

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 29, 2018

LIVING GOD'S WORD

Jesus tells us: "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you" (John 15:7). Which words of his are calling you to life? Ask him to help you to trust in the Father and surrender to what the Father wills for you.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK APRIL 30, 2018

Monday, April 30, St. Pius V
12:10PM Intention of Catholic Extension Donor
Tuesday, May 1, St. Joseph the Worker
8:15AM Dorothy Niermann by Craig & Susan Yallaly
Wednesday, May 2, St. Athanasius
10:30AM Roberta Jany by Loren & Peggy Jany
Thursday, May 3, Sts. Philip & James, Apostles
NO MASS
Friday, May 4
8:15AM Dean Lochhead by Friends
Saturday, May 5
5PM George Jany by Steven & Donna Jany
Sunday, May 6
9AM For the Parish

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK APRIL 29 THRU MAY 6

Sunday	9AM Mass
Monday	12:10PM Mass 11AM-1PM K of C Luncheon Chicken & Dumplings/Fried Chicken
Tuesday	8:15AM Mass (Grades 5-8) SMS Art Show
Wednesday	10:30AM Mass at Three Springs 6:30PM First Communion Practice
Thursday	Fr. Gene's Day Off
Friday	8:15AM Mass (Grades 5/6 Liturgy) 2:50PM Dismissal – NO BUS
Saturday	5PM Mass
Sunday	9AM First Communion Mass

NOTE FROM THE PASTOR: Hearing Jesus's words, "I am the vine, you are the branches," Sounds comforting at first. But then comes "and my Father is the vine grower" (John 15:1). The task of the vine grower is to prune and pruning can be tricky. Who wants to be pruned? Who wants God snipping away? It's hard to be pruned. There is a dying in that. But that is the ongoing story of Easter: dying and rising, pruning and bearing more fruit. God is there pruning us to bring out life, to make us life bearers and life givers. The Father continues snipping away, separating us from our selfishness, our self-centeredness, and all those things we hold on to that do not give us life; resentments, old grievances, desires for getting even. God is about life, committed to an abundance of life-not just life today but eternal life. That's the divine plan.

TITHE WEEK OF APRIL 22, 2018

Mary Help of Christians: \$5,521.00
\$40.00 Cemetery; \$30.00 Improvement Fund;
\$8.00 Votives; \$2.00 Child Envelopes
WEEKLY Budget Need: \$7,000.00
YTD Average Weekly Tithe: \$6,699.96
Fiscal Year Week: 43
YTD Actual Giving: \$282,577.00
YTD Budget Need: \$301,000.00
YTD Budget Difference: (\$12,902.00)
YTD Weekly: (\$300.05)

SERVERS SCHEDULE for May 5 & 6: 5PM, Claire Deterding, Carson Dunn; 9AM, Elseah Congiardo, Shane Bicket, Gene Bicket

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: If you have a quiet moment today, pray the Our Father slowly. As you meditate on each line, let the Holy Spirit explain who God is. Catch a glimpse of God's heart.

CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS APPEAL: Over 40% of dioceses in the United States are considered home mission territory because they are unable to fund the essential pastoral work needed in their communities. Your support funds programs, such as religious education, seminary formation, and lay ministry training, to build vibrant faith communities right here in the United States. Please be generous today!

VETERANS' BENEFITS BASICS: The Chester Senior Center will host an informational seminar for veterans on Thursday, May 10, from 11-11:30AM. This meeting will concern eligibility for medical benefits, disability compensation, VA pensions, and burial & memorial benefits. Learn about local resources to assist you in obtaining the benefits you earned.

SAVE THE DATE: St. Mary's PTO will sponsor an End of Year Street Party on Friday, May 11, on Church Street (between the school and K of C Hall). There will be music, burgers, hot dogs, beverages, and fun activities. NEW this year-Build Your Own Pixie Stix!

ORDINATION BUS: Rev. Mr. Steven Pautler will be ordained into the priesthood on Saturday, May 19, at 10:30AM in the Cathedral of St. Peter, Belleville. A bus will leave the K of C parking lot in Chester at 8AM. Stops will be made in Evansville and Red Bud. Please call the rectory (826-2444) to have your name placed on the sign-up sheet.

REMINDER: All Sundays during the month of May, in honor of Our Blessed Mother, the Rosary will be prayed with the congregation before the 9AM Mass.

BISHOP EDWARD K. BRAXTON will celebrate a Wedding Anniversaries Mass for couples in the Diocese who are celebrating milestone wedding anniversaries (25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th, and all years beyond) on Sunday, June 3, at 1:30PM in the Cathedral of St. Peter. If you are celebrating a milestone wedding anniversary and would like to receive an invitation to this Mass, please call the rectory (826-2444) and leave your name and address. The deadline to request an invitation is Tuesday, May 8.

PRIMARY EDUCATORS: Because the joy of all parents is to teach their children the art of living, as parents we want to be the primary educators of our children. To educate means to help a child to become a good son or daughter, a good brother or sister, a good friend and student. We-the whole of society, the school, the parish and other families-are called to collaborate in this great mission. Invite the families of your children's friends to join you in a pilgrimage to a religious site. Discuss how the destination is important to the faith of each participant. Pray for your families to grow closer to God through the journey.

STILL BEARING FRUIT: We know the story of the vine, branches, and grower by heart. It draws us into the second reading (1John 3:18-24) about the behaviors of beloved children. We are Easter children who believe and love, who think and act. What needs pruning in my life? What Word of God, what truth do I need to hear? How will I "love one another just as he commands us"?

YOU'RE INVITED: Friday, May 4, Evansville, K of C Hall, 4:30-8PM Fish Fry; Dine in or Carryout; Saturday, June 2, SMS Gym, City Wide Yard Sale (Contact Dainelle Powell, 618-559-0555, to reserve a space)