



Mother's Day May Crowning

It was wonderful to see some of our First Communicants return to help our parish crown our beautiful statue of Mary. Participating in a May crowning is a great way to help kids recognize Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth. And having the event take place on Mother's Day highlights the reality that Mary is not only Jesus' mother, but our mother as well. Thanks First Communicants for helping to honor Mary in our special, uniquely Catholic way.

For great ideas about how to hold a May Crowning at home, click [HERE](#) for a post from *A Catholic Mom's Life*.



CCD Registration – Begins After Memorial Day

CCD registration for the coming year will begin after Memorial Day. Once again, we will be holding classes on Monday and Tuesday afternoons. CCD for the coming year, however, will start at 3:50 versus 3:55 pm. And some good news for our rising 8th grade families, given the increase in enrollment of our current 7th grade, we expect to be able to offer classes on both days for all grades.



Here for Memorial Day Weekend?

Help Us Out!

Sunday, May 24th - 10:00 am Mass

OLS's next Family Mass is coming up on Sunday, May 24th. Please let Mrs. McDonald know if your child would like to help. I dare anyone who enters our church and receives a worship aid from one of our adorable helpers not to smile! They are definitely the cutest greeters in town. (Especially last week when they were in their First Communion finery! Absolutely adorable!)



Homeschooling Connection

If you haven't finished your work yet, please do so sooner rather than later. **The *Christ in Us* student portal will not be active after July 11th, so all assignments must be submitted by then.**

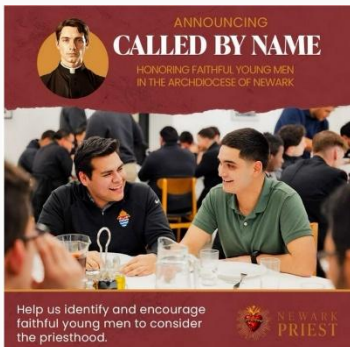
End of the year discussions will begin after Memorial Day. As a reminder, these discussions are only about

20 minutes long and are a generally faith-based discussion and review of the homeschooling year rather than a quiz. If you have any questions for our end-of-the-year discussions, please reach out.



Out of the Office

Jen Noll will be out of the office on vacation beginning May 16th. She will return to her desk on the Tuesday following Memorial Day: May 26th. Jen will be checking her emails, but internet reception in the Atlantic can be spotty, so if you need immediate assistance, please reach out to Colleen McDonald at cmcdonald@olschurch.com.



Called By Name Continues

The Archdiocese of Newark's *Called by Name* initiative is underway.

The goal of the *Called by Name* campaign is to identify faithful young men ages 15-35 who love Christ and the Church and who may be open to the priesthood. Parishioners are invited to submit the names of young men they would like to honor. Slips to nominate a young man are available in the church. You can also nominate someone online by clicking [HERE](#).

Men whose names are submitted will receive a letter of recognition from Cardinal Tobin, invitations to discernment events, and ongoing support from the Vocation Team.



**Knights of
Columbus
"Day at
the Races"
Saturday, May 30**

Spend a Saturday afternoon at Monmouth Park Race Track enjoying seating in a reserved picnic area watching horse racing (and betting if interested).

Event is **RAIN OR SHINE**.
No refunds due to inclement weather.

Full payment required to reserve spaces.

Included with payment of Adult Rate (13 & up) - \$65:
admission, program, pen, food, drink, and t-shirt.

Child Rate (12 & under) - \$10
includes: admission, food, drink (NO program, pen, or t-shirt)

To register: use the QR code below or
send an email to Council4066@gmail.com

Early bird registration by Sunday May 10 to guarantee your shirt size!

Registration closes on Thursday, May 28



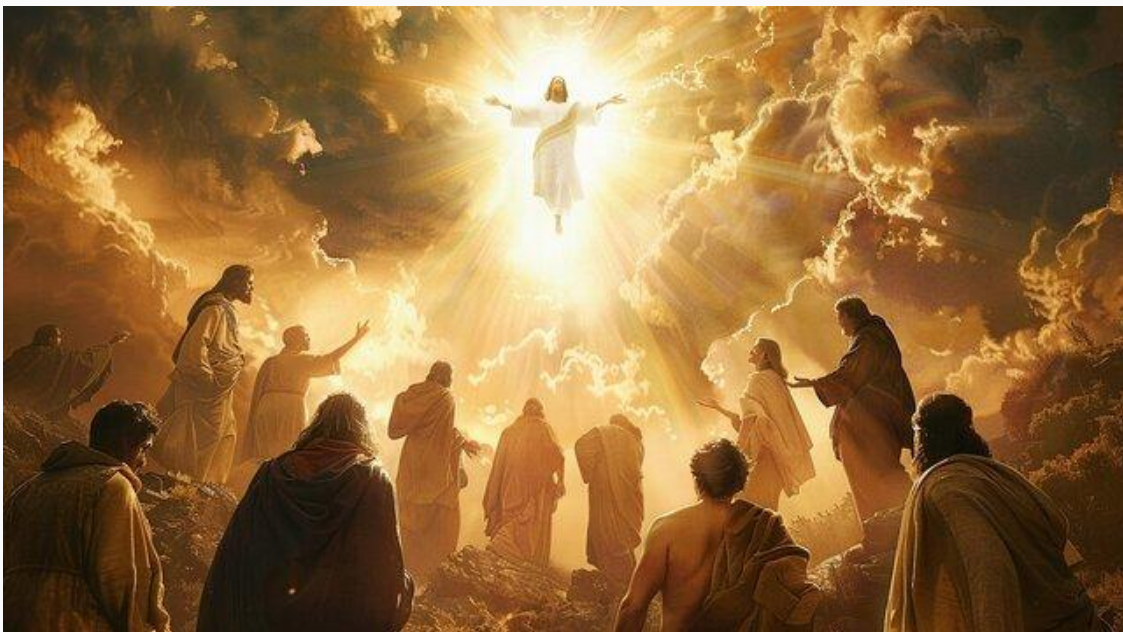
Scan this QR code with your
phone to make a secure payment
with Paypal, Venmo or Apple Pay



"A Day at the Races" Saturday, May 30th

The OLS Knights of Columbus are hosting an upcoming day at the races at Monmouth Park. See the flyer for complete event details and then be sure to register if you'd like to join in the fun.

The Knights do a great job in our parish sponsoring community building events like this one in addition to promoting events aimed at spiritual growth. Thank you!



SAINT / FEAST OF THE WEEK

Week #1

The Ascension of the Lord

Date: Sunday, May 17th here in the Archdiocese of Newark

Forty days after Easter, the Church celebrates the Ascension of Jesus into Heaven. This year, the 40th day after Easter falls on Thursday, May 14. Traditionally, Ascension Thursday has always been celebrated exactly forty days after Easter, recalling the moment when the risen Jesus returned to the Father in the sight of His apostles (Acts 1:1–11).

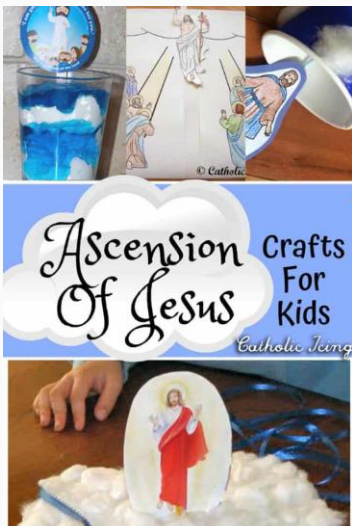
However, many dioceses in the United States — including the Archdiocese of Newark — have transferred the celebration of the Ascension to the following Sunday so that more Catholics are able to participate in this important feast together at Mass. While the date changes locally, the meaning of the feast remains exactly the same: Jesus ascends to Heaven, not to leave us behind, but to prepare the way for us and remain with us through the Holy Spirit and the Church.

The Ascension reminds us that Heaven is our true home. Jesus did not simply disappear; He glorified our human nature and brought it into the presence of the Father. In doing so, He gave us hope that we, too, are called to eternal life with God. The apostles left the Ascension not sad but filled with joy and purpose. Jesus entrusted

them with a mission: “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19).

For families, the Ascension is a beautiful reminder not to become so consumed with schedules, activities, and worries that we lose sight of eternity. Christian family life should always point heavenward. Parents teach this not only through words, but through everyday witness: making Sunday Mass a priority, praying together, practicing forgiveness, helping those in need, and reminding children that success is measured not only by grades, sports, or accomplishments, but by holiness and love.

One simple family activity for the Ascension might be to talk together about Heaven. Ask your children: *What do you think Heaven will be like?* Read the story of the Ascension together in Acts 1:1–11 and remind one another that Jesus is always with us, even when we cannot see Him. The Ascension calls all of us to lift our eyes, hearts, and lives toward God while faithfully carrying out the mission He has given us here at home.



The Ascension of the Lord for Kids

The solemnity of the Ascension of Jesus is a great day to celebrate with kids when living the liturgical year in your home! It's always easier to reach kids on their own level with fun, hands-on activities. Crafts are more than cute ways to kill a little time on a weekend; they also help children learn the story and retain it longer. You can find all Catholic Icing's resources for celebrating the ascension with kids by clicking [HERE](#).

Short videos also work well to reinforce the story. Give this one a try: [3-Minute Video for Kids - Jesus' Ascension](#).

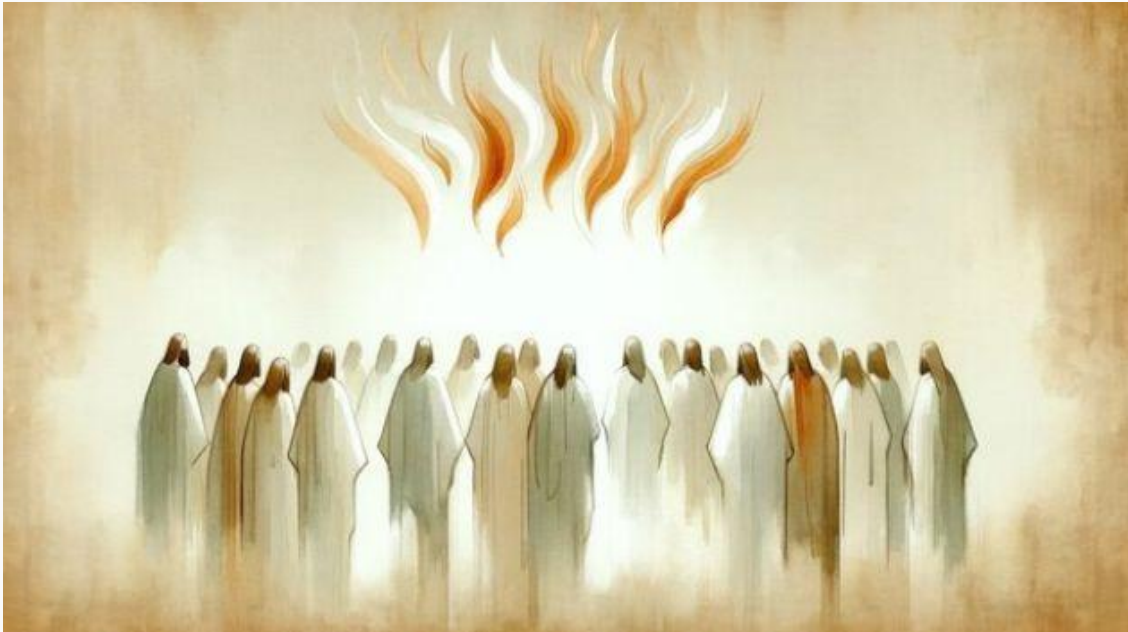


Mark 10 Mission Little Liturgies

This week's videos are perfect for this busy time of year. They celebrate the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord and in the Gospel, Jesus makes a great promise: 'I will be with you always' Matthew 28:20. I pray these videos help your children to encounter the Lord Jesus this week and to know that he is always with them!

[The Ascension of the Lord \(Kids Under 8\)](#)

[Jesus Ascends to Heaven \(Kids 8-12\)](#)



SAINT / FEAST OF THE WEEK

Week #2

Pentecost Sunday

Date: Sunday, May 24th in 2026

Fifty days after Easter, the Church celebrates Pentecost, one of the most important feasts of the entire liturgical year. Unlike some feast days that move for practical reasons, Pentecost is always celebrated on a Sunday, exactly fifty days after Easter. This year, Pentecost falls on Sunday, May 24.

The word *Pentecost* comes from a Greek word meaning “fiftieth.” On this day, we remember how the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles and the Blessed Virgin Mary as they gathered in prayer after Jesus’ Ascension. Scripture tells us that there came “a noise like a strong driving wind,” and “tongues as of fire” rested upon them (Acts 2:1–11). Filled with the Holy Spirit, the apostles were transformed from fearful followers hiding behind locked doors into bold witnesses who went out to proclaim the Gospel to the world. For this reason, Pentecost is often called the “birthday of the Church.”

Pentecost reminds us that God does not leave us to live the Christian life on our own strength. Through Baptism and Confirmation, each of us receives the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit strengthens us with courage, wisdom, understanding, right judgment,

knowledge, reverence, and wonder in God's presence. These gifts help us become the people God created us to be.

For families, Pentecost is an invitation to ask whether our homes reflect the presence of the Holy Spirit. Is our family life marked by peace, patience, kindness, forgiveness, and joy? Do we speak to one another with charity? Do we make time for prayer together? The Holy Spirit often works quietly in everyday moments: helping a child tell the truth, giving a parent patience during a difficult day, inspiring forgiveness after an argument, or encouraging someone to help a neighbor in need.

One meaningful way to celebrate Pentecost at home is to pray together to the Holy Spirit. Even a simple prayer like, "Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful," can help children understand that God is active and present in their daily lives. Families might also talk about the fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, modesty, and chastity. Choose one fruit to work on together during the week as a family.

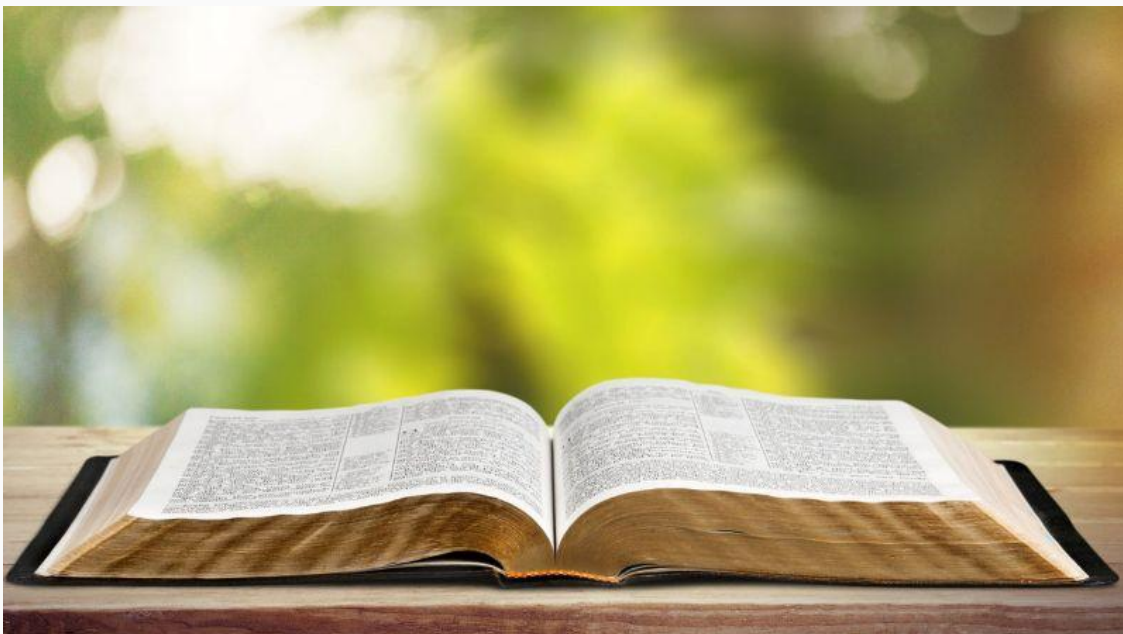
Pentecost is not simply a story about something that happened long ago. It is a reminder that the same Holy Spirit who empowered the apostles is still guiding the Church and our families today.



Pentecost for Kids

Before you get to church on the 24th and your kids start asking why so many people at Mass seem to be dressing in red, check out Catholic Icing's Pentecost with Kids post by clicking [HERE](#). They have a great, simple overview of the solemnity and some even better ideas for fun crafts and dessert ideas for making the day more meaningful for kids.

Want to supplement with a quick video? We've got one for you: [3-Minute Video for Kids: God Sends the Holy Spirit!](#)



In the Liturgy of the Word, the Church feeds the people of God from the table of his Word. Previewing the readings before Mass is then a bit like looking over the menu before you get to a restaurant: you have a better idea of what you can expect so that you can enter into the experience more fully prepared. And like a good discussion during a meal, discussing the readings and how they can be applied to your family's daily life helps your family to truly go out and proclaim the gospel after leaving the church.

Here are a few resources to help your family delve deeper into the Liturgy of the Word this week:

[**USCCB: The Ascension of the Lord**](#)

[**Loyola Press: Sunday Connection**](#)

[**Sadlier: This Week's Liturgy**](#)

[**MaryKnoll Brothers Reflection: Passing the Torch. Go Time!**](#)

And the following:

[**USCCB: Pentecost**](#)

May Catechist Magazine Calendar

LivingFaithKids Pause + Pray + Play with Scripture Every Day

KIDSCALENDAR

MAY 2026



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Word of the month: Canticle A sacred chant from Scripture.</p> 						
<p>FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</p> <p>Q Philip wants Jesus to show him whom? (SEE MAY 9)</p> <p>John 14:1-12 3</p>				<p>A The Father</p>	<p>SAINT JOSEPH THE WORKER</p> <p>1</p>	<p>SAINT ATHANASIUS, BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH</p> <p>2</p>
<p>SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</p> <p>Q What should we "keep" if we love Jesus? (SEE MAY 9)</p> <p>John 14:15-21 10</p>	<p>A His Commandments</p>	<p>SAINTS NEREUS AND ACHILLEUS, MARTYRS SAINT PANCRAAS, MARTYR</p>	<p>OUR LADY OF FATIMA</p> 	<p>THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD SAINT MATTHIAS, APOSTLE</p>	<p>ST. ISIDORE</p>	
<p>SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</p> <p>Q Where was Jesus looking when he prayed? (SEE MAY 20)</p> <p>John 17:1-11 17</p>	<p>SAINT JOHN I, POPE AND MARTYR</p>		<p>A Up toward heaven</p>	<p>SAINT BERNARDINE OF SIENA, PRIEST</p>	<p>SAINT CHRISTOPHER MAGALLANES, PRIEST, AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS</p>	<p>SAINT RITA OF CASCIA, RELIGIOUS</p> 
<p>PENTECOST SUNDAY</p> <p>Q What did Jesus first say to his disciples today? (SEE MAY 20)</p> <p>John 20:19-23 24</p>	<p>THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY MOTHER OF THE CHURCH</p> 	<p>A "Peace be with you."</p>	<p>ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY, BISHOP</p>			<p>A Eternal life</p>
<p>THE MOST HOLY TRINITY</p> <p>Q What does God promise for belief in his Son? (SEE MAY 30)</p> <p>John 3:16-18 31</p>	<p>LivingFaithKids Meet Pope Leo XIV</p> 	<p>LivingFaithKids</p>		<p>With faith-filled puzzles and lessons that stick, our sticker booklets make learning about the Catholic Faith fun for children!</p> <p>Call 1-800-325-9414, or visit CreativeCommunications.com to order.</p>		

Images: adobestock.com. This calendar is published by Creative Communications for the Parish, a division of Bayard, Inc. For more information, go to www.livingfaithkids.com

[Download the May 2026 Calendar Here](#)

Catholic Trivia

Question: The Upper Room, also known as the Cenacle, is located in the southern part of the Old City of Jerusalem on Mount Zion. It is perhaps best known as the traditional site of which event in addition to being the location of the disciples at the descent of the Holy Spirit in the form of tongues of fire.

- a) Jesus' Baptism
- b) The Wedding Feast of Cana
- c) The Last Supper
- d) Jesus' Arrest

Answer: C The Cenacle is perhaps best known as the traditional site of the Last Supper since the fourth century AD. The current structure of the room dates approximately from the fourteenth century (which accounts for the existing Gothic-era columns).

According to tradition, this is where the apostles stayed when they were in Jerusalem. It is where the Last Supper took place. The Cenacle is where Jesus washed his disciples' feet, which symbolizes the ministry of loving service. It is where the concept of a loving friendship with Jesus was introduced, as set forth in John's Last Supper discourses, and gave the apostles a glimpse into the beautiful prayer life of Jesus. It is the place where the disciples gathered in fear after the death of Jesus and prayed, with Mary, for the coming of the Holy Spirit.

By tradition, this is the same room where Jesus appeared, both before and after the resurrection. It was here that the Risen One made visible his wounds to see and touch, and the room where the faith of Thomas emerged. It is where the Risen Lord breathed



on them the Holy Spirit “on the evening of that first day of the week”. It is where tongues of fire appeared to them on Pentecost and “they were all filled with the Holy Spirit”. It is from there that the apostles went forth with boldness sharing the Good News. (*Franciscan Media*)

Joke of the Week



Jen Noll
Catechetical Coordinator
jnoll@olschurch.com
973-763-5454 x235

Colleen McDonald
Religious Education Assistant
cmcdonald@olschurch.com
973-763-5454 x285

[Our Lady of Sorrows Website](#)