



ST. PATRICK OF THE ISLAND – BULLETIN WEEK OF MAY 24, 2020– ASCENSION SUNDAY

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This Week's Readings:

In today's readings Jesus promises us: "Remember I am with you always until the end of the age".

ACTS 1:1-11 – You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you.

EPHESIANS 1:17-23 – And God has put all things under Jesus' feet and has made Him head over all things.

MATTHEW 28: 16-20 – Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

LET US CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:



Josephine, Audrey Angelozzi, Jean & Joseph Gabriel, Edward Bertrand, Maria Linck, Jacques R., Bob Forest, Tom Law, Heather Coulter, Anthony Hulse, Paule, Theresa Hannan, Noah & Bailey Santos, Jean Clifford, Gordon Hincks, Kayla Cordeiro, Helen Lalonde, Helene Larose Pullin, Allison Latham, Caron Rothwell, Caiti Dore, Andria MacDonald, Karen Descoeurs, Mary & Marian Lapchak, Betty, Gerry & Mary Guy, Elaine Kerr, Claude Bourbonnais, Catherine Shea, John Battaglia, Frank McCluskey, Virginia Camus, Antanas, Nadia Lombardi, Cathy Good, Molly Gillette, Michel Leclerc, Ralph Jenkins, Kathleen Guy.
Anyone affected by the virus.



THIS WEEK THE SANCTUARY LAMP BURNS FOR:

- For Public Health and Government Leaders



REFLECTION FOR THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

The readings for this beautiful feast, the Ascension of our Lord, challenge me. They make me question how I respond to Christ in my life? As I imagine Jesus ascending into Heaven, I ask myself “am I one of the ones who doubt” Him? What kind of witness am I?

St. Ignatius’s Spiritual Exercises begins with the “Foundation: Fact and Practice”. The first phrase is “God who loves us creates us and wants to share life with us forever. Our love response takes shape in our praise, honor and service of the God of our life”. In order to witness to others, I must respond with love to the God who loves me first. I read scriptures slowly, rereading them and imagining myself in the scene. As I continue reading slowly, I pause as my heart opens to the message. If a word or phrase touches me, I stay with them. Sometimes I am filled with love for Christ, other times I feel guilty as I see myself responding poorly to Jesus in the scene. This week I was challenged.

As I struggled with these readings, I recognized how my witness to Christ often falls short of the mark. How often do feelings of embarrassment make me hide who I am in order to protect myself at work, with friends, with family? Do I really believe that the Holy Spirit will give me the gifts I need so that I can really praise, honor, and serve God as I should? Another phrase from the “Foundation” comes to my mind, “We should not fix our desires on health or sickness, wealth or poverty, success or failure, a long life or a short one. For everything has the potential of drawing forth in us a more loving response to our life forever with God.” Now my mind and heart struggle to synthesize the message of the readings. Am I really detached from those temptations which stop me from following Christ? Tertullian a Roman author said, “See how these Christians love each other”. Is my love for God visible in the way I act towards others? This is really where my ability to praise, honor, and serve God is incarnated, given flesh, tested the most.

St. Ignatius wanted people to become real Disciples of Christ, by putting ourselves in a biblical story we can reflect on how we would actually respond to the situation. What stops us from assenting to Christ’s call; where are we being dishonest about our relationship with Jesus? How do I need to change, turn back, repent? Oftentimes, when I walk with people on their faith journey, I will tell them it is in the discomfort and resistance that we most often find clues to the things that stop us from really following Jesus. This is true for me too. If it challenges me to think of going and teaching strangers about Jesus, what does that say about my commitment to Him, my love for Him?

We are told there are three root sins, pride, vanity, and sensuality. All of us sin in these areas, but each one of us has a special weak spot, one root that is deeper than the rest. As I respond to the readings, I look at the root sin that stops me from following Christ? I look in the mirror and remember, yes, the Holy Spirit is still active in the world, and it is only through His gifts, His grace, that any of us can do anything. God’s grace creates, but we must participate fully with it in order for it to bear fruit in our lives. As I think about the grace I need to ask God for to be a better disciple, I also remember some of Jesus’ words. “I am with you always, to the end of the age”, “I will not leave you orphaned”. Our God is a God of hope and His Spirit is coming. And I echo St. Ignatius “I want, and I choose what better leads to God’s deepening life in me”.

Pope Francis' Message For These Times:



“In these days of great anxiety and hardship, many have used war-like metaphors to refer to the pandemic we are experiencing. If the struggle against COVID-19 is a war, then you are truly an invisible army, fighting in the most dangerous trenches; an army whose only weapons are solidarity, hope, and community spirit, all revitalizing at a time when no one can save themselves alone.”

- **Pope Francis**

ARE YOU LONGING TO PRAY TOGETHER? JOIN US FOR THE ROSARY

Every Tuesday at 7pm until June 16th, 2020, you are invited to join fellow parishioners via Zoom, to pray the Rosary. To join the Zoom Meeting, click on the link below and follow the instructions on your screen.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78397290004?pwd=RzNObDN3VCtEcXZER1RoNWpCRU9MUT09>

Meeting ID: 783 9729 0004

Password: 9xMWvB

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SHARING YOUR FAITH?

Every Thursday at 7pm until June 18th, 2020, you are invited to join Deacon Nic via Zoom, to share your faith. To join the Zoom Meeting, click on the link below and follow the instructions on your screen.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78686231805?pwd=bCtSN1NZeWQ4ODA3T21SdIBHODNTUT09>

Meeting ID: 786 8623 1805

Password: 1jFenf

PRAYING FOR OUR ESSENTIAL WORKERS

“At this critical moment, marked by the global health emergency caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, we have rediscovered the fundamental importance of the role being played by nurses and midwives. Every day we witness the testimony of courage and sacrifice of healthcare workers, and nurses in particular, who, with professionalism, self-sacrifice, and a sense of responsibility and love for neighbour, assist people affected by the virus, even to the point of putting their own health at risk. Sadly, this can be seen in the high number of healthcare workers who have died as a result of their faithful service. I pray for them – the Lord knows each of them by name – and for all the victims of this epidemic. May the Risen Lord grant to each of them the light of heaven and to their families the consolation of faith.”

“We also pray for all those persons who clean hospitals, the streets, who empty dumpsters, who go to each house to remove trash. It is a work that no one sees, but it is a job that is necessary to survive. May the Lord bless them and help them.

- Pope Francis



IS ISOLATION GETTING TO YOU?

Do you need to talk to someone? In these difficult times, some days can be stressful and your faith tested. If you need to talk, we are here to listen. You can call Deacon Nic at 514-703-3736 or Anne Coulter at 514-453-8634.