

PRAYER CORNER

Almighty God, as we ask your help
for our brothers and sisters who are ill,
we ask you to help us to be healing people in our time and
place.

May your love touch others through us,
and may I help all people to live in peace.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

St. Frances of Assisi

JESUS SPEAKS TO US

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower.

He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and
every one that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit.

You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you.

Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear
fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you
unless you remain in me.”

John 15:1-4

May 2nd Collection

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Thank you so much
for your generosity and support
of our Parish.



OUR MOTHER OF MERCY

Historically African-American Catholic Church—all are welcome!

May 9, 2021



Bulletin printed in-house at:
**Our Mother of Mercy
Catholic Church**
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Fort Worth, TX 76104
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SVD

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**Easter — May 9th
Sixth Sunday of Easter**

The **Gospel** is from St. John 15:9-17. It is only a few weeks since Good Friday when we commemorated the agonizing death of Christ on Mount Calvary. This was an excruciating, shameful death even for hardened criminals who deserved it. But for our loving Savior, the innocent lamb of God, one who had never offended God or neighbor, it was something of which the whole human race should be ashamed forever. What caused Christ that torment and death on the cross was our sins, the sins of all mankind and not the spite and hatred of his Jewish opponents, who were only instruments in the tragedy. Atonement had to be made to God for the sins of the world, so that men could reach the eternal inheritance which the incarnation made available to them. However, not all the acts of the entire human race could make a sufficient atonement to God. A sacrifice, an expiation of infinite value was needed. The death of the Son of God in his human nature was alone capable of making such an expiation.

That Christ willingly accepted crucifixion for our sakes, that he gave the greatest proof of love which the world has ever known, by laying down his life for his friends, did not ease any of the pains of Calvary. His agony in the Garden before his arrest shows this: he foresaw all the tortures and pains which he was to undergo and sweated blood at the thought of what awaited him. But he was to keep his Father’s commandment “not my will but thine be done.” We Christians must have hearts of stone, hearts devoid of all sense of gratitude, when we forget what Christ has done for us and deliberately offend him! Alas, this is what all of us do sometimes, and many of us do all the time. Christ died to bring us to heaven but we tell him, by our sins, that he was wasting his time. We do not want to go to heaven,

we are making our happiness here!

Christ told us, through the disciples on Holy Thursday night, that he had made us his friends, his intimates. We are no longer servants in the household, who merely earn their daily wage and have no intimacy with the family and no hope of ever sharing in the family possessions. Instead, we have been adopted into the family by Christ becoming man, we have been guaranteed all the rights of children intimacy with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and the future sharing in the eternal happiness of that divine household. Christ’s incarnation made us God’s children; Christ’s death on the cross removed sin. Sin is the one obstacle that could prevent us reaching our eternal inheritance.

Because God gave us a free will we can in a moment of folly, a moment of madness really, deprive ourselves of the privileges and possessions which Christ has made available to us. We can choose to exchange an eternity of happiness for a few fleeting years of self-indulgence on earth. We can fling Christ’s gift of love back in his face and tell him we don’t want it. God forbid that we should ever act like this, that we should ever forget God’s purpose in creating us. It is a marvelous thing to be alive, if we have hope in a future life. If nothing awaited us but the grave, then to live on this earth, which is a valley of sorrow and tears for the vast majority, would be the cruelest of jests. But of this we need have no fear. Life on earth is but a short prelude to our real existence. If we use this brief period as Christ has told us how to use it, death for us will be the passage into the eternal mansions. Be grateful to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit; love the Blessed Trinity; prove your love by loving your fellowmen. By doing this you are fulfilling the whole law and the prophets; and you are assuring yourself of the place in heaven which Christ has won for you.

Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings* by Fr. Kevin O’Sullivan, O.F.M.

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**In Loving Memory of
Larry & Olga Martinez,
One Day at a Time.** ✕

Zenobia H Collins
Pianist
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PO Box 200162, Arlington, Texas 76006

Space Available
Please contact Lydia
at the Church Office
(817) 335-1695

Mass Schedule:

Monday-Friday — 7:00 a.m.

Saturday — 8:00 a.m.

Saturday — 5:00 p.m.

Sunday — 10:00 a.m.

Holy Day -- see bulletin

Confessions:

Wednesday 6:00 p.m. — 6:50 p.m.

Friday 9:00 a.m. — noon

Saturday 4:00 p.m. — 4:50 p.m.

Office Hours:

Mon, Wed, & Fri

10:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.

FATHER BART'S CORNER

My sisters and brothers:

Our Lady of Fatima

The famous apparitions of the Virgin Mary to the children of Fatima took place during the First World War, in the summer of 1917. The inhabitants of this tiny village in the diocese of Leiria (Portugal) were mostly poor people, many of them small farmers who went out by day to tend their fields and animals. Children traditionally were assigned the task of herding the sheep.

The three children who received the apparitions had been brought up in an atmosphere of genuine piety: Lucia dos Santos (ten years old) and her two younger cousins, Francisco and Jacinta. Together they tended the sheep and, with Lucy in charge, would often pray the Rosary kneeling in the open. In the summer of 1916 an Angel appeared to them several times and taught them a prayer to the Blessed Trinity.

On Sunday, May 13, 1917, toward noon, a flash of lightning drew the attention of the children, and they saw a brilliant figure appearing over the trees of the Cova da Iria. The "Lady" asked them to pray for the conversion of sinners and an end to the war, and to come back every month, on the 13th.

On that day a celestial phenomenon also took place: the sun seemed to tumble from the sky and crash toward earth. The children had been forewarned of it as early as May 13, the first apparition. The large crowd (estimated at 30,000 by reporters) that had gathered around the children saw the phenomenon and came away astounded.

Official recognition of the "visions" which the children had at the Cova da Iria came on October 13, 1930, when the bishop of Leiria - after long inquiry - authorized the cult of Our Lady of the Rosary at the site. The two younger children had died: Francisco (who saw the apparition but did not hear the words) on April 4, 1919, and his sister Jacinta on February 20, 1920. Sister Lucia died on February 13, 2005, at her Carmelite convent in Coimbra, Portugal, after a long illness.

With prayers and love,

Fr. Bart, S.U.D

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Monday, May 10

Live Stream Mass: 7:00 a.m.

Tuesday, May 11

Live Stream Mass: 7:00 a.m.

Wednesday, May 12

Live Stream Mass: 7:00 a.m.

Adoration 6:00 p.m. — 7:00 p.m.

Confessions 6:00 p.m. — 6:50 p.m.

Thursday, May 13

Live Stream Mass: 7:00 a.m.

Fatima Prayer 6:00p.m. — 7:00 p.m.

Vocation View

We are called to live in accord with the calling we have received, whether as priest, religious, married or single; encouraging one another by the example of our lives.

**Divine Word Vocation Office
1-800-553-3321
www.svdvocations.org**

Friday, May 14

Live Stream Mass: 7:00 a.m.

Adoration 8:00 a.m. — noon

Confessions 9:00 a.m. — noon

Saturday, May 15

Live Stream Mass: 8:00 a.m.

Adoration 4:00 p.m. — 5:00 p.m.

Confessions 4:00 p.m. — 4:50 p.m.

Mass: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 16

Live Stream Mass: 10:00 a.m.

Weekday Confessions thirty minutes before morning Mass.

Weekly Readings

5/10—ACTS 16:11-15;

JN 15:26-16:4a

5/11—ACTS 16:22-34; JN 16:5-11

5/12—ACTS 17:15, 22-18:1;

JN 16:12-15

5/13—ACTS 18:1-8; JN16:16-20;

5/14—ACTS 1:15-17; JN 15:9-17

5/15—ACTS 18:23-28; JN 16:23b-28

5/16—ACTS 1:1-11/EPH 1:17-23 or

EPH 4:1-13 or 4:1-7, 11-13;

MK 16:15-20

PARISH CORNER

Mother's Day

Mother's Day is a celebration honoring the **mother** of the family, as well as motherhood, maternal bonds, and the influence of **mothers** in society. It is fitting that we honor and celebrate our heavenly **mother**, the **Blessed Virgin Mary**, as well.

Mother's Day is a wonderful opportunity to highlight the beautiful vocation of motherhood and the gift of life. It calls us to cherish the gift of life that we receive from our mothers and to pray for all women to whom God has entrusted life in a very special way.

Not much is stronger than a mother's love for her child. Our mothers, together with our fathers, are the ones who first teach us about love and how to respond to those in need.

The Church, in many ways, is also a mother to us. She teaches us how to love and to respond to those in need. From her we receive the grace of the sacraments, are taught to hear the word of God, and receive teaching to guide our steps in the truth and freedom of the children of God.

Everyday, in a special way, let us be grateful for: Our mothers, by birth or adoption, who nurtured us and supported us through life. Our Church who takes on the maternal role of guiding us through life. And our Blessed Mother, who protects both the Church and all her children.



The loveliest masterpiece of the heart of God is the love of a Mother.

- St. Theresa of Lisieux

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Lady of Fatima

Please join us on Thursday, May 13th, from 6pm—7pm for rosary and other prayers to commemorate the 1st apparition of Our Lady of Fatima.

THE FLORIDA JOHNSON SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Announcing the Florida Johnson Scholarship applications for 2021: The scholarship, valued at a minimum of \$1000.00, shall be awarded to a graduating high school senior who is a member of Our Mother of Mercy Church or a relative of a KPC member. At the members' discretion, this amount may be divided among multiple awardees.

The funds are to be distributed prior to the Fall Semester registration, and are to be used for tuition, room and board, or books and supplies.

To qualify, the student must meet the following criteria: **1)** Exemplify good moral character and exceptional leadership skills; **2)** Devote time to church and community service; **3)** Meet the academic standards of 2.5 GPA or above and a minimum ACT score of 18 and/or SAT score of 800; **4)** Submit an essay on how the scholarship will benefit him/her and the community in 300 words or less; **5)** Submit **two** letters of recommendation from community members: priest, teacher, counselor, employer, community representative, etc. No letters will be accepted from the parent/guardian of a student or from another student; **6)** Submit copy of college acceptance letter; **7)** Submit all requested items and application to the Organization in a timely matter.

Deadline: Applications must be received by the KPCLA Scholarship Committee by June 15, 2021.

Applications are available from the Organization by writing to:

KNIGHTS OF PETER CLAVER-LADIES AUXILIARY

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

ST. VERONICA'S COURT #89 c/o floridajohnsonscholarship18@gmail.com.

Or an application may be picked up at the entrance to the church.

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

PRAYER IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

THE TRADITION OF PRAYER

"Today"

2659 We learn to pray at certain moments by hearing the Word of the Lord and sharing in his Paschal mystery, but his Spirit is offered us at all times, in the events of *each day*, to make prayer spring up from us. Jesus' teaching about praying to our Father is in the same vein as his teaching about providence:¹² time is in the Father's hands; it is in the present that we encounter him, not yesterday nor tomorrow, but today: "O that *today* you would hearken to his voice! Harden not your hearts."¹³

2660 Prayer in the events of each day and each moment is one of the secrets of the kingdom revealed to "little children," to the servants of Christ, to the poor of the Beatitudes. It is right and good to pray so that the coming of the kingdom of justice and peace may influence the march of history, but it is just as important to bring the help of prayer into humble, everyday situations; all forms of prayer can be the leaven to which the Lord compares the kingdom.¹⁴

IN BRIEF

2661 By a living transmission - Tradition - the Holy Spirit in the Church teaches the children of God to pray.

2662 The Word of God, the liturgy of the Church, and the virtues of faith, hope, and charity are sources of prayer.

2663 In the living tradition of prayer, each Church proposes to its faithful, according to its historic, social, and cultural context, a language for prayer: words, melodies, gestures, iconography. The Magisterium of the Church¹⁵ has the task of discerning the fidelity of these ways of praying to the tradition of apostolic faith; it is for pastors and catechists to explain their meaning, always in relation to Jesus Christ.

¹² Cf. Mt 6:11,34.
¹³ Ps 95:7-8.
¹⁴ Cf. Lk 13:20-21.
¹⁵ Cf. DV 10.