

SAINT JOHN CATHOLIC CHURCH

MAY 13, 2018

501 Adair Street, Adair, IA 50002

ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Rev. Raymond J. Higgins, Parish Priest

DEAR PARISHIONERS

Happy Mother's Day to all our moms. Today we recognize our mothers and all they mean to us. My hope is that you will pray for them and ask God to bless them always.

This weekend we are presented with the readings of Jesus' Ascension into Heaven and the promised sending of the Holy Spirit. Jesus asked them not to leave Jerusalem, but "wait for 'the promise of the Father about which you have heard me speak; for John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'" (Acts 1:4-5)

Pope Benedict XVI noted that the Acts of the Apostles presents Pentecost as "the crowning moment of Jesus' whole mission." The pope explained that the grace of Pen-

tecost (being "Baptized in the Holy Spirit") is not confined to the past, but is a gift to be desired, prayed for, and rediscovered today:

"In effect, Jesus' whole mission was aimed at giving the Spirit of God to men and baptizing them in the "bath" of regeneration. This was realized through His glorification (cf. John 7:39), that is, through His death and resurrection: Then the Spirit of God was poured out in a superabundant way, like a waterfall able to purify every heart, to extinguish the flames of evil and ignite the fire of divine love in the world....

"Today I would like to extend this invitation to everyone: Let us rediscover, dear brothers and sisters, the beauty of being baptized in the Holy Spirit; let us be aware

again of our baptism and our confirmation, sources of grace that are always present. Let us ask the Virgin Mary to obtain a renewed Pentecost for the Church again today, a Pentecost that will spread in everyone the joy of living and witnessing to the Gospel." (Benedict XVI, Regina Coeli message, May 11, 2008.)

As we have just heard, God's intention all along was to share His Spirit with us - that is His very Self, but first we must be prepared so that we can be opened, reconciled, healed, and follow the example of Jesus in order for us to truly be one in Spirit with God.

Happy Ascension Sunday and Happy Mother's Day!

-Fr. Ray

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MASS TIMES
8AM SUNDAY
8:30AM WEDNESDAY
CONFESSION:
7:30AM SUNDAY

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21 Things We Do When We Make the Sign of the Cross

-Submitted by David Witkowski

(Part 4 of 4)

The Sign of the Cross is a simple gesture yet a profound expression of faith.....

18. Soldier on for Christ. The sphragis was also the term for a general's name that would be tattooed on his soldiers, according to Ghezzi. This too is an apt metaphor for the Christian life: while we can be compared to sheep in the sense of following Christ as our shepherd we are not called to be sheepish. We instead are called to be soldiers of Christ. As St. Paul wrote in Ephesians 6, "Put on the armor of God so that you may be able to stand firm against the tactics of the devil. ... take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."

19. Ward off the devil. The Sign of the Cross is one of the very weapons we use in that battle with the devil. As one medieval preacher named Aelfric declared, "A man may wave about wonderfully with his hands without creating any blessing unless

he make the sign of the cross. But, if he do, the fiend will soon be frightened on account of the victorious token." In another statement, attributed to St. John Chrysostom, demons are said to "fly away" at the Sign of the Cross "dreading it as a staff that they are beaten with." (Source: Catholic Encyclopedia.)

20. Seal ourselves in the Spirit. In the New Testament, the word sphragis, mentioned above, is also sometimes translated as seal, as in 2 Corinthians 1:22, where St. Paul writes that, "the one who gives us security with you in Christ and who anointed us is God; he has also put his seal upon us and given the Spirit in our hearts as a first installment." In making the Sign of the Cross, we are once again sealing ourselves in the Spirit, invoking His powerful intervention in our lives.

21. Witness to others. As a gesture often made in public, the Sign of the Cross is a simple way to witness our faith to others. "Let us not then be ashamed to confess

the Crucified. Be the Cross our seal made with boldness by our fingers on our brow, and on everything; over the bread we eat, and the cups we drink; in our comings in, and goings out; before our sleep, when we lie down and when we rise up; when we are in the way, and when we are still," [wrote St. Cyril of Jerusalem.](#)

From the Family of Wilma Fagan...

Please accept (our donation) in memory of our mother, Wilma M. Fagan. We ask that the money go toward new furniture in the church or to where it is most needed.

Thank you for the spiritual support for the last fifty-eight years.

-Rose Meredith

-Bob Fagan

-Rita Frie

-Shirley Fagan

Prayer & Thanksgiving

Thank you to the Faith Formation teachers and students who participated in May Crowning on Sunday May 6th. – Adella Vogl

To request prayer, please call the Church office at 515-523-1943, Adella Vogl at 641-742-5277, or email: stjohnallsaints@gmail.com

Liturgical Ministers Sunday May 20

Cross Bearer: Larry Drees

Greeters: Mr. & Mrs. John Fagan

Lector: Theresa Elgin

Host: Dave Richter

Cup: Adella Vogl & Sr. Rose Maura

Servers: Addy Richter & Carley Fagan

Traveling Chalice: Francis & Deb Hollinrake

PARISH BUSINESS & FINANCE REPORT

May 6th Collection \$546.00 **Kids:** \$11.00

Building Fund Balance as of 4/25: \$1,275.05

Building Fund: \$0.00

This Week's Income: \$557.00

This Week's Expenses: **\$1,724.32**

ADA 2018 Goal: \$7,029 Balance Due As Of 5/4: \$879.24

Trustees: Sheryl Drees, Les Elgin

Council Members: John Fagan, Monica Fagan, Larry Drees, Kenneth Ludwig, Marcia Gettler

Financial Secretary: Rita Rilea

CALENDAR

<u>Sunday 5-13</u>	<u>Monday 5-14</u>	<u>Tuesday 5-15</u>	<u>Wednesday 5-16</u>	<u>Thursday 5-17</u>	<u>Friday 5-18</u>	<u>Saturday 5-19</u>
7:30am Confession/ Adoration/Rosary 8am Mass for Betty Dill	BDs: Philip Fagan, Phyllis O'Brien	6pm Mass <i>for Maynard Witkowski</i> ANN: Scott & Natalie Suhr 1993	8:30am Mass for John W. Brincks	9am Care Center Mass for Martin G. Lydon (Stuart)	8:30am Mass for Sr. Phyllis Kernz (Stuart)	3:30pm Confessions at Stuart 4:30pm Mass at Stuart for Pat Donnelly

IN THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Sunday Focus:

Acts 1:1-11; Ephesians 1:17-23;
 Mark 16:15-20

Go and preach the Gospel to the whole world.

Through His passion, death, and resurrection, Jesus has defeated sin and death. When Jesus ascends into heaven, He does not abandon us, but goes to that place for which we all long. He does not leave us orphans, but sends the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Monday Focus:

Acts 11:15-17, 20-26; John 15:9-17

The more love we show to those around us, the more we grow like Jesus.

Jesus chose each of us to follow Him. If we accept, we are commanded to love one another as Jesus loves us. This is demanding—for the love of Jesus has no limit. We can grow more like Jesus if we try each day to do one act of love beyond what we did the day before.

Tuesday Focus:

Acts 20:17-27; John 17:1-11a

Stay strong in the face of hardships, giving witness and proclaiming the Gospel.
 Oh, if we could only have the self-

assurance of Paul about our own ministry and the work God calls us to do! Paul is so very strong in the face of hardships and stays true to giving witness and proclaiming the Gospel, no matter the circumstances. Let us pray today for that same perseverance as we respond to God's call.

Wednesday Focus:

Acts 20:28-38; John 17:11b-19

Let us endeavor to always choose the truth.

Saint Paul and Jesus, both knowing the difficulties to come, entrusted the faithful to God's care. Jesus prayed that they be protected by means of the truth. As believers, let's recognize the truth that lasting satisfaction doesn't come from accumulating possessions, fame, or what the world calls success. It comes through God's love and service to others.

Thursday Focus:

Acts 22:30, 23:6-11; John 17:20-26

Jesus leaves us with the task of bearing witness to others of His saving love for all of us.

Being a disciple of Jesus was never meant to be easy, as we can see from the example of Paul—called to be witness to Jesus not only in Jerusalem but in Rome. Just as we relied on Paul's testimony to make the

Gentiles—and us—aware of Jesus, so future generations depend on us.

Friday Focus:

Acts 25:13b-21; John 21:15-19

We demonstrate our love for the Lord by tending to His sheep, as did Peter and Paul.

Jesus made very clear to Simon Peter that if he truly loved Him, he would care for His sheep, no matter the cost. Saint Paul, understanding the cost, was in prison because he was zealous in spreading the Gospel. When we tend to our sisters and brothers, we are doing what Jesus asked of His disciples.

Saturday Focus:

Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; John 21:20-25

Let go of all distraction and focus on the Lord.

It is easy to become distracted these days. We are surrounded by voices and images demanding our attention. Even the Apostles were distracted by things they did not understand, but Jesus tells them to focus on Him alone. Paul is a good example of this. Imprisoned, he continues to proclaim the kingdom of God.



ST. CROIX[®]

HOSPICE

BECOME A HOSPICE VOLUNTEER

Volunteers are an important part of the St. Croix Hospice care team, providing emotional and practical support for our patients and their families. We are looking for people willing to share their time and talents to bring peace and joy to others during the end-of-life journey.

If God has given you the gifts of empathy, compassion and listening, then volunteering to walk alongside people at the end of life might be a perfect way for to serve others.

St. Croix Hospice delivers the highest quality care during the end-of-life journey, treating patients and their families with dignity, compassion and respect in Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska and Wisconsin.

Serving Iowa counties:

Adair, Audubon, Boone, Carroll, Cass, Dallas, Greene, Guthrie, Jasper, Madison, Marshall, Marion, Polk, Story and Warren.

For information about volunteering please contact:

Manager of Volunteer Services Angelia McCright

Email: amccright@stcroixhospice

Phone: 515-276-2700

StCroixHospice.com