

# Sunday after the Ascension

## Masses and Intentions for the Week

### Sunday, May 4 White

Sunday after the Ascension, *II Class*

7:30 AM Elmer Vore +

10:30 AM Pro populo (*First Communion*)

### Monday, May 5 White

St. Pius V, Pope, *III Class*

12:00 PM Frank Kleckner +

One of the most illustrious popes of Church history, St. Pius concluded the Council of Trent and applied the decrees of the Council for the reform of the Church. He ended the Muslim threat to the Christian West with the decisive victory at Lepanto, obtained by our Lady's intercession through the Rosary. He played a great part in the restoration of the clergy to ecclesiastical discipline and standardized the liturgical books of the Roman rite.

### Tuesday, May 6 White

Feria of Ascensiontide, *IV Class*

7:00 PM Dottie Voegelé +

### Wednesday, May 7 Red

St. Stanislaus, Bishop/Martyr, *II Class*

12:00 PM John Singer +

Bishop of Cracow in Poland, he was slain during the celebration of Mass by King Boleslas II, whom he had taken to task for his tyranny and dissolute life. He is the patron saint of Poland.

### Thursday, May 8 White

Feria of Ascensiontide, *IV Class*

7:00 AM Tyler Fields

### Friday, May 9 White

St. Gregory Nazianzen, Bishop/Doctor, *III Class*

12:00 PM Eileen and Heide Burke

7:00 PM Frances McKenzie +

Together with St. Basil, he was one of the great defenders of the dogma of the Holy Trinity. He was constrained to resign his charge as Bishop of Constantinople in order to preserve peace. A doctor of the Church, the Greeks call him "the Theologian" for his beautiful expressions of the Three Divine Persons. He died in 328.

### Saturday, May 10 White

Vigil of Pentecost, *I Class*

8:30 AM Amy Ohmer

### Sunday, May 11 Red

Pentecost Sunday, *I Class*

7:30 AM Ted Hagen +

10:30 AM Pro Populo

## Easter Duty Reminder

Holy Mother Church attaches a *grave obligation* for all Catholics of age to make a confession of all mortal sins (since the last worthy confession) and receive Holy Communion at least once during the Easter season, which lasts until Trinity Sunday (May 18).

## First Communion - Today

Please remember in your prayers the four children who will be receiving their First Communion this morning at the 10:30 High Mass. The occasion presents us all with the opportunity to renew our own devotion to the Blessed Sacrament.

## Reds Game RSVP

Any of the altar servers planning on attending the Reds game on May 15, and have not done so already, are asked to RSVP to Fr. Saguto as soon as possible so tickets can be purchased. Thank you.

## May Crowning - May 18

The annual May crowning will take place on Sunday, May 18, at the 10:30 High Mass. As in the past, this year's first Communicants will present the crown for our Lady.

## Corpus Christi - May 25

The annual Corpus Christi procession and benedictions will take place on Sunday, May 25, at the 10:30 High Mass. At that time we will renew the parish's consecration to the Sacred Heart, so all are most encouraged to attend and assist in the consecration and also in thanksgiving to God for the numerous benefits the parish has received this past year.

## Please Keep in Your Prayers...

Archbishop Buechlein; Patricia Wycislo; Rosie Rolfes; Danny Mason; Ted Knight; Tim Hindenberger; Tom Peter; Joseph Shake; Virginia Mendel; Teresa Hall; Andrew Voelker (Iraq); Todd Lecher (Iraq); closure of Planned Parenthood in Bloomington; Donald Farwick +; Dorothy Schaedel; James Peter +; Ed Lachman +; Shirley Heppner +; Martha Deller +; Mary Deegan +; Dottie Voegelé +; Larry Hill, Jr. +; Msgr. Bernard Schmitz +

## Contributions – Thank You!

April 27	\$1825.25	
Window Fund	\$37214.24	(81%)

## Calendar of Events

May 4	First Communion
May 7	Choir/Girls' & Boys' Groups
May 11	Pentecost Sunday
May 18	May Crowning
May 22	Evening of Recollection
May 24	Married Men's Solidarity
May 25	Corpus Christi ( <i>Procession</i> )

## A Final Thought...

There is a passage in the writings of St. Ignatius that I almost hesitate quoting for the fear of having him misunderstood. The saints sometimes said strange things. But it is worth the risk in order to make more clear what I think is so much needed today to protect people from what I consider the heresy of instant mysticism. When all sorts of gimmicks and fads are being sold to the faithful as means of becoming holy or of "discovering their oneness with the Absolute," I quote St. Ignatius:

"If God gives you an abundant harvest of trial, it is a sign of the great holiness he wants you to attain. Do you want to become a great saint? Ask God to send you many sufferings. The flame of Divine Love never rises higher than when fed with the wood of the Cross, which the infinite charity of the Savior uses to finish His sacrifice. All the pleasures of the world are nothing compared to the sweetness of the gall and vinegar offered to Jesus Christ."

We may object that these are the sentiments of a great mystic who, like all the mystics, spoke in symbolic terms and is not to be taken literally. Not so. They are prosaic words of all those who believe that the most pleasing prayer to God is one that proceeds not only from the lips or even only from the heart but one that comes from the heart indeed, but a heart that is suffering in union with heart of the innocent Lamb of God. Not all the faithful are called to the heights of this kind of prayer, although no Christian is exempt from his share in the life of the Master whose prayer to His Father was so efficacious because it was constantly elevated by the Cross.

Other things being equal, the more my prayer life is crucified, the more meritorious it becomes. The more what I say to God is combined with what I offer to God, the more pleased He will be. The more my petitions to the Lord are united with sacrifice willingly

made, the more certain what I ask for will be received. There is such a thing as cheap prayer. I call that comfortable prayer. There is such a thing as dear prayer. I call that sacrificial prayer. I don't know where the idea came from that the essence of prayer is, well, just praying and, presto - we have satisfied our prayerful duties and can go on to other things. Not at all. Prayer is an ongoing enterprise and its continuance is especially prolongation of what I say to God (which may not be much) with what I endure and suffer for God (which can be very much).

We still have one more reflection on our general theme of prayer and suffering that should not be omitted. How to maintain one's peace of soul while undergoing whatever trial God may send us? This is not trivial question because for failure to answer it - either at all or at least satisfactorily - I am afraid that many otherwise good people do not grow to the spiritual stature that Providence intends for them and certainly do not accomplish in their service of others all they could.

What are we saying? We are asking ourselves - each one - a very special question. How can I live up to the sublime teachings of my Faith and suffer as God wants without become anxious, worried, and irritable in the process? Christ could not be plainer in telling me to bear the Cross; He could not also be plainer in telling me not to worry, but to be at peace. The problem is, how do you combine the two? How can I practice one, that is, carry the Cross, and maintain the other, that is, be at peace? I am afraid that God, after having sent us some splinter of the Cross, almost tells us: "Well, if that is the way you feel about it ... all right, all right, no more Cross, at least of that kind for you. I see you can't take it." The answer of how to combine the two is the prayer of sacrifice. (*Continued next week*)

Fr. John Hardon, *Theology of Prayer*