
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

Sun May 17 Sixth Sunday of Easter



Monday, May 18 St. John I

†Ann Yartin (*Nancy & Ernie Erickson*)

Tuesday, May 19

†Gene Stoltz (*Richard & Bernice Cellini*)

Wednesday, May 20 St. Bernadine of Siena

†Francis J. Sutton (*Sue & Ray Askey*)
†Ronald & Florence Kowalczyk (*Turcovski Family*)

Thursday, May 21 Ascension of the Lord

†Anne Hummel (*Fritz & Bill Beard*)
†Suzanne Shevock (*Sandy & Jack Schocker*)

Friday, May 22 St. Rita of Cascia

†Dr. Adam Trybus (*Wife & Family*)
Members of the Altar & Rosary Society

Saturday, May 23

†Josephine Love (*Adam & Kanispra Crist*)

Sunday, May 24 Seventh Sunday of Easter

Mass For the People
† Diane Stasky (*Olive & Jamie*)

MAY SHE REST IN PEACE

Please pray for the soul of Nancy Mascitelli who died during the past week. May God give comfort to her family.

PASTOR'S CORNER

This year marks the 5th anniversary of Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home*. In celebration, he invites us to join Catholics around the world in committing to action that increases our response the "the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor." Visit www.LaudatoSiWeek.org for resources, action items and to see how Catholics around the world are making an impact.

Father of all,
Creator and ruler of the universe,
You entrusted your world to us as a gift.
Help us to care for it and all people,
that we may live in right relationship—
with You,
with ourselves,
with one another,
and with creation.

Christ our Lord,
both divine and human,
You lived among us and died for our sins.
Help us to imitate your love for the human family
by recognizing that we are all connected—
to our brothers and sisters around the world,
to those in poverty impacted by
environmental devastation,
and to future generations.

Holy Spirit,
giver of wisdom and love,
You breathe life in us and guide us.
Help us to live according to your vision,
stirring to action the hearts of all—
individuals and families,
communities of faith,
and civil and political leaders.

Triune God, help us to hear the cry of those
in poverty, and the cry of the earth, so that
we may together care for our common home.

Amen.

This prayer from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops is based on Pope Francis' Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home.

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

PARISH SACRIFICIAL GIVING-MAY 9-10, 2020

Regular	\$7342.50	Christmas	\$ 24.00
Capital Campaign	\$ 16.00	Ascension	\$ 37.00
Needy	\$ 50.00	Easter	\$ 85.00
Catholic Comm.	\$ 43.00	Candles	\$ 30.00
Home Missions	\$ 80.00		
		Total	\$7707.50

Deacon Jim's "A Moment with Our Lady"

On May 13, 1981, Mehmet Ali Ağca fired a gun at the Holy Father Pope John Paul II, in St. Peter's Square in Rome. At the same moment, the Pontiff leaned over to examine a little girl's medal of Fatima, narrowly avoiding the lethal bullets aimed at his head and chest.

A year later, the Pope went to the shrine of Fatima, where he left the assassin's bullet in thanksgiving to Our Lady for saving his life.

On May 13, 2000, the Pope beatified Francisco and Jacinta Marto, two of the three children who had seen the Virgin Mary in Fatima during the apparitions of 1917 (Lucia was still alive in 2000). That same year he made public the "Third Secret" of Fatima: Sister Lucia's vision of the martyrdom of "a bishop clothed in white" surrounded by other Catholics.

In 2002, Pope John Paul II added the feast of Our Lady of Fatima to the calendar of the Catholic Church as an optional memorial on May 13.

**May 21, 2020 Ascension Thursday
(MT 28: 16-20)**

A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

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."

MASS FOR WIDOWS AND WIDOWERS TO BE TELEVISED

Remember your loved ones on Sunday, May 31, 2020 with a televised Mass celebrated by Bishop Mark Bartchak at 11:00 a.m. on WATM ABC and will be rebroadcast that night at 9:00 a.m. on Atlantic Broadband channel 9. All persons who have lost a spouse through death throughout the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese are invited to register by contacting the Family Life Office by calling 814-317-2647 or 814-317-2643 or email familylife@dioceseaj.org to have your spouse acknowledged and remembered at Mass. When registering, please give your name, address, phone number and the name of your spouse who has passed away. Deadline to register is May 20, 2020. Sponsored by the Diocesan Family Life Office.

SAINT RITA OF CASCIA

circa 1381 – 1457
Feast Day – May 22

Born near Spoleto, Italy, Rita wanted to be a nun but married in deference to her parents. For nearly 20 years, she endured her profligate husband's mistreatment. Following his violent death, she was admitted after three refusals to an Augustinian convent at Cascia, where she spent the next 40 years. She is remembered for her devoted care of sick nuns and for a deep forehead wound that lasted 15 years, caused she said by a thorn from Christ's crown of thorns. She has a large popular following, and is invoked in Italy for difficult situations.

St. Rose of Lima Parish, Altoona presents... England's Treasures.

Join Fr. Brian Saylor April 21-May 2, 2021 on a tour of England. Visit Liverpool, the home of the Beatles, and spend three nights in the Georgian town of Bath with its 2000-year-old Roman spas.

Explore the monastic ruins of Glastonbury Abbey and the mystical, ancient Stonehenge. See the sights of London with a local guide and savor a traditional English roast. Cost: \$4,499 (Double) includes Round trip Air from Pittsburgh, taxes and fees/surcharges, hotel transfers.

For information or a brochure please call/email Fr. Brian at 814-944-8509/bsaylor@dioceseaj.org or Collette 844-218-2148 (refer to Booking #987192).

May 17, 2020: Sixth Sunday of Easter (JN 14:15021)

A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

In today's gospel Jesus prepared his disciples for his departure. Family life is a series of departures.

As we mature and grow older we constantly transition from the familiar to the new unknown.

Today Jesus assures us we are not alone in these transitions. "I will not leave you orphans. I will come to you."

St. Rose of Lima's St. Vincent de Paul Conference Weekly Reflection for May 17: Sixth Sunday of Easter.

In the Gospel today, Jesus says to us: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments...Whoever loves me will be loved by my Father and I will love him and reveal myself to him.

**When we give to the poor,
God indeed pours his love,
peace and joy into our hearts,
into our lives and through us
into the hearts of those who
are poor.**

If you know of someone in need, please visit our website (<http://strosesvdp.org>) to inform us of their situation. We will do our best to help out in any way we can. We encourage all parishioners to use our website to help us help those in need.

Thank you.

Language about Heaven By Fr. Larry Rice

It could be argued that for people of faith, nothing is more important than heaven. It's the goal we're aiming for, and a primary motivation for living a good life. Granting us access to heaven, through the forgiveness of sins, is the reason Christ died on the cross for us.

It constantly amazes me, then, that the images we have of heaven all seem so shallow and boring. From advertisements showing white-robed angels plucking harps amidst clouds, to caricatures of St. Peter at the Pearly gates, the popular images of heaven seem completely inadequate. Every time I see TV commercials depicting heaven, I'm left thinking, "Christ died to get us this?"

The problem is that—like so much of theological discourse—our language about heaven is completely inadequate to capture the reality of heaven. Images of hell, on the other hand, are comprehensible, because we've all experienced pain and suffering. But the complete fulfillment that awaits us in heaven is harder to describe without using ana-logical language that always falls short.

Even the Catechism of the Catholic Church doesn't present a particularly inspiring vision of heaven. It describes the "communion of life and love with the Trinity, with the Virgin Mary, the angels, and all the blessed...the ultimate end and fulfillment of the deepest human longings, the state of supreme, definitive happiness." That's heaven.

The truth is, such perfection is so far removed from our experience that it's hard to imagine, let alone comprehend. We need some new ways of talking about heaven that will inspire us. Perhaps the first step is moving away from images of halos, harps, and clouds, and toward the Kingdom of God that Jesus preached, where our earthly expectations are overturned, and God's justice and mercy are complete, and we are restored to wholeness and peace.

The spiritual benefits of technology in a time of crisis

[Brett Robinson](#), Catholic News Service

"Gather 'round the TV, kids, it's time to pray." Those are words I never thought I would utter as a Catholic media studies professor who has spent the past 20 years studying the effects of media on children and families.

And yet, for the past few weeks during the coronavirus quarantine, I have found myself saying those words every day at noon as we gather to "attend" Mass at a Church in England that offers a daily livestream. The experience has forced me to reevaluate our relationship with media technology as a Catholic family in a time of crisis.

As a kid, I can remember watching Mass on television during a particularly bad snowstorm in Pittsburgh, where I grew up. It was a little unsettling, but it also sent a powerful message.

To this day, I still tell my parents that watching Mass on TV in that snowstorm left more of an impression on me than anything I learned in catechism class. It showed that my parents put such a high value on witnessing the holy sacrifice of the Mass on Sundays that we weren't going to miss it, even if it meant watching it on TV.

Shouldn't the opposite be true? Didn't watching Mass on TV cheapen the experience by hollowing out its embodied and sacramental character? Under normal circumstances, perhaps.

If we could travel to Mass safely, there was no reason to watch on TV. But then there's the story of St. Clare of Assisi who, when she was too ill to attend Mass, was granted a vision of the liturgy that was projected onto the wall of her room. It's why St. Clare is now the patron saint of television.

All of this came into particular focus on Friday, March 27, 2020, when Pope Francis delivered an "urbi et orbi" extraordinary blessing to an empty St. Peter's Square. Unable to attend because of the pandemic, the faithful were invited by the Holy

Father "to participate spiritually through the means of communication."

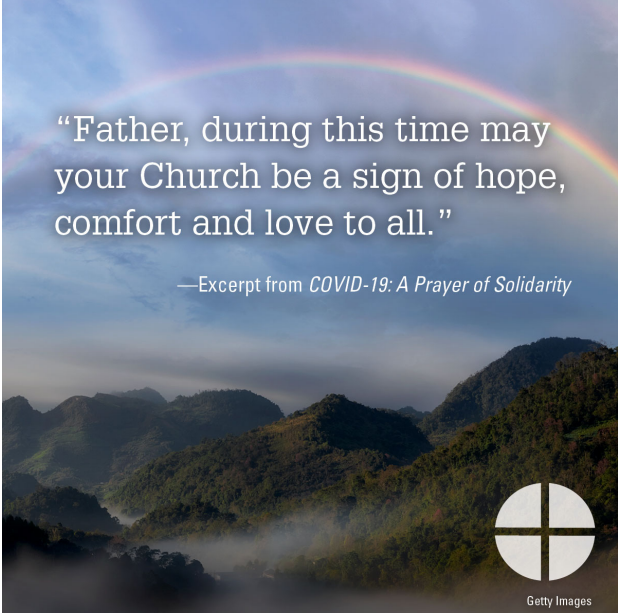
We watched as a family as Pope Francis ascended the stairs of St. Peter's alone in the rain as evening descended on the empty streets of Rome. The images were stark and arresting. There was a sad beauty in the emptiness.

The thought of praying with the Pope and the rest of the world while adoring the Blessed Sacrament was a consoling reminder that God's love and mercy is not confined to any particular place. The televised experience provided a fitting analogy for God's ability to transcend the temporal and physical constraints of this world to unite the Church through spiritual communion.

There is a very good case to be made about the corrosive effects of television that have accumulated over the past half century. But our recent need to see and hear the prayer of the Church while being separated from it has attenuated those effects for the moment.

For now, as our television culture gives way to a digital culture that has yet to reveal its own lasting effects, the TV is providing a spiritual lifeline to the Church that has been physically separated but remains spiritually intact.

Robinson is director of communications and Catholic media studies at the University of Notre Dame McGrath Institute for Church Life.



"Father, during this time may your Church be a sign of hope, comfort and love to all."

—Excerpt from *COVID-19: A Prayer of Solidarity*

