The Ascension of the Lord



Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for the 54th World Communications Day

"That you may tell your children and grandchildren" (Ex 10:2) Life Becomes History



I would like to devote this year's Message to the theme of storytelling, because I believe that, so as not to lose our bearings, we need to make our own the truth contained in

good stories. Stories that build up, not tear down; stories that help us rediscover our roots and the strength needed to move forward together. Amid the cacophony of voices and messages that surround us, we need a human story that can speak of ourselves and of the beauty all around us. A narrative that can regard our world and its happenings with a tender gaze. A narrative that can tell us that we are part of a living and interconnected tapestry. A narrative that can reveal the interweaving of the threads which connect us to one another.

1. Weaving stories

Faith Formation8

Human beings are storytellers. From childhood we hunger for stories just as we hunger for food. Stories influence our lives, whether in the form of fairy tales, novels, films, songs, news, even if we do not always realize it. Often we decide what is right or wrong based on characters and stories we have made our own. Stories leave their mark on us; they shape our convictions and our behaviour. They can help us understand and communicate who we are.

We are not just the only beings who need clothing to cover our vulnerability (cf. Gen 3: 21); we are also the only ones who need to be "clothed" with stories to protect our lives. We weave not only clothing, but also stories: indeed, the human capacity to "weave" (Latin texere) gives us not only the word textile but also text. The stories of different ages all have a common "loom": the thread of their narrative involves "heroes", including everyday heroes, who in following a dream confront difficult situations and combat evil, driven by a force that makes them courageous, the force of love. By immersing ourselves in stories, we can find reasons to heroically face the challenges of life.

Human beings are storytellers because we are engaged in a process of constant growth, discovering ourselves and

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A Prayer for World Peace

Dear God, thank You for all creation. In the spirit of Jesus of Nazareth and all teachers of peace who inspire the many faith traditions, help me and all the people of the world learn how to replace hate, war, oppression, and division with love, peace, freedom, and reconciliation. Help me to embody Your love in my relationships with my family, friends, strangers – even my enemies. I commit myself to this sacred task throughout my life. So let it be. Amen.

What's Happening at SJECC:	Adult Faith Formation
Mass Intentions	Mass Worship Aid 10-15
Gospel Reflections	Catholic Charities
Church Reopening FAQ 4-5	Parish Information
World Communications Day	

Mass Intentions

Mass for Deceased	(+) an	d Special	Intentions	(SI)
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Saturday, May 23, 2020

8:00 a.m.	+	Frank J. Popolo
(Vigil Masses	for S	unday)
3:00 p.m.	+	Eric F. Vierling
5:00 p.m.	+	Mario Pelli

Sunday, May 24, 2020

7:00 a.m.+Rosemary Economov9:00 a.m.+Stephen Conger11:00 a.m.+William Schultz1:00 p.m.+Etta Farrelly5:00 p.m.+Alois S. McAvoy

Monday, May 25, 2020 8:30 a.m. SI Margaret & Deb Marsh

Tuesday, May 26, 20208:30 a.m.+Agnes Lopez & The Lopez Family

Wednesday, May 27, 2020 8:30 a.m. + Loren McGirr

 Thursday, May 28, 2020

 8:30 a.m.
 +
 Leo Horey

Friday, May 29, 2020 8:30 a.m. + Joe Reid

Saturday, May 30, 20208:00 a.m.Novena Mass for Life(Vigil Masses for Sunday)3:00 p.m.+Edward Verdesca5:00 p.m.+Mr. & Mrs. John Shea

Sunday, May 31, 2020

7:00 a.m.	+	George Dietel
9:00 a.m.	+	Thelma Corsetti
11:00 a.m.	+	Dr. & Mrs. Joseph DeFeo
1:00 p.m.	+	Chester Joseph Collins
5:00 p.m.	+	Andy Sanfelippo

Requested By Frank & June Popolo

Polly Vierling Adeline

Requested By Sandra Gilbert & Bruce Cahn Claire Conger The Schultz Family Mary Sanders

Requested By Deb Marsh

Elsa C. McAvoy

Requested By Henry DeGenova

Requested By Joan McGirr

Requested By Iris Horey

Requested By Kay Reid

Requested By

Mary Verdesca Ginger & Kathy

Requested By

Nelly & Frank Willshire Bob & Norma Claussen Lillian Leone Joseph & Eileen Capriotti Gerry & Susan Waite **Readings for the Week** Saturday, May 23, 2020 Acts 18:23-28/Jn 16:23b-28 (296)

Sunday, May 24, 2020 The Ascension of the Lord Solemnity Acts 1:1-11/Eph 1:17-23/Mt 28:16-20 (58) Pss Prop

Monday, May 25, 2020 [Saint Bede the Venerable; Saint Gregory VII; Saint Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi] Acts 19:1-8/Jn 16:29-33 (297)

Tuesday, May 26, 2020 [Saint Philip Neri] *Memorial* Acts 20:17-27/Jn 17:1-11a (298)

Wednesday, May 27, 2020 [Saint Augustine of Canterbury] Acts 20:28-38/Jn 17:11b-19 (299)

Thursday, May 28, 2020 Acts 22:30; 23:6-11/Jn 17:20-26 (300)

Friday, May 29, 2020 [Saint Paul VI] Acts 25:13b-21/Jn 21:15-19 (301)

Saturday, May 30, 2020 Morning: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31/Jn 21:20-25 (302)

SACRAMENTS OF THE CHURCH

Sacrament of Baptism. The Diocese requires that parents seeking baptism for their child attend a baptism preparation class. To schedule a baptism class, please contact our Parish Secretary, Deborah Marsh: deb@sjecc.com or (239) 566-8740.

Sacrament of Matrimony. Those who wish to be married in our parish must complete the Marriage Preparation Program. The Diocese requires a six month notice. *Tricia Schwarz: tricia@sjecc.com*.

Anointing of the Sick/Funeral Arrangements. Call the parish office. If the office is closed the answering machine will provide an emergency phone number for you to reach a priest.

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Gospel Reflections with Father Tom

On Ascension Day, Jesus withdrew His physical presence from His disciples. But physical absence does not mean the end of presence. The ascension of Jesus is His liberation from all restrictions of time and space. It does not represent His removal from the earth, but His constant presence everywhere on earth.

Physical presence isn't everything. In fact, it can sometimes actually get in the way of intimate communication. Many of our disappointments in life are caused by the fact that seeing and touching do not always create the closeness we seek. Two people can be physically close, and yet live separate, lonely lives, because there is no meeting of minds and hearts. They are like shells on a shore.

On the other hand, people can be very close to one another even though separated by thousands of miles. For people to grow together, there must be periods of absence as well as presence. In absence we see each other in a new way. We are less distracted by each other's idiosyncrasies and better able to appreciate each other's true worth.

If we are able to be fully present to our friends when we are with them, our absence, too, will bear fruit. The memory of that presence, the warmth of it, will continue to nourish the other person. Thus, not only our presence but also our absence becomes a gift.

When we think of each other with love, a spiritual bond is created between us, and we enter into a new intimacy. For those who love one another, there is no such place as "far away." I believe all of us have experienced this in these last couple of months during the pandemic.

Jesus' ascension was not a journey into outer space, but a journey home. We must not think that He has abandoned us; that He once lived on earth but has now gone back to where He really belongs. If this were so then Christianity would be no more than a remembrance religion. Jesus has gone to God. During his earthly ministry, He could only be in one place at a time. But now that He is united with God, He is present wherever God is present; and that is everywhere.

The first Christians understood this very well. They knew that Jesus was still with them, even if not in the same way as before. They believed He still shared their lives, and that death would mean being united with Him in glory forever.

Still, we might look back with envy at the people who were fortunate enough to have seen the risen Lord with their own eyes. But the Gospels show that those who were in that enviable position did not truly



know Jesus until the Scriptures were expounded and the bread was broken.

We Christians of the present day have those same means of recognizing the Lord – the Scriptures and the breaking of the bread. In the matter of encountering Jesus with faith, a past generation is not more privileged than the present one.

Jesus was relying on the apostles and now on us to make sure that the Gospel was preached and lived. He needs us to witness to His presence in the world.

Church Reopening FAQ

Questions and Answers: Resuming Public Masses

When Will Masses Be?

Public Mass will begin with Daily Masses on **Monday, May 18, 2020**. We will resume our normal Mass schedule at that time:

Daily Masses

Monday – Friday: 8:30 a.m. Saturday: 8:00 a.m.

Weekend Masses

Saturday: 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. Sunday: 7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., and 5:00 p.m.

Can I still watch Mass Online?

Yes! We will continue our same schedule of streaming all our Masses (Daily Mass at 8:30 a.m., Saturday at 3:00 p.m., and Sunday 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.) throughout this phase of the recovery. We respect all life, and as such we want to ensure we provide the opportunity for our Parish Family and Friends to continue to social distance in their homes and not put themselves or others at risk by attending Mass in person.

Will there be Communion?

Yes, communion will be distributed at each Mass, but it will only be the Body of

Christ, and it must be taken in the hand only. There will be no distribution via the tongue. This is for the safety of the whole Parish Family, our Eucharistic Ministers, and the Clergy.



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What about Confession?

We will continue to provide opportunities for Reconciliation outside via your vehicle near our Homeless Jesus statue in the Middle Parking Lot.

- Monday: 9:00 a.m. (immediately after Daily Mass)
- Wednesday: 9:00 a.m. (immediately after Daily Mass)
- Saturday: 8:30 a.m. (immediately after Daily Mass)

Are Other Services Impacted? Funerals? Weddings? Baptisms?

Throughout the Pandemic, we have continued to provide families with weddings and funerals. Now, we will be able to expand these services to allow for up to 25% capacity of the church with proper social distancing in place, which will give more family members the opportunity to participate in person. We can still stream these services for family members who are at risk or are not able to attend in person.

Baptisms are now authorized by the Diocese, as well, so we can have Baptisms in the church for families. The same capacity and social distancing guidelines will be in effect.

I have missed my church friends and family. Can we catch up before or after Mass?

Unfortunately, in order to assure the safety and health of all of our Parish Family and Friends, we ask that you do not congregate

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Church Reopening FAQ

Questions and Answers: Resuming Public Masses

or meet up before or after Mass on our campus. When you arrive, please find your seat as you will be guided by our Ushers. Use the time before Mass for quiet prayer and reflection. Once Mass is concluded, please exit via the Front Doors of the church and move immediately to your vehicle. We want to ensure we are cleaning and preparing between Masses, and any gathering could unintentionally cause infection to each other and/or to others around you.

What about everything else going on at Saint John?

Currently, all other events, activities, and programs are suspended until further notice. Our Life Center will remain closed until both the Florida Phased Recovery program allows Gyms to be open and the Diocese allows Parish activities to resume.

All Ministry activity outside the essential Liturgical Ministries required for Mass are suspended until further notice as well.



Can I use the Adoration Chapel?

Unfortunately, due to its size and inability to maintain appropriate social distancing, the Adoration Chapel will remain closed until further notice.

What can I do to help?

First and foremost, if you are at-risk or unhealthy, please continue to attend Mass virtually via our streaming Mass. We respect your life and your health above all else, and want you to be happy and safe. If you do decide to come to church, we will not turn you away unless you do not have a mask, but we hope you will make the right choice for your own livelihood.

Our Liturgical Ministries will need able-bodied and capable volunteers to assist with the Mass. If you are interested in participating as a Lector or Eucharistic Minister or Usher, please reach out to those Ministry leads via email. There are clear requirements for each Ministry, especially in this current crisis, that must be met in order to ensure your safety and the safety of our Parish Family.

Prayer is also critically needed. You may pray for our Parish Family and the world from home or during our Visitation hours during the week.

How will you ensure my (and my family's) safety?

We have been planning and working diligently to ensure our church is as safe as a public facility can be. However, it is still a risk to come to church during this recovery phase, and we recommend highly that you consider what is in the best interest of your personal health and stay home and watch our Mass online if you so decide.

- We disinfect and wipe down all common surfaces after every Mass.
- All Bathrooms are cleaned after every Mass.
- We use a microbial and anti-viral airborne-based disinfectant in the entire church building every evening to ensure all surfaces are clean and purified.
- We provide hand sanitizer for all who enter.
- We require masks for all who come to Mass or for Visitation.
- Ushers will be ensuring all seating and social distancing guidelines are followed before, during, and after Mass.
- All Liturgical Items will be cleaned and disinfected after every Mass.

May 24, 2020 ~ The Ascension of the Lord

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becoming enriched in the tapestry of the days of our life. Yet since the very beginning, our story has been threatened: evil snakes its way through history.

2. Not all stories are good stories

"When you eat of it ... you will be like God" (cf. Gen 3:4): the temptation of the serpent introduces into the fabric of history a knot difficult to undo. "If you possess, you will become, you will achieve ..." This is the message whispered by those who even today use storytelling for purposes of exploitation. How many stories serve to lull us, convincing us that to be happy we continually need to gain, possess and consume. We may not even realize how greedy we have become for chatter and gossip, or how much violence and falsehood we are consuming. Often on communication platforms, instead of constructive stories which serve to strengthen social ties and the cultural fabric, we find destructive and provocative stories that wear down and break the fragile threads binding us together as a society. By patching together bits of unverified information, repeating banal and deceptively persuasive arguments, sending strident and hateful messages, we do not help to weave human history, but instead strip others of their dignity.

But whereas the stories employed for exploitation and power have a short lifespan, a good story can transcend the confines of space and time. Centuries later, it remains timely, for it nourishes life.

In an age when falsification is increasingly sophisticated, reaching exponential levels (as in deepfake), we need wisdom to be able to welcome and create beautiful, true and good

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stories. We need courage to reject false and evil stories. We need patience and discernment to rediscover stories that help us not to lose the thread amid today's many troubles. We need stories that reveal who we truly are, also in the untold heroism of everyday life.

3. The Story of stories

Sacred Scripture is a Story of stories. many events, peoples How and individuals it sets before us! It shows us from the very beginning a God who is both creator and narrator. Indeed, God speaks his word and things come into existence (cf. Gen 1). As narrator, God calls things into life, culminating in the creation of man and woman as his free dialogue partners, who make history alongside him. In one of the Psalms, the creature tells the creator: "For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made ... My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth" (139:13-15). We are not born complete, but need to be constantly "woven", "knitted together". Life is given to us as an invitation to continue to weave the "wonderful" mystery that we are.

The Bible is thus the great love story between God and humanity. At its centre stands Jesus, whose own story brings to fulfilment both God's love for us and our love for God. Henceforth, in every generation, men and women are called to recount and commit to memory the most significant episodes of this Story of stories, those that best communicate its meaning.

The title of this year's Message is drawn from the Book of Exodus, a primordial biblical story in which God intervenes in the history of his people. When the enslaved children of Israel cry out to Him, God listens and remembers: "God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. God saw the people of Israel – and God knew" (Ex 2: 24-25). God's memory brings liberation from oppression through a series of signs and wonders. The Lord then reveals to Moses the meaning of all these signs: "that you may tell in the hearing of your children and grandchildren... what signs I have done among them, that you may know that I am the Lord" (Ex 10:2). The Exodus experience teaches us that knowledge of the Lord is handed down from generation to generation mainly by telling the story of how he continues to make himself present. The God of life communicates with us through the story of life.

Jesus spoke of God not with abstract concepts, but with parables, brief stories taken from everyday life. At this point life becomes story and then, for the listener, story becomes life: the story becomes part of the life of those who listen to it, and it changes them.

The Gospels are also stories, and not by chance. While they tell us about Jesus, they are "performative"[1]; they conform us to Jesus. The Gospel asks the reader to share in the same faith in order to share in the same life. The Gospel of John tells us that the quintessential storyteller - the Word himself becomes the story: "God's only Son, who is at the Father's side, has made him known" (Jn 1: 18). The original verb, exegésato, can be translated both as "revealed" and "recounted". God has become personally woven into our humanity, and so has given us a new way of weaving our stories.

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4. An ever renewed story

The history of Christ is not a legacy from the past; it is our story, and always timely. It shows us that God was so deeply concerned for mankind, for our flesh and our history, to the point that he became man, flesh and history. It also tells us that no human stories are insignificant or paltry. Since God became story, every human story is, in a certain sense, a divine story. In the history of every person, the Father sees again the story of his Son who came down to earth. Every human story has an irrepressible dignity. Consequently, humanity deserves stories that are worthy of it, worthy of that dizzying and fascinating height to which Jesus elevated it.

"You" - Saint Paul wrote - "are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts" (2 Cor 3:3). The Holy Spirit, the love of God, writes within us. And as he writes within us, he establishes goodness in us and constantly reminds us of it. Indeed, to "re-mind" means to bring to mind, to "write" on the heart. By the power of the Holy Spirit, every story, even the most forgotten one, even the one that seems to be written with the most crooked lines, can become inspired, can be reborn as a masterpiece, and become an appendix to the Gospel. Like the Confessions of Augustine. Like A Pilgrim's Journey of Ignatius. Like The Story of a Soul of Saint Therese of the Child Jesus. Like The Betrothed, like The Brothers Karamazov. Like countless other stories, which have admirably scripted the encounter between God's freedom and that of man. Each of us knows different stories that have the fragrance of the Gospel, that have borne witness to the Love that transforms life. These stories cry out to be shared, recounted and brought to life in every age, in every language, in every medium.

5. A story that renews us

Our own story becomes part of every great story. As we read the Scriptures, the stories of the saints, and also those texts that have shed light on the human heart and its beauty, the Holy Spirit is free to write in our hearts, reviving our memory of what we are in God's eyes. When we remember the love that created and saved us, when we make love a part of our daily stories, when we weave the tapestry of our days with mercy, we are turning another page. We no longer remain tied to regrets and sadness, bound to an unhealthy memory that burdens our hearts; rather, by opening ourselves to others, we open ourselves to the same vision of the great storyteller. Telling God our story is never useless: even if the record of events remains the same, the meaning and perspective are always changing. To tell our story to the Lord is to enter into his gaze of compassionate love for us and for others. We can recount to him the stories we live, bringing to him the people and the situations that fill our lives. With him we can re-weave the fabric of life, darning its rips and tears. How much we, all of us, need to do exactly this!

With the gaze of the great storyteller – the only one who has the ultimate point of view – we can then approach the other characters, our brothers and sisters, who are with us as actors in today's story. For no one is an extra on the world stage, and everyone's story is open to possible change. Even when we tell of evil, we can learn to leave room for redemption; in the midst of evil, we can also recognize the working of goodness and give it space.

So it is not a matter of simply telling stories as such, or of advertising ourselves, but rather of remembering who and what we are in God's eyes, bearing witness to what the Spirit writes in our hearts and revealing to everyone that his or her story contains marvellous things. In order to do this, let us entrust ourselves to a woman who knit together in her womb the humanity of God and, the Gospel tells us, wove together the events of her life. For the Virgin Mary "treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart" (Lk 2: 19). Let us ask for help from her, who knew how to untie the knots of life with the gentle strength of love:

O Mary, woman and mother, you wove the divine Word in your womb, you recounted by your life the magnificent works of God. Listen to our stories, hold them in your heart and make your own the stories that no one wants to hear. Teach us to recognize the good thread that runs through history. Look at the tangled knots in our life that paralyze our memory. By your gentle hands, every knot can be untied. Woman of the Spirit, mother of trust, inspire us too. Help us build stories of peace, stories that point to the future. And show us the way to live them together.

Rome, at Saint John Lateran, 24 January 2020, the Memorial of Saint Francis de Sales **Franciscus**

[1] Cf. Benedict XVI, Encyclical Letter Spe Salvi, 2: "The Christian message was not only 'informative' but 'performative'. That means: the Gospel is not merely a communication of things that can be known-it is one that makes things happen and is life-changing".

Faith Formation

Confirmation Postponed to Fall 2020

In these uncertain times, it became necessary to reschedule Confirmation for our youth who were originally scheduled to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on May 20th, 2020. This group of 60 youth have continued to stay engaged in their faith viewing Masses online, praying with family members, and reflecting on their experiences. Together with their catechists, they hope to pick up where they left off when it is safe to do so, as they approach their Confirmation Day. This group of youth have been diligently preparing for two years attending youth sessions, youth rallies, retreats, adoration, and so much more! They have each selected a Confirmation Saint and spent time learning about the life of their Saint as a life to look up to and someone to intercede for them in prayer. We are so grateful for our Confirmation Team who have supported them along their journey. Thank you to Brad Campbell, Dr. Anthony and Michelle D'Agostino, Scott Baier, Dr. Ben Weber, DeChelle Summers, Marty Thompson, Luz Lozano, and Kyle VanDuser. We are also grateful for the High School Leaders that have accompanied them as well: Christopher Baier, Blake Bello, Mason Campbell, Cristina Castillo, James Forrester, Sophia Forrester, Maggie Gahan, Julia Helm, Nolan Lappin, Cecilia Nakfoor, Rebecca Selias, Brady Walczak, Ryan Woessner, and Lenny Zaiser. These High School Leaders gave of so much of their time to share their experiences and offer support to our Confirmation youth.

As we wait patiently for this special day, please keep our Confirmation Youth in your prayers. We are so proud of them and all of their efforts!

The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Joseph Baier Alexander Barrios-Ruiz Blake Bollinger K Jack Boucher N Lily Braun Joseph Calamari II \bigcirc Matthew C. Campbell W **Richard Colo** L Jackson Compitello Brendan Corina E Katherine Drevfuss D Morgan Gahan G Grant Goduti Grace Greco E **Isabel Greening** David Hintz Olivia Hofacker Kody Horton London Jackoboice Lauryn Jackson Р Zoey Jones I Charlotte Kellv Jaidan Knott E Samuel Kodak Т Thomas Kodak Alexander Konopczynski Y

Theodore Lichtlin

UNDERSTANDING

Luke Lothrop

Jacqueline Acevedo Michael Arsenault

Nina Backus

St. Brigid of Kildare St. Sebastian St. Cecilia St. Ignatius of Loyola St. Patrick of Ireland St. Anthony of Padua St. Anthony of Padua St. Catherine of Alexandria St. Luke St. Andrew the Apostle St. Phillip Neri St. Raphael the Archangel St. Sebastian St. Genevieve St. Germaine of Pibrac St. Gabriel the Archangel St. Therese of Lisieux St. Joan of Arc St. Francis of Assisi St. Rose of Viterbo St. Sebastian St. Dymphna St. Genevieve St. Joan of Arc St. Cecilia St. Joan of Arc St. Andrew the Apostle St. Peter the Apostle St. John Paul II St. Augustine

Isabella Lucarelli Abbie Lyncheski Michael MacDonald Dominic Manziano Clara Marti-Garro Sarah Mill Guillem Millet William Nehrkorn Daniel Noguera Kathryn Norris Molly O'Brien Madelyn Painter Gabriele Perilli Marta Petruzzella Pfent, Alexandra Plumley, Devon Plumley, Tyler Puthoff, Jordyn Rebimbas, Isabella Ribeiro , Laura Sebastian Robalino-Ordonez Brett Rogers Christopher Rosato Trent Rowe Haile Scandaliato Colin Shook Luke Stepan Martin Sullivan Anna Swords Madeline Vickers

St. Teresa of Avila St. Teresa of Calcutta St. Christopher St. Nicholas St. Hildegard of Bingen St. Cecilia *St. Peter the Apostle* I St. Francis of Assisi St. Michael the Archangel S St. Brigid of Ireland \square St. Kateri Tekakwitha \bigcirc *St. Gertrude of Nivelles* St. Thomas Aquinas М St. Maria Goretti St. Elizabeth of Hungary *St. Therese of Lisieux* St. James the Greater St. Mary Magdalene St. Cecilia St. Cecilia St. Michael the Archangel \bigcirc St. Sebastian IJ St. Jerome N St. Sophia St. Felix of Nola S *St. Peter the Apostle* E St. Patrick of Ireland L St. Anastasia St. Monica



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FORTITUDE

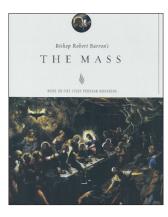


Adult Faith Formation

The Solemnity of The Ascension of the Lord The Seventh Sunday of Easter

"And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." Matthew 28:20

For you who are studying the Mass this Easter season, the program climaxes this week with transubstantiation, communion and dismissal.



This week view Lesson Six, The Real Presence Creates Communion.

Now the moment of transubstantiation arrives, when Jesus is made present to us in his very Flesh and Blood under the appearance of bread and wine. This moment is a mystery, but a reality nonetheless. Christ has come and there is a feast, and it is an eternal one that gathers the whole Church, living and dead, into communion with each other through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, our Lord made present at each Mass.

This week reflect on:

When you spend an hour at Mass on the "Mountain of the Lord," what particular graces do you enjoy and receive personally? How do these graces arm you for life off the mountain in the "valley of tears?"

What is your own unique "mission" in the Body of Christ right now? How does it come to mind at the end of each Mass you attend when you are "sent" to do God's will?

NEW Program from Bishop Robert Barron's Word on Fire!



- The Sacraments, Free to parishioners

In this just released follow-up to The Mass, Bishop Barron looks at the great sacraments of the Church in all their theological depth, spiritual effects, and pastoral promise.

Baptism, Confirmation, the Eucharist, Reconciliation, the Anointing of the Sick, Matrimony, and Holy Orders – have endured for thousands of years and structured countless lives. Everything in the Church's life comes from and returns to them. But there is far more to these ancient rites than meets the eye.

The Sacraments will help you understand these signs and channels of grace and discover the secret behind their persistence down the ages: the presence and power of the Savior himself.

Just go to <u>wofdigital.org/the sacraments</u> to view the six, 25-30 minute episodes and while you are there you can also download a Companion book, *SAINTS and SACRAMENTS* by PEGGY PANDALEON.

(Saint John the Evangelist is an *ENGAGE* parish so there is no cost to parishioners. If you have not already registered, send an email to jack@sjecc.com and I'll send you a link to register.)

Although we are not able to gather to discuss each episode of The Sacraments, we could meet in a Zoom-like, online discussion group. If you are interested send a message to me at jack@sjecc.com and indicate if you prefer an afternoon or evening session.

Questions: Just email jack@sjecc.com, or call (239) 228-3918 and leave a message. I respond promptly.

Jack Kindsvater, Adult Faith Formation and RCIA Coordinator

Scripture Readings

Reading 1

ACTS 1:1-11

Mass Worship Alia

In the first book, Theophilus,

I dealt with all that Jesus did and taught until the day he was taken up, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. He presented himself alive to them by many proofs after he had suffered, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While meeting with the them, he enjoined them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for "the promise of the Father about which you have heard me speak; for John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

When they had gathered together they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" He answered them, "It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has established by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight. While they were looking intently at the sky as he was going, suddenly two men dressed in white garments stood beside them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking 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."

Responsorial Psalm

alm PS 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9

R. (6) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

or: R. Alleluia.

All you peoples, clap your hands,

shout to God with cries of gladness,

For the LORD, the Most High, the awesome, is the great king over all the earth.

R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

or:

R. Alleluia.

God mounts his throne amid shouts of joy; the LORD, amid trumpet blasts.

Sing praise to God, sing praise; sing praise to our king, sing praise.

R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

or:

R. Alleluia.

For king of all the earth is God; sing hymns of praise. God reigns over the nations, God sits upon his holy throne. R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord. or:

R. Alleluia.

Reading 2

EPH 1:17-23

Brothers and sisters: May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a Spirit of wisdom and revelation resulting in knowledge of him. May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened, that you may know what is the hope that belongs to his call, what are the riches of glory in his inheritance among the holy ones, and what is the surpassing greatness of his power for us who believe, in accord with the exercise of his great might, which he worked in Christ, raising him from the dead and seating him at his right hand in the heavens, far above every principality, authority, power, and dominion, and every name that is named not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things beneath his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of the one who fills all things in every way.

Alleluia

MT 28:19A, 20B

R. Alleluia, alleluia. Go and teach all nations, says the Lord; I am with you always, until the end of the world. R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

MT 28:16-20

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them. When they saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted. Then Jesus approached and said to them, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."





Hymns for the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord May 23-24, 2020

Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise
We Walk By Faith
Behold the Lamb
America the Beautiful (verses 1 & 3)

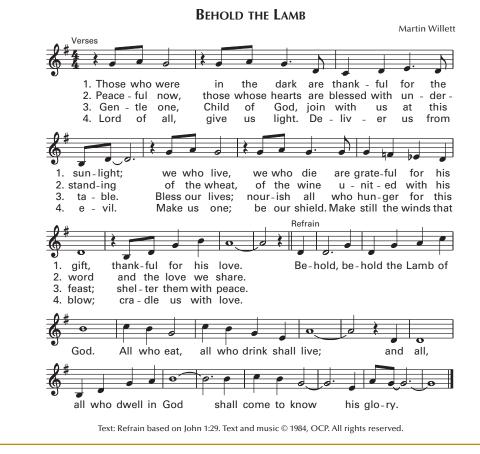


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WE WALK BY FAITH



Text: CM; based on John 20:24-29; Henry Alford, 1810-1871, alt. Music: SHANTI. © 1983, G.I.A. Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used with permission.



May 24, 2020 ~ The Ascension of the Lord

Mass Worship Aid

AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

MATERNA

1. O beau - ti-ful for spa-cious skies, For am-ber waves of grain,
2. O beau - ti-ful for pil-grim feet, Whose stern, im-pas-sioned stress
3. O beau - ti-ful for he - roes proved In lib - er - at - ing strife,
4. O beau - ti-ful for pa - triot dream That sees be-yond the years
1. For pur - ple moun-tain maj - es - ties A - bove the fruit - ed plain!
2. A thor-ough-fare for free-dom beat A - cross the wil - der - ness!
3. Who more than self their coun-try loved, And mer - cy more than life!
4. Thine al - a - bas - ter cit - ies gleam, Un-dimmed by hu - man tears!
1. A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed his grace on thee,
2. A - mer - i-ca! A - mer - i-ca! God mend thine ev - 'ry flaw,
3. A - mer - i-ca! A - mer - i-ca! May God thy gold re - fine,
4. A - mer - i-ca! A - mer - i-ca! God shed his grace on thee,
1. And crown thy good with broth - er-hood From sea to shin-ing sea.
2. Con - firm thy soul in self - con-trol, Thy lib - er - ty in law.
3. Till all suc-cess be no - ble-ness, And ev - 'ry gain di - vine.
4. And crown thy good with broth - er-hood From sea to shin-ing sea.

Text: CMD; Katherine L. Bates, 1859–1929. Music: Samuel A. Ward, 1848–1903.

Faithful Fun



Mass Worship Alia

Jesus Christ on Twitter

"Blessed are the mask-wearers, for they care enough about their fellow human beings to wear a tiny piece of cloth on their face in order to potentially save someone's life."

twitter.com



5:00 p.m. Mass Music Worship Aid – Sunday, May 24, 2020 The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

Opening Song

Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise

Verse 1) Hail the day that sees him rise; Alleluia! To this throne above the skies; Alleluia! Christ, the Lamb for sinners giv'n, Alleluia! Enters now the highest heaven! Alleluia! Verse 2) There for him high triumph waits! Alleluia! Lift your heads, eternal gates! Alleluia! He has conquered death and sing; Alleluia! Take the King of glory in. Alleluia!

Preparation Song

Good, Good Father

Verse 1) I've heard a thousand stories Of what they think You're like But I've heard the tender whisper Of love in the dead of night You tell me that You're pleased And that I'm never alone

Bridge) You are perfect in all of Your ways You are perfect in all of Your ways You are perfect in all of Your ways to us Chorus) You're a Good Good Father It's who You are It's who You are It's who You are And I'm loved by You It's who I am It's who I am It's who I am

Brown/Barret

Verse 2) I've seen many searching for answers Far and wide But I know we're all searching for answers Only You provide Because You know just what we need Before we say a word

Verse 3) Love so undeniable I can hardly speak Peace so unexplainable I can hardly think As You call me deeper still As You call me deeper still As You call me deeper still Into love love

CCLI Song # 7036612 Anthony Brown | Pat Barrett © 2014 Capitol CMG Paragon (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Common Hymnal Publishing (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Housefires Sounds (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) sixsteps Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Tony Brown Publishing Designee (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Vamos Publishing (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 2008891





Communion Songs

Let God Arise

Verse 1) Hear the holy roar of God resound Watch the waters part before us now Come and see what He has done for us Tell the world of His great love

Verse 2) His enemies will run for sure The Church will stand she will endure He holds the keys of life our Lord Death has no sting no final word

Pre-Chorus) Our God is a God who saves Our God is a God who saves

Chorus 2) God arise Let God arise Our God reigns now and forever He reigns now and forever

Communion Songs

Remembrance

Matt Redman

Verse 1) Oh, how could it be That my God would welcome me into this mystery? Say, 'take this bread, take this wine': Now the simple, made Divine for any to receive. By your mercy we come to your Table, By your grace you are making us faithful.

Chorus) Lord, we remember you, And remembrance leads us to worship. And as we worship you, Our worship leads to Communion. We respond to your invitation, we remember you.

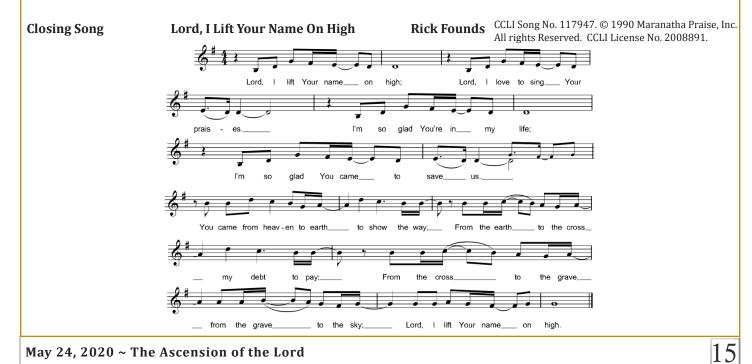
Bridge) Dying you destroyed our death, Rising you restored our life, Lord Jesus come in glory (repeat line)

Chorus 1) Let God arise Let God arise Our God reigns now and forever He reigns now and forever

CCLI Song # 4822413 Chris Tomlin | Ed Cash | Jesse Reeves © 2006 sixsteps Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Vamos Publishing (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Wondrously Made Songs (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.) For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 2008891

Verse 2) See his Body, his Blood: Know that he has overcome ev'ry trial we will face. And none too lost to be saved, None too broken or ashamed, All are welcome in this place. By your mercy we come to your Table, By your grace you are making us faithful

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The community relies on Catholic Charities as a trusted partner to help the poor and vulnerable during the pandemic and always.

Here is a snapshot of how we served our communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. March 24 - April 30, 2020

Food Assistance



Drive through distribution at food pantries and food delivery

240,187 Pounds of food
23,204 Individuals served
7,219 Households served
1,185 Hot meals served
250 Pantry on wheels

Calls for Help



1,459 Total hotline calls Categories for help mentioned by callers

33% Rent 33% Rent 6% Immigration 31% Food 6% Utilities 19% Other* 5% Mental Health

*referrals to other Catholic Charities programs and other community agencies; assistance with applications: food stamps, unemployment, Medicaid

Tele-Mental Health



Supporting children and adults with counseling via phone and video conference

145 COVID-19 video therapy

214 COVID-19 telephone therapy

Financial Assistance



Help paying rent, utilities and other essential needs for families who lost jobs due to the pandemic

121 Households

www.CatholicCharitiesDioceseofVenice.org/covid19response

16 Saint John *the* Evangelist Catholic Church • Connect with Us: www.sjecc.com • info@sjecc.com • У@sjecc



SOCIAL GROUPS

Boy Scout Troop 226 – St. John the Evangelist. Prepare boys to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law. Meets on Mondays at 6:45 p.m. in the Alexandria Room. *scoutmaster@troop-226.com*

Cub Scout Pack 226 – Chartered at St. John the Evangelist. Provide families with an opportunity to raise their young boys in the way of Jesus and through the formative values of Scouting. Meets on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. *joanne116@mac.com or 239.919.2265*

Habitat for Humanity. Jury Paulson: jpaulson@habitatcollier.org

Mahjongg. Wednesday Play. Lanelle Bishop: 239.352.1860

SUPPORT GROUPS

AA Robert: 239.287.2442

Adult Children of Alcoholics Tom Mooney, 239.287.0195

Al-Anon For meeting locations and times, call 239.263.5907 or

Food Addiction Support Group Maryann Scandiffio, 239.784.2682

Sunset Coast NA 239.451.3275

visit www.NaplesAl-Anon.org

Gambler's Anonymous 855.222.5542

Recovering Couples Anonymous Britta: 239.348.5031 or

Roger: 239.250.6888

PRAYER FOR THE **M**ILITARY

Please pray for our loved ones who are serving in the military:

PRAYER GROUPS

Pray the Rosary & the Chaplet of Divine Mercy – Rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy are recited every day starting 50 minutes before Mass begins, Monday through Saturday. Summer Schedule at 7:40 a.m., Winter Schedule at 7:10 a.m. *Maria Desa: 239-529-7611 or Carol Swank 757.559.4761*

Cenacle of Life Prayer Group – Rosemary Erickson: 239.250.0432

Divine Will Prayer Group – Gorana Saner: 239.293.1765

Centering Prayer/Lectio Divina – Mondays at 5:30 p.m. and Wednesday morning after the 9:00 a.m. Mass in the Parish Library. *Kathleen Dunne: kadunne61@aol.com, 901.574.2947*

Donald Demski

Liturgy of the Hours *Call the Office:* 239.566.8740 Adam Decker Nick Detloff Sgt. Douglas Hennessy Marine Colonel Brian Howlett Lt. Col. Scott Huber – USAF PV2 Alexander McMickle – Ft. Eustis, VA Hunter Scalzo – Army Ranger with 1st Division & 75th Infantry Col. Brian Murphy Lt. Col. Jill Murphy Sgt. Larry Oldenburg – U.S. Army Cpl. Derek Perez - U.S. Marine Corps Austin Spagnola Staff Sgt. Andrew Zecchino – USAF, Turkey Lt. Stephen English – Iraq Capt. Connor Tourek – USMC Lt. Brendan Tourek – USN

We remember those who have died recently. May they rest in eternal peace. Howard Bunfield, Leo Nash, Nancy Pignatano, Ana Ramirez, and Helen Schilling

PRAYER LIST

Baby Declan Aigner Theresa Allingham Carol Ardovino Di Di Arpaia Paschal Arpaia . Paul Arpaia Ricky Avelino Avelino Family Florence Ballachio Jean Balliro Agatha Barczynski Iennifer Basile , Beagan Family Lynn Becker Mark Benson Scott Betten Paul Bishor Liselotte Bluem Gallen Boardman Lori Breyman Kyle Brune Elaine Buscemi Connie Cahill Yosiell Camacho Carmelo Catalfamo Maria Castellari Rosalie Castro Corinne & Children Lauren Carr Frank Christopher August Cimmino Merlyn Comeriato Tony Corvelo Brad Cunningham Cutler Family Mark DaBronzo Danielle Pat DaDura Eileen DaSilva Nicholas Decant

Florence Demski Melissa Diamantini Julie Dieter Dr. William H. Dietzel Dee Donnelly Donovan Family Dorothy Dorrington Leon Doughty Robyn Hyland Doyle Peter Durso Katy Esquivel F.W. Carolyn Felner Feroce Family Scott Fewell Tiffany Fiedler & Family Sandy Flaig Tara Follese & Family Michael Foster Sandy Frania Debbie Fritts Patty Gahan Jeff Gatt Marie Gleason Madison Godinho George Gonser Jr. Phyllis Gryskiewicz Randy Harrison Keri Hemrick Rosie Heyen Amy Hilliard Ashleigh Hodges Mary Ann Holt Edward Hommel Marie Hotle D. K. Yvonne Keenan Theresa Keller Laurel Kron

Rene Lacoste Lorraine Leclero Robin Lee Carrie Lehmann Laurie Lind Teresa Lozano Pat Lozon Jean Lydon Margie Lynch M.M. Ioan Maier LaMar Malone Robin Malone Diane Maloney Margaret Maria and Family Ron Marlow Barb Marsh Jackie Mascolo Donna Masse Angelo Mastrorillo Cheri Maxson Kathy Maxwell Kevin McGill Jack McGrory Paul McIntyre Alley McKee Cvnthia McLemore Josephine Medovich Carlos Mendelzon Cyntia Mendelzon Patrick Metro Denise Michaels Eileen Miner John Montana Lorrie Morrison Tom Morse John Nickerson lack Noonai

Adam Krulasik

Iudv Novello Emma O'Rourke Katie Oelslager Joan M. Oliver Jane Orazietti Louis A. Orehek Patricia Orris Sean Osterman David P. Eric Parker Ronald J. Parker Bill Parks Francesca Pearo Anne Perrino Ann Petrillo Timothy Pollard Rachel Polt-Holmes Olivia Prawiradilaga Carolyn Pulte Lee Redman Gil and Renee Rake Molly Egen Renner Pete Renner Henrietta Reynolds Tom Rilev Ellen Roberts Katie Roberts Joanne Roddy Racheal Romine Terre Rozin Sterling C. Rutherford Peggy O'Neil Saba Lloyd Sample Lisa Sanfelippo Shelia Scaduto Gary Schutebach Fritz Simacek Marian Simacek Sister Joan Daniels sephine Soto

Gary Spinka Ruth Stefanek Roseann Sterner Sr. Colette Stevenson Nancy Stewart Jeanne Stoll Iane Sullivan Brad Tanner Rita Taranto Evelyn Tenbusch William J. Teplica Ianice M. Thomas Isaiah Thompson Marilyn Thyen Helen Thornburg Amelia Titsworth Jerome D. Tomasso, Jr. Louis Torretta Albert Treichel Richie Twiefel Denny V. Kari Van Tol Thelma Varhach Anthony Vastola Mike Walsman Dan Ward Baby Benedict Wardein Warner Family Frank Westerbeke, Sr. Thomas J. William Kirsten Wills Nancy Wise Harry Witt Patricia Wood Brandon Woods Carolyn Wootton Nick Zandstra Michael Zielinski

May 24, 2020 ~ The Ascension of the Lord

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Mass Schedule and Information

Bishop Dewane has suspended all regularly scheduled Masses. St. John will have both on-demand and streaming Masses. Our schedule is:

Monday - Friday

8:30 a.m. Mass on our Streaming Page and on demand

Saturday 3:00 p.m. Mass on our <u>Streaming Page</u> and separately on demand

Sunday 9:00 a.m. Mass on our <u>Streaming Page</u> 11:00 a.m. Mass on our <u>Streaming Page</u>

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saint John the Evangelist is blessed to be able to provide the opportunity to receive the healing sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) from your car on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays, starting at 9:00 a.m. each day.

> St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church 625 111th Avenue North, Naples, FL 34108 *Phone: 239.566.8740 • Fax: 239.566.9117*

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www.sjecc.com

Administrative Office Hours: Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

PARISH CLERGY AND MINISTERS

Eucharistic Ministry: EMMinistry@sjecc.com Mass:

Mass: Maureen Reed Maureen@sjecc.com

> Homebound: Lisa Godlasky lisa@sjecc.com

Hospital: Mary Pat Salomone marypat@sjecc.com

CONTACT INFORMATION

Director of Family Mission Jean-Paul Boucher: *jp@sjecc.com*

Parish Publications/Bulletin Editor bulletin@sjecc.com

CYO Social and Spiritual Coordinator Kyle VanDuser: *kyle@sjecc.com*

> **Memorial Garden** Karen Beebe: *karen@sjecc.com*

Bookkeeper Karen Beebe: *karen@sjecc.com*

Divine Gift Boutique Holly Violaris: holly@sjecc.com

Facilities 239.*566.8740*

Lectors Ministry: L. Philip Baier lectors@sjecc.com

Youth Lector: Call the Office 239.566.8740

Greeters & Ushers: Bill Fuller wfuller1@comcast.net

Education Staff

Director of Religious Education Natalie Campbell: *natalie@sjecc.com*

Coordinator, Adult Faith Formation & RCIA Jack Kindsvater: *jack@sjecc.com*

FOR OUR RECORDS

We need your help to keep our records current. If there are any births, deaths, marriages, moves, etc. in your family, please notify the front office at 239.566.8740 or email: *info@sjecc.com*. Thank you!

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Scan this tag with your smartphone to view our mobile website.

Fr. Arun Paul, Associate Deacon Hal Brenner Deacon Frank Paniccia, Senior Status **Altar Servers:**

Fr. Tom Zalewski, Pastor

Fr. Paul D'Angelo, Associate

Kathy Bailie servers@sjecc.com

Arts & Liturgical Environment: Kay Sanfelippo ksanfelippo@comcast.net

> All Administrative Staff 239.566.8740

Business Manager Jean-Paul Boucher: *jp@sjecc.com*

Parish Secretary Deborah Marsh: *deb@sjecc.com*

Front Office Manager Tricia Schwarz: *tricia@sjecc.com*

Pastoral Musician and Liturgist Gary Prettyman: *gary@sjecc.com*

Artistic Director Jennine Burkwit: *jennine@sjecc.com*

Sacristan & Martha's Guild Lan Tran: lan@sjecc.com

PARISH REGISTRATION

Parish Registration Forms are available on the tables in the church narthex, in the parish office and on the website: *www.sjecc.com*.

