

Kidane-Mehret

Ge'ez Rite Ethiopian Catholic Parish



August 2026

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

1717 Ritchie Road
District Heights
Maryland 20747

Sunday

Divine Liturgy at 10:30 AM

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Website: www.kidane-mehret.org **Online giving:** Now on website **GIVE** section

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 time 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.

Reflection: Mary, Mother of God

Catholics consider Mary the greatest of all saints because of her complete cooperation with God's grace as She accepted and lived out her unique role in God's plan of salvation. Great honor is given to her throughout Scripture and Sacred Tradition but we do not believe she is divine or equal to God. Rather, we believe she is the highest of God's creatures. The central reason for Mary's unique honor is that she is the mother of Jesus Christ, Who is fully God and fully man. The recognition of Mary as Mother of God goes back to the Gospel of Luke 1:43 where Elizabeth says, "And



why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" Since "Lord" refers to Jesus, and Jesus is God incarnate, the Council of Ephesus affirmed the title Theotokos ("God-bearer" or "Mother of God"). This title protects the truth about Christ's identity rather than suggesting Mary existed before God.

At the Annunciation, the angel Gabriel greets Mary saying: "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you." (Luke 1:28) The words "full of grace" are seen to indicate God's extraordinary grace in Mary's life, supporting the doctrine that She was preserved from original sin by God's grace in view of Christ's future merits. Also, Mary freely accepted God's plan. We read in the Gospel of Luke 1:38 Her words of submission: "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." The Church sees this as the model of perfect faith and obedience. From this point on Mary is known as a woman who has been singled out by God and She is called "blessed among women" by her cousin Elizabeth (Luke 1:42) Mary's prophetic reply (The Magnificat) (Luke 1:48) to Elizabeth's greeting reflects Her humble acceptance of Her new role: "From now on all generations will call me blessed." Catholics see honoring Mary as a fulfillment of this biblical prophecy.

Early Christian writers compared Mary with Eve. Eve's disobedience contributed to humanity's fall whereas Mary's obedience cooperated with God's plan for humanity's redemption through Christ. This comparison appears in the writings of early Church Fathers such as Justin Martyr and Irenaeus of Lyons.

Mary remained faithful in Her obedience to God to the very end. She put Her own sorrow and agony aside to support

Her Son Jesus' work on the Cross to save humanity from sin. While many disciples fled, Mary remained near Jesus during His crucifixion. Her faithfulness is recorded in John 19:25–27 where he writes of Her presence and how Jesus entrusted Her to the beloved disciple. Catholic tradition sees this as symbolic of Mary's spiritual motherhood of all Christ's disciples. In fact, She is the first and greatest disciple because She heard God's word and lived it completely. Thus She fulfilled Her Son's teaching that "those who hear God's word and keep it are blessed" (Luke 11:27–28). Catholics understand Mary to be the perfect example of this discipleship.

Non-Catholics often make the mistake of thinking that we worship Mary. The Church does honor those people whom God has singled out for us to look up to and has three words to explain this. The first is Latria which is the worship due to God alone. Dulia which is the honor given to the saints, and hyperdulia – a unique, higher honor given only to Mary because of her unparalleled role in salvation history. This distinction emphasizes that Catholics worship God alone while venerating Mary in a unique way.

Catholic tradition says sees Mary as the greatest of the apostles not because She exercised apostolic authority or preached publicly like the apostles, but because she had the closest relationship to Christ. As His mother, she was filled with exceptional grace, her faith was unwavering, and Her cooperation with God's plan was unique. This is summarized by many theologians saying that Mary's greatness comes not merely from giving birth to Jesus, but from Her faith and obedience.

Prayer

God our Father, may we always profit by the prayers of the Virgin Mother Mary, for You bring us life and salvation through Jesus Christ Her Son Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Mass Readings For August

Aug 2: Tit 3:1-15. 1 Pet 4:6-11. MK 6:47-56.

Aug 9: 1Cor 8:1-13. 1 Pet 4:1-5. MT 12:38-50.

Aug 16: RM 6:12-23. Jam 4:1-17. JN 7:32-52.

Aug 23: Phil 3:1-14. 1 Pet 4:12-19. JN 15:12-26.

Aug 30: Heb 3: 1-19. Jam 5:1-11. JN 6:41-71

Let us Pray for:

*The Newly baptized: **Leo Girmai**, son of Yared Girmai and Blen Temesgen, baptized on July 12, 2026,

*Happiness and deep faith in families throughout the world.

*Peace and stability in the world.

*Pope Leo's intention for August: Let us pray that in large cities, often marked by anonymity and loneliness, we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.

Living with the Holy Spirit.

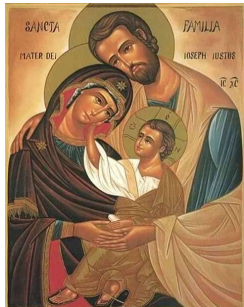
"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth, which the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows it. But you know it, because it remains with you, and will be in you." (Jn 14:15-17)

As we read the news about wars and uprisings, about giant skeletons of great dimensions being dug up, UFO's being sighted, about murders and assassinations, it becomes more and more difficult to discern what is true and what is not. Do we believe stories about Aliens visiting us? God understands the limits of our intellects better than we do. He knows that we need constant help so at Pentecost Jesus sent the Third Person of the Holy Trinity to be with us always. Jesus tells us He is the "Spirit of Truth."

How do we get to tap into this Power House? When we are baptized we enter into the Family of God and become a new Creation. This does not mean that we become something other than human. It means that we are now endowed with everything we need to help us navigate through life making the right decisions to reach our goal, the Beatific Vision.

God created the angels that are spirit and highly intelligent. He created all kinds of animals, some with great intelligence others not so brilliant but nothing that was remotely like Himself until on the sixth day *"God created mankind in his image; in the image of God he created them; male and female- he created them.* (Gen1:27). They were created with a deep down knowledge of what would bring happiness to a human and what would cause suffering. Adam and Eve, using all the gifts that Original Justice brought them, lived in perfect happiness but their one act of disobedience swept all that away. Instead they were left with was that deep down knowledge that they were not happy but they had didn't know how to re-establish it in their lives. They did what they could but it was only after the Harrowing of Hell by Jesus that they understood, made the right choice, and are now accepted by the Church as saints!

God, in His great love and tender mercy, acted immediately and instigated His plan for our redemption. First we had to learn obedience and how to love not only God but each other. Hence the long journey through the stories of the Old Testament and the Law. Finally, through the Incarnation of Jesus, we are given the most perfect of teachers, the Second Person of the Godhead, Jesus Himself. We have to learn that happiness comes from love and not through concupiscence. Thus began mankind's long lesson plan set out in moral theology.



In the Bible we meet many families, but all fall short of the Glory of God in one way or another. David came closest to being God's most favored son but even he was responsible for murder and committed adultery. His genuine repentance saved him. His final penance was not being allowed to build the Temple. His son Solomon was the wisest man on earth but he followed foreign gods by marrying hundreds of pagan wives and having temples for their gods built where he joined them in worship. God wanted us to have a perfect family to show His human Family how to live and become one with Him.

That took some organizing. Finally He brought St Mary, St Joseph together as husband and wife. Together with their Son, Jesus, they are that perfect Family who can illustrate to mankind how to live in harmony and obedience to God.

With all this now in place, God can begin working on that deep down knowledge of what was needed to be a good and happy human being. This is what the Church calls having a well-formed conscience; that the person makes decisions acceptable to God because they are based on understanding and right reason. This takes a lot of training from early babyhood to adulthood.

Parents have a huge responsibility to teach their children the ways of God so they can face all challenges, think properly and make the right decisions over everything that happens in life. Not only do we have to learn how to treat each other, but we also grow our relationship with God. Our parents are responsible for nurturing our friendship with Him and teaching us more and more about His plans for us. Through their love for us and God, we learn to recognize His presence within our lives. We learn to recognize His voice in answer to prayers. We learn that prayer can be a short cry for help or a heartfelt "Thank You!"

As we pray, attend the Sacraments, and get to know God's plan for us by reading the Bible and listening to what teachers have to tell us, we begin to discern what God wants us to spend time on. We begin to discern what are distractions and what are necessary to think about and what we allow to affect our lives. All those little things we do to fill in time such as playing a game on our smart phone count. In fact, even that name should make us think twice! Are our phones really smart? How can we use them efficaciously? There are many ways to use them to deepen our spiritual lives such as reading the Bible on them, or the Catechism. This way of thinking can be applied to many things we do or say or think. Always our minds should be questioning whether what we are doing or thinking is what God wants from us. Our constant companion through all this is the Holy Spirit, Jesus' great Gift to His Family before ascending to sit at the Father's right hand.

For our Younger Parishioners...

The Church and our Parents

"Then God said: Let us make human beings in our image, after our likeness." (Gen 1:26)

This sums up all the events of the Old and New Testaments of the Bible. He wants to have a family of people to love and who will love Him and help Him extend that love to every other person who has ever lived or will live. It is a truly awesome task!

With the fall of Adam and Eve, people did not lose their ability to distinguish between right and wrong. They just have to be correctly taught what is right and what is wrong. We just have to look at the world around us to see what poor decision-making does. Going back to the early stories in the Bible such as the story of how the Jews ended up in Egypt, is a good way to realize this. Joseph's brothers allowed jealousy to rule their hearts and they decided to murder their youngest brother and father's favorite son, Joseph. Having captured him and thrown him into a pit, they changed their minds and decided to give Joseph into slavery and tell their father that he had been captured. It would be a believable lie for which they could not be blamed! Years and years later, when God rescued the Jews from slavery in Egypt, He had to set up hundreds of rules for them to obey to make sure they learned how to treat each other and not end up in disgrace with God and man.



The Israelites did not do too well. They had not learned a fundamental truth that Jesus taught *"love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another."* (John 13:34). War and nastiness still prevailed. That is why, thousands of years later, God sent His only Son to us to show us what Godly living is like and its result. After His resurrection, Jesus set up the Church with pope, bishops and priests to make sure everyone who followed Him knew what He taught and practiced it as closely as possible because *"Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."* (Luke 11:28).

In the Church, the Pope, our bishops and priests are responsible for teaching right from wrong and providing the grace we need to live righteously through the Sacraments. In the world, parents are responsible for the upbringing of their children in righteousness. They have to teach us to love God. They have to teach us how to lovingly interact with others. They, in turn can pass on that responsibility to teachers or baby sitters. Our responsibility as children is to learn to live as God would have us live. St Paul tells us: *"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right."* (Ephesians 6:1)

News from around the World

Vatican City: Pope Leo Signs New Fundamental Law- By Alessandro Di Bussolo who tells us that "On Thursday, 31 July, the Memorial of Saint Ignatius of Loyola, Pope Leo XIV signed the new Fundamental Law of Vatican City State, which, as explained in its preamble, responds to the need "to take account of new requirements of governance and of several important legislative changes introduced in recent years." The law enters into force immediately, replacing the previous Fundamental Law, which had been in effect since 13 May 2023. The Pope repealed Article 8, paragraph 1, of the previous Fundamental Law of Vatican City State, which had provided that only cardinals could serve as President of the Pontifical Commission. That office is now held by Sister Raffaella Petrini, who also serves as President of the Governorate. Article 8 of the new Fundamental Law now states that: "The Pontifical Commission is composed of Cardinals and other Members, including the President, appointed by the Supreme Pontiff for a five-year term."



Offerings for July

Date	Tithes	Offering	Building Pledge
07/05	\$920	\$510	\$30
07/12			\$54
07/13	\$501		
07/19	\$490	\$987	\$285
07/19		\$450	
07/26	\$115	\$1321	
Online	\$2560	\$1221	\$280
Total	\$4586	\$4489	\$649