

SAINT LOUIS CATHOLIC CHURCH

DIOCESE OF PEORIA ~ PRINCETON, ILLINOIS

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER MAY 2, 2021



"I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing."

John 15:5

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER HEPNER

Dear parishioners,

Let me tell you about the time I almost died. When I was 15 years old, I travelled to Estes Park Colorado with my parish's youth group for the second summer in a row. The previous year we hiked up a few mountains, but there was one *big* one that we all wanted to summit but didn't get the chance: Mount Meeker. Located to the west, right behind St. Malo's Retreat Center, it stood majestically in the early sun the first morning that I woke up and looked out of my window to see the Rockies. From that morning on, I *knew* I wanted to climb it. A year later, here we were. Ready to hike up.

Our chaperones, including my mom, dropped us off at the trailhead a few miles from the retreat center and we began the slow ascent up through the trees, stopping along the way for water and rest. By late morning we could see the trees dispersing and the first peak of Mt. Meeker became visible. We would have to go up and down a few of these peaks before we reached the *real* one, 13,911 feet above sea level. But the views were already fantastic. Best of all, I gained a second wind and was out ahead of the group. Then I felt light rain drops. No big deal, I'll just put on my jacket. These rain drops got bigger as I walked, and soon they solidified into hail. And a low rumbling thunder came with them.

The priest who was leading us yelled to everyone to begin descending down the face of the mountain, which was a gentle slope but lacked any discernible trail. It was just rocks and shrubbery as we scrambled down, lightning bursting around us, teenagers crying, and me contemplating how much my scrawny physique resembled a lightning rod. Something very strange happened, though. A word began coming out of my mouth, almost without my volition, and every time I said it I felt safer and more secure. It wasn't any of the words you would think a dying 15-year-old would say. The word was "*Mary*."

Every time I spoke the name of the Blessed Mother, crawling and scrambling through the rocks in the rain, I had confidence that I would be okay. I knew I was unworthy of heaven and I was afraid of dying, but I began to sense that I was not alone. I was not orphaned. I was protected. I knew, also, that my earthly mother was on the ground below praying for us. As we got into the tree line the storm dissipated. Soaking and shivering from the cold and fear, we came together in small groups and gradually found the trail that led us back. That trail, by the way, was the John Paul II trail, named after the pope who walked on it and stayed in the retreat center in 1993. The pope whose motto was *Totus Tuus*, "Totally yours, Mary."

I have not been a perfect son of my earthly or heavenly parents. But ever since that day I am completely devoted to our Blessed Mother. Shortly after getting my license and a job at a movie theater, I began praying one decade of the rosary on my drive to work. That decade

turned into two, and soon a full rosary. Mary's prayers and accompaniment saved me from lots of dumb teenage decisions and gave me the grace to overcome serious sin. She never left me.

When I drove up to the Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary three years later, I took a picture in front of the building with my mom and the statue of Mary. My two mothers. My earthly mom is very humble about her role in my life, and she will readily give all the credit to the Blessed Virgin. But I have a degree in philosophy, so I can argue back that multiple causes create the same effect, and Mary is happy to share her role with any woman who is willing to take on the responsibility of motherhood – both physical and spiritual.

May is the month of Mary, and I don't think I have to make many theological arguments to convince those reading this that the Blessed Mother deserves all the devotion we can give her. You most likely know that anything we give Mary, she gives to Jesus, so rather than take the focus away from her son she magnifies it (Luke 1:46) and all generations call her blessed (Luke 1:48). St. Louis de Montfort, from whom St. John Paul II took his motto, tells us that total consecration to Mary is the surest, quickest, and easiest way to union with Jesus. Mary is the perfect disciple and the perfect mother.

What will you do this May for Mary? If you don't pray the rosary, consider starting with a decade a day. If you're looking for more, I invite you to consecrate yourself to Jesus through Mary using either Louis de Montfort's *Total Consecration to Mary* or Fr. Michael Gaitley's *33 Days to Morning Glory*. Mary simply wants to hold you close to her son Jesus, to bless your family, and to protect you from evil. She is the new Eve, in and through whom her son crushed the head of Satan. May her name be on our lips, especially in moments of danger and temptation. And may you feel the closeness of our Blessed Mother.

In Christ through Mary,

Fr. Tim Hepner



Please remember to pray
for Vocations to the
Priesthood and Religious Life
especially from St. Louis Parish!
St. Therese, Patroness of Vocations, pray for us!

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**Keep in touch with us via email or text
Text SLP To 84576 or
Connect with us online at
stlouiscatholicchurch.flocknote.com**

Mass Intentions

Monday, May 3 **Sts. Phillip and James, Apostles**
7 am + David C. Austin by Austin Family

Tuesday, May 4 **Tuesday of the Fifth Week of Easter**
5:15pm +James D Prendergast
by Prendergast Family
4-5:00 pm Holy Hour

Wednesday, May 5 **Wednesday of the Fifth Week of Easter**
7:00 am + Mary Kunkel by Jane Kunkel

Thursday, May 6 **Thursday of the Fifth Week of Easter**
5:15 pm +Gene Stocking by Joanne Stocking
4-5:00 pm Holy Hour

Friday, May 7 **Friday of the Fifth Week of Easter**
7:00 am +Dorothy Bebej
by Mary Beth Dever & Bob Bebej

Saturday, May 8 **Vigil of the 6th Sunday of Easter**
4:00 pm + Stacey Brown Ryan by Tim & Jane Taylor

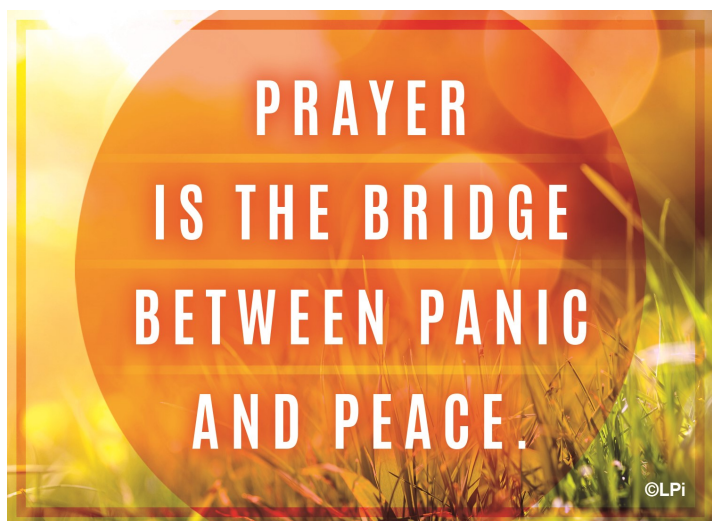
Sunday, May 9 **6th Sunday of Easter**
7:30 am People of the Parish
9:00 am + Pete Doyle Sr. by Doyle Family
10:30 am + Joe Quagliano by John & Pat Bystry

The Glimmer of Comfort Grief Support Group
will meet this Tuesday, May 4 at 6 pm at 121 Miles Court. Women who have lost children due to an illness, accident, suicide or miscarriage are welcome to visit with other caring women who have lost a child or children. For more information, call Jeanie Gelsomino at (815) 872-6571.



Readings for the week of May 2, 2021

Sunday: Acts 9:26-31/Ps 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32 /1 Jn 3:18-24/Jn 15:1-8
Monday: 1 Cor 15:1-8/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5 [5]/Jn 14:6-14
Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21 /Jn 14:27-31a
Wednesday: Acts 15:1-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5 [cf. 1]/Jn 15:1-8
Thursday: Acts 15:7-21/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10 [3]/Jn 15:9-11
Friday: Acts 15:22-31/Ps 57:8-9, 10 and 12 [10a]/Jn 15:12-17
Saturday: Acts 16:1-10/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 5/Jn 15:18-21
Next Sunday: Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4 /1 Jn 4:7-10/Jn 15:9-17



Liturgical/Volunteer Roles

4:00 pm: Saturday, May 8

Altar Servers Anna Ellis, Norah Schultz
 Camera Operators David Kunkel
 Lectors Dave Boylan
 Sacristan Julie Hassler
 Greeters Dave & Katie Lawrence
 Cleaners TBD: CLEANERS NEEDED

7:30 am: Sunday, May 9

Altar Server Brady Peach
 Lectors Margaret Martinkus
 Sacristan Mary Beth Crowe
 Greeters Gary Blessman
 Cleaners Gary & Marcia Blessman, Pat Wiggim

9:00 am: Sunday, May 9

Altar Server Jessica Carlone, Christian Harmon
 Camera Operators Marty Makransky
 Lectors Mario Carlone
 Sacristan Chris Romagnoli
 Greeters Jim Whiteaker, Quint Quiram
 Cleaners Quint Quiram, Jim Whitaker, Steve Bouslog

10:30 am: Sunday, May 9

Altar Server Nate Lough, Sara Ruiz
 Lectors James/Jeff Peacock
 Sacristan Linda Carter
 Greeters Pat Mason, Ken Lough
 Cleaners Lough Family, Mary Beth Crowe

EMHC for Homebound: Mary Beth Crowe, Madeleine Robinson, Tim Smith, Colleen Harmon, Dave Boylan, Dave Lawrence

ST. LOUIS LENTEN SCHEDULE

MASS SCHEDULE

MON, WED, FRI	7:00 AM
TUE, THR	5:15 PM
SAT	4:00 PM
SUN	7:30, 9:00, 10:30 AM

(SAT 4 PM and SUN 9:30AM Live-streamed on FaceBook and broadcast Sunday at noon on WZOE 1490 AM)

OUTDOOR DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

(AT ANDERSON ST ENTRANCE)

SAT	5:00—5:15 PM
SUN	10:00—10:15 AM

RECONCILIATION

(Moved back in the Confessional!)

WED, FRI	3-3:30 PM
TUE, THR	4:30—4:50 PM
SAT	3-3:45 PM

HOLY HOUR

TUE, THR	4:00 PM
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PRIVATE PRAYER

Chapel is open for Private Prayer— same access code as before - if you need the code please contact the parish office.

STEWARDSHIP

Church Monetary Support Through April 25, 2021

Amount Budgeted	\$6,500.00
Amount Received	<u>\$6,453.00</u>
Amount Over (Under)	(\$ 47.00)

Fiscal Period July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

Amount needed to date	\$279,500.00
Amount Received to date:	<u>\$269,564.00</u>
Over/(Under) budget to date	(\$ 9,936.00)

Memorial of St. Joseph The Worker May 1st



“SAINT JOSEPH WAS A JUST MAN, A TIRELESS WORKER, THE UPRIGHT GUARDIAN OF THOSE ENTRUSTED TO HIS CARE. MAY HE ALWAYS GUARD, PROTECT AND ENLIGHTEN FAMILIES” – POPE JOHN PAUL II

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE:

Last weekend the Knights of Columbus collected 193 nonperishable food items and \$750 in monetary donations for the Bureau Country Food Pantry. A large majority of the items were from the high need list. St. Louis parishioners have now contributed 24,638 non-perishable food items and \$115,479 in monetary donations. The food insecure in our community say thank you.

ADA UPDATE

As we continue in this season of Easter to reflect on all the good gifts God has given to us, we are reminded that our support of the Annual Diocesan Appeal is our way of sharing in the many good works throughout the Catholic Diocese of Peoria. As of April 1st, 178 generous St. Louis parishioners have pledged \$54,430.43 toward our assessment of \$86,484.00. To date, \$50,917.21 has been collected. The 2020 campaign, which faced unprecedented challenges during a global pandemic, will soon be concluding. If you have not yet made a pledge or contribution, it is still needed and it is not too late! Pledge cards remain on all the information tables outside the entrances to the church. Please remember, if you indicated you wished to make your pledge online, no reminders have been sent to donors. For your convenience, we are again including step by step instructions for online contributions to the ADA:

ADA ONLINE DONATIONS STEP BY STEP

- **If you have not already done so**, please fill out a pledge card, and select the ONLINE option. You may return your pledge card to the parish office in person, by mail, or drop it in the collection basket at Mass.
- To schedule payments, go to www.cdop.org and click the 2020 ADA Online Donations button in the right top corner.
- If you want to make a one-time donation for your ADA pledge, this can be processed on any day. If you plan to schedule recurring payments, you may select processing on either the 5th or the 20th of each month.
- **Please double check you have selected "St. Louis, Princeton" from the drop down list!**
- Please remember, there will be **no reminders sent to online donors**.

Thank you for your prayerful support of the 2020 Annual Diocesan Appeal!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers needed for the Spiritual Warfare with Dan Burke event on May 15

Specifically, we need help with setup and take down, cleaners for after the event, child care helpers (we have an adult lead but looking for youth helpers), and registration table helpers. Mary Harmon is coordinating refreshments and may also need some assistance. Other than the childcare helpers, these tasks will still allow you to attend the event. Some help is needed on Friday only, some on both Friday and Saturday. Training is on Friday at 4pm and includes dinner with the Burkes! Any questions, please call or text Cathy Trowbridge at 815-876-6952 or email to stlcathytrowbridge@gmail.com
THANK YOU in advance for saying YES!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Men's Holy Hour

In honor of St. Joseph and St. Louis, join the men of the parish every Saturday at 7am for a men's holy hour. We will read the Gospel for the upcoming Sunday, spend time in silent meditation, and will often have the opportunity for confession. Enter through the adoration chapel door.

Congratulations!

On the evening of Sunday, May 16, we will have a party for all parishioners who are graduating from high school and eighth grade, along with their families. Please call or email the parish office if you'd like to join us!

SETTING THE CAPTIVES FREE SPIRITUAL WARFARE —AND THE— VOICE OF GOD Dan Burke, Speaker

Sat, May 15th 9- 1:00pm (8am Mass)
\$29 per person—\$24 Live Stream

For more information or to register
visit our website stlouisprinceton.org
Or, contact the parish office.
Checks payable to Avila Foundation

Please sign up now as seating
will be limited & registration is now
opened to the public.

Childcare will be available.