

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD MAY 24, 2020

The St. Ann “APP”: Associate Pastor’s Perspective – Young visitors are making themselves known to Our Lady here at the tiny grotto located behind St. Ann’s Church.

Within the past week, colorfully-painted rocks have landed at the statue’s feet, as have a student’s personal prayer to Mary and some hastily picked flowers from someone’s front yard. Even a delicately-woven crown of buttercups was recently placed across her shoulders as a necklace.

What I love about these simple gestures is that they are coming from the littlest members of the flock. At the prompting of a now-homeschooling Mom or Dad?

Perhaps.

Nevertheless, each time I pass the grotto now, I am reminded of the innocence and beauty such simple acts bring to the world.

Even with Churches closed and the reception of sacraments curtailed, it’s often the young (and young at heart) who find ways to express both the love and loss, fear and hope onto which their hearts are holding.

And that love comes tumbling forth like rocks ...

One of these little stones located in the corner – somewhat out of the way and with little color – has the word “JOY” painted upon it.

Certainly not a word we are hearing much these days, much less experiencing.

And yet, at least for one young parishioner, a reminder of what awaits us ... or even what can be found in the present moment, if we but look for the gift of joy that is always available to us.

Joy in the cross of suffering and isolation and fear? Seems preposterous, doesn’t it?

And yet, that’s the message Our Blessed Mother continues to show us: with the dawn comes rejoicing. The dawn of living the present moment well.

The dawn of living with hearts attuned to simple acts, gestures and expressions of love: like buttercup wreaths, written prayers and colorful stones placed around the base of a statue that represents a Mother’s Love.

Beautifully – and somewhat connected perhaps to Our Lady, herself a Daughter of Israel – the Jewish people have a lovely tradition in which stones are placed atop graves whenever the living pay their respects at a cemetery. Although there seems to be a variety of reasons as to how the tradition actually began, one of the most common thoughts is this: the Hebrew word for ‘pebble’ also translate to be ‘bond,’ and the stone left behind are a reminder that we are forever bonded to the ones who have gone before us.

Heart to Heart. Soul to Soul.

Blessed Mother to blessed children.

How lovely to know the children of St. Ann’s have not forgotten a Mother’s Love for all of us.

And this alone is cause for rejoicing!

PLEASE DON’T FORGET US!!! Parish Giving is available for Online Offertory Giving – To set up your account, visit our website...www.stannwilmington.com and click the Parish Giving Button. If you have questions, please feel free to contact the rectory at 302-654-5519 or email stannschurch@stannwilmington.com. Of course, you can always mail your offertory into the office as well! The rectory address is 2013 Gilpin Avenue, Wilmington DE 19806.

If you or a parishioner you know is in need of assistance during this time of quarantine (picking up/delivering groceries or medicine), there is a group of volunteers from St. Ann's willing to help. Please send your request to Dave at madello@msn.com.

Catholic Diocese Set Up Online Giving to Support The Parishes - If you would like to support St. Ann’s through the Catholic Diocese of Wilmington, visit CDOW.org and click the Your Parish Needs Your Support box. If you have questions about this program for the Diocese, please call **302-573-3105**.

Prayer to St. Joseph

Glorious St. Joseph, faithful guardian of Jesus Christ and spouse of Our Lady, to you we raise our hearts and hands to implore your powerful intercession in obtaining from the Heart of Jesus, all the graces necessary for our spiritual and temporal welfare, particularly the graces of healing and hope at this time, and for this special favor I now implore (mention your request).

Guardian of the Word Incarnate and Chaste Spouse of the Virgin Mary, we are filled with confidence that your prayers on our behalf will be graciously heard before the throne of God. Amen.

Prayer for Memorial Day (Last Monday in May)

God of power and mercy,
you destroy war and put down earthly pride.
Banish violence from our midst and wipe away our tears,
that we may all deserve to be called your sons
and daughters.
Keep in your mercy those men and women
who have died in the cause of freedom
and bring them safely
into your kingdom of justice and peace.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

—from *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers*

REFLECTION FOR THE FEAST OF THE ASCENSION

Background on the Gospel Reading (courtesy: Loyola Press)

Today's Gospel is taken from the conclusion of the Gospel of Matthew. Matthew's Gospel quickly moves from the disciples' discovery of Jesus' empty tomb, to Jesus' appearance to Mary Magdalene and the other Mary, to the commission that Jesus gives his disciples in today's Gospel.

The Final Commission, as this Gospel is sometimes called, is given on the mountaintop. Throughout Scripture, the most important events happen on the mountaintop, and Matthew has used this motif throughout his Gospel. Earlier in Matthew's Gospel, Peter, James, and John had seen Jesus transfigured on the mountaintop. Also in the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus taught the crowds from the mountaintop in what we now call the Sermon on the Mount.

Here we are told that the eleven disciples go the mountaintop in Galilee, as Jesus had instructed through Mary Magdalene and the other Mary. They see Jesus, and both worship and doubt at the same time. Jesus approaches them and commissions them to baptize and teach, "to make disciples of all nations." It is a task which Jesus had previously prepared his disciples for; recall that Jesus had sent the twelve apostles to preach the Kingdom of God and to heal. However, earlier the Twelve were sent only to the House of Israel; in this Final Commission, the eleven are told to go to "all nations." The mission of Jesus is now to be taken to all people; the task now is to baptize and to teach.

Jesus commissions his disciples to baptize in the name of the Trinity, one of the clearest attestations found in Scripture for baptism in the name of the Trinity. In the Acts of the Apostles and in the Letters of Paul, baptism is more frequently offered "in the name of Jesus." The ending of Matthew's Gospel can be understood as the beginning of the Church. Jesus commissions his disciples to continue to teach in his name and to bring others into the community of disciples through baptism. The Gospel ends, as it had begun, with the promise that Jesus will continue to be Emmanuel, "God with us," for all eternity. 2

Mass Intentions

Priests will be saying these Masses privately for each listed intention

Saturday May 23

8:00 A.M. Josie Conaty

5:00 P.M. Joseph & Evelyn Dorris

Sunday May 24

7:30 A.M. Charles H. McKinney

9:30 A.M. Knobby Walsh

11:30 A.M. Parish`

Monday May 25 Memorial Day

9:00 A.M. Patrick Berrigan

Tuesday May 26 St. Philip Neri

6:30 A.M. Josie Conaty

8:00 A.M. Jacqueline Booge Flood

Wednesday May 27 St. Augustine

6:30 A.M. Sr. Daniel Marie McCarthy

8:00 A.M. Deceased members of the John & Lena Stout family

Thursday May 28

6:30 A.M. Intentions of Fr. John Mink

8:00 A.M. Theresa Deptula

Friday May 29 St. Paul VI, Pope

8:00 A.M. Clair Bradley

5:00 P.M. Eugene Haney

Saturday May 30

8:00 A.M. Terry McCormick

5:00 P.M. M/M Francis & Stella Smith

Sunday May 31

7:30 A.M. Parishioners

9:30 A.M. Daniel T. Doherty

11:30 A.M. Leon DeAscanis

Pray for the sick, shut-ins and elderly of our Parish.

ST. ANN'S PRAYER LINE – to place a name on the prayer line contact Joe/ Shirley Ackerman at 384-7513 or joeshirl7@comcast.net.

Diocesan Annual Appeal – Now more than ever, it is important to donate to this year's Annual Appeal. Make sure to visit this link and read more about how your donation helps those in need.

<https://www.cdow.org/catholic-diocese-of-wilmington-offices-and-ministries/development-office/development-annual-catholic-appeal/development-annual-catholic-appeal-ways-to-give/>

Offertory for the weekend of May 12th was \$8857. As always – thank you for your kind and generous support to St. Ann's.

Easter Flowers Memorial Addition...

Mr. Brian Faulkner in memory of Theresa Ann & Thomas W. Faulkner, Sr.



Please know that the priests of St. Ann are available to offer guidance/prayer support during these challenging times. Contact the rectory to set-up times for an appointment.

Emmanuel Dining Room – On the 8th of every month, St. Ann's serves meals at Emmanuel Dining Room. In June they have asked us to supply hot dogs and rolls for 200 people. The committee would appreciate the help of St. Ann's parishioners in helping us to fill this commitment. For info on how to donate, contact Tim Mahon at tmcm303770@comcast.net. Thank you.

Where can I go for Mass & Devotions?

[Godcast](#) with Fr. Lewis (St. Benedict Parish in Ridgely, MD) for daily and Sunday Masses, Adoration, and Stations of the Cross.

[Downtown Catholic](#) with Fr. McQuaide for Mass (both Ordinary and Extraordinary) and Devotions.

[Diocese of Wilmington](#) for Sunday Mass (will be available online each Saturday afternoon)

[USCCB](#) Webpage of Resources for Prayer and Engagement during Coronavirus
catholictv.org

Where Can I Go for a Spiritual Retreat?

[Virtual Catholic Men's Conference](#)

f/ Fr. Mike Schmitz, Fr. Larry Richards, Jeff Cavins, Dr. Greg Botarro, Bill Donaghy, and more!

[Virtual Catholic Women's Conference](#)

f/ Sr. Bethany Madonna, Jen Settle, Katie Hartfiel, Karen Ingold, and more!

[Be Not Afraid](#)

30-day online conference with daily e-mails and live-streams online. Join any time.



**Happy Memorial Day...
God Bless America!!!!**