



CHURCH
OF THE
ASSUMPTION

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May 2, 2021 5th Sunday of Easter

A Word from the Pastor

Why is May the Month of Mary?

The ways Mary is honored in May is as varied as the people who honor her.

May, the month in which the earth springs into bloom (at least in the Northern Hemisphere) and we start thinking about planting gardens, family picnics and making vacation plans.

Having gone to a Catholic elementary and high schools run by the Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose, my early childhood memories include honoring Mary during May – a practice I have continued in my life. It is as natural and essential to me as my morning coffee, but not quite the same. I know a number of Catholics who see May as the Month of Mary, and we all get the same question from time to time: Why is May Mary's month?

Here is a brief explanation I read in the Catholic Register the other morning.

"For centuries, the Catholic Church has set aside the entire month of May to honor Mary, Mother of God. Not just a day *in* May, mind you, but the entire month.

The custom spans both centuries and cultures, with roots going back as far as the Ancient Greeks. In early Greece, May was dedicated to Artemis, the goddess of fecundity (the ability to produce an abundance of offspring or new growth, fertility)

In Ancient Rome, May was dedicated to Flora, the goddess of blooms, or blossoms. They celebrated *ludi florals*, or floral games, at the end of April and asked the intercession of Flora for all that blooms."

In medieval times, similar customs abounded, all centering around the practice of expelling winter, as May 1 was considered the start of new growth. During this period, the tradition of *Tricesimum*, or "Thirty-Day Devotion to Mary," came into being. Also called, "Lady Month," the event was held from August 15-September 14 and is still observed in some areas.

The idea of a month dedicated specifically to Mary can be traced back to baroque times. Although it was not always held during May, Mary Month included thirty daily spiritual exercises honoring Mary.

It was in this era that Mary's Month and May were combined, making May the Month of Mary with special devotions organized on each day throughout the month. This custom became especially widespread during the nineteenth century and remains in practice until today.

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It is common for parishes to have a daily recitation of the Rosary during May, and many erect a special May altar with a statue or picture of Mary as a reminder of Mary's month. Additionally, it is a long-standing tradition to crown the statue of Mary during May – a custom known as May Crowning. Often, the crown is made of beautiful blossoms representing Mary's beauty and virtue. It is also a reminder to the faithful to strive to imitate our Blessed Mother's virtue in our own lives. May Crowning, in some areas, is a huge celebration and is usually done outside of Mass, although Mass may be celebrated before or after the actual crowning.

But May altars and crownings are not just "church" things. We can and should be doing the same in our homes. When we echo the customs and traditions of the Church in our homes – our domestic churches – we participate more fully in the life of the Church.

If you have not already, I encourage you to erect a prayer corner in your home. No matter how fancy or simple it is. The main point is that it is a place designated for God, and more specifically, for spending time with him. Just as you need proper atmosphere to sleep, you also need proper atmosphere to pray.

Latest News

For May, give Mary a special spot in your prayer corner. It can be a statue or picture, but place there some representation of our Blessed Mother. Make it appealing and a real tribute to her beauty and virtue.

Then, crown Mary. You can give her an actual or spiritual crown and you can make it a subtle gesture or ornate ceremony of your own device. The meaning is far more important than the action. You can do it in the beginning, at the end of May or anywhere in between.

Why? Not because it is a long-standing tradition in the Church, although it is. Not because there are any special graces connected to it, although there is. No, do it because Mary is Mother – your mother, my mother, everyone's mother – and because she cares for all of us day-in-and-day-out without fail, interceding for us in even the tiniest matters. For that, she deserves an entire month in her honor.

Portions of this article originally appeared May 1, 2016, at the Register.

Elementary/School Faith Formation

Lent is meant to be a *time of repentance*. It is important as Catholics to attend confession during the Lenten Season. Abiding by this, Our Faith Formation and Assumption School students received their second sacrament, First Reconciliation, last month. On Good Friday, our FF second grade class helped Father Chris with the Stations of the Cross which was held outside.

Our Faith Formation Sacramental Class has been meeting every other Sunday via zoom since last Fall. We applaud our students to adapting this new way of teaching and learning.

Middle School Action Team (MSAT)

Assumption and Bancroft middle schoolers continuously serve different community needs and this *Lenten Season* was no different. This year's *Lenten Service Projects* included their continued ministry work with April Showers, St. Vincent DePaul, Stations of the Cross and outreach to our parishioners.

Every Sunday during Lent MSAT made 50 plus lunches to feed our unhoused community members living in San Leandro encampments. The lunches were distributed by St. Vincent DePaul. They also planned a Men's Jeans, Sweatshirts and Tee Shirt drive for April Showers. On Palm Sunday MSAT lead the Stations of the Cross at the Mary Seese Plaza. Our kids also sent letters to our parishioners who are isolated during the pandemic.

High School Confirmation

We recently had the pleasure of developing "we care" kits for our brothers and sisters in the homeless encampments. This was our *Lenten service project* and each candidate donated 3 backpacks filled with necessities. These kits contained various items that help in the day-to-day life of someone living in the camps. They also included a card, prayer, words of encouragement.

Financial Report

Week of April 25 2021

\$2,798.00

Formed Pick of the Week

Acts of the Apostles with Mark Hart

The feast day of Saints Philip and James reminds us of the impact that the Apostles made on the whole world. With Philip and James, and all the Apostles in mind, join Mark in this refresher on the Book of Acts. In the Acts of the Apostles Section 1, Mark breaks open the history of this powerful book of Scripture. Through his overview of the first five chapters, we are given context and insight into the early church.

<https://watch.fprmed.org/acts-of-the-apostles-with-mark-hart>

To set up your free account visit formed.org/

RCIA and Adult Confirmation

Adult Faith Formation begins right here at church during mass when we celebrate the Liturgy of the Work with our excellent homilist and the Liturgy of the Eucharist with the very presence of Christ in our midst!

RCIA is a RITE, the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. This program is open to adults seeking baptism in the

Catholic Church or the completion of the sacraments of Initiation, namely the Eucharist and Confirmation.

We are now enrolling adults

Call or Text Jim Brady at 510-393-9396 or email at jbrady@assumptionsanleandro.org.

St. Vincent dePaul

In the Gospel today, Jesus says "Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing." Indeed, by helping the poor we can "bear much fruit" and we find that with Jesus we can do everything. Your gift to the Society of St. Vincent dePaul will show that you are indeed the disciple of Jesus as it will bring your love to those who live in fear and doubt, loneliness and dread. We wish to extend a special Thank You to the Middle School Action Team and the Confirmation class for their inspirational efforts joining our members to bring food, personal items and compassion to the homeless.

If you or someone you know is in need of assistance,
please call our Help-Line 510-352-6079.



MAY 1—MAY 8, 2021

We Remember at the Eucharist

Saturday 1

8:15a.m. Bob Kucer (Living)
4:30pm Judieh Akia (Living)

Sunday 2

10:30 a.m. Rick Bradley (Living)
Jean & Henriette Dupont+

Monday 3

8:15a.m. Gloria Justis+

Tuesday 4

8:15a.m. Robert Herrick++

Wednesday 5

8:15a.m. Mike Thomey+

Thursday 6

8:15am Pat Gilmore+

Friday 7

8:15am Eugene O'Toole+

Saturday 8

8:15am Al Frates+
4:30pm Lucille Danielsen+

Parish Office Hours:

Monday thru Thursday
9:00AM -12:00PM – 12:30PM - 3:00PM
Friday 9:00AM to 12:00PM

PAROCHIAL STAFF

Fr. Leonard Marrujo, Parochial Administrator

lmarrujo@assumptionsanleandro.org

Fr. Chris Berbena, Parochial Vicar

cberbena@assumptionsanleandro.org

Bill Vaughan, Music Director

bvaughan@cndo.org

James Brady, RCIA & Adult Faith Formation

jbrady@assumptionsanleandro.org

Mary Schirmer, Youth Ministry & Formation

mschirmer@assumptionsanleandro.org

Martha Zeyen, Administrative Assistant

mzeyen@assumptionsanleandro.org

Kelly Hodgins, Communications Director

khodgins@assumptionsanleandro.org

ASSUMPTION SCHOOL

Lana Rocheford, School Principal

School Office: 510-357-8772

School Office Hours: 7:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Celebration of the Eucharist

Daily Mass: 8:15am (Live Streamed)

Saturday: 4:30pm **Sunday:** 10:30am (Live Streamed)

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday: 3:30pm to 4:00p, and by Appointment

LITURGICAL MINISTERS:

Head Lector:

Cathy Ralph..... 510-895-0420

Altar Server Coordinators:

Dennis Burigay..... 510-895-1628

Mike Tedeschi..... 510-357-9447

Head Communion Minister:

Faye Caruso..... 510-882-5002

Head Usher: Ed Hernandez.....510-875-8308

Head Greeter: Hanne Gerardi..... 510-393-9989

Ministry Schedulers:

Giovanna Giuliani..... 510-872-3035

Faith Formation & Teen Confirmation:

Mary Schirmer..... 510-352-1537

RCIA and Adult Faith Formation

Jim Brady 510-393-9396

St. Vincent de Paul

Denis Ducey..... 510-352-6079

Pastoral Council:

Doug Taylor... 510-638-3050

School Board:

Pierre Davis 415-519-1173

Finance Committee:

George Brandt..... 510-410-5819

Tuesdays with Larry:

Larry Graves..... 510-352-4777

Rosary Makers:

Irene Haines..... 510-483-7975

CYO:

Nathaniel Fripp 510-789-5565

Tom Shaddle 510-357-1342

All Saints Skilled Nursing

Lizette Rocha..... 510-351-1342

Communion to the Homebound:

Joan Tonsberg..... 510-357-1985

Communion to Kindred Hospital:

Susan Sequeira..... 510-352-5614

Prayer Chain:

JoMarie Stavosky..... 510-889-9469

Knit/Crochet Group

Gloria Calegari..... 510-357-0943

Linens:

Anita De Marais..... 510-357-9172

Cursillo

Jennie Gisslow..... 510-875-9170

Assumption Parish Mission Statement

Assumption Parish is a culturally diverse and vibrant Catholic community which strives to grow as followers of Jesus Christ. We do this by accepting the challenge to build a Christ-centered community that draws on the wisdom of our seniors and the energy of our youth. We are committed to Catholic education at various levels. We are nurtured by inspired Liturgy, active and enriching faith formation programs, and inclusive family ministry, all of which enable us to share our gifts of time, talent, treasure and vision with our parish family and surrounding communities.

513057

Attention: Martha

510-352-1537

info@assumptionsanleandro.org

Message:

Please send 250 bulletins