May 26, 2019

**The Month of May:**

**a month of devotion to Our Lady**

Last week we reflected on what St. Louis deMontfort wrote about how we are to do everything through Mary. He emphasized an approach to Christian living which allows the Blessed Virgin Mary to exercise her God-given role of Mother in our lives. He uses the strong language of being obedient to Mary who herself said in the Gospel, “Do everything He tells you.” Our heavenly Mother will never lead us anywhere but into the will of God because she herself is led sweetly by her Spouse, the Holy Spirit.

 “*This is done easily and quickly*”, St. Louis says, “*by a mere thought, a slight movement of the will or just a few words as, "I renounce myself and give myself to you, my dear Mother.*"

 Next, he emphasizes doing everything *with* Mary: *“We must do everything with Mary, that is to say, in all our actions we must look upon Mary, although a simple human being, as the perfect model of every virtue and perfection, fashioned by the Holy Spirit for us to imitate, as far as our limited capacity allows. In every action then we should consider how Mary performed it or how she would perform it if she were in our place.”* (True Devotion to Mary, #260)

 In our life of Faith, we believe that the Holy Spirit not only directs all of our meritorious actions, but that He acts in and with us. If we do anything good, it is the Holy Spirit who has succeeded in causing our heart to bear fruit in goodness.

The saint writes boldly, “*we must do everything for Mary. Since we have given ourselves completely to her service, it is only right that we should do everything for her as if we were her personal servant and slave. This does not mean that we take her for the ultimate end of our service for Jesus alone is our ultimate end. But we take Mary for our proximate end, our mysterious intermediary and the easiest way of reaching him.*

*Like every good servant and slave we must not remain idle, but, relying on her protection, we should undertake and carry out great things for our noble Queen.*” (#265)

***Sixth Sunday of Easter***

Dear friends in Christ,

 We are preparing for many fun-filled events that will occur over the next few months. In particular, preparation for the parish dinner, our major fundraiser, is in high gear. Please save the date – July 13th 12 noon-4pm – and consider volunteering to help out that day. We had a great turnout of volunteers last year and it made for a very enjoyable event for volunteer and guest alike!

 This is the time of year when we begin to look at the budget for next year, setting priorities and evaluating how we can be better stewards of the resources God has given to the parish. While the decisions rest on your parish administrator, I am always open to good suggestions and charitable critiques of how we are doing.

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 This is our last weekend in the month of May, so in the next column we take again from the riches of St. Louis deMontfort’s teaching on the role of Mary in our lives and hearts. Aware that both men and women struggle with the role of Mary in the Church, you may have noticed that I place heavy emphasis on teaching about her. There is a need in every Christian heart to encounter the Blessed Virgin Mary because God has truly created in our hearts a place for this beautiful Mother. St. Louis deMontfort helps us to put that devotion into practice.

 For those who will enter into heaven, the encounter with our Lord will be overwhelming. He will fill us with that love and knowledge of Him that awaits those who have “heard the Word of God and fulfilled it”.

The state of heaven is not a singular, narrow relationship with God, but entrance into the family of God. The Book of Revelation gives us a captivating picture of the splendor of heaven with its radiant choirs of angels and the ranks of our brothers and sisters, the saints who are assembled in glory before the throne and altar of the Lamb. Most conspicuous of these will be the radiant Mother of God who will welcome us with her motherly love and lead the whole hierarchy of heaven in praise of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

So, our devotion to the Mother of God is not mere sentimentality but the true reflection of God’s plan for our eternal life. We begin here on earth what already has taken shape in heaven as the New Covenant. While the time of trial continues on earth, our heavenly Mother spurs us on to service in her army of evangelizers and sinners who are seeking to become saints. And so, “we do everything for Mary”, because the Lord has given her reign over us in His Kingdom. She is an essential part of the plan of salvation.

Mary, Queen of Heaven, pray for us,

**Fr. Martin Flum**

**ST. MICHAEL’S MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEK**

**Saturday, 06/01/19 5pm**

**Rosary Leader:** Alice Williams **Lector**: Vicky Hayden

**Server**: Claude Boswell **EMHC:** Arlene Bloom

Sunday 06/02/19 **8am**

**Rosary Leader:** Betty Lindsay **Lector**: James Holly

**Server:** Jessica & Julissa Holly **EMHC:** Joseph Sobnosky

**Sunday, 06/02/19** 11:30am

**Rosary Leader**: Kevin Mondorff **Lector:** Chris Patterson

**Server:** Kory Aure  **EMHC:** TBD

**PARISH OFFICE CLOSED MEMORIAL DAY**

The parish office will be closed on Monday, May 27th, Memorial Day. Please hold all parish business until Tuesday, May 28th.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Saturday,      05/25/19     5pm  James C. Polomis ****

Sunday,         05/26/19         8am     Rachel Makle

Sunday,         05/26/19       10am   Thomas Flum

Sunday,         05/26/19   11:30am  Parishioners & their families

Monday, 05/27/19 8am American Veterans

Tuesday, 05/28/19 8am Bradley Kelley

Wed., 05/29/19 8am Margie Janes

Thursday,     05/30/19        8am      Mustard Seed Community

Friday, 05/31/19 8am Fr. George Wilkinson family

Saturday 06/01/19 8am Liz Cooke

**ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY MASSES**

Masses will be offered on Memorial Day, Monday, May 27th at 10am for all of the deceased members of the parishes of St. Mary’s, Charles, Calvert and PG counties, especially for those who died in the past year:

1. the St. Mary’s Queen of Peace Cemetery located in Helen, MD on Doctor Johnson Road adjacent to the Mother Catherine Spalding Academy (Route 238). If you need additional information, please call 301-475-5005 and
2. the Resurrection Cemetery in Clinton, MD located on Woodyard Road in Clinton, MD. For additional information, please call [301-868-5141](https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-1-d&q=resurrection+cemetery).

**Readings for the week of May 26, 2019**

Sunday: Acts 15:1-2, 22-29/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [4]/Rv 21:10- 14, 22-23/Jn 14:23-29
Monday: Acts 16:11-15/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b [cf. 4a]

 /Jn 15:26--16:4a
Tuesday: Acts 16:22-34/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8 [7c]/Jn 16:5-11
Wed.: Acts 17:15, 22--18:1/Ps 148:1-2, 11-12, 13, 14/

 Jn 16:12-15
Thursday: Acts 18:1-8/Ps 98:1, 2-3cd-4 [cf. 2b]/Jn 16:16-20
Ascension: Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 [6]/Eph 1:17-23 or Heb 9:24-28; 10:19-23/Lk 24:46-53
Friday: Zep 3:14-18a or Rom 12:9-16/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 [6]/Lk 1:39-56
Saturday: Acts 18:23-28/Ps 47:2-3, 8-9, 10 [8a]/Jn 16:23b-28
Next Sunday: Ascension:

 Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 [6]/Eph 1:17-23 or Heb 9:24-28; 10:19-23/Lk 24:46-53

**St. Dominic’s Parish Appreciation Brunch**

St. Dominic’s Sodality will host a parish appreciation brunch under the tent on Sunday, June 9th, the feast of Pentecost after 10am Mass at St. Dominic’s. Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love! We give thanks for all of our parishioners and those who have contributed to the renewal of our Mission.

**YOUR SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS**

**St. Michael’s**

Offertory Collection for May 18th & 19th $ 2,856.00

**St. Dominic’s**

Offertory Collection for May 19th $ 1,593.00

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK**

For those who suffer from chronic illness especially, Madison Brady, Ann Canter, Charlene Cardwell, Tom Cardwell, Carol Carter, Jackie Chapman, Brianna Daniels, Kathy Fisher, Pat Hammond, Tommy Jenkins, Marie Knobel, Wanda Langley, Adam Lumpkins, Rachel Makle, Louis Miller, Regina Nasatka, Joyce Pickeral, Rev. Robert Pittman, Dawn Russo, Lucille Shanks, Dee Smith, Geraldine Stewart, Willie Stewart, George Thomas, and Belinda Windsor, may they not grow weary under their burden but be strengthened by the love God has for them.



**MAY CROWNING OF OUR LADY**

The parish May Crowning of our Lady was a beautiful event and a fitting sign of our love for the Mary, Mother of God and our Mother – “Mater Dei, mater mei”. Much gratitude goes out to all of those who made it so beautiful - the flowers on the altar, the meticulous preparation of the garden around our Lady’s statue, the assistance with the liturgy and the healing prayers by the visiting group of young women and the delicious reception provided for all of our parishioners and guests. Thank you to all of you who attended and who provided such a beautiful evening!

**HEALING MASS – ST. MARY CHURCH - NEWPORT**

Mass with Healing Prayers will be held next Thursday, June 6th, in honor of St. John Vianney. The Litany of St. John Vianney will be recited after Communion and Fr. Michael Briese will offer prayers of healing. Confessions begin at 6pm and will continue throughout Mass.; Mass begins at 6:30pm. Location: 11555 St. Mary’s Church Road, Charlotte Hall, MD  20622.  For additional information, please call the parish office at 301-934-8825.

**Save the date**

ST. MICHAEL AND ST. DOMINIC PARISH DINNER!

Announcing our Parish dinner – JULY 13, 2019 from 12 noon to 4 p.m.! Last year, despite a driving rainstorm, we had a huge success with our parish fundraiser. We sold out of dinners and had a great time. This year, with an enhanced menu, one can Dine In or Carry Out at $23 for an advance sale ticket or $25 at the door.

Children (ages 7-12) are $10.00; (ages 6 and under are FREE)! We will have Crafts, a Bake Sale and a raffle @ $5.00 per ticket or 5 tickets for $20 which will yield a $1000 and a $500 prize. A special quilt, handmade for this occasion, and a Kay Jeweler’s pendant will also be raffled off to some lucky winners.