SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH

PARISH STAFF
Pastor: Very Rev. Rob Adams, STL
Deacon: Dcn. Joe Jacobs
Administrative Assistant: Becky Griffith
Custodian: Lisa Scalf

MASS SCHEDULE
Saturday, Vigil Mass: 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, Mass: 10:30 a.m.
Adoration: Tuesday, 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
Saturday: 4:00 p.m. or by appointment.

BAPTISM - 2 WEEKS NOTICE
Please call the office for an appointment.

MARRIAGE PREP - 6 MONTHS NOTICE
Please call the office for an appointment.

137 Bryan Street
Pikeville, Kentucky 41501
Phone: 606-437-6117

Website: www.stfrancispikeville.org
Email: stfrancischurch@cdlex.org
App: St Francis Pikeville

6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

"It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. This I command you: love one another." - Jn 15:16-17

Sunday Offertory

04-28-2024.....$3,201
Weekly Budget.....$2,700
Surplus/Deficit.....$501

YTD
Offertory.....$137,359
Budget.....$118,800
Surplus/Deficit.....$18,559

Food Pantry $10

Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48
1 John 4:7-10
John 15:9-17

Let us love one another as Christ has loved us by offering himself for our sins. His love is to be revealed to all the world, as Peter himself taught.

Readings may be found in the Saint Augustine Hymnal Number 965

From the Pastor's Desk....

Good Sunday morning,

This week, the Church celebrates the Sixth Sunday of Easter. Normally, Ascension would fall on this coming Thursday (May 9), but our diocese has transferred the feast to the following Sunday.

I plan on preaching about the Gospel reading this week, but I also wanted to touch on the first reading. It says that the holy Spirit fell upon "those listening to the word....and they heard them speaking in tongues and glorifying God". When I was sick a few weeks ago, I spent a lot (too much) time watching religious TikToks, and I was surprised by how many people take verses like this as normative. What do I mean? They think that anyone who does **NOT** speak in tongues has **NOT** received the Holy Spirit.

I have a few thoughts on this. First, I think we should remember that the Book of Acts describes the gift of tongues as "each on hearing the apostles speaking in his own language". It was not the "language of the angels" that the Pentecostals describe. The Spirit does not come to make people incoherent, but the gift of tongues is **FOR** the proclamation of the word. As Paul says somewhere "What good is it if I speak in the tongues of angels and don't have charity?"

Second, we know that the gift of the Spirit might not have external or flashy consequences. The sign of the Holy Spirit is the fruit of the Spirit. A good tree bears good fruit. We can know the presence of the Spirit by peace, joy, love, patience, and kindness that show up in the life of the believer.

Fr. Rob

Mass Schedule & Intentions

Saturday, May 4	5:00 pm Vigil Mass	For Vocations
Sunday, May 5	10:30 am Mass 1:00 pm	For the People For the People
Monday, May 6	**No Mass**	
Tuesday, May 7	Noon Mass	+Nanette Schmidt
Wednesday, May 8	Noon Mass	+Charles L. Schmidt
Thursday, May 9	**No Mass**	
Friday, May 10	Noon Mass	+Covie Joseph Schmidt
Saturday, May 11	5:00 pm Vigil Mass	For the People
Sunday, May 12	10:30 am Mass	+Janet Tackett

Parish Calendar & Announcements

LECTOR ROTATION - Below are the names and dates of the lector rotation.

5/5 Joseph Mata
5/12 Lindsay May
5/19 Lauren Vanderpool

"If you cannot make your assigned date, feel free to contact a fill in for yourself or contact Sidney Cline at 606-424-8118".

PRAYER – FOR EVERYDAY AND EVERYBODY

Prayer of Love

God the Father, You created me in love. Jesus, your love for me compelled you to come to earth to die for me.
Holy Spirit, love between God and Jesus, now you surround me with the love of the Father and the Son. Help me to live out this reality, today and always. Amen. ©LPi

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

Choosing to Love One Another

Love one another. The greatest commandment, the simplest commandment — and if you've ever loved anyone, you know it's also the hardest.

I'm man enough to admit it. I've seen one or two of those cheesy Hallmark movies that are especially popular around the holidays. Boy meets Girl. Boy and Girl encounter a catastrophic roadblock to their relationship — they're coaches of rival high school volleyball teams, or he runs a dog kennel and she works at a feline rescue, so it could never, ever work out, right? But sprinkle a little movie magic over the whole situation and Boy and Girl find what Hallmark tells us is true love.

I could make a list of all the things that are inaccurate about these movies, and something I would put right near the top — maybe even above the sometimes-unbelievable storylines — is the idea that love is a feeling.

See, I'm not sure if it's accurate to call these movies love stories. Attraction stories, sure. But if you've ever forgiven someone who's hurt you, nursed a dying parent, gotten up for an infant's night feeding or let your kid have the last piece of cake, you know that real love is a verb. It's something you do. And it is almost always a choice.

Love one another. How often do we hear this? How often do we think about what it really means? How often do we take a moment to consider the action Jesus is asking us to take and the choice he is asking us to make? — Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

Once a man came to the Vatican and asked to see Pope John Paul II, claiming that they had been friends in Poland. When told of the man, the Pope said, "He is mistaken about our friendship. I don't recall ever having suffered with him." As it turned out, the man had never known the Pope. Now, I'm not sure if the story is totally factual. But doesn't the juxtaposition of suffering with friendship sound exactly like JPII? He understood that the deepest and most lasting friendships are forged in the fires of shared suffering. No suffering, no friendship. Amazing.

This week we hear Jesus say to the apostles and to us, "You are my friends if you do what I command you" (John 15:14). In Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, God entered the world of human suffering and transformed it into an avenue of friendship with Himself. Following His command — to love, to lay down our lives for others — will always entail suffering. But this suffering only deepens our friendship with Him. His suffering is ours; ours is His. We have become friends of God.

This week, how might you share your suffering with the Risen Jesus? How might he be sharing his suffering with you, in the lives of those around you? Be attentive to that, and you'll find that you are indeed a friend of God, because you've suffered together a great deal.— Father John Muir ©LPi

Pray For...

Mary Jo Potensky, Mary Ann Sisco's cousin

Terry Reed, cancer and kidney failure

Sharon Collins, cancer

Alex Wells, car accident

Sidney Tackett

Wilson Vanzant, Lisa Scalf's stepdad

Sister Kathy Avery

Ransom McCoy, Lindsay May's dad

Jimmie Goss

Tim Deskins

Melba Schmidt, Kenny Schmidt's mother

Erica Hunt, Lisa Scalf's friend (kidney failure)

John Fliehman, stroke

Wanda Baker

Jeffrey Scalf, Lisa's son

Sandy Lowe, cancer

Ron Saros

Kenny Blackburn

Helen Altman

Margarita Gomez

Fran Sykes

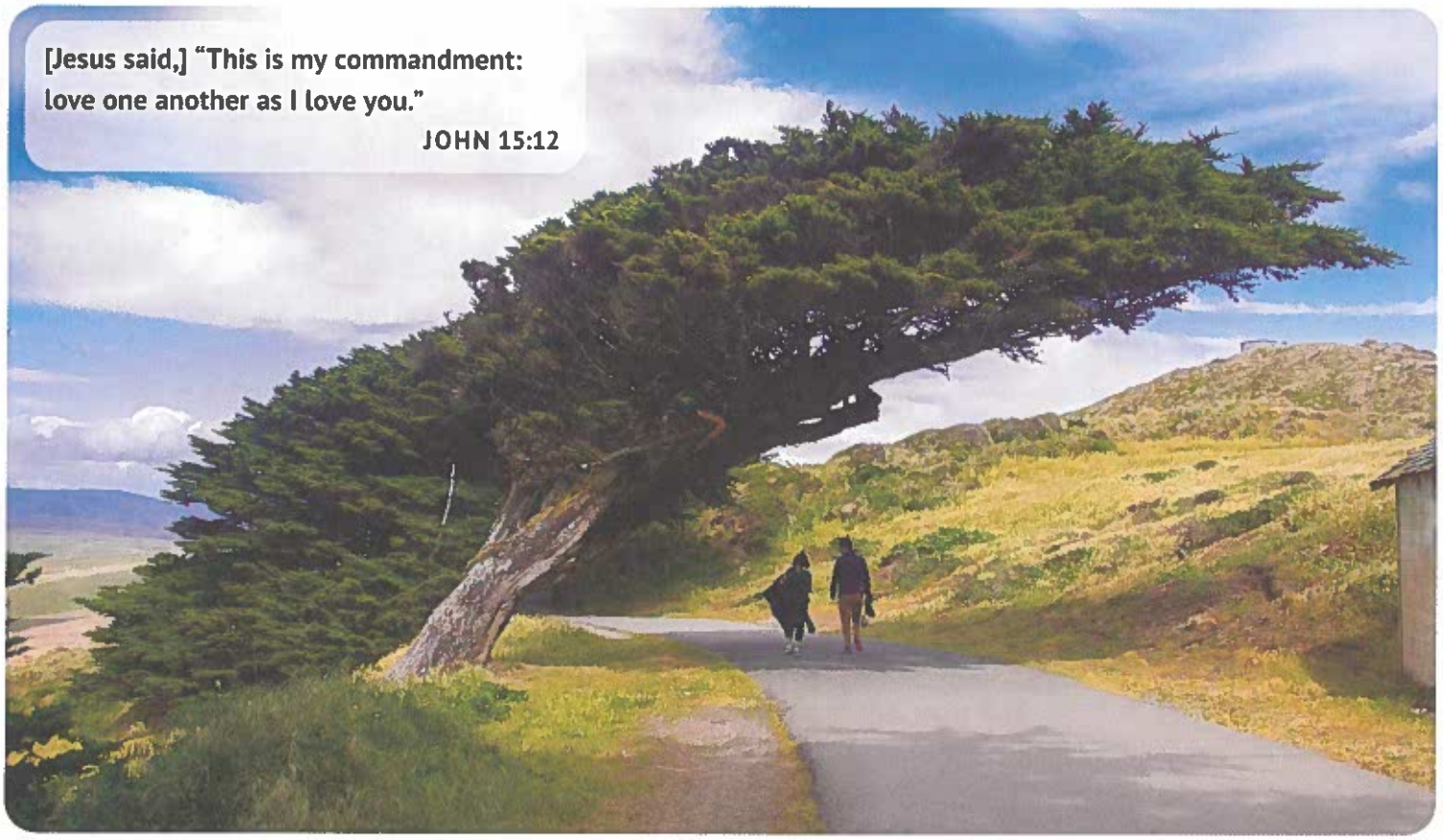
VOTIVE CANDLES:
Suggested donation: Large votives $3.00 and small votives $0.50

Our Parish COMMUNITY

May 5, 2024

Sixth Sunday of Easter (B)

Acts 10:25–26, 34–35, 44–48 / 1 John 4:7–10 / John 15:9–17



We're Like Trees

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

A while back I decided to plant two saplings that were about ten feet tall along the property line of the parish home where I lived. Some time after I planted them, I noticed that one was leaning in one direction and the other a bit in the opposite direction. *Strange,* I thought, *for it seemed that when I planted them they were staked with rope and stood straight.* So I bought some six-foot fence posts and tied the trees to them, thinking that as they grew they would straighten themselves. Not so. After three years the trees seemed to insist on growing their own way, one leaning into the wind and the other a bit twisted. It seemed the only solution was to love them the way they were.

It is so with the people in our lives as well. Sooner or later we find ourselves needing to love them with their idiosyncrasies and foibles and perhaps even their sinfulness. We may try to reshape them, but ultimately it is usually to little avail. They have been created by God, after all, and if God has chosen us—as the Gospel suggests—then God also has chosen us to love them as they are, and perhaps to love them into all that they can be. Ultimately though, God does the pruning, the reshaping, not us. We participate in that process by caring for them and bringing good to them, always in the image of Jesus. ●

Reflect

Think of everyone with whom you have some difficulty and name a good quality of each one.

Dear Padre,

Please clarify for me what the Church considers as "gossip." Is it that bad?

ANDRES SONINE / SHUTTERSTOCK

Human beings have the great gift of speech. We continually talk to one another and we talk about one another. Gossip, at its most basic level, is just idle talk. It is neither good nor bad. But it is a tool we can use to build up another human being or tear a person down.

Gossip is sinful when we use our words to unjustly hurt the reputation of another or to judge another person rashly. The two words that the Church uses to describe this evil side of gossip are "detraction" and "calumny." The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* tells us that detraction is "without objectively valid reason, disclosing another's faults and failings to persons who did not know them." Calumny occurs when a person, "by remarks contrary to the truth, harms the reputation of others and gives occasion for false judgments concerning them" (*CCC* 2477).

To judge whether your own gossip is good or evil, simply ask yourself: Do the words I am saying help others or hurt others? Am I building them up or tearing them down? Hopefully, as a Christian, you are committed to the commandment of Jesus we hear in today's Gospel: "This is my commandment: love one another as I love you" (John 15:12).

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to **DearPadre.org** to send your question and to learn more about ***Dear Padre***.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
May 6	May 7	May 8	May 9	May 10	May 11	May 12
Easter Weekday	*Easter Weekday*	*Easter Weekday*	*Easter Weekday*	*Easter Weekday*	*Easter Weekday*	*Ascension of the Lord*
Acts 16:11–15	Acts 16:22–34	Acts 17:15, 22–18:1	Acts 18:1–8	Acts 18:9–18	Acts 18:23–28	Acts 1:1–11
Jn 15:26–16:4a	Jn 16:5–11	Jn 16:12–15	Jn 16:16–20	Jn 16:20–23	Jn 16:23b–28	Eph 1:17–23 or Eph 4:1–13 or 4:1–7, 11–13
						Mk 16:15–20

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A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

To love as the Lord loves us means to appreciate the people beside us, to respect their freedom, to love them as they are, not as we want them to be; as they are, gratuitously....Not controlling, serving them. Opening our heart to others, this is love, to be trusting, giving ourselves to others.

REGINA CAELI, ROME, MAY 9, 2021

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