

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

MAY 13, 2018

MASS READINGS

MONDAY: ACTS 1:15-17, 20-26, PS 113, JN 15:9-17

TUESDAY: ACTS 20:17-21, PS 68, JN 17:1-11A

WEDNESDAY: ACTS 20:28-38, PS 68, JN 17:11B-19

THURSDAY: ACTS 22:30;23:6-11, PS 16, JN 17:20-26

FRIDAY: ACTS 25:13B-21, PS 103, JN 21:15-19

SATURDAY: ACTS 28:16-20,30-31, PS 11, JN 21:20-25

**NEXT SUNDAY: PENTECOST SUNDAY-VIGIL
RDGS: GN 11:1-9, PS 104, ROM 8:22-27, JN 7:37-39
DURING THE DAY RDGS: ACTS 2:1-11, PS 104, I COR 12:3B-7,12-13, SEQUENCE, JN 20:19-23**

MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY: SPECIAL INTENTION

TUESDAY: FR. GEORGE ASKAR

WEDNESDAY: KATHY LESTER

THURSDAY: DEIDRA SARGENT

FRIDAY: POOR SOULS

VIGIL: RICHARD RODGERS

7:30: ROBERT W. BENNETT

10:00: DEIDRA SARGENT

NOON: FOR THE PARISH

MEMORIAL FLOWERS

Fleener & Preuss families. (Marge, Mike & Ann Kirsch). (Tim, John & Stephanie Fitzgerald). Anna & Charles Weist. Farrell & LaGuire families. Cecil Albregts. Bob Bennett. (Don Biggs & Jack Hurst). Gary Lamie. Marceline Rangel Llamas. Marvin Anthrop.

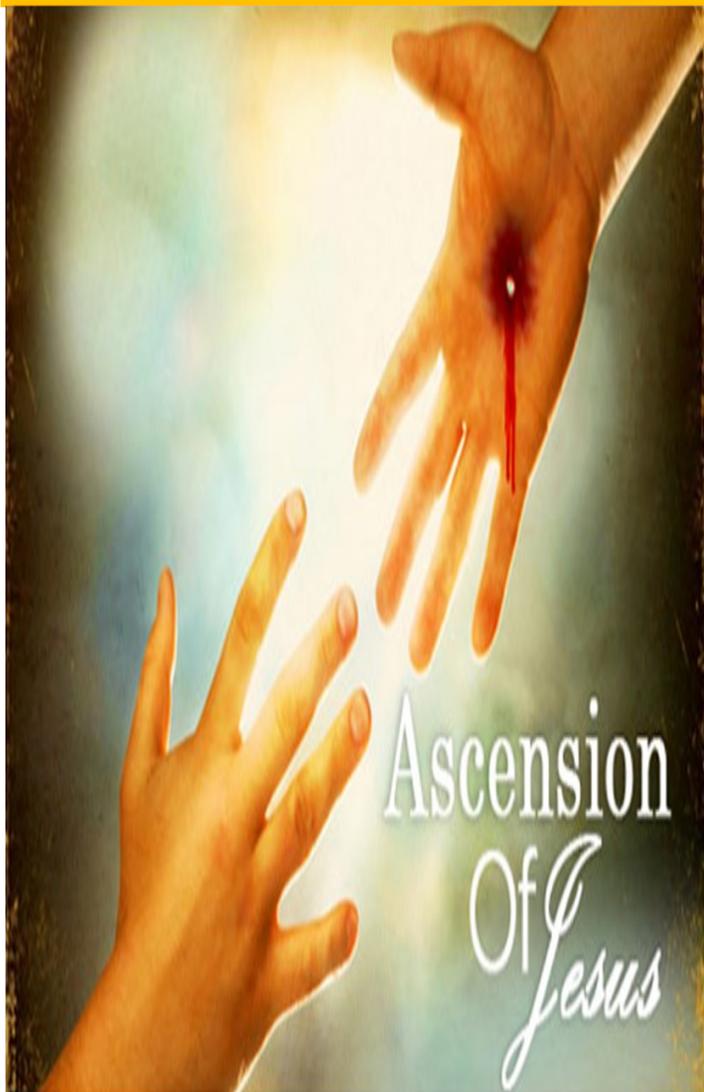
GOSPEL REFLECTION:

*But they went forth and preached everywhere,
while the Lord worked with them
and confirmed the word through accompanying signs.*

After reading the above I am inclined to think that what unites believers and nonbelievers is that they both "went forth...everywhere", we are after all, quite mobile and we impact and influence a number of people throughout our lives. The major difference between the two is actions HOW we influence those folks whom God has placed in our path. Jesus reminds us that he came that "we might have life and have it in abundance." He also told his disciples that they would do "his works and greater". If that is so then we not only have an itinerary for our life in that we go hither and yon but we have a purpose as well. As believers in Christ we are to spread the message of life to all we meet. We begin by having life within us, a life that is divine and one that we can readily share without fear of depletion. This divine life is the gift of our baptism and we continue to nurture it through our life in the church, our prayer life, our sacramental life and our moral life. Here we allow ourselves to become "wellsprings of the Holy Spirit, welling up to eternal life," and we then have that capacity to provide this life giving water to anyone who needs it. We needn't trouble ourselves on what kind of "impression" we are to make, what we are to say etc. because the Lord will give us all these things dependent on the situation since he came for "us men and our salvation" and that is the principle by which we works through us. For our part, acknowledging that we are recipients of this life and commissioned to bring this life to others we are to remain ever vigilant as to the times and circumstance when we might best be sharers of this life. Jesus has given us many instructions for this, particularly in Matthew 25 regarding feeding, giving drink etc. But he also has shown us that in certain circumstances our gifts do not simply include the "material" things that bring a certain kind of life but that we are to impart those immaterial or rather imperishable gifts which continue to work in people long after we have departed. These gifts are already within us as Spirit-filled people. They are wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord. I am referring of course to the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. I could also enumerate the fruits of the Holy Spirit as well as the theological and cardinal virtues. In short, we have been given "every spiritual gift containing every blessing. We then have more than enough to meet any possible situation we might encounter during our "travels" through life. Let's realize what a tremendous power that has been given to us to share with others and what an honor it is to do so in the name of Jesus Christ. Daily then we need to keep constantly before us that someday our journey will reach its earthly end and we will be asked to look back over that adventure to see if we have indeed traveled like seasons pilgrims anticipating arriving at our true and eternal home. In the meantime we examine our lives to see, just for this day, from sun up to sun down whether or not we journeyed in the Lord's name, as his disciples, spreading his life-giving word in what we say and what we do, in how we think and how we decide, in all the things that makes us the believers we profess to be.

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

MAY 13, 2018



A poem about Jesus' death, resurrection and ascension.

By Hilary Freer

*It was not the cruel nails in His hands and feet
That held Him on the cross,
Nor the soldiers on the ground,
Who for His robe a coin did toss,
Nor the jeering crowds shouting "crucify!"
It was to save us, He suffered and did die.
He came from Heaven above,
To tell us of His Father's love.
When He died, on that tree,
In His body, He took our sins,
And paid the penalty.
On the third day He rose again,
He conquered death and hell and now in Heaven,
With His Father, He does reign.
His love for us we cannot measure,
His love it is our greatest treasure.
So Jesus, on our bended knee,
We confess our sins, ask forgiveness from Thee.
We love You our Saviour and Lord,
And one day we shall see You-
What a Glorious day that will be
When we shall worship You for all Eternity.
But while we are on earth dear Lord:
Teach us how to watch and pray
Please walk beside us, every day!*

II. The Ascension renders our faith more excellent and stronger

In order, therefore, dearly-beloved, that we may be capable of this blessedness, when all things were fulfilled which concerned the Gospel preaching and the mysteries of the New Testament, our Lord Jesus Christ, on the fortieth day after the Resurrection in the presence of the disciples, was raised into heaven, and terminated His presence with us in the body, to abide on the Father's right hand until the times Divinely fore-ordained for multiplying the sons of the Church are accomplished, and He comes to judge the living and the dead in the same flesh in which He ascended. And so that which till then was visible of our Redeemer was changed into a sacramental presence, and that faith might be more excellent and stronger, sight gave way to doctrine, the authority of which was to be accepted by believing hearts enlightened with rays from above.

III. The marvelous effects of this faith on all

This Faith, increased by the Lord's Ascension and established by the gift of the Holy Ghost, was not terrified by bonds, imprisonments, banishments, hunger, fire, attacks by wild beasts, refined torments of cruel persecutors. For this Faith throughout the world not only men, but even women, not only beardless boys, but even tender maids, fought to the shedding of their blood. This Faith cast out spirits, drove off sicknesses, raised the dead: and through it the blessed Apostles themselves also, who after being confirmed by so many miracles and instructed by so many discourses, had yet been panic-stricken by the horrors of the Lord's Passion and had not accepted the truth of His resurrection without hesitation, made such progress after the Lord's Ascension that everything which had previously filled them with fear was turned into joy.

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

MAY 13, 2018

For they had lifted the whole contemplation of their mind to the Godhead of Him that sat at the Father's right hand, and were no longer hindered by the barrier of corporeal sight from directing their mind.' gaze to That Which had never quitted the Father's side in descending to earth, and had not forsaken the disciples in ascending to heaven.

IV. His Ascension refines our Faith: the ministering of angels to Him shows the extent of His authority

The Son of Man and Son of God, therefore, dearly-beloved, then attained a more excellent and holier fame, when He betook Himself back to the glory of the Father's Majesty, and in an ineffable manner began to be nearer to the Father in respect of His Godhead, after having become farther away in respect of His manhood. A better instructed faith then began to draw closer to a conception of the Son's equality with the Father without the necessity of handling the corporeal substance in Christ, whereby He is less than the Father, since, while the Nature of the glorified Body still remained the faith of believers was called upon to touch not with the hand of flesh, but with the spiritual understanding the Only-begotten, Who was equal with the Father. Hence comes that which the Lord said after His Resurrection, when Mary Magdalene, representing the Church, hastened to approach and touch Him: "Touch Me not, for I have not yet ascended to My Father John 20:17:" that is, I would not have you come to Me as to a human body, nor yet recognize Me by fleshly perceptions: I put you off for higher things, I prepare greater things for you: when I have ascended to My Father, then you shall handle Me more perfectly and truly, for you shall grasp what you can not touch and believe what you can not see. But when the disciples' eyes followed the ascending Lord to heaven with upward gaze of earnest wonder, two angels stood by them in raiment shining with wondrous brightness, who also said, "You men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing into heaven? This Jesus Who was taken up from you into heaven shall so come as you saw Him going into heaven Acts 1:11 ." By which words all the sons of the Church were taught to believe that Jesus Christ will come visibly in the same Flesh wherewith He ascended, and not to doubt that all things are subjected to Him on Whom the ministry of angels had waited from the first beginning of His Birth. For, as an angel announced to the blessed Virgin that Christ should be conceived by the Holy Ghost, so the voice of heavenly beings sang of His being born of the Virgin also to the shepherds. As messengers from above were the first to attest His having risen from the dead, so the service of angels was employed to foretell His coming in very Flesh to judge the world, that we might understand what great powers will come with Him as Judge, when such great ones ministered to Him even in being judged. (Excerpted for Pope St. Leo on the Ascension:

Read more at: <http://the-american-catholic.com/2012/05/20/pope-leo-the-great-on-the-ascension/>

MEDITATION ON THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

"Christ is already in that place of peace, which is all in all. He is on the right hand of God. He is hidden in the brightness of the radiance which issues from the everlasting throne. He is in the very abyss of peace, where there is no voice of tumult or distress, but a deep stillness--stillness, that greatest and most awful of all goods which we can fancy; that most perfect of joys, the utter profound, ineffable tranquility of the Divine Essence. He has entered into His rest. That is our home; here we are on a pilgrimage, and Christ calls us to His many mansions which He has prepared." - Venerable John Henry Newman

"Today our Lord Jesus Christ ascended into heaven; let our hearts ascend with him. Listen to the words of the Apostle: If you have risen with Christ, set your hearts on the things that are above where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God; seek the things that are above, not the things that are on earth. For just as he remained with us even after his ascension, so we too are already in heaven with him, even though what is promised us has not yet been fulfilled in our bodies." - St. Augustine

"I answer that Christ's Ascension is the cause of our salvation in two ways: first of all, on our part; secondly, on His. On our part, in so far as by the Ascension our souls are uplifted to Him; because...His Ascension fosters, first, faith; secondly, hope; thirdly, charity. Fourthly, our reverence for Him is thereby increased, since we no longer deem Him an earthly man, but the God of heaven; thus the Apostle says (2 Corinthians 5:16): "If we have known Christ according to the flesh — 'that is, as mortal, whereby we reputed Him as a mere man,'" as the gloss interprets the words — "but now we know Him so no longer." On His part, in regard to those things which, in ascending, He did for our salvation. First, He prepared the way for our ascent into heaven, according to His own saying (John 14:2): "I go to prepare a place for you," and the words of Micheas (2:13), "He shall go up that shall open the way before them." For since He is our Head the members must follow whither the Head has gone: hence He said (John 14:3): "That where I am, you also may be." In sign whereof He took to heaven the souls of the saints delivered from hell, according to Psalm 67:19 (Cf. Ephesians 4:8): "Ascending on high, He led captivity captive," because He took with Him to heaven those who had been held captives by the devil — to heaven, as to a place strange to human nature. captives in deed of a happy taking, since they were acquired by His victory. Secondly, because as the high-priest under the Old Testament entered the holy place to stand before God for the people, so also Christ entered heaven "to make intercession for us," as is said in Hebrews 7:25. Because the very showing of Himself in the human nature which He took with Him to heaven is a pleading for us. so that for the very reason that God so exalted human nature in Christ, He may take pity on them for whom the Son of God took human nature.

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

MAY 13, 2018

Thirdly, that being established in His heavenly seat as God and Lord, He might send down gifts upon men, according to Ephesians 4:10: "He ascended above all the heavens, that He might fill all things," that is, "with His gifts," according to the gloss." - St. Thomas Aquinas

"But you will say, How does this concern me? Because you also shall be taken up in like manner into the clouds. For your body is of like nature to His body, therefore shall your body be so light, that it can pass through the air. For as is the head, so also is the body; as the beginning, so also the end. See then how you are honored by this beginning. Man was the lowest part of the rational creation, but the feet have been made the head, being lifted up aloft into the royal throne in their head." - St. John Chrysostom

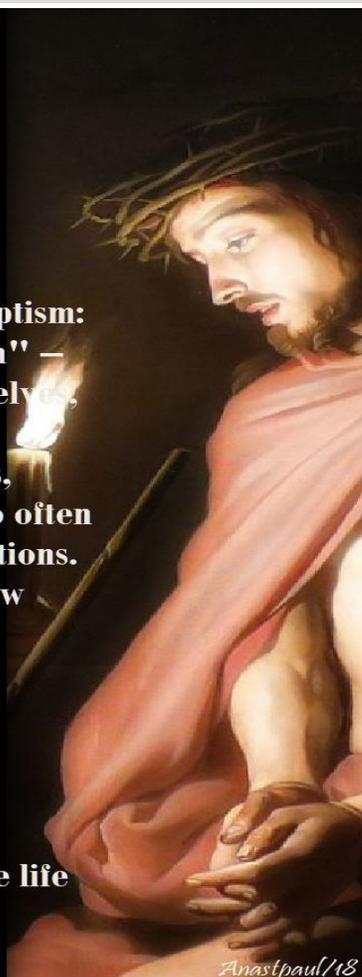
"It has always seemed logical to me that the most holy humanity of Christ should ascend to the glory of the Father. The ascension has always made me very happy. But I think that the sadness that is particular to the day of the ascension is also a proof of the love that we feel for Jesus Christ, our Lord. He is God made man, perfect man, with flesh like ours, with blood like ours in his veins. Yet he leaves us and goes up to heaven. How can we help but miss his presence?" - St. Josemaria Escriva



"Sursum corda"

**"Lift up your hearts,
your inner selves!"**

**In both exclamations
we are summoned,
as it were,
to a renewal of our Baptism:
"Conversi ad Dominum" —
we must distance ourselves
ever anew
from taking false paths,
onto which we stray so often
in our thoughts and actions.
We must turn ever anew
towards Him,
who is the Way,
the Truth
and the Life.
We must be converted
ever anew,
turning with our whole life
towards the Lord.
Pope Benedict XVI**



By Fr. Aaron Johanneck,
Diocese of New Ulm Director
of Worship

Sursum Corda
Lift Up Your Hearts
Reflections on the Sacred Liturgy

What is the most important activity of the week? What is the very center of our lives as Catholics? It is our keeping of the Lord's Day – Sunday – through our participation in the Holy Sacrifice of Mass. It is the praise and adoration we give to God the Father, through Jesus Christ his Son, in the Holy Spirit, and our reception of Christ's sacred Body and Blood in the Holy Eucharist. It is our entering into the Church's sacred liturgy: that is, her official and public worship and prayer.

The liturgy of the Church includes the seven sacraments, the Liturgy of the Hours, as well as other official prayers – and blessings of the Church all centered on the Holy Eucharist. The liturgy is the center of the Christian life because it is the "place" where we encounter the Lord Jesus unlike anywhere else. It is where the saving events of our faith are made present to us, and where we are made present to them. The liturgy is where we are put into real contact with the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Christ. It is what allows these events to have power and to bear fruit in our lives. The sacred liturgy is where we offer ourselves most perfectly as a sacrifice pleasing to God. A gift so powerful, profound, and rich is something upon which we could, and indeed should, spend our whole lives meditating.

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

MAY 13, 2018

The more we understand what the Church's liturgy is, the more we grow in our love and appreciation of it; and the more we are able to enter in, allowing the saving mysteries recalled and made present to bear fruit in our lives and to form us more and more into the likeness Jesus Christ. This is the purpose of these reflections on the sacred liturgy. Each month we will focus on some aspect of the Church's liturgy with the hope that this will aid and deepen our full, conscious, and active participation.

These reflections are entitled *Sursum corda*, which is Latin for "Lift up your hearts." These words are taken from the liturgy itself. They are part of the dialogue that takes place between the priest and the people at the beginning of the Preface prayed in the Holy Mass just before the Holy, Holy, Holy or Sanctus. They are words of exhortation offered by the priest as we move into the Eucharistic Prayer, the heart and center of the Mass, where the bread and wine are transubstantiated into the Body and Blood of Christ, and where the faithful join with Christ, through the ministry of the priest, in "confessing the great deeds of God and in the offering of Sacrifice" ("General Instruction of the Roman Missal," no. 78). Here we are exhorted to lift up our hearts, to lift up our innermost selves "above the confusion of our apprehensions, our desires, our narrowness, our distraction" (Benedict XVI, Wednesday Audience, Sept. 26, 2012), and to focus our attention on the Lord who loves us beyond all imagining.

The hope is that these humble reflections on the sacred liturgy may help us to do just that: to "lift up our hearts" to the Lord; to offer him fitting worship and adoration; to receive his gifts and be transformed by him.

'Lift up your hearts'

The actions and gestures of the Mass are deeply meaningful, and the more we understand them, the more we will connect with what God is doing through the Mass. When the gifts are brought forward in procession, the second offering is being made. The priest takes them and then prepares for the third offering.

The priest lifts the bread and says:

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the bread we offer you: fruit of the earth and work of human hands, it will become for us the bread of life.

This prayer comes to the liturgy from the ancient Hebrew prayers of thanksgiving.



The wording reminds us that the work of God is completed by "human hands." In other words, we must cooperate with God to receive the fullness of his blessing. (The priest says a similar prayer for the wine.)

Then, as the priest prepares to consecrate the bread and wine, he says, "Lift up your hearts!"

This, combined with the whole

action of the priest at the altar, is a participation in the third offering, which gathers up and purifies all the others. Here the gifts of bread and wine are transformed to become the body and blood of Christ. After the consecration the priest lifts the bread and wine in another action of offering. Then when he says, "Behold the Lamb of God," he again lifts the bread and wine, not only to show the people, but also as an action of offering or oblation to God.

It is through the priest's words and his whole action of offering that the transformation takes place, and it is as we participate in this action of offering that our own offerings are complete. When we see the Mass as an offering and a sacrifice, we realize that all those grudges and guilty feelings, all those fears and worries, are lifted from us. We lift our hearts to the Lord, and with them we lift the burdens of our hearts.

A living sacrifice

In his letter to the Romans, St. Paul writes:

I urge you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship (12:1).

This is the fourth and final sacrifice of the Mass. After we receive Christ's body and blood, we return to our place and offer ourselves, our souls, and our bodies as a living sacrifice. In other words we say to God, "Here I am, Lord. Send me. Use me for your service in the world."

This fourth and final offering seals what has gone before and completes the offering we have made to God earlier in the Mass. As we make the positive promise to serve him, it is amazing how the guilt, the grudges, and the fears disappear.

I am convinced that Catholic worship does what we believe it does. We say that we have been reconciled, ransomed, healed, restored, and forgiven. When we participate fully in the Mass, this is exactly the work God does within our hearts and lives.

When we come to Mass therefore, it is important that we do not simply think of it as a Christian fellowship time. The Mass is not just a time to sing songs and hear an inspiring talk about being good citizens. It is not simply a time to think about how to make the world a better place or to learn how we might be better people.

Instead it is a meeting place of heaven and earth, where God, by the power of his grace, reaches down to touch us, and we, by making a full and complete offering, receive the power to be transformed into the image and likeness of Christ.



THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

MAY 13, 2018

Announcements and Upcoming Events

SCHOLARSHIPS!



7th and 8th Grade Parents: Your children may be eligible for a college scholarship! Indiana's 21st Century Scholars program offers income-eligible Hoosier students up to four years of paid tuition at an eligible Indiana college or university after they graduate from

high school. Applications must be received by June 30 of the student's 8th-grade year. Central Catholic is hosting a meeting for parents and students to learn more about the 21st Century Scholars program. The meeting will be held Monday, May 21 at 6:00 p.m. in the CC cafeteria. A 21st Century Scholar rep will be speaking to parents about enrolling their students for the scholarship, FAFSA, and college-related information. Please join us to learn more about the program! Information may be found in the back of church or contact the Lafayette Catholic School Office at (765) 471-8362

Schoenstatt Holy Hour

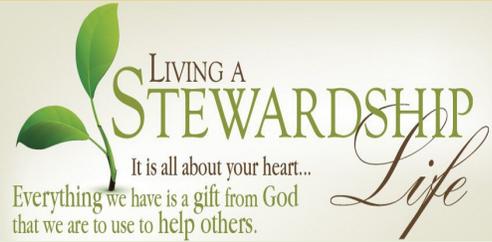
All are invited to the *Schoenstatt Holy Hour* with Father Cassian Sama O.P On Tuesday, May 15, 2018 at 7pm in St Thomas Aquinas Church. It will include adoration, rosary, a homily, benediction and MAY CROWNING of Our Blessed Mother.

Thank you to all who attended our Divine Mercy program for the past 5 Fridays. It came upon the heels of a successful Lenten Soup & Station Program and surely looks to set a trend in the future for other presentations coupled with fellowship and devotional practices. A special thanks to Sharon & Kurt for directing the program contents and to Peggy for providing the refreshments. In all over 40 people attended both events throughout the entire run. A wonderful way to grow in the faith.

Girls aged 10-14 ARE INVITED TO A



RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY! R.S.V.P. BY MAY 14
sisterluciarichardson@gmail.com / 765-742-8081



We often cite Jesus' quote from today's Gospel of Mark: "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature." This was not a suggestion from the Lord. It was quite frankly a command, and it is one which still holds for each of us. Being an evangelist, being a disciple, being a steward is not a matter of choice for those of us who are Catholic and Christian. It is something the Lord expects of us.

Often we may like to spend time debating how to do that, but that does not lessen the fact that it is something we are supposed to do. We need to acknowledge that even the original Apostles and followers of Jesus did not do that immediately. We learn that they stayed in Jerusalem for some time, and it seemed to be only when the Church and its followers were persecuted that they began to reach out and truly share the "Good News."

Once Christians accepted that charge from the Lord, they did indeed take the Word of God to all corners of the earth. Look at the Church today. It is incredible how this Church has grown from one Man/God and a small group into what it is today. That does not, however, get us "off the hook."

As much as we may argue about how to carry out this command from Jesus, the fact remains that our very lives need to stand as a representation of what it means to be a Christian, what it means to "love one another," what it means to live and to work as a disciple of Christ.

SUNDAY OFFERING:

\$8105

"FIND OUT HOW MUCH GOD HAS GIVEN YOU, AND FROM IT TAKE WHAT YOU NEED; THE REMAINDER IS NEEDED BY OTHERS"

ST. AUGUSTINE