

May 3 – Fourth Sunday of Easter



Dear Parishioners,

Many years ago, if a Sister wanted to give gifts to family or friends on any occasion, they had to "craft" them. If you weren't too creative you just prayed the Holy Spirit was working overtime.

One day a few weeks before Christmas I found a picture of Jesus that I really liked. His face was bowed and cupped in his hands. The words "Do not burden your peace of mind with the unessential" were printed above and below his face.

As I reflect upon these past weeks of hearing of so much sickness and death, of people feeling isolated and disconnected, I reflect upon those words. What is truly essential in my life, in our lives? For me, it is and hopefully will always be *faith* and *family*. I yearn for Eucharist, for the sacraments, for liturgy and communal prayer. I also desire for the day when I am able to hug my family goodbye and continue our monthly get-togethers.

A couple years ago we were moving my brother, and in the midst of this move I saw on his wall that plaque I had given him for Christmas thirty or more years ago. I smiled as God reminded me again, as he has during this Covid-19, there is very little that is essential in life.

Peaceful Blessings,
Sister Shirley



READ THESE REFLECTIONS FROM OTHER PARISHIONERS AT THIS TIME OF CRISIS:

+ People sincerely and thoughtfully telling us to be safe, and strangers wishing us well.

+ The international connections of the coronavirus situation make us realize how closely connected we are to the whole world. Not only the spread of the virus across country boundaries, but also the need for supplies to be generously offered by one country to another, and one state to another.

+ We have all taken on a new admiration for medical professionals. However, the situation has made us more mindful of the importance of every single human being, the people who clean hospital rooms, the truckers who transport urgently needed supplies and food, the people who deliver to our door, and the people who take care of the bodies and the families of the dead.

+ We have been in touch with people through phone, letter, and computer that we have not been able to physically gather with for a while.

+ A perfect stranger became a good Samaritan when she came to my aid after she noticed me looking ill outside of a store. The stranger set in motion a chain of events that involved an ambulance, a hospital, my husband, and six of my neighbors, in a story that had a happy ending.

+ The response to the call for us to create an Easter Parade past church to surprise Sister Shirley in turn created Easter joy for us all.

(Further comments in next bulletin)



MY SHEEP FOLLOW ME

In the Gospel reading for this fourth Sunday of Easter, Jesus says that his sheep *follow* him. Those who belong to him know his voice, and so they are willing to follow him and let him lead the way.

Of course, the sheep don't know the voice of the shepherd unless they know the shepherd. The difference, then, between being one of the lost sheep who have to be followed by the shepherd and being one of the faithful sheep who are led by the shepherd is a matter of knowing the shepherd. The shepherd is a person. And knowing a person is a matter of personal relationship, with all the risks and vulnerabilities that personal relationship entails.

So the faithful sheep are in a personal relationship with their shepherd and love him. They hear the voice of the sheep and follow him. And here is the good news. Whether a person is faithful or lost, he will be surrounded by the love of the good shepherd. Either the shepherd will lead him, or the shepherd will follow after him to find him when he is astray. And so St. Patrick's prayer is right: *Christ before me, Christ behind me. And either way, Christ with me.* (Eleonore Stump, Used with Permission)

FATHER JOHN – I spoke with Father John on Monday, and he sounded cheerful, positive, and ready to begin his daily walks. He feels a little stronger but has a ways to go. Thank you to our parishioners who cooked meals for him this week.

FATHER BILL – Father Bill remains healthy. He said that he has appreciated your cards and misses you. His address is 7972 W. Co. Rd. 350 N, St. Paul, IN 47272.

PARISH PROJECTS – If you pass by the rectory, notice the new railing on the front porch constructed by A & A Industries - very nice.

REST IN PEACE – Remember and pray for Martha Moorman, the sister of Paul Thole, Eileen Wagner, and Rita Duerstock, who died on April 14. May she be blessed with Eternal Joy!

MASS INTENTIONS

May 2 - Allie and Anna Walke
May 3 - Gary Stier
May 9 - Pat Hermesch
May 10 - Harriet Kunz
May 16 - Don Gilbert
May 17 - Vera Wenning
May 23 - Phil Wittich
May 24 - Lucille Simon
May 30 - Dale Young
May 31 - Roy Bohman

Fr. John and Fr. Bill are celebrating these Masses in their homes.

4/15/20 - 4/27/20 PARISH SUPPORT

Sunday Collection	\$3610.00
Easter	\$ 860.00
Capital Improvement	\$ 820.00
Total Collection	\$5290.00
+ Holy Land	\$60.00
+ Easter Flowers	\$5.00
+ Catholic Home Missions	\$25.00
+ Special Donation	\$220.00
+ Smorgasbord Donation	\$20.00

God Bless You!



FORGIVE: FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE

+ Forgiveness is every person's deepest need and the greatest quality of being like Jesus.

~ Franklin Graham

+ Forgiveness does not change the past, but it does enlarge the future. ~ Paul Boese

+ The most important thing about being a father is being able to forgive yourself. If you don't forgive yourself, you're not going to forgive your kids either. ~ Evander Holyfield

+ Letting go doesn't mean that you don't care about someone anymore. It's just realizing that the only person you really have control over is yourself. ~ Deborah Reber



Lord of My Heart

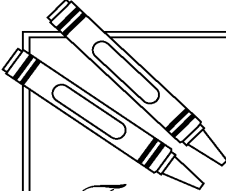
Lord of my heart, give me vision to inspire me, that, working or resting, I may always think of you.
Lord of my heart, give me light to guide me, that at home or abroad, I may always walk in your way.
Lord of my heart, give me wisdom to direct me, that, thinking or acting, I may always discern right from wrong.
Lord of my heart, give me courage to strengthen me, that, amongst friends or enemies, I may always proclaim your justice.
Lord of my heart, give me trust to console me, that, hungry or well fed, I may always rely on your mercy.
Lord of my heart, save me from empty praise, that I may always boast of you.
Lord of my heart, save me from worldly wealth, that I may always look to riches of heaven.
Lord of my heart, save me from vain knowledge, that I may always study your word.
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall me, rule over my thoughts and feelings, my words and actions.

Lord, I Am Yours

*Lord, I am yours
and I must belong to no one but you.
My soul is yours, and must live only through you.
My will is yours, and must love only for you.
I must love you as my first cause,
since I am from you.
I must love you as my goal and rest,
since I am for you.
I must love you more than my own being, since my
being comes from you.
I must love you more than myself, since I am all
yours and all in you. Amen.*

THE LORD’S LAUGHTER – At his graduation, a young man tasked with giving a speech began reading from some notes. “I want to talk about my mother and the wonderful influence she had on my life,” he said. “She’s a shining example of parenthood, and I love her more than words can ever do justice.”

The graduate then paused, appeared to struggle a moment and looked up at the audience with a mischievous smile. “It’s really hard to read my mom’s handwriting,” he said. (The Joyful Noiseletter)



Just for KIDS

Famous Mothers in the Bible
 Mothers are very special people. The Bible tells many stories about famous mothers.

Unscramble the letters to find the names of some mothers from the Bible. Look up the Bible verses, if you need help. Write the names on the blanks. Use the letters on the numbered blanks to fill in the message at the bottom.

VEE (Genesis 3:20)	6	11	
NAHHAN (1 Samuel 1:20)		14	
BRAHEOD (Judges 5:7)	18	3	
KREEHBA (Genesis 27:5)	16		5
HELA (Genesis 30:14)			1
CHELRA (Genesis 30:22)	7		12
MOIAN (Ruth 1:22)		10	17 13
RAAHS (Genesis 17:19)		8	
RAMY (Matthew 2:11)		2	
ZEBLEHATI (Luke 1:13)	9	15	4

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
 13 8 14 **G** 15 **F** 4 **F** 16 10 17 **G** 3 18 !

Answers: EVE, HANNAH, DEBORAH, REBEKAH, LEAH, RACHEL, NAOMI, SARAH, MARY, ELIZABETH
 A MOTHERS LOVE IS A GIFT FROM GOD.