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Dear Parishioners,

This past Thursday the Solemnity of the Ascension of Christ into heaven was celebrated, a mystery of faith which the Acts of the Apostles places 40 days after the Resurrection. After the Ascension, the first disciples remained together in the Upper Room gathered around the Mother of Jesus, fervently awaiting the gift of the Holy Spirit, promised by Jesus.

In His farewell discourses to the disciples, Jesus stressed the importance of His “return to the Father”, the culmination of his whole mission: indeed, He came into the world to bring man back to God, not on the ideal level - like a philosopher or a master of wisdom - but really, like a shepherd who wants to lead his sheep back to the fold. This “exodus” toward the heavenly Homeland which Jesus lived in the first person, He faced solely for us. It was for our sake that He came down from Heaven and for our sake that He ascended to it, after making Himself in all things like men, humbling Himself even to death on a cross and after having touched the abyss of the greatest distance from God. For this very reason the Father was pleased with Him and “highly exalted” Him, restoring to Him the fullness of His glory, but now with our humanity. God in man - man in God: this is even now a reality, not a theoretical truth. Therefore, Christian hope, founded on Christ, is not an illusion but, as the Letter to the Hebrews says, “we have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul”, an anchor that penetrates Heaven where Christ has gone before us.

And what does the human person in every epoch need other than this: a firm anchorage in life? Here once again is the wonderful meaning of Mary’s presence among us. Turning our gaze to her, like the first disciples, we are immediately directed to the reality of Jesus: the Mother points to the Son who is no longer physically among us but awaits us in the Father’s house. Jesus invites us not to linger looking upwards, but to be united in prayer together, to invoke the gift of the Holy Spirit. Indeed, only those who are “born from on high”, that is, from God’s Spirit, have access to the Kingdom of Heaven, and the first to be “born from on high” was, precisely, the Virgin Mary. To her, therefore, let us turn in the fullness of Easter joy.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Father Newcomb

During these trying times we are still trying to keep our Church doors open after this pandemic is over. Contributions can be mailed to PO Box 712, dropped off in the mail slot at the rectory (46 Ball Street) or follow the link below to do online giving.

We appreciate your generosity to our parish.

<https://stmarysportjervis.churchgiving.com/>

*We have various Mass Intentions available.
If you would like a Mass Intention for a loved one, living or deceased,
email your request to
st-marys-rectory@hvc.rr.com*

*Until we return to public Masses, the Church will be open every Saturday from Noon to 5pm for private prayer and Confessions will be heard from 3pm to 3:45pm.
Sundays the Church will be open from 8am to 2pm for private prayer.
Adoration and Confessions will be from 9am to Noon.*

We are in need of 3 people to step up to be on the Parish Advisory Council for a 3 year term. We thank previous members Steve Riordan, Cheryl Lovelace, and Janet Smith for their 3 years of service. Please call the parish office to submit your name by Friday, May 22nd. Names will be picked on Sunday, May 31st-Pentecost Sunday. If interested, please leave a message at the parish office (845)856-8212 or email st-marys-rectory@hvc.rr.com.

St. Mary's Food Pantry is still available to all in our local and area communities. The next date will be Friday, May 29th from 10am until noon. If you or anyone you know needs help, please have them come during those times.

The Cardinal's Appeal is still ongoing. Our goal is \$34,500. We have received pledges totaling \$13,930 from 72 donors. You can visit Cardinalsappeal.org. All Donations can be mailed directly to : The Cardinal's Appeal PO Box 4020 NY, NY 10261. Our Parish number is **518**.

Blessed Sunday- Few reminders and suggestions:

1. 6pm pray the Rosary together with your family and our parish family from our homes.
2. If you haven't already set up an altar or place of prayer in your homes. Have a Crucifix, image of Our Lady, your favorite Saints etc.
3. If you view Mass online or on Television; try to take the normal postures you would in Church. (We won't be filming Mass online, because we do not have the proper technology to do so worthily) ewtn and our Cathedral do a wonderful job.
4. Continue to pray:
for those that are sick and suffering from the Coronavirus, those that will die, the nurses, assistants, orderlies, maintenance staff and doctors who are putting their lives on the line for all of us, our EMTs, police officers, firefighters, soldiers, and scientists who are all assisting us at this time.



Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, pray for us who have recourse to you.

Spiritual Communion Prayer

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally,

Come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace you as if you were already there

And unite myself wholly to you.

Never permit me to be separated from you.

Amen.

Announced Masses

- Monday, May 25 (Bede the Venerable, priest and doctor of the Church; Gregory VII, pope; Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi, virgin)**
9:00am E. Russell Bell, by the Bell family
- Tuesday, May 26 (Philip Neri, priest)**
9:00am Louise Joan Rozzo Bell, by the Bell family
- Wednesday, May 27 (Augustine of Canterbury, bishop)**
9:00am William Xavier Andrews, by the Bell family
- Thursday, May 28**
9:00am Elizabeth Early Andrwws, by the Bell family
- Saturday, May 30**
4:00pm John and Mary Oliver, by the family
- Sunday, May 31 (Pentecost Sunday)**
8:30am Michael McCarthy, by Ernie and Debbie Jackson
11:30am The parishioners of St. Mary's
1:00pm Florence and Frank Kiernan, by Paul and Rosemary Brislin

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Donald Wolff, Carol Gomillion, David Lisker, Nancy Parsons, Debi Cotugno, Michael Bello, Michael Barnes, William Lincoln, Jeannine Lincoln, James Lincoln, Charles Hildebrandt, Maureen Hildebrandt, Walter Szpakowicz, Carmella Balsamello, Aedan Roach, Robin Radzikowski, James Roach, Catherine Simons, Brendan Carmody, Nico Nicolette, Jaryd Viserta, Steven Gaesser, Kacey Warner, Sandra Ramsey, Lorraine Mannarino, Elizabeth Startup Jones, Mary Lynn Beam, Jose Ramos, Carmen Ramos, Mercedes Rodriguez, Jose Brito, Michael Medaglia, Barbara Straub, Tress Loughrey, Sal Careri, Cody Bain, Robert Witherow, Susan Upton, Theresa Fuller, Allen Lynch, Enid Decker, Jackie Mundy, Chris Marion, III, Barbara Lindsay, Robert Ackerman, Wayne DeMarco, Ryan O'Connor, Elizabeth Brennan, Jerri Kavanaugh, Allan Garcia, Christine Haberzettl, Eric Hildebrandt, Rose Gotthardt, Georgia Gotthardt, John Olenick, John Hendrix, Stephen A. Odrechowski and fam., Scott Robertson, Eva Scopino, Jan Kaminski, Ana Anaya, Glenn Lagatol, Ellen Pentland, Shirley Simeone, and Belinda Vazquez.

Save the Date: Court Madonna #114 will host their annual Tea Party on Saturday, August 8th. More information forthcoming.

The collection for May 15th/16th was \$4,035. Thank you for your continued generosity.