

**05/07/2023** The Pope's intention for May: For Church movements and groups.  
That we rediscover our mission of evangelization each day,  
placing our own charisms at the service of needs in the world.

**HOLY CROSS RC CHURCH**  
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**Our Mission Statement at Holy Cross:**  
To care for the poor, abandoned and the marginalized.

**Trustees: Michael Stensland: 783-2764**  
**Council Chair: Kerry Mess: 607-386-1951**  
**Pastoral Leader: Matthew Tabone: 360-440-6898**  
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For the deceased members of our parish and their families and friends.

Pray for the sick and their caregivers and all that have asked for our prayers, especially Howard Hubbard, Diane Neczesny, Lynn Joy, Becky Barringer, Lorraine Tyson, Joe and Carol Tyson, Michelle Lee, Maria Papendrea, Valarie Manchester, Sr. Theresa Ahern, MSBT, Teresa Meyers, Amy Obrien, Linda Zoder, Bob Zoder, John Zaleski, Ann Joy King, Thomas  
Pray for all the men and women of our parish family serving in the military and all First Responders and emergency personnel. **Ryan Barry, Jim Barry, Meghan Barringer**

**From Fr. Chris: This weekend at St. Mary's we will welcome children to the table of the Lord for the first time. Each year when we celebrate this milestone in the life of our parish family, we are reminded how great a gift the Eucharist is in our lives. The word Eucharist in Greek, means to give thanks. Let us be a Eucharistic people each day of our lives.**

**Save the DATE: October 20-22, 2023 at Our Lady of Martyrs Shrine in Auriesville, NY. Catholics from across New York State will be coming together to celebrate the REAL PRESENCE of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. See the poster in the back of the church.**

**To register: (<https://nyseucharisticcongress.org>)**

**We will celebrate With Father Chris**  
**May 7th at 8:30am**  
**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**First Reading: Acts 6:1-7 (The Need of Assistants)** During this time, as the disciples were increasing in numbers by leaps and bounds, hard feelings developed among the Greek-speaking believers – “Hellenists” – toward the Hebrew-speaking believers because their widows were being discriminated against in the daily food lines. So, the Twelve called a meeting of the disciples.

They said, “it would not be right for us to abandon our responsibilities for preaching and teaching the Word of God to help with the care of the poor. So, friends, choose seven men from among you whom everyone trusts, men full of the Holy Spirit and good sense, and we will assign them to this task. Meanwhile, we will stick to our assigned tasks of prayers and speaking God’s Word.” The congregation thought this was a good idea. They went ahead and chose –

Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit. Philip, Proconus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, Nicolas, a convert from Antioch. Then they presented them to the apostles. Praying, the apostles laid on hands and commissioned them for their task. The Word of God prospered. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased dramatically. Not least, a great many priests submitted themselves to the faith.

### **The Word of the Lord**

**Psalm 33:1-2, 4-5,18-19** Good people, cheer God! Right living people sound best when praising. Use guitars to reinforce your Halleluiahs! Play His praise on a grand piano! For God’s Word is solid to the core; everything He makes is sound inside and out. He loves it when everything fits, when His world is in plumb-line true. Earth is drenched in God’s affectionate satisfaction. Watch this: God’s eye is on those who respect Him, the ones who are looking for His Love. He is ready to come to their rescue in bad times; in lean times He keeps body and soul together.

**Second Reading: 1Peter 2-4-9 (Living Stones)** Welcome to the living stone, the source of life. The workmen took one look and threw it out’ God set it in the place of honor. Present yourselves as building stones for the construction of a sanctuary vibrant with life, in which you will serve as holy priests offering Christ-approved lives up to God. The Scriptures provide precedent. Look! I am setting a stone in Zion, a cornerstone in the place of honor. Whoever trusts in this stone as a foundation will never have cause to regret it. To you who trust, He is a Stone to be proud of, but to those who refuse to trust Him, The Stone the workmen threw out I s not the chief foundation stone. For the untrusting it is.....a stone to trip over.....a boulder blocking the way. They trip and fall because they refuse to obey, just as predicted. But you are the ones chosen by God, chosen for this high calling of priestly work, chosen to be a holy people. God’s instruments to do His work and speak out for Him, to tell others of the

night-and-day difference He made for you – from nothing to something, from rejected to accepted.

### The Word of the Lord

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John 14:1-12 (Last Discourse: THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE) Do not let this throw you. You trust God, do you not? Trust Me. There is plenty of room for you in My Father's home. If that were not so, would I have told you that I am on my way to get a room ready for you? And if I am on My way to get your room ready, I will come back and get you so you can live where I live. And you already know the road I am taking." Thomas said, "Master, we have no idea where You are going. How do You expect us to know the road?" Jesus said, "I am the Road, also the Truth, also the Life. No one gets to the Father apart from Me. If you really knew Me, you would know My Father as well. From now on, you do know Him. You have even seen Him!" Philip said, "Master, show us the Father; then we will be content." "You have been with Me all this time Philip, and you still do not understand? To see Me is to see the Father. So how can you ask, "Where is the Father?" Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me? The words that I speak to you are not mere words. I do not just make them up on My own. The Father who resides in Me crafts each word into a divine act. "Believe Me: I am in My Father and My Father is in Me. If you cannot believe that, believe what you see – these works. The person who trusts Me will not only do what I am doing but even greater things, because I, on my way to the Father, am giving you the same work to do that I have been doing. You can count on it. From now on, whatever you request along the lines of who I am and what I am doing, I will do it. That is how the Father will be soon for who He is in the Son. I mean it.

Read this passage again before coming to Mass on Sunday.

*The Gospel of the Lord*

**In a challenge you face right now, what will it mean to live the way of Jesus Christ?**

**On this fifth Sunday of Easter, we hear rich words that should gladden our hearts and fill us with energy for the gospel mission of Jesus. The two lines that jump out at me are: “Where I am you also may be”**

**“Whoever believes in Me will do the work I do.” We bring Christ wherever we are. This is clearly expressed in a poem prayer by St. Teresa of Avila:**

**Christ has no body now but yours,**

**No hands, no feet on earth but yours,**

**Yours are the eyes through which He looks compassion on this world.**

**Yours are the feet on which He walks to do good.**

**Yours are the hands through which He blesses all the world.**

**Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are His body.**

**Christ has no body now on earth but yours.**

**I leave you with two questions for reflection: Who were the prophets you met this week who manifested God to you? In what ways were you a prophet for others?**

**The Magic Closet hours are: April to December – Wednesday and Saturday 10am to noon. They always need volunteers. The Butternut Valley Food Pantry is located at 166 Marion Ave. Gilbertsville, NY phone number is: 607-783-2267**

**Collection for April 30, 2023** **\$1,548.50**

**Diocesan Assessment as of 1/1/23** **\$1,069.00**



**St. Joseph, the adoptive father of Christ, has received many titles throughout church history. The one we celebrate this month is that of St. Joseph the Worker.**

**This title not only recalls the position St. Joseph held as a carpenter but is inclusive of the dignity found in all work. By meditating on the life of St. Joseph, we can see that he illustrated growth in human and theological virtues. Growing in prudence, justice, fortitude, temperance, faith, hope and charity doesn't always come easy. Thus Our Lord gave us a saint we can emulate, St. Joseph.**



**St. James the Lesser (1st c.), also called St. James the Just, was one of the Twelve Apostles and the cousin of Jesus. Both James and his brother, St. Jude, began to follow Jesus in the second year of his ministry. St. James the Less was the first of the Twelve Apostles to whom the risen Christ appeared. After Jesus' ascension into heaven, James was given charge as bishop of the Church in Jerusalem, making him an important leader of the early Church. He was well-known for his prayer life and holiness. It is described that his knees and forehead were calloused due to long hours spent prostrate in prayer. His sanctity was such that he was respected by the Jews and considered by many to be a holy man. James the Less is the author of the New Testament epistle that bears his name. He was martyred by being thrown**

from the roof of the Jerusalem temple and then stoned and beaten to death as he prayed for his murderers. He died in the year 62 A.D. during the reign of the Roman Emperor Nero. St. James the Less is the patron saint of pharmacists and the dying. His feast day is May 3rd.