

**The Bells of St. Mary's
The Church of the Immaculate Conception**

**Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 17, 2020**

From Fr. Anthony Ekanem, MSP

KEEPING HIS COMMANDMENTS

The parting of friends is never a simple thing. But some farewells are harder than others. The most painful parting of all happens when someone dies. What makes this parting different from all others is the finality of it. Jesus is preparing the minds of His followers that He will depart soon.

It was the night before Jesus' death, at the Last Supper that He broke the news. For some time, He had been giving the apostles hints of His death. Now, He talked to them openly about it. He didn't speak of death in this manner, of crucifixion, death, or Ascension. Instead, in the sense of life-ending. He spoke of His death as leaving them, 'going to the Father.' But, all the apostles heard was the fact that He was going to leave them to an unknown place. He was indeed leaving them. Therefore, He assures them, "Do not let your hearts be troubled." (John 14:1). He emphatically said to His disciples: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." (John 14:15)

During this coronavirus pandemic, how do we feel about the celebration of Our Lord Jesus, leaving us to His Father? For that is what the celebration of the Ascension of Jesus Christ is all about. What do we see as our purpose in everyday life? The Gospel tells us that Jesus dwells within us. Not only that, but the Holy Spirit is with us to help us, not to abandon us. "And whoever love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to Him." (John 14:21) Here are today's readings summary:

First Reading (Acts 8:5-8,14-17) We hear about the joy and enthusiasm with which the Samaritans received the Gospel. Second Reading (1Peter 3:15-18) Peter encourages Christians to remain steadfast under pressure in their attachment to Christ.

Gospel (John 14:15-21). Tells us to love Christ; listen to His word and, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to put them into practice in our lives.

"Rivers do not drink their own water;
Trees do not eat their own fruits;
the Sun does not shine on itself,
and flowers do not spread their fragrance for themselves.
Living for others is a rule of nature.
We are all born to help each other.
No matter how difficult it is ...
Life is good when you are happy;
but much better when others are happy because of you."
- Pope Francis

INFORMATION

JOIN US FOR MASS LIVESTREAM BY GOING TO: www.icmary103.com

Our live stream Schedule will be as follows:

(The Spanish Masses will be in YouTube) Our schedule of Private Masses that will be livestreamed will be as follows:

.. Saturday: 5:00 PM English * Sunday: 11:00 AM English

The Spanish Masses will be in YouTube

.. Thursday: 12:00 PM Spanish * .. Sunday: 12:00 PM Spanish

All Weekday Mass intentions are being celebrated by the priests privately

Please go to the website about 15 minutes before the posted time to join the English livestream. There is a 30 second delay on the video feed. A recording of the Spanish Saturday 7:30 PM will be uploaded to YouTube.

CONTINUED FINANCIAL SUPPORT. We urge all who can to please consider joining the online WeShare automated giving program by going to: <https://icmary.churchgiving.com/> to set up automatic giving to keep our staff, clergy, and buildings ready for us when this crisis ends, as it will. After the page opens, look around WeShare at the collection opportunities and click on the yellow button, "Make a Donation", and follow directions. God bless you for your continuing sacrifices.

While we are still able to keep our churches open for private prayer you will see collection boxes In the Church. Please place your collection envelopes or any contribution you wish to make to help support our parish, staff and our utility expenses. Or you can mail or drop your envelope at the Parish Office.

Live Streaming Update

To improve the quality to live Streaming, we must improve the quality of internet reception throughout our historic building, which is very limited. To do that alone will require some funds for better equipment, wiring, and installation.

Parish Rectory Boiler Update

Already, we have been able to put down half the cost of installing a new Boiler in the Parish Rectory, and we are still in need of \$14,000 when the installation is complete.

An Appeal

I ask you, if possible, to consider an additional donation whenever you can add especially to these extra expenses so that we can serve you better. In most of our structures, in other words, the facilities here are obsolete, and we need to maintain them. I know many of you have asked us or expressed concern over how we are coping during this coronavirus pandemic. It is by the grace of God and your generosity that we can manage so far. I wish to strongly appeal to others who are behind in their contribution to the Church and those who feel they will like to support more to call the Parish Office at any time, and we can share more with you what we need and where we are financial. Yes, we have all stretched money wise during this crisis.

Your Prayerful Support

So, in this month of Rosary, our Holy Father is encouraging us to pray more. For an end to the spread of this virus, to the sick and the vulnerable, those who are at the front line of this emergency like doctors, nurses, health workers, scientists, Chaplains, national and local leaders, and all volunteers who risk their lives to save others. Let us support their heroic efforts with our Prayer Of His Holiness Pope Francis To Mary this month of May.

Sundays Readings:

First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 8: 5-8, 14-17 (55A)

With great success, Philip went to Samaria to proclaim the Christ and work miracles. When the apostles heard about Philip's work, they sent Peter and John to pray that the Samaritans receive the Holy Spirit.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 66: 1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20. Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3: 15-18 Jesus "suffered for sins once." He was put to death as far as fleshly existence goes but received life according to the spirit.

Gospel: John 14: 15-21 Jesus assured the disciples that he would not leave them orphaned but would ask the Father to send "another Advocate: to be with them always. Jesus said that he would still reveal himself to those who love him.

Religious Education

Religious Education classes will begin again when the Archdiocese including Public Schools give us the go ahead. In the mean time, Parents, please help your children learn their prayer before Confession and Holy Communion especially how to prepare for the Sacrament of Penance. This is a good time to say those prayers together. Let us keep praying for our Religious Education families of St. Mary's at this time. God bless you

Religious Education Students and Parents at St. Mary's

1. Please note that an email was sent to all Religious Education Parents with lessons plans, class by grade.
2. If you HAVE NOT given us with your email address, please send your email address to icmary103@gmail.com so you can receive important information and updates.
3. If you Have Not received an email, it either means we have an incorrect e mail address or one that we could not read. Please email us your correct email address to icmary103@gmail.com. Parents, please send us YOUR email address. We cannot email the children; it must be the parent's email.
4. Anyone who would want to reach Marisa Rivera, please email to icmary103@gmail.com.

Archdiocesan Appeal

Update of 2020 Appeal Goals Goal:\$37,500 Pledged: \$22,223.00 Paid:\$14,681.00

Thank you so much for your contributions toward our Annual Cardinal's Appeal. Please, we still need \$15,277 in pledges

and \$192.602.80 in our RE - NEW and RE - BUILD that we pledged some years back.

Monthly Update of Renew & Rebuild Pledges: \$420, 984.30 Paid: \$228.381.50 Left: (\$192.602.80)

Thank you for all your generosity!

**Mass Intentions for the week of
May 16 to May 24, 2020**

Saturday, May 16, 2020

12:05 pm - Frank & Ramón Navarro + * Carmen Navarro

5:00 pm - Available/Disponibile

7:30 pm - Ana María Damian + * Isidoro Cerón

Sunday, May 17, 2020

9:00 am - Tiola Garcia + * Milagros Brown

11:00 am - Hector Paredes + *Milagros Paredes

Monday, May 18, 2020

8:15 am - Available/Disponibile

12:05 pm - Available/Disponibile

Tuesday May 19, 2020

8:15 am - Available/Disponibile

12:05 pm - Available/Disponibile

Wednesday, May 20, 2020

8:15 am - Available/Disponibile

12:05 pm - Available/Disponibile

Thursday, May 21, 2020

8:15 am - Available/Disponibile

12:05 pm - Available/Disponibile

Friday, May 22, 2020

8:15 am - Available/Disponibile

12:05 pm - Available/Disponibile

Saturday, May 23, 2020

12:05 - pm Available/Disponibile

5:00 pm - Mary & Marie Pettie + * Robert Lynn

Sunday, May 24, 2020

11:00 am - Rafael Enrique Collins + * Jenny Brown

12:00 pm - Honoria & Bernardo Hernández Torres + * Maria Polanco

*+Indicates deceased *Indicates the person (s) who requested the Mass.*

We still have days open for you to book Masses for your dear ones

We still have some days open for you to book for Masses for special intention

Prayer for Decease from Corona Virus

We will be praying for our Dear ones that have passed away during the pandemic.

Please submit the names at the Office

Name of Decease. Please Print.

1. Sr Marguerite - McGilly, SC (A graduate of St Mary's Sch).

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____