

Holy Family St. John the Evangelist Our Lady of Peace Parish

Holy Family Church
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Church of the Holy Family -
The United Nations Parish
@HolyFamilyNYC

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER MAY 18, 2025

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Msgr. Douglas J. Mathers, JD, JCD, *Pastor*
Rev. Father Joseph T. Chacko, *Parochial Vicar*

Mrs. Elizabeth Rivera, *Administrative Assistant & Religious Education Director*
e.rivera@churchholyfamily.org

FINANCE COUNCIL

Joanne Kane, *Endowment Trustee and Lay Trustee*; William C. Hilliard, *Endowment Trustee*; Catherine Flax-Kosecki, *Endowment Trustee and Lay Trustee*; Maria Salles Zehler, Mark Zadrozny, *Endowment Trustee*, Thomas McMackin, *Endowment Trustee*

SCHEDULE OF MASSES

Sundays

5:30 PM Saturday (anticipated); 8:00 AM, 11 AM (High Mass) 8:30 PM

Weekdays

8:00 AM (Monday through Friday)
12:10 PM (Monday through Saturday)

Holy Days of Obligation

8:00 AM, 12:10 PM

Novenas and Devotions - Immediately after the 12:10 PM Mass

Monday: Miraculous Medal Novena
Tuesday: Recitation of the Holy Rosary for peace in the world
Wednesday: Mother of Perpetual Help Novena
Thursday: Recitation of the Holy Rosary
Friday: **Exposition of The Most Blessed Sacrament from
12:35 to 2:00 PM - First Friday of the Month**
Sacred Heart Novena

(during Lent: Stations of the Cross replace Exposition, Novena and Benediction)

CONFESSIONS - SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Saturday from 11:55-12:05 PM and from 5:00 PM to 5:25 PM

Sunday from 10:30 AM to 10:55 AM and 8:15-8:25 p.m.

Monday through Friday from 11:55-12:05 PM

At other times please stop by the rectory

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Baptisms are administered on Sundays at 12:15 PM. An instruction class is required for the parents and godparents. Please contact the parish office for an appointment.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Please contact the parish office at least six months in advance of your proposed date of marriage. Pre-Cana instruction is required for the engaged couple.

VISITATION OF THE SICK - COMMUNION CALLS

Please contact the parish office for visitation of the sick at home or in the hospital.

CCD - RELIGIOUS ED - SACRAMENTAL CLASSES FOR ADULTS

For the religious education of children in grades first through seven (including preparation for First Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation) please contact Mrs. Elizabeth Rivera at the Parish Office.

Adults who would like to join the Catholic Church are asked to contact the parish office. Baptized Catholics who need to receive First Confession, First Communion and/or Confirmation are asked to contact the parish office.

NEW PARISHIONERS

Welcome to Holy Family! Please register in the Parish Office or on-line.

ONLINE GIVING TO THE PARISH

Online Giving is available with WeShare. You can set up a recurring weekly or monthly transaction using your checking, savings, or credit card account. To enroll visit churchholyfamily.churchgiving.com.

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF
MAY 18TH, 2025**

Sunday, May 18th – Fifth Sunday of Easter	
5:30 pm (Sat.)	
8:00 am	
11:00 am	
8:30 pm	
Monday, May 19th – Weekday	
8:00 am	For the Intentions of Our Parishioners
12:10 pm	Gregory Boratgis +
Tuesday, May 20th – Saint Bernardine of Siena, Priest	
8:00 am	Alexander Robert Urtula +
12:10 pm	Gregory Boratgis +
Wednesday, May 21st – Saint Magallanes, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs	
8:00 am	
12:10 pm	Angel Divino +
Thursday, May 22nd – Saint Rita of Cascia, Religious	
8:00 am	
12:10 pm	
Friday, May 23rd – Weekday	
8:00 am	
12:10 pm	Emil Ramirez +
Saturday, May 24th – Blessed Virgin Mary	
12:10 pm	
5:30 pm	Josep Maria Trullas +

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF
 May 18th, 2025 (Year C, Cycle I). May be found:
<https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/daily-readings>

IN YOUR PRAYERS please remember:
 Virginia Bird, Carmen Rios Caro, Melody Colligan, Carlos Cuerta, Rachel Dawson, Patick DeSarlo Gene Doyle, Deborah Feudo, Dorothy Gerber, Gregory Henry, Jacqueline Lugo, Ken Majuk, Father John McDonagh, Audrey Marshall, Ramona Pacheco, Joanne Perry, Frank Sajeski, Ceil Seprosky, Margie Skeels, Julio Soto, Mateo Tobia, Virginia Vassallo and Cathy Vukovich, who are ill or disable



Meditation for the Fifth Sunday of Easter: Christian Spirituality

The glorification of Christ was not completed by His resurrection from the dead. He goes to the Father and takes possession of His throne as the glorified Savior and shares dominion over the world. "Sing ye to the Lord a new canticle" (Introit). He withdraws His visible presence from His disciples and from His Church that



FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Meditation (continued)

He may send the Holy Spirit who will always remain with them invisibly and spiritually. "If I go not, the Paraclete will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you" (Gospel).

"I go to Him that sent Me" (Gospel). His disciples must free themselves from their attachment to His human form; the comfort and solace of having Him physically near them. They, too, must become spiritualized. Then only can He send His Holy Spirit and make them bearers of the Spirit. They must acquire the strength of the Spirit to comfort mankind in all its trials and difficulties to be more spiritual and detach from all that is worldly.

In our piety we can act in a way that is not spiritual. We long for His sensible presence and devotion. We want Him to give us real visions or some tangible manifestation of His love; for sensible consolations of many sorts. This is an unsound sort of spirituality, based on sensible devotion. But Christ tells us, "It is expedient to you that I go." We must become more spiritual: that is the lesson during this time before Pentecost. We must lift up our hearts to the glorified Christ and live for the life above. ... seek a spirituality based on the spirit of faith and overcoming selfish desires and tendencies; based on a love that attends to God alone that leads to Him. "... for if I go not, the Paraclete will not come..."

Jesus leaves us, so as to send His Holy Spirit. God's gifts of the Holy Spirit merited through His suffering and death. Christ ascends into heaven that He may send Him to be our comforter. He comes to fill us with the strength to live and work for Jesus in the spirit of truth and humility; helps us live in voluntary poverty, humility, and suffering. In a word, the Holy Spirit comes to help us conform our lives perfectly to the life of Christ. He makes us witnesses (martyrs) and we gladly embrace injustices and suffering.... for us who are Christians, a higher world of eternity, is the one reality.

The most effective means of acquiring true Christian spirituality is participation in the Mass. We receive the Holy Eucharist, glorified flesh and blood of the Lord, who pours forth the wealth and the riches of the Holy Spirit upon us...

—*Benedict Bauer, O.S.B, from The Light of the World, Vol II,*

Our Lady—Undoer of Knots

My Dear Parishioners:

In 1986, when Pope Francis was studying for a doctorate in Germany, he visited the Church of St. Peter am Perlach in Augsburg. He saw a painting in the Church of Our Lady untying the knots in a white ribbon, and was inspired by the story behind it. That story took place in 1612, and concerns the marriage of a couple named Wolfgang and Sophie. They were miserable, unhappy and on the brink of divorce. Nevertheless, they met with a priest at St. Peter's, Father Jakob Rem, to try to save their marriage. At their last meeting, Wolfgang gave the priest his wedding ribbon. In those days, it was the custom to tie the right hands of a bride and groom together with a red ribbon as they stood before God's altar on their wedding day. This ribbon symbolized the unbreakable bond of their Catholic marriage. Father Rem lifted up the couple's red wedding ribbon to an image of Our Lady and, while untying the knots in it, he prayed: "I raise up the bond of marriage, that all knots in it be loosened and resolved." While Father prayed, the unknotted ribbon miraculously became bright white. This was a sign that, through Our Lady's powerful intercession, Wolfgang and Sophie's marriage would be saved!



Devotion to Our Lady as the "Undoer of Knots" is relatively recent. It's only been around for about thirty years. When he was Archbishop of Buenos Aires, Pope Francis was instrumental in bringing this devotion out of obscurity and popularizing it Argentina. From there, the devotion spread to Brazil and it is now expanding throughout the entire Catholic world.

When Pope Francis consecrated the world to Mary, the Mother of God in October 2013, he said: "Mary's faith unties the knot of sin (cf. *Lumen Gentium*, 56). What does that mean? The "knot of disobedience", the "knot of unbelief".

When children disobey their parents, it can be said that a little "knot" is created. This happens when the child acts with awareness of what he or she is doing, especially if there is a lie involved. At that moment, they break trust with their parents. How often does this happen! Then the relationship with their parents needs to be purified of this fault; the child has to ask for forgiveness so that harmony and peace can be restored.

Something of the same sort happens in our relationship with God. When we do not listen to Him, when we do not follow His will, we do concrete things that demonstrate our lack of trust in Him—for all this is what sin is—a kind of spiritual knot is created deep within us. These knots take away our peace and serenity. They are dangerous, since many such knots can form a tangle, which gets more and more painful and difficult to undo.

But nothing is impossible for God's mercy! Even the most tangled knots are loosened by His grace. And Mary, whose "yes" opened the door for God to undo the knot of ancient disobedience, is the Mother who patiently and lovingly brings us to God, so that He can untangle the knots of our soul by His Fatherly mercy."

What are some of the knots in your life that cause you difficulty or pain? Are you willing to bring those knots to Mary and let her help you untie them?

Sincerely in Christ,
Monsignor Douglas J. Mathers

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