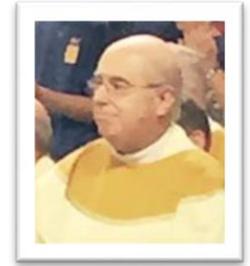


Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 21, 2017



“He ascended into Heaven...” (from the Creed)

The Ascension, article 6 of the Creed, is Jesus' final curtain call. He had been appearing to his apostles and disciples after his Resurrection. Now he is in a sense leaving for the last time until his second coming at the end of time. We know Jesus was born and lived and died here and rose from the dead three days after his death. We know where he lived and the places he visited and the people he befriended and so many of the circumstances of his life on earth. People saw him with their eyes, listened to him with their ears. The sick were healed by the touch of his hand and his word.

When he ascends into heaven, Jesus moves from the world of fact to a world of faith, represented by that cloud and Heaven to which he returned to reclaim his rightful place at the right hand of his Father. When we stop to think about it, that transition, from fact to faith, is what makes the Ascension so important.

When Jesus lived in 1st century Israel, the only people who saw him and heard him were the people of that time with whom he came into contact. The rest of the people on the planet did not experience Jesus Christ. During his earthly life Jesus was a first century figure confined to a very small world. And of course we're talking about the world of the distant past – 2000 years distant from our own.

Now let's fast forward to that momentous day – maybe it was a Thursday – when Jesus says a final goodbye to his apostles. It had to be a tough moment for them and for him as well. Remember Jesus is human like us in all things but sin. He had feelings, he had emotions – he was leaving the friends he loved, the people who loved him. Enveloped by a cloud, he leaves the world of fact where he can be seen and heard and touched and returns to a world of faith. Think for a moment about the impact the Ascension had on the apostles and disciples. They had spent a few years with him – sharing meals, conversations, they had traveled with him. No longer would they or could they experience him as they had during his public ministry. After Jesus returned to Heaven, they would experience Jesus as we do.

No longer is Jesus just a resident of 1st century Palestine, no longer can he be experienced only by a relatively small community of followers. Now, people of all times and places can experience the Lord through faith, through his Word, through the Sacraments, through the presence of the Holy Spirit, through prayer.

Yes, Jesus' time as a citizen of our planet had come to an end. His confinement to a tiny piece of the Roman Empire was over. The Ascension brought one phase of Jesus' life to an end so that a new one could begin. It brought one way of experiencing Jesus Christ to an end so that new one could begin. Because of the Ascension, Jesus becomes even more present to our world – universally present in space and time.

Msgr. Larry Bronkiewicz

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Msgr. Larry Bronkiewicz".

Pastor



MASS READINGS & INTENTIONS

MONDAY, May 22

Acts 16:11-15/Jn 15:26—16:4a

- 7:00 AM William Masters
- 12:00 PM James Prendergast

TUESDAY, May 23

Acts 16:22-34/Jn 16:5-11

- 7:00 AM Mary Kelly
- 12:00 PM Margaret Doane

WEDNESDAY, May 24

Acts 17:15, 22—18:1/Jn 16:12-15

- 7:00 AM Catherine Marie Hourican - 80th Birthday
- 12:00 PM Dennis Haley
- 7:30 PM Intentions of Steven and Elizabeth Gmelin

THURSDAY, May 25

Acts 1:1-11/Eph 1:17-23/Mt 28:16-20

- 7:00 AM Andrew Martin
- 9:00 AM Grace Nneji
- 12:00 PM Guy Fleming
- 7:30 PM Parishioners of the Parish

FRIDAY, May 26

Acts 18:9-18/Jn 16:20-23

- 7:00 AM Mel Attridge - 10th Anniversary
- 12:00 PM Diane & Marcus Gmelin

SATURDAY, May 27

Acts 18:23-28/Jn 16:23b-28

- 8:00 AM Anastasia Shoreys
- 4:30 PM Parishioners of the Parish

SUNDAY, May 28

Acts 1:12-14/1 Pt 4:13-16/Jn 17:1-11a

Church

- 7:30 AM Peter Myers
- 9:15 AM Dec Members of the Vigilotti
- 11:15 AM Leslie Marie Parkel

Hall

- 10:30 AM Robert Andrew Brian
- 12:00 PM James Fahey
- 5:00 PM Philip C. Murray



GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

WEEKLY YEAR-TO-DATE

May 14, 2017	\$21,384	\$451,502
May 15, 2016	\$23,444	\$481,705

Facilities & Repair

2017	\$5,693
2016	\$5,589



2017 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

PARISH GOAL	\$305,000
RAISED TO DATE	\$293,610
% OF GOAL	96.27%

Thank you for your generosity and support!

Prayers for the Sick

Please remember our sick in your prayers, especially **Mary Jo Calamai, Josie Connolly, Sally Gagliardi, Harrison Mauldin, Jeanne Mastandrea and Barbara Ortonowska**. For the sake of privacy, only immediate family members may add someone to our prayer list. Individuals will be removed monthly unless we are otherwise notified.



Candle Intentions

A Church Altar Candle is Burning in Loving Memory of Jean Quinn

IS GOD CALLING YOU?

Single women, 18-40 years old. Explore the rhythm of a semi-cloistered, contemplative monastic life. Contact Sister Maria Victoria 660-944-2221 or vocation@benedictinesisters.org. benedictineSisters.org



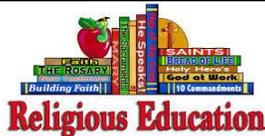
The Catholic Church is the largest single denomination in Christianity.

Vatican City State of which the Pope is Head of State, has diplomatic relations with almost every country in the world.

MASS CARD INTENTIONS

The book for Mass Intentions for May 2018 will open on Thursday, June 1, 2017. Mass cards may be obtained at the Parish Office, with a suggested donation of \$10 for announced Masses and \$5 for unannounced Masses.

Yesterday is past, tomorrow is the future, but today is a gift. That's why they call it the present. 😊



Saint Mary School
RIDGEFIELD

Congratulations to our 2017 First Communion Class who received the Holy Eucharist for the first time over the past few weekends. Please keep them in your prayers!

For more information about SMS, or to set up a tour, please contact Anna O'Rourke at 203-438-7288 or visit www.smsridgefield.org.

RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE

"I feel the greatest destroyer of peace today is 'Abortion', because it is a war against the child... A direct killing of the innocent child, 'Murder' by the mother herself... And if we can accept that a mother can kill even her own child, how can we tell other people not to kill one another? How do we persuade a woman not to have an abortion? As always, we must persuade her with love... And we remind ourselves that love means to be willing to give until it hurts..." — **Mother Teresa**



www.smc.org/respect-life

FAITH FORMATION CORNER

The Holy Spirit is a Divine Person



The Holy Spirit is the 3rd person of the Blessed Trinity. The Bible says that the Holy Spirit helped to create the world (Genesis 1:2), led Jesus into the desert (Matthew 4:1), comes to us at Confirmation (Acts 8:18), and intercedes for us (Romans 8:26). Always remember that The Church teaches that The Holy Spirit is a Person, like Jesus, and like God the Father. The Holy Spirit is not some kind of generic force.

The most common attacks on Catholic belief concerning the Holy Spirit generally come from those who deny the central mystery of the Christian faith—the Trinity. Both the personhood as well as the divinity of the Holy Spirit are rejected by them. The Holy Spirit is spoken of as a "force," or as "power" emanating from God, rather than as God himself. As Catholics, then, we must be able to respond to these two key misunderstandings concerning the Holy Spirit. The truths about the Holy Spirit are that 1. The Spirit is Person, and 2. The Spirit is God. —catholic.com

DEFENDING OUR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY



In early May, Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo, Archbishop of Galveston-Houston and President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), issued a response to President Donald J. Trump's executive order about religious liberty. It stated in part:

"Today's Executive Order begins the process of alleviating the serious burden of the HHS mandate. We will engage with the Administration to ensure that adequate relief is provided to those with deeply held religious beliefs about some of the drugs, devices, and surgical procedures that HHS has sought to require people of faith to facilitate over the last several years. We welcome a decision to provide a broad religious exemption to the HHS mandate, but will have to review the details of any regulatory proposals."

Let us pray that the revised HHS mandate protects the religious rights of the Catholic Church.

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION: This Thursday, May 25th is The Ascension of the Lord. We will follow the Holy Day Mass Schedule.

DATE CHANGE: The Teaching Mass previously scheduled for June 3, will be rescheduled for the fall.

DVD DRIVE!

Girl Scouts Collecting Used DVDs/CDs until 5/30

To support their efforts to raise awareness for people with disabilities, Troop 51168 will collect DVD/CD's in any condition for the benefit of The Prospector Theater, to be used for their murals on the lower level. Collection bins will be at Saint Mary Parish Hall, located in the elementary entrance on 183 High Ridge Avenue and at Ridgefield Parks and Rec Center on 195 Danbury Rd.



Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Let the Lord into your marriage to do His works by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend: July 7-9 and November 3-5 in Manchester, CT. For more info, contact Dennis and Jane Lamont, 860-376-0440 or visit us at www.wmectw.org. Worldwide Marriage Encounter is a Roman Catholic organization serving in over 90 countries.

Our HOMILY SURVEY link is @ www.smc.org. We appreciate and value your feedback!

CATHOLIC ACTION

VOLUNTEER NEEDED, CONGREGATE HOUSING



Bingo Calling - Wednesdays, 1-2:30pm. The commitment is usually once a month. Please contact Suzanne MacAvoy for more info at sdmacavoy@hotmail.com or 203 438-7056.

DONATE: FOOD PANTRY

In May, collected food goes to the Ridgefield Food Pantry. Collection bins are in the Church and Hall. Thank you for your generosity!



MARQUETTE COUNCIL OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Don't you want to be the best role model for your child? The easiest way is to share the faith with your children by spending time with them and "walking the talk." Connect the words to action! Join the Knights for the opportunity to serve our church and community together WITH your children. We are looking for Dads and their kids to help us throughout the year. Contact John McNicholas at jmpmcnich@yahoo.com or visit www.kofc245.org for more info.

PILGRIM VIRGIN

Last weekend we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima. Our Lady's message to the world: Do penance, amend your life, offend God no more and pray the Rosary daily for world peace and the conversion of sinners. Invite the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima Statue into your home. To schedule a visit call Elma Stoveken at 203-894-1341.



Love One Another as I have Loved You

In John 15:12, Jesus says, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." Loving and caring for one another is something Jesus has called us all to do. In Stephen Ministry, people with special gifts for caring put those gifts to use in an organized way, bringing Jesus' love and care to those who need it most. If you know of someone who is hurting, talk to one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders, Mary Ann O'Grady - 203-438-5610 or Jack Hughes - 203-665-0054. Our Ministers are ready to provide focused, confidential, one-to-one Christian care—to help that person experience the healing power of Christ's love.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION



Eucharistic Adoration gives us the opportunity to pray before the exposed Blessed Sacrament and another way to experience the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. Our Parish Adoration Chapel, the oldest one in Connecticut (beginning in 1994), is open 24/7. The entrance is near our Religious Ed Office. Stop by anytime or sign up for a needed hour:

SUN: 2-3am, 3-4am, 4-5am, 1-2pm; MON: 1-2am; THURS: 1-2am

O means permanent or substitute adorer urgently needed. X means 1 additional adorer is needed. Blank boxes mean there are 2 or more adorers.

	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
12M-1am	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
1am-2am	X	O	X	X	O	X	X
2am-3am	O	X	X	X	X	X	X
3am-4am	O	X	X	X	X	X	X
4am-5am	O	X	X	X	X	X	X
5am-6am	X	X			X		X
6am-7am	X		X	X	X		X
7am-8am	X		X	X	X	X	X
8am-9am	X	X	X		X		X
9am-10am	X	X		X	X	X	X
10am-11am	X			X		X	X
11am-12N	X						X
12N-1pm	X				X	X	X
1pm-2pm	O	X	X	X	X		X
2pm-3pm	X	X	X	X		X	X
3pm-4pm		X	X	X	X	X	X
4pm-5pm	X		X	X	X		X
5pm-6pm	X		X	X	X		X
6pm-7pm	X			X	X	X	X
7pm-8pm	X					X	X
8pm-9pm						X	X
9pm-10pm	X	X			X	X	X
10pm-11pm			X	X	X	X	X
11pm-12M	X		X		X	X	X

As we journey through life, there are many ups & downs. Let us remember what Mother Teresa said, "God has not called me to be successful, He has called me to be faithful." Pray for the strength of God to accomplish this. Please sign up for your own hour at chapel or as an hourly captain by calling Bill or Monica @ (914) 533-2832. God bless us.

EVERY Thursday evening, 7-9pm, in our Adoration Chapel, the Chaplet of Mercy, 7 Sorrows of Our Blessed Mother and 15 decades of the Rosary are sung and prayed. Please join us!



ST. MARY PARISH MEN'S MINISTRY

Take an opportunity to deepen your relationship with the Lord - along with 50 to 60 other like-minded men. How about spending a weekly hour and half experiencing our Men's Ministry on Saturday mornings from 6:30-8:00AM? Besides having a great and welcoming community, we also serve bagels, coffee & OJ each week to ease the pain of a **very worthwhile wakeup call!**