

Parish Office Communication

May 31, 2021

Good Morning All,

From a fellow parishioner and an opinion piece I heard...

Memorial Day is for those who served overseas and never came home.

Memorial Day is for those who gave, in the words of Abraham Lincoln, "the last full measure of devotion".

Memorial Day is for all those joyous homecomings...that never happened.

Memorial Day is for people whose names you've never heard

Memorial Day is a particularly sad and meaningful day for those Gold Star Families (moms, dads, spouses, children) who will never fully recover from the loss of their young Soldier, Sailor, Airman, or Marine

What should you do today:

Call a friend who has lost a military family member

Go to church and say some prayers

Observe a moment of silence at 3:00pm

Memorial Day is for those who paid the highest price for the rest of us.

School and Church Offices are closed.

1. Today's Readings: [Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary | USCCB](#)

2. The RE Corner with Jan Heithaus: Today we celebrate the Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth. The Magnificat prayer, proclaimed by Mary on this occasion, is prayed daily as part of Evening prayer. Also included is a homily on this feast by St. Bede the Venerable from today's Office of Readings. Both Evening Prayer and the Office of Readings are part of the Liturgy of the Hours that priests and religious are required to pray daily and all others are invited to pray. The Magnificat magazine carries a small part of these hours each day.

3. Quotes of the Day:

~ "God the Father gathered all the waters together and called them the seas...He gathered all his graces together and called them Mary." *St. Louis de Montfort*

~ "The deposit of the faith is entirely in Mary. At the foot of the cross she held the place of the church." *Blessed William Joseph Chaminade (1761-1850)*

~ "....Gentle Woman, quiet light, morning star, so strong and bright! Gentle Mother, peaceful dove, teach us wisdom, teach us love...." *Music Lyrics - Jon Niven*

Blessed Mother Mary, Pray for Us!

St. Joseph, Pray for Us!

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Linda McCormick

St. Joseph Catholic Church & School

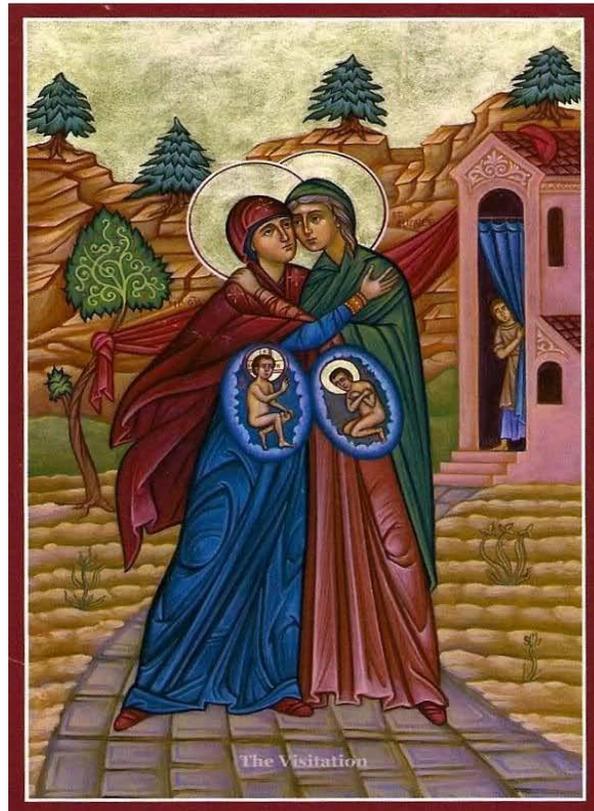
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Feast of the Visitation



The Feast of the Visitation recalls to us the following great truths and events: The visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to her cousin Elizabeth shortly after the Annunciation; the cleansing of John the Baptist from original sin in the womb of his mother at the words of Our Lady's greeting; Elizabeth's proclaiming of Mary—under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost—as Mother of God and “blessed among women”; Mary's singing of the sublime hymn, Magnificat (“My soul doth magnify the Lord”) which has become a part of the daily official prayer of the Church. The Visitation is frequently depicted in art, and was the central mystery of St. Francis de Sales' devotions.

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The Mass of today salutes her who in her womb bore the King of heaven and earth, the Creator of the world, the Son of the Eternal Father, the Sun of Justice. It narrates the cleansing of John from original sin in his mother's womb. Hearing herself addressed by the most lofty title of "Mother of the Lord" and realizing what grace her visit had conferred on John, Mary broke out in that sublime canticle of praise proclaiming prophetically that henceforth she would be venerated down through the centuries:

"My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. Because he that is mighty, hath done great things to me, and holy is His name" (Lk. 1:46).

This feast is of medieval origin, it was kept by the Franciscan Order before 1263, and soon its observance spread throughout the entire Church. Previously it was celebrated on July 2. Now it is celebrated between the solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord and the birth of St. John the Baptist, in conformity with the Gospel accounts. Some places appropriately observe a celebration of the reality and sanctity of human life in the womb. The liturgical color is white.

Source: ucatholic.com

From a Homily by Saint Bede the Venerable, Priest

Mary proclaims the greatness of the Lord working in her

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my saviour. With these words Mary first acknowledges the special gifts she has been given. Then she recalls God's universal favours, bestowed unceasingly on the human race.

When a man devotes all his thoughts to the praise and service of the Lord, he proclaims God's greatness. His observance of God's commands, moreover, shows that he has God's power and greatness always at heart. His spirit rejoices in God his saviour and delights in the mere recollection of his creator who gives him hope for eternal salvation.

These words are often for all God's creations, but especially for the Mother of God. She alone was chosen, and she burned with spiritual love for the son she so joyously conceived. Above all other saints, she alone could truly rejoice in Jesus, her saviour, for she knew that he who was the source of eternal salvation would be born in time in her body, in one person both her own son and her Lord.

For the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. Mary attributes nothing to her own merits. She refers all her greatness to the gift of the one whose essence is power and whose nature is greatness, for he fills with greatness and strength the small and the weak who believe in him.

She did well to add: *and holy is his name*, to warn those who heard, and indeed all who would receive his words, that they must believe and call upon his name. For they too could share in everlasting holiness and true salvation according to the words of the prophet: *and it will come to pass, that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.* This is the name she spoke of earlier: *and my spirit rejoices in God my saviour.*

Therefore it is an excellent and fruitful custom of holy Church that we should sing Mary's hymn at the time of evening prayer. By meditating upon the incarnation, our devotion is kindled, and by remembering the example of God's Mother, we are encouraged to lead a life of virtue. Such virtues are best achieved in the evening. We are weary after the day's work and worn out by our distractions. The time for rest is near, and our minds are ready for contemplation.

Source: liturgies.net