



*Founded in 1894 our parish is served by the Mercedarian Friars
Father Michael Rock, O. de M., pastor
Father Scottston Brentwood, O. de M., associate pastor*



First Holy Communion

OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH

Katherine Brown, Christine Cheely, Elizabeth Ermine,
Annamarie Gasiewski, Rocco Haselbarth, Mary Levenick,
Michael Levenick

“Spiraling out of control,” is a phrase that can easily describe the current display of human existence. In addition to the violence, unrest, uneasiness and turmoil that are common elements of our daily news, other essential pieces are misplaced or missing. Many lack an objective center around which to order and structure their lives or a clear set of definable goals or mores to act as guideposts and life directives. It appears that “feelings” have become a “new god” and traditional structures and ideals set aside. It is almost as if history only shows that we got this whole thing wrong and many are determined to finally set things right. The real truth, however, is that while wrongs and errors are certainly a part of our often-checked past, it is hardly the case that all was wrong. It is not our task to rewrite the history of our lives, but to learn from mistakes that were made, and preserve the perennial wisdom at the root of our successes. Learning is an essential part of being human.

The question becomes, however, from whom do we learn? Some have such a hard time placing God in that position, but that is precisely where God needs to be. God is the Master Teacher from whom all of humanity learns and gets its cues. It is in and through this relationship with the Gardener of Life that we are fashioned and pruned into the people we are intended to be and can be. It is only in God that we are able to find our best selves. Sadly, many think that religion too, as well as history in general, has also gotten all this wrong. Yet, our resurrection faith tells us differently. We are reminded, today especially, that we are meant to remain in Christ as Christ remains in us. We are also reminded that Jesus, the Incarnate God, is the vine upon which we grow, the branches that flow from the source of God’s life.

Giving up our will to God’s can be a painful endeavor. It is not easy to set our own desires and wants aside and allow God to step in and direct and guide our growth. But this is the only way to prevent deadly weeds from overtaking us and bringing us to a place of self-destruction. God’s commandments are the very guideposts and benchmarks we need, yet many seek to remove them from all public view because they appear to limit self-expression and suppress what is considered by many to be “human freedom.” They are the only way we can find freedom, however. And, until we learn this fundamental lesson, we will continue to spiral out of control, never really knowing who we are, what our potential can be or how life really can be lived. We will not know peace.



Readings for the Week of May 2, 2021

- Sunday: Acts 9:26-31/Ps 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32/
1 Jn 3:18-24/Jn 15:1-8
- Monday: 1 Cor 15:1-8/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Jn 14:6-14
- 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
- Next Sunday: Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4/1 Jn 4:7-10/Jn 15:9-17



Sunday, May 2

- 8:00am +Pamela Post
- 9:30am For the First Communicants
- 11:30am For the First Communicants
- 8:00pm Pro Populo

Monday, May 3 SS. Philip and James, Apostles

- 8:30am +Filomena Caviglia

Tuesday, May 4

- 8:30am +Janice Sims

Wednesday, May 5

- 8:30am Kendall James

Thursday, May 6 St. Peter Nolasco

- 8:30am Mercedarians, Living and Deceased

Friday, May 7

- 8:30am Maria Estela Choy

Saturday, May 8

- 8:30am For Vocations
- 4:00pm +Felix Goizueta-Diaz

Sunday, May 9

- 8:00am Pro Populo
- 9:30am Fr. Shaun Mahoney
- 11:30am For All Mothers, Living and Deceased
- 8:00pm +Philip Lomonaco

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The origins of the May Crowning are hard to pinpoint, although devotion to our Blessed Mother Mary originates in the earliest days of the church. Concerning the significance of the month of May, toward the end of the 18th century, Father Latomia of the Roman College of the Society of Jesus instituted the practice of dedicating this month to our Blessed Mother. His desire was to promote devotion to Mary among the students as a way to counteract infidelity and immorality. From Rome, the May devotion spread throughout the Jesuit colleges, and eventually throughout the whole church. Pope Pius VII in 1815 granted a partial indulgence for participating in either a public or private devotion honoring Mary during the month of May; Pope Pius IX made the indulgence plenary in 1859.



The May devotions also were energized by the four authenticated apparitions of our Blessed Mother. In 1830, Mary appeared to St. Catherine Laboure and instructed her to have the Miraculous Medal struck with the inscription, "Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee." In 1846, she appeared to the children of La Salette, France, and tearfully lamented the lax practice of the faith. In 1858, she appeared to St. Bernadette at Lourdes, identifying herself as the "Immaculate Conception." Finally, she appeared to the three children at Fatima May 13, 1917, where she instructed the people to pray the rosary daily for peace.

Regarding the crowning, the image of Mary (as well as Jesus) wearing a gold crown is found in the earliest forms of iconography, especially in the Eastern Churches. In the West, the pious practice of publicly crowning an image of the Blessed Mother gained popularity in the 19th century. In Rome, the image known as *Salus Populi Romani* — of our Blessed Mother holding the Child Jesus — is enshrined at the Basilica of St. Mary Major. Tradition holds that St. Luke painted the image. Pope Clement VIII (1592-1605) added two crowns to the icon, which were at some point later lost. Nevertheless, on Aug. 15, 1838, the Feast of the Assumption, Pope Gregory XVI with great solemnity, again added the crowns, and thereupon the practice of crowning the image of the Blessed Mother became popular, especially during the month of May.

Next Sunday we will have May Crowning at our 9:30 and 11:30 am Masses.



Hello, Our Lady of Lourdes family! We're concluding our semester here at Seton Hall again, and it has again been a strange but great one. We kicked off our semester in February with our annual FOCUS conference which, although virtual, was able to reach 50% more Seton Hall students than we ever had before! With so much momentum from that, we were able to overcome obstacles and have brought even more students to Bible studies this year than we did before. We've truly seen some miraculous things happen, and my team and I are so grateful to you all for helping make it possible for us to be here. We are praying for you all and your safety, and I pray that your Easter continues with joy!

God bless,

James Hare

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Fellowship of Catholic University Students
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ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM

Please remember the souls of the faithfully departed.

REMEMBER OUR SICK

Dorothy Hardy, Kurt Mohammed, Patricia Nicholson, Colin Ramberan, Avery Lofton, Eugene Colombaro, Monica Ramberan, Margaret Davis, Kaela Davis, Yosan Gabriel, Daisy Gray, Jenell Sifontis, Cathy Norman, Sabrina Freeman, Leslie Wade, Esmond Family, Aileen Regan, Sarah and Michael Regan, Kelly Regan, Scott Stierheim, Sr. Mary Charles, A.S.S.P., Mecca Taylor, Melissa Becker, Christian Laffy, Lisa Becker, Debbie Everett, Nigel Simon, Donald Graham, Jean Hargraves, Marci Wade, Mary Frances Doran, Maureen Doran Hendrix, Melissa Potts, Cayla Wade, Theresa Gilliam, Suzanne Dupre, Indramattie Somwaru, John Bricker, Alina Simon, Carmelina Desiderio, Graham Family, Chuck Murrin, Samantha Johnson, Holly, Damon, and Stephen Anthony, Charles Epps, Ramona Wade, Charles V. Murrin

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For All Mercedarians, Living and Deceased

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Congratulations to the children celebrating their

First Communion this weekend.

Please remember them in your prayers.

First Communion Prayer

Dear Jesus,

through bread and wine at the Last Supper,
and by your holy word,

you gave the Eucharist to your church.

You transformed common food and drink
into your Body and Blood,

and offered us a share in your life

in ways we still cannot fully understand.

Grant now that these young people
will always treasure the gift they have in you.

Give them the grace to be faithful to you
and to remain in communion with your church.

As they receive their first Communion,
the Bread of Life and Cup of Salvation,
make them always aware of the hope they have
for eternal life in you. Amen.





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