



Sts. Peter and Paul Chapel

A Ministry of the Ecumenical Catholic Church+USA

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May 2025 Parish Bulletin

Parish Web Site: www.sspp-eccusa.org

Parish Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/ssppECCUSA

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

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CLERGY MASS SCHEDULE

All Services at 2:00 PM unless otherwise indicated.

May 4, 2025: Third Sunday of Easter

No Mass

May 11, 2025: Fourth Sunday of Easter

Special Intention: Mothers of the Parish, Special Blessing

May 18, 2025: Fifth Sunday of Easter

No Mass

May 25, 2025: Sixth Sunday of Easter

Pastoral Staff:

Pastor: +Fr. Bob Catlett, 314.800.3456, pastor@sspp-eccusa.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 – Cycle C

+Fr. Bob Catlett, M.Div., Pastor

May 4, 2025 – Third Sunday of Easter: Hoping to process what has taken place, the apostles have gone fishing, but without success. Jesus appears and involves them in a miraculous catch, then invites them: “Come, have breakfast.” While confirming Peter’s position, he invites them to rejoice in the share of his labor and the suffering that awaits them. We affirm our place among them with our “Amen!” (Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41, Revelation 5:11-14, John 21:1-19)

May 11, 2025 – Fourth Sunday of Easter: Despite the rough treatment and misunderstandings that often accost the Lord’s disciples, they are “filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.” Sufferings are united with those of Jesus and purified “in the blood of the Lamb.” These disciples are securely held in God’s hand. He will “lead them to springs of life-giving water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.” (Acts 13:14, 43-52, Revelation 7:9, 14b-17, John 10:27-30)

May 18, 2025 – Fifth Sunday of Easter: Paul and Barnabas return to reassure and encourage the disciples. Trials will come, they say, but they see them as the door to God’s reign. All of this will pass away: “Behold, I make all things new!” Just before his ascension into heaven, Jesus also addresses his disciples with words of encouragement: “This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (Acts 14:21-27, Revelation 21:1-5a, John 13:31-33a, 34-35)

May 25, 2025 – Sixth Sunday of Easter: The Holy Spirit is always at work within the Church. From the first Pentecost, God’s Spirit has been the soul of the Church, ever guiding and inspiring those who belong to Christ. This is clear in the apostles’ declaration, “It is the decision of the Holy Spirit and of us...” The Holy Spirit will help us remember all that Jesus taught. (Acts 15:1-2, 22-29, Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23, John 14:23-29)

May 29, 2025 – Ascension of our Lord: After his resurrection Jesus instructed the apostles to stay in Jerusalem in expectation of “the promise of the Father about which you have heard me speak... You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you.” Although Jesus was taken from them, they constantly blessed the Lord and rejoiced in his powerful presence among them. May our witness always be one of joyful praise. (Acts 1:1-11, Ephesians 1:17-23, Luke 24:46-53)

 **Ascension on Sunday**

THE ASCENSION of the Lord, which traditionally falls on a Thursday, may be celebrated on a Sunday in certain parts of the world.

The Ascension originated as a Thursday celebration because of the story of the event from the opening of the Acts of the Apostles. There, Luke says that Jesus rose from the dead, appeared to believers for forty days and then ascended to the heavens. Even though the accounts of the Ascension in the Gospels suggest it took place after a shorter period of time, the liturgy of the Church has honored the chronology from Acts by celebrating the Ascension on Thursday of the sixth week of Easter.

The Solemnity of the Ascension is one of ten days that may be a holyday of obligation. Not all countries have the same holydays. In those countries where the Ascension is not a holyday, the solemnity is transferred to the following Sunday. The United States is so large and its needs so varied that Rome has granted it permission to decide by region on the date of this one solemnity. It is possible within the United States for Ascension to be on a Thursday in one state and on a Sunday in another. Travelers are expected to honor the custom of the place where they are that week.

Those celebrating Ascension on Sunday will miss the Mass texts of the Seventh Sunday of Easter, filled with anticipation for the Spirit of Pentecost. The Second Reading and the Gospel of the Seventh Sunday of Easter may replace those usually heard on the Sixth. Those attending weekday Masses may notice that the Responsorial Psalm on Friday and Saturday of the Sixth Week of Easter is a seasonal psalm for the Ascension, even if their community will not celebrate the solemnity until Sunday.

From the Pastor's Desk

+Fr. Bob Catlett, M.Div.

No Mass on May 4 and May 18: Due to scheduling conflicts with the church, mass will not be celebrated on May 4 and May 18.

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 11, 2025. A special blessing for all mothers will be conferred at mass that day.

Congratulations, Bishop Carl! Bishop Carl has officially retired from active ministry effective April 15, 2025 after serving 62+ years as a priest and 35+ years as a Bishop. He was ordained as a priest on March 30, 1963 and became the Founding Bishop of our Church, the Ecumenical Catholic Church+USA, on November 1, 2001, and is now granted the title, "Founding Bishop, Retired." Please join me in congratulating and thanking him for his many years of service, wisdom and counsel! We wish him the best as he begins this new era in life!

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!

Bulletin Insert (page 3): We continue "getting to know the church, its practices and other pressing issues" with *Bulletin Inserts for the Liturgical Life of the Parish*. The short bulletin inserts provided in this resource cover a variety of liturgy-related topics that aim to assist the parish in the liturgical formation of the assembly. The author, Fr. Paul Turner, provides short catechesis on a wide variety of topics to help the reader gain a better understanding of the "what, how, and why" of the liturgy. Each insert is designed to help the reader engage the liturgy and manifest it in their lives. Fr. Paul Turner is pastor of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Kansas City, Missouri, and director of the Office of Divine Worship for the Diocese of Kansas City–St. Joseph. He holds a doctorate in sacred theology from the Pontifical University of Sant'Anselmo in Rome. ***This month, we learn about the Ascension – whether to celebrate on the traditional Thursday or Sunday (our church traditionally celebrates the day on Thursday – 40 days after the Resurrection).***