**The Sixth Sunday of Easter**

**St. Joseph’s**

All masses in the Diocese of Albany continue to be canceled until further notice. Please take time to continue to pray at home until the crisis is over.

Until we can come together as a community of faith and celebrate the Mass together, let join in prayer, each of us from our homes, and pray for those for who are in our Mass intentions this week:  
*For Susan & Augustus Mallon  
Req. by their Family*

**Sunday Mass From St. Joseph’s Church On YouTube**

Fr. Ed will continue to broadcast our Sunday Mass on YouTube each Sunday until we can gather in our church to celebrate Mass. The weekly Mass can be found on YouTube at [www.tinyurl.com/SJG-liturgies](http://www.tinyurl.com/SJG-liturgies). The times of the broadcast will be 10 a.m. Because we are using YouTube to broadcast our Sunday Mass, if you miss the Mass at 10 a.m., at the broadcast time, it will be available to view at any time afterwards. To help you follow along with the liturgy, listed below are the readings for this Sunday.

**The Mass Readings for Sunday, May 17**

**The Sixth Sunday of Easter**

1st Reading: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17  
Responsorial Psalm: Ps 66:1-3,4-5,6-7,16,20  
“Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.”

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 3:15-18  
Gospel: John 14:15-21

**A Spiritual Communion Prayer**

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

**The Weekly Scripture for May 4 – May 9**

**Mon, May 18** - Acts:16:11-15  
Ps 149:1b-2,3-4,5-6a and 9b  
John 15:26-16:4a

**Tues, May 19** - Acts 16:22-34  
Ps 138:1-2ab,2cde-3,7c-8  
John 16:5-11

**Wed, May 20** - Acts 17:15,22-18:1  
Ps 148:1-2,11-12,13,14  
John 16:12-15

**Thur, May 21** - Acts 1:1-11  
Ps 47:2-3,6-7,8-9  
Acts 1:17-23  
Matthew 28:16-20

**Fri, May 22** - Acts 18:8-18  
Ps 47:2-3,4-5,6-7  
John 16:20-23

**Sat, May 23** - Acts 18:23-28  
Ps 47:2-3,8-9,10  
John 16:23b-28

**Ascension Thursday - May 21 - A Holy Day**

Thursday, May 21, is the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord. In the Albany Diocese this is a Holy Day of obligation. Fr. Ed, along with our lectors, Paul Mays and Kate McMahon, and our Music Minister Maureen Cossey, will celebrate the Mass for the Holy Day. The Mass will be recorded by Maryann Kelleher and it will be broadcast Thursday morning, on YouTube, on the feast day, at 8:00 a.m. If you miss the Mass at the broadcast time, it will be available to view at any time afterwards.

**Your Gifts of Treasure**

**Mailed in or Drop off to the Rectory May 3 and May 10 together**

Regular Sunday Collection: $4,285.00  
(Sunday envelopes and cash offerings other than for Palm Sunday or Easter Sunday):  
Palm Sunday: $10.00 (Envelopes only)  
Easter Sunday: $260.00 (Envelopes only)

**Other totals**

Maintenance: $445.00  
Good Friday (Holy Lands) $60.00  
The Evangelist: $18.00  
Ascension: $65.00  
Cemetery: $170.00

Thank You!
Called to be Holy

Over the past few months, the news of the pandemic has been so very disturbing. We remember and honor those who are ill, those who have passed away, the families and friends left behind, the frontline heroes, and many others. We may experience severe loss of earnings, unsettling insecurity, concern for family and friends, and great fear. Together we share the agony of the unknown and the sadness and the urgency to help, yet we may feel powerless. Though the pandemic may gradually fade and businesses in the world may be rebuilt, many, many among us who have endured such loss will never again return to the comfort of life they once knew.

Perhaps we question how we can contribute something real and concrete that will truly show the suffering people that we are concerned and we want to support them through this endless tragedy. Maybe we feel guilty that we have so much when so many have so little that mere survival is their only prayer. Many of us may even question where God is in all of this agony.

With each news broadcast, I was becoming more hopeless. Emerson once wrote, “You are what you think about all day long”, and I found that by continually witnessing the trauma and anguish, I was growing incapable of any worthwhile action. Being in a state of darkness is not a wise place for anyone to be for very long, so I decided to “fast” from TV and radio news for a few days and turn to God. Without the noise of the world, I heard, in the silence of my soul, the comforting words from today’s Gospel of John 14:18, “I will not leave you orphans. I will come to you.” God’s message was clear and encouraging as He reminded me to live with less, so others can have more. Though my individual long-term response is still unfolding, I know now that my giving and help will be needed and welcome.

Peace, Mary Anne

When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, “Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.” To this day, especially in times of “disaster,” I remember my mother’s words, and I am always comforted by realizing that there are still so many helpers - so many caring people in this world.

Fred Rogers

A Quote from Bishop Sharfenberger

“Pray. Pray alone and pray together. Use the prayers you know. The Rosary, novenas, the Liturgy of the Hours. Make your home a little church. Make sure the Cross is visible in a prominent place. If you have a statue or a picture of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, or Mary or Joseph, light a candle in front of it. Invite the Holy Family into your home. And get out the Bible. Read it slowly. Especially the Gospels. Let the Holy Spirit speak to your heart through the Word of God. He wrote the Scriptures after all and wants to console your heart. Share with one another what you are hearing. This is a tried and true method of prayer called lectio divina, used by so many saints. And, don’t forget, these are the challenges of which saints are made, and you are called to be one!

The Parish Office

The parish office continues to be officially closed; the doors are kept locked and the lights are kept to a minimum, but someone is usually in the office Monday – Thursday 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. keeping the parish running. The Parish Office is still responsible for many functions that must continue, even during this crisis. With minimal staffing, “things” continue to move along at St. Joseph’s, just at a slower pace. We all look forward to the day we can come together again to celebrate Mass together, in a full church, to sing our praises to God, and together, give thanks to our Lord and Savior for getting us all through this time apart. Until then, remember, the Parish Office is here! Call us if you have questions about St. Joseph’s or if you need assistance. If no one answers the phone please leave a message and we will return your call as soon as possible.

When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, “Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.” To this day, especially in times of “disaster,” I remember my mother’s words, and I am always comforted by realizing that there are still so many helpers - so many caring people in this world.

Fred Rogers
FROM THE INTERIM PARISH ADMINISTRATOR
Brothers (and sisters) all are we...

The central purpose of Jesus’ mission was to renew our relationship with the Father, a relationship severed by sin, to take us from our state of being orphaned children and to restore us as his sons and daughters. The paternity of God is re-established in us thanks to the redemptive work of Christ and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

We were made to be God’s children; it is in our DNA. But this filial relationship was ruined and required the sacrifice of God’s only begotten Son in order to be restored. Because of our universal Brother - Jesus - we can relate to one another in a new way; we are no longer orphans, but rather as children of the same good and merciful Father, we can see each other as brothers and sisters. Brothers and sisters whose differences can only increase our joy and wonder at sharing in this unique fatherhood and brotherhood.

Of course, the song “Let there be peace on earth” echoes this theological truth:

Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me
Let there be peace on earth
The peace that was meant to be
With God as our father
Brothers all are we
Let me walk with my brother
In perfect harmony...

While we would sometimes hear that song at Church, we haven’t for a while. It is hard to believe that it has now been two months since we last were able to gather together for the celebration of the Eucharist at Mass. As brothers and sisters, as a parish family, we have missed out on so much these past eight weeks.

But, rest assured, church leaders - the US Conference of Catholic Bishops and the bishops of the eight dioceses here in NY State - have already been engaged in consultations and discussions with each other and with medical experts to figure out what we should do to ensure the safety of our congregations when we are finally given the green light to reopen our churches. As we get closer to the date of our homecoming Sunday - a date that sadly appears to be known only to the Father at this point (and not even in Governor Cuomo’s sights yet) - I will communicate details with the parishioners of Notre Dame-Visitation and St. Joseph’s.

In the meantime, have you been checking on how your brothers and sisters have been doing during this continued period of separation due to the coronavirus restrictions? If there is anything that you might need from your church family, please feel free to call the church office to let us know. Although we are not together, physically, we are all in this together.

- Stephen Mawn, Interim Parish Administrator
Thank You Lord

I’m looking back, Lord, reflecting on a day of amazing grace - not yet the grace of a vaccine or the end of the pandemic - but a day of amazing grace nonetheless...

Or perhaps I should say: a day of amazing graces...

Thank you, Lord, for the amazing grace, the daily amazing grace, of health care providers and first responders and all who serve us in so many venues, at every level, putting themselves in harm's way, providing for our daily needs and caring for the sick and the dying: thank you, Lord, for the grace of generous and heroic service...

Thank you, Lord, for the amazing grace, the technologically amazing grace, of all the ways the internet and social media are sustaining us, entertaining us, informing us, graciously distracting us and bringing us together in prayer, in friendship, in laughter and tears, in faith, hope and love: thank you, Lord, for the grace of our virtual community...

Thank you, Lord, for the often-hidden-but-these-days-now-revealed grace of domestic courtesy and generous outreach, of patience and understanding, of simple good deeds and neighborly support, of unannounced kindesses, humble selflessness, acts of appreciation and words of gratitude: thank you, Lord, for the grace of love, revealed and shared...

And thank you, Lord, for the gift of good news when times are so hard, for the healing of many while we mourn those we’ve lost, for the hope that’s ours in the midst of distress, for the hundreds of graces you offer each day to bring us together, to lift up our spirits, to draw us to prayer and lead us to trust in you and in all your daily amazing graces...

Amen.

The Concord Pastor......