

THE WAY

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PARISH SPOTLIGHT: HOLY WEEK



MINISTERS AND MINISTRIES

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION



During the month of May, our parish joyfully celebrated two beautiful and faith-filled occasions with our **65 First Communicants**. The children reverently received the Body and Blood of Christ for the very first time, marking an important milestone in their spiritual journey and deepening their relationship with Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. Following their First Holy Communion, the children also participated in our May Crowning celebration with Eucharistic Exposition during our Wednesday Marian Devotion. Together with their families and parish community, they honored the Blessed Virgin Mary through prayer and devotion. The children prayerfully led the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary and participated in the responses during the prayers.

Msgr. Anselm gave a special blessing to the children, encouraging them to continue growing in faith and love for God. These meaningful celebrations reminded us all of the importance of nurturing our Catholic faith in the hearts of our children, just like the Parable of the Mustard Seed—beginning small but growing strong and rooted in God's love.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Msgr. Anselm and Fr. Miles for their guidance and support in making these beautiful celebrations possible. We are also deeply grateful to all the parents, catechists, volunteers, Music Ministry, Eucharistic Ministers, altar servers, ushers, and parishioners whose dedication and participation helped make these occasions prayerful, memorable, and grace-filled.

May God and our Blessed Mother continue to guide, protect, and bless our First Communicants and their families on their journey of faith.

We encourage and invite all parents, grandparents, and guardians to register your children in our St. Michael Religious Education program so they may grow in their understanding and knowledge of our Catholic faith.

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ADULT FORMATION

The Anointing of the Sick and The Power of Two

Ever since I was young, I have been fascinated with numbers. My father had me solve mathematical problems through a box with rolling paper called a Minimax. Today, I am focused on the number 2 and its relationship to the Sacrament of Healing, the Anointing of the Sick: two New Testament verses and two spiritual outcomes.

In Mark 6:12, the Anointing of the Sick was administered by the twelve apostles. The people of God in Jesus' time were among the first recipients of His commissioned power from this sacrament. In James 5:16, the priests were instructed to combine the outward sign-oil with prayer for the sick of the early Church to receive the resurrected grace of Christ.

In addition to the meaning of these Scriptural verses, Extreme Unction (another name for the Anointing of the Sick) provides two spiritual benefits- peace and preparation. The terminally and chronically ill have an outward and inward tranquility beyond understanding. Second, the sick receive the divine favor of preparation for eternal life.

So, my prayer is, like the prophet Amos, we "prepare to meet your God" through the Anointing of the Sick as we encounter Jesus not only in this life but also the one to come.

By Chuck Cababe

5TH LUMINOUS MYSTERY

The Institution of the Eucharist

Passages to reflect on:

Mt 26:26-28: "While they were eating, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and giving it to his disciples said, 'Take and eat; this is my body.' Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins.'"

Mk 14:22-24: "While they were eating, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them, and said, 'Take it; this is my body.' Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, and they all drank from it. He said to them, 'This is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed for many.'"

Lk 22:19-20: Then he took the bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which will be given for you; do this in memory of me.' And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which will be shed for you.'"

Bonus passages: 1 Cor 11:23-30 and Jn 6:53-56
During the Last Supper, Jesus gave us the Ultimate Gift - Himself in the Eucharist. In the Eucharist, Jesus gives us His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. Catholics believe in transubstantiation, meaning that the bread and wine transform into the actual Body and Blood of Jesus Christ during the consecration. Every time we attend Mass and participate in the Eucharist, we proclaim the death of the Lord (1 Cor 11:26). In order to truly have life within us, we must eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood (Jn 6:53). Attending Mass is an opportunity that we should embrace and not take for granted.

SAINTS & US TODAY

St. Rita



As faithful Catholics, we know that living out our faith in this world is not always easy and comes with its

difficult trials. But our faith also teaches us that Jesus offers us His grace, strength, and the promise to always be present to walk alongside us through our trials.

St. Rita of Cascia was a perfect model for showing faith, holiness and perseverance even in the face of immense personal

suffering. Because of this, Rita was canonized and is known as the Catholic patron saint of impossible, difficult, and hopeless causes.

Rita was born in 1381 in Cascia, Italy. During her lifetime, Rita experienced many severe hardships which included enduring an abusive marriage and the premature death of her two sons. Yet she still led an incredibly holy life and found peace through these and other seemingly impossible circumstances through her faith in God.

Through her example, St. Rita teaches us that as His disciples, Jesus is always there to bless us with the courage to confront our fears, embrace our scars, and carry our crosses.

St. Rita of Cascia was canonized by Pope Leo XIII on May 24, 1900. Her feast day is celebrated on May 22nd.

St. Rita of Cascia, pray for us to be strengthened in our faith during the difficult trials and tribulations of our lives!

By Deacon Michael Alfano

WORD SEARCH

The Eucharistic

Adoration	Monstrance
Benediction	Prayer
Blessed	Precious Blood
Body of Christ	Real Presence
Bread and Wine	Respectful
Consecration	Sacrament
Eucharist	Sacrifice
First Communion	Transubstantiation
Holy Communion	Two Species
Jesus Christ	Worship

E	L	X	O	M	A	P	I	M	F	R	D	B	V	Y	E	L	L	T	E
N	Q	S	T	A	C	I	C	Y	D	A	W	K	F	Q	E	D	N	W	T
V	O	E	A	U	X	Q	G	F	J	A	O	H	I	I	B	E	R	S	E
V	D	I	B	R	E	A	D	A	N	D	W	I	N	E	M	Z	I	Z	U
Y	G	C	T	A	C	B	D	P	T	D	A	N	D	A	E	R	B	F	C
D	V	E	W	C	K	K	E	C	B	S	D	N	R	E	H	R	I	L	H
G	D	P	N	J	I	D	S	C	O	U	I	C	K	C	F	R	V	U	A
E	G	S	J	O	S	D	S	U	T	N	A	R	F	W	S	Y	P	F	R
F	R	O	C	Z	C	Z	E	P	V	S	S	O	H	T	I	I	X	T	I
E	D	W	V	Q	K	P	L	N	K	I	Y	E	C	C	H	V	F	C	S
C	H	T	R	C	G	K	B	T	E	D	Z	O	C	S	S	M	C	E	T
N	O	I	T	A	R	O	D	A	O	B	M	A	R	R	A	U	L	P	I
A	S	A	Q	O	Z	R	T	B	C	M	E	O	X	L	A	Y	S	S	C
R	S	I	H	Y	E	X	Y	E	U	E	W	I	Z	N	U	T	W	E	B
T	T	C	P	Y	P	G	R	N	Z	P	T	F	H	Q	A	G	I	R	J
S	W	V	A	I	N	O	I	N	U	M	M	O	C	Y	L	O	H	O	W
N	B	R	W	T	W	O	E	C	N	E	S	E	R	P	L	A	E	R	N
O	P	S	L	Z	N	P	R	E	S	C	I	O	U	S	B	L	O	O	D
M	W	S	A	C	R	I	F	I	C	E	T	Y	C	S	V	A	N	X	R
N	O	I	T	A	I	T	N	A	T	S	B	U	S	N	A	R	T	I	A