MAY 24, 2020 • The Ascension of the Lord

Men of Galilee, why are you standing there staring at the sky? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will return in the same way as you have seen him going into heaven. 

ACTS 1:11

WEEKEND MASSES (Suspended until further notice)
Saturday: 8:00 a.m., 4:30 p.m. (anticipated), Sunday: 7:45, 9:30, 11:15 a.m., 5:00 p.m.
Happy, but odd, Memorial Day to all. Under social distancing and stay-at-home orders, this will be a Memorial Day like no other! Perhaps, this year in the quietness and less active hours of the day, we might spend a little more time remembering and honoring in our prayer all men and women who died serving in our U.S. Military. This Memorial Day, however, we might also remember those who have died as heroes in a different kind of warfare, the one against the Coronavirus. Many first responders, doctors and nurses have sacrificed their lives to help those who were sick. Let us lift them all up this day and ask that God grant them eternal rest and peace.

Recently, I read something that has stayed with me that I want to share with you. It is a lovely thought and prayer.

I do not know when we can gather together again in worship, Lord. So for now I just ask that:
When I sing along in the kitchen to each of my favorite songs, may it be counted as praise.
And that when I read news and my heart tightens in my chest, may it be counted as a Kyrie.
And that when my eyes brighten in a smile behind my mask as I thank the cashier, may it be counted as passing the peace.
And that when I water my plants and do the dishes or take my shower, may it be counted as remembering my baptism.
And when I see the spring flowers and clear blue sky or even hear rolling thunder and the sound of rain, it be counted as a homily, new life all around me.
And that as I sit at my table before me, and eat one more homemade meal, or restaurant delivered meal, slowly, joyfully with nothing demanding my attention, may it be counted as communion.
Amen.

(From Nadia Bolz-Weber)

And now I would like to lift up the remarkable women of our parish:

St. Giles CCW Woman of the Year is...

The woman of the year for 2019-2020 is a woman who has seen many changes in the past couple of months. Her life today looks so different than it did at the beginning of the year.
She is checking in on family members, friends and neighbors.
She may be finding new levels of patience as she tries to home school her children or learns to use Zoom on a device.
(How does this mute button work?)
She has made sacrifices. She has watched her children, friends, and neighbors have major life events; weddings, proms, graduations, and summer camps cancelled.
She has cried many times and is heartbroken for any loved ones she has lost in these last months.
She was not able to be with them.
She has held her breath with every cough or sneeze of a loved one and prayed that it is not a symptom of COVID-19.
She found the courage to ask for help completing what before was an every day task such as getting groceries and picking up medicine. She never thought she’d have to do that.
She wakes up each morning and has to ask what day is it? How many days longer?

Our 2019-2020 WOMAN OF THE YEAR IS...
YOU - ALL OF THE WOMEN OF THE ST. GILES COMMUNITY!

You are strong and we will get through this and celebrate all of you together when we can, and we so look forward to that day!

Have a blessed, safe week ahead … with God’s help we will prevail. With you a Christian. For you a priest.
Spiritual Life & Worship

We Pray For . . .
Those who are hospitalized or homebound, including: Mary Pat Baubly, Marty Blake, Tim Bock, Jan Brent, Deirdre Buckingham, Luciana Butera, David Campbell, Angela Cary, Tony Cocco, Thomas Coleman, Anthony Costa, Ann Cyr, Daniel DeMarte, Donna DiGilio, Andrea Dickson, Nancy Abram Donaldson, Paul Frauenfelder, Mary Jane Gage, Vicky Gallermo, Jim Gibson, Laura Gruber, Mary Frances Hegarty, Deacon John Henricks, Paul Hoffman, Annette Hulefeld, Frank Hulefeld, Karl Humowicki, Tim Kenny, Helen Kiefer, Jason Kuntz, Dorothy Lane, Ann Mackin, Angela Madden, Mary Mamolella, Giuliana Mason, Patricia McDonald, Kathy Nardi, Sister Louise Noesen, Mary Kay Olson, Anne O’Neill, Colin O’Shea, Amelia Patterson, Owen Petzelska, Bob Quane, Joanne Quane, William Rios, Jr., Fr. Ed Salmon, Charles Serpe, Catherine Shilaga, Pat Sikorski, Marianne Tagler, Frank Trankina, Mary Ann Trankina, Kathy Varner, Wendell and Shirley Venerable, Nancy Wesclitz, and Deacon Gerry Zych.

(Some names have been removed from our listing in the Arrow but are continuing to be prayed for through the Prayer Circle. Others have received a Prayer Shawl representing the prayers for healing by the Parish community.)

And for those of our family members and parishioners who have died, especially Paul Chan, father of Vera Chan, and Anthony Ramos, nephew of Sandra Ruiz, and Donna M. Curzon, sister of Kathy Barrett.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK
(Intentions will be offered in private Masses by our priests)

Monday, May 25
Memorial Day
8:30 — Deceased of the Parish;
   Dr. Christina Marciniak and Dr. Michael Brown on their 35th Anniversary of Marriage

Tuesday, May 26
Saint Philip Neri, Priest
6:30 — Aaron Johnson
8:30 — Marilyn Hammer; John Zych

Wednesday, May 27
6:30 — Martin McGowan
8:30 — Joe Scott

Thursday, May 28
6:30 — Betty Shaker
8:30 — Dolores Lombardo

Friday, May 29
6:30 — Dennis Carey
8:30 — Tina Cortiletti

Saturday, May 30
8:00 — Pat DeSimini
4:30 — Sr. Norella Hartnett, RSM

Sunday, May 31
Pentecost Sunday
7:45 — All Saint Giles Parishioners and Benefactors
9:30 — Carlos Mazon
11:15 — Norbert Zych
5:00 — Chester Hammer

Here I Am
Keeping Connected @ St Giles

In anticipation of creating a more robust communication system, we are launching “Here I Am – Keeping Connected @ St. Giles” with a simple Google form that we are asking all parishioners to fill out so that we can make sure we have the most current information for all members of our faith family.

By answering these few simple questions, it will help us ensure you are receiving important information as it becomes available and allow the parish records to be updated as appropriate. There is also a final question that allows you to put forward anything you’d like held in prayer by all of us in community.

Thank you in advance for taking a few minutes to complete this! You can copy this URL to your browser to submit the form:

https://forms.gle/fVYqsbPQxxCUrYEW7

Or, visit our website:
http://www.stgilesparish.org/keeping-connected/

With thanks for your support and donations!

After nearly two months of partnering with members of the parish to collect food and donations for those affected by Coronavirus, I am pleased to share our success. I would like to begin by expressing my gratitude for the generous parishioners who went out of their way to drop off donations at my home.

Our donations were able to reach various local groups and communities. We began our outreach with our Thanksgiving partner, Senior Suites of Belmont Cragin. After ensuring the residents were given the donations they need, we were introduced to two other senior living centers: Kelvyn Park and Austin. Due to the incredible response and kindness from our St. Giles Parish, we were able to give to provide steady donations to these centers for the last fifty days.

The first partner that we established during the project was Sr. Stephanie at The Our Lady of Angels Mission in Chicago. My daughter and I had the opportunity to spend a day at the mission collecting food donations to deliver to one of the assisted living homes we supported. Thank you to John Mullin and Marriose Ferrara for introducing us to the developing community food pantry. We were very impressed by their readiness to serve and their welcoming spirit!

The second partner we established was a local Feeding America representative. Our generous donations were able to be directly given to an Oak Park family to help fill their pantry with kid-friendly favorites!

--Sue Schreck
School News

Celebrating Our 8th Graders!

Unfortunately, shelter-in-place is still in effect as graduation draws near for the St. Giles Class of 2020. This week, we thought we would provide them with a little Monday morning excitement at their homes! Principal Bigane, Assistant Principal Lofgren and other faculty delivered yard signs to the students, let them know we’re thinking of them during this difficult time, and took a photo of them (all from a safe distance!) We are so proud of our students and look forward to celebrating with them as soon as it becomes possible.
Pope Francis has always had a very special devotion to Mary, Undoer of Knots. In 2015, when he visited the US, outside the chapel of the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul in Philadelphia, a spiritual art installation was created where people could tie white strips of paper with written prayers on them to a latticework. The petitions ranged from healing for themselves or family members, world peace, the elimination of poverty, protection for the environment, the preservation of families and thousands of other requests to "undo the knots" of these issues.

While we are not able to recreate this exactly, we are blessed with many healthy, young trees in the parish courtyard and would like to encourage all parishioners, and welcome all others, to write a prayer petition on a strip of ribbon or paper (any color) and stop by the courtyard to tie these on a branch of one of the trees there. Please make sure to give other visitors a safe social distance while leaving your petition. We'd like to include these petitions collectively in each Mass going forward and keep everyone updated with photos of our growing prayer space. #togetherstgiles

Virtual Prayer Ribbons: Family and friends who don’t live in the area may leave a virtual prayer ribbon by visiting: www.stgilesparish.org/prayer-ribbon
You may have seen our logo in the Arrow last week, as we have partnered with the team that is collecting and delivering food to the local pantries. We wanted to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves and share a bit more about the work we are hoping to engage in.

**Love in Action** is a high school ministry program that empowers and supports teens in creating opportunities for outreach, engagement and service in our local community through a variety of community partners.

**Our Leadership Team:**

Marielle Janosky is 16 and a rising junior at Oak Park and River Forest High School. Marielle has been part of the Family Mass Community since the age of three and part of CHAOS since freshman year. Marielle enjoys Irish dancing and playing the bass clarinet. Marielle has always been interested in working for social justice and they particularly enjoy service work.

Will Kornowske is 17 and a graduating senior from Fenwick High School who will be attending the University of Connecticut in the fall. Will has been a part of the Family Mass Community since the age of three and part of CHAOS since freshman year. Will enjoys swimming, playing water polo, and watching movies. Will is passionate about LGBTQ+ rights and serving his community.

While our programming focuses primarily on empowering teens in service, we want to include ALL members of the parish that feel as though they can safely engage! We are launching our work with the food collection initiative and are hoping to expand.

For more information check out our page on the St. Giles website: [www.stgilesparish.org/youth-ministry/love-in-action](http://www.stgilesparish.org/youth-ministry/love-in-action)

And feel free to email us with any questions that you may have [stgilesloveinaction@gmail.com](mailto:stgilesloveinaction@gmail.com)
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