

Church of the Incarnation

240 Main Street, Mantua, NJ 08051

Parish Office 856-468-1314 * PREP Office 856-468-7566

Visit us at www.incarnation-church.org



Fifth Sunday of Easter * May 3, 2026

We come together as a Christian community to minister the Gospel of Christ

PARISH STAFF

Reverend Stephen J Rapposelli
Pastor

Reverend Shaji Muttathottil
Parochial Vicar

Thomas F. O'Brien
Deacon

Peter Traum
Deacon

Phil Curran
Deacon

Mr. & Mrs. Casey Corigliano
Directors of Music

Mr. Gerald Voltura
Director of Faith Formation

Mrs. Patricia Houwen
Business Manager

PARISH MEMBERSHIP

Welcome!

Please register at the parish office or online by visiting our website at www.incarnation-church.org.

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday - Friday.....7 a.m. and 8:30 a.m.

(No 7 a.m. Mass from Memorial Day through early September)

Saturday.....8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Vigil Mass)

Sunday.....7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m..

Holy Days.....5 p.m. (Vigil Mass)

7 a.m., 8:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Holy Day

Eucharistic Adoration.....Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

BAPTISM

Baptisms are held every Sunday and some Saturdays at 1:00 pm. Baptism Preparation Sessions are held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month via Zoom. Please call the office for an appointment.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confessions are heard Monday through Saturday following the 8:30 A.M. Mass and on Saturdays from 4:00 P.M. to 4:30 P.M. in church or by appointment.

CARE OF SICK

Arrangements should be made through the parish office for home visits with the Eucharist for the sick and elderly. The office should be contacted for the Sacrament of the Sick.

SACRAMENTAL SPONSORSHIP

Sponsors for Baptism or Confirmation must:

Be a registered member of a Catholic parish

Be at least 16 years of age

Received Sacraments of Initiation:

Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation

If married, according to the laws of the Catholic Church

Sunday, May 3 Fifth Sunday of Easter

John 14:1-12

In this beautiful passage from the words of Jesus at the Last Supper, Jesus promises that he is preparing a place for the apostles. He tells them, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through me." When Philip asks Jesus to show them the Father, Jesus answers, "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father."

Mass Intentions

Saturday, May 2

8:30am Barbara A. Gaffney
r/b Robert and MaryJo Flem
5:00pm James Z. Dogherty, Jr.
r/b Fran Wilgus and Family

Sunday, May 3 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

7:30am John and Craig Forsman r/b wife and mother
9:30am Bronislaw, Maria and Witold Korona
r/b Richard and Anna Sweeney
11:30am Anna Marie Bonder r/b a friend
John Quigley (56th anniversary) r/b wife, Rose
Florence Wesolowski r/b Cathy Cacciola
Thomas Hatzis r/b Michele and Dominic Rucci
Albert Karwowski r/b Brian and Melissa Arnold
Bill Cherry r/b his family

Monday, May 4

7:00am Paul, Tom and Lisa Hengel r/b Betsy Groody
8:30am Mary B. Zupko r/b husband, John

Tuesday, May 5

7:00am Living and Deceased Members of the Parish
8:30am Henry J. Talemal r/b wife, Jamie

Wednesday, May 6

7:00am Robert and Joan Wnek r/b Gatti Family
8:30am Jorge Perez r/b Carmen Perez

Thursday, May 7

7:00am Robert and Joan Wnek r/b Gatti Family
8:30am Gladys Little r/b Joseph Little

Friday, May 8

7:00am Assunta Mesoraca r/b Bob and Rose Slagan
8:30am Vincent Bruno r/b daughter, Carol Ann

Saturday, May 9

8:30am Antoni Ryszard Lachowicz
r/b cousin, Helen Olah
5:00pm All Living and Deceased Members of the Parish

Sunday, May 10 - Sixth Sunday of Easter

7:30am All Living and Deceased Members of the Parish
9:30am All Living and Deceased Members of the Parish
11:30am All Living and Deceased Members of the Parish

Readings for the Week

Monday, May 4	Acts 14:5-18; Jn 14:21-26
Tuesday, May 5	Acts 14:19-28; Jn 14:27-31a
Wednesday, May 6	Acts 15:1-6; Jn 15:1-8
Thursday, May 7	Acts 15:7-21; Jn 15:9-11
Friday, May 8	Acts 15:22-31; Jn 15:12-17
Saturday, May 9	Acts 16:1-10; Jn 15:18-21

Prayer for Religious Vocations

Priest: Let us pray for vocations.

All: O God, we earnestly beseech you to bless the Church with many priests, deacons, seminarians and religious who will love you with their whole strength, be faithful to their vocation and gladly spend their entire lives to teach your truths, serve your Church and make you known and loved.

Priest: Bless our families, bless our children.

All: Choose from our homes those who are needed for your work.

Priest: O Mary, Queen of the clergy,

All: Pray for us. Pray for our priests, deacons, seminarians and religious. Obtain for us many more. Amen.

First Reading – Acts 6:1-7

As the number of disciples continued to grow, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. So the Twelve called together the community of the disciples and said, "It is not right for us to neglect the word of God to serve at table. Brothers, select from among you seven reputable men, filled with the Spirit and wisdom, whom we shall appoint to this task, whereas we shall devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." The proposal was acceptable to the whole community, so they chose Stephen, a man filled with faith and the Holy Spirit, also Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicholas of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these men to the apostles who prayed and laid hands on them. The word of God continued to spread, and the number of the disciples in Jerusalem increased greatly; even a large group of priests were becoming obedient to the faith.

Responsorial Psalm – Psalm 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19

Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

Second Reading – 1 Peter 2:4-9

Beloved: Come to him, a living stone, rejected by human beings but chosen and precious in the sight of God, and, like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it says in Scripture: Behold, I am laying a stone in Zion, a cornerstone, chosen and precious, and whoever believes in it shall not be put to shame. Therefore, its value is for you who have faith, but for those without faith: The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone, and A stone that will make people stumble, and a rock that will make them fall. They stumble by disobeying the word, as is their destiny. You are "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own, so that you may announce the praises" of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

Gospel – John 14:1-12

Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be. Where I am going you know the way." Thomas said to him, "Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, then you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him." Philip said to him, "Master, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you for so long a time and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us 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 I do not speak on my own. The Father who dwells in me is doing his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else, believe because of the works themselves. Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these, because I am going to the Father."

Nicene Creed – I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven: and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

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To everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven.

Ecclesiastes 3:1

“...a time to be born...”

Leah Marie Connolly
Cooper Robert Hannan

“...a time to welcome...”

Boyle Family

“...a time to be married...”

Matthew Muldoon and Nicole DiTroia

...a time to be healed...”

Ann Marie Agar, Sam Amadio, Bernadette Andrews, George Austin, Verna Bisconte, Owen Rita Bruno, Carla Carelli, Colleen, Lynn Collins, Krista Collings, Bob Cooper, Jerrolyn Covely, Bob D’Alessio, Robert Deegan, Michael DiBernardo, Susan DiCicco, Alberta DiFabio, Barbara & Stephen DiTullio, Michael Donahue, Rich Donofrio, Rose Dougherty, Ellie & Les Edwards, Jack Ewen, Thomas Fenerty, Francis Ferry, Agnes Flood, David Freundlich, Marylou and Terry Furfari, Linda Gerwatoski, Jay Gigante, John Gilmore, Margaret Giordano, Patricia Griggs, Michael Groody, Donovan & John Gura, John & Joseph Hart, Kathy Heisinger, Karol Hennessey, George Ivan, Jason, Adalynne Johnson, Susan Kane, Karen, Carol Taylor-Kearney, Caroline Keenan, Marilyn Angelotti-Kelly, Fred Krumm, Steffanie Lerch, Patricia Manning, Anthony and Biago Marciante, Michelle Marhefka, Barbara Marker, Elwood Martz III, Maryellen McAteer, Dorothy McKeever, Barbara & Ira McManus, Christina McNasby, Jack & Tim McSorley, Hannah McStay, Katie Mutek, Peter Myers, Frank Nowak, Dot O’Leary Stronski, Nicole P., William Pappernek, Sylvia Penamante, Lee Peters, Giovanni Poloney, Helen Powell, Rose Quigley, Barbara Ragonese, Janet Rainier, Joan Reilly, Mary Reilly, George Rein, Angie & Pete Richman, Patti Roberts, Jim Roche, Karen Rucci, Jason Russell, Denise Sacco, Marguerite Sadler, Caterina & Santi Saya, Loretta Scardino, Mark Serock, Linda Sesko, Nicholas Simeo, Sr., Eda Shannon, Jason Shipman, Frank Smith, Chris Stalker, Nick Stansbury, Janie Talemal, Jason Tallarida, Ernie Tolentino, Evelyne & Tom Tull, Lou Underwood, Rosemarie Villari, William Walsh, Justin Weaver, John Werner, Nancy Taylor-Williams, Dianne Williamson, Richard Wilson, Theresa Woods, Lois Worthington, Lori Wotycka, Lois Wunsch, Maria Wyzykowski, Catherine Zabrodski, Francesco Zarzycki, Jacqueline Zellner, their caregivers, all others in need of our prayers.

“...a time to die...”

Alfred Mecholsky
Mark L. Gravinese

STEWARDSHIP CHARISMS

“The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.”

-1 Peter 2:7

Every steward has been given gifts from the Holy Spirit. These are called “charisms” and they are used to build God’s kingdom of earth. While many people are able to recognize their natural talents and abilities, they may be unsure of their charisms. If you know someone who is struggling for a direction in life, give them a little encouragement. Help them discern their charisms and how God is calling them to use them. Remember - no gift is too small or insignificant in God’s salvation plan.

Stewardship Report

April 21 through April 27: \$19,411.05

FORGOT YOUR ENVELOPES?

If you forgot your envelopes, are new to the parish or are visiting the parish and would like to make a donation. You can do so here. Be sure to select one-time gift – as recurring is default.



STEPHEN MINISTRY

What Do Stephen Ministers Do?

Stephen Ministers offer caring Christian friendship and concerned listening when you need it most. A Stephen Leader matches the person in need with one of our available Stephen Ministers. Men are matched with men and women are matched with women. They meet for about an hour each week as long as the need is there. Confidentiality is a top priority for Stephen Ministers. Everything a person says is kept in strict confidence. To talk to a Stephen Leader, please call 856-468-5536.

Mother's day



MOTHER’S DAY CARDS

Mother’s Day cards are available in the gathering space. Envelopes in memory of or in honor of mothers will be on the altar for the month of May.

BANNS OF ORDINATION

The Most Reverend Joseph A. Williams, D.D. announces that he intends to ordain **Mr. Nickolas B. Naticchione** to the Sacred Order of Presbyter on:

Saturday, the 16th day of May, 2026 at
The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
642 Market Street
Camden, New Jersey

The faithful of the Diocese of Camden are asked to pray for this man and for the young men of our diocese who are being called by God to service in the Church. At the same time the faithful are obliged to reveal impediments to sacred orders, if they know of any, by contacting their pastor before the ordination in accord with the norms of cc. 1043 and 1051.2 of the Code of Canon Law.

Mary Immaculate, patroness of the Diocese of Camden, intercede for these men and for an increase in vocations to the priesthood here in South Jersey.

PRAY FOR OUR TROOPS

Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform in our time of need. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

We pray for all in our armed forces, especially:

Andrew Archer, Greg Giordano, Dane Kozlosky, James Tingle, Johnny McGowan, Vincent McManus, Vincent W. Abruzzese, John Robinson, Sean Owens, Matthew Cottrell, David Nahas, Colin Wexler, Liam Wahl, Ty Thuston, Brian Guzzetti, Leonard Puggi, Daniel Golden, Brett Govern, Ryan Lisle, Devin Kozlosky, Cory Carpenter, Christopher Hansen, Luke Wordelmann, Ryan Gilroy, Tyler L. Novak, Danielle Davis, Jesse Nester, Adam Stetser, Joseph Vaccarella, Matthew Murphy, Sara Huber, Robert Coughlan, Anthony Mastrogiacommo

JOSEPH HOUSE PICKUP THIS WEEK

We will deliver casseroles and supplies to the Joseph House in Camden on Monday, May 4. All casseroles can be dropped off after 9 a.m. on Sunday, May 3, outside the Kernan Center. The freezer will be there until 9 a.m. Monday morning. Thank you for your continued support of this outreach ministry.

Like us on Facebook – Incarnation, Mantua



SUMMER PREP TEACHERS NEEDED

Do you want to help pass on our Catholic faith to the next generation? We are seeking catechists to teach PREP classes this summer. There are three sessions available: June 22-26; July 6-10; and July 20-24. All classes are from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. No experience necessary! To volunteer, call Abbie at the PREP Office: 856-468-1314.

CHURCH TOUR

Have you ever wondered why we use certain colors, objects and symbols at church? Deacon Peter will give a walking tour of the church sanctuary at 7 p.m. on May 6. You've never seen God's house like this before! Explore all the nooks and crannies and discover the deep symbolism and meaning of its design. Find all the hidden gems of our Church and learn about the sacred items and vestments we use in the Holy Mass. Bring the whole family!

THE MASS EXPLAINED

Have you sat in church for years, quietly unsure of what was happening or why it mattered? Maybe you are exploring the Catholic faith for the first time or beginning to share it with your children. Fr. Steve will offer TWO opportunities to experience a teaching Mass:

- Tuesday, May 12 at 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 20 at 7 p.m.

Learn what each part of the Mass is about, why we say the prayers we say, what the gestures and colors mean, and much more. This whole-parish event is open to anyone who wants to get more out of Mass each weekend.

CHEERS – IT'S BINGO TIME!

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas Ct. Blessed Katharine Drexel #2327 are hosting a Bingo night at 7 p.m. May 15 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church Hall, 500 Greentree Road, Glassboro, to benefit the charitable work in our churches and in the community. Admission is \$40.00 per person and includes 12 games, a dabber and door prizes. Win Bingo and bring home an amazing basket of cheer! Enter to win more prizes with a basket raffle and 50/50 drawing. Must be 21 or older. BYO food and drinks.

Advance ticket purchase required – call Christine at 856-275-1024 or Rita Hale at 856-693-2932.

Visit us at www.incarnation-church.org

SUMMER BIBLE STUDY

Join our next Bible Study, The Prophets. The prophets of Israel were not simply fortune-tellers — they were passionate voices calling God's people back to covenant fidelity. This acclaimed Ascension Press study takes us deep into the Old Testament prophetic books, showing how Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and the minor prophets all point forward to Jesus Christ.

Over ten engaging sessions, we will discover that the prophets' words are not mere history — they speak with startling freshness into our own lives, our parish, and our world today. The study begins Monday, June 15 at 7 p.m. in the Kernan Center. To sign up, please call the office at 856.468.1314 or email Deacon Phil Curran, pcurran@incarnation-church.org.

TEN DAYS FOR ST. RITA

Christ the Redeemer Parish, Atco, presents 10 days of prayer, intercession and celebration in honor of St. Rita of Cascia, the Peacemaker. Gather for one or more days from May 13 to May 22 at 6:30 p.m. at the St. Rita Grotto, 318 Carl Hasselhan Dr., Atco.

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

KNIGHTS' KNEWS

The Knights of Columbus will be selling carnations after Mass on May 9 and 10. Proceeds from the sale will benefit First Way National Life Center in Woodbury, which offers resources and support for women facing a crisis pregnancy.

Honor our Blessed Mother during the month of May with a special Holy Hour. The Marian service and Holy Hour will be held on Tuesday, May 19 beginning at 7 p.m. in the church.

We are pleased to welcome the world-renowned Irish tenor Emmet Cahill back to Incarnation this summer! Join us Friday, June 26 at 7:30 for your favorite Irish classics, church songs, and stories from one of Ireland's leading voices. General admission is \$40. Early admission with meet and greet at 6 p.m. is available for \$55. Proceeds support the Church of the Incarnation and the Knights of Columbus Council 6364. For tickets, contact the parish office or visit www.EmmetCahill.com. Please make checks payable to Knights of Columbus Council 6364. Contact Karl Tomaszewski at 609-440-3779 with any questions.

NJ CATHOLIC YOUTH RALLY AT SIX FLAGS

On May 17, Catholic families, youth and young adults are invited for a day of faith and fun at Six Flags Great Adventure in Jackson. The NJ Catholic Youth Rally begins with early entry at 9 a.m. for the opening presentation at the Showcase Arena; the park and rides open at 10:30 a.m. Admission includes a meal voucher that can be used anytime throughout the day. Doors will open at the Batman Stunt Arena at 5:15 p.m. in preparation for the closing liturgy at 6 p.m.

Registration is \$70 per person. Full details and registration are available at dioceseoftrenton.org/njcyr.

LIVING AS MISSIONARY DISCIPLES

Our Scripture passage for this Sunday comes from the Gospel of John 14:1-12. In this reading we hear of Jesus preparing His disciples for His departure and the beneficial consequences it is intended to have for their lives and ministry. Jesus says to His disciples, "In my Father's house there are many dwelling places, and I am going to prepare a place for you." The power of this statement cannot be underestimated. We oftentimes think of this statement as referring to a place in heaven, which is why this passage is so commonly used for funeral liturgies. However, we need to remember that throughout the Gospel of John, Jesus has been stressing the relationship He has with the Father in terms of "abiding" or "dwelling". When Jesus tells us that He is going to prepare a dwelling place for us in the Father's house, what the Lord is really saying is that He will open to us the relationship He has with the Father so that we can share in it just as He shares in it. The place Jesus prepares for us in this passage, then, is about relationship, not location. It is about being given a part in a permanent life-giving relationship with God that allows us to experience heaven on earth through the indwelling Spirit of God in us. It is about accepting the gift of God's life in us and responding to that divine initiative by offering our lives to God in return.

Think about it: What is my response to the realization that Jesus is inviting me to become a co-participant in His relationship with the Father?

Subscribe to our YouTube Channel – Church of the Incarnation, Mantua

Be filled with the Holy Spirit!

A Vigil of Pentecost in quietness of heart

*Meditative Chanting
Songs from Taizé
Soft candle lights*



Church of the Incarnation
240 Main St, Mantua Township, NJ 08051.

May 22nd Friday, 2026
6:30 pm to 7:45 pm

The Pentecost Vigil has the character of fervent prayer, following the example of the apostles who devoted themselves with one accord to prayer, together with Mary the mother of Jesus, and expected the Holy Spirit. Prayer will result in love and transformation into better people when we learn to listen to God. The entire liturgy of the Pentecost Vigil allows this experience through readings, prayers, and chants permeated by the words of the Scriptures. They prepare us for an encounter with the risen Savior.

Taizé Community is a monastic order in Taizé, in Burgundy, France. Prayer together, three times a day, is at the heart of life in Taizé. This is a quite simple style of prayer which includes a few songs, a psalm, a Bible reading, a time of silence, and then intercessions. Short songs (chants), sung again and again, give it a meditative character. The words and phrases used in these chants are taken from the Holy Bible or writings of saints. Meditative singing thus becomes a way of listening to God. It allows everyone to take part in a time of prayer together and to remain together in attentive waiting on God.



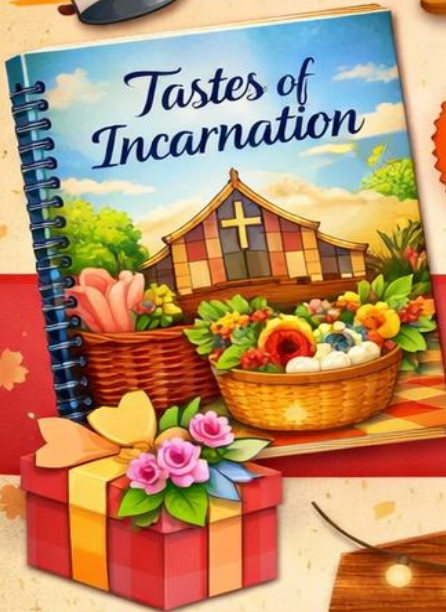
Inspired by Taizé Pilgrimage of Trust

Contact Josemon Abraham at josemonabraham@comcast.net for more information



Church of the Incarnation

PARISH COOKBOOK SALE!



\$20
each

OR
2 for \$35

*Great Gifts for
Mother's Day & Graduation!*



SAVE THE DATE!

**PARISH POTLUCK
DINNER**

JUNE 6, 2026





Church of the Incarnation, Mantua, NJ

Rev. Stephen J. Rapposelli, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

St. Rita of Cascia

Born in 1381 near Spoleto, Italy, St. Rita was known for her holiness and charity from a young age. She wanted to be a nun but was forced into marrying when she was twelve. Unfortunately, her husband was cruel and violent. After eighteen years, she was widowed. Following the deaths of her sons, she finally entered the convent, where she became known for her piety, kindness, and humility. She is the patron saint of impossible causes.

“Come, Holy Spirit!”

On the Feast of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles and ignited their mission to baptize and preach. For this reason, Pentecost is considered the birthday of the Church. This same Spirit, who empowered twelve frightened men to travel, preach, baptize, and labor for the Kingdom of God, also comes to our aid in our struggle for holiness, even in our prayer (Romans 8:26). This month, keep with you this short yet powerful prayer: “Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love!”

“Jesus answered him, ‘If a man loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him’” (John 14:23).

Who is my neighbor?

This question matters. In the Two Greatest Commandments, Jesus calls us to love God and to love our neighbor as ourselves. But that raises a real, practical question: who is our neighbor? Our Lady offers a clear answer. Through her example, we begin to see that our neighbors include:

Family: Mary’s first thought after the Annunciation was for her cousin Elizabeth. Despite the immense honor Mary had just received, she went in haste to serve Elizabeth. That sets the pattern. The first neighbors we’re called to love are the ones closest to us: those in our own home and family.

Friends: Tradition holds that Mary and Jesus were close to the couple at the wedding in Cana. When the wine ran out, Mary didn’t draw attention to herself. She noticed the need and acted, gently guiding things toward a solution. Loving our friends often looks the same—paying attention, stepping in quietly, and serving without needing

recognition.

Those who suffer: At the Cross, Jesus entrusted His mother to St. John. In that moment of deep loss, Mary and John were given to each other, able

“If you want to change the world, go home and love your family.”
St. Teresa of Calcutta

to share a bond shaped by suffering. When someone in your life is hurting, that person is your neighbor. Who is carrying something heavy right now? How can you stand with them?

Each person we meet: As Queen of Heaven and Mother of the Church, Mary cares for all of us, especially through her prayers. To love God is to love those He loves—which means everyone. Sometimes the most meaningful act of love we can offer is also the simplest: to pray for them, asking that they come to know her Son more deeply.

Why Do Catholics Do That? Why do Catholics call Mary our Mother?

Mary’s role in salvation history is to lead people to her Son. As the Church teaches, “The Virgin Mary... is the mother of the members of Christ” (Catechism of the Catholic Church 963). Her motherhood extends to all who belong to Him. At the Cross, in the Gospel of John, Jesus says, “Behold

your mother” (John 19:27), entrusting Mary not only to St. John but to every disciple. From that moment, her care became personal. Because of her unique closeness to Jesus, she intercedes for us, always guiding us toward Him and helping us follow His will more faithfully.

St. Joseph - the quiet strength behind May

Though May is traditionally dedicated to Mary, it fittingly begins with the feast of St. Joseph the Worker. The Church invites us to honor St. Joseph and entrust our lives to his care, just as Jesus did during His hidden life on earth.

He protects. St. Joseph safeguarded Mary when her pregnancy placed her at risk (Matthew 1:19) and led the Holy Family to safety in their flight from Herod (Matthew 2:14–15). We can place ourselves under that same protection—formally through consecration or simply through daily prayer—entrusting our families, homes, and

responsibilities to his care.

He provides. As a carpenter, St. Joseph faithfully provided for Jesus and Mary. Christians have long trusted in his continued help. St. Teresa of Ávila famously wrote that she never asked anything of him without receiving help. We can confidently bring him our needs, work, and concerns.

The saints became holy by being open to God’s grace. In St. Joseph, we’re given a quiet but steady guide—one who helps us, step by step, follow God more faithfully on the path to heaven.

from **S**cripture

John 3:16-18, Jesus’ sacrifice reveals God’s love

“For God so loved the world...” When doubt sets in—when God seems distant or silent—the Church directs our attention to the Cross. In the Crucifix, we don’t see a contradiction of God’s love, but its clearest expression. Christ does not stand apart from human suffering; He enters into it. What looks like defeat becomes the place where divine mercy is most fully revealed—a love that holds nothing back.

“He sent His only begotten Son.” Faced with suffering and evil, we naturally look for solutions we can measure and manage—strategies, systems, progress. God’s response is not a method but a

gift: He gives Himself. Evil, which is a distortion or absence of the good, cannot ultimately be overcome by partial fixes. It yields only to perfect goodness, just as darkness gives way to light.

“That all who believe in Him might not perish but have eternal life.” This life is not the destination but the path. Its trials, uncertainties, and even its sufferings are not meaningless when lived with Christ. If we remain close to Him—whether in darkness, in turmoil, or at the foot of the Cross—we are not off course. We are being led, step by step, toward the life that does not end.

Q & A How can the Church be holy if her members aren’t?

First, Jesus was aware of the failures within religious life. In the Gospel of Matthew, He strongly rebuked the Pharisees—the religious leaders of His time—for not practicing what they taught (Matthew 23:3). Among His own disciples, there were moments of division, betrayal, and abandonment (John 6:66). Yet the redemption He offers is not reserved for the perfect, but for all who place their faith in Him.

Second, the Church’s holiness does not depend on the virtue of each individual member, but on the holiness of her Founder, Jesus Christ. A church building remains sacred even when its physical condition is imperfect because it is dedicated to God. In the same way, the Church, as the Mystical Body of Christ, remains holy even as her members continue to struggle and grow.

Third, history shows that God raises up saints precisely in times of difficulty. St. Athanasius, St. Catherine of Siena, and St. Thomas More each responded to periods of division and crisis with prayer, sacrifice, witness, and fidelity to the truth. Their example reminds us that holiness is always possible—and that we are called to live it, even now.

Feasts & Celebrations

May 14 - The Ascension of the Lord. This solemnity marks the completion of Jesus’ mission of salvation and His triumphant entry into Heaven.
Note: In many dioceses, observance of Ascension has been moved to the following Sunday.

May 14 - St. Matthias (1st century). When the Apostles met to choose Judas’ successor, Peter said that the new Apostle must have followed Jesus from His Baptism to His Ascension and witnessed His Resurrection. St. Matthias was chosen by lots to fill Judas’ place.

May 18 - Pope St. John I (526). Born in Tuscany, Italy, John was elected pope in 523 while still a deacon. During his

pontificate, he battled the Arian heresy, and worked to improve diplomatic relations with the East. He was the first pope to visit Constantinople, during which he restored peace with the Eastern Church yet raised political suspicions. Arrested by King Theodoric, St. John I died in prison.

May 25 - Mary, Mother of the Church (2018). On the Cross, Jesus gave us His mother to be our mother (John 19:27). Now in Heaven, she prays and cares for us as our spiritual mother until we are safely home with God. We can look to her motherly care with confidence since she always leads us to her Son by the shortest, safest, and fastest route. This memorial highlights one central truth: Mary is not only the Mother of Jesus, but the Mother of all who belong to Him—the Church.

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