



*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*



OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH

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SUNDAY, JULY 25, 2021

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



“There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what good are these for so many?” Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed them to those who were reclining, and also as much of the fish as they wanted. - Jn 6:9, 11

St. Oscar Romero said, *“We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something and to do it very well. It may be incomplete, but it is the beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord’s grace to enter and do the rest.”*

There were a group of ladies many years ago who made quilts. They were beautiful creations reflecting inspirational designs artfully composed from the simple scraps of fabric each woman would bring to their individual pieces. There was no plan for the finished project as each finished work became the combined creation of what each woman contributed. They abounded in vibrant colors and dazzled the beholder with intricate patterns and their myriad textures. They were so beautiful that they became coveted family treasures passed from generation to generation. Those women never realized the power of their work. Countless babies rested in the comfort of those quilts warmly nestled in the legacy of tradition they were fortunate to inherit. They adorned countless homes with their beauty and brought joy and solace to many faces.



We cannot do everything. We are not meant to. Our work in life is to contribute our individual piece, a piece that reflects the unique thumbprint I claim as my own. We only have to do small things well. Then, as St. Oscar Romero reminds us, the Lord’s grace will enter and do the rest. We have to trust that this is true just as those women trusted in the eventual beauty of their final work.

Eucharistic blessings are blessings that start small and multiply. We all come to life with only a few loaves of bread and a few fish. Not any single one of us has all that it takes to transform our world. Who knows what God will do with the little we have and how many will benefit from our kindness, compassion, wisdom, courage, conviction, love, warmth, zeal, faith, and hope? That young lad never dreamed that his few leftovers would do all that they did. God shows up in unexpected ways! Where would life’s adventure and fun be if it were any other way? Being able to be part of bringing God’s creative, transforming, healing to the world opens us up to wonder, awe, and excitement! We can all bring our little piece to the bigger work of God that can result in being a coveted jewel passed generation to generation. This is good news indeed!

Bread and wine transform into Christ’s Body and Blood and we become what we eat. Trust that.



Readings for the Week of July 25, 2021

- Sunday: 2 Kgs 4:42-44/Ps 145:10-11, 15-16, 17-18/
Eph 4:1-6/Jn 6:1-15
- Monday: Ex 32:15-24, 30-34/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22,
23/Mt 13:31-35
- Tuesday: Ex 33:7-11; 34:5b-9, 28/Ps 103:6-7, 8-9, 10-
11, 12-13/Mt 13:36-43
- Wednesday: Ex 34:29-35/Ps 99:5, 6, 7, 9/Mt 13:44-46
- Thursday: Ex 40:16-21, 34-38/Ps 84:3, 4, 5-6a and 8a,
11/Jn 11:19-27 or Lk 10:38-42
- Friday: Lv 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34b-37/Ps 81:3-4,
5-6, 10-11ab/Mt 13:54-58
- Saturday: Lv 25:1, 8-17/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8/Mt 14:1-12
- Next Sunday: Ex 16:2-4, 12-15/Ps 78:3-4, 23-24, 25, 54/
Eph 4:17, 20-24/Jn 6:24-35



Sunday, July 25

- 8:00am Pro Populo
- 9:30am Rev. James W. Mayer, O.de M.
- 11:30am +Marlene Stewart-Keller
- 8:00pm +Buccino/Talarico/Mollinedo

Monday, July 26 *Saints Joachim and Anne*

- 8:30am +Joyce Fries

Tuesday, July 27

- 8:30am +All Souls in Purgatory

Wednesday, July 28

- 8:30am Julio and Margarita Santos

Thursday, July 29 *Saints Martha, Mary, and Lazarus*

- 8:30am Brandon and Angelina Hardy

Friday, July 30 *St. Peter Chrysologus*

- 8:30am Albert Callahan

Saturday, July 31 *St. Ignatius of Loyola*

- 8:30am +Eileen Bradley
- 4:00pm +Vincent and Anna Carbone; and
Anthony DiSante

Sunday, August 1

- 8:00am +Joseph Sarti
- 9:30am Alfonso DiGirolamo III
- 11:30am +Daisy Gray
- 8:00pm Pro Populo

Please share the news that the special dispensation from attending Mass on Sunday and Holy Days due to the pandemic will end on Sunday, August 15th.



Greetings and the peace of the Lord to all. I wanted to share with you that you will not see me for this weekend and, in fact, the next two weekends also. No, I am not on vacation! This weekend I am just down the street at St. Matthias in Bala Cynwd. I am preaching at all their Masses for the Mission Appeal program to assist our Mercedarian Missions. Next weekend, I am "swapping" pulpits with Father Matthew Phelan. I have been asked to celebrate a wedding in LeRoy, NY where Father Matthew is pastor so he will be here next weekend to celebrate our Masses and I will do the same at his parish of Our Lady of Mercy. Then the third weekend, August 7-8th, I have been asked to be the Mass celebrant and speaker at the national convention for the Italian Sons and Daughters of America. Even though you may not see me on the weekends I will be here during the week and Father Scott will keep things running smooth when I am not here. May the Lord bless each of you and keep you safe and healthy. God Bless!

Fa. Michael

LIVE THE LITURGY
INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

God shows up in unexpected ways! Just when we think we have God's agenda figured out, another surprise comes. Expecting to find God only in some places hinders us from finding Him everywhere. Who would have thought that a young boy's few loaves and fishes would feed thousands of people? The disciples were probably just as amazed as everyone else when this feast appeared before them. Sometimes, we find it difficult to believe that God can do amazing things with something small and simple. Yet, grasping this truth is really at the heart of understanding the power of the Eucharist. Having the Body and Blood of Christ made present for us is one amazing wonder. Actually being fed and nourished by that gift is another. Now being able to become what we have eaten, God can do tremendous things with the simple, humble gifts of our lives. All we have to do is realize that God dwells within us. When we do, then everyone we encounter and everything we do has the power to become a sacramental moment. When done with great love even the smallest gesture can be multiplied exponentially. Now, that's amazing!

STEWARDSHIP A WAY OF LIFE
Our Lady of Lourdes - A Tithing Community
Total Collection for Sunday, July 18th: \$ 9,009.03
 Offertory: \$ 7,468.50
 Electronic Giving: \$ 1,540.53
We are grateful to all of you for your continued support of our parish and its ministries. God Bless you!

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, Carmelmina 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 an increase in vocations to religious life

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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

July 26 is the feast of Joachim and Anna.

Who are they and what do we know about them?

Joachim and Anna are the parents of Mary, the mother of Jesus, yet there is absolutely no biblical reference to them whatsoever. So where do we get their names, and what is their story?

Their names are found in an apocryphal (hidden) gospel known as "The Infancy Gospel of James." Apocryphal, or hidden gospels, consist of accounts of Jesus' life that were ultimately not accepted as inspired works, and thus were not included in the Bible. However, they sometimes captured the Christian imagination, spilling into the devotional dimension of the community.



James' infancy gospel begins with the parents of Mary and their desire for a child. In their prayer and petitions to God, they are heard and given the blessings of a child, whom they named Mary. While we have no idea who Mary's parents really were, the fact that we celebrate the feast of Joachim and Anna indicates that the bond of family love is important in the Christian life.

Long before Grandparents' Day was established, the church had a feast that honored the presumed grandparents of Jesus. While their names are part of non-inspired apocryphal legends, the fact of the Savior's human ancestry is not. Christ, the incarnate Word, dwelt among us in the flesh in a human family. In honoring the grandparents of Jesus we really proclaim our faith in the Incarnation--God becoming human!



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