

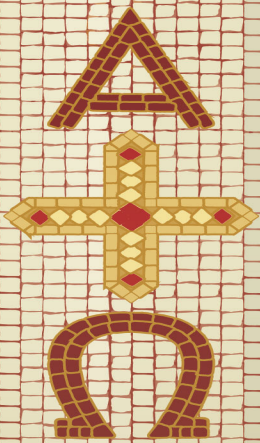
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

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MAY
31
2020



Pentecost
SUNDAY



There appeared to them tongues as of fire,
which parted and came to rest on each one of them.
And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.

ACTS 2:3-4

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Paschal Candle Illustration: Tony Ward for J. S. Paluch, 2020. Photo: Mosaic of the Holy Spirit, Saint Volodymyr Basilica, Kiev; Bill Perry/Adobe Stock

Mission Statement

Called to be disciples of Jesus Christ, we strive to live His Gospel by answering daily, "Yes, here I am Lord". Strengthened by the sacraments and trusting in God's saving grace, we joyfully commit ourselves to sharing our gifts for the continual renewal of our parish and the Maplewood community.

From Deacon John:

PENTECOST: Does it make a Difference?...to the Apostles?...to us?

TO THE APOSTLES: Definitely. The apostles were hiding in the Upper Room, “*where the doors were locked...for fear of the Jewish authorities*” (Gospel). The first reading (Acts) says “*they were all in one place together*”. They were so afraid they could not get anything done. The church would have died a quiet death if nothing else had happened.

Then IT happened. The gospel says “*Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, “PEACE BE WITH YOU....As the Father has sent me, so I SEND YOU... RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them.”*”

The apostles heard a noise from the wind, saw tongues of fire, “*and they were ALL FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT...they spoke in different tongues as the Spirit ENABLED THEM TO PROCLAIM.*” Pentecost is called the birthday of the church. It is when the Apostles began to tell the Good News to others who began to join them.

TO US: Definitely. The Holy Spirit is the love expressed between God the Father and the Son, Jesus. When we have been given the Holy Spirit we are given the LOVE between the Father and Son. While we are all uniquely different, per the second reading (1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13) we were all given “*the same Spirit... the same Lord...the same God...we are all baptized into one body.*”

Receiving the Holy Spirit is PURE GIFT...out of God's love for each of us.

I often wonder why God doesn't intervene more often in the world to remove evil, accomplish good. But I think it is the genius of God that God entrusts this special work to us. And God gives us the Holy Spirit to enable us to accomplish HIS WORK. The more we labor at doing God's work, the more we become aware of the presence of God in the Holy Spirit helping us.

THE SEVEN GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

Fortitude: helps us overcome difficulties with faith

Piety : moves us to treat God with trust like a child with their father

Fear of God (Wonder and Awe): awareness of and reverence for God's power

Counsel/Judgment: encourages us to seek the glory of God and the good of others

Understanding: help to understand the word of God and doctrines of faith

Wisdom: helps us to see things in light of God and to seek God above all

Knowledge: helps us see the world from God's perspective

We are given the gifts of the Holy Spirit not for our own benefit but to help OTHERS. Here are two questions to think about:

1) What gifts has God given to me?

2) How can I use these gifts to help others?

When we discover the gifts God has given to us, we will find PEACE.

When we use these gifts to help others, we will discover JOY.

HOLY SPIRIT PRAYER:

**COME HOLY SPIRIT, FILL THE HEARTS OF YOUR FAITHFUL
AND KINDLE IN US THE FIRE OF YOUR LOVE.
SEND FORTH YOUR SPIRIT AND WE SHALL BE RECREATED
AND YOU SHALL RENEW THE FACE OF THE EARTH.**

May God bless you in a special way,
Deacon John

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Archdiocese of St. Louis has created a comprehensive landing page with the latest parish and school updates, statements from Archbishop Carlson, resources and prayers in response to the Coronavirus. You can access that page here: <https://www.archstl.org/coronavirus>



And whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him." Invite Jesus into your marriage on an upcoming Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next weekends are Aug. 7-9 and Sept. 25-27 at the Courtyard Marriot in St. Peters, MO.

<https://stl-wwme.org/schedule.php> or call or text 314.649.7317.

SLUH is pleased to offer MULTIPLE virtual opportunities to future Jr. Bills and their parents to experience our brotherhood, our academics, and our robust athletics and co-curricular opportunities including InsideSLUH Visits, a Campus Tour, Office Hours, and Feature Zoom Events with SLUH Subject-Matter Experts. Visit our Virtual Admissions Office at <https://www.sluh.org/admissions> to learn more.

Free Rosaries!
Pray to end
the Pandemic

Saturdays in May, 11am - 1pm
May 16 / 23 / 30

The sisters will be distributing rosaries in our Book Center parking lot each Saturday in May.....

Pauline Books & Media, 9804 Watson Rd., St Louis, MO 63126



St. Louis Friends of Birthright Virtual Run for Life and Learning
Looking for a fun and safe way to support Moms in need? The Friends of Birthright Run for Life and Learning has gone Virtual! To register or donate, visit:

run4lifeandlearning.eventbrite.com. Complete a Run/Walk distance of your choice (6K, 1 mile, 0.25 mile) individually or with your immediate family anytime between Monday, June 1 and Sunday, June 7. Post your time and/or photo to our Facebook page, or email us, and receive a race t-shirt. Proceeds enable women who are financially stressed by an unplanned pregnancy to continue their education. Please email us at run4lifeandlearning@gmail.com for sponsorship opportunities.

Glennon Sunday
Where faith and healing unite
June 7

SSM Health
Cardinal Glennon
Children's Hospital

When **SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital** opened its doors as the nation's first free-standing Catholic pediatric hospital, a promise was made to the community that any child in need of care would be welcomed, whether their parents could afford to pay for care or not. That promise still holds true today.

St. Louis has a long tradition of responding generously in times of crisis, coming together in solidarity to give hope to those in need. SSM Health Cardinal Glennon is a proud part of that tradition, and we need you now more than ever. In this extraordinary time of crisis, our costs to deliver care are extraordinary as well. Now is the time for our dear friends in the faith community to come together and partner with us as we uphold a commitment to our mission of faith-filled health care services, delivered by some of the region's best caregivers: Through our exceptional health care services, we reveal the healing presence of God.

IC please join us by making a gift during Glennon Sunday weekend, June 6-7, online at glennon.org. Together we will continue to make miracles possible bringing God's love and joy into the lives of our young patients. On behalf of our patients and families, may God bless you for providing hope, healing, faith and compassion to every child who walks through the doors at SSM Health Cardinal Glennon.

Schedule For The Week

Sunday, May 31 8:30 a.m.	Mass-Resumed
Monday June 1 Tuesday, June 2 7:00 p.m.	Election-Cancelled Choir-Cancelled
Wednesday, June 3 9:00-10:00 a.m.	Parish Hall Walking-Cancelled
Thursday, June 4 9:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	Small Faith-Cancelled Quilting-Cancelled
Friday, June 5 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. 9:00-10:00 a.m.	Adoration-Cancelled Parish Hall Walking-Cancelled
Saturday, June 6 4:00 p.m.	Mass-Suspended

4:15-4:45 p.m.	CONFESSIONS—with Fr. Pete St. Luke's Parish
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Sunday, June 7
8:30 a.m. Mass-Resumed

Weekly Offering



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Register for simple & convenient
Online Giving at:
[https://
www.osvonlinegiving.com/1357](https://www.osvonlinegiving.com/1357)

May 16th/17th: 1st Collection: \$1,595.00 2nd Collection: \$220.00
Online Giving: \$1,457.25
May 23rd/24th: 1st Collection: TBD 2nd Collection: TBD
Online Giving: \$1,037.25

OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS: I want to remind you that collections remain essential to the continued operation and existence of our parish and our mission. Thank you to all who use online giving. It helps so much during times like this, snow days and vacation times. It is EASY to sign up for online giving at www.osvonlinegiving.com/1357. You may make one-time payments or set it up for automatic payments--it is very flexible. Otherwise, please mail or drop-off your contribution. Many expenses continue.

Stewardship

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same spirit; there are different forms of service, but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit. 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

This excerpt from a letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians is often used in Stewardship guidance. The Pentecost readings reminds us that just as Jesus' disciples received the Holy Spirit, so have all Christians through the ages. The gift of the Holy Spirit has enabled man to do the work of the Lord here on earth. We can ignore or embrace this holy gift. We can make our lives just 'time on earth' or we can fulfill our lives and live in the joy of knowing that we are a "benefit" to the world. We can give, help, care and love; "we can send forth the Spirit and renew the face of the earth". *Psalms 104:30*

PARISH NURSE NOTE

I once read an article about a kite. Most of us have heard the analogy of parents letting go of their children like one gradually lets go of a kite, giving out more and more string as we gain trust in their maturity. But this little meditation was the first I'd read from the kites perspective, the kite saying, "If that person would just let go of that string I could soar, I'd be free____, why is he or she holding me down". What happens if that string is completely let go? The kite eventually gets tangled up in some wires or trees, and becomes torn and ripped apart. We often think our circumstances are holding us down, holding us back, but if Jesus is our anchor, we can trust that he won't let go of the string and that He will give us more string or pull it back as He sees fit and as He wills.

I couldn't help thinking about this analogy in respect to our quarantine experience, especially seeing pictures of the crowds that gathered so recklessly this past weekend, all those kites so anxious to be let go. They appeared to be a tangled mess! We often think our circumstances are holding us down, when in fact they can be building us up, drawing us nearer to God, allowing us to be more and more dependent on Him rather than ourselves. If God isn't fighting for authority in each of our lives, He will give us the string, or as we say the grace to fly, in His time.

Proverbs 14:30 affirms that a heart at peace gives life to the body. As individuals we are increasingly being called to take more responsibility for our own well being, enhancing our spiritual lives and reducing our stress levels. Medicine too, is putting more and more emphasis on preventive health care, which again comes back to the individual. These are challenging times, a time like we've not known before. We must not only seek peace, we must pursue it.

Thank you Lord Jesus for holding on to us and for holding us down as we need to be. We place our loved ones, our children and our grandchildren in your hands in the very same way, assured that each one is precious to you, those anxious little kites. Amen

I am not visiting people. My husband has all the high-risk factors they talk about, but feel free to call me if I can help you from home or you just want to talk, 314-698-2591.

Kathleen O'Reilly, Parish Nurse

Readings for the Week

Monday: Gn 3:9-15, 20 or Acts 1:12-14; Ps 87:1-3, 5-7; Jn 19:25-34
Tuesday: 2 Pt 3:12-15a, 17-18; Ps 90:2-4,10,14,16; Mk 12:13-17
Wednesday: 2 Tm 1:1-3, 6-12; Ps 123:1b-2; Mk 12:18-27
Thursday: 2 Tm 2:8-15; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Mk 12:28-34
Friday: 2 Tm 3:10-17; Ps 119:157, 160, 161, 165, 166, 168; 1-6; Mk 12:35-37
Sat: 2Tm 4:1-8; Ps 71:8-9,14-15ab,16-17,22; Mk 12:38-44
Sun: Ex 34:4b-6,8-9; Dn 3:52-55; 2 Cor 13:11-13; Jn 3:16-18

PARISH PASTORAL STAFF

Deacon John Flanigan, Parish Life Coordinator
314-922-2420 (cell) 314-645-3307 ext. 201
johnflanigan@hotmail.com
Father Peter Blake, Sacramental Minister
314-644-2144
Deacon Clyde McEntire, Deacon (Retired)
Kathleen O'Reilly, Parish Nurse, 314-644-6805
Father Michael Esswein, Pastor 314-962-5955

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Eva May, Administrative Assistant, 314-645-3307 Ext. 202
Colleen Eichler, Campus Manager, 314-645-3307 Ext. 206
Daniel Jenkins, Maintenance Assistant

Parish School of Religion

Karen Lightfoot, PSR Coordinator, psricmaplewood@gmail.com
St. Vincent DePaul Help Line
314-289-6101 ext. 2226

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Tim Yohe, Chair
Nikki & Todd Bircher
Deacon John Flanigan
Laura Miller
Mary Bankston
RJ & Suzee Irwin
Becky Konersmann
Ken Amend

Schedule

Sunday Mass: 8:30 a.m.

SVDP Food Pantry: Saturdays from 9:30-11:00am

Ministry Schedule-Suspended

Saturday EM's: *Suspended until further notice.*
Saturday Lectors:
Saturday Servers:
Saturday Usher Captain:
Saturday Gifts:
Sunday EM's:
Sunday Lectors:
Sunday Servers:
Sunday Usher:
Sunday Greeters:
Sunday Gifts:



Hope and Healing

“There is no grief like the grief that does not speak.”
Henry Longfellow.

The grief over an abortion experience is often so deep that it seems to be silent. Women and men may bear this burden for years thinking that there is no hope of forgiveness or peace. Project Rachel/Project Joseph offers free, private, professional counseling for anyone who is suffering because of an abortion experience. Call Project Rachel/Project Joseph at 314-792-7565 to begin your journey of healing and reconciliation.



Sunday, June 7th:
For the people of the parish
Please email the church to reschedule a Mass Intention scheduled from March 16th-present or call Eva May at 314-776-7172.

Please Pray For:

Jim Higgins, Eileen Lencz, Jim Haislip, Alice Hezel, Gary Gray, Ellen Simmons, Chuck Ellermann, Mona Tillman, Heidi Barks, Madelyn McClure, Paul Rygelski, Mary Johnston, Jim White, Everleigh Lauber, Jack & Pamela Warner, Pam MacDonald, Nancy Maurer, Linda Amend
Terry & Ron Kippenberger (family of Rita Kippenberger)
Lisa Massack (sister of Joshua Capstick)
Jamie Jackson (Granddaughter of Annabelle Moran)
Pam Brown (former parishioner)
Tony Simmons (son of Tom & Ellen Simmons)
Sr. Barbara Paul (former parishioner)
Jan Pilla (daughter in law of Eddie Pilla)
Nick Simmons (son of Tom & Ellen Simmons)
Carl & Susan Case (brother and sister in law of Pat Curtis)
Mary Lucas (friend of Al & Maureen Daniels)
Drew Becker (son of Paul Becker)
John Biondo (brother of Maria Gray)
Deimeke Family
John Graves (brother of Karen Bish)
Lisa Hanley Blake (daughter of Celene Hanley)

PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING OUR COUNTRY

Col. Peter White, USAF, son of Jim & Lucy White
Senior Chief Matthew J Paul, USN, son of Maria and Gary Gray
William Patrick Flynn, USN, son of Patrick & Michelle Flynn

To add your loved one's name (s) contact Eva at the rectory. 314-645-3307 or email at icmaplewood@gmail.com

CONFESSIONS—with Fr. Pete

St. Luke's Parish Saturdays 4:15-4:45

PENTECOST

Unless the eye catch fire,
God will not be seen.
Unless the ear catch fire,
God will not be heard.
Unless the tongue catch fire,
God will not be named.
Unless the heart catch fire,
God will not be loved.
Unless the mind catch fire,
God will not be known.
—William Blake

CHURCH NAME AND ADDRESS

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