



LOURDES LEAFLET

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church
2700 East Mechanic, Harrisonville, Mo 64701
(816) 380-5744
www.ourladyoflourdesharrisonville.org

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Issue 44

Month of May – Month of Mary

Dear friends,

It is the month of May that we dedicate in a special way to Our Blessed Mother. To fittingly open this occasion, last weekend we celebrated May crowning where we crowned her queen of our parish and queen of our hearts. Truly, we can give our hearts *totally* to Mary.

The papal motto of the late great Blessed John Paul II was simply, “*Totus Tuus*” which means, “totally yours.” (That’s right, *Totus Tuus* has significance outside the popular summer youth program.) He was also the first pope to put a Marian emblem on the papal coat of arms. In the upper left hand corner of the coat of arms was a large “M” for Mary. In fact, John Paul II was a big fan of St. Louis de Monfort’s “True Devotion to Mary” and he borrowed the motto “*Totus Tuus*” from this great saint. The writings of St. Louis de Monfort played a profound role in the popes religious formation and in his love for Mary. One of the main principles of de Monfort’s spirituality is that we can truly give ourselves totally to Mary because we can be confident that Mary always refers us to her Son, Jesus Christ. Mary always brings us and leads us closer to Christ. This truth is even referred to in Scripture. We recall at the wedding feast of Cana when the head steward went to Mary to point out that there was no more wine. She immediately points to Jesus and says: “Do whatever he tells you.”

As a convert the practice of giving oneself over to Mary was very foreign to me . . . I had always been afraid of giving myself totally to her in fear of insulting Jesus. It took a great leap of faith for me to give myself totally to the Blessed Mother . . . but once I did I finally understood the significance and power of having an intense devotion to Mary. In fact, devotion to Mary has only helped me to better love Jesus. I was also able to better understand the power of the Rosary . . . What better way is there to understand and contemplate the mysteries of Christ’s life through the eyes of His Mother?

A good and holy priest whom I look up to has been a priest for 65 years. He just recently celebrated his anniversary. He always is sure to remind me how important it is for a priest to have a close relationship to Mary. He truly believes that if it wasn’t for her maternal intercession that he would never made it as long as he has as a priest. I think we can rightfully add that to be faithful and good Catholics we need to foster a healthy devotion to her knowing that we too need her help and intercession.

In this month of May we honor our biological mothers on the 13th. But also be sure this month to honor your heavenly and spiritual mother who loves you more.

Fr. Christian

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thine intercession was left unaided.

Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my mother; to thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

Ascension Novena

Jesus, I honor You on the feast of Your Ascension into heaven. I rejoice with all my heart at the glory into which You entered to reign as King of heaven and earth. When the struggle of this life is over, give me the grace to share Your joy and triumph in heaven for all eternity.



I believe that You entered into Your glorious Kingdom to prepare a place for me, for You promised to come again to take me to Yourself. Grant that I may seek only the joys of Your friendship and love, so that I may deserve to be united with You in heaven.

In the hour of my own homecoming, when I appear before Your Father to give an account of my life on earth, have mercy on me. Jesus, in Your love for me You have brought me from evil to good and from misery to happiness. Give me the grace to rise above my human weakness. May Your Humanity give me courage in my weakness and free me from my sins.

Through Your grace, give me the courage of perseverance for You have called and justified me by faith. May I hold fast to the life You have given me and come to the eternal gifts You promised. You love me, dear Jesus. Help me to love You in return. I ask You to grant this special favor:

(Mention your request).

By Your unceasing care, guide my steps toward the life of glory You have prepared for those who love You. Make me grow in holiness and thank You by a life of faithful service.

Read more: <http://www.ewtn.com/Devotionals/novena/Ascension>.



ST. MONICA

Model of Christian Motherhood

This excerpt from the Confessions of St. Augustine (Lib. 9, 10-11: CSEL 33, 215-129) is used in the Roman Office of Readings for the Feast (liturgical memorial) of St. Monica on Aug 27th. St. Monica was born into a Christian family at Tagaste, in what is now Tunisia, on the North African Coast in the early part of the fourth century AD, not long after the Emperor Constantine first legalized Christianity. Her husband, Patricius, was a pagan. Their son, Augustine, proved to be quite a challenge as passed through his adolescent and early adult years, living with his girlfriend and getting involved in an exotic cult. All throughout Monica labored in prayer for his conversion. Her prayers were finally answered and her son became a bishop and one of the greatest teachers in the history of the Church. Saint Monica, model of Christian motherhood died in Ostia, Italy, in the company of her beloved son, in 387 AD. What follows is an account of her death written by her son about 10 years later.

Because the day when she was to leave this life was drawing near – a day known to you, though we were ignorant of it – she and I happened to be alone, through (as I believe) the mysterious workings of your will. We stood leaning against a window which looked out on a garden within the house where we were staying, at Ostia on the Tiber; for there, far from the crowds, we were recruiting our strength after the long journey, in order to prepare ourselves for our voyage overseas. We were alone, conferring very intimately. Forgetting what lay in the past, and stretching out to what was ahead, we enquired between ourselves, in the light of present truth, into what you are and what the eternal life of the saints would be like, for Eye has not seen nor ear heard nor human heart conceived it. And yet, with the mouth of our hearts wide open we panted thirstily for the celestial streams of your fountain, the fount of life which is with you.

This was the substance of our talk, though not the exact words. Yet you know, O Lord, how on that very day, amid this talk of ours that seemed to make the world with all its charms grow cheap, she said, “For my part, my son, I no longer find pleasure in anything that this life holds. What I am doing here still, or why I am still here, I do not know, for worldly hope has withered away for me. One thing only there was for which I desired to linger in this life: to see you a Catholic Christian before I died. And my God has granted this to me more lavishly than I could have hoped, letting me see even you spurning earthly happiness to be his servant. What am I still doing here?”

What I replied I cannot clearly remember, because just about that time – five days later, or not much more – she took to her bed with fever. One day during her illness she lapsed into unconsciousness and for a short time was unaware of her surroundings. We all came running, but she quickly returned to her senses, and, gazing at me and my brother as we stood there, she asked in puzzlement, “Where was I?”

We were bewildered with grief, but she looked keenly at us and said, “You are to bury your mother here”. I was silent, holding back my tears, but my brother said something about his hope that she would not die far from home but in her own country, for that would be a happier way. On hearing this she looked anxious and her eyes rebuked him for thinking so; then she turned her gaze from him to me and said, “What silly talk!” Shortly afterwards, addressing us both, she said, “Lay this body anywhere, and take no trouble over it. One thing only do I ask of you, that you remember me at the altar of the Lord wherever you may be”. Having made her meaning clear to us with such words as she could muster, she fell silent, and the pain of the disease grew worse.

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD Quotations from Saint Josemaria

Once more the liturgy reminds us of the final moment in Jesus' life among men, his ascension into heaven.

Christ Is Passing By, 117

It has always seemed logical to me that the most holy humanity of Christ should ascend to the glory of the Father. The ascension has always made me very happy. But I think that the sadness that is particular to the day of the ascension is also a proof of the love that we feel for Jesus Christ, our Lord. He is God made man, perfect man, with flesh like ours, with blood like ours in his veins. Yet he leaves us and goes up to heaven. How can we help but miss his presence?

Christ Is Passing By, 117

The feast of our Lord's ascension also reminds us of another fact. The same Christ, who encourages us to carry out our task in the world, awaits us in heaven as well. In other words, our life on earth, which we love, is not definitive. We do not have a permanent dwelling place here, but we seek that which is to come (Heb 13:14), a changeless home, where we may live forever.

Christ Is Passing By, 126

Let's turn now to the days between the Ascension and Pentecost. As a result of the triumph of Christ's resurrection, the disciples are full of faith; they eagerly await the promised Holy Spirit. They want to stay close to one another, and so we find them with Mary, the mother of Jesus (cf. Acts 1:14), praying as a single family.

Christ Is Passing By, 141

Jesus has gone up to heaven, as we have seen. But a Christian can talk with him, in prayer and in the Eucharist, as the twelve Apostles talked with him. The Christian can come to burn with an apostolic fervor that will lead him to serve, to redeem with Christ, to sow peace and joy wherever he goes. To serve, that is what apostolate is all about. If we count on our own strength alone, we will achieve nothing in the supernatural order. But if we are God's instruments, we will achieve everything. I can do all things in him who gives me strength (Phil 4:13). God, in his infinite goodness, has chosen to use inadequate instruments; and so, the apostle has no other aim than to let the Lord work in him and through him, to put himself totally at God's disposition, allowing him to carry out his work of salvation through creatures, through that soul whom he has chosen.

Christ Is Passing By, 120



READINGS FOR THE WEEK May 13, 2012

Monday:	Acts 1:15-17, 20-26; Jn 15:9-17
Tuesday:	Acts 16:22-34; Jn 16:5-11
Wednesday:	Acts 17:15, 22 — 18:1; Jn 16:12-15
Thursday:	Acts 1:1-11; Eph 1:17-23 or Eph 4:1-13 [1-7, 11-13]; Mk 16:15-20 (for Ascension); or Acts 18:1-8; Jn 16:16-20
Friday:	Acts 18:9-18; Jn 16:20-23
Saturday:	Acts 18:23-28; Jn 16:23b-28
Sunday:	Acts 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26; Ps 103; 1 Jn 4:11-16; Jn 17:11b-19 or for Ascension Acts 1:1-11; Ps 47; Eph 1:17-23 or Eph 4:1-13 [1-7, 11-13]; Mk 16:15-20

READINGS FOR THE WEEK May 20, 2012

Monday:	Acts 19:1-8; Jn 16:29-33
Tuesday:	Acts 20:17-27; Jn 17:1-11a
Wednesday:	Acts 20:28-38; Jn 17:11b-19
Thursday:	Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; Jn 17:20-26
Friday:	Acts 25:13b-21; Jn 21:15-19
Saturday:	Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; Jn 21:20-25
Sunday:	Vigil: Gn 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b or Ez 37:1-14 or Jl 3:1-5; Ps 104; Rom 8:22-27; Jn 7:37-39 Day: Acts 2:1-11; Ps 104; 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13 or Gal 5:16-25; Jn 20:19-23 or Jn 15:26-27; 16:12-15