

THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY NAME OF JESUS

Glorifying His Holy Name since 1882!!

RECTORY: 99 Camp Street, Providence RI 02906
phone: (401) 272-4515
fax: (401) 272-4616
e-mail: theholyname99@gmail.com
website: <http://holynameprovidence.org>

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE:

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 PM
Sunday Masses: 7:30 AM (Latin Extraordinary Form)
9:00 AM
11:00 AM (Sung Latin Extraordinary Form)
12:30 PM (African Catholic Community)
Daily Mass: Monday - Friday 7:30 AM
Saturday 8:00 AM (Latin)

PARISH STAFF:

Administrator: Reverend Joseph D. Santos, Jr.

African Cath. Com. Chaplain: Rev. Lazarus Onuh

Parish Trustees: Mr. Mark Berardo and Mrs. Nkolika Onye

Religious Education Directress: Miss Tabitha Aldrich

Music Ministry:

Gospel Choir Coordinator: Ms. Joyce Braboy
African Choir Coordinator: Mr. Ignatius Ahamiojie
Schola Cantorum Organist/Director: Fr. Rinaldo Damian

Parish Office:

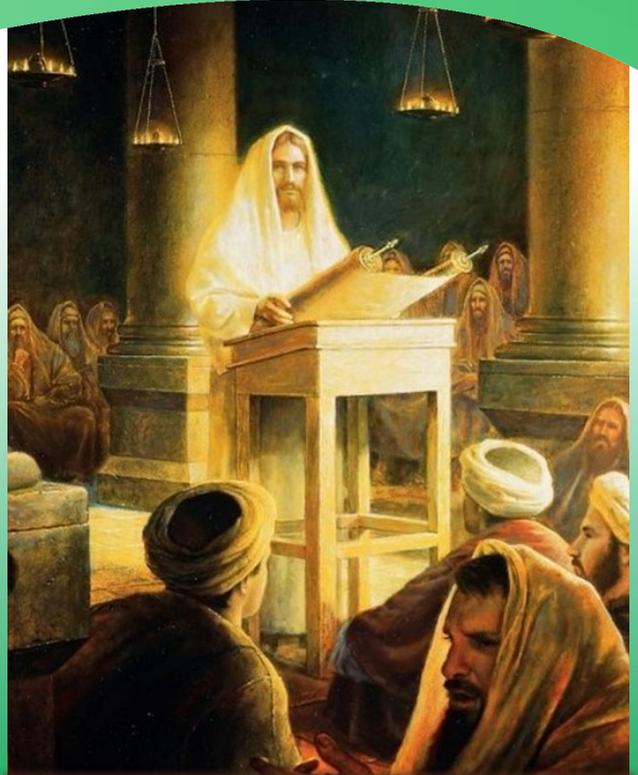
Receptionist: Mrs. Anne Marcaccio
Bulletin Secretary: Mrs. Joanna Fernandez
Financial Admin.: Mrs. Patricia Dowling
Bookkeeper: Ms. Brandy O'Donnell

Building & Grounds: Mr. Stephen Garrepy

Holy Hour: All Sundays of Lent Stations of the Cross with Benediction. All Sundays of May Marian Devotions with Benediction. For other celebrations please see the timetable inside the bulletin. Holy Hour is at 5:00 PM.

Saint Vincent de Paul: Please call for assistance: 305-0165

Bulletin Deadline: Sunday at noon.



“On the Sabbath Jesus entered the synagogue and taught. The people were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes.”

Sacrament of Baptism: Please call the Rectory for scheduling and Pre-Baptismal encounter

Sacrament of Penance: Wednesday evenings 4:30 to 5:30 PM. Saturday afternoon 3:00-3:45 P.M, last Sunday of the month from 10:00—11:00 AM or by appointment.

Sacrament of the Sick: Please notify us of all parishioners in the hospital, or needing Anointing of the Sick.

Sacrament of Marriage: Please contact the rectory at least 6 months in advance.

Holy Orders: Men interested in the Priesthood or the Diaconate may speak to Fr. Santos or contact the seminary (401) 831-8001 or check their web site: www.catholicpriest.com.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Every Wed. in the Lady Chapel: Exposition at 8:00 AM (after Mass), confessions from 4:30 to 5:15 PM, Benediction and Reposition at 5:15 PM. 1st Fri. Nocturnal Adoration begins with Mass and Expo. at 8:00 PM and concludes Sat. morning at 8:00 AM with Benediction and Mass.

Intercessory Prayer Network: Mrs. Rosemary Gomes 401-861-0620 or email to rnr518@yahoo.com.



“The sower went out
to sow his seed:
and as he sowed,
some fell on good ground:
and being sprung up
yielded fruit
a hundredfold.”

Gospel of Septuagesima



3RD SUN “PER ANNUM”/SEPTUAGESIMA SUN



Sat. Jan. 30th

- 8:00 AM Maria Estrela Sousa & Dorothy McCarthy (Mem) req by Kathleen Gaskell
- 4:00 PM Cynthia Gillespie (Mem) req by Joseph & Denise Cornwall

Sun. Jan 31st

- 7:30 AM Int of Fr. Nicholas req by R. Fox
- 9:00 AM Deolinda Alves (Mem) req by Fr. Joseph
- 11:00 AM Sarah Cornwall and parents Peggy & Harry Cornwall req. by Joseph and Denise Cornwall
- 12:30 PM Achiel Bauts (Mem) req by Joann Richmond

Mon. Feb. 1st,

- 7:30 AM Parishioners of Holy Name
- Tues. Feb. 2nd—Feast of the Presentation of our Lord and the Purification of our Lady,

- 7:30 AM Michelle Reinert (B'day Mem) req by the family
- 7:00 PM Mauricio Morales (Mem) req by the Davis family
- Wed. Feb. 3rd—St. Blaise, Bp. And M.,
- 7:30 AM Marie O'Connell (B'day Mem) req by Irene Zeigler
- 7:00 PM Robert Bauts (Mem) req by Joann Richmond

Thurs. Feb. 4th,

- 7:30 AM Walter Kerrigan (Mem) req by a friend
- Fri. Feb. 5th—St. Agatha, V. and M.
- 7:30 AM Health and Blessings on Rev. Joseph D. Santos Jr req by Ken and Sarah Garrepy

Sat. Feb. 6th—St. Paul Miki and Comp.

- 8:00 AM For the health of Steven Ferreira, Kim Walsh & Rita Orsini-Calabro req by Dorothy Castro
- 4:00 PM J. Charles Gettler (76th Anniv Mem) req by daughter Caroline

Sun. 7th,

- 7:30 AM John Hearry (Mem) req by the Anderson family
- 9:00 AM Asking God's blessing on the 11th birthday of Justice Fernandez req by the family
- 11:00 AM For the intentions of Wendy Maynard on her birthday req by her husband Allen and family
- 12:30 PM For the intentions of Grace Rai req by E. Lyons

Feb.2 Masses with the Blessing of Candles:

7:30 AM English and 7:00 PM Latin

Feb. 3 Masses with the Blessing of Throats:

7:30 AM English and 7:00 PM Latin

Wednesday Eucharistic Adoration

Adoration begins with Mass at 7:30 AM,
Divine Mercy Chaplet prayed at 3:00 PM.
Confessions heard 4:30 until 5:15 PM
Benediction of the Bl. Sac. at 5:15PM.
Adorers needed from 8-9 AM and 1-5 PM.
Check with Joanna Fernandez

**FEBRUARY IS DEDICATED TO
THE HOLY FAMILY**

If you would like the Shrine of the **Our Lady of Fatima** Check with Joanna Fernandez at 401-331-6353



Every Sunday

The 11:00 am

Extraordinary Form (Latin, Missal of 1962)

-and -

The 12:30 pm

Ordinary Form (Eng, African Cath. Com.)

Live streamed on Facebook from Holy Name Church.

**Feast of the Presentation of the Lord
and the Purification of our Lady**

The Meeting of the Lord in the Temple (also called the Presentation) is one of the 12 Great Feasts of the Orthodox Church, and is also one of the most ancient. Sermons for this feast were written by Methodius of Patara (+ 312), Cyril of Jerusalem (+ 360), Gregory the Theologian (+ 389), Amphilocius of Iconium (+ 394), Gregory of Nyssa (+ 400), and John Chrysostom (+ 407).

For we see here the passing of one covenant and the inauguration of another. The Old Covenant, represented here in the person of Simeon, is

nearing its final days. The age of the ethnic, biological definition of Israel is coming to a close, and a age of entrance into the New Israel through baptism is now dawning. The age of shadows and figures is passing, and the age of direct revelation in its fullness has now come.

Here in that Temple in Jerusalem that was made for the worship of God before the Incarnation now comes the incarnate God-man Himself. He is being dedicated to the Lord, but He is Himself the Lord. This earthly mother, accompanied by a foster-father, offers Him up to the heavenly Father, and He is offered up in the Temple that was made to worship Him.

Here, the Creator is being held in the arms of His creation. Here, the One Who is infinite and omnipotent appears as finite and helpless, sheltered from harm in the arms of His own creatures, whom He Himself shelters from harm. His parents come full of hope for the future of this child, and yet it is He Who is hope itself, the hope of all the ends of the earth, the hope of every creature. (From a sermon by Fr. Andrew Stephen Damick)



Rhode Island Catholic

Rhode Island Catholic's Annual Subscription Drive is underway!

In March 2020,

FAITH, FAMILY AND LIFE SINCE 1875

COVID-19 changed everything and your

diocesan newspaper responded immediately moving all publishing online to the RI Catholic website, TheRI-Catholic.com. As the pandemic unfolded, we continued to bring you the news of the diocese online, eventually returning to print biweekly, and finally back to weekly in this New Year.

Now more than ever, your diocesan newspaper depends on its faithful readers to continue its 145-year mission of bringing the good news of the church directly to you. If you are interested in starting a new subscription or continuing to receive Rhode Island Catholic in your mailbox each week, please either drop the specially marked parish budget envelope into the collection basket at Mass, call Circulation Manager Sue Richard at 401-272-1010 ext. 0, or visit the newspaper's website, www.thericatholic.com, and click on Subscribe to order and pay for a subscription. The cost for a year of in-home delivery of the newspaper is only \$30. Due to the ongoing pandemic online payments, checks or money orders are preferred (made payable to Rhode Island Catholic). Thank you!

Joseph John Forit, Army
 Matthew Belcastro, USMC
 Justin Thomson, USN (Nuc. Div.)
 Darren Glaser, USN
 Kathleen Myile Baker, USAF
 Elijah Reynolds, Army
 Lt. Ulysses Zamora, USN
 M. Sgt. William Lemieux, USMC
 Lt. Richard Coillot, USN
 Patrick J. Ruisi, R.I. Nat. G
 Maj. Sharon Harmon, Army
 Jason Darrahan, Army
 Alec Coggins, USMC
 Andrew Hewitt, USN
 Brooklyn Alves, Army
 Ben Powers, Army
 Peter Janotta, USN
 1st Lt. Jeffrey S. Lopardo, Army
To add or remove names call the rectory (401)272-4515

Aaron Stone, USMC
 Alex Brant, Army
 Josh Parker, USMC
 Jack Collins, Army
 Israel Hector, USAF
 Justin Freeman, USN
 Ty Lewis, Army
 Peter Blanchette
 Billy Pollard, Army
 Fabio Monteiro, Army
 Jeremy Darrahan, Army
 2nd Lt. Daniel Atkinson, USAF
 Dylan Sullivan, USMC SpS
 Sean Beddingfield, Army
 Res. Michael Donahue, USMC
 Michael Gonsalves, Army
 Major Pettaway USMC



COMMENTARY ON THE MASS ON SEXAGESIMA SUN. STATION AT ST. PAUL'S OUTSIDE THE WALLS

The Church teaches us "to celebrate the Paschal Sacrament" by "the scriptures of both Testaments". Through the whole of this week the divine office is full of the thought of Noe. God seeing that man's wickedness was great upon the earth said: "I will destroy man whom I have created"; and He told Noe: "I will establish my covenant with thee and thou shalt enter into the ark." For forty days and forty nights rain fell on the earth, while the ark floated on the waters which rose above the mountain tops and covered them; and in this whirlpool all men were carried away "like stubble" (Gradual); only Noe and his companions in the ark remaining alive. Then God remembered them and at length the rain ceased. After some time, Noe opened the window of the ark and set free a dove, which returned with a fresh olive leaf and Noe understood that the waters no longer covered the earth. And God told him, "Go out of the ark... go ye upon the earth, increase and multiply..." And the rainbow appeared as a sign of reconciliation between God and men.

That his story is related to the Paschal mystery is shown by the fact that the Church reads it on Holy Saturday; and this is how she herself applies it, in the Liturgy, to our Lord and His Church. "The just wrath of the Creator drowned the guilty world in the vengeful waters of the flood, only Noe being saved in the ark. But then the admirable power of love laved the world in blood." It was the wood of the ark which saved the human race and it is that of the Cross which in its turn, saves the world. "Thou alone," says the Church, speaking of the Cross, "hast been found worthy to be, for this shipwrecked world, the ark which brings safely into port." The open door in the side of the ark by which those enter who are to escape from the flood, and who represent the Church, are, as the liturgy explains, a type of the mystery of redemption; for from our Lord's wounded side flowed blood and water, symbols of the Eucharist and baptism.

"O God, who by water didst wash away the crimes of the guilty world, and by the overflowing of the deluge didst give a figure of regeneration, that one and the same element might in a mystery be the end of vice and the origin of virtue: look, O Lord, on the face of Thy Church and multiply in her Thy regenerations, opening the fountains of baptism all over the world to make new the Gentiles." "In the days of Noe," says St. Peter, "eight souls were saved by water, whereunto baptism being of the like form, now saveth you also."



Bible Study

As I am sure some of you have noticed the Bible Study never got started. God willing this year will give us the opportunity to have one. In the meantime check out the Bible Studies on FORMED. It is free to all of our Parishioners!

Pain in the Neck Repairs

We are proceeding with minor repairs around the Church and Rectory. Almost 10 pieces of the soffit on the front of the Rectory have been replaced. The new sign for the front of the Lady Chapel should be done by next week. The repair to the Rectory roof is waiting for two secure dry days in a row.

J-Mobil cleaning tower

The company in charge is still waiting for the go-ahead to clean out the Bird guano from the tower.

Gift towards Parish Center

Our African Catholic Community was finally able to sell the van—it will be transformed into a food selling vehicle! From the proceeds they very kindly donated \$500.00 towards the Parish Center fund.

Catechism

Hopefully the parents of our First Communion children are managing to keep things moving as they prepare their children for their meeting with Fr. Santos at the end of April. 1st Penance is tentatively scheduled for May 15th and 1st Communion for the 30th of May 2021.



New-New Envelope Company!

Please call or write the Rectory with any necessary corrections to your envelopes as quickly as possible! Also if you have not yet received your envelopes. Please help us to get this up and functioning properly.

Catholic Schools' Week

Almighty Father, You sent forth your Son as a beacon of hope for all people. As Teacher, He has given us the prime example of the importance of education. As disciples, we look to Him for inspiration and strength.

Thank You for the many sisters, brothers, priests, and laypeople who have dedicated their lives in service to our Catholic schools. Thank You for the teachers and administrators who sustain our schools today.

Thank You for the parents who have given support and witness to the importance of Catholic education in their daily lives.

Thank You for the students who work hard to further their education.

Bless our students schools and the many people who advance the mission of the Church.

May our building be a home for those who seek to grow in faith, knowledge, and service of others.

May our community always support one another and exhibit hospitality to newcomers.

Fill our minds with knowledge and wisdom. May our understanding of the world help us to grow in appreciation for it.

Fill our hearts with gladness. May we always turn to You in times of need.

Fill our hands with the tools we need to serve others. May we show them Your unceasing love through our actions.



Have You Bookmarked Our Website?



You can access the Parish Calendar of events, the weekly bulletin in pdf format, and more!

Check back often!

<http://holynameprovidence.org>

Calendars for the Prisoners



Many Thanks for all of the cards received.

Please send any calendars for 2021 that can be donated to Fr. Lazarus for the prisoners he cares for.

Please drop them at the baskets in the Church/ Chapel Rectory or in the Sacristy.

CALENDAR RAFFLE WINNERS

21st	John Brenner	No. 268	\$25.00
22nd	Ray & Dorothy Castro	No. 227	\$25.00
23rd	Lindsey Lopes	No. 266	\$50.00
24th	C.J. Ferrell	No. 91	\$50.00
25th	Charlotte Laurendreau	No. 86	\$25.00
26th	Scott Blanchette	No. 24	\$25.00
27th	Oliveiro Camilo	No. 109	\$25.00

May these prizes brighten up the New Year for all those who support our Parish. God bless you all!!!

Scholars Club Winners

Week 13	Emilia Lopes	No. 321	\$25.00
Week 14	Patricia Dowling	No. 46	\$25.00

By supporting our Parishioners in Catholic Schools you are encouraging them to become the best people they can be. They will know that their support is found in a shared Faith!



Ways to Help our Parish!!!

On Line Giving is a great way to constantly support Holy Name.



amazon smile
You shop. Amazon gives.

Another way is through the Amazon Smile Program.

Budget offering for weekend 1/17/21 was \$6,947.00		
Donation for Catholic University: \$456.00		
Thanks for your dedication to the Parish.		
Collection Totals for the Week Ending: Jan, 17 2021		
	Collection	Fiscal Year to Date
Goal	\$3,092	\$89,668
In-house collections	6,947	79,469
Over (Under) Goal	3,855	(10,199)

Readings for the week of January 31, 2021	
Sun:	Dt 18:15-20/Ps 95:1-2, 6-9/1 Cor 7:32-35/Mk 1:21-28
Mon:	Heb 11:32-40/Ps 31:20-24/Mk 5:1-20
Tues:	Mal 3:1-4/Ps 24:7-10/Heb 2:14-18/Lk 2:22-40
Wed.:	Heb 12:4-7, 11-15/Ps 103:1-2, 13-14, 17-18a/Mk 6:1-6
Thurs:	Heb 12:18-19, 21-24/Ps 48:2-4, 9-11/Mk 6:7-13
Fri:	Heb 13:1-8/Ps 27:1, 3, 5, 8b-9abc/Mk 6:14-29
Sat:	Heb 13:15-17, 20-21/Ps 23:1-6/Mk 6:30-34
N't Sun:	Jb 7:1-4, 6-7/Ps 147:1-6/1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23/ Mk 1:29-39

The Father We Need

Sun. Dec. 27, Fr. Paul D. Scalia

Most of us know today's Gospel scene (Lk 2:22-40) as the Fourth Joyful Mystery: The Presentation in the Temple. But it is also one of the Seven Sorrows and Seven Joys of Saint Joseph. His heart is filled with sorrow at Simeon's prophecy that the Christ Child "is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed." At the same time, Joseph rejoices to hear his Son proclaimed as the Lord's "salvation" and "a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to... Israel."

Now, we should all sorrow and rejoice when meditating on this scene. But Joseph experiences this sorrow and joy in a unique manner: as the father of Jesus. Indeed, his experience of this event flows from and points to the reality of his fatherhood.

We often use various qualifiers for Joseph's fatherhood. Although accurate to an extent, they can also give the impression that his fatherhood was a fiction or make-believe. The term "Earthly Father" suggests a father/son relationship limited to this world. "Foster Father" or "Adoptive Father" both imply that at some point our Lord became Joseph's son. In fact, Joseph and Mary were legally married at the time of Christ's conception. So, at no point in our Lord's life was He not the Son of Joseph.

The Gospels don't use any qualifiers. Today's passage refers to Joseph and Mary straightforwardly as Jesus' "father and mother." Later, at the finding in the Temple, our Lady herself says, "Behold, your father and I have been looking for you anxiously." (Lk 2:48) Twice John refers to our Lord simply as "the Son of Joseph." (Jn 1:45; 6:42) The only qualification in the Gospels is parenthetical: Luke's mention of Jesus as "the son (as was supposed) of Joseph." (Lk 3:23) Since this comes immediately after our Lord's Baptism, it is clearly meant to distinguish Christ's Father revealed at the Jordan from His father known in Nazareth.

It is fatherhood that Pope Francis emphasizes in *Patris Corde*, his letter announcing the Year of Saint Joseph (December 8, 2020 through December 8, 2021). And with good reason. As many have observed, the crisis of fatherhood is at the source of our Church's and our nation's woes. At the core of the Church's scandals is the betrayal of spiritual fathers. Our nation's upheaval is the inevitable result of decades of absent fathers. Mary Eberstadt has called it "the fury of the fatherless."

Joseph's fatherhood is a necessary medicine for these ills. But first, we have to get it right. Our failure to appreciate Joseph's fatherhood lies in our misunderstanding of fatherhood itself. We confine fatherhood to its physical, earthly dimensions; it is the biological siring of a child or perhaps the equipping of the child for success in this world. In fact, the greater part of fatherhood is not begetting a child or training him for worldly success. No, it is the imparting of wisdom, patrimony, and identity. (Cont. next week)



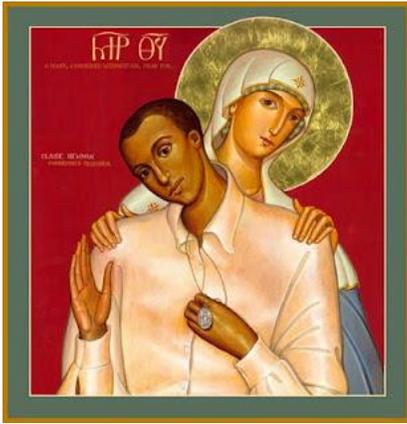
3rd of February: Feast of St. Blaise

Saint Blaise was the bishop of Sebaste, Armenia and a doctor. The first known record of the saint's life comes from the medical writings of Aëtius Amidenus, where he is recorded as helping with patients suffering from objects stuck in their throat. Saint Blaise is believed to have begun as a healer then, eventually, became a "physician of souls." He then retired to a cave, where he remained in prayer. People often turned to Saint Blaise for healing miracles.

In 316, the governor of Cappadocia and Lesser Armenia, Agricola, arrested then-bishop Blaise for being a Christian. On their way to the jail, a woman set her only son, who was choking to death on a fish bone, at his feet. Blaise cured the child, and though Agricola was amazed, he could not get Blaise to renounce his faith. Therefore, Agricola beat Blaise with a stick and tore at his flesh with iron combs before beheading him.

Saint Blaise is often depicted holding two crossed candles in his hand, or in a cave with wild animals. He is

also often shown with steel combs. The similarity of the steel combs and the wool combs made a large contribution to Saint Blaise's leadership as the patron saint of wool combers and the wool trade.



An Incredible Grace Through the Intercession of Our Lady and the Miraculous Medal

by Anne Marie Jacques, Friday, 01 January 2021.

November 27 marks the Feast of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal. On this day, we commemorate the apparition of Our Blessed Mother to Saint Catherine Laboure (whose feast day is on the following day, November 28) and celebrate the vision of Our Lady to the young saint, in which she gives to her a most precious gift, the Miraculous Medal.

It was in Paris, in the year 1830, during a period in which the Catholic Church was under attack from its many enemies. “Times are evil in France and in the world” said Our Lady to Catherine. While in silent meditation, Saint Catherine saw before her a striking vision of the Blessed Virgin, “her beauty [was] indescribable, standing on a globe. Rays of light [were] shining forth from the precious gems on her hands symbolizing the graces that she bestows upon us.” Catherine saw an oval frame formed around the Virgin Mary, bearing the words “O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.” And a voice said to Catherine, “Have a medal struck after this model. Persons who wear it will receive great graces, especially if they wear it around the neck.”

The following true story reveals the power of this promise of great graces. It is the story of a twenty-year-old man awaiting execution in a Mississippi prison in 1943. His crime was that of ambushing and shooting the abusive second husband of his beloved grandmother. But through his humble faith and by the simple wearing of the Miraculous Medal of Our Lady of Graces, he called down Our Lady’s maternal gaze, not only on himself, but on many other souls in that Mississippi prison.

Claude Newman was born in Stuttgart, Arkansas, on December 1, 1923, of African-American parents, Willie and Floretta (Young) Newman. At a young age, and for unknown reasons, Claude’s father took him and his older brother away from their mother and brought them to Mississippi to live with their grandmother, Ellen Newman, who had only recently been remarried to a man named Sid Cooke. They lived on a very large plantation in Bovina where Sid was employed. Claude too was hired to work there as a farmhand.

Sid Cooke was a violently abusive man, especially toward Claude’s grandmother. This angered Claude very much and as the abuse escalated, Claude’s grandmother finally separated from Sid Cooke. Claude remained deeply angered by this treatment of his grandmother and on the night of December 19, 1942, egged on by a fellow co-worker, Claude lay waiting for Sid outside his cabin. When Sid arrived, Claude shot and killed him, and after stealing his money, fled to Arkansas to the home of his mother. He was apprehended there in January, 1943 and was returned to Mississippi where he stood trial and was found guilty of murder. He was sentenced to die in the electric chair the following year.

In prison, Claude shared a cellblock with four other prisoners. One of the men was a Catholic and Claude had noticed a medal that he wore around his neck. When Claude asked him what the medal represented, the other prisoner became embarrassed. He removed the medal and threw it at Claude saying, “Here, you can have it!” It was the medal of the Immaculate Conception, also known as the Miraculous Medal.

Claude did not know what the medal represented, but intrigued by it, he began wearing it around his own neck. One night as he lay sleeping on his cot, he felt someone touch his arm. Looking up he beheld “the most beautiful woman that God ever created” standing there, looking down at him! She said to him, “If you would like me to be your Mother, and you would like to be my child, send for a priest of the Catholic Church.” Then she disappeared. At first Claude was frightened, thinking he had seen a ghost. He asked the prison guards if he could see a Catholic priest.

The next morning they brought in Fr. Robert O’Leary from a nearby parish. He listened to Claude’s account of the happenings during the night and was deeply impressed by Claude’s sincerity. Realizing that he knew practically nothing about religion or Christianity, Fr. O’Leary offered religious instruction to him and returned the next morning to begin teaching all five men in his cellblock about the Catholic faith. It was then that he also realized that Claude could neither read nor write and could only tell if a book was right side up if there were pictures in it!

Fr. O’Leary obtained permission to have two of the religious sisters from his parish accompany him into the prison. Together they worked patiently to instruct these men on the most basic teachings of the Church. Claude was a very willing and eager student, absorbing all he could about the faith. One day Father announced to them that he was going to teach them about a very important Sacrament, Confession. Claude said to him, “Oh, I know about that! The Lady told me that when we go to confession we are kneeling down not before a priest, but we’re kneeling down by the Cross of Her Son. And that when we are truly sorry for our sins, and we confess our sins, the Blood He shed flows down over us and washes us free from all sins.”

Father O'Leary and the sisters were stunned! "Then you have seen her again, Claude?" Father asked. Claude asked to speak privately with the priest for he had this message for him. "She told me that if you doubted me or showed hesitancy, I was to remind you, that lying in a ditch in Holland in 1940, you made a vow to her which she's still waiting for you to keep ...[to] build a church in honor of Our Lady's Immaculate Conception."

This revelation convinced Fr. O'Leary that Claude was telling the truth; he had never revealed this vow to anyone! (Fr. O'Leary did fulfill this vow. He was transferred to Clarksdale, Mississippi, in 1945, where a delegation of African-American Catholic laymen came to him to ask to have a church built there for them. The Bishop of Natchez, Mississippi, had been sent \$5000 by Archbishop Cushing of Boston for the "Negro Missions", and together with the bishop, Father O'Leary commissioned the building of the Church of the Immaculate Conception in 1947. It still stands there today.)

About a week later Fr. O'Leary, accompanied by the Sisters, was teaching the men about Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Claude asked Father if he could tell everyone what Our Lady had taught him about the Holy Eucharist. Encouraged by Father, Claude related, "The Lady told me that in Communion, I will only see what looks like a piece of bread. But she told me that it is really and truly her Son, and that He will be with me just as He was with her before He was born in Bethlehem. She told me that I should spend my time like she did during her lifetime with Him, in loving Him, adoring Him, thanking Him, praising Him and asking Him for blessings. I shouldn't be distracted or bothered by anybody else or anything else, but I should spend those few minutes in my thoughts alone with Him." It was decided that Claude was more than ready to be received into the Catholic faith, so on January 16, 1944 he was baptized 'Claude Jude' by Fr. O'Leary.

Claude's execution had been scheduled for January 20, only four days after his baptism. Fr. O'Leary came on that day to give him Holy Communion. After receiving the Blessed Sacrament, as he knelt with the priest giving thanks to God, the sheriff rushed in to announce that he had received a two-week reprieve from the governor; his execution had been postponed! Instead of being happy, Claude was devastated. He had been preparing all this time for the day when he would be joined with his Heavenly Mother for all eternity. Why was God allowing that moment to be postponed?

Consoling him, Fr. O'Leary was inspired. He encouraged Claude to offer every moment that he suffered in separation from Our Blessed Lady as a sacrifice for a fellow prisoner who was also sentenced to die. This prisoner, James Hughes, had been raised a Catholic but now he rejected anything relating to God or religion. Fr. O'Leary related that, "This man was the filthiest, most immoral person I had ever come across. His hatred for God and for everything spiritual defied description." What's more, during their time in prison together, James Hughes had developed a keen hatred for Claude. It was with a truly generous heart that Claude accepted to offer his own disappointment that this man might not be separated from God for all eternity.

Claude's execution took place on February 4, 1944. Fr. O'Leary testified, "I've never seen anyone go to his death as joyfully and happily. Even the official witnesses and the newspaper reporters were amazed. They said they couldn't understand how anyone could go and sit in the electric chair while at the same time actually beam with happiness."

The execution of James Hughes was scheduled for May 19, 1944, three months after that of Claude Newman. On that day Fr. O'Leary was called in, as it was the law in Mississippi at that time to have a clergyman present for all executions. After Hughes was strapped to the electric chair the sheriff asked him if he had any last words. Hughes began blaspheming, then stopped suddenly and screamed in terror. With a look of complete horror on his face he called out, "Sheriff, get me a priest!" Fr. O'Leary had been hidden behind some reporters so as not to provoke the condemned man, but now he came forward. The room was cleared and Hughes made a sincere and holy confession. When the Sheriff returned, he asked Hughes, "Son, what changed your mind?" The prisoner responded, "Remember that black man, Claude – the one whom I hated so much? Well he's standing there [and he pointed], over in that corner. And behind him with one hand on each shoulder is the Blessed Virgin Mary. And Claude said to me, 'I offered my death in union with Christ on the Cross, for your salvation. She has obtained for you this gift of seeing your place in Hell if you do not repent.' I have been shown my place in Hell, and that's why I screamed." James Hughes was therefore converted in the last moments of his life. It was through the powerful intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, that Fr. O'Leary was able to teach Claude the value of uniting his suffering to that of Christ on the cross for the salvation of souls.

The information presented here is from a tape recorded radio interview of Father Robert O'Leary, SVD (1911-1984), a priest who came to know Claude very well during his imprisonment. <http://www.mysticsofthechurch.com/2011/12/miraculous-story-of-claude-newman-his.html#sthash.NGf563Ug.dpuf>

The Icon of Claude Newman is the work of Br. Claude Lane, OSB. It is shown here with the kind permission of Br. Claud. He resides at Mount Angel Abbey, St. Benedict, OR.

