

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES OF
ST. PIO OF PIETRELCINA

REVEREND JEREMIAH N. MURASSO, PH.D., ED.D., PSY.D., PASTOR
REVEREND PATRICK KANE, PAROCHIAL VICAR
REVEREND THOMAS KELLY, PAROCHIAL VICAR



5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER



“In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?” - Jn 14:2

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 7, 2023

Mass Intentions for the Week

SATURDAY, May 6 - Vigil – 5th Sunday of Easter

4:00pm OLOP + Joseph Ferrucci
by Family

4:30pm SVDP + Christopher Silva
by Joe, Carol & Nate

SUNDAY, May 7 – 5th Sunday of Easter

8:00am OLOP + Eleanor D’Esopo (7th Anniversary)

9:00am ST. B + Camera & Spadacenta Families
by Madelyn & Vin

10:00am OLOP + Michael La
by Friend, Helen Nguyen

11:15am SVDP + Rose Vece
by Michaëlle Caputo

MONDAY, May 8 - Weekday

8:00am OLOP + Bill Cook
by Lisa Leary

8:00am SVDP + Angelina Arpino
by Clancy-Palumbo Funeral Home

TUESDAY, May 9 – Weekday

8:00am OLOP + Al & Mary Ann Pacelli
by Lou & Anne Pacelli

8:00am SVDP + Bruno Pino
by Clancy-Palumbo Funeral Home

WEDNESDAY, May 10 - St. John Avila

8:00am OLOP + Randolph Boncek
by Paula D’Agostino

8:00am SVDP + Mary Colloso
by Children, Grandchildren
& Great-Granddaughter

THURSDAY, May 11 - Weekday

8:00am OLOP + Anthony Mastriano
by Porto Funeral Home

8:00am ST. B + Loretta Giglietti
by Family

FRIDAY, May 12 - Sts. Nereus & Achilleus

8:00am ST. B + Marie Riccitelli
by Chick, Ricky, Linda & Craig

SATURDAY, May 13 - Vigil – 6th Sunday of Easter

4:00pm OLOP + Living & Deceased Mothers of St. Pio

4:30pm SVDP + Living & Deceased Mothers of St. Pio

SUNDAY, May 14 – 6th Sunday of Easter

8:00am OLOP + Living & Deceased Mothers of St. Pio

9:00am ST. B + Living & Deceased Mothers of St. Pio

10:00am OLOP + Living & Deceased Mothers of St. Pio

11:15am SVDP + Living & Deceased Mothers of St. Pio

STEWARDSHIP

Regular Collection \$8,938.00

Online Giving \$587.00

May 13 & 14 Second Collection:
Utility

Thank you to the many of you who have been so generous and responsive in these difficult times.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday: Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19 (22)/1 Pt 2:4-9/Jn 14:1-12

Monday: Acts 14:5-18/Ps 115:1-2, 3-4, 15-16/Jn 14:21-26

Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21/Jn 14:27-31a

Wednesday: Acts 15:1-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5/Jn 15:1-8

Thursday: Acts 15:7-21/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10/Jn 15:9-11

Friday: Acts 15:22-31/Ps 57:8-9, 10 and 12/Jn 15:12-17

Saturday: Acts 16:1-10/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 5/Jn 15:18-21

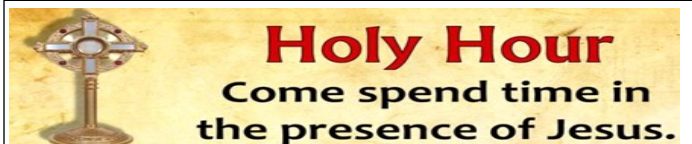
CONFESSION SCHEDULE:

Our Lady of Pompeii: Saturday at 3:00-3:30pm

St. Vincent de Paul: Saturday at 3:30-4:00pm

SILENCE.

Please, be mindful that many parishioners arrive early prior to the start of Mass in order to sit reflectively with the LORD in prayer. Please, be mindful of the level of your voice and that voices carry from the back of the church to the front. Please, maintain a subdued tone when speaking so that other’s quiet time is not disturbed.



Every Monday, immediately following morning Mass at Our Lady of Pompeii, there is one hour of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

2024 MASSES - SAVE THE DATE!



The 2024 Mass Intention Book will open on Thursday, June 1, 2023. Kindly have your requests ready when scheduling. We will continue to have a limit of 3 weekend Masses per individual booking.

St. Pio of Pietrelcina Parish

Address: 355 Foxon Road, East Haven, CT 06513

Phone Number: (203) 469-0764

Office Hours:

Foxon Road: Mon-Fri 8:00-12:00 & 1:00-3:00

Taylor Avenue: Mon. & Fri. 10:00-2:00

E-Mail: stpioofpietrelcina@gmail.com

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MINISTRY & EVENT CALENDAR

<p>SUNDAY, MAY 7 Bike Blessing - 11:30am at OLOP Grounds</p>	<p>SUNDAY, MAY 14 No Events or Activities</p>
<p>MONDAY, MAY 8 Holy Hour - 8:30-9:30am in Our Lady of Pompeii Church Bible Study - 7:00pm on Zoom Contact Christine Sandford at 203-469-7823</p>	<p>MONDAY, MAY 15 Holy Hour - 8:30-9:30am in Our Lady of Pompeii Church Bible Study - 7:00pm on Zoom Contact Christine Sandford at 203-469-7823</p>
<p>TUESDAY, MAY 9 Rosary Group - 8:00 pm on Zoom Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8</p>	<p>TUESDAY, MAY 16 Rosary Group - 8:00 pm on Zoom Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8</p>
<p>WEDNESDAY, MAY 10 Bible Study - 6:30pm at SVDP Parish Office Contact Marie Connors at 203-468-1184 Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena - 7:00pm at OLOP Church Rosary Group - 8:00 pm on Zoom Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8</p>	<p>WEDNESDAY, MAY 17 Bible Study - 6:30pm at SVDP Parish Office Contact Marie Connors at 203-468-1184 Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena - 7:00pm at OLOP Church Rosary Group - 8:00 pm on Zoom Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8</p>
<p>THURSDAY, MAY 11 Scriptural Rosary - 6:00pm at OLOP Chapel Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8</p>	<p>THURSDAY, MAY 18 Scriptural Rosary - 6:00pm at OLOP Chapel Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8</p>
<p>FRIDAY, MAY 12 Rosary Group - 8:00 pm on Zoom Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8</p>	<p>FRIDAY, MAY 19 Rosary Group - 8:00 pm on Zoom Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8</p>
<p>SATURDAY, MAY 13 Men's Group - 7:30am-9:00am at SVDP Parish Center</p>	<p>SATURDAY, MAY 20 Men's Group - 7:30am-9:00am at SVDP Parish Center</p>

Thank You

**MANY THANKS,
 ONCE AGAIN, THIS YEAR FOR
 THE BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS
 DONATED BY
 THE DELUCIA FAMILY
 FROM**

PORTO FUNERAL HOMES



Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena



NINE WEDNESDAYS: May 3 to June 28

Our Lady of Pompeii Church

7:00pm with Novena Prayers, Benediction, Recitation of the Rosary & Enrollment in the Brown Scapular

A novena is a 9-WEEK devotion to obtain special graces & favors. All are invited to participate and are encouraged to bring friends. The final day, Wednesday, June 28 will conclude with Mass & procession (weather permitting, outdoors).

The Candles burn this week for these special intentions:

Our Lady of Pompeii Candles

Sanctuary Lamp (Right Side) ~ In Memory of Billy Richmond & For All the Souls in Purgatory

Sanctuary Lamp (Left Side) ~ In Memory of the Mauro & Elko Families

Chapel ~ Albert Aponte by Elaine

Sacred Heart of Jesus ~ Randolph Boncek by Marietta D'Albero & Donna Amato

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Icon ~ Fr. John L. Lavorgna by Judy & Carol

Our Lady of Pompeii Picture ~

Pascal Candle ~ Fr. John Lavorgna

St. Vincent de Paul Candles

Sanctuary Lamp (Right Side) ~ In Memory of the Balzano & Avitable Families

Sanctuary Lamp (Left Side) - In Memory of Ronald Paolillo

Our Lady's Altar ~ Nicholas, Raffaele & Peter Bertier by Ann; Phyllis Poole by Florence & Ernie Perno & Family

St. Joseph's Altar ~ Edith Kazlauskas by Family

Pascal Candle ~ Barbara & Maurice Connolly

St. Bernadette Candles

Sanctuary Lamp (Right Side) ~ Mr. & Mrs. Fiore Acabbo & Andrew Michael Acabbo by Family

Pascal Candle ~ Harold Donegan

PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH

Nick Vessicchio, Sally Ann Fallon, Lynette Ely, David T. Boyle, Richard Lucibello, Carmel Ferretti, Bryan Surprenant, Sharon Spadacenta, Marie & Charles Zambrano, Helen Langello, Brian Savo, Gerry Andrea, Alan Poirier, Connie Rasimas, Jane Pyka, Harry Clark, Lou DiNola, Geraldine Licciardi, Joanne Cretella, Joseph Anyzeski, Fran Sofo, Elizabeth Kuen, Deborah Sanning, Paula Ferrara, Tina Marie Fionia, Joseph Parise, Frank DelGrego, Moira Ferguson, Danielle Joubert, Frances Polaski, Pauline Condon, Rose Anna Izzo, Angelo DeMatteo, Patricia Aulenti, Michael Pascale, Alyce Richmond, Mark Schettino, Patty DiMilo, Rose Rogalski, Elaine Smith, Karen Rescigno, Virginia Pisano, DJ DiVincenzo, Sgt. Anthony Rybaruk, Philip & Sally DeMilo, Anna Concelmo, Anna Marie Nappi, Brian Higney, Rich Tortora, Denise Bailey, Joseph Peterson, Marion Mahl, Paula Ruddock, Pamela Willis, Laura Luzzi, Brian Wilson, Maureen Redmond, Kristianne Argentino, Shirley Perrelli, Bill Izzo, Andrew & Catherine Criscuolo, Patricia Miles, Joe Coscia, Deborah Verab, Dona Marie, Christina Meoli, Michelle Smith, Ron Mattei, Angela Riccio, Charlene Tantalo, Al Forgiione, Gabriella Garrity, Beverly Fucci, W.D. Merkle, Phyllis Anastasio, Cheryl Barbara, Laura-Phyllis Esposito, Diana Vitelli O'Brien, Meghan Keeney, Gennaro Milone, Jo Vuolo, Felicia DeRoche, Marilyn Kozin, Mike Barnett, Richard Costanzo, Carole & Frank Casapulla, Gerrie Amendola, Michael Bowen, Linda Montone, Mary Diamante, Carol Esposito, Fred & Barbara Brow, Christopher Farrell, Roberta Sanders-Gray, Jeannette Winston, Marilyn Sisson, Ryder Feeley, Theodore Siwinski, Michael Enders, Nicholas Cerillo, Edwina Cinque, Rudolph Pohlman, Linda Esposito, Renee Flynn, The Cooper Family, Rosemary Riccitelli, Lynn Ely, Ethan Roche, Frances Graney, Barbara Kapusta, Megan Maturo, Rose Paula Dziedulonis, Roma Criscuolo, Taras Mychajlowskyj, Denise Steiner, Mary Ann Anastasio, Guy Brasile, Gloribeth R., Stacie Bouchard, Daija Diaz, Al Sappinetti, Guy Racino, Michael Polaski, Martha Catel, Eddie Villecco, Isaiah Colville, Jennie Nazario, Joan Proto, Caitlin Rustic, Michael Filion, John Torello, Mauro Antonio Bezanilla, Matteo Criscuolo, Robert Filion, Lucy Carbone, Dorene Izzo, Lucille Palange, Carmine Riccitelli, Sr., Louise Amato, Mark Houston, Avery Bye, Alex Bernaitis, Vincent Pisano, Ann Hamilton, Camilla Palmieri, Barbara Bellucci, Michael Bulger, Joseph Bonie, Mary Katherine Hart, Billy Carr, Andrea Pepe, Anna Sabatino, Audrey Elder, Theresa Polio, Mike Liso, John Mongillo, Sr., Bill Morrison

Please send prayer requests to stpiofpietrelcina@gmail.com so that our parishioners and friends can be remembered in our prayers.

**Midnight Run
Taylor Avenue Campus**

The Midnight Run for **May** is the **2nd Monday**, which is **May 8th**. Donations of brown bag lunches, water, juice boxes and toiletries are appreciated. These donations can be dropped off to Sue Stacey's home, 82 Forbes Place, up until 7pm on **Monday, May 8th**. Thank you and God bless you for all donations. Stay safe & well.

**Midnight Run
Foxon Road Campus**

On the last Monday of each month, we bring 75 bagged lunches to the Columbus House Overflow Shelter.

Donations Needed:

ShopRite Gift Cards or

Gallon Size Ziploc Bags

Quart Size Ziploc Bags

Peanut Butter & Jelly

Juice Pouches

Raisin Boxes

Fruit Cups & Pudding Cups

Granola Bars

Individual Packaged Cookies, Crackers or Chips

We are also looking for small amounts or full skeins of yarn, it will be used to make hats and scarves for the midnight run. Please leave your donations at any entrance of the church. Thank you.

Midnight Run is the **LAST** Monday of **EVERY** month from Our Lady of Pompeii Church from 6-7 pm. Thank-you for being so generous!



St. Bernadette Food Pantry located at the East Shore Senior Center is open every Saturday from 10:00am-11:00am. We are always in need of non-perishable foods. Top choices are, canned: tomatoes, tomato sauce, vegetables, tuna fish, soups and fruits. Pasta, mac & cheese and peanut butter. Consumption guidelines provided to us from the CT

Food Bank: Expiration/Code Date Extensions past expiration: high acid foods (i.e. tomatoes) 12-18 months. Low acid foods (canned meat, most vegetables) 2-5 years. Food in jars, 12 months past expiration, dry cereal 6-12 months, rice/pasta (dry) 1 year. Questions, please contact Deb or Rico at 203-468-7489



THE EAST HAVEN FOOD PANTRY is asking for pasta, sauce and meals sides (i.e. Knorr's, Rice a Roni, etc.) the months of April and May. Please leave your donations of food at the church entrances.

The Food Pantry will be open from 9:00am-11:00am on Saturdays & Tuesdays for East Haven residents.

For more info call Christine Sandford 203-469-7823

From the Pastor's Pen

Reverend Jeremiah N. Murasso, PhD, EdD, PsyD

*Do Not Let Your Hearts Become
Troubled (John 14: 1-12)*

The Gospel according to St. John for this fifth Sunday of the Easter Season is focused on the beginning of the *Farewell Discourse of Jesus*. The powerfully authoritative discourse of Jesus as he prepares his disciples for his departure from them to the Father leads to a lengthy pronouncement on the nature and existence of *real* love that we will hear next weekend, on the sixth Sunday of Easter (John 14:15-41).

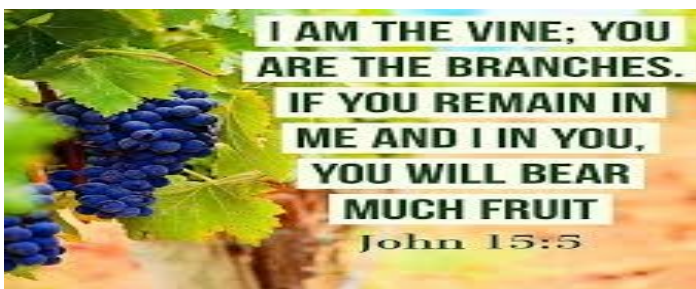


Jesus begins his farewell message by telling his disciples not to let their hearts be *troubled* (14:1). The *troubled heart* about which Jesus speaks goes beyond sadness or mere sentiment. Coming from the Greek *tarasso*, the word *troubled* implies a deep-rooted feeling of hopelessness and frenzied despair resulting in a void: a spiritual and emotional emptiness.

The word *tarasso* is also used by St. John when describing Jesus' feelings toward death and the crowd's lack of faith in him as he stands before the tomb of Lazarus, moments prior to his raising his friend from the dead. St. John tells us that Jesus became *perturbed and deeply troubled* (11: 33, 38).

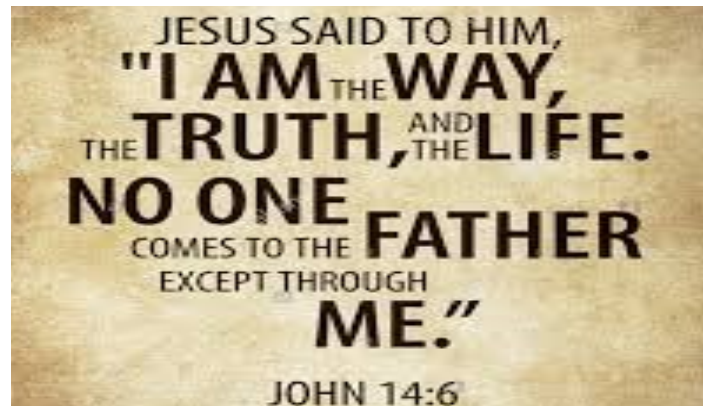
This expression of a deep-felt hopelessness on the part of Jesus is consistent with St. John's dualism, a writing style that permeates the Fourth Gospel. This dualism is captured by conflict of opposites: light contrasted with darkness; truth with falsity. Jesus is *troubled* because he finds his ministry at odds with the Prince of this world: Satan. Death is the absence of life and where there is no life, there is no truth. Jesus prayed: "*Father, thank-you, for hearing me. I know that you always hear me*" (11:42-43).

The notion of the *troubled heart* becomes clearer as we understand it in relation to Jesus' use of the metaphor of the *Vine and the Branches* in his description of the relationship between him and his followers (15:1-10).

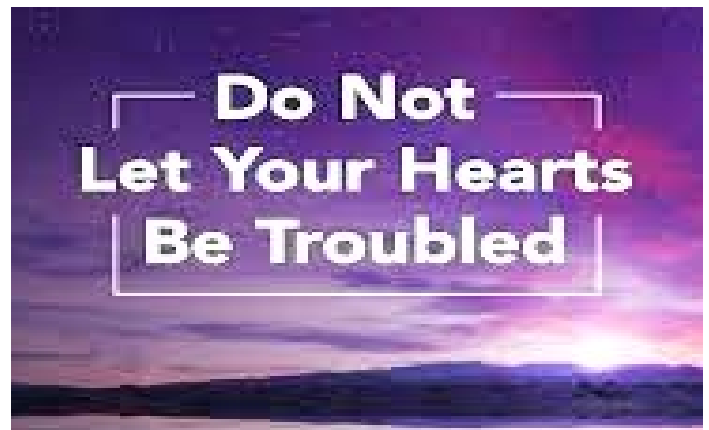


The *troubled heart* can also be better understood in relation to Jesus' appeal for his faithful followers to keep his commandments. "*If you love me, you will keep my commandments*" (14:15), along with his assurance that he will never abandon his faithful followers. "*I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you*" (14:18).

The *true* disciple of Jesus is one who demonstrates his/her love by keeping God's commandments. When man adheres to the commandments, man's heart is not *troubled* because he routinely and spontaneously demonstrates his love through the manner in which he lives his life. In other words, he who truly loves (*agape*), as Jesus intended, *never* experiences a *troubled heart*.



While it is true that man may react to daily crises with anger, grief or sadness, for the man of faith, such emotional responses are fleeting and come and go as situations and circumstances change in man's life. Not so with the *troubled* (*tarasso*) heart. A *troubled* heart does not disappear with the superficial circumstances of the moment. Rather, the *troubled* heart is indicative of a deep-rooted feeling of emptiness at man's spiritual core: at the level of soul.



The *troubled heart* that Jesus describes is a *spiritual void*, which results from man's inability or unwillingness to discover meaning for the moment. It is a meaning for living one's life rooted in a relationship with Jesus. Such a relationship, if authentic, while not preventing the ups and downs due to human failures and weaknesses will allow man to face life with hope.

This is the message that Jesus now gives his disciples: "*Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me*" (14:1-2). This is a command. "*Believe!*" For if man truly believes, his faith will conquer the world. Jesus is telling his disciples not to allow the world to get between them and him.



The world and all its untruths, as appealing at times as it may be will distract man from seeking Truth. Jesus is the Truth, and as long as man believes, he will remain connected to Jesus.

What a powerful message for us who live in this twenty-first century. How often we allow the world and the daily stressors to distract us from what *really counts*. How often we permit anger and fatigue to disrupt the focus of our relationship with Jesus. Christians fail to realize how powerful they are in possessing the *life of Jesus within their souls*. For if man truly believes, if he *really* believes, he (as Jesus told his disciples), could truly move mountains.

“Amen, I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to the mountain, ‘be moved,’ and it will be moved. Nothing will be impossible for you” (Matthew 17:20).

How often man gives into the demands of the moment, allowing the Prince of this world to get between him and God. In John’s account for this Sunday (14:1-12), Jesus begins by telling his disciples that the test of their love will be evidenced in their desire to believe in him. True belief leads to peace at the depth of man’s being, at the level of soul.

To love Jesus is to know him and to know him is to know the Father as well. As Jesus departs from his disciples, he reveals in very direct ways his relationship to the Father. Here we see several Trinitarian themes: descriptions that Jesus and the Father are one and the same.

“Jesus said, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me’” (14:6).

“If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and see him” (14:7).

“Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show me the Father?’ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me” (14:9-10)?

Love demands belief. Otherwise the love is insincere and misdirected. Misdirected love is a love for the world and the things of the world, rather than a love that is rooted in God’s *Word*. Jesus is God’s *Word*.

A relationship with Jesus, like all relationships involves the cultivation of quality time with the other. Friends create a bond between themselves, they dialogue, they get to know the other and they desire to be with the other. In our postmodern society, man has lost the desire to cultivate a relationship with Jesus. The world and its false and fleeting remedies for happiness and wholeness have become more appealing to man than the appeal that comes from Jesus, to come to him and to place his yoke upon man’s shoulders.

Jesus promises his disciples that he will make the first move and help them to cultivate a relationship with him, even in his absence. He assures the disciples that he will send the *Advocate*, the *Spirit of Truth* who will not only protect the disciples against the Prince of this world, but will also lead them continuously to himself (14:15-17).

To love Jesus is to believe that he is God. In believing that Jesus is God, man desires to please God by obeying Jesus’ request to keep his commandments. This means all the commandments; not just those that fit into man’s daily or weekly schedule. The reward for loving God by adhering to the commandments gives man the assurance that Jesus will always be a part of his life. Man will never be left alone, even though at times he *feels* alone.

“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 forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it [the world] neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you” (14:15-17).

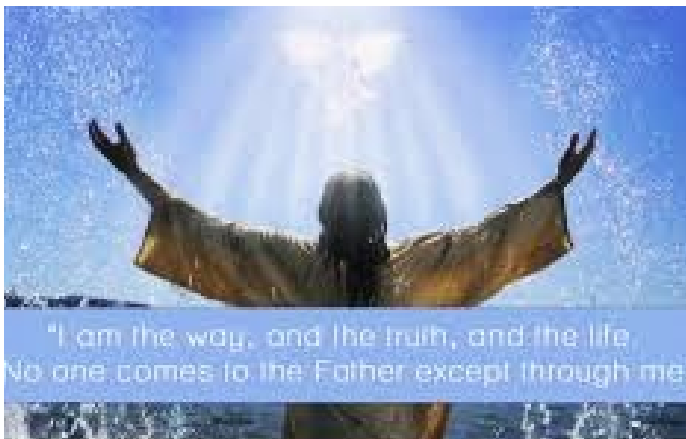


The world, however, cannot see (*theorein*, from the Greek, meaning having physical or spiritual insight) the *Advocate* because the *Advocate* is not corporeal. In addition, the world does not have the *spiritual insight* as the disciples do and as men and women of faith do. Consequently, the world is blinded to the Truth; thus, exists in darkness and unlike the true disciple is subject to death.

The unbeliever, the one who permits the world to distract him from Jesus, is the one who experiences a troubled (*tarasso*) heart. The void that exists in the depth of the soul because of a spiritual emptiness results in a feeling of *loneliness* in the midst of and against the forces of the world. In other words, man feels like an orphan without parental support.

Jesus says: “Have faith!” “Believe in me!” “Love me!” “Keep my commandments. And the Father will give you the Advocate; the Spirit of Truth. And I shall not leave you orphaned.”

The commandments about which Jesus speaks consist of the whole and entire gospel message. To keep Jesus’ commandments means that the true disciple is the individual who loves Jesus and demonstrates this love by *fulfilling* the message of the Gospel. Such a person walks in the Light of Truth, and consequently, radiates Life; a life that reflects the presence of Jesus who abides within. God through Jesus *dwells* in the midst of goodness. Therefore, where there is goodness, man will find the presence of the Christ.



This is not true among those who refuse to listen to God's *Word* or to *fulfill the commandments* of Jesus. For them there is no Light, for such an individual shuns the Light and embraces darkness. Where there is darkness, there is death and where there is death, one finds the *absence* of the divine presence.

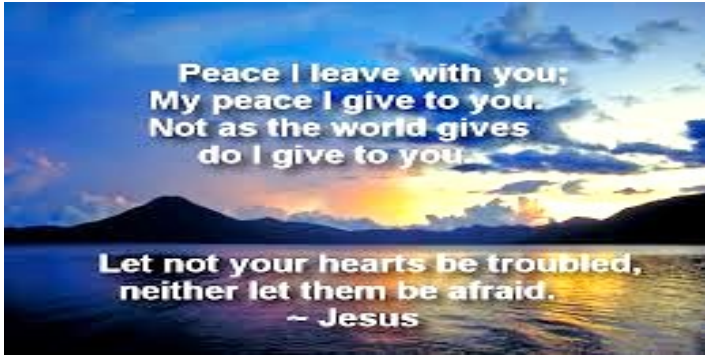
Darkness gives rise to and perpetuates self-seeking and consequently, short-lived egocentric types of experiences; all of which give birth to a gospel of materialism and secularism. We find this existing on all levels of society. It points to a world that has strayed from its true identity; having been created in the *image and likeness* of God.

All is not gloom and doom because we are *Easter People*. Jesus has made all things new by dying and rising from the dead. Easter is Jesus' victory over sin and death. To the degree that we *embrace* Easter, to that degree, we participate in an *enduring and ever-present* experience of Jesus as he lives in the here and now.

The *Easter Event* confirms Jesus' presence among the created universe through the presence of the *Advocate* who the Father has sent into the world as confirmation of his loving and enduring presence in and through Jesus. Therefore, to him who fulfills Jesus' commandments and demonstrate love in his relations with others, even his enemies, the presence of the *Spirit* is not only indwelling in his life, but his life also becomes an extension of the Christ in whose image he was created.

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give you. Not as the world gives, do I give it to you; this is my gift to you" (John 14:27).

What does Jesus mean when he bestows unto his disciples his wish for peace? Jesus does not mean the absence of war, nor does he mean the end of psychological tension. However, in addition, Jesus does not mean the sentimental *hallmark* moment where at one time one is happy and at another moment sad.



"Peace be with you" (John 19:19, 21, 26). Coming from the Greek, the word for peace is *Eirene*. It describes more than the desire for peace on the part of another; it is descriptive of the fullness of goodness, perfection and completeness, devoid of adversity. *Eirene* in Greek mythology describes the goddess of spring who is also the keeper of the gates of heaven.

"Jesus said to them [the apostles], 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, I sent you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained'" (20:21-23).

The Hebrew equivalent of *eirene* is *shalom*, which moves one's expression for peace in the life of another *beyond* completeness and fullness, wishing for the other unconditional goodness. To greet another with the salutation, "*shalom aleichem*" is to consciously *pronounce* the full meaning of the word as the sentiment slips from the well-wisher's tongue. "*I wish you completeness and wholeness, health, prosperity, harmony of mind, body and spirit, devoid from all conflict, adversity and fear. I wish you every good thing that any one individual can possibly experience in a lifetime in a spirit of love and deep-rooted peace, which begins and ends at your spiritual center at the level of soul.*"



The peace that Jesus refers to has to do with eternal salvation rooted in the here and now. It is an internal predisposition that man acquires through a *daily living out of his faith* in Christ rooted in love (*agape*). Jesus refers to this peace as a *gift* because man receives it without merit. Jesus bestows this peace as a reward for man's love.

To love Jesus means that man keeps the commandments of God about which Jesus speaks. If man does so, "*The Father and I will make our dwelling in you*" (John 14: 23). The result of this *indwelling* of Jesus leads to a life in which man lives as an extension of that which abides deep within the soul: *the Spirit of the Triune God* (the Father, Son and Holy Spirit).

The world cannot give true peace (*eirene*) because the world cannot give what it does not possess. Lasting peace results from a life lived in faith. Such a life cannot be shaken by the trials and tribulations of daily living, but views such as a means for a deeper union with Jesus. Such a faith is rooted in the soul where Jesus dwells. Such a faith can only have its origin in its true source: Jesus Christ.

In a world filled with much unrest and confusion, the gospel message is a real *gift* for finding and maintaining a *lasting link* to Jesus. Find that peace that the world can not give by looking within your soul for the maker of all things good: Jesus Christ. And...once found...sharing it with others! JNM

Additional Note: Although sensitive of gender-related language; he/she, him/her, it is often necessary to refer to the generic, "man" when reference is made to the essence of human nature.

AVAILABLE NOW!

PRINT & DIGITAL AD SPACES

The Support of Your Business is Greatly Appreciated

Robin Ungaro from LPi, our bulletin printer, will be securing new ads for our church in the coming weeks. It is the support of the business community that helps to make our church thrive. Please consider purchasing a print and/or digital ad as your participation makes our bulletin successful, and you attract customers!

Church bulletin advertising is a cost-effective way to advertise 52 times per year and show support for your local community; in turn, parishioners will support you!

Digital advertising allows your business to be front and center to anyone who visits a church profile page on ParishesOnline.com — that's approximately 500,000 page views per month!

Robin Ungaro
(203) 747-5671
RUngaro@4lni.com



From the Pen of the Parish Nurse
Kimberly Petrillo, R.N.

Melanoma & Health

The summer months can be extremely hot and humid. All the more reason to take special care of our bodies and our skin. Many enjoy being outdoors to feel the sun penetrate its warmth to the body. The sun can provide heat to heal achy bones and the natural sun light promotes improved psychological health. However, excessive heat and exposure to the sun can have a negative impact on the body as well as the skin.

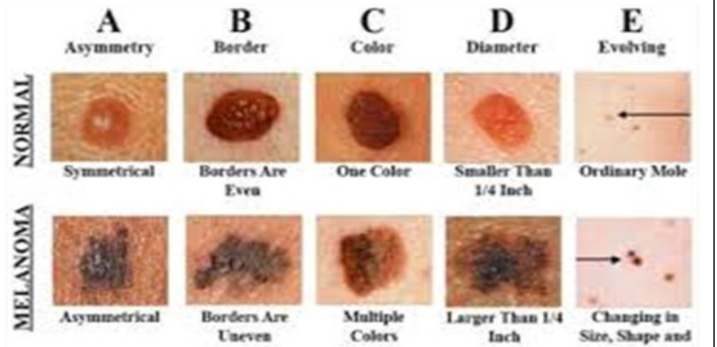


Melanoma of the skin is among the most common cancer types in the United States. It is estimated that 106,110 new cases will be diagnosed in 2021 and 7,180 deaths will occur from this form of cancer. (National Cancer Institute). Approximately 1 in 5 people will develop melanoma in their lifetime, most likely because of increased sun exposure in childhood.



Melanoma is more common in men than women, individuals with fair complexion as well as those who have been exposed to natural or artificial sunlight (tanning beds) over a long period of time. There are more new cases among Caucasians than any other ethnic group. (National Cancer Institute).

Melanoma is the deadliest form of skin cancer. It occurs when pigment making cells in the skin called melanocytes, begin reproducing uncontrollably. Melanoma can come from an existing mole or develop on unblemished skin. The most common type of melanoma spreads on the skin's surface. It is called *superficial spreading melanoma*. It can stay on the surface or it can grow into deeper tissue. Other forms of melanoma can begin anywhere on or inside the body, including under the fingernails, toenails and inside the eye.



The exact cause of all melanomas is unclear, but exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation from sunlight or tanning lamps and beds increase the risk of developing melanoma. Limiting exposure to UV radiation can help reduce the risk of getting skin cancer. Melanoma occurs when something goes wrong in the melanin-producing cells (melanocytes) that give color to the skin. Normally, skin cells develop in a controlled and orderly way. Healthy new cells push older cells toward the skin's surface where they die and fall off. If some cells develop DNA damage, new cells may begin to grow out of control and overtime form a mass of cancerous cells.

Symptoms

Melanomas can develop anywhere on the body. Most often the lesion develops in areas that have had exposure to the sun, such as the back, legs, arms and face. Melanomas can also occur in areas that do not receive much sun exposure, such as the soles of the feet, palms of the hands and fingernail beds. These hidden melanomas are more common in people with darker skin.

First Signs and Symptoms of Melanoma

Possible signs and symptoms of melanoma may include such things as: a change in an existing mole; the development of a new pigmented, or unusual looking growth on the skin; colors or shades of skin that are different within the same mole. In addition, the mole may look irregular, rather than smooth. The mole or spot may be mottled with a range of colors such as brown, black, blue, red, white or light grey.

Other signs may include: the diameter of a mole that is larger than 6 millimeters (larger than a pencil eraser); a mole that bleeds, feels numb, or has a crusty surface. It is important to note that melanoma does not always begin as a mole. It can also occur on otherwise normal appearing skin.



Risk Factors

Some risk factors in developing a melanoma include: individuals with fair skin. Such individuals have less pigment (melanin) in the skin, which means less protection from the damaging UV radiation; a history of sunburn; excessive ultraviolet light exposure (i.e., tanning beds); living closer to the equator or at a higher elevation; having many moles or unusual moles. For example, having more than 50 ordinary moles on the body indicates an increased risk of melanoma.

Unusual moles known as *dysplastic nevi* tend to be larger than normal moles and have irregular borders and a mixture of colors. Family history also contributes to the possibility of acquiring moles on the body as well as a weakened immune system.

Diagnosing Melanoma

Physical examination – including a medical history in important in the detection of a melanoma. An excision biopsy of the mole or spot tissue is conducted and then sent to the laboratory for examination. Information from the analysis can determine if the tissue is cancerous and how deep it has grown below the skin's surface. This is the most important factor in predicting whether the cancer can be cured.

Melanomas deeper than 1 millimeter are likely to have spread to nearby lymph nodes. Additional include: blood tests, a chest x-ray, CT scan, MRI, bone scan, lymph node biopsy and ultrasound. **Treatment** for melanoma in the early stages often can be done with surgery alone. However, if the cancer is advanced, immunotherapy, radiation, or chemotherapy may be necessary to irradiate the cancer.

Basal Cell Carcinoma (BCC)- BCCs usually appear as tiny, painless bumps with a pink, pearly surface. As it slowly grows, the center of the bump may become sore and develop into a crater that bleeds, crusts, or forms as a scab. This cancer commonly occurs on the face, ears, back and neck where the skin is exposed to the sun. Basal cell carcinoma begins in the basal cells – a type of cell within the skin that produces new skin cells as old ones die off.

Squamous cell carcinoma (SCC)- SCC usually begin as a small, red, painless lump or skin patch that slowly grows and may develop into a non-healing sore. It usually occurs on the head, ears and hands. This form of cancer is common and develops in the squamous cells that make up the middle and outer layers of the skin.

Most squamous cell carcinomas of the skin result from prolonged sun exposure to ultraviolet radiation, either from sunlight or from tanning beds or lamps. Avoiding UV light helps to reduce the risk of developing squamous cell carcinoma of the skin and other forms of skin cancer.

Prevention

Ways to reduce the risk of melanoma and other forms of skin cancer

Some suggestions for reducing the risk of developing a melanoma and other forms of cancer include: the wearing of sunscreen year- round; use of a broad-spectrum sunscreen with a SPF of at least 30, even on cloudy days; applying sunscreen generously and reapplying it every 2 hours or more often if sweating or when swimming.

It is also important to avoid the sun during the middle of the day. For most people in North America, the sun's rays are the strongest between the hours of 10 am to 4 pm. Schedule outdoor activities for other times of the day, even in the winter or when the sky is cloudy.

It is important to remember that UV radiation is absorbed year-round and the clouds offer little protection from the damaging rays. It is important to wear protective clothing by covering the skin with dark, tightly woven clothes that cover the arms and legs. Wear a broad brimmed hat that provides protection to the face. Sunglasses that block both types of UV radiation (UVA and UVB rays) are a must.

It is important that we become familiar with our skin so that we will notice changes. Examine skin often for new growths or changes in existing moles, freckles, bumps and birthmarks. Use a mirror to check face, neck, ears and scalp. A complete body assessment should be done often to identify any changes. It is important to see a dermatologist yearly or more often if changes in skin or moles are present.

Summer is a time to enjoy outdoor activities. It is important to protect the skin by wearing sunscreen. Be smart and apply sun screen at all times. The skin needs to be protected from the damaging UV rays from the sun. A day at the beach or at the pool can be filled with fun. It is important to protect the eyes by wearing sunglasses. Too much exposure to UV light raises the risk of eye diseases and other problems. Cataracts and eye cancers can take years to develop. Be sure to select sunglasses that provide 100% UV or UV400 protection, or block both UV-A and UV-B rays. Remember that sun rays can pass through clouds and haze. Protect children and senior citizens with hats and sunglasses.

Healthy exposure to sunlight can have positive effects, as long as the eyes and skin are protected from UV damage and over exposure to the sun. **KP**

Parish nurse can be contacted via email kimp51@comcast.net or mobile 203-980-0931. Health counseling available by appointment.



CPR Date: May 18 from 5:00pm to 8:00pm

Location: OLOP

Class is almost filled. Call Kim directly to sign up.

From the Pastor's Pen

Reverend Jeremiah N. Murasso, Ph.D., Ed.D., Psy.D.

Mary, May & Fatima

May is traditionally dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Consequently, it is fitting that we spend time reflecting on Mary this weekend as we begin the month of May and look forward to the celebration of *Mother's Day* on May 8, in which we honor not only the Blessed Mother, but all our mothers. Besides being the mother of Jesus, Mary is also *our* mother and as such, is also the *Mother of the Church*. Mary is the *Queen of the Apostles* whose motherhood extends to the apostles. St. John tells us that as Mary stood at the cross with the Beloved Disciple, just prior to Jesus taking his last breath, he [Jesus] entrusts the Beloved Disciple (and the other disciples) to the care of his mother.

"When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, 'Woman behold your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Behold your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his home" (19:26-27).

The Perfect Disciple

From the earliest of times, Mary has been recognized as the most *perfect* model of the universal Church in the order of *faith*, *charity* and *flawless union* with her Son. For this reason, St. Luke tells us that Mary has been called *"Blessed among all other woman"* (1:46). Mary represents that *perfect disciple* who cooperated with God's plan for the salvation of humankind. She did so in difficult times, in a social/religious climate not unlike our own with the certainty that God would guide her choices. In bringing forth the Savior of the world, Mary has become throughout all times, worthy of veneration and honor, having been hailed a *model* and *exemplar* for all peoples for all times.

Our Lady of Fatima

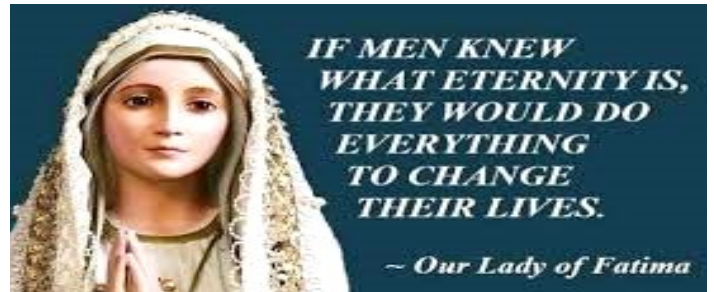
Of the hundreds upon hundreds of titles with which our Blessed Mother has been entrusted, none is more noteworthy than the title of *Our Lady of Fatima*, whose feast we celebrate on May 13. Mary received this title as a result of her appearance to three shepherd children near the town of Fatima in Portugal in the year 1917.



The apparition of Fatima is one of the most powerful and one of the most spectacular manifestations of the presence of the Divine in human history. The Blessed Mother appeared to three shepherd children, Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta, six times between May 13 and October 13, 1917. She told the children that God had sent her with a message for all people. Mary entered human history at a time when the world (not unlike 2021), was in the grips of bloody wars, international conflicts and the display of violence and hate on all levels of society, along with deliberate indifference and disregard toward organized religion and the Church.

The Three-Part Secret

The heart of Mary's message to the children, and to the world was confined to what is referred to as the *Three-Part Secret*. The first part of the *Secret* consisted of a frightening glimpse of hell, where the souls of *"unrepentant sinners go."* This first part of the *"Secret,"* also included an urgent plea to the children to pray for these souls, and for other souls that they may be spared of the fires of hell by repenting.



The second part of the *Secret* was the prediction of the outbreak of the Second World War. This also included Mary's request for the *Consecration of Russia* as a condition to world peace. The second part of the *Secret* predicted the triumph of *Mary's Immaculate Heart*, which would follow Russia's consecration and conversion to the Catholic faith.

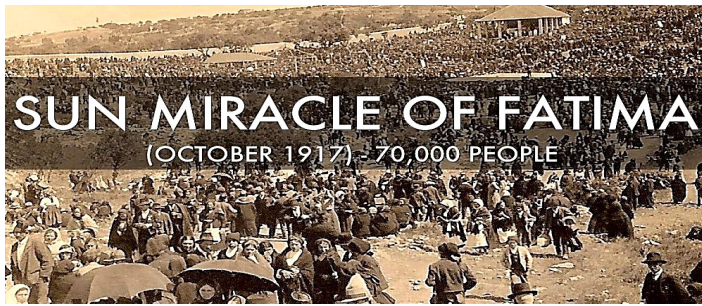
The last part of the *Secret* was made public in the year 2000. It is interesting to note that five popes in succession kept the third part of the *Secret of Fatima* locked in a safe in the Vatican. It is also interesting to note that none of the five popes *consecrated the world* to the *Immaculate Heart of Mary* as the Blessed Mother had requested.

It was with Pope John Paul II, on June 30, 2000, that the third part of the *Secret* was revealed. In relating this secret, Mary told the children that a *"An apostle clothed in white, who, while making his way amid the corpses of martyrs, would fall to the ground, apparently dead, under the burst of gunfire."* The above description recalled the 1981 assassination attempt against Pope John Paul II, who was wounded in St. Peter's Square when a Turkish gunman, Mehmet Ali Agca opened fire and severely wounded the Holy Father. Later, however, the pontiff forgave Agca who was also pardoned by the Italian authorities at the pope's request.

The shooting came on Wednesday, May 13, sixty-four years to the day, that Mary first appeared to the children at Fatima.

John Paul credited the Blessed Virgin Mary (of Fatima) with intervening and sparing his life. The Holy Father said, *"A motherly hand guided the bullet's path, enabling me to halt at the threshold of death."*

Miracle of the Sun



On Mary's final visit to the children, on October 13, 1917, just as she had promised, she performed a miracle in order that *"the doubters of the world would be convinced of the reality of my presence and the will of God."*

During this final appearance, Mary appeared as *Our Lady of Mount Carmel*, accompanied by St. Joseph and the child Jesus. On this day, what has been referred to as *The Miracle of the Sun* took place to the amazement of; approximately seventy thousand spectators.

The sun whirled about and seemed to be plummeting down as it sent off multicolored rays of light. Many feared that it was the end of the world. However, many in the crowd were cured instantly from diseases and disabilities.



The result of these apparitions took shape in the construction of a large shrine where to this day thousands upon thousands of documented miracles have taken place through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary. **JNM**

NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF FATIMA

(EACH DAY FOR NINE DAYS):

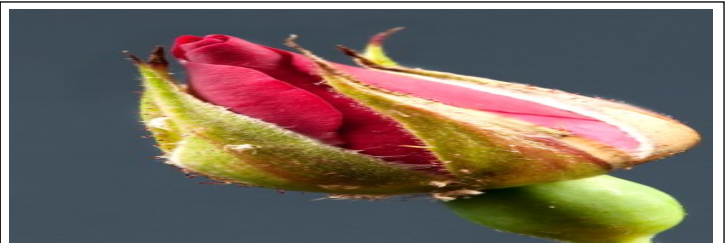
Most Holy Virgin, who has deigned to come to Fatima to reveal to the three little shepherds the treasures and graces hidden in the Rosary, inspire our hearts with a sincere love of this devotion, so that by meditating on the mysteries of our redemption that are recalled in it, we may gather the fruits and obtain the conversion of sinners, the conversion of Russia, and the favor that I so earnestly seek.....which I ask of you in this novena, for the greater glory of God, for your own honor, and for the good of all people. Amen.

(Recite the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be, three times each)

Discerning the will of God

Unfolding of a Rose

A young new priest was walking with an older, more seasoned pastor in the garden one day. Feeling a bit insecure about what God had in store for him to do, he was inquiring of the older priest about discerning God's will.



The old priest walked up to a rose bush and handed the young priest a rosebud. He told the young man to open the rosebud without tearing off any of the petals. The young priest looked in disbelief at the older man, as he tried to understand what a rosebud could possibly have to do with discerning the will of God for his life.

Because of his great respect and admiration for the old priest, the young priest proceeded to unfold the rose, while at the same time trying to keep every petal intact. It wasn't long before he realized how impossible it was to do so.

Noticing the younger priest's inability to unfold the rosebud while keeping it intact, the old pastor began to recite the following poem....

It is only a tiny rosebud,
A flower of God's design;
But I cannot unfold the petals
With these clumsy hands of mine.

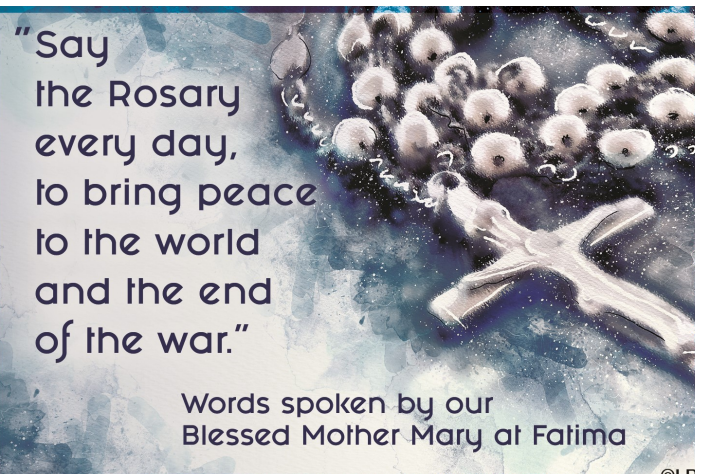
The secret of unfolding flowers
Is not known to such as I.
GOD opens his flower so sweetly,
When in my hands they fade and die.

If I cannot unfold a rosebud,
This flower of God's design,
Then how can I think I have wisdom
To unfold this life of mine?

So I'll trust in him for his leading
Each moment of every day.
I will look to him for his guidance
Each step of the pilgrim way.

The pathway that lies before me,
Only my heavenly Father knows.
I'll trust him to unfold the moments,
Just as he unfolds the rose.

Author Unknown



FOUR SEATS LEFT

THE BEST OF ITALY
12 DAYS: OCT. 30 TO NOV. 10, 2023
DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS

ACT FAST!



FANTASTIC ITALIAN EXCURSION
VISITING:

***VENICE**, ***PADUA**, ***FLORENCE**, ***ASSISI**,
***ORVIETO**, ***ROMA**

AUDIENCE WITH POPE FRANCIS

◊ Visit **Padua** and the Basilica and tomb of St. Anthony of Padua, the *Patron Saint* of lost articles, and everybody's favorite saint!
◊ In **Venice**, take a ride on the historic gondola! Walk the tiny streets, smell the aromas emanating from small mom & pop eateries, while looking at the historic and ornate buildings. We dine on the mainland and take a water cab back to our hotel after an unforgettable day!

◊ In **Florence**, bask in artistic brilliance, walk the streets in the city that gave birth to the **Renaissance!** Gaze at **Michelangelo's incredible David**, shop for gold or leather, visit the **Villa of Machiavelli** for an evening of dining and entertainment!

◊ In **Assisi**, walk the footsteps of St. Francis, leisurely walk the tiny cobblestone streets that lead to the massive cathedral that bares his name. Visit the legendary **San Damiano**, where Christ from the cross spoke to St. Francis!



◊ Visiting **Orvieto**, walk the quaint, yet picturesque streets, sip on a cold glass of **Orvieto wine**, sample a plate of **Spaghetti Carbonara**, the best in Italy! Visit the grand **Basilica of the Annunciation** that houses the blood-stained corporal and vestments of the young priest (Fr. Peter), who while celebrating Mass in the year, 1263 AD, the Sacred Host when broken had blood on it. This is the **Eucharistic Miracle of Bolsena** that took place in the small Chapel of St. Christina.



◊**Bella Rome**—4 Glorious days in the Eternal City! ***THE WONDERS OF ROME WILL SURROUND YOU AND MISTIFY YOU!*** Visit historic sites like the **Pantheon**, **Trevi Fountain**, **Colosseum**, **Piazza Navona**, **Vatican museums**, **St. Peter's Basilica**, and **Michelangelo's Pieta** and **Sistine Chapel**. Visit the **Catacombs**, **Ancient Rome**, **Trastevere**. Dine out-of- doors and savor the incredible Italia cuisine and sooooo much more!



DON'T MISS OUT!

Contact Fr. Murasso TODAY at jeremiah.murasso@aol.com or 860-977-7675 for a **BROCHURE & RESERVATION FORM WHILE THERE IS STILL ROOM!**



THE HOLY LAND

10 DAYS: JANUARY 30 - FEBRUARY 8, 2024

VISITING: CAESAREA * HAIFA * NAZARETH * TIBERIAS
THE DEAD SEA * BETHLEHEM * MASADA * JERUSALEM



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\$3,799 FROM NEW YORK*

*Air/land tour price is \$3099 plus \$700 gov't taxes/
airline surcharges

For More Information, Please Contact:

Rev. Jeremiah N. Murasso, Ph.D.

Tel: (860) 977-7675

Email: jeremiah.murasso@aol.com



DON'T MISS THIS TRIP OF A LIFETIME!!



FLOWER SALE

On Saturday, May 13 from 11:00am - 3:00pm there will be a flower sale at St. Bernadette.

There will be a variety of annuals, vegetables and hanging baskets to choose from.

Ladies Guild

St. Pio of Pietrelcina Ladies' Guild

Inviting all ladies of St. Pio of Pietrelcina Parish to come with ideas and suggestions for the upcoming year.

The next Ladies' Guild meeting will be on Tuesday, May 8 at 7:00pm at Our Lady of Pompeii Church Hall.



St. PIO OF PIETRELCINA LADIES' GUILD

Bake Sale

**May 6th & May 7th
At ALL churches after each Mass**

We will also be holding a raffle for a beautiful spa day package worth over \$400.00

Please come and buy some delicious baked goods and tickets to win this beautiful basket, just in time for Mother's Day.

Corpus Christi Procession

Sunday, June 11 is the Feast of The Most Holy Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, commonly known by its former name, Corpus Christi. One of the ancient practices of the Church is a Eucharistic Procession, done on Corpus Christi. This practice dates back to the 13th century, in Cologne, Germany. By the 14th century, this practice had spread throughout Europe. Last year on Corpus Christi, we did a driving procession to all three of our campuses. However, the Eucharistic Procession should be one where the Eucharist, held in a monstrance, is carried through the streets.

So, we will be doing a Eucharistic Procession through the streets of East Haven and New Haven following the 11:15am Mass at St. Vincent de Paul. The procession will begin in the church, and proceed down Bradley Avenue to Francis Street, crossing Gerrish, before making our way to Burr Street where we will continue on all the way to St. Bernadette. Once we arrive at St. Bernadette, we will have adoration, a short reflection, and benediction before the Eucharist is reposed back into the tabernacle. Following benediction, we will have refreshments available either outside the church or over at the Senior Center. The distance of this walk is 1.9 miles, and will take approximately 45 minutes. Those wishing to walk should be physically able to make the journey, and should also make arrangements for transportation after walking from St. Vincent de Paul to St. Bernadette. This event is subject to change based on the weather. In the event of rain, we will simply have adoration and benediction at St. Vincent de Paul church following the 11:15am Mass. Those not wishing to walk can also join us at St. Bernadette for adoration and benediction at approximately 1pm. All are invited to participate in this event. Anyone who has questions can contact Fr. Patrick via email: kanepmk@gmail.com or by calling the office: 203-469-0764 ext. 232

MASS SCHEDULE



May 6 & 7, 2023

4:00pm OLOP: Fr. Borino
4:30pm SVDP: Fr. Murasso
8:00am OLOP: Fr. Murasso
9:00am SB: Fr. Kelly
10:00am OLOP: Fr. Patrick
11:15am SVDP: Fr. Murasso

May 13 & 14, 2023

4:00pm OLOP: Fr. Borino
4:30pm SVDP: Fr. Patrick
8:00am OLOP: Fr. Murasso
9:00am SB: Fr. Kelly
10:00am OLOP: Fr. Murasso
11:15am SVDP: Fr. Patrick

ASCENSION THURSDAY

May 18, 2023

8:00am OLOP: Fr. Murasso
9:15am SB: Fr. Murasso
12:15 SVDP: Fr. Borino
6:00pm OLOP: Fr. Kelly

May 20 & 21, 2023

4:00pm OLOP: Fr. Borino
4:30pm SVDP:
8:00am OLOP: Fr. Murasso
10:00am OLOP: Fr. Kelly
10:30am SB: Archbishop Blair
11:15am SVDP: Fr. Murasso

May 27 & 28, 2023

4:00pm OLOP: Fr. Murasso
4:30pm SVDP: Fr. Patrick
8:00am OLOP: Fr. Patrick
9:00am SB: Fr. Murasso
10:00am OLOP: Fr. Kelly
11:15am SVDP: Fr. Patrick



Have you recently lost a friend or family member?
Are you having difficulty concentrating and enjoying everyday activities?

Rajnet352@comcast.net or Phone: 713-898-2563
Barbara Natarajan