

# LITURGY BYTES



## Mary's Month – May

The month of May is almost upon us! This is a busy “sacrament” season here at Holy Cross with First Communions and Confirmation almost upon us. As a parish family, please pray for all of our young people receiving Jesus for the first time and for our teens who will complete their initiation through the Sacrament of Confirmation.

In addition to these beautiful, celebratory moments for our parish, the month of May has always been referred to as Mary's month. There are a number of feasts celebrated to honor the Blessed Mother throughout the month. Recitation of the Rosary is also popular during May. Here are just a couple of feasts:

A very familiar title for Mary is Our Lady of Fatima, which is celebrated on **May 13<sup>th</sup>**. In 1917, Our Lady of Fatima visited three Portuguese children: Lucia, Jacinta, and Francisco. Mary asked the children to pray the rosary every day for peace, the end of World War I, for the conversion of Russia and for sinners. Numerous pilgrims visit the shrine in Portugal each year. Devotion to the rosary certainly has become one of the most beloved prayers of Catholics through the experience of these three children.

**On May 20<sup>th</sup>**, we celebrate a new feast added by Pope Francis in March of 2018. It honors Mary under the title that was conferred upon her during the Second Vatican Council. It is called the Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church. Pope St. John Paul II said this title reflects the deep conviction of the Christian faithful who see Mary not only as the mother of the person of Christ but also of the faithful!

Have a blessed, safe, and healthy week ahead! ~ *Michele Hall*