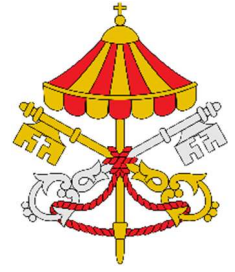




THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD - May 24, 2020



Notes on the Gospel

In Matthew's gospel, Jesus gave his followers a job: make disciples. The task ahead might have discouraged his followers. But the power of his word and promise of his presence washed away any hesitation on their part.

The eleven disciples traveled to the mountain where Jesus commanded them (to go), When they saw Jesus, they worshiped him. But, some still had doubts. Jesus said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go then, make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to keep guard over everything, as much as I commanded you. I am with you every day until the end of time."

Matthew's "Great Commission" had a statement, a command, and a promise. "Go then" is literally a command. First, Jesus declared his power and place in the Kingdom. Next, He gave the eleven a command "to make disciples of all nations." Last, He assured his followers of his presence until the Last Judgement. To make disciples, the eleven were sent on missions. In foreign lands, they would preach and baptize new followers. Then, they would "teach" the new tradition"

In his gospel, Matthew made these verses the farewell of Jesus. The Risen Jesus commanded his followers to meet Him on a mountain in Galilee. For their first encounter with the Risen Lord in Matthew, they obeyed the command. On the mountain top, God would reveal himself and his will to the person. The mountain symbolized the place, teaching, revelation, and mission.

Jesus approached his followers and announced a command (like a royal decree) in three parts. First, He declared the obvious; he had the power of God. Second, He gave his disciples the command to teach and baptize in the name of God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Finally, He insured their success by promising his presence; when they spoke or acted, the disciples did it with the power of God.

Jesus approached his followers with a message. He was given authority over heaven and earth. The power of Jesus extended beyond his word, however. Implicitly, His power came from His risen presence. Jesus was all-powerful, an attribute Jews only gave to God himself. And the disciples witnessed this power. So, Jesus' risen presence confirmed His statement of power.

Next, Jesus sent his followers out with a command, make disciples wherever they traveled. How? By baptizing in God's powerful name. Ancient people believed a person's name defined their strength of character. Jesus revealed the inner power of God in three names. The three were listed together (expressing the unity of God) and as equals (expressing the all-powerful nature of each). When believers were baptized in the name of the Trinity, they became intimate with all that God was: God above them (Father), God beside them (Son), and God within them (Holy Spirit). With God so close to the faithful, they became God's instruments.

After baptism, Jesus' followers would teach neophytes to pass along the tradition. The tradition was the Christian lifestyle - evangelizing by word and deed. So, new Christians received a faith unbroken from the apostles (who learned at the feet of the Lord). And these new Christians would pass the faith onto the next generation. The faith grows throughout the world from the past into the future. In the end, Jesus promised His personal presence with his followers in their mission until he came in glory. Making disciples may not be easy. But Jesus assured it would happen. The power of his presence guaranteed the power of his command.



PILGRIMAGES TO THE BASILICA

The Basilica of Saint Mary of the Assumption welcomes all visitors encouraging them to come, pray, and enjoy our beautiful church. If you are a member of a group who would like to tour our Basilica or make a spiritual pilgrimage, please let us know how we can be of assistance.

Special Events & Scheduled Pilgrimages at the Basilica:



- May, - 25, - Memorial Day Mass at the cemetery
- May, - 30, - Weekend Masses resume
- June, - 1, - Camaldolese Hermits visit to the Basilica
- June, - 3, - St. Mary's Eighth Grade Graduation (5:00 pm.
- June, - 14, - First Communion
- June, - 23, - Bishop's dinner for priests 6:00 – 9:00 pm.
- Sept., - 9, - CWC Convention Keynote speaker

REVERENTIAL QUIET IN THE BASILICA

It is an ancient tradition in the Church to have a reverential quiet tone in a Catholic Church – especially in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. More and more, this tradition is being ignored in the Basilica. Sometimes, people are trying to pray before or after Mass – we need to respect them. Please observe a quiet tone when you are present in the Basilica.



DECEASED PRIESTS OF DIOCESE

On Tuesday, 71st anniversary of the death of Fr. Louis Preston. On Thursday, we remember the 33rd anniversary of the death of Fr. Pamphilus Caferelli. On Saturday, we remember the 20th anniversary of the death of Msgr. Charles Highland. May God grant peace and eternal memory to these priests and all deceased priests who served the people of our Diocese of Steubenville.

ANNUAL PARISH/SHARE CAMPAIGN

The Twenty-eighth Annual Diocesan/Parish Share Campaign has begun. This year the Diocesan goal is \$1,340,000.00. Our new Parish goal is \$102,711.52. In addition to funding the Diocese, the D/PSC provides an opportunity for us to raise funds for our own Parish needs. After the Parish goal is reached, all other funds are returned to the Parish in the form of rebates. At the present time, \$92,239.00 has been pledged. 28% of parishioners have participated in the campaign.

I am sincerely grateful to you for your gift in the past, and I ask you to support this annual campaign again this year. I urge you to be part of the mission of the Church. May God bless you for all you have done in the past and for all that, with God's grace you will do now and in the future.



ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AT THE BASILICA

The Eucharist is Jesus Christ Himself, and He invites us to a personal visit with Him in our basilica. In the Eucharist, Jesus fulfills His promise: "Behold I am with you always, even to the end of the world." Eucharistic adoration is the most powerful means that we have, to transform our lives and the life of our parish. Adoration provides the opportunity to spend time in the presence of the very Son of God.

Silent Adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament brings many riches. When we place ourselves in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament we place ourselves before the gaze of Christ who loves us and wants us to know that love. God comes rushing up to welcome and embrace us, and we need to let our heart welcome His extravagant, self-risking love that flows from heaven. In the silence of the Eucharist we enter the silence of the Father from whom the Word eternally springs. This is what Adoration means. Come and visit the Lord in Adoration this Wednesday and/or Friday.



GRATITUDE FOR YOUR DONATION AT THIS TIME

Thank you to all of you who have been sending in your weekly offerings either by mail, direct deposit, or by simply dropping off your offering at the rectory. Your efforts are very much appreciated since it really helps our parish to meet our church administrative expenses. God bless you for the love that you show to our parish.

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Monday, May 25, Saint Bead the Venerable (Priest & Doctor)

Bead was born in Northumbria. He was called "Venerable" while he was still living. He wrote commentaries and homilies, and is known as the "Father of English history".

Tuesday, May 26, Saint Philip Neri (Priest)

Philip founded the Congregation of Priests of the Oratory today numbering 527 members to promote the holiness of priestly life and foster effective preaching. He is known as "The Apostle of Rome".

Wednesday, May 27, Saint Augustine of Canterbury (Bishop)

Augustine was a monk sent with 40 other monks by Pope Gregory I to England. He was ordained bishop in 597, and established the Sees of Canterbury, London, and Rochester. In 601, he received the pallium as Primate of England.

Friday, May 29, Saint Paul VI (Pope)

Pope Paul VI (Giovanni Battista Montini) was born Sept. 26 1897 in Italy. Following the death of Pope John XXIII he was elected Pope. He brought the Second Vatican Council to a conclusion. He dies August 6, 1978



THE BASILICA OF SAINT MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION

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May 24, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

Today's feast of the Ascension celebrates the triumph of Jesus over sin, suffering and death. For a period of forty days after the Resurrection, Jesus's appearances to the apostles and disciples gave them proof that He was still with them. He prepared meals for them, ate fish with them, Thomas put his hand into Jesus side. His Ascension was simply the last assurance of Jesus before He took His place at the right hand of His Father.

At the Ascension, Jesus did not leave us orphans struggling in desperation. In His Ascension, Jesus claimed His Lordship. He now revealed His participation in the Father's power and authority. He sent the Holy Spirit to lead and guide the Church in the great commission which He gave to His Apostles and their successors:

"GO AND TEACH ALL NATIONS AND BAPTIZE THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT."

Along with the Apostles, we too have been called and commissioned to be witnesses of Jesus' Passion, death and resurrection. We have been called to carry out His commission wherever we find ourselves – in every place and in every time. *"YOU ARE TO BE MY WITNESSES...EVEN TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH."*

To be witnesses and disciples of Jesus simply means that we truly try to live our Faith by everything we say and do; Actions speak louder than words! Living the Faith is a challenge and a commitment.

While Christ now reigns with his Father, he still dwells in his Body, the Church, and He promises to be with us in our mission. Through the Church, Christ acts in the world.

Sincerely in the Risen Lord,

Rev. Msgr. John M. Campbell

EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, May 25, (Memorial Day)

9:00 am. - Mass at the Basilica

Tuesday, May 26,

7:45 am. - Mass

12:05 pm. - Mass

Wednesday, May 27,

7:45 am. - Mass

12:05 pm. - Mass

Thursday, May 28,

7:45 am. - Mass

12:05 pm. - Mass

Friday, May 29,

7:45 am. - Mass

12:05 pm. - Mass

Saturday, May 30,

9:00 am. - Mass

3:30 pm. - Confessions

5:30 pm. - Sunday Vigil Mass

Sunday May 31,

8:00 am - Mass

10:00 am. - Mass

11:00 am. - Mass (St. Henry's)

12:00 pm. - Mass

Can We Refer to Pope St. John Paul II 'the Great'?

The case is now sufficiently made — by Pope Francis and by his predecessor — that those who wish can use that title with confidence. Over time, it will likely be adopted in the Church's official documents. In his letter to the Polish bishops for the centennial of the birth of Pope St. John Paul II, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI makes the case for "the Great" as a recognition of the late Holy Father's impact on history. Benedict also argues that John Paul not only changed the world but "restored" the Church at a time when her very existence was questioned. The letter also clarifies how the immensely popular feast of Divine Mercy took its present form.

There was an effort, immediately upon his death in 2005, to give John Paul the title "Great." Just 13 hours after his death, Cardinal Angelo Sodano, celebrating Mass for Divine Mercy Sunday at St. Peter's Basilica, spoke of "*Giovanni Paolo II, anzi, Giovanni Paolo il Grande*" — "John Paul, indeed, John Paul the Great." Benedict XVI's first words on the balcony of St. Peter's after his election were, "*Dopo il grande papa ...*" — "After the great pope"

Pope Francis released an interview book in February for John Paul's centennial. The book is entitled *San Giovanni Paolo Magno*. In Italian, *grande* and *magno* are both used to translate the Latin *magnus*, which is rendered in English as "great."

There is something beautiful in the combination of "the Great," which speaks of worldly influence, and "mercy," which the world often regards as weakness. John Paul's life teaches that the greatness of God lies not as much in his omnipotence, but in his mercy.



OUR RETURN TO SUDAY MASS

Next Sunday we will be able to return to Sunday Mass. While the live-streaming of the Mass helped get us through the coronavirus pandemic, there is no substitute for Catholics being able to physically attend and participate in the celebration of the Mass and the other sacraments. Every bishop and every priest recognizes the pain of Catholics who cannot pray in church or receive the sacraments. The impact of COVID-19, both nationally and internationally, has been immense. So much of what we take for granted has changed.

Next weekend, when we return to Mass, there will be some changes for a while.

- 1.) Every other pew will be closed off to provide social distancing. Families may sit together, but non family members are asked to sit at a distance from each other.
- 2.) There can be no passing of a collection basket. Baskets will be placed on the steps of the sanctuary, and in the front entrance of the basilica.
- 3.) Hymnals, missalettes, and other materials will be removed from the pews.
- 4.) Once seating capacity in the Basilica has been reached, there will be seating in the basement as the Mass will be broadcast simultaneously.
- 5.) The Communion procession will be maintained with social distancing maintained in the procession. During this time, the faithful are encouraged to receive Communion in the hand.
- 6.) After each Mass, the Basilica pews will be sanitized.



No Perpetual Help Devotions on - This Monday

Because of the national holiday on Monday, we will not have Perpetual Help Devotions this Monday evening at 6:15 pm. Once things get back to normal, Parishioners are encouraged to attend this beautiful ancient devotion to our Blessed Mother every Monday evening. Because our Basilica is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, it is fitting that we offer these devotions. If you have never participated in this devotion, please come and join us.

Pray for the members of our basilica community who are ill.

We also pray for all of the doctors and nurses working in our community. We thank them for their care, and for all that they do to keep us safe!

MEMORIAL DAY



Memorial Day each year provides a unique opportunity to pause and reflect on the heroic sacrifices that have been made by so many man and women in the service of our country. These brave men and women, whose memory we remember, gave their lives or suffered terrible wounds so that we could be free. But through the passing of the years, the wars in which they fought have become distant

memories, or mere stories in history books. We need Memorial Day to remember their ultimate sacrifice, lest we forget!

There are also others we need to remember on this Memorial Day.

- 1.) The first victims of the nuclear age, whose lives were taken in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
- 2.) Those who died in prison camps throughout the world;
 - A.) The six million Jews who were exterminated by Hitler;
 - B.) The another six million Polls and Czehlovicians - who we do not hear about – who were exterminated in Dachau, Buchenwald, and Auschwitz because of their Catholic Faith and their opposition to Communism.
 - C.) We need to remember those who have died in the senseless violence on the streets of every city and town in America.
 - D.) We need to remember those innocent victims of the September 11th terrorist attack, and the millions of others whose lives have been snuffed out through the atrocity of abortion, and the lives of those sacrificed on the altars of prejudice, hunger, neglect, and hatred.
 - E.) We need to remember those whose lives have been destroyed by drugs and alcohol.
 - F.) We need to remember the blood of the martyrs which is still being spilled simply because they are followers of Jesus Christ.

As we remember role models who gave their lives in the many battles of war, remember the freedom we enjoy because of their sacrifice – the freedom to practice our Faith – treasure it and love it! Mass will be celebrated to 9:00 am. at the Basilica. In the past, the Mass has been celebrated at the cemetery, but this year, because of the coronavirus. The Mass must be celebrated at the Basilica.

'God Really Visited His People When He Sent the World John Paul II'

Pope Francis Says of Polish Saint's 100th Birthday



"When God sent the world John Paul II, He really visited his people." On the centenary of the birth of Pope Saint John Paul II, Pope Francis underscored this to faithful during his Mass, from the tomb of Pope St. John Paul II from inside St. Peter's Basilica.

"Here: one hundred years ago, the Lord visited his people, He sent a man, He prepared him to be Bishop and lead the Church. The Lord loves His people, the Lord has visited His people, He sent a Pastor."

Francis pointed out three traits of a good Pastor that were in Saint John Paul II: "prayer, closeness to the people, and love of justice. Saint John Paul II was a man of God," the Pope observed, "because he prayed and he prayed a lot," notwithstanding the amount of work he had to guide the Church. He knew well that the first task of a Bishop is to pray," the Argentinian Pope said, stressing: "he knew it and he did it — Model of Bishop that prays, the first task."

The second trait, Francis said, was his being a man of closeness. "He wasn't a man detached from the people; on the contrary," he said, "he went to meet the people and went around the entire world, finding his people, seeking his people, making himself close. And closeness is one of God's traits with His people."

A Pastor, the Holy Father said, is close to the people. Saint John Paul II gave us the example of this closeness: close to the great and to the little, to the near and to the far, always close; he made himself close."

"Third trait: love of justice, but full justice!" the Pope said, adding the Polish Pontiff was "a man that wanted justice, social justice, justice for the people, justice that chases wars away, but full justice! Therefore," he continued, "Saint John Paul II was a man of mercy, because justice and mercy go together, they can't be distinguished; they are together: justice is justice, mercy is mercy, but one is not found without the other. We think how much Saint John Paul II did so that people would understand God's mercy. We think of how he carried forward devotion to Saint Faustina whose Liturgical Memorial is now extended to the whole Church. "He felt," the Holy Father said, "that God's justice had this face of mercy, this attitude of mercy. And this is a gift that he left us: justice-mercy and mercy-justice."

Pope Francis concluded his homily, praying: "Let us pray today that He may give all of us, especially the Pastors of the Church but to all, the grace of prayer, the grace of closeness, and the grace of justice-mercy, mercy-justice." Pope Francis, at the end of the Mass, prayed to God to enkindle in us "the flame of charity that nourished incessantly the life of Saint John Paul II," and "drove him to consume himself" for the Church.