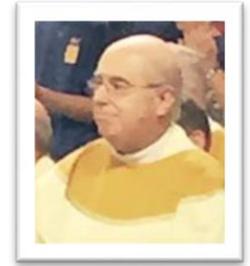


# Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 14, 2017



## MOMS ON MOTHERHOOD!

What follows are not my thoughts on motherhood, given my obvious lack of experience. They are the thoughts of a number of moms and grandmoms in our Parish to whom I posed two questions: **what is the best thing about being a mom?** and **what is the greatest challenge of motherhood?** I tried to do justice to the responses I received and for which I am so grateful.

**The best thing about being a mom** – the almost indescribable joy of love for one's children, a pure, selfless, protective, nurturing, devoted, and proud love combined with the love and trust that children give back. One mom used something St. Therese of Lisieux said to describe it: "The loveliest masterpiece of the heart of God is the love of a mother." A mom's love is expressed in so many ways. It can be sharing a love of reading and travel, teaching children songs and how to swim. Another mom used Tad's words in Kenneth Grahame's Wind in the Willows to describe the impact of sharing experiences with her children on the journey of motherhood - "You can't think how obliged I am for consenting to come on this trip! I wouldn't have gone without you, and then I might never have seen that swan, that sunbeam, that thunderbolt...I owe it all to you, my best of friends." Of course that leads to another wonderful maternal experience - watching children discover their gifts, what they love and watching them develop their skills, achieving and reaching milestones and being able to celebrate those accomplishments with them. The vocation of mother has also helped moms deepen their own appreciation of God's unconditional love for all of us. Motherhood is a grace to be thankful for – as one mom put it, "It was earlier in my pregnancy that I felt so deeply connected to God and the need to place all my gratitude, worries and fears on Him if I was going to be the best parent I could be for my children."

**And now for the greatest challenge of motherhood** – the constant concern for children's happiness from the moment of conception and the worry and the fear that walk hand in hand with a mom's love. Love magnifies the pain when children hurt. Then there are the challenges of helping children grow up – responding to their many needs (food, doctors, sleep, limiting computer and TV time) and making sure they develop loving human relationships and that very important one with God. Helping them develop a sense of responsibility toward others is so important as is spending quality time with children treasuring moments of laughter and the stories. Yes, moms can be frustrated by little or no feedback – no one tells you what you're doing right or wrong. As one mom pointed out, "Moms need to trust their instincts, and it takes a long time to see the results of your labors." Facing disease and serious illness in your kids along with the inability to take the pain away is excruciating for moms. As children grow through different stages, motherhood is a constantly changing challenge. Raising children to be moral, respectful and holy people in a culture that doesn't support those values can be very frustrating – it's difficult to tell your kids something is wrong when the world says it's OK. Moms also need to recognize the fine line between guiding and nagging! And yes, eventually, moms need to let go, to let their kids fall and learn from falling, to trust them to make their own decisions. With God's help moms sometimes have to watch their children abandon the practice of the faith they worked so hard to instill.

On this Mother's Day Weekend 2017, on behalf of us all, I ask God's blessings on all of our wonderful moms, grandmoms, stepmoms, and moms to be!

Msgr. Larry Bronkiewicz



Pastor



**MASS READINGS & INTENTIONS**

**MONDAY, May 15**

Acts 14:5-18/Jn 14:21-26

7:00 AM John E. Parkinson

12:00 PM Jack Diana

**TUESDAY, May 16**

Acts 14:19-28/Jn 14:27-31a

7:00 AM Vocations of the Priesthood

12:00 PM Vito DeSerio

**WEDNESDAY, May 17**

Acts 15:1-6/Jn 15:1-8

7:00 AM Grace Nneji

12:00 PM Dec. Members of the Coscio Family

**THURSDAY, May 18**

Acts 15:7-21/Jn 15:9-11

7:00 AM Ted O'Rourke

12:00 PM Ted O'Rourke

**FRIDAY, May 19**

Acts 15:22-31/Jn 15:12-17

7:00 AM Pat Gotimer

12:00 PM Ralph Pappalardo

**SATURDAY, May 20**

Acts 16:1-10/Jn 15:18-21

8:00 AM Raymond Donohue

4:30 PM Parishioners of the Parish

**SUNDAY, May 21**

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

**Church**

7:30 AM Debra Ankiewich

9:15 AM Dec Members of the Venezia Family

11:15 AM The Flynn Family

**Hall**

10:30 AM David Walker Lambert

12:00 PM Michael and Helen Turansky

5:00 PM Jack Graham

**Immaculate High School Arts in the Park  
Returns on May 18 from 6-8pm!!**

This year the "Saturday in the Park" event at Immaculate High School features a 3D sculpture mini-golf course (on which guests can putt), 1,000 pieces of artwork, instrumental and vocal music. Arts in the Park is produced and sponsored by the Immaculate High School Fine Arts Department. Free admission, food for sale, including a lemonade stand to support Catherine's Cups of Kindness. Proceeds go to Catherine Violet Hubbard Animal Sanctuary.

**IS GOD CALLING YOU?** Explore the rhythm of a semi-cloistered, contemplative monastic life, learn to devote time and prayer to God, delve into discernment and meet other women who share your questions and thoughts about the future! **Summer Monastic Experience: June 24-28. Come and See Weekend, October 20-22.** For single women, 18-40 years old. For more info contact Sister Maria Victoria 660-944-2221 or vocation@benedictinesisters.org. Discover more at benedictineSisters.org.



**GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING**

**WEEKLY YEAR-TO-DATE**

May 7, 2017	\$21,687	\$430,118
May 6, 2016	\$23,789	\$458,261

**Facilities & Repair**

2017	\$4,535
2016	\$4,474

*This week's 2nd collection: Hospitality House*

**Prayers for the Sick**

Please remember our sick in your prayers, especially **Mary Jo Calamai, Josie Connelly, Sally Gagliardi, Harrison Mauldin, Jeanne Mastandrea and Barbara Ortonowska.** For the sake of privacy, only immediate family members may add someone to our prayer list. Individuals will be removed monthly unless we are otherwise notified.



*Wedding Banns* **III. Michael Thomas O'Neil - Janna Kathleen Hebert**

**BAPTISMS**

We welcome to the Family of God and our Parish Family **Alexander Michael Zuccaro** who was baptized last weekend in our Church.



**Candle Intentions**

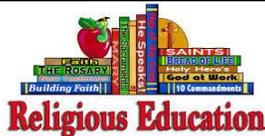
*A Church Altar Candle  
is Burning in Loving Memory of  
Theresa Foss*

*A Church Altar Candle  
is Burning in Loving Memory of  
Carol O'Donnell*



**SAVE THE DATE!** This year's "Praise & Worship" will be Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm. In addition to music featured by the Hall Music Ministry, this year's event will highlight God's message conveyed through the music of Broadway. We hope you can join us!

**TIME CHANGE CONFESSIONS: May 20<sup>th</sup>, 3-4pm.**



**Vacation Bible School**

VBS registration is open! There is still room to register your children. High school teen volunteers are needed. Visit the Parish website to sign up.

**Congratulations to our 2017 First Communion Class** who received the Holy Eucharist for the first time this weekend and last weekend. Please keep them in your prayers!

**RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE**

“Abortion should be listed as a weapon of mass destruction against the voiceless.” — **E.A. Bucchianeri**

[www.smcr.org/respect-life](http://www.smcr.org/respect-life)



**DEFENDING OUR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY**

The fight for religious freedom is not a Catholic issue, not a Jewish issue, not an Orthodox, Mormon, or Muslim issue. It is an American issue. The passage of the Affordable Care Act has imposed dangerous implications on all religions. If we allow the government to have the final say on what type of health care coverage a religious organization must provide, we are basically enabling them to interfere in all religious liberty concerns in areas such as immigration and humanitarian services.

Let us pray that as lawmakers make changes to the current mandate that it return the safeguards that protect religious freedom in the US Constitution.

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter**

“Amen I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do.” Let the Lord into your marriage to do His works by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next WWME Weekends are July 7-9 and November 3-5 in Manchester, CT. For more info, contact Dennis and Jane Lamont, 860-376-0440 or visit us at [www.wwmectw.org](http://www.wwmectw.org). Worldwide Marriage Encounter is a Roman Catholic organization serving in over 90 countries.



**20th ANNIVERSARY**



Saint Mary School  
RIDGEFIELD

**World Language Expo**

Students in Kindergarten - Grade 8 participated in the annual World Language Expo, highlighting French and Spanish speaking countries and their geography, culture, dress, food, art, music, and history. Our entire community visited the Expo and learned so much.

Students at Saint Mary take Spanish beginning in Preschool, take French and Spanish in Kindergarten - Grade 5, and choose either Spanish or French for Middle School.

*Saint Mary School is currently enrolling students for the 2016-2017 school year. For more information about SMS, or to set up a tour, please contact Anna O'Rourke at 203-438-7288 or visit [www.smsridgefield.org](http://www.smsridgefield.org).*

**Fill a Bottle**



for Life

**Baby Bottles**

Please remember to bring back all baby bottles that were distributed on May 6/7. They will be collected as you enter Mass next weekend, May 20/21. You may also return them to our Parish Office. Thank you for your generous support.

**FAITH FORMATION CORNER**



**Prayer to Mary Mother of God for all Mothers**

Mary, on this day when we honor all mothers, we turn to you. We thank the Lord whom you serve for the great gift of motherhood. Never has it been known that anyone who sought your intercession was left unaided by grace. Dear Mother, thank you for your "Yes" to the invitation of the angel which brought heaven to earth and changed human history. You opened yourself to God's word and the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

Dear Mother, intercede for all of our mothers. Ask your Divine Son to give them the grace of surrendered love so that they could join with you in giving their own "Fiat." May they find daily strength to say yes to the call to the sacrificial love - the very heart of the vocation of motherhood. May their love and witness be a source of great inspiration for all of us called to follow your Son.

On this Mother's Day, Mother of the Word Incarnate, pray for us who have recourse to thee. —[www.Catholiconline](http://www.Catholiconline)

**PLEASE NOTE: The Teaching Mass previously scheduled for June will be rescheduled for September.**

**CATHOLIC ACTION**

**VOLUNTEER NEEDED, CONGREGATE HOUSING**



Bingo Calling - Wednesdays, 1-2:30pm. The commitment is usually once a month. Please contact Suzanne MacAvoy for more info at [sdmacavoy@hotmail.com](mailto:sdmacavoy@hotmail.com) or 203 438-7056.

**DONATE: FOOD PANTRY**

In May, collected food goes to the Ridgefield Food Pantry. Collection bins are in the Church and Hall. Thank you for your generosity!



**MARQUETTE COUNCIL OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

Don't you want to be the best role model for your child? The easiest way is to share the faith with your children by spending time with them and "walking the talk." Connect the words to action! Join the Knights for the opportunity to serve our church and community together WITH your children. We are looking for Dads and their kids to help us throughout the year. Contact John McNicholas at [jmpmcnich@yahoo.com](mailto:jmpmcnich@yahoo.com) or visit [www.kofc245.org](http://www.kofc245.org) for more info.

**PILGRIM VIRGIN**

This year we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima. Our Lady's message to the world: Do penance, amend your life, offend God no more and pray the Rosary daily for world peace and the conversion of sinners. Invite the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima Statue into your home. To schedule a visit call Elma Stoveken at 203-894-1341.



**Love One Another as I have Loved You**

In John 15:12, Jesus says, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." Loving and caring for one another is something Jesus has called us all to do. In Stephen Ministry, people with special gifts for caring put those gifts to use in an organized way, bringing Jesus' love and care to those who need it most. If you know of someone who is hurting, talk to one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders, Mary Ann O'Grady - 203-438-5610 or Jack Hughes - 203-665-0054. Our Ministers are ready to provide focused, confidential, one-to-one Christian care—to help that person experience the healing power of Christ's love.

Our Homily Survey link is @ [www.smcr.org](http://www.smcr.org). We appreciate and value your feedback!

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**



Eucharistic Adoration gives us the opportunity to pray before the exposed Blessed Sacrament and another way to experience the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. Our Parish Adoration Chapel, the oldest one in Connecticut (beginning in 1994), is open 24/7. The entrance is near our Religious Ed Office. Stop by anytime or sign up for a needed hour:

SUN: 2-3am, 3-4am, 4-5am, 1-2pm; MON: 1-2am; THURS: 1-2am

O means permanent or substitute adorer urgently needed. X means 1 additional adorer is needed. Blank boxes mean there are 2 or more adorers.

	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
12M-1am	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
1am-2am	X	O	X	X	O	X	X
2am-3am	O	X	X	X	X	X	X
3am-4am	O	X	X	X	X	X	X
4am-5am	O	X	X	X	X	X	X
5am-6am	X	X			X		X
6am-7am	X		X	X	X		X
7am-8am	X		X	X	X	X	X
8am-9am	X	X	X		X		X
9am-10am	X	X		X	X	X	X
10am-11am	X			X		X	X
11am-12N	X						X
12N-1pm	X				X	X	X
1pm-2pm	O	X	X	X	X		X
2pm-3pm	X	X	X	X		X	X
3pm-4pm		X	X	X	X	X	X
4pm-5pm	X		X	X	X		X
5pm-6pm	X		X	X	X		X
6pm-7pm	X			X	X	X	X
7pm-8pm	X					X	X
8pm-9pm						X	X
9pm-10pm	X	X			X	X	X
10pm-11pm			X	X	X	X	X
11pm-12M	X		X		X	X	X

Prayer deepens our relationship with the Lord. Many find our Adoration Chapel a great place to find a solution to a problem, comfort or solace in times of stress or adversity or just for plain peace. Come & pray! To sign up for an hour, please call Bill or Monica @ (914) 533-2832. God bless us all.

EVERY Thursday evening, 7-9pm, in our Adoration Chapel, the Chaplet of Mercy, 7 Sorrows of Our Blessed Mother and 15 decades of the Rosary are sung and prayed. Please join us!



**ST. MARY PARISH MEN'S MINISTRY**

Take an opportunity to deepen your relationship with the Lord - along with 50 to 60 other like-minded men. How about spending a weekly hour and half experiencing our Men's Ministry on Saturday mornings from 6:30-8:00AM? Besides having a great and welcoming community, we also serve bagels, coffee & OJ each week to ease the pain of a **very worthwhile wakeup call!**