



*St. Mary of the Assumption,  
West Point, IA*

*St. Boniface,  
Farmington, IA*



*May 24, 2020*

## *THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD*

After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed:

"Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son,  
that your Son may glorify you."

John 17:1





## Gospel Meditation Seventh Sunday of Easter

What does faith and religion do for us? Ultimately, they remind us of some truths we conveniently forget: we are created by a loving God, we have imperfections, we sin, we need to be forgiven, we have a mission and a purpose, it's not just about us, and we hunger for the joy of salvation. These are human truths that are not dependent upon whether we like them. Ignoring them places us on the paths of comfort and satisfaction as we blindly pursue the busyness and superficiality of our empty lives. Instead of pursuing supernatural and lasting pleasure, we choose things that are easier and quicker to obtain: sex, drugs, travel, houses, cars, fame, popularity, self-achievement and satisfaction, physical enjoyment, and the like.

We may also find ourselves falling victim to more negative responses to what life brings us: anger, envy, lust, pride, gluttony, greed, and apathy. Human hearts can become so hardened to the truth that violence becomes the response of first choice. Being a Christian is hard! Yet, as Pope Francis reminds us, the Church needs to be a field hospital that has to be prepared to provide people with the remedy they need. What we need is Jesus Christ. The Church, with all of the glory of the sacraments, exists to help make Christ present and real for us. Once we find Christ, we find joy. Joy is a matter of the heart that is beyond pleasure and happiness. It is not found in some earthly satisfaction, only in Christ.

Once we accept that we are destined to be in Christ, then we will discover eternal life. Namely, "that they should know you, the only true God, and the one whom you sent, Jesus Christ." It is easy to conveniently forget truth and pursue illusions immediately within our grasp, but at what price? A man celebrating 60 years of marriage remarked that it took so much effort and so many attempts to convince his wife that they were meant to be together. Even his friends told him he was foolish. He easily could have given up and pursued other interests. He chose to persevere and is so grateful that he made that choice because he now has a pearl of great price. Do we see a value in persevering in our faith regardless of the cost? If we don't take the risk, we could lose more than we know.

### Why Kneel?

#### Question:

Why do we kneel at Mass?

#### Answer:

Since the beginnings of the Church, kneeling has been a key posture of prayer. We see Sts. Peter and Paul in the Acts of the Apostles kneeling in prayer. Early in the 4th century, the Council of Nicea prohibited kneeling on Sundays and special feasts. Kneeling began more as a posture of penance for our sins, but in the history of the Church, it has become more a posture of reverence and solemn prayer.

You will notice that the times we kneel at Mass are tied to the consecration of the holy Eucharist. We kneel in both anticipation of what will occur and then in awe of what has taken place: Jesus Christ becomes truly present to us under the guise of bread and wine. The profoundness of this event has over time led the Church to mandate in the current General Instruction of the Roman Missal that kneeling is the only posture allowed during this time. The sheer awesomeness of the holy Eucharist leads us to fall to our knees in wonder and thanksgiving.



For more information about our parish go to the parish website [westpointstmary.org](http://westpointstmary.org) or call the parish office. A number of resources are provided on the diocesan flu page: <https://www.davenportdiocese.org/flu>, including a prayer booklet that can be used at home during this time or restricted parish services.



There will be a service for Memorial Day at Calvary Cemetery. Father will do a blessing at 8:00 AM followed by the American Legion service to honor all those who gave their life for our country.

RESPONDING  
to the *CALL*

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The Easter season is almost over. This season is always a tougher one for us Catholics. We get Advent and Lent: preparation. We are on board with Christmas, mainly because we like to keep up our decorations until someone tells us the exact day we must take them down. But Easter as a season is a bit more difficult to observe. The rest of the world has moved on. There are no Easter eggs left in store windows and all those religious movies on television have given way to reruns or season-ending episodes. It just feels like Easter anywhere ... except in the Church.

The truth is that it should feel like Easter all year-round in the Church. Every Sunday, we celebrate a mini-Easter. Our Lord is ALIVE! He is risen and alive, and we need to celebrate. We also need to be about the work of the Lord. We are an Easter people who bear witness to his resurrection through our stewardship. If he had never risen, then we would be called to nothing by no one. But he lives! As this Easter season is drawing to a close, it is prudent to reflect on what his death and resurrection mean for each of us. How has it changed us? How does it motivate us? It doesn't look like Easter in most corners of the world, so it is up to us to bring a little Easter to every place we go and to everyone we meet. ~Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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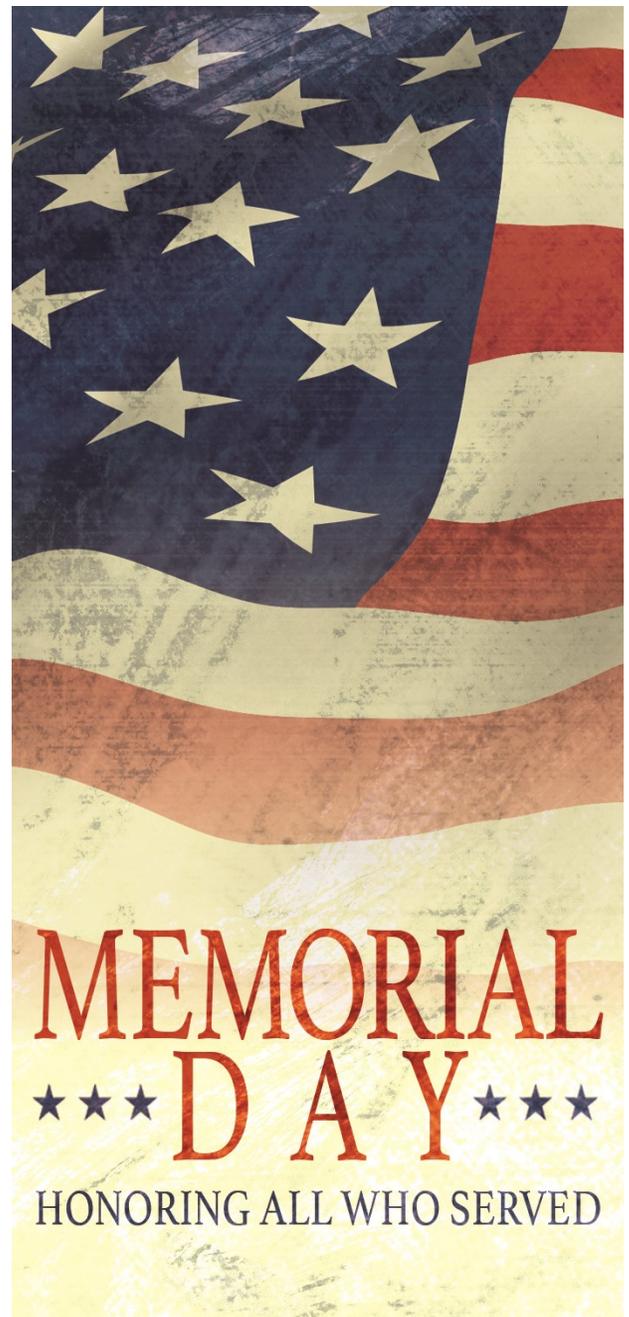
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**Pastor**

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**Director of Religious Education:** Dixie Booten

Cell .....(319) 371-5043

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**Priests are required to celebrate Mass frequently and are earnestly recommended to do so daily.**

**Father Dennis will be saying a Private Mass on a regular basis and will be remembering the intentions as posted.**

**MASS INTENTIONS**

<b>Tuesday, May 26</b>	Parishioners
<b>Wednesday, May 27</b>	Adolf Wittman
<b>Thursday, May 28</b>	Greg Sallen
<b>Friday, May 29</b>	Jerry Fedler
<b>Saturday, May 30</b>	Don Vonderhaar
<b>Sunday, May 31</b>	Sue Ann Schmitz

With the church doors being locked and Masses being streamed our parish like all households still have bills that need to be paid. If you are able to continue your contribution you may mail in your envelope. If you were thinking about moving to electronic giving you may call the office and we can help you make this change.



Sunday morning at 8:00 AM Father Hoffman will celebrate Mass via Facebook Live on St. Mary's page. Holy Trinity Catholic School will have a Facebook live School Mass at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday. St. Mary's will have adoration and a rosary on Facebook live again next week. Please worship with us!

For more information on these and other worship opportunities go to the parish website or our Facebook.

**READINGS**

**May 24, 2020**

Sunday: *Ascension* Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 [6]/ Eph 1:17-23/Mt 28:16-20

7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter: Acts 1:12-14/Ps 27:1, 4, 7-8 [13]/1 Pt 4:13-16/Jn 17:1-11a

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 [33a]/Jn 17:1-11a

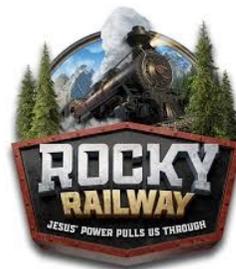
Wednesday: Acts 20:28-38/Ps 68:29-30, 33-35a, 35bc-36ab [33a]/Jn 17:11b-19

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 and 7 [cf. 7b]/Jn 21:20-25

Sunday: Gn 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b or Ez 37:1-14 or Jl 3:1-5/Ps 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-28, 29, 30 [cf. 30]/Rom 8:22-27/Jn 7:37-39.



Dixie and her team of Vacation Bible School volunteers are sad to announce the parishes of St. Mary's, St. James, St. John and St. Boniface have decided to cancel VBS for this summer.

To all those parents and children who have participated in the past, know that you are missed!

During this time of uncertainty for so many St. Mary's is asking you to help us help others. In the past our parish has collected for the Ft. Madison Food Pantry. Their services are in high demand now and we can help. If you want to make a food donation we will continue to have boxes on the front porch to accept your donations.



**Birthright** The Second Collection for the Month of May is for Birthright.

If you would like to make a donation please send a check in an envelope marked for Birthright. You can mail donations to PO BOX 68 or you can call the parish office for a time to drop the check off.

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