



CHURCH OF SAINT MARY

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MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH CHURCH

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Dear Parish Family,

May 15, 2011

Congratulations to our graduates. Once again, the valedictorian at Sacred Heart in Mt. Pleasant is a graduate of St. Mary Elementary School! Congratulations to Christopher Chermiside-Scabbo! Also, we have made some changes to our tuition schedule that lower the cost for in-parish families. St. Mary students' test scores on the Iowa test meet or exceed the scores found in other Catholic schools. Please prayerfully consider St. Mary's School for your children or grandchildren.

This week is our parishes' commitment weekend for Catholic Services Appeal, when we will be collecting pledge cards. It doesn't matter how much you are able to contribute, but that you participate in CSA, which provides many services that directly affect our parish in the form of youth, lay ministry, school and religious education, retreats, and the formation of future clergy. Your support of this program is greatly appreciated. Please help us reach 100% participation!

As we continue to honor our Blessed Mother this month, consider taking advantage of the many prayer opportunities offered during the week: the Novena to the Mother of Perpetual Help after the Tuesday evening 8:00 pm Mass at St. Mary; the Rosary before any daily or Sunday Mass at both parishes; the Rosary group at 11:00 am on Wednesdays at Mt. St. Joseph. You may already be praying the Rosary on your own during the day, or perhaps a family Rosary in the evening. If not, you may wish to start. In any case, use this month to increase your devotion to Christ's Mother, and our Mother. Rosaries are available on the tables near the entrances of both churches and are free to a good home.

There are copies of St. Louis de Montfort's Consecration to Jesus through Mary available at the entrances of the church in the white envelopes, free of charge. This 33-day prayer journey is a wonderful way to deepen your relationship with Our Lord through His Blessed Mother during the month dedicated to the Mother of God.

This month we call upon Our Lady's intercession for our first communicants, mothers, graduates, families, and for each other. God bless you!

Fr. David

Liturgical reform was about changing lives

The Second Vatican Council's renewal of the liturgy wasn't so much about changing texts or gestures as it was about changing Catholics' attitude toward the Mass and helping the liturgy change their lives, Pope Benedict XVI said in an address marking the 50th anniversary of the Pontifical Liturgical Institute.

A strong pastoral concern for Catholics around the world required the encouragement of "a more active participation of the faithful in the liturgical celebrations through the use of national languages" and an appropriate "adaptation of the rites in the various cultures, especially in mission lands," he said.

But the church's liturgy, the center of its existence, could not be changed simply for the sake of change, he said. "From the beginning it was clear that the theological foundation of the liturgy had to be studied in order to avoid falling into ritualism and so that the reform would be justifiable from the point of view of revelation and of continuity with the tradition of the church," he said.

The pope said the aim of the Second Vatican Council's reform "was not principally that of changing rites and texts, but of renewing mentalities and placing the celebration of the paschal mystery of Christ at the center of Christian life and pastoral activity."

The eucharistic celebration, he said, is the way "to reveal and make present" Christ's saving work each day, so it must be done "in a correct and constant relationship between healthy tradition and legitimate progress."

Pope Benedict said too often Catholics try to set up an opposition between "tradition and progress" in the liturgy, when "in reality, the two concepts go together: In some way, tradition includes progress. It's like saying the river of tradition carries its source with it as it flows toward its outlet."

- Catholic Review

A SAINT FOR STUDENTS

St. Joseph was born at Cupertino, in the diocese of Nardo in the Kingdom of Naples, in 1603. After spending his childhood and adolescence in simplicity and innocence, he finally joined the Franciscan Friars Minor Conventual. After his ordination to the holy priesthood, he gave himself up entirely to a life of humiliation, mortification, and obedience. He was most devoted to the Blessed Virgin Mary and promoted devotion to her among all classes of people.

His mother considered him a nuisance and treated him harshly. Joseph soon became very slow and absent-minded. He would wander around, going nowhere, his mouth gaping open. But he had a bad temper, too, and so, he was not at all popular. He tried to learn the trade of shoemaking, but failed. He asked to become a Franciscan, but they would not accept him. Next, he joined the Capuchins, but eight months later, they sent him away because he could not seem to do anything right. He dropped piles of dishes and kept forgetting to do what he was told. His mother was not at all pleased to have the eighteen-year-old Joseph back home again, so she finally got him accepted as a servant at the Franciscan monastery. He was given the monks habit and put to hard work taking care of the horses. About this time, Joseph began to change. He grew more humble and gentle, more careful and successful at his work. He also began to do more penance. Now, it was decided that he could become a real member of the Order and start studying for the priesthood. Although he was very good, he still had a hard time with studies. The examiner happened to ask him to explain the only thing he knew well, and so he was made a deacon, and later a priest. After this, God began to work many amazing miracles through St. Joseph. Over seventy times, people saw him rise from the ground while saying mass or praying. Often he went into ecstasy and would be completely rapt up in talking with God. He became so holy that everything he saw made him think of God, and he said that all the troubles of this world were nothing but the “play” battles children have with popguns. St. Joseph became so famous for the miracles that he was kept hidden, but he was happy for the chance to be alone with his beloved Lord. On His part, Jesus never left him alone and one day came to bring him to Heaven. Pope Clement XIII canonized him in 1767. He is the patron saint of air travelers and pilots.

It is said that the life of this saint was marked by ecstasies and levitations. The mere mention of God or a spiritual matter was enough to take him out of his senses; at Mass he frequently floated in the air in rapture. Once as Christmas carols were being sung, he soared to the high altar and knelt in the air, rapt in prayer. On another occasion he ferried a cross thirty-six feet high through the air to the top of a Calvary group as easily as one might carry a straw.

The people flocked to him in droves seeking help and advice in the confessional, and he converted many to a truly Christian life. However, this humble man had to endure many severe trials and terrible temptations throughout his life. He died on September 18, 1663.

From an article on www.catholic.org

Saint Joseph of Cupertino

Feastday:	September 18th
Patron of:	Aviators, Air Travelers Studying
Born:	1603
Died:	1663

Saint Joseph of Cupertino - the Miracle Worker

Whenever there was a need for food, the cupboard quite bare, Fr. Joseph would pray, place his hands upon what little there was to eat, and what came about was the multiplication of honey, bread, wine and whatever food there was before him.

At other times he simply called upon his Lady to intercede and behold, food miraculously increased.

He would place his cap on a blind man's head and his sight was restored.

The lame and the crippled walked after they kissed the Crucifix Saint Joseph of Cupertino held out to them.

During the plague which claimed many lives, he blessed a poor soul burning up with fever, making the sign of the Cross on his forehead; the fever immediately dropped, and his temperature returned to normal. With the sign of the Cross, St. Joseph brought the dead back to life.

An arrogant nobleman contemptuously challenged Fr. Joseph: "Impious hypocrite, it is not you, but the religious habit you wear that I respect and because of it, I trust that if you make the sign of the Cross on my wound, it will heal."

Cheerfully, Saint Joseph of Cupertino humbly agreed with the nobleman that what he said was absolutely true and wise. Then he blessed the nobleman's wound, whereupon it was completely healed.