

May is a month for the Rosary

Non-Catholics will sometimes dismiss the Rosary as a mindless, mechanical droning of formulas. Some even condemn the practice, citing Jesus' rejection of "vain repetition" in prayer (Mt 6:7), but nothing could be further from the mark.

First, the Rosary is anything but mindless. Indeed, its meditative technique has been refined by centuries of practice in order to engage the mind most completely. The Rosary ordinarily engages at least three of our senses - with the sound of voices, the feeling of beads, and the sight of devotional images - so that those senses themselves are made prayerful. Thus committed, body and soul, to prayer, we are less prone to distraction.

Further, the formulas themselves are rich in scriptural doctrine and devotion. The Our Father we learn from the lips of Jesus Himself. The Hail Mary comes from the words of Gabriel and Elizabeth in Luke's gospel. And who could argue with the words of the Glory Be, which give praise to the eternal and Blessed Trinity?

There's usually a very simple mistake at the root of these critiques of Catholic prayer. Somehow, many Christians have gotten hold of the idea that *formal* prayer is bad and that prayer, in order to be true, must be spontaneous and creative, from the heart. Yet Jesus did not teach this. In fact, He Himself used the formal prayer of ancient Israel (see Mk 12:29; 15:34; Jn 7:10-14). [That said, there is a place for *both* formal and informal prayer.]

Jesus did condemn vain repetition, but not all repetition is vain. I remember watching a Christian rock musician field questions from people who just couldn't understand his conversion to Catholicism. One woman asked, "How do you deal with all the vain repetition?"

He looked at her with the most loving smile and said, "I don't mind repetition. I'm a bass player. It's my livelihood."

Repetition and routine can be very good for us and for our relationships. My wife never tires of hearing me say, "I love you." My mother never tires of hearing me thank her for my upbringing. My adversaries never tire of hearing me say I'm sorry for my mistakes. God, too, never tires of hearing us repeat the set phrases that have been hallowed for prayer by scripture and Christian tradition. Non-Catholics know this, too, and so we hear all kinds of Christians echo the words "Amen!" "Alleluia!" and "Praise the Lord!"

Tradition sets certain phrases because they sum up a particular thought or feeling. Moreover, they tend to clarify the thought or intensify the feeling not only in the hearer but the speaker as well. The more I tell my wife I love her, the more I fall in love with her. The more I speak my thanks to my mother, the more I must ponder my gratitude to her.

The more, in turn, we give our voices, our hands, and our hearts to words of love for our queen, our Blessed Mother, and her Son, the more we will grow in devotion and holiness. from Scott Hahn, *Hail Holy Queen*, 2021 book. To be continued next week.

Accepting 2022 St. Charles Parish Memorial Scholarship Applications

Applications are at the Office or at www.catholicsalmon.com.

The application must be postmarked OR delivered to the Office by Thursday, May 26th.

Altar Server Training

Knights of Columbus are offering an Altar Server training after Sunday Mass, May 22nd

Congratulations to our two new Parish Council Members:

Fritz Cluff and Jean Smith.

Thank you to Mandi Caywood and Jerrilee Sever who also agreed to be on the ballot after being nominated. We appreciate outgoing members Jeff Kerner & Nick Munning for the past 3 years of service to our parish.

There are a number of dishes left from the funeral luncheon for Anita Stenersen on April 30. Please pick these up in the Parish Hall.

2022 Idaho Catholic Appeal

St Charles Borromeo's goal is **\$12,316**.

As of 5/9/2022 thirty of our 80 registered Parishioners have pledged \$9,085 (73.77% of goal).

Contribution envelopes can be found in the Church Entry!

5th Sunday of Easter

"I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another." (JOHN 13:34)

"As I have loved you," this is the hard part – Jesus's love is unconditional; our love usually comes with strings attached. It is easy to love someone when they love you back. But it takes mercy and compassion to love someone when you feel unappreciated, feel used or feel like your opinion doesn't matter. It takes courage and the grace of God to "love my neighbor" when they may be someone you don't like, someone you don't know or someone that doesn't look like you.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 14: Spring Clean-Up. Meet on the Parish grounds at 10:00 a.m. with window cleaning supplies and yard tools.

May 15: RE class after Mass.

May 17: Pastoral Council meet at 6:00 p.m.

May 19: No Mass – Fr. John is attending a Deanery Meeting.

May 22: Blessing of Prayer Shawls; Altar Server Training; Parent RE Meeting

May 24: Finance Council – Budget Meeting 5:30 p.m.

May 26: Memorial Scholarship Applications due.

May 29: Anointing after Mass.

June 6-10: No Mass as Fr. John is attending the Priests Retreat in Boise.

Special Days This Week:

May 17: Larry & Margie Svalberg (A)

May 19: Linda Buster (B)

May 20: Tammy Bowerman (B)

Nickie Loft (B)

Dick & Linda Buster (A)

*Happy Anniversary and Birthday!
May you be richly blessed as you celebrate
your special day!*