

**ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, BALLSTON SPA,
& ST. MARY'S MISSION, GALWAY**

~ Fr. Francis R. Vivacqua, *Pastor* ~ Deacon Ronald Hogan

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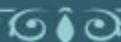
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6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER



“I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate
to be with you always, the Spirit of truth.” - Jn 14:16-17a

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER — MAY 17, 2020



MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY – May 18, (Easter Weekday)

7:45 AM + Thomas Cowell *req. by* Julie Lenhart

TUESDAY – May 19, (Easter Weekday)

5:30 PM + Pro Populo

WEDNESDAY – May 20, (The Ascension of the Lord)

5:30 PM + Deceased members of the Joseph Fisher family
req. by Granddaughter

+ Evelyn Godbout *req. by* Family

THURSDAY – May 21, (The Ascension of the Lord)

9:30 AM + Pro Populo

12:10 PM + Pro Populo

FRIDAY – May 22, (Easter Weekday)

NO DAILY MASS

SATURDAY – May 23, (Seventh Sunday of Easter)

4:00 PM + Sr. Margaret Duffy *req. by* Dawn & Herb Peters

+ Spec. Int. of Theresa O'Brien *req. by* Gary O'Brien

+ Jonathan R. Smith *req. by* Agnes Mohr

SUNDAY – May 24, (Seventh Sunday of Easter)

8:30 AM + Pro Populo

+ Robert McClements Jr. *req. by* Kathy Catman

10:30 AM + Rose Amodeo *req. by* Granddaughter, Rita

+ William King Jr. *req. by* Joyce & John Yates

12:00 PM + Pro Populo

The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

will be observed on *Thursday, May 21st* this year. This beautiful Solemnity is usually a Holy Day of Obligation, when we come together to celebrate Jesus Ascension before Pentecost. Due to the current circumstances we have been experiencing, the faithful are reminded of the current temporary suspension of the obligation to attend Mass on this Holy Day. St. Mary's parishioners are invited to join Father in prayer on Thursday by going to our YouTube or Facebook pages. May the Spirit of Our Lord dwell within us all.



UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF
CATHOLIC BISHOPS

Call to Action

Catholic education has played an important role in lifting many from poverty to a more hopeful future. This mission is in danger as a result of the economic devastation facing many families across the country. Abrupt unemployment and lost income has meant that families suddenly find themselves unable to make the tuition payments that sustain our schools.

Additionally, our parishes which normally provide financial support to the schools to keep tuition within financial reach for families have lost their Sunday collections with the halt to the public celebration of Masses.

Please take a moment to contact your Members of Congress to ask for emergency aid to Catholic schools and our families in the next Covid-19 Legislation package. Our requests include: equitable access to K12 federal funds for Catholic schools, direct funding to families for tuition aid and tax breaks for K12 tuition payments.

We encourage you to add your own personal story in the message as well.

Catholic schools urgently need help in this time of uncertainty. By speaking with one voice, we can amplify this problem with Congress and provide help for our families.

Take Action



Readings for the week of May 17th

Sunday: If we do not speak and act for Christ, who will? Acts 8:5-8, 14-17/Ps 66/1 Pt 3:15-18/Jn 14:15-21

Monday: Testify to the hope we have received in Christ. Acts 16:11-15/Ps 149/Jn 15:26—16:4a

Tuesday: Our very attitude of peace and joy can be a compelling witness to Jesus in our chaotic world today. Acts 16:22-34/Ps 138/Jn 16:5-11

Wednesday: God is never far from us. Acts 17:15, 22—18:1/Ps 148/Jn 16:12-15

Thursday Ascension: Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations. Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47/Eph 1:17-23/Mt 28:16-20

Friday: Easter joy gives meaning to loss and enables us to endure. Acts 18:9-18/Ps 47/Jn 16:20-23

Saturday: Never stop seeking the One who sought us first. Acts 18:23-28/Ps 47/Jn 16:23b-28

Next Sunday: God makes himself known to us. Acts 1:12-14/Ps 27/1 Pt 4:13-16/Jn 17:1-11a

PARISH STAFF

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Sister Nancy Schmidt, CSJ

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The Ascension into Heaven

The Paschal Mystery culminates in the Ascension of Jesus. After his appearance here on earth in his risen body, and “after giving instructions through the holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen” (Acts 1:2), Jesus “was lifted up and a cloud took him from their sight” (Acts 1:9):

Christ’s ascension marks the definitive entrance of Jesus’ humanity into God’s heavenly domain, whence he will come again (cf. Acts 1:11) ... Jesus Christ, the head of the Church, precedes us into the Father’s glorious kingdom so that we, the members of his Body, may live in the hope of one day being with him for ever. Jesus Christ, having entered the sanctuary of heaven once and for all, intercedes constantly for us as the mediator who assures us of the permanent outpouring of the Holy Spirit. (CCC, nos. 665-667)



Saint of the Week



Saint Rita of Cascia

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.



In 2018 we prayed about reconstructing the old chapel in the former convent into a new space for worship, filled with holiness and peace. Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel will one day be consecrated to our Lady. The focal point of this chapel is the statue of Our Lady Queen of Peace. This beautiful statue of our Lady arrived in mid-March and is waiting for her new home. During this time of social-distancing, we wanted to give all of you the opportunity to see this beautiful statue. Our Blessed Mother has always been a strong advocate for us, and through her intercession our prayers are brought to her Son. We continue to praise her as a role model of love and compassion. More information about Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel will be shared this coming month as we celebrate our Mother. In the meantime, we are so grateful to all the benefactors who have assisted in making this dream a reality, and those who continue to support our Chapel Fund through prayer and donations. Because of generous people, local and across the country, we have been fortunate in this endeavor.

Pope Francis composed a prayer to the Virgin Mary for protection of the world during the outbreak of the Coronavirus pandemic.

*O Mary, you always shine on our path
as a sign of salvation and of hope.
We entrust ourselves to you,
Health of the Sick,
who at the cross took part
in Jesus' pain,
keeping your faith firm.
You, Salvation of the
Roman People,
know what we need,
and we are sure you will provide
so that, as in Cana of Galilee,
we may return to joy
and to feasting
after this time of trial.
Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
to conform to the
will of the Father
and to do as we are
told by Jesus,
who has taken upon himself
our sufferings
and carried our sorrows
to lead us, through the cross,
to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.*

Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

Collections & OnLine Giving

Thank you for the many people who have signed up for OnLine Giving or mailed in their envelopes. We are so grateful to have such a generous family of parishioners who are willing to adapt to the times and continue to support St. Mary's.

Our reality is that without Masses, there are no collections. It is important to remember the first part of being charitable is through the power of prayer. Our collections go toward the parish's operating expenses. If you haven't had the opportunity to enroll in our OnLine Giving program, please check out our website. If you need assistance, please email Ann McCauley. As always, thank you for your prayers and generosity.

We thank you for your sacrificial offering of:	
	May 10
Envelopes & Loose	\$ 4,538
On-line Giving	<u>2,712</u>
Total	\$ 7,250
<i>To cover our weekly expenses, we need \$11,500.</i>	

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Laudato Si Week | May 16-24, 2020

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 to "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.

Prayer to Care for our Common Home

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.



Cathy Images



This prayer from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops is based on Pope Francis' *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*.
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St. Mary's School Ballston Spa

A Small School With A Big Heart!



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Remote Learning:

St. Mary's teachers and staff continue to provide distance learning for our students. We are so grateful to parents, grandparents and caregivers for partnering with us in this endeavor!

While we terribly miss being together, so many great things are happening and our school family remains strong! Here is just a sampling:

Our fourth grade students are learning about the systems of the human body. This week they learned about how the eyes work and possible causes of vision problems.

The third grade students are learning about ecosystems. They have completed a KWL chart to identify what they already know, what they want to learn and, at the end of the unit, will be able to name what they have learned. The children have been spending time outside observing and recording in their journals many different types of plants, animals, decomposers and nonliving components.



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**Tuition assistance and Guardian Angel Scholarships are available for those who qualify.*

Our fifth grade class has been learning about the American Revolution. Recently they learned about the First Continental Congress that was held in Philadelphia. They also read about Patrick Henry and his famous speech.



"Though your beginning was small, your future will flourish indeed." Job 8:7

Have you discerned offering your child a Catholic Education? Pray about it!

Enrolling now for 2020-2021 school year!

St. Mary's offers Tuition assistance, Diocesan grants and Guardian Angel Scholarships.

Call for a personal tour or stop by for more information!

518-885-7300 office@smsbspa.org
or visit www.smsbspa.org

Principal: Mrs. Lynn Fitzgerald

Our Mission: St. Mary's School provides a quality Catholic elementary education (Pre-school through Grade 5) guided by the Gospel's spirit of love within an atmosphere of academic excellence that nurtures the growth in holiness and wholeness for each child.



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