



*May 7, 2023*

***Fifth Sunday  
of Easter***

**ST. PETER'S CHURCH**

262 N. Main Street

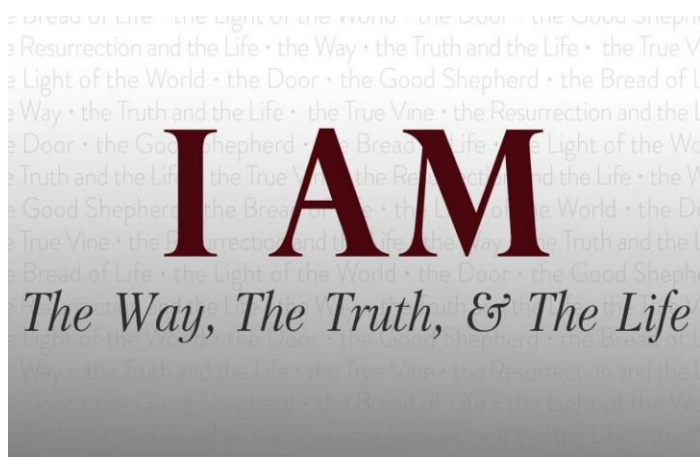
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**LIVING OUR FAITH**

We find ourselves this Sunday in the upper room at the last supper Jesus will share with his friends. He knows what is ahead and that this is his last opportunity to teach those who are his own. After washing their feet, he prepares them for his leaving. He begins by telling them he is going on ahead to prepare a place for them, and that God whom Jesus knows as Father, awaits them there.

Both Thomas and Philip register some confusion. How do we get to this place that Jesus is going, this mansion with many rooms? How can we know the Father whom Jesus knows but whom we cannot see? The answer to both is the same. Jesus is the Way, and we only need to come to Jesus to see God who sent him and the fullness of life God wants for us.

Perhaps we do not have to waste time and theology wondering about the nature of heaven or the demeanor of God. All we need to know comes with choosing Jesus as our path. The truth of his Gospel is the heaven we seek. The life of Christ we share is the divine life that leads us to the heart of God.

**Questions:** *Jesus is the Way – which way does Jesus point you? Jesus is the Truth – what truth does he teach you? Jesus is the Life – how does his life change yours?*



Did Jesus have brothers and sisters?

**For centuries theologians have debated whether or not Jesus had any siblings. But what does scripture say about his complicated family tree?**

MEGHAN MURPHY-GILL

The only child often gets a bad rap. Stereotyped as entitled and self-important, people who grow up without siblings aren't always looked upon favorably—especially by those of us with at least a sibling or two. Jesus may have acted like an only child at times in the gospels, but all of the four evangelists make some mention of his brothers and sisters.

In Mark, a crowd asks of Jesus, “Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are his sisters here with us?” (6:3). In Luke, when Jesus is told by a crowd gathered to hear him speak, “Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, wanting to see you,” Jesus famously rejects them: “My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it” (8:19-21). And John writes that after Jesus performed his first miracles in Cana, “he went down to Capernaum with his mother, his brothers, and his disciples; and they remained there a few days” (2:12).

The evidence may seem clear, but scripture scholars and theologians have been debating these and other passages for nearly two millennia, arguing whether those brothers and sisters were in fact biological siblings, step-siblings, “half” siblings, or not even siblings at all, but cousins.

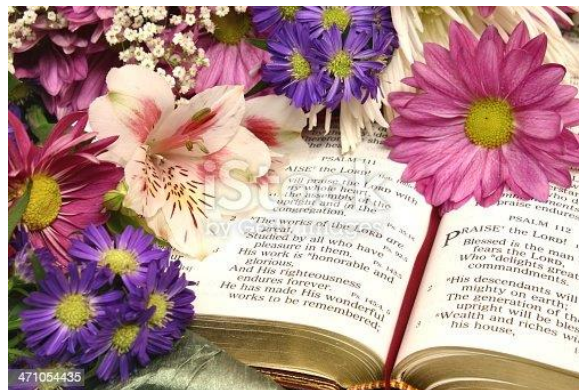
What was Jesus like as a child?

The first recorded argument was between St. Jerome and another fourth-century theologian, Helvidius, who had written that after the virgin birth of Jesus, Mary had other children with her husband, Joseph. St. Jerome disagreed, indicating that by the fourth century at least some of the church community believed that Mary had stayed a virgin for the rest of her life. These children of Mary, Jerome said, were from Mary of Clopas, Jesus' aunt and his mother's sister, making them cousins. He claimed that the Greek word *adelphios* could refer to cousins, not just biological siblings.

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Epiphanius, bishop of Salamis and a contemporary of Jerome and Helvidius, threw another possibility into the hat. He argued that the siblings weren't cousins, but Joseph's children from a previous marriage, making them the step-siblings of Jesus. Joseph isn't mentioned outside of the birth of Jesus, causing some to believe that he was much older than Mary and died before Jesus' public ministry. It is conjecture, but some apocryphal works, such as the Protoevangelium of James, the Gospel of Peter, and the Infancy Gospel of Thomas, all seem to indicate a tradition of belief that Jesus' brothers and sisters were the children of Joseph.

These three general arguments continue to be defended and disputed by scholars today, whose positions depend mostly on their particular traditions and how they interpret early church theology. The New Testament writers didn't leave a clear picture of what first-century Christians thought about Mary's virginity after the birth of Jesus, if they left any details at all. All we can say for sure is that Jesus' family tree looks just as complicated as those of many modern families.



### **Readings for this Weekend – May 7**

Acts 6:1-7

1 Peter 2:4-9

John 14:1-12

### **Readings for next Weekend – May 14**

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

1 Peter 3:15-18

John 14:15-21

### **Donations for last Weekend – April 30**

\$2265







### LET US PRAY

We continue to pray for peace in the troubled areas of our world, for the people of the Ukraine and all those affected by the recent violence in our communities.

We join our Holy Father in his prayer intentions for **May 2023:**

#### **For or church movements and groups**

We pray that Church movements and groups may rediscover their mission of evangelization each day, placing their own charisms at the service of needs in the world.

#### **PRAYERS FOR THE SICK AND THOSE IN NEED**

If you would like to add a name to our prayer list, contact the Parish office. We kindly ask that you do not request a name to be included without the express consent of the person for whom you are requesting prayer. *We ask for prayer for Charles Thomas and ministry, Betty & Robert Friedland, Brian & Maria Cosgrove, Richard Rakin, Andrew Mikulski, Rod Baumert, Todd Conklin, Jean Van Lowe, John Fitzsimmons, Roseanna Walsh*

#### **PRAYERS FOR THE DEARLY DEPARTED**

We remember all our deceased family members, friends, and parishioners and in particular:

*Gary Tempel, James Jensen, Bridget Hinkle, Det. Sgt. Frank Gualdino, Pope Benedict XVI, Arianna Toscano, Maureen Stiene, Louis Halvas, Kathryn Jones, Sister Kevin John Shields, OP, Anne Ferro, Stanley Brian Stewart, Mary Woods, John Ryan*

### **MAY CROWNING AND MUFFINS WITH MOM**

In celebration of the month of Mary, students in our Religious Education Program are invited to ask their mothers (or another special woman) to join them for class **THIS Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>**. We will gather in the Church during class time for a prayer service followed by a procession out to the statue of our Blessed Mother on the front lawn of the Rectory for our May Crowning. Afterwards, mothers are invited to join us in the Church Hall (downstairs) for coffee and cake.

Please keep our students and their mothers in your prayers.



### **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**

This year, First Holy Communions will take place at the weekend Masses throughout the month of May. Please keep our First Communicants and their families in your prayers.

### **OUR PARISH FOOD PANTRY**

As you are assuredly aware from your own experience at the grocery store, prices on grocery essentials have skyrocketed in recent weeks. As a result, we have seen an increase in the number of families and individuals seeking assistance with food at our Parish Food Pantry.

In the month of April, our Pantry served 316 households including 215 children, 410 adults, 31 senior citizens and 56 new individuals. In addition, we provided emergency food bags to 2 families in crisis. Please keep those struggling with food insecurity in your prayers, along with our Food Pantry volunteers.

### **SIGHT AND SOUND THEATER PRESENTS: MOSES**

Holy Cross Church in Callicoon is sponsoring a bus trip to the Sight and Sound Theater in Ronks, PA on July 12, 2023 to see the performance "Moses". The cost is \$155/adult and \$110/child (ages 5-12) and includes bus transportation, the show and a smorgasbord lunch. The bus will leave Holy Cross Church at 6:00am and will return at approximately 7:30pm.

For information or to make a reservation, please call Pam at 845-887-4714.

Tickets must be purchased and paid in full by June 1, 2023.



All are warmly invited to join us for

## ***“Centering Prayer with Chant”***

*Mondays at 9:00am, beginning on May 15, 2023*

*St. Peter’s Church  
264 North Main Street  
Liberty, NY 12754*

“Centering Prayer is a method of silent prayer that prepares us to receive the gift of contemplative prayer, prayer in which we experience God's presence within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than consciousness itself. Centering Prayer emphasizes prayer as a personal relationship with God and as a movement beyond conversation with Christ to communion with Him. The effects of Centering Prayer are ecclesial, as the prayer tends to build communities of faith and bond the members together in mutual friendship and love.”

—Excerpt taken from [www.centeringprayer.com](http://www.centeringprayer.com)

“Chant deepens the very nature of prayer. It becomes the beat of the heart, the hope of the seeker. It is the etching of the Presence of God on the mind. It is the daily memory and promise of God’s presence that clasps two souls to one another: I in God. God in me.”

—Excerpt taken from *The Monastic Heart*, by Sister Joan Chittister





## SAVE THE DATE

### *Golden Jubilee Wedding Mass*

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Sunday, June 4, 2023 at 2:30 PM  
Saint Patrick's Cathedral

**His Eminence, Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan**  
*Celebrant*

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The *Golden Jubilee Mass* is for couples celebrating 50 years  
of marriage during 2023.

All those who wish to attend need to contact their parish secretary  
to register.

Pews will be reserved for *Golden Jubilee* couples only. Up to four (4)  
additional family and friends will be accommodated in pews outside of  
the reserved section in general seating.

All *Golden Jubilee* couples will receive a commemorative certificate.  
Couples who are unable to attend the Mass can request  
a certificate through their parish.

***Registration will close on Monday, May 15, 2023 at 5:00 PM***

## OUR REGULAR WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE:



Saturday evenings at 7 PM: *Mass in Spanish*

Sunday mornings at 10 AM: *Mass in English* \*\*

Sunday evenings at 4:00 PM: *Mass in English*

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 8:30 AM: (*Mass in English*)

\*\*We will continue to livestream our Sunday morning Mass on Facebook.



