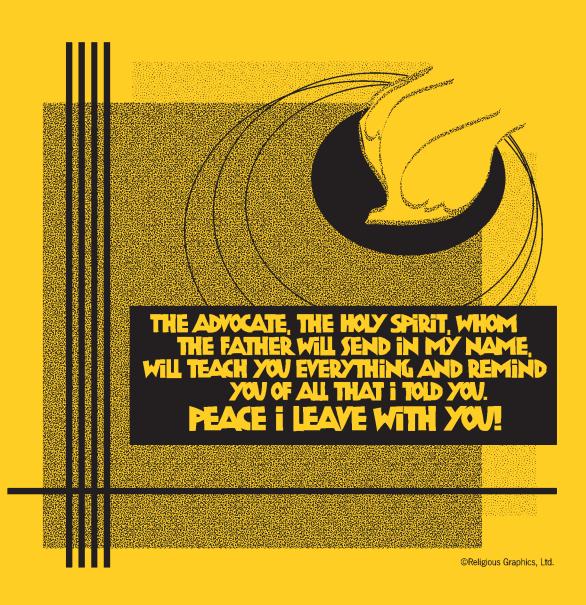




CONVENT STATION, NEW JERSEY , 973-267-5330 , WWW.STMNJ.ORG

## MAY 1, 2016

## **6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**



Mail: P.O. Box 286

Convent Station, NJ 07961 GPS: 4 Convent Rd. Morristown, NJ 07960 973-267-5330 See us on Facebook Follow us on Twitter@StThomMore

## Weekly Eucharists

Saturday 5 pm Sunday, 9 am, 11 am, 7 pm Monday – Saturday: 8:15 am Reconciliation Saturday 3:30 pm or by appt. Holy Days 8:15 am, 12:10 pm, 7 pm

### Parish Office Hours Mon. - Wed, 9:30–2 pm

Other times & days, call to see if office is open.

www.stmnj.org

### The Day of Resurrection

## What's Happening?

Sunday Religious Ed Women's Guild Cake Sale

Pound A Week
Next Sunday

. Religious Ed. Pastoral Council May

Pastoral Council, May 12, 7:30 First Communion, May 17, 11 am

Every Sunday Pound A Week

### **Pics for Website**

### **Attention Lefties**

3 Left Handed Baseball Mitts available: Catcher, First Base and Fielder. If interested, call Elizabeth at 973-540-0553.

### **Heifer Project**

Make a donation to purchase animals for needy families. Two weeks left

### **Open House**

Academy of St. Elizabeth, May 1, 1 pm Info: 973-290-5225 or aosenj.org.

### Where is God in our Grief?

Resurrection Parish in Randolph is conducting a free workshop, May 14, 9-11 am. Children and adults welcome. Discussions and activities at age appropriate levels. RSVP by May 10. info on bujlletin board.

### **Principal Openings**

St. Andrew Elementary School, Clifton, St. Therese School, Succasunna Information and application materials can be found at http://www.patdioschools. org/administrative-openings. Closing date for applications is May 15, 2016.

This Week's Question

### For Adults:

What difference has it made when you made a decision along Jesus' teachings?

### For Children:

When will you have to make a decision this week? What will help you make a good one?



# 

, 🛄 To all our visitors this weekend

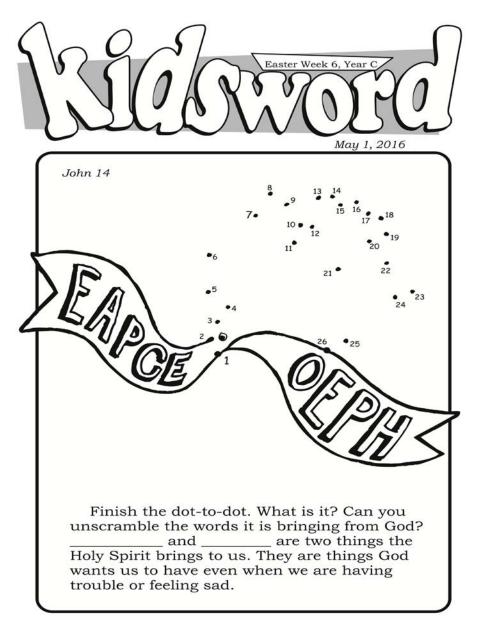
Please remember the sick and homebound of our Parish.



We are all called to prayer. As a faith community, let us keep in mind all those who have asked us to pray for them, that they may experience the healing power of our gracious God

Peter An, Phil Barrett, Elaine Bellock, Eric Braham, Pat Brennan, Ronald & Maureen Brodeur, Dominic Cantarella, Jim Cavanaugh, Kay Cavanaugh, Michael Cavaliere, Cheryl, John Dolan, Dan Doyle, Frank Falcone, Joe & Peg Farrell, Mike Faul, Mary Finlay, John Flaherty, Hayley Kuhn, Maria Ludwig, Joseph Montgomery, Adalcina Antao Moreira, Fr. Charles Parr, Michael Papalos, John Pra, Christopher Raiola, Josephine Rapp, Tom Warren, Diane Zadrozny.

If you know someone whose name should be removed, please keep us informed. To add a name, please fill out the form on the website or in the rectory.





# **Parish on a Journey** Journey to the Past • Move to the Future

# Celebrations in May

- 1 Peter An
- 1 Rose Bielicki
- 1 Ann Kilminster
- 3 Mary DiAnthony
- 4 Connor Pakonis
- 4 Robert Pakonis
- 5 Paula Carducci
- 6 Abby Sheridan
- 9 Paul Tumelty
- 10 Pat Brennan
- 10 Anne Keegan
- 12 Alice Galdieri
- 15 Loretta Critchley
- 15 Florence Kearney18 John Flaherty
- 18 John Flanerty
- 18 Jim Tuminello19 Pierce Bateson
- 19 Pierce Bateson
- 19 Austin Penizotto
- 20 Ron Brodeur20 John Enright
- - 8 Evelyn Codd & Michael Basile (34)

29

24 Jo & Tony Rapp (64)



21 Moira Carey

22 Maureen Brodeur

22 David Zadrozny

23 Ann Anderson

24 Cecilia Jololian

24 Ronnie O'Neil

25 Lena Benoy

28 Natalie Smith

Jason Jordan

30 Raymund Limbo

nnversa

CELEBRATING AN

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK'S LITURGY

## Feast of the Ascension

### First Reading: Acts 1.1-11

Today's passage takes us back to the beginning verses of the Acts of the Apostles and sets forth the themes that Luke is going to develop throughout this, the longest book of the New Testament. His major theme is the role of the Holy Spirit, who enables the apostles to be effective witnesses to Jesus. (The Holy Spirit is mentioned 57 times in the Acts of the Apostles.)

### Second Reading: Hebrews 9.24-10.23

On Yom Kippur, the high priest sacrificed a goat on the altar in the temple. Then he took some of the blood into the holiest place in the temple sanctuary where only he was allowed to go. There, he sprinkled the blood as a renewal of the covenant made at Mount Sinai, and prayed that God would forgive all their sins committed during the previous year. This ritual is the backdrop for today's reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

# God's Grace is Young Enough

For the Young and Young At Heart Readings for this Sunday Acts 15:1-29; Revelation 21:10-23; John 14:23-29

## May All the People Praise You Suggested Reflection Questions

- The reading from Acts chronicles the very first Council of the Church. The issue at hand was whether Gentile Christians needed to become Jews in order to receive the promises of Christ What is the significance of the Council's decision (guided by the Holy Spirit) to welcome non-Jews into the Church without requiring that they observe Jewish law?
- Jesus tells his friends not to be afraid or troubled after he leaves them to join God in heaven. He promises that the Holy Spirit will be sent to comfort and encourage them. God will dwell lovingly within anyone who does as Jesus has taught them. If you have received the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation, you have received the Holy Spirit in a unique and powerful way. How do these sacraments strengthen and reassure us? What are we called to do as people fortified by the Holy Spirit?



### SUNDAY, MAY 1, 2016 SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Put out the welcome mat

There's an old saying, "You can't go home again," taken from the title of a novel by Thomas Wolfe. It means things change and sometimes people get disconnected from their pasts. During this Year of Mercy, Catholics are called upon to remedy this notion and welcome back anyone who has been away from the church or who feels alienated for any reason. Open your heart and arms and invite everyone to come together for Christ's own return as well as ours to an eternal home.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 15:1-2, 22-29; Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23; John 14:23-29 (57). "I am going away and I will come back to you."

### MONDAY, MAY 2

# Feast of Athanasius, bishop, Doctor of the church Devotion will see you through

Back in 325, it must have seemed to Athanasius that life was nothing but conflict and headache. As a leader of the early church of the influential city of Alexandria, he had heresies to put down and emperors to resist. He was known as *Athanasius Contra Mundum* (Athanasius Against the World) but soon after his death he was called "Pillar of the Church" by early leaders who followed. He was known as a pastoral man of deep devotion, with the heart of a monastic. Make sure you have devotional practices that sustain you when the going gets tough.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 16:11-15; John 15:26–16:4a (291). "I have told you this so that you may not fall away."

### TUESDAY, MAY 3 FEAST OF PHILIP AND JAMES, APOSTLES Show me the way to go home

Philip and James were called by Jesus to join the band of followers we have come to know as the apostles. The relics of these two men were rediscovered together during a 19th-century reconstruction of Rome's Basilica of the Twelve Apostles. Tradition holds that James was clubbed to death for preaching the Good News; today he is considered the patron saint of the dying. You could think of Philip as the patron saint of all who need direction. His human need for guidance and reassurance is encouragement to never give up—even at the risk of appearing foolish—in your efforts to find the Lord.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Corinthians 15:1-8; John 14:6-14 (561). "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough."

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 4 EASTER WEEKDAY God's mercy knows no limits

After his visit to "pagan" Athens, Saint Paul wrote, "As I walked around looking carefully at your shrines, I even discovered an altar inscribed, 'To an Unknown God,' " at which point he goes on to preach the Risen Christ. Our church has moved well beyond persecution of those who believe differently or do not believe at all—and beyond mere tolerance as well, to nonjudgmental acceptance. Pope Francis said, "This is the fundamental thing—that God's mercy has no limits . . . The issue for those who do not believe in God is to obey their conscience. Sin, even for those who have no faith, exists when people disobey their conscience." Does your personal attitude toward nonbelievers reflect God's mercy?

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 17:15, 22—18:1; John 16:12-15 (293). "In Him we live and move and have our being,' as even some of your poets have said."

### THURSDAY, MAY 5

#### SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD A history lesson to remember

"Never again!" is a phrase that refers to the atrocity of the Holocaust and a call to guard against such a horror being repeated. But atrocities are happening in today's world, to scores of people who are persecuted, driven from their homes, and killed because of who they are. Writer Anne Roiphe asserts, " 'Never again!' is not a tribal statement. It is a prayer for the safety of all peoples, everywhere." On this Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, remember this phrase in your prayers and let it drive acts of mercy to all those in need today.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 1:1-11; Ephesians 1:17-23 or Hebrews 9:24-28; 10:19-23; Luke 24:46-53 (58). "Repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem."

#### FRIDAY, MAY 6 EASTER WEEKDAY Honor those who brought you the gospel

Saint François de Laval (1623-1708) was the first bishop of New France, a territory that included most of what is now Canada, much of upper New England, and all the Mississippi Valley. He was committed to evangelization and education and was a great pastor, especially among the native peoples. He was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1980 and granted "equivalent canonization" on April 3, 2014 by Pope Francis, who said on the occasion of the canonization, "Honoring those who endured suffering to bring us the gospel means being ready ourselves to fight the good fight of faith with humility, meekness, and mercy in our daily lives. And this bears fruit." Who brought the gospel to your home? Honor them and you will bear fruit.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 18:9-18; John 16:20-23 (295). "Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name."

#### SATURDAY, MAY 7 EASTER WEEKDAY Sing Alleluia!

Tradition has it that Saint Gregory the Great heard angels chanting the first three lines of the Marian antiphon, *Regina Caeli*, on Easter morning. "Joy to you, O Queen of Heaven. / The One you were worthy to bear / has risen as he said. / Pray for us to God," with each line followed by "Alleluia!" That last word—Hebrew for "praise God!"—even sounds joyous, especially after not hearing it all of Lent. Pulled out your rosary lately? Let Mary share with you her exultation, and let a joyous mood wash over you today, for others' sake. You can hear this brief chant <u>here</u>.

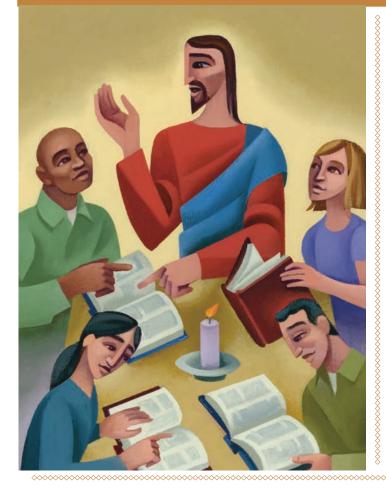
TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 18:23-28; John 16:23b-28 (296). "The Father himself loves you, because you have loved me."



Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow-a day at a time.

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# Christ is Risen; He is indeed Risen!



# **Peace of Christ**

O God of All Nations,

you became incarnate to free us from the burden of sin

and to show us profound love.

We humbly pray that we may receive the peace the world cannot give,

a peace that calms fearful hearts and opens us to heed your holy Word. May the Advocate teach us your ways and awaken within us a love for Jesus, your Son.

May your Holy Spirit sustain our faith, keep us safe, and bestow upon us perfect joy. Grant us fortitude and perseverance so that we may be heralds of the peace of Christ.

And on that final day, may you welcome us at the eternal feast. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **Remembering Mary in May - Mary of the Magnificat** ugh Mary is poor and lowly, and a cultur- So Mary lived in solidarity with the coming Reign

Though Mary is poor and lowly, and a culturally insignificant woman, the powerful living holy God is doing great things to her. And God does this not only to her but to all the poor: bringing down the mighty from their thrones; exalting the lowly; filling the hungry with good things and sending the unrepentant rich away empty. And all of this is happening in fulfillment of the ancient promise—and in her

very being. For she embodies the nobodies of this world, on whom God is lavishing rescue.

In song she sings of the future, when finally, peaceful justice will take root in the land among all people. This great prayer is a revolutionary song of salvation. Miriam's song has political implications—socially radical ones at that. With a mother like this, it's no wonder that Jesus' first words in Luke proclaim that he has come to free the captives and bring good news to the poor. The apple doesn't fall far from the tree! So Mary lived in solidarity with the coming Reign of God, whose intent was to heal, redeem and liberate. It does no honor to reduce her faith to privatized piety. Worse yet is to reduce her faith to a doting mother-son relationship. She hears the word of God and keeps it. Before Jesus was born she had her own relationship to God. Even after his death and resurrection, as now part of the community proclaiming him as the Messiah, her pattern of faith is still that of Jewish hope: God's Messiah who

now has come will come again and bring this justice to the land as a whole.

She hears the word of God and keeps it. And in this too she is, as Paul VI called her, our sister in faith. As we remember her and keep the idea that she is a Jewish peasant woman of faith, then we can interpret the other scenes in the Gospels where Mary shows up and where we are presented with the dangerous memory of this very inconsequential woman in her own culture and historical context. With a heart full of love for God and for her neighbor, Mary of Nazareth gives us this tremendous example of walking by faith through a difficult life.



## The Spirit that Leads to Truth

### by Douglas Sousa, STL

During my years in the seminary, the faculty warned us against cherishing "a myopic nostalgia for a church you did not know." To a seminarian in the 80s, "a church we did not know" referred to the church before Vatican II. For young men who grew up in the turbulence of the late 60s and early 70s, the pre-conciliar church seemed like a simpler, more certain time. Every parish had a pastor, two curates, a convent, and a school. The surrounding culture supported church attendance and teaching. When conflict arose, it could always be settled by official teachings. As far as seminary formation was concerned, it seemed that candidates to the priesthood needed only to learn Latin and familiarize themselves with the manuals to master each theological discipline. In a society and church that was changing, it could be tempting to fantasize about turning the clock back to life before priests exchanged cassocks for ponchos.

It did not take long to realize that not only seminarians longed for a return to the Church's "golden age." Some Catholics pine for the centuries before the Reformation when the Church appeared to control all aspects of civic life. Other Christians desire to go back even further still to Jesus and the apostles before, in their minds, the influence of Greek culture obfuscated the simple Gospel message. It may be a common temptation for all of us to romanticize a "church we did not know" when Christianity seemed purer.

We know that no era of Christianity was free from conflict and division. Even in the first years after Pentecost when Acts boasts of a community where "believers were of one heart and one mind keeping all things in common," division soon flared up between Hebrew and Greek widows. In this Sunday's first reading, we learn about the Church's first heresythat believers needed to be circumcised and follow the law of Moses to attain salvation. These believers, commonly known as the Judaizers, probably looked back with nostalgia at the security and clarity of life under the law. Whatever the case, they wielded great influence even over St. Peter who stopped eating with Gentiles to appease them, earning a stern rebuke from St. Paul. The leaders, rather than allowing divisions to fester, gathered in Jerusalem to make plain the teaching of salvation in Jesus apart from the law. They also responded pastorally, making allowances for the dietary scruples of Jewish Christians. In such a way, they were able to hold fast to their teaching while taking into account the consciences of believers.

Today, we find ourselves in a similar circumstance —seeking to proclaim the truth handed on to us by Jesus to a society in constant flux. In particular, we are experiencing this conflict in terms of marriage. How do we welcome those whose relationships and family circumstances fall short of the Gospel ideal? How do we bring healing into their relationships? How do we let them know that no matter what circumstances they find themselves in they can turn to us for help and not expect judgment or scolding? And how do we do all this without compromising Jesus' teaching about marriage?

Today's first reading gives us



some helpful clues. First, we get together and talk as the apostles did. This was Pope Francis' hope for the Extraordinary Synod on the Family last year. As believers we must be willing to dialogue with those who believe differently than we do or who find themselves in relationships that differ from the Church's norms. More important than having a ready defense for Jesus' teaching, we must have ears quick to listen to their anger, frustration, and hurt. When it becomes clear that we really care for them, then they may be open to listening to us.

Along with listening, we also must be willing to learn. Those who don't go to church have much to teach us about how society views marriage, family life, and relationships. Those insights can help us understand our own convictions and articulate them more convincingly. It can also help us deal more pastorally with those who seek our help and find creative ways to meet their spiritual needs.

Finally, we can trust that out of conflict, the Spirit leads the Church to creative solutions, just as that first conflict between the Hebrew and Greek widows gave rise to the order of deacons. Before getting frustrated or falling back on nostalgia, suppose we first thank God for all the healing and wonders he will bring out of the present conflicts? Jesus promised, "The Advocate, the Holy Spirit ... will teach you everything."

For us living through the upheaval and confusion of the Church in the early twenty-first century, it may be hard to believe that future Christians will look back at us with nostalgia. However, if we yield to the Holy Spirit and seek his peace rather than the peace the world gives, which is the fruit of indifference, appeasement, and surrender, we can reach pastoral solutions to our present day crises that will make our ancestors proud and perhaps even those who come after us envious. There has been no golden age of the church nor will there be until God brings the heavenly Jerusalem described in this Sunday's second reading to fulfillment.

# Who, Where Why, How ....

*My friend in Delaware says Ascension is not on Thursday. What's up?* The Gospels do not designate the exact time of Jesus' ascension. The Book of Acts says that Jesus appeared to the disciples for a period of forty days.

Many important and traditional days are observed as official holidays as well. The Feast of the Ascension is one of them. In the U.S. and other countries where this does not happen, there was a request to move important feasts of Christ to a Sunday when the Church could better celebrate that feast. These changes were made in Canada, Australia, Ireland, England and Wales. More recently, the feast of the Ascension was allowed to be moved by the decision of local provinces (archdiocese and neighboring dioceses). In 2009, the feast was transferred to Sunday in the United States. The bishops of New England, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Nebraska chose not to transfer the feast. In Paterson, the feast is this Thursday. At the military post, Picatinny, the feast is next Thursday.

### Welcome to St. Thomas More Parish

We are glad you decided to celebrate with our Parish Family. If you have recently moved into the parish and would like to register as a parishioner, please take a parish membership form at the entrances of the church or email and we will send you a form. Hopefully we can set up an appointment to meet one another. Or you may call the parish office at 973-267-5330.

### SOME MINISTRIES and ORGANIZATIONS

Altar Servers Bulletin Finance Council Lectors/Ministers of Communion Prayer Shawl Ministry Women's Guild Bereavement Ministry Collection Counters Home/Sick Visits Youth Ministry Ushers/Greeters Pastoral Council



Whether you are new or a veteran, consider joining or helping in the various areas of parish life. Call the office. Interested in something you don't see, don't be shy, talk to Fr. Joe.

Visit of Eucharist at Home. Communion may be brought to the home of any person permanently or temporarily homebound. For the confined, elderly and/or shut-in at home or in the hospital, our parish ministers make calls to homes and hospitals. Fill out the form below.

**Moving In or Out?** If you are relocating either in or out of the parish area please takes a moment to help keep our records current. Contact the parish office or drop a note into the collection basket.

**Pound A Week.** Show how much we care! Bring a pound of goods when you come to church. Pasta, tuna, powdered milk or soup. Peanut butter or jelly or crackers. Even a pound of diapers. While shopping add a pound!

☐ The following person(s) is presently receiving a visit and/or communion ☐ The following person(s) would like a regular visit and/or communion. Name:

You may call me with specifics (address, etc.): \_

Tel. or email:

## Saint Thomas More Parish



### **Remembering our Own**

Special requests for prayers at liturgy and donations are made in honor of loved ones. Please join with them in prayer and remembrance at Eucharist. These intentions are noted on the Gifts Table in the Remembrance Book and on the Weekly Sheet.

### **Stewardship of Treasure**

Easter Collection: \$ 5,322

### **Rest in Peace**

This past month Kathleen Woodward, Mildred Giordano (mother of Stephanie Roche) and John Parr (brother of Fr. Parr) entered eternal life. May God hold them all in loving embrace.

### **Feast of the Ascension**

Thursday is the Feast of the Ascension in this diocese. Liturgies are at 8:15 am, 12:10 pm and 7 pm.

### **Changes This Week**

After two thefts in four months, we are upgrading our security. Generous parishioners have donated money and cameras. Some cameras are already installed, more to go. This week we will be installing magnetic locks on the church doors so we can better regulate when the church is locked. Those who need to get in while have better access as well. The doors no longer remain open. This was a constant problem. Those leaving church would push the door open and sometimes it would stay that way all day, letting out heat and cooling, letting in animals, maybe looking extra inviting to intruders.

Our neighbors, St. Vincent Parish have closed their church building this week for renovations. We are happy to provide our church building for their use, especially for funerals, baptisms, weddings and other special occasions. When you see them, welcome them and make them feel at home like a good neighbor.

Please sign up for electronic giving. stthommore.weshareonline.org



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