

May 14, 2017

Fifth Sunday of Easter

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, May 13

5:00 p.m. **+Rose Malet**
By The Saksa Family

Sunday, May 14

8:00 a.m. **Blessings for Susan Reynolds**
By Susan and Larry Rineer

10:30 a.m. **+Sabino and Antonietta Antinolfi**
By Maria Iannelli

Monday, May 15

8:45 a.m. **+Jacqueline Jukins**
By Husband

Tuesday, May 16

8:45 a.m. **+Antonietta and Sabino Antinolfi**
By Maria Iannelli

Wednesday, May 17

8:45 a.m. **In Honor of the Madonna of Health**
By Angela Gross

Thursday, May 18 **NO MASS**

Friday, May 19

8:45 a.m. **+ Sabino Antinolfi**
By Daughter

Saturday, May 20

5:00 p.m. **Parishioners of Saint Theodore Church**

Sunday, May 21

8:00 a.m. **+Maria and Gregorz Karkoszka**
By Family

10:30 a.m. **+Carmella and Frank Cennazaro**
By The Gallo Family

Today our nation takes an opportunity to celebrate our mothers. We put aside a day for Mothers. Mother's Day actually did not begin in America, but it began almost a couple of millennia ago. It began by people coming back to the church where they were baptized. They recognized that the Church was their mother at the baptismal font. So the idea was that they would celebrate a day when they would all go back to their mother church. All the converts would be there together, the ones from over the years, and they would all be together in the place where they were baptized. They would celebrate their faith and life that they had learned and received in that church.

It did not take a whole lot of time for people to say, "If we are going to be able to celebrate the supernatural life that we have through Holy Mother Church, then it is also fitting that on this

day we should visit our mothers (our natural mothers) from whom we have natural life." That is the way Mother's Day began.

We think about the moms who have so generously brought into this world many lives. They look at those children and realize with every single conception that their hearts (and their ability to love) expands every single time. When that first baby is born, a mother is so in love with that little baby she cannot imagine that there can be a greater love because of the love she has for her husband and the love she has for this child. Six and eight and ten and twelve babies later, she realizes the love that was there for the first one was only a foreshadowing of the love that has now grown. It has grown through all of the aches and the pains and the hardships of all of these other little ones she has brought into the world. Her heart that was exploding with love on the day that first one was conceived, and the day that first one was born, is now expanded far beyond whatever that mother could have imagined on the day of the first birth.

Today as we meditate upon this mystery of life we consider our first mother, Eve. We consider our spiritual mother, the Blessed Lady. We consider the Church, Mater and Magister (Mother and Teacher). And we consider the most beautiful woman in our lives, our own mother, the one who gave us life, the one who taught us to love. She is the one who gave us to love Him, so that even in the newness of life all things would be new once again. Our mothers, out of love for us, wanted to give us not only natural life but they wanted to share with us eternal life. They have taught us to love so that we would be saints. They have brought us to the baptismal font so that we can get to Heaven. They teach us by word and by example what it means to follow the commandment of love. As they have done in this world, and as Our Lord has already done for us (as He promises in John's Gospel), I think that we can say the same for our mothers and our grandmothers who have gone before us: They go before us to prepare a place for us so that where

they are, we also may be. Thanks be to God for moms. They are the ones who teach us the love of God in human form. Happy Mother's Day!



The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

is the process by which adult converts are received into full communion with the Catholic Church. Normally, it starts in September and takes place in four stages. It gathers information, answers questions and corrects misunderstandings about Catholicism. It is a process of spiritual formation and introduction to the Catholic parish life. The RCIA program was initiated by Pope Paul VI on January 6, 1972. If you interested in learning more about the Catholic Church, are considering becoming a Catholic, or have any questions about the process, please contact Father Damian at 689-8318, ext. 4. Please give name and phone number if leaving a phone message.

Is Ascension a Holy Day of Obligation?

A lot of confusion reigns about the feast of the [Ascension of Our Lord](#), the day on which Jesus Christ, 40 days after rising from the dead, ascended bodily into Heaven. In most of the dioceses of the United States, the celebration of the feast has been transferred to the following Sunday, so many Catholics think that the Ascension is no longer considered a [Holy Day of Obligation](#).

Answer: The Feast of the Ascension remains a Holy Day of Obligation throughout the United States. The 40th day after [Easter Sunday](#) is always a Thursday, and the feast has traditionally been celebrated on that Thursday.

Today, many dioceses including the [Diocese of Metuchen](#) continue to celebrate the Ascension of Our Lord on Thursday. The faithful in those provinces are required, under the [Precepts of the Church](#), to attend Mass on Ascension Thursday, which will be on May 25 this year.

Church & Religious Education Calendar

Bible Study: Every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

May 13/14: 2nd Collection: Little Sisters of the Poor

May 14, 9 & 11:30 a.m.: Hospitality Sunday

May 15, 6:15: All students in church for 2017 closing of Religious Education Program

May 21, 11:30: Trustee and Pastoral Council Meeting

May 25: Holy Day of Obligation- Ascension of the Lord

May 27/28: Special Collection: National Shrine of Immaculate Conception Dome

Helping Children in Need

"Sweet Sleep" Comforter Collection for Haiti – Children in Haiti sleep on the bare floor, and when they can sleep on a comforter, they call it "sweet sleep". We're collecting comforters, blankets, and quilts for the children of Haiti. If you have a gently used or new comforter to donate, please...

Drop off: In the narthex on the chairs under the signs

When: May 1 through June 4

Contact: Lari O'Donnell, 908-310-9376

The comforters will be donated to the Kindest Hearts Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to rebuilding Haiti, one town at a time. www.kindesthearts.org



Stephen, Bridget M., Savannah Paine, Bobby Gross, Keira Hedges, Peter, Zachary, Logan Peter Saksa, Anna Paine, Anna Saksa, Lauren Lane, Jay

Mildrum, Philip Kinney, Kerry Kraft, Peter S., Mary Supple, Mary Rupell, Patty Mahoney, Susan Reynolds, Millie B.

(Please inform Mary Rupell every six months if you wish a name to remain on the prayer list. Please update immediately if circumstances dictate a removal.)

The Ascension of the Lord Holy Day of Obligation

Vigil Mass, Wednesday, May 24: 6:30 p.m.



Masses Thursday, May 25: 8:45 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. The faithful of our diocese are required, under the [Precepts of the Church](#), to attend Mass on Ascension Thursday, a Holy Day of Obligation.