

5th Sunday of Easter



“I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. ” John 15:5

**ST. JOHN BOSCO
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

May 2, 2021

The Pastor Jots It Down

My dear parishioners and friends of St. John Bosco and St. Rosalie Parishes and School,

Prayers and best wishes for a blessed and happy month of May!

So many feasts and celebrations occur during this beautiful month:

May 1st St. Joseph the Worker

May 2nd St. Philip the Apostle, Patronal Feast of the Salesians of the New Rochelle Province

May 6th Feast of St. Dominic Savio, The Teenage Saint

May 9th Mother's Day

May 13th Feast of St Mary Mazzarello, Co-Foundress of the Salesian Sisters

May 16th Ascension of the Lord

May 23rd Pentecost Sunday, Come Holy Spirit

May 24th Mary Help of Christians and Mother of the Church

May 30th Trinity Sunday

May 31st The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Memorial Day

What a month of beautiful celebrations:

Religious and Civic, Church and Salesian, Celebrations of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

To add to our joy, also, the First Communions of our school and parish religious education program students will be celebrated on Saturday, May 8th at St. John Bosco. During the 1st and 2nd weeks of this month our school children will have the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Then on May 24th, the Feast of Mary Help of Christians, there will be the closing School Mass for our 7th graders at St. John Bosco and the closing School Mass for our PreK on the 26th at St. Rosalie.

Also, at this time, there will be many high school and college graduations celebrated during these days. In all these celebrations, it's important that we don't get caught up in the external celebrations and let them squeeze out our daily time with Lord.

At the beginning of this month, the Church remembers St. Joseph the Worker. This year our Holy Father Pope Francis declared this year as the Year of St. Joseph. In a letter, written by Pope Francis on March 19th, the Feast of St. Joseph Spouse of Mary and Patron of the Universal Church, Pope Francis wrote: Saint Joseph is an extraordinary figure, yet at the same time one "so close to our own human experience". He did not do astonishing things, he had no unique charisms, nor did he appear special in the eyes of those who met him. He was not famous or even noteworthy: the Gospels do not report even a single word of his. Still, through his ordinary life, he accomplished something extraordinary in the eyes of God.

God looks on the heart (cf. 1 Sam 16:7), and in Saint Joseph he recognized the heart of a father, able to give and generate life in the midst of daily routines. Vocations have this same goal: to beget and renew lives every day. The Lord desires to shape the hearts of fathers and mothers: hearts that are open, capable of great initiatives, generous in self-giving, compassionate in comforting anxieties and steadfast in strengthening hopes. The priesthood and the consecrated life greatly need these qualities (as well)... May each and everyone of us through our ordinary lives accomplish something extraordinary in the eyes of God by living our God-given vocation to beget and renew lives every day.

God loves you!

F. Mark



Celebrating the Year of Amoris Laetitia Family

From USCCB's Secretariat of Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth

On March 19, 2021, the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, marked the fifth anniversary of the release of the Holy Father's post-synodal apostolic exhortation, Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love). On that same day, Pope Francis inaugurated the Year "Amoris Laetitia Family," which will conclude at the World Meeting of Families in Rome on June 26, 2022.

The timing of this year of celebrating families could not be better. Across the country, the global pandemic has caused churches to remain closed or at limited capacity for celebrations of Holy Mass and forms of ministerial outreach. For a whole year, families have had to rely almost entirely and only on each other. The importance of the domestic church, of living and passing on the faith at home has come to the forefront of everyone's lives, especially as Catholics. As the pandemic begins to lessen and states start to relax regulations for in-person gatherings, the Year of Amoris Laetitia Family provides the Church with a unique opportunity to begin welcoming families back to church, some of whom have been gone for nearly a full year.

The Year "Amoris Laetitia Family" is meant to be both a year of celebrating families and to renew the Church's identity as a "family of families" (AL 87).

Since the Year of Amoris Laetitia Family will conclude with the World Meeting of Families global gathering in Rome in June of 2022, dioceses are encouraged to organize pilgrimage groups to attend. Hopefully, many families will have the opportunity to attend.

Ways to Celebrate the Year of Amoris Laetitia Family can include:

- Organizing a pilgrimage to parishes or shrines dedicated to the Holy Family within the diocese.
- Celebrating the newly instituted World Day for Grandparents on the fourth Sunday of July, chosen by the Holy Father for its proximity to the feast of Saints Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus.
- Hosting diocesan celebrations of the World Meeting of Families simultaneously with the event in Rome.
- Encouraging families in practicing devotions in the home: creating a family altar, enthroning their homes to the Sacred and Immaculate Hearts of Jesus and Mary, celebrating family member's patron saint's feast days, etc.
- Providing family grab bags with activities and prayers revolving around a liturgical season to help strengthen families in their roles as domestic churches.
- Holding wholesome movie nights for families with popcorn and some suggested questions for discussion.
- Putting on a series of date nights for married couples that help to remind them of the beauty and goodness of the sacrament of marriage.

“For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” Mt 18:20

For some couples, praying together is very natural but for others, it feels awkward or forced. The reality is that there are many different ways to pray with our spouse and every couple is unique! Here’s some tips on how you can engage in speaking to your Heavenly Father as a couple, bound together with Him in a covenant of love. Each type of prayer is important – blessing, intercession, plea for guidance, communal prayer, and repentance. Growing in your prayer life is an essential way to develop and deepen your relationship, but also a way for you to support your spouse and love them more profoundly. The more united you are, the more powerful your prayer is.

1. Recognize that you and your spouse may pray differently. For some, the ideal prayer is sitting together, holding hands, and praying spontaneously. For others, prayer means attending Mass together, praying the rosary, or saying grace at meals. The good news is that the Church gives us many ways to pray; there is a variety! One spouse may have a deep intimacy with God that they find hard to share. Another spouse might be new to the faith and still learning the ropes or have no prayer life at all. Others may be familiar with prayer, having been raised in the faith, but have never done it on their own. It’s normal for there to be different levels of spiritual growth between spouses. Prayer is so intimate; so, it may be hard to share, but when you do share it, it’s incredible! It’s worth having a conversation about how you pray together, or how you could start praying together.

2. Blessings are a good starting point. We’re all used to blessings before meals but take it a step further. Blessings are the most natural kind of prayer to incorporate into family life. Bless your children, especially before bed or when they are sick. You can simply trace the sign of the cross on their forehead, even with holy water. Try blessing your spouse in the same way and asking them to bless you. Look for ways you can incorporate this into your family life: say a blessing before going away on a trip, before bedtime, or at special occasions. Dads have particular gifting in this area and a father’s blessing can be very powerful for the family.

3. Pray the Mass together. As an easy first step, sit next to your spouse at Mass and pray the mass as a couple. It can be tempting for crowd control to have dad and mom at opposite ends of the pew with the kids in between but try this instead: sit side by side in the middle of the pew, with kids on either side. It’s a powerful witness to the bond between you.

4. Pray the rosary together. The rosary is a powerful weapon, and it’s no mistake that Fr. Patrick Peyton used to promote the family rosary with the slogan: “The family that prays together stays together.” Even if you just pray as a couple, without the children, it can be an easy starting point for you.

5. When in trouble, pray “Come Holy Spirit.” If you see your spouse is having a hard time, ask the Holy Spirit to come and help them. Pray to the Holy Spirit before disciplining a child, having a tough conversation, or engaging with a teacher. The Holy Spirit reminds us that as spouses, we’re not acting alone. He is the bond between you both, and He will come when you call Him.

6. Pray for guidance. Remember God is your Father and you are His children. When confronted with a difficult situation, sit together, tell the Lord your problem and ask Him to guide you. Then listen expectantly to see what He does. Be attentive to what thoughts or images come into your mind and then talk about them. Remember, God is our Father and if we come to Him as children, even with our failures and mistakes, He will respond in love. And yes, sometimes you will make wrong decisions and you will need to repent, but that is ok! God is always there for you when you seek His face.

7. Sexual intimacy and prayer actually go together! The sacrament of marriage comes from God, and sex is the seal of that covenant. What this means is that the Lord is present in a very powerful way in marital intimacy. (It’s one reason why contraception is an offense against Him, incidentally.) We don’t tend to think of it this way, but sexual intimacy can be a prayer. Acknowledge this by praying quietly together before or after intimacy. Studies actually show that spiritual intimacy is an important component for women to feel connected with their husbands. Remember, when you are married, your physical union is a spiritual union as well.

Never forget that prayer for your spouse is powerful. Fr. Justin Brady, an exorcist, once mentioned that when a spouse interceded for the person being prayed for in exorcism, the demons went crazy. This underlines how effective spousal prayer is. If your spouse doesn’t pray, you can still pray for them. Start by asking them how you can pray them and then remember those intentions in your personal prayer. Praying for your spouse can have an unbelievably positive effect on the spiritual atmosphere of your home and on your marriage.

ANGOLA: Salesian Volunteer teaches street children, gains perspective



(MissionNewswire) Jorge Fernandes, born in Portugal, is passionate about facing new challenges and adventures. He studied computer engineering and project management. After three years working in the Czech Republic as a software developer, he decided to go to Luanda, Angola, for one year as a Salesian missionary volunteer.

Being a Salesian missionary volunteer meant facing a lot of unknowns for Fernandes, but it was something that he enjoyed. He explained, “This experience allowed me to live a completely different sort of life. I didn’t know where I was going or what I was going to do. I wanted to understand better the purpose of my existence in this world. Before I went, I told myself that I would do ‘whatever it takes.’”

In Luanda, Salesian missionaries provide education, shelter for homeless children and at-risk girls, and support for youth through social development programs. Salesian missionaries began their work with street children in Angola during the 1990s when groups of children fleeing the war flowed into the capital. Today, long after the war has ended, children are still fleeing their homes for a variety of reasons. Many run away from home because of parent neglect, some as a result of abuse, and others because they are thought to be sorcerers or witches who bring misfortune to their families.

“I lived in one of the most dangerous slums in Angola,” explained Fernandes. “I tasted the difficulties, needs and joys of people. I went to a school to teach street children. This made me see life from a completely different perspective.”

Today, after his year with the Salesians, Fernandes is a teacher back in his hometown in Portugal. He credits his year in Angola in helping him to be a better teacher. Fernandes added, “I understand now that each of my students has a life story that deserves to have its space; that school is not just a place to learn things, but to learn to be. This new post-mission perspective makes me as open to those entrusted to me today in my work in Portugal as I had to be to those with whom I was in Angola as a missionary.”

In Our Parish

Order of St. Louis IX Medal

Mr. & Mrs. Clyde and Juana Ortego



Congratulations to our parishes 2021 St. Louis IX Award winners, Mr. & Mrs. Clyde and Juana Ortego. Parishioners since 1988, they are Salesian Cooperators of Greater New Orleans and Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist. Actively involved in our Adoration Chapel, they are committed adorers as well as hour captains/divisional leaders.

Clyde is a member of the 3rd & 4th Degree Knights of Columbus and the Fraternal Order of Exodus. Juana is a member of the KC Ladies Auxiliary and the Women's Society. She has taught CCD at St. Rosalie and St. John Bosco parishes and has assisted in making baptismal bibs.

Clyde and Juana feel that they have been enriched by drawing closer to God in service to St. John Bosco church parish. They also feel it is a privilege and honor to receive the Order of St. Louis IX at their home parish.



ST. ROSALIE & ST. JOHN BOSCO CONFIRMANDI

May our Newly Confirmed live the Gifts of Spirit in their lives and daily experience the Fruits of the Spirit as they give witness to Jesus and live as missionary disciples.

Chelsie Michelle Allo
Allie Elizabeth Barbier
Evan Michael Barrios
Danielle Lane Black
Toby Michael Bourg
Alix Quinn Cemo
Andre Lawrence Cook
Gabrielle Rita DeGeorge
Andrew Hieu Do
Brock Darren Dupre, Jr.
Abigail Michelle Gaubert
Emily Brianne Killian
Paris Paola Labadie
Ethan Le
Cayden Emma Libert
Wyatt Christopher Marque
Cindy Nguyen
Emma Elisabeth O'Quain
Emma Elizabeth Palmisano
Abigail Jolie Robichaux
Kaden Joseph Robichaux
Chase Edward Stevens
Sierra Rose Th omassie
Zachary James Toy
Kennedy Tuan Nguyen Tran

Announcements

Come Lord Jesus Bible Study Program ~



Are you looking to gain a greater understanding of Sunday Readings, including Gospels and the Old Testament? Come check it out! Members grow in sanctification through prayer, Scripture, Eucharist, and Christian community. **Meetings are every Wednesday & Thursday at 6:30pm!**

Men's Club Meeting ~

The Men's Club will meet **Monday, May 3rd** beginning at **6:30pm**. All men in the parish are encouraged to attend.



NOTICE: For the safety of our members, all CDC recommendations will be followed for all meetings and gatherings.

Sanctuary Candle

In Memory of Anniversary
Dale & JoAnn Hymel

Bread & Wine

In Memory of Anniversary
Dale & JoAnn Hymel

Altar Flowers

In Memory of Anniversary
Dale & JoAnn Hymel

St. John Bosco Catholic Church

Served by the Salesians of Don Bosco

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Fr. Mark Hyde, SDB
Pastor

Fr. George Hanna, SDB Fr. Wilgintz Polynice, SDB
Parochial Vicars

Mass Intentions

Saturday, May 1

8:00am Parishioners of St. John Bosco
5:30pm +Jacqueline G. Guillot, MOD
+Wayne Delaune
+Joyce Sonnier
+Leboria Burrell
+Duffy & Derek Dumas
+Peter John Paul Nguyen
+Joseph Lai Duc Anh
+Jim McKenna
+Dale Hymel
Abdon & Quiaoit Families
+Maria Pham
+Rita & Oren Breaux, Sr.
+Matthew Foret

Sunday, May 2

9:00am +Marilyn DeBlanc
+All Souls in Purgatory
+Joseph Hung Monh Do
+Maria Hoang & Joseph Nguyen
+Peter & Maria Nguyen
+Peggy & Anthony DiMarco, Sr.
+Carmen Koenig Kass
+Lourdes Bacuta
+Derek DiMarco
Xuyen Bui
Leo Meerman
Noon +Jim McKenna

Monday, May 3

7:00am Julie Kirkland

Tuesday, May 4

7:00am Conversion of Sinners

Wednesday, May 5

7:00am +Hubert Touns

Thursday, May 6

7:00am +Dale Hymel

Friday, May 7

7:00am +Raymond & Helen Saulino



*"We all have the duty
to do good."*
~Pope Francis