

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 17, 2020

MASS SCHEDULE

The Priests will celebrate a private Mass for each of the particular intentions on the day indicated. In charity, he also remembers all of the parishioners and the silent intentions of their hearts. If you need Confession or Anointing of the Sick, please call the rectory.

Saturday, May 16th

Wendyl & Rita Reis (Fr. Robert) by Susan Dugan
John Wall Jr. (Fr. Hahr) by his estate

Sunday, May 17th

Mass for the People (Fr. Hahr)
For the Church (Fr. Robert) by Amy Marcinko

Monday, May 18th

Dot & Fay Weymouth by Joanne

Tuesday, May 19th

Melanie Jaffee by Amy Marcinko

Wednesday, May 20th

Bob and R.P. (Sibby) Dumas by Joanne Weymouth

Thursday, May 21st

Henry Haselton, Jr. by Reinata & Rose Haselton

Friday, May 22nd

Mary Jane & Oney Dumas by Joanne Weymouth

Saturday, May 23rd

Francis & Alice Goyette by Lorraine, Carol & Paul

Sunday, May 24th

Mass for the People

Please keep our parishioners in mind who are ill & in need of your prayers, especially: Charlene Chase, Connie, Lapage, Martin Fortin, George Thurston, Charlie Weis, Randy Thomas & Jerry Prevost.

The **FORMED** program is available to everyone in our parish. To start enjoying this free gift, please visit the FORMED website:

1. Go to: nekatholic.formed.org
2. Click on REGISTER to create a personal account

FINANCIAL REPORT

Fiscal Year: 7/1/19-6/30/20 Budget: \$282,000 (\$6,000 needed per week)

Reg. Collection Year-to-date: \$204,469 + **On-Line: YTD:** \$44,840

Collections and Receipts: May 13, 2020

Regular Offertory :\$1,973

Many thanks to those who are able to mail in their Collection Envelopes.

Please consider using the Online Giving tool for your weekly offertory donations. Visit our website at: nekatholic.com and click "Give Online" to sign up! Leave your checkbook at home, and save the parish the expense of envelopes!

Thank you to those who are continuing to contribute to the weekly offertory. We appreciate your ongoing support in these difficult times!

PARISH EVENTS

All Parish events are cancelled until further notice.

PLEASE NOTE: Confirmation and First Holy Communion has been postponed. The new date will be announced a.s.a.p. All students need to continue with their religious studies from home. Thank you.

Beginning Monday May 11th, St. John's Church will be open daily for private Prayer from 8am – 6pm

Note From Fr. Robert

Dear friends:

I want to let you know that, after much prayer and discernment, and after speaking with Bishop Coyne and with his blessing, I am taking a medical leave of absence from ministry effective Sunday, May 17th. I want to be clear that this is my decision, and I am grateful to Bishop Coyne for allowing me the time I need to discern how I can be a more effective minister and disciple of Jesus Christ.

I did not come to this decision lightly, and I owe it to you to tell you where I am coming from, albeit briefly. I have dealt with mild anxiety and depression for several years now, and I have learned how to cope with the triggers and symptoms. Recently, however, because of some personal events, the anxiety and depression have become more severe, along with many feelings of loneliness and isolation. I have decided that I need to address these issues with my support system, as well as medical and psychological help. Unfortunately, it has become clear to me that, in order to do this well, I need to leave Corpus Christi Parish at this time.

I know that this will come as a shock to many of you, and I am very sorry about that. Know that leaving this parish, leaving *you*, is the hardest decision I have ever had to make. I have had so many beautiful experiences here in this one short year, and I am forever grateful to you for that. I am a better man and priest because of you.

I hope if I taught anything, it is that our faith has so much to offer. It offers not just truths and realities, but also a peace that the world cannot give, a peace that goes beyond the words and actions of any individual priest. Never give up on your faith! You are loved with a perfect love by a God who was willing to die for *you*! I will miss you, and will pray for you every single day. Please continue to pray for me that God will give me the clarity I need to follow Him, wherever He may lead; with a joy that always leads us past the struggles of this life to the joy of Eternal Life!

With love and prayers, Fr. Robert

Saint Nicholas of Tolentino

Born in 1245 in Sant'Angelo, St. Nicholas of Tolentino took his name from St. Nicholas of Myra, at whose shrine his parents prayed to have a child. Nicholas became a monk at 18, and seven years later, he was ordained a priest. On account of his kind and gentle manner his superiors entrusted him with the daily feeding of the poor at the monastery gates, but at times he was so free with the friary's provisions that the procurator begged the superior to check his generosity. Once, when weak after a long fast, he received a vision of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Augustine, who told him to eat some bread marked with a cross and dipped in water. Upon doing so he was immediately stronger. He started distributing these rolls to the ailing, while praying to Mary, often curing the sufferers; this is the origin of the Augustinian custom of blessing and distributing *Saint Nicholas Bread*. He gained a reputation as a preacher and a confessor, and was sent to minister at Tolentino, near his birthplace. In Tolentino, Nicholas worked as a peacemaker in a city torn by strife between the Guelphs and Ghibellines who, fighting for control of Italy. He ministered to his flock, helped the poor and visited prisoners. When working wonders or healing people, he always asked those he helped to "Say nothing of this", explaining that he was just God's instrument. During his life, Nicholas is said to have received visions, including images of Purgatory, which friends ascribed to his lengthy fasts. Prayer for the souls in Purgatory was the outstanding characteristic of his spirituality. Because of this Nicholas was proclaimed patron of the souls in Purgatory, in 1884 by Leo XIII. Near the end of his life he suffered greatly, but still continued the mortifications. He died September 10, 1305.

Ascension Thursday is May 21st

The resurrection of our Lord is the cause and exemplar of an even more wonderful resurrection that goes on about us every day: the resurrection of the soul from the death of sin to the life of grace. That spiritual tomb is sealed by our choice of sin; it is guarded, not by the soldiers of Rome, but by legions of satan and disorderly hordes of inordinate appetites, guards who do not fall asleep. Because Christ has risen, the soul can come forth from this tomb in its original splendor. Again there are no witnesses; only the weeping Magdalen, our own soul, overcome at finding the Master and Friend once more.

We are never more conscious that we were not made for earth than after a fresh resurrection from the tomb of sin; then, above all other times, we realize keenly that we are pilgrims, that our soul is a little lonely, a little out of place in a world of matter, a little anxious for the world of spirit. In much the same way, the body of Christ was a little out of place after the resurrection; it did not belong in a world of corruptible bodies, for it had begun an immortal and incorruptible life. It belonged in a heavenly and incorruptible place. So, when the time of consolation and instruction of the apostles had come to its close, the Master took them to the top of the hill overlooking Jerusalem, said His last farewell, gave the last assignments that would keep His followers occupied to the end of time, and ascended into heaven. Behind Him He left a lonely, frightened, helpless group which was yet the nucleus for the conversion of the world. That group was so stupefied by His loss that it took an angel to get them back into the city; there they huddled in fear of their lives for ten days in the upper room.

Had not Christ said He would be with them always? Yes. He was and He will be by His divine presence. But He also said, "It is better for you that I go," and He was right, as God is always right. This was the work of a strong love, not of that coddling, imperfect, weak love that saps all the strength out of the one loved. It was better, much better. It would be hard for them ever again to tear their hearts away from the goal of heaven, for He took a large part of their hearts with Him. It would never be hard for them again to hope, knowing He had gone before to prepare a place. Now, indeed, their faith would have its full scope, resting utterly without question on His word alone.

~ from: *A Companion to the Summa* by Walter Farrell, O.P.

May 22nd: Feast of St. Rita of Cascia

Saint Rita was born in the year 1381. As a young girl she frequently visited the convent of the Augustinian Nuns in Cascia and dreamed of one day joining their community. Her parents, however, had promised her in marriage, according to the custom of the day, to Paolo Mancini, a good man of strong and impetuous character. Rita accepted her parents' decision, resolved to see this as God's will for her. The young couple was

joined in marriage and soon twin boys were born to them. Paolo was employed as a watchman for the town. In Cascia, as elsewhere, a great rivalry existed between two popular political factions, the Guelphs, and the Ghibellines. As a minor official of the town, Paolo

often found himself drawn into the conflict. One day Paolo was ambushed and killed. The pain which this unexpected and violent death inflicted upon Rita was only compounded by the fear she felt that her two teenage sons, moved by the unwritten law of the "vendetta," would seek to avenge their father's death. Rita's only recourse was to prayer and persuasion. As it happened, the death of both boys from natural causes a short time later removed them from physical and spiritual danger. Despite her great burden she could still thank God that they had died in peace, free of the poison of murder to which hatred and revenge might have otherwise drawn them.

Now alone in the world, Rita once more turned her thoughts to joining the Augustinian Nuns of Saint Mary Magdalene Monastery. Some of the religious of the community, however, were relatives of the members of the political faction responsible for Paolo's death, and so as not to tempt the harmony of the convent, Rita's request for admission was denied. She implored her three patron saints — St. John the Baptist, St. Augustine, and St. Nicholas of Tolentino to assist her, and she set about the task of establishing peace between the hostile parties of Cascia with such success that her entry into the monastery was assured. At the age of thirty-six Rita pledged to follow the ancient Rule of Saint Augustine. For the next forty years she gave herself wholeheartedly to prayer and works of charity. With a pure love she wanted more and more to be intimately joined to the redemptive suffering of Jesus, and this desire of hers was satisfied in an extraordinary way. One day when she was about sixty years of age, she was meditating before an image of Christ crucified, suddenly a small wound appeared on her forehead, as though a thorn from the crown that encircled Christ's head had loosed itself and penetrated her own flesh. For the next fifteen years she bore this external sign of stigmatization and union with the Lord. In spite of the pain she constantly experienced, she offered herself courageously for the physical and spiritual wellbeing of others. During the last four years of her life Rita was confined to bed and was able to eat so little that she was practically sustained on the Eucharist alone. She was, nevertheless, an inspiration to all who came to visit her, by her patience and joyful disposition despite her great suffering.

One of those who visited her some few months before her death was privileged to witness firsthand the extraordinary things wrought by Rita's requests. When asked whether she had any special desires, Rita asked only that a rose from the garden of her parents' home be brought to her. It was a small favor to ask, but quite an impossible one to grant in the month of January! Nevertheless, on returning home the woman discovered, to her amazement, a single brightly-colored blossom on the bush where the nun said it would be. Picking it, she returned immediately to the monastery and presented it to Rita who gave thanks to God for this sign of love. Thus, the saint of the thorn became the saint of the rose, and she whose impossible requests were granted her became the advocate of all those whose own requests seem impossible as well. As she breathed her last, Rita's final words to the sisters who gathered around her were, "Remain in the holy love of Jesus. Remain in obedience to the holy Roman Church. Remain in peace and fraternal charity."

Rita returned to God in peace on May 22, 1457. Her body, which has remained incorrupt over the centuries, is venerated today in the shrine of Cascia, which bears her name.

