

*We Pray  
For Our Sick*



**THIS WEEK'S READINGS**

**Sunday:** Acts 2:14, 22-33; Pt 1:17-21; Lk 24:13-35  
**Monday:** Acts 6:8-15; Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30; Jn 6:22-29  
**Tuesday:** Acts 7:51 — 8:1a; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 7b, 8a, 17, 21ab; Jn 6:30-35  
**Wednesday:** Acts 8:1b-8; Ps 66:1-3a, 4-7a; Jn 6:35-40  
**Thursday:** Acts 8:26-40; Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20; Jn 6:44-51  
**Friday:** Acts 9:1-20; Ps 117:1bc, 2; Jn 6:52-59  
**Saturday:** Acts 9:31-42; Ps 116:12-17; Jn 6:60-69  
**Sunday:** Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Ps 23:1-6; 1 Pt 2:20b-25; Jn 10:1-10

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**MONDAY May 5, 2014**  
 7:00 AM Intentions of Fr. James Stachacz  
 9:00AM Giuseppe Totino  
**TUESDAY May 6, 2014**  
 7:00AM Francis Donovan  
 9:00AM M & J Rallo  
**WEDNESDAY May 7, 2014**  
 7:00AM John McCrudden  
 9:00AM Gloria and Anthony Amodeo  
**Thursday May 8, 2014**  
 7:00 AM William A. Werner  
 9:00 AM Michael L. Hyde  
**FRIDAY May 9, 2014**  
 7:00AM Gloria and Stephen Scover  
 9:00AM Vincent Longo, Sr.  
**SATURDAY May 10, 2014, St Damien deVeuster**  
 9:00 AM Veronica Kenny  
 5:00PM Kristy Lyn Haley  
**SUNDAY May 11, 2014, Mother's Day**  
 7:30AM Mother's Day Novena  
 9:30 AM Mother's Day Novena  
 11:00AM Mother's Day Novena  
 12:30PM Parishioners of St. Ignatius Loyola.  
 5:15PM Mother's Day Novena  
 7:00PM Spanish Mass

Mark Stapleton, Cecilia McLaughlin, John & Mary D'Antonio, Gloria Lane, CPL. Garrett Carnes, USMC, Anna Palewski, Philip Zederbaum, Michael Maher, Patrick McGee, Dawn Levchenko, Camie King, Harry Mulligan, Anita Franzese, John Lupski, Frank Esposito, Raymond Morris, Maria Estupinan, Catherine Jerome, Theresa Locke, Maureen Remsky, Joanne Wallick, Nancy Mantell and Family, Thomas Duffy, Irene Janampa, Margaret Kropac, Patricia Clancy-Kriss, Angela Stroup, Mary Burdo, Anne Stenborg, Czeslawa Geslak, Joseph Tilly, Bridget Tardugno, Rosemary O'Keeffe, Msgr. Daniel S. Hamilton, Anthony Tardugno, Msgr. Patrick Pratico, John Marmora

Names will be kept on the Prayer for the Sick List for three weeks, unless a family member

*We Pray For Our Dead  
And We Mourn With You*

Dorothy Seery



*We Celebrate our Sacraments  
Marriage Banns*

Patrick Lydon, St. Ignatius Loyola  
Judy Koh

Brian Buith, St. Catherine of Siena  
Amanda Lamberti, St. Ignatius Loyola



**Second Reading for next Sun., May 11, 2014**

**Theme:** We enter life to the full through Christ.

**Breaking Open the Word**

Suggested text for faith sharing: Today's 2nd Reading from Peter- 1 Pt 2:20b-25;

*Beloved: If you are patient when you suffer for doing what is good, this is a grace before God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in his footsteps. He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.*

*When he was insulted, he returned no insult; when he suffered, he did not threaten; instead, he handed himself over to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body upon the cross, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you had gone astray like sheep, but you have now returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.*

**Step One: Listen to the Word**

As you hear the words of Peter in this reading, what line or phrase strikes you most powerfully?

**Step Two: Look into Your Life**

**Question for Children:** How is Jesus your example when others don't like you?

**Question for Youth:** Sheep know their shepherd and follow his voice. How hard is it for you to recognize the voice of God in your own life? Who has helped you hear God's voice?

**Question for Adults:** In what specific ways is Christ an example which you follow when dealing with others, especially with the ones against whom you hold a grudge or those who dislike you?



*The Bread and Wine this week  
Are in Loving Memory  
Of  
Elizabeth Fitzgibbon and  
Elizabeth Towey  
From  
Elizabeth*



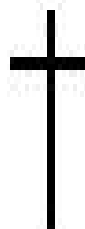
**Martha's Guild Rosary Making**

The next session of Martha's Guild Rosary Making will be **Wednesday, May 7, 2014** from 3PM to 5PM in Room B of the Old School Cafeteria.



**Mother's Day—May 11th**

There are offering envelopes for Mother's Day located at the entrances to the Church.



**SACRIFICIAL GIVING**

Sunday, April 27, 2014 \$11,270  
Maintenance \$ 4,558

Sunday, April 28, 2013 \$ 12,512

**Catholic Daughters of the Americas**

The 90th Anniversary of the CDA will be held this Sunday, May 4th after the 12:30 PM Mass. They are inviting the entire parish as a way to thank them for their constant support through the years for all the charitable events they hosted. They will provide finger foods, sandwiches, cookies and beverages. (at no cost)



**Our Lady of Fatima Day-Tues, May 13th**

Where: Shrine of Our Lady of the Island  
Manorville, NY (Exit 70 L.I.E.)

10 am Stations of the Cross  
11 am Rosary  
11:30am Holy Mass  
12:30pm Lunch Break  
1:30pm Movie: "The Triumph"

For more information, please call (631) 325-0661.



**COMMUNITY NEWS**



**Win With Fr. Jim Raffle**

**Here are the winners for April**

**Congratulations**

April 15th \$100 –Louanne Haley  
April 20th \$200-Lorraine Pfaender

There are still 16 chances to win. How about surprising Mom on Mother's Day with a raffle sheet along with her flowers. Sheets are available in the rectory

**Why not consider memorializing one of the following items used for our weekly Liturgy: The names will be listed weekly in our bulletin; therefore, your loved one will be remembered.**

Please remember the following individual (s) at the Altar of St. Ignatius Loyola:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Living \_\_\_\_\_ Deceased \_\_\_\_\_

Offering: Bread & Wine \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ Altar Candles \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ Altar Flowers \$100 \_\_\_\_\_

Week of Date \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Submitted \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Offered By: (Name) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_



**St. Edward the Confessor, Syosset**

Early Childhood—Elementary—Middle School

When: **Wednesday, May 7, 2014**

Time: 10am to 11am

Tours begin at 10:15am

2014-2015 Registration is underway. There are limited openings in their Nursery and Pre-K Programs for three and four year olds. Call the school office at (516) 921-7767 for registration details.

Private tours are also available by calling Mrs. Sanders at (516) 921-8030, ext. 122



**Our Lady of Mercy Academy**  
**Third Quarter**

Kelly Madigan- Grade 10- Second Honors

Nicole Ki -Grade 11- First Honors

*Congratulations and may God shower you  
with His wonderful blessings!*

**15th Annual Evening of Mercy—Celebrate with the Sisters of Mercy**

When: **Wednesday, May 14, 2014** at The Yale Club of New York City

Cocktail Reception is from 6:30 to 8:30pm

For ticket, sponsorship, and ad journal information or to purchase a raffle ticket, please contact Linda Cavallo at [lcavallo@mercymidtatlantic.org](mailto:lcavallo@mercymidtatlantic.org) or (908) 756-0994, Ext. 4006



**ST. IGNATIUS LOYOLA PARISH**  
**BUILDING CONDITION ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE**

Rockville Centre Diocese periodically conducts facility condition assessments of all the parishes in the diocese. St. Ignatius Loyola Parish is planning to establish a Building Condition Assessment Committee to review and prioritize recommendations of the latest diocesan assessment of our buildings. We are looking for volunteers for this committee who have skills and knowledge in the areas of architecture, civil/structural engineering, building systems (HVAC, plumbing and electrical), construction, contract management, etc. The details of committee structure, procedures and meeting schedule will be developed after the initial committee team is identified. All prospective volunteers who are willing to share their time and talent for this important committee are asked to contact the Rectory at 931-0056 and leave their name and contact information with Joan or one of our receptionists. Thank you for sharing your time and talent! *Fr. Jim*, Pastor

**PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY**

Anyone with a family member serving in the military, please forward their name and rank to our bulletin editor at [bulletin1859@aol.com](mailto:bulletin1859@aol.com) or bring the name to our Rectory Front Office. *We pray to give all of our soldiers the courage and strength to do the duty that is required of them. May they always remember our appreciation for the sacrifice they are making for us. We are thankful for the men and women who are willing to risk their lives to protect our freedom. I ask You to go with each of them and protect them wherever they go. Amen.*

Sgt First Class. Matthew Loheide

SSgt. Kevin J. Hennelly

Lt. Jonathan W. Lang

Lt. Jeanine A. Lang

SPC Justin T. Sikorski

Sgt. Mathew Burrafato

DCC James Pennington

Col. Paul J. Laughlin

Gunnery Sgt. Dan Lalota

Lt. Patrick O. Kelly, USMC

Lt. John McGinn

Sgt. Thomas P. McLoughlin, USMC

Atan Lisa Olynk, USN

M Sgt. Michael Marascia

Sgt. Stephen L. Emlaw

P.O. Third Class E-4 Kyle A. Kamermayer, Navy

Major Edward A. McGoldrick, US Army

Steven Orbon, 1st Lt., U.S. Army

Lt. David Jacobs

Pvt. Thomas Wright

Airman Peter F. Clark, USAF

Capt. Joseph Whittaker, USMC

LCPL Michael J. Mc Ilwrath, USMC

1st Lt. James Michael Vaz, U.S. Army

Louis Bombardiere, USMC

Gunnery Sgt. Brian Moran, USMC

Second Lt. Bridget Flatley, USAF

Cpt. Richard Macchio

Pvt. Joseph Gergely, U.S.M.C.

LTJG Alie Disher, U.S.N.

LTJG John Patrick Orr, USN, C.E.C.

PVC Andrew Hughes

Airman Denis C. Clark, USAF

Sgt. Lotachukwu Okoye

Second Lt. Brian W. Way, USMC

PFC. Christopher Paradiso, U.S.M.

PFC Jim Arbelaez, US Marine

SPC Dustin Lusby

LTJG Christopher Medford, US Navy

Lt. Lindsay Conte, USN

Sgt. Matthew Mercurio

**St. Ignatius Loyola Golf Committee**

We need your help—Donations of new items, baskets (any size), clear wrap for the baskets and ribbon. You may drop off all donations at the rectory. Please label “For Golf Outing.” Thank you very much for any help you can provide.

St. Ignatius Loyola Golf Committee

Joan Gonzalez

Angela Pellagrino

Maria Pitonza

**Our Lady of Mercy CYO Track**

The mission of the Our Lady of Mercy CYO Track Program, located in Hicksville, is to provide a fun, relaxed environment where boys and girls, kindergarten through 8th grade, can learn the basics of track and field while also developing sportsmanship and teamwork skills. No experience required. To register your child, for the spring season, please contact coordinator Gynni Farrell at [gynnifarrell@verizon.net](mailto:gynnifarrell@verizon.net)

**Instrumental and Choral Music**

Where: St. Anthony's High School  
Melville—Auditorium  
When: Friday, May 9th and  
Saturday, May 10th  
Time: 7:30PM  
Donation: \$10.00

# St. Ignatius Parish Vacation Bible School

**Monday, June 30 through Thursday, July 3, 2014**

**9:00 a.m. to 12 noon**

**Instructions:** Please fill out the form completely and mail to:

**St. Ignatius VBS 2014**  
**Religious Education Office**  
**129 Broadway**  
**Hicksville, NY 11801**

Registration will be accepted **BY MAIL ONLY**, beginning April 7, 2014 thru June 9, 2014.  
**\*\*\*T-shirts may not be available to children registered after June 9, 2014.\*\*\***

Vacation Bible School will accept campers from age 3 (child must be "potty-trained" and have attended a preschool program) thru 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Please fill in one form for each camper that is being registered.

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Child's Grade (Now) \_\_\_\_\_ School Attending \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # \_\_\_\_\_  
Office # \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # \_\_\_\_\_  
Office # \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Allergies**\_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Any other medical information**\_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Fee: \$45 one child or \$35 each for 2 or more children in a family.

Circle Child's T-Shirt Size (Please order larger than usual. T-Shirts included in Registration Fee)

# COMUNIDAD HISPANA

## LO RECONOCIERON AL PARTIR EL PAN

Muchas veces aquellos que siguen más de cerca a Jesús pasan por momentos de mayor prueba y dificultad. No se necesitan muchos argumentos para mostrar que los hombres pasan por momentos muy duros en la vida. Es una realidad que salta a los ojos. Más aún, parece que aquellos que están más cerca de Dios y que se han confiado de modo más total y absoluto a Él, el Señor los prueba más duramente y da la impresión que los abandona por momentos o temporadas. Pensemos en el Padre Pío que tenía experiencias tan místicas de Dios y, al mismo tiempo, sufría físicamente por los estigmas y moralmente por la incomprensión humana.

En realidad ellos hacen la experiencia de Jesús: se abandonan en las manos del Padre y saben que no quedaran defraudados. Aceptan de Dios con gozo cuanto Él les quiere enviar, porque no se detienen a considerar la dádiva, sino el autor de la misma. Siempre y en todo miran a Dios que es amor y eso les hace superar cualquier obstáculo y dificultad. Dios es amor y Dios es más fuerte que el mal y que el pecado.

No nos desalentemos, por tanto, cuando parezca que Dios nos tiene un poco abandonados. En realidad, Él nunca nos abandona, en todo caso se oculta por momentos para vernos luchar y para robustecer nuestra fe. Animémonos como los primeros cristianos a vivir nuestra fe por encima de cualquier adversidad. Vivamos nuestra fe, no como un "minimum" necesario, sino como el sentido que orienta y dirige nuestra vida.



**NO OLVIDES TU COMPROMISO CON DIOS:**

**VEN A LA MISA** Domingos y Primeros

Viernes del Mes a las 7:00 P.M.

**CONFESIONES:** Primeros Viernes,  
a las 6:00 PM, antes de la misa.

## **BAUTIZOS**

**CLASES:** A Las 5:30 PM. Segundo y Tercero Domingo de cada mes, en el sótano de la escuela. Deben asistir papás, mamás, padrinos y madrinan, y quedarse en la misa de las 7:00 PM. No es necesario hacer una cita para registrarse; lo pueden hacer en la clase. Por favor traer el registro de nacimiento del niño(a).

**LOS BAUTIZOS SON LOS ÚLTIMOS  
SÁBADOS DEL MES, A LA 1:00 PM:**

Mayo 31; Junio 28; Julio 26; Agosto 30; Septiembre 27; Octubre 25, Noviembre 29; Diciembre 27.

PARA TODA INFORMACIÓN SOBRE BAUTIZOS comunícate con **ROBERTO y ROSA ROMERO:** 516-749-4693 / 516-749-5135 (Si no te contestan, por favor, deja tu nombre y # de teléfono que ellos te llamarán después. Muchas Gracias por venir a las clases y a la misa!).



# COMUNIDAD HISPANA



## ¿Quieres hacer parte de nuestro CORO?

Ven y participa activamente de nuestra celebración litúrgica.

Más información: Leiny Escobar

Ensayos: Martes de 7:00 a 9:00 pm.



**EL GRUPO DE ORACIÓN** agradece tantas personas que están poniendo su granito de arena para el crecimiento espiritual.

**Lugar:** Escuela Nueva de 6:30 a 9:00 PM, **TODOS LOS VIERNES.**

Quieres llevar la Virgen a tu casa?

Comunícate con LUCIA (516) 813 5563



## EL CURSO DE INGLÉS

**sigue adelante. Ven que te esperamos!**  
**SÁBADOS de 9 a 11 AM. No te pierdas esta oportunidad de aprender Inglés y defenderte en tu vida!**

LAS CLASES SON EN EL SÓTANO DE LAS OFICINAS DE SERVICIOS HUMANOS (HUMAN SERVICES). Es el edificio que esta entre la Iglesia y la Escuela Nueva. Muchas gracias a nuestras PROFESORAS VOLUNTARIAS LISSET y CAMILA. Las asistentes son NESTARY Y BRENDA.

"¿Por qué buscáis entre los muertos al que vive? No está aquí. Ha RESUCITADO..."

(Lucas 24, 5)

## NUESTROS LÍDERES

**Coordinación:** Mario Gómez y Erika Aldana

**Consejera de la Comunidad:** Julieta M.

**Catequesis:** José Contreras y Mario Gómez.

**Clases Bautizos:** Roberto y Rosa Romero

**Clases Inglés:** Lissette y Camila.

**Comité Festejos y Colectas:** Lorena Medrano,

Yudith Contreras, Dora Gómez y Maribel Adames.

**Comunicaciones:** Ytala y Gabriel Ruiz, María Romero, Padre Saúl Londoño.

**Divina Misericordia:** Delfina Hernández, Asunción Rivera (El Rezo de la Coronilla es antes de la misa los Domingos).

**Liturgia Dominical Niños(as):** Carmen Gómez (Coordinadora), Elva Cordone (Intendente), Angie Párraga (Secretaria), Cindy Medrano.

**Ministerio de Hospitalidad:** Martha Romero, Guadalupe Aguilar, Luis Reyes.

**Ministerio de la Palabra:** Jaime Aldana

**Ministerio del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús:** Karina del Mar y Jovana Arteaga. (Reunión los segundos Domingos después de la misa)

**Ministerio de Música y Danzas:** Antonio y Leiny Escobar (Ensayo del CORO Martes de 7:00 a 9:00 pm. Domingos de 6:00-6:40 pm.)

**Ministros Extraordinarios de Comunión y Sacristía:** Jolie López, Juan Hernández, Rosío Rivera (se reúnen los 2os. Domingos del mes después de la misa de las 7:00 PM.)

**Monaguillos (Servidores del Altar)** Giselle Hernández, padrinos y madrinas.

**Movimiento Familiar Cristiano Católico:** Roberto y Rosa Romero.

**Pastoral Juvenil:** MINILÍDERES, Carlos Campos, Carla Durán, Samuel Sánchez, Lissette Muñoz, Francesca Borgoño, Ytala - Gabriel Ruiz, Isabel-Diego Gonzales, padre Saúl y Padrinos.

**Pre-cana:** Mario y Dora Gómez

**Renovación Carismática:** Rosío Rivera, Rosa Gutiérrez (Viernes a las 6:30 PM. Escuela Nueva) LOS SERVIDORES se reúnen los Lunes a las 7:00 pm en la escuela antigua.

**Seguridad:** Sonia y Saúl Bustillo, Orlando Cruz.

**QUEREMOS COMENZAR OTRO MINISTERIO, EL DE LOS ENFERMOS. NECESITAMOS VOLUNTARIOS Y NOMBRAR LOS COORDINADORES.**



# *May is the Month We Honor Mary!*

*The Saint Anne  
Mother's Prayer Group  
invites all parishioners to join  
in paying homage to Mary,  
the Mother of our Lord  
and Savior, Christ Jesus,  
as she is crowned with flowers  
to the accompaniment of  
Marian hymns.*

*Children who have received  
or will be receiving their  
First Holy Communion this year are  
invited to attend dressed  
in their Communion attire.*

*We will pray for your intentions  
throughout the month.  
Place them in the prayer intention  
basket located near the  
Blessed Mother statue in the church.*

*Sunday, May 18, 2014  
after the 12:30 pm Family Mass  
near the Saint Ignatius Loyola Prayer Garden*



# *Mayo es el Mes de María en el Cual las Damas dan Honor a María!*

*Grupo de Oración de las Madres  
de Santa Ana  
invita a todos los miembros  
de la parroquia a unírnos en oración para  
rendir homenaje a  
María, la Madre de  
Nuestro Señor y Salvador Jesucristo.  
Ella será coronada con flores, acompañada  
con himnos Marianistas. Los Niños  
quienes han recibido o van a recibir su  
Primera Comunión este año, están  
invitados a participar con sus vestidos  
de Primera Comunión.*

*Rezaremos por sus intenciones durante todo  
el mes de Mayo. Por favor pongan sus  
intenciones en la canasta de oraciones, cerca  
de la estatua de la Virgen Santísima,  
en la iglesia.*

*Domingo, 18 de Mayo, 2014  
inmediatamente después de la Misa de las 12:30 pm  
cerca del Jardín de Oración de San Ignacio.*



*St. Ignatius Loyola*  
*17<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Classic*

Tuesday, May 27, 2014

Town of Oyster Bay Golf Course, Woodbury, NY

18 Holes of Golf

Shotgun Start at 11:00 AM

Lunch on the course

Cocktails and Dinner at "*The Woodlands*"

*Pastors' Hole-in-One Prizes*

*\$10,000.00 Cash*

*2014 Car*

*Sponsorships Available*

Silent Auction and Raffle to be held during dinner

\$185.00 per Golfer

All proceeds to benefit St. Ignatius Loyola Parish

For more information contact

St. Ignatius Loyola Rectory (516) 931-0056

# Growing in FAITH™

Discovering **hope and joy** in the Catholic faith.

April 2014

**St. Ignatius Loyola Parish**  
Rev. James T. Stachacz, Pastor

## One Minute Meditations

### St. Maria Faustina

Born Helena Kowalska in Poland, Faustina was 20 years old when she joined the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy. She began to receive messages from Jesus which she recorded in her diary at his request.

These messages emphasized Jesus' mercy and forgiveness for sins acknowledged and confessed. On May 5, 2000, five days after St. Faustina's canonization, the Vatican declared the Second Sunday of Easter to be Divine Mercy Sunday, as Jesus had asked of Faustina.

### Jesus loves me

The beloved children's song, "Jesus loves me, this I know for the Bible tells me so," speaks of unshakable faith in Christ's love. Easter, as at no other time of the year, is testament to that love. Let our faith be like that of little children who know without doubt that Jesus loves us.

*"Show me the path I should walk, for I entrust my life to you"*  
(Psalm 143:8b).



## We are: priest, prophet, and king

The Israelites anointed their priests and kings with oil as a sign that they were set apart for special work. When we were baptized, we were also anointed with oil to show that we have been set apart for Christ and share in his threefold roles as priest, prophet and king.

**Priest.** A priest mediates between God and humans and offers sacrifices on behalf of others. We accept our ministerial priesthood when we pray intercessory prayers, when we perform penitential acts for other people, and when we regularly participate in the Mass fully and joyfully.

**Prophet.** A prophet is a messenger sent by God to speak for God. The message is credible because the prophet

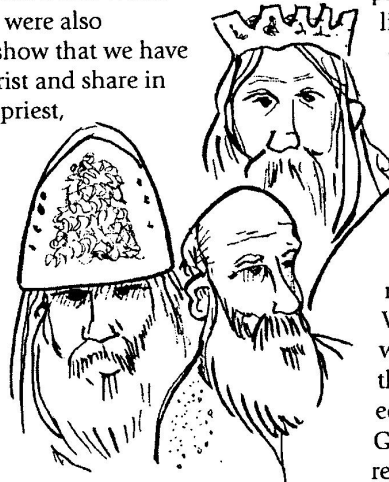
lives a holy life and also calls people to conversion. We share in Jesus'

prophetic ministry by living our faith, teaching others about God and his love, and by spreading Jesus' Gospel messages.

**King.** Kings protect their people from harm, exercise leadership, and act as models and examples. We are servant kings when we participate in the leadership and education of those within God's Church, when we resist bad influences and live lives of virtue, and

when we work to lead others to salvation.

By living our faith, participating in our parish and in the Sacraments, we help to build the reign of God.



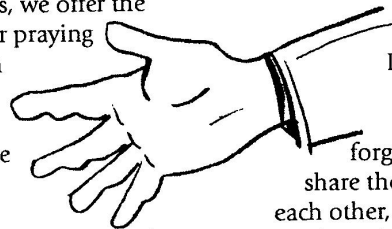
## Why Do Catholics Do That?

## Why do we offer peace at Mass?

During the Mass, we offer the Sign of Peace after praying the Our Father, in preparation for Communion. In the Our Father, we ask God to "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who

trespass against us." We offer the Sign of Peace in the confidence that if we forgive our neighbors, God will

forgive our sins. Since we share the Peace of Christ with each other, the Sign of Peace can also be a sign of spiritual unity.



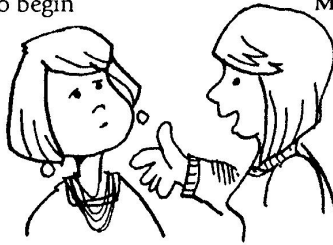
## Invite a friend to Mass ... really?

Do you invite non-Catholics to Mass? For some it's a good start to learning our faith. For others, it's better to begin slowly. Consider these steps:

**Do life first.** It can be a stretch for someone who doesn't know Christ to find him at Mass the first time. If unused to ritual, Mass may be confusing and seem exclusive because non-Catholics can't receive Communion. Instead, try sharing the warmth of a Christ-centered community by including your friend in a parish dinner or fundraising event where

she can socialize with others who live for Christ.

**Make it small.** Bring your friend along to your Bible study, prayer meeting or small study group. Adult faith formation classes also make good introductions to faith in a small setting for someone unused to formal religion. **Let it come naturally.** Your friend will let you know when it's time to graduate to Mass. By that point, he will be more comfortable in the parish setting and will have a better idea of what to expect.



## from Scripture

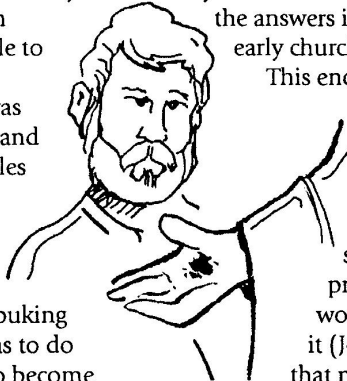
### John 20:19-31, Doubting Thomas.

Have you ever struggled with doubts or questions about your faith? Do you sometimes feel that tough questions aren't acceptable to people of faith?

Even though Thomas was with Jesus for three years and witnessed amazing miracles first hand, he still needed evidence and first-hand observation before he could accept the Resurrection. Far from rebuking him, Jesus invited Thomas to do whatever was necessary to become convinced of the truth.

It is important to note that in spite of his misgivings, Thomas didn't leave the

group of believers, nor was he excluded by them. As a result, he was able to find the answers in the context of that early church.



This encounter with Thomas suggests that every seeker is welcome to bring his or her doubts to God. He delights in guiding our search for the truth and promised that the Spirit would aid those who seek it (John 16:13). God knows that many faithful people who probe their doubts and fears finally reach the truth - and faith in the truth is what Christ desires for us.

## Q What is required & to keep the Lord's Day holy?

Sunday - the Lord's Day - is the day of the week we set aside just for God. We gather at Mass to listen to his Word and take part in the Eucharist.



Our activities on Sunday should center around thanking God for our blessings and promise of salvation.

One of the best ways we can show God how much we love him is to show love to each other. Sunday is a great day to devote to the care of relatives and friends, which may be tough during the week. Performing works of mercy is also a fitting observation of the day.

Sunday is also a time for the reflection and meditation necessary for our spiritual growth. It can be the one day in the week during which we slow down and listen for the voice of our Father, and actually have a chance of hearing it.

## Feasts & Celebrations

**April 2 - St. Francis of Paola (1507).** After a pilgrimage to Assisi and Rome when he was thirteen, St. Francis became a hermit in a cave. Others joined him and formed the Hermits of St. Francis of Assisi. While he preferred solitude, St. Francis was called to active service and influenced international relations. He was canonized for blending active and contemplative service.

**April 4 - St. Isidore of Seville (636).** Born to a family of three other saints, St. Isidore succeeded his brother as archbishop of Seville. St. Isidore

established seminaries in every diocese, and founded schools that taught every branch of learning. Some of his writings helped shape the spiritual outlook of the Middle Ages.

**April 27 - Divine Mercy Sunday.** In 1931, Jesus appeared to St. Faustina and asked that the Sunday after Easter become the "Feast of Mercy." Jesus promised special graces to those who honor him as the King of Mercy and pray The Chaplet of Divine Mercy.



### Our Mission

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