



Sts. Peter and Paul Ecumenical Catholic Church+USA
808 N. Mason Road
Creve Coeur, Missouri 63141-6306
(314) 270.2452

May 2018 Parish Bulletin

Parish Web Site: www.sspp-eccusa.org

Parish Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/Sts-Peter-and-Paul-Ecumenical-Catholic-Church-USA-196106814053967>

National Church Web Site: www.ecc-usa.org

National Church Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/eccusa2001>

CLERGY MASS SCHEDULE

All Mass Times 4:00 PM unless otherwise noted

May 6, 2018: Sixth Sunday of Easter +Fr. Carl

May 13, 2018: Seventh Sunday of Easter Fr. Bill

Mass Intention: All Mothers of the Parish

May 20, 2018: Pentecost Sunday Fr. Tom

May 27, 2018: Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity +Fr. Bob*

Mass Time: 2:00 PM

Pastoral Staff:

Pastor: +Fr. Bob Catlett, 314.800.3456, pastor@sspp-eccusa.org

Associate Pastor: Fr. Bill LaGrand, 314.650.9214, associate@sspp-eccusa.org

Presiding Bishop: +Fr. Carl Swaringim, 636.240.7839, domcarl@ecc-usa.org

Prayer Intentions

If you would like us to remember a special intention for you at Mass, please contact one of our priests.

If you or someone you know is in need of spiritual assistance (prayers, Sacrament of the Sick, etc.), please contact one of our priests.

Inquiries regarding the administration of Sacraments or services (Baptisms, First Communion, Marriages, and Funerals) are welcomed.

Sunday Scripture Reflections

Fr. Bill LaGrand, M.A.

May 6, 2018 – 6th Sunday of Easter: A challenging vision allowed Peter to realize that God was calling him to expand his narrow vision that the Gospel was only for those who embraced Judaism. Have we learned that every person is a child of God? (Acts 10: 25-26, 34-35, 44-48)

May 13, 2018 – 7th Sunday of Easter: A portion of the prayer of Jesus poses the very difficult question of how one might be “in the world” without being “of the world”. How do we resolve that question in our own lives? (John 17:11b-19)

May 20, 2018 – Pentecost Sunday: The feast of Pentecost is considered to be the birthday of the Church. On this day, many people, who are very different from one another, become one people in Christ. (John 20:19-23)

May 27, 2018 – Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity: The doctrine of the Trinity is central to the belief system of the catholic tradition. It took over three centuries for this doctrine to be ultimately formulated at the Councils of Nicea in 325 A.D. and Constantinople in 381 A.D. (Matthew 28:16-20)

From the Presiding Bishop's Desk

+Fr. Carl Swaringim, Ed.D., Presiding Bishop

May, Mary's Month

In 2001, our Church founders, meeting in Middletown NJ, felt it was essential that the Ecumenical Catholic Church+USA would hold Mary, the Mother of Jesus, in high esteem. They included the following in our Church's statement of beliefs: We believe that the Blessed Virgin Mary is the Mother of Jesus, worthy of honor, and worthy of liturgical observance and intercession in prayer. Our parishioners who have attended our annual Synods have joined our clergy in singing the beautiful "Salve Regina" (Hail Holy Queen) in Latin and in Gregorian Chant. We sing the "Salve" at ordinations, clergy funerals, and at various events during Synods and at Council of Bishops meetings.

The history of the Catholic Faith evidences the presence of beliefs and traditions honoring the Virgin Mary. Although the practice of dedicating May as Mary's Month

does not go back to the earliest centuries of the Faith, it has been around for many centuries. In observance of that tradition, let's review the place of Mary as the Mother of God in the Catholic Faith tradition.

Such doctrines as the virginity of Mary were declared by the earliest teachers of the Catholic Faith. Before 110 AD Saint Ignatius of Antioch testified to the reality of the virgin birth and to the divinity of Jesus. Justin Martyr (160 AD) and St. Irenaeus of Lyons (180 AD) also proclaimed the virgin birth and presented Mary as the new Eve, Mother of a new humanity redeemed by Christ. St. Augustine expressed the belief of the fourth century Church that Mary remained "always a virgin." Early teachers in the Eastern Church stated that Mary was "free from any stain of sin, as though fashioned by the Holy Spirit and formed as a new creature." St. Cyril of Alexandria led the movement at the Council of Ephesus (431 AD) that proclaimed Mary as the Mother of God. The Council proclaimed Mary as the Theotokos, the God-bearer.

As the Church grew and spread the gospel all over the earth, preachers and theologians continued to exalt Mary as the Mother of Jesus and our Mother. Among the greatest of these were St. Cyprian of Carthage (3rd century); St. Athanasius of Alexandria, St. Ambrose, St. Jerome (4th century); St. Cyril of Alexandria (5th century); St. Romanos (6th century); St. Isidore of Seville (7th century); St. John Damascene (8th century); Alcuin, St. Paschasius (9th century); and St. Odo and St. Odilo (10th century).

This first Millennium list is far from complete, but it shows that devotion to Mary and reflection on her place in redemption have always been important to Catholic teachers and writers. By studying their works, we can follow the development of Marian theology through the centuries. The works of many of these early Christian writers can now be found by searching the Internet.

During this May, we can join the ancient tradition of offering this Eastertide prayer, the ***Regina Caeli***, in honor of Mary.

Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia.
For He whom you did merit to bear, alleluia.
Has risen, as He said, alleluia.
Pray for us to God, alleluia.

Let us ask Mary, the Queen of Peace, to pray for peace in our needy world.

Blessing,
+Fr. Carl

From the Pastor's Desk
+Fr. Bob Catlett, M.Div.

Happy Mother's Day! The parish extends its best wishes to all mothers in the parish who will celebrate Mother's Day on Sunday, May 13, 2018. A special blessing will be conferred on all mothers present at mass that day.

Congratulations! On Sunday, May 13, 2018, Bishop Carl and I will be at our sister parish, St. Thomas, in Las Vegas, to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation on this year's class of confirmandi. Please remember them in prayer as we celebrate this wonderful accomplishment in their lives!

Sympathies: The parish extends its deepest sympathies to the family of Lorretto Cowles, 96, of Columbia, Missouri, who passed away earlier this year. Lorretto's son, Robert, and his family are long time friends of Bishop Carl and Rosann Swaringim. Bishop Carl officiated the funeral service on Saturday, April 21, 2018. Eternal Rest Grant Unto Her, O Lord! May perpetual light shine upon her! Requiescat in pace! Amen!

Mass Time Change – Sunday, May 27, 2018: Due to a scheduling conflict at St. Timothy's, mass time on Sunday, May 27, 2018, will be 2:00 PM.

Birthdays and Anniversaries:

Birthdays:

5/6 – John Williamson
5/14 – Sandra Murdock

Anniversaries:

5/20 – John and Jan Williamson

Blessings to all who will celebrate these occasions!