



St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church St. John the Baptist Church



Newsletter 05-24-2020 The Ascension of the Lord

A Message from Fr. Chris



As I began to reflect upon this week's Gospel, I gave thought to what began in the incarnation, has become visible at Christmas. It suffered and died for us in and through the passion, and has now reached completion by being taken to heaven. "It" is of course our human nature. It surprised me as I pondered it—think about it. It almost seemed blasphemous to hear it presented this way. Yet it is true. If we stop and reflect upon everything our human nature has gone through, it truly is amazing! From the creation stories all the way through the coming of The Christ, to our own story. To think and examine how our human nature does not have much meaning, until we attach God to our human nature. It does not have the same value until it is attached to God and then Heaven is attainable for us. It is a fact that heaven would have been impossible for anyone to attain! So great was the offense, our distancing from God. It had to be God who came to repair our relationship! Our God, who is so much greater than our nature, is the one who has exalted it. Our nature does not have the same greatness as God, but is above all of creation. To think our nature has been taken up to heaven, thanks be to Jesus the Christ!

Sometimes I look at the disciples and I wonder how they could not see Jesus for who he was after the several years which they had spent with Him. Then, even after the resurrection, he spent much time with them. Our reading from The Acts of the Apostles says that Jesus had, "presented them many proofs after he had suffered, appearing to them many times, and speaking with them about the kingdom of God." And yet they still needed more? Wow! And in a few days they will receive the "promise of the Father, and will be Baptized with the Holy Spirit." But then Jesus says in our Gospel, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations." This is the great commission! Like the disciples, why do we still doubt? We also have been given everything! May we grow less doubtful—and get to what we have been commanded to do. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, may we help souls discover their true worth and their place in Heaven.

Mass intentions— Week of May 25, 2020

Monday, May 25, 2020: † Myrtle Fischer

By: Tammy & Allan Klade

Tuesday, May 26, 2020: † Rich Heck

By: Phil & Mary Ziesemer

Wednesday, May 27, 2020: Special Intention of the Custy Family

Thursday, May 28, 2020: : † Fritz Heller

By: Sandy and Randy Tank

Friday, May 29, 2020: : † Natalie Tiedemann

By: Pat & Kaz Buckett

Saturday, May 30, 2020: : † Frankovich & Cournaya Families

By: Rosemary Cournaya

Sunday, May 31, 2020: People of the Parishes

A note about Mass intentions: All Saturday evening and Sunday Masses must currently be celebrated for the people of the parishes. If you had a Saturday or Sunday Mass intention they are being rescheduled. Weekday Mass intentions, although private, may be celebrated with an intention. If you would like your mass to be rescheduled for later this year so you can attend, please call the parish office. Thank you.

"PUSHED" OUT ON MISSION

There is a delightful character in the original Dr. Dolittle Tales called the "Pushmi-Pullyu." It is a beast with two identical halves, with a head at each end. No matter which direction the beast walks, one end is the "push me" and the other is the "pull you." Today's feast is a bit like that in the life of the church. In the book of the Acts of the Apostles, it is the Ascension of Christ that calls for the Holy Spirit, which consequently sends or "pushes" the church out on its mission. This is the message that we hear from the angels today as they tell the friends of Jesus not to look up into the clouds, but to get busy. It is the message of Jesus himself in Matthew's Gospel, as he sends them out to baptize. He also tells them, "I am with you always, until the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20). And it is this message, confident in faith that Jesus has ascended to shouts of joy, that "pulls" us along to our final destiny. The life of the faithful disciple, sent into the world on mission, will one day know the same risen, ascended glory. -Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

Do we have your correct phone number? Email address? It is important to keep us updated so we can communicate. Please call Kris (715-536-2803) or email her at :

kleggett @stfrancismerrill.org

St. Francis Xavier Catholic School will again offer the Arthur Perkins Scholarship. To apply, the application is available on our website: www.stfrancismerrill.org.

Father Chris is celebrating Mass every day, and even though they are "private" (The church will be locked) you may join him on Facebook.

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday :

8:00 AM

Wednesday: 9:00 AM

Sunday: 9:30 AM



Sunday Communion Services begin 05-24-2020

This Sunday, with the Blessing of Bishop Powers, we are pleased to announce Communion Services will be held at St. Francis Xavier. Here is what you need to know:

- ✦ Communion Service is from 12-3 PM
- ✦ If you are sick, you must stay at home
- ✦ Please watch Mass on TV, or live-stream via Facebook to help yourself prepare for this Sacrament
- ✦ Social Distancing will be followed, hand sanitizing will take place as you enter, face masks are recommended.
- ✦ Groups of 8 will be ushered into church
- ✦ Deacon Jim will lead you in a brief prayer service
- ✦ Fr. Chris will distribute Holy Communion only in the hand
- ✦ After receiving, you must immediately exit Church through the Adoration Chapel door. You cannot stay in church.
- ✦ Gluten Free hosts are available; Communion cannot be taken home to family members at this time
- ✦ Elderly are encouraged to stay home. There is no obligation to attend Communion Services or Mass.

For Fr. Chris full letter on Communion Services please visit our website or Facebook page, or call the parish office.

www.Formed.org-what to watch: "Beloved, Finding Happiness in Marriage"

In 12 stunning sessions, BELOVED uncovers the mystery and the meaning of the sacrament of marriage. BELOVED invites all couples to experience firsthand the wonder, mystery, and joy behind that first "I do" ... whether you said it last year or many years ago.

So, you've shared an anniversary or two... or twenty... and you've learned a lot about yourselves and each other so far. But what if marriage is more than you think it is? What if God has woven into the very fabric of your humanity a purposeful need and desire that can only be fulfilled in your marriage?

Originally created for marriage preparation, the BELOVED series is enriching and transforming marriages in homes across the globe.

SCRIP is available at the parish office. We ask that you call ahead to the office with your order, and it will be ready for you at door #3. This will minimize the amount of contact you need to have with other people. SCRIP cards can also be mailed to your home.

HOLIDAY GAS STATION: The Holiday Gas Station on Center Ave will be changing to a different gas station beginning sometime in July. Your Holiday Gift Cards will only be accepted at the Holiday store on the West side of town after the change takes place. So if you have a Holiday card, please use it up. Thank you.

NICE WEATHER MEANS ICE CREAM: Summer is in the air! Time to treat yourself to some ice cream! We have the Grand Stand, Dairy Queen and Culver's SCRIP to help satisfy your sweet tooth!



OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

<u>St. Francis Xavier</u>	May 16-17 2020	May 18-19, 2019
Adult Envelopes	\$5200.00	\$5225.00
Loose	\$320.00	\$378.00
ACH giving	\$460.00	\$385.00
Debt Relief	<u>\$247.00</u>	<u>\$780.00</u>
TOTAL	\$6,227.00	\$6,768.00
<u>St. John the Baptist</u>		
Adult Env. & Loose	-0-	\$1,221.00

Our heartfelt thanks to everyone for continuing to support your parish. You may mail your contributions, drop them off at door #3, or donate on line using our website.

Readings for the Week of May 25, 2020

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

Tuesday: Acts 20:17-27; Ps 68:10-11, 20-21; Jn 17:1-11a

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

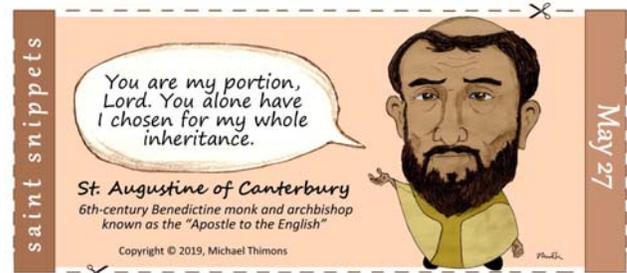
Thursday: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11; Jn 17:20-26

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

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

Sunday: Vigil: Gn 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b or Ez 37:1-14 or Jl 3:1-5; Ps 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-28, 29-30; Rom 8:22-27; Jn 7:37-39

Day: Acts 2:1-11; Ps 104:1, 24, 29-31, 34; 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13; Jn 20:19-23



✦ The Church is open for you to pray in. Eucharistic Adoration is still taking place in the Church at this time. The hours are: **Monday—Thursday 3:00-7:00 PM.**

✦ The Sacrament of Reconciliation is still available at 8:15 AM Wednesday, Saturday and 9 AM and 3:00 PM. Call the office to arrange the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick.

✦ Things are continually changing. Please visit our website: www.stfrancismerrill.org, our Facebook page, or you may also call the office (715-536-2803). The parish office is open, but please call before stopping by.