



M: St Mary • J: St Joseph
Rc: rectory chapel
May 25-May 31, 2015

May 25 • 10:30am • J Cemetery • Memorial Day
[10am: Church if inclement weather]
Veterans: Living & Deceased

May 27 • Noon • Rc • Augustine of Canterbury
† Msgr. John Boyle r/o Fr. Jim

May 28 • 9am • Rc • † Vivienne Bruno

May 29 • 5pm • Rc • † Gerard Bernhardt

Trinity Sunday • May 30/31

4pm • J † Leanne Mazur
r/o Mike & Judy Dziak



5:45pm • M
† Gloria & Francis Yablonsky
r/o Stephen/Cherise, & Family
First Communion: Jennifer Gilliam

8:15am • J † Julia Sider r/o Dolores & Mary Ann

10am • M † Noel Brouse r/o Family



❖ **STEWARDSHIP: M:** S: 1015; Block Party: 774 • **J:** S: 1188;
Campaign: 400; Picnic: 553 • via myEoffering: M: \$60 • J: \$55

Stewardship of time, talent & treasure!

❖ **Scripture:** Acts 2:1-11; Gal 5:16-25; Jn15:26-27

• Next Week: Deut 4:32-34,39-40; Rom 8:14-17; Mt 28:16-20

❖ Fill out the forms, even if you're healthy & would like to be prayed for in times of need!

Pray for: • Bea Gius • John Washko • Dorothy Yanuskiewicz • Rose Ann & Tracey Aponick • Jean & Alice Jarzinko • Joseph Washko • Ed & Sally McNamee

• Jennifer Gilliam • Margaret Burns • Grace Snover
• Loretta Zienkiewicz • Betty Lou Torpey • Vickie Hartz
• John Tait • Bill Rydzy • Ann Lewis • Bob Fellin • Francis Hillibush • Gordy Weikel • Nancy Blackwell

❖ **Birthday Blessings:** Johan Coghill: 5/24;

Roy Gius, Nancy Sokolofski: 5/25;

Paul Staerk, Kristi Piaskowski: 5/30.

❖ We announce the **marriage** of Charlie/Louann Scodari's son: **Paul & Danielle (Fardin) Zygmund:** 23 May in NJ.

❖ **St. Joseph's 50/50:** May tickets now available!

❖ **Bishop's Annual Appeal:** You have received the info. by mail, respond by supporting the Appeal.

❖ **Grant:** We applied for and received a Forward With Christ Grant for a new 80" HD TV for teaching/education. The grant came in at \$2,033, \$500 from each parish to complete the grant. Your stewardship does make a difference! We've received grants of more than \$6,000 in the past 3 yrs.

❖ **A Parishioner is....** One who is registered, participates regularly in the liturgical life of the parish (e.g. Sunday Mass), demonstrates support by the gift of Time, Talent & Treasure!

❖ **Stewardship:** *No one can do everything, everyone can do something!* Make an offering of a gift in thanks for Veterans: living and deceased!

❖ **Year of St. Mark's Gospel continues!** ❖ **See us:** stmarystjoseph.net ❖ [facebook.com/stmarystjosephrcc](https://www.facebook.com/stmarystjosephrcc)
❖ **Knights of Columbus:** Meet Sun. 6/21 after 10am Mass @ Parish Office.
❖ **Interested in our Catholic faith?** Ask, encourage, invite! Share the gift of faith!

Reflection: Pentecost: For the recent raid on the financial "director" of Isis, our elite military team was given a commission, specific authority to conduct and deploy for a specific task. They train hard for the perilous task.

The Gospel for Pentecost this year gives a similar, but unique, "Great Commission!"

No other Gospel, other than St Matthew, gives us such specific detail in recording the name of the Triune God (whom we'll consider next weekend). These, the very words of the Baptismal formula that is the only one accepted by the Catholic Faith Family. Why take this so seriously?

Imagine the chaos if the elite forces were told: go out and see what you can find. No, they are given a specific task. Like them, so too are we.

The task: Live discipleship by making disciples. To the apostles Jesus gives a direct command: teach & observe all that I have commanded you (not just those things written in a book that will only be defined hundreds of years later: the Bible).

Why would Jesus do such a crazy thing? He wanted His Church to be dynamic, alive & filled with the Spirit! It is the Spirit that gives us our fidelity and identity.

Pray this weekend, as we ask God's Spirit upon the Church to renew the world in this year 2015, that more will step up to practice & live discipleship.

Take the time as well, this Memorial Day weekend, to thank our veterans, living and deceased, for protecting our freedoms. May God bless them, their families & this great land that is the United States of America.

Be a saint...what else is there?

Fr. Jim & 🐾

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❖ **Block Party @ M:** Meeting 5/27, 6pm @ Church Hall.

We're keeping the **basket auction** that began last year!

Donate a basket!! Sign the sheet at Church or email us. We seek a minimum \$25 value. Bring it to Church by June 2nd, if possible. Disciples will decorate & wrap them! Make a list of items & name of sponsor(s). If you can donate a single item, but not a basket, we'll put yours with others to make one up. For suggestions/tips: contact Arlene or Barb. Children's items and toys, kitchen accessories, etc. are always popular!

Donations of paper towels/paper plates, brand-named soda, water, mustard/ketchup are still needed!

❖ **Memorial Day Mass:** Join us for Mass: Honor a veteran, especially those who died in the past year!

❖ **Flowers** for Memorial Day:

@ J: In **Memory of Veterans**, by Bob/Jeanette Fellin;

@ M: In **Honor of Veterans**.

❖ **Choir Practice @ M:** There are some great voices, we can hear you, why not join us in giving praise and thanks to God!

❖ **Adult Ed:** Our sessions will resume after the Parish Family Block Party and Picnic.

❖ **Cards:** Birthday, Get well, Anniversary, etc are available for \$2 each. Place your offering in an envelope marked: Cards.

❖ **St. Joseph's Picnic** seeks: canola oil, napkins, paper towels, soda, bottled water: drop them off at the garage, please!
Grand Raffle: We're ready to place the order for the tickets: we're at 52 of our goal of 51 gifts for our \$10 ticket.

❖ **Graduates:** Submit your family member's name, school graduating from, future plans, etc. We'll place the names in the June bulletin & offer a gift for high school graduates. Email/Index cards, print please.



❖ **Ministry:** It's time for new Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, Lectors & Servers. Please, remember, that when you minister, appropriate dress is required! No jeans, tank tops, flip flops, buzzing or flashing wearables. This is Holy Mass worshipping our Lord & God, honor Him by appropriate attire!

Come to every Mass dressed appropriately. That way, we'll always be ready to minister if called upon. Living in a more "relaxed" culture, we are counter-cultural. We form the culture, it doesn't form us!



First Communion: ☺ Jennifer Gilliam will receive Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament NEXT Sat., May 30th @ 5:45pm. Join us for this special Mass and celebration for our Special needs young lady!

❖ **SCRIP:** After these are sold, we'll only be taking orders: We've \$25 Applebee's, \$25 Cabela's, \$10 Bed, Bath & Body, \$10 Dairy Queen, \$10 Denny's, \$25 iTunes, \$25 Home Depot, \$25 Weis, \$10 Long John Silver's, \$25 Lowe's, \$25 Sheetz, \$25 PetSmart, \$10 Wendy's, \$10 Pizza Hut, \$25 Regal Theatres, \$10 Taco Bell, \$25 Walmart on hand. Contact the office, we'll arrange to get them to you.

❖ **Mainstream Reports of Christianity's Demise Greatly Exaggerated, Says New Poll Data**

Study reveals nearly half of all children raised in atheist families grow up to be believers If you read the breathless coverage earlier this week from the mainstream press over the Pew Research Center's newest Religious Landscape Study, you might believe that religion in America is in deep trouble – specifically Christianity, from which we're told millennials are fleeing *en masse*: **"Millennials leaving the church in droves, study finds,"** CNN splashed across its website. **"Millennials are giving up on organized religion,"** proclaimed *Business Insider*. **"Big drop in share of Americans calling themselves Christian,"** crowed the *New York Times*.

As Scooby-Doo might say: **Ruh-roh.** The headlines may sound grim, but believers need not be troubled – a deeper analysis of the findings shows that not only have reports of Christianity's imminent death been greatly exaggerated, we may be seeing early evidence of a pendulum swing that could lead countless souls back to the Church in the years to come.

First of all, about that "sharp drop" in Christian belief? Let's see what Pew has to say about it:

"To be sure, the United States remains home to more Christians than any other country in the world, and a large majority of Americans – roughly seven-in-ten –

continue to identify with some branch of the Christian faith," Pew admits in a summary of its findings (*emphasis mine*).

"But ... the percentage of adults (ages 18 and older) who describe themselves as Christians has dropped by nearly eight percentage points in just seven years, from 78.4% in an equally massive Pew Research survey in 2007 to 70.6% in 2014."

So, while roughly 784 out of every 1000 Americans identified as Christian in 2007, only 706 said the same in 2014?

Shocking.

Now, to be fair, any decline in the number of Christian faithful is cause for concern. But let's look more closely at the data. Where did all these Christians go? Have they turned their backs on God completely?

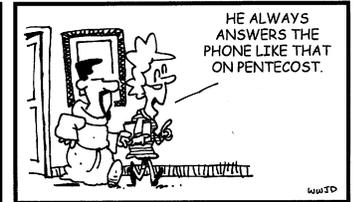
According to Pew, not exactly. During the same time period from 2007 to 2014, the number of people describing themselves as "unaffiliated" with any religion rose roughly six percent. But only three percent of American adults describe themselves as atheist. The rest of the "unaffiliated" are either agnostic or "nothing in particular," meaning they haven't ruled out belief in a higher power, they just don't identify with a specific church.

Ed Stetzer, executive director of evangelical Life Way Research, speculated in an essay for *USA Today* that the apparent decline in Christianity may be a matter of semantics more than faith. Noting a recent Gallup poll that found Americans attend weekly church services at about the same rate today as they did in the 1940s, Stetzer argued that the only difference between then and now is that today, people are less likely to feel cultural pressure to hide their religious apathy from others, resulting in a decrease in the number of "Christians in name only" who claim the faith, but do not practice it. *[tbcont'd]* by Kirsten Andersen @ Aletia.org

❖ **Fyi: May 31, 1975: Fr. Schware was ordained 40 yrs ago, we'll be offering Holy Mass for him next week.**

❖ **Orange Ribbons:** Wear one as a sign of support that we wear the "color" that the "people of the Cross" are wearing when they are martyred. They're at the entrance to Church.

PENTECOST



❖ **Outside Events:** ☞ **Trinity Academy** Register for Pre-K Call 462-3927. ☞ **A.D.:** The Bible Continues: Sun @ 9pm: NBC: 12 weeks. ☞ **Baby Bottles for Life:** fill with your loose change through the month, it supports the pro-life work of so many in need. ☞ **Padre Pio Healing Mass:** 6/26 @ 7pm, Divine Mercy Parish, Shenandoah.

