geringer**
Camp Pendleton
Grandson of Ceil Geringer

**LT COL Christopher Higgins**
Goodfellow AFB
Nephew of Robert & Paula Brose

**CW3 Erick Knarzer**
Afghanistan
Nephew of Jean O'Keefe

**SGT Matthew Mansfield**
Joint Base, Andrews, MD
Son of John & Jane Mansfield

**SGT Joe Meadows**
Fort Bragg, NC
**SGT Sam Meadows**
Fort Bragg, NC
Sons of Doug & Karen Meadows

**2LT Brittany Menzenwerth**
Reserve Center,
Grand Prairie, TX
Daughter of Laura Menzenwerth

**MJR Michael Mulligan, Jr.**
Ft. Irwin, CA
Nephew of Kathy Soucy

**CAPT Matthew Primm**
AFB Kuwait
Grandson-in-law of Marie Everhardt

**SSgt Eric Reuther**
Ft. Gordon, GA
Son of Deacon Ron & Cathy Reuther

**LT COL Mark Scherrer**
Travis AFB, CA
Son of Marilyn Scherrer

**TSgt Kendall Washington**
Hurlburt Field, FL
Son-in-Law of Laura Menzenwerth

**SSgt Tyler White**
Eglin AFB, FL
**SRA Randi White**
Eglin AFB, FL
Nephew & Niece of Mark & Lynn Pfotenhauer

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## Mass Intentions

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sat., May 28 | 5 p.m. | Bob & Mary Ann Kriesghauser<br>70th Wedding Anniversary |
| Sun., May 29 | 9 a.m. | Joseph F. & Katheryn H. Darpel+ |
| | 11 a.m. | People of St. Richard |
| Mon., May 30 | 8:15 a.m. | Pandolfo Family |
| Tues., May 31 | 8:15 a.m. | Ben Reznikov |
| Wed., June 1 | 8:15 a.m. | Purgatorial Society |
| Thurs., June 2 | 8:15 a.m. | Tom Sheridan+ |
| Fri., June 3 | 8:15 a.m. | Florence King+ |

*+ Indicates an individual is deceased*

## Come and Pray — June 3

*"In our self-centered culture and classic American emphasis on work, we often feel we have to accomplish something during our times of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. We rate our experience by how 'good' our prayer was, how heartfelt our devotion was, or how focused we could remain. Yet prayer and contemplation are fundamentally God's work, in which we are invited to participate. We need only to give Him the opening, and He will do the rest. By coming to adoration, we are handing Him the keys to our hearts, allowing the rays of His love and grace to bathe our souls in the light of His Presence, as the rays of the sun bathe our bodies in light. If we can take the time to pull away from the busyness and distractions of life and just sit at His feet, He will lead us."*

*~ Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration, p. 33*

You are invited to participate in our monthly 24-Hour Adoration in the church on June 3. Adoration begins at the end of the 8:15 a.m. Mass and continues through Benediction at 8 a.m. Saturday.

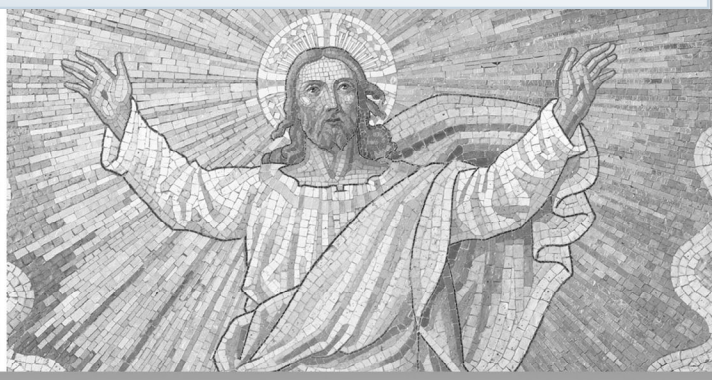
To learn more about Adoration, or to participate in this beautiful practice, contact:

Celia (314/566-2308) or

Mimi (314/650-7893)

# Follow Him More Nearly

## The Ascension Of The Lord



MAY 29 2022

"Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky?"

Acts 1:11

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Excerpts from the *Lectionary for Mass*
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Appreciating the Ascension within the larger story of Jesus can be difficult. This is partly because of the mystical features of Luke's two descriptions, and also the lack of description in the other Gospels. The Ascension describes both the absence and the presence of Jesus. Why did Jesus have to leave? As Jesus told his disciples, his departure makes possible his continuing presence in a new way, through the work of the Spirit beginning at Pentecost.

The Ascension is more than a departure, for it describes how the bodily, human Jesus is now "at the right hand of God," and that the Father exalts Jesus as Lord of heaven and earth. We need to hold these two together: that Jesus knows our human trials and joys and walks compassionately with us; and Jesus also is our Lord, who pushes us out of our comfort zones toward Christian maturity and holds us accountable.

### WITNESSES

In the descriptions of the Ascension in today's readings, Jesus tells the disciples "You are witnesses" or "you will be my witnesses." The image of witness evokes a legal proceeding, where a person affirms the truth of an event. Sometimes physical evidence, such as a DNA test, serves as witness to the truth. This same word is used again and again in Acts, as the apostles witnessed to the Resurrection, or to the whole story of Jesus. We are called to witness to the truth of the Gospel.

We might witness in at least three ways. In dialogue with others, we can speak the witness, by explicitly sharing the biblical story and what it means for us. We can do the witness, by aligning our actions and lifestyle so as to share love for others. We can be the witness, in our fundamental openness and faithful response to God, and in our grace-filled personal presence with others. We are the best evidence of the truths of our faith.

Today's Readings: Acts 1:1–11; Ps 47:2–3, 6–7, 8–9; Eph 1:17–23 or Heb 9:24–28; 10:19–23 Lk 24:46–53

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