

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 22, 2022

† MASS INTENTIONS †

Sat.	5/21	4:00 PM	Michael Plaksa by the McDermott Family
Sun.	5/22	11:00 AM	Elaine Gazick by the Capozzelli Family
Mon.	5/23	7:00 PM	Agnes, Clarence (Soni), and Larry Budda by Their Children David, Sharon, and Marty
Tue.	5/24	7:00 AM	Emil Wish by Veronica Wish and Debbie and John Uhrin
Wed.	5/25	7:00 AM	Dolores Buchman by Mr. Paul Thomas
		7:00 PM	Ascension Vigil LeAnne Brogan by Dr. Joseph Dellacroce
Thur.	5/26	7:00 AM	Ascension Thursday M/M Michael Petro, Helen Petro, and Jim Petro by Their Family
Fri.	5/27	7:00 AM	Andrew, Raymond, and Joseph Ambrose by Maureen
Sat.	5/28	4:00 PM	Andy and Anna Prokopovich by Jim and Michalene Eisenhart
Sun.	5/29	11:00 AM	Robert Hludzik by Mary Ann

Last Weekend:



Parish Contributions for this week will be reflected in the June 5th bulletin.

CANDLES ON THE ALTAR are in Memory of Agnes, Clarence, and Larry Budda by Their Children David, Sharon, and Marty



OUR SANCTUARY LAMP is burning this week Andrew, Raymond, and Joseph Ambrose by Maureen



MEMORIAL DAY MASS will be celebrated on **Monday, May 30th**, at **9:00 AM** in St. Ann's Cemetery. Please bring chairs as the seating is limited. In case of inclement weather, Mass will be celebrated in the church. There will be **NO 7:00 PM MASS**.



MANDATORY BAPTISMAL PREPARATION CLASS will be at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, July 20th, in the Saint Joseph Room of Good Shepherd Church. Please register by calling the Immaculate Conception Parish Office at 570-636-3035 or the Good Shepherd office at 570-788-3141. Please plan to attend the Baptismal Preparation Class well in advance of your baby's birth so that you are aware of all the information necessary to schedule your baby's baptism.

PARISH CEMETERIES - Volunteers for the parish cemeteries ask parishioners to please remove all Christmas and Easter decorations as soon as possible from family plots in order to prepare for the upcoming Memorial Day and summer season. Please take all of your discarded items with you. Do not pile them up at the fences.



A MESSAGE FROM FATHER MIKE...



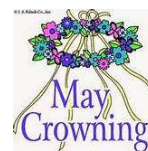
You have heard me say many times that I am the man I am (and the priest) partly because of the Scouting program. I began in cub scouts and spent many summers working at scout camp in various positions. One of the best lessons I learned from scouting is a simple two-word phrase: BE PREPARED! I may not always be fully prepared, but I understand the meaning of those two words.

In this weekend's Gospel, Jesus is preparing the disciples for His departure. Of course, we know that He ascended to heaven, but the disciples did not know it at the time. Jesus is offering His peace to them. He also told them about the Advocate (Holy Spirit) that will come to them (again, the disciples did not understand the full meaning of the statement). How prepared are you? How prepared are you to meet the Lord? Have you been to confession? Do you come to church on a regular basis? Do you pray on a daily basis? Do you teach your children about the Roman Catholic faith? All these, and many more, are ways we are challenged to be prepared. The real question is: how prepared are you?



A VIEW FROM THE PEW, "A SIMPLE PRAYER."

May is a busy time of the year, First Holy Communion, the May crowning, a month set aside to honor the Virgin Mary. Sitting in a pew watching all these holy events take one back to his or her childhood and that sense of goodness that is so lacking in our world today. I found this quote from St. Teresa that I don't think I used before, but if I did, I think it is appropriate for the troubled times we live in today. "If you ever feel distressed during your day, call upon our Lady, just say this simple prayer: 'Mary, Mother of Jesus, please be a mother to me now.' I must admit, this prayer has never failed me."



PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL NOMINATION FORM: The parishes of Immaculate Conception and Good Shepherd operate a combined Parish Pastoral council to serve both parishes. This council guides and determines the direction of the parishes to fulfill the goals and mission of the Church. Would you consider sharing your gifts as a member of the Pastoral Council or do you know someone who would make a good member of the Council? The yellow insert in the entrances of the church is your invitation to nominate yourself and/or another parishioner to become a member of the Pastoral Council. Deadline for nominations is **May 23, 2022**.



PARISH BINGO will be held on **Thursday, June 16th**, in the parish center. Kitchen opens at 4:30 PM. Early Birds start at 5:30 PM. Regular Bingo starts at 6:00 PM. There will be 15 regular games with a pay-out of \$35 each, 3 Early Birds with a pay-out of \$10 each, 4 Specials with a pay-out of \$50 each, and one Last Special with a pay-out of \$100. Admission is \$10 for 15 games. Donations of Baked Goods and Tricky Trays are most welcome and appreciated.



The Freeland Fire Department Annual Spaghetti Dinner sponsored by The Other Side Restaurant will be held on Sunday, June 5th, from 12:00 to 3:00 PM at TOS located at 421 Centre St. The meal will cost \$10 and will consist of a salad, spaghetti and meatballs, dessert, and beverage. Tickets can be obtained from any firefighter or by calling the station at 570-636-3244 and leaving a call back number. Eat in, take out, or deliveries are available options. Also tricky trays will be on display at TOS during the dinner.



❖ **Dear Deacon Jim,**

My question is concerning Hell. Is it an actual burning of souls, besides never getting to see God? We know there is a Devil and Hell but no one says what Hell is. Can you give me some clarification?

❖ **Response**

In response to your interesting and thought-provoking questions First, by definition, according to the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC 1033), **hell** is "*the state of definitive self-exclusion from communion with God and the blessed.*" So, therefore, you are correct in that not accepting God's merciful love means remaining separated from God and never seeing him forever by the individual's own free choice.

Most of what we know of hell and its eternity comes from our Lord, Jesus Christ. And he uses unequivocal terms. Our Lord often referred to "hell". He warned against "the hell of fire", "the unquenchable fire" and "the eternal fire". Our Lord also spoke of "the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Mt 13:42). Also, we find phrases like "the lake of fire" (in Revelation 19:20, 20:10) representing hell. Gehenna is typically always used for the "hell" of "Catholic dogma" in Scripture.

Of the twelve times "Gehenna" is used to refer to "hell" in the New Testament, eleven of the twelve come from our Lord.

So, are the "flames of fire" of hell, the actual burning of souls' literal? We have no knowledge of fire which is unquenchable. It would seem that since the souls in "hell" do not presently have bodies that would be rather difficult to imagine.

Again, the Catechism (CCC 1033) emphasizes that "the chief punishment of hell is eternal separation from God, in whom alone man can possess the life and happiness for which he was created and for which he longs". It is absolute emptiness and isolation beyond anything we can fathom. These pains are quite real, quite literal, and consist of both the pain of loss and the pain of senses, They involve the body after the resurrection of the body and "follow from the very nature of sin," or they arise from the inside out, not from the outside in.

I would think that this would be the most agonizing pain to be cast into "the eternal fire" surely refers to the keenest of suffering, but probably not being incinerated forever.

Deacon Jim