

**Family Life Office**  
2713 West Chestnut Avenue  
Altoona, PA 16601  
(814) 695-5579  
familylife@dioceseaj.org

**MAY 2024**

Volume XLI Number 5

## IDEAS FOR LIVING BETTER FROM THE FAMILY LIFE OFFICE

### FAMILY RITUAL

May 19- **Pentecost:**  
The Church's Birthday

On the first Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descended on Mary and the disciples.

The Holy Spirit comes to us as well, making us a Church that lives and spreads the good news of Jesus.

Celebrate this birthday by wearing **red** and having a birthday cake or party! You might invite your priest, a new family in your parish or friends from church.



### Praying for the Spirit

On the nine days between Ascension Thursday, **May 9**, and Pentecost, **May 19**, pray together daily for the Spirit to renew your family, the universal Church, and the "entire face of the world."

This was the Church's first novena.

### THE THREE MARYS

One evening, five people sitting at our table **ALL** were named some variation of Patrick or Patricia. You can imagine the confusion when someone said, "Pat, could you pass the turnips?" or "So how's work, Pat?"

**You might experience similar confusion when you come across gospel references to Mary.** That's because there are four Marys who knew Jesus from his early years and followed him through his public ministry, two of whom were with him through his passion, death and Resurrection.

*The Loyola Treasury of Saints* (Loyola Press, 2003) reports that in addition to Mary, the Mother of God, the remaining three were: Mary from Magdala, who, unlike the false reputation that has come down through the ages, was "one of the closest friends of Jesus and was the first person to see Jesus after he rose from the dead"; Mary, the mother of apostles James and John, who was with Mary Magdalene on that first Easter morning; and Mary, wife of Cleophas, who stood by Jesus at the Crucifixion.

Tradition has it that these three Marys eventually traveled to Marseilles, France in order to proclaim the gospel. Some Christians celebrate the feast of the Three Marys on **May 25**.

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**At Home With Our Faith**,  
Claretian Publications  
205 West Monroe  
St. Chicago, IL  
60606



## *Families and the Gospel*

### **May 5, 2024: Sixth Sunday of Easter (John 15: 9-17)**

Today's gospel challenges us to "love one another as I have loved you." Jesus is our model and he asks us to "lay down our life" (our time, attention, opinions and needs) for each other. This is the sacrament of the family, when God is made visible in our sacrificial love for one another.

### **May 9, 2024: The Ascension of the Lord (Mark 16:15-20)**

As Jesus appointed apostles, he also appoints parents to represent Him in the family; "make disciples of your children, baptizing and teaching them all I have taught you. Don't worry, I am with you always."

### **May 12, 2024: Seventh Sunday of Easter (John 17:11-19)**

Jesus was worried about His disciples and He turned to prayer. No matter how much time we spent trying to "guard and protect" our children, each day they become less dependent on us and we must let go and let God. Prayer and parenting go together.

### **May 12, 2024: Mother's Day Sunday**

The words of Jesus in today's gospel, "Abide in me," are appropriate on a day we honor mothers because there is a special bond connecting mothers and their children, extending beyond birth and death. They will always "abide" in each other. It's a lasting presence.

### **May 19, 2024: Pentecost Sunday (John 15:26-27:16:12-15)**

Today, on Pentecost, we remember Christ has given us the Holy Spirit to assist us in raising our family and he expects us to use this personal gift. Let us turn-off the noise, apps and distractions in our lives and let the Holy Spirit "guide us to the truth."

### **May 26, 2024: Trinity Sunday (Matthew 28: 16-20)**

In today's gospel Jesus commands, "Teach them to carry out everything I have commanded you." This command is meant for every Christian. In light of this command, parenting is not only the most difficult task a person can take on, it is also one of the most apostolic and missionary tasks. Jesus commands all parents to teach their children "all that I have commanded you."

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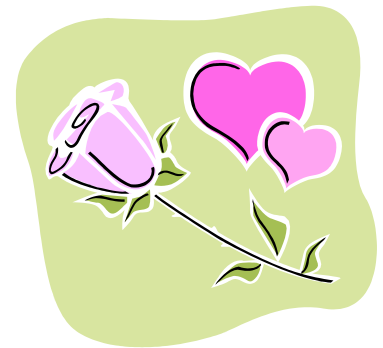
**MAY IS SO FULL OF CELEBRATIONS!!!!**

**Mother's Day, First Holy Communion, Confirmation, Graduations, Memorial Day.**

**In addition, there are several Holy Day's and Feast Days like:**

**Ascension Thursday, Pentecost, The Most Holy Trinity, St. Joseph the Worker on May 1st, as well as, the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary on May 31st.**

**Make it a point to reflect and pray each day for all the special occasions that have formed you into who you are today.**



## **At Mother's Knee**

**by Hosea Ballou**

**"Education commences at the mother's knee, and every word spoken within the hearing of little children tends toward the formation of their character.**

**Let parents bear this ever in mind."**