



## May is the Month of Mary

**"Do not fear any illness or vexation, anxiety or pain. Am I not here who am your mother?"**

Our Lady of Guadalupe reportedly spoke these words to St. Juan Diego in 1531, but they remain a powerful reminder that Mary is not only the mother of God but also our spiritual mother who wants the faithful to surrender their worries to her protection and love.

During May, the church encourages Catholics to celebrate and deepen their relationship with Our Lady. One way to do this is through Marian devotions, or acts of prayer. The most familiar Marian devotion is the rosary, but there is a rich tradition of other devotions in the church. Some devotions are tied to images, such as the Black Madonna of Poland, or apparitions, such as Our Lady of Guadalupe and Our Lady of Fatima. Many are related to the liturgical calendar, and all are "an expression of our love for Our Mother, but with the awareness she will help us to know her Son," said Father Matthew H. Zuberbueler, pastor of St. Louis Church in Alexandria.

Mary's role in our faith "is critical," said Joshua Benson, associate professor of historical and systematic theology at Catholic University in Washington. "God often acts not just directly. He works through all kinds of people and things, but Mary is one person He uniquely singles out."

When we don't understand what God is doing in our lives, Mary is the perfect person to turn to because "she had the experience of remaining faithful, despite not always knowing what her Son's plan was and despite the suffering she endured," Benson said.

At times, it can be less intimidating to go to Mary, added Father Zuberbueler. "Sometimes she feels more approachable to us than God."

"Mary is family," Father Zuberbueler said. Along with the communion of saints, "her love for God helps us; all she wants is for us to have what they have and for us to go to (her and the saints) for help."...

As a mother, "she offers a warmth but also a depth," said Father Zuberbueler, and through Marian devotions, she can help enrich our spirituality. "It's almost inexplicable," he said, "but as the mother of our souls, she can bring about growth, understanding and confidence."

[https://www.catholicherald.com/faith/what\\_are\\_marian\\_devotions\\_and\\_how\\_can\\_they\\_enrich\\_your\\_faith/](https://www.catholicherald.com/faith/what_are_marian_devotions_and_how_can_they_enrich_your_faith/)

## Mary, Undoer of Knots novena

Pope Francis encouraged devotion to Mary, Undoer of Knots, as an Argentine archbishop and has shared his love for the devotion as pontiff.

The theology behind Mary, Undoer of Knots likely goes back to the second century and St. Irenaeus, who wrote: "The knot of Eve's disobedience was untied by the obedience of Mary; what the virgin Eve bound by her unbelief, the Virgin Mary loosened by her faith." The prayer begins:

*Dearest Holy Mother, Most Holy Mary, you undo the knots that suffocate your children. Extend your merciful hands to me. I entrust to you today this knot (mention your request here) and all the negative consequences that it provokes in my life.*

<https://www.praymorenovenas.com/mary-undoer-knots-novena/>

**A Celebration is coming up...  
The St Gall Parish House remodel is close to completion! Father would like to have a House Blessing and an open house for parishioners to see the improvements. Stay tuned for further developments!**

**Looking for a volunteer to be director for a 3-day Bible School this summer. It's only 3 days! Share your talents! If interested, please contact Father Paul, 509-599-8437**

**Looking for a housekeeper for the Colton Parish House, to start after the remodel is completed: cleaning, laundry, etc., both upstairs and down. Share your talents! If interested, please contact Father Paul, 509-599-8437**

"The Gospel is from St. John 10:11-18. The image of Christ as our Good Shepherd has always appealed to human nature. One of the earliest paintings of Christ in the Roman catacombs represents him as carrying an injured sheep on his shoulders. This is a manifestation of love which touches our innermost feelings. We do not mind being likened to sheep in this context. There is something guileless about a sheep, and at the same time a lot of foolishness. Does not this describe the vast majority of men, even many of those who openly oppose Christ? Is there not something very sheeplike about the man who, because God gave him a limited intellect, thinks he knows all things and needs no further help from God? The sheep who thinks it knows as much, and even more, than the shepherd and sets out to fend for itself, is no more foolish than the man who thinks he can do without God's revelation and God's Church. Indeed we all act like sheep on many occasions, when it comes to the things that concern our spiritual welfare. We often ramble off from the flock to nibble at little bits of forbidden pasture. However, we have a Shepherd who understands us, one whose patience and love are infinite. He is always ready to go after us when we stray too far; his voice is constantly reaching out to us in missions, retreats, sicknesses, crosses and other various ways. How many times have we already felt his loving grace calling and helping us back to the safety of his fold? There are many who are not so fortunate as we, who either through no fault of their own or through their own fault do not hear his voice and do not know or follow him. This is an opportunity he gives us to show how we appreciate all he has done for us... The very fact of living the Christian life in its entirety, in the midst of our fellowmen, is of itself a powerful example to outsiders... The devout Christian will not stop at good example only. If he truly loves God, he must truly love his neighbor and must want him to have a share in his own good fortune... After good example, prayer will be his most potent weapon. Day in, day out, the devout Christian must pray for the conversion of his fellowmen who are wandering aimlessly in the barren desert of this life far from God... The sermon preached by our Savior nearly two thousand years ago is still echoing and re-echoing around the world, calling on his faithful flock to do all in their power to help those other children of God who are still outside the fold. Do not shut your ears to this call of Christ today. Give him a helping hand by helping your fellowman to see the light of the true faith. "

Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings* by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.

<https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2021-04-25>

## THE SACRAMENTS



Congratulations to Alexis Alred, Kason Shore, Justin Walsborn, Lola Walsborn, and Henry Weber who were confirmed by Bishop Daly on April 19, 2021 at St Gall Church.



Congratulations to Alexis Alred, Ava Alred, Isabelle Druffel, Tia Druffel, Cassidy Heitstuman, Millie Moser, Kason Shore, Paige Schlee, Bria Schultheis, Justin Walsborn, Lola Walsborn, and Cade Wolf, who received their First Communion on April 19, 2021 at St Gall Church.



**Congratulations to the Ben and Kelly Moser family!! Lauren, Jane, and Millie were baptized on April 17**

**Reconciliation is scheduled on Saturdays before the 4 PM Mass.**

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for: Janice Chenette, Alma Druffel, Gary & Linda Pederson, the end of the pandemic, all the elderly / homebound / sick & suffering of our parishes, and everywhere.