

THE GOOD NEWS LETTER

APRIL 27, 2018

A FEW WORDS FROM FR. DAVE:

Continued thoughts and commentary on highlighted items in my prayer books.

If a needy person requires medicine or help during prayer time, do whatever has to be done with peace of mind. Offer the deed to God as your prayer ... Charity is certainly greater than any rule. Moreover, all rules must lead to charity.

St. Vincent de Paul

Sometimes we have competing values. For example, we want to set aside time to pray. We also want to help our brothers and sisters who are in need. St. Vincent's advice is good for us to follow. Not only is charity or love greater than any rule, prayer ultimately leads us to be more loving toward others.

Is St. Vincent saying that prayer is not important? Of course not. In fact, he is offering us the possibility of looking at prayer in a broader sense: Offer the deed to God as your prayer. Often, prayer leads us to action. But sometimes genuine loving actions are prayer. Have you ever called or visited someone at "just the right time" and had a wonderful visit? If you have, you might have even described the visit as prayerful. I think this is part of what St. Vincent is talking about.

So, definitely, set time aside for prayer. Definitely, have personal quiet time for prayer. At the same time don't think that the only time you might meet God each day is during prayer time. We can meet God throughout life – even during life's interruptions.

DJN

CATHOLIC FAMILY NIGHT AT THE TINCAPS

Saturday, May 19, 7:05pm

Fort Wayne TinCaps vs. South Bend Cubs

Fireworks, Tyler's Amazing Balance Act, more!

Discounted tickets of \$8 are available for this game with \$1 from each ticket sale being donated to Catholic Schools. Purchase tickets through: <https://tincaps5.streamlineticketing.com/group/event/CatholicNight18/>. Order by May 4 to receive the discount. This event is being sponsored by Quality Dining/Burger King.



FRUITFUL HARVEST UPDATE

St. John's is only \$5,000 away from our Fruitful Harvest goal of \$45,340. Is your pledge up-to-date? All payments must be made by August, 2018, for the 2016 Fruitful Harvest Campaign.

Please help us reach or surpass our goal by making sure your pledge is up-to-date. If you need to check on your status, contact Diana at the office.

St. Mary's has reached their goal. All additional payments will be returned to the parish at 50 percent. They received their 10% rebate check in February.

Please check where you stand on your pledged amount and do what you can to help us reach our goal. Many thanks to all who are helping us reach our goals in this campaign.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER, MAY 3

The National Day of Prayer was created in 1952 by a joint resolution of Congress, and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman. In 1988, the law was unanimously amended by both the House and the Senate and signed into law by President Ronald Reagan on Thursday, May 5, 1988, designating the first Thursday of May as a day of national prayer. Every president since 1952 has signed a National Day of Prayer proclamation.

Prayer brings people together. Prayer builds bridges between opposing persons and even political parties. Prayer reminds us that we are created in God's image and He desires for us to represent Him everywhere we go. Prayer brings UNITY. In 2018, our theme will be **Pray for America - UNITY**, based upon Ephesians 4:3 which challenges us to mobilize unified public prayer for America, *"Making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."*

Our hope is that individuals, churches, and spiritual leaders in America, will humble ourselves and unify in prevailing prayer for the next great move of God in America. We can come together in clear agreement that this is our greatest need. We can become a visible union, standing together in prayer. We can pray more than ever before, and practice extraordinary prayer for the next great move of God in America that will catapult the message of the gospel nationally and internationally. Pray with us. Together, we can mobilize unified public prayer for America!

There is a gathering planned at the Blackford County Courthouse and a short program of prayer by different ecumenical leaders, including Sr. Rita, will take place. All are invited to join in this National Day of Prayer Gathering, May 3,

"There is no great movement of God that has ever occurred that does not begin with the extraordinary prayer of God's people." Dr. Ronnie Floyd



LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR MAY—ST. MARY'S

May 6: **Reader:** Laverne Watson **Gifts:** Matt & Jenny Johnson Family **Communion Ministers:** Amy Grady & Danette Hamilton **Greeter:** Phil & Jane Crouch **Counters:** Danette Hamilton & Jane Crouch **Song Leader:** Amy Blakely

May 13: **Reader:** Sandy Doyle **Gifts:** Devin & Wendy Stout Family **Communion Ministers:** Loretta Wilson **Greeter:** Colleen Bicknell **Counters:** Dan Watson & Jane Crouch **Song Leader:** Amy Blakely

May 20: **Reader:** Bob Banser **Gifts:** Danette Hamilton **Communion Ministers:** Connie Hartnagle & Dan Watson **Greeter:** Phil & Jane Crouch **Counters:** Kathleen Inman & Angie Burress **Song Leader:** Amy Blakely

May 27: **Reader:** Dan Watson **Gifts:** Amy & Brad Grady Family **Communion Ministers:** Susan Louck & Kelli Grady **Greeter:** Colleen Bicknell **Counters:** Kathleen Inman & Angie Burress **Song Leader:** Amy Blakely



LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR MAY—ST. JOHN'S

Saturday 5:00 pm **Readers:** Jason Lenz **Gifts:** Gerard Merkel, Jr. Family **Announcements:** Vince Cimino **Communion Ministers:** Scott Hutson 5, 12, 26, Serena Merkel 19, Diana Holsten, Sonya Hoffman, Lisa Rinker, Anna Cimino

Sunday 8:30 am **Reader:** Bethany Elkins 6, Sr. Rita Musante 13, 20, 27 **Gifts:** First Communion Students 6, Karen & John Shields Family 13, 20, 27 **Announcements:** Becky Cain **Communion Ministers:** Bernadette & Gary Elkins 6, 13, 20, Susan Lannoy 6, 20, 27, Claire & Tom Aulbach, Jack Cain 27, Tom Alfrey 13, 27

FIVE TO RECEIVE FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

St. John's Church will welcome five second grade students to the table of the Lord at the 8:30am Mass on May 6th as they receive the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist for the first time. **Adam Aulbach, Ashley Henderson, Isabelle Homan, Bryson Michael and Luis Velasquez**, under the direction of Lorna Manley have been preparing all year to receive Jesus' presence through the bread and wine, His Body and Blood. They began with their first Reconciliation in December and have continued their studies through religious education. Let us continue to keep them in prayer as they await this big day.

ASCENSION AND PENTECOST ROUND OUR EASTER SEASON

Ascension of the Lord is May 13 and Pentecost is May 20 this year.

Ascension of the Lord

665 Christ's Ascension marks the definitive entrance of Jesus' humanity into God's heavenly domain, whence he will come again (cf. *Acts 1:11*); this humanity in the meantime hides him from the eyes of men (cf. *Col 3:3*).

666 Jesus Christ, the head of the Church, precedes us into the Father's glorious kingdom so that we, the members of his Body, may live in the hope of one day being with him for ever.

667 Jesus Christ, having entered the sanctuary of heaven once and for all, intercedes constantly for us as the mediator who assures us of the permanent outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

--*The Catechism of the Catholic Church*

Pentecost

Happy birthday to the Catholic Church! Happy birthday to you, who are the body of the Church! Because you are part of the body of the Church, Pentecost is the Church's birthday, and yours as well.

The word Pentecost is Greek and it means "50th day." Fifty days after Easter Sunday, we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and their followers, and the beginning of their Earthly ministry to make disciples of all nations.

NEW FAMILY SECTION— JOY FOR THE WORLD

A new section in our *Good News Letter* is beginning this month entitled *Joy for the World* following Pope Francis' theme for the 9th World Meeting of Families, "**The Gospel of the Family: Joy for the World**".

The 9th World Meeting of Families will be held in Dublin, Ireland from August 21-26 of 2018. On March 25, 2017, Pope Francis wrote a letter to Cardinal Kevin J. Farrell, Prefect of the Dicastery for the Laity, the Family, and Life regarding his journey to Ireland, in which he expressed his wishes for families to have a way to "deepen and share" the contents of his post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*. The Gospel is a joy for the world, as is the "good news" of the family, which reflects God's love for humanity.

"The family...is the 'yes' of God's love," the Holy Father wrote. God's love is the starting point for the family and allows the family to love one another and reach out in mercy to others who are wounded and mistreated. It is only from love that the family can "manifest, spread, and regenerate God's love in the world," the pope wrote.

He then exhorted families to examine the ways they interact with one another and to strive to live "based on love, for love, and in love." The pope gave a reminder, one of the refrains of his addresses to married couples and families, to strengthen familial relationships through the use of the words "please," "thank you," and "I'm sorry." While man experiences hurt and fragility, a "renewed humility" of heart within families can offer healing and mercy.

The Holy Father hopes that the Dublin Meeting will offer "concrete signs of...how much Christian families are a place of mercy and witnesses of mercy." He closed his letter with a special prayer for the members of the archdiocese of Dublin as they prepare for the World Meeting of Families.

--www.foryourmarriage.org





WHAT'S THE SMOKE FOR?

This year in this section of *The Good News Letter*, we will focus on Catholic furniture, fixtures, sacramentals and icons.

As we enter into the month of May, the month of Mary, this month's items for discussion are rosaries, scapulars, and miraculous medals, which are used as prayer aides for Marian prayers.

The Blessed Virgin Mary is ever-interested in our salvation, and, in virtue of her singular union with Jesus, she is our supreme advocate and intercessor among all the saints in heaven. As the very good Mother she is, she wants us, her children, to spend eternity with Christ in heaven. To accomplish this end, she frequently gives us helpful instruction to aid us in doing God's will in our lives and in loving Christ better.

From time to time in the history of the Church, Mary has personally appeared to certain holy men and women to give them a particular devotion to her, with attached graces and promises. In some cases the devotion is meant to be spread to the whole Church and involves an object, or sacramental, given to the faithful as a physical sign of her loving intercession.

Three very famous sacramentals given to the faithful by Mary—and approved by the Church—are the holy rosary, the brown scapular, and the miraculous medal.

The Holy Rosary

The **rosary** was given by the Blessed Virgin Mary to St. Dominic de Guzman in the year 1214 to help him fight heresy and convert sinners. He was having no success with his mission, until the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to him and gave him the spiritual weapon that would win souls back to God.

“Dear Dominic, do you know which weapon the Blessed Trinity wants to use to reform the world?” . . .

“I want you to know that, in this kind of warfare, the battering ram has always been the Angelic Psalter which is the foundation stone of the New Testament. Therefore if you want to reach these hardened souls and win them over to God, preach my Psalter.” – Our Lady to St. Dominic

The Angelic Psalter is the greeting of the Angel Gabriel to the Blessed Virgin at the Annunciation (Ave Maria, Hail Mary), which is combined with the words of Elizabeth at Mary's Visitation (Blessed art Thou...), and the Pater Noster (Our Father) prayer taught by Jesus. The Angelic Psalter and the Pater Noster were already being prayed repetitiously in the Church; however, Our Lady gave St. Dominic a new formulation, the Dominican Rosary, which is the traditional rosary as we pray it today. According to the instructions of the apparition, 150 Ave's were to be prayed in groups of five, separated by a Pater Noster, and each set of ten beads was to be accompanied with specific meditations on the life of Christ (the Joyful, Sorrowful, and Glorious mysteries). It is called the 'rosary' because each time it's prayed, we adorn Our Lady with a heavenly crown of roses.

The Brown Scapular

Mary, under the title of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, gave the brown **scapular** to St. Simon Stock, a Carmelite, in the year 1251. A scapular is composed of two small pieces of wool cloth attached by a string, meant to wear on the front and back in the same way the scapular of a religious habit would be worn. It then becomes a sign of devotion to the Virgin Mary worn hidden under the clothes.

“He who dies clothed with this habit shall be preserved from eternal fire. It is the badge of salvation, a shield in time of danger, and a pledge of special peace and protection.” – Our Lady to St. Simon Stock

The Miraculous Medal

Our Lady appeared to St. Catherine Laboure in France in the year 1830 and gave her the vision of a medal, known as the **Miraculous Medal**, with specific details as to how it should be constructed both on the front and the back. The medal is a testament to the role of Mary in salvation history and is especially associated with the dogma of the Immaculate Conception, with the words “O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee” as a prayer engraved around the circumference of the medal.

After reading about these sacramentals and their promises given to the faithful by the Blessed Virgin Mary herself, are you more inclined to make use of them? Have you already received special graces from using any of these?

--Gretchen Filz, The Catholic Company

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST

May 1-Pope Francis I
May 2-Bishop Timothy Doherty
May 3-Fr. Dave Newton, St. Mary Dunkirk and St. John the Evangelist Hartford City
May 4-Fr. Paul White, retired
May 5-Fr. Bob Williams, retired
May 6-Fr. Dominic Young, St. Ann Lafayette
May 7-Fr. John Zahn, retired
May 8-Fr. Ambrose Ziegler, retired
May 9-Fr. Derek Aaron, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Carmel
May 10-Fr. Raymond Akeriwe, St. Patrick, Kokomo
May 11-Fr. Raymond Alaneme, St. Mary Lafayette
May 12-Fr. Tim Alkire, St. Boniface Lafayette
May 13-Fr. Kenneth Alt, Holy Trinity, Trinity
May 14-Fr. Matthew Arbuckle, St. Joan of Arc, Kokomo, Monastery of the Poor Clares
May 15-Fr. Patrick Baikauskas, St. Thomas Aquinas West Lafayette
May 16-Fr. Jim Bates, retired
May 17-Fr. Joshua Bennett, St. Francis of Assisi, Muncie
May 18-Fr. Robert Bernatos, St. Joseph Kentland, St. John the Baptist Earl Park, Sts. Peter and Paul Goodland
May 19-Fr. Gerry Borawski, retired
May 20-Fr. Michael Bowerm Our Lady of Grace, Noblesville
May 21-Fr. Phil Bowers, retired
May 22-Fr. Pat Click, St. Louis de Monfort Fishers
May 23-Fr. Paul Cochran, Sorrowful Mother, Wheatfield & St. Cecilia, DeMotte
May 24-Fr. John Cummings St. Joseph, Reynolds & Sacred Heart, Remington
May 25-Fr. Cole Daily, St. Lawrence, Lafayette
May 26-Fr. Donald Davison, St. Augustine, Rensselaer
May 27-Fr. Andrew DeKeyser, Diocesan Chancery & Diocesan Tribunal, Blessed Sacrament, West Lafayette
May 28-Fr. Brian Doerr, St. Francis of Assisi, Muncie
May 29-Fr. Richard Doerr, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Carmel
May 30-Fr. Andrew Dudzinski, St. Mary Muncie
May 31-Fr. Brian Dudzinski, St. Patrick, Kokomo



PEOPLE WITH GOOD NEWS

Bethany Elkins was on the A/B Honor Roll at BHS for the third nine-week grading period. She also received a patch for cheerleading from BHS.

Brianna Elkins received a Major B for girls basketball from BHS.

Christy & John Geise welcomed Jacqueline Marie Geise on April 10th, weighing 7.13 lbs., 21". They were also recognized as the boy's and girl's swim coaches from BHS.

Abigail Johnson was named to the honor roll for the third nine-week grading period at West Jay Middle School.

Jessica Manley was on the All A Honor Roll at BHS for the third nine-week grading period. She also received a patch for swimming from BHS as well as the Captain's patch.

Lance Manley was on the All A Honor Roll at BHS for the third nine-week grading period. He also received a Major B for swimming from BHS.

Carol Neff received the Eucharist and Confirmation at the Easter Vigil at St. John's.

Chris & Debbie Sills became first-time grandparents to Jacqueline Marie Geise.

Andrew Thurman was on the All A Honor Roll at BHS for the third nine-week grading period.

Jaiden Watson was named to the honor roll for the third nine-week grading period at West Jay Middle School.

Helen Whitesell was on the A/B Honor Roll at BHS for the third nine-week grading period. She also received an award for most field goals and a patch for girl's basketball from BHS.



CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

ANNIVERSARIES:

4 Jerry & Linda Trant

BIRTHDAYS:

2 Tina Johnson

4 Sarah Montgomery

14 Nedra Lips

18 Rycker Trissel

19 Diana Holsten

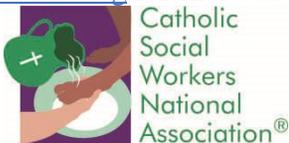
22 Mary Beth Fields

23 Rose Cahue

If you would like to be included in the birthday and anniversary listings, please drop us a note. We would be happy to share it through *The Good News Letter*.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL WORK

The Catholic Social Work National Association gathers practitioners who follow the Church's teaching to share their work in a faith-based environment. Through this professional membership association, Catholic social workers gain insight and support from colleagues on how to engage secular culture in the midst of their day-to-day service to the poor and vulnerable, while also organizing advocacy efforts around important social issues. Come join our prayerful community and see our website at cswna.org for more details.



CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB

Our cluster parishes of St. Mary's and St. John's now has a website. Check us out at: stmaryjohn.org.

FOSTER PARENTING...IS IT IN YOUR HEART?

Have you ever thought of foster parenting? Maybe now is a good time to look further into the possibility. The need is greater than ever before.

Debra Corn Foster Care is a licensed child placing agency who can help answer questions about this process and help a prospective family become licensed as a foster family.

Stability is an important factor in a child's life. Unfortunately, many children in our community are not able to grow up in a supportive and stable environment.

- In December, 2017, there were 29 total Child in Need of Services cases in Blackford County.
- 13 children were able to be placed in homes in Blackford County; 16 children had to be placed in other counties.
- 7 of the 8 sibling placements were able to keep the siblings together. That means one sibling group of children had to be split apart.

For a child to remain in his/her community, surrounded by their family members, schools, pets and friends is part of that stability. But, that is not feasible if there are not enough licensed foster families in the community.

Please look into your hearts and lives and consider the possibility of becoming a foster parent.

To get answers to further questions, or to inquire about the licensing process, contact Cathy Felton at 765-674-9070 or e-mail at cpersinger@debracornfostercare.com

FIND SPIRITUALITY, MISSION AS A PROVIDENCE ASSOCIATE

Are you looking for spiritual renewal? A sense of mission? An intentional community? The Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana, invite persons of all faith traditions to become a Providence Associate. Applications will be accepted until May 31. Contact Debbie Dillow at 317-250-3294 or email ddillow@spsmw.org to request an application. Learn more at ProvidenceAssociates.org.

**St. Mary Parish and
St. John the Evangelist Parish**

209 S. Spring St., Hartford City, IN 47348

PASTOR - Rev. David J. Newton

Hartford City: 765.348.3123 Office Secretary: 765.348.3889

Dunkirk: 765.768.6157 stmaryjohn@att.net

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Lord's Day Liturgy

SATURDAY: 5.00 pm at St. John's

SUNDAY: 8:30 am at St. John's

10:30 am at St. Mary's

- Weekday Liturgy: Please consult inside the bulletin. -

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: May 18, 2018

Editor: Diana Holsten

**MEMORIAL DAY MASS AT
CEMETERY**

St. John's will hold a prayer service on Memorial Day to be celebrated at the Catholic cemetery in Montpelier on Monday, May 28, at 9am. In case of inclement weather, the service will be moved to St. John's Church in Hartford City to begin at 9:30am.

Celebrate and honor your deceased loved ones and all men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice of their lives for the freedom of our country by beginning your day with us.



*For those who have fallen
and for those who have stood to fight
May God bless and keep you safe
throughout each day and night*

Happy Memorial Day



MOTHER'S DAY TEA

St. John's Annual Mother's Day Tea Party is slated for Sunday, May 13th immediately following Mass. Join us for a relaxing tea and brunch to honor our mothers: past, present and yet to be.

This year's theme is Aprons. Where is your apron? In a drawer? On a hook? At the Goodwill Store? It is time to remember the fabrics of our lives: memories are woven from the simple things in life. Aprons galore to take us back to the days of homemade Sunday dinners and daily chores. Wear your apron to our tea as we recall those precious memories of our mothers and grandmothers.

This is a free event sponsored by St. John's Altar & Rosary, but please contact the office with make plans. Our tea will conclude prior to 11am.

