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 Phone: 618-234-2068  
 April 28, 2024  
 Fifth Sunday of Easter

**LITURGICAL SCHEDULES AND INTENTIONS:**

Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 p.m. – For the Parish  
**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:** 20 minutes before Mass

Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m. – Helen Juenger

**STEWARDSHIP FROM LAST WEEK:**

Envelopes \$1,622.20; Loose \$194.24; Candles \$44; Cath. Education \$40; Mtce. \$30; Cemetery \$800 – Thank You

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR NEXT WEEK:**

**Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 p.m.**  
**Lector:** Carol Reiter  
**Minister: Body of Christ** Pat Tinoco & Barb Jany  
**Minister: Blood of Christ** Susan Halt & Rosemary Yaekel  
**Servers:**  
**Crossbearer:**

**Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m.**  
 Morgan Gauch  
 Margie Bahan & Mary Anne Hopper  
 Vic Klein & David Mueth  
 Harlow Kibbon & Nolan Traiteur  
 Lydia Huffmann

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

Today's first reading appears near the end of chapter 9 of Acts. The opening verses of this chapter recount Saul's request for letters of approval from temple officials. These letters would acknowledge Saul's authority once he reached Damascus, where he intended to persecute followers of Jesus. In verse 3 of this chapter, the first of three accounts of Saul's conversion begins. (Two other recordings of this experience are found in Acts 22:3-16 and 26:4-23.) Thus, it is no wonder that in today's pericope, beginning in verse 26, we hear that the disciples were reticent to believe that Saul had become a follower of Jesus. In a few words, the text details how Barnabas intervened and how the Apostles accepted Saul as one who has seen the Lord. Immediately, Saul began to proclaim that Jesus is Lord. The reading from the First Letter of John reminds us that love expresses itself most perfectly in action. While words are important, the lived expression of our words speaks a truth more strongly. Belief in Jesus is identified by our actions, our love for one another. The Gospel of John presents us with the metaphor of the vine and branches. Jesus identifies himself as the true vine and speaks of his relationship to the Father. Earlier texts that referred to Israel as the vine, primarily prophetic texts, quite obviously did not speak of the Father. Here, Jesus identifies his Father as the vine grower, or vine dresser, the one who carefully tends to the vine so that it will bear fruit.

**ST. LUKE NOON LUNCHEON & CARD PARTY**

St. Luke's Noon Luncheon will be on Tuesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at Noon, St. Luke's Parish Hall, 226 N. Church St., Belleville. The cost is \$10 for Baked Ham, Creamy Au Gratin Potatoes, Jello with Pineapple, Cake, coffee, iced tea, and water. Please bring a canned item for the Community Interfaith Food Pantry.

**St. Michael's Prayer Chain** – To request that someone be added to the Prayer Chain contact Karen Mueller at 473-3401. The person will be on the "prayer chain" for one (1) month, unless the person that requested the prayers asks for longer.

**CATHOLIC HOME MISSION APPEAL**

Support the Catholic Home Missions Appeal today! Nearly 40% of dioceses in the United States and its territories are considered mission territories because they are unable to fund essential pastoral activities needed in their communities. Your support funds religious education, seminary formation, lay ministry training, and other programs that build vibrant faith communities right here in the United States. Please be generous. More information can be found at [www.usccb.org/home-mission](http://www.usccb.org/home-mission).

**The 2024 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal**  
**Serve the Lord with gladness – Psalm 100**

Your contribution to The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal enables the Office of Education to impact the lives of over 11,128 students at 25 Catholic grade schools, three Catholic high schools and in PSR (Parish School of Religion) classes throughout our Belleville Diocese. If you haven't already done so, we prayerfully as you to consider making a gift to The 2024 Appeal today...no amount is too large or too small! Thank you.

**CANDLES**

The cost of candles has increased; therefore, we are raising the cost of candles from \$2.00 to \$3.00. Thank you for your understanding.

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL NEEDS YOUR HELP AGAIN!**

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Belleville Council reports record numbers of people staying at its Night-Time Center and 300+ people per day coming for meals at Cosgrove's Kitchen. With these increased numbers, there is an urgent need for food. We humbly ask for your prayers for SVDP and its clients and, if you are able, your donation of food (all kinds) that will be cooked and served at the soup kitchen and/or individually packaged food items (cookies, fruit cups, tuna and chicken snack packs, chips, crackers, cheese sticks, yogurt, cereal, instant oatmeal, Pop Tarts, breakfast bars, soup or pasta in a cup) to distribute at the Over-Nite Center.

**THANK YOU**

Thank you to Merle Jany for repairing the gutter on the Rectory.

**NATIONAL SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS**

**Our Shared Journey of Loss and Grieving** – May 3 -5, 2024, Beginning with Friday dinner at 6:00 pm through Sunday Lunch at noon. Lodging at the Guesthouse. \$200 per person includes lodging and meals or commuter \$165 per person. Register at <https://kh.snows.org/events/behman-wknd-2024>.  
**Directed Retreat II** from July 8 through July 15<sup>th</sup>. The 7-day summer Directed II Retreat is a primary way to hear the voice of God through the people and events of daily experiences. The goal of the directed retreat is to allow you to go deeper into your relationship with God while savoring what is happening in your life. Call 618-397-0584 for more information.

**GIBAULT NEWS**

**Summer Classic Golf Tournament** – Annbriar Golf Course on Friday, June 21, 2024. Information on the Bulletin Board or <https://SummerClassic.givesmart.com>.  
**Future Hawk Baseball Tailgate** – Cheer on the State Champion Hawks on May 1<sup>st</sup> at 4:30 pm.

**NEWMAN CATHOLIC STUDENT CENTER**

A Quilt & Cash Bingo will be held on Sunday, May 5, 204 at St. John the Baptist Center in Red Bud. Lunch begins at 11:00 a.m. and Bingo starts at 1:00 p.m. Win quilts, cash, gift baskets, and raffle prizes. All proceeds help support the Newman Catholic Student Center at SIU-Carbondale.

**COVENANT NETWORK CATHOLIC RADIO**

As we continue to rejoice in the glories of the risen Lord and anticipate the coming celebration of Pentecost, stay tuned to Covenant Network Catholic radio for the best in programming to assist in your daily devotions and prayers. Listen to WMSH 90.3 FM on the radio or anytime on our free Covenant Network App, or at [OurCatholicRadio.org](http://OurCatholicRadio.org).

**SEXUAL ABUSE HOTLINE**

Anyone wishing to report an allegation of sexual misconduct by a priest, or other diocesan personnel please call the hotline: 800-640-3044.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS!**

**CATHOLIC URBAN PROGRAM:** St. Michael's May collection; Bath soap and Deodorants – Thank you!