

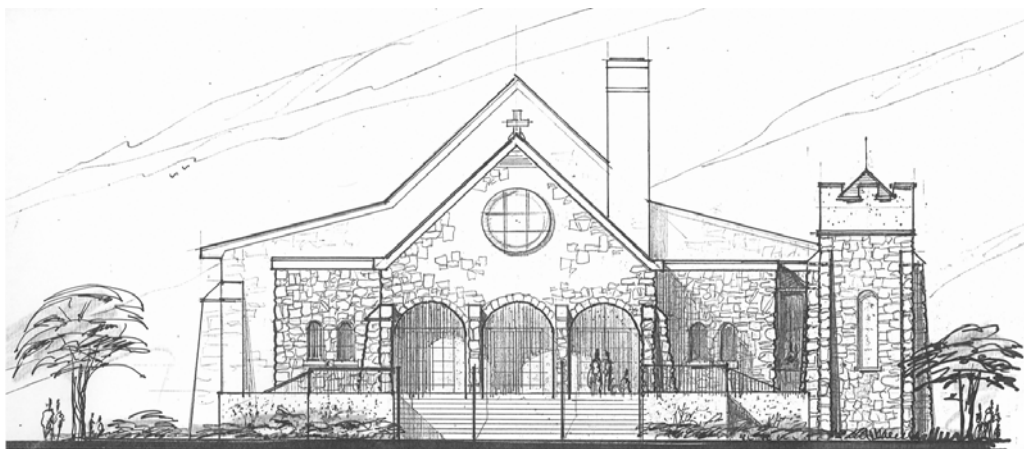
**HIS WORD TODAY**  
*by Rev. William J. Reilly*

**Seventh Sunday of Easter  
The Ascension of the Lord  
May 24, 2020**

“After Jesus had been taken up into heaven the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet which is near to Jerusalem...they went to the upper room where they were staying. All these devoted themselves with one accord to prayer, together with some women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.”

Before we take leave of the month of May, dedicated to mothers, and our mother Mary, may I find a moment to look at this first community, united with her in prayer. Her last words in the bible, spoken at the Cana wedding, ‘Do whatever he tells you’ is reflected in her life and directed to our living as disciples.

How blessed we are to have her known and loved, with many traditions in our cultures, our art and devotion. Jesus gave her to us as our Mother before He breathed His last. Like the apostle John, may we take her into our homes, our hearts, for she is the gift that Jesus gave us.



# CHURCH OF ST. DENIS

MANASQUAN, NEW JERSEY

## STAFF

Reverend William J. P. Lago, Pastor  
Rev. Joseph Miele, Weekend Assistant  
Rev. Lewis Papera, Weekend Assistant  
Mr. George R. Kelder, Jr., Deacon  
Mr. Gary J. Pstrak, Deacon

Mrs. Eileen Ziesmer, Pastoral Associate  
Mr. Mark Mataranglo, Director of Music Ministry  
Sr. Mary Guyer, SSJ  
Mr. Denis Campbell, Trustee  
Mr. Gregory W. Boyle, Trustee

BEACH CHAPEL ..... 554 East Main Street  
RECTORY ..... 90 Union Avenue ..... 732-223-0287 ..... FAX ..... 732-528-1901  
CONVENT ..... 117 Virginia Avenue ..... 732-292-0772  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE ..... 119 Virginia Avenue ..... 732-223-1161  
ST. DENIS CONFERENCE OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY ..... 732-223-1383  
CHURCH E-MAIL ADDRESS ..... st.denis@verizon.net  
PASTOR'S E-MAIL ADDRESS ..... wlago@dioceseoftrenton.org  
WEB PAGE ADDRESS ..... http://www.churchofstdenis.org



### MASS SCHEDULE:

Weekday Masses: 7:30 AM (Mon.-Tues.-Wed.-Fri.) – St. Denis Church  
Saturday: 8:30 AM – St. Denis Church  
Saturday Evening: 4:30 PM (fulfills Sunday obligation)- St. Denis Church  
Sunday: 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM- St. Denis Church  
Sunday: 10:00 AM - Our Lady Star of the Sea Chapel  
Holy Days: Evening before: 7:00 PM & day of: 7:30 AM & 7:00 PM-St. Denis Church

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:** Every Saturday from 3:30 until 4:15 PM - St. Denis Church. Also by appointment.

**MIRACULOUS MEDAL DEVOTIONS:** Tuesday morning after the 7:30 AM Mass-St. Denis Church

**BAPTISM:** The sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on the second and fourth Sundays of the month at 12:15 pm at St. Denis Church. Parents must complete the required preparation with the priest or deacon and obtain godparent eligibility letters before a date for Baptism will be given. Please call the rectory for further details.

**MARRIAGE:** Please contact the rectory office for more information about weddings. All couples contemplating marriage are asked to give the priests one year prior notice in order that all the requirements for marriage can be satisfied. Do not reserve the reception hall before contacting the church; your requested date may not be available.

**CARE OF THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND:** We will gladly bring Holy Communion to anyone who is ill or otherwise unable to get to Mass. Please call the rectory to make arrangements. The priests and deacon make regular visits to the local hospitals. Please call the rectory if any loved one is hospitalized.

**RITE OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL:** At such times of deep pain and loss, we seek to offer our bereaved families comfort and hope as they commend their loved ones to God. Please note that, in accordance with Church regulations, eulogies are not permitted during Funeral Masses.

**RECTORY OFFICE HOURS:** Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM to 4:30 PM. There are no office hours on Saturday & Sunday. Evenings are by appointment only.

**NEW PARISHIONERS:** Welcome! We encourage new families moving into the area to stop in or call the rectory to arrange for registration.

**CELIAC SPRUE PARISHIONERS** – Saint Denis provides a low gluten (<0.01% gluten content) host. Parishioners who are gluten-intolerant should see a deacon or priest prior to the start of Mass in order to be included in the reception of the Eucharist.

**VISIT US ON FACEBOOK-** Saint Denis Parish Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/churchofstdenis](http://www.facebook.com/churchofstdenis). You don't need to have a Facebook account to read parish news and updates, but would need one to leave comments and feedback.

**Saturday, May 23, 2020**

8:30 am Paul Gately by Theresa Karron  
 8:30 am Mr. & Mrs. Strigliabotti by the Family  
 8:30 am Emil & Anna Taborelli by the Family  
 4:30 pm Rose & John Cafone, Sr. by their Children  
 4:30 pm Pauline Earl by Kathy & Peter Goetz & Family  
 4:30 pm Virginia & Angelo Taborelli by the Family

**Sunday, May 24, 2020 (Ascension)**

8:00 am Anthony & Catherine Rotonda by the Family  
 8:00 am Mr. & Mrs. Strigliabotti by the Family  
 8:00 am Emil & Anna Taborelli by the Family  
 9:30 am For the People of the Parish  
 10:00 am Michael Sastokas by Joe & Kathy  
 10:00 am Joseph Racioppi, Jr. by the Family  
 10:00 am Virginia & Angelo Taborelli by the Family  
 11:00 am Alice Ward by the Family  
 11:00 am Mr. & Mrs. Strigliabotti by the Family  
 11:00 am John O'Brien by St. Denis Parish

**Monday, May 25, 2020 (Memorial Day)**

8:30 am Barbara Morsell by her Sister  
 8:30 am Nathaniel Shannon by the Simes Family  
 8:30 am Gertrude Augenti by Michele Conrey

**Tuesday, May 26, 2020**

7:30 am Gerard Becker by Ellie & John Fox  
 7:30 am Mr. & Mrs. Strigliabotti by the Family  
 7:30 am Emil & Anna Taborelli by the Family

**Wednesday, May 27, 2020**

7:30 am Catherine Skillman by the Moynihan Family  
 7:30 am The Morhart Family by the Moynihan Family  
 7:30 am Virginia & Angelo Taborelli by the Family

**Thursday, May 28, 2020**

No Mass

**Friday, May 29, 2020**

7:30 am Richard Avena by his Wife  
 7:30 am Mary & Frank Stankunas by Deacon Gary  
 7:30 am Mr. & Mrs. Strigliabotti by the Family

**Saturday, May 30, 2020**

8:30 am Emil & Anna Taborelli by the Family  
 8:30 am Virginia & Angelo Taborelli by the Family  
 8:30 am Mr. & Mrs. Strigliabotti by the Family  
 4:30 pm Marilyn Pease by Thomas & Maureen Hughes & Family  
 4:30 pm Emil & Anna Taborelli by the Family  
 4:30 pm Virginia & Angelo Taborelli by the Family

**Sunday, May 31, 2020**

8:00 am Glenn Gillman by his wife, Pat  
 8:00 am Mr. & Mrs. Strigliabotti by the Family  
 8:00 am Emil & Anna Taborelli by the Family  
 9:30 am Edward F. Lyons (20th Anniversary)  
 by his Wife  
 9:30 am Virginia & Angelo Taborelli by the Family  
 9:30 am Mr. & Mrs. Strigliabotti by the Family  
 10:00 am For the People of the Parish  
 11:00 am Florence McCabe  
 by Thomas & Maureen Hughes & Family  
 11:00 am Emil & Anna Taborelli by the Family  
 11:00 am Virginia & Angelo Taborelli by the Family

**MOVING?** Please inform the rectory office if you are moving out of the area or if you have a change of address, so the envelope company can be notified. Thank you!

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE DECEASED** especially Dorothy Geiger.



**Pray For  
The Sick**

especially Mary Moran, Steve Ford, Elizabeth Ann Linden, Peggy Andrich, Mary Damico, Eileen Byrne, Amanda Castro, Dolores Palmisano, Holly Boyd, Mary Conlon, Albert Wood, Maiya Andrews, Velma Andrews, Stella Thompson, Katie Holbrook, Claire Meachum, Mike Pierce, Thomas Hayes, Jr., Thomas Evans, Catherine O'Connor, Edith Bean, Phyllis Van Salders, Joanne Panzarella, Taryn Rotondi, Kathy Wicks, Michael McNulty, Mary Jane Schaaf, Lisa Pirrello, Joseph Bick, Mary Collins, Ken Kleinlein, Robert Kelleher, Stephen Byrne, Denise Frank, Lucy Falco, Marie Tashjian, Angeline Hart, Joan Tumbas, Cathleen Brenner, Nick Ljuljana, Patricia Blumenstock, Sue O'Connor, Baby Cayden Joseph, Thomas Fahey, Baby Kelly Grace, Nair Messias, Jennifer Noble, Scarlet Slotnick, Belle & Ashton, John Najjar, Karen Brown, Elizabeth Morgan, Frank Lopez, Christina Roundtree, Eugene Karpinski, Charlotte Pentek, Phillip Graceffa, Christian Russo, Rose DeMarco, Dee Vulgaris, Michael McGonigle, Baby Evelyn Mizer, Herbert "Butch" Wolfe, Leanna Rawson, Nannette Forkan, Nicole Giambrone, Lisa Dunfee, Albert J. Cifelli, Brian Alberse, Stanley Bevan, Windell Rainey, Sadie Svenson, Barbara Magda, Paul Tuyp, Nancy Murphy, Bernadette Bevan, George Leonard, Teresa Hayes, Jeanne Hayes, Irene Hayes, Ronnie Micciulla, Cindy Tomkins, Joseph Fiamingo, Baby Colton Gardella, Anita McCudden, Catherine Kelleher, Baby Siena Grace Pizzillo, Samara Pirrong, Donna Schwear, Helen McGowan, Karen Williams, Timothy Michal Przywara, Christopher Kurtanick, Wes Pal, Neil O'Callaghan, Siobhan Vuono, Linda Lowery, Tanner Koch, Linda Custode, Marty Pirrong, Bridget Korn, Vincent Azzollini, Scott Burdett, Joan Lipscomb, Baby Lucy, Stephen Whyte, Victoria Margadonna, Christine Fields, Chris Faraca, Kathy Larkin, Gordon Justin, John Jonason, Estelle Jonason, Jim Kazenmayer, Frank Meidenbauer, Sean Campbell, Joel Rivera, Jimi Hood, Al Ricciardi, Eileen Beesley, Beverly Heinz, Pauline Naturile, Haley Keating, John Fossani, Paul Borden, Mary Daidone, Donna Morgan, Jonathan Miller, Dennis Datillo, Bill Koch, Jennifer Pindar, Doris Abruzzo, Sandy Heitner, Randy Farmer, Joseph Pastore, Christine Coburn, Julianna Grusso, Frank Dugan, Lori Hurd, John Gondek, Lois Borton, Roddy Pilot, William Liao, the Borgias, the Pilots, the Nesbitts and the Campbells.

Monday, May 25, 2020

The Rectory Office will be closed in observance of Memorial Day. St. Denis Church will also be closed. Please remember in your prayers all of the fallen who lost their lives while protecting our freedom.


God Bless America!

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES NEWS-** During the Covid 19 pandemic, in addition to on site services, Catholic Charities has established Tele Health and Tele Mental Health services. Call 800-360-7711. In the event of a medical or mental health emergency, please call 911. Food pantries are experiencing a 50% client increase. Pantries distribute prepackaged food bags mornings in Burlington (9:30-11:30) Mercer and Ocean Counties (9-12) Go to [www.catholiccharitiestrenton.org](http://www.catholiccharitiestrenton.org) for directions and information on additional services. The 20<sup>th</sup> annual Providence House Domestic Violence Services event, scheduled for June 12<sup>th</sup>, will be combined with the Catholic Charities virtual gala on September 26.


**INVOCATION OF THE HOLY HELPERS**

As we are St. Denis Parish, we have the honor and privilege of having St. Denis as our patron saint and intercessor. St. Denis was invoked along with thirteen other saints during the period of the Black Death that devastated Europe from 1346-1349 they later would be known as the Fourteen Holy Helpers. Let us pray, asking the Holy Helpers to intercede for all people at this time:

FOURTEEN HOLY HELPERS, who served God in humility and confidence on earth and are now in the enjoyment of His beatific vision in Heaven; because thou persevered till death thou gained the crown of eternal life. Remember the dangers that surround us in this vale of tears, and intercede for us in all our needs and adversities. *Amen*

 **Pray for the Military**

especially Navy Lt. Rachael M. Honrath, Navy MIDN Nora N. Honrath, Army Captain Christopher Cauda, Army Captain Matthew Cauda, Navy LL. Edward P. Windas, Marine Lance Corporal Laura Licata, Contractor Benjamin Ostrow, Air Force Captain David Smith, Army Major Sean Fessenden, Army Lt. Nikkole Crosson, Navy Captain Colin S. Walsh, Army Captain Dr. Justin Eisenman, Army Lt. Brian Quinn, Navy E4 Patrick Moynihan, Army Major Michael Potoczniak, Air Force 1st Lt. Dominic Celiano, Air Force Academy Cadet 2nd Class Slade Kelling, Air Force Academy, Coast Guard Petty Officer Joseph Beattie, Navy CM Taylor Nesbitt, Airman Devon Webster, Army Private 1st Class Cody Svenson, Lt. Jg. Mary T. Herman, Matthew Van Pelt, Army, USMC 2nd Lt. Philip Cahill, USMC 2nd Lt. Joanna Smith-Cahill, Navy MIDN Michael Zimmerman U.S. Naval Academy, Air Force 2nd Lt. Jason Trischitta, Allison M. Ingraham at West Point Academy, Lt. Col. Ivan Ingraham USMC, PFC Joseph J. Foley, Jr. USMC, Airman Andrew Halmi, Robert Halmi, U.S. Army, Corporal Jordan Basile USMC, PFC Neil Horenburg USMC.

  
*Sanctuary Candle*


**WEEK OF MAY 24, 2020**

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
ALFRED SCALCIONE  
REQUESTED BY ROSEMARIE & LORETTA**

**THY KINGDOM COME-Not too late to join in the prayer**  
You are invited to go to [www.thykingdomcome.global](http://www.thykingdomcome.global) so that you too can join in the world-wide novena of prayer of "Thy Kingdom Come" beginning May 21st, Ascension Thursday, and going to Pentecost, May 31st. Go to the site and sign up and see all the people in the world praying during this 4th annual event. (Or click the link on our parish website homepage.) When you sign up you can zero in on our part of the world and "see" the light you are adding to our prayer for more and more people to come to know the love and peace of Jesus in their life and to grow in that love and peace in our own life, through the daily prayers and inspirational videos. Explore the site for all it has to offer individuals, families, adults and kids. The focus this year includes "Prayer and Care" as we read on the website: *Care for those you are praying for, pray for those you are caring for-* During these difficult and trying times, we believe that now more than ever, presents an incredible opportunity for the Church worldwide, to unite in prayer so that our family, friends and neighbors will come to know the love and peace of Jesus Christ for themselves. One of our key themes for Thy Kingdom Come is prayer and care. As we are praying for those we love to come to know the hope and love of Christ, we also are encouraging all to see how they can show God's love towards them by caring for them.

**SAVE THE DATE!** Tune in to Facebook Live on the Pat Roddy Band's page on Wednesday, May 27th at 7:00 pm. Pat Roddy has selected Ocean's Harbor House as a charity to benefit. He will be playing music and directing viewers to where they can donate during the event. Ocean's Harbor House continues to be a safe, positive environment that meets the unique needs of runaway, homeless and abused youth. Now, more than ever, Harbor House needs your help, especially in light of the fact that its major fundraiser, Ride for New Beginnings 2020, has been postponed. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated.

**ONLINE GIVING-** To help support our parish more easily we offer **Online Giving!** For additional information or to sign up, go to our parish Website [www.churchofstdenis.org](http://www.churchofstdenis.org) and click on "Online Giving". For those who wish to use the online giving service but do not have Internet access, please contact the Parish Office at 732-223-0287 for assistance.

*Weekly Collection* 

**May 10, 2020**

Regular Collection- \$8,970.00

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY !**



**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**– Due to the conditions at the time of this bulletin, please check our parish website regularly for updates. **PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:** First Communions will be rescheduled. Confirmation interviews will also be rescheduled. At this time we know that Confirmation will not take place on May 29th. We are awaiting a new date.

**MANASQUAN MINISTERIUM PENTECOST PREPARATION**- This year you are invited to take part in our own Manasquan Ministerium’s local participation of prayerful videos that will be linked to our Facebook page and shown on the Manasquan Ministerium’s Facebook page as we prepare for Pentecost. (Think of it as Soup and Scripture, but you provide your own soup, and the ministers will share each day in a new piece of Scripture with the same theme of “Thy Kingdom Come” – Prayer and Care.) Please consider taking the time and taking part in this prayer beginning May 21st, Ascension Thursday, and going to Pentecost, May 31st. You can access our parish Facebook page through our parish website, or search churchofstdenis on Facebook.

**MANASQUAN COMMUNITY COMMENCEMENT BELLS 2020**- We are all asked to take part in ringing bells on Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm for all the Manasquan School District and Sending District graduates who will be walking outside at that time, in celebration for the Class of 2020. Our parish church will be taking part!!! Hope you will too!!!

**TRANSLATOR NEEDED FOR FOOD PANTRY**- Speak Spanish? Have an hour or so on Tuesday afternoon or Saturday morning? Our St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry is looking for someone to assist in our interactions with Spanish speaking visitors. Social distancing is practiced and face masks are provided. If you think you might be interested or have questions, call our hotline and leave a message. 732-223-1383



**St. Vincent De Paul Society’s Food Pantry**

**At St. Denis Church  
Manasquan, NJ 08736  
Phone: 732-223-1383**

Location: Msgr. O’Connor Hall  
(lower level of church)

Until further notice: There will be curbside pick-up of prepackaged food with appropriate social distancing.

Questions or special food needs?

Please call our hotline number at 732-223-1383

Please note adjusted pantry hours:

Tuesdays: 1PM – 3PM and  
3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays from 10AM – 12noon

**This month– May 16 & May 30 (not May 23)**

At this time, donations may be dropped off curbside by the pantry during regular pantry hours or on the rectory front porch, under the overhang.

There has been an overwhelming response to our food pantry donation requests. The shelves are very well stocked. Thank you! The items listed below are the most needed items as these are items most requested by our needy neighbors. Please know they are being received with sincere gratitude!

**Items requested for food pantry donation:**

**Tissues, tea & flour.**

Thank you for your generosity.

**RECOVERY CORNER-**



**LIFE RECOVERY BIBLE WEEKLY PODCASTS-**

Check out "City of Angels Recovery Radio"

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=st.shoutca.sh.coan>

Download the above app to listen to Life Recovery Bible podcasts. New ones can be heard each Sunday at 10am and 10pm. There is a library of older podcasts. Please share with friends in recovery or anyone who may want to listen.

**FOR YOUR MARRIAGE-** Check out this great resource for you and your family during this time: [www.foryourmarriage.org](http://www.foryourmarriage.org) and there is a specific blogpost at <https://www.foryourmarriage.org/blogs/family-life-in-a-pandemic/>

**DON'T FORGET ST. DENIS PARISH WHILE SHOPPING ONLINE** - AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. **Instructions to support St. Denis: Go to smile.amazon.com Choose your charity: Church of St. Denis, Manasquan Click on the box marked “yes”. You must start at smile.amazon.com so that the charity gets donations. Then click on the “start shopping” button.** It’s that simple!

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL VINCENT’S LEGACY**– Launched by the Diocese in late 2016, Vincent’s Legacy collects quality gently used furniture and household items to provide to those in need. Legacy volunteers arrange to view, pickup, clean and deliver donated items. Originally focused on Monmouth and Ocean Counties, Vincent’s Legacy has expanded throughout the Trenton Diocese. If you have furniture or household goods to donate, please contact Vincent’s Legacy volunteers at [furniture@svdptrenton.org](mailto:furniture@svdptrenton.org). If you are able to help, visit the website or call 609-557-7837.

**THE SOCIETY OF  
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**



The St. Vincent de Paul Society, St. Denis Conference, continues to be humbled and gratified at the wonderful generosity to our ministry and, especially during these difficult times, to our food pantry. As the needs for food, paper products and other items has increased, so too has the thoughtfulness of our community and parish. In February, the pantry served 88 neighbors with \$3500 worth of food. By April those numbers had grown to almost \$8000 and 200 neighbors!

More recently, on Saturday last, the pantry served 13 families (including 6 Spanish speaking) totaling 60 neighbors. Thanks to all who generously give of their time, talents and spirit (including those who are helping as translators) to make our pantry benefit others.

If you have an interest in learning more about helping those in need, come to one of the Society’s meetings when they resume. The meetings are held on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 6:30 pm in Msgr. O’Connor Hall (lower level of the church).

If you need assistance, please call the St. Vincent de Paul hotline at 732-223-1383.

## **A Message from Father Bill**

Coming Soon..... Yes, it is important for us to keep in mind that things will be coming soon!

Certainly, even now, our parish has many things going on, like one-on-one appointments with me for: wedding preparations, "pastoral visits", spiritual direction, confession/communion, and Faith education. We have postings on our website, from which you can get our on-line bulletin, our Facebook page which includes Mass Sunday at 10am (you don't need a Facebook account, just click on the Facebook link) and you can access our FORMED offerings as well from our website. Also, we continue to support the conclusion of our program for our Religious Education students, and offer support to those who are grieving and in need of spiritual support (please call as you need). What has come is the church being open for private prayer for up to ten people on Mon./Wed./Fri. from 10am-2pm and Mon. 5pm-7pm.

As things continue to open up more, we know that "Coming Soon!" is another important aspect of our lives that we need to keep alive. I would like each of us to grow in our desire for the Sacraments that will be celebrated. I would like us to grow in the anticipation of the programs that will be occurring. And, I would like us to grow in our zeal for our parish and our faith, even in the midst of the pandemic. I began this difficult period with a letter to our Religious Education parents speaking of "absence makes the heart grow fonder" and that does happen indeed, as we continue to feed our heart's desire. As we celebrate the Feast of the Ascension and are in the midst of our prayer in preparation of the Feast of Pentecost, let us dive deeper into our spiritual desire for our renewal in the life and gifts of the Holy Spirit and the graces for our hearts to "burn within us" for the invitation that God holds out to us for a deeper relationship with Him, which is our real purpose in life and which is truly essential.

On our horizon, we will be having a virtual continuation of our Catholic/Lutheran dialogue. That program, jointly conducted by Pastor Mary and myself, is currently in the works and specifics will be announced next week. We will be having our next installment in our "Core Strength" Adult Faith Formation opportunity on: *The Reed of God*, by Caryl Houselander. This is a great spiritual classic that meditates on discipleship through the *being* and *doing* of our Blessed Mother. We also have another Catholic/Lutheran dialogue in the works for when we can get together, looking at the spiritual life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, as related by Pastor Mary. Eileen Ziesmer and I will be having a sharing and discussion on how the pandemic impacted our spiritual lives and how we can learn from our experiences and grow from them. In anticipation of meetings with proper safe distances, we have painted and prepared our cafeteria, so that it will be an even greater place to continue to have our meetings.

I want to echo my thanks to all parishioners who continue to support our parish through their mail-in envelopes and on-line weekly/monthly offerings. I know that this pandemic has had such a negative impact on us all, but your support is essential. Once yearly, I give a Fiscal Year report, but I feel I must once again alert everyone to the economics of the parish, especially as two parishioners recently told me that in discussions with others, people questioned if the parish needs the donations at this time. We do. I am thankful that we did get the governmental loan to help pay the salaries of the four full-time and two part-time employees, who I have not had to furlough. This allows us, through your donations, to pay the utility bills, continue to pay for the repair work on the leaks in the church (almost done) and continue to make our loan payments (recall I came here with a 5.2 million dollar debt and we are working to almost cut that in half and pay off the loan in the next few years, but now we are just making the minimal payments as we have dropped off in our weekly collection and know that our summer collections will be less as well.) I have made cuts in many places, and spending is down with the cancelation of different programs, so we are in a very good situation, but that is because I rely on your weekly contributions. So, thank you very much.

**ASCENSION AND OUR TIMES** (by Eileen Ziesmer) - This week we remember Jesus' ascension into heaven. Forty days after the resurrection, Jesus physically leaves the earth, and His followers witness this departure. The readings from Scripture give instruction and hope to those who must continue to thrive and build the community of faith without Jesus physically with them. These days we can probably all identify with this situation more than ever as we struggle with not physically being able to receive Communion and the Sacraments. So...as always Scripture reveals to us the truth of how we can live our lives. The actions and behaviors of the apostles after the Ascension is a wonderful reminder of the comfort that the Holy Spirit can bring to connect us with Jesus when He is not physically with us.

Time is clearly of interest to Jesus' followers. As they encounter Him in Acts, they inquire whether it is the right time to restore the kingdom of Israel. Jesus asserts that it is not for them to know what is within God's control. Instead, He tells them to look forward to the time when they would receive the Holy Spirit as He promised. The presence of the Holy Spirit enables the disciples to be witnesses throughout the world, empowering them in Jesus' absence. How true this is for us, time is so on our minds, when do we restore Mass, the sacraments, businesses, school, family gatherings....the list goes on. When is the right time, we ask?

There are valuable parallels that can be made from these readings, especially for people who are so greatly feeling so many losses during these COVID19 days. Consider this: Jesus has gone physically from your sight and the disciples are you who remain on earth, filled with grief, sadness and doubts. Jesus reminds His followers that He is ever-present, even though He ascends to heaven. This is so important that we remember this truth today and every day. JESUS IS EVER PRESENT!!! ALLELUIAH!! Loved ones, friends, jobs, activities and liturgy still remain in your memories, hearts and lives, even though they are right now not physically present. As in the past, the Holy Spirit offers comfort. Moreover, the Spirit inspires the important work that still must be done. Jesus tells us now in this very time to look forward to the time when we will receive the graces that the Liturgy and the Sacraments hold for us once again. That gathering with family and returning to life as a community will provide us joy again. The presence of the Holy Spirit enables us, like the disciples, to be witnesses throughout the world, empowering us to be His people in challenging times until all returns.

Just before His ascension, Jesus gives a final message: "You will be my witness in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." In His farewell, Jesus proclaims that His legacy will persist through His followers and their ability to share the good news. We are called in these challenging days to consider our legacy: what can be done to proclaim the good news and continue the joy of our faith in these days? This might include increasing time in prayer both in solitude and together, donating resources to causes, taking time to find the Lord in nature, spending unstructured time with our immediate family and valuing every minute of it instead of wishing it away, calling a friend, or checking on a neighbor who is alone, creating new memories and ways to connect, always bringing Christ into every connection. Mostly it is a great time for us to remember that whether the church doors are open or closed, the Lord is with us. "I am with you always, until the end of the age." (Mt 28:20)

## Do You Know Your Church?

(Answers will appear in next week's bulletin)

The focal point in every Catholic Church is the \_\_\_\_\_, where the altar is located and Liturgy celebrated.

The \_\_\_\_\_ is the vessel that holds the Precious Blood.

The \_\_\_\_\_ is the vessel holding the Eucharist when being distributed by the Priest, Deacon, and Eucharistic Minister.

The \_\_\_\_\_ is the Book used by the Priest at his chair and on the altar.

The \_\_\_\_\_ is the Book that contains a collection of readings, important to our faith.

The \_\_\_\_\_ is where the Blessed Sacrament is held in reserve.

As Catholics, we believe that the Altar represents \_\_\_\_\_.

There are \_\_\_\_\_ different vestment colors: which are \_\_\_\_\_.

There are \_\_\_\_\_ Liturgical Seasons.

The Liturgical Seasons are \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ is the current Liturgical Season

During the current Liturgical Season, the Priest and Deacon are wearing the color \_\_\_\_\_.

There are \_\_\_\_\_ Stations of the Cross

We light the Paschal Candle during \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

The \_\_\_\_\_ is the place where the Readings and the Gospel are proclaimed.

Who was St. Denis? \_\_\_\_\_

Who is our Pastor? \_\_\_\_\_

What Diocese do we belong to? \_\_\_\_\_

Who is our Bishop? \_\_\_\_\_

Who is our Pope? \_\_\_\_\_

# NEARY-QUINN FUNERAL HOME


~ Serving Saint Denis Parish ~

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