

05/14/2023 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.

The Feast of the Ascension of our Lord is this coming Thursday, May 18th.
Masses at St. Mary's at 12:10 and 6:30PM

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

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Council Chair: Kerry Mess: 607-386-1951
Pastoral Leader: Matthew Tabone: 360-559-4098
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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 John Kristofik, Lynn Joy, Lorraine Tyson, Joe and Carol Tyson, Michelle Lee, Maria Papendrea, Valarie Manchester, Sr. Theresa Ahern, MSBT, Teresa Meyers, Amy Obrien, John O'Brien, Zaleski, Ann Joy King, Tom Sorenson

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: Today we honor our Mothers. Many of us learned our prayers at the feet of our mother. With our father, our mother was the first teacher of our faith. Let us give thanks for our mothers and pray for the Blessed Mother to bless us today and each day.

On Thursday, we celebrate the Ascension of our Lord. This is a holy day of obligation. I hope to see many of you at mass on Thursday.

I am thankful to the Passionist brothers and priests who provided me with such a wonderful retreat last week at the National Shrine of St. Anne in Scranton, PA. it is always great to spend time with these holy men in this holy place. (I was scheduled to go on retreat last year and tested positive for COVID. So it was especially nice to be on retreat.)

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 Jim
May 14th at 8:30am
Sixth Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts:8: 5-8, 14-17, (Philip in Samaria) Going down to a Samaritan city, Philip proclaimed the Message of the Messiah. When the people heard what he had to say and saw the miracles, the clear signs of God's action, they hung on his every word. Many who could neither stand nor walk, were healed that day. The evil spirits protested loudly as they were sent on their way. And what JOY in the city! When the apostles in Jerusalem received the report that Samaria had accepted God's Message, they sent Peter and John down to pray for them to receive the Holy Spirit. Up to this point they had only been baptized in the name of the Master, Jesus; the Holy Spirit had not yet fallen on them. Then the apostles laid their hands on them and they did indeed receive the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord

Psalm 66:1-7 16-20 All together now – applause for GOD! Sing songs to the tune of His glory, set glory to the rhythms of His praise. Say of God, “We have never seen anything like Him!” When your enemies see you in action, they slink off like scolded dogs. The whole earth falls to its knees – it worships You, sings to You, cannot stop enjoying Your Name and fame. Take a good look at God's wonders – they will take your breath away. He converted sea to dry land; travelers crossed the river on foot. Now is not that cause for a song? Every sovereign in his high tower, he keeps his eye on the godless nations. Rebels do not dare raise a finger against him. All believers, come here and listen, let me tell you what God did for me. Blessed be God; He did not turn a deaf ear, He stayed with me, loyal is His LOVE.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3: 15-18 (On Christian Suffering) Through thick and thin, keep your hearts at attention, in adoration before Christ, your Master. Be ready to speak up and tell anyone who asks why you are living the way you are, and always with the utmost courtesy. Keep a clear conscience before God so that when people throw mud at you, none of it will stick. They will end up realizing that they are the ones who need a bath. It is better to suffer for doing good, if that is what God wants, than to be punished for doing bad. That is what

Christ did definitively; suffered because of others' sins, the Righteous One for the unrighteous ones. He went through it all – was put to death and then made alive – to bring us to God.

The Word of the Lord

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John 14:15-21 (Promise of the Paraclete) “If you love Me, show it by doing what I have told you. I will talk to the Father, and he will provide you another Friend so that you will always have someone with you. This Friend is the Spirit of Truth. The godless world cannot take Him in because it does not have eyes to see Him, does not know what to look for. But you know Him already because He has been staying with you, and will even be in you! I will not leave you orphaned. I am coming back. In just a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you are going to see Me because I am alive and you are about to come alive. At that moment you will know absolutely that I am in My Father, and you are in Me, and I am in you. The person who knows MY commandments and keeps them, that is who loves Me. And the person who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and make Myself plain to him.

The Gospel of the Lord

Read this passage again before coming to Mass on Sunday.

The Spirit gives us inner wisdom and strength. When have you experienced this? When have I failed to witness to God's truth? What can I do to help create a more just and truth-filled culture? Which commandments of the Lord do I struggle to observe? How had God revealed Himself to me this week? How can I help others to perceive God's actions in their lives? So what does it mean to accept the Advocate, the Spirit of Truth? What is the implication in today's readings? We, too, are called to expand Jesus's mission as Philip did in Samaria. We are called to walk into new areas, bravely challenging situations, and accompany those who may be different than us. We have been given the gift of the Spirit. He accompanies us and advocates for us in our mission. The Spirit of Truth demands that we stand in solidarity with those who are marginalized, persecuted, and forgotten. The Spirit of Truth demands bravery and boldness in the pursuit of justice. I love the Quaker Hymn, “How Can I Keep from Singing?” “No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that rock I'm

clinging. Since LOVE is LORD of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing? So as a Church, let us use our voices and not stop singing.

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 May 2, 2023 \$1,940.50

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.

“Like the apostle Thomas, wonder: *how can we get there*, what is the way? At times, especially when there are major problems to face and there is the sensation that evil is stronger, we ask ourselves: what should I do, what path should I follow? Let us listen to Jesus' answer: “I am the way, and the truth, and the life” (Jn 14:6). Jesus himself is the way to follow to live in truth and to have life in abundance. He is the way and therefore faith in him is not a “package of ideas” in which to believe, but rather a road to be travelled, a journey to undertake, a path with him. It is following Jesus, because he is the way that leads to unflinching happiness. Following Jesus and imitating him, especially with

deeds of closeness and mercy towards others. This is the compass for reaching Heaven: loving Jesus, the way, becoming signs of his love on earth.”

Pope Francis