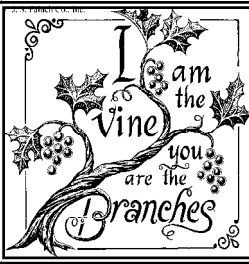


Fifth Sunday of Easter May 14, 2006

*Let us love not in word or speech
but in deed and truth. — 1 John 3:18*



THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

By Father Andrew Johnson

Today we celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation at STM Church. Bishop John Wester will officiate at the 10AM Mass. There are thirty students from our 7th grade in Saint Thomas More Catholic School and seven from our CCD classes under the tutelage of Kathy Sanford. Congratulations to them all and to their parents, families and friends.

Archbishop John Nolan from the Archdiocese of Newark, New Jersey, confirmed me at the age of eleven in Montclair, New Jersey, on June 7, 1941, sixty-five years ago!!! I still remember it very well, as if it happened recently. We were taught that this Sacrament was an important "rite of passage" in our lives, our Catholic Faith and in our Church. By virtue of this Sacrament we were to become "Soldiers of Christ" with the obligation to live a faithful life as Catholics and to defend the Faith whenever someone spoke against it. We were told that it was customary for the bishop to strike us on the cheek as a reminder that we would encounter opposition, ridicule and perhaps physical abuse from others who oppose the Church. Fifty years ago, prejudice against Catholics was very common in the United States. It is less today; however, we are the only minority group whom society and the media in general feels free to criticize and ridicule, usually erroneously and out of ignorance.

The concept of Confirmation has changed a bit over the years. This Sacrament still marks a certain maturity in age and knowledge of the Faith, but it is not the end of religious education. This should continue throughout our entire life. There is always more to learn about our Church, Holy Scripture and our Catholic Faith. Sadly, many youngsters and parents in the past assumed their religious studies were finished after this Sacrament. They did not continue their religious education through high school and college. As a result we now have many grown men and women who grew up as Catholics, but they just do not know their Faith and have learned misinformation about it from our popular culture. Watching EWTN TV on cable will re-educate them about our faith and teach them what they need to know to be good Catholics in our secular and sometimes hostile culture.

Each candidate for Confirmation will be anointed with the Holy Chrism Oil by Bishop Wester. He will touch them gently, extend his hands and say a prayer over them. This procedure is not unlike what the elders of the Church in Antioch did to Barnabas and Saul before they were sent out to proclaim the word of God. The Holy Spirit comes into them in a very special way, conferred on them through Bishop Wester. We invite everyone to join with us in praying for these youngsters as they enter this next chapter of their lives.

Upcoming Parish Events

**Mon. May 15—
Bible Study &
Prayer Group,**
7:30 pm, Chapel

**Tues May 16—
Legion of Mary**
7pm, Scanlan Hall

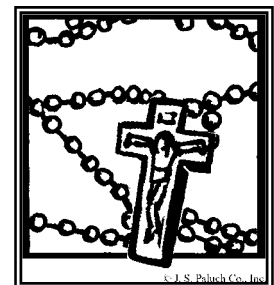
**Thurs. May 18 —
Girl Scouts,** 7:00
pm Scanlan Hall

**Fri. May 19 —
AACC Youth Group,**
6:30 pm, Scanlan
Hall
Prince of Peace,
8:30 pm, Scanlan
Hall

**Sat. May 20 —
Sports Night,**
5:30pm, Carroll
Hall

READINGS FOR THE WEEK, SAINTS & SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday May 14— Fifth Sunday of Easter, Acts 9:26-31; Ps 22; 1 Jn 3:18-24; Jn 15:1-8
Monday: **St. Isidore;** Acts 14:5-18; Jn 14:21-26
Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28; Jn 14:27-31a
Wednesday: Acts 15:1-6; Jn 15:1-8
Thursday: **St. John I;** Acts 15:7-21; Jn 15:9-11
Friday: Acts 15:22-31; Jn 15:12-17
Saturday: **St. Bernardine of Siena;** Acts 16:1-10; Jn 15:18-21
Sunday: May 21— Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48; Ps 98; 1 Jn 4:7-10
or 1 Jn 4:11-16; Jn 15:9-17 or Jn 17:11b-19



Full Plate Program: Thanks for your support of this program. Pls. bring your donations of canned foods and dry goods & place them in the green bins at the church entrance. Menu items: 1 box of cereal, 1 can of stew or chili, 1 can of tuna or chicken, 1 container of 100% juice. No glass items, please. Thanks.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***We wish all mothers & grandmothers a very happy & blessed Mother's Day!**

***Congratulations** also to the Confirmation from the school and to Kathy Sanford's group: **Soleil "Claire" Doggett, Teokila "Michael" Faafio, Angelica "Eulalia" Malbas, Cristalyne "Helen" Malbas, Raneen "Barbara" Michael, Sabreen "Ana Rose" Michael & Jasmin "Dymphna" Perkins.**

***Our thanks** to our teachers & school staff, esp. our 7th grade teacher, **Mary Jane Knoll, to Kathy Sanford & Suzanne Hockel** for preparing our youth for this milestone in their faith journey. Thanks also to **Father Piers Lahey** for a memorable spiritual retreat.

***We will have the Bishop of Tunis, the very Rev. Maroun Lahham** celebrating the 10 & 11:45 AM Masses on May 28th. The capital of Tunis is Cartage, where St. Augustine and St. Monica are from, Tunis also gave us three Popes in the first three centuries.

***We would like to make a special event of, for some, the May Crowning of the Blessed Mother, for Filipinos, the Flores de Mayo after all Masses** on the last Sunday of May, the 28th. We need volunteers to help us coordinate this event, we'd be glad to hear from you.....Pls. call the office.

***We are giving away 10 37" LCD TV's** on June 3rd after the 5:00 PM Mass. Only 1500 tickets printed. Odds are 1:150! \$50 per ticket. Each family is requested to purchase or sell two tickets for a donation of \$100. Proceeds will go towards our Annual Appeal assessment of \$47,700. **Tickets are available after each Mass on Sundays.**



***Mark your calendars: NERT training** for 6 Thursdays starts on 06/01/2006 6:30-9:30 PM in church. More info later.

***Fr. Andrew and Fr. Govindu are planning a Pilgrimage to the Shrines of Italy** this Fall for 11 days either **November 5-15 or November 12-22. Dates to be finalized** depending on number of people and their preference. The travel agency has proposed a Pilgrimage for 11 days to the Shrines in Rome (including an audience with the Holy Father), Giovanni Rotondo (Padre Pio), Lanciano (Miracle of the Eucharist), Assisi, Florence, Venice & Milan at about \$2,680, (includes airfare). More pilgrims (over 10) should reduce cost. Pls register your names, preferably by the end of this month. Contact Fr. Andrew or Elvira, our Parish Secretary, for further info and registration. At least 10 pilgrims needed.

STM ARCHDIOCESAN SCHOOL
***Today our eighth graders receive the Sacrament of Confirmation** at the 10 AM Mass. Congratulations to: **Raquel Avila, Kyla Carato, Julia Catalano, Jessica Cuddihy, Kilana Faafiu, Adriana Giannini, Kristen Harty-Connell, Samantha Mairena, Julie Nepomuceno, Brenda Palaby, Danielle Philapil, Leiani Schelstrate, Veronica Smart, Fuelafo Tualaulelei, Elizabeth Valencia, Emily Vigna, Gabriella Vitug, Ava Zarich, Vincent Chan, Alexander Hernandez, Vincent Iannone, Reza Kurniawan, Andrew Lobre, Rodolfo Locon, Paul Mallari, Patrick Ostrea, Carlo Santos, Allan Santos, Darryl Tolentino, & Nicholas Tran.**

MASS INTENTIONS

May 14— May 21 2006

05/14 Sun	10:00 am	Mildred Calvin †
	8:00 pm	People of STM
05/15 Mon	8:30 am	Kay Krause (Sp. Int)
05/16 Tue	5:30 pm	Helen Arata (Sp. Int)
05/17 Wed	8:30 am	Joshua Goldberg †
05/18 Thurs	5:30 pm	Agnes Mc Laughlin (Sp. Int)
05/19 Fri	8:30 am	Vincent Duc Luu †
05/20 Sat	8:30 am	Justin Harvey †
05/20 Sat	5:00 pm	Bianca Medina (B'day)

Please call the office to schedule. Participating in the mass you offer is preferred.



All the sick people in our parish especially Brian D'Arcy, George Crawford, Restituto de Guzman, Michael Karney, Majida Totah, & Dino Rulloda, William

& Deena Tannous. We also pray for **all the deceased members** of our parish.

Pls. give us names of the sick in your family, and your beloved departed; names will be changed as needed.

Thank you for your contributions. Please remember us in your prayers.

Your offerings for weekend of May 7th was **\$3,304**

Next week's 2nd collection will be for the Catholic Charities Appeal (Local). Thanks for your generosity.



Actual Construction and Repairs Money in Bank is \$108,612

Additional Expenses:
 Replacement of lighting for cross: \$400.00

Please continue to support our Construction fund. We need to repair the Skylight, upgrade the lights in the church and upgrade Carroll Hall. Thank you!