# LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, May 7, 2023 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

9:30 AM – Holy Mass (EN/PL)

† Michał Mularczyk, † Jan Dryfik (77th heavenly Birthday)

For God's blessing for Zofia Mularczyk (70<sup>th</sup> Birthday) and for Anna Dryfik (68<sup>th</sup> Birthday)

Monday, May 8, 2023 – Easter Weekday

Tuesday, May 9, 2023 – Easter Weekday

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 – Easter Weekday

Thursday, May 11, 2023 - Easter Weekday

Friday, May 12, 2023 – Easter Weekday

Saturday, May 13, 2023 - Easter Weekday

Sunday, May 14, 2023 – 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

9:30 AM – Holy Mass (EN/PL) – Mother's Day

For All Mothers

05/18/23	Th	7:00 PM	OPEN (Ascension of our Lord)
05/21/23	Su	9:30 AM	† Hedwig Jackowicz – requested by Henry Jackowicz &
			Marianne Woodland
05/28/23	Su	9:30 AM	OPEN
06/04/23	Su	9:30 AM	† Dariusz Slawecki – requested by Bill Quilty
06/08/23	Th	9:30 AM	OPEN (Corpus Christi)
06/11/23	Su	9:30 AM	† Lois Kuhn – requested by Julie, Cliff & Jodie Brown
06/18/23	Su	9:30 AM	Father's Day – For All Fathers
06/25/23	Su	9:30 AM	† Jan Dryfik, Jan Pełka
			For God's Blessing for Jan Dryfik & Fr. Jan

### PRAYERS FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS AND RELATIVES

Let us pray for: Ewelina Filyushchenko, Julie & Cliff Brown, Ed Kapuscinski, Joseph Smith, Wanda Groman, Antoinette Drake, Bernice Michlinski, Marianna Pełka, Bronisław Korus, Jean Slowakiewicz O'Brien, Marie Turlinski-Kelley, Ewa Nowak.

Please keep us informed that we might minister to those who are ill at home, in the hospital or nursing home.

### MOTHER'S DAY LETTER

Mother's Day letter has been mailed to you last week.

In case you receive the later delayed and you think it might be too late to mail the form back to us, please call the parish number [215-535-4978] or email us [st.valentinespncc@gmail.c

number [215-535-4978] or email us [st.valentinespncc@gmail.com] making the list with the names of the mothers for whom you would like to offer this Mass.

### **OUR PASTOR ON VACATION**

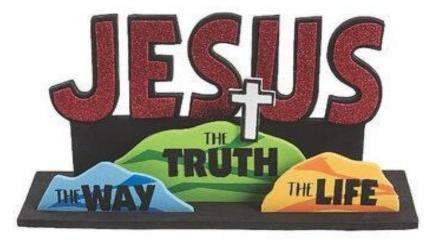
Fr. Mariusz is not available this week on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. The only day he is available is Tuesday. In case of the emergency please call Fr. Senior Donald Wunderlich at (610) 775-4559, St. Stephen PNCC Parish in Reading, PA.

## **FAITH SHARING**

Today's readings tell us how the early Church accepted the challenge of keeping Jesus' memory alive by remaining a dynamic Christian community, bearing witness to Christ by their unity, fidelity in worship and spirit of loving, humble service. Today's Gospel introduces Jesus as the Way to God, the Truth to be accepted, and the Life to be shared and lived.

The first reading, taken from Acts, shows us the early Church as a loving, serving, and worshipping community. Hence, it easily solved a problem of perceived discrimination by instituting the diaconate for the service of the community.

In the second reading, St. Peter advises the early Christians to renew the memory of Jesus by allowing God to make of them "living stones" and build them into a spiritual edifice, a community of believers, with Christ for its "Living Cornerstone". Peter praises Christians, both Gentile and Jewish, as "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and God's own people."



In today's Gospel, Jesus consoles his apostles (who are sad and disheartened at His announcement that He will be leaving them soon), by assuring them that he is going to prepare an everlasting accommodation for them in his Father's House in Heaven. He gives them the assurance that he will come back to take them to their Heavenly abodes. It is then that Thomas says, "Lord, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?" Jesus answers Thomas' question with, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me."

The basic doctrine of Judaism is that Yahweh is the Way the Truth and the Life. Hence, Jesus is making a revolutionary claim that he is equivalent to Yahweh. Jesus also declares that he, himself, is the safest and surest way to God, discrediting the notions that all religions are equally sure ways to reach God, and that no organized religion but only living a good life of sharing love is necessary to reach God.

## **JESUS IS THE WAY**

We go to God the Father who is Truth and Life through Jesus, and Jesus calls Himself the "Way" because He, the Only-begotten Son of God, is also Son of Man, the visible manifestation in human form of all that his Father is. To those who teach that all religions lead us to God or that religion used is immaterial provided man lead a good life, Jesus has the answer that he **is** the safest and surest Way to God because he came from God and he can lead us to his Heavenly Father.

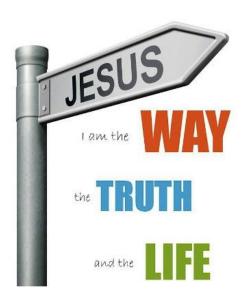
The founders of other religions had either wrong ideas about the way to God or they were not sure guides. Lao-Tse, the founder of Taoism said: "Get rid of all desires, you will have a contented life on earth, but I am not sure about the next life." Buddha taught people to reach self-realization through total detachment and "nirvana," but he was not sure if these would lead one to God. Confucius confessed that he did not know of an eternal life or the way to attain it. The founder of Islam, Mohammed Nabi, admitted that he had no hope of the future unless Allah should put His mantle of mercy on him. However, Jesus claims that he is the only Way to God. When a Person is a Way for us to get to the Father and everlasting life, that Way is found only in our relationship with Him, that is, in our union with Him in mind and heart, in will and action. But Jesus' sure Way to God is the narrow Way of the cross. It is the least-traveled Way of humble, loving, self-giving, and committed service to others. To follow the Way of Jesus is to become a special kind of person, a person whose whole being reflects the Truth and the Life that Jesus is, and reveals to us. It is to be a person of Truth and Life who is totally identified with the vision and the values of Jesus.

# MASS INTEN	TION REQUEST FORM
Mass for	
Date requested	
Requested by	
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# ST. VALENTINE'S PARISH

# Polish National Catholic Church

2330 Margaret St, Philadelphia, PA 19137, (215) 535-4978 www.stvalentinespncc.org, stvalentinespncc@gmail.com Facebook: StValentinesPNCCPhiladelphia YouTube: St. Valentine's PNCC Parish Philadelphia Sunday Mass: 9: 30 AM (English/Polish)



**5 Sunday of Easter** 

5 Niedziela Wielkanocna

May 7, 2023





