

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

04/28/2024

Presentation of Our Lady

Church



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.

Rev. Israel Perez Lopez
Ext 119

Deacon Pablo Salas
Ext 117

Deacon Edgar Valle
Ext ---

Max Lopez
Office Manager
Ext 119

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Receptionist

David Vallejo
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303-552-7947

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Ext 122

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

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

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

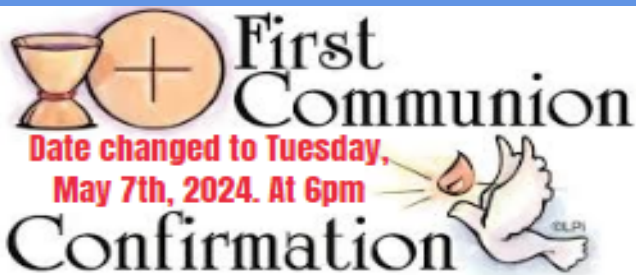
Anointing of the sick

Last Rites

Please call

720-473-9053 anytime

My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.
John 15:8



Next week, Monday, April 29th, Tuesday, April 30th and Wednesday, May 1st, the Church will be closed due to it being painted!!

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)

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**By this is my Father glorified,
that you bear much fruit and become my disciples**

The Gift of Piety

April 28th, 2024

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Today's Gospel calls us to be united with Christ so that we become capable of loving each other and bearing much fruit for the Glory of our Heavenly Father. Within the context of this calling, we are going to meditate on the gift of piety, continuing with our series of catechetical homilies.

Let us begin with the definition. The gift of piety is a supernatural habit infused with sanctifying grace, which arouses in the will, through the motion of the Holy Spirit, a filial love for God considered as Father, and a sentiment of universal brotherhood for all men as our brothers and as sons of the same heavenly Father.

We preached about the fear of the Lord last Sunday. The fear of the Lord and the gift of piety have something in common: they are affective gifts. Hence, fear of the Lord, fortitude, and piety do not give us some knowledge but make us feel something. It is important to bear this in mind. It is always more difficult to understand what is related to the will and spiritual affections than what is related to the intellect.

First, here is a clarification about the name of the gift we are considering today. Formerly, we used to understand piety either as a religious attitude or as something connected to mercy. Both meanings are already a clear result of the Christian faith. The virtue of piety was something related to the life of the family. It was the virtue by which one person honored and respected his parents and his homeland. Undoubtedly, the best manner of honoring a parent is by being virtuous and worthy of honor so that the good name of the family shines publicly among the other families. The behavior of a son reflects the goodness of a father, precisely *as a father*, as the one who raises and helps his son to grow. The child shows the good education he has received by being virtuous and consequently reveals the good job of the father. The relation that piety establishes with the rest of the family and the homeland (*patria*) depends on this fundamental relation to one's father.

The gift of piety has to do, first and foremost, with how we feel about God, our Father. The Holy Spirit moves the will of the saint in such a way that he feels God's Fatherhood with supernatural affection. Interestingly, different saints receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit in different ways. According to God's Will, there is a certain preeminence of different gifts in different saints. For example, there is a wonderful preeminence of the gift of wisdom in the life of Saint Thomas Aquinas. However, Saint Thérèse of Lisieux had the gift of piety in an especial manner. She liked to meditate on the Our Father. Many times, the only word she could consider in meditation was just "Father." For hours, she received the gift of tears, feeling this astonishing truth: the Father of Christ is also our Father.

We live in a world where the very idea of fatherhood is despised and persecuted. There are uncountable psychological wounds in the personality rooted in this drama. I would dare to say that, in the end, all possible interior wounds are founded upon the rejection of God's Fatherhood. Thus, the gift of piety has a healing power greater than any therapy in this world.

The relationship with one's parents is of huge importance and has a profound impact on the idea each person forms about himself, other people, and the world around him. The human person is born knowing nothing. His mind is like a whiteboard (*tanquam tabula rasa*) at the beginning of his life. Hence, we are born with no tools to interpret who we are. We learn about these methods from our parents. Let us propose an example.

Babies feel hungry without having a clue about what is happening. They feel something happening in them without understanding it. Consequently, they cry and cry. The lack of understanding of what is happening makes the sensation of hunger take dominion over them. Mom and Dad teach us the meaning of that sensation. Parents are a fundamental mediator in the way we understand who we are and what happens to us. That mediation changes even the way we experience who we are and what happens to us. We are adults and still experience hunger, but we do not cry. We understand what is happening and are in charge of that sensation. This is a simple example. Nevertheless, it indicates the crucial role of mediation that our parents have in the way we experience who we are, the value we have, what we feel, what we should be, how we should treat others, etc. There is a

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profound dependence of each human person on his ontological roots. Even more, from the point of view of grace, we have to say that parents should be vicars of God the Father in the exercise of that mediation to teach their children their true identity and value.

Now, we need to take into account the impact of original sin on this reality. Even the most balanced people have tremendous problems in their interior development in the present economy of salvation. We are all wounded because we are all sinners. Sin destroys the most important relationship we have with our ontological roots, the relationship with our Father. The most radical wound of the fallen human person is his spiritual orphanhood. Deep down, that wound creates a tremendous emptiness, as if we were some sort of nothingness. This is the root of a fundamental violent desire for self-affirmation. We have to become someone, as if we were not already someone, as if everything were left to our willpower and choice.

How could we treat others as brothers without a common Father? The emptiness of feeling like a “nobody” is a great impulse to affirm oneself at the cost of the humiliation of others. That fundamental violence is not a sign of strength or power. It is the opposite. It is the manifestation of the fear of being nobody. It is the masked inversion of the spiritual orphanhood in which we find ourselves without our Father. With a simple example, we can see how a person who needs to scream at others is not manifesting strength but the fear of not being worthy of being listened to. Our personality must be rooted in the fertile soil of God’s Fatherhood. Otherwise, the roots of our hearts are planted in the desert. Those roots cannot feed life so that we may bear fruit.

We can realize how the gift of piety heals our most intimate wounds in light of this schematic reflection. The gift of the Holy Spirit moves the will of the saint so that he can spiritually feel God’s Loving Fatherhood. The awareness and affective certainty of our filiation has the power to reinterpret who we are, the value we have, our affective life, our vocation, etc. The saint experiences his own identity through our Father’s eyes. There is no more spiritual orphanhood. There is no more feeling like a “nobody.” It is impossible to be more than a beloved son of God. The Father pronounces over the saint the same words pronounced over Jesus at His Baptism. There is no more room for fears, insecurities, or complexes of inferiority or superiority. We see how nothing heals the Christian soul more than the authentic growth in charity and the consequent impact of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

The gift of piety deeply transforms the religious life of the saint, that is, how he worships God. God is not only the Creator and Governor of the universe to whom we owe everything. That is still true. Hence, the saint adores, gives thanks, asks for forgiveness, and asks for graces from God. However, the Creator and Governor of the universe is also his loving Father. The saint desires to honor his Father with the whole of his life united to the sacrifice of Christ on the Cross. The whole life of the saint becomes a spiritual sacrifice of praise to the Father. That is how we are called to bear much fruit for the Glory of the Father.

As a consequence of this fundamental intimate relationship with the Father, the saint’s relations with his neighbor are transformed. Each human person is an actual or potential brother and sister, beloved sons and daughters of the Father. The gift of piety provokes in the saint a profound affection of fraternity that flows from the feeling of filiation. That is why this gift makes it possible to live the corresponding beatitude of meekness. The saint becomes an image of the meek sacrificial lamb of God, ready to give up his own life for the salvation of his brothers and sisters.

I cannot omit to mention how the gift of piety impacts the relationship the Christian soul has with our Blessed Mother. Our Lady is a true spiritual mother. She collaborated in a unique manner with her Son in the work of Redemption. We will never be grateful enough to her. I feel that we are not aware enough of Mary’s profound love for each one of us. I invite you to meditate on the moment in which Jesus asked Mary to receive John the disciple as a son. In truth, He was asking His mother to receive each one of us as sons and daughters. Do not forget that we are the reason why her beloved son was on that Cross. We have crucified Jesus with our sins. God asked the Virgin Mary to offer His only beloved son in sacrifice so that the killers of His son would become her sons and daughters.

Many more things could be said about how the gift of piety makes the Christian soul feel in relation to the Church as Mother, Christian Tradition, and Heaven as the authentic homeland, but it is impossible to say all the things at once. May God help us to receive this wonderful gift!



Let us pray
for world peace

**Sorrowful
Mysteries**

**Fridays at 5pm,
at the Church.**



**LET’S CELEBRATE
EVERY MOMENT!**

WWW.CELEBREMOSATM.COM

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Mass Intentions

Day	Date	Time	Intention	Offered by
Sat.	Apr. 27	4:30 p.m.		
Sun.	Apr. 28	8:30 a.m.	†Rachel Cordova	Family
		10:30 a.m.	†Freddy Emmanuel Bautista	Family
		12:00 a.m. Spanish	†Gaspar Romero (Birthday) †Johnny Romero	Family
		5:00 p.m. Spanish		
Mon.	Apr. 29	8:00 a.m.	Jaramillo Family	Family
Tues.	Apr. 30	8:30 a.m.		
Wed.	May. 01	8:00a.m.	Jaramillo Family	Family
Thur.	May. 02	8:00 a.m.	For all our Parishioners living and † deceased	
Fri.	May. 03	8:00 a.m.		

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Weekend of Apr. 20 & 21, 2024.

Offertory

4:30 Regular Collection Mass \$ 751.00
 4:30 Second Collection Mass \$ 56.97

8:30 Regular Collection Mass \$ 488.22
 8:30 Second Collection Mass \$ 82.00

10:30 Regular Collection Mass \$ 377.75
 10:30 Second Collection Mass \$ 40.00

12:00 Regular Collection Mass \$ 1,116.40
 12:00 Second Collection Mass \$ 229.00

5:00 Regular Collection Mass \$ 373.00
 5:00 Second Collection Mass \$ 124.00

Regular Collection Total: \$ 3,106.37
Second Collection Total: \$ 531.97

Candles Total: \$ 180.00
Special needs Total: \$ 143.00



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DANZA EMMANUEL!!

DANZA EMMANUEL IS INVITING ANYONE WHO IS INTERESTED TO BE PART OF THE PRESENTATION DANCE!!

WE WILL HAVE REHEARSALS ONCE A MONTH ON SATURDAY

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO BE PART OF IT, CALL NANCY CUEVAS (720)840-4930

JUGOS Y LICUADOS Cafetería

PARA DESINFLAMAR Y ADELGAZAR EL ABDOMEN

-JUGOS-

- JUGO VERDE \$11
- JUGOS ENERGETICOS \$11
- JUGOS HIDRATANTES \$6
- PERDIDA DE PESO \$12
- JUGO EXTREÑIMIENTO 3 LITROS \$20

-LICUADOS-

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

PREPARACIONES

- SANDWICHES \$13
- WAFFLES \$10
- CREPAS \$10
- DONAS \$9
- 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 FITNESSS

5220 W MISSISSIPPI AVE LAKEWOOD 80226 UNIT B

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