

Church of the Incarnation

240 Main Street, Mantua, NJ 08051

Parish Office 856-468-1314 * PREP Office 856-468-7566 * Fax Number 856-468-4886

Visit us at www.incarnation-church.org



Second Sunday of Easter | Sunday of Divine Mercy * April 27, 2025

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, April 27 ***Second Sunday of Easter***

John 20:19-31

Jesus appeared to the disciples and breathed on them saying, "Receive the Holy Spirit." He gives them the power to forgive people's sins or hold them accountable. Thomas, who was not present, refused to believe Jesus had appeared until he came to them once more. Jesus told Thomas to believe and added, "Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

Mass Intentions

Saturday, April 26

8:30am Mimy Ludena r/b Marion & Joe Yoroshko
5:00pm Barbara Robinson r/b husband, Joe Robinson

Sunday, April 27

Second Sunday of Easter

7:30am John D. Rastelli Jr. r/b Rastelli Family
9:30am Bernice & Frank McKenna r/b their Family
Phil Bellace r/b Chris Bellace & Family
Carmella Spadaro r/b Stephen & Janice Bertonazzi
Janet Parry r/b Peter, Eileen & Peter
Gail Nelson r/b Carol Retkovis
11:30am For the Intentions of
the St. Vincent dePaul Society

Monday, April 28 – St. Peter Chanel

7:00am All Living & Deceased Members of the Parish
8:30am Sandra Grenda r/b Pat & Andy Nuyianes

Tuesday, April 29 – St. Catherine of Siena

7:00am Antoinette Fleming r/b Priests & Staff
8:30am For the Intentions of Dorothy Roper
r/b Lorraine Dyson

Wednesday, April 30 – St. Pius V

7:00am Caren Osiecki r/b Cathy Pagano
8:30am Rita Byers r/ Allison Costa

Thursday, May 1 – St. Joseph the Worker

7:00am Brendan Courey r/b Joseph Little
8:30am Dorothy Breslin r/b Neal & Patti Schusler

Friday, May 2 – St. Athanasius

7:00am Jerome Coleman r/b Kathleen Howard
8:30am Barbara A. Gaffney
r/b Robert & Mary Jane Flem

Saturday, May 3 – Sts. Philip & James

8:30am Joan Casale
r/b John, Robin & MaryKate Drechen
8:00pm Michael McNasby Jr r/b sister, Christina

Sunday, May 4 – Third Sunday of Easter

7:30am Paul Hengel r/b Betsy Groody,
Lisa & Tom Hengel
9:30am Mary B. Zupko r/b husband John
11:30am John Quigley (55th Anniv.) r/b wife Rose
For the Intentions of Marie r/b Mom
Fran McKnight by William Killian & Moffei Family
Vincent J. Petrellis r/b B. Petrellis & Family
Vincent & Helen Petrellis r/b B. Petrellis & Family

Readings for the Week

Monday, April 28	Acts 4:23-31; Jn 3:1-8
Tuesday, April 29	Acts 4:32-37; Jn 3:7b-15
Wednesday, April 30	Acts 5:17-26; Jn 3:16-21
Thursday, May 1	Acts 5:27-33; Jn 3:31-36
Friday, May 2	Acts 5:34-42; Jn 6:1-15
Saturday, May 3	1 Cor 15:1-8; Jn 14:6-14

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.

Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise You. We bless You. We adore you. We glorify You. We give You thanks for Your great glory. Lord God, heavenly King, O God almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only-begotten Son. Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father: you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. You take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. You are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord, You alone, are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Reading I - Acts 5:12-16

Many signs and wonders were done among the people at the hands of the apostles. They were all together in Solomon's portico. None of the others dared to join them, but the people esteemed them. Yet more than ever, believers in the Lord, great numbers of men and women, were added to them. Thus they even carried the sick out into the streets and laid them on cots and mats so that when Peter came by, at least his shadow might fall on one or another of them. A large number of people from the towns in the vicinity of Jerusalem also gathered, bringing the sick and those disturbed by unclean spirits, and they were all cured.

Responsorial Psalm - Psalm 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 - Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

Reading II - Revelation 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19

I, John, your brother, who share with you the distress, the kingdom, and the endurance we have in Jesus, found myself on the island called Patmos because I proclaimed God's word and gave testimony to Jesus. I was caught up in spirit on the Lord's day and heard behind me a voice as loud as a trumpet, which said, "Write on a scroll what you see." Then I turned to see whose voice it was that spoke to me, and when I turned, I saw seven gold lampstands and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, wearing an ankle-length robe, with a gold sash around his chest. When I caught sight of him, I fell down at his feet as though dead. He touched me with his right hand and said, "Do not be afraid. I am the first and the last, the one who lives. Once I was dead, but now I am alive forever and ever. I hold the keys to death and the netherworld. Write down, therefore, what you have seen, and what is happening, and what will happen afterwards."

Gospel - John 20:19-31

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nailmarks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name.

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.

SJ CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

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

Ecclesiastes 3:1

“...a time to be born...”

“...a time to welcome...”

Maria DiProspero, DiLouis Family, Hess Family,
Bryant Family, Pietroforte Family

“a time to be married...”

...a time to be healed...”

Bernadette Andrews, Chase Atkinson, George Austin, Baby Olivia, Joyce Bailey, Chase Bell, Betty Blessing, Otto Bonaventure, Joseph Brickley, Rita Bruno, Charli Burke, Jennie Cantagallo, Christine Cassell, Colleen, Chad Cowan, Bob D'Alessio, Roxanne Day, Robert & Pat Deegan, Lucyna Dinces, Mirenda Donnian, Rich Donofrio, Kathy Durand, Kristine Ebright, Ellie & Les Edwards, Tammy English, Barbara Facchine, Anna Forsman, Helen Fowler, Keith & Linda Franchetti, Linda Gerwatoski, John Gilmore, Brenda Gordon, Richard Grant, Dave Griffith, Michael Groody, Ben Groves, Donovan & John Gura, Leon Hadfield, Kathy Heisinger, Karol Hennessey, Marie Ianoale, Carol Iannotti, Jason, Adalynne Johnson, Susan Kane, Karen, Carol Taylor-Kearney, Stephen Korotinsky, Fred Krumm, Judy Longo, Joe Lumpkin, Richard Maloumian, Michelle Marhefka, Barbara Marker, Elwood Martz III, Dorothy McKeever, Caroline Keenan, Barbara & Ira McManus, Christina McNasby, Tim McSorley, Hannah McStay, Joan Morlachetta, Katie Mutek, Frank Nowak, Lorene Newman, Cathy Noakes, Anthony & Denise Palestini, William Pappernek, Lee Peters, John Poloney, Helen Powell, Rose Quigley, Janet Rainier, Teri Reed, Joan Reilly, Mary Reilly, Patti Roberts, Jim Roche, Marci Rodillo, Domenic Ruggeri, Ivey Caruso Rupert, Marguerite Sadler, Caterina Saya, Santi Saya, Loretta Scardino, Joe Schiavo, Nicholas Simeo, Sr., Linda Sesko, Jason Shipman, Frank Smith, Dominic Spano, Chris Stalker, Janie Talemal, Evelyne & Tom Tull, Lou Underwood, Rosemarie Villari, Kathy Voelmle, Darlene & John Voll, William Walsh, John Werner, Shannon Whyte, Nancy Taylor-Williams, Dianne Williamson, Theresa Woods, Lois Worthington, Lori Wotypka, Lois Wunsch, Maria Wyzykowski, Catherine Zabrodski, Francesco Zarzycki, their caregivers, all others in need of our prayers.

“...a time to die...”

Pope Francis

Thank you to everyone who has donated to **“Our Journey United in Hope.”** To see the causes and ministries this appeal supports please visit - <https://www.camdendiocese.org/about-sjcma/>

To date our parish has raised \$96,129.00 from 188 donors! Your support of the **South Jersey Catholic Ministries Appeal** ensures the vitality of essential Diocesan ministries and programs that bring Hope to those sustained by the Church and its ministries.

STEWARDS SENT

“Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’”

-JOHN 20:21

Peace – the first gift of the risen Lord. Just as Jesus sent the apostles out into the world, so too, He sends his **Stewards**. As disciples of Jesus, we are called to be compassionate and merciful; and not with just those who are our friends, but also with our “enemies.” Think of someone in your life who you need to reconcile with. Call them right now or better yet, go visit them.

Will resume next week.

FORGOT YOUR ENVELOPES? OR NEW TO THE PARISH?

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

Love One Another As Love You . . .

In John 15:12 Jesus says, “This is my commandment: love one another as I love you.” Loving and caring for one another is not just the priests’ job – it’s something Jesus calls us all to do! Stephen Ministry is a ministry in which people with special gifts for caring ministry can put those gifts to use in an organized way, bringing Jesus’ love and care to those who need it. If you would like to talk to a Stephen Leader or to request a Stephen Minister, please call 856-468-5536.

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION

REMINDER – First Friday Adoration will be this Friday, May 2 from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM in church. All are Welcome!

BANNS OF ORDINATION TO THE DIACONATE

The Most Reverend Joseph A. Williams, D.D. announces that he intends to ordain Mr. Nickolas Bruno Natichione to the Sacred Order of Deacon on Saturday, the 10th day of May, 2025 at Holy Trinity Parish, Saint James Church, 6415 Atlantic Avenue, Ventnor, NJ.

The faithful of the Diocese of Camden are asked to pray for this young man and for the young men of their parish who is 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 this man and for an increase in vocations to the priesthood here in South Jersey.

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.

THE BIBLE TIMELINE: THE STORY OF SALVATION

Our next Bible Study is the *The Bible Timeline: The Story of Salvation*. We will explore fourteen of the Bible's narrative books divided into twelve periods exploring salvation from Genesis to Acts. We will learn about major people, places, and events to discover how they come together to reveal the remarkable story of our Catholic faith. Classes will start on Monday, April 28 at 7:00 PM in Kernan Center. Please sign up at the parish office or let Deacon Phil Curran know, pcurran@incarnation-church.org by April 8. We need to order the books in time for the study start on April 28. All are welcome.

St. 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.

Like us on Facebook – Incarnation, Mantua

Join us on Divine Mercy Sunday

Sunday, April 27

2:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Confessions

3:00 PM

Divine Mercy Chaplet
and Benediction

Infant Jesus Parish

845 Third St.

Woodbury Heights, NJ



Jesus I trust in You

JOSEPH HOUSE

Casseroles and products will be delivered to the Joseph House on Monday, May 5. We are hoping all can participate. If you have any questions/suggestions, please contact Jerry at jerbotemple@comcast.net. Thank you for your continued support!

PREP NEWS

The PREP office is gearing up for summer PREP! As you know we are always in need of good, practicing Catholics who are eager to share their faith with the children in our parish. If this sounds like you, consider that God may be calling you to this ministry. We are still in need of catechists for the following:

July 7-11, grade 6

July 21-25, grades 7 & 8

Catechists and those who wish to sub, who have not been cleared yet, do need to go through the clearance process for the diocese but it is a simple process. It involves being fingerprinted so we can run a background check and attending an in-person Virtus training, *Protecting God's Children*. Contact the PREP office if you are interested 856-468-7566 or sprevitera@incarnation-church.org.

Visit us at www.incarnation-church.org

KNIGHTS' KNEWS

May 4 – Breakfast is served from 8:30 AM to 11:00 AM. Adults \$8.00, Children 12 and under \$4.00 and includes eggs, bacon, sausage, pancakes, waffles and more!!

The Knights of Columbus are always looking for new members to help us meet our mission: to provide service to Church and Community. If you are interested in becoming a Knight please contact Bob LaPalomanto @ blueskybob15@yahoo.com

LIVING AS MISSIONARY DISCIPLES

Our Scripture passage for this Sunday comes from the Gospel of John 20:19-31. The Church provides this same reading for us each year on this Sunday and so we have ample opportunities to reflect on the many rich aspects of this passage. In this reading, we hear the well-known account of Thomas who doubts the reality of Jesus' resurrection.

Thomas may have been the one who was singled out for his unbelief. However, he ended up making the most profound profession of faith found in the entire Gospel of John when he exclaimed: "My Lord and my God." Sometimes the most unlikely people become heroic in their witness of faith as they move from a situation of unbelief to a situation of exemplary faith. Even great Saints like Augustine and others had to mature in their faith lives so as to become heroic examples of holiness. The example of Thomas teaches us that discipleship is a process and that no one should be excluded from the real possibility of becoming a heroic witness of faith. That insight provides both encouragement for individual disciples in their own faith lives as well as hope for the faith lives of others. Thomas remained with the community of disciples because they welcomed him and continued to manifest lives that were transformed by resurrection faith. Little did they know that one day Thomas would surpass them with his confession of faith!

Think about it: The story of Thomas reminds us that we are all one family of God and that the experience of faith is both personal and communal. How has my experience of Church helped me in my faith life and how has my personal faith life made me a better member of the Church?



Friday May 2, 2025

Doors open at 5:30 PM and Games begin at 7:00 PM

Church of the Incarnation

240 Main Street, Mantua, NJ

TICKET SALES

Includes 12 Bingo
Games/Dabber/Door
Prize Entry

\$40

No tickets will be
available at the door

Must be 18 or older

Additional Bingo cards
available!

Bring your own food/drink
*no alcohol

Courtesy bottled water
available
*while supplies last

**BEAUTIFUL
DESIGNER BAGS
BASKET RAFFLE**

50/50



Purchase your tickets online with the QR code

For questions or to pay by cash/check/Venmo please call Christine at 856-275-1024.

All proceeds benefit the ongoing charitable works of
The Catholic Daughters of the Americas - Court Blessed Katharine Drexel #2327
including Habitat for Humanity, Mothers Matter, St. Vincent dePaul Society

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

Health Needs Survey

The Health Ministry of Incarnation Church would like your input to help us provide information that will guide the development of programs and resources that will meet the needs of our parishioners. Please take a few minutes to fill out the survey. The completed survey can be dropped at the parish office or left in the collection box in the gathering space. Place a check next to topics for which you would be interested in attending a program or receiving resources that would be helpful. And please place this form in next weekend's bulletin.

Health Maintenance	Would attend a program	Would like resources
CPR and AED		
Nutrition/Healthy Eating		
Medication Management		
Heart Health		
Osteoporosis		
Exercise		
Emotional Health		
Depression		
Anxiety		
Stress Management		
Spiritual Support		
Living with Chronic Illness		
Support for Caregivers		
Grief		
Finding God in Your Life		
Healing Service		
Family Health		
Living with teenagers		
Caring for Aging Parents		
Parenting Your Toddler		
Living Will/Advance Directive		



- If you have other health concerns that you would like addressed, please write them here.
- _____
- If you would like a call back please print your name, your phone # or email address.
- _____
- If you have expertise in any of the above topics and you are interested in sharing that with our parishioners please leave your name and a phone number or email where we can reach you.





We pause to remember Pope Francis, who died on Easter Monday at the age of 88. As the leader of the Catholic Church, Pope Francis was a voice of peace, compassion and hope in our world.

Pope Francis was a great pastor who spoke from the heart and with tender affection, demonstrating compassion, care and respect for all, inspired by the ways and teachings of Christ. He reminded us that we are all children of God, deeply loved, and called to care for one another, especially those who are poor, sick or forgotten.

Pope Francis' papacy was marked by two main themes: mercy and evangelization. He famously remarked that the Church is first and foremost, a place to heal wounds. Pope Francis encouraged the Church to show the merciful face of Christ and he also emphasized the importance of our personal witness to the light of faith, drawing others to the life-giving joy of the Gospel. Although he is no longer with us, we can keep his memory alive by being kind to others, taking care of the world around us and choosing to love like Jesus.

-York Catholic District School

"Dear young people, my joyful hope is to see you keep running the race before you... The Church needs your momentum, your intuitions, your faith. We need them! And when you arrive at where we have not yet reached, have the patience to wait for us."

(Christus Vivit, 199) - Pope Francis

"A little bit of mercy makes the world less cold and more just." - Angelus, March 17, 2013

Pope Francis

"Everything is connected. Concern for the environment thus needs to be joined to a sincere love for our fellow human beings and an unwavering commitment to resolving the problems of society."

(Laudato Si', 91)

"What is God's love? It is not something vague, some generic feeling. God's love has a name and a face: Jesus Christ, Jesus. Love for God is made manifest in Jesus."

Angelus, August 11, 2013

Pope Francis

"Let us dream, then, as a single human family, as fellow travelers sharing the same flesh, as children of the same earth which is our common home, each of us bringing the richness of his or her beliefs and convictions, each of us with his or her own voice, brothers and sisters all." (Fratelli Tutti, 8)

Pope Francis



Discovering **hope** and **joy** in the Catholic faith.

May 2025

Church of the Incarnation, Mantua, NJ

Rev. Stephen J. Rapposelli, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

St. Augustine of Canterbury

St. Augustine was an Italian Benedictine monk who, with forty other monks, was sent to re-evangelize England. The Celtic population had already accepted Christ, but the incoming Anglo-Saxons hadn't. St. Augustine and his companions arrived at Ebbsfleet in 597, and were, thankfully, welcomed by King Ethelbert of Kent, who gave them permission to preach the Gospel. He also later converted. St. Augustine and his companions successfully converted southern England. He is called the "Apostle of England."

Happy Pentecost!

On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descended on the Blessed Mother and the Apostles in the Upper Room, in a display of divine glory. The Holy Spirit continues to guide the Church, just as He inspired the first Apostles to go preach to the ends of the earth. How might He be guiding you? (We celebrate Pentecost on June 8, this year.)

"Be the one"

"Be with Jesus. ... I always write that sentence, 'I looked for one to comfort Me, but I found no one.' Then I write, 'Be the one.' So now you be that one. Try to be the one to share with Him, to comfort Him, to console Him. So let us ask Our Lady to help us understand."

Mother Teresa

"Be not afraid"

What God wants most for each of us is to be happy with Him in Heaven. He uses the world to shape us and give us qualities that will help us get there untainted by sin. *"Indeed, like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand ..."* (Jeremiah 18:6). Sometimes that means allowing us to undergo trials that cleanse and strengthen us.

Don't judge a gift by its ugly wrapping paper. Some virtues can only be acquired through hardship. Avoiding discomfort will cause you to miss out on experiences God wants you to have. While they may be uncomfortable, God would remove them at once if they weren't good for your soul.

"Pray, hope and don't worry." This famous advice from St. Pio of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio) is both comforting and practical. Many of tomorrow's troubles exist only in our minds. Live your trust in God by refusing to think about what might

happen and instead deal with what is happening right now. Refuse to worry. *"Can any of you by worrying add a single moment to your life-span?"* (Matthew 6:27).

"Fear not, for I am with you, be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand" (Isaiah 41:10).

Accept aid. When overwhelmed, we may overlook the help God is already providing, mistakenly believing we must face challenges alone. This mindset can lead to pride — the temptation to act without God.

Instead, stay open to help from others, seek guidance in Scripture and Church teachings, and remain rooted in prayer and the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist. Once your storm passes, you'll be prepared to support others through theirs.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

In the well-known Marian apparitions approved by the Church — Guadalupe, Lourdes, Fatima, and Kibeho — the Blessed Virgin Mary's appearance seems to adapt to the local culture of those to whom she appears, while her central message remains consistent: a call to prayer, repentance and renewed devotion to the Faith.

For example, the miraculous image

Why do Catholics have different images of the Blessed Mother?

of Our Lady of Guadalupe features symbolic elements that the Aztec people would have understood, communicating the Gospel message in a way that resonated within their cultural context. This adaptation of Mary's appearance underscores her closeness to the communities she visits, reflecting the profound truth of her spiritual motherhood of all Christians.

The Ascension brings us closer to Jesus

The Ascension might have felt like a moment of separation to Jesus' disciples, but in reality, it brought them closer to Him in a deeper spiritual connection. Through His Ascension, Jesus became spiritually present everywhere, continually interceding on our behalf. He is always thinking of us, presenting our needs to the Father. When we pray, we are never alone—Jesus Himself is praying with us and for us.

Prayer “power-up.” Prayer doesn't have to feel good to be good prayer. It can be a real struggle to pray throughout the day, to stay focused on God, and not get distracted. That's when we can lean on Jesus' perfect prayer to the Father. We

can join our prayers to His, and know they are pleasing to God.

Offer it up. Whether it involves suffering, fulfilling a necessary duty, or performing an act of charity, when we unite these actions with Jesus' self-offering on the Cross, they gain profound spiritual significance and immeasurable value for souls — especially our own.

Mass intentions. During Holy Communion or right after Mass, take a moment to present your concerns, and your desires to God, dedicating them to the service and glory of His love. Remember, God is never outdone in generosity!

from Scripture

John 14:23-29, “I am with you always.”

This Gospel reading comes from Jesus' farewell discourse at the Last Supper. As He prepared to face His Passion, death, Resurrection, and Ascension, Jesus sought to strengthen His disciples, a close-knit group who had followed Him for three years. In this poignant moment, He reassured them of His continued presence, even after His departure. Before ascending to Heaven, Jesus promised, “I am with you always” (Matthew 28:20).

Jesus' message was clear: although His followers would no longer see Him physically, He would remain invisibly but powerfully present. If they kept His word, both He and the Father would

dwelt within them through grace. Furthermore, He promised to send the Holy Spirit as a guide and comforter, granting them the gift of His peace and the assurance of His return.

It is natural to feel that being faithful would be easier if we could see and hear Jesus directly. Yet, He remains present in His Church—in her worship, prayer, sacraments, and acts of charity.

Above all, Jesus is profoundly present in the Eucharist, where His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity are truly present (CCC, #1374). We do not need to look back in time; we encounter Jesus at every Mass.

Q & A How can I make a consecration to Mary?

The Marian Consecration, or *Total Consecration to Mary*, is a devotion dating back to the 1700s, introduced by St. Louis de Montfort. It involves entrusting one's life to Jesus through the Blessed Mother. This practice has been highly praised by many saints and popes, including Pope St. John Paul II.

Marian consecration does not involve worshipping Mary or treating her as divine. Instead, it acknowledges that Mary, as Christ's mother, always leads us to her Son. Mary serves as a bridge, guiding us closer to Jesus by the safest and most direct route.

On the Cross, Jesus gave His mother to humanity, saying, “Behold your mother” (John 19:26-27). St. John Paul II saw this as an invitation to deeper intimacy with Christ by drawing closer to the one closest to Him on earth.

Many who practice the consecration experience a deeper, more transformative prayer life, drawing closer to both Mary and Jesus. (Note: Catholic websites like EWTN and the National Shrine of St. Louis de Montfort provide free downloadable versions and instructions.)

Feasts & Celebrations

May 3 – Sts. Philip and James (First Century). St. Philip was born in Bethsaida and followed John the Baptist before he followed Christ. After the Ascension, St. Philip preached in Asia Minor, where he was martyred. St. James, the son of Alphaeus, was also one of the twelve Apostles.

May 12 – Sais Nereus and Achilleus (d.c.100). Little is known about the early lives of Saints Nereus and Achilleus. They were Roman soldiers of the Praetorian Guard but converted to Christianity. They resigned the army, refusing to serve the Emperor. They

were exiled from Rome to the island of Terracina and were beheaded.

May 29 – Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord (1st Century). Today 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 29 – Pope St. Paul VI (1978). Born in 1897, near Brescia, Italy, Giovanni Battista Montini spent most of his priesthood working for the Vatican. He was elected pope in 1963 and concluded the Second Vatican Council, went on many apostolic missions, and wrote several significant encyclicals. He died in 1978.

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