

ASCENSION OF THE LORD

May 4, 2008

Matthew 28:16-20

“When they saw Jesus, they worshipped him; but some doubted.”

These are the eleven disciples-Judas has not yet been replaced-who have walked with Jesus for three years. Yet here on the mountain of revelation, their faith and worship is mixed with questioning and doubt. We know how it feels. It is to these shaky ambivalent men that Jesus gives the mandate to preach to all nations.

To them, and to us, he says: I am with you.

I need you to be with me, Lord.



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 5TH

Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Recitation of the Rosary
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	
Friday	9:00 a.m.	
Saturday	7:00 p.m.	Fay Parrington by Mary Callahan and Leo Philippe
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Margaret Brewer by Al & Family
		Deceased relatives of Frank McGuire
	11:00 a.m.	Michel Morin by Claire Laframboise

WEEKEND COLLECTIONS:

\$ 2,226.24

Thank you!

Next Sunday - The 50-day Easter Season comes to an end; it will be Pentecost Sunday!

We may be inclined to think of the Feast of the Ascension as forty days after Easter and the Feast of Pentecost as ten days after the Ascension. That is the way these feasts are celebrated in the Church's calendar. We have to be careful with that. In reality, the Ascension of the Lord Jesus and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit are both part of the Feast of Easter. These really refer to two important aspects of the same event, namely of the Resurrection of the Crucified Jesus. That is such an enormous event, that you have to sort of unfold it. That is understandable, but you still have to keep them together; otherwise, it can play tricks on us. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost puts the finishing touch on the Feast of Easter. That is what we celebrate next Sunday, appropriately called the 50th day of Easter.

At Next Sunday's 11 a.m. Mass - some more First Communions

It is a good thing that we have split up our First Communicants in two groups. If we had had them in one group, our church would have been too small last Sunday. So next Sunday we welcome once more a number of our younger parishioners at the Table of the Lord that brings us together on the Day of the Lord. You all know that getting them to make their First Communion is relatively easy, but getting them "into the habit" of coming together with fellow believers around the Table of the Lord on the Day of the Lord is quite a challenge today. That is not just true for our younger parishioners; it is difficult for us as adults. So many other things are given priority with the result that there is no time left for Sunday Mass.

The way First Communion is celebrated varies from parish to parish. For us at St. Mark's it is self-evident that we do so in the 50-day Easter season. That is the preferred time for the sacraments of initiation, and joining us at the Table of the Lord falls in that category. We also like to make the link with baptism quite explicit. We did that already when we began the journey (remember Sunday January 27?) and the opportunity presents itself again now that we are at the Lord's Table, Hence, the calling by name and the lighting of the baptismal candle

as we begin the Mass. After all, it is our baptism that gives us access to the Table of the Lord. And it is our participation in the Eucharist on Sunday that keeps our baptism alive.

That was a great way to celebrate our Patron St. Mark!

It does not happen too often that April 25th falls on a Friday. This year it did. That gave us the opportunity to celebrate the Mass in honour of St. Mark on the same day as we had our spring supper. And what a supper that was! The hall was full, the food was very good, and the fellowship was so enjoyable.

Our thanks to all whom in different ways contributed to the success of it all. Yes, some people were very tired at the end, but all their effort was very much appreciated by the many that benefited from it. A job very well done!

National Collection for the Eucharistic Congress: May 25, 2008

Putting together an International Congress of any kind incurs considerable expense. That applies as well to a Eucharistic Congress. That is why the Bishops of Canada asked for a national collection last year at the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ. The result of that collection was a little over one million dollars. The Bishops appeal to us again at this year's Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ for the same purpose. We are supposed to receive special envelopes in the next little while and we'll attach them to our Sunday bulletin once we have them.

A Hymn to (or about) Mary at Sunday Mass?

Every so often, especially during the month of May for example, the question is asked: "Why can we not have a hymn to or about Mary at Sunday Mass?" Here is the way that question is handled in a pastoral note in the ***Prairie Messenger*** by Zita Maier who used to work at the National Liturgy Office of the CCCB:

"Many Roman Catholics observe May as a "Marian month", with special devotions in honour of Mary, the mother of God. Those who prepare for the Sunday liturgy must keep in mind, however, that on Sunday the celebration of the Sunday liturgy takes priority in every way (Constitution on the Liturgy, no 106). Sunday is always focused on the paschal mystery; it is always the day of the resurrection and that is true especially during the Easter season. Therefore, no element of the Lord's Day celebration may be superseded by any devotional practices, such as the observance of a Marian month. Hymns dedicated to Mary do not have a place in the Sunday liturgy. Hymns to Mary need to have their own time and place; they are appropriate for Marian devotions scheduled separately from the eucharistic liturgies, such as a public recitation of the rosary."

That may sound like a harsh statement, but it has good credentials. If a hymn **to** or **about** Mary is not appropriate for Sunday Eucharist, the hymn or Canticle **of** Mary, the Magnificat is, for example at the end of the Eucharist. We let Mary lead the way in singing our praise to God. As the first of disciples she knows what it is to praise God.

Two services to honour MAY as the MONTH OF MARY: May 6 and May 27

Taking up the suggestion of Zita Maier and putting it into practice takes a bit of time and effort, but it is well worth it. It is a matter of respecting the integrity of the Sunday Eucharist, and of putting together a Marian devotion that can very well stand on its own. Different forms are possible.

This coming Tuesday, **May 6 at 7:00 p.m.**, we will do it with reciting the Rosary, but then in a slightly different way than we are used to. It is in fact a format that Pope John Paul II suggested in an Apostolic Letter and that Bishop Raymond Lahey has worked out. Those who are interested in the rationale behind this format may find it explained on a blue page with the title **Rosary**, which can be found at the entrances to the church.

Later on in May, **Tuesday May 27**, we could work on another Marian devotion, a hymn sing interspersed with some reflections on Mary.

CONFIRMATION: The following Parishioners are being confirmed by Bishop Roger Ebacher Sunday at the 11:00 a.m. Mass. The 28 candidates are:

Angela Borynec, Kyle Cain-Mondoux, Reid Cain-Mondoux, Julia Clarke, Alexandra Cool-Fergus, Allan Ford, Alexander Ford, Johnny Fortin-Caron, Kimberly Fortin-Caron, Rebecca Gillis, Sarah LeBlanc, Melissa

LeGuerrier, Amanda Leslie, Christopher Mainville, Jenna Mainville, Anthony McColl, Daniel O'Keefe, Ryan Roney, Jenna Roy, Matthew Russell, Joel Seguin, Ryan Simard, Caitin Singfield, Christopher Smith, Jason Sousa, Ulysses Toulouse-Tremblay, Kelsey Turcotte, and Emma Wickens. Please keep the candidates and their families in your prayers.

The Eucharistic Congress to be held in Quebec City is fast approaching (3)

The home front could prepare for the International Eucharistic Congress by taking a second look at the immense treasure we have in the Sunday Eucharist. Here is a third instalment:

Last week mention was made of the two parts that together make up the Eucharist: the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Both are equally important. It is interesting to see this point made in a document where you would not expect to find it at first. It is in Vatican II's Constitution on Divine Revelation: *"The church has always held the divine scriptures in reverence no less than it accords to the Lord's body itself, never ceasing – especially in the sacred liturgy – to receive the bread of life from the one table of God's word and Christ's body, and to offer it to the faithful (no. 21).* The language in such an official text can be a bit cumbersome, but we get the point. In the Eucharist, the living Word of God is present and active in our midst in these two complementary ways: in the Scriptures proclaimed and in the eucharistized bread and wine shared. That is also reflected in our church. Have you ever noticed that the altar is not dead center in the middle, but is balanced with the ambo? That was not a mistake of the architect, but it was the result of a deliberate attempt to make both the ambo from where the Scriptures are proclaimed and the altar together be the center.

- **LITURGY Meeting – Monday, May 5th at 6:30 p.m.**
- **CWG Meeting – Tuesday, May 6th after the 7:00 p.m. service**

Let us take advantage of Saint Paul University being so close!

"Me going to University? No way!" some might say. The point is that Saint Paul University has two Summer Institutes, one in Pastoral Liturgy and the other in Religious Education. They are not formal degree programs, but programs that try to assist people in parishes that are involved in their parish's liturgies (we all are!) or in their parish's faith formation activities (we all are!). Some more formal formation for these areas of parish life can be so beneficial. And here it is offered in our own backyard. Let us take advantage of it! These Summer Institutes run from **July 7 to 18**. Brochures for them can be found at the entrance to the church. There is some financial assistance available for parishioners who may be interested in this and who will thus be better equipped to assist our parishioners.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Kindly remember Dave McCormick, Claire Rochford, Teenie Yuriy, Wandaw Bobrowski, Hilda Preslawski, and their families in your prayers.

Visit our Website: www.stmarkparish.ca

Bulletin design & Website content/design by: *Catherine LeGuerrier*

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