

The Ascension of the Lord

Mass Intentions

Tues., May 14th, 10 a.m.: David Brightwell, by Iona Heide
Wed., May 15th, 8 a.m.: Adam Grempe, by Kathy Ratz
Fri., May 17th, 8 a.m.: Welda DeRousse, by Tom & Diane Gross
Sat., May 18th, 4 p.m.: Jeff "Chopper" DuFrenne, by Jim & Diane Buch
Sun., May 19th, 10 a.m.: Chad Grohmann, by Taryn & children; For the Parish

Liturgical Roles

Saturday, May 18th, 4 p.m.:

Lector - S. Heine
Ushers - B. Trost, C. Schaefer
Eucharistic Ministers - D. Gross, K. Fahey, Volunteer
Servers - Volunteers
Gift Bearers - B. Candler family

Sunday, May 19th, 10 a.m.:

Lector - E. & E. Brewer
Ushers - J. & L. Becker
Eucharistic Ministers - M. Poirrier, J. Walker, M. Scheffert
Servers - E. & E. Hahn
Gift Bearers - M. & L. Krebel

Please Pray For ...

Rhonda Mehring-Smith; Nursing Home Residents;
Homebound Parishioners

Names remain for 4 weeks. Call the rectory.



Thought For The Week

Love is appropriate attire for every occasion.

On the Lighter Side

Joe told his neighbor, Sam, that his son just graduated, receiving his B.A. degree. Sam said, "I suppose that now he will be working on a Ph.D.?" "Oh no," Joe replied. "He's been looking for a J-O-B!"

Celebration of Life

Come help us celebrate a life well lived. In loving memory of Angie Mudd. Come share your favorite stories and memories. Sunday, May 19th, 1-4 pm, St. John the Baptist Catholic Social Center. ~ The family of Angie Mudd

Stewardship Thought

Jesus is the perfect steward – watching carefully over all who had been entrusted to Him by the Father and then sending them all out into the world in service. May I similarly protect and wisely use the gifts entrusted to me!

Readings

1st Reading: Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11

The apostles witness Jesus' ascension into heaven.

2nd Reading: Ephesians 1:17-23

God has put all things under the feet of Christ, exalted as head of the Church.

Gospel: Mark 16:15-20

"Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel."

From the Desk of Fr. Dennis

Every year on this solemnity of the Ascension we hear the beginning of the Acts of the Apostles which Luke wrote to cover the period after Jesus leaves them. Before Jesus returns to the Father, he promises them the Holy Spirit, who will remain with them always, enabling them to be his witnesses all over the world. We hear much the same from Mark in today's Gospel. Jesus has given us our mission and has promised to accompany us in and through the Spirit. Quite simply, what has resulted is the Church, which as Paul writes, is the body of Christ. Let us hear our call in the final words of Jesus to his friends, "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature."

On this Mother's Day weekend let us ask the Lord's Blessings for our Mothers, grandmothers, and all who show a mother's love and care for us. May Mary, our Blessed Mother pray for them and all of us. Mary, our Mother and intercessor, pray for us.

DON'T forget to wear RED next weekend as we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost!

Have a blest week, remember, don't worry so much, and know that you are loved! ~ Fr. Dennis

Ordination Anniversary

Father Dennis will celebrate his 49th Ordination Anniversary on June 7th! Be sure to congratulate him and thank him for everything he does for our SJB parish and school family!

Attention All SJB Graduates

Our parish family would like to celebrate your accomplishments with you on Sunday, May 19th at the 10 am Mass. We invite all grade school, high school and college students to come wearing your graduation gown. You will walk in procession and take your place in the front pews. At the end of Mass there will be a special blessing for all the graduates. Juice, donuts, and coffee will be served after Mass. We look forward celebrating with you.

Picnic Appeal

Our Annual Picnic Appeal letter has been mailed. We are planning to have a Quilt Bingo on Sunday, July 14th in the gym. This event, along with the Appeal, is to help us make our \$40,000-\$45,000 budget goal.

If everyone gives something, the load will be easier for all. No amount is too big or too small! God bless you for all you do to support St. John's!

Catholic Speed Dating

The Diocese of Belleville is hosting Catholic Speed Dating for young adults ages 21-33 on Thursday, May 23rd at Holy Trinity parish in Fairview Heights, IL. Hors d'oeuvres & drinks will be provided. Registration is required and there is a \$10 admission fee. Check-in begins at 6:30pm and the event starts at 7:00. For questions or more information, please go to <https://www.diobelle.org/marriage-enrichment> or contact mking@diobelle.org or mskorch@diobelle.org

Happenings This Week

Sun.: Happy Mother's Day! Get a rose for your mom today!

Mon.: 6 pm Kindergarten Graduation in Church

Tues.: 8:30 am Bible Study in Church; 10 am Mass; 6 pm Sports Awards in Church; 7 pm School Board meeting in the library

Wed.: 8 am Mass

Thurs.: 10 am Mass at St. Patrick's

Fri.: 8 am Mass followed by rosary & adoration till 9:30 am

Sat.: 10:30 am Memorial Mass at St. Patrick's for Anna O'Hara Swafford

Sun.: Pentecost! Wear something RED! Graduation Mass at 10 am for all grade school, high school and college graduates; donuts, juice and coffee after Mass

American Legion Fish Fry

Fish Fry, Prairie du Rocher American Legion, May 17th, 4:30-8 p.m. Serving three kinds of fish, chicken strips, French fries, slaw, baked beans, mac & cheese, stewed tomatoes. Info: 284-9509.

Thank You to Our Advertisers!

Davey Tree & Lawn Care

Rose Mass

Mt. Carmel Cemetery, Belleville, Memorial Day "Rose" Mass on Monday, May 27th at 9 am. Holy Cross Cemetery, Fairview Heights, will celebrate Mass at 11:00 am. You may pre-purchase a rose for your loved one to be placed on the altar by coming into the office at Mt. Carmel or mailing in a payment (10101 W. Main St., Belleville, IL 62223).

Blood Pressure Screening

SJB Church's monthly blood pressure screening will be May 25th and 26th. Thank you to our volunteers this month - Sheryl Rehmer and Ruthie Mollet.

Pope Francis Speaks to Our Hearts

(Faith Lights Our Way) There is an urgent need...to see once again that faith is a light, for once the flame of faith dies out, all other lights begin to dim. The light of faith is unique, since it is capable of illuminating every aspect of human existence. For a light to be this powerful, it cannot come from ourselves; it must come from a more primordial source: in a word, it must come from God. Faith is born of an encounter with the living God who calls us and reveals his love, a love which precedes us and upon which we can lean for security and for building our lives. Transformed by this love, we gain fresh vision, new eyes to see; we realize that it contains a great promise of fulfillment, and that a vision of the future opens up before us. Faith, received from God as a supernatural gift, becomes a light for our way, guiding our journey through time.

The National Eucharistic Revival

Emmaus Days – The diocese will host three events with the pilgrim delegation. We will greet the Eucharistic Delegation at St. Augustine of Hippo Church in East St. Louis the afternoon of Sunday, July 7th for an adoration service.

We will then move to the Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows where we will host a major event. The Shrine event will be relevant for everyone in the diocese. Plans for the afternoon have not been nailed down yet, but there will be some sort of program to build anticipation for the arrival of the Eucharistic Pilgrimage Delegation at 5:45 pm. At 6 pm we will begin our solemn Eucharistic procession through the Stations of the Cross devotional site, hold an adoration service at the Shrine Amphitheater and then conclude with a candlelight procession. Bishop McGovern plans to have the Sacrament of Reconciliation available all through the day.

On Monday morning at 10 am we will celebrate Mass at the Cathedral with a brief procession following. Next, we will proceed to Sts Peter & Paul Catholic Church in Collinsville. At 1 pm Bishop McGovern will pass the Blessed Sacrament on to Bishop Paprocki of the Diocese of Springfield. There we will have adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

The event at the Shrine will truly be a Diocesan event. Every parish and Catholic organization will have opportunities to contribute to the success of this historic event. Please watch for more information.

Your Gifts to God & Parish

Sunday.....	\$7,462.00
Loose.....	\$483.00
Total (Goal: \$5,866.00).....	\$7,945.00
Adopt-a-Parish.....	\$127.00
Capital Campaign.....	\$222.00
Catholic Communications Campaign.....	\$65.00
Catholic Home Missions Appeal.....	\$40.00
Christmas.....	\$25.00
School Support.....	\$269.00
Seminary Education Fund.....	\$452.00

Strawberry Festival

St. Patrick's, Ruma, Annual Strawberry Festival on Sunday May 19th. Featuring fried chicken dinners, dressing, and all the sides with strawberries and ice cream! Serving from 11 am-2:30 pm. Carry outs available. In addition there will be a large country store, homemade jams, baked goods, music, balloonatic, silent auction, 50/50 raffle.

Thank You!

The PSR school year has come to a close. Thank you to the parents and students for their commitment to the PSR program. Thank you to the very dedicated PSR staff: Michelle Eggemeyer, LaVerne Krebel, Margaret Simpson, Abby Carter, Rich Chausse, Cheryl Scherle, Dave Eichen-seer, Sarah Brown. Abby and Sarah will not be joining us next year but we sincerely thank them for their many years of teaching! Thank you also to our substitute teachers: Peg Masterson, Rosalie Heizer, Shirley Vogt, Kim Zimmer, Michelle Chausse and Amy Deterding. They were willing to teach at times with very short notice. Thank you also to Dave Hollinshead who helped significantly with the PSR program in many ways! Thank you to Father for his support of the PSR program and being present at school on PSR evenings. Thank you to Dave Eichen-seer who gave a Blessed Crucifix to all the PSR students and staff members.

The PSR program had two anonymous donations this year. A monetary donation was given to each teacher to buy supplies for their classroom. Another anonymous dona-tion was made to purchase supplies for the end of the year ice cream social. Thank you so much for both donations! Prayers for a safe and relaxing summer for all!

Mass for Life

Mass for Life, May 29th, St. Clare of Assisi Church, O'Fal-lon. Mass at 6 p.m. with Rosary to follow. Bishop Michael McGovern invites you to join him to celebrate life and pray for the unborn.

Catholic Communication Campaign

The Catholic Communication Campaign connects Catholics with Christ in the United States and developing countries using the internet, television, radio, and print media. Half of the money collected remains here in the Belleville Diocese to fund local communications efforts. Your support helps spread the gospel message! Learn more at www.usccb.org/cc.

Rally on the River

Rally on the River is Saturday, May 25th! Jeeps, trucks, cars, motorcycles, golf carts, side-by-sides, & ATVs; \$2000 in cash attendance prizes. Veterans Salute at 12 p.m. Ben-efits SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital. Go to evansvillekc.org to register or for more info. Register by May 10th to receive a Rally Shirt (\$25/person). For more Rally info, call Mark McConachie at 618-977-2168.

Gibault News

Visit Gibault! Summer is a great time to bring the entire family for a private tour of Gibault Catholic! Get started at: <https://bit.ly/GCHSInquire>.

Enrolling for Fall 2024: We are accepting incoming fresh-men and transfer students at all other grade levels. To learn how you can be part of the Gibault family, visit <https://bit.ly/GCHSInquire>.

Senior Art Show: The Class of 2024 art exhibit will be open at Awards Night on May 17 at 7 p.m. and Graduation on May 20 at 7 p.m.

Summer Camps: Choose from art, boys' and girls' basket-ball, boys' and girls' volleyball, and boy's soccer. <https://gibaulthawks.com/2024-summer-camps/>

Summer Classic Golf Tournament: This year's tourna-ment will be held on Friday, June 21st. You can sponsor our event, donate raffle prizes, or gather a team to play at the beautiful Annbriar Golf Course. For more info, email dfrasure@gibaulthawks.com or visit our event website: <https://SummerClassic.givesmart.com>

Job Opportunity

Do you have a spiritual calling for the Catholic ministry and a commitment to live faith through charitable work? Our partner The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Belleville, IL Council is hiring an ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. This is the career opportunity of a lifetime! Send resume and cover letter to svdphr@svdpsouthil.net. You may also view the job description here: <https://svdpsouthil.org/job-opportunity>

Summer Directed Retreats

June 17-24: The 7-day summer Directed Retreat is a primary way to hear the voice of God through the people and events of daily experiences. The goal of the directed retreat is to allow you to go deeper into your relationship with God while savoring what is happening in your life. The retreat includes daily meetings with your own Spiritual Director and a period of personal prayer, using scripture. Also available are optional periods for group Centering Prayer experiences, Eucharist, and Sacrament of Reconciliation. The Directed Retreat is designed so you may adjust the length of your retreat according to your personal schedule. This year you also have the option to commute. Cost: Please visit kh.snows.org/events/directed-1-2024, or for more information, call 618-397-0584.

Catholic Radio

As we continue to rejoice in the glories of the risen Lord and anticipate the coming celebration of Pentecost, stay tuned to Covenant Network Catholic radio for the best in programming to assist in your daily devotions and prayers. Listen to WMSH 90.3 FM on the radio or anytime on our free Covenant Network app or at OurCatholicRadio.org.

Prayer Opportunities

Names in our bulletin: Notify Rhonda at the rectory if you'd like to add a name to the prayer list in our bulletin. Call 282-3222 ext. 2, or email rhondaj@htc.net.



Prayer Chain: Our parish Prayer Chain consist of SJB members who pray daily for special intentions. To add an intention or to become a member of the Prayer Chain, please notify Rhonda.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Worldwide Marriage Encounter presents weekend experiences for married couples to rekindle romance, enhance meaningful communication, and deepen and renew commitment. Below are our upcoming summer and fall 2024 experiences. Sign-up now as space is limited! For more information or to apply, go to wwme.org, or call Terry & Eric Engholm at 314-649-7317.

8/2/2024 - 8/4/2024, St. Peters, MO

9/27/2024 - 9/29/2024, St. Peters, MO

Faith Flash!

Well done!

Last week I attended the funeral of my wife's aunt. Her 94-year-old aunt was a religious sister for 77 of those 94 years. For me, she was the perfect picture of a religious sister. She was a hard worker. She always wore the habit of her order and she always wore a smile. She joyfully served others. She put others first. She loved her Lord. Her order owned and operated a nursing home and assisted care facility in a small rural Wisconsin community north of Milwaukee. The facility was unique because it sat on several acres and was home to a variety of animals raised by the sisters. We made many trips with our children to be with the sisters and the animals over the years. My wife's aunt dedicated her life caring for people. At the funeral, the deacon (and her longtime friend), mentioned during his reflection that he visited Sister a few days before her passing. They were aware her time on earth was soon coming to its finality. He asked her how she felt knowing she would be soon meeting Jesus face to face. This woman who dedicated her entire life to humanity answered, "I just hope Jesus will forgive me for the things I did not do well enough...those times when I let him down". What a wonderful example our family had of such a wonderful humble servant! We were blessed to have her in our lives. We are all called to be humble servants; quietly and joyfully serving our Lord through serving others. True lasting happiness comes from serving others. Jesus taught us this. This week, we can honor those humble servants in our lives. This includes our mothers on this Mother's Day weekend. We can also look at our lives and consider ways we can humbly do God's work. How can we better serve those around us? Our hope is Jesus will say as he did in the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:21): "Well done, good and faithful servant..."

Youth Group

Next Youth group meeting is May 15th. All newly confirmed 8th graders are welcome to attend! Bring a friend.

Vacation Bible School

We are looking for volunteers to help with our Vacation Bible School being planned for June 10-12. Please contact me at 618-282-3222 ext 4.

Dave Hollinshead, Director of Faith Formation