



While Lent and the Easter Octave mark our most sacred season, they also open the door to new beginnings—especially through the grace of Divine Mercy Sunday. This spirit of renewal is beautifully reflected in the month of May.

Spring is in full bloom, students are graduating, and we joyfully welcome our newest members who entered the Church at the Easter Vigil. Others will receive First Communion or the Sacrament of Confirmation this month. We also look ahead to Pentecost 🔥 — the birthday of the Church — celebrated this year on **June 8**.

✿ In this Marian month, we honor both **Mary** and **St. Joseph**, her spouse and the quiet protector of the Holy Family. And although **Ascension Thursday** falls on **May 29**, we observe it on **Sunday, June 1**.

🌱 This month, we invite you to take a fresh look at the meaning of the **Ascension**—a feast often overlooked, yet full of hope. Far from marking Christ's departure, the Ascension reveals our destiny: to be raised with Him in glory. Find the full reflection below.

👉 *Has the Holy Spirit ever stirred your heart?* Don't miss the exciting update on our parish's **Legacy Project**—now backed by a Jubilee Year grant! It's a beautiful invitation to reflect, remember, and share your own moments of grace. Full details near the end of this issue!

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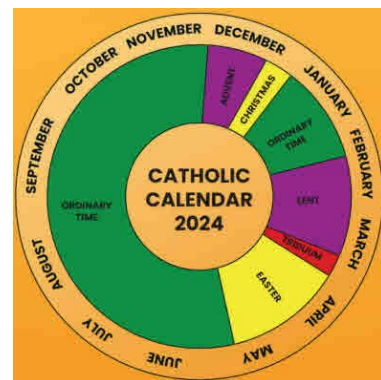
Ascension: Heaven and Earth United

List of May Feast days

Learn More: FORMED.org & HALLOW

The Liturgical Year in May: The Season of Easter

The entire month of May falls within the Easter season and is represented by the liturgical color **white**—a symbol of joy, light, purity, and restored innocence. The Easter season concludes with **Pentecost** on **June 8**.

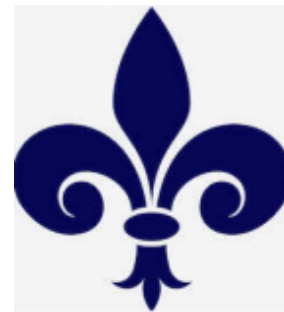


Did You Know?

✿ The **fleur-de-lys**, derived from the Madonna's lily, is a traditional symbol of the **Blessed Virgin Mary**.

✿ Mary only told us one thing to do when it comes to Jesus. "Do what he tells you."

✿ Mary is the Mother of God but also the Mother of the Church. She is the first Christian, the first to believe in her Son.



✿ **There have been Marian apparitions** (appearances) all over the world, including well known occurrences at Guadalupe, Mexico; Lourdes, France; and Fatima, Portugal. Her first apparition was to St. James the Greater at Saragossa, Spain, in 40AD.

The Jubilee Year: A Time of Grace

We hope that you are taking advantage of the great graces offered this Jubilee Year and continue to encourage you to visit any of the 9 pilgrimage sites around St. Louis.

[2025 Jubilee Year of Hope Brochure](#)

[2025 Jubilee Pilgrimage Sites](#)



May 1: Feast of Saint Joseph the Worker

“A Quiet Strength, A Steady Faith”

As May begins—a month devoted to Mary—it’s fitting that we start by honoring **St. Joseph the Worker**. Instituted in 1955 by Pope Pius XII, this feast day highlights the dignity of human labor and invites us to integrate faith into our everyday work.



St. Joseph, the humble carpenter of Nazareth, reminds us that holiness often lies in the quiet tasks of daily life. In a world focused on recognition and achievement, Joseph’s witness shows us that true greatness is found in love and faithfulness.

A Model for Families

Joseph’s reverent love for Mary and his protective role as the earthly father of Jesus offers a model for every family. During this Marian month, we remember that Joseph’s silent strength supported Mary’s courageous “yes,” making room for God’s grace in their home.

May 13: Feast of Our Lady of Fatima

“Pray, pray very much.”

On May 13, 1917, the Blessed Virgin Mary first appeared to three shepherd children in Fatima, Portugal. Her message—rooted in **prayer, penance, and peace**—resonates just as powerfully today.

The Heart of Her Message:

- Pray the **Rosary daily** for peace.

- Offer **penance and sacrifice** for the conversion of sinners.
- Foster **devotion to her Immaculate Heart**.
- Consecrate hearts and nations to God.



Mary's message is not one of fear, but of urgent love—from a mother who longs to protect her children. Her closing promise remains a beacon of hope:
“In the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph.”

How We Can Live It Today:

- **Pray the Rosary** as a spiritual weapon.
- **Offer small sacrifices** in daily life.
- **Live with hope**, knowing God's mercy has the final word.

Honoring Mary at Home: Simple Ways to Celebrate May

1.  Create a **May Altar or Prayer Space**
2.  Pray the **Rosary as a Family**
3.  Do a **Simple May Crowning**
4.  Read a **Marian Story or Scripture**

May 31: The Visitation

This feast celebrates Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth as described in Luke's Gospel. At the sound of Mary's greeting, **John the Baptist leapt for joy** in the womb—a moment believed by some saints and theologians to be John's sanctification.



“He will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from his mother's womb.” — *Luke 1:15*
Mary, carrying Jesus in her womb, is the first tabernacle—the bearer of God's grace. As **Mediatrice of Grace**, she continues to intercede for the Church and for each of us.

☀️ Legacy Project This Summer!

In February, we introduced the **Legacy Project**, inviting parishioners to reflect on moments when the Holy Spirit moved in their lives—through prayer, dreams, saints, loved ones, or even themselves.

We're thrilled to announce that our parish has received a **Jubilee Year grant** from the Archdiocese to bring this project to life!



Each participant will create a personal list of “spark moments”—brief reflections on when the Spirit stirred in their heart. These will be printed on beautiful paper, framed, and gifted to you.

If you're hesitating, consider this may be the **Holy Spirit nudging you!** You don't need to be a great writer—just willing to remember and reflect. We'll offer workshops and examples to guide you.

Project Timeline:

- **June 9** – Kickoff Meeting (*Feast of Mary, Mother of the Church — the day after Pentecost!*)
- Last week of August– Pick up your project
- **September 6–8** – (in honor of Mary's birthday on Sept. 8) Parish will display copies of the projects ...with your permission... and redacted, if you so desire.



THE ASCENSION

of the Lord

The Ascension of Jesus: Heaven and Earth United

We often celebrate Good Friday and Easter with clarity, but why celebrate the Ascension? At first glance, it might seem like Jesus is leaving us—but in truth, the Ascension is a moment of glory and great hope.

When Jesus ascended into heaven, He wasn't abandoning us. He had promised, “I am with you always” (Matt. 28:20). The Ascension marks Christ's enthronement at

the right hand of the Father—not His departure from us, but the lifting up of His **humanity** into heaven. As St. Augustine reminds us, Jesus never truly left heaven, nor did He ever stop being with us.

What ascended wasn't His divinity (which is eternal), but His glorified human body. That's why this feast matters: it shows us that **our physical humanity is meant for heaven too**. Christ's bodily Ascension is the beginning of a new union between heaven and earth—one that will continue with Mary's Assumption and, God willing, our own resurrection one day.

The angel's words at the Ascension still ring true: "This Jesus... will come again" (Acts 1:11). The Ascension is not the end of the story—it's the promise of what's to come.

May Feast Days

May 1 St. Joseph the Worker

May 13 Our Lady of Fatima

May 29 Ascension Thursday, but celebrated June 1

May 31 The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Learn More

On **FORMED.org**

- [Finding Fatima](#) 90 min
- Learn about the newly canonized Carlo Acutis: [The Boy From Milan: Stories of Carlo Acutis | Based on a True Saint](#) 35 min

On **HALLOW** prayer and meditation app/website

- Find [the rosary](#) you love. Pray with Jonathan Roumie, Mark Wahlberg, Cardinal Dolen, Bishop Barron, Dr. Scott Hahn, Padre Pio in Latin, Fulton Sheen, SoulCore-stretching or running or so many more!!

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