

May 4	\$1,749
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PRAYER LIST—Jerry & Eileen Ehlman, Kate & Colton Sherold, Emmitt Thomas, Jeff suffering from Meniere's disease, Tony Bach, Bill Lemming, Dave Neuspickel, Andy Sper, Billie Huffman, Roger High, Cheryl Miller, Sherry Jackson, Sarah Gripshover, Bill Schneider (Dominion Assisted Living 4009 Seligman Dr. Florence, Room 215), Ree Wagner, John Jackson, Wanda Bach, Maverick Orth (3yrs old), Daniel Cahill, Pax Minch, Todd Kloentrup, Gina Cooper, Tom Breeze, Valetta Proctor, Ruth Elbert, Melba Hauser, Elbert Hauser, Larry Cappel, Mary Beth Feldmann, Griffin Cornell, Nathan Thorwarth, Rosanne Rawe, and the soul of Mary Jo Schmiade and the consolation of her family & friends.

ANNIVERSARY—May 3-Joe and Kathy Bach

Pastor: Rev. Jacob Straub – Cell (859) 445-2436
Address: 13782 Decoursey Pike Morning View, KY 41063
Phone: (859) 356-6530 Fax: (859) 356-1695
Parish Email: stmatthew13782@gmail.com – Bulletin submissions by Fri. afternoon
Parish Website: stmatthewskenton.org

Saturdays – 5:00 PM	Sundays – 9:00 AM
Weekdays [Tue through Fri] – 8 AM	Holy Days– 8:00 AM and 7:00 PM

Saturdays – 4:00-4:50 PM Sundays – 8:00-8:50 AM

Religious Education – Lindsey Rawe (859) 250-7415
 Bulletin/Prayer List – Linda Fryman (859) 240-2377
 Parish History/Cemetery Info – Patty Neuspickel (859) 472-2508

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 11, 2025

DPAA—The new DPAA campaign has begun! Our parish's goal for this year is \$13,400. As of Mar. 31, we have collected \$3,650. You should be receiving envelopes in the mail to make your pledge. There are also purple envelopes available near the collection box. Thank you for your contributions!

CCD SNACKS—Don't forget to sign up to bring snacks, milk, and juice to share before classes begin each Sunday. There is a sign-up sheet in the front of church.

FIRST COMMUNION—Congratulations for the First Holy Communion for 3 of our children: Shiloh Haley, August Mayleben, and Caroline Rawe. Please keep these children in your prayers.

MARY JO SCHMIADÉ DEATH—It is with immense sorrow that we report the sudden death of parishioner Mary Jo Schmiade on Tuesday. Her funeral Mass and burial was on Saturday. Please keep her in your prayers, as well as her family and friends. May she rest in peace.

LECTOR— May 11-Jesse Rawe, May 18-Brad Cooper

CLEANING – May-Lisa and Jeanne Cooper

PRAYER FOR POPE LEO XIV

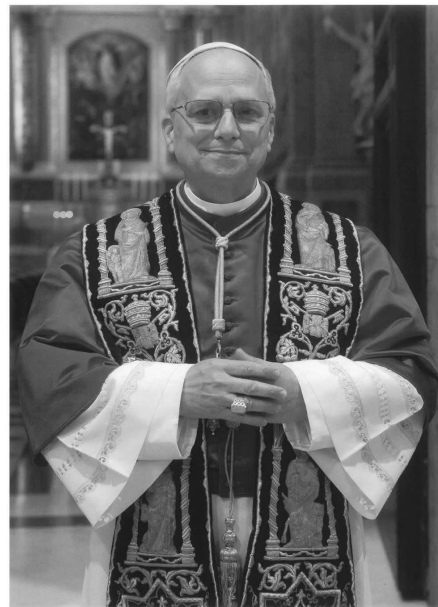
V. Let us pray for Leo, our Pope.

R. May the Lord preserve him, and give him life, and make him blessed upon the earth, and deliver him not up to the will of his enemies.

Our Father. Hail Mary.

O God, shepherd and ruler of all the faithful, look favorably on your servant Leo, whom you have set at the head of your Church as her shepherd; grant, we pray, that by word and example, he may be of service to those over whom he presides so that, together with the flock entrusted to his care, he may come to everlasting life.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.



Leo XIV
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FROM THE PASTOR – MARY AND THE EUCHARIST

The month of May has long been devoted to Mary, perhaps due to the great blossoming of flowers during this month. We celebrate her in a special way, usually with May crownings and processions, as we are doing this Sunday. Mary gives us the best example of how to live the Christian life, because she was most united to her Son in everything she did. It is this fidelity which allows her to be the best person to demonstrate to us the joy and the value of receiving the Eucharist worthily and well.

May is also the usual time for children to make their first Holy Communion. Since Easter is the great celebration of the triumph of the Risen Christ over all our enemies, it has been the most important season for receiving the Eucharist. The new converts to the faith receive the Eucharist for the first time at the Easter Vigil as they are given the sacraments of initiation. In addition, the law of the Church requires Catholics to receive Holy Communion once a year during the Easter season. This law remains in force even in our day, so be sure that you fulfill this important obligation before Pentecost Sunday.

Mary is unique in being able to receive Jesus in the most personal way possible as her Son. This means that God dwelt within her blessed womb for nine months. How much closer to God can you get? Yet she was also worthy after His Ascension to receive Him in the Most Holy Eucharist. Being entrusted to St. John the Apostle, who had been ordained by the Lord for offering the sacraments and divine worship, she was able to regularly receive Holy Communion and to be nourished by that flesh and blood she once carried within her virginal womb. The humble Mother of God truly demonstrates to us how to worship and receive this most sacred gift of Christ whenever we approach the altar. It is not in arrogance or entitlement that we should frame our minds for receiving Holy Communion, but humility and thankfulness.

Pope Benedict XVI wrote in his apostolic exhortation *Sacramentum Caritatis* that:

Consequently, every time we approach the Body and Blood of Christ in the eucharistic liturgy, we also turn to [Mary] who, by her complete fidelity, received Christ's sacrifice for the whole Church... She is the Immaculata, who receives God's gift unconditionally and is thus associated with his work of salvation. Mary of Nazareth, icon of the nascent Church, is the model for each of us, called to receive the gift that Jesus makes of himself in the Eucharist.

Let us pray for all children who are receiving their first Holy Communion this year, especially our 3 communicants this Sunday, that they may grow in response to this tremendous gift which they are beginning to receive. Let us consider our own reception of the Eucharist, so that we may receive so that we may be transformed and become more like Jesus and Mary, the two people most united to God and to us.

Fr. Jacob Straub