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"Jesus Wept." John 11:35

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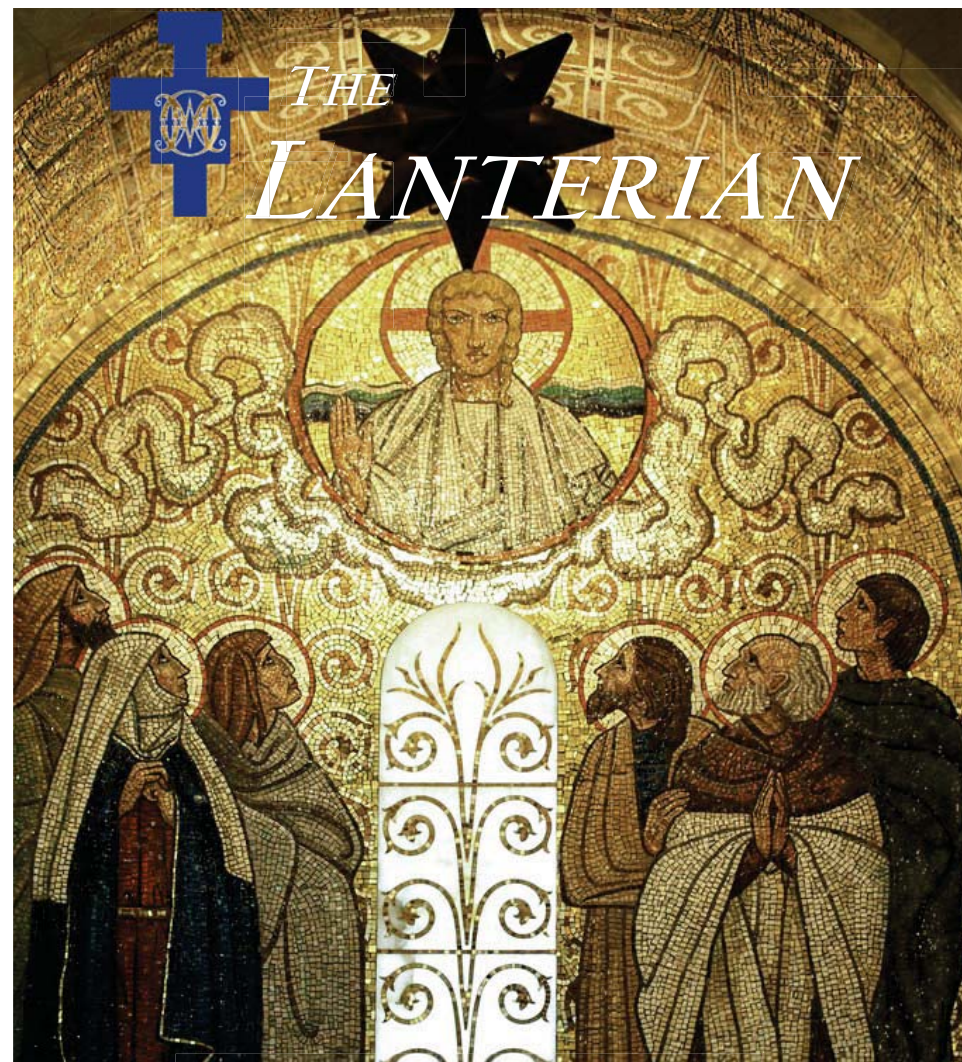

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SAINT FRANCIS CHAPEL
STAFFED BY
THE OBLATES OF THE VIRGIN MARY

ENCOUNTER THE HEART OF CHRIST IN THE HEART OF BOSTON

MAY 21, 2023
Sixth Sunday of Easter

CHAPEL STAFF:

Fr. Isaac Abu, OMV
Fr. Victor Nwabueze, OMV
Fr. Michael Warren, OMV

Sundays:

Fr. James Walther, OMV
Fr. Sean Morris, OMV

Music: Steven Angelucci -
Director,
Saul Garcia, Cesar Garcia,
Stacey Ibe

**Cleaning of Chapel
Environment:** Nubia Viasus

The Pope's Prayer Intention for May:

We pray that Church movements
and groups may rediscover their mis-
sion of evangelization each day, plac-
ing their own charisms at the service
of needs in the world.



Cover Art:

Ascension of the Lord. Mosaic chapel in the Basilica of the Immaculate
Conception in Washington DC. Photo by Lawrence Lew, O.P. Flickr.

SCHEDULE

Sunday Masses:

Saturday Vigil 4:00PM,
5:30 PM, (en español)

Sun. 8 AM, 9:15AM, 10:30AM, 11:45AM,
1:15 PM (en español), 4:00PM, 5:30PM

Weekday Masses:

Mon.—Fri. 8:00AM, 12:05PM, 4:45PM
Saturday 9:00AM, 12PM

Confessions:

Mon.—Fri. 11:15 -11:50AM, 12:45-4:15PM
Saturday 9:30 - 11:45 AM, 12:45-3:30PM

Devotions:

Tuesday after Mass: Our Lady
Wednesday after Mass: St. Joseph
Thursday after Mass: St. Jude

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

Mon.—Fri. 8:30-11:50AM, 12:30-4:30PM;
Sat. 9:30-11:30AM, 12:30-3:30PM;
Sunday 2:30-3:30PM

Gift Shop Hours:

Monday—Friday 10:00AM - 4:30PM*;
Saturday 9:30AM - 6:00PM*;
Sunday 8:45AM - 6:00PM*
(*Closed during Masses)

CONTACT US

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Reflection by Fr. Michael Warren, OMV

The Blessed Mother, Spouse of the Holy Spirit, gave her total “Yes” to God at the Annunciation of the Archangel Gabriel which initiated the new covenant through the Incarnation of the only begotten Son of God. That yes remained firm and undivided throughout the life of Jesus and the sacrifice of the Cross. Our Lady’s hope for the triumph of the Father’s love was undiminished and was rewarded with the resurrection of her Son. The Apostles gathered around Mary in Jerusalem after the Ascension of the Lord as they prayed with fervent expectation of the coming of the Holy Spirit in fulfillment of the Father’s promise. The Church imitates this by gathering with Our Lady to pray for the stirring of the Spirit in us that we may live by the Gifts of the Holy Spirit driven by the love of God and aided by her motherly affection.

Blessed Mary continuously pondered the things of God within her Immaculate Heart, to the point of seeing God in everything, and experiencing all things as opportunities for loving God in a new and fresh way. In praying with her the Church seeks that we might truly taste and see the goodness of the Lord in all things and be quick to share that experience with everyone we encounter.

Our Lady remained entirely humble before the infinite grandeur and majesty of God, in Whose presence the angels tremble. She relied completely on the divine power of God, trusting in His holy will in all things and you kept vigil in her heart awaiting even the slightest inspiration of the Holy Spirit to give reverence to the Father. The Church prays with her that we may have total confidence in the goodness of the Father, that we may fear ever offending His awesome holiness and seek to be united to His holy will in all things.

We ought to always love The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, and thank her for these days of prayerful preparation for the Holy Spirit. As we now come to the last week of preparation for Pentecost, we ask once more that Our Lady pray with us and for us that like her we may live and act under the Gifts and fruits of the Spirit: wisdom, knowledge, understanding, counsel, fortitude, fear of the Lord, piety, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control and charity.



The Vatican office in charge of coordinating plans for the Holy Year 2025 announced they are launching a new website and releasing an app to help people register and to guide them along their pilgrimage in Rome.

By registering online at iubi-

laeum2025.va or on the jubilee app, people will receive a free digital "pilgrim's card," which will be needed to participate in jubilee events, especially gaining access to the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica, said Msgr. Graham Bell, undersecretary of the Dicastery for Evangelization's section that is coordinating the Holy Year.

The jubilee website was to go live May 10 and be available in nine languages, he said at a news conference at the Vatican May 9. People can begin registering online starting in September, he said, "by clicking on the 'participate' button." After registering, people will be able to access a personal page on the site's "pilgrim's zone," which will also go live in September.

Registrants will receive a digital "pilgrim's card," which is a personal QR code needed to access jubilee events and better facilitate the pilgrimage to the Holy Door, the monsignor said. There also will be an option to purchase a "service card" for a nominal fee to receive special discounts for transportation, lodging, food and museums during the pilgrimage.

The jubilee website and app will give news and information on the Holy Door of St. Peter's and the other basilicas as well as offer the possibility of organizing one's own pilgrimage within the city, Msgr. Bell said.

People can choose from three proposed pilgrimages: "the traditional pilgrimage of St. Philip Neri with the seven churches; the pilgrimage on the churches dedicated to the women doctors of the church and patrons of Europe; and the 'Iter Europaeum,' that is, the 28 churches in 27 different European countries, plus the church that represents the European Union."

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sunday, May 21

8:00 AM +Mary Alexandrowicz
9:15 AM +John & +Michael Arena
10:30 AM +Marion Shaughnessey
11:45 AM +Gil Camacho
1:15 PM Daniella
4:00 PM +Michael Orr, +Maria Mazon,
 +Toribia & +Porina Estigoy
5:30 PM +Anna Maria Delfin

Monday, May 22

8:00 AM In honor of St. Rita
12:05 PM The Raffo & Padouani families
4:45 PM +Joseph Timilty

Tuesday, May 23

8:00 AM Special intention, Lauren Baldau
12:05 PM +Eleanor & +Patrick Walsh
4:45 PM +Ronald Eidell

Wednesday, May 24

8:00 AM +Pacita de Guzman
12:05 PM Esozia Dolor—health
5:10 PM Robert & Mary Tonelli—15th an-
 niv.

Thursday, May 25

8:00 AM +Fra. James Michael von Stroebe
12:05 PM Ivan Dragricevic—birthday
4:45 PM In honor of St. Pio of Pietrelcina &
 St. Philemon

Friday, May 26

8:00 AM +Fra. James Michael von Stroebe
12:05 PM +Russell Dunn
4:45 PM Special Intention

Saturday, May 27

9:00 AM +Fra. James Michael von Stroebe
12:00 PM Carol Bush
4:00 PM +Patricia Solerno
5:30 PM John Edrick y Gleisser Sheila
 Cortez—salud

Prayer Before Mass



by Ven. Bruno Lanteri

My God, I offer you this holy sacrifice to proclaim, honor and glorify your infinite greatness, and in recognition of the supreme dominion which, as the first principle and last end, you have above all created things. I give you this homage for all those who still do not know you or do not want to recognize you.

I offer this too in thanksgiving for the benefits that I and all the world have received and will receive from your infinite goodness; in satisfaction for my sins and those of the whole world; to implore the graces that are necessary for my eternal salvation and for all mankind. Oh, my God, I offer to you the merits of Jesus Christ; grant me at this Holy Mass a profound adoration of him.

My God, my Creator, I implore you to grant me the grace of final perseverance. I know by faith that I do not deserve it, nor can I deserve it, but your Divine Son deserves it for me with all his virtues and with all the wounds he shows you in his Most Holy Body, on behalf of my wounded love. Amen.

Pope Francis on the Gift of the Holy Spirit and Prayer

The first gift of every Christian existence is the Holy Spirit. It is not one of many gifts, but rather the fundamental *Gift*. The Spirit is the gift that Jesus had promised to send us. Without the Spirit there is no relationship with Christ and with the Father, because the Spirit opens our heart to God's presence and draws it into that "vortex" of love that is the very heart of God. We are not merely guests and pilgrims journeying on this earth; we are also guests and pilgrims in the mystery of the Trinity. We are like Abraham, who, one day, welcoming three wayfarers in his own tent, encountered God. If we can truly invoke God, calling him "Abba — Dad", it is because the Holy Spirit dwells in us; he is the One who transforms us deep within and makes us experience the soul-stirring joy of being loved by God as his true children. All the spiritual work within us towards God is performed by the Holy Spirit, this gift. He works within us to carry Christian life forward towards the Father, with Jesus.

The Catechism, in this respect, says: "Every time we begin to pray to Jesus it is the Holy Spirit who draws us on the way of prayer by his prevenient grace. Since he teaches us to pray by recalling Christ, how could we not pray to the Spirit too? That is why the Church invites us to call upon the Holy Spirit every day, especially at the beginning and the end of every important action" (n. 2670). This is the work of the Spirit in us. He "reminds" us of Jesus and makes him present to us — we might say that he is our Trinitarian memory, he is the memory of God in us — and he makes it present to Jesus, so that he is not reduced to a character from the past: that is, the Spirit brings Jesus to the present in our consciousness. If Christ were only far away in time, we would be alone and lost in the world. Yes, we will remember Jesus, there, far away, but it is the Spirit that brings him today, now, at this moment, in our heart. But in the Spirit everything is brought to life: the possibility of encountering Christ is open to Christians of every time and place. The possibility of encountering Christ, not only as a historical figure, is open. No: he attracts Christ to our hearts; it is the Spirit who makes us encounter Jesus. He is not distant, the Spirit is with us: Jesus still teaches his disciples by transforming their hearts, as he did with Peter, with Paul, with Mary Magdalene, with all the apostles. But why is Jesus present? Because it is the Spirit who brings him to us.

This is the experience of so many people who pray: men and women whom the Holy Spirit has formed according to the "measure" of Christ, in mercy, in service, in prayer, in catechesis.... It is a grace to be able to meet people like this: you realize that a different life pulsates in them, their gaze sees "beyond". Let us not think only of monks and hermits; they are also found

among ordinary people, people who have woven a long history of dialogue with God, sometimes of inner struggle, which purifies faith. These humble witnesses have sought God in the Gospel, in the Eucharist received and adored, in the face of a brother or sister in difficulty, and they safeguard his presence like a secret flame.

The first task of Christians is precisely to keep alive this flame that Jesus brought to the earth (cf. Lk 12:49); and what is this flame? It is love, the Love of God, the Holy Spirit. Without the fire of the Spirit, the prophecies are extinguished, sorrow supplants joy, routine substitutes love, service turns into slavery. The image of the lighted lamp next to the Tabernacle, where the Eucharist is reserved, comes to mind. Even when the church empties and evening falls, even when the church is closed, that lamp remains lit, and continues to burn; no one sees it, yet it burns before the Lord. This is how the Spirit, in our heart, is always present like that lamp. Again we read in the Catechism: "The Holy Spirit, whose anointing permeates our whole being, is the interior Master of Christian prayer. He is the artisan of the living tradition of prayer. To be sure, there are as many paths of prayer as there are persons who pray, but it is the same Spirit acting in all and with all. It is in the communion of the Holy Spirit that Christian prayer is prayer in the Church" (n. 2672). Very often it happens that we do not pray, we don't feel like praying, or many times we pray like parrots, with the mouth, but our heart is not in it. This is the moment to say to the Spirit: "Come, come Holy Spirit, warm my heart. Come and teach me to pray, teach me to look to the Father, to look to the Son. Teach what the path of faith is like. Teach me how to love and, above all, teach me to have an attitude of hope". It means calling on the Spirit continually, so he may be present in our lives.

It is therefore the Spirit who writes the history of the Church and of the world. We are open books, willing to receive his handwriting. And in each of us the Spirit composes original works, because there is never a Christian who is completely identical to another. In the infinite field of holiness, the one God, the Trinity of Love, makes the variety of witnesses flourish: all are equal in dignity, but also unique in the beauty that the Spirit has willed to emanate in each of those whom God's mercy has made his children. Let us not forget, the Spirit is present; he is present in us. Let us listen to the Spirit, let us call to the Spirit — he is the gift, the gift that God has given us — and let us say to him: "Holy Spirit, I do not know your face — we do not know it — but I know that you are the strength, that you are the light, that you are able to make me go forth and to teach me how to pray. Come, Holy Spirit". This is a beautiful prayer: "Come, Holy Spirit".