

Immaculate Conception, Mattoon

St. Columcille, Sullivan

May 3, 2020

Letter of the Holy Father Francis to the Faithful for the month of May 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The month of May is approaching, a time when the People of God express with particular intensity their love and devotion for the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is traditional in this month to pray the Rosary at home within the family. The restrictions of the pandemic have made us come to appreciate all the more this "family" aspect, also from a spiritual point of view.

For this reason, I want to encourage everyone to rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary at home in the month of May. This can be done either as a group or individually; you can decide according to your own situations, making the most of both opportunities. The key to doing this is always simplicity, and it is easy also on the internet to find good models of prayers to follow.

I am also providing two prayers to Our Lady that you can recite at the end of the Rosary, and that I myself will pray in the month of May, in spiritual union with all of you. I include them with this letter so that they are available to everyone.

Dear brothers and sisters, contemplating the face of Christ with the heart of Mary our Mother will make us even more united as a spiritual family and will help us overcome this time of trial. I keep all of you in my prayers, especially those suffering most greatly, and I ask you, please, to pray for me. I thank you, and with great affection I send you my blessing.

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 25 April 2020

Feast of Saint Mark the Evangelist

FRANCIS



First Prayer

O Mary,
You shine continuously on our journey
as a sign of salvation and hope.
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,
who, at the foot of the cross,
were united with Jesus' suffering,
and persevered in your faith.
"Protectress of the Roman people",
you know our needs,
and we know that you will provide,
so that, as at Cana in Galilee,
joy and celebration may return
after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
to conform ourselves to the will of the Father
and to do what Jesus tells us.
For he took upon himself our suffering,
and burdened himself with our sorrows
to bring us, through the cross,
to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

*We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God;
Do not despise our petitions in our necessities, but
deliver us always
from every danger, O Glorious and Blessed Virgin.*

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH
Mattoon, Illinois

ST. COLUMCILLE CHURCH
Sullivan, Illinois

MAY 3, 2020

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



“I am the gate for the sheep.”

John 10:1-10

Prepare For Next Sunday’s Readings

In next Sunday’s Gospel, (May 10), the Gospel takes us back in time to an event in Jesus’ life before his Passion. Jesus tells his disciples that he is going to prepare a place for them in his Father’s house. He promises that where he is going, his disciples will be able to follow. Thomas, who will later doubt the disciples’ reports that they have seen the Risen Lord, contradicts Jesus by saying that the disciples don’t know where Jesus is going or how to get there. Jesus explains that he himself is the way, the truth, and the life. In knowing and loving Jesus, the disciples now love God the Father.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 6:1-7: The early Christian community chooses seven people to serve at table so that the Twelve can devote themselves to prayer and the ministry of the word.

1 Peter 2:4-9: Those who have faith are chosen in Christ to be a holy priesthood.

John 14:1-12: Jesus tells his disciples, “I am the way and the truth and the life.”

Readings for the Week of May 3, 2020

Monday: Acts 11:1-18/Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4/Jn 10:11-18
 Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7/Jn 10:22-30
 Wednesday: Acts 12:24—13:5a/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6&8/Jn 12:44-50
 Thursday: Acts 13:13-25/Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25&27/Jn 13:16-20
 Friday: Acts 13:26-33/Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab/Jn 14:1-6



When there is a Funeral Mass (M-F)– there is No Morning Mass

MAY 4-10

MONDAY

Roy Woolheather

TUESDAY

Wayne & Madonna Fuller

WEDNESDAY

Thomas, John & Linda O’Malley

THURSDAY

Benefactors & Deceased of Calvary Cemetery

FRIDAY

Anna & Joe Schwitters

SATURDAY

Loretta Straley

SUNDAY– Fifth Sunday of Easter

People of Our Parish

Madonna Fuller



Your Parish & Faith Stewardship

Giving at a Glance

523 Registered Families

Fiscal Year– July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020

Total Weekly Budget	10,500.00
04/26/20– Parish	8,240.00
Deficit/Surplus for Weeks	- 2,260.00
Year-To-Date Budget	441,000.00
Year-To-Date Collected	<u>418,375.14</u>
Deficit/Surplus for Year	- 22,624.86

IC CHURCH LOWER LEVEL FLOOR

CFC SOFFITS, GUTTERS, PAINTING

CHURCH, RECTORY PLUMBING & CHURCH BOILER

Amount Owed:	\$80,635.00
Major Project Funds:	\$ 360.00
Unpaid Balance:	\$32,912.25

A Pilgrim's Progress....

As I have reflected many times, it is one of Heaven's gifts that the two most beautiful months of the year in our part of the world, May and October, are dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, "the fairest honor of our race." October is the month of the Holy Rosary, and May is simply "Mary's Month." Please see the letter (elsewhere in our bulletin) Pope Francis recently wrote to the whole Church about Mary and the month of May with his encouragement to pray the rosary in our homes each day this month.

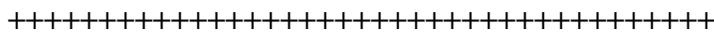
Even though I was not raised a Catholic, I fortunately was never subjected to the misunderstandings and false ideas so many have about Catholic devotion to Mary. Reading Luke's Gospel where Mary is the only person in all of scripture described as "full of grace," it is no wonder then that she tells Elizabeth "all generations will call me blessed." For me John 2:1-11 (the Wedding feast at Cana) says it all. Mary's intercession with Jesus is very clear and her last spoken words in scripture: "do whatever He (Christ) tells you," explains not only her role in salvation history but the vocation of every disciple. Growing up in a household where ancestors were honored with pictures on the wall and memorialized through mementoes and tales passed down from generation to generation, my Faith in Jesus Christ has never been threatened by honoring or praying with the saints.

It brought a smile to my face when I learned as an adult that my baptismal date was May 13, 1956. Fortunately I was raised in a faith community that practiced infant baptism (with my brothers I needed as much Grace as I could get as early as possible). May 13th is of course the feast of Our Lady of Fatima. I strongly doubt if anybody at the wonderful Bradbury Free Methodist Church (just off the Burma Rd. north of Toledo) (as I was surrounded by family and neighbors) knew that day that it was Our Lady's feast. But certainly Mary knew. And I believe it has been her prayers that helped bring me to the fullness of the Faith and to my vocation as a priest. I remember my first drive out to Pope John XXIII National Seminary in August of 1985 praying with and feeling very close to Our Lady of Fatima as I prepared to begin my seminary formation. In 2004 I was privileged to make a pilgrimage with friends to Fatima, Portugal. It was the "off season" and the shrine was not crowded. The folks that were there praying the rosary on Saturday night looked to be locals. I remember thinking, "I bet these are the people who are here every Saturday night," and I was touched by their faith.

It is a wonderful practice for Catholic families to have a "May Altar" in their homes. A May Altar is simply a surface in your home dedicated to honoring the Blessed Virgin Mary during the month of May. It could be a place where the family gathers to pray before an image of Mary perhaps with candles or flowers. Here we can give thanks to God for Mary's faithful witness and for her prayers. It could be a place where we honor Christ's words to the "beloved disciple," "Behold your mother! And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home." John 19: 27

May you and yours be truly blessed as you keep Mary's month.

Deo Vindice, fr john



Congratulations to Trevor Moore and Kellie Kastl married Saturday April 25th.

IC EXTRA COLLECTIONS

Funeral Dinner Ministry Collection: \$285.00

Catholic Home Missions Collection: \$530.00

TO REPORT ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL ABUSE OF A MINOR BY CLERGY-EVEN IF IT IS IN THE PAST— individuals are encouraged to call the Diocesan Child Abuse Reporting and Investigation number **(217) 321-1155**.

Individuals may also contact Illinois Department of Children and Family Services Child Abuse Hotline at **1.800.25.ABUSE**, or contact your local police authority.

Sacrament of Baptism

Contact Parish Office to schedule a Baptism. New parents seeking the Sacrament of Baptism for an infant or child are asked to attend ONE pre-baptism session. Call the parish office at 235-0539 for information and to register.

Sacrament of Marriage

Contact Parish Office at least (6) months before the date to make arrangements.

CHOICES Pregnancy & Health-234-3312

Www.choices4pregnancy.org

Project Rachel-888-456-4673

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**Announcement from Bishop Paprocki
regarding Ordination:**

The Ordination of a Deacon and the Ordination of Priests, originally scheduled for May 19 and 23, respectively, are rescheduled as follows:

The Presbyteral Ordination of Deacons Paweł Łuczak and Piotr Kosk took place in our Cathedral on Saturday, May 2, at 9:30 AM. We moved their ordinations sooner due to visa considerations and did these men separately out of consideration for their families in Poland, who were watching the Ordination Mass streaming live on video and to whom I spoke in Polish for at least part of my homily.

The Diaconal Ordination of Christopher Trummer and the Presbyteral Ordination of Deacons Dave Beagles, Michael Berndt, Peter Chineke, Michael Meinhart, Michael Trummer, and Dominic Vahling will take place in the same ceremony on Friday evening, June 19, at 6:00 PM. At this point it is too soon to say what the numerical limitations will be on public gatherings on that date, and so a determination of who will be invited to attend will be made at a later time.

Additional Note from Fr. John:

Hopefully by June 19th government restrictions will permit the public to attend the ordination mass.

I have invited Fr Peter Chineke to celebrate masses at St. Columcille and Immaculate Conception the weekend of June 27th and 28th if he is able to do so.

-fr john

Please Note:

Due to the generosity of parishioners a limited number of homemade facemasks are available in Church. Take what you need.

Second Prayer

"We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God".

In the present tragic situation, when the whole world is prey to suffering and anxiety, we fly to you, Mother of God and our Mother, and seek refuge under your protection.

Virgin Mary, turn your merciful eyes towards us amid this coronavirus pandemic. Comfort those who are distraught and mourn their loved ones who have died, and at times are buried in a way that grieves them deeply. Be close to those who are concerned for their loved ones who are sick and who, in order to prevent the spread of the disease, cannot be close to them. Fill with hope those who are troubled by the uncertainty of the future and the consequences for the economy and employment.

Mother of God and our Mother, pray for us to God, the Father of mercies, that this great suffering may end and that hope and peace may dawn anew. Plead with your divine Son, as you did at Cana, so that the families of the sick and the victims be comforted, and their hearts be opened to confidence and trust.

Protect those doctors, nurses, health workers and volunteers who are on the frontline of this emergency, and are risking their lives to save others. Support their heroic effort and grant them strength, generosity and continued health.

Be close to those who assist the sick night and day, and to priests who, in their pastoral concern and fidelity to the Gospel, are trying to help and support everyone.

Blessed Virgin, illumine the minds of men and women engaged in scientific research, that they may find effective solutions to overcome this virus.

Support national leaders, that with wisdom, solicitude and generosity they may come to the aid of those lacking the basic necessities of life and may devise social and economic solutions inspired by farsightedness and solidarity.

Mary Most Holy, stir our consciences, so that the enormous funds invested in developing and stockpiling arms will instead be spent on promoting effective research on how to prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future.

Beloved Mother, help us realize that we are all members of one great family and to recognize the bond that unites us, so that, in a spirit of fraternity and solidarity, we can help to alleviate countless situations of poverty and need. Make us strong in faith, persevering in service, constant in prayer.

Mary, Consolation of the afflicted, embrace all your children in distress and pray that God will stretch out his all-powerful hand and free us from this terrible pandemic, so that life can serenely resume its normal course.

To you, who shine on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope, do we entrust ourselves, O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary. Amen.

Thank You to those who continue to mail in their contribution envelopes. During these trying times, perhaps you might be interested in our On-Line Giving program. It's easy! Just go to our parish website mattoonimmaculateconception.org, click on the Give link (upper right) and then click on the Create New Account link. Simply follow the prompts to set up your account. Now you can relax in knowing that you've fulfilled your stewardship commitments, even when you are unable to attend church.



Peace Meal Delivery is still going on!
Our week is May 4-8.



Please sign up on the sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the back of Church if you can give one hour for this very worthwhile endeavor. Masks and gloves are available in the kitchen when you pick up the food and meals are ONLY being left in coolers outside of recipients homes.



The Immaculate Conception Ladies Guild gives a heartfelt thank you to all who donated to the Funeral Luncheon ministry on Holy Thursday. We were humbled by the generous response. Thank you!

+++++



The Immaculate Conception Ladies Guild is happy to announce that Carla Will have been chosen as our 2020 Women of Distinction! Congratulations to Carla and her family! Thank you for all you do at Immaculate Conception!



With Immaculate Conception:

Fr. John Sohm, Max Rose, Sharon Kuhns, Jeff Collings, Chris Bugle, Molly Grady, Michael Grady, Jacob Kirts, Joyce McCoy, Angie Fox, Addison Graham, Wesco Family, Sara Clayhorn, Mark Buran, Pat Hutchings, Don Clark, Susie Huckstead, Louise Farrell, Wendy Carter, Virginia Kastl, Edna Probst, Rich Fafara, Lyn Henning, Arlet Hertel, Karl Rabe, Sheila Rosine, Betty Bailey, Max Ohm, Zale Vincent Walk, Mary Magnotta, Lois Neff, Gwen Johnson, Jim Pendell, Tammy Howard, Ralph Vanneste, Wyatt Edwards, Eddie Sullivan, Alice Farmer, Loretta Tucker, Teresa Miller, Kelly Sullivan, Margie Henning, Elisa Gonzalez, Rex Bill, Madonna Collinsworth, Liz Newton, Judy Smith, Dennis James, Don Clark, Jr., Joyce and Joe LaFleur

If you have a loved one who should be added to our parish prayer list, please call the parish office.

2019 IC ACSA

This Year's Goal:	\$ 72,369.00
Gifts Thus Far:	\$ 43,600.00
% of Participation:	41%

46th Annual Deanery Day of Prayer for Life

Wednesday June 24th at St. Francis Church
In Teutopolis

Opening Mass at 8:00 AM followed by all day
Eucharistic Exposition.

Prayer Hour for Immaculate Conception 5:-6:00 PM

Prayer Hour for all Knights of Columbus 6:-7:00 PM

7:30 PM closing Mass with Fr. Dominic Vahling
as homilist.

Fr Dominic is the grandson of Mrs. Jack Koester, one of the founders and organizers of the Day of Prayer until her death in February 2017. Fr. Dominic spent a summer at Immaculate Conception during his seminary formation.

“Bad times, hard times, this is what people keep saying; but let us live well, and times shall be good. We are such times: such as we are, such are the times.”

St. Augustine of Hippo

**Catholic Radio for Mattoon
102.5 FM
Catholic Radio for Sullivan:
88.9FM & 96.5FM**

St. Columcille Mass Intentions:

Wednesday, May 6th: The Roepke Family

Fifth Sunday of Easter:

Saturday, May 9th: Rita Ackrill

St. C. Recent Contributions: \$1,520.00

Thanks to your generosity, St. Columcille collected \$587.00 to be used locally by the Decatur Area Catholic Charities.

Thank you to those that have continued to mail in your contribution envelopes. For those that are interested, we also have an online giving option at St. Columcille!

Just go to our parish website at [www..stcolumcillesullivan.org](http://www.stcolumcillesullivan.org), once there click the “Give” button for options including credit and debit card giving! Please be assured that the “Give Now” option really does go straight to St. Columcille!

Sullivan Prayer List: Michelle Keller, Carole Blasche, Fr. Sohm, Hal Walker, Donna Walker, David Walker, Art Welsh, Gary Smith, Ron and Marylyn Crnich, Toby Howard, Kathy Frier, Kelly Sullivan, Steve Loveall, Fritz New, Sheila Littleton, Phil Littleton and Rebecca.



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Eligibility is restricted to the 28 county service area of Catholic Charities Diocese of Springfield in Illinois. As with all Catholic Charities programs, this service is open to the public including people of all faiths, race, age, and individual circumstances.

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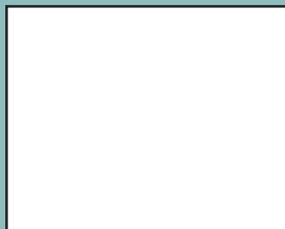
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