



St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church

The Ascension of the Lord
May 21, 2023

Parish Mission

We are one Church: loving Jesus, serving Jesus, and sharing Jesus.

Parish Vision

We are a vibrant Catholic church serving a diverse community in a safe and welcoming environment where we care for all people along their faith journey.

Core Values

Discipleship • Hospitality
Serving • Worship

Weekend Masses

Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 7:30, 9:00, 10:45 a.m.,
3:00 p.m. (Spanish)


Weekday Masses

Monday 6:30 a.m.
Tuesday 6:30 a.m.
Wednesday 6:30 a.m., 5:15 p.m.
Thursday 6:30 a.m.
Friday 6:30 a.m.
First Friday 8:00 a.m.
Saturday 6:30 a.m.

Confessions

First Friday of month 12:00 noon
Saturday 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.
or by appointment

Blessing of Graduates



Before you were even formed, God knew you.
While in your Mother's womb, God named you.
At your birth, God's breath filled you with life.
Today we celebrate what you have become at this moment in time.
And so we pray, God of our beginnings,
we thank you for the gifts of these graduates;
their excitement, their awesome wonder and curiosity,
their open speech and encouraging words.
Their contributions have blessed and challenged us,
and we have become a richer and more diverse community because of them.
As they step forward into the world that awaits,
comfort their fears with the full knowledge of your divine presence.
Strengthen their resolve to walk in the footsteps of Jesus
as modern-day disciples in a world that needs their spirit.
Guide their feet as they move through life,
protecting them from the pitfalls of darkness while they help
to lead future generations into the warmth and promise of your light.
We ask this blessing upon each of them,
In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. *Amen*

National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry, www.nfcym.org, Reprinted with permission

Diocesan Traveling Exhibit

MIRACLES OF THE EUCHARIST ACROSS THE WORLD

You are invited to visit the Miracles of the Eucharist exhibit being held here at St. Vincent. This exhibit was designed by Blessed Carlo Acutis and documents the many miracles of the Eucharist throughout the world and across the centuries. **Ten large displays with color photos will be located in the upper meeting room** and will describe just a few of the 140 Eucharistic miracles approved by the Vatican.

Date Change
MAY 18-25

1913 Ritter Drive • Cape Girardeau, Missouri 63701
573-335-7667 • Fax 573-335-0034 • www.svcape.com
Serving the Catholic Community since April 9, 1836

• Mass Intentions •

Monday, May 22 St. Rita of Cascia

6:30 am Tony Kreher ☩

Tuesday, May 23

6:30 am Dorothy J. Gill ☩

Wednesday, May 24

6:30 am Elizabeth Kiblinger (living)

5:15 pm Living and Deceased Members of the Paul and Colette Hendrickson Family

Thursday, May 25 St. Bede the Venerable

6:30 am Pearl Powderly ☩

Friday, May 26 St. Philip Neri

6:30 am Nellie Kuper (living)

Saturday, May 27

St. Augustine of Canterbury

6:30 am Living and Deceased Members of the Ben and Lucille LeGrand Family

5:00 pm Lou Hannaford ☩

Sunday, May 28 Pentecost Sunday

7:30 am St. Vincent de Paul Parish Family

9:00 am Joseph Andrew Yuede ☩

10:45 am Living and Deceased Members of the Albert Diebold Family

3:00 pm S. Davis ☩
(Bilingual)

• Prayer Requests •

Please remember **Kim Kittrell**, the sick, the hospitalized, and those who care for them. Pray also for homebound St. Vincent parishioners.



????????? GUESS WHO!

Question: Which priest's mother was a homemaker and his father a "fix-it guy" and farmer?

Answer: Father Rick's mother was a homemaker and his father was a "fix-it guy" and farmer. Father Rick was born to his parents on May 26, 1963 — 60 years ago!

Question: Which St. Vincent deacon began discerning the diaconate at age 55?

Question: Which priest's parents taught him his faith?

Answer: To find these questions, come to Holy Mass next weekend and pick up a bulletin!

Jesus ascended into heaven, blessing His disciples and promising that they would soon receive the power of the Holy Spirit. We who have received that promised gift of the Spirit are now empowered to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth — to use our time and talents to spread the good news of salvation.

Rosary Prayer Group

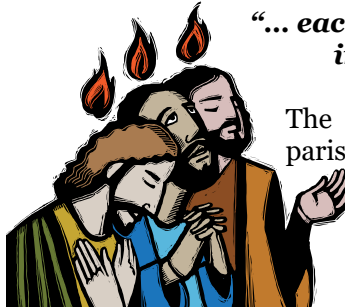
The Holy Rosary will be prayed this Sunday, **May 21, at 1:30 p.m.** inside the Old St. Vincent Chapel of Ease (downtown Cape Girardeau).



Do You Speak Multiple Languages?

"... each one heard them speaking in his own language."

ACTS 2:6



The Discipleship Committee is looking for parishioners to read the Prayers of the Faithful in various languages on Pentecost Sunday, May 28. If you are willing to share your gift of speaking a language other than English, please call or text Cindy at 573-275-4617.

Diocesan Development Fund

The Diocesan Development Fund Campaign (DDF) is the annual campaign for the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau. The funds raised through this annual campaign advance the diocese's mission through a host of ministries that assist families, parishes, and the diocese as a whole. DDF is vital to the life of the Church in southern Missouri.

To date our parish has given \$165,765 toward the financial goal of \$285,000 (58.2%). As for the donor goal of 600 families, there have been 235 families who have made a pledge (50.2%). Thank you! If you have not yet made your pledge, please make a sacrifice, whatever the amount, in unity with those who have already given. We ask you to participate as you are able. For online donations, simply go to **www.dioscg.org** and follow the prompts or use the QR code printed here. Transactions are totally secure.



Remember also that this year, we are going to have a raffle drawing with all of the DDF donors. When you make a pledge to the DDF, your name will be entered into a drawing which will be held on the weekend of June 3-4. At each of the Masses, four winners will be drawn with at least 20 winners! Some of the gift certificates include Cyclewerx, Cask, Patrick Furniture, Rhodes, Broussard's Cajun Cuisine, and Texas Roadhouse.

Please complete out your DDF card and win by helping Bishop Rice and win by entering the raffle!

"And I consecrate myself for them, so that they also may be consecrated in truth." If you think God may be offering you the grace of serving Him and His people as a priest, deacon, or consecrated religious, contact Father Alex at 573-335-7667 or email fatheralex@svparish.com.

All current 5th - 12th grade students...

*You're
Invited!*

Let's celebrate the
birthday of the Church,
at our Pentecost Party!

Friday May 26th
6-8pm
@ Kelso KC Hall
(Back Lot)



More Info?
RSVP?
Scan Here

Event organized & hosted by Light the Fire Regional Catholic Youth Ministry.

Clean-Up at Camp St. Vincent

Help is needed to clean and prepare the facilities at Camp St. Vincent, Fredericktown, before summer camp begins. Clean-up day is May 27, 2023, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided. To RSVP, please call Kim Sellers at 573-979-9016.

Calling all ALPHA Alumni

ALPHA is returning to St. Vincent Parish. If you would like to be a part of this ministry and planning process, please contact Hugh Protzel (573-225-5741 or hugh@me.com) or RaeAnne Kloss (573-579-0284 or rakloss70@gmail.com). Another introductory planning meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 31, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.** in the upper meeting room. Please prayerfully consider attending. Together, this can happen! Thank you!

Maxine's Shareable Wearables

St. Vincent's Parish clothing ministry, Maxine's Shareable Wearables, will be taking a few Saturdays off this summer so the staff can enjoy much needed vacation time. Maxine's will be closed on June 10, June 24, July 1, July 15, and July 29. They will be open on Thursdays as usual. Watch the bulletin schedule each week as a reminder. (Maxine's is located in the basement of the old convent behind the DePaul Center.)

Maxine's is currently accepting summer clothes, shoes, purses, etc. There is also have a need for specific items including men's gently-used white undershirts, sizes XL and XXL; women's' summer sleepwear and robes; alarm clocks; duffel bags; and men's small jeans. There has been recent requests for black work shoes with non-skid soles required by some businesses for their employees.

Please do not bring winter clothing donations at this time. There is very little storage space for out-of-season items and large amounts of donations can be overwhelming to sort. *Remember: in-season; in-style; in ready-to-wear condition. Thank you!*

• The Week Ahead •

Monday, May 22

Tuesday, May 23

6:00 pm Tuesday Evening Bible Study

Wednesday, May 24

8:00 am Ugly Quilt Ministry
(8:00 - 11:00 am)

3:00 pm Divine Mercy Holy Hour

Thursday, May 25

9:00 am Maxine's Shareable Wearables
(9:00 - 11:00 am)

5:30 pm Centering Prayer

Friday, May 26

Saturday, May 27

9:00 am Maxine's Shareable Wearables
(9:00 - 12:00 noon)

3:30 pm Reconciliation

6:00 pm Vincent's Vittles

Sunday, May 28

9:00 am Children's Liturgy

*God's blessings to Father Rick
as he celebrates his birthday
on May 26.*

...

*Congratulations to Deacon Mark
as he celebrates the first
anniversary of his Diaconate
Ordination on May 26.*

...

*Congratulations to
Rick and Mary Ann Hoffman
and
Frank and Gail Jones
as they celebrate their
50th Wedding Anniversaries!*

Readings - May 28, 2023

Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11
1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13
John 20:19-23

Collection - May 14, 2023

Collection	\$ 17,892.05
E-Tithing	\$ 35,699.67
Total	\$ 53,591.72
Weekly Budget	\$ 33,000.00
Difference (7-1-22 to 5-14-23)	\$ 95,333.67

*Thank you for being good
stewards of God's gifts!*

• Contact Information •

Parish Office

contactus@svparish.com / 573-335-7667

Father Rick Jones, Pastor

Stvcapepadre@gmail.com / 573-335-7667

Father Alex Sutachan

Associate Pastor/ Chaplain of NDRHS
fatheralex@svparish.com / 573-335-7667

Deacon Robbie Huff

Superintendent of Schools /Diocesan Chancellor
Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau
rhuff@dioscg.org / 573-335-7667

Deacon Mark Kiblinger

Coordinator of Stewardship and RCIA
mkiblinger@svparish.com / 573-335-7667

Deacon Thomas Schumer

Director of CCM, SEMO University
thomas.schumer@semocatholic.org / 573-335-7667

Tiffany Brey

Youth Ministry Coordinator
stvcapeyouth@gmail.com / 573-335-7667

Pamela Chambliss

Parish Office Receptionist
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Kay Glastetter

Principal of St. Vincent DePaul Grade School
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Lenny Kuper, Music Coordinator

lennykuper@notredamecape.org
573-335-7667

Jeffrey Lloyd, Maintenance Supervisor

jllloyd@svparish.com / 573-335-7667

Beverly McMeel

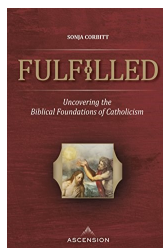
Accounting Clerk/Administrative Assistant
bmcmee@svparish.com / 573-335-7667

Cheryl Oberhaus, Director of Parish Finance

coberhaus@svparish.com / 573-335-7667

Summer Faith Formation Opportunity

Want to know more of the “why” of Catholic beliefs? How the Old and New Testaments tie together? Other aspects of the beautiful Catholic Faith? How about fanning the flame of your Faith this summer? Join to journey through the book *Fulfilled: Uncovering the Biblical Foundations of Catholicism* by Sonja Corbitt. Contact Deacon Mark for more information.



With gratitude to Almighty God
The Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau
announces and requests your presence at the
Ordination to the Permanent Diaconate of

Kevin Gerard Henderson and Robert Anthony Peters



through the Imposition of Hands
and the Invocation of the Holy Spirit by

The Most Reverend Edward M. Rice

Saturday, June 10, 2023 | 10:30 a.m.

The Cathedral of St. Mary of the Annunciation

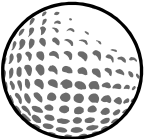
615 William Street, Cape Girardeau, MO 63703

Reception to follow in the school gymnasium.

Mass will be live-streamed to the Diocesan Facebook Page

ND Tony Buehrle Alumni Golf Tournament

The Notre Dame Booster Club is hosting the Tony Buehrle Alumni Golf Tournament sponsored by Plaza Tire Service. The four-person scramble will take place at the Cape Girardeau Country Club on **Friday, June 16, 2023**. Flights are available at 7:30 a.m. and a 1:00 p.m. with lunch served at 11:30 a.m. The cost is \$150 per player and includes cart, lunch, beverages, mulligans and skins. Registration is available online at www.notredamehighschool.org/summorgolf. Participants must be 21 or older. Limited spots available!



Beatitude Boxes and Bags

Thank you for your wonderful support of the parish's Lenten project of providing food and paper goods to those in need. As a result of your generosity, 100 bags of paper goods and 180 boxes of food were packed. Several boxes and bags have already been distributed. Thank you so much St. Vincent de Paul community!

If you know of individuals or families who are in need of these resources, please contact the parish office or reach out to Deacon Mark.





Pentecost Sunday

May 28

- **Pray** the Holy Spirit Novena starting May 19
- **Wear RED** to Mass Pentecost weekend
- **Join** the Pentecost Sunday procession as Mass begins
- **Stay** for a treat to celebrate the birthday of the church

ASCENSION → PENTECOST

The apostles, Mary, and others spent 9 days in prayer between the Lord's Ascension and the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost ... the origin of the Catholic tradition of Novena prayers.

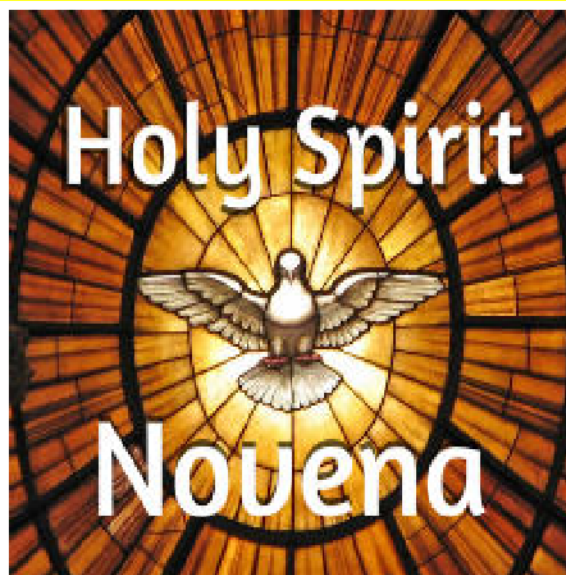
All parishioners are invited to pray the *Novena to the Holy Spirit* starting May 19 leading up to Pentecost on May 28.

9
days

NOVENA

FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Love Joy Peace Patience Kindness Faithfulness
Gentleness Goodness Self-control



Find the Novena to the Holy Spirit at:

<https://Praymorenovenas.com>

Or on one of the following prayer apps:

- Laudate
- Amen
- Hallow

Campus Planning Update #3

by Father Rick Jones, Pastor

Thank you for your attention to the Campus Planning Updates over the past few weeks. This is the third installment in this series of articles.

In the last update, I spoke about the DePaul Center (old Notre Dame High School) and the possibility of renovating the kitchen area. Continuing with that idea, the kitchen area in the DePaul Center is a nice large space. If we add the old boiler room to the existing kitchen space, the new kitchen would have ample room. There would be plenty of work space for any meal being prepared. If you would like to take a look at this kitchen area, I will be giving a tour on Saturday evening, June 3, at 6:00 p.m. and Sunday, June 4, at 12:00 noon.

The old student cafeteria would become meeting rooms and parish offices. In the current parish office, there is one small meeting room. So, by renovating the old cafeteria space, the plan is to provide adequate space for all parish staff. This would include offices for:

- Pastor
- Associate Pastor
- Receptionist
- Greeting space
- Parish Administrative Assistant (Bulletin Editor/Scheduling/Records)
- Parish Administrative Assistant (Virtus/Accounting)
- Parish Finance Director
- Parish Maintenance Supervisor
- Parish Director of Religious Education
- Parish RCIA Director
- Parish Homebound Ministry Coordinator
- Parish Youth
- Parish Social Media
- Parish Director of Liturgical Music
- Parish Event Center Director
- Parish Workroom
- Parish Archive and Record Room
- Parish Office Staff Break Room (lunch)
- Parish Office Restrooms
- Storage Room

In addition to the above, there would be space for at least three rooms that could hold approximately 20 people each. Of course, we want to make this space flexible, so it can be expanded from three rooms to one large room.

This takes care of the bottom floor of the DePaul Center. Future Campus Planning Updates will address:

- DePaul Gym and Stage Area
- Concession Area and Ramp to the North Parking Lot
- Second Floor and Third Floor of the Classroom Area (above Event Center addressed in Campus Planning Update #2)
- Current Parish Office
- Old Convent near the Fairmount Cemetery
- Renovation of areas within the Grade School
- Church Worship Space

Once again, these are only suggestions from the Campus Planning Team. In order for any of this to become a reality, the Parish Pastoral Council, the Parish Finance Council, and you as a parish member, have to reach a consensus to move forward. And, needless to say, moving forward will involve a Capital Campaign to raise significant funds for this project. So, let's pray to St. Joseph, the Master Carpenter, to guide us on the final Master Plan of this grand project!

(Note: Some have asked if the Old Notre Dame bleacher boards are still available. Yes, they are. Call the Parish Office to make arrangements. They may be purchased for \$20 per board.)

Celebrating the Sacraments Celebrando los Sacramentos

Marriage: Please contact the parish office at least **six months** in advance. (If you have been married before, an annulment may need to be done first.)

Matrimonio: Por favor comuníquese con la oficina parroquial por lo menos con **seis meses** de antelación. (Si usted ha estado casado antes, una anulación del matrimonio puede necesitar ser hecha primero.)

...

Baptism: Your family needs to be registered in the parish for three months prior to the baptism. It is necessary to schedule baptismal preparation classes six weeks prior to your child's baptism. Taking the baptism class prior to birth is encouraged! Contact Deacon Mark at the parish office (573-335-7667).

Bautismo: Es un requisito ser inscritos en la parroquia por lo menos 3 meses antes de bautizar. También los padres tienen que celebrar la santa misa cada fin de semana. La clase de preparación para el bautismo para padres y padrinos es cada último lunes del mes. Favor de comunicarse con Padre Rick una semana antes al 573-335-7667.

...

Anointing of the Sick: If you are going to the hospital for a planned surgery, please call the parish office so this Sacrament can be celebrated with you.

Unción de los enfermos: Si usted va al hospital para una cirugía planificada, por favor llame a la oficina parroquial para que este Sacramento pueda ser celebrado con usted.

*Dear St. Joseph, please guide us as we move forward with this renovation of our campus facilities here at St. Vincent de Paul Parish. Without you and the inspiration of our Heavenly Father, we will go nowhere. Show us the way and guide us always! **St. Joseph, pray for us!***

School Board Positions

St. Vincent de Paul is accepting applications to fill two School Board positions. The positions are three year terms. Applicant must be an active member of St. Vincent de Paul Parish. The Board normally meets on the third Thursday of the month at 5:00 p.m. Applications are available at the school and parish offices.

Employment Opportunities

Part-time Technology Teacher - St. Vincent de Paul School is currently accepting applications for the 2023-2024 school year for a part-time Technology Teacher. Interested applicants may call the school office at 573-334-9594 or by email kglastetter@svcape.eduk12.net to receive an application.

Part-time Custodian - Notre Dame Regional High School is seeking a dedicated individual to join their custodial team. The custodian is responsible for daily routine maintenance. This part time position is for afternoon and early evening hours. To apply for this position, please contact Scott Wilson at 573-335-6772, ext. 415. Find a complete job listing online at www.notredamehighschool.org/jobopenings.

Teaching Position - St. Denis Catholic School has a teaching position open for a combined 3rd/4th grade class for the 2023-2024 school year. Applications are available at <https://stdenisbenton.eduk12.net/>, under Forms and Documents. Interested candidates may email Melinda Heisserer at melinda@stdenisbenton.eduk12.net. Please use the word **Application** in the subject line.

A Summer of Stewardship

As summer approaches, many families in the parish will be traveling for vacations and other reasons. During this time, you are encouraged to consider eGiving to ensure your support for the parish remains consistent even when you're away. By setting up eGiving through St. Vincent's online platform, Faith Direct, you can make a meaningful impact on the parish even while you're away. Getting started with eGiving is easy. Sign up by visiting faith.direct/MO885 or call Faith Direct Customer Service at 866-507-8757.



You're Invited to an Open House to

Celebrate & Connect

with the School Sisters of Notre Dame

Thursday, June 22, 2023

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Drury Plaza Hotel Conference Center | Shawnee Room

3351 Percy Drive | Cape Girardeau, Missouri

You are invited to join the School Sisters of Notre Dame for this informal opportunity to renew old friendships and create new memories with the Sisters that ministered in the Cape Girardeau area. Light refreshments will be served.

Please RSVP by June 13 with the number attending.

To register, email Debbie Rohrich-Tyler at drohrichtyler@ssndcp.org.

If you have any questions, please contact Debbie at 314-633-7032.

The School Sisters of Notre Dame are grateful for your support and partnership. Together, we further the mission of Jesus in our world.



School Sisters of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province

Thank you to the Drury Southwest Foundation for sponsoring this event.

Welcome to St. Vincent de Paul

If you would like to register for the parish, change your address, or simply have questions, please fill out the form and place it in the collection basket. You may also mail it to the parish office at 1913 Ritter Drive, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701. Please feel free to contact parish office staff anytime during regular office hours, Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. You may email the parish office at contactus@svparish or call 335-7667. A parish registration form is available at <http://www.svcape.com/Parish/>.

Name _____

Street Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

- ☐ I am new to Cape Girardeau. ☐ I am new to St. Vincent de Paul Parish.
☐ I have been attending St. Vincent Parish and would like to register as a member.
☐ Please change my address to the one shown above.
☐ I would like to sign up for Faith Direct.
☐ I would like to learn more about the Catholic faith.
☐ I would like to register my child/children for Parish School of Religion.

This Week at Home

Eternally Bound

Monday, May 22

Jesus prepares his disciples for times when they will be scattered and feel alone. He assures them again that though they may be separated, they will never be abandoned. Their bonds, permanently forged in the Holy Spirit, will bring them peace in the midst of challenges. So it is for us today. We are bound together with an invisible thread in the community of faith. *Today's readings: Acts 19:1-8; Psalm 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab; John 16:29-33.*

Remain Close

Tuesday, May 23

Jesus affirms God's desire to be close to us in his heartfelt prayer on behalf of his disciples the night before he died. From today through Thursday, we hear this prayer in its entirety in the Gospel readings. Jesus ardently prays that we remember his teachings, stay close to one another, and remain close to God the Father. Sometimes we struggle to believe that God wants this loving relationship with us. Read John 17 in one sitting with this in mind. It is a powerful antidote to doubt. *Today's readings: Acts 20:17-27; Psalm 68:10-11, 20-21; John 17:1-11a.*

Farewell

Wednesday, May 24

Take note of the parallel scenes between today's reading from Acts and the Gospel reading from John 17. Paul speaks to the community at Ephesus as he departs on his journey to death. Jesus speaks his prayer-filled goodbyes to his disciples on the eve of his arrest. Both Paul and Jesus insist that their strength in resisting the Evil One is rooted in the Holy Spirit. So it is with us to this day. The Holy Spirit serves as our armor and source of unity for the life of the world. *Today's readings: Acts 20:28-38; Psalm 68:29-30, 33-35a, 35bc-36ab; John 17:11b-19.*

Show Me the Path of Life

Thursday, May 25

At the heart of today's readings, we pray Psalm 16:11, "You will show me the path of life." This prayer reflects St. Paul's experience throughout his ministry. At every turn he receives the Lord's guidance to show him where to go, what to say, and how to invite new believers to faith. This verse is also at the heart of Jesus' ardent prayer to the Father on behalf of his beloved disciples. Make it the heart of your daily prayer as well. *Today's readings: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; Psalm 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11; John 17:20-26.*

Feed My Lambs

Friday, May 26

The last resurrection appearance in John's Gospel offers a perfect opportunity for the prayer practice called *Ignatian contemplation*. In your imagination, place yourself on the shore of the Sea of Tiberias with the disciples in their final conversation with Jesus. Notice the details: the sunrise, waves lapping on the shore, salty scent of the sea and caught fish, smoke of the charcoal fire, the disciples crowding close to hear Jesus speak. Jesus has powerful words for us to hear today: I love you. Feed my lambs. Tend my sheep. Follow me. *Today's readings: Acts 25:13b-21; Psalm 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab; John 21:15-19.*

Stay Focused

Saturday, May 27

John's Gospel ends with Jesus' command to Peter to focus on following him. When Peter looks sideways to ask about a fellow disciple, Jesus replies, "What concern is it of yours?" (John 21:22). God's concern is not rooted in comparing disciple to disciple. It is part of the human condition to get distracted by what others are doing and to measure ourselves against our perceptions of others. Jesus' final words strongly counteract that temptation — stay focused! *Today's readings: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; Psalm 11:4, 5 and 7; John 21:20-25.*

Sunday, May 21

You Will Be My Witness

Today's readings: Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 (6); Ephesians 1:17-23; Matthew 28:16-20.

Our Scripture readings for almost every day of the Easter season have taken us progressively through the Acts of the Apostles. In this book, Luke pens with broad strokes the Church's development from the resurrection of Jesus to the apostle Paul's first incarceration.

Today we flip back to the very beginning of Acts. In the opening scene, Luke sets the stage for the foundation of the Christian community, the Church. In just a few short lines of Scripture, we hear Jesus' final words to his disciples and witness his ascension to the Father. Jesus promises the disciples, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you," and proclaims, "You will be my witnesses . . . to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). Thus launches the subsequent twenty-eight chapters in which we hear the dramatic details about the experiences of the disciples, the powerful role of the Holy Spirit in the formation of the Christian community, and the spread of the Word of God.

It is often said that the most remarkable miracle of all those attributed to Jesus is the wildfire-like spread of the Gospel and the supersonic growth of the number of new Christians baptized. The Acts of the Apostles relates this miraculous emergence of the Church against all odds.

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