

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 6, 2018



Congratulations First Holy Communicants!

Tyler Kenneth Bennett

Vanessa Burgos

Timothy Clinton

Paige Elizabeth LeBarge

John Michael Noviello

Savanah Michele Otte

Peter Pasqua

Esther Maria Salvia

Reception coffee hour follows 11:15 Mass.

Ministry Schedule Updates Due May 13

Interested: If you would like to be part of any of your Church's ministries, please call the contact below to arrange for training. Submit your preferred Mass day, vacation, and contact info so you will be included on the July to December schedule.

Current Ministers: Any days away during the second half of 2018? Contact Nancy, 865.6879, Doreen, 865.6724, for St. John/Holy Family and 746.2503, for St. Peter.

May 10 Holy Hour

Holy Hour at St. John on Ascension Thursday will be 4:30 to 5:30 pm. Mass follows at 6 pm.

Holy Day of Obligation

Solemnity of the
Ascension of the Lord on Thursday.

St. Peter: 8:00 A.M. and 12 noon.

St. John the Baptist: 9:30 A.M. and 6:00 P.M.

Bishop's Appeal 2018

The Bishop's Appeal is a most meaningful way to bring the love of Jesus to others, mostly to people we do not know, for people of faith to put the Gospel into action. Indeed, by our gifts to the Appeal, the ministries of our Church obtain the fuel to keep our mission moving forward. The success of the Appeal depends upon the participation of all members of our diocesan family.

I am most grateful to you for all you do in serving our blessed Lord and His people.

~ Bishop Edward Scharfenberger

Spring Enrichment this Month

Spring Enrichment, "*Companions Along the Journey*," will be held at the College of Saint Rose May 16 to 18. We will be remembering the past with gratitude, living the present with enthusiasm, and looking forward to the future with confidence. Experience ample opportunities to deepen your knowledge of the faith, find out how you can better share the Good News with others as well as renew your relationship with Jesus & His Church.

Access the schedule at spring.enrichment@rcda.org or contact the Catholic School Office at 518. 453.6602. [All registrations must be received by Wednesday.]

✿ Birthright Mother's Day Flowers ✿

The annual Mother's Day carnation sale is next weekend, and flowers will be sold at every Mass supporting Birthright of Sidney. This is an important fundraiser so please pick up a bouquet of posies after Mass.

VOCATIONS

Please pick up the newest Vocations for interesting articles about: vocations are born in the family, personal reflections about priestly formation in Rome, and bringing back discernment groups for women to our Diocese. Don't forget your copy!

Marriage Moments Susan Vogt

Christians celebrate Jesus' Ascension into heaven 40 days after Easter. But what does it mean to ascend into heaven? What does it mean to watch a beloved spouse leave for another life after death? These are heavy things to ponder. Talk with your beloved about what you believe about an afterlife.

Agape and Philia

John 15:9-17

Last week Jesus taught that He was the vine and that His disciples were the branches. In the example of the vine and the branches, we learned that our union with Jesus will lead to fruitful service, and the Gospel today extends this teaching to describe the kind of service that Christians are called upon to offer to others.

When John wrote this Gospel, his community was influenced by a set of religious beliefs called Gnosticism. It appears that one of John's intentions was to distinguish Christian belief from the beliefs held by the Gnostics. One of the tenets of Gnostic teaching was the importance of knowledge, or gnosis, as the determining aspect of faith; we read today's Gospel as a response to this. We hear Jesus affirm that He is known by the Father and that His disciples will know the Father by knowing Jesus. However, Jesus reminds them that this knowledge is to be expressed in love. Those who know Jesus well—and Jesus says that His disciples do know Him—will love one another. Knowledge leads to love, which leads to action. John reminds his community that Jesus taught that love is the sign of a true disciple and, thus, a true Christian. Even more, a true disciple shows a particular kind of love: sacrificial love.

In the Greek, there are two words for love that are used in this passage. The first is *agape*. The second is *philia*. *Agape* is most often used to describe love for other persons and for God. It is understood as the highest and most perfect kind of love. *Philia* is used to describe the affection of friendship. In this context, John appears to use these words as synonyms. The root of the Greek word for friend comes from this second term for love, *philia*. By using this word, Jesus transforms the terms of His relationship with His disciples and redefines for them their relationship with God. In the Hebrew Scriptures faith in God made one a servant of God, but here Jesus teaches that His relationship to His disciples is based on friendship, not servitude.

Another aspect of Gnostic belief taught that a believer was an elect person, chosen and set apart from the world. John reminds his community that Jesus also taught that a disciple is one who had been chosen - - one who had been chosen by Jesus. To be chosen by Jesus, however, is not to be set apart from the world. Instead, to be chosen by Jesus is to be sent to serve the world as he did.

We know that Jesus himself gives us the greatest example of the kind of love and service that He teaches to His disciples. He has laid down His life for His friends, for His disciples, and for us through His death and Resurrection, and we have received the grace to love others as Jesus has commanded.

May crownings and
St. Peter coffee hour next Sunday.

Parenting Pointers Susan Vogt

What does it mean to be a mother? Does it mean to give birth? That's only one day. If your children are old enough, brainstorm with them things that a good mother does. Think of the mothers who preceded you. What were their motherly qualities?

Call to Holiness: A Retreat with Pope Francis

God is calling us to be saints Pope Francis tells us in his recent document, "*Rejoice and Be Glad*." Through Pentecost Sunday MISSIO is offering an email retreat with Pope Francis to inspire active involvement and growth on the path toward holiness. Sign up at: info.missio.org/retreatwithpope.

Family Perspective Bud Ozar

We are challenged today to "*love one another as I have loved you*." Jesus is our model, and He asks us to "*lay down our life*" (our time, attention, opinions, and needs) for each other. This is the sacrament of the family, when God is made visible in our sacrificial love for one another.

Propagation of the Faith: Did You Know?

Young Pauline Jaricot started the Propagation of the Faith? She learned about the Missions of her day from letters from missionaries, and she decided to do something to help from her home in Lyons, France. Pauline gathered her friends and workers in the local silk factory into small groups. Everyone in the group pledged to pray for the Missions daily and to offer the equivalent of a penny each week. Each group member then found ten other friends to do the same. Within a year, she had 500 workers praying daily and offering help each week.

Pauline's efforts became The Society for the Propagation of the Faith. The first collections supported the missions of China and the United States. By 1922 The Society for the Propagation of the Faith became Pontifical, or the Popes official ways to help the Missions, moving their headquarters to Rome.

In the first 100 years of its existence, The Society for the Propagation of the Faith sent \$7 million to help what was then the young Church in the U.S.