

OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH

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SUNDAY, MAY 15, 2022

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER



[Jesus said,] "My children, I will be with you only a little while longer. I give you a new commandment: love one another."

- Jn 13:33a, 34a

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

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Served by the Mercedarian Friars USA

Pastor: Fr. Matthew H. Phelan, O. de M.

Parochial Vicar: Fr. Daniel A. Bowen, O. de M.

Other members of the Local Mercedarian Community:

Br. Martin J. Jarocinski, O. de M. & Br. Dominic Matthew F. Whetzel, O. de M.

“It is necessary for us to undergo many hardships to enter the Kingdom of God.” Many folks really work very hard to circumvent difficult situations. We prefer the easier way around something, rather than risk inconvenience, hurt or prolonged suffering. It’s no wonder euthanasia is rapidly becoming acceptable around the world. Through purely human eyes, there is no issue bypassing the inevitable, taking control and bringing things more swiftly to a place of peace. If this is the way God sees things, then why does Jesus make such a big deal helping us understand the experience of suffering and embrace it? God’s wisdom clearly takes us in another direction. Imagine if we were able to eradicate ALL hardship and suffering.



Where would we be? As we look at our own journeys, many of our solid more growth producing life lessons have been born of suffering, disappointment, inconvenience, darkness, and despair. There is something sacred about all of these experiences as God uses them to create something new. Envisioning a life without hardship and suffering brings us to a vision where everything is flat-lined and dull. As much as hardship and suffering are difficult crosses to bear, not taking them up runs the risk of us becoming shallow, empty, and lifeless. Helen Keller remarks that, “a happy life consists not in the absence but in the mastery of hardships.” What an incredibly wise insight! Many really successful people and saints were brought to their station in life because they suffered. Suffering teaches us about what’s important and propels us to search the depths of our souls for resources and strength we never would have known before. This is especially true when we love as Jesus asks us to love. Love, perhaps above any other experience, can cause us great hardship, pain, and suffering especially when it’s authentic and unconditional. While it can thrust us into an incredible experience of God and life on one hand, it can bruise and wound us deeply on the other. Mastering the art of love is the secret to living life well, walking in the presence of God and investing in the joy of the Gospel. Love and suffering walk hand in hand. Compromising one will compromise the other. Maybe that’s why Jesus spent so much time convincing us to accept both.

The resurrected Christ gives us the strength to do things we can never have imagined. Life will often give us mountains to climb, and we wonder how we will find the energy, ability, and determination to forge ahead. But, with a good dosage of faith and a fervent life of prayer we find ourselves succeeding and ascending to heights that once frightened us. What we realize after we have reached the other side is that this hardship we once saw as an obstacle has become a vehicle for something better and greater. We are stronger. The same is true with the Gospel. The prospect of loving one another may seem idealistic or unobtainable. Yet, when we risk moving beyond just looking out for or helping each other to actually LOVING each other, miracles happen. There is something wonderful that occurs with love. We see people in ways we never saw before, understanding and appreciating each other’s journey. Love leads to reverence. Faith is strengthened and we move on to try again.

Readings for the Week of May 15, 2022

- Sundays: Acts 14:21-27/Ps 145:8-9, 10-11, 12-13/Rv 21:1-5a/Jn 13:31-33a, 34-35
- 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
- Next Sunday: Acts 15:1-2, 22-29/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [4]/Rv 21:10-14, 22-23/Jn 14:23-29



Sunday, May 15

- 8:00am +Fr. Michael R. Rock, O. de M.
- 9:30am Harold Fries
- 11:30am +Thomas, Laura, and Maria Ranieri
- 8:00pm Pro Populo

Monday, May 16

- 8:30am Marye O’Reilly Knapp

Tuesday, May 17

- 8:30am +Buccino/Talarico/Mollinedo Family

Wednesday, May 18 St. John I

- 8:30am Lauren Marie Wade

Thursday, May 19

- 8:30am Paul Richardson

Friday, May 20 St. Bernadine of Siena

- 8:30am +All Souls in Purgatory

Saturday, May 21 St. Christopher Magallanes

- 8:30am +Fr. Michael R. Rock, O. de M.
- 4:00pm +Sister Mary Joseph, S.S.J.

Sunday, May 22

- 8:00am Pro Populo
- 9:30am Anh Linh Family
- 11:30am +Gina and Graziella Ferri
- 8:00pm Robert Jimmo



Our Lady of Lourdes has been approached by members of Saint Anastasia Parish (Newtown Square) Music Ministry. They inquired about "re-homing" the pipe organ facade from Saint Donato to the Saint Anastasia choir loft. The few dozen pipes that make up the facade are not part of the church's organ and actually don't sound. Saint Anastasia is home to many former Saint Donato parishioners -- and while searching for a pipe facade to install, discussions shifted to the possibility of honoring the Saint Donato music ministry at Saint Anastasia and providing a new home for the beautiful pipe organ facade. It is hoped the project to relocate the pipes can begin shortly. Inquiries or questions can be directed to Joe Holden, Saint Anastasia Music Director, at jholden@saintannies.org



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 Lafty, 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, Samantha Johnson, Charles Epps, Ramona Wade, David and Gay Cooper, Jack Weber, Miguel Pulido, Matthew Pulido, Alex Julius Wade, Bernadette Sanchez, Kaela Marie Davis, Catherine Joseph

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The Sanctuary Lamp intention is:

For the suffering Church and all Persecuted Christians

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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

Congrats

Congratulations to our Music Director, Rebecca Ostermann, who has completed her Doctoral Degree Program! Our Lady of Lourdes Parish is so blessed to be able to enjoy her musical talents each week. Her recital is archived at the Our Lady of Lourdes Overbrook YouTube page.

The Sacrament of First Holy Communion will be held next weekend on Saturday, May 21st at 4:00pm Mass and on Sunday, May 22nd at 9:30am Mass. Let us keep in prayer our First Communicants as they continue on their faith journey towards receiving the Eucharist.

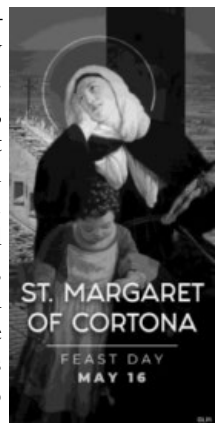
As we celebrate In-Pew Weekend for the 2022 Catholic Charities Appeal, I ask that you consider helping those most in need in the Greater Philadelphia Area. I thank all of those who have given and I ask those who have not given yet to prayerfully consider helping those individuals in need by supporting the 2022 Catholic Charities Appeal.

This weekend we are honored to hear from Loretta Graham, and next weekend from Anne DeSantis, speaking on behalf of the Catholic Charities Appeal and the impact it has on the most needy in the Greater Philadelphia Area. Please consider a donation to support the mission of the CCA. Please visit catholiccharitiesappeal.org to make your donation.

STEWARDSHIP A WAY OF LIFE
GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING
Our Lady of Lourdes - A Tithing Community
 Total Collection: \$ 8,653.00
 Offertory: \$ 5,968.00
 Electronic Giving: \$ 2,685.00

Thank You for your continued support and generosity.

Though St. Margaret of Cortona (1247 – 1297) is today known as being an incredibly pious Catholic, she didn't start out that way. Born into a farming family in Laviano, Tuscany, her mother died when St. Margaret was seven. Her father remarried, but life with her stepmother was so difficult that St. Margaret moved out of the home and instead chose to live with a man named Arsenio, though they weren't married. They had been living together for nine years when she gave birth to a son. Knowing in her heart that this wasn't the life that God intended for her to have, she prayed for purity. One day while waiting for Arsenio, his dog led her into the forest where she found Arsenio murdered. So shocked was St. Margaret that she fell into a life of penance. She and her son returned to Laviano, but still found her stepmother to be as unwelcoming as ever. They then went to Cortona, and eventually her son became a friar. Three years after her conversion, St. Margaret followed in her son's footsteps and became a Franciscan tertiary. During her life, St. Margaret established a hospital and founded a congregation of tertiary sisters. She was canonized in 1728.





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