



Dear Friends in Christ,

In two weeks, we will be celebrating the great feast of Pentecost and the sending of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and the Church, as Jesus promises in today's Gospel when he says: *And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth.* We see in the very beginning of the Acts of the Apostles that Jesus asked his Apostles *to wait for "the promise of the Father about which you have heard me speak; for John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the holy Spirit."*

A few verses later, after the Ascension of Jesus, we are told that *All these devoted themselves with one accord to prayer, together with some women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers until Pentecost.* This was the very first novena ever prayed, and the Pentecost novena has been a tradition in the Church ever since. I encourage you to pray a Pentecost novena of daily prayers between this coming Friday and next Saturday, in imitation of the Apostles. The Church and the world very much need a new Pentecost, a new sending of the Holy Spirit to guide, encourage and strengthen us.

Traditionally, the Pentecost novena begins the day after Ascension Thursday. Since in most of the US, the celebration of the Ascension has been transferred to next Sunday, this means we start the novena on the Friday **before** Ascension Sunday (that is, this coming Friday, May 19) until the Vigil of Pentecost (Saturday, May 27).

There are many different texts you might use in praying this novena, including the fuller versions at the websites listed below (or click on them at pentecost.ihmrcc.org, to avoid typing in the long URLs). A short version of a Pentecost novena is inserted into this bulletin.

<https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/devotions/novena-to-the-holy-spirit-for-the-seven-gifts-309>

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2020/05/pentecost-novena-booklet.pdf>

On the Vigil of Pentecost next Saturday, a group of our young parishioners will be receiving the sacrament of Confirmation at the 4 pm Mass. Please pray for them in a special way as they prepare for their own mini-Pentecost. We see in today's second reading from the Acts of the Apostles an early example of Confirmation, when Peter

and John go to Samaria to pray for those who had been baptized there and lay hands on them, *that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for it had not yet fallen upon any of them...*

For those who might be tempted to attend Mass elsewhere that evening, please note that Our Lady, Star of the Sea is also having confirmations at the same time, so don't bother crossing the bridge.

Yours in Christ Jesus,
Fr. Marco

ORDINATION AND RECEPTION Our own Ronnie Chavez is receiving his diaconal ordination at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in DC on Saturday, June 3 at 10 am. All are invited to attend this glorious Mass. All are also invited to celebrate the ordination of Ronnie Chavez with a Potluck Luncheon on Sunday, June 4 at 1 pm in the Parish Hall.

CAMP CREATION Camp Maria will offer "Camp Creation" a care for the earth themed summer day camp for youth ages 7-14 years old. Camp Creation offers hands-on experiences for children to be outside together in nature and to have firsthand experiences of God in the beautiful natural surroundings at Camp Maria Retreat Center. Activities include ecosystem awareness, swimming, canoeing, crabbing and fishing off the pier, and arts and crafts. There will be two sessions offered. Session 1 is Monday, July 17 through Thursday, July 20. Session 2 is Tuesday, August 1 through Friday August 4. The Camp is \$215 per session (lunch and snacks provided). For more information and to sign up, go to www.campmaria.org.

MASS OF REMEMBRANCE St. Mary's Youth Memorial is hosting a Mass of Remembrance for those who have lost family members in their youth. The event is Saturday, May 20 and begins with a Living Rosary at 10:15 am and Mass at 11 am at St Mary's Youth Memorial in Great Mills. Come and provide support to those who lost family members in their youth. In case of inclement weather, the service will take place at Holy Face Church in Great Mills. Email any questions to smymemorial@gmail.com.

UPDATE NEEDED! The parish office is finding that much of our information for parishioners is outdated. Please call or email the parish office to update any new home addresses, email addresses, home and cell phone numbers, new family members, or any other parishioner data that may have changed in the past few years. The parish number is 301-863-8144, or you can email our secretary Julián Ortiz at julian@ihmrcc.org.

SIXTH SUNDAY IN EASTER



May 15 — May 21

Monday	Acts 16:11-15/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b/ Jn 15:26—16:4a
9:00 am	Mary Brien (D)
Tuesday	Acts 16:22-34/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8/ Jn 16:5-11
5:30 pm	Fred and Sue Heather (L)
Wednesday	Acts 17:15, 22—18:1/Ps 148:1-2, 11-12, 13, 14/Jn 16:12-15
9:00 am	Damaritza Ortiz (L)
Thursday	Acts 18:1-8/98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/ Jn 16:16-20
5:30 pm	Bray Family (L)
Friday	Acts 18:9-18/PS 47:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/ Jn 16:20-23
9:00 am	Mariano Palaroan (D)
Saturday	Acts 18:23-28/Ps 47:2-3, 8-9, 10/ Jn 16:23b-28
9:00 am	John Bagnato (D)
4:00 pm	Mike Mullins (D)
Sunday	Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9/Eph 1:17-23/ Mt 28:16-20
8:30 am	Jim Brown (D)
11:15 am	Theresa Mulhall (D)
1:00 pm	All IHM Parishioners

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 if you have your hazard lights on.

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).

IHM FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY The Next Fellowship Sunday is on Sunday, May 28th. Join us in the Parish Hall for coffee, donuts, and fellowship after mass!

CARENET BABY BOTTLE FUNDRAISER Pick up a baby bottle at the main entrances of the church and bring it back on Father's Day full of donations for the Southern Maryland CareNet Pregnancy Center. Please be generous to this charity that cares for the mothers and their children in our area.

Events Calendar

May 15 — May 21

No events this week

LIFE-GIVING WOUNDS HEALING RETREAT The Life-Giving Wounds retreat is a three-day healing retreat for young adults and adults whose parents have divorced or separated. The retreat includes live music throughout the weekend, presentations by trained retreat leaders and experts; guided small group discussions with peers; silent journaling sessions; prayer and the Sacraments; and more. It will take place on May 26-28 at the Loyola on the Potomac retreat house in Faulkner, Maryland. Registration is \$295 for adults or \$200 for college students or consecrated persons. Cost includes overnight lodging in a single room, meals, a retreat guide, and journal. All info and registration at www.lifegivingwounds.org/marylandretreat.

PRAYER CHAIN The Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Shrine has a prayer line where you can talk and pray with someone over the phone. The prayer line is open Monday through Friday from 10 am to 5 pm. Call 1-866-202-4934.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

THE SICK

THAT THEY MAY BE RESTORED TO FULL HEALTH

Audrey Somers, Kathleen Floyd, Mary Oliver, Jane Kenyon, Linda F. Gieser, Ralph Gough Sr., Betty LePore, Joseph Hugh Weiland, Rylee Corliss, Alan Stapanon, Ruby Garcia, Mia Garcia, Matthew Riddell, Marie C. Williams, Kaylee Klier, Wanda Slater, Enedina Melendez, Hector Perez, Josephine, Glenn Thompson III, John Worrell, Jim Makin, Carmen Colby, Gary Green, Grace Miedzinski, Bruce Riddell, Katelyn Corliss, Robert Weaver, Linda Jones, Devlin Rich, Ana Gates, Mike Price, Corrine Geraty, Dennis Berg, Alejandra Spargo, Paul Crowe, Adele Bavani, Violette Ghalbouny

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 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.

Follow us on



FORMED

To sign up for 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 interested in becoming Catholic or you know a Catholic desiring to learn more about the faith, please contact Tess Crowe via email at rcia@ihmrcc.org or contact the office at 301-863-8144 to register.



MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER Happy Mother's Day! Husbands, give the mother of your children a weekend away with you. Grow more in love than ever on the next Worldwide Marriage

Encounter Experience on Jul 14-16, 2023 in Rockville, MD and Sep 22-24, 2023 in Herndon, VA. Early sign up is recommended. For more information visit our website at: <https://moments4marriage.org> or contact us at applications@moments4marriage.org or 301-541-7007.

BULLETIN DEADLINE Please email your submission to bulletin@ihmrcc.org by Wednesday at 10 am prior to the Sunday of publication. All entries are subject to editing.

MASS WITH HEALING PRAYERS This month's Mass with Healing Prayers is at 7 pm on Monday, May 22. After Mass, we will have Eucharistic Adoration and prayers for healing with laying on of hands. Confessions begin at 6:30 pm and continue as long as there are penitents.

MEN'S DISCERNMENT MASS AND BRUNCH will take place on Sunday, May 21 from 10 am to 1 pm at Saint John Paul II Seminary in Washington, D.C. This is an opportunity for young men, college age and up, to discuss the priesthood with priests and seminarians from the Archdiocese of Washington. There is no cost for this event, but attendees must register at <https://dcpriest.org/2023-mens-discernment-mass-and-brunch>.

QUO VADIS CAMP 2023 will be held from Sunday, July 23 to Wednesday, July 26. High-school age young men who desire to grow in holiness will have an opportunity for Mass, prayer, and Eucharistic Adoration. There will also be plenty of time for recreation, sports, and fraternity. Bus transportation with stops at Lexington Park, Largo, and Rockville will be available. Online registration is open at <https://dcpriest.org/2023-quo-vadis-camp>.

ALTAR FLOWERS/SANCTUARY CANDLES If you would like to donate the Altar Flowers or Sanctuary Candles in memory or for special intentions of a loved one, please call the Parish Office or email at cindy@ihmrcc.org.

YOUNG ADULT RETREAT Calling all Southern MD young adults in their 20s and 30s! Join us Saturday, May 20 for a Young Adult Retreat at Our Lady Star of the Sea in Solomons! Our Retreat Master will be Fr. Chris Seith, Director of Spiritual Formation and Liturgy at the JPII Seminary in DC. The day will begin at 9 am and will be filled with talks, small groups, fellowship, Adoration, Mass, and confessions. We'll finish up around 5:30 pm and will have an optional dinner out on the town afterwards. Cost to attend is \$20 which includes breakfast and lunch. Visit <https://olss.org/spring-2023-young-adult-retreat> for registration and payment information. If you have questions, contact Alison at associate.olstar-sea.md@adw.org or 410-326-3535.

CATECHISTS NEEDED The Faith Formation office is in need of catechists (teachers of the faith) for both the Children's Faith Formation and for the RCIA Teens and Adults. If you have a desire to teach the next generation of Catholics or just want to learn more about this calling, please contact Damaritza Ortiz at 301-863-8793 or cff@ihmrcc.org.

COMMUNION SERVICE Instead of Daily Mass at 5:30 pm on Tuesday, May 17 we will have a Communion Service lead by Deacon Juan.

GARDEN AND GROUNDS MINISTRY We have various projects around the church that need to be completed. Any adult or child would be welcome. If you want to volunteer, please contact Martha Davie by phone or text at 240-434-3510. Thank you!

LOYOLA ON THE POTOMAC, A Jesuit Retreat House in Faulkner, MD is open for various retreat weekends, for both men and women. Directed and Private Retreats are also available. See our complete Retreat Schedule at: www.loyolaonthepotomac.com, (301) 392-0800.

HOLY LAND TRIP Our Lady Star of the Sea Travel Club in Solomons is hosting a trip to the Holy Land this coming November. Last year's trip exceeded our expectations, so we have decided to offer it again. The trip dates are November 28 (depart the U.S) to December 6 (return home). The per person cost of \$999 includes hotel, daily breakfast and dinner, bus, and all tours with a private guide. Airfare and trip insurance is additional. (Current airfare is around \$900) Please contact Mary Beth Brown at 443-623-6368, or e-mail marybeth@bytheseatravel.com for more information.



May 14, 2023

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17 | 1 Pt 3:15-18 | Jn 14:15-21

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

I know a few people whose method of book buying is to read the last few pages of a book first. They want to know if buying, or reading, the book is going to be worth it. As an avid bibliophile I find this to be something I could never do, but I understand their impulse. After all, it makes sense to want to have some kind of assurance that the journey one is taking – whether physical, spiritual, or literary – has a decent “payoff,” as it were. In today’s Gospel, Jesus promises his disciples that when he leaves he will provide “another Advocate” for them. We see this truth in action in the first reading, as with the laying on of hands by the apostles, those who had been baptized in Jesus’ name “received the Holy Spirit.” Christ’s life, death, and resurrection not only conquered death and brought us new life, it made way for the Holy Spirit who has come to dwell among and within us. The Lord has not left us alone. So while we may have a sense of what the sequel to our journey is, we trust the author of our story to help us write the ending of this one.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

The love of God and the gift of faith from the Holy Spirit brought the earliest disciples, and us, to the journey – to our own story of a life of discipleship. And while the Bible is indeed “a book,” it is also a compilation of books, letters, and events, and more, that give words to a living history of salvation that began before time and is outside of time and eternal. The Good News cannot be contained in pages – it must be lived, shared, and loved. And yes, it is good to know how it ends, but even that pales in relation to the joy and worthiness of the reading and living of the Word. That is for us to experience, and to share! As much gratification as there is in sharing our favorite new bestseller, we need to double and revamp our efforts when it comes to the Gospel. Give it away freely, to everyone, and shout out the ending. Jesus Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! And the Holy Spirit sets us free to love him and one another.

STUDY In order to truly live the Word and spread it to others as Jesus commanded, we must be familiar with the Scriptures. The *Word on Fire Bible*, featuring the Gospels only, is well-designed and includes commentary from Bishop Robert Barron as well as Church Fathers and recent saints and Catholic authors.