

# *Kidane-Mehret*

Ge'ez Rite Catholic Church



**May 2017**

**Rev. Abayneh Gebremichael, M.A., B.C.C., Pastor**

*Divine Liturgy 9:30 am at St. Vincent de Paul, (Ethiopian Community)*

*12:30 noon St. Benedict the Moor (Eritrean Community).*

Office: 415 Michigan Avenue, N.E., Ste 65, Washington D.C. 2001

Phone: (202) 756-2756 Fax: (202) 756-2755 E-Mail: kmgeezrite@aol.com

### ***Important Parish Information***

***Newcomers to the parish:*** Please fill out your full names and addresses on the Registration Form. The Catholic Church requires that each member of a parish, to the extent allowed by his income, support the day-to-day running of the parish's pastoral activities.

#### **Sacraments and Pastoral Care**

**Baptisms:** Please telephone your pastor at the office to make an appointment to fill out the form and make the necessary arrangements. **Marriages:** It is the policy of the Archdiocese of Washington that couples proposing to marry must first contact, or see, a priest or deacon at least six months prior to the date on which they intend to marry for Marriage Preparation classes. All Catholics are bound to observe the laws of the Church concerning marriage. **Confessions:** are heard before the start of the Divine Liturgy, and any other times by appointment. **Funerals:** Contact your pastor at the parish office to make arrangements. **Hospital Visits:** Notify the pastor if a family member is hospitalized. **Mass Intentions (Stipend):** \$25.00. This is for Memorial Masses, thanksgivings, or petitions.



## *From the Pastor's Desk*

Later this month, on Sunday May 28, we will be celebrating the Feast of the Ascension. This is a very special feast during the Season of Easter. Frightened though they were of the Jewish and Roman authorities, the first apostles and disciples knew they were witnesses of an event that would forever change the world and the way people lived and thought. Jesus, Whom they had loved as a man, Who had suffered the agonies of crucifixion, Whose sides had opened to gush out both water and blood, was alive.

The one, true God Whom the Jewish people worshiped had proved His existence and love to them by rising from the dead. As they talked among themselves, they would have discussed what Jesus had said to the disciples on the road to Emmaus.

God, for many centuries, had told the Jewish people through the prophets what He was planning to do to redeem the world after Adam and Eve sinned. Now He was accomplishing it before their very eyes. But there was still more to come. He told them that He had to return to the Father so that He could send the Holy Spirit...

At the end of His time on earth, they followed Him to a high mountain and listened to Him preach and give them final instruction to make disciples of the whole world... Then He rose before their eyes into the clouds... That is what we celebrate on Ascension Day. Jesus Christ, the second Person of the Holy Trinity ascends to the Father in His glorified body. Forever onwards mankind would have an advocate with the Father, an advocate Who was not only part of the Godhead but also man.

Next month we will begin looking in greater depth at the Divine Liturgy. Our worship of God is important not only for us but for the whole world. From our time of worship of Him, we gain untold graces. We also participate in His plan to redeem the whole world for Himself. Read more about this further in the bulletin below.

### **Prayer for the Ascension**

Grant, we beseech Thee, almighty God,  
that we who believe  
Thine only-begotten Son our Redeemer,  
to have ascended this day into heaven,  
may ourselves dwell in spirit amid heavenly things.

### **Sunday Readings for May**

May 7 : Col 3: 1-25; 1Pet3: 15-22; Lk 24: 33-44  
May 14 : Rm 4: 14-25; Rev 20: 1-15; Jn 21: 1-14  
May 21 : Rm 6: 1-14; 1Pet 4: 4-11; Jn 21: 15-25  
May 28 : Rm 10: 1-21; 1Pet 3: 15-22; Lk 24:45-53.

### *Psalm 5:8*

But I, through the abundance of your mercy,  
will enter into your house.  
I will bow down toward your holy sanctuary  
out of fear of you.

### **Let us pray for:**

*The newly baptized:*

**Ella Yehenew**, baptized on April 9, 2017: the Child of Belen Abdella and Yehenew Getachew

**Samuel Bizuayen**, baptized on April 29, 2017: the Child of Bezuayen Fekadu and Betel Tafere

*All baptized Christians throughout the world* that we will show the world that we are Christians by our love for Christ and one another. Especially for the protection of those in war-torn lands.

*The Parish of Kidane-Mehret:* for Peace, Unity, Harmony and Charity in the Parish.

*For the World:* That the King of Peace will reign in every nation and in every heart.

# Quedassie



## Introduction

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that the Divine Liturgy is “the source and summit of the Christian life.” It is through the Divine Liturgy that our membership in the Church, Christ’s Mystical Body, is kept in good order. From this flows a smooth relationship with our God and also with people.

*“No one can have a living relationship with Christ without going to the place where He is waiting for us. Therefore, from ancient times the celebration of Mass has been the “heart of Sunday” and the most important appointment in the week. (Youth Catechism)*

Coming to Church on Sunday is the most important appointment we can have on our schedule! After all it is the Quedassie! In English we call it the Divine Liturgy which means ‘Holy work.’ God is hard at work in the Divine Liturgy providing us with His Grace and pouring out His Love into our hearts-if they are open to Him.

*“At the Last Supper, on the night he was betrayed, our Savior instituted the Eucharistic sacrifice of his Body and Blood. This he did in order to perpetuate the sacrifice of the cross throughout the ages until he should come again, and so to entrust to his beloved Spouse, the Church, a memorial of his death and resurrection: a sacrament of love, a sign of unity, a bond of charity, a Paschal banquet 'in which Christ is consumed, the mind is filled with grace, and a pledge of future glory is given to us.'” (CCC 1323)*

As the Catechism tells us, the Quedassie is super-charged time, looking back 2017 years while taking in the present and its needs, as well as looking to the future. It is indeed a time that God sets apart for work not only for Him but also for us. This most beautiful cross from Lalibela shows how Heaven and earth are able to meet through the Sacrifice of Christ on the Cross and through the working of the Holy Spirit so that the “Lover of Mankind” as the God is presented in the Divine Liturgy, is able to reach down to us in the Readings and in the Anaphora.

What we experience during this time when Heaven opens itself to earth will bring a steadiness to our lives during the week ahead, an equilibrium that only God can give. It is a time to learn more about the Almighty God whom we worship, love and dare to call “Father.” It is a time to look at ourselves in contrast to Jesus, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, Who comes to be with us in the Eucharist. It is a time to understand ourselves and how we need to shape up to be more effective members of His Body.

*“We are not Church,” the Youth Catechism tells us, “because we get along well, or because we happen to end up in the same parish community, but rather because in the Eucharist we receive the Body of Christ and are increasingly being transformed into the Body of Christ.”*

As the Body of Christ on earth we are the ones chosen to bring the knowledge of God’s love and mercy to a suffering world that longs for peace, to people who long to be loved. So in the coming months, we will be looking at the five aspects of the Divine Liturgy, depicted in the logo (at the top of the page) for the series, and hopefully opening for each and every one of us a renewed relationship with God in the Eucharist.

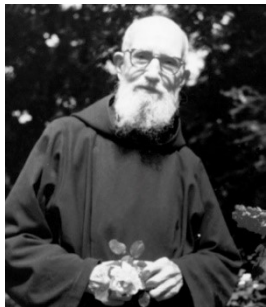
**Further Reading** about the Lalibela Cross: <http://www.the3rdman.com/ethiopianart/articles/beautyoffaith.html>



## News from Around the World

### Pope approves miracles that pave the way for 12 beatification causes

Including one from Detroit and one from Madagascar



Fr. Solanus Casey of Detroit

In a May 4 audience with the prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, Pope Francis approved the publication of decrees that advance 12 beatification causes. In approving decrees on miracles attributed to the intercession of four venerable Servants of God, Pope Francis paved the way for the beatification of Ven. Solanus Casey (1870-1957), the Capuchin Franciscan friar who ministered in Detroit; Ven. Clara Fey (1815-94), foundress of the Sisters of the Poor Child Jesus, a German religious institute; Ven. Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon (1789-1828), the French foundress of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate (Marianist Sisters); Ven. Saturnina Rodríguez de Zavalía (1823-96), the Argentine foundress of the Handmaids of the Heart of Jesus; The Pope also approved a decree on the martyrdom (1947) of Lucien Botovasoa, a layman and father in Madagascar, paving the way for his beatification.

### President Trump signs Religious Liberty Executive Order

President Donald Trump signed a religious freedom executive order on Thursday in the White House Rose Garden, on the National Day of Prayer, with religious leaders – including Cardinal Wuerl – standing around him.



Attending the signing of the executive order were the Little Sisters of the Poor, plaintiffs in one of the HHS mandates case against the federal government. Trump honored two of the sisters who were present in the Rose Garden, calling them “incredible nuns who care for the sick, the elderly, and the forgotten.”

“I want you to know that your long ordeal will soon be over,” he told the sisters of their years-long HHS mandate case, and saying that his order would protect them and other religious organizations from the mandate.

“We are grateful for the president’s order and look forward to the agencies giving us an exemption so that we can continue caring for the elderly poor and dying as if they were Christ himself without the fear of government punishment,” said Mother Loraine, Mother Provincial of the Little Sisters of the Poor. (From Matt Hadro’s CNA News Report)



### Pope Meets with Religious Leaders in Cairo

*Pope Francis, Coptic Orthodox Pope Tawadros II, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, spiritual head of the Eastern Orthodox churches and other Orthodox leaders attend an ecumenical prayer service at the Church of St. Peter in Cairo April 28. The pope was making a two-day visit to Egypt. (CNS photo/Paul Haring) .*

While in Cairo, Pope Francis visited Egypt’s prestigious al-Azhar University. There he joined with the leader of the world’s premier Sunni Muslim university in insisting that openness to faith is an essential part of the human experience and in denouncing violence blasphemously carried out in the name of religion. Abdal Hakim Murad, who had studied at al-Azhar and is now dean of the U.K.’s Cambridge Muslim College, said, “At a time of great global uncertainty, Francis is looking for a path through a minefield.

And, celebrating Mass April 29 with members of Egypt’s small Catholic community, Pope Francis insisted that being a true Christian means being committed to an encounter with all of one’s brothers and sisters. True faith, he said in his homily, “makes us see the other not as an enemy to be overcome, but a brother or sister to be loved, served and helped. It spurs us on to spread, defend and live out the culture of encounter, dialogue, respect and fraternity. True faith,” he concluded, “leads us to protect the rights of others with the same zeal and enthusiasm with which we defend our own.” (Taken from CNA)