

# SAINT JOSEPH PARISH

## Celebrating 175 Years!

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Sixth Sunday of Easter  
May 17, 2020

### Mass Schedule

**Our parish will resume public liturgies on Wednesday, May 20. Our regular schedule will be in effect:**

**Sunday Mass:** 5 PM (Saturday), 8 AM, and 10 AM  
**Daily Mass:** 8 AM Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday; 7 PM Wednesday  
**Holy Day of Obligation Mass:** See bulletin

**Eucharistic Adoration** begins at 6 PM on Wednesdays and concludes with **Benediction** at 6:50 PM.

### Confession Schedule

Sunday 7:45 AM and 9:45 AM  
Wednesday 6:00-6:45 PM  
Saturday 4:30 PM

### Parish Office Hours

The parish office will re-open on Monday, May 25. We are still trying to limit the number of visitors to the office, so please try to conduct any business with the office by phone or email if possible.

### Sunday Collection

May 9 & 10	\$3,582.00
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**Virtus: The May bulletin sent out on May 3 and is due by June 2.**

### Mass Intentions

16-Sat., 5 PM	Jan Schabell
17-Sun., 8 AM	Jack Martin
17-Sun., 10 AM	People of the Parish
18-Mon., 8 AM	Rose Prodoehl
19-Tues., 8 AM	Kenneth Galbaugh
20-Wed., 7 PM	Victoria Heeb
21-Thurs., 8 AM	Ralph Kremer
22-Fri., 8 AM	Fr. John P. Noe
23-Sat., 5 PM	Don Whitford
24-Sun., 8 AM	People of the Parish
24-Sun., 10 AM	Richie Carl

To schedule a Mass intention for a person, living or deceased, or for some other particular intention, contact the parish office.

### Administration and Staff

#### Pastor

Rev. Ryan L. Stenger, J.C.L.  
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Mrs. Natalie Ryan, secretary and faith formation  
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## Parish News

The past couple of months have been strange, to say the least. So much about our lives has changed. As Catholics, the most painful change has been the suspension of the public celebration of the sacraments, which are the lifeblood of our faith and of our relationship with God. Thanks be to God, that suspension is about to come to an end. This past week, Bishop Foys announced that the parishes of our diocese will resume the public celebration of the sacraments on this Wednesday, May 20. This date was proposed weeks ago by state and public health officials, as you may have heard in the news. Our bishop made his decision in consultation with those officials, as well as with the other bishops of our province and with the priests of our diocese.

While this is happy and encouraging news, it will not be an immediate return to normal. There are a number of new guidelines that we must follow for the time being, in order to provide for the safety of our parishioners as best as possible. The full list of those protocols is available on the diocesan website ([www.covdio.org](http://www.covdio.org)), as well as in the most recent issue of the *Messenger*. Some of these guidelines will be inconvenient and cumbersome. I trust in your patience and cooperation as we implement them, understanding that they are temporary and that the alternative would be not to have public Masses at all.

The most noticeable change to you will be the temporary reduction of the seating capacity in our church. We have been directed to close off every other pew and to space people out six feet apart. When you return to church, you will notice blue tape marking off a length of six feet in the center of each pew. We will be asking people to sit on either side of that tape. If your household is large enough to extend into that “no man’s land,” then go ahead and take the entire pew.

There will also be blue tape down the center aisle marking off intervals of six feet. During the distribution of Holy Communion, we will have only one line and ask that people use the lines marked on

the floor to distance themselves from one another as they come forward to receive Communion. For the time being, Communion will be distributed only under the appearance of bread and I will distribute Communion alone, sanitizing my hands before and after. You are welcome to wear a mask to Mass, but it would of course have to be lowered when you come forward for Communion.

As another temporary measure, we will not have altar servers for now, nor will we bring up the gifts in a procession during the offertory. The bread and wine will be placed in the sanctuary before Mass and the collection will be placed directly into the safe.

We must also clean the pews, door handles, and other surfaces in the church after Mass. We will switch the pews that are closed off between the 8 and 10 AM Masses on Sunday, so that they only have to be cleaned once that day. If you would be willing to volunteer to stick around for a few minutes after the 5 PM Mass on Saturday or the 10 AM Mass on Sunday to help us clean the pews, please send me an email or give me a call.

For the time being, the priests have been told that we still cannot visit our homebound parishioners, except in the case of an emergency. We also are not allowed into the hospital at the moment. If you are going to the hospital and would like to receive the Anointing of the Sick, I encourage you to contact the parish before you go (assuming it’s not urgent obviously), because the likelihood for now is that you will not be able to receive the sacrament once you are there.

There are a number of other guidelines in effect, but I believe that these are the ones that will be most noticeable to you. The bishop has told us that these protocols will be reviewed on a regular basis and adjusted as necessary. Again, they are temporary. This is a new situation that we are figuring out together. Patience and charity are essential right now.

Bishop Foys has also extended the dispensation from the Sunday Mass obligation. This means that, for the

time being, you are not obliged to attend Mass on Sunday. If you have serious health complications or care for someone who does, you might consider staying home, or even attending Mass on a weekday when the church is significantly less crowded. If you are sick or have experienced any flu-like symptoms, then you must stay home for two weeks. Of course, even when the obligation to attend Mass is dispensed, we are always commanded to keep the Lord's Day holy. If you don't believe that it would be safe for you to attend Mass right now, then use your Sunday to pray and reflect on the Word of God.

Even with all of these precautions and guidelines and caveats, it's still a cause for great joy that we'll be able to gather again as a parish to worship God by participating in the Sacrifice of Christ and receiving Him in Holy Communion. I know that I've missed having you all in church and I look forward to seeing you here once again. My greatest hope through all of this has been that it will increase our gratitude and love for the sacraments and for our parish. I'm sure that we can all take things for granted at times, but hopefully these recent months, when so much has been taken from us, will inspire in us a renewed appreciation for the many gifts that God has given us.

After the 10 AM Mass on our first Sunday back, May 24, we'll celebrate our annual May Crowning at our grotto in front of the church. If you attend, please remember to spread out—there's more than enough room outside for everyone to safely distance themselves. This will be an opportunity for us to express our gratitude for the resumption of public worship and to entrust ourselves anew to the protection of our Blessed Mother as we go forward, looking to her example of fidelity in following her Son, no matter the cost, knowing that He leads us on to new life with God.

I look forward to seeing you in church again soon. Let's continue to pray for one another as we begin this new chapter and trust in the Lord's guidance and care to see us through.

Fr. Stenger

### **Church Cleaning**

Team Three: May 11 – May 24

Team One: May 25 – June 7

Team Two: June 8 – June 21

### **Pray for Those Who Protect Us**

PFC Jared Allender, Staff Sgt. Dave Evans, E5 Staff Sgt. Nicholas Glossner, SRA Emily Wagner, Staff Sgt. Nicholas Wagner, ICL Petty Office T.J. Waters. Please pray for those who put themselves in harm's way each day to protect us, including armed service personnel, police, and firefighters.

### **Pray for the Sick and Homebound**

Chris Arlinghaus, Janet Arlinghaus, Kim Brun, Roy Carl, Doug and Ella Carmack, Kent Enzweiler, Albert Glossner, Billy Guthier, Blake Hegner, Nathan Hessman, Flo Kaffenberger, Garry Kaffenberger, Mary Kettenacker, Earl Koeninger, Bernie Kohls, Kelli Kramer, Ed Kremer, Jim Kremer, Iva Leick, Jonathan Leick, Dick Mader, Donna Maschinot, Gary Maschinot, Kairi Marie Mullins, Dominic Ramler, Ginger Rawe, Todd Ray, Chelsea Elam Rust, April Schack, Lizzie Schack, Casen Schrock, Jill Shaner, Greg Studer, Steve Tischner, Pauline Wade, Alisha Waters, Tony White, Margie Zink-Fritsch

### **Thank You**

Thank you for your prayers and thoughts for our mother during this difficult time. We are blessed to have had her love and presence in our lives for so many years. We are deeply grateful. -Stella Franzen Family

### **Skyline Time**

Looking for a reason to get out and go for a drive? On this Tuesday, May 19, the Skyline Chili in Alexandria will once again be supporting our very own St. Joseph Pre-K! The fundraiser will run all day and it'll be drive-thru only. Just mention St. Joe's Pre-K, and then a portion of the sales will be donated to us. Thanks to everybody at the Alexandria Skyline for their generous support!

## **Congratulations**

Congratulations to Luke Verst for being selected for the Jacob Dean Baumann Memorial Scholarship for the Class of 2020 at Bishop Brossart High School! He was awarded a tuition scholarship to go towards his schooling at the University of Louisville.

## **Cross the Bridge for Life**

Cross the Bridge is not cancelled but will be celebrated a little bit differently this year. On June 7<sup>th</sup>, wear your favorite Cross the Bridge t-shirt from a past year, obey all social distancing protocols, and get outside with your family and take a walk! Post a photo on the Cross the Bridge Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/CTBforLife/](http://www.facebook.com/CTBforLife/)

## **Looking Back at 175 Years!**

This year we celebrate St. Joseph's 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary! To commemorate our 175 years, this will be a weekly column from Chuck Taylor to "look back" at the rich history of our church community.

1904: Stephen Roth & Magdelinia Noltner married.  
Witnesses-Joseph Roth & Ludovica Noltner

1919: Elizabeth Blenke died from blood poisoning at age 66

1981: Patricia Elaine Record, daughter of William Record & Harriet Kohls, was baptized.  
Godparents-Betty Kohls & Chris Kerns

### *1992 Confirmation Class*

Nicole Bezold, Gregory Brady, Michael Futscher, Frances Koening, Edward Kremer, James Ryan Mahoney, Amanda Neises, Nicholas Ritter, Jill Schwegmann, Bradley Taylor

## **"We Are One Body" Lyrics by Millennium Three**

For those who have been following our music ministry's posts on Facebook, here are the lyrics for "We Are One Body":

*Refrain:* We are one body, one body in Christ;  
and we do not stand alone.

We are one body, one body in Christ;  
and he came that we might have life.

*Verse 1:* When you eat my body and you drink my blood, I will live in you and you will live in my love.  
When you eat my body and you drink my blood, I will live in you and you will live in my love.

### *Refrain*

*Verse 2:* Can you hear them crying, can you feel their pain? Will you feed my hungry, will you help my lame? See the unborn baby, the forgotten one, they are not forsaken, they are not unloved.

### *Refrain*

*Verse 3:* I am the Way, the Truth, the Life,  
I am the Final Sacrifice,  
I am the Way, the Truth, the Life;  
he who believes in me will have eternal life.  
I am the Way, the Truth, the Life,  
I am the Final Sacrifice, I am the Way, the Truth, the Life; he who believes in me will have eternal life. (to Verse 4)

*Verse 4:* I have come, your Savior, that you might have life, through the tears and sorrow, through the toils and strife. Listen when I call you, for I know your need, come to me, your shepherd, for my flock I feed.

### *Refrain*

*Verse 5:* At the name of Jesus every knee shall bend;  
Jesus is the Lord and he will come again.  
At the name of Jesus every knee shall bend;  
Jesus is the Lord and he will come again.

### *Refrain*

*Verse 6:* On the rock of Peter, see my Church I build.  
Come receive my spirit, with my gifts be filled.  
For you are my body, you're my hands and feet.  
Speak my word of life to everyone you meet.

### *Refrain*

**Fr. Stenger's Homily for the 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of  
Easter**

*The Mass readings for every day are available on  
the website of the United States Conference of  
Catholic Bishops:*

<http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings>

Throughout the Easter Season, the Church invites us to reflect upon the Acts of the Apostles, which is the second half of St. Luke's treatment of the life of Jesus and the early Church. It picks up where the Gospel of Luke leaves off. The book opens with the Risen Christ's promise of the Holy Spirit. It says, "While staying with them he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, He said, 'you heard from me, for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'" On this Sixth Sunday of Easter, we too begin to look forward to the descent of the Holy Spirit on the great feast of Pentecost, when we commemorate the day that the Holy Spirit came upon the Apostles gathered in the Upper Room in the form of strong winds and tongues of fire.

The Holy Spirit is the love between the Father and the Son. And Christ promised His Apostles that that Love would descend upon them to equip them or empower them for their mission of spreading His kingship throughout the world. The kings of the world, by and large, operate through domination and manipulation and violence and self-interest. The Holy Spirit is a spirit of love, to be sure, but nevertheless a fighting spirit that doesn't hesitate to join battle against the powers of the world. That's why the Holy Spirit is called the Paraclete, the Advocate, a sort of prosecuting attorney who takes on the wickedness of the world, but not with the weapons of the world, but rather with the far more powerful forces of holiness and truth and sacrificial love. It is this Holy Spirit who fills the Church on Pentecost and sends her out into the world to overcome the dominion of sin and establish the kingship of Christ. Indeed, the Acts of the Apostles is the story of how Christ's sovereignty is gradually

extended throughout the world precisely through the acts of His Apostles.

We hear about one of the important early victories in that campaign in our first reading this morning. Philip has gone down to the city of Samaria to proclaim Jesus Christ. The people of the city listen to his preaching and, perhaps even more importantly, they witness his actions, and a great many of them are converted and baptized. And then the Apostles Peter and John come to the city to lay hands on them, so that they might be filled with the Holy Spirit. Isn't it amazing how the same thing continues to happen today? We're baptized, usually as infants; we hear and accept the Word of God; and then the bishop, the successor of the Apostles, comes to lay his hands on us in the sacrament of Confirmation to stir up the gifts of the Holy Spirit within us.

Indeed, the story of the early Church that we hear in the Acts of the Apostles is still our story today. What happened on the first Pentecost and what happened in our first reading this morning also happens in our own lives. At our baptisms, the Holy Spirit came to dwell within us and bestowed His gifts upon us. In the sacrament of Confirmation, those gifts were strengthened to enable us to proclaim Christ in the world boldly and effectively, much like Philip did in our first reading today. The Spirit didn't descend upon the Apostles on Pentecost just for their own personal edification, but to enable them to preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth. And so it is for us too. The Holy Spirit gives us the grace to bear witness to the Lord in the world through lives of holiness and faith.

In the Gospel today, Jesus says that, after His Ascension into Heaven, the world will no longer see Him. But the world will see us and the way we act. The people of our world will only come to know the Lord through our witness, through our public worship of God, through courageously proclaiming the truth of Christ and the Gospel, and through service to the poor and outcast out of love for the God in whose image we have been created. As we heard in the first reading, the people of Samaria came to

believe in Christ not simply because of Philip's words, but also because of his deeds that confirmed the truth of what he preached.

This has always been the case for the Church. On the first Pentecost, the Apostles won over thousands of converts to the faith by their eloquent preaching. But afterwards, the political leaders of their day set out to persecute them. They had them imprisoned, beaten, tortured, and eventually killed, only for being faithful to Christ. It was the response of the Apostles to this persecution, their steadfast fidelity to Christ in the midst of every trial and challenge, that led to the Gospel being spread throughout the world.

Like those first followers of Christ, the Holy Spirit gives us the ability to offer a clear and effective witness to the Gospel in our world. Let's pray that the Lord will stir up His gifts in our hearts, so that we might always publicly proclaim Him in our words and actions, and so extend His Kingdom throughout our world by helping all people to know Him, love Him, and serve Him.

### **Spiritual Communion**

*Below are two traditional prayers that can be said when a person is unable to be present at Mass and receive Holy Communion.*

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

O holy angel at my side,  
go to the church for me.  
Kneel in my place at Holy Mass,  
where I desire to be.  
At Offertory in my stead,  
take all I am and own,  
and place it as a sacrifice  
upon the altar throne.  
At holy consecration's bell,  
adore with seraph's love,  
my Jesus, hidden in the Host,  
come down from heaven above.  
And when the priest Communion takes,  
O bring my Lord to me,  
that His sweet heart may rest on mine,  
and I His temple be.  
Then pray for those I dearly love,  
and those who cause me grief.  
Jesus' love may cleanse all hearts  
and suffering souls relieve.  
Pray that this sacrifice divine  
may mankind's sins efface,  
then bring me Jesus' blessing home,  
the pledge of every grace. Amen.



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