



THE CATHOLIC PARISHES of  
**Saint Joseph · Saint Juan Diego**  
**Saint Padre Pio · Saint Scholastica**



May 24, 2020

# PARISH STAFF and CONTACTS

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412-784-8700

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In Residence:

**Fr. Hyeong Cheol Lee**  
Saint Juan Diego Parish  
Korean Catholic Community

**Fr. John Mark Ogu**  
Saint Juan Diego Parish  
Student, Duquesne University

**Fr. Dozie Egbe**  
Saint Padre Pio Parish  
Chaplain, Presbyterian Hospital

## SAINT JOSEPH PARISH

342 Dorseyville Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15215  
Phone: 412-963-8885 | Fax: 412-963-1945

Email: [parishoffice@stjosephohara.com](mailto:parishoffice@stjosephohara.com)

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:30 am to 4:30 pm

Friday 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Live Streamed Mass: [www.LAVCatholic.org/mass-videos](http://www.LAVCatholic.org/mass-videos)

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## SAINT JUAN DIEGO PARISH

Madonna of Jerusalem Church in Sharpsburg  
Saint John Cantius Church in Sharpsburg  
Saint Mary Church in Sharpsburg

201 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15215

Phone: 412-784-8700 | Fax: 412-781-1101

Food Pantry: 412-781-2866

Email: [saintjuandiegopgh@comcast.net](mailto:saintjuandiegopgh@comcast.net)

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm

**Rosemarie Haas**  
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## SAINT PADRE PIO PARISH

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Saint Francis of Assisi Church in Harmar

450 Walnut Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15238

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## SAINT SCHOLASTICA PARISH

309 Brilliant Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15215  
Phone: 412-781-0186 | Fax: 412-781-4316

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**Bruce Hassing  
and David Urso**  
Facilities Maintenance

**Website:** [www.LAVCatholic.org](http://www.LAVCatholic.org)

**Diocesan Victim Assistance Hotline:** 1-888-808-1235

**PA Child Line:** 1-800-932-0313

Submit items for bulletin publication no later than Monday  
at noon to [parish@saintscholastica.com](mailto:parish@saintscholastica.com).



# MASS INTENTIONS

Public Masses are currently suspended, but priests of the Lower Allegheny Valley grouping are offering private Masses each day during which the scheduled intention is being honored. The Sunday Mass at Saint Joseph Church will be video-taped and available at LAVCatholic.org.

## SAINT JOSEPH PARISH

<b>SATURDAY</b> 4:00 pm	<b>May 23—7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b> † William Kotsenas (Grandchildren of Dorothy Kotsenas)
<b>SUNDAY</b> 9:00 am 11:00 am	<b>May 24—7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b> † Rocco Volpe Sr. (Wife & sons) The people of Saint Joseph Parish
<b>TUESDAY</b> 8:00 am	<b>May 26—Saint Philip Neri</b> † James Filice (The Fiorilla Family)
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 8:00 am	<b>May 27—Easter Weekday</b> † Josephine Wirtz (The Fiorilla Family)
<b>THURSDAY</b> 8:00 am	<b>May 28—Easter Weekday</b> † Evelyn Agosti (The Fiorilla Family)
<b>FRIDAY</b> 8:00 am	<b>May 29—Easter Weekday</b> † Kenneth Wagner (Bill & Rebecca Urso)
<b>SATURDAY</b> 4:00 pm	<b>May 30—Pentecost Sunday</b> † Eleanor Greco, birthday (Roseanne & Jojo Veltri)
<b>SUNDAY</b> 9:00 am 11:00 am	<b>May 31—Pentecost Sunday</b> The people of Saint Joseph Parish The people of Saint Joseph Parish

## SAINT JUAN DIEGO PARISH

<b>SATURDAY</b> <i>Madonna Church</i> 4:30 pm	<b>May 23—7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b> † Joseph Rudzki, Sr. (Wife, Theresa & Children)
<b>SUNDAY</b> <i>Saint Mary Church</i> 11:30 am	<b>May 24—7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b> † John & Marie Susi (Loving Children & Grandchildren)
<b>TUESDAY</b> <i>Madonna Church</i> 9:00 am	<b>May 26—Saint Philip Neri</b> † The Antico, Gaitaniella & Valenza Families (David, Joan & Family)
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> <i>Madonna Church</i> 9:00 am	<b>May 27—Easter Weekday</b> † Deceased of the Dunlop & Fowler Families (Richard, Linda, Katie & Rich Fowler)
<b>SATURDAY</b> <i>Madonna Church</i> 4:30 pm	<b>May 30—Pentecost Sunday</b> † Marge & Doug Hughes (Millie Guentner)
<b>SUNDAY</b> <i>Saint Mary Church</i> 11:30 am	<b>May 31—Pentecost Sunday</b> † Mutt & Margie Gerardi (Children)

## SAINT PADRE PIO PARISH

<b>SUNDAY</b> <i>Saint Francis of Assisi Church</i> 8:00 am	<b>May 24—7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b> † August & Anna Bruno (daughter, Yolanda Wargo)
<i>Saint Edward Church</i> 10:00 am	In Thanksgiving (Society of Saint Vincent de Paul)
<b>THURSDAY</b> <i>Saint Edward Church</i> 9:00 am	<b>May 28—Easter Weekday</b> † James & Elizabeth Hirt (Daughter)
<b>FRIDAY</b> <i>Saint Edward Church</i> 9:00 am	<b>May 29—Easter Weekday</b> The people of Saint Padre Pio Parish
<b>SATURDAY</b> <i>Saint Edward Church</i> 9:00 am	<b>May 30—Easter Weekday</b> Families, Long Term Care Residents & Caregivers (Linda Organist)
<b>SUNDAY</b> <i>Saint Francis of Assisi Church</i> 8:00 am <i>Saint Edward Church</i> 10:00 am	<b>May 31—Pentecost Sunday</b> † Byron Gee (Wife, Ruth Gee) The people of Saint Padre Pio Parish

## SAINT SCHOLASTICA PARISH

<b>SATURDAY</b> 5:00 pm	<b>May 23—7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b> † Irene Marsico Kelhofer (Tish Marsico)
<b>SUNDAY</b> 9:30 am 12:00 Noon	<b>May 24—7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b> † Christine Harmon (Bill & Kathleen Gavlak) May & Pete Koppel, 70 <sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary (Family)
<b>MONDAY</b> 10:00 am	<b>May 25—Memorial Day</b> † Catherine Fabian (Jan Gursky)
<b>TUESDAY</b> 10:00 am	<b>May 26—Saint Philip Neri</b> Geoff Tolge (The Saint Scholastica Choir)
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 10:00 am	<b>May 27—Easter Weekday</b> † Mary Miketic (Joyce Miketic)
<b>THURSDAY</b> 10:00 am	<b>May 28—Easter Weekday</b> † Sharon Arnone (The Arnone Family)
<b>FRIDAY</b> 10:00 am	<b>May 29—Easter Weekday</b> † Sam DiGregory (Mother, Jean)
<b>SATURDAY</b> 5:00 pm	<b>May 30—Pentecost Sunday</b> † Debbie Ajak Mogle (Tish Marsico)
<b>SUNDAY</b> 9:30 am 12:00 Noon	<b>May 31—Pentecost Sunday</b> † Harry Bougher (Jan Gursky) † Lillian Darrigo (The Hopkinson Family)

## REST IN PEACE

**Saint Joseph**  
† Mary Jane Moore (May 14, 2020)  
**Saint Scholastica**  
† Helene D'Amico (April 15, 2020)

# LITURGICAL LIFE

## SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

### Sunday—May 24

Acts 1:12-14      1 Peter 4:13-16      John 17:1-11a

### Monday—May 25

Acts 19:1-8      John 16:29-33

### Tuesday—May 26

Acts 20:17-27      John 17:1-11a

### Wednesday—May 27

Acts 20:28-38      John 17:11b-19

### Thursday—May 28

Acts 22:30; 23:6-11      John 17:20-26

### Friday—May 29

Acts 25:13b-21      John 21:15-19

### Saturday—May 30

Acts 28:16-20, 30-31      John 21:20-25

### Sunday—May 31

Acts 2:1-11      1 Corinthians 12:3-13      John 20:19-23

## RESOURCES

### Prayer at Home:

Give Us This Day, a prayer resource published by Liturgical Press, is making its digital version available to all. Visit [GUTD.net](http://GUTD.net) and select "Digital" in the upper right of the screen. They also offer mobile app version.

Living with Christ is offering online daily resources at [www.livingwithchrist.us](http://www.livingwithchrist.us).

The U.S. Catholic bishops have gathered links to many resources, including the daily Scripture readings. To access, go to [catholiccurrent.org/covid19](http://catholiccurrent.org/covid19).

We have a weekly handout called "Keeping the Season" that includes a prayer, reflection on the Sunday Scriptures, and shorter reflections for each day of the week. You can download a PDF of this week's edition at [lavcatholic.org/news/resources-for-prayer-at-home](http://lavcatholic.org/news/resources-for-prayer-at-home).

Go to [worship.pastoral.center](http://worship.pastoral.center) for Sunday at-home worship services for families.

There are reflections and prayers for the Easter season on the Creighton University Online Ministries website at [onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Lent/e-celebratingeaster.html](http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Lent/e-celebratingeaster.html).

Live Daily Mass and other spiritual resources are available through the Diocese of Pittsburgh. Go to [diopitt.org](http://diopitt.org).

### Coronavirus Updates:

For up-to-date information from the Diocese, visit <https://diopitt.org/coronavirus-safety-precautions>.

Visit [alleghenycounty.us/healthdepartment](http://alleghenycounty.us/healthdepartment) or [health.pa.gov](http://health.pa.gov) for local health information.

### Words of Wisdom from Pope Francis

When we can see God reflected in all that exists, our hearts are moved to praise the Lord for all his creatures and to worship him in union with them.

Our society has a sense of being orphaned that touches our sense of belonging and fraternity, because the Father is missing. Let's ask the Holy Spirit for the grace to rediscover the Father, who gives us a sense of meaning in life. May He make us one family.

Mother of the Lord, Virgin Mary, Queen of the Rosary, show us the power of your protective mantle. From your arms come the hope and peace of which we are sorely in need.

The perfect path to follow Jesus is not rigidity, which brings turmoil, but the spirit of evangelical freedom, which always brings joy.



**Monetary Support of the Parishes:** Each of the four parishes in the Lower Allegheny Valley rely on the contributions of the faithful. In this interim period when the collection basket cannot be passed, you are asked to make whatever sacrificial contribution that you can. Your envelopes may be mailed to the parish in which you are currently registered.

Saint Joseph Parish  
342 Dorseyville Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15215

Saint Juan Diego Parish  
201 9<sup>TH</sup> Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15215

Saint Padre Pio Parish  
450 Walnut Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15238

Saint Scholastica Parish  
309 Brilliant Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15215  
To donate online to Saint Scholastica go to:  
[saintscholastica.weshareonline.org](http://saintscholastica.weshareonline.org)

**Thank You** for your generous support!

# A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

My dear parishioners,

Try to imagine this. At considerable risk you give your life over to following Jesus. He is a charismatic personality, a powerful and persuasive preacher, known to heal people of their afflictions, a teacher of a whole new way of life.

Then events begin to unfold very quickly. Jesus is arrested, crucified, and buried. In short time there are reports that he is again alive, risen from the dead, followed by multiple appearances to prove that. There is the thrill of seeing him, sharing his company, renewed hope for the future. But just as quickly he is gone. Forty days later and he disappears into the clouds, ascended into heaven.

And that is where today's first scripture reading picks up. His closest friends and even his own mother gather in a familiar place—the Upper Room where the Acts of the Apostles records that *“all these devoted themselves with one accord to prayer”* (Acts 1: 14).

My friends, take your imagination further. Place yourself in that Upper Room and ask: What was the substance of their prayer? What expression did they find? Certainly they offered praise and glory to God. Surely their words included gratitude. And most definitely their prayers expressed the uncertainty and the unknowing of where do we go from here? What next?

Now it was a matter of waiting. Jesus promised to be with them always. He told them he would send another Advocate. What that meant or how it would be revealed was still in question. But the wait was worth it. *“When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim”* (Acts 2: 1-4).

Waiting on God can be agony. Wondering what is next amidst uncertainty and unknowing. Trying to understand a divine plan as yet unrevealed. And through it all to hold onto faith, to trust in the Lord always.

Dear brothers and sisters, we are 21<sup>ST</sup> century disciples of the Lord Jesus. He calls us to follow him. He invites us to walk in his footsteps. He challenges us to live like him. Try to imagine what that might look like in your own life.

I believe that discipleship takes a whole lot of daring and risk. It demands faith, hope and love. And I am convinced that discipleship cannot be done without the compelling force of the Holy Spirit who enables us to do as Jesus commands: *“Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature”* (Mark 16: 15).

In a COVID-19 world that is characterized by uncertainty, precautions, masks, hand sanitizers, and wondering what is next, we must hold onto what is certain, what is absolute, what is true. God is in our midst. Jesus is our Savior. The Holy Spirit is with us always.

I pray for you every single day. May the Lord be your strength.

*Father Dale DeNinno*

**Lighting Vigil Candles:** If you would like to have a vigil candle(s) lit in one of the churches of our parish grouping, you may mail that request to the parish office. Please include your name, the intention, the name of the church in which you want the candle lit, and the \$3.00 donation for each candle. The candles will be lit in the church of your choosing in the Lower Allegheny Valley.

**Daily Mass Intentions:** The three priests of the Lower Allegheny Valley continue to offer a private Mass each day: Father Dale DeNinno in Saint Joseph Church, Father Mike Decewicz in Madonna of Jerusalem Church, and Fr. Bill Siple in Saint Scholastica Church. At each Mass they honor the intentions that have already been scheduled. However, there are many open dates, particularly in Saint Joseph Church. Requests for Mass Intentions and the \$10 stipend may be mailed to the parish office or you may choose to call the office.

## WEARING of the RED

Just because we won't be gathered at Mass in the churches of our Lower Allegheny Valley grouping of parishes on Pentecost Sunday, doesn't excuse us from wearing our red clothes. It is the color associated with the fire of the Holy Spirit that came down upon the apostles. So wear your red shirt or T-shirt, wear your red ball cap, adorn yourself with red jewelry, wear your red lipstick, or even lounge around the house on Pentecost Sunday in your red pajamas, and. . .

**Be on fire with the power of the Holy Spirit.**

## Our Churches Are Open for Private Prayer

Beginning on Friday, May 15<sup>TH</sup>, Bishop Zubik has given permission for our churches to be open so that the faithful may come in for private prayer. Therefore, the churches of Saint Joseph in O'Hara, Madonna of Jerusalem in Sharpsburg, Saint Scholastica in Aspinwall, and Saint Edward in Blawnox will be open each day from 9:00 o'clock in the morning until 3:00 o'clock in the afternoon - 7 days a week.

## Sacrament of Reconciliation

Beginning on Saturday, May 16<sup>TH</sup>, and continuing every Saturday, the three priests of the Lower Allegheny Valley grouping of parishes will hear Confessions from 11:00-11:45am in Saint Joseph Church, Madonna of Jerusalem Church and Saint Scholastica Church. In the celebration of the sacrament the priest and the penitent are both required to wear a face mask.

## Cancellations

The annual **Parish Picnic** held on the grounds of Saint Joseph Parish in early August has been cancelled for 2020, as well as the **Vacation Bible School** which has been held in past years at both Saint Joseph Parish and Saint Scholastica Parish in late June for the young children



# NEWS and ANNOUNCEMENTS



**The new dates for our Sacraments will be:**

**First Holy Communion:**

*Sunday – September 27, 2020 at the 12:00 Noon Mass in Saint Scholastica Church*

**OR**

*Sunday – September 27, 2020 at a 3:00 pm Mass in Saint Joseph Church*

**Confirmation:**

*Monday – September 21, 2020 at 7:00 pm in Saint Joseph Church*



Teens, while you're spending your time inside on your computer, check out our Life Teen Blog at [lavcatholic.org/youth-ministry-st-scholastica](http://lavcatholic.org/youth-ministry-st-scholastica).



Christ the Divine Teacher Catholic Academy

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Website: [www.cdtca.org](http://www.cdtca.org)

Mark Grgurich, Principal

As we move toward the end of the school year, we are grateful to all our students and teachers who have worked together to make this challenging year a success.

## ADDICTION RECOVERY MINISTRY NEWS

412-218-5410 • [rhaasarm@gmail.com](mailto:rhaasarm@gmail.com)  
[addictionrecoveryministrypittsburgh.org](http://addictionrecoveryministrypittsburgh.org)

### Reflections from Fr. Michael

Way back in the early days of TV, there was a comedy duo named, "Burns and Allen," made up of George Burns and Gracie Allen. Gracie was portrayed as a bit of a dimwit and yet just below the surface, Gracie possessed a profound and simple wisdom. One of her best lines was, "Never put a period where God puts a comma." As I reread that line and thought about it, I have been obsessed by the wisdom and insight of this thought. It made me really think about my own life and how often I tried to put periods where God was putting commas.

Let me share with you a few personal examples. When I first become aware that my drinking was getting out of hand, I tried many ways to stop or at least control my drinking such as never drinking before 4:00 p.m., changing from scotch to wine, giving up booze for Lent or at least no booze on Good Friday, and limiting the number of drinks. All of these attempts failed, and I began to believe that just like my dad, I was a drunk and just couldn't quit. I was putting a period on my struggle with alcohol. But then I was confronted by the Diocese and met an incredible human being who became my sponsor and saved not just my life but my priesthood, Bill D. I began going to AA meetings, got sober and began a whole new and wonderful life. You see, I was going to put a period where God was putting a comma.

Another moment occurred years ago when I was diagnosed with "end-stage kidney disease." That phrase, "end stage," ain't never good, and I was scared. My treatment began with dialysis – first 6 months of dialysis where you go to the dialysis center 3 times a week for treatments, 4 hours each treatment, and three years of peritoneal, which you do at home on a machine for 8 hours every day. At the end of 3 years, I was getting weaker and was preparing for my death. My quality of life was diminishing. I was putting a period, but God was not. Out of nowhere, a lady in my parish came to me, said she had been tested and we were compatible and would I take her kidney. WOW! I was overwhelmed. That was 3 ½ years ago; I am still here and my life is great. Thankfully, I was not able to put a period where God insisted in putting a comma.

I share these personal stories to remind you that so many of the obstacles, challenges and even perceived failures in life are not the end. Often, that is where God puts the comma. Many who are struggling with addiction try desperately to "get sober." They go to 12-step meetings, rehab, work the program, but still have relapses and go to multiple rehabs. They feel stuck in the muck; they want to give up. They want to put a period; however, maybe God is putting a comma, and that comma is hope! Saying: Don't give up! Believe in yourself, even in the midst of your struggles and failures because God believes in and loves you, and that love can never be lost.

The idea of "never putting a period where God puts a comma" applies to almost everything in life. Sometimes we want to stop! Give up! Move on! However, God may be saying to us that in this time of pain, crisis, confusion and failure, there is an abundance of grace! Now, faith is living a mystery; it is being able to live in the question so that you may never know until after the fact if God was putting either a period or a comma, but that is not up to you. Trust God enough to let God decide where to put the comma and where to put the period.

Remember, "Never put a period where God puts a comma."

# SOCIAL OUTREACH



Members of our community who are in need of short-term assistance can contact the LAV Saint Vincent de Paul Society at [loweralleghenyvalleysvdp@gmail.com](mailto:loweralleghenyvalleysvdp@gmail.com) or 412-254-4446.

If you need an empathetic ear, guidance or assistance during this time, the leaders of the churches of Aspinwall are here to help you. Membership in the congregation is not a requirement for seeking assistance. Please call one of the churches of the LAV or any church in Aspinwall for confidential aid. If you

would like to assist your neighbors in need, you can donate Giant Eagle gift cards by dropping them in the silver payment box outside the Aspinwall Borough building on Commercial Avenue.

**The Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank** has information about food assistance at [pittsburghfoodbank.org](http://pittsburghfoodbank.org). You can also make monetary donations at this website.

**Saint Vincent de Paul donation bin at Saint Francis Church:** As a result of the Covid-19 crisis the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is unable to service its the donation bins at this time. For now, please keep your valuable donations at home and we will gladly accept them once this crisis is over. Thank you for your continued support of our efforts to help the most vulnerable members in our community. If you or anybody you know needs assistance, please call 412-254-4446.

**The Saint Vincent de Paul Food Pantry in Sharpsburg:** This is an update to the status of our local pantry and the donations that have been made to feed those in need in our surrounding area. As noted in the last bulletins, Roots of Faith has been distributing approximately 500 bags of food weekly. Since the Diocese of Pittsburgh has closed all its church buildings, our pantry has not been open. Instead we have partnered with Roots of Faith to support the need in our area. Our pantry has donated the following in the month of April:

Food Items - \$9,024.20

Non-Foods - \$180.00

Pet Foods - \$300.00

Although we have not been accepting food items for the pantry, we have been receiving generous monetary donations to help purchase the items needed for the food bags. Your generosity has been a tremendous gift to our pantry and will continue to be used to supply items needed for those requiring assistance. For this, we are ever so grateful. Once the restrictions are lifted and we are able to open up the pantry, we will need to fill our inventory shelves for our clients. At the present time, our shelves need to be replenished but as long as we can continue to purchase items in behalf of our pantry, we will continue to do so. Your donations will assist us in filling those shelves. Monetary donations can continue to be sent to St. Vincent de Paul, 201 9th Street, Sharpsburg, PA 15215. Thank you ever so much and may God Bless you for your generosity.

**Grocery Donations to Roots of Faith:** Food items can be dropped off at Roots of Faith (800 Main Street, Sharpsburg, 15215) on Wednesdays from 10:00am to 12:00pm or Thursdays from 10:00am to 1:00pm. If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please email [kathleen.stanley@faithfoxchapel.org](mailto:kathleen.stanley@faithfoxchapel.org).

**Many thanks** to the LAV parishioners who have volunteered their time to help out while the parish staff was unable to work. The Amorose family has been cutting the grass at Saint Edward Church. At Saint Scholastica Church, the VanDemark family has been cutting the grass and a group of volunteers have been weeding the flower beds including Annie Smith, Peggy Santelli, MaryJo Redfern, and Emily Harris. Thanks to everyone for your support of our parishes!



**Our advertisers make our weekly bulletin possible.** Even though we are not currently distributing a printed bulletin, we encourage you to continue to support our advertisers. Go to [lavcatholic.org/our-sunday-bulletin](http://lavcatholic.org/our-sunday-bulletin) to support the local businesses that sponsor our bulletin.

## **A Prayer for Protection In Time of Pandemic**

O Mary, you always brighten our path  
as a sign of salvation and hope.  
We entrust ourselves to you,  
health of the sick,  
who, at the Cross, took part in Jesus' pain  
while remaining steadfast in faith.  
O loving Mother, you know what we need,  
and we are confident you will provide for us  
as at Cana in Galilee.

Intercede for us with your Son Jesus,  
the Divine Physician,  
for those who have fallen ill,  
for those who are vulnerable,  
and for those who have died.  
Intercede also for those charged with  
protecting the health and safety of others  
and for those who are tending to the sick  
and seeking a cure.

Help us, O Mother of Divine Love,  
to conform to the will of the Father  
and to do as we are told by Jesus,  
who took upon himself our  
sufferings and carried our sorrows,  
so as to lead us, through the Cross,  
to the glory of the Resurrection. Amen.

Under your protection we seek refuge,  
O Holy Mother of God.  
In our needs, despise not our petitions,  
but deliver us always from all dangers,  
O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.

## **A Prayer for Peace of Mind and Heart**

Eternal, Holy God,  
I come to you burdened  
with worries, fears, doubts and troubles.  
Calm and quiet me with peace of mind.  
Empty me of the anxiety that disturbs me,  
of the concerns that weary my spirit,  
and weigh heavy on my heart.

Loosen my grip on the disappointments  
and grievances I hold onto so tightly.  
Release me from the pain  
of past hurts,  
of present anger,  
of future fears.

Sometimes it's too much for me Lord -  
too many demands and problems,  
too much sadness, suffering and stress.

Renew me spiritually and emotionally.  
Give me new strength, hope and confidence.  
Prepare me to meet the constant struggles  
of daily life  
with a deeper faith and trust in you.

Let your love set me free ...  
for peace, for joy, for grace, for life,  
for others ... forever. Amen.



## **Act of Spiritual Communion**

My Jesus, I believe that You are in the  
Blessed Sacrament. I love You above  
all things, and I long for You in my soul.

Since I cannot now receive You  
sacramentally, come at least  
spiritually into my heart. As though You  
have already come, I embrace You and  
unite myself entirely to You; never  
permit me to be separated from You.  
Amen.





# MEMORIAL DAY

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"No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." Christians are no strangers to sacrifice. Jesus lays down his life for our redemption, martyrs remain faithful to the end, and every believer faces "deaths" in the spiritual life when love requires a re-ordering of preference and priority.

On Memorial Day, we honor those who laid down their lives for their nation and for the values we espouse - freedom, justice, and a better world for our children. While this year may have fewer barbeques and boat launches, we can still remember to take some time in prayer! Intercede for those who have died and for the loved ones they left behind, and pray for peace on earth.

## Prayer for the Fallen

God our creator and sustainer, today our country brings to our memory  
those who have defended this nation in times of trouble.

They have sacrificed their lives to protect our shores  
from those who would limit our freedoms  
or enslave us to ways that are against your will.

Bring all those who have died in service to our country  
into your heavenly presence.

We humbly call down your blessing on those still serving;  
grant your heavenly protection to these men and women,  
and open your Sacred Heart to give them peace and comfort.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.