

# SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 17, 2020

## Mass Intentions

Mon.	6:30 A.M.	<i>St. John I, Pope &amp; Martyr</i> Linwood & Jo Ann Berger
Tues.	6:30 A.M.	Etta Nugent
Wed.	6:30 A.M.	<i>St. Bernardine of Siena, Priest</i> Tony Janak
Thurs.	6:30 A.M.	<i>St. Christopher Magallanes,</i> <i>Priest &amp; Companions, Martyrs</i> John & Myron Patek
Fri.	6:30 A.M.	<i>St. Rita of Cascia, Religious</i> Joe Roller Family, Kathy Fluitt
Sat.	5 P.M.	Living & Deceased Members of the Jiral, Adams & Rohan Families
Sun.	7 A.M.	Shirley Chumchal
	9 A.M.	Bobby Opela
	11 A.M.	Parish Family <i>Pro Populo</i>

## Sanctuary Candle Intention

The Sanctuary Candle will burn this week in memory of Ralph, Riley and Reese Manning.

## Prayer List

Contact Theresa Bordovsky at 293-3124 or  
Ann Marie Bludau at 798-2959.

## This Sunday's Holy Scriptures

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; 1 Pt 3:15-18; Jn 14:15-21

## Your Gift to God: May 10<sup>th</sup>

St. Joseph Parish Support	\$3,562
Online Giving Parish Support	\$2,280
Building Fund	\$170
St. Ann Parish Support	\$320
Online Giving	\$168

*May God reward your generosity!*

## Feast of Ascension

As a reminder, the Feast of the Ascension is transferred to next Sunday.

*"Whoever loves me will keep my word,  
says the Lord, and my Father will love  
him and we will come to him."*

**Gratitude**

The KJZT made a generous donation to St. Joseph Church to assist in this time of crisis on behalf of our own Yoakum Society #1 Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The parish family is grateful!

## CDA Meeting

CDA officers, scholarship committee, nominating committee and financial review personnel will meet **Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>** at 6:00 P.M. at the Family Center. All members are welcome to attend to vote on the proposed slate of officers.

## Parish Picnic 2020

We are awaiting the next phase of the state's plan for "re-opening" and the directives issued by our Bishop in response on the part of the Church. Once those are posted, final determinations regarding our traditional August Picnic will be made.

## Sacrament of Reconciliation

Confession is available on **Wednesday from 5:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. and Saturday from 10:30 A.M. to 11:30 A.M.** at the special "open-air ventilation" station/confessional near the sanctuary. Only "behind the screen" is available. All are required to observe social distancing and respect the privacy of those celebrating the Sacrament.

## Keep in Touch

Watch the parish website and check the parish Facebook page for the most recent developments. A brief, daily devotional is posted each day reflecting the liturgical readings/feasts for those who are interested.

## Weekly Contributions

For precautionary reasons the collection baskets will not be passed during Mass. Baskets will be available at the front of church for those who wish to leave their weekly contribution. Otherwise you may continue to drop your envelope off at the parish office during regular business hours, placed in the drop box (left of the office front door) or mailed to P. O. Box 734.

**Ever consider online giving?** Visit the parish website, click on the Online Giving icon and follow the instructions to setup your online giving account.

**Congratulations Class of 2020!**

We've all heard older generations speak of certain events that happened that have stayed in their memories throughout their lives. Certainly this year's graduating senior class will be able to identify with that sentiment as they go forward and recall the way this school year has unfolded in the midst of a pandemic. As we're unable to hold our traditional Senior Mass and breakfast, we want to make sure and offer our best wishes and prayers for our graduating class as they go forward! May the Lord continue to share his grace and blessing in each of your lives!!!

## **Blessing of Graduates**

Before you were even formed, God knew you.  
While in your Mother's womb, God named you.  
At your birth, God's breath filled you with life.  
Today we celebrate what you have become at this moment in time, and so we pray:

God of our beginnings, we thank you for the gifts of these graduates; their excitement, their awesome wonder and curiosity, their open speech and encouraging words. Their contributions have blessed and challenged us, and we have become a richer and more diverse community because of them.

As they step forward into the world that awaits, comfort their fears with the full knowledge of your divine presence.

Strengthen their resolve to walk in the footsteps of Jesus as modern-day disciples in a world that needs their spirit.

Guide their feet as they move through life, protecting them from the pitfalls of darkness, while they help to lead future generations into the warmth and promise of your light.

We ask this blessing upon each of them:

+ In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. AMEN!

## **Framing the Challenge**

The Parish is planning to move ahead with our special Sacramental celebrations for our young people and those enrolled in the RCIA. All of us are living in the midst of challenges and changes for our own safety and the safety of others. Just as it would have been beyond imagination to experience Lent, Holy Week and Easter only a few months ago in the way we have this year, we have all learned to adapt and exercise caution/concern. Going forward means that these same sorts of changes will also impact our "traditional" celebrations of Baptisms, First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation. We need to begin thinking about the ramifications of the restrictions we are already living being applied to what--in the past--have been grand celebratory moments in the lives of many of our families [such as at our beautiful and rich Easter Vigils for years, or our Solemn Masses with

Bishop for Confirmation]. Pandemic precautions will prompt us to consider the core parts of these special sacred moments: Christ sharing the gift of Himself with us! For example, the social distancing measures of 6 feet must be observed. There will be no processional inside at the beginning or recessional at the conclusion. Picture taking will be the student alone (or with family) and there will be no group pictures. Seating will be spaced and the liturgy will be simplified, much as it is on weekends at present.

The RCIA group are already aware of the special Mass that will be celebrated in the coming weeks so as to allow them to enter the Faith, receive their Sacraments and be fully initiated into the Body of Christ on earth, the Church.

This week we are getting started with our first step regarding sacramental celebration. Let it be said at the outset--should any family be uneasy with gathering at this point and desire to put off the celebration to a later time due to their concerns--it is understood. Those students--both at St. Joseph School and in our Faith Formation/CCD program who are planning to make First Communion still need to have the opportunity to celebrate their First Reconciliation. So...on Wednesday, May 27<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 P.M. to 6:30 P.M. and Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 A.M. to 11:30 A.M. the student can simply come to the Church accompanied by a parent, and there will be a teacher or aide present to help with any questions, provide the handouts and sheets necessary to assist--and the child may make their first confession. The child's parent will be asked to indicate which of the dates for First Communion they plan to attend (these dates will be set this coming week once the latest directives are set regarding attendance restrictions). Parents can choose either Wednesday or Saturday for their child's First Reconciliation. If they are reticent due to concerns because of the Pandemic--they simply need to notify the office.

When the latest directives regarding attendance restrictions are received the dates will be set for Confirmation. It is foreseen that due to the concern with the actual touch of anointing--and the need to sanitize between each anointing--that the celebration of Confirmation will be scheduled either as two or three special weekday evening Masses that our Confirmation students (and their families) select. These too--as mentioned above regarding First Communion celebrations--will be simplified liturgies. At the core of the rationale for moving ahead with these celebrations is the desire for our youth to receive the gift of Sacramental Grace! The liturgies may be observed in less formal and simplified ritual--but the ability to spiritually enrich the Church and individual lives will be utmost in concern--and be accomplished!