Prayer for the Church
Holy Virgin of Guadalupe,
Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Church.
We fly to you today as your beloved children.
We ask you to intercede for us with your Son,
as you did at the wedding in Cana.
Pray for us, loving Mother,
and gain for our nation and world,
and for all our families and loved ones,
the protection of your holy angels,
that we may be spared the worst of this illness.
For those already afflicted, we ask you
to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance.
Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful,
wipe away their tears and help them to trust.
In this time of trial and testing,
teach all of us in the Church
to love one another and to be patient and kind.
Help us to bring the peace of Jesus
to our land and to our hearts.
We come to you with confidence, knowing that you
truly are our compassionate mother,
health of the sick and cause of our joy.
Shelter us under the mantle of your protection,
keep us in the embrace of your arms,
help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus.

May 17, 2020
Website: ElizabethSouthAlleghenyCC.org

Looking For A Faith Community? Wherever you are on your faith journey, we welcome you to join our community. You may register by calling the Faith Community Office.
Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 17, 2020

We hope for many things: passing an exam, finding our true love, securing sustainable work, or surviving an illness. We often seek to have God be a part of what we hope for and desire, almost trying to convince Him that our agenda is what is ultimately important. While our particular hopes may appear to be what needs to be achieved in order for us to be happy, they really are not. Our lesser, more personal hopes can distract us from true hope.

When God became a human being, a powerful message was sent: all that is authentically human is found in the divine. As the human Jesus lived and died in order to show us that he truly is the universal Christ, we have to keep our sight focused on our eternal truth and destiny and who we truly are. We have to be careful when we allow our earthly concerns to distract us. True hope is found when we place our trust in Christ’s promises and don’t rely on our own strength. True hope focuses on striving toward the fulfillment of God’s promises and not simply on achieving what we think we need in this life. Hope always travels with two friends — faith and love. In this trio of virtues, we find the very presence of God born in every human being. These are God’s greatest gifts, and they lead us to the fullness of His presence.

As with faith and love, we cannot see hope with just our human eyes. We don’t carry this virtue within us to use solely for our own personal agenda. Hope is not something that simply comes with the human package. As with faith and love, hope is a gift that is given to us to draw us closer to our eternal truth. Faith, hope, and love are signs that there is something far greater going on in us and something greater to persevere in obtaining. The true divine gift of hope is what will endure any hardship we encounter, especially those that will come from authentically living the Gospel. With all that is happening in our lives, in our church, and in our world, what is the reason for our hope? Ask God for the fortitude to see His eternal gift as the reason we get up in the morning and do the things we do. ©LPI

Patriotism —Mark Twain

Patriotism is supporting your country all the time, and your government when it deserves it.

Prayer to Saint Michael the Archangel
Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the devil; may God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all the other evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls.

Go forth and make disciples of all peoples
—Matthew 28:19

Please keep in mind, in these extraordinary times that, although we cannot attend Mass, the Church’s financial obligations remain. We ask that you continue to support your Church as you are able and look to the time when we can gather together again in faith. Some options:

• Mail or deliver offertory envelopes & Parish Share pledges to your church office (or secure mailbox).
• Set up your church as an automatic bill payee through your online banking.
• Donate through Online Giving for your church on our grouping website, www.elizabethsouthalleghenycc.org
  Click on the ONLINE GIVING tab on the red bar at the top of the webpage, select your church, and complete the online form.

Visit our grouping website for the latest news, weekly bulletin, links to Daily Mass and Readings.

Blessings, Fr. Wagner
Sixth Sunday of Easter

As Jesus prepared the apostles for the time when he would no longer be with them physically, and knowing that they would face hardship, trials, and persecution in the future, he promised them an Advocate, the Holy Spirit. Through baptism that same Spirit dwells within us, always with us to guide us in the truth of God’s love and strengthen us so that we may know Christ and live as Christ’s people. Now, as in every time, God knows it is not always easy to live as a Christian. With the assurance of the Holy Spirit’s presence, we find the grace to love Jesus and to keep the Lord’s commandments.

Strengthened to Live as Christ’s Own

We might look at the world around us and conclude that this is the most challenging time in history during which to live as a person of faith. Yet we know this is not so. Throughout the ages, people of faith have faced mockery, persecution, and even death as a result of their commitment to Christ. Still, it is important for us to acknowledge the challenge of living as a Christian today, when faith is viewed with ambivalence at best, and often with antagonism. Some do not understand how faith and reason can sit side by side, even though many of the world’s greatest scientific discoveries have been made by people of faith. Others see the failures of the Church or its leaders and discount faith as a result. We rely on the powerful presence of the Holy Spirit to be with us when we are mocked or simply misunderstood on account of our faith in Jesus Christ. Through the Holy Spirit, we will find the grace to live with conviction as Christian people.

The Reasons For Our Hope

What is the reason for your hope? Imagine somebody coming up to you and asking you that question. Not What are you hoping for? or What are you hoping to do? No, this isn’t about our desires for possessions or aspirations for life, it’s Why do you hope? Peter today tells us that we ought to be ready to give an answer to this question. Truth be told, few of us spend much time thinking about why we hope. Luckily, the scriptures today give us our answers. We hope because Christ suffered for us, in order that we might come to God. We hope because we know that, in the Spirit, God grants us another Advocate through Christ to remain with us always. No matter what we might hope for, whatever we might hope to do, we must always first know and proclaim the reason for our hope: the presence of God in Christ, with us through the power of the Spirit.

The Reason for Our Hope

Saint Peter admonishes us, Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope. One of the greatest gifts of faith in our lives is our hope in Christ Jesus. Through Christ, we keep our eyes on the wider view of life here on earth and everlasting life with God. We know that the trials and challenges of today do not have the final word, and do not have power over us. With the presence of the Advocate, we have the help we need to live as God directs and desires, so that the world might come to know Christ through the witness of our lives. This is a hope-filled, meaningful way of life. When so much of our surrounding culture speaks of impermanence and momentary distractions, we have the hope of meaning and purpose today and the promise of eternal life to come.

Mary of Nazareth Catholic School
1640 Fawcett Ave. White Oak, PA 15131
Pre-School 3 & 4, Kindergarten, First - Eighth Grade
If you have any questions or would like more info, please call the school office, 412-672-2360.
Webpage: www.maryofnazarethschool.org
Some Easter Thoughts
This week we celebrate the Ascension of the Lord on Thursday, May 21st. It has been 40 days since Easter Sunday.

Today Jesus predicts a new time in the history of the world as the Spirit of God leads us into a new age of God’s power.

He says, You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8).

This proclamation changes the course of salvation history for all of us. Saint Paul shows us what this new age will be for us. Remember, Saint Paul knew what the world was like before the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. He experienced and witnessed the fullness of the Spirit’s wisdom, knowledge and fear of the Lord after his encounter on the road to Damascus. He calls this power the surpassing greatness of his power for us who believe (Eph 1:18–19).

This presence of the Spirit was foretold in the final discourse at the Last Supper. Jesus promises all that we now know in traditional Faith Formation:

- **Baptism brings new birth**
  through water and the Spirit, and

- **Confirmation promises a new coming of the Spirit that strengthens our faith.**

While we accept the Spirit’s presence in our mind, we struggle to identify with the Spirit in the everydayness of our lives.

We struggle to find the Spirit moving in our daily lives. We prefer that the gifts (wisdom, understanding, counsel, knowledge, fortitude, piety, wonder & awe [fear of the Lord]) and fruits (charity, generosity, joy, gentleness, peace, faithfulness, patience, modesty, kindness, self-control, goodness, chastity) of the Holy Spirit sit on the shelf rather than be a part of our daily lives.

**The promise of Jesus is real and awaiting us.**
We need to just look around to see this amazing and wonderful Holy Spirit through whom we receive these great and glorious GIFTS and FRUITS—only for the asking!

May the Risen Christ hold you in the palm of His hand until we gather around our Family Table in the Holy Eucharist.

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**Ascension of the Lord**
Thursday
May 21, 2020

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**Marriage Moments** by Susan Vogt
Deep questions: Who is God? What is love? Whoever loves me [Jesus] will be loved by my Father [God] and I will love them (John 14:21).

Yes, God is love but we humans know love through physical, emotional, and intellectual commitment. How do each of you show your love for God and to each other?

**Parenting Pointers** by Susan Vogt
Surprise someone with a compliment today. It can be someone in the family, a neighbor, or a stranger. Even if just one person in the family does it, maybe it’ll catch on. It’s the effort and thought that count.

**A Family Perspective** by Bud Ozar
In today’s gospel Jesus prepared his disciples for his departure. Family life is a series of departures. As we mature and grow older, we constantly transition from the familiar to the new unknown. Today Jesus assures us we are not alone in these transitions. I will not leave you orphans. I will come to you.

I will ask the Father, and he will give you . . . the Spirit of truth.
— John 14:16–17

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**May God Bless Our Service Personnel**
We pray for and remember our Service Men and Women who are serving on active duty in the Armed Services, especially: LCpl. Peter A. Barrantes, USMC; Maj. Damian Baskerville, USAF; Col. Richard Collage, PA NG; Staff Sgt. Nicholas DeLuca, Army; Ens. David DeMaio, USCG; Capt. Craig Dolhi, Army; Capt. Anthony Formica, Army; Jacob Formica, E-4, Army; 2nd Lt. John Formica, Army; SPC Samuel Formica, Army National Guard; Capt. Markus Gibson, USMC; 2nd Lt. Miles Gibson, USMC; PO2. Mason Gibson, USN; T/Sgt. Michael Goodman, USAF; E5 Sgt. Brian Imundo, Army; Sgt. Russ Langley, Marines; Staff Sgt. Raymond Massung, Jr., USAF; Staff Sgt. Timothy Oeler, USAF; ENS Timothy Ragan, USN; Amn Stephanie A. Reichenbach, USAF; PFC David R. Saunders, Army National Guard; Sgt. Brandon R. Smith, USAF Pararescueman; Amn. Adam Stitt, USAF; Capt. Andrew Tkac, Army.

If you would like to add or update an active Service member, please call the Parish Office.

**Thank you for your service!**

May We Never Forget . . . Freedom is Never Free!

**May God Bless Our Health Care Workers and All First Responders.**
Sacraments

Baptism of Infants & Children
Baptism is a joyous event in the life of the church. Baptism is celebrated any Sunday after Mass. Parents are required to attend a Pre-Baptism Class.
Previous arrangements are necessary.

Instruction in the Faith - R.C.I.A.
The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults Program is offered for those interested in the Catholic Faith. For more information, please contact Fr. Wagner.

Reconciliation
St. Eugene Church, Liberty
Tuesday, 7 - 7:30 pm
St. Michael Church, Elizabeth
Saturday, 11-11:30 am

Queen of the Rosary Church, Glassport
Saturday, 1- 1:30 pm
St. Michael Church, Elizabeth
Saturday, 3:15-3:45 pm
St. Eugene Church, Liberty
Saturday, 5:15-5:45 pm

Marriage
The prospective bride and groom are to make arrangements with the priest or deacon at least 6 months prior to the proposed date of the wedding. Diocesan regulations require all couples to attend an approved pre-marriage preparation program.

Anointing of the Sick
the Anointing of the Sick is celebrated communally on the Second Sunday of the Month.

Ministry to the Sick and Shut In
Homebound members of the Parish should call the Parish Office to make arrangements to receive Holy Communion at home.

Sponsorship Forms
Only registered, practicing, fully-initiated Catholics are eligible for sponsor certificates. Please call the Parish Office.

Bulletin Information Deadline
2 weeks in advance of publish date.
electrichallsalleghenybulletin@gmail.com

Moving
Please call or email your new address to the Parish Office.
Child Abuse Hotline 1-888-808-1235

Mass Intentions For The Week

StE  St. Eugene Church, Liberty  StM  St. Michael Church, Elizabeth
QoR  Queen of the Rosary Church, Glassport

May 17 - 24, 2020

Saturday, 16, Vigil, Sixth Sunday of Easter
Fr. Tom  Mary & Mike Colecchi - Michelle & Mike
Fr. Miro  John E. Matyasovsky - Wife, Janice

Sunday, 17, Sixth Sunday of Easter
Fr. Tom  Connie M. Jones - Husband, Jim
Fr. Miro  Alfred Pasek - Family

Monday, 18, Easter Weekday
Fr. Miro  Raffaele & Theresa Palais - Ralph & Louis Palais

Novena - Infant of Prague

Tuesday, 19, Easter Weekday
Fr. Tom  John J. Honacki – Patricia Roberts

Fr. Miro  Peg DiSanto - Deacon Dale
Fr. Miro  Debby Pikula - Mick & Family

Wednesday, 20, Easter Weekday
Fr. Miro  Marie Grantz - Donna Diesing
Fr. Tom  Helen Shalako - Rich & Cathy Stash

Novena - Michael the Archangel

Thursday, 21, The Ascension of the Lord - Easter Weekday
Fr. Miro  Louise Kyslinger - Margaret Mansfield
Fr. Tom  Margaret Kubit - David & Patti Stanton

Friday, 22, Easter Weekday
Fr. Miro  Stephen Gribschaw - Laura Matta & Family
Fr. Tom  Merio Bisogni - Bill & Rose Pavlik

Saturday, 23, Vigil, Seventh Sunday of Easter
Fr. Tom  Larry & Terri Piekut - 50th Wedding Anniversary - Family
Fr. Miro  Frank & Palmerina Molinaro - Mia Dainty & Family

Sunday, 24, Seventh Sunday of Easter
Fr. Tom  Jack, Anna, Eugene Vitori - DeChiccis Family
Fr. Miro  Deceased of the Crossen & Mullaly Families - Crossen Family

We remember... In your charity, please remember all those who have died, especially:
Reynold Hamadock, Elizabeth Vezzani, all who will die today, and those who have no one to pray for them.
Resting in Paradise.
Eternal Rest grant unto them O Lord.
And Let Perpetual Light Shine on them.

May Rosary Intention
That deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church.
Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time.

**Sunday, May 17; Sixth Sunday of Easter**

**Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; 1 Peter 3:15-18; John 14:15-21**

Hope is nourishing—Especially in these trying times, we may be tempted to dismiss hope as something akin to wishful thinking. Yet hope is a theological virtue, along with faith and love. These three put us into position for personal union with God. Hope, in particular, orients us perpetually in a Godward direction no matter where life takes us. As Cistercian monk Aelred of Rivalux declared: What is hope but food for the journey to support us in the miseries of this life? Cultivate hope by weeding out habits of negativity and cynicism. Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope.

**Monday, May 18; Easter Weekday, John I, pope & martyr**

**Acts 16:11-15; John 15:26—16:4a**

Lean on the Lord—Pope John I was frail when he was elected to the papacy in 523, and he did not survive imprisonment by a heretical king. From permanent disabilities to occasional illness, from aging to chronic fatigue to widespread viral infection, we all experience physical weakness at some point and know that it can feel like a prison. When we hit the limits of our bodies, our inner strength can wane too. At that time—and at any time—lean on the Lord to carry you through. The Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, he will testify to me.

**Tuesday, May 19; Easter Weekday**

**Acts 16:22-34; John 16:5-11**

Always at our side and on our side—When Jesus promised his disciples the Holy Spirit, he used an interesting word. He called their holy helper a *paraclete*, the Greek word for advocate—literally called to one's side. It was used in courts of law to describe an intercessor or counselor. From the Book of Job, we also know *paraclete* can mean comforter. What a rich, meaningful name to give that Spirit who guides us still—by our side even when we’re as clueless as can be. If I do not go, the Advocate will not come.

**Wednesday, May 20; Easter Weekday, Bernardine of Siena**

**Acts 17:15, 22—18:1; John 16:12-15**

The best witness is a joyful heart—Do you know of someone whose energy and joy attracts followers of all kinds? Franciscan priest and theologian Saint Bernadine of Siena (1380-1444), whose feast we celebrate today, was one of those people. He was a human dynamo whose preaching drew thousands of fans throughout Italy even as he challenged them to practice voluntary poverty and denounced the sins of the day. His joyful eloquence defined his ministry and was impossible to ignore. Can you bring others to God through a joyful spirit? They were to seek God, yes . . . though he is not really far from any one of us.

**Thursday, May 21; The Ascension of the Lord**

**Acts 1:1-11; Ephesians 1:17-23; Matthew 28:16-20**

This isn’t goodbye—After listening to the nightly news, a friend recently (and understandably) gasped: We need Jesus! Most believers would agree. Which is perhaps why the Ascension doesn’t feel like an event we’re much inclined to celebrate. Jesus departs; this sounds like a terrible idea from every standpoint except the truth—because Jesus promises to send us his Spirit as an indwelling presence. If we still feel like orphans, remember Jesus’ words: I am with you always. See Jesus all around: in word and sacrament, in the assembly of faith, in the disadvantaged sister and brother. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.

**Friday, May 22; Easter Weekday**

**Acts 18:9-18; John 16:20-23**

Identify escape routes—During stressful times and increased family togetherness, such as global stay-at-home orders, domestic abuse increases. Special hotlines and secret havens are set up to assist victims, and abusers are encouraged to seek help as well. Saint Rita of Cascia, whose feast we celebrate today, was mentally and physically abused by her husband for years. In the Middle Ages, she had little recourse. She chose to respond with kindness, patience, and humility. Her virtues did little to change her husband’s behavior, but she did her best to escape her situation, at least spiritually. With the many resources available today, be aware of the signs of abuse and encourage loved ones to seek both physical and spiritual refuge. No one will take your joy away from you.

**Saturday, May 23; Easter Weekday**

**Acts 18:23-28; John 16:23b-28**

Here’s to life—As we adjust to new ways of living, the Easter season offers much-needed hope. Resurrection changes everything, not only in salvation history but also here and now. Life coming out of death. That is the mystery of our faith, and the mystery of the world we live in. For every story of greed and ineptitude, there are many more stories of generosity and competence. Celebrate those victories. That is the life that comes out of death. For the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have come to believe that I came from God.

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