



May 24, 2020

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

FROM OUR PASTOR

We celebrate the great feast of the Ascension of Jesus to heaven. His return trip completes His work of our salvation and prepares for the coming of the Holy Spirit, the advocate that will lead us to all truth. The Ascension reaffirms the Incarnation of Jesus. That He did rise in the flesh from the grave. That He bodily entered heaven. That is meant to give us great hope. That where He has gone we hope to follow. How do we celebrate such a great feast? What element can we focus on that brings that reality of faith ever deeper into our hearts?

We also mark World Day of Social Communication. Each year the Holy Father offers a letter of reflection on communication and its impact and importance. Pope Francis in his letter this year remarked that communication is stories and stories that are meant to be ones that tie us together, unite us and not be a source of division. A good point for all of us to consider when we are using social media and sharing or forwarding things; does that story bring us together or lift us up so to see Jesus in one another?

On Monday we all get a day off, although it seems hard to tell the days apart anymore. We celebrate Memorial Day. It is a day to remember those who have died while serving in the military. Often people take the time to go to a cemetery and visit the graves of loved ones who have served. This year ceremonies to do that may be different. But I encourage you to do something to mark the efforts of those who died in service or because of it dying at a later date.

Looking ahead, I think many are looking forward to gathering for Mass on Sunday (and Saturday evening). The Parish Council and Sacred Worship committee have met and are reviewing the "Guidelines for Beginning the Public Celebration of Masses." It is a four page document to assist parishes to be ready so that they may worship well and safely. There are no guarantees in life yet with prudence we can do things to the best of our abilities wanting the best for all.

I direct you to the diocesan website for the full letter of the Bishop and the guidelines that we as a parish are to follow. So there isn't an exact date for the celebration of Mass in a parish but steps to help a parish be ready to do so. Parishes need not only supplies to sanitize but healthy volunteers to prepare the church for each Mass. Parishes need to think through the manner in which Mass can be safely celebrated. The Bishop reminds us that "at this time I encourage those over 65 and particularly those with underlying health conditions to stay home." Please watch for details as each parish will be working on a plan that can work in their situation.

- That is pretty heavy, so let's end with a smile.
- Why are PCs like air conditioners? They stop working properly if you open windows.
 - A Roman walks into a bar, holds up two of his fingers, and says, "five beers, please."
 - What do you call a cow that has just given birth? De-calf-inated.
 - Why did the ugly duckling go to the river when he was sad? To fish for compliments.
 - What's another name for Santa's elves? Subordinates to Claus.
 - What do you get when you have a cat that eats lemons? A sour puss.

Father John

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**Our church will be open everyday
 8:00 AM—6:00 PM for individuals
 who wish to spend time in prayer.
 Please be respectful of each other,
 maintain a safe distance and remem-
 ber the limit of 10 people.**

WEEKEND MASSES

Cancelled

WEEKDAY MASSES

Cancelled

DAILY ROSARY

Cancelled

CONFESSIONS

As advertised

EXPOSITION & BENEDICTION

Cancelled

Mass Intentions for the week of May 24, 2020

Formed

- Sat. May 23 For our Parishioners
- Sun. May 24 For the repose of the soul of
Shannon Bishop DeVee
- Mon. May 25 For our Military Veterans
- Tue. May 26 For the repose of the soul of
Francis Carpenter
- Wed. May 27 For *Katelyn Kaminsky*
- Thu. May 28 For *Mike & Charity Shaw*
- Fri. May 29 For the repose of the soul of
John Sustar
- Sat. May 30 For our Parishioners
- Sun. May 31 For the repose of the soul of
Greg Cowan

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,
 I believe that You are present in the Blessed Sacrament.
 I love You above all things,
 and I desire You with all my heart.
 Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally,
 I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.
 I embrace You as if You were already in my heart
 and unite myself to You completely.
 Please do not let me ever be separated from You.
 Amen.

We are looking for volunteers to help us prepare the church to reopen for Mass as well as volunteers to be present each weekend to help ensure the safety and health of our parishioners. If you would like to volunteer AND are not in one of the vulnerable categories, please give the rectory a call. We are not able to reopen until we have the volunteers and proper measures in place.

Pray for the health of Max Teumer, Ben Reynebeau, Julie (Watry) Stoner, Rosemary Lehnen, Patrick Lewis, Vivian G., Russell Fairchild, William Roberts, Deb Beyer, Diana Hunt, Jessie Norton, Tricia Demmin, Bernard Resch, Laverne, Karen Caple, Lis, Joe Dolphin, Mary Ann Witcraft, Bill Chase, Kathy, Kiley Hackel, Shari Randall, Helen Eucolono, Ethel Passer, Sid Mead, Steve, Marie Hersil, Becky Fredrickson, Mary W., Sally Haas, Bob W., Therese, Mary Sauer, Pete Ruland, Audrey Gillen, Rita Kueppers, Cindy Mueller, Lucille Ryczek, George Gabay, Jim Smith, Sadie Ravenscroft, Anne Nancolas, Rosemary Wier, Jim Czajka, RM, Floyd Babcock, Payton, Veronica, Kathryn Doughty, Patricia, Eric Erskine, the Moore Family, JM, Carl Wier, Carole Hayes, Tillie Schumacher, Fran Watry, Harold Smith, Caroline Christopher, the Johnston Family, Ralph Hamm, Millie Hovde, Bill Eisch, Mary Lechleiter, Bernadine Seitz, Dave Lewis, and Marie Boehm.

Pray for those in the military serving our country: Jason Witkowiak, John Miller, Tera Walsh, Casey Chamberlain, Chris Dvorak, Paul Knudtson, Jon Taylor, Jessica Burch, Mandy Gardner, Aaron Hoogland, Janie Asberry, Jessica Tremain, Andrei Klika-Sampe, Zachary Bader, Will Post and Adam Field.

PICK OF THE WEEK: **THE WILD GOOSE** ~ Father Dave Pivonka. The Wild Goose is a work of the Holy Spirit, which is awakening in the hearts of all those participating God's love and transforming power. As you walk through this series, pray for the Spirit to breathe life into your heart.

You can watch with your free parish subscription by simply selecting our parish's name during registration at formed.org/signup.

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 Seminarians in the Diocese of La Crosse come in all shapes and sizes. The road to the priesthood is trodden through many landscapes and from many multifarious backgrounds. My journey began in the small farm town of Ridgeland, WI (north of Eau Claire) with my parents, my six brothers, and my six sisters.

I have always had, even from a young age, excellent priests in my life. That, coupled with the Catholic family that God gave me to grow up in, have been two of the most tremendously helpful things in hearing God and discerning my vocation. A period of my life when my faith particularly blossomed was at my confirmation and the subsequent week thereafter. I spent that week with two of my older siblings at Franciscan University in Ohio. This was an exceptionally grace filled time for me. It was perhaps the first time in my life (as a junior in high school) that I witnessed, among my siblings and their friends, young Catholics who were totally on fire with their faith, and at the same time authentically joyful.

This experience set my will on going to a Catholic University. Two years later I took my first step onto the campus of the University of Mary (Bismarck, ND). Although there is very little in North Dakota, certainly God is there! My prayer life and relationship with God exploded in a beautiful way in my time at the U of Mary. It was there that I first perceived a call to the priesthood. I think at the time God really wanted to show off: because six of my closer friends left the University at the same time to join the seminary. Having good friends is really important! I joined the seminary and my first three years of minor seminary were spent at Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary in Winona, MN. My time studying philosophy in Winona was important for me to better understand the awesome relationship between faith and reason.

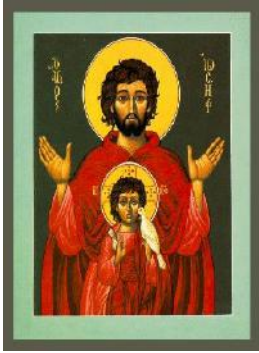
For the last three years of seminary (major seminary), I have been studying at the Pontifical North American College in Rome, Italy. Of the many blessings that this entails I will just mention a few. Studying Theology! The study of God, of Him who I love! Another blessing is the friendship of which I partake with my brother seminarians. It is awesome to be with such holy men who have the same goal as me: to become an excellent and holy priest. Lastly, living in Europe offers me a birds-eye view of the Universal Catholic Church. From the Pontifical High Masses in the Vatican to the boisterous Holy Week processions in Spain to the quiet convents of Ars, France; I get a snapshot of how God reveals Himself and shows His love to many people in different cultures. I often think about how I might bring elements of these traditions back to our diocese.

I am very happy to be here in Mauston this summer learning from all of you! Please keep me in your prayers as I will be praying for each of you everyday this summer!

In Christ,  
*Eric Mashak*

## A Year Devoted to St. Joseph: May 1, 2020 - May 1, 2021

[diolc.org/year-of-st-joseph](http://diolc.org/year-of-st-joseph)



Why We are Celebrating a Year of St. Joseph? This year marks the 150th anniversary of Blessed Pius IX's decree naming St. Joseph Patron and Protector of the Universal Church. He is also the primary patron of the Diocese of La Crosse, and our Cathedral is named after him.

In this challenging time of COVID-19, we can turn to St. Joseph with great hope:

- We can turn to him as protector from harm, even as he protected Mary and the child Jesus from Herod's wrath;
- St. Joseph was worker and provider for the Holy Family, so to him we can entrust ourselves and our nation in the face of unprecedented unemployment and economic distress;
- As model husband and father, we turn to St. Joseph at a time when good examples of both are so desperately needed. We can ask him to help strengthen our families – as well as the bonds of our “parish family” – at a time when these can be fragile.
- As patron of the dying, we can invoke the intercession of St. Joseph on all who are in their last moments of life, including the elderly in nursing homes and others with terminal disease. Visit the diocesan Year of St. Joseph website, [diolc.org/year-of-st-joseph/](http://diolc.org/year-of-st-joseph/), to watch Bishop Callahan's opening Mass and read his comments about this special year.

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May is the month of the Blessed Virgin Mary. A beautiful way to honor our Blessed Mother during the month of May is to pray a decade of the Rosary each day as a family. This takes less than 10 minutes and consists of praying one Our Father, ten Hail Mary's and one Glory Be while pondering an event of Jesus' and Mary's life that has a connection to your own life. For a simple, downloadable Prayer Card, go to diolc.org/prayer for families; or go to diolc.org/deeper for individual adults or empty nesters.

Novena for Pentecost ~ A Novena consists of praying a prayer during a period of nine days for a specific intention. The Pentecost Novena in honor of the Holy Spirit is the oldest of all novenas since it was first prayed at the direction of Our Lord Himself when He sent His Apostles back to Jerusalem to await the coming of the Holy Spirit on the first Pentecost. This Novena is addressed to the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity as a powerful plea for your personal intentions. Take this opportunity to come to know the Holy Spirit in a much deeper way and allow Him to guide, strengthen and console you. Reminder: Pentecost Novena Dates: The Pentecost Novena will be prayed from Friday, May 22, through Saturday, May 30. Sunday, May 31, is the Feast of Pentecost. The simple Novena Prayer Card and short Reading for each of the nine days can be downloaded at diolc.org/deeper.

COVID-19: A Prayer of Solidarity

For all who have contracted coronavirus, We pray for care and healing.

For those who are particularly vulnerable, We pray for safety and protection.

For all who experience fear or anxiety, We pray for peace of mind and spirit.

For affected families who are facing difficult decisions between food on the table or public safety, We pray for policies that recognize their plight.

For those who do not have adequate health insurance, We pray that no family will face financial burdens alone.

For those who are afraid to access care due to immigration status, We pray for recognition of the God-given dignity of all.

For our brothers and sisters around the world, We pray for shared solidarity.

For public officials and decision makers, We pray for wisdom and guidance.

Father, during this time may your Church be a sign of hope, comfort and love to all. Grant peace. Grant comfort. Grant healing. Be with us, Lord. Amen.

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If someone you know becomes hospitalized and would like a visit, please call Cassandra at the church office. To be included on the prayer line or to be listed in the bulletin prayer list, you may also call the church office at 847-6054.

If you are in need of sacramental assistance, please contact the rectory office at 608-847-6054.

Prayers and Blessings for Rural Life ~ As we come to the time of planting, the Diocese of La Crosse Rural Life Committee would like to share some prayers and blessings with you for your use. Visit diolc.org/rural-life.

ON LINE GIVING—If you have not tried on-line giving, please check it out! It's safe, secure and simple! You can find the link on our website: stpatricks-mauston.com. (Click on the green triangle in the upper left corner.)



**WE WILL BE CLOSED
MONDAY, MAY 25
IN OBSERVANCE OF
MEMORIAL DAY**

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