

May 2, 2010: Fifth Sunday of Easter



Jesus said: "My children, I will be with you only a little while longer. I give you a new commandment: love one another." — Jn 13:33a, 34a
Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

LITURGY

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Sunday, May 2 (Acts 14:21-27/Rv 21:1-5a/Jn 13:31-33a,34-35)

8:00 am- For our Parish Family
10:30 am- Mass of Thanksgiving – Bob & Lou Kubena's 55th Anniversary

Monday, May 3, Sts. Philip & James, apostles (1 Cor 15:1-8/Jn 14:6-14)

7:00 am- Leo, Minnie & Nick Hoffer
10:00 am- Jerome Mikulenska (H'ville Rehab)

Tuesday, May 4 (Acts 14:19-28/Jn 14:27-31a)

7:00 am- Alfonse Steffek

Wednesday, May 5 (Acts 15:1-6/Jn 15:1-8)

7:00 am- v. L. & Rose Rainosek
8:05 am- Emma Rose Marek
6:15 pm- For the Youth of our Parish (CCD Closing Mass)



Thursday, May 6 (Acts 15:7-21/Jn 15:9-11)

7:00 am- Richard & Stazie Jahn
10:00 am- Frank & Agnes Polansky (Stevens)

Friday, May 7 (Acts 15:22-31/Jn 15:12-17)

7:00 am- Joe Etzler, Sr.
8:05 am- Tyler Bludau

Saturday, May 8 (Acts 16:1-10/Jn 15:18-21)

5:30 pm- Living & deceased members of Adolf Zappe Family

Sunday, May 9 (Acts 15:1-2, 22-29/Rv 21:10-14, 22-23/Jn 14:23-29) (Mother's Day)

6:30 am- Mother's Day Novena
8:00 am- For our Parish Family
10:30 am- Anton & Agnes Kubena

Bulletin Sponsor: In thanksgiving of Bob & Lou Kubena's 55th wedding anniversary.

Radio Broadcast Sponsor: In honor of Richard & Rita Donnelly's 64th wedding anniversary.

Vigil Light: In memory of Leo, Minnie & Nick Hoffer.

Our Gift to God: Envelopes-\$5,771.50; Loose-\$1,243; Children-\$50; Manna-\$657; Catholic Ed-\$315.

Anniversaries:

| | | |
|----------------------------|----------|-------|
| John & Mary Butschek | 61 years | May 2 |
| Andrew & Josephine Leopold | 59 years | May 2 |
| Henry Joe & Marcella Henke | 51 years | May 3 |
| Ronald & Becky McElroy | 25 years | May 4 |
| Richard & Rita Donnelly | 64 years | May 4 |
| Bob & Lou Kubena | 55 years | May 7 |
| Robert & Patsy Fabian | 45 years | May 8 |

Calendar Membership drawing: **Apr 22:** Mike J. Steffek-\$100; **Apr 23:** Ida Nelson, Pasadena-\$100; **Apr 26:** Rev. Henry Rachunek, Hungerford-\$50; **Apr 27:** Judy Jalufka-\$50; **Apr 28:** Rita Chase-\$100.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, MAY 2

- Teen ACTS Commissioning Mass, 10:30 a.m.
- Holy Rosary Church Picnic, Hostyn. Polka Mass 10 am.
- Holy Family Festival, Victoria Community Center.

MONDAY, MAY 3

- Rosary & evening prayer, 5:30 p.m. in church.

TUESDAY, MAY 4

- Quilting Circle, 9:00 a.m., KC Hall of Fame Room.
- RCIA Class, 7:00 p.m., Family Center.
- Women's ACTS mtg, 7 p.m., Sweet Home.
- KC's General Meeting, 7:30 pm, KC Hall. First Degree Candidates need to be at KC Hall at 7:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 5

- CCD: Grades K-11th, 6:00 – 7:10 pm
- Spiritual Book Study, 6:30 p.m., Mary's House.
- Divine Mercy Prayers, 7:30 p.m., Church Cry Room.

THURSDAY, MAY 6

- First Friday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament begins at 6:00 p.m. in Church. The intention this month is for *living and deceased mothers and respect for life.*

FRIDAY, MAY 7

- First Friday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament ends with Benediction at 6:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 9

- Firefall at 6:00 p.m. in Church. Parishioners are invited to join the youth in Eucharistic Adoration.

AMONG OUR SICK: Hubert Grahmann, Alvin Rosenauer, Odessa & Doug Blumberg, Josie Ohnheiser, Mason Leibham, Riley Mika, Mary Bonorden, Annette Krupala, Anthony Corte, Amanda Conniff, Margaret Timm, Helen M. Appelt, Michael Kutac, Paige Haas, Anita Kallus, Jeff Zavesky, Renae Ross, Alma Jurena, Kate Kopecky, Michael L. Drozd, Bill Biehunko, Frank Fishar, Pam Dornak, Clayton Patek, Suzanne Romano, Alice Kocian, Mary Agnes Grahmann, Anita Bohuslav, Betty Toman, MacKenzie Fogle, Henri Mae Patek, Doyleen Drozd, Bryce Saldi, Travis Klimitchek, Judith Koerth, Louise Tesch, Thelma Mikulenska, Sandra Henneke, Mary Ann Koenig, Ronald Kanak, Marcella Henke, Helen Mitchon, Tillie Schott, Georgia Schaefer, Joseph Ilardo, Dolores Ludwig, Denise Lewis, Evelyn Kutac, Emil Grahmann, Lillie Demny, Henry Morris, Bruce Fritz, Milada Netardus, Paula Nemecek, Ernest Schulte, Guntram Janak, Ray Palmer, Candice Chandler, Dorothy Dworsky, Antonia Jahn, Alvin Steffek, Sr., Josh Mann, Faith Del Castillo, Theresa Steffek, Edna Key, Oretha McCord, Josephine Matejek, Judy Johnson, Donna Avant, Kirk Remmers, Danielle Grady, Royce Chudej, nursing home residents & the homebound.

April Baptisms: Ashtyn Grace, daughter of Kelsey Hartensteiner & Aaron Schaefer.

Welcome to the Parish: Tommy & Carol Reiler, Mark & Rachel Hanslik, Mark & Ashley Hermes.

Perpetual Adoration Chapel: An adorer is needed 11 pm – 12 midnight on Thursday nights. If you are able to spend this hour with our Lord, please call Charlene at 798-3224.

From the Desk of Father John

Continuation of *10 Things That Make for a Great Catholic Mom*:

Go against the grain (Joshua 24:15). As unpopular as it may be, great Catholic moms know that sometimes we need to say “no” when everyday culture says “yes.” Just because something is popular doesn’t make it right or good for the growth of our children. Movies with graphic violence contribute to a culture of violence. Song lyrics that demean women or other races contradict the message of Christ to “love one another.” Of course, our kids are going to participate in the culture around them, but it is our job as parents to help mediate the meaning and value of that culture in the context of our Catholic Christian faith. *Do I have the courage to say “no” to something that I believe is not age-appropriate or good for my kids? How might I seek out support and help with these decisions?*

Let go (Proverbs 22:6). The hardest and most heart-wrenching task of motherhood is letting our children go. The bond of motherhood is so deep that it is tempting to hold on to our babies long after they have grown. And yet we believe that our children are a gift from God who will one day be sent into the world to be a gift to others. It is helpful to remember that the goal of motherhood is not to smother our children with attention; rather it is to prepare them to be happy, healthy, faith-filled individuals. At times this may mean stepping back and allowing our kids to face the consequences of their actions or encouraging them to sort out a school homework assignment on their own. Sometimes letting go is the best love we can give. *How might I help my kids to learn to “stand on their own two feet”?*

Admit imperfections (James 5:16). None of us is perfect, and nowhere is this more evident than in motherhood. Even the best moms lose their tempers, make mistakes, and run out of patience. And we all feel guilty for doing so! Yet if we allow ourselves to be fully human rather than trying to live up to some unrealistic standard of perfection, we are able to parent with a greater sense of understanding, forgiveness, and compassion. Acknowledging our mistakes and imperfections – to our children, our spouse, even our neighbors or coworkers – help us remember that we’re all in need of Christ’s redemption. We are all sinners. We are all just trying to do the best we can. *Have I made a mothering mistake recently? Can I forgive myself for being an “imperfect” mom?*

(To be continued.....)

Religious Education (CCD) ~~ Office 798-3124

Janice Busselman, Coordinator
Angela McConnell, Assistant

May 5: Closing Mass & May Crowning, 6:15 p.m.

May 16: Baccalaureate at 8:00 a.m. Mass.

May 16: 8th Grade Recognition Mass at 2:00 p.m. followed by a reception at the Family Center.

Sacred Heart Parish Spring Picnic – May 30th

It’s almost picnic time! If you have any cattle, antiques or other unusual or interesting items to donate to the auction, please call the Rectory as soon as possible so we can begin advertising the items. Cash donations are also being accepted at this time.

Auction: In memory of Fred & Angeline Pustejovsky-Quilt.



The Youth ConneXion



May 9: Youth meet in church at 5:00 pm. Firefall at 6:00 pm, followed by youth gathering at the Youth House.

May 16: Youth Social 8th – 12th Grades, Youth House.

Music Practice: Mondays, 6:00 p.m., Youth House.

Sacred Heart Catholic School (798-4251)

May 5: Booster Club Fried Chicken Dinner plates-to-go, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m., KC Hall. Tickets \$7.00 each.

May 16: Baccalaureate at 10:30 a.m. Mass.

May 21: Graduation at the KC Hall.

May 26: 8th Grade Recognition in church followed by a reception in the Family Center.

Pray for the repose of the soul of *Leo Pavlik*, brother of Dorothy Smith. *May he and all the faithful departed rest in the peace of Christ.*

The blessing of expectant mothers will be held at all Masses on the weekend of May 8th & 9th.

Truck Give-Away Tickets \$100 each for 2010 GMC Crew Cab Truck. Drawing at Sacred Heart Spring Picnic, May 30th, KC Hall. Tickets available for purchase at the School Office or Rectory.

Fund Drive for purchase of 318 S. Texana:

John & Barbara Hemmi

\$1,000.00

You are invited to participate in lectionary based Scripture study each Wednesday, 6:30 – 7:45 p.m. at Mary’s House. We are using the Small Christian Communities format which includes prayer, music, reflection on the upcoming Sunday scripture readings, conversation in response to questions designed to help connect faith & life, & suggestions for action in response to how God calls us individually & as a community through the gospel proclaimed. We are then sent forth with a simple prayer ritual to recommit ourselves to be church for the sake of the world.

5th Sunday of Easter

One of the great lines of the Bible, and one of its most important theological concepts, appears in today’s second reading from the Book of Revelation. The author testifies that he hears the One who sits on the throne say: “Behold, I make all things new” (Rev 21:5). Recall that when Revelation was being written, the church was undergoing persecution. Those Christians familiar with Jewish writings (what we Christians call the Old Testament today) looked

to the past to seek out the ways that God had acted before. They found resonance in the oracles of deutero-Isaiah, who promised a Messiah after the leaders of Israel had been taken to captivity in Babylon. In chapter 43 of Isaiah, God proclaims that He will restore Israel, He will do something new by rebuilding the city of Jerusalem.

Jerusalem becomes symbolic of the eternal dwelling of God's chosen people. It is the place of peace and contentment. It is God's dwelling to which every nation on earth comes to dwell. And so it is no surprise when the writer of Revelation proclaims to the persecuted Christian community (who saw themselves as God's new chosen people, enduring trials just like the Hebrews of long ago) that a new Jerusalem is coming down out of heaven as a dwelling place for God and His people.

This promise of hope in a time of persecution is meant to encourage those who may be tempted to falter. In our own day, so many of us have been battered by difficult times. Each of us may have our own tale of woe. The Gospel for today reminds us that Jesus gave us a new commandment: to love one another. No matter how difficult things may be, that commandment endures. It also gives us hope, for we are united in love.

Flowers in Adoration Chapel last week in honor of Justin & Kayla Pearson by Steve & Donna Kossa Family.

If you participated in the pictorial directory & haven't yet picked up a directory, please come by the Rectory to pick it up as soon as possible while supplies last.

FINANCIAL REPORT – MARCH, 2010

Church Income:

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Sunday Collection | \$ 26,576.00 |
| Other Donations | 3,224.92 |
| Family Center Rental | 175.00 |
| Religious Articles | 929.54 |
| Catholic Relief Collections | 672.00 |
| Rice Bag Collection | 3,064.87 |
| March Interest | 2,474.53 |
| Picnic Transfer | <u>12,500.00</u> |
| Total Church Income | <u>\$ 49,616.86</u> |

School Income:

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| Field Trips | \$ 777.00 |
| Athletic Fees | 1,125.00 |
| Bus Fees | 150.00 |
| Friends for Catholic Education | 7,580.00 |
| PreK Tuition | 6,775.00 |
| K – 12 th Tuition | 47,180.00 |
| Extended Care | 2,475.00 |
| Catholic Education Envelopes | 2,594.00 |
| Memorials | 805.00 |
| Shop Donations | 40.00 |
| Home & School Assoc. Donations | 8,000.00 |
| Extravaganza | 1,147.00 |
| Library Income | 25.00 |
| Interest | 3,653.00 |
| Miscellaneous | 311.00 |
| Technology | 25.00 |
| Magazine Drive | <u>10,899.15</u> |
| Total School Income | <u>\$ 93,561.15</u> |

Church Expense:

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Salaries | \$ 7,175.31 |
| Utilities | 1,465.10 |
| Church Expense | 1,372.99 |
| Rectory Expense | 319.72 |
| Office Expense | 1,523.74 |
| Religious Articles | 401.84 |
| Medical Insurance & Pension | 2,711.10 |
| Family Center Expense | 336.45 |
| Repairs & Maintenance | 746.57 |
| Building Insurance | 1,650.19 |
| Vehicle Insurance | 524.68 |
| Special Collections | <u>3,736.87</u> |
| Total Church Expense | <u>\$ 21,964.56</u> |

School Expense:

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Salaries | \$ 72,885.57 |
| Extravaganza Bonuses | 26,290.00 |
| Contracted Services | 591.33 |
| Office & Teaching Expense | 482.32 |
| Postage | 116.77 |
| Assessment Fees | 153.96 |
| Public Relations | 475.00 |
| Music Expense | 194.00 |
| Library Expense | 154.00 |
| Utilities | 5,942.55 |
| Plant Repairs | 2,011.97 |
| Custodial Repairs | 1,277.89 |
| Bus & Vehicle Expense | 2,003.13 |
| Payroll Taxes | 7,430.33 |
| Medical Insurance | 12,310.74 |
| Retirement | 240.20 |
| Property Insurance | 2,597.13 |
| Convent Expense | 573.49 |
| Acquisition of Equipment | 1,306.25 |
| Technology | 248.93 |
| Magazine Drive Expense | 7,214.34 |
| Extravaganza Expense | 2,730.58 |
| Marathon Expense | 88.00 |
| Miscellaneous | <u>894.93</u> |
| Total School Expense | <u>\$148,213.41</u> |

Parish Income **\$143,178.01**

Parish Expense **-170,177.97**

Parish Deficit **\$(26,999.96)**

SACRED HEART CHURCH ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of Pauline Huser:

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| Larry & Denise Bujnoch & sons | 10.00 |
| Henry & Elrose Muenster | 15.00 |
| Jerry & Margaret Kallus | 10.00 |
| Adela Grahmann | 10.00 |
| Bernard & Mary Grahmann | 10.00 |
| Elsie Steffek | 10.00 |
| Sandy Joe & Carol Dieringer & sons | 10.00 |
| Marvin & Annette Grahmann | 20.00 |
| Adela Hollas | 20.00 |

SACRED HEART SCHOOL ENDOWMENT FUND

In honor of Fr. Say's Birthday:

| | |
|---|-------|
| Charles & Dorothy Jansky | 20.00 |
| <u>In honor of Charles Leopold's Birthday:</u> | |
| Gary & Pat McCoy | 15.00 |
| <u>In memory of Pauline Huser:</u> | |
| Donald & Mildred Grahmann | 25.00 |

SACRED HEART SCHOOL ENDOWMENT FUNDIn memory of Pauline Huser:

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------|
| Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Sitka | 10.00 |
| Phillip & Rosemary Hemmi | 5.00 |
| Garry & Geraldine Dornak & girls | 10.00 |
| Jimmy & Roseann Mikes & sons | 25.00 |
| Alton & Marlyn Sevcik | 10.00 |
| Phil & Lea Bludau | 10.00 |
| Mr. & Mrs. Leon Steffek | 5.00 |
| Brenda Grahmann | 15.00 |
| Sandra & Bryan Tesch | 50.00 |
| Michael & V'Anne Huser | 25.00 |
| Chris & Julie Kubena & family | 25.00 |
| Mr. & Mrs. Elroy Brogger | 20.00 |
| Larry & Mary Ann Oeding | 10.00 |
| Mrs. Dorothy Bujnoch | 20.00 |
| Randy & Pam Dornak & Tori | 20.00 |

SACRED HEART SCHOOL ALUMNI FUNDIn memory of Pauline Huser:

| | |
|---|-------|
| Andrew & Pam Kutac | 10.00 |
| Donnie & Mary Jo Bludau, Josh & Abby | 15.00 |
| Michael & Joyce Rainosek & family | 10.00 |
| Johnny & Marilyn Svetlik, Chase & Ethan | 20.00 |
| Jason & Michele Etzler | 25.00 |
| Leonita Panus | 10.00 |
| Tom & Fran Kanak | 20.00 |
| John & Marilyn Kovalcik | 10.00 |
| Cleo Muras | 10.00 |
| Marguerite Grahmann | 10.00 |
| Marcus & Sharon Bujnoch | 10.00 |
| Patrick Huser | 10.00 |
| Marie Huser | 10.00 |
| Donald & Karen Kutac | 5.00 |
| Alton & Cindy Kutac | 10.00 |
| Pat & Carol Steffek | 10.00 |
| Betty Marcak | 20.00 |
| Warren & Christie Wheelock & Sarah | 25.00 |
| Pat & Vickie Sobotik | 20.00 |
| Lavaca County Employees | 45.00 |
| Paul & Doris Patek | 20.00 |
| Paul Rainosek | 50.00 |

SACRED HEART SCHOOL OPERATING FUNDIn memory of Sr. M. Constance Kapitza, IWBS:

| | |
|--------------------|-------|
| Arthur Etzler, Jr. | 35.00 |
|--------------------|-------|

In memory of Pauline Huser:

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| Gene & Maureen Schott | 10.00 |
| Gene & Trudy Janak | 20.00 |
| Sylvester & Mildred Grahmann | 30.00 |
| Dennis & Gerardette Haas | 20.00 |
| Steven & Jennifer Steffek | 20.00 |
| Henry & Frances Kallus | 20.00 |
| Brian & Christine Haas | 15.00 |
| Edward & Patty Grahmann | 20.00 |
| Bo & Pam Wick | 10.00 |
| Marvin & Susan Bujnoch | 15.00 |
| Lillian Haas | 10.00 |
| Paul & Sandra Migl | 10.00 |
| Alan & Jamie Grahmann & family | 20.00 |
| Jimmy & Liz Kouba | 20.00 |
| Darryl & Cheryl Steffek | 15.00 |
| Bruce & Debbie Schneider | 25.00 |
| Robert & Barbara Grahmann | 25.00 |
| Arthur & Rose Mary Etzler | 10.00 |

SACRED HEART SCHOOL OPERATING FUNDIn memory of Pauline Huser:

| | |
|---|-------|
| Glenn & Donna Leopold | 10.00 |
| David & Carol Bohuslav | 15.00 |
| Virginia & Karen Pustka, Michael & Rebecca Till, Duane & Jane Labay | 60.00 |
| David & Mary Polasek | 20.00 |
| Phillip & Nanci Hadash & family | 10.00 |
| Irene Huser | 5.00 |
| Fred & Debbie Huser | 40.00 |
| Ronnie & Agnes Huser | 50.00 |
| Bill & Joyce Sattler | 25.00 |
| Marvin & Virginia Warzecha | 25.00 |
| William & Charlene Bradbury & family | 50.00 |

SACRED HEART SCHOOL MUSIC FUNDIn memory of Pauline Huser:

| | |
|----------------------------|-------|
| Tim & Candy Hines & Hannah | 30.00 |
|----------------------------|-------|

SACRED HEART SCHOOL ATHLETIC FUNDIn memory of Pauline Huser:

| | |
|-------------------------|-------|
| Ronnie & Debi Sevcik | 10.00 |
| Bruce & Karen Bludau | 10.00 |
| L. A. & Janis Muehr | 10.00 |
| Larry & Agnes Greer | 10.00 |
| Sherry Hale | 15.00 |
| Billy & Bev Hrcir | 25.00 |
| Laurence & Carol Bludau | 15.00 |

SACRED HEART SCHOOL VOC. AG SHOP FUNDIn memory of Pauline Huser:

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| Mark & Elaine Klekar | 15.00 |
| Harry & Lillie Schumacher | 10.00 |
| Norbert & Betty Sobotik | 20.00 |
| Glenn & Laurie Janak | 10.00 |
| Phil & Kathy Guenther | 10.00 |
| Bruce & Gayle Wesson | 20.00 |
| Dorothy Kouba | 10.00 |
| James & Bobi Shimek & family | 10.00 |
| Dennis & Sheila Jansky & sons | 20.00 |
| Larry & Donna Dornak & Cody | 15.00 |
| Trey & Jennifer Kraatz & family | 10.00 |
| Stanley & Rhonda Brown & family | 10.00 |
| Debra Smirak & family | 10.00 |

HILBERT & AGNES BLUDAU SCHOLARSHIP FUNDIn memory of Gladys Koehn:

| | |
|--------------|-------|
| Terry Bludau | 10.00 |
|--------------|-------|

DOROTHY HENNEKE SCHOLARSHIP FUNDIn memory of Pauline Huser:

| | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Richard Grahmann | 5.00 |
| Roy & Loretta Hardcastle | 10.00 |
| Tommy & Elsie Grahmann | 10.00 |

HILDA ELSTNER SCHOLARSHIP FUNDIn memory of Pauline Huser:

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| Paulie & Dolores Janak & family | 100.00 |
|---------------------------------|--------|

SACRED HEART EARLY CHILDHOOD & DAYCAREIn memory of Pauline Huser:

| | |
|-------------------------|-------|
| Florine Bohac | 25.00 |
| Dennis & Lisa Dworsky | 20.00 |
| Dennis & Darlene Shimek | 10.00 |

SACRED HEART CHURCH QUILTING CIRCLEIn memory of Pauline Huser:

| | |
|---------------------|-------|
| Kubena Funeral Home | 20.00 |
|---------------------|-------|

SACRED HEART CHURCH FLOWERS FUNDIn memory of Pauline Huser:

| | |
|--|-------|
| Marilyn Hajek, Roxanne, Ethan, Leigh, Jordan | 50.00 |
|--|-------|

Growing in FAITH™

Discovering **hope and joy** in the Catholic faith.

May 2010

One Minute Meditations

Your turn

No parish can do the work of the Church without support from parishioners. For example, parishioners may bring Communion to the sick or infirm, clean the church, staff parish ministries, teach faith formation and give money to keep church facilities operating. What does your parish need from you?

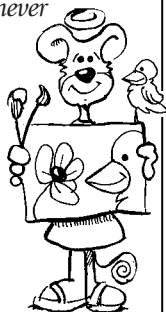
Newest Catholics

More than 25,000 people became Catholic on Holy Saturday last month in the U.S. Each year Church numbers grow by approximately 10%. Please consider praying for these newest Catholics so that they can help the Church grow in strength and holiness.

Turn to Mary

During the month of May, we honor Mary, the Mother of God (and ours, too). Turn to her for guidance and protection and she will help bring you to her Son:

"Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thine intercession was left unaided."



What is keeping you from God?

Does the business of your life take priority over your relationship with God?

"I work too much to have time for God, but I have lots of expenses and need the money." *"If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!"* (Matthew 7:9-11). Trust him and God will supply all you need and much of what you want, too.

"What's the point? It doesn't feel like God is paying attention to me." He may be waiting for an invitation.

"When you call me, when you go to pray to me, I will listen to you. When you look for me, you will find me. Yes, when you seek me with all your heart, you will find me with you, says the LORD" (Jeremiah 29:11-12).

Invite him into your heart and he will always be close.

"My life is so busy there isn't much time for God." Yet, there is nothing and no one on Earth that can make you truly happy. "Do not conform yourselves to this

age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect" (Romans 12:1).



Why Do Catholics Do That?

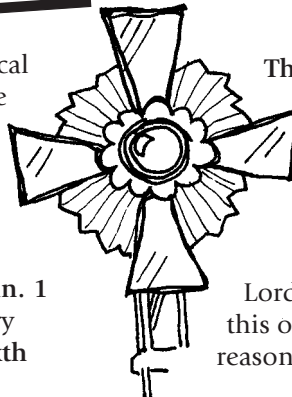
The Eucharist is critical to our salvation, so the Church requires that Catholics participate in the Eucharist every Sunday and principal feast day.

These can include: **Jan. 1** – the solemnity of Mary Mother of God; **the sixth**

What are Holy Days of Obligation?

Thursday after Easter – the Ascension; **Aug. 15** – the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary; **Nov. 1** – All Saints Day; **Dec. 8** – the Immaculate Conception;

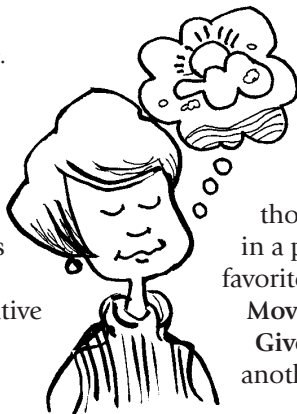
Dec. 25 – the Nativity of Our Lord. Those who deliberately fail in this obligation without a serious reason commit a grave sin.



One way to avoid sin: stop negative thoughts

If it's one thing Catholics know about, it's hope. God's love for us and his infinite mercy give us hope. Living in an imperfect world, however, can overshadow hope with doubt, fear, depression, anger, jealousy and all manner of negative thinking. Without hope, though, we can drift far from God and the path to Heaven. Try these ideas to resist negative thinking and hold onto hope.

Stay alert. Be watchful for the first signs of negative thoughts so you can crush them before they can take root.



Shake it loose. Do something to disrupt the negative image or thought. Snap a rubber band on your wrist, picture a brick wall, say, "STOP" out loud.

Replace it. Instead of dwelling on the negative thought, replace it with a prayer, an image of yourself in a peaceful place, or the face of Jesus, Mary, or your favorite saint.

Move on. Resume normal activities as soon as possible.

Give thanks. Thank God that he always gives us another chance to get things right.

from Scripture

John 20:19-23, Open your door to Christ.

Despite hearing that Jesus was being spotted around town, the disciples were shocked to see Jesus appear to them in a locked room. They thought the lock would keep everyone out. Jesus appeared to them so that they could be first-person witnesses to his resurrection. But he also came to commission them to carry on the work he started.



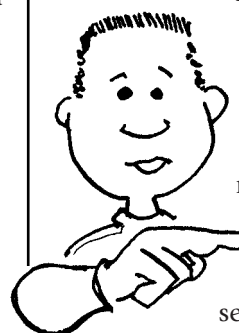
The work is why they were chosen, but Jesus knew they needed strength.

So he breathed on them, just as God breathed life into Adam and created a new creature. By doing so, Jesus renewed his disciples, strengthened them, and gave them a new outlook so they could continue his mission.

By virtue of our Baptism Jesus has commissioned each us to spread the word of God's love and the hope of salvation. And he promises to be with us and give us the strength we need to do his work.

Q & A Do I have an obligation to point out the sins of others?

One way Catholics can live as Jesus' disciples is to practice works of mercy. Acting out of Christian love, we can



help our neighbor obtain what is needed for spiritual and physical well-being. Corporal works address physical needs while spiritual works build up the soul.

In fact, one of the seven spiritual works is to convert the sinner.

"Brothers, even if a person is caught in some transgression, you who are spiritual should correct that one in a gentle spirit ..." (Galatians 6:1). When we notice someone acting in a sinful or hurtful way, we have a responsibility to speak up and act for change.

However, any kind of correction has to come out of love for the other person and have a basis in Scripture. *"... He should know that whoever brings back a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins"* (James 5:20).

Feasts & Celebrations

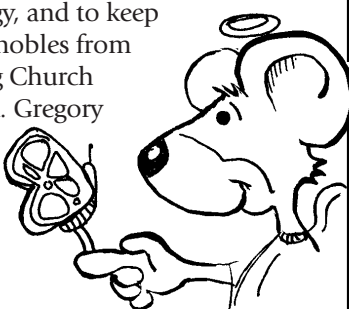
May 1 – St. Joseph the Worker. St. Joseph was a carpenter dedicated to his family, the Blessed Mother and Jesus, and obedient to God.

May 13 - Ascension of the Lord. This solemnity marks Jesus' triumphant entry into Heaven. *Note: In some dioceses, observance of Ascension has been moved to the following Sunday.*

May 18 – Pope St. John I (526). Arian heresy was troubling the Church and Arians were under attack by Emperor Justin of Constantinople. The Arian king asked Pope John I to advocate for them to Justin, which

made the emperor suspect the pope's loyalties. He had Pope John I imprisoned for conspiracy and the pope died from the treatment he received.

May 25 – Pope St. Gregory VII (1085). During dark days for the Church, St. Gregory worked to eliminate the buying and selling of sacred offices, unlawful marriages of the clergy, and to keep kings and nobles from appointing Church officials. St. Gregory vigorously defended the authority of the Church.



Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.
 Success Publishing & Media, LLC
 Publishers of Growing in Faith™ and Partners in Faith™
 (540)662-7844 (540)662-7847 fax
 http://www.growinginfaith.com
 (Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible)