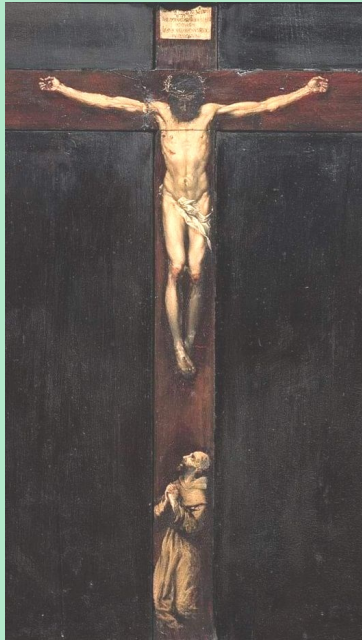


MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER

CHURCH OF THE HOLY GHOST



WHAT FAITH IS NOT:

Understanding the Misconceptions
Faith is a core tenet of Christianity, but it is often misunderstood or confused with other concepts.

Here's a look at some things that faith is **not**—clarifying these misunderstandings helps deepen our understanding of true Christian faith.

1. FAITH IS NOT A FEELING

Faith is often misconstrued as an emotional experience or a "feeling of belief." While emotions can accompany faith, they are not its foundation. Feelings fluctuate, but faith remains steadfast despite emotional

highs and lows.

Faith is a decision to trust in God's promises, even when emotions may waver.

Example:

In times of sorrow or despair, a person might feel distant from God, yet their faith is not diminished by their emotional state.

In fact, many saints, including St. John of the Cross with his **Dark Night of the Soul**, experienced long periods of emotional dryness while their faith in God's goodness remained unwavering.

2. FAITH IS NOT BLIND TRUST

Some see faith as "believing without evidence" or "blindly trusting" in something with no logical foundation.

True Christian faith, however, is **reasoned trust** in God, built upon evidence, personal experience, and the witness of Scripture and tradition.

The Church teaches that faith and reason work together to deepen our understanding of God.

Example:

St. Thomas Aquinas emphasized the role of reason in faith, famously arguing for the existence of God using philosophical reasoning.

Faith does not require us to check our intellect at the door—it encourages us to seek understanding ("*fides quaerens intellectum*," or "faith seeking understanding").

3. FAITH IS NOT MERELY INTELLECTUAL ASSENT

Faith is more than just believing **in** something; it involves trusting **in** someone—God.

Intellectual assent means agreeing that something is true, but faith involves a deeper commitment of the heart, mind, and will to live out that truth.

Example:

The Pharisees in the Gospels knew the Scriptures well and intellectually assented to many religious truths.

However, Jesus criticized them for lacking true faith, as they did not act with love or trust in God's mercy.

Faith involves both knowing and living according to God's will.

4. FAITH IS NOT A BARGAIN WITH GOD

Some people treat faith as a transactional relationship: "If I believe, then God will give me what I want."

This is not faith but an attempt to manipulate God. Faith trusts in God's wisdom and goodness, even when His plans don't align with our desires.

It requires surrendering our will to His, not using Him as a means to an end.

Example:

In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus prayed for the cup of suffering to be taken from Him, but His faith in the Father's will led Him to say, "Yet not my will, but yours be done" (Luke 22:42).

True faith involves trust, not bargaining.

5. FAITH IS NOT AN ESCAPE FROM REALITY

Faith is sometimes viewed as a crutch for those who cannot face the harsh realities of life.

In truth, faith equips us to confront reality with hope and courage.

It doesn't deny suffering or difficulties but acknowledges them while placing trust in God's providence.

Example:

The martyrs of the early Church did not retreat from the painful reality of persecution; they faced it head-on, strengthened by their faith in Christ.

Their faith did not blind them to the hardships of life but empowered them to endure them for the sake of God's kingdom.

6. FAITH IS NOT OPPOSED TO WORKS

The misconception that "faith alone" is sufficient for salvation overlooks the Catholic understanding that faith must be lived out through works.

True faith inspires action; it is not passive. As the Apostle James says, "Faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead" (James 2:17).

Example:

Mother Teresa's deep faith in Christ drove her to a life of service to the poor and marginalized.

Her faith was not simply a belief in God, but an active, lived-out expression of love in action. True faith compels us to serve others.

7. FAITH IS NOT INSTANT CERTAINTY

Faith doesn't always provide immediate clarity or answers to all of life's mysteries.

It is a journey that grows over time, often requiring patience and perseverance through doubt and uncertainty.

Faith seeks understanding but acknowledges that complete knowledge of God's plan may not be fully revealed in this life.

Example:

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Abraham, known as the "father of faith," trusted God's promises even when the fulfillment of those promises seemed delayed or unclear. He continued to walk in faith despite not having all the answers, showing that faith is about trusting God's timing and wisdom.

8. FAITH IS NOT FEAR

Sometimes, faith is confused with believing out of fear of punishment or divine retribution. True Christian faith, however, is rooted in love, not fear. Faith blossoms in a relationship of trust with God, knowing that He loves us and desires our good.

Example:

St. Paul writes in Romans 8:15, "For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons."

Faith draws us into the love of God, not into a life lived in fear of Him.

9. FAITH IS NOT A ONE-TIME EVENT

Some view faith as a single, life-changing moment, but Catholic teaching emphasizes that faith is a lifelong process.

It involves ongoing conversion, deepening trust, and a continuous effort to grow in relationship with God. It's not just about believing once but persevering in faith throughout life.

Example:

The Apostles, after their initial call by Jesus, spent years growing in faith.

Even after witnessing the Resurrection, their faith continued to deepen as they spread the Gospel. Faith is a journey, not a moment.

10. FAITH IS NOT SELF-RELIANCE

Faith is not about believing in ourselves or our own abilities. It is about recognizing our dependence on God. Faith humbles us to admit that we cannot achieve salvation or live a fully Christian life by our own power; we need God's grace.

Example:

In John 15:5, Jesus says, "I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing." Faith is about placing our trust and reliance on God, not on our own efforts.

CONCLUSION:

Faith Rooted in Trust and Relationship

Faith is not just intellectual assent, blind trust, or a feeling—it is a deep, ongoing relationship with God built on trust, love, and a commitment to live according to His will.

Recognizing what faith is *not* helps clarify its true nature, drawing us closer to God in confidence and hope.



Marian Feasts

Question:

Why does Mary have so many feast days and names?

Answer:

Christians first began celebrating feast days in

honor of Mary, the Mother of Jesus, in the fifth century. That celebration (originally called the Feast of the Dormition and now known by Roman Catholics as the Solemnity of the Assumption) was celebrated on August 15. Very soon, however, other special days dedicated to Mary began to appear in Jerusalem, Rome, and other major cities of the Christian world. These days of feasting became important parts of the life of the community. But, more importantly, each of these unique celebrations became an opportunity to focus on a different facet of the Christian faith, as believers focused their attention on specific events or mysteries of the lives of Mary and her Son.

Over the centuries, some of these celebrations became universal (such as the Assumption on August 15, the Immaculate Conception on December 8, and the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God on January 1). Other celebrations were more closely tied to certain religious orders (such as the Carmelites celebration of "Our Lady of Mount Carmel" on July 16 or the Servite Friars feast of the "Seven Sorrows of Mary," which is now celebrated as the Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows on September 15).

In more recent times, Marian apparitions (like Guadalupe, Lourdes, and Fatima) have inspired special liturgical celebrations. Pope Francis has added two new celebrations of Mary to the Church's calendar: The Memorial of Mary, Mother of the Church (on the Monday after Pentecost) and the Commemoration of Our Lady of Loreto (on December 10). The various titles of Mary (like those we find in the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary) help us to reflect on different aspects of Mary's faith and the ways that the Holy Spirit is at work in her and through her, especially as the Mother of Jesus.

In the end, whatever the event or mystery being celebrated in a particular liturgy or the title of Mary being used, we are invited to always see Mary in connection with the saving work of her Son. She is, of course, a patroness and protector for every Christian, but she is also a model of discipleship and contemplation: "Having entered deeply into the history of salvation, Mary, in a way, unites in her person and re-echoes the most important doctrines of the faith: and when she is the subject of preaching and worship she prompts the faithful to come to her Son, to his sacrifice and to the love of the Father" (*Lumen Gentium*, 65).

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ROSARY ACROSS THE DIOCESE

A free Zoom webinar presented by
the Catholic Schools Office.

**Thursday,
May 7 at 6:30 p.m.**

Join Associate Superintendent
Dr. Nikki Kanzia and Diocesan
Principals as we pray for our
schools, students, and families.

Register Today!



The Beyond the Books parenting
workshop series accompanies
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Diocese of Joliet Catholic Schools



**Gina Reckard has been elected the
2026 Woman of the Year by the Holy
Ghost Council of Catholic Women.**

Gina will be honored at a Mass at the
Cathedral of St. Raymond in Joliet on
Saturday, April 25, 2026 along with her
counterparts from throughout the six
deaneries of the diocese.

Gina exemplifies the qualities of a good
Catholic woman. She lives her faith and shares it with
others. She has devoted countless volunteer hours to
the Holy Ghost Parish community.

Gina has served as Co-President of the Council of Catholic
Women for two years, and in that time she has
demonstrated extraordinary leadership, deep compassion,
and a steadfast commitment to the mission of our parish.

As a retired nurse, Gina has used her professional gifts in
service to our community by establishing quarterly blood
pressure screenings for parishioners. She has also
organized and implemented our Parish Blood Drives,
ensuring that this vital act of charity continues to thrive.
Her care extends beyond our parish walls as well. Gina has
served as a liaison and mentor to a mother supported
through the Caring Network program, offering guidance,
encouragement, and a compassionate presence.

Gina's spirit of service is evident in every corner of parish
life. She has assisted residents at the Radcliff Assisted
Living Facility, helping them attend Mass with dignity and
ease. She has participated in mission trips to Haiti, serving
in the Dental Clinic and later sharing her experiences with
our parish through an educational and inspiring
presentation. She helps provide safe drinking water in
developing nations through the Water Women Program
which provides water filters for those communities. Gina
even brought her talents into our parish gym, leading a
pasta making class with her nephew-an event that was
both delightful and wonderfully received.

As Co-President of our CCW, Gina has been instrumental in
strengthening our community. She played a key role in
planning our Advent Tea, including coordinating with our
guest speaker, Fr. Tony Pizzo, and ensuring the event's
success. She helped organize Council Weekend to boost
membership and better meet the needs of the women of
our parish. Gina also represented Holy Ghost at the
National Council of Catholic Women Convention in Orlando
in August 2025, where she engaged fully with the mission
and vision of the NCCW. Her technological skills have been
invaluable as well, helping modernize our Council's
operations and contributing to revisions of our By-Laws.

Gina Reckard is a woman of faith, dedication, and joyful
service. Her leadership has strengthened our Council, her
compassion has touched countless lives, and her example
inspires all who know her.

**The Council of Catholic Women is honored to name
Gina Reckard as our 2026 Woman of the Year!**

Holy Ghost Council of Catholic Women

**The Holy Ghost CCW will hold
their 65th Anniversary
Celebration Mass**

**on May 17th at the
10:30 AM Mass**

**Installation of Officers for 2026-2028
will take place after Mass.**

**Immediately following the Installation
we will have lunch, catered by Fran
Hargadon, in the Koinonia Room.**

**Tickets are \$30 and will be on sale at the
Welcome Center following masses on the
weekends of April 25, May 2, and May 9.**

Please join us.

Council of
Catholic Women



Our Lady of Good Counsel

FAITH FORMATION

May is the month dedicated to our Blessed Mother Mary. Pope Paul VI wrote an encyclical on the month of May, focusing on the Virgin Mary. He wrote that the piety of the faithful has long dedicated the month of May to the Mother of God. He stated in his encyclical, *Mense Maio*: "We are delighted and consoled by this pious custom associated with the month of May, which pays honor to the blessed Virgin and brings such rich benefits to the Christian people. Since Mary is rightly to be regarded as the way by which we are led to Christ, the person who encounters Mary cannot help but encounter Christ likewise."

Pope Benedict XVI described Mary's maternal presence among the disciples after Jesus' Resurrection. He stated, "In the days that followed the Lord's resurrection, the Apostles stayed together, comforted by Mary's presence, and after the ascension, they persevered with her in prayerful expectation of Pentecost. Our Lady was a mother and teacher to them, a role that she continues to play for Christians of all times."

Pope Francis spoke about Mary in a homily for a Holy Mass for the Solemnity of Mary and here are a few excerpts, "Mary is not only the bridge joining us to God; she is much more. She is the road God traveled in order to reach us, and the road that we must travel in order to reach Him. We are in this world not to die but to give life. Mary is an example for us, keeping all these things in our heart. From her we can learn how important it is to keep our hearts pure, to cultivate our interior life and our prayer. When we do, we will be able to truly care for, to cherish others, the world, and creation." Pope Francis said we need "to find." "We need grace to find Jesus; and once we have found Him, we must not lose sight of Him. Let us ask for the grace to find time for those who need someone to listen and show concern for them. If we can find time to give, we will be amazed and filled with joy." His homily concluded with this prayer: "May Our Lady, who brought God into the world of time, help us to be generous with our time."

One-way Holy Ghost Parish honors Mary is by crowning her at the 10:30 a.m. Mass on May 3. We all need to be creative and find ways to honor her. We can honor her by praying the rosary and/or saying special prayers. Pray the rosary together as a family and come to Holy Ghost on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. to pray the rosary as a community of faithful believers. The rosary is also prayed together after the morning 8:30 a.m. Mass.



Eduardo Martinez, Fiona Marie O'Neill and Izolda Smith received the Sacraments of Initiation- Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil and we celebrate their reception into the full Communion of the Catholic Church. Please continue to pray for them.

First Communion was celebrated at Holy Ghost Parish on April 25 when thirty (30) children received the true body and blood of Christ for the first time! Holy Ghost Parish has nineteen (19) teens and five (5) adults being Confirmed on April 30.

"The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord." (Isaiah 11:2-3) Let us all rejoice in the Lord.

Nancy Siemers
Director of Faith Formation

HOLY GHOST CALENDAR

First Friday Mass –May 1 at 8:30am
 Spring Flower Pick up –May 2 & 3 after all masses
 May Crowning –May 3 at 10:30am mass
 Parent Baptism Meeting –May 5 at 7:00pm
 Choir Practice –May 6 at 7:00pm
 Core Board Meeting –May 7 at 6:45pm
 Rosary in Church –May 7 at 7:00pm
 Knights of Columbus Baby Bottle Return –May 9 & 10
 KofC Rosary in Church –May 10 at 11:30am
 Choir Practice –May 13 at 7:00pm
 Rosary in Church –May 14 at 7:00pm

Baptisms –May 16 at 1:00pm
 Knights of Columbus Baby Bottle Return –May 16 & 17
 CCW 65th Anniversary Mass –May 17 at 10:30am mass
 CCW Anniversary Lunch –May 17 at 11:30am
 Choir Practice –May 20 at 7:00pm
 Knights of Columbus Meeting –May 20 at 7:00pm
 Girl Scouts ceremony –May 21 at 5:00pm
 Rosary in Church –May 21 at 7:00pm
 Fr. Sam's 5 year ordination anniversary –May 22
 CCW board meeting –May 26 at 7:00pm
 Rosary in Church –May 28 at 7:00pm

*dates and times are subject to change. Please check the parish website for updated information or call the office.



Vacation Bible School



We invite all children ages 4 years to 8th Grade to join us for Vacation Bible School **Monday, June 8th – Friday, June 12th, 2026 9:00AM-12:00 NOON.** We are looking forward to a fun, faith filled week with crafts, games, snacks, music and learning about our Catholic faith; and we are excited for your child(ren) to participate in SONSURF BEACH BLAST! As kids explore the wonders of the beach, they'll also discover the Big Answers to their Big Questions about Jesus. Five life-changing Bible verses—including John 14:6—will help them understand who Jesus is and why they need Him. At SonSurf Beach Blast VBS, kids learn that there is only one truth: Jesus!

It will be \$35 per child for the week. There are forms in the vestibules, the parish office or call Nancy Siemers (630) 766-4509 to register.

The Discipleship Team will be collating all of the parish surveys to help formulate a three year plan for the parish. Please return all surveys no later than May 10th to the baskets on the song book racks in church.

As part of the MAKE initiative, various members of the parish are writing their conversion experiences....the times they encountered God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit in their lives. Like the first disciples, they are sharing their stories of the Sacred. They will be printed weekly in the bulletin beginning on May 3rd beginning with Fr. Sam. As you read these encounters by members of our community, you may be inspired to share your story. May you find God at work in your life in the ordinary and extra-ordinary!

Please pray for the MAKE initiative in our Diocese and in our Parish:

Prayer to MAKE Disciples

Ever loving God, make of all good things, you made us in your image and called us through baptism. Give us now the grace to be made into your disciples, and grant that in being so made, we will do as you commanded – to go and make other disciples as we catechize, evangelize, and put our faith into action. Through The intercession of our patron, St. Francis Xavier, St. Joseph, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and all the saints, we humbly make our prayer. Amen.



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OPERATION ANDREW DINNER

Young men and their fathers are invited to join Bishop Dennis Spies and several area priests for dinner, conversation, and testimonials about their own vocation stories.

There will be opportunity for a question-and-answer session and meeting other young men open to the priesthood.

St. Raphael Parish
1215 Modaff Rd
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MAY 27TH 6PM

Open to high school and young adult age men and their fathers

SCAN ME



Baby Bottle Collection

April 9-10 the Knights of Columbus will be distributing Baby Bottles for donations for the Women's Centers of Greater Chicagoland that assist women in crisis pregnancy situations.

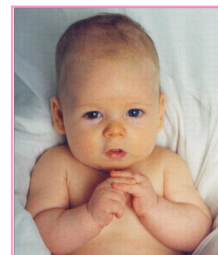
100% of your change, bills, and checks will help provide free ultrasounds that have spared many women from making the heart-breaking decision to destroy their unborn children. **Please return the bottles May 9-10, even if they are empty.**

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MEMORY

DEARLY DEPARTED

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10/14/1941-3/21/2026

RITA HELEN KLEIN
10/31/1927-3/9/2026

ISAIAH MATEO RIVERA
9/4/1992-4/6/2026

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and may the perpetual light shine upon
them. May the souls of all the faithful
departed, through the mercy of
God, rest in peace.

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus,
I believe that You are present
in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.



Mass Intention Information
\$10 stipend per Mass Intention.

Mass Intention requests, in compliance
with the Decree on Mass Stipends, began on
January 1, 2016: There will be one intention
for a Mass. Mass will be offered for all
parishioners in the parish on Christmas Eve,
Christmas Day, Holy Thursday, Easter Vigil,
Easter Sunday, and Holy Days of Obligation.
No other intentions will be taken
for the Masses on these days.

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

4 pm Saturday
8 am Sunday
10:30 am Sunday

DAILY MASS

8:30 am Mon-Thurs

FIRST FRIDAY

8:30 am



PLEASE JOIN
THE KNIGHTS OF
COLUMBUS
TO PRAY THE ROSARY
AFTER THE 10:30 AM
MASS ON SUNDAY, MAY 10, 2026



PLEASE JOIN US
TO PRAY THE ROSARY
MONDAY THROUGH
THURSDAY
AT 9 AM AND ON
THURSDAY
EVENINGS AT 7PM.

Lord, we ask you to bless all those who
serve; grant your heavenly protection to
these brave men and women. Please give
them and their loved ones strength and
peace. Amen.

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CTT2 Kurtis Ames

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OF OUR PARISH**

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Bianca Marie Borowski
Michael Brann
Micah Casey
Ron Catalano
Ady DeLargarza
Aldegunda Diego
Thomas Franzen
Izcoatl Garcia Gonzales
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Sarah Kasab
Jerad Klint
Therese Kotecki
Michael Malek
Jose Joaquin Negrete Paz
Cindi Shea
Frank Staggs
Holly Staggs
Nancy Townsend
Larry Venere
Feliciano Vero
Gloria Villanueva
Salvatore Vivo
Joe Vocino
Matt Vocino
James Wilk
Joseph Yello
Cyndi Zwadlo

**And for those listed in our parish
book of prayers.**

Military and Prayer List

Please email:
hgbulletin@holyghostparish.org
or call the parish office at 630-860-2975
to add or remove a name from the list.
Thank you!



PRAYER FOR MOTHERS

Heavenly Father,
from the beginning you have chosen to
entrust the human person to mothers
in a special way.
We thank and praise you for the gift of
mothers; for their tenderness, care,
and compassion, for their intuition and
encouragement, for commitment and
sacrifice.
Bless all mothers this day.
Keep, strengthen, and refresh them
in your loving care.
May they be blessed by our open-
hearted
love and gratitude.
Amen.

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