Dear Friends in Christ,

The Ascension of the Lord this weekend has us literally thinking of an upward motion when our Lord Jesus Christ ascends into heaven. For us Fallen human beings, we are always in a constant walk in this world, but as devout Catholics, we are always striving to think of what is above. Saint Thomas Aquinas described this as us living on a horizontal plane with our lives in this world but us constantly looking at the vertical plane towards God and heaven.

The Ascension of our Lord presents to us the real goal of our existence: to make it to heaven. As we continue to live through these incredibly interesting times with some areas of life being on lockdown and others slowly opening up again, what is more or less universally true is many souls are having to stay at home... a lot.

Staying home has presented challenges for some of us. For some, staying at home has not really changed anything in their lives. For others, it has changed normal family dynamics. We love the people in our family, but having them around more often has proven rather difficult.

How can this be resolved in a healthy manner? Thinking of the Ascension and how we are created to hopefully make it to heaven, we need to live in such a manner that we may be worthy to hopefully get there. We need to live now in such a manner that God’s Presence (that vertical plane) is constantly with us in our homes (the horizontal plane).
Are we praying as a family? Particularly with more human interaction with family at the home, this is vitally important. Read the Divine Mercy reflection to see how God’s Presence and turning to Him in all things is central, especially within our families. Set a good time of the day to read the Mass Reading for the day together as a family. Develop the truly beautiful habit of praying the Rosary together every day as a family.

As we pray together in our families and foster the life of prayer in our homes, we are bringing more of God’s Presence within our family units. As God’s Presence grows in the family, even with more frequent interaction with each other, it becomes easier to love every member in the family more when the normal irritations come up. It helps us to call to mind that there is a life after this world, and we hope to get to there, to ascend to where our Lord has gone before us. It’s called Paradise, it’s heaven, and it’s our true homeland.

In Christo et Maria,

Father Vogel
Parochial Administrator

Mass Intentions

Tuesday, May 26 +Kathryn Kennedy by The Kennedy Family
Wednesday, May 27 +Special Intention
Thursday, May 28 +Pam Stobart by Stephanie Lewis & Mary Ann Batliner
Saturday, May 30 +Mary Margaret Ledwidge by Gary & Katy Crabtree
Sunday, May 31 For parishioners of St. Bridget Parish

Gifts to God and Church

Date: May 13 - May 22, 2020
Mail-in and drop-off donations
St. Bridget Envelopes.........$5,920.04
Dream Fund......................960.00
Youth Group.......................11.00
Special Collection - Ascension...70.00
Spec. Col.-Tomorrow's Priests 108.00
Special Col. - Peter's Pence.......20.00

Dream Fund MTD $3,283.50

Do You Have a High School or College Graduate?
The parish would like to recognize our St. Bridget graduates. If you have a son or daughter who is going to or has graduated from high school this spring, please e-mail Linda Ochs in the parish office with the student’s name and school. Congratulations on this milestone for our young people!

Volunteers Needed
Will you volunteer as a hospitality volunteer/usher in the vestibule? As you can see below, St. Bridget needs help directing parishioners on weekends, as well as servers and rosary leaders. Thank you so much to those who have stepped up already to help ensure the safety of all. Please e-mail Linda if you are able to assist or talk to Tim when you come to Mass this weekend.

Liturgy Schedule - May
SATURDAY, MAY 23
CAST YOURSELF INTO THE ARMS OF GOD AND BE VERY SURE THAT IF HE WANTS ANYTHING OF YOU HE WILL FIT YOU FOR THE WORK AND GIVE YOU THE STRENGTH.

ST. BRIDGET
Catholic Church

24-HOUR ADORATION: FRIDAY, MAY 29 - SATURDAY, MAY 30

Sign-up sheets are in the vestibule for 24-hour adoration this Friday and Saturday. May 29th is the Fifth Friday of the month. As we always do on fifth Fridays, St. Bridget will be hosting 24-hour adoration from 5:00 p.m. Friday, May 29, 2020 until time to prepare for Mass (around 4:45 p.m.) on Saturday, May 30, 2020. Every time slot has to be filled, and this is a great opportunity for you to go to Adoration if your schedule does not allow for the regular Thursday hours. There is nothing quite like spending time in adoration with the Blessed Sacrament!

BIRTHDAY WISHES FOR TYLER TOOMAY

There are several parishioners of St. Bridget who visit a young man from our parish who is in prison. It is a challenging ministry in some ways to visit, try and come up with conversation, trying to share experiences, and most of all sharing support of a young man in prison. By most research and observations, these types of visits, letters, cards, and communications help keep men and women out of prison once released. A young man, Tyler Toomay is one such young man that...
we visit and remember. Each year we invite parishioners to send cards or birthday wishes to Tyler, whose birthday is May 25th. Cards only are allowed. Please no pictures, no gift cards, newspaper clippings, etc. are not permitted to be enclosed in cards. Tyler does appreciate the love and support that he receives from the people of St. Bridget and he warm-heartedly mentions that at each visit. If you would like to send a card, the address information is listed here.

Tyler Toomay #1234157
Western Missouri Correctional Center
609 E. Pence Rd.
Cameron, MO 64429

To First Communicants, From Pope Francis:

"In the month of May in many parishes it is traditional to celebrate First Communion Masses. Clearly, due to the pandemic, this beautiful moment of faith and feasting has had to be postponed. Therefore, I wish to celebrate an affectionate thought to the boys and girls who should have received the Eucharist for the first time. Dear boys and girls, I invite you to live this time of waiting as an opportunity to prepare yourselves better – praying, reading your catechism, to deepen your knowledge of Jesus and growing in goodness and in service to others. I wish you a good time of preparation." - May 17, 2020

Reflection: The Lord’s Peace Dispels Evil

It is important to recognize the existence of the evil one, Satan. And it’s important to realize his anger and hatred. His hatred is of greater intensity than we may be able to understand. It is beyond his control to cease hating us and seeking to destroy us with all his powers. Why is it important to know this? Because when we receive some attack from the evil one, either directly or through the “inspired” anger of another, we tend to react with fear, scandal, or anger ourselves. We tend to want to fight back. But if we understand the intense hatred of the devil, we will realize that he desires to draw us into his hatred and anger. Therefore, the best response to any experience of his hatred is to turn from him and his attacks and to remain at peace with God. The peace of our soul will dispel him and all he seeks to do to us. His anger is not worth even a moment of our attention or engagement (see Diary #713).

How do you react to the evil one and his attacks? Do you recognize his insidious but vile ways? Can you discern his attempts to steal your peace and turn your focus to fear rather than faith? Reflect, today, upon the crucifix and turn your eyes to this saving act of perfect love given by our Savior. By turning to the Lord in all things, His peace remains and He will dispel the dark attacks of him who hates us.

Lord, I turn my eyes to You and give my mind, heart, feelings and passions to You and You alone. Free me from foolish fear and from all attacks from the evil one. May I discern his evil ways and reject their effects by trusting in You and You
Reflections by Father Paul Turner

The Ascension of the Lord
Ephesians 1:17-23

Power Source

Nations build up their power through politics, weapons and wealth. Strong leaders can unite their people to promote a cause. Mighty arsenals can overcome enemies. Money can buy influence and technology. Nations feel secure when they hold power.

As citizens, we sometimes take false hope in the security of our nation. It is nearly impossible to guard against every attack, to control every enemy, and to protect our national treasures. It is tempting to rely on the standards of national power: politics, weapons, and wealth.

The Letter to the Ephesians takes another view of power. It assumes that all power belongs to God, not to people, and that God has assigned authority to Christ, “raising him from the dead and seating him at his right hand in the heavens.” God put all things beneath the feet of Christ “and gave him as head over all things.”

But Jesus is no politician. He owns no weapons. He possesses no earthly wealth. His dominion differs from that of temporal rulers. Believers of every nation put their trust in Christ. They follow his teachings. Most importantly, they believe he is the victor over death. Jesus has conquered death, the enemy of every human. With Jesus as our head, we enjoy unparalleled freedom and release from all our fears.

Those who follow Christ put their trust in other forms of power—perfect love of God and neighbor.

NEW PARISHIONERS
Welcome! Please register after Mass using the registration form in the vestibule, download form from our web site, or contact the parish office.

ST. BRIDGET FINANCE COUNCIL
Chair: Ross Dale charleenrd@comcast.net
Gary Crabtree garycrabtree@comcast.net
Greg Dustman grd21@hotmail.com
Joe Fiedler jacomojoe@comcast.net
Robert Radmacher rjadbroex@aol.com

ST. BRIDGET PARISH COUNCIL
Chairman: Rick Kitchell rickkitchell@gmail.com
Secretary: Rita Pilcher rtapilcher@gmail.com
Bill Ruth banbdwlt@yahoo.com
Melissa Thornsberry irish_girl@yahoo.com
Bob Dostal bsdos@comcast.net
Mark Bock markbock@sbcglobal.net

The Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph is committed to combating sexual abuse in the Church. If you are a victim of sexual abuse, or if you observe or suspect sexual abuse:
1. Call the Missouri Child Abuse Hotline at 1.800.392.3738 (if the victim is currently under the age of 18), and
2. Contact your local law enforcement agency or call 911, and
3. After reporting to these civil and law enforcement authorities, report suspected sexual abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult to the Diocesan Ombudsman, Joe Crayon, at 816.812.2500 or crayon@ombudsmanksj.org, if the abuse involves a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph.
The Diocese has a sincere commitment to providing care and healing resources to victims of sexual abuse and their families. Please contact the Victim Services Coordinator, Kathleen Chastain, at 816.392.0011 or chastain@diocesekcsj.org for more information.

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