



**SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER— 21 MAY 2017**

**MAY: MONTH OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

**MASS & COMMUNION SERVICE SCHEDULE – DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Saturday	20 May	5:00 PM	Sixth Sunday of Easter	Soul of Adele Kiec
Sunday	21 May	8:00 AM	Acts 8:5-8,14-17; 1 Peter 3:15-18	Turner Family
Sunday	21 May	10:30 AM	John 14:15-21	Soul of George Elder
Domingo	21 Mayo	12:30 PM	6O Domingo de la Pascua	Para los Feligreses
Monday	22 May	8:00 AM	Acts 16:11-15; John 15:26-16:4	Communion Service
Tuesday	23 May	8:00 AM	Acts 16:22-34; John 16:5-11	Soul of Fr Ben Luther <small>Fr Riley's Intentions</small>
Wednesday	24 May	8:00 AM	Acts 17:15,22-18:1; John 16:12-15	Soul of Mary Jo Wyatt
Thursday	25 May	8:00 AM	Acts 18:1-8; John 16:16-20	Soul of Vickie Carrico
Friday	26 May	8:00 AM	Acts 18:9-18; John 16:20-23	Souls of Frank & Ursula Elliott
Saturday	27 May		Zephaniah 3:14-18; Luke 1:39-56	
Saturday	27 May	5:00 PM	Ascension Sunday of Easter	Soul of Len Makolinski
Sunday	28 May	8:00 AM	Acts 1:1-11; Ephesians 1:17-20	Souls of Stephen Stefanow Jr & Dolores Planinsek
Sunday	28 May	10:30 AM	Matthew 28:16-20	Soul of Larry Ellegood
Domingo	28 Mayo	12:30 PM	La Ascensión del Señor	Para los Feligreses

**OUR LITURGICAL STEWARDSHIP – 27-28 MAY 2017**

**Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion**

5:00 PM	Pat Blackman; Rene Lamb
8:00 AM	Christa Buck; Tony Dowdy
10:30 AM	Nancy Wilson; Cathey Alexander

**Readers**

5:00 PM	Lisa Isbell
8:00 AM	Joyce Carrico; Kacey Carrico
10:30 AM	Cathy Shell

**Servers**

5:00 PM	None
8:00 AM	None
10:30 AM	None

**Collection Bearers**

5:00 PM	Mary Lou Russelburg
8:00 AM	Mark Young
10:30 AM	Joey & Nancy Wilson

**Ushers**

5:00 PM	S & S Ballard; J Roberts; ML Russelburg
8:00 AM	H Carr; T Cash; L Kimbler; M Kimbler

10:30AM M Gargus; S Gargus; N & G Durbin

**Musicians/Cantors**

5:00 PM	Kelley Carrico; Youth; Gabbie Lamb
8:00 AM	Kelley Carrico; Youth; Emma Hayden
10:30 AM	Kelley Carrico; Youth; Nancy Gunn

**Church Cleaners** – 10 June 2017 – Door Code =

Cathy Carrico; Craig Carrico; John & Joyce Carrico; Kacey Carrico; Kelley Carrico; Ardella Meyer

**Vocations Crucifix**

21 May Diane Hayden                      28 May Louise Hayden

**OUR TREASURE STEWARDSHIP - 14 May**

133 of 208 Envelopes used  
Loose collection  
Total  
Budgeted  
Difference

Thank you to all who strive to be good stewards of time, talent and treasure. May God bless you for your fidelity.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM FATHER RILEY**

**OUR SYMPATHY & PRAYERS** – are extended to Charles (Gay) Willett & Family in the passing of his sister, Sue Tacoma, to the judgment seat of the Almighty God this past week. Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

**EPIC A JOURNEY THROUGH CHURCH HISTORY** – Last Class, Tuesday, 23 May, 6:25-7:45 PM.

**MONTHLY HOLY HOUR** – 28 MAY, 2:00 PM.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – 12-15 JUNE, 5-8:15 PM** – Adult & Teen Volunteers needed. Please call Melissa Armstrong at 270-247-2843. VBS hours count toward scholarship requirements for High School Juniors/Seniors. Without adequate adult volunteers, VBS will be cancelled.

**OUR LADY OF FATIMA AND A THEOLOGICAL READING OF HISTORY *By Bishop Robert Barron***

This past week, we celebrated the one hundredth anniversary of the first apparition of Our Lady to a group of shepherd children near the Portuguese town of Fatima. The series of Fatima appearances—lasting from May until October of 1917—is one of the most extraordinary in the history of the Church. It has also beguiled political and cultural commentators outside the ambit of the Church, and it is this wider implication that I would like to explore.

This particular visitation of Mary took place at the height of the First World War, which signaled the end of Enlightenment confidence in the perfectibility of the human being, and in the year of the Bolshevik Revolution, which would exert, for most of the twentieth-century, a massively deleterious influence. To the simple children, who barely understood what she was saying, Our Lady announced that the Great War would soon end, and she also called for the consecration of Russia to her Immaculate Heart. Furthermore, she urged the children to pray for the conversion of Russia, which was a mysterious exhortation, given that, at the time of this communication, the Communist revolution in that country had not yet taken place.

And the confirmation of the veracity of the Fatima appearances is one of the most stunning and widely-attested miracles in the history of Christianity. In the afternoon of October 13, 1917, approximately 70,000 people had gathered at the apparition site in order to witness what the Lady had promised would be a marvelous sign. Among this throng were many secularists and skeptics who had come only to scoff. But before the eyes of seventy-thousand people, the sun commenced to "dance," turning and dashing from place to place in the sky and finally appearing to plummet toward the earth. Some of the most astounding accounts of this incident were composed by journalists of an agnostic or atheist persuasion.

**FUNERAL MEAL STEWARDSHIP SIGNUP** – 3-4 June we will renew the list for this ministry of the faithful who provide vegetable & desserts for funerals. Please consider being a part of this ministry.

**HOLY LAND BROCHURES FOR 10 DAY PILGRIMAGE BEGINNING 29 JANUARY 2018**– Spaces are beginning to fill up. I encourage you to request a brochure soon, and to turn in your registration forms soon to be assured of a spot on the trip. All are welcome to inquire.

**RECTORY FENCE**– For the time being, I do not plan to erect a fence behind the rectory as long as people respect the privacy of my apartment door, and continue to use the front door for Parish business.

**OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BENEFIT** – for Chris Morris – at Graves County Middle School; 3 June, Meal: 5-6:30 PM. Meal preorder required by 24 May: Deborah Graves, 270-376-2304. Auction 6:30 PM.

**DIocese of Owensboro, Kentucky Office of Safe Environment** – The Diocese of Owensboro seeks to help all people who have been sexually abused by a person working for the Church. Copies of the policy with forms to report an incident of abuse are available from the parish office or from the Catholic Pastoral Center (270.852.8353) or [www.rcdok.org/safe\\_environment](http://www.rcdok.org/safe_environment). To report abuse Kentucky Child Protection Hot Line: 1-877-597-2331

*Saint Joseph, Foster-father of Jesus, help us to protect our children from all abuse.*

So what does the message of Our Lady of Fatima, considered in the widest sense, imply? It implies that the God of the Bible is a living God, by which I mean, a God who involves himself as an actor in human history. From the seventeenth century on, in the West at any rate, a casual Deism has held sway in the minds of many who profess faith in God. By this I mean the belief that God is a distant power, who established the laws of nature and set things in motion, but who remains aloof from the ordinary affairs of the world. But this view is repugnant to the Biblical conception of God. According to the Scriptures, God indeed created the universe and established its laws, but he also exercises a personal and providential care for all that he has made. Jesus expressed this idea both precisely and poetically: "Not a single sparrow can fall to the ground without your heavenly Father knowing it." Throughout the historical books of the Old Testament, we find events unfolding according to recognizable dynamics economic, political, and psychological, but through it all, under it all, God is also acting, mysteriously accomplishing his will.

This way of reading history was bequeathed from the Biblical authors to the great tradition, and thus we find theological masters from Augustine to Robert Bellarmine to John Henry Newman interpreting world affairs through the prism of God's providence. Augustine's City of God, written in the wake of the sack of Rome, is particularly instructive in this regard. The great saint certainly understood the political, military, and cultural dynamics that contributed to the disaster, but he was especially sensitive to the sacred dimension of the event. The fall of Rome was ingredient, he argued across more than a thousand pages, in a divine providential plan that stretches from beginning to end of history. Kings, emperors, generals, soldiers, and writers made their moves, but underneath them all, God was making his moves and accomplishing his purpose. I will readily grant that the sifting of this providential design can be a dicey business, subject to various types of distortion and wishful thinking, but I will insist that abandoning the effort altogether is to surrender to a reading of history and a theology of God that are at odds with the Bible.

In our own time, no one played the Augustinian role of theological interpreter of history more effectively than St. John Paul II. Having personally experienced the tyranny of two of the worst and most abusive dictatorships in human history, Karol Wojtyla could nevertheless, upon assuming the papal office, tell the world "to be not afraid." If we were reading things through purely economic or political lenses, such a recommendation would appear foolish at best, delusional at worst. But because John Paul read things theologically, he knew that mercy and love finally triumph, and he understood that any proposal for human flourishing that did not include God would necessarily fall victim to its own internal contradictions. This latter conviction sustained his non-violent but massively effective assault upon Communism from 1979 to 1989.

And his theological reading of history enabled him to grasp that Our Lady of Fatima's summons to pray for the conversion of Russia was far from a pious fantasy, that in point of fact, it provides the interpretive key for understanding perhaps the pivotal event in the history of the late twentieth century.

### **POPE FRANCIS: FATIMA REMINDS US TO CARE FOR THE FAITH OF CHILDREN**

“In Fatima the Virgin chose the innocent heart and the simplicity of little Francisco, Jacinta and Lucia, as guardians of her message. These children received it worthily, so to be recognized as reliable witnesses to the apparitions, and to become models of Christian life.”

“With the canonization of Francisco and Jacinta, I wanted to propose to the whole Church their example of adherence to Christ and of evangelical witness, and I also wanted to propose to the whole Church to take care of children,” he said May 14.

The holiness of these children is not a consequence of the apparitions they received, he said, but of the “fidelity and ardor with which they returned the privilege they received of being able to see the Virgin Mary.”

“After the encounter with the ‘beautiful lady,’ as they called her, they frequently recited the Rosary, they did penance and offered sacrifices for the end of the war and for the most needy souls of divine mercy.” This is what made them saints, he said.

Pope Francis expressed his gratefulness to God for the opportunity to make a pilgrimage to Fatima May 12-13 for the centenary of the apparitions, going “to the feet of the Virgin Mother as a pilgrim of hope and peace.”

“Last night I returned from the pilgrimage to Fatima,” he said, pausing to add a greeting to “the Madonna of Fatima!” followed by cheers from those present.

“In Fatima, I was immersed in the prayer of the holy faithful people, a prayer that flows there for a hundred years as a river, to beg Mary's maternal protection on the whole world,” he went on.

“From the very beginning, when in the Chapel of the Apparitions I stayed for a long time in silence, accompanied by the prayerful silence of all the pilgrims, a together and contemplative climate was created where the various moments of prayer took place.”

And at the center of all of this was the Risen Lord present in the Eucharist.

Even 100 years after the first appearance of Our Lady of Fatima there is still a great need for prayer and penance for the grace of conversion, Francis said. We also need prayers “to implore the end of so many wars that are everywhere in the world... and which disfigure the face of humanity.”

“Let us be guided by the light coming from Fatima. The Immaculate Heart of Mary is always our shelter, our consolation, and the way that leads us to Christ,” he said.

Following the prayer, the Pope spoke with sympathy for the people affected by wars and conflicts in the Middle East, both Christians and Muslims, who suffer from violence and discrimination.

“My solidarity accompanies the memory of prayer,” he said, thanking all those who provide humanitarian aid and encouraging “the various communities to follow the path of dialogue and reconciliation to build a future of respect, security and peace.”

Pope Francis concluded his address by mentioning the celebration of Mother's Day in several countries. “Let us remember with gratitude and affection all moms, even our moms in heaven, trusting them to Mary, the mother of Jesus,” he said, concluding with a moment of silent prayer for mothers.