

MAY 1, 2011

**Happy
Day!**



Mother's

Mass Intentions:

First Friday, May 6-

7:00 p.m.-Emily Kremling

Sunday, May 8- (Mother's Day)

9:15 a.m.-Jerome Bujnoch

Sunday, May 15-

9:15 a.m.-Albina & John Sitka &
Johnnie Sitka

Sunday, May 22-

9:15 a.m.-August (Gus) Fikac

Sunday, May 29-

9:15 a.m.-Adolph & Justina Matusek

First Friday, June 3-

7:00 p.m.-Ronnie Kanak

Sunday, June 5-

9:15 a.m.-Edwin & Selma Shimek

Rosary Leaders:

May 6-Angela Hermes

May 8-Dorothy Schneider

May 15-Sandy Konvicka

May 22-Ruth Rouse

May 29-Lucille Klekar

June 3-Angela Hermes

June 5-Janie Fikac

Lectors:

May 8-Maria Hermes

May 15-Dorothy Schneider

May 22-DeDe Dobbs

May 29-Daniel J. Matula

June 5-Anthony Matula

Cantors:

May 8-Laurence Bludau

May 15-Emily Schimcek

May 22-Pat Mladenka

May 29-Richard Rouse

June 5-Lucille Klekar

Extraordinary Ministers:

May 8-DeDe Dobbs, Leon & Nancy Etzler

May 15-Billy & Beverly Hrcncir & Janice Rother

May 22-Evelyn Konvicka, Anthony & Joyce
Bludau

May 29-Patrick Pesek, Mary Urbish &
Trina Sommerlatte

June 5-Edward & Sandra Pustka &
Vivian

Altar Servers:

May 8-Samuel & Simon Machicek, Joshua
& Abigail Bludau

May 15-Adam & Ryan Hermes, Erin Svetlik
& Kaitlyn Rother

May 22-Hunter & Kolby Janak, Michael Perdizak
& Luke Scherer

May 29-Eric Klekar, Jacob Janak, Ross & Clay
Rother

June 5-Mikayla, John, & Derek Konvicka &
Alexius Mizera

Church Ushers:

May 8-Eugene Gillar, Robert Sciba, Bernard
Patek & Richard Sommerlatte

May 15-Alois Bujnoch, Scott Blaschke, Gilbert
Mozisek & Marvin Bujnoch

May 22-Roman Henke, Robert Pustka, Charles
Grafe & Gilbert Urbish

May 29-Leon Matula, Al Svetlik, Francis
Klekar & Sidney Jasek

June 5-Eugene Gillar, Robert Sciba, Bernard
Patek & Richard Sommerlatte

Offertory Gift Bearers:

May 8-M/M Victor Kahanek

May 15-Gussie Kelnar

May 22-M/M Francis Klekar & Family

May 29-M/M Mike Kocian & Family

June 5-M/M Steven Koehne & Family

Please pray for beneficial rainfall!

From the Desk of Fr. John

A special thank you to everyone who helped make the Holy Week and Easter celebration beautiful and meaningful – the readers, choir, organist, servers and ushers. Thank you to the Altar Society for decorating the altars.

Thank you to Carol Rother for organizing the Easter Egg Hunt and the coffee and doughnuts on behalf of the parish after the Easter Mass.

Please mark your calendars for our annual Church Picnic on Sunday, June 12. We need everyone's help and cooperation to make it a success. Please invite your family and friends to help and to enjoy.

Church Cleaners:

May 7-Helen (Dornak) Janak, Gussie Kelnar & Helen Janak (Wied)

May 14-Charlene Klekar, Janice Rother & Sue Cinadr

May 21-Joyce Janak, Anita Steffek, Helen Technik & Ruth Rouse

May 28-Margaret Smolik & Dorothy Schneider

June 4-Katherine Kahanek & Angela Hermes

Messages & Announcements

Rosaries for Unborn Babies

The multinational One Million Rosaries for the Unborn Babies prayer event is scheduled for May 6th, May 7th, and May 8th, 2011. The rosary before the First Friday Mass, May 6th and before Sunday Mass on May 8th will be prayed for the following intention: For an end to the surgical and non-surgical killing of unborn human persons. Please do for the unborn babies that which they cannot for themselves. Pray at least one rosary from May 6th-8th.

CCD Calendar/Reminders

May 11-Scholarships Due

May 22-Baccalaureate Service for Graduating High School Seniors, Scholarships awarded

June 12th-Parish Picnic-All CCD students grades 3 and up please plan to work where needed. If you are working on community service hours, please see Mrs. Svetlik that day.

Please continue to pray for our youth who received our Lord in Holy Communion for the first time on April 10th: **Jayde Ferlet, Ty Gerke, Kendra Hermes, Kirsten Kremling and Hayleigh Orsak.**

Also...THANK YOU! To the St. Mary's Altar Society - They graciously provided and served the doughnuts, punch and coffee for the after Mass reception for our 1st Communion Class. And a special "Thank You" to our St. Mary's Catechists without whom we could not have a CCD Program..."We use the talents we possess to the best of our ability and leave the results to God. We are at peace in the knowledge that He is pleased with our efforts and that His providence will take care of the fruits of those efforts." Sincerely, Cindy

Guidelines/Requirements for the St. Mary's Catholic Church Scholarships

- ❖ Must be a registered parishioner of St. Mary's
- ❖ Must be a practicing Catholic
- ❖ Attended CCD or attended one of the local Catholic Schools
- ❖ Must be/have been active in the parish life. Examples: Altar Server, Lector, Cantor, Usher; participated in Youth Masses; volunteered at the annual St. Mary's Picnic, etc.
- ❖ If scholarship is awarded: you must show proof of registration to the College or Post

Secondary Institution you are planning to attend to receive your scholarship money.

\$12,673.53

Less March Expenses.....+5,353.38
 Operating Balance.....\$7,320.15

Thanks to the following people that contributed toward the Easter flowers that adorned our altars and added to their beauty: In memory of Deceased Members of the Ignatz Kahanek family by Vic & Katherine Kahanek..\$25.00; In memory of Rudolph & Rosa Bujnoch, Jamie Bujnoch, Anton & Mathilda Tupa by Phillip & Evelyn Bujnoch...\$25.00; In memory of Daniel Opela by Doris Opela...\$10.00; In memory of Wence Shimek by Helen Malick...\$5.00

Our Gift to God

	<u>Loose</u>	<u>Envelope</u>
April 3-\$256.00		\$472.00
April 10-\$195.00		\$379.00
April 17-\$175.00		\$366.00
April 24-\$415.00		\$718.00
Children's Collection:		\$72.59
Building Repair Fund:		\$985.00

Donations to St. Mary's Altar Society

By Anthony & Joyce Bludau.....\$100.00

Mass Attendance:

April 3—280 April 10—260
 April 17—315 April 24—500

Financial Report March 2011

Income

Sunday Collections.....\$ 2,619.65
 Special Collection-Earthquake
 Victims in Japan..... 434.00
 Children's Collection..... 57.88
 Special Collection-Aid to Church
 In Europe..... 180.00
 Special Collection-Operation
 Rice Bowl..... 555.58
 Memorials..... 40.00
 Church & Hall Rental..... 850.00
 Pasture Lease..... 75.00
 Total Income for March..... \$4,812.11

Expenses

Utilities.....\$1,499.44
 Health Insurance..... 849.50
 Church Expenses..... 172.94
 Special Collections(See Above).... 1,169.58
 Priest Pension Plan..... 349.00
 Salaries..... 675.00
 Repair & Maintenance..... 357.00
 Hall Expenses..... 280.92
 Total Expenses for March..... \$5,353.38

Balance from February.....\$7,861.42
 Income from March.....+4,812.11

Prayer for Rain:

Heavenly Father, we believe that it is You who created our world with all of its beauty and life. We believe that it is You who put into place the systems of nature that sustain, nurture and renew this work of Your hands. We believe that it is You who hears Your children when they call upon You. Hear then, this prayer which comes from a heart filled with confidence and trust. Grant to us and to all who seek it, the gift of bountiful rain. Water our lands so that they may once again spring to life and reflect the beauty of Your creation. Fill our lakes and rivers with sufficient rain so that they may continue to provide life giving and refreshing water to all who depend upon it for their livelihood and well being. Please do not let many more days pass without sending us this most needed blessing of rain. We ask this in the name of Jesus, Your Son who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever. Amen.



Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." — Jn 20:26-27

The Word of God This Week

Set time aside each day this week with other members of your household, with other members of your parish or alone to listen to and reflect on the living Word of God. Use these passages from the Lectionary that are assigned for Liturgy this week. Reflect on how the Lord is inviting you to a deeper union with him.

TODAY*

Acts 2:42–47
1 Peter 1:3–9
John 20:19–31

MONDAY

John 3:1–8

“... no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.”

TUESDAY**

John 14:6–14

“I am the way, and the truth, and the life.”

WEDNESDAY

John 3:16–21

“... God did not send the Son into the world to condemn...”

THURSDAY

John 3:31–36

“... he gives the Spirit without measure.”

FRIDAY

John 6:1–15

“Gather up the fragments... so that nothing may be lost.”

SATURDAY

John 6:16–21

“It is I; do not be afraid.”

Coincidence and the Holy Spirit

Edwin Booth was one of the greatest actors of the American theater. Yet, despite his fame, he lived his life with the dishonor that his younger brother, John Wilkes Booth, had assassinated President Abraham Lincoln.

One day, late in his life, Edwin Booth was waiting for a train in Jersey City. There was a disturbance on the platform, and Booth saw that a tall, young man was being shoved by the crowd onto the tracks just as a train was approaching. Booth dropped his suitcase and ran immediately to pull the man away from the train, certainly saving his life. As the two men began to talk, Booth found to his amazement that the young man whose life he had just saved was Robert Todd Lincoln, the eldest son of Abraham Lincoln.

Events whose probability are a million to one are often called coincidences. They are attributed to random chance.



People of faith, however, are able to see them from another perspective.

Jesus, in today's Gospel, breathes on the disciples, and says, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” The Spirit is Jesus' promise that he will remain with us, that God's power will be active in our lives and in our world. We believe that the Holy Spirit is a force, a power, alive among us. God, the Holy Spirit moves us toward reconciliation, life, and salvation. The action of God, the Holy Spirit, may appear as coincidence, however we as believers can recognize in startling convergences the action of God in our lives.



The Faith of the Church

The bishops of the Second Vatican Council confessed that God's people were led by the Spirit of the Lord. Moreover, they insisted that people of faith are called to decipher authentic signs of God's presence and purpose in the events, needs, and desires of their lives and the lives of others (Cf. *Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World*, 11).



Questions of the Week

“Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” We recognize Christ's presence in the signs around us, since we cannot see him directly.

Adults

In what events in the last week am I able to recognize the presence of God's Spirit in my life? How is the Spirit leading me?

Children

Do I realize that the Spirit of Jesus is always with me? Do I take time to listen to what the Spirit is asking me to do?

*Divine Mercy Sunday

**Feast of Saint Philip and Saint James

Responding to God's Word . . .

We can all recall events in our life that look like coincidence. How we interpret these events is up to us.

Was it coincidence one Saturday night when you finally gave in to your friends' peer-pressure and went out to a party where you met the person you were going to marry? Was it coincidence that you were in an automobile accident and that shock led you to take steps to deal with your drinking problem? Was it coincidence that you met someone you had hurt in the supermarket and found the courage to apologize and thus take a step toward reconciliation? Christians are less likely to claim coincidence

because we know that the Spirit of God is directing our lives.

Recognizing the presence of Spirit changes us. It makes us more optimistic. If God is active, there is always reason for hope. It also makes us more generous, because we believe that whatever time or talent we offer will be used by God for a good purpose.

What kind of person do you want to be? It depends on what you believe. If you want to be an optimistic and generous person, be wary of coincidence and believe in the Spirit of God.

SUGGESTIONS

Use one of these suggestions or one of your own to respond to God's Word this week.

In the home. Think of one person in your family who has reflected God's presence to you this week. Tell him or her of how you have been affected.

In the workplace or in school. Identify someone who is for you a sign of hope. Thank him or her for that particular gift.

In the community. Recognize a problem or disagreement in your church or neighborhood. Reflect on whether this issue is being used by God's Spirit to call you into action.



Meditation Moment

"Pigeon Feathers" is a story about a boy who begins to have doubts about Jesus. One night in bed, the boy decides upon an experiment. He lifts his hand above his head and asks Jesus to touch it. Then he waits. After a while he puts his hands down again, not sure if Jesus touched him or not.

For reflection . . .

We all crave assurance of our faith. In the end, however, faith is saying to Jesus, "I trust you!" Why do I find it hard to trust Jesus?

SORROW LOOKS BACK, WORRY LOOKS AROUND, FAITH LOOKS UP.

ANONYMOUS

FROM *VISION* BY MARK LINK, SJ

A Prayer for Deeper Vision

Spirit of God,
each day I greet friends
and meet strangers, receive love
and accept criticism, share meals
and collaborate in work. I am challenged
and comforted, bored and surprised,
burdened and entertained. Help me
not only to touch the surface of
these events, but to perceive
your presence in them,
guiding me to life.
Amen.

Carry this thought in your heart as a guide for your faith journey this week.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:28

Profile in Faith

Naaman of Aram
(2 Kings 5:1-27)

Naaman was the commander of the army of the King of Aram. He was also a leper. The prophet Elisha told him to wash seven times in the Jordan. He did so and was cleansed. Naaman recognized in that washing not only a healing but the divine presence. From that time forward he worshipped the God of Israel.

NIHIL OBSTAT
Rev. Msgr. Robert M. Coerver, Censor Librorum
IMPRIMATUR
† Most Reverend Kevin J. Farrell, DD, Bishop of Dallas
January 26, 2011

The Nihil Obstat and Imprimatur are official declarations that the material reviewed is free of doctrinal or moral error. No implication is contained therein that those granting the Nihil Obstat and Imprimatur agree with the contents, opinions, or statements expressed.

Author: George M. Smiga
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Front: iStockphoto

The Scripture quotations contained herein are from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible: Catholic Edition*, copyright 1989, 1993, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

© 2011 RCL Publishing LLC. All rights reserved.

The *Faith Connection*® is registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and is published weekly by RCL Benziger, 206 E. Bethany Dr., Allen, TX 75002.

877-275-4725

Contact us at RCLBenziger.com



Growing in FAITH™

Discovering **hope and joy** in the Catholic faith.

May 2011

Sacred Heart, St. Mary, St. John and Ascension Churches

Fr. John C. Peters, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

A human heart

Although we can't see his face, Jesus isn't remote or distant "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has similarly been tested in every way, yet without sin" (Hebrews 4:15-16). Knowing this can give us confidence to approach him in prayer.

Look different

No one wants to be taken advantage of or to appear weak. Yet as Christians, we have to be the ones to make peace. "Do not repay anyone evil for evil ... If possible, on your part, live at peace with all" (Romans 12:17-18). Our solutions must be biblical, not societal.

Be happy

Instead of worrying, trust God. "Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7).



Mary brings us to her Son

Mary's life on Earth was dedicated to bringing the Savior to humanity. Now that she is in Heaven, she continues to bring our concerns to her Son. Praying the "Hail Mary" is a wonderful way to honor our Heavenly Mother.

Hail Mary, full of grace: Conceived without Original Sin, Mary's will and intellect were predisposed to holiness. Grace helped her to live a difficult life without sinning.

The Lord is with thee. Blessed are thou among women: Mary was honored to be chosen as Jesus' mother.

Blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Mary knew how great Jesus would be but she also knew what the prophets wrote about how he would suffer and

die. As his mother, she wanted to share his joy and his sorrow.

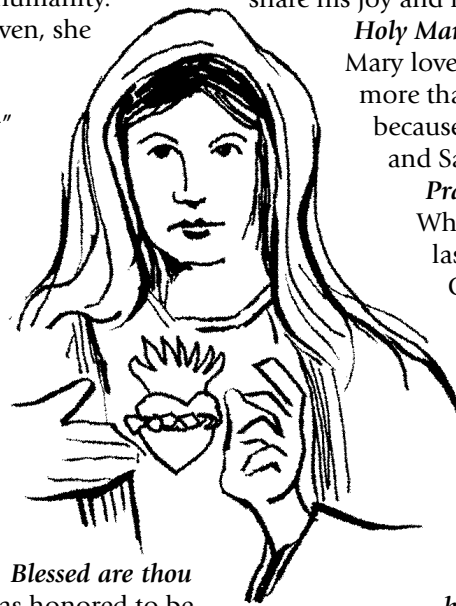
Holy Mary, Mother of God. Mary loved her child even more than most parents because he was her Lord and Savior, too.

Pray for us sinners. When Jesus took his last breaths on the Cross, Mary's job of being Mother of the Savior broadened to becoming Mother of the world. Now she cares for us.

Now and at the hour of death. On

Earth, Mary brought her Son to us. Now she brings us to the heart of her Son. She prays for us always because that's what a mother does.

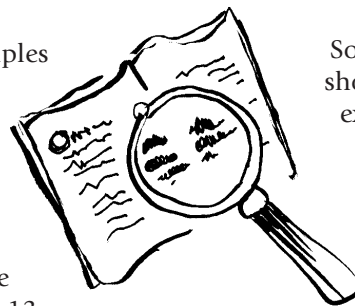
Amen.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why is our "Our Father" different than the Protestant version?

In teaching the disciples to pray, Jesus used the basic wording that became the prayer we pray during Mass and in other devotions. Two very similar versions can be found in Matthew 6:9-13 and Luke 11:2-4.

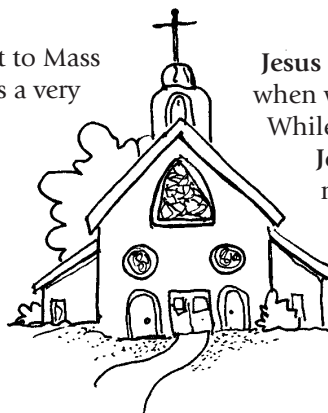


Some Protestants add a short, hymn-like verse which exalts the glory of God, "For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory now and forever." Such a verse is called a doxology. However, it isn't found in Scripture so we don't use it.

What's so special about Mass this Sunday?

Life gets so busy that it can be hard to get to Mass every Sunday. The good news is that there is a very compelling reason to attend Mass this very weekend. **Jesus is coming to your church.**

Jesus will be there in the flesh just like he always is whenever Mass is celebrated. This isn't a symbolic visit. He's not just being represented by the priest or present in those around you. While that is true, there's more.



Jesus will be there in the flesh. He's not just remembered when we sing the songs, read Scripture, or pray the prayers. While that is true, there's more.

Jesus will be there in the flesh. He wasn't speaking metaphorically when he said, "Do this in remembrance of me" (Luke 22:19). That was a direct instruction.

Jesus wants us to go to Mass every weekend without fail. And when Jesus tells us to do something, it's best to do it. His Father said to do it, too (Exodus 20:8). And that's enough.

from Scripture

**John 14:15-21;
I will not leave you.**

In this, one of his farewell speeches to his disciples, Jesus was laying the foundation for them to become his Church. He was preparing them to become the people who brought him to the rest of the world.

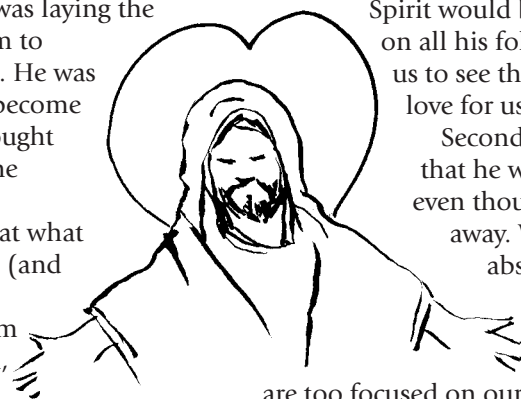
But Jesus knew that what he was asking them (and us) to do would be difficult without him there to guide them, so he made two powerful promises.

First, he promised to send an Advocate – the Holy Spirit – who would always

be with us. The gift of the Holy Spirit would be poured out on all his followers and help us to see the truth of God's love for us.

Second, he promised that he wouldn't leave us even though he was going away. When we are absorbed by the world, we can't "see" Jesus because we

are too focused on ourselves. Yet, when we live our love for God by obeying his commandments and loving others, we show Jesus to the world.



Q Does Original & Sin mean anything to us?

When God created Adam and Eve, he gave them an inclination to holiness so that they would be suited for life in the Garden of Eden.



When they disobeyed him and ate from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, they committed the first sin (called "Original Sin"). They changed their nature forever and lost that special life of grace. Sin infected their souls and was passed down to their descendants -- us.

Thanks to Original Sin, we wage a battle with our own passions and emotions to keep them under control. It's why we can sometimes have trouble thinking clearly when we are under stress. Or, it's why we can lack resolve or perseverance. "The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak" (Matthew 26:41). Chalk it up to concupiscence: "Human appetites or desires which remain disordered due to the temporal consequences of Original Sin, which remain even after Baptism, and which produce an inclination to sin" (Catechism of the Catholic Church).

If it weren't for Original Sin, we wouldn't have to fight our own natures to achieve holiness.

Feasts & Celebrations

In May we celebrate our mothers and honor the mother of all, the Blessed Virgin Mary. Three ways to grow closer to Mary include praying to her, honoring her feast days, and praising her to others.

May 1 – St. Joseph the Worker. Entrusted with the care of the Blessed Mother and Jesus, Joseph was a carpenter dedicated to his family and obedient to God.

May 13 – Our Lady of Fatima (1917). The Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to three children near Fatima, Portugal. Mary asked the

children to pray the rosary for world peace, for the end of World War I, for sinners and for the conversion of Russia.

May 22 – St. Rita of Cascia (1457). Unwillingly married off to a cruel husband at the age of twelve, St. Rita spent eighteen unhappy years before being widowed. She became an Augustinian nun and was known for her devotion to prayer and charity.



Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.
Success Publishing & Media, LLC
Publishers of Growing in Faith™ and Partners in Faith™
(540)662-7844 (540)662-7847 fax
<http://www.growinginfaith.com>
(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible)