

Dear Friends,

With great reluctance I write this week's letter to convey something that has been on my mind. Virtually every weekend I experience the same spiritual turmoil. My spirit gives way to discouragement as I hear the sound of the "clunk" of the front doors of the church while distributing Communion. In recent weeks I have discovered that there are many other parishioners experiencing the same thing! What is the source of our consternation? People leaving church during and after receiving Communion. If only these individuals realized how profoundly their departure affects the spiritual good of the rest of the congregation, perhaps they would rethink this decision.

I realize that there are very valid reasons why someone must leave church early, although these are few and far between. One reasonable occasion is when those whose work schedules necessitate rushing out to get to work on time. If such a person sincerely makes an effort to make the best use of their time and still finds him or herself unable to do otherwise, then their departure makes sense. But what of everyone else?

The problem isn't all that new. There is a story told about St. Philip Neri who came up with an interesting solution to this problem. According to the story, there was a gentleman who attended daily Mass and who got into the habit of leaving church after Communion. Noticing this, St. Philip instructed two altar servers carrying lighted candles, to accompany him through the church doors to his carriage.

After three days of this embarrassment, the man asked St. Philip for an explanation. St. Philip responded that since Christ was still present within him as he left the church, Christ's presence had to be honored by lighted candles. Needless to say, the man never left early again.

Stories like this give us pause and make us think why we would want to rush out of Mass so quickly? Jesus chooses to come to us and make his home within us. With such a special gift, why not stop and spend some time contemplating that great mystery? Imagine how privileged we are that God, in the person of Jesus Christ, communes with us in so august a Sacrament! What would we be saying to Jesus if so casually we were to make a dash for the parking lot after such a sacred moment? Avoiding the congestion of cars leaving the parking lot hardly seems that important in comparison to this. Especially in our small parking lot!

While we priests have a responsibility to avoid needless extension in the length of Mass, there are times when special seasons and circumstances may add a little time. We strive to keep the Mass at a reasonable length even though there is no rule as to what length the Mass should be. Interestingly enough, I have found that even when we succeed in finishing Mass in under an hour's time, the same amount of people depart early anyway. Therefore, it seems safe to conclude that the length of Mass makes little difference.

Having listened to several of our parishioners express their discouragement, I am convinced that leaving Mass early does harm to the Body of Christ. It brings a wound to a community that needs the health and support of all its members. The spiritual health of the community depends upon everyone doing their part and making the sacrifice. Let us encourage one another in the Faith of Jesus Christ to persevere until the end. God bless!

Fr. Paul



Saturday, May 9, 2009

8:00 AM +Ellen Ericksen
by Mary Jones
4:30 PM +Lupita Fernandez
by Brenda Del Rio

Sunday, May 10, 2009

Fifth Sunday of Easter

8:30 AM Parishioners & Benefactors
11:00AM Mother's Day Novena
6:00 PM In Thanksgiving to the Sacred Heart of Jesus
by Alicia Salinas

Monday, May 11, 2009

8:00 AM Mother's Day Novena

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

8:00 AM Mother's Day Novena

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

8:00 AM Mother's Day Novena

Thursday, May 14, 2009

8:00 AM Mother's Day Novena

Friday, May 15, 2009

8:00 AM Mother's Day Novena

Next Saturday, May 16, 2009

8:00 AM Mother's Day Novena
4:30 PM In Thanksgiving to the Sacred Heart
for Broke Tarrer
by Gene & Pam Gonzalez

Next Sunday, May 17, 2009

Sixth Sunday of Easter

8:30 AM Mother's Day Novena
11:00 AM Living & Deceased Members
of Women's Council
6:00 PM Parishioners & Benefactors

Readings for the Week of May 10, 2009

Sunday Fifth Sunday of Easter
Acts 9:26-31; Ps 22; 1 Jn 3:18-24; Jn 15:1-8
Monday Acts 14:5-18; Ps 115; Jn 14:21-26
Tuesday Saints Nereus and Achilleus, martyrs; Pancras, martyr
Acts 14:19-28; Ps 145; Jn 14:27-31a
Wednesday Our Lady of Fatima
Acts 15:1-6; Ps 122; Jn 15:1-8
Thursday Saint Matthias, apostle
Acts 1:15-17, 20-26; Ps 113; Jn 15:9-17
Friday Saint Isidore
Acts 15:22-31; Ps 57; Jn 15:12-17
Saturday Acts 16:1-10; Ps 100; Jn 15:18-21
Sunday Sixth Sunday of Easter
Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48; Ps 98;
1 Jn 4:7-10; Jn 15:9-17

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH ...



Paul Koehler, Elizabeth Eicher, Chris Perez, Marlin McMorrow, Beatrice Ferrell, Joseph A. Eicher, Agnes Parker, Bernie Broyles, Elida Salas, Edward Nemecek, Elodina M. Flores, Sgt. William McAbee, Erica Bush, Oscar Soliz, Gus Blomquist, Jimmy Alvarez, Jesse Buentello, Florence Fuertez, John Kelly, Sharon Reeves, Phyllis Stubbs, Susan Bletz, Nicole Roberts, Cameron Marshall, Elena Marshall, Patty Cash, Felicita Moreno.

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Please Pray For Our Troops



Sgt. Roger Elkins, Glen Turner Jr., Sgt Matt Maufin, Aaron Philipchuck, Dwayne Solis, Charles Krohn Jr., Oscar Rossi Billy Swatzell, James O'Donnell, Paul Adame, Brandon Felton, Zicorian Coleman, Wendy Hand, D'Aldo Alaniz, Paul Walton, Joseph Yglesias, Jaime Robles, Rudy Hoyt, Roseann Guerrero, Sr. Airman Charlie Stevens, Sr. Airman Patrick Scheuter, Matt Hettinger, Mike Brown, Erik Garza, Damian Saldivar, Maj. Chuck Taylor, Alex Saucedo, Jay Alvarez, John Rodriguez, Jr., Jimmy Karjian, Orlando Rodriguez, Ken Demick, Yvette T. Demick, Scott Nielsen, Timothy Johnson, Mr. Rogers, Lt. jg John Dolby III, Michael Nelson, Michael A. Berry, Gabriel Reza, Mike Llamas, Manny Olvalle, Luis Martinez, Lt. Hector Jude Garcia, Lt. jg Kristopher McAbee, Capt. John A. Malley, Chris Hesse, Natalie Manzano, Capt. Cristian Alejandro Pinzon, David D. Ruiz.

Ministry Schedules

This Week's Lectors:	Next Week' Lectors
4:30 pm Leonard & Jackie Lee	4:30 pm Anita Joya
8:30am Paulette Guajardo	8:30am Mark Cheesman
11:00am Cat Longoria	11:00am Delia Carroll

This Week's EM's:	Next Week's EM's:
4:30 pm Anita Joya Patty & Richard Dolan, Michael & Linda Hite, Maricela Spencer	4:30pm Mary Ann Broyles, Patty & Richard Dolan, Judy & Gerald Beckman, Luz Bernardo, Samantha Mora
8:30am Ronnie Balderas, Leila & Roland Longoria, Sally Escobar, Teena Bracco	8:30am Jane Cheesman, Kathy Jo & Lee Overstreet, Connie Salas, Imelda Ramirez
11:00am Al Lichtenberger, Judy Cruz, Olaya Soliz, Janie & Rene Esquivel, Cindy Morin & Norma Huerta	11:00 am Bonner Dorsey, Julio Dimas, Maribel Muñoz, Beto & Minnie Peña, Marlene King

This Week's Ushers:	Next Week's Ushers:
4:30pm James Coburn, Arnold Barrera, Michael Hite, Linda Hite	4:30pm James Coburn, Virginia Haasi, Don Fettig, Gene Gonzalez
8:30am Al Medina, Lou Medina, Rhonda Balderas, Lawrence Balderas	8:30am Lawrence Balderas, Allen Rasmussen, Bill Cheesman, Rhonda Balderas
11:00am Vanessa Bedoya, Victoria Bedoya, Robert Moreno, Eddie Cruz	11:00am David Garcia, Albert Lichtenberger, Mike O'Flynn, Robert Moreno

Sunday Collection



Gifts for God

May 3, 2009

Envelope & Loose	\$ 7,226.13
Vines & Branches	1,418.00
Retired Priest	2,512.83

Happy Mother's Day



St. John's Parish Dates to Remember

May 11 – 7:00 pm – Women's Council Meeting
May 12 – 6:30 pm – Guadalupe's Meeting

CDA Convention News

Representatives of the Catholic Daughters recently attended the State Convention in McAllen. CDA works under a seven-part program entitled The Circle of Love, and we entered the state contests by reporting what our court members have done during the year for each part. We are happy to share with the church community that we won **First** in Legislation, Spiritual Enhancement, and National Projects; **Second** in Quality of Life; **Third** in Education, and **Outstanding Recognition** (the highest honor) in Leadership. Out of 56, Elva I. Pena, member and District Deputy #48, was named one of the top five Texas District Deputies. CDA Courts in her district are MPB, OLPH, St. Pius, St. Phillip's, and St. John's. We sincerely thank the parishioners for helping us always with our charitable projects.

Mother's Day Novena



Give your Mother a priceless gift this **Mother's Day, May 10th**. What better way to honor and remember your mother than with a Novena of Masses. You may pick up a card at the entrance of the church. Take the card with you and return the Spiritual Bouquet envelope to the parish office or place it in the collection basket by Mother's Day.

Women's Council Meeting

The Women's Council will meet **Monday, May 11th**, at The Lakes Club House on Venice St. at 7:00 PM. Bring your favorite dish for the Pot Luck dinner after the installation of officers.

Venture Crew

Calling all 14 to 21 year olds! We are looking into forming a Venture Crew at St. John the Baptist, a group that will work hard, play hard and pray hard while pursuing God's best for our youth and our parish! The specifics will be decided by the youth themselves, which is why we need you all to come and tell us what you want your Crew to be. We are meeting **May 12 at 7:30pm in Room 6** to begin making plans. We also need interested adults to serve as Advisors, helping to guide and transport along the way! Please come to the meeting on the 12th, and call Amy Anderson at 695.8760 for more info.

Mother Theresa Homeless Shelter



We will be making a delivery to the shelter on **Wednesday, May 13**. They continue to need paper products, laundry supplies, hand sanitizer, personal hygiene items, and coffee. Everyone at the shelter and those who work with those in need thank you for your generosity.

Youth Ministry Announcements

HIGH SCHOOL: Did you hug your mom yet today? Do that, and then come to the youth night at 7pm in the Mantle (room 7). See you there! **There are still a few spots left for the Steubenville South trip!** Talk to Angie if you would like to sign up.

MIDDLE SCHOOL: Our next youth night is Monday, May 11th at 6:30pm - 7:30pm. All middle schoolers are invited for a night **honoring our 8th graders!** Meet in the Mantle (Room 7) and make sure if you're an 8th grader, you're there!