



Sts. Peter and Paul Chapel

A Ministry of the Ecumenical Catholic Church+USA

**808 N. Mason Road
Creve Coeur, Missouri 63141-6306
(314) 968.7800**

May 2023 Parish Bulletin

Parish Web Site: www.sspp-eccusa.org

Parish Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/ssppECCUSA

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CLERGY MASS SCHEDULE

All Services at 2:00 PM unless otherwise indicated.

May 7, 2023:	Fifth Sunday of Easter	+Fr. Bob
May 14, 2023:	Sixth Sunday of Easter	+Fr. Bob
May 21, 2023:	Seventh Sunday of Easter	+Fr. Carl
May 28, 2023:	Solemnity of Pentecost	+Fr. Bob

Pastoral Staff:

Pastor: +Fr. Bob Catlett, 314.800.3456, pastor@sspp-eccusa.org

Founding Bishop: +Fr. Carl Swaringim, 636.240.7839, domcarl@ecc-usa.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

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

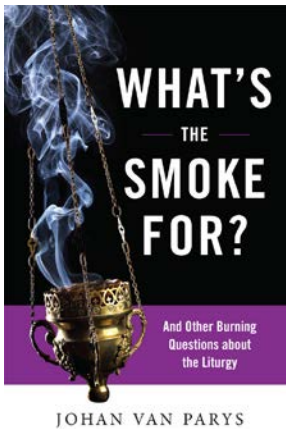
May 7, 2023 – Fifth Sunday of Easter: From its beginning, the Church has continued to grow in numbers and in spirit. Each member is a “living stone;” Jesus himself is the cornerstone holding everything together. He says, “You have faith in God; have faith also in me.” He asks us to trust him, unite ourselves with him. He who is “the way and the truth and the life,” will lead us to the Father’s house. (Acts 6:1-7, 1 Peter 2:4-9, John 14:1-12)

May 14, 2023 – Sixth Sunday of Easter: The Acts of the Apostles gives us a clear picture of the Holy Spirit at work in the Church. Great signs and wonders gave evidence of his presence. Peter describes the demeanor of the disciples when under persecution. That strength and conviction is what Jesus promised in sending the Spirit of Truth. May the Holy Spirit *remain with us and within us*. (Acts 8:5-8, 14-17, 1 Peter 3:15-18, John 14:15-21)

May 18, 2023 – Ascension of our Lord: The Gospel tells us that at the sight of Jesus, some who had entertained doubts fell down in homage. Awestruck, the witnesses to this ascent into the heavens needed to be jolted back to earth: “Why are you standing there looking at the sky?” With them, we have been sent out to continue the mission of Jesus, confident that *he is with us always*. (Acts 1:1-11, Ephesians 1:17-23, Matthew 28:16-20)

May 21, 2023 – Seventh Sunday of Easter: After the Ascension, Jesus’ apostles hid in the upper room, praying and waiting for the coming of the Spirit. They trusted in the Lord’s promise: “When his glory is revealed, you may also rejoice exultantly.” United with them were “some women, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.” As he continues to do, Jesus was praying with them. (Acts 1:12-14, 1 Peter 4:13-16, John 17:1-11a)

May 28, 2023 – Solemnity of Pentecost: The Holy Spirit is the breath of Christ’s body. Filled with the Spirit, the apostles were able to proclaim the message in many languages. Of the multitude of ministries the Spirit sustains, one of the most powerful and consoling is the gift of reconciliation, which prepares the heart to receive and live out his many graces. Come, Holy Spirit! (Acts 2:1-11, 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13, John 20:19-23)



Dear Johan,

I find some depictions of Jesus on the cross rather disturbing. I can't remember the name of the German artist but his crucifixion was just terrifying. Wouldn't it suffice to just have a cross?

Gentle Reader-

For starters, let's agree that a cross does not have a corpus or depiction of Jesus on it, while a crucifix does. Most Protestant churches exclusively prefer the use of a cross while the Catholic church favors the crucifix.

The crucifix you are referring to must be one by Matthias Grünewald (ca. 1470–1528). His crucifixion scenes are indeed rather gruesome and difficult to behold. However, they do make a point.

Like you, Christians have struggled with the depiction of Jesus on the cross from the very beginning. As a result, they were very hesitant to use what later became the most recognizable Christian symbol of them all. Instead, they used Christ monograms, anchors, a fish, a shepherd. When they timidly started using the cross it was without the corpus. Most often a victory wreath decorated the cross. Though early Christians recognized Jesus' sacrifice on the cross as the portal to salvation, they were hesitant to represent Jesus on the cross.

Starting in the fourth century Christians began slowly to represent Jesus on the cross. However, when they did, they depicted Jesus as completely in charge. It is as if he is standing on the cross using a wooden footstool that is attached to the cross. Both hands and both feet are nailed to the cross. His eyes are wide open, and he looks directly at the beholder.

The next step was the representation of the suffering Jesus on the cross. Rather than standing on the cross, Jesus hangs from the cross. His feet are placed on one another, and one nail is used for both feet. His body shows signs of torture. He often wears the crown of thorns as described in the gospels. This type of crucifix appears during the time of state decline after the fall of the Roman and Carolingian empires. Europe sank into the so-called dark ages, which were characterized by political anarchy, war and violence, famine, and diseases such as the plague that decimated more than half the population. The people's feelings of despair and suffering are clearly reflected in the way they depicted Christ. In a sense, they depicted their own suffering on the cross or they took consolation in connecting their suffering to that of Jesus.

The Renaissance, with its interest in realism, keeps depicting the suffering Christ but with less of the exaggerated gore so typical for many of the medieval depictions. Although Christ is still shown as dying on the cross, there is a quality of stillness surrounding the cross. Although there is realism in the depiction, there is also rational restraint.

The Baroque renditions, which are part of the Counter-Reformation efforts of the Catholic Church, are all about the drama of the moment as they show Longinus, one of the Roman soldiers, piercing the side of Jesus. Mary, the mother of Jesus, faints into the arms of John, the beloved, and Mary of Magdala embraces the foot of the cross. The sacrifice of the cross is greatly emphasized in these depictions in support of the theology of the sacrifice of the Mass, which is often celebrated beneath them.

The late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, which are characterized by a return to earlier artistic styles, embrace the medieval depiction in the Romanesque and Gothic style but these neo-versions lack the character of the images they imitate. Rather, there is a romantic softness and a form of spiritualization in the crucifixes that are typical for the piety of this period.

The twentieth and twenty-first centuries have all of the above and much more. Though there was a clear trend in the Catholic Church to move away from the crucifix in favor of a cross or a risen Christ on a cross, new directives indicate that a crucifix needs to be placed in each sanctuary and processional crosses need to actually be processional crucifixes.

This is probably more than you asked for. I could have answered with a simple no but what good would that have done?

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From the Pastor's Desk

+Fr. Bob Catlett, M.Div.

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 14, 2023. A special blessing for all mothers will be conferred at mass that day.

Thank you, +Fr. Carl! I am especially grateful to +Fr. Carl who filled in for me on April 30 and will again on May 21 while I am away for training for work.

Prayers Needed:

Please keep the following in your thoughts and prayers:

- The niece of Joan Schmid who is having health issues the doctors have not been able to diagnose.
- Bishop David Kocka – recovering from shoulder replacement surgery
- Deacon Dick Sellers – recovering from several health issues

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!