

THE GOOD NEWS LETTER

APRIL 23, 2021



FROM THE PEN OF THE PASTOR:

He is Risen! As we start the month of May, which is of course dedicated to Mary but also includes the feast of St. Joseph the Worker, we have many opportunities to grow in holiness and to share the Gospel of the Lord. We are of course blessed with our confirmandi who will receive confirmation on May 5th, as well as our first communicants and their families receiving the Holy Eucharist on May 2nd. Please pray for them and the days after as they live out their sacramental lives.

We are also blessed by the diocese to add an additional vigil Mass at St. John's starting May 1st. The Mass time will be at 6:30pm Saturday nights, which will complement the current 5pm Mass at St. Mary's. This is a great opportunity to increase the chances for our pastorate to celebrate and offer a worthy sacrifice to the Lord. It is also a chance to increase and add new volunteers to assist at the liturgy before and after Mass, whether it is readers, altar servers, musicians, greeters, and counters. Please pray about ways that you might be called to contribute both in and out of Mass.



Along those lines we will be looking for opportunities to develop new parish programs and to gather as well to learn and share the faith. For men especially we are considering starting an Exodus 90 fraternity group as well as looking to support activities for the whole family. We will also be providing more information concerning the Catholic Ministries Appeal from the diocese as we look to meeting our goals to assist them and ourselves in sharing the faith in our pastorate. We, of course, do this through the intercessions of St. John and the Holy Family as we continue to do our work of witnessing to the Resurrection of Jesus Christ for the salvation of the world.

In Christ, Fr. Hurley

Beginning May 1 and 2, we begin our new weekend Mass schedule. Please join us in Celebrating the Lord's Day with the sacrifice of the Mass.

The Lord's Day Weekend Mass Schedule:

Saturday Vigil Mass:

5:00pm at St. Mary's, Dunkirk

6:30pm at St. John's, Hartford City

Sunday Mass:

9:00am at St. John's, Hartford City

11:00am at Holy Family, Gas City

If weekend Mass is still uncomfortable for you, a weekday Mass might be a good alternative. There are a lot less people in attendance, but you can still receive Jesus in the Eucharist. Give it a try, we welcome you back!

Mondays 10am at St. John's

Wednesdays 12noon at St. John's

Thursdays 5:30pm at St. Mary's

Fridays 9am at Holy Family



HONOR MARY DURING MAY

Here are five reasons why it makes sense to honor Mary during the month of May...and always!

1. Mary is Jesus' mother.

She is the instrument of the Incarnation and her yes, or fiat, made it possible for our Lord to become the God-Man who was Crucified for our salvation.

2. She is the first and most perfect disciple.

Mary was the first to hear the Good News, and the first to follow Christ. Her entire life was devoted to him and assisting him, in whatever way she could, to carry on his mission. Unaffected by Original Sin, she was able to perfectly open herself to God's will.

3. She is our mom.

No, really. She is. To put it simply, she's our mother because we are all members of the Body of Christ. Since she gave birth to that Body, then she's our mother, too. At the moment she gave her fiat, she became our mother in the order of grace. She may not have given birth to us physically, but she certainly has given birth to us spiritually.

4. She loves you more than you can ever imagine.

If she did not, would she have endured the horror of seeing her Son tortured, scourged, crowned with thorns, carry the Cross to Calvary, and die a gruesome death on it? She did it for you, for all of us, because she understood that Jesus' Passion and Crucifixion was the only way to your (our) salvation.

5. Mary is advocate, helper, benefactress and mediatrix.

Her job, so to speak, began at the moment she conceived Jesus in her womb and continues until this day. What is more, it will continue for all eternity. As the first and most perfect disciple, she is devoted to accompanying him and continuing her saving office by interceding for us so that we may receive the gifts of eternal salvation.

For all these reasons and more, Mary deserves honor, not only during the month of May, but always.

--Marge Fenelon, Daily Monitor

FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER

On May 1, 1955, Pope Pius XII established a new feast day in the Church's calendar, dedicating May 1 to "St. Joseph the Worker." He sought to affirm the rights of workers and to put forth St. Joseph as the supreme model.

Pope St. Pius X had similar desires when he composed a prayer to "**St. Joseph the Worker.**" It is a prayer that recognizes the great dignity of work and how it can be offered to God as a sacrifice, pleasing in his sight. St. Joseph has always been the supreme example of this type of holy work, teaching his son, Jesus, how to work with great care and precision, giving to God his best work possible.

Before beginning your next workday, consider praying this simple, yet powerful prayer to St. Joseph. He will help you utilize your talents, turning the "daily grind" into something beautiful for God.

O Glorious St. Joseph, model of all those who are devoted to labor, obtain for me the grace to work conscientiously, putting the call of duty above my natural inclinations, to work with gratitude and joy, in a spirit of penance for the remission of my sins, considering it an honor to employ and develop by means of labor the gifts received from God, to work with order, peace, moderation and patience, without ever shrinking from weariness and difficulties, to work above all with purity of intention and detachment from self, having always death before my eyes and the account that I must render of time lost, of talents wasted, of good omitted, of vain complacency in success, so fatal to the work of God. All for Jesus, all through Mary, all after thine example, O Patriarch, St. Joseph. Such shall be my motto in life and in death. Amen.

--Aleteia.org by Philip Kosloski

POPE'S LETTER ON ST. JOSEPH

ON THE 150th ANNIVERSARY

OF THE PROCLAMATION OF SAINT JOSEPH AS PATRON OF THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH

Pope Francis issued an Apostolic Letter on December 8, 2020, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, proclaiming the year 2021 as the year of St. Joseph, the Worker. Each month of 2021 we will include one of the seven personal reflections of St. Joseph by Pope Francis. Last month we introduced the letter itself; this month we focus on the second fatherly title: A Tender and Loving Father.

An obedient father

As he had done with Mary, God revealed his saving plan to Joseph. He did so by using dreams, which in the Bible and among all ancient peoples, were considered a way for him to make his will known.

Joseph was deeply troubled by Mary's mysterious pregnancy. He did not want to "expose her to public disgrace", so he decided to "dismiss her quietly" (*Mt 1:19*).

In the first dream, an angel helps him resolve his grave dilemma: "Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins" (*Mt 1:20-21*). Joseph's response was immediate: "When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him" (*Mt 1:24*). Obedience made it possible for him to surmount his difficulties and spare Mary.

In the second dream, the angel tells Joseph: "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him" (*Mt 2:13*). Joseph did not hesitate to obey, regardless of the hardship involved: "He got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod" (*Mt 2:14-15*).

In Egypt, Joseph awaited with patient trust the angel's notice that he could safely return home. In a third dream, the angel told him that those who sought to kill the child were dead and ordered him to rise, take the child and his mother, and return to the land of Israel (cf. *Mt 2:19-20*). Once again, Joseph promptly obeyed. "He got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel" (*Mt 2:21*).

During the return journey, "when Joseph heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. After being warned in a dream" – now for the fourth time – "he went

away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth" (*Mt 2:22-23*).

The evangelist Luke, for his part, tells us that Joseph undertook the long and difficult journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem to be registered in his family's town of origin in the census of the Emperor Caesar Augustus. There Jesus was born (cf. *Lk 2:7*) and his birth, like that of every other child, was recorded in the registry of the Empire. Saint Luke is especially concerned to tell us that Jesus' parents observed all the prescriptions of the Law: the rites of the circumcision of Jesus, the purification of Mary after childbirth, the offering of the firstborn to God (cf. *2:21-24*).

In every situation, Joseph declared his own "fiat", like those of Mary at the Annunciation and Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.

In his role as the head of a family, Joseph taught Jesus to be obedient to his parents (cf. *Lk 2:51*), in accordance with God's command (cf. *Ex 20:12*).

During the hidden years in Nazareth, Jesus learned at the school of Joseph to do the will of the Father. That will was to be his daily food (cf. *Jn 4:34*). Even at the most difficult moment of his life, in Gethsemane, Jesus chose to do the Father's will rather than his own, becoming "obedient unto death, even death on a cross" (*Phil 2:8*). The author of the Letter to the Hebrews thus concludes that Jesus "learned obedience through what he suffered" (5:8).

All this makes it clear that "Saint Joseph was called by God to serve the person and mission of Jesus directly through the exercise of his fatherhood" and that in this way, "he cooperated in the fullness of time in the great mystery of salvation and is truly a minister of salvation."



Prayer to St. Joseph for the Spirit of Work

God our Father, Creator and Ruler of the universe, in every age you call us to use and develop our gifts for the good of others. With St. Joseph as our guide, help us to do the work you have asked and come to the rewards you have promised. Please grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**"Our Lord has created persons for all states in life, and in all of them we see people who achieved sanctity by fulfilling their obligations well."
— St. Anthony Mary Claret**

ASCENSION OF THE LORD

The following words of our Holy Father, Pope Francis, are good for our meditation as we celebrate the Ascension of our Lord:

The Ascension does not point to Jesus' absence, but tells us that He is alive in our midst in a new way. He is no longer in a specific place in the world as He was before the Ascension. He is now in the lordship of God, present in every space and time, close to each one of us. In our life we are never alone: we have this Advocate who awaits us, who defends us. We are never alone: the Crucified and Risen Lord guides us. We have with us a multitude of brothers and sisters who, in silence and concealment, in their family life and at work, in their problems and hardships, in their joys and hopes, live faith daily and together with us bring the world the lordship of God's love, in the Risen Jesus Christ, ascended into Heaven, our own Advocate who pleads for us.

--todayscatholic.org



Please join us for a
RETIREMENT PARTY
After 23 years of dedicated and honorable service
LIEUTENANT COLONEL RICHARD UGGAN
is retiring from the Indiana National Guard
Saturday, May 1, 2021
Open house hours
1:00p - 4:00p
St John's Parish Hall
213 S Spring St, Hartford City, IN 47348
Attire: Casual Please no gifts

THANK YOU FOR THE INCREASE IN CMA PLEDGES

We have risen to 58% in pledges with a \$2,000+ increase from last month bringing the total for our pastorate to \$46,634 in pledges towards a goal of \$80,974. Thank you!

Be looking for a letter from Fr. Hurley in early May giving insight to the appeal and requesting help from those who have not yet been able to contribute to this much needed campaign. The letter will outline ways in which you can help us reach this goal. If you have made your pledge and find yourself in a position to increase your original amount, please contact CMA or the office to do so.

WHAT DOES THE FEAST OF PENTECOST MEAN TO US?

As one of the most important solemnities on the Church's calendar, it has a rich depth of meaning, but here is how Pope Benedict summarized it in 2012:

This Solemnity makes us remember and relive the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles and the other disciples gathered in prayer with the Virgin Mary in the Upper Room (cf. Acts 2:1-11). Jesus, risen and ascended into Heaven, sent his Spirit to the Church so that every Christian might participate in his own divine life and become his valid witness in the world. The Holy Spirit, breaking into history, defeats aridity, opens hearts to hope, stimulates and fosters in us an interior maturity in our relationship with God and with our neighbor. --nregister.com



All are invited to celebrate Memorial Day by living out one of the virtues of praying for the dead. Fr. Hurley will hold a special Memorial Day Mass at the Montpelier Catholic Cemetery in Montpelier at 9am on Monday, May 31st. Bring your own lawn chair. In case of inclement weather, the Mass will be moved to St. John's in Hartford City at 9:30am.

**"One just soul can obtain pardon for a thousand sinners."
— St. Margaret Mary Alacoque**

It's never too late to make your pledge or donation today. Contact the office or pick up a pledge packet at any of our church entrances.

Thank you graciously for helping us with this campaign!



Keep Open!!!

Vacation Bible School: "Heroes of Old"

July 19 - 23 from 6pm - 7:30pm at Holy Family!

See you there!!

FIND SPIRITUALITY, MISSION AS A PROVIDENCE ASSOCIATE

Are you looking for spiritual renewal? A sense of mission? An intentional community? The Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana, invite persons of all faith traditions to become Providence Associates. Applications for this year will be accepted until May 31. Visit ProvidenceAssociates.org or contact Sister Sue Paweski at 312-909-7492 or at spaweski@spsmw.org to learn more or to request an application.

HEY, SENIORS

Calling all Holy Family high school seniors. If you are graduating this spring or have a high school graduate please, call or text Christina Christman at (765)733-4026. Thank you!

DIOCESAN DIRECTIVES REMAIN IN PLACE

We have had many questions about the Mass directives following Governor Holcomb's advisory on masks. At this time everything remains unchanged in our parishes. The bishops in Indiana will gather and discern what and when new directives will be implemented, but until they do and until we receive word, things remain the same.

Please do not abandon the protective and preventive measures of masks, distancing and hand washing.

Thank you for all your support!

2030 PASTORAL PLAN OF THE DIOCESE OF LAFAYETTE-IN-INDIANA

DO YOU WANT TO DEEPEN YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH?

Uniting in Heart desires to help everyone know Jesus Christ and to foster a deeper personal commitment to follow Him in His Church. As the Body of Christ in this diocese, Uniting in Heart seeks to equip us to proclaim the Gospel in all that we do for the salvation of souls through the three pillars of Mission, Community and Witness. To learn more, please visit dol-in.org/uih.

BEHOLD, I MAKE ALL THINGS NEW
- REV 21:5

CONGRATULATIONS TO NATHAN

A joyous celebration took place at the Easter Vigil when Nathan Booher entered into the Catholic faith by receiving the Sacraments of Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation. Below is a picture of Nathan (center) and his brother Matthew (left) with Fr. Hurley. Matthew entered into the Church last August once approval was granted following COVID restrictions. Matthew is credited for sharing Jesus with his brother and lighting that desire in Nathan to follow the path of Christ.

Congratulations to both Nathan and Matthew and thank you to Sr. Rita and Susan Lannoy for their teachings. Let us continue to offer prayers for them and all neophytes as they grow in the love of Christ and his Church.



HELP FOR PREGNANCY CARE CENTER

St. Mary's Altar and Rosary Society will be helping the Portland Pregnancy Care Center throughout the month of May. A container is provided in the church entrance. Needed items include diapers, baby lotion, shampoo, clothing, laundry soap, also adult shampoo deodorant, etc.

THE GLORY OF MASCULINITY
MEN'S RETREAT
WITH MARK HOUCK

THE KINGS MEN
LEADER, PROTECTOR, PROVIDER

ALL SAINTS PARISH
WE ARE ONE
LIVE, SACRIFICE, CHALLENGE, SUSTAIN, RENEW, MISSION

DATE: MAY 22, 2021 TIME: 9AM - 12:30PM
LOCATION: ALL SAINTS PARISH (ST. JOHN CAMPUS)
25743 ST. ROUTE 1, GUILFORD, IN 47022
COST: FREE (FREEWILL OFFERING)
REGISTER: [HTTPS://ASP-HOUCK2021.EVENTBRITE.COM](https://asp-houck2021.eventbrite.com)

The E6 Catholic Men's Conference, in association with All Saints Parish and The Kings Men Catholic men's group, invite you to The Glory of Masculinity, a half day free men's retreat featuring Mark Houck, founder of the Kings Men, a national Catholic men's group that has traveled, sponsored and lectured at conferences, workshops and retreats for thousands of men all throughout the United States. Featuring Fr. Jonathan Meyer of All Saints Parish, and organized by the group that brings you the E6 Catholic Men's Conference. We look forward to seeing you on May 22nd! The event starts at 9am and ends at 12:30pm. Free will offerings will be accepted. Light breakfast and lunch provided. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/e6-presents-the-glory-of-masculinity-mens-half-day-retreat-w-mark-houck-tickets-150435924901>

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

ANNIVERSARIES:

None Reported

BIRTHDAYS:

2 Tina Johnson
4 Sarah Montgomery
14 Nedra Lips
16 Ann Bone
18 Rycker Trissel
19 Diana Holsten
22 Mary Beth Fields

If you would like to be included in the birthday and anniversary listings, please drop us a note with your name, month and day of birth or anniversary. We would be happy to share it through *The Good News Letter*. We do not automatically include names due to privacy.

MONTHLY CHALLENGE BY K OF C

APRIL CHALLENGE by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:

While they were still speaking about this, he stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." But they were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. Then he said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do questions arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet, that it is I myself." (Gospel for April 18, Lk 24:36-39)

After Jesus rose from the dead, the apostles were confused and afraid. But showing them his wounds, Jesus proved his identity. Whenever we find ourselves confused or fearful, let us remember that Christ is risen, and that it was "by his wounds we were healed" (Is 53:5). If Christ had not suffered and died, he could not have risen from the dead: without Good Friday; there would be no Easter Sunday. May we unite our suffering to Christ's, rejoice always in his resurrection and base our lives on his peace and presence among us.

Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:

This month, ideally on Good Friday, I challenge you to visit your local parish and pray the Stations of the Cross. Second, I challenge you to participate in the Faith in Action Good Friday Family Promotion program to aid your fellow parishioners in remembering Christ's passion, in anticipation of his resurrection. Praying the Stations can be done anytime throughout the year, not just at Lent.

Questions for Reflection:

When you are suffering, do you tend to find yourself forgetting God or drawing closer to him? What does it mean to "offer it up" when we are suffering? How does the reality of Christ's resurrection offer us comfort, peace and hope during the trials and tribulations of this life?

--KofC.org

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR MAY—ST. JOHN'S

Saturday 6:30 pm Reader & Announcements: Sr. Rita Musante **Greeters:** Matthew & Nathan Booher
Sunday 9:00 am Reader & Announcements: Lisa Rinker **Greeters:** Karen Sulit

"It is not lengthy prayers, but generous deeds that touch God's heart."
— St. Arnold Janssen

YEAR OF THE FAMILY

Pope Francis has announced a special Year of the Family for March 19, 2021, to June 26, 2022. The year commemorates the fifth anniversary of the apostolic exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* (*The Joy of Love*).

Goal 1 of 5 from Pope Francis:

1. **Share the content of the Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*** more widely, to let "people experience the Gospel of the family as a joy that fills hearts and lives" (AL 200). A family that discovers and experiences both the joy of having a gift, and of being a gift for the Church and society, "can become a light in the darkness of the world" (AL 66). And the world today certainly needs this light!



LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR MAY—HOLY FAMILY

Sunday 11:00 am Reader: Ryan Slater
Commentator: Marcia Atkinson **Ushers:** Marilee & Jeff Cox

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR MAY—ST. MARY'S

May 1: Reader: Laverne Watson **Greeter:** Dean & Loretta Wilson **Counter:** Dan Watson

May 8: Reader: Dan Watson **Greeter:** Jane Crouch **Counter:** Jane Crouch

May 15: Reader: Ted Kolodka **Greeter:** Colleen Bicknell **Counter:** Danette Hamilton

May 22: Reader: Laverne Watson **Greeter:** Dean & Loretta Wilson **Counter:** Dan Watson

May 29: Reader: Dan Watson **Greeter:** Colleen Bicknell **Counter:** Dan Watson

**St. Mary, Holy Family and
St. John the Evangelist Parishes**
A Pastorate of the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana
209 S. Spring St., Hartford City, IN 47348
PASTOR - Rev. Kevin Hurley
Dunkirk: 765.768.1283 Gas City: 765.674.2605
Hartford City: 765.348.3889 stmaryjohn@att.net

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Return Service Requested

Lord's Day Liturgy

SATURDAY: 5:00 pm at St. Mary's

SUNDAY: 9:00 am at St. John's

11:00 am at Holy Family

- **Weekday Liturgy:** Please consult inside the bulletin. -

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: May 14, 2021

Editor: Diana Holsten



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO UNITE IN THE HEART OF JESUS?

We named our pastoral plan Uniting in Heart because to unite in heart means to continuously enter into the heart of Jesus where love and mercy in its purest form can be found and experienced. It is God's grace that draws us into the heart of love. In that heart, we learn to love God and our neighbor as ourselves. This is where we learn to become selfless, meek and humble of heart like Jesus. Here we are invited to suffer with and for Christ. Where sacrificing our own self, our own wills for the will of the Father, like our Jesus, is necessary to experience true transformation of our lives. Here we find not only love, but peace and joy as well.

Notice the actions of Jesus were never about himself, his personal desires, but rather about the will of the one who sent him. Jesus, always moved by the love of His Father lived a life of charity. He touched and healed people at their core, at the very heart of their being. They then went forth and shared that saving love for the life of the world.

ROSARY INITIATIVE TO END PANDEMIC

VATICAN CITY — The Vatican has announced a rosary initiative dedicating the month of May to prayer for an end to the coronavirus pandemic.

The Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization said April 21 that “for the deep desire of the Holy Father, the month of May will be dedicated to a prayer marathon with the theme ‘Prayer to God went up incessantly from the whole Church.’”

The council said that the world's Catholic shrines would be involved in a special way as promoters of the rosary among Catholic individuals, families, and communities.

Thirty of the shrines will take turns leading a daily live-streamed rosary at 12 p.m. Eastern time, the council said.

The Catholic Church dedicates the month of May to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Pope Francis will open the month of prayer on May 1, asking for Mary's intercession