



ST. DENIS Parish

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LOVE GOD LOVE OTHERS TRAIN DISCIPLES

Eucharistic Celebrations :

Sunday, May 3rd - private mass – Alphonsine DiNottia (Tognet)
(Gamby & Katopodis families)

Friday, May 1st - 9:00 am Adoration and reconciliation
private mass – Lauraine Picton (funeral collection)

Sunday, May 10th - private mass – Angèle Rouire (Maurice & famille)

Sanctuary Lamp – this week: **Eugene & Yvonne Bazin**

God's Share April to date : \$1110.00 + \$22.00 (loose) + \$535.00 (DD) = **\$1667.00**

Holy Land Collection : **\$95.00 (7).** Development & Peace Collection : **\$65.00 (5).**

Readings for Sunday: May 10, 2020



Acts 6, 1-7;
1 Peter 2, 4-9;

Psalms 32 (33), 1-2, 4-5, 18-19;
John 14, 1-12

Prayer Intention for May 2020:

For Deacons - We pray that deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church.

Marriage Tips

Be forgiving of each other's wrongs and failures. Remember: A perfect marriage is an imperfect husband and an imperfect wife who *absolutely refuse* to give up on one another.

May 3, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Easter (A)

Words from Fr. Peter to parishioners of St. Claude and St. Denis,

Brothers and sisters,

This Sunday, the 4th Sunday of Easter, the Church celebrates the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. The word "vocation" comes from the Latin word "vocare," which means "to call."

This call we all received at our baptism. The Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission (*Catechism of the Catholic Church # 1213*). What is the mission of the Catholic Church, instituted by Jesus Christ? The answer is the Church continues the works of Jesus Christ, proclaiming the Gospel of salvation to all humanity and making disciples of all nations (Matthew 28). We see that in the Church, there are many different vocations. Many people answer the divine call to serve God and His people in the priesthood, or consecrated religious life. Many others are called to marriage life and serve God by loving their families and building up the Church in their homes. Different vocations are like different beautiful flowers that make the Church's garden more vivid and beautiful. All vocations are equally precious and praiseworthy in the eyes of God. In this short reflection, I will highlight the importance of family in nourishing our vocations.

The family is the "domestic church". All vocations are born of family. Family is the first seminary of all priests. Family is the first religious congregation of all monks and nuns. Family is the first school of all of us. In short, family is the foundation of society.

"The family is the original cell of social life. It is the natural society in which husband and wife are called to give themselves in love and in the gift of life. Authority, stability, and a life of relationships within the family constitute the foundations for freedom, security, and fraternity within society. The family is the community in which, from childhood, one can learn moral values, begin to honour God, and make good use of freedom. Family life is an initiation into life in society" (CCC #2207).

Jesus was born in a family. He sanctified the family of Nazareth by his presence with His Mother Mary and His foster father Joseph. Even though we call them the Holy Family that does not mean they never had problems to face, as every family must. To put it another way, just as each follower of Jesus has a cross to carry, so also the holy family had to experience the cross in their shared life. Before Mary and Joseph lived together, they had to cope with a dilemma. Jesus was conceived in the womb of Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit, but Joseph did not know that. Joseph was even planning to divorce Mary privately before being assured that it was the work of God. Nine months later, Jesus was born in a manger because they could not find a better place. Then the family had to flee as refugees to Egypt because King Herod was looking for him to kill him. Later, when Jesus was twelve, they were shocked to lose him for three days. When seeing Jesus in the temple, Mary said: "My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you". Jesus' reply made his parents confused: "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?" Joseph and Mary did not understand what he meant. (See Luke chapter 2).

And then he returned with them to Nazareth and was subject to them, in the quiet rhythm of family life in their village. We do not hear of Joseph any more after that so we presume that he had died before Jesus began his public ministry. In the Temple when he was an infant, old Simeon had predicted that a sword of sorrow would pierce Mary's soul. How she must have been pained to hear the words of blasphemies that Jesus was a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners, and at the end, when Mary watched her son die in public disgrace, on the cross.

What sustained the family of Nazareth through all of these trials and crosses? The answer is faith and love! The Church invites us to look at the Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph for inspiration, example and encouragement, especially in times of difficulty.

The Holy Family of Nazareth is the model for our families. Fathers can learn from St. Joseph to build your families with care and dedication. Mothers are invited to follow the perfect example of Mary to serve your families with love and with docility to the holy will of God. And children, learn from Jesus, who “increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor” (Luke 2:52).

There is a cartoon on the internet, which shows Satan in a mock conversation with God about COVID-19. In the cartoon, Satan is boasting to God that because of COVID-19, he has closed all the churches in the world. But God responds – showing that He will always be victorious over Satan – saying: **“On the contrary, I have opened up a church in every home of the world.”**

In this perspective, we understand why family is called “domestic church”. The Family of Nazareth is a perfect domestic church. They are called holy because of the presence of Jesus. So invite Jesus to our families. A family that prays together stays together. In your family, do you take time to pray together before going to bed? If yes, continue to do so faithfully. If not yet, please set aside time to pray together. Especially, during this May, the month of Mary, I encourage you to pray the Holy Rosary in your families. Jesus said: *“Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them”* (Matthew 18:20). When you have God in your family, you will have peace and joy. You will see the difference. Believe in the power of prayer!

“Lord, instill in us the desire to become your presence in our world, that through our actions and our words, we may radiate your love and your divine mercy. Bless our families that they nourish the callings to the vocations of marriage, priesthood or religious life” (Parish Renewal Prayer).

- *This week, there are no significant updates on liturgy or parish activities.*
- *Our church is open from Tuesday to Sunday from 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM to allow individuals to come and pray. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will run during the same time. Please contact Fr. Peter if you wish to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.*
- *Please follow our parish Facebook page: “Paroisse Saint-Claude Parish” for updated information.*
- *I am here to serve you, do not hesitate to contact me at parish number 2043792434 or my cell as seen on the parish bulletin.*

I would like to thank all of you for your donations to our parishes during these difficult times. We hope to receive your continued support to keep our pastoral ministries going. May the Lord reward you abundantly for your generosity.

You are in my thoughts and my daily prayers! May the Lord keep you safe and healthy!

Fr. Peter Le

A little funny story to share with you; I hope this can bring you a smile.

One day, a little girl was sitting and watching her mother do the dishes at the kitchen sink. She suddenly noticed that her mother had several strands of white hair sticking out in contrast on her head. She looked at her mother and inquisitively asked, “Why are some of your hairs white, mom?” Her mother replied, “Well, every time that you do something wrong and make me unhappy, one of my hairs turns white.” The little girl thought for a while, and said, “Momma, how come that grandma’s head is full of white hair?”

May 3, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Easter (A)

Like the Sheep and the Good Shepherd

I like to walk in the park with my grand-niece Mélanie. She is only three and is curious about everything: flowers, dogs and moms who walk with their babies. Yet as soon as she moves away a little and cannot hear my voice, she becomes hesitant and anxious – much like the sheep belonging to the Good Shepherd.



In the Gospel, Jesus compares himself to a Shepherd whose sheep know his voice. Jesus attends to their needs. His love surrounds the sheep that follow Him as he tenderly calls them by name. As Christ’s followers, He promises us eternal life which comes from his heavenly Father. The Easter season reveals that Jesus is the Son of God, who rose from the dead and has the power to give life in abundance.

Following God’s lead is truly a lifelong project for us. During His time on earth, Jesus invited men and women to continue His work and bring life to others. Through Baptism and Confirmation, we are already involved in this initiative. We must work tirelessly to improve the quality of life in our world. It is our vocation.

In the context of celebrating the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, it is important to realize that the Lord always calls men and women to a particular service in the Church and to take care of his sheep. Even as new forms of dedication emerge, Christians can always count on the commitment of true pastors who give life through the ministry of the Word, by the celebration of the sacraments and by the practice of fraternal communion.

Today, as in the past, this responsibility belongs to the entire Christian community, to each and every one of us. Are we always willing to recognize and faithfully follow the voice of the Good Shepherd?

Gilles Leblanc

Translated by Honore Kerwin Borrelli