Ascension

“He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.”
Dear Parishioners,

This weekend we celebrate the Feast of the Ascension and we also celebrate Memorial Day. The Feast of the Ascension is moved to Sunday this year by Bishop O’Connell and, of course, we do not have the customary Memorial Day parades in Hopewell and Pennington. The journey of Jesus’ separation from the apostles and the upcoming Feast of Pentecost is the focus of our spiritual experience these days. As we celebrate Memorial Day and we take our walk, it is a good weekend to pause as we pass or come near a cemetery. Remember those who have died and pray for those interred there. Remember especially those who died serving our country in the various wars of history.

As you know, St. James Church is open each week from Monday thru Friday, from 8am to 8pm. Very specific cleaning is done each evening upon closing. I appreciate your patience with us and this limited availability of visiting church. No matter what changes occur, if you are vulnerable or afraid, please continue to participate in the virtual Masses for the foreseeable future.

We are entering the summer season and it is different because of the virus. So many loved ones have died since this started. At some future time, we will be able to have Funeral Masses. We will be able to do this whether the person has been buried or entombed or cremated, and whether you still have the cremains or not. Obviously, even after we open our churches, it will take some time for this to happen. Please be patient and wait for an announcement regarding a date for when we can begin. Many will ask for Saturday Masses and this will slow down the availability for a while.

We are happy to arrange a time and place to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance with you. Please call either myself or Fr. Tom at Ext. 801 or 802. Please wear a mask when coming to Confession.

God Bless all of you this week,

Fr. Mike
**Watch Mass from Your Home!**

Each Sunday, we will Facebook Live Stream 8:00am Mass. You can view Mass live at 8:00am or view the recording any time afterwards on Facebook or on our website under the About Us tab.

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**Graduates**

We would like to recognize our Class of 2020 high school and college graduates with a special montage that we will post on the parish website and facebook page. A graduate blessing will be included. Please email your graduate’s senior picture, college jersey picture, or any proud picture to: parishoffice@stjamespennington.org so that our parish family can extend our congratulations to our students. Please submit pictures by Monday, May 25th.

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**A Novena to the Holy Spirit**

Holy Spirit, third Person of the Blessed Trinity, Spirit of truth, love and holiness, proceeding from the Father and the Son, and equal to Them in all things, I adore You and love You with all my heart.

Dearest Holy Spirit, confiding in your deep, personal love for me, I am making this novena for the following request, if it should be Your holy Will to grant it: (mention your request).

Teach me, Divine Spirit, to know and seek my last end; grant me the holy fear of God; grant me true contrition and patience. Do not let me fall into sin. Give me an increase of faith, hope, and charity, and bring forth in my soul all the virtues proper to my state of life.

Make me a faithful disciple of Jesus and an obedient child of the Church. Give me efficacious grace sufficient to keep the commandments and to receive the sacraments worthily. Give me the four Cardinal Virtues, Your Seven Gifts, Your Twelve Fruits. Raise me to perfection in the state of life to which You have called me and lead me through a happy death to everlasting life. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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**Blood Drive**

9:00am—1:00pm, Saturday, June 13, St. James Gym

Over the past few months, as the pandemic worsened, the Red Cross has had to cancel several blood drives, resulting in over 200,000 fewer blood donations at a time when they are needed more than ever. Your help is needed. Sign-up in advance at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org), and enter the Sponsor Keyword StJamesPenn. Walk-ins also welcome.

All CDC requirements and safety procedures will be followed.

For more info contact the Red Cross at 1-800-733-2767 or Jeff Monaghan at monaghan.jsm@gmail.com.

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**Live Stream Mass**

**Sundays at 8AM**

**Available for replay after 8**

Visit our Facebook page or click below

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**St. Alphonsus**

**Church Support**

May 16/17, 2020

$3,297

THANK YOU!

St. Alphonsus Online Giving

[stalphonsushopewell.org](http://stalphonsushopewell.org)

**St. George**

**Church Support**

May 16/17, 2020

$7,061

THANK YOU!

St. George Online Giving

[thechurchofstgeorge.weshareonline.org](http://thechurchofstgeorge.weshareonline.org)

**St. James**

**Church Support**

May 16/17, 2020

$14,012

THANK YOU!

St. James Online Giving

[https://stjamespennington.org/](https://stjamespennington.org/)
**Religious Education**

In accordance with Diocesan and State Emergency guidelines, and out of an abundance of caution, all Religious Education sessions are cancelled until further notice. Emails will be issued as information becomes available.

**Religious Ed Classes**—St. Alphonsus, St. George and St. James

- Due to the current health crisis, we have cancelled our June Summer Session. As of now, we still have the August Summer Session on the calendar. Stay tuned...
- Confirmation and First Communion are postponed until the crisis abates. We will contact our families with plans as soon as we are permitted to gather together as a community.
- Check our website or your email for updates in the weeks ahead.

**2020-2021 RE Registration**

**2020-2021 RE Registration** is now open on our website. Registration for next year is due by June 30th in order for us to configure our class offerings at each location. We ask that you make every effort to complete and submit your registration and fee as soon as you can.

**This Week’s Word - WITNESS**

This Sunday, the 7th Sunday of Easter, we will celebrate the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord. The Gospel for today is a clear reminder of what Jesus expects of us: “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations.” What?? Are we all supposed to become missionaries for Christ? Not all of us, in the literal sense, but we DO have a responsibility to live as a witness for our faith. We do this by taking small steps in our daily lives to share experiences about our faith with others. How has Jesus been present to you and your family? When has Jesus made a difference in your life? When did you feel the Spirit working within you? When has praying to God helped you?

This week, we invite you to pray the novena to the Holy Spirit as an important devotion in preparation for Pentecost. Mary, the apostles, and the disciples spent nine days between our Lord’s Ascension into heaven and the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost in “constant prayer” (Acts 1:12-14). Some see this as the model not only for the novena to the Holy Spirit below, but for all other novenas as well.

**Adult Education**

**ReConnecting with the Catholic Church**

If you’ve been away from the Church for a while and wish to return, we invite you to bring us your questions, concerns and issues so that you can begin the journey back home to the faith of your baptism. For more information, contact us at 609-737-0112 x820 or faithformation@stjamespennington.org

Check in regularly to TrentonMonitor.com for updated news and information about your local faith communities and the worldwide Church.
During this time, the deacons will be available by phone every Wednesday from 7:00pm to 8:30pm. **Deacon Moore Hank** will be available Wed., May 27 at 609-737-0122 Ext 810. We’ll be happy to talk with you, answer questions, or just listen.

**Food Drive**
The Catholic Community of Hopewell Valley continues to offer an on-going FOOD DRIVE. Non-perishable items may be dropped off in the bin at the front doors of St. James Church, Pennington. Questions? Contact: kellyskeifer@gmail.com.

**Need to Talk to Someone?**
During this time, the deacons will be available by phone every Wednesday from 7:00pm to 8:30pm. **Deacon Moore Hank** will be available Wed., May 27 at 609-737-0122 Ext 810. We’ll be happy to talk with you, answer questions, or just listen.

**Hope**
Hope is a ministry offering spiritual support to those whose lives have been affected by the disease of addiction. We are here to pray with you, to listen to your concerns, provide a safe and confidential support network, and, if needed, offer referrals to a variety of resources. Contact Moore or Theresa Hank, stjhope@hotmail.com, 267-573-4287. Dan McCarron 609-933-9443. Jim Haggerty 609-333-8572.

**Food Drive**
The Catholic Community of Hopewell Valley continues to offer an on-going FOOD DRIVE. Non-perishable items may be dropped off in the bin at the front doors of St. James Church, Pennington. Questions? Contact: kellyskeifer@gmail.com.

**Next Week’s Readings**

**May 31, 2020**
**First Reading**
*Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11*
The Holy Spirit descends upon the apostles gathered in Jerusalem.

**Responsorial Psalm**
*Psalm 104:1,24,29-31,34*
God’s Spirit renews the earth.

**Second Reading**
*1 Corinthians 12:3b-7,12-13*
We are all one in Christ Jesus.

**Gospel Reading**
*John 20:19-23*
Jesus appears to his disciples and gives them the gift of the Holy Spirit.

**Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood**
Help us to grow in the Love and Service of our Church as we experience it today. Give us the energy and courage to shape its future.

*Grant us faith-filled leaders who will embrace Christ’s Mission of love and justice. Raise up dedicated and generous leaders from our families who will serve Your people.*

**Adoration**
When we are unable to be present in church for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, discover the beauty of adoring Jesus in your heart.

*“Ask Jesus what he wants from you and be brave!” – Pope Francis*

**Recite The Rosary**
For the time being, we will not be having Recitation of the Rosary in our churches.

*“The Rosary is the prayer of those who triumph over everything. It was Our Lady who taught us this prayer, just as it was Jesus who taught us the Our Father.” – St. Padre Pio*

**Please Pray for Our Sick**
Cheryl Allen
Francis “Ru” Amagasu
Ava Barron
Hugh Blisard
Kate Blisard
Matthew Bunsa
Kathleen Castoro
Mic Cimperman
Maria Czumbil
Ann Dinon
Melissa Evert
Terri Gaines
Stephen Gallagher
Terri Goeke
Thomas & Barbara Goymm
Gil Heupel
Mary Heupel
Alice Howie
Robert Hutchinson
Kimberly Jackson
Nancy Kenworthy
Andrew Liput
Herb Luscombe
Annamarie Maziarz
Bob O’Boyle
Rob Osborne
Maura Grace Owen-O’Boyle
Lori Polakowski
Ed Panacek
Bob Pluta
Jean
Joe Sabol
Gerry Sellner
Jeanette Seamon
Kathy Sipple
David Sison
Robert Swanson
Edmund Trumpovicz
Ellie Trumpovicz
Amber Wolfinger
Anthony Vandenberg
Brent Zajac
Karl Zajac

**Deceased**
Sophie Cvetan
Valerie Harris
Sue Matiejunas
Evelyn McAlinden
Ken Wesolowski

**Keep in your prayers the men and women serving in our military at home and abroad;**
Specialist Shannon Stradling—Pvt. 2nd Class William Smith—LCpl. Mark Thompson—E4 Specialist Christopher Winters
Care For Our Common Home - Msgr Vince

Five years ago, on May 24, 2015, Pope Francis sent a letter to every person living on Planet Earth, about the urgent need to take care of earth as our common home. He called his letter Laudato Si’ which means “praised be,” a title he borrowed from St. Francis of Assisi, known for his great love of nature. On his deathbed, nearly 1000 years ago, St. Francis sang a hymn of praise to Brother Sun, Sister Moon and all creation, singing again and again “praised be ...”

The people of the world listen again to his call to renew our commitment to care for Earth as the home we share. Let us remember the gifts creation has lavished on us, and give thanks for the progress we’ve made in caring for Earth as our mother, and sister, and home. Let us also mourn Earth’s losses and our failures toward her. Together let us work to advance our hope for the future of all life on this wonderful planet

Celebrate Laudato Si this week. Watch a video on creation, e.g. “Praised Be,” a home-made 6-minute meditation on the beauty and diversity of creation – https://vimeo.com/413171413. Or if you have an hour and want to be swept away by the depths and breadth of the Universe story, watch “Journey of the Universe” (by Brian Swimme and Mary Evelyn Tucker), available on Amazon Prime Video.

Some Quotes from the Letter for reflection.

“... our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us.” LS1

“Soil, water, mountains: everything is, as it were, a caress of God ...” LS8

All it takes is one good person to restore hope! LS71

... there is reason to hope that humanity at the dawn of the twenty-first century will be remembered for having generously shouldered its grave responsibilities. LS165

Scholarships

The Hopewell Columbiettes are sponsoring two scholarships:

$100 award for a female 8th grade Confirmation candidate.

$500 award for a graduating high school female.

Applications are on the parish websites or contact Michelle Galik: (609) 213-5618 or mgalik@stalphonsushopewell.org

Application deadline is June 5th.

Applicant must be a member of St. James, St. George or St. Alphonsus

The Hopewell Knights of Columbus are sponsoring two scholarships:

$100 award for a male 8th grade Confirmation candidate.

$500 award for a graduating high school male.

Applications are on the parish websites or contact Todd Kent: (609) 947-6260 or Kent83@comcast.net

Application deadline is June 5th.

Applicant must be a member of St. James, St. George or St. Alphonsus

Baptism Bundles

Help us knit or crochet 32” baby blankets, any color or design, to welcome our newest church members! Email Allisa for info: skatingstar@me.com

Catholic Charities

During the COVID-19 pandemic, in addition to on-site services, Catholic Charities has established Tele-Health and Tele-Mental Health services. Call 800-360-7711.

Food pantries are experiencing a 50% client increase. Pantries distribute pre-packaged food bags in Mercer County (9am-12pm). Go to www.catholiccharitiesrenton.org for directions and information on additional services.

If you would like to donate food, there is a drop-off bin at the front door of St. James Church.

Act of Spiritual Communion Prayer

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

Formed

Pick of the Week: WATCH The Spirit’s Witness (1/2 hour) on Formed.org

Not signed up for FORMED yet? Register here: TheCatholicCommunityOf-HopewellValley.formed.org
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