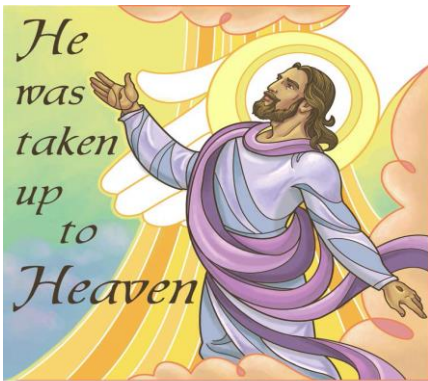


SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 17, 2020

"I will ask the Father, and he will give you . . . the Spirit of truth."

— John 14:16-17



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THE REASON FOR OUR HOPE

"What is the reason for your hope?" Imagine somebody coming up to you and asking you that question. Not "What are you hoping for?" or "What are you hoping to do?" No, this isn't about our desires for possessions or aspirations for life, it's "Why do you hope?" Peter today tells us that we ought to be ready to give an answer to this question. Truth be told, few of us spend much time thinking about why we hope. Luckily, the scriptures today give us our answers. We hope because Christ suffered for us, in order that we might come to God. We hope because we know that, in the Spirit, God grants us another Advocate through Christ to remain with us always. No matter what we might hope for, whatever we might hope to do, we must always first know and proclaim the reason for our hope: the presence of God in Christ, with us through the power of the Spirit.

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The people of Samaria accepted the word of God preached by Philip; they received the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:5-8, 14-17).

Psalm — Let all the earth cry out to God with joy (Psalm 66).

Second Reading — Act with gentleness and reverence toward all, so that when you are maligned those who defame you will be the ones put to shame (1 Peter 3:15-18) or 1 Peter 4:13-16.

GOSPEL — I will not leave you orphans, but will come to you (John 14:15-21) or Jn 17:1-11a.

SPECIAL PRAYER LIST

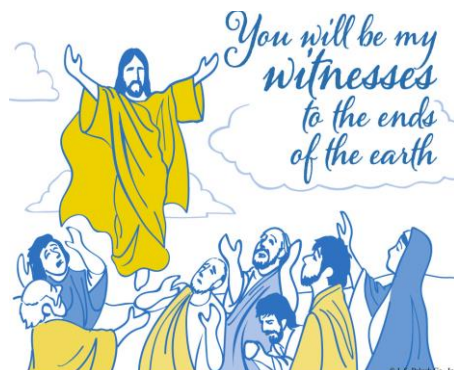
Edith Bolder	Home
Jeanette Hamilton Evans	Home
Eddie Jennings, V.A. Rehab	Cameron
Inell Hunter	Home
Martha Melton	Addington House Ctr
Marcheita Bush	Home
Carlos Nix	Home
Lavel McCullough	Home
Rosa Birch	Home
Sandra Cloyd	Home
Kevin Brown	Home
Jackie Countee	Home
Sharon Shackelford-Allen	Home
Earnestine Nard	Home
Mable Parson	Home
Earl Greene	Home
Michael Mize	Home
Chaunceyetta Mize	Home
Michael Mize	Home
Margaret Jones	Home
Flora Waddell	Home
Delores Bazy	Home
Deacon Greene	Home
Ovell Thomas	Home
Joann James	Home

FAMILY MEMBERS:

Please inform Father Leonard, when a loved-one has become homebound, or has been hospitalized. Call, 816-471-3696, or email: leombuthia@yahoo.com

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday:	Sixth Sunday of Easter
Monday:	St. John I
Wednesday:	St. Bernardine of Siena
Thursday:	The Ascension of the Lord (unless transferred to Sunday); St. Christopher Magallanes and Companions
Friday:	St. Rita of Cascia



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:	Acts 16:11-15; Ps 149:1b-6a, 9b; Jn 15:26 — 16:4a
Tuesday:	Acts 16:22-34; Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8; Jn 16:5-11
Wednesday:	Acts 17:15, 22 — 18:1; Ps 148:1-2, 11-14; Jn 16:12-15
Thursday:	Acts 1:1-11; Ps 47:2-3, 6-9; Eph 1:17-23; Mt 28:16-20 (for Ascension); otherwise Acts 18:1-8; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 16:16-20
Friday:	Acts 18:9-18; Ps 47:2-7; Jn 16:20-23
Saturday:	Acts 18:23-28; Ps 47:2-3, 8-10; Jn 16:23b-28
Sunday	Acts 1:12-14; Ps 27:1, 4, 7 8; 1 Pt 4:13-16; Jn 17:1-11a; or (for Ascension) Acts 1:1-11; Ps 47:2-3, 6-9; Eph 1:17-23; Mt 28:16-20

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SAINT RITA OF CASCIA (1381-1457) May 22

If you're ever in Philadelphia on May 22, forget parking anywhere near Saint Rita's shrine. Cars line streets and fill medians as throngs pack a candlelight vigil and six Masses, honoring this patroness of lost causes, hopeless situations, and—as her statue in countless churches built by twentieth-century immigrants testifies—difficult marriages, troubled homes, and alienated children. Wise people warn, be careful what you pray for. "Divine Savior," Rita prayed, "let me suffer like you!" Obedient to parents who refused her wish to become a nun, Rita married a man who returned her devotion with twenty years of abuse. When enemies murdered him, Rita's two sons swore revenge. Paintings depict her pointing the angry boys toward Christ crucified, whom she begged to restrain them. Within the year, both sons died. Alone now, Rita went to the convent but was refused. The nuns feared violence, since one of them was related to the murderer. Rita arranged peace between the families, made vows, and became much sought after as a counselor and intercessor for forty years on earth—and ever since in heaven.

—Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

Directives for re-opening St. Monica Parish for public worship 05/17/2020.

Before Mass.

1. Those who are symptomatic or who have been exposed to another with Covid-19 virus within 14 days are requested to stay at home quarantined in accordance with national, state and local health directives.
2. All Mass attendees are asked to check their temperature at home before coming to church.
3. Those who are at risk because of an underlying health issues are strongly encouraged, for their own health, to avoid the risk of attending public celebrations of the Mass.
4. Appropriate cleaning of high use areas within the church will be cleaned and sanitized before and after each Mass.
5. All hymnals and missalettes will be removed from the pews and stored for the duration of the pandemic. We are encouraging you to bring your own pocket missals or smartphones to follow along during the mass if necessary.
6. Hand sanitizers will be available at different stations in the church and to be used as needed.
7. Those attending mass will be **REQUIRED TO WEAR MASKS** throughout the service except for the brief moment of receiving Holy Communion.

During Mass.

1. Entry and exit doors are to be adequately designated and monitored. Entry doors are to be propped or held open before Mass, and exit doors are to be propped or held open at the end of Mass to prevent people from touching the door handles, knobs or push plates.
2. Ushers will assist with directing people to pews specifically marked. **Note: you may not necessarily sit where you normally sit during regular service.**
3. Families are to maintain six-foot distancing between their family and other families or individuals throughout the celebration of Mass. Seating is to be arranged such that six feet of distance can be maintained between members of one household and members of another.
4. Collection baskets will places in strategic places in the church to drop your offering either at the beginning of the mass or at the end to avoid much movement.
5. The sign of peace is optional. There is to be no physical contact. A simple gesture, such as a nod of the head, is recommended.
6. During reception of Communion we will maintain single file while maintaining social distancing.
7. Holy Communion will be distributed in the hand in keeping with the advice of state health officials and thereby to avoid the Communion minister's fingers coming into contact with saliva or airborne contagion.
8. Those who refrain from receiving communion still unite themselves with the sacrifice of Christ. Non-communicants are kindly asked to remain in their places rather than process to request a blessing—a blessing all receive at the end of Mass.
9. When approaching the Communion minister, the communicant is to pull their mask below their chin in order to receive Communion. The communicant immediately replaces their mask after consuming the Host.

After Mass

1. Family units should depart the church in an organized manner wearing masks and observing six feet of distance between other households. For exiting the mass we will Northern and Southern EXIT doors of the church.
2. Avoid congregating after mass. We are requested to head home for continued prayer and meditation.
3. There will be no physical bulletins issued after mass instead they can be accessed on our parish website <stmonicakc.org>

Note:

- We will resume to our regular Masses schedule Wed 9am, Sunday 8am &10am.
- 10am Mass will be live streamed on Facebook and later accessed on our parish website . Those unable to attend are encouraged to virtual join in.
- If you have any concern about these directives please give me a call at 816-471-3696.

God bless and protect you.

Fr. Leonard Gicheru