

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	May 23rd
8:30 AM	_____
5:00 PM	Piera Fontana
Sunday	May 24th
8:30 AM	Thomas Hughes
10:00 AM	Parish Mass
12:00 PM	Marie Henao
5:00 PM	Rose Jonsson
Monday	May 25th
8:30 AM	Andrzej Witkowski
12:00 PM	_____
Tuesday	May 26th
8:30 AM	_____
12:00 PM	_____
Wednesday	May 27th
8:30 AM	Francis Morison
12:00 PM	Michael & Caroline Sassi, Michael Sassi Jr. and Roland Pugliese
Thursday	May 28th
8:30 AM	_____
12:00 PM	In Thanksgiving to Our Blessed Mother
Friday	May 29th
8:30 AM	John F. Murphy
12:00 PM	Richard Cooper
Saturday	May 30th
8:30 AM	Clarita & Mario Dordulaw
5:00 PM	Joseph Magoli
Sunday	May 31st
8:30 AM	Maurice Rooney
10:00 AM	Parish Mass
12:00 PM	Aliperti & Fazio Families
5:00 PM	Frank J. Carroll, Sr.

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Patricia Bechtold, Ida Ryan, Connie Bornhimer, Mary Wiley, Kathie Greulich, Joseph & Mary Augustine, Ronald Calcevano, Rose Gaynus, Eleanor Merlino, Seraphina Komlos, Mary Tardona, Dorothy Chocko, Catherine Hennessy, Richard McBride Sr., Stacey Headley, Richard Eisenzopf, Alice & Michael Coleman, Elaine Stumpp, Mary Albert, Maureen Medina, Cheryl Di Napoli, Jazlyn Castro Bilog, German Diaz, Adam Sapel, Christine Bernardo, Andy Marajh, Stephen Palermo, Robert Palermo, Heather Wilcox, James Leung, Rose McArdle, Maureen Kelly, Msgr. John Tosi, and for **all of our parishioners who are currently hospitalized or homebound.**

PRAY FOR THE ARMED SERVICES

Major Peter Sulewski, U.S. Army; Lt. Col. Patrick Davis, U.S. Army (JAG); Sgt. Beau Parham, U.S. Army; Major Paul Lentz, USAF; Sgt. Larry Saume, U.S. Army; Capt. Travis Swiatocha, USMC; Pvt. Tim Richardson, U.S. Army; SCSO Ajay James, (NSW) U.S. Navy; SPC Benjamin Bravmann, U.S. Army; and **all parishioners currently in the Military**

Pray for all of our police, fire, and corrections officers, who risk their lives daily to insure our safety.

PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED

Aida Castillo
Annette Guerrier

ALL SCHEDULED MASS INTENTIONS WILL BE HONORED AND CELEBRATED PRIVATELY, BY THE PRIESTS OF OUR PARISH, THOUGH NOT NECESSARILY AT THE INDICATED TIME.

Our Parish Food Pantry is not open in order to protect the health of our volunteers; however, we do have some Grab and Go Bags prepared for anyone in an emergency situation but you must call the rectory ahead of time as we have no staff regularly present.

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

Please note that, since all of our offices and buildings are currently closed, all regularly scheduled meetings are temporarily cancelled.

Our Lady Of Mercy Catholic Academy will be closed until Further Notice

SUNDAY – May 24th

Seventh Sunday of Easter

MONDAY – May 25th

Easter Weekday

Memorial Day

TUESDAY - May 26th

Saint Philip Neri, Priest

WEDNESDAY – May 27th

Easter Weekday

THURSDAY – May 28th

The Ascension Of The Lord

FRIDAY – May 29th

Easter Weekday

SATURDAY – May 30th

Easter Weekday

**MEMORIAL WORSHIP FUND**

Many thanks for donation to the Parish Memorial Worship fund given **in memory of:**

Elizabeth & James Pfohl

MEMORIALIZE A LOVED ONE

Consider the possibility of a donation of the **Bread & Wine, Flowers for the Altar, Tabernacle Light, or the Memorial Worship Fund** in memory of a special person. Names of all those memorialized will be published in the bulletin. Call or stop by the Rectory to arrange your memorial.

My Dear Friends,

In the past, some of our candidates for Confirmation questioned why they had to have service hours. Just to fill you in, one of the requirements in recent years for Confirmation is that each candidate be involved in some service projects. Those projects are not meant to be things that they should be doing anyway - cleaning their rooms, making their beds, shoveling snow for their grandparents, cleaning the dishes or setting the table. They are supposed to be outside the "comfort zone" and they are to be done gratis: so to shovel the snow for a neighborhood for free, or help in the parish Food Pantry, or at the Thanksgiving Clothing Drive or be a diligent altar server or member of the choir. Those things are acceptable. And why? Because that's what it is all about! Let me explain.

In the first reading today, we encounter the apostles, eleven of them by name, retiring to Jerusalem with Mary and some other followers of Jesus, some of whom are relatives, His brothers as they are called. They have been on the Mount of Olives and Jesus was taken up from them - we heard that on Ascension Thursday, last Thursday. In the Old Testament in the vision of the prophet Ezekiel, the Presence of God in the form of cloud was seen leaving the temple in Jerusalem during the Babylonian invasion and settling on the Mount of Olives outside the city walls. Early Christians, most of whom who had a Jewish background, were aware of this. It was also thought that from the Mount of Olives, the Messiah would enter Jerusalem - as Jesus did on Palm Sunday. Now He is retuning to the Father from that mountain that had a special relationship to God. The apostles would have understood that.

Right before this scene, Jesus had challenged them. They asked: "Lord when will you restore the kingdom to Israel?" They were still probably thinking of a kingdom like that of ancient David and Solomon. The answer: "The Father knows when..." in other words - basically it is none of their business; meanwhile however, they will receive the Holy Spirit and be empowered to be Jesus' witnesses. First nearby in Judea and Samaria and "to the ends of the earth". As they stood gaping, the angelic visitors challenge them: "why are you gaping up to heaven" - Jesus will return but meanwhile get with it - launch the program - stop gazing heavenward and start giving witness.

Jesus Himself was the witness of the Father's concern and love for us. In fact, He is the Self-Communication of God. What Jesus says and does in human terms is God speaking and acting. Want to know what God is like? O yes, He is omnipotent, omniscient, all-loving, all knowing, He is the unmoved Mover, the basis for all reality; the Creator of all things - terms drawn from Greek philosophy and all true. But such language can push God to the margins - separate us from Him over a huge gulf.

God's remedy: Jesus. The Word of God, Gods self-description - God's self communication, becomes one of us. And Jesus' every word, every miracle, every sign was to restore people and give them a fuller share of life. Sure, people were amazed at what He did but it was done in the first place to assist people. That's God speaking to us, that's Yahweh walking in the midst of His people. Was everyone healed in Judea? No! But each healing revealed, as they still do at places like Lourdes or Fatima, God's intention, better God's determination, to restore life to the full.

That brings us back to our Confirmation candidates. We are Jesus disciples - we are recipients of the Good News spread by the Apostles and those who followed them. Just as Jesus was the icon of a loving God; we are the icons of Jesus. People know Him through us. Works of service defined His life and if we are like Him, the Master, then they must define ours.

Today's Gospel is from St. John again. It is part of Jesus' farewell address at the Last Supper to His disciples. Jesus prays for the disciples. Jesus' intimate relationship with the Father gives shape to this prayer, in fact it gives shape to Jesus' ministry. Jesus gives us the Words of the Father since He is the self-communication of the Father. While Jesus will not be physically present any longer, He has not abandoned us. The lord will echo us back to the Father and intercede for us. The Spirit will be present to guide us as we echo Jesus. This means service to others, it means the avoidance of certain life-threatening activities that Peter outlines in the second reading and it means devoting ourselves to prayer, whether it is the formal prayer we use as a community or simply speaking to God in our own words like the disciples in the upper room. These are the elements of Christian life and through them we further the kingdom of God and will fulfill the psalm: "One thing I ask of the Lord and this seek, to dwell in the house of the Lord, all the days of my life..."

Yours in Christ,
Monsignor McGuirl



The most important thing you can learn is to seek Jesus. He desires a personal relationship with you. He does not guarantee that life will be easy but he does promise to be with us and to help us. He wants to hear from you, your desires, aspirations, longings, troubles, concerns, requests, etc. But he also wants to converse with you as well. Jesus wants to give direction and guidance. He wants to give you insights and words of encouragement. Having such a relationship with God is very exciting! I would strongly encourage you to seek God every day. Talk to Him just as you would a friend, someone you can trust and confide in. "Prayer" simply means talking to God. But also spend time listening to Jesus.

"Fellowship with other believers" simply means hanging out with other people who have accepted Jesus too. Ask the Lord to help you find a church or group of true and committed believers of Jesus. Visit some local churches until you find one that will challenge and teach you in the things of God. This is so important to be those who will not only encourage you but you can encourage them in your walk with Jesus. Get involved in Bible study or with a group of individuals who meet together on a regular basis to share, pray and encourage one another.

Upon receiving Jesus and His gift of salvation, you will have hope in this world. Share this with others. There are so many others who have yet to hear that they too can have hope. Share what God has done for you. This is called your testimony. Don't be discouraged by those who don't respond. Pray for them and keep sharing. Ask the Lord for opportunities to share. Walk with Jesus always and he will walk with you.

Have a Blessed Week
In Christ,
Deacon Dean Dobbins

Following are two prayers to Our Lady that we can recite at the end of the Rosary, and that the Pope will pray in the month of May, in spiritual union with all of us.

FIRST PRAYER: O Mary, You shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who, at the foot of the cross, were united with Jesus' suffering, and persevered in your faith. "Protectress of the Roman people", you know our needs, and we know that you will provide, so that, as at Cana in Galilee, joy and celebration may return after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the will of the Father and to do what Jesus tells us. For he took upon himself our suffering, and burdened himself with our sorrows to bring us, through the cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen. We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God; Do not despise our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us always from every danger, O Glorious and Blessed Virgin

SECOND PRAYER: "We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God". In the present tragic situation, when the whole world is prey to suffering and anxiety, we fly to you, Mother of God and our Mother, and seek refuge under your protection.

Virgin Mary, turn your merciful eyes towards us amid this coronavirus pandemic. Comfort those who are distraught and mourn their loved ones who have died, and at times are buried in a way that grieves them deeply. Be close to those who are concerned for their loved ones who are sick and who, in order to prevent the spread of the disease, cannot be close to them. Fill with hope those who are troubled by the uncertainty of the future and the consequences for the economy and employment.

Mother of God and our Mother, pray for us to God, the Father of mercies, that this great suffering may end and that hope and peace may dawn anew. Plead with your divine Son, as you did at Cana, so that the families of the sick and the victims be comforted, and their hearts be opened to confidence and trust. Protect those doctors, nurses, health workers and volunteers who are on the frontline of this emergency, and are risking their lives to save others. Support their heroic effort and grant them strength, generosity and continued health.

Be close to those who assist the sick night and day, and to priests who, in their pastoral concern and fidelity to the Gospel, are trying to help and support everyone.

Blessed Virgin, illumine the minds of men and women engaged in scientific research, that they may find effective solutions to overcome this virus.

Support national leaders, that with wisdom, solicitude and generosity they may come to the aid of those lacking the basic necessities of life and may devise social and economic solutions inspired by farsightedness and solidarity.

Mary Most Holy, stir our consciences, so that the enormous funds invested in developing and stockpiling arms will instead be spent on promoting effective research on how to prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future.

Beloved Mother, help us realize that we are all members of one great family and to recognize the bond that unites us, so that, in a spirit of fraternity and solidarity, we can help to alleviate countless situations of poverty and need. Make us strong in faith, persevering in service, constant in prayer.

Mary, Consolation of the afflicted, embrace all your children in distress and pray that God will stretch out his all-powerful hand and free us from this terrible pandemic, so that life can serenely resume its normal course.

To you, who shine on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope, do we entrust ourselves, O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary.
Amen.

MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY

Joyful Mysteries

- The Annunciation
- The Visitation
- The Birth of Our Lord
- The Presentation
- The Finding in the Temple

Luminous Mysteries

- Baptism of Jesus Christ
- Christ Reveals Himself at Cana
- Proclamation of the Kingdom and Call to Conversion
- The Transfiguration
- Institution of the Eucharist

Sorrowful Mysteries

- The Agony in the Garden
- The Scourging
- The Crowning With Thorns
- The Carrying of the Cross
- The Crucifixion

Glorious Mysteries

- The Resurrection
- The Ascension
- The Coming of the Holy Spirit
- The Assumption of Our Lady
- The Coronation of Our Lady

The joyful mysteries are said on Monday and Saturday; the sorrowful mysteries on Tuesday and Friday; the glorious mysteries on Wednesday and Sunday; the luminous mysteries on Thursday.

PRAY THE ROSARY



PRAYER FOR HEALING

Lord we ask You to lift up those who are facing illness today. We ask You to bring Healing, Comfort and Peace to their body, mind and soul. We ask You to calm their fears and let them feel the Healing power of your Love.