



# Our Lady of the Alleghenies

Lilly, PA

## NEWSLETTER

May 2026

Volume 20

Number 5

### Do You Have a Vocation?

#### Quotes from an article called “Do You Have a Vocation?” by Russell Shaw published on 4/1/2005

... “[T]here is no shortage of vocations in the Catholic Church—in the United States or any place else. What we’re seeing is a shortage of vocational discernment. Not enough people ask themselves what God wants them to do with their lives. Discernment—not recruitment—should be central to vocations efforts today. And personal vocation should be at the heart of it.

In religious talk, the word *vocation* refers to three different things:

**First** is the common Christian vocation, which comes with baptism and is shared by all members of the Church. It consists in the commitment of faith and what follows from it: loving and serving God above all else, loving and serving neighbor as oneself, and collaborating in continuing the redemptive work of Christ, which is the mission of the Church.

The **second** meaning is state in life. A “state” puts some flesh on the bones of the common Christian vocation. It’s a broad, overarching commitment to a particular Christian lifestyle. As such, a state in life sets someone choosing it on a path that will shape his character through the countless choices and actions required to follow it to the end. The clerical life, the consecrated life, the state of marriage, and the single lay state in the world are states in life.

**Third** is personal vocation. It’s the unique combination of commitments, relationships, obligations, opportunities, strengths, and weaknesses—understood as representing God’s will—in and through which the common Christian vocation and a state in life are expressed by someone (priest, religious, layperson) trying to know and live the life God has in mind for him. It is the singular, unrepeatable role in his redemptive plan that God intends for each of us.

“Every life is a vocation,” Pope John Paul II says. And so it is—a *unique, personal vocation*. ...

Vocational discernment is not the same thing as planning one’s life. Planning is good and necessary, but it should be done within the framework of the vocation one has discerned, not in place of discernment.

Typically, people who *plan* but don’t *discern* organize their lives in light of goals that promise personal satisfaction. This may even be the satisfaction that comes from generous, altruistic deeds. But even where that’s so, the difference between discerning and planning stands. The central issue for people who plan is: “What will make *me* happy? How can I get the most satisfaction for *myself*?” For those who discern, the fundamental question is: “What does *God* want from me?” ...

-See Vocations on page 2

# May 2026



| Sunday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Monday                                                                                               | Tuesday                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Wednesday                                                                             | Thursday                                                                                                                                                                             | Friday                                                                                                                                                                                         | Saturday                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <div>Solemnity of the Ascension: May 14</div> <div>  <p>The Ascension of Our Lord, which occurred 40 days after Jesus Christ rose from the dead on Easter, is the final act of our redemption that Christ began on Good Friday. On this day, the risen Christ, in the sight of His apostles, ascended bodily into Heaven (Luke 24:51; Mark 16:19; Acts 1:9-11).</p> <p>- The Collection Basket, May 2015</p> </div> |                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                      | <div>1</div> <div>  <p><b>Confirmation Mass</b><br/>7:00 pm<br/>at Holy Family Parish in Portage</p> </div> | <div>2</div> <div>  <p>Confessions<br/>3:15 – 3:45</p> </div>                            |
| <div>3</div> <div> <p><b>May Crowning CCD Mass</b><br/>10:00am</p> </div>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <div>4</div> <div> <p><b>CCD Teachers Meeting</b><br/>6:00pm<br/>HALL</p> </div>                     | <div>5</div>                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <div>6</div>                                                                          | <div>7</div>                                                                                                                                                                         | <div>8</div>                                                                                                                                                                                   | <div>9</div> <div> <p><b>Mass 8:00</b></p>  <p>Confessions<br/>3:15 – 3:45</p> </div>    |
| <div>10</div> <div> <p><b>Mother's Day</b></p>  </div>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <div>11</div> <div> <p>Fr. Matthew's 24<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Priesthood Ordination</p> </div> | <div>12</div> <div>  <p><b>St. Vincent de Paul Society</b><br/>(2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday)<br/>2:00 PM<br/>Church Hall</p> </div> | <div>13</div> <div> <p><b>ASCENSION OF THE LORD Vigil Mass</b><br/>6:00 pm</p> </div> | <div>14</div> <div>  <p><b>ASCENSION OF THE LORD Day Masses</b><br/>8:00 am<br/>6:00 pm</p> </div> | <div>15</div>                                                                                                                                                                                  | <div>16</div> <div> <p><b>Mass 8:00</b></p>  <p>Confessions<br/>3:15 – 3:45</p> </div> |

## Vocations

(From page 1)

We find our personal vocations, and we accept or reject them, live them out or fail, in “the circumstances of each day of our lives, of every moment of every day.” Not so coincidentally, finding God’s will for oneself, accepting it, and living it out are what it means to be a saint.





# May 2026

| Sunday                                                                                | Monday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Tuesday                          | Wednesday                                                                                                                                                                                     | Thursday | Friday | Saturday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 17                                                                                    | 18<br>Dcn. Sam's<br>13 <sup>th</sup><br>Anniversary<br>of Deacon<br>Ordination                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 19<br><br>Election<br>Day - Hall | 20                                                                                                                                                                                            | 21       | 22     | 23<br><br><i><b>Founding of<br/>this Parish<br/>31<sup>st</sup><br/>Anniversary</b></i><br><b>Mass 8:00</b><br><br>Confessions<br>3:15 – 3:45<br><br><i><b>Pastor<br/>Appreciation<br/>Dinner<br/>at 5:30pm</b></i> |
| 24                                                                                    | 25<br><br><b>Memorial<br/>Day</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 26                               | 27<br><br><b>Knights<br/>of<br/>Columbus</b><br>(4th Wednesday<br>of month)<br><b>6:00 pm</b><br>Church Hall | 28       | 29     | 30<br><br><b>Mass 8:00</b><br><br>Confessions<br>3:15 – 3:45                                                                                                                                                        |
| 31<br><i><b>Founding of<br/>this Diocese<br/>125<sup>th</sup><br/>Anniversary</b></i> | <div>  <div> <p><i>Remember those who served before.</i></p> <p><i>Remember those who are no more.</i></p> <p><i>Remember those who serve today.</i></p> <p><i>Remember them all on Memorial Day.</i></p> </div> <div> <p>Emily Toma</p> <p>- 2024-2 Exchange<br/>Trinity Methodist Church, Portage, PA</p> </div> </div> |                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                               |          |        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |





# May Celebrations

|    |                    |    |                  |    |                     |
|----|--------------------|----|------------------|----|---------------------|
| 2  | Jeremy Eckenrode   | 11 | Daniel Sibis     | 19 | Aiden Braatz        |
|    | Alysia Krug        | 12 | Vincent Heiss    | 20 | James Leahey        |
|    | Meagan Leahey      |    | Allison Kirsch   |    | Jennifer Schilling  |
|    | Gannon Matcho      |    | Darlene Krisko   | 21 | Dennis Leja         |
|    | Lauren Michina     | 13 | Callen Gides     |    | Madilynn Steberger  |
| 3  | Robert Lee         |    | Richard Giraud   | 22 | Alexis Eckenrode    |
| 6  | Karter Barlick     |    | Joan Kinback     | 23 | Mason Eckenrode     |
|    | Darren Petrunak    |    | Gloria Kuntz     |    | Ryan Giraud         |
|    | Donna Shedlock     |    | Dorothy McCool   |    | Edward Grove        |
| 7  | Raymond Martynuska |    | Susan Wilson     | 24 | Angela Osman-Strait |
|    | Catherine Yagoda   | 14 | Mary Lou Custer  | 25 | Walter Kutya        |
| 8  | James Davis        |    | Gerald Duke      | 26 | Lori Krug           |
|    | Rosemary Kertes    |    | Richard James    |    | Nancy Rowe          |
|    | Sharon Martynuska  |    | Michael Sawinski | 27 | Jeanne Krug         |
|    | Joseph Panek       | 15 | Parker Pyo       | 28 | Linda Cropsey       |
| 9  | John Latoche, Sr.  | 16 | Donald Courvina  |    | Zachary Dotts       |
| 10 | Lawrence Behe      |    | Ronald Cropsey   |    | Dominic Ricupero    |
|    | Lillian Duke       | 17 | Tara Fabbri      | 29 | Gianna Matcho       |
|    | Margo Kiel         |    | Rowan Farabaugh  | 30 | Shannon Kost        |
|    | Lucas McIntosh     |    | Evelyn Hutsky    |    | Matthew Pyo         |
|    | Joanne Regan       | 18 | Greta Rabatin    | 31 | Rodney McCarthy     |
|    |                    | 19 | Jason Bender     |    | Adyn Tremel         |

***Please call Fr. Matthew, the Pastor, if there are any necessary corrections.***

# Special Birthday Celebrations



The following members of the parish family will be celebrating special birthdays this month.

|                    |    |
|--------------------|----|
| James Davis        | 88 |
| John Latoche, Sr.  | 88 |
| Evelyn Hutsky      | 87 |
| Gerald Duke        | 84 |
| Raymond Martynuska | 83 |

|               |    |
|---------------|----|
| Walter Kutyba | 83 |
| Lillian Duke  | 82 |
| John Kinback  | 81 |
| Susan Wilson  | 80 |



## May Wedding Anniversaries

|    |                                                      |
|----|------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | Daniel and Phyllis Siedlarczyk                       |
| 2  | John and Angela Stiffler                             |
| 4  | Keith and Eleanor Kearney<br>Mike and Betty Phillips |
| 6  | David and Theresa Dunmyer<br>James and Heather Gides |
| 7  | Ken and Wendy Leap                                   |
| 12 | Michael and Jolene Sawinski                          |

|    |                                                                    |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 20 | Emil Campagna and Cecelia Nadolsky<br>Michael and Dawn Summerville |
| 21 | Jason and Nickole Bender<br>Edward and Beverly Wilk                |
| 22 | Kevin and Stephanie Eckenrode<br>Michael and Ashley Eckenrode      |
|    | John and Cynthia Giblock                                           |
| 25 | Andrew and Joanne Regan                                            |
| 29 | William Sr. and Joan Walters                                       |



## Anniversary Milestones

Congratulations to the following couples celebrating golden anniversaries and beyond this month.

|                                |    |
|--------------------------------|----|
| Mike and Betty Phillips        | 58 |
| Daniel and Phyllis Siedlarczyk | 55 |

|                              |    |
|------------------------------|----|
| John and Cynthia Giblock     | 50 |
| William Sr. and Joan Walters | 50 |

***Please call Fr. Matthew, the Pastor, if there are any necessary corrections.***



1. Call to order at 6:00 pm
  - a. **Attended:** John Hurley, Barbara Bart, Alexis Eckenrode, Amber Hoover, Matthew Hoover, George Nesbella, Michael Summerville
  - b. **Excused:** Deacon Sam, Jim Secriskey, Colleen Keagy
2. Opening Prayer: Fr. Matthew
  - a. Please keep Jim Secriskey in your prayers as he was called up for active Military Duty and will be deployed until February 2027.
3. Reading of minutes of last Parish Council meeting (January 12, 2026). Motion was made to approve, was seconded, and passed unanimously.
4. Finance Council Report
  - a. Current balance as of April 13, 2026

|                                     |               |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| i. Cash in bank, general            | \$261,655.61  |
| ii. Cash in bank, maintenance #6222 | 2,624.14      |
| iii. Cash in bank, small games      | 1,500.36      |
| iv. Cash in bank, mass stipend.     | 2,880.00      |
| v. Current Net Income               | + \$64,634.99 |
  - b. Proceeding with parking lot work (estimated to May) Total cost \$17,070.00
    - i. Knopp & Klatt - leveling & straightening & new addition - cost of \$9770.00
    - ii. T.I. General Labor - Sealing after Knopp & Klatt's work cost of \$7300.00
5. Old Business
6. New Business
  - a. Deacon Sam will continue active Diaconal ministry beyond Canonical age of retirement in this parish. Happy 75th Birthday, today!
  - b. Charlene's School of Dance will hold a basket raffle here on May 16, 2026
    - i. All proceeds go to and benefit Charlene's School of Dance
    - ii. This is not a parish event. It is simply a hall rental. Contact person: Autumn Custer
  - c. Need three people (not Fr..or Deacon) to volunteer to go to Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown 125th Mass and Reception on Sunday, May 31, 2026
    - i. Mass at 2:00 pm in Altoona's Cathedral
    - ii. Reception at 4:00 pm in Bishop Guilfoyle Academy (limited to three only)
7. Reports from Committees
  - a. Cemetery Committee - Ed Myers (Chair) or his representative
    - i. Reviewed prices for grave openings etc.
    - ii. Planning work on water drainage issue at Mt. Carmel Cemetery when weather lifts

- b. Vocation Committee - Joan Walters and/or Renee Behe (as representatives) - no report
- c. Safety Committee
  - i. Brief preliminary meeting after this meeting tonight
    - 1. Grant was not received but Bubba offers to continue working on helping us find some funds
- d. Festival 2026 Heads of Booths Committee -Fr. Matthew
  - i. Next meeting will be held in June 2026
  - ii. Basket Raffle - Baskets will be due by July 15, 2026
- 8. Non-Committee Reports
  - a. Craft Fair - Profit \$1306.50
  - b. Youth Ministry - Joy Eckenrode (Head)
    - i. Planning a Swim party for the youth in July 2026
  - c. Youth Religious Education & Sacramental prep - Fr. Matthew (DRE); and/or Joy Eckenrode (Assistant DRE)
    - i. CCD May Crowning Mass at 10:00 am, Sunday May 3, 2026
    - ii. Only those who will teach CCD in 2026/2027 will meet on Monday, May 4, 2026, at 6 pm
    - iii. At the end of the CCD program, attendance awards will be presented
  - d. Adult Education - Colleen Keagy (Chair) - no report
  - e. Maintenance issues
    - i. The carpeting on the ramp will be needing replaced
    - ii. Additional handicapped spaces will be added following the parking lot work
    - iii. Additional drainage work will need done on the outside wall of the church
- 9. Comments from Fr. Matthew
  - a. 2027 Easter Vigil will be moved back to Saturday night due to the early date of Easter (March 28, 2027) and the concern of possible snow removal conditions
  - b. Ascension Thursday, May 14th - Holyday of Obligation
    - i. Masses are May 13th (vigil) 6 pm; May 14th 8 am and 6 pm
  - c. May 23rd will be the 31st Anniversary of the Founding of this Parish
  - d. Pastor Appreciation Dinner will be after the 4 pm mass on Saturday, May 23, 2026 (Pentecost)
  - e. Election for 2026/2027 Parish Council members will be on May 23/24, 2026 (Pentecost)
    - i. Will need to elect 3 people in the 18-35 grouping
    - ii. Two people aged up in age grouping during their tenure. This will be corrected in the 2027 election.

- iii. Bill Mulhearn will be asked to be a temporary appointee on Parish Council during the military leave of absence for Jim Secriskey

10. Closing Prayer

11. Adjournment 6:45pm (Next Parish Council meeting: June 1, 2026, at 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm)

*Respectfully submitted by Barbara Bart, Parish Council Secretary*

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## Legion of Mary

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ANYONE INTERESTED IN BEGINNING a Legion of Mary group at this parish is asked to sign a paper on the table in front of the organ or tell Fr. Matthew directly. Cresson's Legion has expressed interest in expanding the Legion into this parish community.

### **What is the Legion of Mary?**

The Legion of Mary is the largest apostolic organization of lay people in the Catholic Church, with well over 3 Amillion active members in almost every country of the world. It has been active in the United States since 1931, has been approved by (multiple) Popes, and was endorsed by the Second Vatican Council. The main purpose of the Legion of Mary is to give glory to God through the sanctification of its members.

### **What does the Legion of Mary do?**

Members become instruments of the Holy Spirit through a balanced program of prayer and service. Works include door-to-door evangelization, parishioner visitation, prison ministry, visitation of the sick or aged, crowd contact, religious education, visiting the newly baptized, Pilgrim Virgin Statue rotations, and meeting the other spiritual needs of the parish community. Legionaries are under the guidance of a spiritual director

named by the pastor. The Legion is, in essence, an extension of the heart and hands of the pastor.

### **How does the Legion of Mary work?**

Members meet once a week for prayer, planning and discussion in a family setting. Then they do two hours of definite work each week in pairs and under the guidance of their spiritual director.

### **Who can belong to the Legion of Mary?**

The Legion of Mary is open to all Catholics (& Orthodox) who:

- Faithfully practice their religion.
- Are animated by the desire to participate in the Church's apostolate through membership in the Legion.
- Are prepared to fulfill each and every duty which active membership in the Legion involves.

-<https://www.oloj.org/legionofmary>

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# Meaning of Holy Thursday – Mass of the Lord’s Supper

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## Five Essential Facts Every Catholic Should Know

1. Also called Maundy Thursday.  
Maundy Also means commandment. On Holy Thursday, Jesus commanded us to love one another, saying: “Love one another, just as I have loved you, you should also love one another.” (John 13:34)
2. Jesus washed his disciples’ feet. “If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another’s feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do.” (John 13: 14-15)
3. Jesus instituted the Eucharist and the priesthood. Jesus commanded his apostles to “do this in memory” and to celebrate the Eucharist until his return. The institution of the Eucharist is mentioned in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. It is also shared in Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians. (Mt. 26:17-29; Mk. 14:12-25; Lk. 22:7-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-26)
4. Holy Thursday is the beginning of the Paschal Triduum. This day is followed by Good Friday and Holy Saturday. Each of these days is significant as we prepare for Easter Sunday!
5. Following Mass, we adore the Blessed Sacrament at the Altar of Repose. The faithful are invited to join in adoration, and there is no traditional dismissal from Holy Thursday Mass.

EWTN <https://ewtn.co.uk/chpop-the-meaning-of-holy-thursday-5-essential-facts-every-catholic-should-know-2>

Washing of Feet



*Transfer of the Blessed Sacrament*



*Altar  
of Repose*

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## Easter Vigil 5:00am Mass April 5, 2026

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*Lighting & blessing of the pascal fire*

### **The Vigil Includes:**

- \*Blessing of the fire and Paschal Candle (symbol of the risen Christ)
- \*Liturgy of the Word: multiple readings recounting salvation history
- \*Baptism and Confirmation of catechumens and/or candidates
- \*Eucharist: the celebration of Christ's resurrection

The Vigil makes present the transition from death to life, from the tomb to the resurrection.

<https://www.catholic365.com/article/48884/the-importance-of-holy-saturday.html>



*Presentation of the Pascal Candle*

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## Sacraments for our 2026 OCIA candidate

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Welcome into the Roman Catholic Church  
through the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)

### **Shana Hoover**

This candidate completed the program of studies through the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) and received the sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation.



*At the Easter Vigil Mass when Fr. Matthew lays hands on Shana Hoover preparing to confer upon her the Sacrament of Confirmation*

*At the Easter Vigil Mass when Fr. Matthew confers on Shana Hoover her First Holy Communion in the Roman Catholic Church at the Altar.*



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## Welcome into the Roman Catholic Church

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April 5, 2026

5:00am Easter  
Vigil Mass

Shana Hoover  
became a Roman  
Catholic.

Top Row Left to Right: Fr. Matthew {Pastor}; Shana Hoover;  
Nathan Hoover {Husband}; Dcn. Sam  
Front Row Left to Right: Ava Hoover and Lilah Hoover {Children}



Shana is pictured here with Fr. Matthew and her  
OLOA parishioner family members

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## Altar Server Recognition

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Fr. Matthew is grateful for the dedication and professionalism of the young people of our parish who serve at the altar for Masses and Liturgies throughout the Year. Their participation is also reflected in their parent's dedication to bring them to the Church for any practices and for the actual days of ministry. Thank you to all of you dedicated FAMILIES who help keep this parish active!

Fr. Matthew recognizes our 3 new Altar Servers and our 2 Graduating Altar Servers and thanks Doug Custer for training them for him:

**2026 New Servers:** Alauna Gides, Lilah Hoover, Andrew Lee Jr.

**2026 Graduating Senior Servers:** Jacob Bossler, Ryan Giraud



Thank  
you

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## First Holy Communion

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April 26, 2026

Pictured Left to Right:



*Fr. Matthew Reese (Pastor & DRE);  
Kobyn Erzal; Bristol Buck; Ava  
Hoover; Olivia George (Classmate  
& Reader for the Mass); Connor  
Daugherty; Mrs. Joy Eckenrode  
(Assistant DRE & First Holy  
Communion Instructor)*



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## Easter Decorators

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Thank you to  
those who  
volunteered to  
help decorate  
for our Easter  
Season.

