

**Please Pray For...** Jack MacDonald, Sophia Shaw, Eutawna Clark, Rita Pooler, Thomas Queen, Carol LaMontagne, Carolyn Dutton, Marie Magill, David Sceggell, Lisa Carey, Beth Robello, Paul Hegarty, Glen Brotchie, Donna Wilson, Linda Wilson, Terry Plourde, Isabella Buccaflusca and all who are ill, in nursing homes, and for those who are hospitalized.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Saturday, May 16**

**4:30 p.m.**

Marion Day

**Sunday, May 17**

**8:00 a.m.**

John R. Scott

**10:15 a.m.**

Katherine Murphy

**6:30 p.m.**

Ralph Cowie

**Monday, May 18**

**9:00 a.m.**

Albert Pearson

**Tuesday, May 19**

**9:00 a.m.**

Robert Troy

**Wednesday, May 20**

**9:00 a.m.**

Gerald McConomy

*Vigil of Ascension*

**6:00 p.m.**

Lucien Pelletier

**Thursday, May 21, Holy Day**

*Ascension of the Lord*

**9:00 a.m.**

Katherine Murphy

**7:00 p.m.**

Fran Moreno

Friday, May 22

**9:00 a.m.**

Sr. Loretta M. Driscoll, C.D.P.

**Saturday, May 23**

**4:30 p.m.**

Marion Day

**Sunday, May 24**

**8:00 a.m.**

Paul Kelley

**10:15 a.m.**

Kenneth Monaco

**6:30 p.m.**

Virginia Nicholson

**A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR...**

Hi Everyone:

Our First Communions went very well. The children responded so well to the grace of the Spirit and rose to the occasion. I wish to thank the adults present for their cooperation. You allowed the children to feel the solemnity of the day by acting most solemnly yourselves. I know I speak for all of us who were present and felt the presence of the Lord at these three occasions when I say thank you for allowing these grace-filled liturgies to be most memorable. These were teachable moments for all of us. Congratulation to the First Communion recipients and thank you to all who made these days so meaningful.

I love you all,

Fr. B

**FIRST COMMUNICANTS 2009**

Conner Alberry	Joseph Allen	Charles Appel
Dante Bachini	James Bachini	Caroline Begg
Adam Blanchard	Margaret Brown	Jackson Byrne
Eliza Campbell	Emma Carey	Emily Carrigan
Michael Carroll	Catrina Caruso	Jaclyn Chafey
Annabel Collins	Jacob Collins	Emma Connors
Emma Contois	John Cornforth	John Cronin
Aidan Daly	Clara Davis	Robert Donovan
Dylan Evans	Jarrett Fravel	Jack Furber
Elizabeth Gasiorowski	Kelly Gilligan	Kate Gilligan
Clint Gourdeau	Sophie Harmon	Christopher Harris
Aidan Heney	William Hogan	Paul Horgan
Peter Hosler	Callum Hunt	Henry Jones
Quinlan Kelly	Greta Mastrocola	Jack McMahon
Thomas Monahan	Hannah Moroney	Michael Moynihan
Aidan Nistl	Ty Noguchi	Allyson Parker
Bianca Pizzano	Julia Putnam	Haley Rivers
Mark Roselli	Henry Schibli	Bryn Smith
Abby Stravato	Claire Trustey	Emily Vanderwilden
William Whelan	Rose Wosepka	

## SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

**Mass Schedule for  
Ascension of the Lord – Holy Day  
Thursday, May 21**

**Vigil of the Ascension of the Lord  
Wednesday, May 20  
6:00 p.m.**

**Ascension of the Lord  
Thursday, May 21  
9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.**

### Registration for PREP

If you are new to the parish or have a child entering Grade 1, please email Jeanne Abbott your child's name, address, and phone number to ensure you receive a registration form. Registration forms for previous students will be *emailed* in June.

### Seniors Helping Seniors

All morning Friday, May 22, local high school seniors will be pitching in to lend a helping hand. They are asking seniors in the Hamilton-Wenham community to take full advantage of this opportunity by allowing them to assist with yardwork, small repair jobs, cleaning out a closet, etc. To sign up, please call Lisa Heitz at 468-0400 by Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup> – you'll be glad you did!

### Spiritual Library

A spiritual library is available in the chapel for spiritual reading and devotional books. Feel free to borrow reading materials and return them at your leisure. Donations of appropriate Catholic books are welcome, but must be approved and stamped before being added to the library. Donations may be left at the rectory during normal business hours.

**Visitation to the Sick:** Anyone who cannot celebrate Mass with us in the church because of illness, disability or age, and who wishes to receive the Sacraments (Confession, Communion, Anointing the Sick), please call the rectory 978-468-2337.

**PRAYER FOR OUR TROOPS...***Father, hold our troops, especially **Adrian O'Neill and Shane Radcliffe**, in your loving hands and protect them as they protect us. Be with them and comfort them with your loving presence while they are away from their homes. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need and grant us all peace, both as individuals and as a world community. We ask this in the name of Jesus, your Son, with faith that you will hear and answer all our prayers according to your will. Amen*

*We wish to extend a hearty thank you to **Peter Pavenski** for his service to our country. "Welcome Home, Peter!"*

### In Appreciation...



*Dear St. Paul's Church,  
Mil gracias por su donación.  
Thanks in part to your contribution we were able to purchase additional suitcases filled with clothes, shoes, and school supplies to fulfill the schools technology wishlist, and donate to the Heifer International Foundation in Puno, Peru.  
Your support has helped improved the lives of many.  
Thank you.  
The Members of the 2009 Perù Tour*

### SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND

This week's second collection supports the Catholic Communication Campaign. If Jesus Christ were on earth today, how would he spread his message of salvation? Would he use television, radio, newspapers, text messages, billboards, DVDs, or would Jesus be right there on the Internet? The Catholic Communication Campaign believes Jesus would use as many means as possible, and that is why it supports projects that use the entire array of media tools available today to evangelize and promote Gospel values.

**Respect Lifeline:** *Christ, the Word made flesh, in showing us the Father's love, also shows us what it truly means to be human. ...Christ's love for us lets us see our human dignity in full clarity and compels us to love our neighbors as he has loved us. Christ, the Teacher, shows us what is true and good, that is, what is in accord with our human nature as free, intelligent beings created in God's image and likeness and endowed by the Creator with dignity and rights. --USCCB, Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship (11/14/07)*

### **THE MEANING OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL**

The Medal of the Immaculate Conception — popularly known as the Miraculous Medal — was designed by the Blessed Virgin herself! No wonder, then that it wins such extraordinary graces for those who wear it and pray for Mary's intercession and help.



**The Front Side** - On the front of the Miraculous Medal, Mary stands on a globe, representing the earth, with a crushed snake under her feet. This image represents Mary's role as "Queen of Heaven and Earth". The snake represents Satan, who was defeated by Mary's obedience to God. The rays coming from her hands symbolize the graces Mary gives to those who ask her. The year 1830 commemorates the year that the Blessed Mother appeared to St. Catherine Laboure.



**The Reverse Side** - On the reverse side of the Miraculous Medal is a cross and the letter "M". The cross represents Christ's sacrifice for our salvation, while the bar under the cross stands for the Earth. The "M" stands for "Mary" and her true devotion both to Jesus and to her children on Earth. The two hearts are the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Sorrowful Heart of Mary. The entire image is surrounded by twelve stars. The stars can represent both the twelve Apostles and the verse from the Book of Revelation, "a great sign appeared in heaven, a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of 12 stars" (Revelation 12:1)..

### **THE PROMISES OF THE MEDAL**

During Our Lady's visit to Catherine on November 27, 1830, rays of light flowed from rings on her fingers that were made of precious stones. However, some of the stones on the ring did not shine. Mary explained:

"These rays symbolize the graces I shed upon those who ask for them. The gems from which rays do not fall are the graces for which souls forget to ask."

Mary then spoke of the medal with these words:

"All who wear it will receive great graces; they should wear it around the neck. Graces will abound for persons who wear it with confidence."

The medal is simply a visible sign of the inner devotion the wearer has to Mary and to her Son, Jesus.

## **6th Sunday of Easter**

It was 1943, and Hitler's legions of death squads had occupied most of Poland. In the small town of Nowogrodek, sixty Jews were executed. Soon, however, the Gestapo arrested another 120 citizens to be executed simply as a show of force. A small order of nuns, the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, offered themselves in exchange for the release of the 120 prisoners. The Nazis agreed, and on July 18th, eleven sisters were lead out into the woods and were murdered. Today, a biala fara (white church) stands at the final resting place of the blessed martyrs who gave their lives without hesitation for their friends.

Perhaps it is difficult to comprehend what it would feel like to willingly lay down one's life for a friend. In today's Gospel reading from John, we are given the answer through what is known as the Great Commandment-love. Jesus tells us that there is no greater love than to be willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for another. This is exemplified in God's pure, unending love for us in offering his only Son to die for our sins and give us everlasting life. If we are able to love one another purely and wholly as he loved us, all things will be possible, even our ultimate sacrifice for another.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church is very clear in explaining Jesus' words to us that if we are to love one another "as I have loved you" we cannot do it simply through words of promise or imitation (CCC 2842). Only through the strength of the Holy Spirit will we be empowered to demonstrate, from the bottom of our heart, true love, mercy, and forgiveness. In the words of St. Ignatius of Loyola, "Teach us, good Lord, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost."

### Sharing the Gospel

Jesus loves you as much as his Father loves him. He wants you to love your family and friends as much as he loves you. You are his friend. He wants to spend time with you. Spend time praying to Jesus every day. Tell him that you love him. Share your food, toys, and clothing. Help your family and friends every day. Tell Jesus you do all good things in his name.

### Prayer

Jesus, help me love my neighbor as much as you love me.

### Something to Draw

Draw yourself praying to Jesus and telling him that you love him.

### Mission for the Week

I will love my family and friends as much as Jesus loves me.

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**Comments:**

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