

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER OR DIVINE

Presentation of Our Lady

MERCY 04/07/2024

Church



**Do you need
confession,
spiritual guidance,
or just talk?
Call the office to
schedule your
appointment.**

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We, the people of Presentation of Our Lady Catholic church, are inspired by the holy spirit to live out Christ's commandments by showing love to ALL people, though the gifts God has given each of us. We commit ourselves to the virtues of faith, hope and love by worshipping God, in word and sacrament. Strengthened by God the Father, we shall strive to live out the Gospel in serving the needs of our parish faith family and the global community.

**ROMAN CATHOLIC
CHURCH
PARISH OFFICE**

695 Julian St.

OFFICE HOURS

665 Irving St.

Mon.- Fri. 8:30 am to 12:00 p.m
1:00 p.m to 5:00 p.m.

DIRECT: (303) 534-4882

FAX: (303) 893-5056

Web Page: www.presentationdenver.org

Official Facebook Page:

Presentation of Our Lady Off.

**WELCOME NEW
MEMBERS!**

Please register as a member of the parish. Forms are always available at the church entrance or at the parish office. Return forms to an usher or the parish office.

Moving?

Please notify the parish office.

**SACRAMENTAL
EMERGENCIES**

Anointing of the sick
Last Rites
Please call

720-473-9053 anytime

**Rev. Israel
Perez Lopez
Ext 119**

**Deacon
Pablo Salas
Ext 117**

**Deacon Edgar
Valle
Ext ---**

**Max Lopez
Office Manager
Ext 119**

**Diana Soto
Receptionist**

**David Vallejo
Bldg. Maint.
303-552-7947**

**St. Vincent de
Paul
Ext 122**



Sunday Masses

8:30 am (English)

10:30 am (Bilingual)

12:00 pm (Spanish)

5:00 p.m. (Spanish)

Saturday Mass

4:30 pm (English)

Weekday Masses

Monday-Friday

8:00am (Bilingual)

**For Religious
Education, Adult
Inquirer's classes,
Baptism classes,
or Marriage
preparation call
the Parish office
for more
information.**

Blessed Are the Merciful: The Gift of CounselApril 7th, 2024

Second Sunday of Easter

Divine Mercy Sunday

The Catholic Church celebrates the Feast of Divine Mercy on the Second Sunday of Easter. Pope Francis likes to say that mercy is at the heart of the Gospel. Indeed, the word Gospel means “good news.” There is no doubt that God’s mercy is good news for us. No man could claim to be innocent before God. No matter if we recognize the fact or not, we are in profound need of God’s forgiveness. This Sunday of Divine Mercy is a feast of great hope and joy.

Moreover, I invite you to consider this feast beyond the immense usefulness it has for us. The contemplative sight of God’s side in this feast is tremendously beautiful. The man who loves God above all things is more interested in this contemplative perspective than the practical and pragmatic one. The feast of Divine Mercy glorifies God in a particular manner. Saint Thomas Aquinas beautifully teaches that God’s mercy is not and cannot be opposed to God’s justice. Conversely, God’s mercy is the plenitude of God’s justice.

Justice is to render what is due to each one. Hence, justice implies a debt. God does not owe anything to anyone. When discussing His justice, we highlight the beautiful harmony with which He creates, conserves, and governs all things. God has equipped nature with excellent resources to fulfill its purpose. Mercy is not against that fantastic order.

Nevertheless, God can give even more than what has been provided by nature. For example, God has been merciful to the human race in a way that human words cannot entirely express. He has given us much more than we could expect by nature. The idea of mercy as the plenitude of justice is that God renders justice to His own goodness by being merciful. Indeed, we do not deserve God’s forgiveness and His offering of being partakers of the Divine Life. Yet, in a sense, we can say that God deserves to show His marvelous goodness by being so merciful to us. Those who love God above all things will understand Aquinas’ reasoning.

Be perfect as your Father is perfect! Be merciful as your Father is merciful! Jesus said that he who has seen me has seen the Father. We are called to follow Jesus and imitate Him. Therefore, we are called not only to receive mercy but also to practice it. Jesus said, “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.” Following our series of catechetical homilies about life in Christ and the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we are going to meditate today on the gift of counsel.

You probably were not expecting this connection. How is mercy related to counsel? Mercy is to do something good to alleviate the misery of someone when that good is made because we love the miserable person to the point that we take his misery as if it were our own. In turn, counsel sounds like something intellectual. Let us consider a definition of the gift of counsel so that we can understand the profound connection there is between mercy and counsel. The gift of counsel is a supernatural habit by which the soul, under the inspiration and motivation of the Holy Spirit, judges rightly in particular events what ought to be done in view of its supernatural ultimate end.

The man of counsel is instinctively guided by the Holy Spirit to know right here and right now what God wants us to do. There is a human virtue that has the same job and that is prudence. Hence, the gift of counsel perfects the virtue of prudence. By doing so, this gift has a tremendous impact on all the Christian virtues. Remember what we said about the virtues. Virtues are like an organism. Each part has a role at the service of the whole. Prudence has an indispensable role to the point that there is no possible virtue without it. Prudence gives and takes advice, discerns what must be done considering particular situations and complicated circumstances, and commands to oneself or others the good that must be done.

To be a saint, it is not enough to be goodhearted. We need practical wisdom to know what God's will is here and now. For the most part, we all know of certain things that are always wrong. About those, there is no need for further wisdom. What we need is the strength to avoid them. For example, we all know that we should not lie. There is no need for further deliberation about that. However, there are a lot of things to do and so we have to think in a positive manner. When it comes to real action, it is not only a matter of what to do or of good intentions, we have to do good with good intentions in the right way. Sometimes, we do not have much time for deliberation. There are a lot of circumstances surrounding what we have to do. Things that are good of themselves can be evil if they lack the due circumstances.

Let us use an example. Prayer is something good in itself. Therefore, to spend an hour in the adoration chapel is something good. However, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament also requires that it be done with an appropriate intention and in the right circumstances. Imagine that your mother-in-law is visiting tomorrow. Suddenly, you think you are feeling a flush of devotion and want to spend the whole day tomorrow in the chapel of adoration. Are you really going to the chapel because your intention is to worship God? Do you think that it is the right time to do it?

Beyond simplistic examples, life can be complicated, and knowing what God is asking of us right now can be difficult. Real-life problems require that we ask for advice. There cannot be a better advisor than God. The Gift of Counsel makes us docile to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The Blessed Trinity indicates what to do directly.

Now, we can say a word about why this gift is closely connected to mercy. Both the beatitude and the petition of the Our Father connected to the gift of counsel present a certain reduplication of mercy, "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy," and "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive." The reduplication shows a first obvious connection between the gift of counsel and mercy.

It is evident that we are going to need mercy. We are sure that we will die and be judged. If we want to be forgiven and enter Heaven, we need to forgive those who have done some evil to us. The Gospel is tremendously clear on this point. If we do not forgive, we will not be forgiven. If we condemn others, we will get condemnation. Therefore, there is no better advice than mercy. If you value your eternal salvation, be merciful!

But there is more to consider. Being merciful requires more than forgiveness. The merciful mentioned in the Beatitudes is the person who practices the works of mercy. We all know that there are seven corporal and seven spiritual works of mercy. The fact that there are

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different kinds of misery determines that there are various works of mercy, that is to say, multiple manners of alleviating those miseries by doing something good.

There are many intellectual difficulties in practicing mercy. The first one deals with discovering the real miseries of our neighbor. Misery is something opposed to happiness. Thus, real miseries make it difficult for a person to be happy. We know that complete happiness will be the beatitude of Heaven. Hence, what separates us from Heaven are the most alarming miseries. Imagine that a person knows a priest and thinks that he is miserable because he is not married and does not have the company of a woman. Is that an actual misery for the priest? It is not. The priest is celibate as a gift from God. His celibacy, if it is well-lived, gets him closer to Heaven. It would not be a work of mercy to try to destroy the priest's celibacy.

Even if we get to know correctly what the true misery for our neighbor is, it is necessary then to discern what good can be done to alleviate or remedy that misery. How many times do we see people we love suffering, having difficult times, and having trouble without having a clue of what to do to help? Fathers and mothers know about this situation very well. Spiritual fathers also know. We need then the gift of counsel so that the Holy Spirit indicates the way to do something good that effectively helps.

May God help us love Him above all things so that He becomes our Counselor in every choice we have to make, in every counsel we give to others, and in every command or rule we give to those who have been entrusted to us.

ROCHA HOMES
FIND YOUR DREAM HOME WITH US
RochaHomes@EscalanteProperties

Looking to buy, sell, or invest in property?
Let my knowledgeable experience, guide you through every step of the process.
Contact me today for a consultation and let me help you achieve your real estate goals!
(720/519-6042)

Altar & Rosary will be having their monthly meeting, this Tuesday, April 9, 2024. At 1pm. At St. Joe's. If you like to join us, you are welcome.

JUGOS Y LICUADOS Cafeteria

JUGOS

- JUGO VERDE \$11
- JUGOS ENERGÉTICOS \$11
- JUGOS HIDRATANTES \$5
- PERDIDA DE PESO \$12
- JUGO EXTREMAMIENTO 3 LITROS \$20

LICUADOS

- CHOCOLATE \$10
- VAINILLA \$10
- FRESA \$10
- CARAMELO \$10
- BANANA \$10

PREPARACIONES

- SANDWICHES \$10
- WAFFLES \$10
- GREPAS \$10
- BONAS \$5
- AVENA PREPARADA \$10

5220 w Mississippi ave Lakewood co 80226 UNIT B
Marisela 303 859 8068

LUNES - SABADO
9:30am - 7:00 pm
Marisela 3038598068
Mary 7207318176

MUJERES FITNESS
5220 W MISSISSIPPI AVE LAKEWOOD 80226 UNIT B

Mass Intentions

Day	Date	Time	Intention	Offered by
Sat.	Apr. 06	4:30 p.m.		
Sun.	Apr. 07	8:30 a.m.	†Rudy & Maeve Cordova	Cordova Fam.
		10:30 a.m.	†Charles Medina	Medina Fam.
		12:00 a.m.	Spanish	
		5:00 p.m.	Spanish	For all the Catechists
Mon.	Apr. 08	8:00 a.m.		Anonymous
Tues.	Apr. 09	8:30 a.m.	†Freddy Emmanuel Bautista	Family
Wed.	Apr. 10	8:00a.m	For all our Parishioners living and † deceased	
Thur.	Apr. 11	8:00 a.m		
Fri.	Apr. 12	8:00 a.m		

Presentation of Our Lady Weekend of Mar. 30 & 31, 2024.

Offertory

4:30 Regular Collection Mass	\$ 0
4:30 Second Collection Mass	\$ 0
8:30 Regular Collection Mass	\$ 1,234.00
8:30 Second Collection Mass	\$ 153.87
10:30 Regular Collection Mass	\$ 925.26
10:30 Second Collection Mass	\$ 156.00
12:00 Regular Collection Mass	\$ 1,090.83
12:00 Second Collection Mass	\$ 267.00
5:00 Regular Collection Mass	\$ 245.00
5:00 Second Collection Mass	\$ 150.00
Regular Collection	Total: \$ 5,251.63
Second Collection	Total: \$ 897.87
Candles	Total: \$ 170.81
Special needs	Total: \$ 20.00
Holy Thursday	Total: \$ 395.06
Good Friday Holy Land	Total: \$ 671.23
Easter Vigil Holy Saturday	Total: \$ 690.25
Easter Vigil Holy Saturday 2nd Col	Total: \$ 171.00

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