

# Welcome To Our Tri-Parish

*St. Catherine  
Of Siena  
Piedmont*



*St. George  
Van Buren*



*Our Lady of  
Sorrows  
Williamsville*



*Following Jesus in the Foothills of the Ozarks*

*Parish Staff*

*Pastor: Fr. Daniel Hirtz*

*Secretary & Bookkeeper: Jean Boldreghini*

*Parish Council Chairperson: David Miller*



*My sheep hear my voice; I know them,  
and they follow me.*

*Parish Office:*

*109 Piedmont Ave.*

*Piedmont, MO 63957*

*Ph: 573-247-0277*

*[www.stcatherineofsiena.us](http://www.stcatherineofsiena.us)*

*Email: [stcatherinepiedmont@gmail.com](mailto:stcatherinepiedmont@gmail.com)*

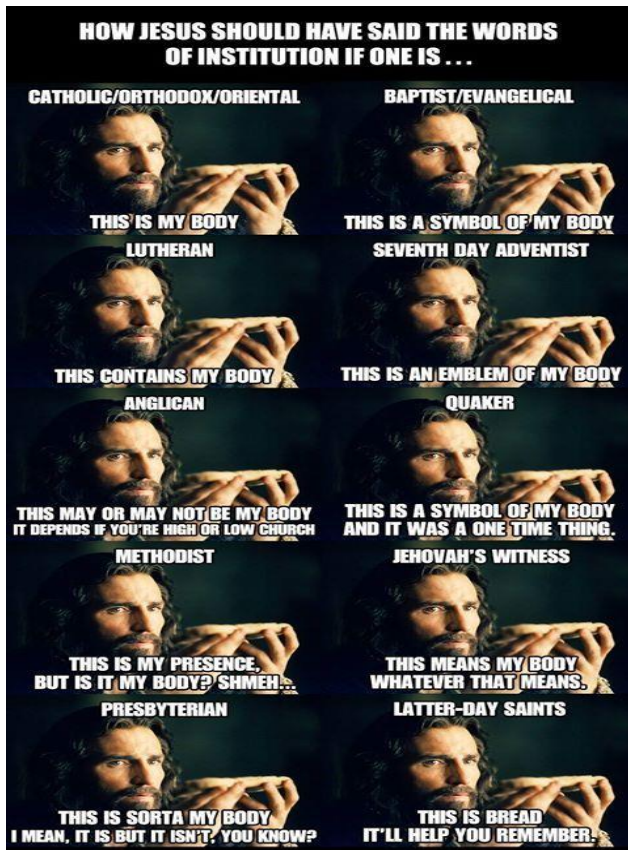
*Youtube & Facebook: Daniel Hirtz*

**MAY 12, 2019 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

## May 12, 2019 Fourth Sunday of Easter

Paul and Barnabas encountered both violent rejection and joyful acceptance of the message that they preached. We, too, may meet with mixed reactions when we use our gifts in the service of God. But, the Gospel assures us, the reward for those who follow faithfully is eternal life.

To date our parish has \$ 2325 toward our 8370 goal. Thank you! If you have not yet made your pledge, please add your gift, whatever the amount, in unity with those who have already given by returning a pledge card. The diocese and Church in southern Missouri needs your participation.



Mass Schedule this week

Mon. P 6:00pm/ Tues. P 9:00am Nursing Home/  
11:00am Williamsville/ Wed. P 6:00pm/ Thurs. P  
8:00am, VB 5:15pm/ Friday P 8:00am

Mother's Day: Special prayers this day for all who have given us life and a love of our Creator.

May Crowning for Mary our Mother: May 26 after mass.

Thursday May 16: 6:00pm St. George meeting

Homily 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Easter

Again we have the joy of hearing John witness the resurrection and what it means for us. What are the numbers, symbols he uses? John is apparently sharing the story of Jesus giving the miracle catch which in the other gospels happens at the beginning of their call. Here he has already risen. In Matthew it takes all the apostles and two boats. Here Peter's leadership is pointed out in a different way. They cast their net and catch 153 large fish. There is no magic meaning in 153 but apparently it

refers to the number of presumed languages in their day reminding us of how the Tower of Babel led to many languages and the Holy Spirit now has them speaking to every language drawing people together into one church. Then, we're faced with the interesting fact that Peter separated himself from the others. This is the second time he got out of the boat and went to the Lord. It takes all the others to drag the net ashore but then Peter alone goes and finishes bringing the net in. then, we witness the strange mention of a charcoal fire. There is only one other place 'charcoal fire' appears, so John is connecting the dots for us. At Jesus trial Peter was at a charcoal fire and denied Jesus three times, a perfect number. Now he is asked three times if he loves Jesus. In response Jesus puts him in charge of the lambs and the sheep; both the young believers and the other leaders. And finally, to make sure we catch that point he says to Peter: 'follow me' and as with each of the Evangelists, and Paul, we are to follow Peter.



Isaiah Thompson-- Elsinore



Emma Devenport---Piedmont



Andie Hope----Piedmont

Congratulations to all our seniors. We pray that you continue to become all you were called to be.  
Senior Sunday: May 19 at mass.

Pre-marital sex. Last week we looked at the exciting choices our young graduates will begin considering. Today I would like to again address our young people as you may be looking at marriage.

I recently had a conversation with a couple who said they were in love and that they were involved in premarital sex and saw nothing wrong with it. They were, after all, planning on getting married. My thoughts immediately went to other events where we might want to use the prefix pre-. I'm planning on being a doctor so I'm sure I could take your appendix out if you like. I plan on being an airline pilot and even fly a small plane, I don't understand why they won't let me fly the 747. I can't help but think of the movie 'Catch Me if You Can' where a young man was able to pass himself off as being qualified at a number of different professions. Still, they protest, we aren't harming anyone else and we're just expressing the love we will continue to have after marriage. Really? I couldn't help but ask if they had ever been involved in pre-marital sex with someone else. And how did that work out? Apparently, only twice, with no marriage. Pre-marital sex sounds so much more acceptable than fornication. I'm afraid these kind of relationships somehow view the body as just another thing, like a car. I'll let you use it for awhile. This is why St. Paul in 2 Cor. said that one who has sex with a prostitute becomes one even with that person. Sex is not just a thing but is intimately connected to who we are. That's why sex with an unwilling person or one who is unable to give free consent is so destructive to the person and they carry that wound for life. You may not be able to understand this now but I can give you great assurance that when you save yourself for marriage you will have greater joy and a greater experience of what it is to become 'one'. Can I give 100% assurance? No, because it takes two to know what it is about and be committed to it. I'll tell you what though. I am so committed to wanting everyone to have that kind of a relationship: free, total, faithful, fruitful that I am willing to use the tools we have to help you towards that goal. That does not involve learning about my church but rather discovering the natural law God built into marriage when He made them 'male and female.' If you would like that kind of help with no judgement on your past just call 247-0277. The sexual union of husband and wife was declared by God as 'very good'. Don't give your sex away, you are worth more than that. Supposedly, the love you will have at marriage says: 'I'm ready to care for any children we might conceive' 'I'm ready to support you no matter what happens to you.' 'I will share with you all my thoughts and dreams and you will always know what I'm doing' and, the response I get is: 'We're making sure we won't have any children right now.' Really! so, you accept everything about your beloved except their fertility. If you are using the pill you are okay with what it is doing to your own or your loved one's body? You're okay with the automatic abortion (pill prevents fertilized egg from implanting) of babies you may be conceiving? If you do get married, what will be the one thing you definitely know about your spouse? You will know that your spouse is willing to have sex with someone they are not married to. You will always wonder, and you can be pretty sure that will be the case. How often someone comes to me upset over their spouse's infidelity. One or both had been married before. One or both had been involved in so called pre-marital sex. And now, they don't understand. They can understand their spouse having been unfaithful to whoever the other person was, but not to me. Only if there is actually a marriage can one look back and say it was pre-marital. In the dating process, what if one had died, or was not free to marry, or had a change of mind. Only if you use this time of dating as an opportunity to really get to know one another, one another's families, weaknesses, strengths do you have any hope of being certain that this person is giving themselves to you totally, faithfully, forever and is ready to become one with you watching the sign of your love, a child or children, in all their stages of development. Do you take time to pray together to know God's will? Finally only by saving yourself for this great commitment will you know your spouse will most likely have the strength to truly forsake all others.