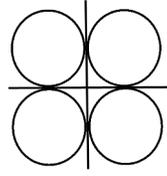


ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

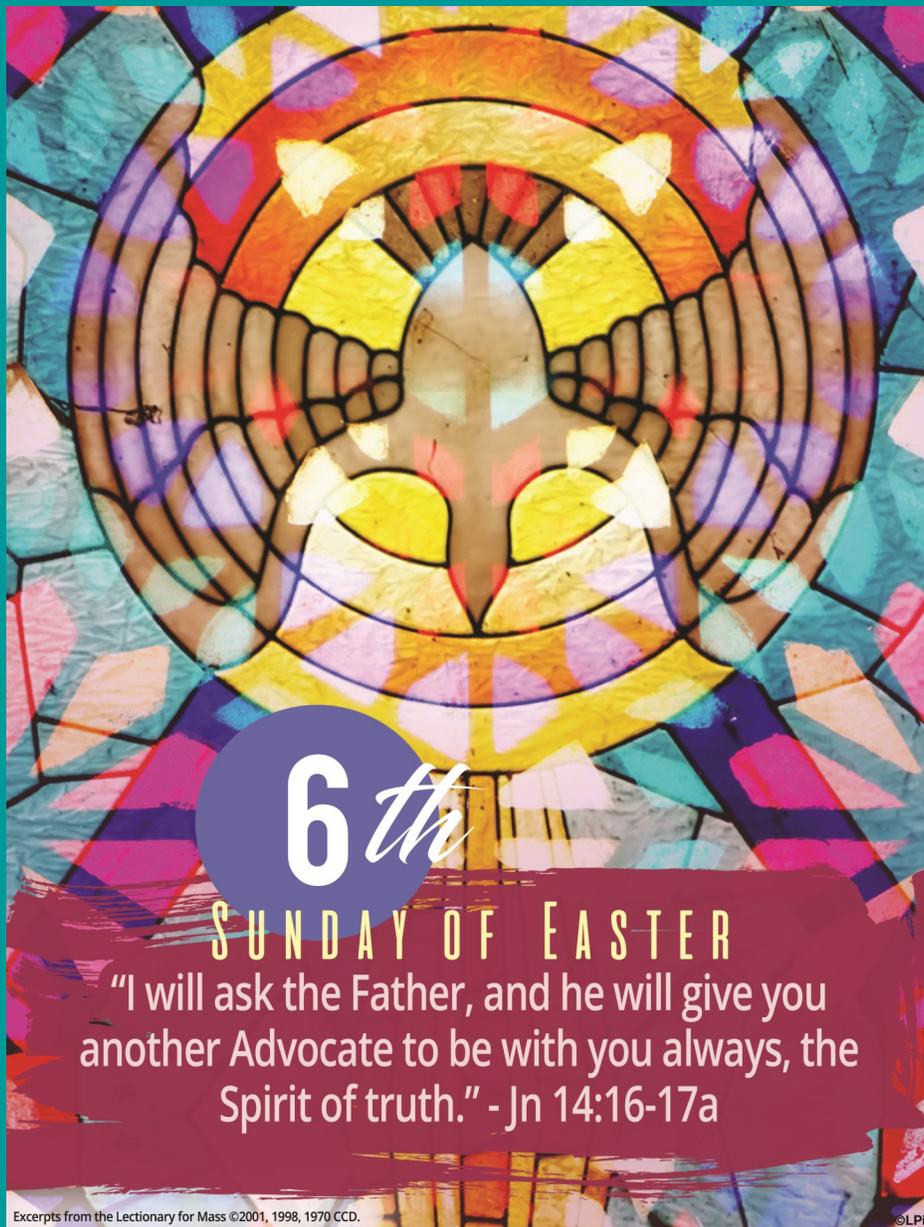


783 Hard Road, Webster, New York

May 17, 2020 Sixth Sunday of Easter

Mission Statement

St Paul's Parish Family exists for the purpose of witnessing and proclaiming the message of Jesus Christ, that message proclaimed in word, worship, service: love God, love your neighbor as yourself.



6th
SUNDAY OF EASTER
"I will ask the Father, and he will give you
another Advocate to be with you always, the
Spirit of truth." - Jn 14:16-17a

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

©LPI

Stay Connected!



Lots of additional information is available on **St. Paul's web site**, stpaulsrcc.org. Below are a few important items you might want to check out:

- Watch Sunday Mass
- Read the weekly bulletin
- Donate online
- Contact a staff member
- Get the latest updates on re-scheduled events after the quarantine.

"HELP ONE ANOTHER

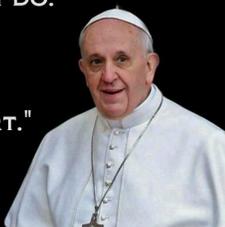
THIS IS WHAT JESUS TEACHES US.

THIS IS WHAT I DO.

AND I DO IT

WITH MY HEART."

- POPE FRANCIS



St Rita's School Fundraiser

The Bay Vista Taqueria Food Truck will visit St. Rita's parking lot on Wednesday, May 20th from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Food must be pre-ordered online at:

<https://www.exploretock.com/bayvistaeats/experience/128265/saint-ritas-fundraiser>.

15% of the proceeds will go to supporting St. Rita's School. Please keep in mind that when picking up food to practice social distancing along with wearing a mask.

Parish Staff



Pastor: Fr. Paul Gitau
Deacon: Mark Robbins
Confirmation Prep. Coordinator: Bonnie Serio x27
Religious Ed. & Youth Coordinator: Sue Ward 671-2110
Business Manager: Robin Martz x30
Rectory Housekeeper: Helen Stirpe
Maintenance Coordinator: Ben O'Brien
Administrative Asst.: Jodie Hickey x21
Finance Council Chair: Tom Napoli 872-0678
Parish Council Chair: Paul Pumputis
Parish Trustees: Deb Urtz-Gleason & Dave Galeazzo
Multi Parish Finance Director:
 Joan Sullivan: 671-1100 x21

fr.paul.gitau@dor.org
 mark.robbins@dor.org
 bonnie.serio@dor.org
 susan.ward@dor.org
 robin.martz@dor.org
 helen.stirpe@dor.org
 ben.obrien@dor.org
 jodie.hickey@dor.org
 tanapoli@live.com

joan.sullivan@dor.org

Office Contact Info

The staff is working remotely when possible. The best way to get a hold of us is via our email addresses above. If you cannot send an email and would prefer to call the office please do so and leave a message for Jodie x21 and she will forward the message along to the staff member you are trying to reach.

Phone: 671- 2100
Emergency Number: 369-9687
Website: www.stpaulsrcc.org
Diocese of Rochester: www.dor.org

Financial Snapshot

	April 2020	July 2019 - April 2020
Collections	\$46,690	\$456,070
Donations/ other revenue	\$26,548	\$78,819
Expenses	\$(46,149)	\$(524,769)
Operating surplus/deficit	\$27,089	\$10,120

April donations/other revenue includes \$25,000 challenge match donation. Thank you to our "challengers" and all who helped us meet the challenge! YTD collections include Christmas collection of \$16,938 and Easter collection \$10,222 St. Paul Church relies on the generous contributions of our parishioners to continue providing the programs and ministries of the parish.

Let Us Pray for Those in the Military



Jason Aman
Zach Bartlett
Bryan Gross
Tom Weisenreder
Mason Serrano
Andrew Zani
Jay Riesenberger

Josh Bartlett
Sean Black
Andrew O'Brien
Cydney Blong
Michael J. Desiato
Daniel Thomas

This week the
 Sanctuary Lamp burns
 for
 Louis Spina
 From
 Wife, Children,
 Grandchildren &
 Great Grandchildren

Reflection for the Feast of the Ascension 2020

This coming Thursday we will celebrate the Feast of the Ascension. For many Catholics this Feast is seen simply as a commemoration of an event that occurred 2000 years ago, with little regard for the deeper meaning of the words of the Creed we recite every Sunday, "He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the father." The question is, what does the fact that Jesus ascended into heaven mean to us? Moreover, what impact does it have on our lives?

Well, the short answer to those questions is this. In baptism we become members of the body of Christ and are united with the risen, ascended, glorified Christ in a mysterious, but concrete manner. This means that we, in a very real but mysterious way, participate in the divine life since we have ascended with Christ. That this is so is implied in the words of Jesus as he prayed to the Father for his disciples: "They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world... As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world" (Jn 17:14-19).

In other words, the Feast of the Ascension speaks to us about 1) our identity as members of the body of Christ, 2) our destiny to full unity with Christ in the Kingdom of God, and 3) our mission to proclaim the Gospel. So rather than marking the end of Jesus' mission on earth, the Ascension is the beginning of a new way of Jesus relating to the world through us, His body, the Church. At the same time, the Ascension anticipates Pentecost, the day the Holy Spirit introduced Christ to his disciples in a new way and empowered them to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8).

Of course the disciples had no way of knowing when or where or how the Holy Spirit would come upon them, and until that happened they lived in fear behind locked doors (Jn 20:19). Even on the day of the Ascension, while the disciples worshiped Jesus, they still doubted (Mat 28:17). In the midst of fear and doubt the Lord vanished from their sight. What would their lives be like now, they must have wondered? How would they move forward? Where would they get the courage and the strength to bring the Gospel to the ends of the earth?

No doubt similar questions are in the minds of many of us these days as the country struggles to move forward in the face of the COVID-19 crisis. In communities that are still locked down people wonder, when will it end? How many more will die? What will life be like when this is over? When will I get to see my family again? When can I go back to Church or work? Even as some regions of the country begin to reduce restrictions and open their economies people are worried about the future. We hear talk of such things as "a new normal", systematic changes, economic recession, large-scale-testing, a second outbreak, etc., all of which add to people's fear, confusion, and anxiety.

Still, while we as a nation struggle with the effects of the COVID-19 crisis, the majority of us have homes to hunker-down in and ready access to food, clean water and medical care. The same is not true for millions of people around the world. In response, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) teams across the world are expanding programs in an attempt to prevent the spread and reduce the risk of COVID-19 in some of the world's most fragile environments. To that end, CRS is leveraging existing relationships with governments, local partners, and other organizations, to provide such things as sanitation, health and hygiene materials, educational materials, training for health workers, and shelters for quarantine areas to some of the world's most vulnerable communities, including, refugee camps, migrant communities, and orphanages; communities already stressed by the lack of food, clean water, and health care.

Today, on the Feast of the Ascension, we are reminded that Jesus hasn't left us, He is with us in the midst of this crisis, and always, in a new and powerful way through the Holy Spirit, who empowers us with wisdom, understanding, strength and courage to live out His mandate to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth, e.g., to serve the poor and vulnerable among us. One way we can do that, even as we remain confined to our homes, is by supporting CRS, the official relief organization of the U.S. Catholic Bishops, meaning you and I. Together, our support of CRS, whether spiritually or financially, makes a significant difference in the lives of many people around the world, including thousands at risk from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Deacon Mark

Challenge Update!

As you know, a generous local couple has offered to match offertory and Easter donations through the end of May, up to \$25,000.

We have great news! Our parishioners have responded wonderfully and the challenge has been met!

Thank you to all who have been able to support the parish through this time of uncertainty. This is a tremendous help as we continue the maintenance of our facility with the obvious goal of welcoming everyone back. We have also been able to maintain a limited staff on payroll who are working very hard to keep everything running.

Let us keep this spirit of supporting St. Paul's going and hopefully we will be back worshipping together soon!

Our giving options include mailing your donation to the parish, making your gift online through our web site or your bank, using the **GivePlus** mobile app, or by texting your gift. Details of these options are below.

Thank you!

Giving Options

Go to our website (stpaulsrcc.org) and click on the **DONATE** link.

Or give through your bank's online bill pay feature.



Try the

GIVEPLUS⁺ MOBILE APP



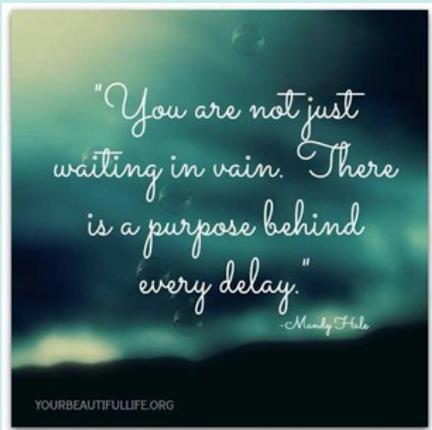
To donate by text,
send your
contribution amount
to 833-931-1892



Mail your check:
St. Paul Church
783 Hard Road
Webster, NY 14580

**TO THIS YEAR'S
CONFIRMANDS**

As they await their Confirmation



May thirteenth has come and gone,
The disappointment lingers on.
Within our minds the questions rise,
The when and where, the ifs and whys.
But in our hearts a Silence speaks,
"It's not the time, in days or weeks
That matters, but desire for Me.
I live in you and set you free."
So wait dear child, with hope in heart,
Remain in Christ, His love impart,
Remain in Him, His words in you...
The Spirit's fruits will live anew.

Please continue to pray for Hanna, Quentin, Madelyn, Gretchen, Christopher, Sean, Jenna, Sarah, Janelle, Alec, Daniel, Lucia, Sofia, Jackson, Sara, Gabriel, Ava, Shanna, Alana and Shawn.



Red Cross Blood Drive

The Webster Community Blood Drive will be held on Wednesday, June 3rd from 12:00-7:00 p.m. at the Eastside Family YMCA located at 1835 Fairport Nine Mile Point Rd. in Penfield. Donors can schedule an appointment online at redcrossblood.org by searching the sponsor keyword: WebsterCommunity.



Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester

Victims of sexual abuse should always report to the civil authorities. To receive help and guidance from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester, contact our Victim Assistance Coordinator:

Deborah Housel
585-328-3228 x1555
Toll-free: 1-800-388-7177 x 1555
Or by email, victimassistance@dor.org

Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester

Any concerns related to financial fraud can be reported anonymously:

Financial Fraud Hotline
1-800-388-7177 x1266
Reports may also be made in writing to:
Internal Audit Department—Diocese of Rochester
1150 Buffalo Road—Rochester, NY 14624

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE WEST-ERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK
In re Diocese of Rochester Case No. 19-20905**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT, On September 12, 2019, the Diocese of Rochester ("Diocese") filed for protection under chapter 11 of title 11 of the United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code"). The Bankruptcy Court has established August 13, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. (prevailing Eastern time) as the deadline to file proofs of claim against the Diocese (the "Bar Date"). If you have a claim against the Diocese, including, without limitation, a claim related to sexual abuse committed by any person connected with the Diocese, you must file a claim on or before the Bar Date. Please visit <https://case.stretto.com/rochesterdiocese> or call (855) 347-3773 for more information on how to file your proof of claim. **IF YOU DO NOT TIMELY FILE A PROOF OF CLAIM, YOU MAY FORFEIT YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE ON ANY PLAN OF REORGANIZATION AND TO SHARE IN ANY DISTRIBUTIONS MADE TO CREDITORS IN CONNECTION WITH THE DEBTOR'S CHAPTER 11 CASE.**

SUNDAY'S READINGS

FIRST READING:

Then they laid hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit. (Acts 8:17)

PSALM:

Let all the earth cry out to God with joy. (Ps 66) or Alleluia.

SECOND READING:

For Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous, that he might lead you to God. (1 Pt 3:18a)

GOSPEL:

"I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me, because I live and you will live." (Jn 14:18-19)

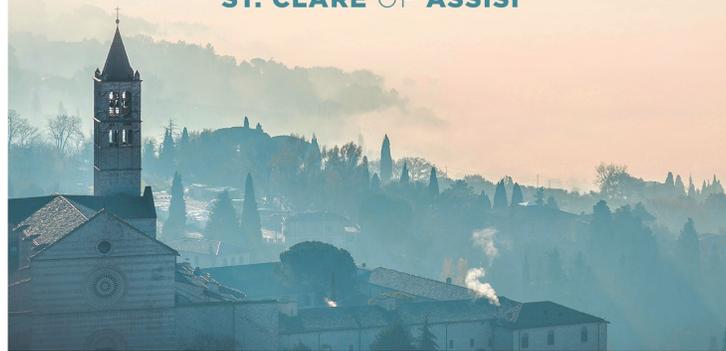
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OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 17, 2020

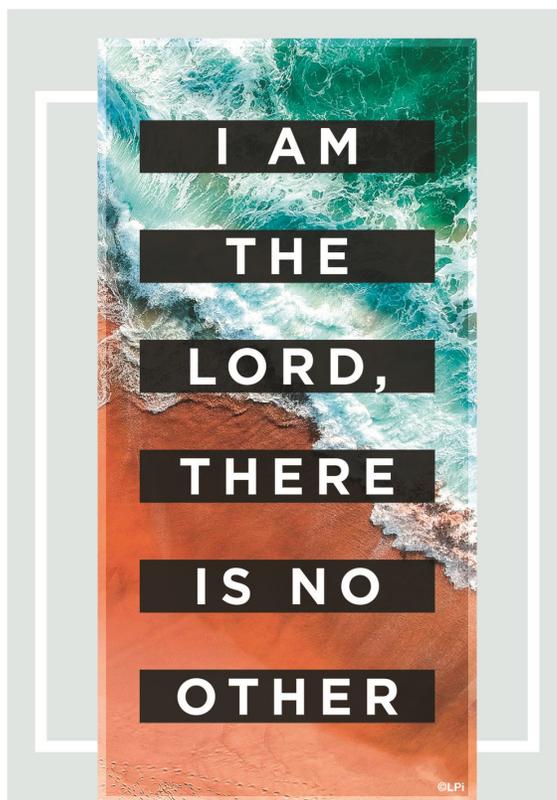
- Sunday: 6th Sunday of Easter
- Monday: St. John I, Pope and Martyr
- Wednesday: St. Bernardine of Siena, Priest
- Thursday: The Ascension of the Lord (holy day of obligation in some U.S. dioceses); St. Christopher Magallanes, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs
- Friday: St. Rita of Cascia, Religious
- Next Sunday: The Ascension of the Lord; 7th Sunday of Easter; World Communications Day

"WE BECOME WHAT WE LOVE
AND WHO WE LOVE SHAPES
WHAT WE BECOME."

ST. CLARE OF ASSISI



6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER



REFLECT

FIRST READING

In Acts 2, Luke records how the Holy Spirit initially descended upon the Jewish believers in Jerusalem. In today's reading, we hear how the Holy Spirit also descended upon the Samaritans who believed in Jesus. What lesson do you think Luke is conveying to us?

SECOND READING

Peter advocates for being prepared to defend the faith, even in the face of danger. How does one find the courage to defend the faith in a hostile environment?

GOSPEL READING

Jesus reveals to his disciples that the intimacy between himself, the Holy Spirit, and the Father can be shared with fellow believers. How do you experience the intimacy of our triune God?