

MAY 7 & MAY 8, 2022



Dear Friends in Christ,

As Christians, we always have reason to celebrate the victory of Jesus Christ over sin and death. During the Easter season, this celebration is all the more emphasized. Today's Gospel proclaims what we celebrate: Jesus Christ has given us eternal life. However, the phrase "eternal life" can get stuck in the limitations of our imagination. We need a vision that helps us to better anticipate the glory to come.

Our second reading describes a *vision of a great multitude* from every nation, race, and language on earth standing before the throne of God. Wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hands, they worship God day and night in his temple. They no longer suffer from hunger or thirst because the Lamb of God has led them to life-giving water. They no longer experience anguish or pain because God has wiped away every tear from their eyes. They no longer wander homeless because the Lord has given them shelter. They are victors over sin and death because *they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb*.

Is it any wonder why the great multitude worships God day and night? He has fulfilled all his promises. He has healed all of their wounds, lifted all of their burdens, and given them the fullness of joy forever. And not only that, but God has given them himself in his fullness. They see God face to face. One day we also will see him face to face. One day our sufferings will end, and our joy will be full. John's vision in Revelation is a symbolic representation of what we can hardly begin to imagine: the very real and very beautiful eternal life that is to come.

Does this vision of eternal life mean that the Christian life is merely a waiting room for heaven? Certainly not. We are part of God's creation, which he called into being from perfect love. And God is here! Through the Eucharist, Christ's body is united to our body now. Jesus Christ is shepherding us toward our eternal home. He has not left us orphans, but has given us the Holy Spirit to help us.

Even in the midst of great sufferings, nothing can take us out of the Father's hand. Whether we are in heaven or on the earth, God's hand holds us always. Therefore, let us celebrate the presence of God in our lives today while joyfully awaiting the eternal life that is to come.

Yours in Christ Jesus,
Fr. Marc

Events Calendar

May 9 — May 15

Tues: 7:00 pm

Evening Bible Study

Wed: 2:00 pm

Funeral Mass For Ron Sableski at IHM

Fri: 5:30 pm

Youth Group at St. Cecilia's

IN NEED OF ABLE BODIES On Saturday, June 4th at 3 pm and on Sunday June 5th starting after the 8:30 am Mass and most especially at 2:30 pm. We need help removing pews and other items from the church in preparation for the removal of the floor. In order to volunteer, please contact the parish office at 301-863-8144. Please bring work gloves!



ALMOST IMMACULATE IHM THRIFT STORE is in need of help! Please stop by the store during operating hours to check out what we do. Then, if you want to help, please contact Deacon Mike 240-542-8369. We are located in the Kerr House (white building at the street entrance). The thrift store is open Fridays from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, and Saturdays from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Donations (no clothing) accepted during those hours. The thrift shop supports the food pantry and our local community, so stop by and see what



IHM MUSIC MINISTRY If you are interested in sharing your musical talents with the parish, there is a place for you in this ministry! Please call Mary at 240-434-8876 (leave a message!).

IHM MEN'S GROUP Join us every Saturday morning, 7-8:30AM in the Large Classroom for Fellowship and Spiritual Growth. Each week we preview the scripture readings for the coming weekend and then watch and discuss a video. Currently we are viewing Bishop Robert Barron's "Catholicism" Series. Upcoming episodes include, "Word Made Flesh, True Bread from Heaven", "A vast Company of Witnesses", and "The Fire of His Love". For more information contact Mark Baysinger (240-925-2677 or nbay9@hotmail.com).



To sign up to Formed, the premier site to access Catholic Media online, go to www.formed.org and press "sign up" and then "sign up as a parishioner". Type in the ZIP code of the parish "20653", follow the directions to create an account, and then enjoy!



If you or someone you know is inquiring about the Catholic faith, please let them know to email our RCIA coordinator at RCIA@ihmrcc.org.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



May 9 — May 15

Monday	Acts 11:1-18/Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4/ Jn 10:1-10
9:00 am	Karen Brobst (D)
Tuesday	Acts 11:19-26/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7/ Jn 10:22-30
5:30 pm	Antonia Delgado (D)
Wednesday	Acts 12:24-13:5a/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8/ Jn 12:44-50
9:00 am	Catherine Gibson (D)
Thursday	Acts 13:13-25/89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27/ Jn 13:16-20
5:30 pm	John Mountjoy (S)
Friday	Acts 13:26-33/Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab/ Jn 14:1-6
9:00 am	Katie Harmon Rison (L)
Saturday	Acts 1:15-17, 20-26/Ps 113:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8/ Jn 15:9-17
9:00 am	Mrs. Mary Jennifer Olon (D)
4:00 pm	Jacqueline Edelen (D)
Sunday	Acts 14:21-27/Ps 145:8-9, 10-11, 12-13/ Rev 21:1-5a/Jn 13:31-33a, 34-35
8:30 am	Stephania and Ann Thompson (L)
11:15 am	All IHM Parishioners
1:00 pm	Derek Paiz (D)

IHM MARIAN PROCESSION All families are invited to bring their favorite Marian image (statue/icon) to the Sunday, May 8 Tagalog Mass at 4 pm. We will gather inside the Fellowship Hall at 3:45 pm and line up for the procession. Children are encouraged to wear their Sunday best, First Holy Communion attire or traditional Filipiniana dress or barong. We need volunteers to assist as singers, lectors, altar servers and ushers. There is a potluck fellowship following the Mass. For more information, please contact Ronnie & Belle Chavez (26ronchavez@gmail.com), Joy & Bob Gates (jclyngates@yahoo.com), Tess Crowe (tess@ihmrcc.org) or Janet Harmon (301.904.4760).

THANK YOU! A big thanks to the Rotary Club of Lexington Park (RCLP) for their generous grant to the food pantry this past year! The pantry was able to use the grant to help two local families overcome a major financial crisis that was caused from losing jobs. In both cases the families were issued eviction notices, but the food pantry was able to use the grant money to cover their overdue rent, thus allowing both families to remain in their current residence and move forward with being financially secure.

On behalf of the two families that were assisted, we wish to offer our thanks to the Rotary Club for making this possible!

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT

There are Ministry Booklets available on the table in the main foyer. Here's a spotlight on two of our ministries:

Parish Picnic – The entire Parish gathers for a pot-luck picnic in the grove. Help is needed to organize activities, set up tables and chairs. Bring a dish to share with fellow parishioners. Take part in the annual Cook-Off Contest!
Coordinator – Janet Harmon 301-863-8793

Parish Council – Serve a three-year term in assisting the Pastor in the operation of the parish, in an advisory capacity. One meeting each month, with some additional time depending on responsibilities assumed within the council. Coordinator – Currently Vacant. Call the Parish Office 301-863-8144

MAINTENANCE POSITION--St. Michael's School has an opening for a full-time maintenance person working 30-40 hours a week. Please send resume to PO Box 429, Ridge, MD 20680

PLEASE PRAY FOR

THE SICK

THAT THEY MAY BE RESTORED TO FULL HEALTH

Audrey Somers, Louise Shafer, Helen Daye, Kathleen Floyd, Mary Oliver, Judith Ann Allgood, Vince Guerin, Jane Keyon, Linda F. Gieser, Ralph Gough Sr., Betty LePore, Bill Wagoner, Vincent Campanella, Joseph Hugh Weiland, Rylee Corliss, Rose Marie Weiland, Alan Stapanon, Ruby Garcia, Mia Garcia, Matthew Riddell, Marie C. Williams, Jim Hoffman, Kaylee Klier, David Kalil, Wanda Slate, Jim Brown, Enedina Melendez

Please note: names will remain on this list for two months, unless otherwise notified. To keep a name on the list, please resubmit by contacting bulletin@ihmrcc.org, or call the Parish Office.

PAPAL PRAYER INTENTION FOR MAY

We pray for all young people, called to live life to the fullest; may they see in Mary's life the way to listen, the depth of discernment, the courage that faith generates, and the dedication to service.

Follow us on



MAY 7 & MAY 8, 2022

ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY MASS The Memorial Day Mass at the St. Mary's Queen of Peace Cemetery will be held on Monday, May 30 at 10 am. This special field Mass is offered at this time of year for the deceased members of the parishes of St. Mary's, Charles, Calvert and Prince George's Counties, and especially for those who have passed away during the past year. The Catholic Cemeteries staff will respectfully include the names of the deceased from the Spring of 2019 to Spring of 2021 due to the pandemic precluding the hosting of this special Mass. A commemorative presentation of the faithful departed will begin at 9:15 am, then a time honored flag ceremony performed by the Knights of Columbus at 9:45 am, followed by the Mass starting at 10 am. The cemetery is located in Helen/Mechanicsville, MD at 38888 Doctor Johnson Road adjacent to the Mother Catherine Academy (Route 238). An enclosable tent will be erected for everyone's comfort so the Mass will be held in the cemetery rain or shine. If you need additional information, you may contact our office at (301) 475-5005 or (301) 932-1766.

MEN'S NIGHT OF REFLECTION On Monday, May 9th at 7 pm at S. Cecilia's. Can a devotion to the Rosary and Brown Scapular truly help you grow in holiness and equip you to bring the Light of Christ to others? This month's talk, "Mastering Manhood Through Mary," given by Fr. Larry Swink. Evening includes Adoration, talk, Confessions and Healing prayers.

WOMEN'S NIGHT OF REFLECTION On Tuesday, May 10th at 7 pm at St. Cecilia's. How can this devotion of the Brown Scapular help you grow in holiness and do battle against the "false-prophets" of today? This month's talk, "Clothed in the Scapular," given by Fr. Sam Plummer. Evening includes Adoration, talk, Confessions (6 pm), and Healing prayers.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES: POSITIONS AVAILABLE Catholic Charities' Angel's Watch Emergency Shelter in Waldorf is looking for both full time and part time employees for Program Assistants, Receptionist, and Social Work Manager. These positions must be applied for on the Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington website, under 'career opportunities.' The website will have a summary of each position as well as a description of essential duties and responsibilities.

SUMMER FUN! High School and Middle School Via Christi Youth Group Camping Trip, July 25-28 at Rocky Gap Maryland State Park with Fr. Larry Swink! Daily Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, Confessions, Sailing, Kayaking, Volleyball, Swimming, Hiking, and more! Only \$25. Space is limited so register ASAP before May 4 with Cookie Pontzer, cookiepontzer@gmail.com or 301-672-0075.

IHM CRAFTERS IHM crafters, as part of our 75th Anniversary celebration we would like to raffle off some of your creations throughout the year. The funds will be used to help with this year's anniversary celebration costs. If you are interested in donating, contact Dennis DeCarlo (301-863-5133, decarlodp@verizon.net) or Anne Krech (301-373-6106, kamp-krech@md.metrocast.net)

MASS IN THE PARKING LOT As a reminder, during IHM's weekend Masses we have in-parking lot options available. While parked at IHM, if you tune to 99.7 FM you can hear the Mass broadcast live. If you park in the second, smaller parking lot, we will bring out Communion at the appropriate time.

OFFICE ASSISTANT JOB DESCRIPTION St. Francis Xavier Church is looking to hire a part-time Office Assistant. Duties include greeting visitors, answering phones, mail, maintaining church records, ordering supplies and assisting the Pastor in various duties. Requires competency in Word, Excel, and email. The position is 20 hours per week, Monday through Thursday. If interested, please contact the office by phone 301-475-9885 or email Father Ryan at PinedaR@adw.org.

ROSARY PILGRIMAGE Please join us for a Glorious Mystery Rosary Pilgrimage on Saturday June 4, 2022 from 8:30 am until 4:30 pm at Camp Maria Retreat Center-41290 Camp Maria Rd, Leonardtown MD 20650. Speaker is Dr. Gail Yearick, PhD, Cost \$50.00 scholarships are available if needed. Registration: Submit your name, address, phone number and church to normayearick80@gamil.com for more information normayearick80@gmail.com or Camp Maria office 301-475-8330.

MASS INTENTIONS may be requested at the parish office during regular office hours (M—F, 8 am—4 pm) in person or by phone (301-863-8144 x11), or by e-mailing julian@ihmrcc.org. Your desired date may not be available. We now have the ability to accept Mass intention stipends online (but only **after** the date has been accepted by the office).

ST. MARY'S YOUTH MEMORIAL MAY MASS On Saturday, May 21 the St. Mary's Youth Memorial will conduct their Annual Outdoor May Mass at 20016 Point Lookout Rd. (Route 5), in Great Mills, MD. The Rosary will start at 10:30 am and the Mass will start 11 am. Both events will be held under the protection of the pavilion with seating provided. All are welcome to attend, including the General Public. Parking on-site is available and we recommend arriving early for preferred parking.



May 8, 2022

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 13:14, 43-52 | Rev 7:9, 14b-17 | Jn 10:27-30

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

The divisiveness we see in our nation and our world is not new – it is rooted in our original sin. In the Old Testament, the Assyrians invaded the northern kingdom of Israel, forcing many of its citizens into exile and captivity. In the modern world, Russia invades Ukraine and millions of refugees flee. It seems as if this 2200-year-old adage is true: “Nothing is new under the sun!” (Eccl 1:9) Except for Jesus. Of him God says [spoiler for next week!], “Behold I make all things new.” (Rev 21:5) As we hear in today’s first reading, conflict between Jews and Gentiles forced Paul and Barnabas to leave Antioch. In contrast, John in Revelation envisions a world where “every nation, race, people, and tongue” stand before the Lord. For us as for them, Jesus is the path to the unity we desire. That’s not to gloss over real differences and even worse, the horror of war. However, it can be a reminder that no matter what else we do, we need to turn to the Lord first in prayer, asking him to guide us in our response; asking the Holy Spirit to help us see people of all nations, and indeed our very own neighbors, as our brothers and sisters.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Judging by the volume wars during our family television sessions, it seems that people have varying levels of ability to hear certain accents and types of voices. I wonder if this capacity to hear properly, or with the necessary level of attention, can sometimes apply to our ability to hear, really *hear*, the words of Jesus. Perhaps we’re too busy, or other preoccupations crowd out his voice. Today’s Gospel reminds us to tune back in. “My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me,” Jesus says. In the first reading, Luke describes the Gentiles who lived in Antioch and were “delighted” in hearing the Good News of salvation and who “glorified the word of the Lord,” spreading it “through the whole region.” Today and every day, we can emulate the early Christians by opening our ears (or eyes!) to the word of God through the Scriptures, and in turn sharing that light of salvation to all who need it.

PRAY Pray Pope Francis’ prayer for peace, found on the USCCB website: www.usccb.org/prayers/pope-francis-prayer-peace. Lord God of peace, hear our prayer!