

ST. LAMBERT PARISH
Proclaiming Jesus Christ as Lord

May 20, 2020
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



John 14:18



*I will not leave you comfortless,
I will come to you.*

8148 KARLOV AVE. | SKOKIE, IL 60076 | 847.673.5090

Rectory:

8148 N Karlov Avenue
Skokie, IL 60076

Phone: (847) 673-5090

E-mail: saintlambert@aol.com

Sunday Masses: (5 pm Sat)
8am, 10am, 12pm

Weekday Masses:

7:15 am (Mon-Fri) 8am on Sat.

Confessions: Saturday at 8:30am

Pastor: Rev. Richard Simon

Rev. Know-it-all:

reverendknow-itall.blogspot.com

Deacon:

Mr. Chick Odeary

Music Director:

Mr. Steven Folkers

Office Staff:

Debbie Morales-Garcia
debbie.stlambert@aol.com
Mr. George Mohrlein

Religious Education:

Gina Roxas
youthchurchred@gmail.com

Baptisms:

Third Sundays of the month at 1:30 pm. Baptismal Prep Class is the first Tuesday of each month at 7 pm. For guidelines and to register, call the rectory.

Weddings:

Arrangements must be made 6 months in advance.

Website: www.StLambert.org

To Register as a Parishioner:

Go to stlambert.org under %About Us+ or by phone.

Bulletin Guidelines:

Submissions should be received at the office 10 days preceding the date of bulletin publication. Submissions should be in electronic format and sent to debbie.stlambert@aol.com.

 St. Lambert Parish - Skokie, IL

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 16:11-15; Ps 149:1b-6a, 9b; Jn 15:26 — 16:4a

Tuesday: Acts 16:22-34; Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8; Jn 16:5-11

Wednesday: Acts 17:15, 22 — 18:1; Ps 148:1-2, 11-14; Jn 16:12-15

Thursday: Acts 1:1-11; Ps 47:2-3, 6-9; Eph 1:17-23; Mt 28:16-20 (for Ascension); otherwise Acts 18:1-8; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 16:16-20

Friday: Acts 18:9-18; Ps 47:2-7; Jn 16:20-23

Saturday: Acts 18:23-28; Ps 47:2-3, 8-10; Jn 16:23b-28

Sunday: Acts 1:12-14; Ps 27:1, 4, 7-8; 1 Pt 4:13-16;
Jn 17:1-11a; or (for Ascension) Acts 1:1-11; Ps 47:2-3, 6-9;
Eph 1:17-23; Mt 28:16-20

SAINT RITA OF CASCIA (1381-1457)**May 22**

If you're ever in Philadelphia on May 22, forget parking anywhere near Saint Rita's shrine. Cars line streets and fill medians as throngs pack a candlelight vigil and six Masses, honoring this patroness of lost causes, hopeless situations, and as her statue in countless churches built by twentieth-century immigrants testifies difficult marriages, troubled homes, and alienated children. Wise people warn, be careful what you pray for. Divine Savior, Rita prayed, let me suffer like you! Obedient to parents who refused her wish to become a nun, Rita married a man who returned her devotion with twenty years of abuse. When enemies murdered him, Rita's two sons swore revenge. Paintings depict her pointing the angry boys toward Christ crucified, whom she begged to restrain them. Within the year, both sons died. Alone now, Rita went to the convent but was refused. The nuns feared violence, since one of them was related to the murderer. Rita arranged peace between the families, made vows, and became much sought after as a counselor and intercessor for forty years on earth and ever since in heaven.

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**Sunday Offertory Collection and Extraordinary Donations****Electronic Give Central Donations, May 1st through May 16th:**

Sunday : \$2,465.00

Easter: 250.00

Extraordinary Donations: \$433.00

Mail In Donations May 4th through May 11th:

Sunday : \$3,254.00

Easter: 120.00

Extraordinary Donations: \$1,600.00



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The Apostles and presbyters, in agreement with the whole Church, decided to choose representatives and to send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. Act 15:22.

Friends:

This was the first reading for Mass last Friday. The Church gathered to resolve a dispute as to whether Non-Jews who had accepted Christ should follow the ritual and dietary rules of the Law of Moses or only the moral and ethical commandments, with the exception of things that gave obvious scandal and certain kinds of invalid marriages. The answer was “no”.

The thing that fascinates me about the passage is that in it we can see the nature of church government at its very beginning. This “Council of Jerusalem” so called seems to have taken place around 49AD, just 16 years after the Lord's death and resurrection. A lot of people insist that the church had no formal liturgy and no structured leadership until centuries after Christ. These people don't seem to be reading the Bible.

“Apostles and presbyters and the whole church”. We assume that “Apostles” refers to the 12 Apostles, Matthias taking the place of Judas, but the word simply means “missionaries”. The Twelve were all missionaries, but there were a lot more missionaries than just the Twelve. In fact there were seventy, perhaps 72 other apostles in addition to the twelve. In the west we call them the 70 disciples, in the east they are called the 70 apostles. They were the group of original disciples who had been delegated by Jesus as missionaries. The next group are the presbyters.

The word “presbyter” is Greek and means “elder”. The Jewish governmental structure included Elders who were ordained since the times of the Exodus. From the word “Presbyter” (Elder) we derive the word “priest”. As far as I am concerned the most interesting word here is “Church”.

In Greek the word is “Ecclesia”, it is usually translated assembly but it means “a gathering of those called out”. Every town had its obligatory assembly of free citizens. When the rulers of a town needed to make a decision of the highest order, or needed to communicate with the whole community, they summoned an assembly, an “Ecclesia”. It was not voluntary. It was a duty of citizenship. If you failed to participate in the assembly, you could be fined. If you persisted in refusing, you lost your citizenship and civil rights!! The closest thing we have to an Ecclesia/Assembly in our system is jury duty!

In the quote above you have the missionaries and elders, the recognized leadership of the community. They are part of the Ecclesia, but are clearly NOT the whole Ecclesia. Nowadays when people talk about the “church” they mean a building or possibly the presbyters (the old guys in white plastic collars like me).

The old guys in plastic collars have clearly fumbled the ball over the last 30 or 40 years. Perhaps the Lord has allowed this unpleasant lock down to remind us that the Church is not a building or a bunch of old

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guys. It's not even an "it", It is a "SHE".

SHE is the bride of Christ, the Mother of the faithful. SHE is personified, I believe, in Mary, our Blessed Mother, the princess of the royal house of David. SHE manifests herself wherever two or three are gathered, even in cyber-space. The pandemic has been tragic, the lock down painful, but if we learn this lesson that the church is more than a building and more than tired old men like me, it will prove to have been a blessing despite the tragedy of those taken from us.

Rev. Know it all

PRAYER IN A TIME OF PANDEMIC

O God of compassion,
your people are anxious
in this time of pandemic.
Send your Holy Spirit among
us to dispel our fears.

We cry out to you in our confusion;
comfort us in our affliction.

Grant our leaders wisdom to guide us.
Strengthen and sustain those who are ill, and
be with those who care for them.

Help us to travel this road
in solidarity with our neighbors,
with our eyes fixed on the salvation
promised us through the death and
resurrection of your Son, who is Lord forever
and ever. Amen.



Ascension May 21st

The mystery of the Ascension has to do with holding in tension a sense of God's nearness, along with the burden caused by apparent signs of absence. The risen Jesus says to Mary Magdalene, "Do not cling to me, perhaps pointing out to her that his physical presence to the disciples was time-bound and temporary. It was a gift for their transformation, and after forty days, he vanished from their sight and hearing, though never out of their consciousness.

They do not mourn at his going this time: there is no trace of the disciples who hid in fear at his crucifixion, no sense of the women who wept softly as they carried ointments to the tomb through the dewy morning light. Instead, the scriptural accounts show them full of joy, comforted by his promise to be with them forever, and open to the Spirit's power. They are joyful, energized, aware, and united with one another in love. They seem to grasp an awareness that if the mission to the whole world was a serious one, then the presence of the Risen Christ could not be pinned down to any one place or time, but had to be always and everywhere completely available. All peoples, all times, all cultures were opened to receive him in this moment of the Ascension. The energy of this feast is drawn not from absence, but renewed and deeper presence.

THE REASON FOR OUR HOPE

What is the reason for your hope? Imagine somebody coming up to you and asking you that question. Not "What are you hoping for?" or "What are you hoping to do?" No, this isn't about our desires for possessions or aspirations for life, it's "Why do you hope?" Peter today tells us that we ought to be ready to give an answer to this question. Truth be told, few of us spend much time thinking about why we hope. Luckily, the scriptures today give us our answers. We hope because Christ suffered for us, in order that we might come to God. We hope because we know that, in the Spirit, God grants us another Advocate through Christ to remain with us always. No matter what we might hope for, whatever we might hope to do, we must always first know and proclaim the reason for our hope: the presence of God in Christ, with us through the power of the Spirit.

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St. Lambert

For Online Giving go to: www.givecentral.org

We know the times are difficult, but we hope that you will continue your support of the parish if you are financially able to do so. We offer electronic giving through a simple tool that provides you with the opportunity to support the parish in a way that is convenient and secure. Our online giving partner is GiveCentral, and **100%** of the donations you make through GiveCentral come directly to St. Lambert.

GiveCentral makes it easy for you to give. See all collection fund options on our GiveCentral home page at:
givecentral.org/location/204

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



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Chicago, IL 60611-2030
312.534.8230
archchicago.org



Cardinal Cupich announces a multi-phase plan for the re-opening of our churches

May 14, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

These fifty days of Easter, leading to Pentecost, are marked by unprecedented suffering, as humanity has fallen victim to a perilous contagion. In addition to the threats to our physical wellbeing, we are suffering spiritually as the Covid-19 pandemic has required restrictions of our worship and active participation in the sacramental life of the Church.

Surely, there have been moments in history when governments and rulers have persecuted Christians and banned their public worship. This is not one of them. Rather, the present restrictions come in response to an extreme medical emergency as local, state and federal authorities . specifically public health officials . legitimately fulfil their responsibilities to safeguard human life and the common good.

They have based their reasonable guidance on careful consideration of empirical data and the best available disease-mitigation practices as they seek to contain the pandemic's rampage through our communities.

While everyone must exercise good citizenship in observing these restrictions, I call on the Catholic faithful, as advocates for justice and charity, to comply with these regulations. From the first pages of Scripture we learn that we indeed are ~~our~~ brother's keeper, a truth that must inspire us as we are called to sacrifice. We should also be motivated to cooperate with public safety norms, given our reverence for life and human dignity.

This is, at its heart, a moment to proclaim the breadth and depth of what it means to be pro-life, particularly as this virus preys on the most

vulnerable in our midst.

The good news is that a plan for a gradual reopening of our churches has now taken shape, as I note below. However, since our movements will be restricted as that plan unfolds in different phases, your pastors and bishops will continue for the present time to offer Mass in private each day and to livestream and broadcast Masses from our parishes and the archdiocese.

I am particularly grateful to ABC-TV, Univision and Polvision in Chicago for giving us airtime every Sunday. These celebrations surely are not the same as gathering in our churches for Mass, but I know from hearing from many parishioners that they provide a great deal of solace and support in this time of uncertainty.

We must be honest. We expect this situation to continue for some weeks, and any plan for reopening our churches for public worship must include every precaution to ensure public gatherings do not create a second wave of contagion, thus squandering the gains made through our sacrifice in these days.

With those realities in mind, I am heartened to announce that we have reached an agreement with the Office of the Governor on a multi-phase Plan for re-opening our churches for the celebration of the sacraments, private prayer, adoration and Mass. As I share the Plan with you, both by way of an Executive Summary and the full Plan in the following pages, I want to assure you of my prayers for you and your family's personal, material and spiritual wellbeing.

I also express my appreciation to the many people on the archdiocesan staff and in the Office of the Governor for the many hours they have given to designing and fine tuning this agreement.

Again, I call on all Catholics to seize this moment to exercise faith-filled citizenship in a way that reflects our deep regard for life, our calling as disciples of Jesus and our love of country.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Archbishop of Chicago

Jesus Loves Us All

"By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:35 (NIV)

Based on John 13:31-35



D W A J E W S C C N T O I F C
 F L N P I P F L O O K O A A D
 X O E Y J P N R X S J C L Y Q
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DISCIPLES
COMMAND
ANOTHER

LOOK
LITTLE
JESUS

CHILDREN
MEN
LONGER

GLORIFY
JEWS
TOLD

LOVE
GIVE
KNOW