

SPECIAL MARIAN EDITION

May 1, 2020

Dear Parishioners of Saint Petronille,

Saint Joseph

Every year, the Catholic Church launches the “Month of Mary” with the Memorial of Saint Joseph the Worker. We celebrated the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, husband of Mary, in March and now, only a month and half later another great celebration of Jesus’ foster father. Saint Joseph the Worker takes on special meaning for us during this pandemic as so many are out of work or working from home. Of course, Mom and Dad always worked from home in the early days of our nation. Hence, this connection between home and work is bound up in our celebration of Saint Joseph. Saint Joseph the worker and Saint Joseph the husband and father given the mission to protect and guide his family makes sense launching the month dedicated to his wife.

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Mary has appeared as the ever-present mother to faithful people all over the world in different manifestations. During the middle ages the image of Mary painted by Saint Luke, “Salus Populi Romani,” was processed through the streets of Rome during several different plagues warding off the pandemic afflicting her people. The patroness of the Americas is Our Lady of Guadalupe who appeared to Saint Juan Diego imprinting her image on the famous Tilma housed now in Fr. Eduardo’s home town of Mexico City. A great deal of research has been done on the miraculous Tilma reinforcing the adage: “For those who do not believe, no explanation is possible. For those who believe, no explanation is necessary.” Nevertheless, Our Lady of Guadalupe is a worthy patroness in this time of pandemic.

US Bishop Consecrating Our Nation to the Blessed Virgin Mary

Today, the US Bishops consecrate the United States, once again, to the care of the Blessed Virgin Mary. I have included the prayer of consecration with the attached information about building your own Mary Altar and celebrating a May Crowning in your home.

May Crowning

The association of the month of May with the Blessed Virgin Mary goes back to the early centuries of the Church and Mary chose May 13, 1917 for her first apparition to three children in Fatima Portugal. During the month of May, the Catholic Church hands on the ancient tradition of crowning the Blessed Virgin Mary during this month both at church and in homes. **Saint Petronille will conduct a May Crowning after the morning Mass on May 13th at 9:00 am.** Although this will be live-streamed, you are welcome to login and pray with your family whenever you wish. We would also like to invite everyone to build a Marian Altar in your homes and do a May Crowning ceremony at home with your family. **I have attached a guide to building your Mary Altar and the Military Archdiocese provides a nice little ritual for Crowning Mary in your home:**

<https://www.archmil.org/JohnPaulIICenter/LayFormation/AdultFormation/CrowningMary.pdf>

Let us offer special prayers this year for the relief of the coronavirus and all those suffering due to its effects, physical, spiritual and economic. Let us also pray for our leaders that they will make good and prudent decisions as we move through this pandemic.

Family Rosary

We will also begin praying the rosary together after the 5 pm Mass every Saturday during the month of May. Please join us on-line at approximately 6 pm May 2, May 9, May 16, May 23 and May 30. If your rosary skills are a little rusty, you can log onto the US Bishops webpage to refresh your memory and re-invigorate your bead-calluses:

<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/rosaries/how-to-pray-the-rosary.cfm>

Share Your Images or Videos

Our Parish Life Committee will be putting together a collage of images of people putting together their Mary altars, performing their May Crowning and praying their prayers asking for Mary's intercession. Please feel free to put together a brief 10 second video or a photo of your family for our collage. We ask that you submit your images to the parish no later than May 15th so that we can put together our collage and share it on our Patronal Feast Day, May 31st, the Feast Day of Saint Petronille. You may send your images and videos to our parish communication director, Paula Barnett at barnettp@stpetschurch.org.

Mother's Day Blessing – Thank God for Mom!

We wish all the Mothers at St. Pets a great and safe Mother's Day. Regrettably, we cannot join together to extend our special Mother's Day blessing due to Covid-19 virus and complying with our Governor's order to stay at home.

We will, however, offer a prayer of blessing during each of our Masses on Mother's Day weekend and we have created a special way we can deliver our Mother's Day blessing individually to moms.

On Mother's Day, May 10 we will be extending a curbside blessing during the following time: 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

We ask those participating to enter Hillside Avenue from Main Street, proceed West on Hillside and pause in front of St. Petronille, where a Priest/Deacon will be visible near curbside, in front of Church, to provide the blessing. Autos can then proceed to exit on prospect Avenue. Unfortunately, we must ask that no one exit their vehicle.

May Almighty God bless you and keep you in His love.

Prayers.

To Jesus through Mary,

Fr. Thomas Milota

