

THE HOLY YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

(ESTABLISHED 1848)

Fifth Sunday of Easter: Mary and Molly and the Experience of Christ

Mary tried too hard, but she didn't try hard enough. Let me explain. Mary grew up in a Catholic family that took their faith very seriously. Only sickness kept them from Mass. They even said bedtime prayers together most nights, calling them family night prayers when the kids got older. Mary was quite active in the Youth Group when she was in high school. She joined the campus ministry program in college. But during her sophomore year she found herself too busy to be a regular attendee at Mass. By her senior year, the only time she went to Mass, or prayed at all, was when she was home.

Six months out of college, Mary finally got a job in her field. She always wanted to help others, make a difference in people's life, so she had studied to be a social worker. After a number of unsuccessful interviews, an agency in a big city up north hired her to work the phones and occasionally visit some of the elderly poor confined to apartments in the city. It wasn't exactly what Mary trained for, four days a week she sat in an office calling fifty clients, making sure they had food, heat, took their medicine, arranging transportation to the doctor, etc. One day a week, though, she was able to leave the office and visit the people. With fifty clients, she only could see people once a month, but it was something. It was also a day she enjoyed.

Except when she had to visit Molly McPherson. Molly was not nice. In fact she was downright nasty and sometimes even rude. The first time Mary visited, Molly complained, "They send me a kid with her pretty smile and empty head and think that I should be pleased. And then you say you can't stay too long because you have others to see. Well, don't bother with me. I didn't ask you to come." That was how the relationship started. It got worse. It became an absolute struggle for Mary to knock on Molly's door.

Mary went home for Thanksgiving and was able to get an appointment to speak with her pastor. She told him about her problems with Molly. She went on and on. Finally, she stopped and waited for his response. "So, Mary, how active are you in the faith when you are not home?" he asked. "Do you pray every day? Do you go to Mass every week?"

"Typical priest," Mary thought. "He's missing the whole point why I'm here." So she answered, "I don't know what that has to do with this, but I'm still looking for a Church."

"It has everything to do with this, Mary," the priest responded, "how do you expect to bring the love of Christ to others if you are not overflowing with it yourself? You see, Mary, you are trying hard, but you are not trying hard enough. In some ways you are doing too much, thinking that you can do it all yourself. You need to be thoroughly united to Christ and then let Him do the work."

Mary didn't expect to get that sort of a talking to, but she did take the priest seriously. She started praying every day, and found a parish near her apartment. Actually, it was just down the block, but she never bothered to notice it. She went back to her younger days, and became active there, lecturing at Sunday Mass.

One day at the end of January the temperature had raised up to 45 degrees. Now that might seem cold to us Floridians, but when you are living in 20 to 30 degree temperature for months, 45 degrees feels like summer. They call this the January thaw. Mary visited Molly and decided to use the warmer weather to try to get off on a pleasant foot. "It sure is nice outside, Molly. Why don't you take a stroll before winter kicks in again. I'll walk with you." That just started Molly up again. "You think that just because you have a coat and scarf and gloves, that everyone can go outside. I haven't been out since September. And here's why." Then Molly took out a coat that was so threadbare it couldn't even serve much use as a blanket. Molly then hissed, "Why don't you just go back to your fantasy land. I've had enough of you for today." As I said, Molly was not nice. Mary ran to the Church in tears and asked God to help her not be bitter to the elderly lady.

The next day was Mary's pay day, a whole \$800. She could barely pay her rent and food out of that. Mary cashed her check and then she had a wonderful thought. She still had a little graduation money in the bank for emergencies. She could use some of that to get by. Mary thought about Molly. She put \$200 in an envelope, and sent it anonymously to the bitter old lady with a note, "Please buy yourself a winter coat." A few days later the agency received a letter addressed to young Mary. The letter contained \$50 and read, "I know that you must have sent me the money, because no one else knew about my coat. I'm sorry for being so mean. I was able to find a coat for \$150. Please give the other \$50 to someone else who has needs. Looking forward to your next visit, Love, Molly."

Mary thought that Molly could have used that extra \$50 herself. She also thought that Molly could have continued her mean streak, but instead she wanted to be generous to someone. Mary realized that Christ had indeed worked on Molly. Molly had been touched by the love of Christ. Molly now felt the love of Christ in her own life. Now this love was flowing through her and needed to touch someone else. Molly wanted someone else to have that \$50.

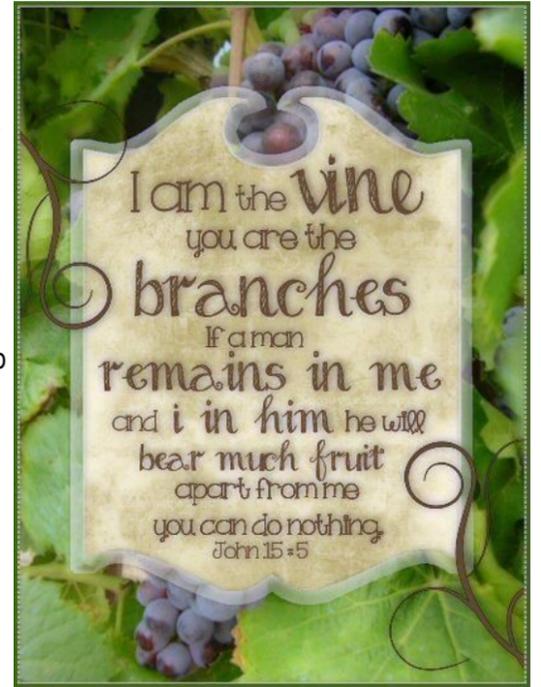
We hear the message of the vine and the branches every year at Easter time. It seems so obvious to us that we need to be united to Christ to bring him to others, but then we get so busy in doing things for our family, our spouses, or others, that we forget where the real Power of Love comes from. Like Mary, we try too hard, but we don't try hard enough. Instead of strengthening our union with Christ and letting Him work through us, we go about a myriad of tasks without spending time on the work that really matters, growing in the love of Christ. We have God's life, God's love within us. When we are united to this love, even the mean old Molly's of the world, or the mean old Molly's of our families, will come in contact with the Love of Christ. And once the Love of Christ flows into them, it will flow through them to others.

What really matters in our lives? Is it the way others treat us? Often that motivates us to return negative for negative. But what others say and do is really secondary to what really matters in life. What matters is the Love of Christ that we have been empowered to make real in the world. When that love becomes our focus, then we really don't care about ourselves. We just want others to experience this love.

During Easter time we celebrate the gift of the Lord's life we received at Baptism. We need to be determined to strengthen this life within us. We need to be more faithful, more prayerful. We need to try harder in our prayer life. That is how we are called to bring God's love to others.

Fr. Joseph Pellegrino

He is the vine, we are the branches.



Celebration of Holy Mass

Weekday

Monday thru Thursday 11:00am

Weekend

Saturday 4:30pm

Sunday 8:00am & 10:30am

Reconciliation

20 minutes before Masses begin or anytime by appointment.

Rectory Office Hours

Mon. thru Thur. 9:am to 3pm

Fri. 9am to 12 noon

Education Office Hour.

Mon. thru Thur. 9:am to 3pm

Fri. 9am to 12 noon

New Parishioners

We welcome you with great joy and invite you to register and worship with us regularly. Forms are available in the rectory.

SACRAMENT INFORMATION

Baptism - Instructions are offered for both parents and godparents during the months of February, May, August, and November. Plan accordingly when expecting a child or choosing godparents and call 395-3881 to register for the class or to schedule a baptism.

Confirmation - Young people are prepared for Confirmation through the Confirmation Program. Adults are prepared for Confirmation through the R.C.I.A.

Matrimony - Diocesan Policy requires that a couple make arrangements with the pastor at least 6 months prior to desired date.

Sacrament of The Sick - Call the rectory to make arrangements for Communion and Anointing.

Rite of Christian Burial - Arrangements to be made with a priest by the family.

Sacrament of Holy Orders or calling to religious life - please contact the priest in order to discern God's will.

R.C.I.A. (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) - This process is structured to provide information for the formation of those who are seeking a fuller life as Christians in the Catholic Tradition. For information, please call the Office of Religious Education.

Religious Education For Children Call the Office of Religious Education for information about registering your child.

Knights of Columbus - Meet the second Thurs. of the month at 7pm.

Come Lord Jesus Groups - Seeking to become closer to God, learning more about scripture and being spiritually prepared for Sunday liturgy....consider joining a CLJ Group Call Marguerite Sumrall 395-5304 for more information.

**MASS INTENTIONS
LIVE ON FACEBOOK!**

MONDAY, MAY 3

11:00 A.M. : Curtis Gautreaux Jr, Suzanne Lipari, Frank Guarisco, Irene Mouton, Marshall Gray, Jackie Couture, Frank Cali Sr., Frank Lapari, Chris Costa, Frank Jones, Louis Stuer, Louise Smoorenburg, Laura Johnson, Pam Faul, Lucille Savoie

TUESDAY, MAY 4

11:00 A.M.: Loving Memory Tree intentions

WEDNESDAY, MAY 5

11:00 A.M. : Ernest Ganaway, Nico Smoorenburg

THURSDAY, MAY 6

11:00 A.M. : Curtis Gautreaux Jr., Ashton Flair

**FRIDAY, MAY 7
NO MASS**

SATURDAY, MAY 8

4:30 P.M.: Wilson & Gertrude Bailey, Luke & Virginia Lipari, Frank Guarisco, Gulley & Anna Taylor, Donald & Leona Smith, Max Griffin, Graci Andrews, Melba & Murray Trahan, M/M Gulley Taylor, Louise Smoorenburg, Frank Cardinale

SUNDAY, MAY 9

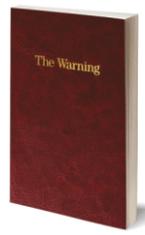
8:00 A.M. : Elsa Y. Parchmont, John DiMatteo, Gail Smith, Charpentier & Costa Fly., Smoorenburg & Boumans Fly., Curtis Gautreaux Jr., M/M Jake P. Lipari, Guderian & Barcenas Fly., Marie Morella, Mary T. Charpentier, Beth Verret, Floyd Estay, Katherine Cardinale, Russell & Molly Governale, Frank & Dianne Governale

10:30 A.M. : For the People of our Parish (Living & Deceased)

Sanctuary Light

Note: If a name is not printed above, due to human error, be assured that God has accepted your intention in heaven. Canon Law 94

**The Warning
by Christine Watkins
Fr. B will be having a discussion
group May 12, Wednesday at 6pm
in the Parish Hall all are invited.**



If you want to live in faith, hope, and love, instead of in fear and despair, then read this prophetic book and believe the divinely inspired words of these contemporary saints and mystics. They challenge us to purify our consciences and commit our lives to Jesus, Who is the Truth and the Way to eternal life. In prayer, listen to God's Powerful Spirit (GPS) gracing and guiding us to become saints by serving others as disciples of hope and healing.

About the Author: Mrs. Christine Watkins, MTS, LCSW, is an inspirational Catholic speaker, author, and radio and television host. Formerly an anti-Christian atheist, she began a life of service to the Catholic Church after a miraculous healing from Jesus through Mary, which saved her from death. Before her conversion to Catholicism, she danced professionally with the San Francisco Ballet Company.

20 Books will be provided please call the rectory.

Father's Adult Discussion Group :
Monday, 6:30pm will meet in the Parish Hall

Eucharistic Adoration First Tuesday of each month from 12 noon to 9:00 pm. Begins with the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at noon, and ends with the Benediction at 9:00 P.M. All are welcomed and encouraged to come spend some time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Contact Angie Stelly @ 985-759-3154 for more information.

Catholic Daughters will meet the first Thursday of each month at 6:00 P.M. in the parish hall. If you are interested in joining

Mother's Day Flowers

We are now accepting donations for Mother's Day flowers. If you would like to donate in memory of a loved one, call the Rectory at 395-3616.



You Need to Know:

As we've entered the month of May, the month dedicated to Our Blessed Mother Mary, it's an appropriate time to examine her most ancient title, "Theotokos." Quite simply this Greek term translates "Mother of God" or "Bearer of God." Today, this is considered a known reality or "a given," but in the early centuries of the Church it was not so. Indeed, there was much uncertainty about the nature of Jesus Himself. It was accepted that Mary is Jesus's mother, but is Jesus actually God? The Arian heresy of the 300's held that Jesus was totally human— but not totally divine. In Arian belief God created Jesus specifically to be the savior of humanity. That Arian belief was condemned by the Council of Nicaea in 325 and the Council of Constantinople in 381. But by the 400's Nestorianism appeared. Nestorius, the Patriarch of Constantinople ruled Mary to be "Christokos" or Christ Bearer. He did this to prevent Mary from appearing as a goddess giving birth to divinity, to prevent Jesus from seeming as simply a creature, and to prevent the human nature of Jesus from appearing incomplete. Consequently, these were all issues debated by the Council of Ephesus in 431. The council, with the leadership of St. Cyril of Alexandria, ruled Nestorianism as heresy. Thus, the perfect union of Jesus's divine and human natures in one person was upheld— and as Jesus is true God, as well as true man, Mary's great title, which had already been in use for over 100 years, was preserved. **"Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us."** And remember, "Theopokos" is something you need to know— and believe.



Sick Relatives & Friends

Please pray for the sick of our parish & their caregivers: Stella Saleme, Wilda Cali, Angelle Hebert, Iris Roy, Celeste Jumonville, Jackie Como, David Hartford, Lee Michel, Cursey Gordon, Rachel Caprito, Rose Johnson, Robert Johnson, Daisy LeBlanc, Russel Cardinale, Linda Thomas, Bonnes Guidry, Austin Gabourel, Ruth Blocker, Troy Broussard, Ken & Nadine Montgomery, Barbara Johnson, Agatha Wiggins, Ricky & Brenda Lamartinier, Bud Lange, Joseph Gomez, Mary Ann Trosclair, Raymond Verret, Don Cordray, Wilbert Drash, Doug & Mamie Perry, Miguel Espansa, Russel Cremaldi, Josie Moncada, Lee Felterman, Alanna Sloane, Wineva Acosta, Mary Sehon, Kerry Montet Jr, Bryce Solar, Dolores Verret, Barbara Guarisco, Kenny Leger, Joann Landry, Diane Singleton, Garnet Acosta, Geraldine Dilly, Jamie Credeur, Heather Bourque

Please call the rectory to add or delete a

Stewardship Area

"Give to the Most High as He has given to you, for the Lord is one who always repays, and He will give back to you sevenfold." Sirach 35:10

Last Weekend Offerings: \$3143.00
Catholic Home Missions \$559.00

St. Joseph is now accepting Bulletin ads. You may purchase an Ad for your business or in memory of someone. Ads are \$20.00 a month or \$240.00 a yr. If you would like to place an Ad in the Bulletin

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| <p><i>Mausoleum Crypts</i> Are still available here at St. Joseph. If interested please call the rectory. 395-3616</p> | <p>JEFF PRESIDENT CARDINALE CARDINAL LUMBER & SUPPLY, INC. 985-395-9580 800 HWY. 90 WEST</p> | <p>Frank's Agency, Inc. Complete insurance Services 985-395-9351 glynnuarisco@bellsouth.net</p> | <p>Hanson Memorial High School, Franklin La. is seeking candidates for the following positions, 6th grade - 12th grade 2021-2022 school year Seeking Applicants for the Following Positions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mathematics • Science • Religion • Spanish • Head Boys Basketball • Head Football Coach • Head Track Coach <p>Mission Statement: Hanson Memorial High School is a Roman Catholic school dedicated to the formation of a Christ-centered individual, equipped to use the gifts of spirit, mind and body in positive contributions to Church, family and society</p> <p>APPLY NOW! WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU ON OUR TEAM! Please Send Resumes to: Connie Daigle, Principal Hanson Memorial High School 903 Anderson Street, Franklin, LA. 70538 cdaigle@hansonmemorial.com - 337-828-3487</p> |
| <p>TOWN & COUNTRY FLORIST & GIFTS, Owner: Glynda Lasseigne 3515 Hwy 182, Berwick 985/385-6929 www.tandcflorist.com</p> | <p>MORGAN CITY SUPPLY of Louisiana 985/384-3650 6911 Hwy 182 E Morgan City, LA</p> | <p>Knights of Columbus #1710 Protecting Catholic Families for Generations</p> | |
| <p>Member FDIC PATTERSON STATE BANK</p> | <p>Reminder during Mass:</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">PLEASE WEAR A MASK</div> <div style="text-align: center;">2 metres ↔ 6 feet</div> <div style="text-align: center;"> No contact</div> </div> | | |

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| May 8 & 9 | Extra Ordinary Ministers of the Eucharist: | Lectors: | Altar Servers: |
| Sat. 4:30pm | | Sandra Marshall | Alex Haven |
| Sun. 8:00am | | Jamie Guidry | Madalyn & Zachary Landry |
| Sun. 10:30am | | Terry Burgess | Landon Lipari |