

SAINT LOUIS CATHOLIC CHURCH

DIOCESE OF PEORIA ~ PRINCETON, ILLINOIS

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD MAY 16, 2021



*"But they went forth and preached everywhere,
while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the
word through accompanying signs."*

-Mark 16:20

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER HEPNER

Dear parishioners,

I've never read the book *How to Win Friends and Influence People*, but I assume that, if it were written in 2021, it would not suggest beginning an article with "I'd like to say a few words about our president." But thankfully my role as your priest isn't to "win" anyone, and I really rely on the Holy Spirit to do the influencing. Instead, I'm here to communicate the truth and love that God reveals in Jesus Christ through his bride the Catholic Church. To that end, I'd like to say a few words about our president, Joseph R. Biden Jr.

Archbishop Jose Gomez, the president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, wrote upon President Biden's inauguration:

Mr. Biden's piety and personal story, his moving witness to how his faith has brought him solace in times of darkness and tragedy, his longstanding commitment to the Gospel's priority for the poor — all of this I find hopeful and inspiring...At the same time...I must point out that our new President has pledged to pursue certain policies that would advance moral evils and threaten human life and dignity, most seriously in the areas of abortion, contraception, marriage, and gender. Of deep concern is the liberty of the Church and the freedom of believers to live according to their consciences.

I'd like to be clear. There are a lot of issues that I am not currently writing on. And what I write has nothing to do with our previous president, Donald Trump. As Catholics, we need to hone our ability to focus on the moral principles that are preeminent, distinguishing them from other matters of politics about which we might have formed prudential opinions. This is difficult work, because it requires allowing wisdom to rule over our emotions and it takes thought and reflection, which are so scarce in our reactive world. So we start with facts:

It is an undisputed fact that we have a Catholic president who regularly attends mass, publicly professes the faith with his words, yet unapologetically seeks to enact policies that contradict Catholic teaching on the crucial areas listed above. It is also a fact that this is very confusing and scandalous to many people: faithful, intelligent Catholics who freely assent to the Church's moral teaching; Catholics who are confused about the Church's teaching; and Christians and others of good will whose consciences inform them that children in the womb are alive, marriage is between a man and a woman, gender is biological, and our freedom to follow our consciences is a God given right. Finally, it is also a fact that many baptized Catholics who dissent from the Church's moral teaching and many outside the Church who vehemently disagree with it are encouraged by President Biden's stances to continue holding positions contrary to God's plan.

Hopefully with all of these facts, it is easy to see why the bishops, as well as your unworthy administrator, have pastoral concerns about President Biden's policies and his example. Among those policies is an opposition to the Hyde Amendment, which prevents tax dollars from paying for elected abortions. The "EACH Woman" Act (Equal Access to Abortion Coverage in Health Insurance Act, S.758/H.R. 1692) would require every federal health program to cover, and every federal health facility to provide, elective abortions and nullify state and local policies against abortion coverage, rescinding the compromise policy agreed to by President Obama and congressional Democrats in the Affordable Care Act of 2010. These policies are not the totality of his agenda - a faithful Catholic can agree with Biden's efforts to end the death penalty or his immigration policy, for example - but they are essential matters.

If anyone wonders whether a politician's faith should influence his policies, the answer is an unequivocal "yes." We elect politicians based on who they are and what they believe. A person's conscience is the deep center of his mind which informs his decisions and every action. And a politician, just like every other human, must take action based on a well-formed conscience. President Biden attends Mass and speaks about his Catholic faith, but it is clear that either his conscience is malformed or he chooses to act against it. This literally puts lives (of babies in their mother's womb) as well as souls (of those who look to him to be a moral example) in danger.

We need to pray for every president, especially in our polarized and combative environment. Right now we need to pray for President Biden, that he align his political actions with the heart of the loving God whom he publicly professes to believe in. And, whether you voted for him or not, we are called to stand up for God's plan for life, marriage, and freedom by opposing policies and legislation which contradict it.

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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In prayer and meditation it is ourselves who speak to the Lord, while in holy reading it is God who speaks to us. Before beginning to read, raise your mind to the Lord and implore Him to guide your mind Himself, to speak to your heart and move your will.

-St. Padre Pio

Readings for the week of May 16, 2021

Sunday: Ascension: Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 [6]/
Eph 1:17-23 /Mk 16:15-20
Monday: Acts 19:1-8/Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab [33a]/Jn 16:29-33
Tuesday: Acts 20:17-27/Ps 68:10-11, 20-21/Jn 17:1-11a
Wednesday: Acts 20:28-38/Ps 68: 29-30, 33-35a, 35bc-36ab [33a]/Jn 17:11b-19
Thursday: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11/Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 [1]/Jn 17:20-26
Friday: Acts 25:13b-21/Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab [19a]/
Jn 21:15-19
Saturday: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31/Ps 11:4, 5, 7 /Jn 21:20-2
Next Sunday: Acts 2:1-11/Ps 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34 [cf. 30]/1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13 or Gal 5:16-25/Jn 20:19-23

Mass Intentions

Monday, May 17 Monday of the Seventh Week of Easter
7 am + Hank Donnelly by Amie Neiman

Tuesday, May 18 St. John I, Pope and Martyr
5:15pm +Ron Hulslander by Annette Hulslander
4-5:00 pm Holy Hour

Wed, May 19 Wednesday of the Seventh Week of Easter
7:00 am + Sister Dorothy Bertsch
by Linda Carter & Bernetta Wood

Thursday, May 20 St. Bernardine of Siena, Priest
5:15 pm +Floyd & Jessie Stocking
by Joanne Stocking
4-5:00 pm Holy Hour

Friday, May 21 St. Christopher Magallanes, Priest,
and Companions, Martyr
7:00 am +John E. Austin by The Austin Family

Saturday, May 22 Vigil of Pentecost Sunday
4:00 pm + Eddie Zukosky by Jen Gibe

Sunday, May 23 Pentecost Sunday
7:30 am People of the Parish
9:00 am + Mary Ellen Dugosh
10:30 am + Barbara Strunk by Nancy Scoma

Baby Bottle Campaign 'Change for Life'

The St Louis Respect Life Committee will be hosting a "Baby Bottle Campaign." Baby bottles will be available at the Church entrances beginning on Mother's Day, May 9th, for individuals or families to take home, fill with change (or cash/checks) and return to the church on Father's Day, June 20th. All funds raised will be given to support the pro-life efforts of Abigail's Women's Clinic in Mendota. The agency expressed their deep appreciation for our continued support and shared that St. Louis Parish is one of their biggest donors!



Liturgical/Volunteer Roles

4:00 pm: Saturday, May 22

Altar Servers Patsy Bystry, Anna Ellis
 Camera Operators Tim Daluga
 Lectors Mary Paula Schmitt
 Sacristan Mandy Robinson
 Greeters Dave & Katie Lawrence
 Cleaners TBD: CLEANERS NEEDED

7:30 am: Sunday, May 23

Altar Server *Servers needed please check in at Sacristy*
 Lectors Mary Murphy
 Sacristan Mary Beth Crowe
 Greeters Gary Blessman
 Cleaners Gary & Marcia Blessman, Pat Wiggim

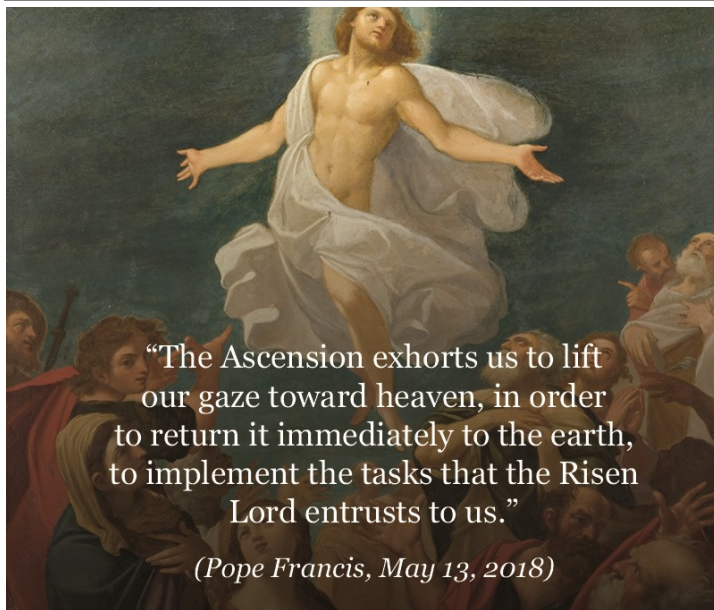
9:00 am: Sunday, May 23

Altar Server Christian Harmon, Sydney Scully
 Camera Operators Marty Makransky
 Lectors Tim Kunkel
 Sacristan Chris Romagnoli
 Greeters Jim Whiteaker, Quint Quiram
 Cleaners Quint Quiram, Jim Whitaker, Steve Bouslog

10:30 am: Sunday, May 23

Altar Server Nate Lough, Sara Ruiz
 Lectors Donna Milliron
 Sacristan Tim Smith
 Greeters Pat Mason, Ken Lough
 Cleaners Lough Family, Mary Beth Crowe

EMHC for Homebound: Mandy Robinson, Tim Smith,
 Dave Lawrence, Patty Daluga, Colleen Harmon, Dave
 Boylan



“The Ascension exhorts us to lift
 our gaze toward heaven, in order
 to return it immediately to the earth,
 to implement the tasks that the Risen
 Lord entrusts to us.”

(Pope Francis, May 13, 2018)

*“From Mary we learn to surrender to God’s
 Will in all things. From Mary we learn to
 trust even when all hope seems gone. From
 Mary we learn to love Christ her Son and
 the Son of God!” -St. John Paul II*

ST. LOUIS 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 9:00AM Live-streamed on Face-
 Book 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

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 May 9, 2021

Amount Budgeted	\$6,500.00
Amount Received	<u>\$6,004.00</u>
Amount Over (Under)	(\$496.00)

Fiscal Period July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

Amount needed to date:	\$292,500.00
Amount Received to date:	<u>\$283,151.00</u>
Over/(Under) budget to date:	(\$9,349.00)

Join us for Totus Tuus at St. Louis this summer!

This five-day Catholic program is filled with faith, fun, and friendship. Registration is only \$10 per family. Grades 1-6 will meet from 9 AM to 2:30 PM, July 26-30. Grades 7-12 will meet from 7 to 9 PM, July 25-29. A shorter daytime "Totus Tots" program will be available for younger children as well. Teens who attend the evening session are also welcome to volunteer during the daytime session for service hours. Register online at <https://forms.gle/JcXSFqW1j83UdUMGA>, or by contacting Rebekah Mead stl.rebekahmead@gmail.com, 815-303-2330. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Rachel Bystry (815-303-7109).



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.

Women's Prayer Group is meeting on Friday morning at 8:00-9:00. Masks are to be worn and we are limiting attendance. We discuss the Sunday's Gospel, using Threshold Bible Study. Please call Linda McCabe (815-875-2539) with any questions and if you wish to attend.

CONGRADUATIONS!

Join us for a Summer Kickoff/ Graduation Party THIS Sunday, May 16. There will be s'mores, swords, and more! Stop by anytime between 7 and 9 PM to help celebrate our recent graduates and confirmands and kick off the summer. Please bring your lawn chairs.

All are welcome!

READY FOR AN ADVENTURE?

The Saint Bede Auction is excited to present a BRAND NEW 2021 Jayco Redhawk SE 27N Class C Motorhome!

This is your chance to purchase the motorhome of your dreams and support Saint Bede at the same time.

For More Information - Please Visit

<https://bede2021.ggo.bid/bidding/package/13357479>

Questions?? Email bprokup@st-bede.com

HELP US SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT THIS INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITY!



The Jayco Redhawk SE 27N Class C motorhome was ordered especially for the Saint Bede Auction and provided by Fourwinds RV. Winner is responsible for state tax, license, and title.

