



# St. Mary's Catholic Church



## May 2, 2021 - Fifth Sunday of Easter - Cycle B

**St. Mary's - Shenandoah**  
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**Secretary**  
712-246-1718

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246-9812

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**Director of Religious Education**  
402-813-2113



### 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and everyone that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit." - Jn 15:1-2

Excerpt from The Sacraments for Mass ©2011, 1998, 1970/CC2

*Raymond & GiGi DeSa*  
**Youth Ministry**  
712-313-1181

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**Welcome to St. Mary's Church on this Fifth Sunday of Easter. Jesus tells us in today's Gospel that he remains in us and if we remain in him we will bear much fruit. Gathered together today, we are a visible sign of a community who remains in the Lord. May the sustenance we receive here from Word and Eucharist nourish us so that we may bear much fruit in the world.**

### Readings for week May 2, 2021

**Sunday:** Acts 9:26-31/Ps 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32 [26a]/1 Jn 3:18-24/Jn 15:1-8  
**Monday:** 1 Cor 15:1-8/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5 [5]/Jn 14:6-14  
**Tuesday:** Acts 14:19-28/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21 [cf. 12]/Jn 14:27-31a  
**Wednesday:** Acts 15:1-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5 [cf. 1]/Jn 15:1-8  
**Thursday:** Acts 15:7-21/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10 [3]/Jn 15:9-11  
**Friday:** Acts 15:22-31/Ps 57:8-9, 10 and 12 [10a]/Jn 15:12-17  
**Saturday:** Acts 16:1-10/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 5/Jn 15:18-21  
**Next Sunday:** Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4 [cf. 2b]/1 Jn 4:7-10/Jn 15:9-17

## Cycle B—Reflection on Readings

### Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:26-31; Psalm 22; 1 John 3:18-24;  
John 15:1-8



### Theme: United with Jesus we stand, separated we perish

There is an inspiring story of two men who were seriously ill. They were admitted into a hospital and both shared the same room. One of them was lying in the bed next to the only window in the room. Every day for a few minutes he was advised to sit up in his bed to help drain the fluid from his lungs. The other man was forced to stay all day in bed flat on his back. Every time when the first man was sitting up, he described in detail all he saw outside the window - the view of the park, the lake, children playing, couples walking hand in hand, the skyline and so on. His roommate always looked forward to those moments of sharing which brightened his spirit and made him happy. After listening to the descriptions, the roommate would close his eyes and imagine all the beautiful things that were told to him.

One night the man, whose bed was near the window, died peacefully in his sleep and his roommate was very sad. There was no one to describe the outside scene to him anymore. So, he asked the nurse if he could be moved to the bed near the window. The nurse agreed, and he was moved. After she had left the man slowly propped himself up on one elbow to look at the world outside. He was stunned. There was only the blank wall of another building staring at him. When the nurse came to visit him the next time, he asked about the beautiful things outside the window that his roommate had described to him. The nurse replied that his roommate was a blind man. She said, "Probably he just tried to encourage you."

#### The need to support and pray for one another

My dear beloved, we all need a little encouragement and help in our life. We all need one another to see us through tough times. We cannot accomplish anything alone. Especially we need to support, encourage, and pray for one another to persevere in our faith and walk in God's ways.

The word "Christian" generally brings warmth and good feeling to members of our Church. There are memories of first Communion and confirmation, there is commitment in adulthood to the sharing of the faith that was so generously given to us. Today's readings reflect the obligations inherent in the reception of baptism. Christianity demands productivity.

Jesus says in the Gospel, *"Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing... If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want, and it will be done for you."*

As the real vine, Jesus brings true life from God. The failure to bear fruit is the failure to share in divine life. Sharing in the vine is a commitment to give to others. The Christian's response is to live in Jesus and hence to be productive. To not live in Christ is to be a withered branch.

The Christian life is practical. In loving ourselves, our neighbors, and our God, we profess that God is love. In reaching out to the oppressed, we announce that God is the champion of the poor. In promoting honesty in government and our workplace, we proclaim that God is the God of justice. In comforting the sorrowful, we state that God is the source of all consolation. Each of these actions spring from baptism.

#### Cultivate the culture of encouragement

Let us, therefore, cultivate a culture of encouragement. Let us inspire one another to rise above present discouragement, obstacles, struggles, difficulties, and lack of faith. Let us help one another to keep our faith in difficult times. Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus who leads us to peace and joy. Just as the branches are connected to the vine to bear fruit let us remain in Jesus and let Jesus' words remain in us so that we may bear much fruit, together with him. Shalom!

# Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK



<b>Saturday</b> 3:30pm 4:30pm	<b>May 1 St. Joseph the Worker</b> <b>Confession</b> <b>Mass for Matt McIntyre+</b>
<b>Sunday</b> 6:30am 10:30am - Also Livestream Zoom	<b>May 2 5th Sunday of Easter</b> <b>Mass for Pat Ginger+</b> <b>Mass for Wally Teten+</b>
<b>Monday</b> No Mass	<b>May 3 Sts. Phillip and James, Apostles</b> <b>Fr Raphael Day off</b>
<b>Tuesday</b> 12:10pm	<b>May 4</b> <b>Mass for David &amp; Korliss Angus+</b>
<b>Weds</b> 12:10pm	<b>May 5 Cinco de Mayo</b> <b>Mass for Paul Aust+</b>
<b>Thursday</b> 12:10pm	<b>May 6 National Day of Prayer</b> <b>Mass for Berky Martin Family</b>
<b>Friday</b> 12:10pm	<b>May 7</b> <b>Mass for Emmett &amp; Stella Gleason+</b>
<b>Saturday</b> 3:30pm 4:30pm	<b>May 8</b> <b>Confession</b> <b>Mass for Carl &amp; June Maher+</b>
<b>Sunday</b> 6:30am 10:30am - Also Livestream Zoom	<b>May 9 6th Sunday of Easter;</b> <b>Mother's Day</b> <b>Mass for Mike Dinville+</b> <b>Mass for Mike Teachout+</b>

## Lectors

**May 8 - 4:30pm Blaine Maher**  
**May 9 - 6:30am Dana Wenstrand**  
**May 9 - 10:30am Joan Bloom**

**Thank You for the Birthday cards & the nice words about my upcoming retirement. Dick Hunt**

## St. Mary's Church Support

**Tithes - \$1887.00**  
**Plate - \$430.00**



## St. Mary's has filled the spot for Youth Ministry!

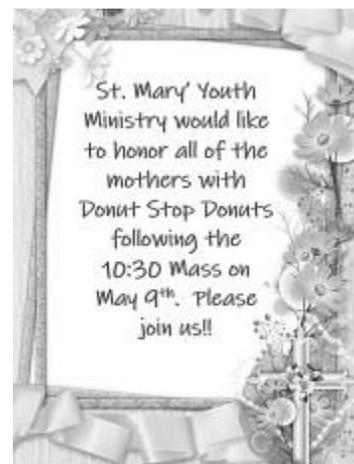
Ray and Patricia (Gigi) DeSa moved here from California in 2016 and created a homestead in Sidney. They have both been active with their Catholic faith since they were small children and will bring an amazing energy and new approach to Youth Ministry.

Gigi has been active in Religious Education since 2017, devoting her time to the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade class each year and in 2019, she spear-headed the Prayer in Action Program that was centralized in Shenandoah and helped lead the high school students and chaperones from all over Iowa to do ministry work in our home town. Don't worry, Gigi is refusing to give up her littles in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade so you will be seeing her wear many hats with all ages of youth!

Ray, like Gigi, helped lead the Prayer and Action Program and was a huge asset when it came to the construction side of the program as they helped build a porch, gardening, and painting homes are just some of the things he helped with.

It will be wonderful to see the missionary-style programs that this team will be providing for our youth. Stay tuned to hear about all the wonderful things our youth will be doing in the coming year!

Please welcome Ray and Gigi to their new roles within our church! Any questions you have regarding the Youth Ministry Program or Confirmation, you may reach out to Gigi at 712-313-1181 or [button61@icloud.com](mailto:button61@icloud.com).



## Motivation of the week



### The Story: Rocks, Pebbles, and Sand

A philosophy professor once stood up before his class with a large empty mayonnaise jar. He filled the jar to the top with large rocks and asked his students if the jar was full.

His students all agreed **the jar was full.**

He then added small pebbles to the jar and gave the jar a bit of a shake so the pebbles could disperse themselves among the larger rocks. Then he asked again, "Is the jar full now?"

The students agreed that **the jar was still full.**

The professor then poured sand into the jar to fill up all the remaining empty space.

The students then agreed again that **the jar was full.**

### The Metaphor:

In this story, **the jar represents your life** and the **rocks, pebbles, and sand are the things that fill up your life.** The rocks represent the most important projects and things you have going on, such as spending time with your family and maintaining proper health. This means that if the pebbles and the sand were lost, the jar would still be full and **your life would still have meaning.**

The pebbles represent the things in your life that matter, but that you could live without. The pebbles are certainly things that give your life meaning (such as your job, house, hobbies, and friendships), but they are not critical for you to have a meaningful life. **These things often come and go and are not permanent or essential to your overall well-being.**

Finally, the sand represents the remaining filler things in your life, and material possessions. This could be small things such as watching television, browsing through your favorite social media site, or running errands. **These things don't mean much to your life as a whole and are likely only done to waste time or get small tasks accomplished.**

### The Moral Lesson:

The metaphor here is that if you start with putting sand into the jar, you will not have room for rocks or pebbles. This holds true with the things you let into your life. **If you spend all your time on the small and insignificant things, you will run out of room for the things that are actually important.**

In order to have a more effective and efficient life, pay attention to the "rocks," because they are critical to your long-term well-being.

Dear Parishioners,

We are planning on attending NCYC (National Catholic Youth Conference) in Indianapolis this November.

We are starting our fundraising and we are bringing back the jewelry sales! It is our privilege to offer you an opportunity to purchase beautiful imported hand-made Italian and Bethlehem rosaries, as well as a large variety of Catholic medals, crucifix necklaces bracelets and other faith inspired jewelry. We are presenting you with a wide variety of these religious items at reasonable prices. Even as you are blessed by the beauty of these sacramentals, our group will be blessed by your generosity. 50% of all proceeds go directly to our NCYC fund!

Please stop at our display after the Masses in the Parish Hall and see what we are offering.

Saturday May 15 - 4:30pm

Sunday May 16 - 6:30am & 10:30am

Saturday May 22 - 4:30pm

Sunday May 23 - 6:30am & 10:30am

Saturday May 29 - 4:30pm

Sunday May 30 - 6:30am & 10:30am

Your purchase of these quality items supports our parish youth. Due to COVID restrictions, we need to raise a large amount of money in a short period of time and we appreciate your help!

Thank you, Juan Cepeda, Ava Godfread, Braedon Godfread, AJ Moore, Tyler Laughlin, Cris Ramos, Auri Trowbridge, Gigi DeSa and Lynda Marshall

St. Mary's Ladies Guild will be having a meeting on Monday, May 17<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00pm in St. Mary's Parish Hall. Elections of officers will be on the agenda. Everyone attending must wear masks and practice social distancing. All ladies of St. Mary's are invited.

**Lenora Doyle Scholarship Fund** - St. Mary's Parish is now accepting applications for the Lenora Doyle Scholarship for 2020-2021 school year. An application can be picked up during Church Office hours. **Applications must be turned in no later than May 13, 2021.** Any questions, please contact Diane at 246-1718 in the Church Office.

# Vatican dedicates month of May to global rosary 'marathon' for end of COVID-19

**By Hannah Brockhaus**

Vatican City, Apr 21, 2021 / 14:00 pm America/Denver (CNA).

The Vatican has announced a rosary initiative dedicating the month of May to prayer for an end to the coronavirus pandemic.

The Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization said April 21 that "for the deep desire of the Holy Father, the month of May will be dedicated to a prayer marathon with the theme 'Prayer to God went up incessantly from the whole Church.'"

The council said that the world's Catholic shrines would be involved in a special way as promoters of the rosary among Catholic individuals, families, and communities.

The Catholic Church dedicates the month of May to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Pope Francis will open the month of prayer on May 1, asking for Mary's intercession.

## Intercession of Our Lady

*We fly to your protection,  
O Holy Mother of God;  
Do not despise our petitions  
in our necessities,  
but deliver us always  
from every danger,  
O Glorious and Blessed Virgin. Amen!*

## Prayers for May, the Month of the Virgin Mary

By ThoughtCo

The Catholic practice of assigning a special devotion to each month goes back to the early 16th century. Since the best known of those devotions is probably the dedication of May as *the month of the Blessed Virgin Mary*, it might come as a surprise that it wasn't until the late 18th century that this devotion arose among Jesuits in Rome. In the early years of the 19th century, it quickly spread throughout the Western Church, and, by the time of Pope Pius IX's declaration of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception in 1854, it had become universal. *May crowning* and other special events in May in honor of Mary, such as public recitation of the rosary, stem from this time. Sadly, such communal events are rare today, but we can take the month of May as an opportunity to renew our own devotion to the Mother of God by dusting off our rosaries and adding a few more Marian prayers to our daily routine. Parents should encourage Marian devotion in their children, since the non-Catholic Christians they encounter today often downplay (if not denigrate) the role that the Blessed Virgin played in our salvation through her *fiat* -- her joyous "Yes" to the will of God.



**Birthday**  
**5-3 Blaine Maher**



**Mary Lightfoot  
Patricia Steffes  
Evelyn Pontious  
Carla Offenburger  
Helen Lewis  
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