

# St. Thomas More Church

May 9, 2021



## Sunday, May 9, 2021

**Sixth Sunday of Easter  
(English Mass)**

Fifth Sunday after Easter  
(Tridentine Mass)

## Sunday, May 16, 2021

**The Ascension of the Lord  
(English Mass)**

Sunday after Ascension  
(Tridentine Mass)

## LITURGY SCHEDULE

**Weekend:** Saturday Vigil, 4:30 pm  
Sunday, 10:00 am, 12:00 pm (Tridentine)

**Weekday:** Monday-Friday, 12:00 pm  
Saturday, 8:00 am

### Reconciliation

Saturday, 4:00-4:20 pm  
Sunday, 9:30-9:50 am, 11:30-11:50 am  
Thursdays, 1:00-2:00 pm  
Also, you may request an appointment with a priest for confession.

## MOTHER'S DAY COLLECTION

The Mother's Day collection will be taken this weekend.

## MEMORIAL DAY MASS

The Memorial Day mass will be at 9:00 am.  
There will not be a 12:00 pm mass.

## SAVE THE DATE!

Msgr. Richard's retirement mass will be on Sunday, June 27th at 10:00 am.

## Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursdays, 12:30-2:00 pm

## Devotions

First Friday, 12:00 pm Mass, followed by adoration, First Friday Prayers and the Rosary.  
First Saturday, 8:00 am Mass, followed by adoration, First Saturday Prayers and the Rosary.

## THE SIXTH SUNDAY IN THE SEASON OF EASTER

### MOTHER'S DAY

Well, within a matter of days, we will know the Cardinal's decision concerning our grouping in the Ashburn area. My personal bet is that somehow or other we will stay open because of our uniqueness. St. Thomas More is a beautiful church worthy of remaining open. I have, since the beginning of the RMC process, felt positively about the outcome of the decision. It is in God's hands and let us pray that the Cardinal's announcement will be one of joy and optimism for the Ashburn area.

On this Sunday, which is the final Sunday before the Ascension and Pentecost, we celebrate God's love directly. We have seen Him as the Good Shepherd and the Good Vine. Today we see Him as the totality of God's Love. To know Jesus is to know the Father and when Jesus acts the Father is acting through Him. They have a beautiful and close relationship. Remember that we have all been taught that that our God is one God in Three Persons. This will remain a mystery until we meet all three Persons in Heaven. Even now, however, we can see some earthly examples. As a son grows he comes to look like a spittin' image of his father. Or people will say, "Gee, she looks exactly like her mother." In some way or another, they are one with the parent. In the case of the Trinity, however, they are Three distinct Persons, One God. And the Holy Spirit is almost impossible to define, but we trust that He is at work with the Father and the Son.

Today is also Mother's Day. This is one of the biggest holidays on the calendar following Thanksgiving and Christmas. Just try to get into a restaurant for brunch or dinner and you will find yourself out of luck. Mothers are like the Holy Spirit in that they are the glue that keeps the family together. I know many families that have fallen apart once the parents have died. Do not let that happen to your immediately family. Keep together in memory of your parents. This is also a big day for visiting the cemeteries. Cars stand in line to enter and place a bouquet of flowers at the site of a mother's grave. Mothers are what keep this nation and all other nations together. Mothers are loved and appreciated today for all that they do for us. My mother died some years ago and I still miss her very much. Our Blessed Mother is the primary Mother of all Mothers and we ask her today to pray for our mothers and our families. By her intercession she will help to keep us all together as one family and one parish.

Mary, Queen of all Mothers, pray for us!!!

In Christ,

Msgr. Richard Zborowski  
Fr. Scott Haynes



## PARISH INFORMATION

### Parish Office

2825 West 81st St., Chicago, IL 60652  
Phone 773-436-4444 - Fax 773-778-9087  
Email address: stmrcc@comcast.net  
Visit our official Facebook page at:  
St. Thomas More Chicago  
Website address:  
<http://stthomasmorecatholicchurch.org/>

### Office Hours

Monday-Thursday - 9:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Friday-Sunday - Closed

### Rectory

Rev. Msgr. Richard Zborowski, Pastor  
Rev. Scott Haynes, Associate Pastor

### Business Manager

Pat Lave

### Director of Music

Michel Domingue

### Coordinator of Religious Ed

Debbie Ksycki

### Registration

New parishioners should register at the parish office.

### Religious Goods Store

Open on the third weekend of the month.

## SACRAMENTS

### Visitations

Hospital or Homebound; Please contact the Parish Office at 773-436-4444 as soon as possible for Communion, Confession or Anointing of the Sick.

### Marriage

Registered and supporting members should call the parish office. A date should not be set until consulting with the Pastor.

### Baptism

Registered parishioners should contact the parish office.

### Funeral

Registered parishioners should contact the parish office.

### Bulletin

Please submit all requests for bulletin announcement on Mondays by 10:00 am.

## SUNDAY, May 9

### Sixth Sunday of Easter

10:00 am For the Faithful Departed of Ugochukwu & Madu Families  
Living & Deceased of Lahart & Lustig Families  
12:00 pm For the Parishioners

## MONDAY, May 10

### St. Damian de Veuster, Priest

12:00 pm Dorothy Marcheschi (Chuck Marcheschi)  
Jeanine Banker O'Hara (Sue Schreier)

## TUESDAY, May 11

12:00 pm Mary O'Neill (Family)  
For the Intentions of Franciscan Sister Servants of Redemptive Love (Sr. Maria-Paulina)

## WEDNESDAY, May 12

### Sts. Nereus & Achilleus, Martyrs; St. Pancras, Martyr

12:00 pm Special Intention of Peggy Dwyer, her family & E.I.K.  
Bob Dapkus (William & Linda Parsons)

## THURSDAY, May 13

### The Ascension of the Lord

12:00 pm Robert H. Byrne (Ed & Pat Demske)  
Birthday Blessings for Lloyd Zempich &  
For the Repose of the Holy Souls in Purgatory  
(Don & Mary Tadda)

## FRIDAY, May 14

### St. Matthias, Apostle

12:00 pm Bob Dapkus (Pat Sheehy)  
For the Intentions of Franciscan Sister Servants of Redemptive Love (Sr. Maria-Paulina)

## SATURDAY, May 15

### St. Isadore

8:00 am Lynn Joda (Family)  
For the Intentions of Franciscan Sister Servants of Redemptive Love (Sr. Maria-Paulina)

### (Vigil Mass)

4:30 pm Rimas Anniversary & Anthony Mikelevicius  
(Stace Mikelevicius)  
Mary O'Neill (Family)

Catholic Charities: General Number 312-655-7000  
Counseling Center 312-655-7725

[Catholictherapists.com](http://www.purityispossible.com/)

<http://www.purityispossible.com/>

Project Rachel (post-abortion healing): 888-456-4673

Suicide Prevention: 800-273-8255

Aid for Women (crisis pregnancy): 312-621-1100

Courage and EnCourage Apostolates: (203) 803-1564

<http://www.couragec.org/>

## PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL FOR THE SICK



Janet Abramic  
Sandy Badke  
Crispin Bofinger  
Joseph Carrabotta  
Sarah Dalton  
Diane & Jim Flaherty  
Sandra Halper

Daniel Jimenez  
Maria Jiminez  
Rebecca Jiminez  
Mike Lave  
Kenneth Novickis  
Celeste Phifer  
Dolores Pogor

Tricia Quasthoff  
Walter Quasthoff  
Len Reilly  
Pat Sheehy  
Phyllis Spizzirri  
Mary Tadda  
Ken Watterson

*Omnipotent and eternal God, the everlasting Salvation of those who believe,  
hear us on behalf of Thy sick.*

## FOR THE SOULS OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Joseph W. Sulka, Jr.

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.  
May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.*



This Easter, we celebrated with Angel Muñoz, as he received Baptism, Confirmation and First Holy Communion, and with Yazmin Muñoz, who received Confirmation and First Holy Communion.



Thanks to all our Altar Servers, Lectors, Sacristans and Volunteers who helped make our Holy Week and Easter Liturgies so beautiful. Happy Easter!

## FOR ALL WHO SERVE IN THE MILITARY INCLUDING:



PFC Michael Chesna, Marines  
MSG Kevin Daley  
Cpl. Brian Husum  
AZ2 Marcellus J. Lane  
PVT. Andy Oziemkiewicz  
PFC. Luis Rosales  
LCPL. Xavier Rosales

**THANK YOU FOR OUR FREEDOM!**

## OUR FINANCES ~ *Your Gifts Matter*

### COLLECTIONS

5/2/21	\$6,524.00
Debt Relief	\$1,269.00

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**



## **ASCENSION THURSDAY**

Missale Romanum – Fr. Scott Haynes

On the 40th day of Easter, we commemorate the Ascension of our Lord into heaven. In 2021, Ascension Thursday falls on May 13th. Let us consider that there are four primary results of Christ's Ascension. **#1. Glorification.** "When Jesus departed this world on the shekinah cloud, He was going back to the realm of glory. He was going to receive the glory that He enjoyed with the Father from all eternity. So, the ascension was a glorious thing. That is why, after He ascended, the disciples went back into Jerusalem and praised God in the temple. They understood that their Master was getting His glory back. His humiliation was over, and His exaltation had begun." **#2. Coronation.** "In the ascension, Jesus went up to His coronation. He did not go up simply to enter into His rest. He went up for His investiture service. He ascended to the throne, to the right hand of God, where He was given dominion, power, and authority over the whole earth. The Lamb who was slain became the Lion of Judah, who now reigns over the earth." **#3. The Gift of the Comforter.** "One of the most important reasons for Jesus' ascension was that Pentecost might take place, that the Father and the Son might pour out the Spirit on the church to strengthen it and empower it for its earthly mission. As we all know, to witness for Christ in a corrupt world requires strength greater than our own. John Calvin said that the most important task of the church is to be the visible witness of the invisible kingdom, and for that we need the Holy Spirit." **#4. The Ministry of the High Priest.** "We have a great High Priest who offered a sacrifice for us on the cross once and for all—His own blood. That portion of His priestly ministry is finished. But His priestly work for us goes on as He intercedes for us. ...

Today, Jesus is in heaven, interceding for you and me, if indeed we belong to Him, and His prayers for us are equally effective. We should rejoice that He has taken up this priestly ministry on our behalf in the heavenly tabernacle." On the feast of the Ascension we consider that Christ is our Lord. He has been victorious and he reigns from the majesty of heaven. In the early church, the confession, "Jesus is Lord," was seen as a threat to Roman authority, exemplified in emperor worship. At one point, Christians were told to deny the Lordship and the Kingship of Christ and to say Kaiser Kurios ("Caesar is Lord"). The Christians were told to put some incense on the pagan altar, as an act of emperor worship and to curse Christ. It is not surprising that many Christians could not or would not do these things. Above all, they could not attribute ultimate Lordship to Caesar because they already had allegiance to Jesus as Lord. Thus they were persecuted, thrown to the lions, covered in pitch and set on fire as torches for Nero's gardens, covered with animal skins and attacked by dogs. To say, "Jesus is Lord," had radical implications for their lives. The Lordship of Christ still has radical implications for us. Even though we may not have been persecuted yet, there are many Christians in the world suffering for their profession of faith. Every human heart is a battlefield for Our Lord wants to claim it for his own. At the same time Satan is determined to snatch as many souls to hell as he can. Thus, C.S Lewis wrote: "...there is no neutral ground in the universe; every square inch, every split second is claimed by God and counter claimed by Satan." Let us pray on this Ascension day that we will be willing to suffer anything for love of God and for the Holy Name of Jesus. Let us plant our feet firmly on the rock which is Peter and with Christ Jesus as the cornerstone and then we will be resilient again whatever storm comes up against our faith. Amen

## **LAYING DOWN YOUR LIFE**

Meditation for the Sixth Sunday of Easter

Love is very often understood as a strong feeling or emotion toward another. When someone is strongly attracted to someone or something, they "love it." But is this love? Is this love in the truest sense? Not really. Love certainly will have an emotional element to it, but it will not be based on emotions or feelings. So what is love? Love is a choice. Specifically, as Jesus identifies in the Gospel passage above, love is a choice to "lay down one's life for one's friends." Laying down our lives indicates a number of things. First, it shows that the nature of love is a total self gift. Laying down your life cannot be done half way. Either your life is laid down or not. This reveals that love, in order for it to be love in the truest sense, is a total commitment of 100% of your life.

This passage also reveals that love is sacrificial. Laying down your life clearly shows that love requires a sort of death to self. It requires we look to the other first, putting their needs before ours. This requires true sacrifice and selflessness. We lay down our lives for others in many ways. Some small, some big. Most importantly, we must foster an attitude of deep concern for the good of every person. When we do turn our eyes and hearts toward others, we will begin to discover countless ways to lay our lives down for them. Small acts of kindness, words of affirmation, a listening ear, help with a chore, etc. are a few of the small ways we give of ourselves every day. Greater acts may include a heroic forgiveness, love when we do not feel like being loving, giving mercy when it appears undeserved, and going out of our way to be there for a person when we do not have time in our busy schedule. The bottom line is that giving of ourselves until it hurts turns any small or large sacrifice we give into a blessing for them and a glorious reward for us. Living a sacrificial life is fulfilling on many levels and is ultimately what we are made for. Reflect, today, upon how well you lay down your life for others, holding nothing back. Do not hesitate to commit yourself to this depth of love. By giving yourself completely away, you find yourself and discover the presence of our divine Lord. "Lord, help me to put others first. Help me to love until it hurts. And in that loving sacrifice, help me to discover the love in Your own divine heart. Jesus, I trust in You."

## **ASK THE FATHER ANYTHING IN MY NAME**

A Meditation for the 5th Sunday after Easter  
1962 Missale Romanum ✠ Fr. Scott Haynes

In the Gospel today the Lord said, "Amen, amen I say to you: if you ask the Father anything in my name, he will give it you." This is why we begin and end every liturgy, every prayer and devotion with the Sign of the Cross. By enveloping our prayer in the love of the Cross we put our prayer before the Father in the Name of Jesus, who died for us on the cross. This makes our petitions even more acceptable and pleasing to the Father before the Throne of Grace. The Cross is the sign of our Redemption. When people wish to show that something is dedicated to Christ they mark it with a cross. The Cross is placed on church buildings, on the Holy Gospel, on the sacred vestments, on banners, and over the graves of the departed.

The first Christians used the Sign of the Cross constantly. Tertullian, a writer of the latter part of the second century, says of it: "At every motion and at every step, entering in or going out, when dressing, bathing going to meals, lighting the lamp, sleeping or sitting, whatever we do, or whithersoever we go, we mark our foreheads with the Sign of the Cross." St. Cyril of Jerusalem writes: "Let us not be ashamed to confess the Crucified Christ; let us boldly make the Sign of the Cross on the forehead, and on everything; on the bread which we eat; on the cups from which we drink; let us make it at our going out, and coming in; when we lie down to sleep, and when we rise, when we journey, and when we rest: It is a great safeguard, given to the poor without price, to the weak without labor. For this is the Grace of God; a token for the Faithful, and a terror for evil spirits."



St. John Chrysostom once said: "The Sign of the Cross is the type of our deliverance, the monument of liberation of mankind, the souvenir of the forbearance of Our Lord. When you make it, remember what has been given for your ransom, and you will be the slave of no one. Make it, then, not only with the fingers, but with your faith. If you engrave it on your forehead, no impure spirit will dare to stand before you. He sees the blade with which he has been wounded, the sword with which he has received the deathblow." Armed with this sacred Sign, the Martyrs asked the Father, the grace to never deny the cross, for it was there that Jesus won our salvation. And the Father granted them this grace of martyrdom, of fidelity to the cross because they asked in Jesus name; they sent their prayer to heaven sealed by the sign of the cross.

The Martyrs went forth to battle with the wild beasts in the amphitheater, walked calmly to the stake to be burned, bowed their necks to the sword or exposed their bodies to the last. They braved the terrors of the dungeon or went willingly into exile. Even tender virgins and children defied the power of the tyrant and suffered death in its most terrible forms. For us, the Sign of the Cross is a safeguard against temptation. St. Cyril of Jerusalem says: "Let us make the Sign of the Cross boldly and courageously. When the demons see it, they are reminded of the Crucified; they take to flight; they hide themselves and leave us." The Sign of the Cross is in itself a prayer. It is an appeal to heaven made in the Name of Him who in submission to the will of His Father, "humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross" (Phil. 2:8); of Him who declared, "If you ask the Father anything in my name He will give it to you" (John 16:23).

Let us not make the sign of the Cross in a way that is careless, thoughtless or hurried. Let us never simply wave our hand in the air as if swatting flies, for, St. John Chrysostom says: "The demons rejoice in this frantic waving." Rather, if we make the sign of the Cross traced with faith and reverence, this dispels demons, calms our sinful passions, brings down Divine Grace, and gives us the strength to do good and conquer that which is evil in Jesus mighty name. We must never be ashamed of the Sign of the Cross lest Christ be ashamed of us. When you are in a public place for lunch, make the sign of the cross as you say the blessing. This pleases the Lord. But if we hide the sign of the Cross, the devil rejoices.

The Sign of the Cross stamps the unity of God on our forehead, the seat of the mind; the sign of the cross seals our heart and breast with the remembrance of the love of the Father; it strengthens our shoulders to bear the Cross of the Son; and it maintains an unbroken union of love with the Three Divine Persons by means of the Holy Spirit. Dear friends in Christ, make the sign of the cross constantly throughout the day. Sanctify the day with the sign of the cross—it is a powerful prayer, a sacred means to pray to God, asking the Father for graces in the name of Jesus. Amen.

# OUR LADY OF FATIMA



## **A MEDITATION FOR OUR LADY'S FEAST DAY**

May 13, 2021

As Saint Thomas Aquinas teaches us (*Summa Theologicae*, II-II, Q. 174, Art. 6.), in each age of the Church's history God has sent a prophet to warn of danger to His people and to tell them what they must do to avoid that danger and save their souls. "Despise not prophecy," St. Paul teaches us infallibly in Holy Scripture. Divine Revelation was completed with the death of the last Apostle, St. John, but God continues to give warnings and corrections through His prophets in the Catholic Church. God's prophet for our age is no one other than the Virgin Mother of God, who has appeared again and again to give us warning, correction and spiritual assistance.

At Fatima, Our Lady made it clear that the Rosary is to be our principal spiritual weapon in this age of apostasy, confusion and spreading evil. Saint Pio states that "The Rosary is the 'weapon' for these times." "Why the rosary?" The simple answer is because it's powerful. Because it requires discipline. Because it fosters a love for the Immaculata and asks for her powerful intercession.

The secular culture is also powerful and requires no discipline whatsoever. Rather, it promotes instant selfish pleasure. It is built on lies and the twisting of good and evil. If we are ever going to shake the very foundation of falsehood that the secularism is built on, we must arm ourselves with the truth. Praying the rosary is such a powerful way in which we will begin to take down the secret walls of hidden shame in our homes; praying the rosary for those nailed down by addictions of this world is the silent prescription for this disease.

St. Josemaria Escriva declares "If you say the Holy Rosary every day, with a spirit of faith and love, our Lady will make sure she leads you very far along her Son's path." We have a Goliath to take down—it is the culture of death. And just as David had five stones in his sling, we have the five decades of the Rosary in ours each day to sling not at Goliath but at the forces of Satan.

During an exorcism the demon said to the priest: "Every Hail Mary is like a blow on my head. If Christians knew how powerful the Rosary was, it would be my end." Blessed Pope Pius IX said, "Give me an army saying the Rosary and I will conquer the world." Let us renew our resolve to pray the Rosary fervently and faithfully each day so that with Our Lady of Fatima we can crush the serpent's head and be brave warriors in every battle. Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us.

Fr. Scott Haynes