

Fifth Sunday after Easter

Masses and Intentions for the Week

Sunday, April 27 White

Fifth Sunday after Easter, *II Class*

7:30 AM Donald Farwick +

10:30 AM Pro populo

Monday, April 28 White

St. Paul of the Cross, Confessor, *III Class*

12:00 PM Anna Frances Dole +

Evinced a burning love for Christ's Passion from his youth, St. Paul was noted throughout his life for his penance and acceptance of suffering. After living as a hermit, he founded the order of the Passionists, who take a vow to preach the mysteries of Passion. He died in 1775.

Tuesday, April 29 Red

St. Peter of Verona, Martyr, *III Class*

12:00 PM Kevin Vilkoski

A famous Dominican preacher, his strong opposition to the heresies of the time made him enemies and he was martyred in 1252.

Wednesday, April 30 Violet

Vigil of the Ascension, *II Class*

12:00 PM John Thompson

Thursday, May 1 (Holyday) White

Ascension of Our Lord, *I Class*

7:00 AM Kenneth Steele +

7:00 PM Pro Populo

The whole life of the Church is placed between Our Lord's Ascension and Second Coming. Confident that she is not mistaken as she awaits that day, she is upheld by a spirit of immense hope. The Collect of the Mass reminds us that it is our Redeemer who today ascends into Heaven; no limit can therefore be set on the hope of the faithful Christian soul.

Friday, May 2 (First Friday) White

St. Athanasius, Bishop/Doctor, *III Class*

12:00 PM Roger and Rita Jansing & family

7:00 PM Carol Kist & family

At the price of innumerable sacrifices, St. Athanasius, at one point almost single-handedly, fought against the raging heresy of Arianism, which denied our Lord's divine nature. He would be exiled numerous times and was almost constantly under pursuit of the Arians. He died in 373.

Saturday, May 3 (First Saturday) Red

Finding of the Holy Cross, *IV Class*

8:30 AM Msgr. Bernard Schmitz +

Sunday, May 4 White

Sunday after the Ascension, *II Class*

7:30 AM Elmer Vore +

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

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).

Second Collection - Today

There will be a second collection today, April 27, for Catholic Home Missions which goes in support of domestic mission efforts in Appalachia, the Rockies, and the Deep South.

Mass Schedule Change -Tuesday

Please note that the Mass this Tuesday will be offered at 12 PM due to a scheduling conflict. There will be no 7:00 Mass that evening. The normal schedule resumes next week.

Ascension Day - Thursday

This Thursday is the feast of the Ascension of Our Lord; the holyday schedule will be observed with Masses at 7 AM and 7 PM (High Mass). Although the obligation has been dispensed by the bishops' council, it still remains a holyday and it is strongly encouraged that the effort be made to assist at Mass, as the Ascension is one of the primary mysteries of the Faith.

First Friday and Saturday Reminder

This Friday and Saturday are the firsts of the month. Exposition, Rosary and Benediction follow the Friday evening Mass until 8:30 and the Saturday morning Mass until 10:15.

Nota Bene!

Please note that the Mothers' Solidarity will not meet this first Saturday, May 3, on account of the First Communion rehearsal.

First Communion - Next Sunday

Please remember in your prayers the children who will be receiving their First Communion next Sunday at the 10:30 High Mass. The occasion presents us all with the opportunity to renew our own devotion to the Blessed Sacrament. All are invited to attend!

Please Keep in Your Prayers...

Archbishop Buechlein; Patricia Wycislo; Rosie Rolfes; Ted Knight; Neal Miller Family; Tim Hindenberger; Tom Peter; Joseph Shake; Virginia

Mendel; Teresa Hall; Andrew Voelker (Iraq); closure of Planned Parenthood in Bloomington; Donald Farwick +; James Peter +; Ed Lachman +; Shirley Heppner +; Martha Deller +; Mary Deegan +; Dottie Voegelé +; Larry Hill, Jr. +; Msgr. Bernard Schmitz +

Contributions – Thank You!

April 20 \$1999.35
Window Fund \$37101.24 (81%)

Calendar of Events

April 27 First Communion Class
April 30 Choir/Girls' & Boys' Groups
May 1 Ascension Day (Holyday)
May 2/3 First Friday/First Saturday
May 4 First Communion
May 11 Pentecost Sunday
May 18 May Crowning
May 22 Evening of Recollection
May 25 Corpus Christi (*Procession*)

A Final Thought...

God does not show Himself equally to all creatures. This does not mean that He has favorites, that He decides to help some and abandon others, but the difference occurs because it is impossible for Him to manifest Himself to certain hearts under the conditions they set up. The sunlight plays no favorites, but its reflection is very different on a lake and on a swamp.

A person's prayer often keeps step with his moral life. The closer our behavior corresponds with the Divine Will, the easier it is to pray; the more our conduct is out of joint with Divinity, the harder it is to pray. Just as it is hard to look in the face of someone whom we have grievously wronged, so it is hard to life our minds and hearts to God if we are in rebellion against Him. This is not because God is unwilling to hear sinners. He does hear them and He has a special predilection for them, for as He said: *I have come to call sinners, not the just.* (Mk 2:17) *There will be more rejoicing over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine souls that are justified and have no need of repentance.* (Lk 15:7) But *these* sinners were the ones who corresponded with His will and abandoned their rebellion against it. Where the sinner has no desire to be lifted up from his evil habits, then the essential condition for prayer is wanting.

Everyone knows enough about God to pray to Him, even those who doubt His existence. If they were lost in the woods, they would have no assurance whatever of

anyone nearby who might help them find their way - but they would shout, nevertheless, in the hope that someone would hear. In like manner, the skeptic finds, in catastrophe and crisis, that though he thought himself incapable of prayer, he nonetheless prays. But those who use prayer only as a last resort do not know God very well - they hold Him at arm's length most of the time, refusing Him the intimacy of every day. The little knowledge of God such people possess does not become fruitful or functional, because they never act upon their knowledge. Unless a musician acts upon the knowledge he already has of music, he will not grow either in knowledge or love of it. In this sense, our conduct, behavior, and moral life become the determinants of our relations with God. When our behavior is God-less, licentious, selfish, egotistical, and cruel, then prayer is an extraneous thing - a mere attempt at magic, an attempt to make God serve our wishes in contradiction to the moral laws He has laid down.

The man who thinks only of himself says only prayers of petition; he who thinks of his neighbor says prayers of intercession; he who thinks of loving and serving God will say prayers of abandonment to God's will, and this is the prayer of the saints. The price of this prayer is high, for it demands the replacement of the ego. Many souls want God to do their will; they will bring their completed plans and ask Him to rubber-stamp them without a change. The petition of the *Our Father* is changed by them to read *My will be done on earth*. And so we must keep in mind that it is very difficult for the Eternal to give Himself to those who are only interested in the temporal.

Archbishop Fulton Sheen, *Lift Up Your Hearts*, ch. 15