



## May 2, 2021 Fifth Sunday of Easter



### Mass Intentions

#### Monday May 3 St. Philip and James

8:30am Helen Vollmer by Sharon & Laverne Kooken

#### Tuesday May 4 Easter Weekday

8:30am Parishioners of Infant of Prague

#### Wednesday May 5 Easter Weekday

8:30am Maria DiGiacomo by cousin Peter Ferraina & family

#### Thursday May 6 Easter Weekday

No Mass

#### Friday May 7 Easter Weekday

8:30am Melanie Sember by Bonaventura family

#### Saturday May 8 Easter Weekday

4pm Parishioners of Infant of Prague

#### Sunday May 9 Sixth Sunday of Easter

8:30am Arlene Hopkins by family

10:30am Inzinna Family by Angie Inzinna

Mother's Day Intention



Schedule a remembrance for a loved one

Contact Parish Office for Mass Intention requests. The stipend per Mass is \$15.00. If a specific date is desired, please schedule as far in advance as possible.

### Parish Sacrificial Giving Summary

April 24 & 25

Weekly Envelope.....\$ 3,876.00

Online .....\$ 565.00

Thank you for supporting our Parish!



### Parish Office

- Help us stay connected ~ contact Parish Office with your current phone number and email
- Are you a snowbird? Please notify the Parish Office if you are returning to the "716" area to enjoy our "Miami of the North"

### Upcoming Diocesan Collections

- May 15 & 16
  - ◊ Church in Latin America & Africa
- June 12 & 13
  - ◊ Catholic Communication Campaign

### Parish Ministerial Staff

**Pastor**.....Rev. Thomas Mahoney  
FrTomIOP@gmail.com

**Deacon/Pastoral Associate**. Brian C. Walkowiak

**Director of Faith Formation**. Fran Mackowiak  
infantofpraguedre@gmail.com

**Director of Music** .....Elijah Simon

**Parish Trustees**.....To be determined  
Michael Maute

**Parish Council President** ....Mary Montero

**Parish Nurse**.....Lisa Nemmer  
iopparishrn@yahoo.com

**Parish Office**.....716-634-3660  
Monday-Thursday 9am-4pm  
infantofpragueparish@gmail.com

Please keep our community safe. Most Parish Office requests can be handled via phone, email or using the "contact us" request on our parish website. If a visit to the Parish Center is required please call ahead so we can make arrangements for your visit.



### Stay Connected

**IOP has a variety of ways we can stay connected...**

- Parish website ~ Visit our [iopparish.com](http://iopparish.com) for Parish Information, On-line form registration, links to FORMED and parish bulletin .. and much more
- Facebook ~ follow us on Facebook at "Infant of Prague Roman Catholic Church Cheektowaga" for Parish Information, inspirational quotes, links to our bulletin... and much more
- Bulletin ~ take one on your way out of the Church, pick one up in the Parish Center vestibule or visit our website [iopparish.com](http://iopparish.com) where the bulletin is just a click away

### IOP Prays for the Following

Helen Sikorski, Sister M. Antonita Sikorski CSSF, Peter DiGiacomo, Renee Hager, Rick Cummings, Leodina Bauer, Michelle Martin

... and all parishioners in nursing homes, homebound and our military service men and women.

Names will be listed four consecutive weeks. We will be happy to add a name to the prayer list with immediate family request and permission

Contact Parish Office for prayer requests

**Please remember in your prayers...**

James Schalk and all who have died

### National Day of Prayer

Thursday May 6, 2021

Prayer for Our Country

*Good and gracious Father,*

*You created the human race as one human family,  
yet formed a special people for Your own.*

*God of Abraham the Patriarch, God of King David,  
watch over our nation!*

*May our government leaders be blessed with wisdom,  
counsel, and prudent discernment  
in creating just laws for our land.*

*May all service men and women be protected  
as they defend our freedom and way of life.*

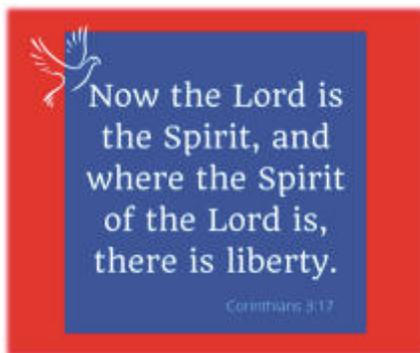
*May all citizens work together for the common good  
and the protection of the least among us.*

*Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, it is in  
Your coming kingdom that we place our trust.*

*Give us the grace here and now to love as you love  
and to serve as you served.*

*Holy Spirit, inspire us to transform our communities  
on earth as it is in heaven.*

*Amen.*



### Eucharistic Adoration

Please join us for Eucharistic Adoration this First Friday, May 7, 2021, after the 8:30am Mass until Benediction at 6pm in the Main Church.

We invite you to spend some time with the living God as you pray before the Blessed Sacrament.

Please remember face covering, hand sanitizer, and social distancing. Use Cleveland Dr. or Thruway doors.



### A Worthwhile Smile



### Keep Our Community Safe

- Check your temperature prior to coming to IOP. If you have a fever, are sick or have symptoms, make an expression of care and stay home to avoid infecting others.
- Social Distancing is required
- Face covering required for persons over 2 years old when coming to IOP. Parishioners should bring and be prepared to wear their own masks. Please see an usher prior to entering if you forgot to bring your mask to Mass.
- Most Parish Office requests can be handled via phone, email or using the "contact us" request on our parish website. If a visit to the Parish Center is required please call ahead so we can make arrangements for your visit.

Visit <https://www.buffalodiocese.org/coronavirus> for latest News/ Resources regarding Covid-19

### Face Masks Do's and Don'ts





**Faith Formation**

Congratulations to our Infant of Prague Students who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on Saturday, April 24, 2021

- Raiden Becker**
- Emmalyn Blotzer**
- Kylee Burke**
- Liam Conrad**
- Thorin Darois**
- David Faragiano**
- Matthew Reardon**
- Brynn Wido**

*Loving God help us to teach our children that you love us totally and unconditionally. Help us to encourage our children to grow in love and to learn how to say sorry, knowing that you always forgive. Give us the courage to pray with our children and to share our faith with them as we journey together. We ask this through Christ our Lord.*

*Amen*



**Inspiration for the Week**

Anyone familiar with gardening knows that proper and timely pruning is essential. The health of the plant depends upon it. An unpruned tree can quickly produce suckers that zap many of the essential nutrients from its body. Pruning requires patience and vision. Studies reveal that plants often respond defensively to being pruned, displaying reactions that are similar to hurt or discomfort. Pruning is not easy but necessary. A hard lesson for us to learn is that we also need to be pruned. We become far healthier when we allow God to stretch, refine, and form us into the best version of ourselves. The fruit that then comes from our vines will be more abundant, nutritious, and robust. Left to our own devices we can easily find ourselves running amuck and spiraling out of control. Without a proper vision and trust in the Master Pruner, we will never find the contentment we desperately desire. Nor will the work of the Gospel stand a chance of succeeding.



**Service and Outreach ~ IOP St. Vincent DePaul**

- The IOP Society of St. Vincent DePaul serves our local community by recognizing its needs, both material and spiritual, and providing assistance in a respectful manner
- Donations benefit the IOP community and are always welcome
- SVDP “Hall Pantry” open Thursday’s from 9am—noon and is located in the school building next to the Thruway side of the Green Room. Please adhere to social distancing. Masks required for persons over 2 years old.
- Call AI at 833-5408 for more information or how your donations can help



SVDP also collects jewelry & watches. Call AI at 833-5408 to arrange an appointment to donate any “bangles, bobbles, or beads” to SVDP and to help make a difference in our community



**Paperless Bulletin Service**

*“Live Your Faith Wherever Life Takes You”*

- Receive an email notification when the IOP Bulletin is published
- Along with the notification you will receive a link to the most current IOP bulletin
- Visit <https://www.parishesonline.com/> to subscribe
- Contact the Parish Office with any questions



## May 2, 2021 Fifth Sunday of Easter

**First Reading:** Acts 9:26-31

*When Saul arrived in Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple. (Acts 9:26)*

**Second Reading:** 1 Jn 3:18-24

*And his commandment is this: we should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another just as he commanded us. (1 Jn 3:23)*

**Gospel:** Jn 15:1-8

*"I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing." (Jn 15:5)*

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass  
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Adults: How is the love of others connected to love for God?

Kids: Who needs Jesus' love this week? How can you show them his love?

### Looking Forward Readings for May 9, 2021

First Reading: Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48

Second Reading: 1 Jn 4:7-10

Gospel: Jn 15:9-17

### Gospel Meditation ~ May 2, 2021

"Spiraling out of control," is a phrase that can easily describe the current display of human existence. In addition to the violence, unrest, uneasiness and turmoil that are common elements of our daily news, other essential pieces are misplaced or missing. Many lack an objective center around which to order and structure their lives or a clear set of definable goals or mores to act as guideposts and life directives. It appears that "feelings" have become a "new god" and traditional structures and ideals set aside. It is almost as if history only shows that we got this whole thing wrong and many are determined to finally set things right. The real truth, however, is that while wrongs and errors are certainly a part of our often-checked past, it is hardly the case that all was wrong. It is not our task to rewrite the history of our lives, but to learn from mistakes that were made, and preserve the perennial wisdom at the root of our successes. Learning is an essential part of being human.

The question becomes, however, from whom do we learn? Some have such a hard time placing God in that position, but that is precisely where God needs to be. God is the Master Teacher from whom all of humanity learns and gets its cues. It is in and through this relationship with the Gardener of Life that we are fashioned and pruned into the people we are intended to be and can be. It is only in God that we are able to find our best selves. Sadly, many think that religion too, as well as history in general, has also gotten all this wrong. Yet, our resurrection faith tells us differently. We are reminded, today especially, that we are meant to remain in Christ as Christ remains in us. We are also reminded that Jesus, the Incarnate God, is the vine upon which we grow, the branches that flow from the source of God's life.

Giving up our will to God's can be a painful endeavor. It is not easy to set our own desires and wants aside and allow God to step in and direct and guide our growth. But this is the only way to prevent deadly weeds from overtaking us and bringing us to a place of self-destruction. God's commandments are the very guideposts and benchmarks we need, yet many seek to remove them from all public view because they appear to limit self-expression and suppress what is considered by many to be "human freedom." They are the only way we can find freedom, however. And, until we learn this fundamental lesson, we will continue to spiral out of control, never really knowing who we are, what our potential can be or how life really can be lived. We will not know peace.

"I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly  
of your people."

Psalm 22



### Sacraments

**Baptisms:** Congratulations! Call the parish office four months prior to child’s anticipated arrival to register for Baptismal class held on the Fourth Tuesday of each month at 7pm. Sponsors must be practicing Catholics. Non-registered IOP members must have a letter from their own pastor. Sponsors should have received the Sacrament of Confirmation.

**RCIA-Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults:** Is the Holy Spirit calling you to become Catholic? Call the Parish Office for more information.

**Marriages:** Best wishes! Couples seeking a Catholic marriage, please contact the Pastor at least six months prior to a planned wedding day. Attendance at a marriage preparation program (Pre-Cana) is required.

**Care of the Sick:** Anyone seriously ill or entering the hospital for surgery may receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. Please contact the Parish Office to make arrangements.

**Letters of Recommendation:** Letters of recommendation are gladly issued to those asked to be a Baptism and/or Confirmation Sponsor, provided the requesting person is registered at IOP, confirmed and regularly attends Mass. If the requesting person is married, the marriage must have taken place in conformity with the laws of the Church. If the requesting person is a parent, their children must be enrolled in Faith Formation.



Please be sure to support the generous advertisers in our bulletin. Through their participation, our parish receives our weekly bulletin free of charge!



### Catholic Media for the “masses”

- **Televised Masses**
  - ◊ EWTN Channel 10: Daily at 8am, Noon, 7pm, & Midnight - Channel 24 (Spectrum)
  - ◊ WNYO Cable 8 & ANT. Ch. 49  
Sunday Mass: 8:30am
- **“Streamed” Masses**
  - ◊ Visit [www.buffalodiocese.org/livestreams](http://www.buffalodiocese.org/livestreams) to view the many streaming options available
- **Radio**
  - ◊ WLOF 101.7 FM – Buffalo’s Catholic Radio
- **Web**
  - ◊ [www.FORMED.org](http://www.FORMED.org)  
Use access code W24ZGG to register



### Around the Buffalo Diocese

- Join us at St. Andrew Church, Crocker & Reimen Sts., Sloan as we celebrate Sunday Vespers every Sunday at 6:30pm. We will practice social distancing as we do at Mass
- Mary’s Day will be celebrated on Sunday, May 2 at 3 pm at Our Lady of Fatima Shrine, 1023 Swann Rd. (off Rt. 18), Lewiston. The day will include an outdoor Rosary Procession, crowning of the procession statue, homily and Benediction with the Blessed Sacrament. Covid-19 restrictions still in place: masks, sanitizing of hands upon entry, and social distancing are required. All are welcome. For more information, call 716-754-7489
- UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK re The Diocese of Buffalo N.Y. Case No. 20-10322 PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT, On February 28, 2020, The Diocese of Buffalo N.Y., (“Diocese”) filed for protection under chapter 11 of title 11 of the United States Code (the “Bankruptcy Code”). The Bankruptcy Court has established August 14, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. (prevailing Eastern time) as the deadline to file proofs of claim against the Diocese (the “Bar Date”). If you have a claim against the Diocese, including, without limitation, a claim related to sexual abuse committed by any person connected with the Diocese, you must file a claim on or before the Bar Date. Please visit <https://case.stretto.com/diocesefofbuffalo> or call 855-292-7696 for more information on how to file your proof of claim. IF YOU DO NOT TIMELY FILE A PROOF OF CLAIM, YOU MAY FORFEIT YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE ON ANY PLAN OF REORGANIZATION AND TO SHARE IN ANY DISTRIBUTIONS TO CREDITORS IN CONNECTION WITH THE DIOCESE’S CHAPTER 11 CASE.

### Respect Life Reflection



*The human being is single, unique, and unrepeatable, someone thought of and chosen from eternity, someone called and identified by name.*

John Paul II



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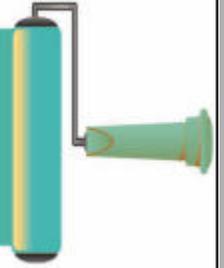
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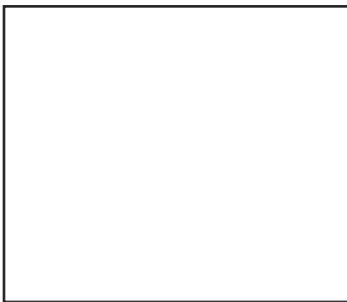
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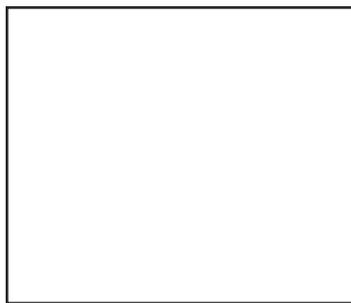
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