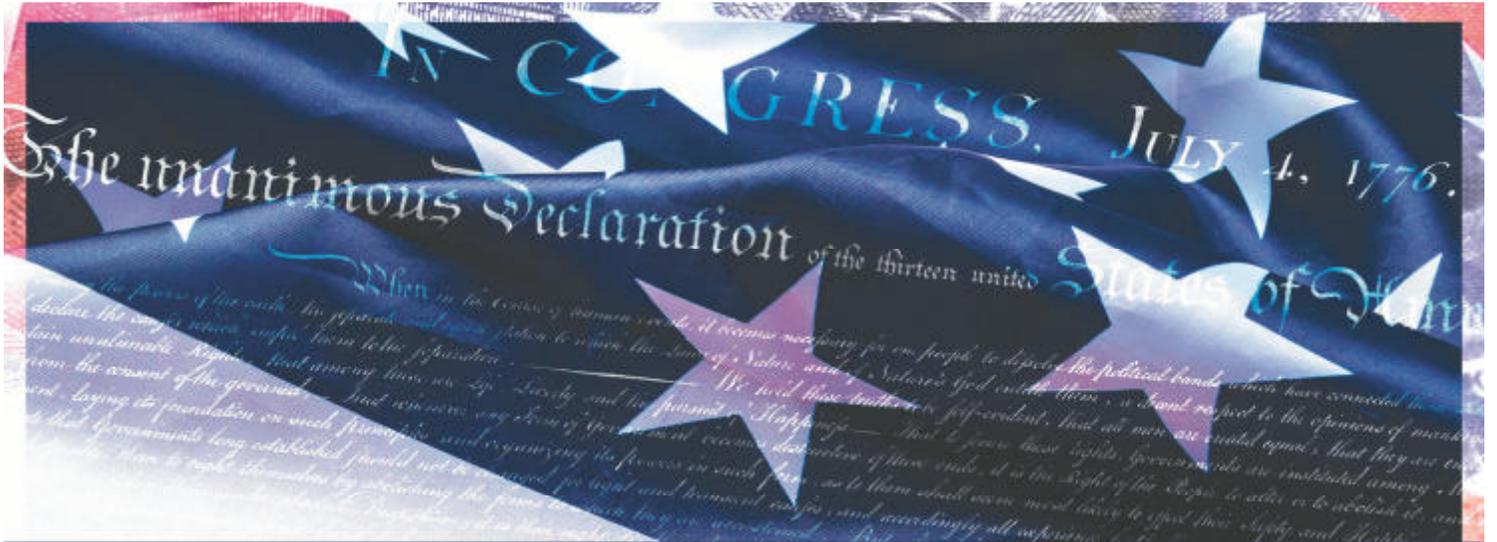




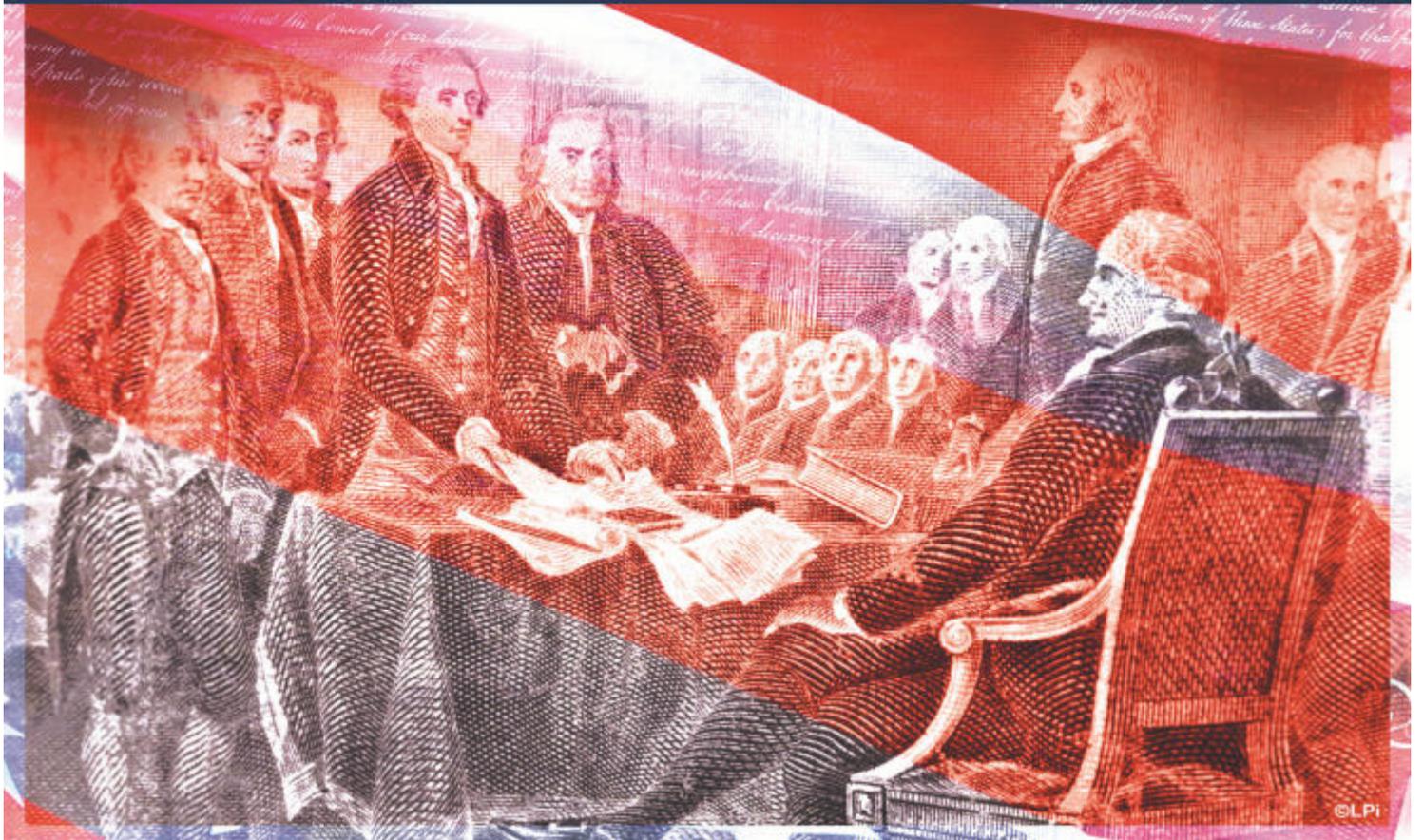
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church

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Founded in 1894



INDEPENDENCE DAY



14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

It's all so ordinary that we can easily miss it. The seagulls hunting and diving for mollusks at the beach offer a display of determination and precision as they gather their food for the day. It's simply what these creatures do. Yet, there's a magical artfulness and skill to their work that speaks volumes about the One who breathed life into their being. This is pretty much the way it is with God's presence. God comes in common ways through common things and ordinary people. Sadly, we are so engulfed in our little worlds of order and ideas to notice the beauty and wonder of it all. Many have numbed themselves to the Divine spark at the essence of all life because that's just the way it is. What's so special about it? A sunset is a sunset and a seagull is a seagull. That's precisely what they thought about Jesus too. After all, isn't he just the carpenter's son? What merit can his words possibly have?

If we're looking for God to come in an event that is so dramatic and intense that it knocks our socks off, then think again. When pondering God's relationship with His people and God's action in our lives, we have to go back to the stable and the recurring, creative, unending power of God's presence. It was a quiet, run of the mill kind of night. There was nothing spectacular or extraordinary. To the naked eye, a woman gave birth to a child and there wasn't anything extraordinary to see. We have a hard time understanding God's ordinary-ness. Jesus grew up in an ordinary town, had neighbors and did normal human things. Perhaps that's why we don't always like the Gospel. It doesn't dazzle us with extraordinary things but simply challenges us to take a different look at our ordinary stuff. That makes us uncomfortable. We prefer things as they are. Our lack of faith can even cause us to take offense at what Jesus says and does, dismissing it as folly.

God's life-giving presence continues to sustain that seagull in flight and keep all things in being regardless of whether we have the faith to see and understand this. Our personal agendas, preconceived ideas, misconceptions, and expectations can often cause us to be hardened and blinded to what God is doing or desiring to do. While God continues to do what he has done for all eternity, faith is needed for God's presence to bear fruit. The blinders we wear and the expectations we bring to life can often prevent us from seeing graced moments that radiate with God's graceful presence. They also prevent God's transforming, healing, and hope filled vision for our world from being realized. Without faith, God won't be able to do much for us either.



Readings for the Week of July 4, 2021

- Sunday: Ez 2:2-5/Ps 123:1-2, 2, 3-4/2 Cor 12:7-10/
Mk 6:1-6a
- Monday: Gn 28:10-22a/Ps 91:1-2, 3-4, 14-15 ab/
Mt 9:18-26
- Tuesday: Gn 32:23-33/Ps 17:1b, 2-3, 6-7ab, 8b and
15/Mt 9:32-38
- Wednesday: Gn 41:55-57; 42:5-7a, 17-24a/Ps 33:2-3, 10-
11, 18-19/Mt 10:1-7
- Thursday: Gn 44:18-21, 23b-29; 45:1-5/Ps 105:16-17,
18-19, 20-21/Mt 10:7-15
- Friday: Gn 46:1-7, 28-30/Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28,
39-40/Mt 10:16-23
- Saturday: Gn 49:29-32; 50:15-26a/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-
7/Mt 10:24-33
- Next Sunday: Am 7:12-15/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14/Eph
1:3-14 or 1:3-10/Mk 6:7-13



Sunday, July 4

- 8:00am +Graziano and Angela Fabiano
- 9:30am Fr. J. Horvath
- 11:30am For Our Nation
- 8:00pm Pro Populo

Monday, July 5 St. Anthony Zaccaria

- 8:30am Maria Estela Choy

Tuesday, July 6 St. Maria Goretti

- 8:30am +Vito Baldini

Wednesday, July 7

- 8:30am Rebecca J. Gerard

Thursday, July 8

- 8:30am +Carroll Family

Friday, July 9 Feast of the Holy Redeemer

- 8:30am Mercedarian Vocations

Saturday, July 10

- 8:30am Deceased Mercedarians
- 4:00pm +Felix Goizueta-Diaz

Sunday, July 11

- 8:00am Pro Populo
- 9:30am +John Le
- 11:30am +Joan Brunner; and Deceased of the
Martinelli and Brunner Family
- 8:00pm +Buccino/Talarico/Mollinedo Family



The parish office will be closed Monday July 5th, as part of the Independence Day Holiday. In an emergency you can reach Fr. Michael at: 595-474-3969



Today throughout the United States, we celebrate our freedom. Our rights are protected and opportunities abound. We recognize that freedom has a cost, one we celebrate and honor on days such as this. It's good to honor those who fight for our country, who may well pay the ultimate price for the liberties we're afforded. As faithful Catholics, we recognize that there is more to freedom than simply being at liberty to make our lives what we want them to be. St. John Paul II reminds us: "Freedom is not just doing what we can, it is doing what we ought." We become freer within ourselves and within our relationships when we choose what is right and good. When we choose sin, we become trapped in egoism - less free, not more. This Independence Day, let's continue to pursue virtue and good character and encourage others to do this same.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

We all know these words by heart. They are from the United States Declaration of Independence. However, are these words held with the same reverence around the world as they are held here at home? Sadly, no. There are many places in the world where it is a life-threatening endeavor to practice one's faith, that faith that was given to each human by that Creator who endowed us with inalienable rights.

Let us take a moment to remember all those people in the world who are not free to seek life, liberty or happiness.

God, giver of all good gifts,
 Help us to be thankful for rest and food,
 and remember that, in all we do or say,
 you are with us, here this day.
 We are thankful for all you do
 and for everything you have given us.
 But above all we are thankful for our freedoms
 and the ability to protect others' freedom.
 We are free because of you.
 We ask for your continued blessing on all your creation.
 Through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Our Lord Jesus Christ is the Redeemer of all mankind. From what misfortune did He free us? The mystery of original sin and man's enslavement to the influence of the devil, is the key to the other mysteries of our religion, although it is the most difficult for us to grasp. A redeemer is one who pays the debt of another, to deliver him from an unfortunate situation from which he finds himself unable to be liberated without aid. An example, is the Mercedarian Order whose members dedicated themselves to the *redemption of captives*, paying for their release or offering to serve in the place of those who had become slaves of the Moors. Several religious Orders celebrate a feast day honoring Christ the Redeemer as part of their community devotion and charism. Friday, July 9th is the calendar day that the Mercedarian community celebrates each year this feast day – a reminder to them of Jesus's loving act of redemption and their commitment to offer themselves, in imitation of Christ the Redeemer, for others who are in danger of losing their faith.

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, Yosan Gabriel, Jenell Sifontis, Cathy Norman, Sabrina Freeman, Leslie Wade, Esmond Family, Scott Stierbeim, 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, David and Gay Cooper, Lori Cooper, Jack Weber, Dolores M. Hasson

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The Sanctuary Lamp intention is:

For Our Nation

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We offer to anyone who may wish to 'donate' for the following "Memorials":
 For personal intentions; For your beloved dead; and/or For the living
Sanctuary Lamp in the Church - \$15.00 per week

Have you heard of the patron saint of purity? Born to peasant parents in southern Italy, St. Maria Goretti was a devout girl whose life was marked by difficulty.



Her father died when she was nine, leaving her single mother with six mouths to feed. Two neighbors helped on the family farm, including a young man named Alessandro. He began making crude comments towards Maria. She repeatedly denied him. After several years, Alessandro attacked Maria to force himself on her. She resisted and, in his anger, Alessandro stabbed her. Maria died from the wounds' infections, but her last words were "I forgive Alessandro Serenelli, and I want him with me in heaven forever." While he was in prison, Maria appeared to Alessandro with a bouquet of roses, one for each wound he inflicted. In a true miracle of mercy, Alessandro experienced repentance, became a Franciscan brother after his release, and was later present at Maria's canonization. St. Maria Goretti, pray for us!



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