

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

May 24, 2009

THIS WEEK'S READINGS, FOR YOUR PERSONAL PRAYER

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| Sunday | May 24 | Acts 1:1-11 | Ephesians 1:17-23 | Mark 16:15-20 |
| Monday | May 25 | Acts 19:1-8 | | John 16:29-33 |
| Tuesday | May 26 | Acts 20:17-27 | | John 17:1-11 |
| Wednesday | May 27 | Acts 20:28-38 | | John 17:11-19 |
| Thursday | May 28 | Acts 22:30, 23:6-11 | | John 17:20-26 |
| Friday | May 29 | Acts 25:13-21 | | John 21:15-19 |
| Saturday | May 30 | Acts 28:16-20, 30-31 | | John 21:20-25 |
| Sunday | May 31 | Acts 2:1-11 | 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13 | John 20:19-23 |

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Friends,

As the year of St. Paul is coming to a close, it seems an appropriate time to recognize his insight into the great importance of signs of unity in the Church. From his journey on the road to Damascus when Jesus asked him, "Why do you persecute Me?" to his joining of the Christian community at prayer in the Eucharist, St. Paul appreciated the great importance of Christian Unity. In 1 Cor. 11:17ff, St. Paul tells the Corinthians that factions and lack of unity in Christ's love at the Eucharist is unworthy of the body and blood of Jesus.

The Fathers of Vatican II taught us that celebrating the Eucharist is both the source and highest expression of Christian unity, which is signified in many ways in the Eucharistic celebration. One of the ways the Church has shown unity is by having one free-standing altar, the Table of the Lord, to which we are all called to be nourished. We have lost a bit of that beautiful symbolism by having the people walk separate ways to receive the Eucharist, some going forward and some going to the back of the Church. We have lost the sense of a beautiful procession with all participants singing God's praise as they journey together toward the Table of the Lord. Therefore, we will try to rekindle this wonderful aspect of the Mass by not having Eucharistic Ministers at the back of the Church. Instead, all will approach the Table of the Lord in a single procession to receive the body and blood of Christ – the source and highest expression of our unity with Jesus and with each other. The same number of Ministers will distribute communion, but they will all be in the front of the Church.

All change causes some confusion and discomfort, but I hope this change which is more in conformity with the Instructions of the Roman Missal – will enrich our celebration of the Eucharist.

Sincerely,
Fr. Dick

LET US JOIN IN PRAYER THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN EMBRACED BY GOD IN A SPECIAL WAY:

In Baptism:

Benshyan Elano Harven Findlater, Child of
Denver Findlater & Danette Linares

Alexis Catherine Goetz

Samantha Grace Goetz, Children of
Allan & Catherine Goetz

Emma Nicole Lowe, Child of
Michael & Michele Lowe

Maria Vincenza Kennedy Ridge, Child of
Daniel & Christianne Ridge

In First Communion:

Annika LaRoche, Mason Monney, Joseph Thomas

In Marriage:

Lauren Houlihan & Mothu Kumar
Meg Garner & Pat McHenry

In Her Passage to Eternal Life:

Patricia J. Gladchuk, mother of
Stephen and Robert Gladchuk

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

MOMS' GROUP: Join us on our monthly play date for fellowship while the kids play! Moms' Group meets the **4th Wednesday of the month**, in the Nursery (basement level of the Community Center), **9:30-11:00 AM**. For more info or to RSVP, please contact Lynn Tayler, 240-285-2036 or crocscian@comcast.net Upcoming date: **May 27th**.

CUB SCOUT RELIGIOUS EMBLEMS: Information and Registration will be **Wednesday, June 3rd, 7:00 PM**, in Room 7 at the Community Center. These emblems are rank specific and reflect the Scout's rank as of September. The *Light of Christ* Emblem is for Wolf Scouts, and the *Parvuli Dei* Emblem is designed for Bears and Webleo Scouts. Please contact Amy Spessard for more info, 301-662-8288 x1102 or email, amy.spessard@stjohn-frederick.org.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, June 29th to July 3rd. Register now by picking up a form at the Parish Office or download the form from our website. Volunteers should

contact Julie St. Croix at 301-662-8288 x1103. There will be a **training session** for all youth entering 6th grade or above who want to help with VBS on **Thursday, June 18th, 6:00-9:00 PM.**

YOU ARE INVITED to a Wine and Cheese Party, **Sunday, May 31st, 6:00-9:00 PM,** at the home of Judi and Rod Atwell. All parishioners are welcome. These socials provide a wonderful opportunity for some great fun, food, and fellowship. Please bring your favorite appetizer and beverage to share. Call Judi at 301-473-4931 for directions.

MINISTRIES & ORGANIZATIONS

NURSERY: If you are interested in helping out or using the Nursery, please contact Julie St. Croix, 301-662-8288 x1103 or email julie.stcroix@stjohn-frederick.org. Please make sure to include your name, telephone number, and email address.

PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE **May 2009**
"All economic life should be shaped by moral principles. Economic choices and institutions must be judged by how they protect or undermine the life and dignity of the human person, support the family, and serve the common good."
(A Catholic Framework for Economic Life, US Catholic Conference, 1996)

STAND CERTIFICATION FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS: The Archdiocese of Baltimore and St. John's Parish are committed to providing a safe environment for children at our parish. **All volunteer ministers** who work with or around families and children must be STAND certified. STAND training is offered on the second Wednesday of the month from 7 – 9 PM in the Notre Dame Room. Contact Erica to register at 301-662-8288 x1100. Next STAND training, **June 10th.** STAND training is also available on line. Please visit www.stjohn-frederick.org.

RESPECT LIFE CORNER:
Father's Day: The Respect Life Committee will be out front after all Masses this weekend, May 23rd & 24th, collecting money to support the Frederick County Right to Life Father's Day ad that will appear in the Frederick News/Post on Father's Day. Please see the insert in today's bulletin.
Pregnant, Need help? Call the Gabriel network, 1-800-ANGEL-OK or **Birthright**, 301-663-0111
Suffering Past-Abortion Syndrome? Call Project Rachel, 1-800-286-4224

SCOUTING:
CONGRATULATIONS to Gena Lohr, Colleen Nardi, Marie Sinnicki, Abby Spessard, and Rachel St. Croix from Junior Girl Scout Troop 81397 for receiving their Bronze Award. It requires the girls to learn leadership and planning skills necessary to follow through on a project that makes a positive impact on their community. This is the highest honor a Junior Girl Scout can earn.
Troop 1274: If you are interested in visiting the Troop or learn more about the Boy Scouts, please contact Nelson Spessard, 301-846-4217.

FAITH FORMATION & YOUTH MINISTRY

REGISTRATIONS for Elementary Faith Formation and Youth Ministry (Middle and High School) are being accepted for the 2009-2010 year. You can also register your children if they are to be prepared for First Reconciliation/First Eucharist or Confirmation (High School). Forms are available from the website at www.stjohn-frederick.org, or at the Parish Office. Please note there are separate forms this year for Elementary Faith Formation and Middle-High School Youth Ministry. For questions, contact Julie St. Croix (ext. 1103) for the Elementary program, or Joe Mele (ext. 1104), for the Youth Ministry program.

SUMMER YOUTH CONFERENCES:
Above All, June 19-21, 2009, at Franciscan University, Steubenville, OH. Join 1,000+ high school students for a weekend of amazing talks, great music, and awesomeness. Visit www.franciscanyouth.com. Space is limited! For permission forms, visit www.stjohne.com.
ND Vision, July 6-10, 2009, at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, IN, **July 6-10.** Meet teens from our own Archdiocese and the country. Spend 5 days on the campus of the Fighting Irish, living in the dorms with other high school students from your grade! Throughout the week you will hear amazing talks and share in your small group how your gifts and talents will change the world! Check out their website at www.vision.nd.edu. Get your permission form from www.stjohne.com.

ST. JOHN REGIONAL SCHOOL

APPLICATIONS are currently being accepted for Pre-K through 8th grade for the 2009-2010 school year. Please visit our website, www.sjrscs.org, to download registration forms. The next testing date is **May 20th.** Please contact Jean Wright, Admissions Director, 301-695-9358 or jwright@sjrscs.org for more info.

BASKET and BAGS BINGO, Friday, May 29th, 7:00 PM, at the school, in McElroy Hall. Doors open at 5:30 PM. 20 games, 3 specials, basket raffles, peelers, and door prizes. Tickets are \$17 in advance, \$22 at the door. Featuring Longaberger baskets and Vera Bradley bags. For tickets, call 301-662-6722 or visit our website at www.sjrscs.org, and click on **Fair**.

19TH ANNUAL SPRING FAIR, Saturday, May 30th and Sunday, May 31st, at the school located 8414 Opossumtown Pike. Games, food, live entertainment, basket raffles, arts & crafts, \$10,000 Raffle, Saturday night fireworks and movie under the stars, live auction on Sunday. **Hours are 11:00 AM-8:00 PM on Saturday, 12 Noon-6:00 PM on Sunday.** For more info, visit www.sjrscs.org, click on **Fair**.

HELP WANTED

RIDE NEEDED TO CHURCH: We are looking for a volunteer to bring a handicapped person to Sunday

