

DATE	LITURGICAL SCHEDULE	MASS INTENTIONS
Saturday May 23rd Saturday of the Sixth Week of Easter	8:00 AM <u>Cancelled today</u> 4:00 PM Vigil Mass	†Phil Webb Requested by Gail Webb
Sunday May 24th The Ascension of the Lord	10:00 AM Mass	Pro Populo
Monday May 25th	No Mass today	Happy Memorial Day!
Tuesday May 26th Memorial of St. Philip Neri	4:00 PM Mass	Sue Boyle Requested by Joan & Steve Boyle
Wednesday May 27th Optional Memorial of St. Augustine	8:00 AM Mass	†Kevin DeLaHunt Requested by The Peterson Family
Thursday May 28th Thursday of the Seventh Week of Easter	8:00 AM Mass	†Fr. John Denny O.S.A. Requested by The Peterson Family
Friday May 29th Optional Memorial of St. Paul VI	8:00 AM Mass	†Patricia Peterson Requested by The Peterson Family
Saturday May 30th Saturday of the Seventh Week of Easter	8:00 AM Mass 4:00 PM Vigil Mass	†Ronald W. Peterson Requested by The Peterson Family †Alex Metzger Requested by Betty Metzger
Sunday May 31st Pentecost Sunday	10:00 AM Mass	Pro Populo

To request a Mass intention, please visit the parish office during normal business hours.



ST. MARGARET
of scotland

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Ascension of the Lord
May 24th, 2020 anno Domini

MASS SCHEDULE	MISSION STATEMENT
Sunday Liturgy: 4:00 PM (Vigil) 8:00 AM (seasonal) 10:00 AM	To grow in the love of the Lord, follow the teachings of the Church, & serve one another and the community.
Monday: No Mass Today	CLERGY & STAFF
Tuesday: 4:00 PM	
Wednesday-Saturday: 8:00 AM	
1st Friday of the Month: 6:00 PM	
Holy Day of Obligation: Check website	Rev. Christopher Bond Pastor
Snow Days: Check website	Rev. Mr. Miles Merwin Deacon (seasonal)
<i>Refer to back page for possible changes</i>	Mrs. Leslie McCausland Secretary
	Ms. Nicki Conroy Faith Formation
	Mrs. Bernice Smathers Choir Director
	Ms. Faith Garner Organist
CONFESSIONS: Saturday: 3:00-3:45 PM, Sunday: 9:00-9:45 AM, 1/2 hour before all Daily Masses, or by appointment	OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 10:00 AM—4:00 PM Friday—Monday: Closed
SACRAMENTS/FUNERALS: Contact office	

ADDRESS: 37 Murphy Dr. P.O. Box 1359 Maggie Valley, NC 28751 **PHONE:** (828) 926-0106
WEBSITE: www.stmargaretofscotlandmv.org **EMAIL:** stmargaretmv@bellsouth.net

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

Today we celebrate the Ascension of the Lord. One writer maintains that this is not just something that happened 2,000 years ago, but an event which literally unlocks the meaning of life, and reveals to us the plan of God for all creation. If that is even partially correct, this is something to which we need to pay attention and consider what it does mean for our lives. Our readings for this holy day universally reinforce not only Jesus' physical ascension, but also the design He set forth for His Church and for His work to continue. St. Augustine once wrote, "Today our Lord Jesus Christ ascended into heaven; let our hearts ascend with Him. Listen to the words of the Apostle: 'If you have risen with Christ, set your hearts on the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God; seek the things that are above, not the things that are on earth.' For just as He remained with us even after His Ascension, so we too are already in heaven with Him, even though what is promised us has not yet been fulfilled in our bodies."

In our First Reading from the Acts of the Apostles, which comes to us from the absolute beginning of Acts, we hear, "...He was taken up, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom He had chosen." The succeeding readings complement that by making it clear whom the chosen should be. We often speak in the Church of being called, called by Christ to serve. That is in part what today is all about.

Jesus' followers give every indication that they expect everything to occur right then. They asked "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" The key phrase is "at this time." Imagine if Jesus had replied that the process of restoring the Kingdom would be ongoing for more than 2,000 years. Yet, that is the reality we now understand. Jesus said to them, and to us, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you." This is a definite statement. The Lord goes on to indicate that we all are to be His witnesses; that, too, is not a request or a command; it is a statement of fact. If we want to be witnesses though, we must be filled with the Holy Spirit, and that may require an effort on our part.

St. Paul, in his letter to the Ephesians, our Second Reading, speaks a message that parallels the charge given by the Lord in the initial reading. Paul says, "May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a Spirit of wisdom and revelation resulting in knowledge of him. May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened, that you may know what is the hope that belongs to his call."

The term the "eyes of your heart" explains much of what Paul was praying for. Do our hearts have eyes or is it just our minds? God wants us to understand in our hearts, and that is more important than an intellectual appreciation. In Scripture the word "heart" is often used to mean the complete core and center of life. Paul speaks of "hope" also. The fact that we have hope is what may give us the strength and resolve to be the witnesses Christ wants, and to help us to answer Christ's specific call for us. We have a future of resurrection and eternal life, and we must live accordingly.

Jesus' words, as reported in the Gospel Reading from Matthew, are "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you, and behold, I am with you always until the end of the age." As is always the case, these words are intended for us also. This is called by some "the Great Commission."

When we were baptized, we were baptized with water, but more important than that, we were at that moment incorporated in Jesus Christ Himself, made members of His Body, the Church. St. Augustine also wrote, "Where the Head is, there is the Body; where I am, there is my Church. We, too, are one; the Church is in me and I in Her, and we two are your Beloved." Yes, we have ascended with the Lord, but are we part of the Church in the way Jesus wanted us to be? Is the Church part of us? It should be. We are called, and we must work each day to respond to that calling. That is what being a good steward is about.

copyright: www.franciscanmedia.com

MASSES GOING FORWARD

Assuming we will not have to take a step backwards in the phased reopening of North Carolina; going forward, the logistics and schedule of Holy Masses at St. Margaret's will be as follows: effective this week, **only the 10AM Sunday Liturgy will be live streamed on Facebook.** As I announced last weekend, the **4PM Vigil Mass has been reinstated.** If the number of people who come to both the 4PM and 10AM Masses is such that social distancing proves difficult, I will accordingly reinstate the 8AM Mass on Sundays as well. The website will reflect when this happens.

Please keep in mind, whichever Masses you choose to attend (if at all), many people are still highly cautious when it comes to the measures they take (and wish others would take) when out in public (this church essentially being a public space). Please be sensitive to these concerns (as you might have them yourself). But to be clear, it's still the case that nobody is obligated to come to Mass. If you are uncomfortable being in a crowd (regardless of how many feet are between you and another person), then stay home. That is your choice (and one that I don't blame you for). But I'm also happy to open wide the doors of the church for those who desperately miss coming to Mass!

ONLINE GIVING

The cumulative funds generated through online giving will be reported monthly in the bulletin. The total dollar amount is part of (not in addition to) the amounts reported weekly. For the month of April, online giving generated \$880 for the parish. Since this option was not offered until April 17th, these contributions were collected in less than half a month's time. I am hopeful that for the months going forward, online giving will provide not just an alternative channel for parishioners to give, but a vehicle which avails the parish with additional financial assistance. Please visit our website for a link to online giving.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

R. Allan, Chris Churchill, Denise Collins, Thomas Dexter, Elliot Dowdell, Norma Esbenshade, Pat Gerakaris, Dick Hamel, Maryellen & Ray Hoefler, Joe Hoefler, Jess, Ketchum, Ann Ketchum, Josh Ketchum, Kimberly Krisan, Matt Loetz, G. Lydia, R. Mas, Peter Mino, Robert Missana, S. Mullen, Michael Naydock, Joseph Orvos, Pat & Suzanne Palmiere, Pat & George Pastore, Mike R., Marie S., Sue Quick, Edward Smathers, Austin Strader, Tinley Jane Toner, Jim Toner, Pvt. Luke Turner, Olivia Triollo, Michael Welch, Bella Grace Yarrington, Bruce Yarrington, David Yarrington.
Names will remain on this list for one month unless notified otherwise.

OFFERINGS

Offertory	Preservation & Improvement	Combined Mission
\$3,229	\$1,143	\$30

DIOCESAN SUPPORT APPEAL 2020

Assessment/Goal	Amount Paid	Pledges Outstanding	Over (Under)
\$22,000	\$11,529	\$9,062	(\$1,409)

**Diocesan ledger does not always reflect recent contributions*