Fifth Sunday of Easter

Mass Intention

SUNDAY, May 7 – Fifth Sunday of Easter
8:00 A.M. For the People of St. Francis
9:30 A.M. Santtina Rossetti
11:00 A.M. Mrs. Grace Fulop
12:30 P.M. Rino Del Carro
Maria Ferrara

MONDAY, May 8 – Weekday
9:00 A.M. Joseph Salamone

TUESDAY, May 9-Weekday
9:00 A.M. Marie Salamone

WEDNESDAY, May 10– Weekday
9:00A.M. Patricia Hili

THURSDAY, May 11—Weekday
9:00 A.M. Nerina LLossa

FRIDAY, May 12 – Weekday
9:00 A.M. Audrey Hubinger

SATURDAY, May 13—Our Lady of Fatima
9:00 A.M. Purgatorial Society
Branka Turkovich
Gladys Ruiz
Raquel Fruchter

5:00P.M. For the People of St. Francis

SUNDAY, May 14 - Sixth Sunday of Easter
8:00 A.M. Holy Name
9:30 A.M. Bishop Thomas Daily
11:00 A.M. Moher's Day Novena
12:30 P.M. Rino Del Carro
Antonia Mastrocola
Camilla Della

Today's Readings

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 6:1-7
1 Peter 2:4-9
John 14:1-12

Readings for the Week

MONDAY: Acts 14:5-18
John 14:21-26

TUESDAY: Acts 14:19-28
John 14:27-31a

WEDNESDAY: Acts 15:1-6
John 15:1-8

THURSDAY: Acts 15:7-251
John 15:9-11

FRIDAY: Acts 15:22-31
John 15:12-17

SATURDAY: Acts 16:1-10
John 15:18-21

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17
1 Peter 3:15-18
John 14:15-21

From the Pastor's Desk

My Dear Parishioners,

In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus tell his disciples that he is about to leave them to go to his Father's house and prepare a dwelling place for them. This must have been somewhat troubling to the followers of Jesus; they were told that they would lose their leader, the one on whom they depended. What would become of them? Jesus is very clear in his answer to the question raised by Thomas: *how can we know the way?* Jesus declares that he is the ***way***, the ***truth,*** and the ***life.***

We might reflect on what this statement means- Jesus is the ***way.*** We know that Jesus and those who followed him walked everywhere they went. They even measured distances by the number of days it took to walk from one place to another. The roads connecting the villages were lifelines of communication and trade among the people. Jesus came to the world to do more than point out the road to eternal life; he came to be the road to eternal life. When Jesus carried his cross through the streets of Jerusalem and finally to Calvary, it was not just for the sake of the few people along the route; it was for our sake, for the sake of all humanity. It was Jesus who opened the gates of heaven that we might enter and find a place waiting for us. The way of the Cross is the way to Paradise.

Jesus is the ***truth.*** Jesus said that if we remain his disciples we will know the truth and the truth will set us free from the slavery of sin (cf. Jn 8:32). Jesus often spoke in parables to help the people understand the nature of things beyond human understanding or to emphasize a lesson on the right way to live. When Jesus met sinners seeking forgiveness, the message he gave was clear-because of their faith, their sins were forgiven. On Easter night, Jesus gave the power to forgive sin to his Apostles, and to their successors. "Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained" (Jn 20:23). Jesus is the truth; we have not based our faith on anything less.

Jesus is the ***life.*** Much has been written about the meaning of life, how to be successful in acquiring the luxuries of life, or how to prolong one's life. Jesus set such worries aside; we are important to our heavenly Father who knows our needs and will provide them; worldly treasures mean little; it is better for us to store up treasures in heaven. After all, for all of our worry, we cannot add a single moment to our life. Only in Jesus do we find the life-giving waters of baptism and partake of the bread of life-the Eucharist.

In today's Gospel we heard, "Do not let your hearts be troubled." Jesus is ***our way, our truth, and our life.*** Because we know Him we know the Father, and we will be welcomed into the Father's house. Let all troubles leave our hearts that we can be at peace in Jesus. God's blessings this day!

The Blessings of the Risen Lord,
Msgr. Maresca

Welcome New Parishioners

We welcome those who registered in our parish during the month of April 2023.

Victoria Pizzo

Baptisms

We welcome those who were Baptized during the month of April 2023.

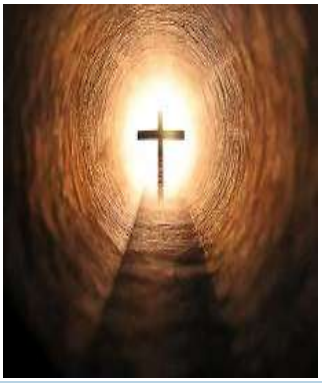
Emma Alexandra Greene
Sophie Grace Scagnelli

Marriages

Congratulations to those who were married in our Parish in the month of April 2023.

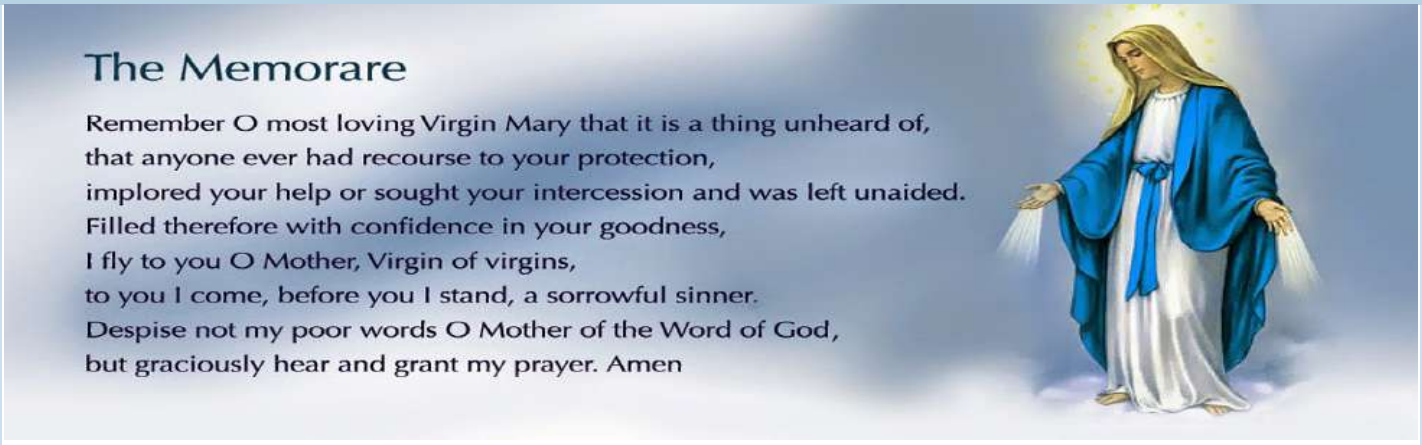
Antonio Domenico Agro & Claudia Maria Messina

Recently Deceased



The following have passed away during the month of April 2023.
We continue to pray for the recently deceased members of our parish.

Clorinda Carullo
Peter Loughnane
Filomena Tenaglia
Caterina Trimarco
Rocco Dingillo
Peter John Anselmi



Remember in your prayers all those in our parish who are sick, that they may find health and comfort:

John Ross, Steven Joyce, Judy Hanley-Brickner, John Wrenn, Augustin Cisneros, Thomas Leiter, James Nunez, Vincent Wytak, Carol Ross, Jeffrey Hyans, Marie LoVolpe, Jessica St. Preux, Al Ciani, Alesha Moses, Nancy McCaffrey, Connie Fontana Christopher Wojtalik, Theresa Pacheco, William Goss, Luke Pacheco, Vincenza Papa, Jim Schneggenburger, Anthony Criscuolo, Samantha O'Sullivan, Marilyn Miller, John Carmody, Rosario Duran, Vivian Papa, Joel Steinmann, Anna Governali, Tim Graham, Antonio Postiglione, Mario Tamburello, Christopher Araimo, Charles Principato, Jim Kreitler, Humberto Cordova, John Schakir, Margaret Culhane, Benedicto Randazzo, Angelo Niakas, Peter Lopez, Fr. Emilio Salerno.

Also remember in your prayers all the deceased of the Parish. Please remember to continue to pray for vocations to the priesthood, religious life, diaconate, and married life.

Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 7, 2023

"By this everyone will know that your are My disciples"

Consider a vocation as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life.

Contact the Vocation Office at (718) 827-2454
or
email:vocations@diobrook.org

FOCUS:

Let us truly be the body of Chris by demonstrating the father's love to others.

How can we walk the way and the truth and the life? We can be Christ to each other. As the body of Christ, we do His works. We offer our time, talent or treasure to those in need.
Let us ask Jesus how we can continue to build His kingdom on earth.

Saturday, May 13, 2023
The Feast of
Our Lady of Fatima

Between May 13 and October 13, 1917, three Portuguese children–Francisco and Jacinta Marto and their cousin Lucia dos Santos–received apparitions of Our Lady at Cova da Iria near Fatima, a city 110 miles north of Lisbon. Mary asked the children to pray the rosary for world peace, for the end of World War I, for sinners, and for the conversion of Russia. Mary gave the children three secrets. Following the deaths of Francisco and Jacinta in 1919 and 1920 respectively, Lucia revealed the first secret in 1927. It concerned devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The second secret was a vision of hell. When Lucia grew up she became a Carmelite nun and died in 2005 at the age of 97. Pope John Paul II directed the Holy See's Secretary of State to reveal the third secret in 2000; it spoke of a "bishop in white" who was shot by a group of soldiers who fired bullets and arrows into him. Many people linked this vision to the assassination attempt against Pope John Paul II in St. Peter's Square on May 13, 1981. The feast of Our Lady of Fatima was approved by the local bishop in 1930; it was added to the Church's worldwide calendar in 2002.

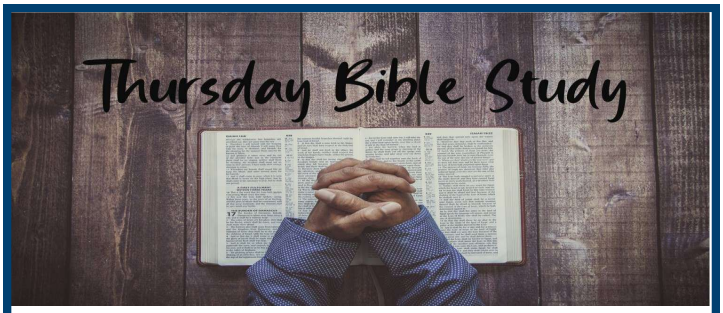
The message of Fatima is simple: **Pray**.

Memorials for the Week of May 7, 2023

SANCTUARY LAMP

In Loving Memory of
Clorinda & Camillo Carullo

Requested by:
Mr. & Mrs. Franceso Tenaglia



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI SCRIPTURE STUDY

Lord Jesus, open the Scriptures to us; make our hearts burn while you speak to us. Luke 24:32

THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET ISAIAH

Join us on Thursday, May 11, 2023, 7:20 to 8:50pm in the St. Joseph Room in the Rectory. This week's study will be on
Third Isaiah Chapters 62-66.
Come join us-All are Welcome!

The Gospel readings and study will be conducted using the Little Rock Scripture Study program. Study booklets will be provided.

If you are interested in joining the study group or would like further information, please contact us through our email at sfascripturestudy@gmail.com or call the rectory at **(718) 728-7801.** Please be sure to leave your name and contact information.

Grow in Knowledge and Love of Scripture.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place before the 9:00AM Mass. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed at 8:00AM each morning, Monday through Saturday, giving parishioners an opportunity for private prayer before the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. At 8:30AM the rosary will be prayed by parishioners before the Blessed Sacrament. At 8:50AM the Blessed Sacrament will be reposed. Jesus calls us to perseverance in prayer. "Pray without ceasing." "Watch and pray." Eucharistic adoration helps us discover the Real Presence of Christ.

What a wonderful way to begin our day praying before the Blessed Sacrament in silence or praying the Holy Rosary.

Please make every effort to take advantage of this time with the Lord. We are living in challenging times and we all need the Lord to strengthen our faith and give us the courage to live each day.

Holy Name Society

On Sunday, May 14th, the 8:00am Mass is the Holy Name Mass. The mission of the Holy Name Society is to promote devotion and reverence for the Holy Name of God and Jesus. What better way than to participate in the Holy Name Monthly Mass. All are invited to join in this celebration.

Parish Mission Statement

St. Francis of Assisi Parish is a Catholic community that is centered in Jesus, gathers in worship and witnesses the Gospel message. The parish values and welcomes each person's gift of time, talent and treasure. As a faith-filled community, we are committed to minister to the spiritual, educational and material needs of all people.

Congratulations to our First Communicants who joined us at the Table of the Lord for the first time.

Adriana Bonilla
Scarlett Cardone
Hailee Castro
Yumi Dell'Agli
Liv Delosrios
Giana DiNome
Alexander Giordano
Enesa Hamitaj
Patrick Hughes
Andreas Kaliabakos
Giorgio Marchese
Rosandrea Meilak
Gabriella Nunez
Grace Pietranico
Ava Pike
Valentina Pirreca
Gabriele Scrozzo
Gabriella Spero
Domenico Tarallo-Magliulo
Benjamin Tastaca
Adrian Tendilla
Tomas Torres
Nina Uckar
Colin Vella
Claire Vitale

St. Francis of Assisi Parish Weekly Offering

Thank you for your continued generosity of giving each week. Your weekly offering helps us pay our monthly bills.

Sunday Collection **$4,224.00**

School parents must use church envelopes.

Mothers' Day Mass Remembrance envelopes are available at the doors of the church.

Please enroll your mother, living or deceased in the novena of masses which will begin on Mothers' Day, Sunday, May 14th.

Your envelope can be returned in any collection.

Annual Catholic Appeal 2023
DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

Thank you to all who have supported the Annual Catholic Appeal. Our goal this year is **$41,679.**
As of May 1st we have pledged **$18,647** and paid **$9,621** towards our goal.
If you have not contributed to the Appeal, I ask you to prayerfully consider what you are able to give to help us reach our goal. Your generosity and support is greatly appreciated.

May the Risen Lord fill your lives with His Light.

MASS COUNTS FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2023

The average attendance for the month of April (5 weekends) is as follows:

5pm	**135**
8am	**61**
9:30am	**190**
11am	**197**
12:30pm	**85**

50/50 Winners April 2023

First Prize
Mr. & Mrs. Rocco Di Baise

Second Prize
Mr. & Mrs. Alphonsus Conlon

Third Prize
Mr. & Mrs. Terence Sweeney

Congratulations!

Associated Vincentian Charities of Brooklyn

For each car, truck or van, running or not, The Associated Vincentian Charities of Brooklyn will give back to St. Francis of Assisi $50/100 per vehicle. Maybe you don't have a vehicle, but a family member, friend or neighbor has an old or neglected vehicle in their driveway that they would like to donate.

Call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul at **(718) 491-2525.**

Cook Position

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION RECTORY
NEEDS A COOK: FULL OR PART TIME. MONDAY TO FRIDAY. BENEFITS INCLUDED. CONTACT MSGR. FERRARESE AT 718-728-1613.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THIS WEEK

May 7—May 13

Sunday, May 7
First Holy Communion Breakfast following the 9:30AM Mass in MCH
10:40-Noon CCD

Monday, May 8
12:00-3:30PM Golden Age
3:00-3:45 Children's Choir
7:00PM Adult Choir

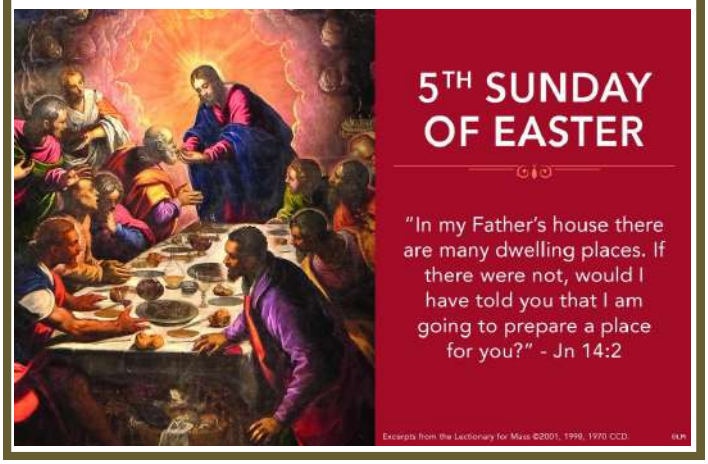
Tuesday, May 9
6:30 AA Meeting

Wednesday, May 10
7:00PM Baptism Class

Thursday, May 11
10-11:30AM-Legion of Mary—SFR
1:45PM May Crowning
6:00PM IACA
7:20-8:50 Scripture Study

Friday, May 12
7:30PM Drama Club Performance

Saturday, May 13



NEXT WEEK

May 14—May 20

Sunday, May 14
8:00AM-Holy Name Mass
9:30am-Children's Liturgy
10:40-Noon CCD

Monday, May 15
12:00- Golden Age Mass
1:00-3:30PM Golden Age
3:00-3:45 Children's Choir
7:00PM Adult Choir

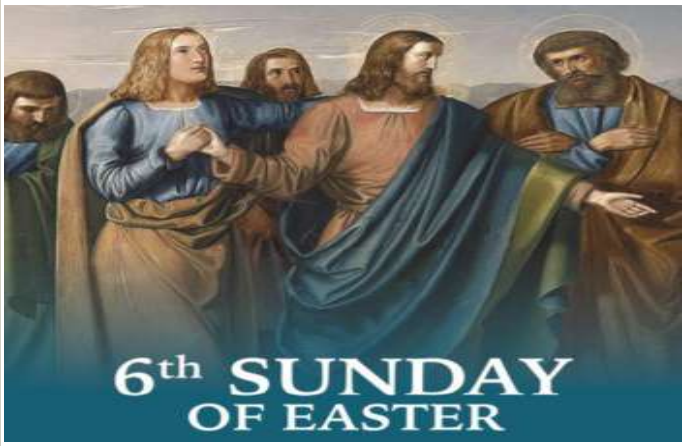
Tuesday, May 16
6:30 AA Meeting

Wednesday, May 17
7:00PM-Civic Association Meeting-MCH

Thursday, May 18
Feast of the Ascension of the Lord
9:00AM Mass
10-11:30AM-Legion of Mary—SFR
11:00AM Mass
7:30PM Mass

Friday, May 19
1:30PM Drama Club Performance

Saturday, May 20



MAY 2023
LECTOR ASSIGNMENTS (Updated)

	THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	PENTECOST SUNDAY
	MAY 6-7	MAY 13-14	MAY 20-21	MAY 27-28
Saturday 5:00 P.M.	*Dolores Ratkowski*	*Edward Kubina*	*Debbi Skinner*	*Dolores Ratkowski*
Sunday 8:00 A.M.	*Robert Laucella*	*Andrew Soltesz*	*Andrew Soltesz*	*Robert Laucella*
Sunday 9:30 A.M.	*Josephine Corso*	*Patrick O'Toole*	*Marta O'Toole*	*Maria Brooks*
Sunday 11:00 A.M.	*Jane Di Donato*	*Carol Hickey*	*Jane Di Donato*	*Carol Hickey*
Sunday 12:30 P.M.	*Anna Maria Tenaglia*	*Eterna Bruno*	*Jackie Machia*	*Anna Maria Del Carro*

***** REMINDER *****
Once you are scheduled, if you cannot fulfill your assignment, please make every effort to call and get a replacement. Thank you

Growing in FAITH™

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

May 2023

St. Francis of Assisi Parish
Msgr. Ralph J. Maresca, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

Act in confidence

Jesus does not want us to be troubled by worldly concerns. *"My peace I give you"* (John 14:27). When you feel yourself starting to worry or stew about a difficult situation (or person), act out your belief that your prayer for resolution will be answered. Substitute positive, cheerful thoughts for negative ones. God is in control.

Your Lenten change

Lent is a time when we make changes that bring us closer to God. During Lent, many of us fast from our favorite food or drink, and approach Easter a little lighter in spirit and in body. Don't forget that a Lenten change can continue beyond Easter. Consider continuing your Lenten fast on Fridays throughout the year, or for a week each month, for example. Find ways to make your Lenten change permanent.

Rest and relax

God expects us to be sure to rest. *"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest"* (Matthew 11:28).

Welcome all God's children

God loves each of us uniquely and fiercely no matter where we come from or how we look. Those of us who follow Him know that it's not just important to love each other. It's God's law.

Celebrate diversity. Invite foreigners or people who are different from you to your home or church. Jesus was once a foreigner in a strange land and was grateful for the hospitality He received. There is great diversity in the Communion of Saints.

Practice patience. It can be tough to listen to someone with a speech impediment or a heavy accent. Imagine, though, how grateful that person will be when you offer your attention. Perhaps it would help to imagine the face of Christ in the face before you.

Counsel the ignorant. Someone from another country, background, or with different abilities than yours might behave in what looks like an inconsiderate way out of ignorance or limitations. He might appreciate being informed.

Speak up. Don't stay quiet when you witness prejudice, and be positive about diversity if friends or relatives start criticizing others' faith, cultures or abilities.

Act with love. The God of love gave of Himself so we could be reunited with Him. We share that love when we assume the best of others and look for the good in all God's children.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics celebrate the Ascension?

Jesus' Ascension into heavenly glory is good news. Sacred Scripture explains that in the Ascension, Jesus, the High Priest, entered the heavenly temple to pray for us with the Father (Hebrews 9:24). Secondly, from his throne in heaven, Jesus sends us the Holy Spirit, who keeps us connected to Him, especially in the Eucharist. Lastly, since Christ entered into eternal glory, we as the members of His Body, the Church, may hope to follow if we remain faithful to Him.

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Take good care of yourself. You belong to God.

Taking care of ourselves can become a low priority in the midst of other obligations. Yet caring for our bodies and minds is a duty we have to God. He needs us strong and healthy so we can help build up His kingdom.

Body: What you put into your body is even more important than what you put on it. Take steps to make your diet healthier and more nourishing. Avoid drugs or excessive alcohol. Doctors urge daily exercise and eight hours of sleep each night.

Mind: Become picky about what you feed your mind, too. What you watch, read, and listen to influences the way you look at the world. Evidence shows that it's hard to regularly watch violent shows or movies and still be a calm and happy person. Programs or movies that portray infidelity or promiscuity as acceptable behaviors eventually dull our sense of sin. Feed your mind positive, Gospel-centered images that will build you up and inspire you. Surround yourself with people who do the same.

from Scripture — John 20:19-23, "Receive the Holy Spirit"

This Gospel passage gives us a glimpse of how the apostles spent their first Easter Sunday – hiding in a locked room. They were terrified the Romans would find them and execute them. To their surprise and great relief, Jesus appeared to them in glory and spoke words of peace. He showed them His glorious wounds as "living proof" of His Resurrection.

Then Jesus gave them a mission: *"Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained"* establishing the Sacrament of Penance (John 20:23). He gave them the Holy Spirit, anticipating the feast of Pentecost. Now, having authority to forgive sins, the apostles and their successors could continue Jesus' work after He returned to heaven.

Jesus' appearance to His apostles reveals the fullness of God's mercy. He also sent the Holy Spirit to them. He descended powerfully on Pentecost, the birthday of the Church. That same Spirit is gifted to us in Baptism and dwells in our souls. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal God's love to you and help you become more like Christ each day.

Feasts & Celebrations

May 3 – Sts. Philip and James (1st 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, son of Alphaeus, was also one of the twelve Apostles.

May 10 - St. John of Ávila (1569). Born to wealthy, pious parents, St. John left a budding career as a lawyer to become a priest. At the request of his bishop, he worked and preached to renew the faith of Catholics in Andalusia.

May 18 – Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord (1st Century). This solemnity 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 25 – St. Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi (1607). Born to a distinguished Florentine family, Catherine de' Pazzi became a Carmelite nun. Upon making vows, she experienced ecstasies, and became a mystic and a healer.

Q & A — What is the meaning of the Miraculous Medal?

The Miraculous Medal, given to St. Catherine Labouré in 1830, was designed by the Blessed Mother to teach us three things:

Mary prays for us: The medal's front reads: *O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.* We don't pray to her; she prays for us! Of course, we can go directly to Jesus anytime. In fact, Mary's role is to bring us to Jesus as swiftly and safely as possible.

Evil can be defeated: Mary is shown crushing Satan's head, recalling the prophecy of his defeat (Genesis 3:15). Mary's humble "yes" to God paved the way for Christ's victory over death, sin, and evil. When we give God our "yes," then Christ's victory bears fruit in our lives.

Grace is always available: St. Catherine asked why only some of the gemstones in Mary's rings radiated light. Her answer? The dim gems symbolize "the graces for which souls forget to ask." God's grace is always available to us. All we have to do is ask.

Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

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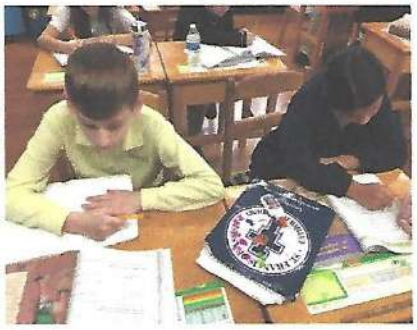
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC ACADEMY PRESENTS
5-208
MRS. AMY MC ELWAINE
APRIL STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

April is National Poetry Month. This April, the 5th grade class learned about Haiku poetry. Haiku is a type of Japanese poetry. These short poems follow a 3 line, 5-7-5 syllable format. The 5th grade enjoyed writing about spring and all of their favorite springtime activities.



The sun is shining
Flowers grow and are blooming
The beach is sandy

- Spring by Vanessa B.

Longer, rushing river
The call of soaring robins
Bears wake, this is Spring

- Winter's Over by Declan H.

Butterfly flying
Flowers are growing tall now
Kids playing baseball

- Spring by John M.

Sun is bright today
Kids are playing in the grass
Easter Bunny soon

- Spring by Milania C.

Butterflies flutter
Beautiful flowers blooming
Life is now thriving

- Spring Life by Arianna S.

The sun shines brightly
Beaming summer fun brings joy
And helps plants to grow

- Spring Life by Kate L.

I made steak for lunch
I went to the lake
Today I eat at the lake

- The Lake by Matthew P.

Spring is very fun
I like Spring so very much
Spring is very warm.

- Spring is fun by Sophia M.

My dog eats the bugs
Grady runs fast in the grass
He watches the sun

- Grady in the Spring by Mia V.

Easter is so nice
It reminds me of the night
Moon and stars so bright

- Easter Sky by Giovanni T.

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC ACADEMY PRESENTS
5-208
MRS. AMY MCELWAINE
APRIL STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

April is National Poetry Month. This April, the 5th grade class learned about Haiku poetry. Haiku is a type of Japanese poetry. These short poems follow a 3 line, 5-7-5 syllable format. The 5th grade enjoyed writing about spring and all of their favorite springtime activities.

I enjoy playing
Nothing will get in my way
Today I will play

- Spring by Sophia S.

Jesus rose from death
He died to save us from sin
The best is Easter!

- Easter by Sophie P.

The grass is green
The sky is blue this morning
I walk back to home

- Spring by Aiden G.

Karate is fun
Kick-kick Pow-pow fun in Spring
Punching bag is fun

- Karate by Greyson D.

I enjoy playing
On a very warm Spring day
I play on the grass

- Spring Day by Kylee M.

The sun was so bright
And outside was delightful
And so full of light

- Delightful by Aayan S.

God rose on Easter
The Blessed Easter is fun
April is Easter

- Easter by Niculae C.

There us a nice breeze
Its good to play sports in Spring
The bright leaves flow fast

- Spring by Giancarlo C.

Beautiful flowers
Kids having fun in the sun
Nice weather outside

- Spring by Stelios C.

Children sit outside
They look for gifts and nice eggs
Jesus rose for us

- Easter by Mia N.