



Holy Cross

CATHOLIC CHURCH

A COMMUNITY CALLED TO BE A WITNESS TO THE GLORIOUS VICTORY OF THE CROSS

WELCOME

CONTACT US

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Rev. Fr. Emery Longanga
Pastor
Rev. Fr. Jesus Martinez
Pastoral Vicar
Rev. Mr. Rick Zeitler
Permanent Deacon

MASS SCHEDULE

Mon, Tue, Thurs & Fri

8:00 pm & 12:00 pm

Wednesday

8:00 am, 12:00 pm

& 7:00 pm (*Spanish*)

Saturday

8:00 am

4:00 pm (*Vigil*)

Sunday

8:00 & 10:00 am

12:30 pm (*Spanish*)

Exposition

Wednesday & First Friday

8:30 - 11:30 am

Anointing of the Sick

First Friday 12:00 pm

Sacrament of Penance

Saturday 3:00-3:45 pm

Sunday 11:30 am-12:15 pm



5TH 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

"Yo soy la verdadera vid y mi Padre es el viñador. Al sarmiento que no da fruto en mí, él lo arranca, y al que da fruto lo poda para que dé más fruto". - Jn 15, 1-2

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SUNDAY, MAY 2, 2021 | 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...

DEAR FRIENDS,

May is the month of Mary, and so many things are going on in our parish family: First Communion for our Faith Formation students, Rosary at the Grotto every Saturday before the morning Holy Mass, May Crowning, and so on. What a wonderful time to deepen our devotion and our love for the Blessed Mother! Have you thought about taking advantage of the opportunity for more graces and blessings through the intercession of the one that Christ gave us at the feet of the Cross as Mother?

This month starts also with the feast of St. Joseph the Worker. During this Year of St. Joseph, we have one more occasion to reflect of the virtues of the one who accepted to be the earthly father of our Lord. During this month, as is our journey with St. Joseph, we will be reflecting on the virtue of Humility. Saint Joseph was a man of great humility. Learning from him and asking for his intercession is a way to acknowledge our dependence upon Christ whose earthly father St. Joseph accepted to be, not because he deserved it but by acknowledging with humility the truth of his dependence upon God.

In today's gospel, Jesus introduce himself to us in a very different way; He is the vine and we are the branches. Last Sunday He reminded us that as his sheep we are meant to listen to Him, our Good Shepherd. By standing at odd with the so many false "shepherds" in today's world, He told us that He is the only One who can lead us to true sheepfold, where there will be no wolf. Today, he reminds us that we cannot live and bear fruits once we are cut off from Him. He gives us life and he nurtures us because He is the Wellspring of Living water. Out of Him we just wither and are unable to bear fruits.

Today, we are offered every kind of false assurances in our life, especially the illusory assurance of a painless life, or life without suffering. To put in the words of Pope Benedict XVI, the world offers us a cheap and effortless salvation. Today, Christ reminds us and tells us that it is only when we remain in Him that we can expect to share in true happiness and fullness of life. It is from Him that we can draw the blessings that will help us bear fruits which transform the world to the premises of the Kingdom of God.

Saint Joseph and the Virgin Mary are given to us this month as role models. By and through their humility and trust in God, they were able to see God's wonders fulfilled in them. Likewise, if we remain in the Son of God, the true Vine, we his branches will have life and be able to bear the fruits for the coming of His kingdom.

Let us continue to pray for one another and for our parish family.

Fr. Emery

QUERIDOS AMIGOS,

Mayo es el mes de María y muchas cosas están sucediendo en nuestra familia parroquial: Primera Comunión para nuestros estudiantes de Formación en la Fe, Rosario en la Gruta todos los sábados antes de la Santa Misa de la mañana, Coronación de Mayo, etc. ¡Qué momento tan maravilloso para profundizar nuestra devoción y nuestro amor por la Santísima Madre! ¿Has pensado en aprovechar la oportunidad de más gracias y bendiciones por la intercesión del que Cristo nos dio a los pies de la Cruz como Madre?

Este mes comienza también con la fiesta de San José Obrero. Durante este Año de San José, tenemos una ocasión más para reflexionar sobre las virtudes de quien aceptó ser el padre terrenal de nuestro Señor. Durante este mes, como es nuestro camino con San José, estaremos reflexionando sobre la virtud de la Humildad. San José fue un hombre de gran humildad. Aprender de él y pedir su intercesión es una manera de reconocer nuestra dependencia de Cristo, cuyo padre terrenal San José aceptó ser, no porque lo mereciera, sino reconociendo con humildad la verdad de su dependencia de Dios.

En el evangelio de hoy, Jesús se presenta a nosotros de una manera muy diferente; Él es la vid y nosotros los pámpanos. El domingo pasado nos recordó que, como ovejas suyas, debemos escucharlo a Él, nuestro Buen Pastor. Al enfrentarse a tantos falsos "pastores" en el mundo de hoy, Él nos dijo que Él es el único que puede llevarnos al verdadero redil, donde no habrá lobo. Hoy, nos recuerda que no podemos vivir y dar frutos una vez que seamos separados de Él. Él nos da vida y nos nutre porque Él es la Fuente de Agua Viva. De Él simplemente nos marchitamos y no podemos dar frutos.

Hoy en día, se nos ofrecen todo tipo de falsas seguridades en nuestra vida, especialmente la ilusoria seguridad de una vida sin dolor o sin sufrimiento. En palabras del Papa Benedicto XVI, el mundo nos ofrece una salvación barata y sin esfuerzo. Hoy, Cristo nos recuerda y nos dice que solo cuando permanecemos en Él podemos esperar compartir la verdadera felicidad y la plenitud de la vida. Es de Él de quien podemos obtener las bendiciones que nos ayudarán a dar frutos que transforman el mundo en las premisas del Reino de Dios.

San José y la Virgen María nos son entregados este mes como modelos a seguir. A través de su humildad y confianza en Dios, pudieron ver las maravillas de Dios cumplidas en ellos. Asimismo, si permanecemos en el Hijo de Dios, la Vid verdadera, nosotros, sus pámpanos, tendremos vida y podremos dar los frutos para la venida de Su reino. Continuemos orando unos por otros y por nuestra familia parroquial.

P. Emery

READINGS

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. Then Barnabas took charge of him and brought him to the apostles, and he reported to them how he had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus. He moved about freely with them in Jerusalem, and spoke out boldly in the name of the Lord. He also spoke and debated with the Hellenists, but they tried to kill him. And when the brothers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him on his way to Tarsus. The church throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria was at peace. It was being built up and walked in the fear of the Lord, and with the consolation of the Holy Spirit it grew in numbers.

SECOND READING *1 JN 3:18-24*

Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth. Now this is how we shall know that we belong to the truth and reassure our hearts before him in whatever our hearts condemn, for God is greater than our hearts and knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence in God and receive from him whatever we ask, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. 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. Those who keep his commandments remain in him, and he in them, and the way we know that he remains in us is from the Spirit he gave us.

GOSPEL READING *JN 15:1-8*

Jesus said to his disciples: "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 every one that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit. You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you. Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me. 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. Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither; people will gather them and throw them into a fire and they will be burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be one for you. By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

REFLECT

FIRST READING

Luke tells us how the conversion of Saul (Paul) and the acceptance by the disciples of him helped facilitate peace in the Church throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria. What do you think is needed to bring about peace in our Church today?

SECOND READING

John teaches his community that believing in Jesus and loving one another is the heart of God's commandment. How would you assess yourself in following this two-fold command?

GOSPEL

Using the metaphor of a vine and branches, Jesus urges his disciples to "remain in me" in order to bear good fruit and thereby glorify God. What would be some examples of "good fruit" that you have produced?

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, MAY 1

8:00 am † Aurise LaPointe
4:00 pm † Daniel Harkins

SUNDAY, MAY 2

8:00 am Women's Club
10:00 am Patricia Ann Tatham
12:30 pm Holy Cross Parishioners

MONDAY, MAY 3

8:00 am † Louise Mantione
12:00 pm Savannah Delmont

TUESDAY, MAY 4

8:00 am Joseph Kennedy
12:00 pm Michaela Zalewski & Family

WEDNESDAY, MAY 5

8:00 am Vocations
12:00 pm Michael Zalewski
7:00 pm † Rodolfo Mendoza

THURSDAY, MAY 6

8:00 am † Aline Goodhart
12:00 pm † Robert Melendez

FRIDAY, MAY 7

8:00 am Unborn Children
12:00 pm † Norman & Lois Smiddy

SATURDAY, MAY 8

8:00 am Guy Boissonneault
4:00 pm † Kathy Wutkowski

SUNDAY, MAY 9

8:00 am Holy Cross Parishioners
10:00 am All Mothers Living & Deceased
12:30 pm All Mothers Living & Deceased

PARISH NEWS

FORMED WEEKLY WATCHLIST

This week's FORMED.org weekly watchlist is *Beloved—Session 1: Does Marriage Matter?* the first of a twelve part series on the sacrament of matrimony and its importance in our lives. What does God's design mean for us in our daily lives together? Find out by visiting us at <https://holycrossrcc.com> to watch this series for free!

LECTORS NEEDED

Are you called to serve the Lord by reading His Word at Sunday or weekday Mass? Lectors are fully initiated, practicing Catholics whose lives witness to the Word which they proclaim. We want to hear from you! For more information, please contact Joan Terrell at flaterrellstoo@gmail.com or 727-458-3717.

LOAVES & FISHES THANK YOU

A big Thank You to all our generous volunteers who fed the hungry by preparing a cooked meal and delivering it to Pinellas Hope this past weekend. Your charitable works are a witness to the faith in your hearts. Thank you!

MAY ROSARY

The month of May is dedicated to our blessed Mother, Mary. Please join us each Saturday morning during May at 7:30 a.m. at the Grotto to pray the rosary. Due to COVID 19 restrictions and the limited seating at the Grotto, may we suggest bringing a lawn chair or a blanket to be placed on the lawn to be more comfortable. In case of inclement weather, the rosary will be said in the church.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE THIS WEEK

Sunday, May 2

Eucharistic Ministers: 8am—N Banks, C Banks, 10am—A Branesky, M Branesky
Lectors: 8am—M Taylor, 10am—L Reale

Monday, May 3

Lectors: 8am—L Reale, 12pm—T Chaoui

Tuesday, May 4

Lectors: 8am—M Taylor, 12pm—T Chaoui

Wednesday, May 5

Lectors: 8am—L Reale, 12pm—M Taylor

Thursday, May 6

Lectors: 8am—L LaPointe, 12pm—A Convery

Friday, May 7

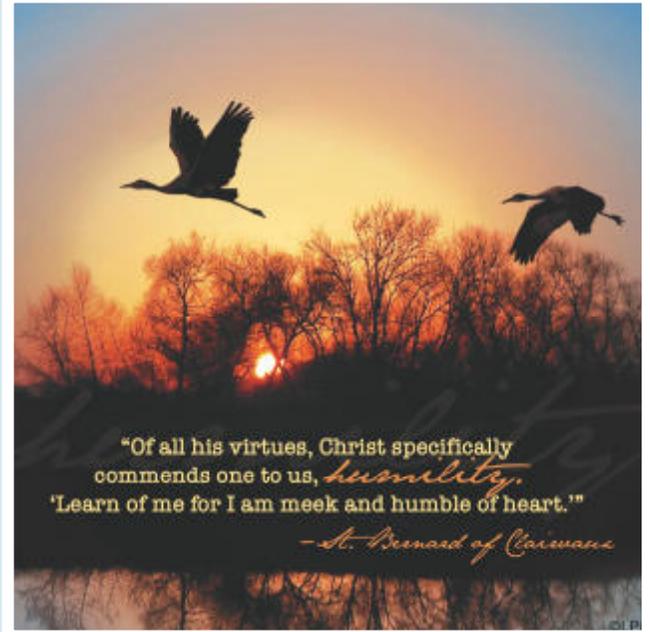
Lectors: 8am—M Taylor, 12pm—L Shields

Saturday, May 8

Eucharistic Ministers: 4pm—T Chaoui, M Colravy
Lectors: 8am—A Convery, 4pm—C Estock

Sunday, May 9

Eucharistic Ministers: 8am—S Pacheco, P Jones, 10am—D Carli, S Ferreira
Lectors: 8am—A Convery, 10am—S Michalski



PRAYER REQUESTS

If you or a family member are in need of prayer, please call the parish office at 727-546-3315, giving the person's name and reason for prayers.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING

José, Rose, Andrew, Sonny, Allison, Marty, Roia, Rose, Jim, John, Carol, Anna, Virgil, Gus, Dianne, Rebecca, Barbara Lilly, Elaine, Jacob, Donald, Mitchell, Faith, Mary, Meghan, Paul, Edith, Peggy Anne, Sylvia, Jean Ann, Felicitas, Adolfo, Jesus, Ileana, William, Jacob, Jeremy, Miranda, Susan, Lydia, Annette, Angela, Cecelia, Christine, Jill, Finnley, Jim, Lupita, Jeremiah, Jared, Phyllis, Natalie, Virginia, Jenn, Joe, Rick, Bud, Donna, Maryann, Susan, Donna, Susan, Denise, George, Carmelita, Margaret H., Gianna, Tina, Laura, John, Edward, Gail, Karon, Beth Anne, Joe, Evelyn, Gerry, Ben, Mr. & Mrs. Verstappen, Victor, Karen, Rose Marie, John, Maureen, Colin, Paul, John, Joseph, Peggy, Kami, Katie, Anne-Marie, Simo, Josephine, Terry, Bill, Maria, Edward H., Holly, Mary Ann, Doris, Zima, Craig, Sharon, Mike, Robert, Phyllis, Elaine, Jodi, Carly, Ann, Sharon, Beverly, Emily, Lynn, Mary Lou, Catherine, Roger, Maria, Alfredo, Eleanor, Dayana, Janet, Marilyn, Mary Ann, Bobby, Charlie, Christina, Peggy H., Mark, Renee, Glenn, Mary, Lynn, Sandra, Sally, Nick, Frank, Ed M., Paulette, Frank, Bozana, Mary Ellen, Sharon, Patty, Carlos, Maria Julia, Paula, Pam, Catherine, Amanda, Pat, Dennis, Lauren, Grace, Heidi, Scott, Lisa, Dawn Marie, Declan, Miguel, Nick, Sharon, Frankie, Kathy, Lisa, Pam, Frank, Sara, Nick, Lynn, Sarah Kristen, Joseph & Theresa, Pierotti Family, Sarah, Maggie, Dyllan, Elba, Artie & Halai, Annie

STEWARDSHIP: BRANCHING OUT

“That’s a really beautiful tree branch. Man, would you look at the bark on that thing? The others are real duds, but that low-hanging branch has really got it all together.”

I’ve never heard anyone say this. Maybe I just need to hang out with more arborists, but I can’t recall ever hearing someone admire the particular beauty of a single branch. When someone comments on a tree, it’s usually the whole tree — perhaps a visual element of it, like the color of the leaves or its height. But people don’t usually zero in on one branch.

Maybe that’s because usually, if one branch is looking a little weak, chances are every other branch is, too.

The Bible tells us that when we bear fruit as good everyday stewards, it is for the Father’s glory. We are the branch on His magnificent tree. What we have is from Him, and what we do likewise points back to Him. We also tend to reflect how well the other branches around us are incorporating the nutrients coming their way. That’s all fine and good in theory. In practice, it can be an arduous exercise in humility.

When I do something virtuous or charitable or kind, there is a part of me that wants to stand out for it. I think that’s true for all of us. We’ve given of ourselves

in some way or overcome some human temptation to accomplish a little bit of good in this world, and even though we know God sees us, we’d really love for everyone else to see it, too.

It’s a struggle, for sure. But we need to remember that our fruit belongs to the whole tree.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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PARISH STEWARDSHIP

Weekend of April 24—25, 2011

Envelopes: 180 (out of 1,056 families)
Online Giving: \$ 395.50 (from 17 donors)
Total Offertory: \$ 7,386.05
Annual Budget: \$ 291,200.00
Offertory to Date: \$ 135,241.13

2021 APA

As of April 27, 2021

Goal: \$ 69,248.00
Pledged: \$ 38,618.00
Paid: \$ 30,803.00
Pledges: 181 (out of 1,056 families)

Pledging

Many people feel that they can participate at a sacrificial gift level if they make payments over a period of time. We currently work with monthly and annual pledge cycles. Donors who pledge will receive reminders according to their designated payment schedule.

One-Time Gift

If donors prefer, a one-time gift can be paid at the time of commitment or payment can be scheduled for later.

Electronic Giving

All major credit and debit cards (MasterCard, American Express, Visa and Discover) as well as direct debit payments are accepted. Donor managed online giving is available through the diocesan website at:

<https://s.dosp.org/give>

Checks

Please do not combine APA and Offertory in one check.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers for the altar this week are a gift from the Rowley Family in memory of Henrietta Rowley. The flowers for Our Lady this week are a gift from Carmen Lopez Espinoza in memory of Jacinta Espinoza.

SANCTUARY LAMP

The sanctuary lamp this week is a gift from Richard Meister in honor of Daniel Meister.

ALTAR BREAD & WINE

There are no altar bread and wine intentions this week.

LEARN ABOUT THE YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH

ENCOURAGING DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF HIS LIFE & VIRTUES

HUMILITY

"The first preparation, then, for prayer is an **unfeigned humility** of soul, an acknowledgment of our sinfulness, and a conviction that, when we approach God in prayer, our sins render us undeserving, not only of receiving a propitious hearing from Him, but even of appearing in His presence. This preparation is frequently mentioned in the Scriptures: He hath had regard to the prayer of the **humble**, and he hath not despised their petitions; the prayer of him that **humbleth** himself shall pierce the clouds." - The Roman Catechism

SCRIPTURE QUOTES ON HUMILITY

"For thy power, O Lord, is not in a multitude, nor is thy pleasure in the strength of horses, nor from the beginning have the proud been acceptable to thee: but the prayer of the **humble** and the meek hath always pleased thee." - Judith 9:16

"For thou wilt save the **humble** people; but wilt bring down the eyes of the proud." - Psalm 17:28

"Humiliation followeth the proud: and glory shall uphold the **humble** of spirit." - Proverbs 29:23

"For thus saith the High and the Eminent that inhabiteth eternity: and his name is Holy, who dwelleth in the high and holy place, and with a contrite and **humble** spirit, to revive the spirit of the **humble**, and to revive the heart of the contrite." - Isaias 57:15

"O ye holy and **humble** of heart, bless the Lord: praise and exalt him above all for ever." - Daniel 3:87

PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEPH FOR GRACE OF HUMILITY

Great Saint Joseph,
who are the director, the friend, and the protector
of those souls who desire to be perfect,
you who did learn from Jesus and Mary
how to conquer the powers of hell,
and to practice all virtues,
obtain for me the grace of **HUMILITY**.
Beloved Saint Joseph, my father, my guide, and my
model,
you who have so much zeal for the glory of Jesus Christ,
and for my sanctification,
please listen to my petition.
I have the sweet confidence that you will not reject it.
Your goodness will supply that which is lacking in my
fervor,
and according to the depth of your love for me,
and of your power with Him Who has deigned to be
called your Son,
you will favorably hear me. Amen.

ORACIÓN A SAN JOSÉ POR LA GRACIA DE LA HUMILIDAD

Gran San José,
quien es el director, el amigo y el protector
de aquellas almas que desean ser perfectas,
tú que aprendiste de Jesús y María
cómo conquistar los poderes del infierno,
y practicar todas las virtudes,
obtén para mí la gracia de la **HUMILIDAD**.
Amado San José, mi padre, mi guía y mi modelo,
tú que tienes tanto celo por la gloria de Jesucristo y por
mi santificación,
por favor escuche mi petición.
Tengo la dulce confianza de que no lo rechazará.
Tu bondad suplirá lo que falta en mi fervor,
y según la profundidad de tu amor por mí,
y de tu poder con Aquel que se ha dignado ser llamado
Hijo tuyo,
me escucharás favorablemente. Amén.



Rev. Fr. Emery Longanga, PhD
Pastor

Rev. Fr. Jesus Martinez
Parochial Vicar

Rev. Mr. Rick Zeitler
Permanent Deacon

Michele Williams
Parish Manager

Marie Meza
Parish Secretary

Julie Sneddon
Director of Faith Formation

Shirley Schuler
Housekeeper

Bunny Harmon
Evangelization & Worship

Angelica Bañuelos-Espino
Weddings & Quinceaneras

Millie Haylock
Baptisms

FAITH FORMATION

IS GOD CALLING YOU?

God has designed us to be DYNAMIC...Are you being called? What are your abilities, skills and talents? Could God be calling you to assist with our Faith Formation program in some capacity? Think ~ Pray ~ Discern! You could be part of the mission and help save souls for Christ! It is our prayer to grow our team of catechists as well as form a 6-person RCIA team. Contact Julie Sneddon (director), she loves to talk about using our time and talents to advance the Kingdom of God.

PRAYERS NEEDED

The Faith Formation team is requesting that you remember our first communicants in your prayers, and if you are able, to write a card with their name on the envelope and drop it in the offertory on Sunday.

2021 First Communicants:

Ariana Caceres, Ariella Caceres, Carlos Davila-Reyes, Sebastian Espallat, Oscar Pastrana, Sophia Villagrana.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

(2nd & 3rd grade students only)
First holy communion for 2nd & 3rd grades have 3 classes remaining plus rehearsal (see below) before receiving the sacrament of First Holy Communion on May 1. Attendance is mandatory for the remaining classes



and the rehearsal in order to receive the sacrament. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Julie Sneddon, (Faith Formation Director) at our Parish Office. The final class schedule and special event schedule is as follows:

Regular classes remaining:

May 2, May 16, May 23

Mandatory special events:

April 30 - First Communion rehearsal
6:45pm

May 1 - First Communion 11 am

May 2 - May Crowning 10am Mass

There will be no class on May 9.

CONFIRMATION

Our Saturday confirmation class has 1 mandatory class remaining plus

rehearsal (see below) before the conferral of the sacrament on June 5. Attendance is mandatory for the remaining classes and the rehearsal in order to receive the sacrament. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Julie Sneddon at the parish office.

The final schedule is as follows:

May 15

Mandatory special events:

June 4 - Rehearsal 6:30 pm at St.

Catherine of Siena

June 5 - Confirmation, 12 pm at St.

Catherine of Siena

There will be no class on May 29.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION RETREAT

On Saturday, April 24, our First Communicants attended their last retreat. We spent the morning praying the rosary in the adoration chapel, making First Communion crafts and playing games together. Fr. Emery visited us and talked about what the sacrament of Holy Communion means and how we must make a diligent effort to be Christ-like for our families and our friends. We enjoyed a yummy "Honey-Peanut Butter-Banana Rollup Platter" with fruit and chips, courtesy of Fr. Emery & Michele Williams.

Please pray for our First Communicants and if you can, please attend their First Holy Communion on Saturday, May 1, at 11am.

Thank you!

NEVER MISS A BULLETIN !

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