

Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 10, 2020

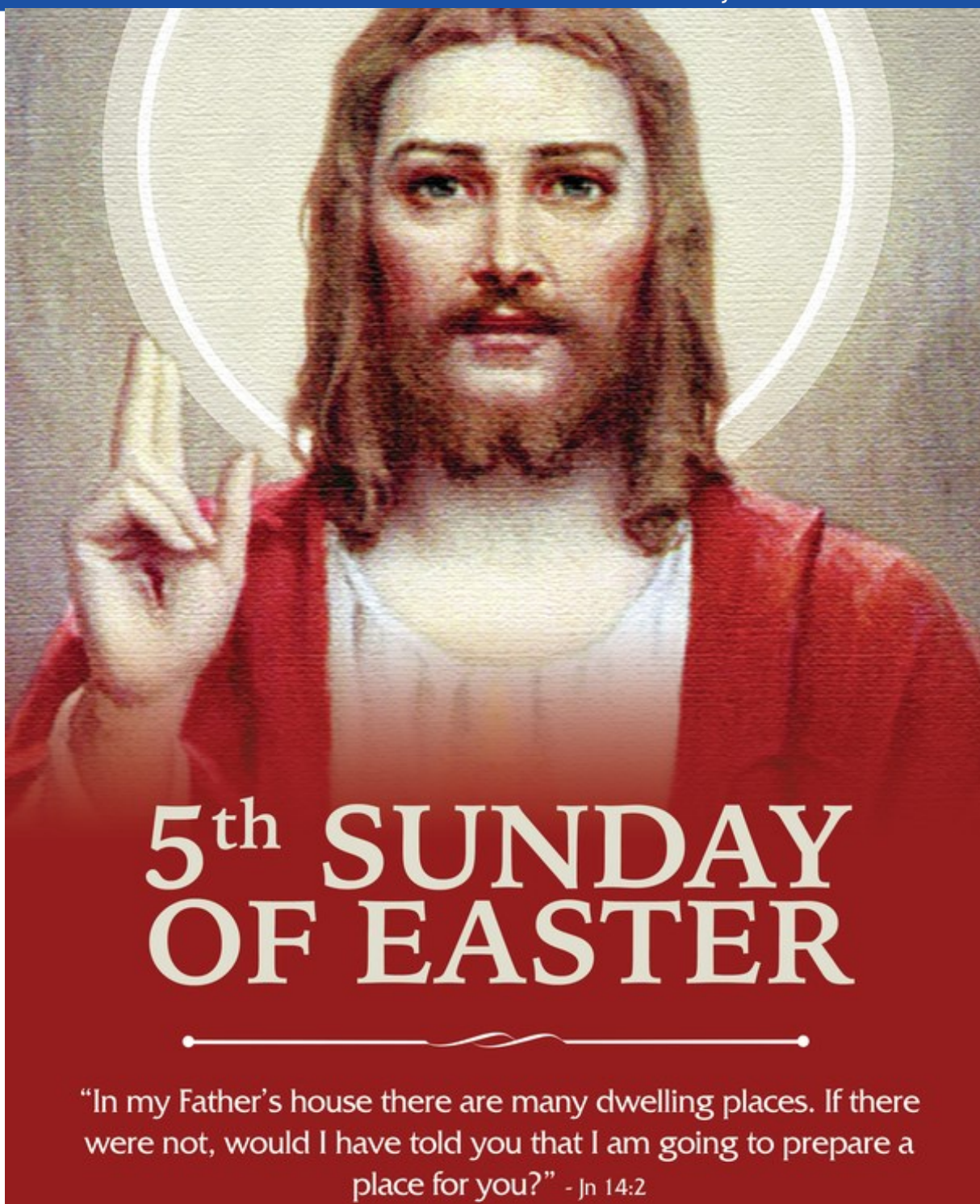


SAINTS CYRIL AND
METHODIUS PARISH

FARNOST' SVÄTÝCH
CYRILA A METODA



A Personal Parish Established To Serve The Slovak Catholic Community In The Archdiocese Of Detroit



5th SUNDAY OF EASTER

“In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?” - Jn 14:2

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SAINTS CYRIL AND METHODIUS PARISH FARNOST SVĚTÝCH CYRILA A METODA

Parish Announcements – May 10, 2020

Please see the website for complete details on the following information:

- Starting tomorrow, Confessions will begin again on a regular basis. Confessions will be heard from 6:00PM - 7:00PM on Monday through Friday, outside by the Slovak cross and in front of the garage doors in the back of the church building. Confessions will be heard by reservation. Please visit our parish website to fill out a simple form in order to reserve a time-slot. People who come without a reservation will only be heard, if there are still open slots available. Please, remember to wear a face mask.
- A week from tomorrow, on Monday, May 18, we will host a “Drop Off Food Drive” and a “Drop Off Face Mask Drive” to help our needy brothers and sisters in Detroit. Non-perishable foods and professional or hand-made face masks will be collected from 10:00AM - 12:00 NOON. Please enter through the Activity Center 18 Mile Road entrance, drive to the back of the Activity Center to drop off your donations and then exit out onto 18 Mile Road again. There will be volunteers to take the food out of your car if you are unable so please put the food in your trunk or back seat to maintain social distancing.
- Mass Intentions are still being accepted by either emailing your Mass Intentions to parishoffice@saintcyrils.church or by calling the Parish Office and leaving your name and telephone number. Someone will return your call.
- Life Teen will meet “Virtually” this week on Monday night for Sophomores through Seniors and on Tuesday night for Freshmen and 8th Graders. The topic this week is Fighting Distractions. Please contact Alex Lewis or Christian Dresen if you would like to attend.
- The next virtual Zoom night for the EDGE Youth Ministry is on May 21. Please contact Alex Lewis or Christian Dresen for complete details and if you wish for your child to participate.
- The Chapel remains open daily for private prayer from 12:00PM - 10:00PM. Only five people are allowed in the Chapel at one time. The Church is open on Sundays from 12:00PM - 10:00PM for private prayer. Only ten people are allowed in the Church at one time. Please remember social distancing and please wear a mask or scarf over your mouth to help protect yourself and your neighbor.
- If you are in need of assistance during these difficult times, please contact the parish office and leave your name and telephone number.

- Please continue to visit our website for up-to-date information, including reflections on the daily readings and the latest parish bulletin.
- Next week's Sunday Holy Mass will be livestreamed at 10:00AM.

Farské oznamy – 10. mája 2020

- Na budúci týždeň, v pondelok 18 mája bude zbierka potravín a rúšok pre núdznych ľudí v Detroite. Ak chcete pomôcť, prosím, prineste trvanlivé potraviny a doma vyrobené rúška medzi 10.00 a 12.00. Zbierka bude pri Pastoračnom Centre. Prosím prichádzajte autom z 18 Míle okolo budovy a znova môžete odísť cez 18. Míľu.
- Ak máte záujem dať odslúžiť svätú omšu na vaše úmysly, prosím, kontaktuje farský úrad mailom, alebo telefonicky.
- Stretnutie mládeže Life Teen bude tento týždeň v pondelok a v utorok.
- Na budúci týždeň vo štvrtok (21. mája) bude virtuálne stretnutie pre mládež zo 6. a 7. triedy - EDGE.
- Kaplnka býva otvorená každý deň 12:00 do 22:00. Prosím, dodržiavajte hygienické opatrenia..
- Sledujte našu farskú internetovú stránku, na ktorej uverejňujeme informácie, denné zamyslenia a bulletin.
- Ak viete o niekom, kto potrebuje počas týchto dní pomoc, prosím, kontaktuje farský úrad.
- Na budúcu nedeľu bude svätá omša o 10:00.
- Od zajtra znova začíname poskytovať pravidelnú možnosť prijať sviatosť zmierenia, každý deň od pondelka do piatku 18.00-19.00. Spovedáme vonku pred kostolom: pri slovenskom kríži a pred garážami. Na farskej stránke je formulár na rezerváciu. Kto príde bez rezervácie, nemá miesto garantované, ale budeme sa snažiť vyhovieť v rámci možností. Prosím, nezabudnite si zakryť tvár rúškom.

MASS *Intentions*

©JPPC

Father Libor & Father Juraj will celebrate the scheduled Mass Intentions in their Private Daily Masses this week as follows:

May 9, Saturday – Sobota

- ❖ For Catherine Miller (B'Day) ❖ For Jordan Zabawa req. Langlois Family ❖ For Michael req. Grandma & Papa
- ❖ For Hayley Reynolds & Family ❖ For Sophia & Family ❖ For the Laszlo & Gail Families ❖ For the Gammo & Gill Families
- ❖ For Anna & †Paul Magusin (Wed. Ann.) ❖ †Sister Mary Trzasko, O.P. req. JET ❖ †Ray Miller

May 10, Fifth Sunday of Easter - Nedela

Mass Livestreamed at 10:00AM: www.saintcyrils.church

Acts 6:1-7 (52A), 1 Pt 2:4-9, Jn 14:1-12

- ❖ For the Intentions of All Parishioners ❖ For the Intentions of All Mothers (Natural & Spiritual)
- ❖ For the Holy Souls in Purgatory ❖ For Joseph Desser (B'Day) ❖ For Mark Varchetti ❖ For Irene Penzak
- ❖ For Jack Glantz ❖ For Theresa MacDonald req. Family ❖ For the Sheeran Family ❖ For the Menard & Daniel Families
- ❖ †Ann M. Pullis ❖ †Brian Czach req. Fayad Family ❖ †Ana Nguyen Thi Chin req. Ho Thu ❖ †Anna Sutherland

May 11, Monday – Pondelok

- ❖ For the Intentions of the Mother's Day Novena
- ❖ For Norah Avery (B'Day) req. Wolf Family ❖ For Jennifer & Family ❖ For Tim & Victoria Roddy & Family

May 12, Tuesday – Utorok

- ❖ For the Intentions of the Mother's Day Novena
- ❖ For the Holy Souls in Purgatory ❖ For Anthony M. Yanik ❖ For Glen & Amy Varchetti & Family

May 13, Wednesday – Streda

- ❖ For the Intentions of the Mother's Day Novena
- ❖ For the Members of the Blue Army of Fatima ❖ For Vince Laconi ❖ †Phyllis Tresh (Ann.)

May 14, Thursday – Štvrtok

- ❖ For the Intentions of the Mother's Day Novena
- ❖ For Stephanie Fayad (B'Day) ❖ For Charlene Swub ❖ For Jim Weil ❖ For Melissa & Steve, Jr. (Wed. Ann.)
- ❖ For Nate & Theresa Robinson & Family ❖ †Josephine Davis

May 15, Friday – Piatok

- ❖ For the Intentions of the Mother's Day Novena
- ❖ For Denise Pepin (B'Day) req. Ken Pullis ❖ For Samuel Hines (B'Day) ❖ For Adam Giroux (B'Day)
- ❖ †Sr. Mary King, IHM ❖ †Matthew Margiewicz ❖ †Greg & Mary Manning & Family

May 16, Saturday – Sobota

- ❖ For the Intentions of the Mother's Day Novena
- ❖ For the Members of Our Lady Mother of Mercy Secular Discalced Carmelites
- ❖ For John & Sandi Brady & Family ❖ For Cecelia & †Anthony Bustamante
- ❖ For Carl & †Stephanie Varchetti & Family ❖ †Ann Schefke ❖ †Brian Czach req. Fayad Family

May 17, Sixth Sunday of Easter - Nedela

Mass Livestreamed at 10:00AM: www.saintcyrils.church

Acts 8:5-8,14-17, 1 Pt 3:15-18, Jn 14:15-21

- ❖ For the Intentions of the Mother's Day Novena ❖ For the Intentions of All Parishioners ❖ For Medical Workers
- ❖ For Michael Purzycki (B'Day) ❖ For Nadine Nelson (B'Day) ❖ For Emily Davis ❖ For Joe Fisher ❖ For James & Grete Varchetti
- ❖ For Monir & Alia Korkis & Family ❖ For Tommy & Angela Kassab ❖ For Tim & Victoria Roddy & Family
- ❖ For the Makarewicz Family ❖ †Sam Marrow ❖ For the Dec. Mem. of the Bayus Family req. Janka Stewart
- ❖ For the Dec. Mem. of the Dolecki Family req. Shirley Polakowski ❖ †Katherine Waldecker ❖ †Joe Venglar
- ❖ †Paul Magusin ❖ †Urszulka & Piotr Rolbiecki ❖ †David Davis ❖ †Brian Czach req. Fayad Family

LET'S JOIN TOGETHER IN PRAYER

Watch Mass from Ss. Cyril & Methodius on Sundays at 10:00AM, livestream from our website: www.saintcyrils.church

Dear Parishioners,

~ 5th Sunday of Easter: Teacher, what should we do? (Luke 3:12)

These words of the crowds, tax collectors, and soldiers addressed to John the Baptist as a response to his public preaching are not a sign of hopelessness, but rather wisdom. It is a voice of reason. A wise person is aware of his or her limitations and open for guidance from one who is more knowledgeable and competent. John the Baptist was calling people on the way of conversion and people recognized God's words in his words. John's task was not to just pat people on their shoulders and make them feel good, but rather to inspire, motivate, and move them to things that require effort and sacrifice.

The risk of defending the state of comfort and complacency in this world is real and always present; as if our repeated petitions tried to buy God's approval to endorse and ensure our comfort. If religion is lived just as a way to make us feel good, we are missing the point and we are far from faith.

Faith, rather, must determine our life-attitudes and actions. And there is no progress without challenging ourselves, and our long-lived habits. Teacher, what should we do? We are in a much better position than the crowds gathered around John the Baptist. We have come to believe that Jesus reveals to us the truth from God. We must always return to him with the same personal question: Lord, what should I do?

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Učiteľ, čo máme robiť? (Lk 3,12) Tieto slová zástupov, mýtnikov i vojakov, ktorými sa obracajú na Jána Krstiteľa nie sú znakom bezmocnosti, ale múdrosti. Sú hlasom rozumu. Múdry človek si je vedomý svojich hraníc a je otvorený voči rade múdrejšieho a kompetentného. Ján Krstiteľ volal ľudí na cestu obrátenia a oni v jeho slovách spoznali Božie slová. Jánovou úlohou nebolo iba ťapkať ľudí po pleciach, aby sa dobre cítili, ale ich inšpirovať a motivovať k veciam, ktoré vyžadujú námahu a obeť.

Ľudia sú vždy náchylní k tomu, aby obhajovali pohodlie svojho života. Ako keby sme si našimi opätovnými prosbami chceli od Boha kúpiť schválenie a potvrdenie nášho pohodlia. Ak je náboženstvo prežívané iba ako nástroj na získanie dobrého pocitu, sme veľmi ďaleko od podstaty a od viery.

Viera musí určovať naše životné postoje a skutky. A rast neexistuje bez toho, aby sme vždy prehodnocovali naše vžitú zvyky. Učiteľ, čo máme robiť? Sme v oveľa lepšej pozícii, než zástup zhromaždený okolo Jána Krstiteľa. My sme uverili, že Ježiš nám zjavuje pravdu o Bohu. Vždy sa musíme k nemu vrátiť s osobnou otázkou: Učiteľ, čo mám robiť?

*Fr. Libor Marek*



## 5 Things to Expect Once Public Masses Return in the Archdiocese of Detroit

**Things won't be back to normal for a while, but when the church doors open, we'll need to brace for changes!**

By: Detroit Catholic, April 30, 2020 - As we approach our eighth weekend without public Masses in the Archdiocese of Detroit, the fatigue of not being united around the altar, receiving Holy Communion, and seeing each other in church is certainly beginning to wear on us.

It is a tremendous sacrifice for us to forgo gathering in this way. But we have done it for the common good. As Catholics, we are committed to serving our brothers and sisters in our communities in varied ways because, as the Fathers of the Second Vatican Council taught, "the joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the men of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted, these are the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ" (Gaudium et Spes, 1).

Yet, as people of faith, we long to return to our churches and gather once again in person for Mass. The desire of the disciples to be united to the offering of Jesus to the Father in Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is not diminished during these days. It will be a while, however, before things return to our pre-quarantine days. Just as our civic leaders and public health officials have set a phased, slow and steady approach to returning back to "normal," so, too, must we prepare.

Here are five things we should be prepared for over the spring and into the summer:

**1. Wearing a mask:** We hate wearing our masks. It's not comfortable and it makes us less ready to engage others. But it is necessary. Masks save lives, especially because COVID-19 is so highly communicable. All the faithful at Mass will be asked or perhaps even required to wear a mask. It does not have to be an official N-95 mask worn by surgeons, but some homemade covering will become standard during Mass.

**2. Social distancing in church:** Our parish communities are a great good that we want to preserve. Yet, social distancing helps mitigate the spread of the disease. There will be clear protocols that will change where you can sit, how you can greet people, and how to receive Holy Communion. You will need to keep six feet of distance between anyone not in your household for the foreseeable future at church.

**3. Fewer people:** The dispensation for the requirement to attend Sunday Mass will likely be extended. Those at higher risk — the elderly, the immune-compromised and hospital workers — will probably need to be the last to come back to church. There might be creative solutions to allow people in these categories to attend Mass with a decreased risk of contamination (like grocery stores with hours specific to these populations) but it will be a while before we will be able to see everyone we are used to seeing at Mass.

**4. Mistakes and imperfection:** None of us have lived through a pandemic before. None of us knows exactly how to do this. Priests, ushers, parishioners and the archdiocese will not get every decision correct. We all will need the grace of humility and what Synod 16 identified as "a spirit of cooperation" to get through this together. This means that we all will need saint-like patience or get really good at saying "I'm sorry" and "I forgive you."

**5. Continued online presence:** The slow and steady return to us all being together means more and more things will continue to be online. We are probably a long way off from coffee and doughnuts or other social gatherings after Mass. Parishes will still provide opportunities for catechesis and engagement in a digital format, and livestream Masses are sure to continue.

Our commitment to the common good of our society is important to keep us safe and to protect those who are most susceptible to the ravages of this virus. It is an act of justice owed to all those with whom we share our society.

But it is also an opportunity for us to give witness to our care and concern for all. These changes — and certainly others we cannot anticipate yet — remind people that we care about them. We want to show them that we love them so that we can, in due time, proclaim a greater good and a greater love for them.

As Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron said at the beginning of this quarantine, our lives during these days and the days of our return are still about unleashing the Gospel.

## Please Help Our Neighbors In Need

### DROP-OFF FOOD DRIVE at Ss. CYRIL & METHODIUS for St. Christine's Food Bank

**Monday, May 18**



With churches closed and unemployment increasing, St. Christine's Food Bank in Detroit is in great need of non-perishable food donations. To help stock the food bank, St. Cyril's will be sponsoring a non-perishable food drive at the Activity Center on Monday, May 18, from 10:00AM - 12:00 NOON.

**The foods that are most needed are:**

***canned meats or tuna, cereal, salad dressings, and taco or pizza making kits but donations of any canned or packaged foods (no glass jars, please!) will be greatly appreciated.***

**Please bring your donation in a sturdy cardboard box or a bag ready to be transported.**

Because of current restrictions, this will be a drop-off food collection. What does that mean? It will be a lot like the drop off for Catechism. You will **enter the Activity Center parking lot from 18 Mile Road** and drive to the back of the building. Volunteers will direct you to either place your donation in the back of the delivery truck while practicing social distancing –or– put your donations on a table and the volunteers will put them into the delivery truck –or– (if you are unable to unload the donations), the volunteers will remove the donations from your trunk or back seat so PLEASE PUT YOUR DONATIONS IN YOUR TRUNK OR BACK SEAT (to maintain social distancing). You will then continue around the Activity Center and exit to 18 Mile Rd.

**To make the drop-off run smoothly and quickly, the Activity Center parking lot will be closed to traffic from the main parking lot.**

### DROP-OFF FACE MASKS at CYRIL & METHODIUS for St. Aloysius Neighborhood Services

**Monday, May 18**

**Can You Make Masks for St. Aloysius Neighborhood Services?**

St. Al's Neighborhood Services staff are in need of masks to give to the low-income seniors and the homeless people they serve. If you like to sew, would you be willing to make some adult sized masks for St. Al's?

**Masks can be dropped off during the food drive at the Activity Center on:**

**Monday, May 18, from 10:00AM - 12:00 NOON.**

**\*Please enter the Activity Center from 18 Mile Road!**

**There will not be access to the Activity Center from the main parking lot.**



### RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE at CYRIL & METHODIUS

**Thursday, July 23 & Tuesday, September 22**



Thanks to the many who gave blood and scheduled upcoming appointments over the past couple of weeks, the American Red Cross has been able to meet immediate patient needs. During this uncertain time, the American Red Cross encourages individuals to keep scheduled blood, platelet or AB Elite plasma donation appointments and to make new donation appointments for the weeks ahead to ensure a stable supply throughout this pandemic.

Donating blood products is essential to community health and the need for blood products is constant. As part of our nation's critical infrastructure, healthy individuals can still donate in areas that have issued shelter in place declarations. The Red Cross follows the highest standards of safety and infection control, and volunteer donors are the only source of blood for those in need.

There is no known end date in this fight against coronavirus and the Red Cross needs the help of blood and platelet donors. In times of crisis, the Red Cross is fortunate to witness the best of humanity as people roll up a sleeve to help those in need. We greatly appreciate the generosity of the public to keep hospital shelves stocked during this uncertain time.

Please schedule an appointment to donate blood today! Whole Blood donations can be made every 56 days, Power Red donations every 112 days, Platelet donations every 7 days and AB Elite Plasma donations every 28 days.

If you wish to be a Whole Blood donor at our Blood Drive on July 23, between 1:00PM - 6:45PM, your last blood donation cannot be later than May 28 so please schedule accordingly. Thank you for your generosity!

**You may sign up directly at [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) or call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767)**

## In Honor of Our Blessed Mother

It has been a longstanding tradition at Ss. Cyril and Methodius that on the first Sunday in May, we honor our Blessed Mother with our annual May Crowning. The young ladies from the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation Class are given the opportunity to write a letter expressing why they would like to crown Our Lady and the essays, with the author's name removed, are given to Fr. Libor to select a crowner (anonymously). Nevada Jaczkowski was selected to crown the Blessed Mother this year and we are hoping that at a later date, Father Libor will be able to find a day where we can honor the Blessed Mother with a Holy Mass and beautiful crowning ceremony. There were nine essays submitted this year. Four of the essays were featured last week and three this week in no specific order. The two remaining essays by **Sofia Martinez** and **Rachel Jiminez** will be featured next week.

Thank you, *Paul & Carroll Schuller*

†††††

**Sophia Baltrinic:** I would like to crown the Blessed Mother at the May Crowning because I want to show her how thankful I am to her. Mary has helped me through much of my life, perhaps more than I even realize at the time.

I remember the year I made my first communion, all the communicants attended the May Crowning to place a rose next to the statue of Mary. That was the first May Crowning I could remember. Since then, I felt the urge to please the Blessed Mother as best as I could, though at times I knew I wasn't doing the best job.

However, one day I went on a special retreat. The priest who spoke there gave a talk on the power of the Memorare. Soon, the Memorare became my favorite way to directly speak to Mary. I sometimes said it so often that I would accidentally use it instead of the table blessing! But, the thing about the Memorare was not only the aspect of the prayer itself, but of how Mary actually responds. I seem to have many unanswered prayers, but it seems that the Memorare always has a reaction to it. Many times I would pray and have whatever I'm asking for literally appear before my eyes.

So I knew that Mary was behind it.

I'm not saying that I'm the only one whose witnessed the power of the Memorare—many of my friends have had some mini-miracles of their own as well—but this prayer has indeed given me much to be thankful for. Before I learned of the Memorare, Mary had seemed so distant to me. I used to think she only cared for some perfect, holy children such as whom she appeared to at Fatima or Lourdes (though, I'm sure they weren't perfect either). But now I see that no prayer is all in vain. Because as I grew closer to God—especially in this year of Confirmation—I realized that Mary is also by my side. Not only as the esteemed Mother of God, but as a friend I could actually relate to.

Thus, crowning my best friend would be a dream come true.

†††††

**Paige Jaczkowski:** I would like to crown the Blessed Mother at the May Crowning because, through my life I have been surrounded by many strong women. When I was little for a couple years I didn't really have a father figure. So in this situation my mom had to carry the weight of both parts of a father and a mother on her shoulders, if you double that amount she had to do this for both me and my sister. My mom has always been here for me and my sister, and done her best to keep all of our heads above water. Seeing and living through everything my mother has done has given me respect for all mothers and realizing how hard they work. Another mother that has greatly impacted my life was my Aunt Renee. In 2016, my Aunt Renee died of Cancer. Leaving behind her husband, my uncle, and her two daughters. But before this happened when she was in treatment I always remember her smiling and enjoying life. Even while she was in treatment, she did her best to keep her daughters happy but also keep them in line. As most people may know Cancer is not just a walk in the park. So just even thinking about trying to enjoy life and take care of your children while enduring that kind of illness is such a scary thought to me, but knowing my aunt actually lived through that is very inspiring to me. So, I would like to crown the blessed mother because I have seen first-hand what mothers will do for their children, and I know the Blessed Mother did the same for her son. Out of my respect for mothers I humbly ask you to let me crown the Blessed Mother.

†††††

**Natalie Valentice:** I would like to crown the Blessed Mother at the May Crowning because ... St. Margret Mary Alaoque, the saint name I chose for Confirmation, was sickly and paralyzed at a young age. She consecrated herself to Mary in hopes that she would be healed. After doing this, she was miraculously healed. I will be consecrating myself to Mary, on August 15th, The Feast of the Assumption of Mary, using Luis de Montfort's Total Consecration to Mary. It has been a tradition in my family that every confirmation student consecrates their self to the Blessed Virgin Mother. My parents decided to make it a tradition, because it had a huge impact in their marriage and family life.

Mother Mary is the greatest saint of all time, and anyone would be blessed to be able to crown her. Our Blessed Mother is a perfect example of obedience, patience, and perseverance. She is the Mother and Queen of Heaven and Earth. She is the closest human to the Holy Trinity. I look up to Mary and aspire to be like her. I would be honored to crown Mother Mary.

†††††





## Ss. Cyril & Methodius Youth Ministry VIRTUAL LIFE NIGHTS ♦ May 11 & 12

Join our on-line Catholic youth ministry as we continue to gather together virtually to pray, share and grow in faith!

MONDAYS EVENINGS are for Sophomores - Seniors

TUESDAY EVENINGS are for Freshmen & 8th Graders

Monday & Tuesday, May 11 & 12:  
***"Fighting Distraction"***

To participate or for more information,  
 please contact:

*Alex Lewis and Christian Dresen*

lifeteen@saintcyrls.church or edge@saintcyrls.church

A link will be sent to your family in order to participate in the Zoom meeting!

## ADORATION 101

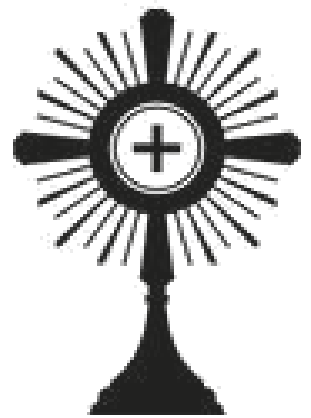
### ***15 Reasons to Answer the Question: "Why Jesus, Why God?"*** By: Paul Ray

When you have no one to talk to He's always there no matter where you're at.

1. He knows exactly what we're feeling.
2. He has the ultimate say in all that happens.
3. He wills our good, even when it doesn't feel like it.
4. He IS love. He doesn't just love, He IS love itself.
5. He is full of compassion and slow to anger.
6. He can read our hearts better than we can.
7. He knows what we're going through perfectly and is willing to help.
8. He fully understands our frustrations.
9. He fully understands our worries.
10. He fully understands our anxieties and fears in a way no other person on earth can. No matter how talented.
11. He knows the answers to all our questions.
12. He delights when we come to Him.
13. He is not fake like people can be, He's always truthful and real.
14. He may show us things we may not like but once we understand it will save our lives. In this world and the next. Just like a loving parent does for their child.
15. He cannot lie.
16. He knows our every thought.
17. He knows our every intention.
18. He knows our every motive.
19. He remembers how people have hurt us.
20. He can feel your pain.
21. He is king of Heaven and Earth.
22. He knew we needed a Savior from all this madness in life and that's why He became man.
23. He is the only one who can hug your heart.
24. He will never betray you.

He is ALIVE! Give Him a chance ...

– Paul A. Ray



## A CHALLENGE TO DISCIPLESHIP

**From MAY 10 through MAY 16:**

This week I challenge all parishioners make amends with someone who has hurt you. It's one of the most difficult commandments that Our Lord asks of us but because it is, it is also the most rewarding! Even if the person you reach out to refuses to listen or wants nothing to do with you, let them know that you have forgiven them. Leave the rest to God. Freedom comes with forgiveness. Remember the words of Jesus, "If you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." (MATTHEW 6:15)

God will give you the strength and courage. Let us step up! – Paul A. Ray





# *The Joyful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary*

*With Meditations by Venerable Fulton J. Sheen*



## **The Annunciation**

IN THE ANNUNCIATION, the birth of the Son of God in the flesh is made to hinge on the consent of a woman, as the fall of man in the garden of Paradise hinged on the consent of a man. God, in His power, might have assumed a human nature by force, as the hand of a man lays hold of a rose. But He willed not to invade His great gift of freedom without a creature's free response. Through the angel who salutes Mary in words that have become the first part of the Hail Mary, "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee," Mary is asked if she will give God a man! Mary, learning that she will conceive without human love, but with the overshadowing of divine Love, consents, and a new humanity begins, with Mary as the new Eve, and Christ the new Adam.



## **The Visitation**

The joy of the second Joyful Mystery is that of the Old Testament meeting the New, and of the young maiden greeting the old woman, as Mary burst into the most revolutionary song that was ever sung, the Magnificat, foretelling the day when the mighty would be unseated from their thrones, and the poor would be exalted. Yet, at that moment, when Elizabeth is the first to call her the Mother of God, even before our Lord is born, Mary answers in her song that her greatness is due to Him, and that she was chosen because she was lowly. It may very well be that Mary was chosen to be the Mother of God after she had, in her vow, renounced the honor. Though greater than Elizabeth, she visits her in her hour of need. Only as we become little do we ever become great in the eyes of God.



## **The Nativity**

All Love tends to become like that which it loves. God loved man; therefore, He became man. Thanks to His human nature, He could take on our woes and our sorrows, and feel the effects of sin as if they were His very own. But all this was conditioned upon Mary's giving Him a human nature. Without her He would never have had eyes to see the multitude hungry in the desert, or ears to hear the pleading of the lame man of Jericho, or hands to caress children, or feet to seek the lost sheep. For nine months, her own body was the natural Eucharist, in which God shared communion with human life, thus preparing for that greater Eucharist, when human life would commune with the Divine. Mary's joy was to form Christ in her own body; her joy now is to form Christ in our souls. In this Mystery, we pray to become pregnant with the Christ spirit, giving Him new lips with which He may speak of His Father, new hands with which He may feed the poor, and a new heart with which He may love everyone, even enemies.



## **The Presentation**

Every child is an arrow shot out of the bow of its mother, but its target is God. Children have come through mothers, but they do not belong to them. Mary acknowledges this claim of divinity on her Child by presenting Him back again to God, as she offers the temple of His Body in the temple made by hands. Mary here anticipated the joy of every mother who brings her child to the baptismal font, where God may claim His own. But in the case of Mary, the Child was claimed for sacrifice, as the aged Simeon said that He was a sign to be contradicted, for the cross is the contradiction. Mary was even told that a sword her own soul would pierce. That would happen when her Son on the cross would have His heart pierced with a lance. Through His Body and her soul would go that one stroke of the sword. She was the only mother who ever brought a life into the world to die. It is not so much our presents that God wants from us, as it is our presence, as we offer our life to Him.



## **The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple**

There are two kinds of souls in the world; those who hide from God and those from whom God hides. But when God hides, He hides in order that He might be sought the more, as if to draw out a deeper love. During the three days when the Divine Child was lost, the Blessed Mother became the mother of sinners. The essence of sin is the loss of God, and Mary lost God, not spiritually, but physically. During those three days, she came to know something of the solitariness of the sinner, the loneliness of the guilty, and the aloneness of the frustrated. Her Divine Son, 21 years later, would feel it for Himself on the cross, when He would ask why God had abandoned Him. Let no sinner ever despair of Divine Mercy, because Mary understands the tortures of the heart, but above all, because she knows where to find Christ. She also knows how to bring the sinner to her Divine Son. As the Madonna of the Empty Arms, she awaits your embrace.

*"The Rosary is the most beautiful and the most rich in graces of all prayers; it is the prayer that touches most the Heart of the Mother of God...and if you wish peace to reign in your homes, recite the family Rosary." Pope St. Pius X*