

Welcome to the Parish of
Immaculate Conception

A Catholic Community Inviting People to Follow Christ

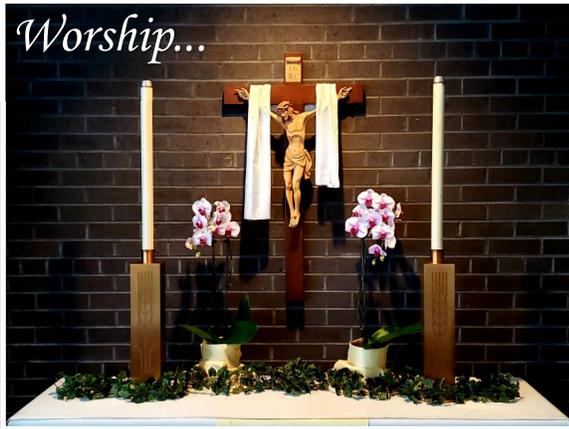
May 24, 2020 - The Ascension Of The Lord



“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded of you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.” - Matthew 28:19-20

Love God, Serve Others, Make Disciples

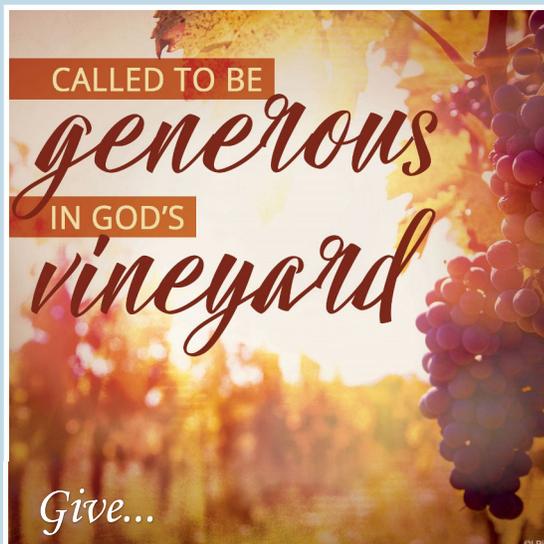
Worship...



Gather with us virtually as we pray with, and for, one another during our Masses which are broadcast live through **Twitch TV** (www.twitch.tv/icchicago) and through **Facebook Live** on our Facebook page: *Immaculate Conception Parish Chicago (Talcott)*. Direct links to both platforms are easily accessible on our parish website (www.icparish.net). For your convenience, all Masses are recorded and archived for a limited time.

We also invite you to pray the **Rosary** and **Divine Mercy Chaplet** with us daily (Monday through Saturday) at **3:00 P.M.** via Zoom. Additional instructions on how to join us are available on our website.

Please spread the word that IC is still “the place to (virtually) be” by inviting your family, friends and neighbors to join our expanding online community.



Worship with IC from home...
Sundays @ 11:00 A.M.
Monday through Friday @ 7:00 P.M.
Wednesdays @ 11:00 A.M. (School Mass)



Post-Mass Virtual Hospitality -

Coffee & Chat
Sundays @ 11:45 A.M.

Zoom Room: 897 6048 8093
Password: 456016



We invite you to connect with us via Zoom (www.zoom.us) for our newly established Post-Mass Coffee & Chat Room gathering following the conclusion of our 11:00 A.M. Mass on Sundays. All are welcome!

Support IC through Give Central...

We are truly grateful for the continued generosity of our faithful parishioners as we would not be able to maintain our parish and continue our mission without you.

If you are able, please consider contributing electronically via Give Central at www.givecentral.org/location/349 to assist us in maintaining the vital ministries and services we provide on behalf of our community. If you have any questions regarding setting up your online donations through Give Central, please contact our Parish Office at 773.775.3833 and a member of our Parish Staff will be happy to assist you.

If you would prefer to support our parish with an offertory donation through cash or check, please mail your envelopes to our Parish Office at:
7211 W. Talcott Avenue, Chicago, IL. 60631.

“You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.” - II Corinthians 9:11



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

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Chicago, IL. 60631-3012
773.775.3833
Fax: 773.775.4017

May 17, 2020

Subject: Reopening Plan for Immaculate Conception Parish amid COVID-19

Dear IC Family,

I pray that you and your loved ones are healthy. As you may have seen reported in the media, Cardinal Cupich recently shared our multi-phased plan for reopening churches in the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Specifically:

- **Phase I** allows for parishes to reopen for Baptism, Reconciliation, Weddings and Funerals with a limit of 10 attendees. Our Parish Office and campus will remain closed for meetings during this time.
- **Phase IA** allows for parishes to reopen for private prayer and adoration with a limit of 10 attendees. Our Parish Office and campus will continue to remain closed for meetings.
- **Phase II** allows for reopening for weekday and weekend Masses for larger groups depending upon the guidelines set forth by our state and the capacity of each church building.

Our IC Reopening Plan

First and foremost, it is important for everyone to understand that our efforts will prioritize the safety and well-being of all, while also maintaining all due respect and reverence for the sacraments and liturgical norms of our faith.

To facilitate this endeavor, I will assemble a Parish Reopening Leadership Team with parishioner co-captains to lead our efforts. Together, we will attend required training from the Archdiocese to ensure that our parish reopening plan conforms to the guidelines developed by the Archdiocese in collaboration with civil and healthcare authorities. We will also receive a starter kit of protective and cleaning supplies, as well as guidance on purchasing/maintaining additional supplies on an ongoing basis.

Estimated Timing for our Reopening for Phase 1 and 1A only

The required training for Pastors and Parish Reopening Leadership Team members is currently being conducted by our Archdiocese via a one-hour webinar (through Microsoft Teams.) Training sessions began on Monday, May 18th and will continue as needed (until a sufficient amount of volunteers have stepped forward to staff our required teams.) Once we successfully complete the training, we will need to review and complete tasks assigned to all parishes as part of a reopening certification process in order to be approved by the Archdiocese. Therefore, the soonest that IC will realistically open for sacramental celebrations or private prayer is likely the first weekend of June. That said, our parish, like all others in the Archdiocese, will move forward at a pace and timing appropriate for our own situation. Ultimately, our timetable for reopening will largely depend upon the response we receive from this appeal for viable volunteers to assist us.

continued...

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Volunteers Needed – seeking healthy adults age 65 or younger



We will need volunteers to assist with various aspects of our parish reopening plan.

Please note: leadership team members and volunteers must not be a part of a “vulnerable population” (essentially, not over the age of 65, with no underlying medical conditions such as diabetes, lung disease, or undergoing cancer treatment, etc.). I ask all of you, particularly our school parents, and all those in our parish who are younger than 65 and healthy (with no underlying health conditions) to kindly consider assisting us with one of our three reopening teams:

- **Set-up team:** Sample duties include ensuring that all supplies needed for each sacramental celebration/gathering are ready for use, entrances and exits are marked and propped physically open prior to attendees’ arrival/ departure, windows are opened, etc.
- **Greeting team:** Sample duties include assisting in managing the flow of congregants as they enter the church, making sure attendees use hand sanitizer upon entering, are wearing a mask, and are reminded not to enter if ill; directing people to appropriate seating/waiting areas, etc.
- **Cleaning team:** Sample duties include maintaining and cleaning essential and trafficked areas of the church before and after the church has been used. Masks and gloves will be provided (if you do not have your own) in addition to approved cleaning/disinfecting supplies.

Our Reopening Leadership Team and I will make certain that all our volunteers are properly trained. Please send me a message at fr.robert@icparish.info to indicate your willingness and ability to volunteer. From those that step forward, we will also request that some act as volunteer captains to help lead each of the three teams.

At IC, we will only open our church once our Reopening Leadership Team and I feel confident that we have the right volunteers in place to make it possible to reopen. Again, the need for parishioner assistance cannot be overstated as this multi-phased plan will truly require a team effort to manage successfully. We will not be able to reopen our doors and welcome our parishioners back home unless the younger members of our parish family graciously step forward to volunteer their time to benefit the greater good of our community.

The guidelines and measures required to reopen are designed to protect our well-being and that of our broader community. As Cardinal Cupich has noted, from the first pages of Scripture we learn that we indeed are “*our brother’s keeper.*” Our Lord Jesus Christ prayed, “*that they all may be one*” (John 17:21) and commanded us to “*love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another*” (John 13:34). Our collective patience, willingness to help and the care we take to reopen is a demonstration of our unity and love for one another as a parish family.

May God grant you His peace during this difficult time and may He manifest His love and presence to you in abundant ways. If you have any questions, please contact me at our Parish Office at 773.775.3833 Ext. 102 or via email at fr.robert@icparish.info.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Robert Fedek, Pastor

With grateful hearts, please join with us in prayer and thanksgiving as we celebrate and congratulate Fr. Robert, on his 15th Anniversary of Ordination (May 21st), and Fr. Matt, on his 5th Anniversary of Ordination (May 16th.) May their life in God's service always be filled with joy and may they continue to be a source of comfort, inspiration and strength as they lovingly shepherd our parish family during these challenging and uncertain times.



Prayer for Priests...

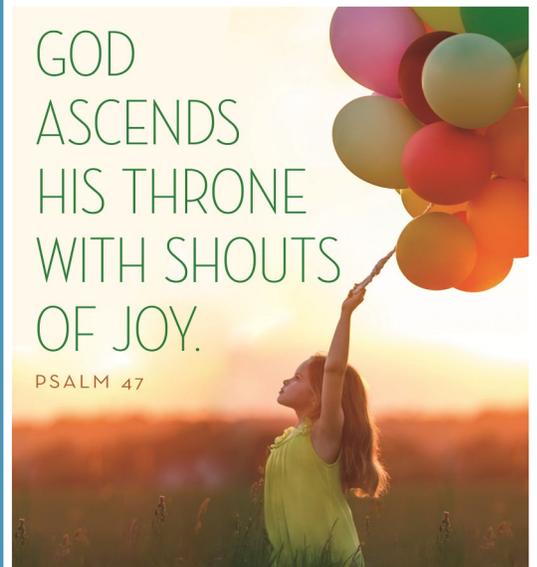
Lord God, most holy, we approach You in gratitude for Your holy ordained priesthood. You have called these men to be set apart and to shepherd Your people, as You shepherd Your entire Church. We pray for them in their daily work. Grant to them an increase in spiritual gifts and grace, so they may be prepared for the tasks at hand. Lead them not into temptation and protect them from the grasp of the evil one. It is through the sacraments they confer that we encounter the divine in a real and profound way. May Your church never lose sight of these, Your special sons, and may we, the body of Christ, never fail to cherish the gift of their lives, which they have freely given to You and Your holy Church. We ask this in the name of Jesus, Your Son. Amen.

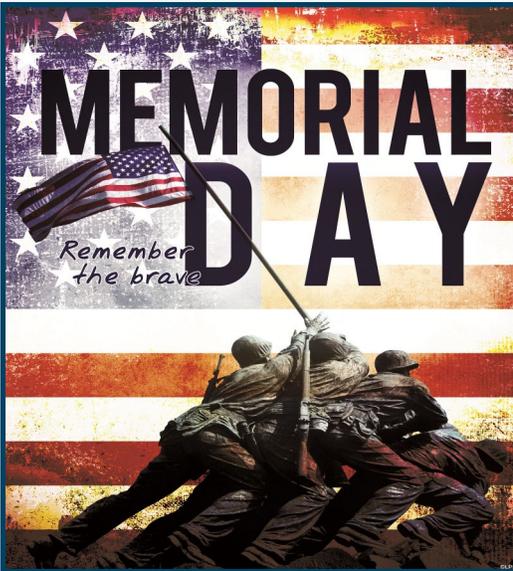


IC is honored to welcome guest celebrant, Bishop Mark Bartosic (Episcopal Vicar of our Vicariate), who will join us at our 11:00 A.M. Virtual Mass **this Sunday, May 24th** as we celebrate the Ascension of our Lord.

GOD
ASCENDS
HIS THRONE
WITH SHOUTS
OF JOY.

PSALM 47





ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
CATHOLIC CEMETERIES 

Together in Prayer

ONLINE MEMORIAL DAY MASSES

MONDAY, MAY 25, 2020

Masses in English, Spanish & Polish will be accessible at 8:30 A.M. at:

www.CatholicCemeteriesChicago.org



Gospel Reflection...

"All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

- Matthew 28:18b-19

Prior to His ascension, Jesus' promise to the disciples was His abiding presence "until the end of the age." When do you experience Jesus most present to you?

Live the Liturgy - Inspiration for the Week

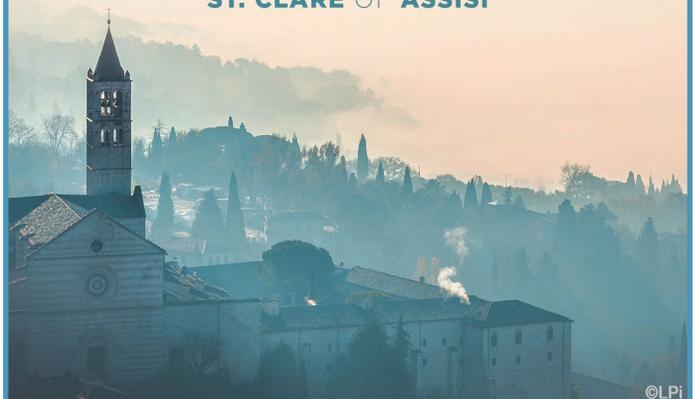
Today marks a special day in the Church as Christ establishes the Church's mission and purpose and calls his disciples, then and now, to the work of accomplishing that mission. And what ultimately is that mission and purpose? To bring all things together in Christ. All that ever was, is, or shall be and all times and seasons find their fulfillment in Christ. To be in Christ is the goal of all creation. All of this begins with baptism and the realization that Christ is present with us, risen and glorified, always. If we approach Christ's fullness with faith, then the eyes of our hearts can be enlightened, and we can begin to see the greater truth of who we are and what creation is meant to be. Christ is really and truly far above all things and the beginning and end of all things. Understanding ourselves in this way really changes up the meaning of life.

"WE BECOME WHAT WE LOVE

AND WHO WE LOVE SHAPES

WHAT WE BECOME."

ST. CLARE OF ASSISI



ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



A CALL TO PRAYER

Bringing a light in the midst of darkness



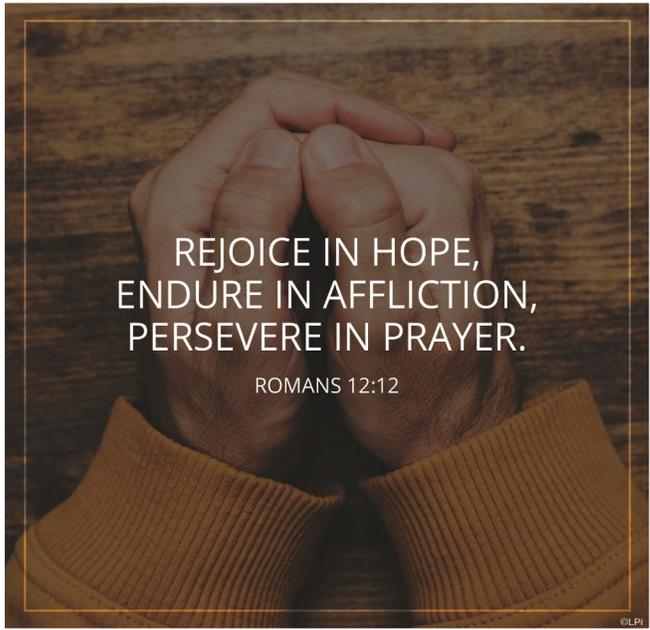
Are you feeling overwhelmed by the effects of the pandemic and in need of prayer? We are here to pray with you and ask God for your needs.

Who we are: Volunteers from parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Chicago who feel called to **accompany through prayer anyone who feels the need** for support during this time of uncertainty and isolation.

What we offer: A phone line staffed with people from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. every day, as well as 24-hour voice mail and e-mail connections. Our prayer partners are here to pray with you: opening our hearts to God, asking for His blessings and peace.

312.741.3388 praywithme@calledtoprayer.org

Archdiocesan Resources...



REJOICE IN HOPE,
ENDURE IN AFFLICTION,
PERSEVERE IN PRAYER.

ROMANS 12:12



Peace
BE WITH YOU.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



ONLINE GRIEF GROUPS

Have you experienced loss during these difficult times of isolation and feel the need to come together with others to share your experience and pray together?

As Jesus comforted Martha and Mary after the death of their brother, Lazarus, our online grief groups are a place of comfort within our faith tradition. The online grief group facilitators are not counselors and do not give advice, but they will be present to listen and to guide you in prayer and reflection.

When: Multiple dates, beginning Tuesday, May 26 for 1-1½ hours

Languages: Available in English, Spanish, or Polish

Technology: Via Zoom virtual gatherings

Age Restriction: Adults only (18 years and older)

To sign up, visit archchicago.org/coronavirus/online-grief-groups. Participation is subject to availability and our Terms of Use.

Immaculate Conception Parish

PRAYER LIST FOR THE SICK

| | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| Mary Alvarez | Arlene Lacey-Beyna |
| Concetta Bartucci | Richard Losik |
| Melissa Bednarz | Benny Martinez |
| Celerina Behrman | Edwin Martinez |
| Robert Behrman | Frank Martinez |
| Sonia M. B. | Jan Merino |
| Vince Caeti | Veronica Murillo |
| Jackie Campbell | Timothy Murray |
| Rita Castillo | Mae O'Donnell |
| James Covello | Jackie O'Koniewski |
| Sherry Crocifisso | Mary (Kores) Potwora |
| Ronnie Cunningham | Bill Remblake |
| Brooke Foreman | Sebastian L. Rivera |
| Lila Gehner | David Rodriguez |
| Irene Hand | Elaine Schatz |
| Ofelia Hernandez | Edward Stanczyk |
| Nancy Kinzie | Steven P. Trifilio |
| Craig Kloss | John Varallo |
| Lillian Kohut | |

Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them...

Please join our parish family in prayer as we honor our faithful departed:

Erminia Macatangay (Sister-In-Law of Lorna Toda)



Readings for the Week of May 24th

Sunday: Ascension: Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 [6]/Eph 1:17-23/Mt 28:16-20

7th Sunday of Easter: Acts 1:12-14/Ps 27:1, 4, 7-8 [13]/1 Pt 4:13-16/Jn 17:1-11a

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

Tuesday: Acts 20:17-27/Ps 68:10-11, 20-21 [33a]/Jn 17:1-11a

Wednesday: Acts 20:28-38/Ps 68:29-30, 33-35a, 35bc-36ab [33a]/Jn 17:11b-19

Thursday: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11/Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 [1]/Jn 17:20-26

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

Saturday: Morning: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31/Ps 11:4, 5 and 7 [cf. 7b]/Jn 21:20-25

Next 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 [cf. 30]/Rom 8:22-27/Jn 7:37-39. **Extended Vigil:** Gn 11:1-9/Ps 33:10-11, 12-13, 14-15/Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b/Dn 3:52, 53, 55, 56 [52b] or Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11/Ez 37:1-14/Ps 107:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [1]/Jl 3:1-5/Ps 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-28, 29, 30 [cf. 30]/Rom 8:22-27/Jn 7:37-39. **Day:** Acts 2:1-11/Ps 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34 [cf. 30]/1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13/Jn 20:19-23

Connect with our Parish Staff...

Although both our Church building and Parish Office are temporarily closed (through **Saturday, May 30th** in accordance with Governor Pritzker's Shelter-In-Place mandate for the state of Illinois), our Parish Staff is still available to assist you. Please don't hesitate to contact us at 773.775.3833 (voicemails are monitored daily) or connect with us via email at frontdesk@icparish.info with any questions, concerns or needs that may arise during this time.

In the meantime, please take comfort in the knowledge that you are loved, missed and prayed for daily by all of us.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT IC

For more information on upcoming events, please visit our parish website at www.icparish.net.

Please note: As a precautionary measure, all previously scheduled activities, meetings, and events have either been canceled or postponed through Saturday, May 30th. Additional scheduling changes may occur as the situation continues to develop.

Pope Tweet of the Week...

"The peace the world gives isolates us from others. It lulls us to sleep, and is temporary and sterile. The peace the Lord gives is lasting, fruitful, contagious. It makes us go out to create community. It is filled with hope because it looks toward Heaven."



Your Gifts to God and Parish

If you plan to move from the parish, please notify our Parish Office at least three months prior to your change of address. Also, if you will be away from home for more than 3 months, please call our Parish Office, so your envelopes can be stopped for that time period. If you use electronic giving and still receive envelopes, please contact our Parish Office so that we can discontinue your receiving of envelopes.

BULLETIN DEADLINE: The deadline for all bulletin submissions is Friday at noon – 8 days prior to the Sunday it will appear. The email address is icparishbulletin@gmail.com.

PARISH REGISTRATION: Please contact our Parish Office at 773.775.3833 or visit our parish website at www.icparish.net for additional information.

MASST INTENTIONS

Please note: Although public celebration of Mass has been suspended until further notice, Fr. Robert and Fr. Matt will continue to celebrate Mass privately for the wellbeing of our community and our city and to honor the intentions of the day.

Sunday, May 24 - The Ascension of the Lord

5:00 P.M. (Saturday) - †Catherine Lacey
7:30 A.M.— †Clementine Longo
9:30 A.M.— †Philip Bober
11:15 A.M.— †Francis & Moira Cross; and †Julia Stirling
6:00 P.M. - The People of the Parish

Monday, May 25 – Saint Bede the Venerable, Priest and Doctor of the Church; Saint Gregory VII, Pope; Saint Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi, Virgin

8:30 A.M.— †Edward Labuz; and †Tommy Beckman (15th Birthday Remembrance)

Tuesday, May 26 - Saint Philip Neri, Priest

8:30 A.M.— †Poor Souls In Purgatory

Wednesday, May 27 - Saint Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop

8:30 A.M.— †Fr. Michael Hoolahan, C.P.

Thursday, May 28 – Easter Weekday

8:30 A.M. — †John Alan Pastwa

Friday, May 29 - Easter Weekday

8:30 A.M.— †Eileen Schroeder; and †Bruno Smuda

Saturday, May 30 - Easter Weekday

5:00 P.M. - †Ricardo Sanchez (on his Anniversary); †John Chaplin (on his 19th Anniversary); †Mike O'Donnell (Birthday Remembrance); †Pearl Fronczak; †Kenneth Korhonen (Birthday Remembrance); and Loren Korhonen (Birthday)

Sunday, May 31 – Pentecost Sunday

7:30 A.M.— The People of the Parish
9:30 A.M.— †Francis & Moira Cross
11:15 A.M.— †Maria Martino
6:00 P.M. - Melissa Bednarz (Living)



May 24th through May 30th

The sanctuary lamp is burning this week for the repose of the soul of

James Maher



May 24th through May 29th

The Blessed Mother Votive is burning this week for the prayer intention of

Joan Bartosiewicz



May 24th through May 29th

The St. Joseph Votive is burning this week for the repose of the soul of

Mike O'Donnell
(Birthday Remembrance)

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

U.S. Army - SSgt. John Francis Mikita, Sgt. Kevin Whalen, SSgt Martine Makita, Chris Dash, Pvt. Jason G. Cavanaugh, Major Christopher Walsh, Capt. Benjamin Monson, 1st Lt. Katherine D. Hartnett, SPC Michael J. Stone, Pvt. Charlie Cruz Pappas, U.S. Army - Thomas Treslo National Guard Specialist 4th Class

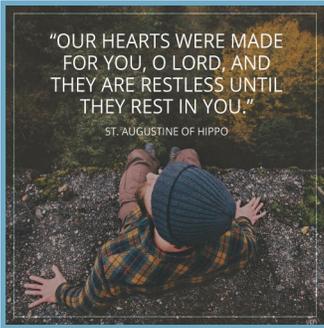
U.S. Navy - CMDR Michael Brasseur, Lt. Christopher Jenkins, PO Thomas T. Tudisco

U.S. Air Force - John Christopher Ocasio, Major Laurel Walsh, Captain Paul H. Kolk, LT. COL. Michael O'Koniewski; 2nd Lt. Colleen Bernal

U.S. Marine - Sean Gronset, PFC Sebastian L. Rivera, Jr., PFC Christopher Hughes, PFC Algene D. Porticos

Let us pray for these women and men and all who are serving in the military. Please contact the Parish Office when these service people return. If you are a veteran or know a veteran, the Archdiocese of Chicago has a website: vets.archchicago.org that provides information that can be of assistance.

Gospel Meditation - Encourage a Deeper Understanding of Scripture



A pair of ducks found their way to the same little corner of the property year after year. Sheltered by a little grove of trees, they quickly made their preparations to build a nest, lay eggs, and welcome in a new family. Then one year, only one of the ducks came to that little corner. She went about the business of building a nest, but this time, she was clearly unsettled. She would wander around, sometimes seemingly without purpose, almost hoping perhaps that her mate might come along. But, she remained alone. There were many times when we could hear her “crying”, mourning her loneliness and lack of purpose, sitting on a batch of eggs that would never hatch. One day, she quietly left that little corner never to return again.

Many human beings approach life this way. We silently grieve our loneliness, lack of direction, and sense of purpose. Maybe life once had meaning for us, but nothing seems to claim us and settle our restlessness any longer. We wander around looking and hoping for someone or something to come our way. We may even sob at times, wailing as we sit with the misery of our pain. Will happiness ever come our way again? Or will we simply leave where we are never to return again? Many are lost, wandering souls who are not quite sure where to settle or where to make a home.

We are meant to be in Christ. This glorious feast of the Ascension shows us, with clear vision, who Jesus really is! Understanding ourselves in Christ really changes things up and reorients us to our greater purpose, mission, and meaning. We are part of the cosmic wonder of creation and part of a bigger plan and mystery, destined to be much more than what we now know ourselves to be. Could Jesus’ friends know who he would become? If we can find the Christ present within and see the Christ bursting forth in all creation and beyond, then we can come to know our truth and understand where our home and life is meant to be.

Advancing upon the blessing of each new day with the certain knowledge that you are an unconditionally loved child of God gives you the axis and the safe harbor to cope with whatever comes your way. The gift of joy will be yours, and you can discover your true meaning and purpose. Look within, look without, look above, and look below. You are not alone. Trust that God will lead you where you need to be and transform you into who you really are.

©LPi

Everyday Stewardship – Recognize God in your Ordinary Moments

We Are Family...

I am looking forward to an empty nest. It isn't that I do not love my children or that I will not miss them. I am simply looking forward to catching up on life. I look forward to times when there is no one else there except for my wife. It will be a time to ourselves that I hope will be time well spent. I look forward to the days when my children will visit (with grandchildren, I hope!). There will be occasions we visit them as well (to see grandchildren, I hope!). The truth is, even though we will not be living in the same house, we will never be too far from one another. We belong to each other no matter what.

That is how it is with family. When we become disciples of Jesus Christ, we belong to him. We are family. Our greatest gift to give is our very selves to one another. Jesus gave all of himself to us. Even though he ascended to his Heavenly Father, he remains with us in love and grace, especially in the Holy Eucharist. He has shown us how to love and how to be family. Even when we cannot see him, Jesus remains with us. Hopefully, we can follow in that example and give of ourselves fully and be there for those we love whenever they need us, especially if they need us to watch the grandchildren. (It is a ways away, but I want to plant the seeds now!)



– Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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