

# MINISTRY OF PRAISE

**St. Casimir Parish  
May, 2018**

**Almighty God,  
grant that with the help of St. Casimir's intercession  
we may serve you in holiness and justice.**

*Happy Mother's Day*



## PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING INTENTIONS

- ***That the lay faithful may fulfill their specific mission by responding with creativity to the challenges that face the world today.*** (May Papal intention)
- That the gift of the Eucharist will draw those children preparing to receive Holy Communion into an unending friendship with the Lord.
- That the Spirit of God will fill our President and Congress with wisdom, courage, and dedication to justice and the protection of freedom.
- That those who work in the media may always respect truth, solidarity, and the dignity of each person.
- That as our nation observes Memorial Day we pray for all those members of the military who have died in our nation's service.
- That God bless Father Bacevice and the Pastoral and Finance Councils in their efforts to secure the future of St. Casimir Parish.
- That all parishioners recognize their responsibility to St. Casimir Parish's future through financial support, commitment to parish activities, sharing ideas, and most importantly prayer.
- That our parish will grow in holiness by keeping the commandments and by loving one another in the way that Christ commands us.
- That those who struggle with mental illness and addictions may experience the mercy of Jesus to overcome their afflictions.
- That those who pray be validated in their belief of its power.



## **WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST. CASIMIR PARISH?**

May 4 – **First Friday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**, 8:00 – 9:00am in Church

May 5-6 – **First Communion weekend**

May 9 – **Eucharistic Adoration**, 6:00-7:00pm in Church

SAINT FOR MAY

**SAINT AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY**

**Bishop  
(died 604)**

**May 27**



***Who...is capable of describing the great joy of believers when they have heard what the grace of Almighty God and your own cooperation achieved among the Anglo-Saxons. They abandoned the errors of darkness and were bathed with the light of holy faith. With full awareness they trampled on the idols which they had previously adored with savage fear.***

(Pope Gregory expressing his joy of St. Augustine's missionary work)

Little is known of the early life of St. Augustine except that he became a monk and was a friend of Pope Gregory the Great. Gregory valued Augustine's loyalty and perseverance and in 596 appointed him to lead a band of thirty missionaries to evangelize England. Before even reaching England, the missionaries heard stories of the ferocity of the Anglo-Saxons and they turned back. But Augustine was reassured by Pope Gregory and they set out a second time. Upon reaching England they were welcomed by King Ethelbert whose wife was a Christian.

Their work was difficult. They followed the advice of Pope Gregory who encouraged them to use the existing temples rather than destroying them, to adapt pagan celebrations to Christian feasts, and to use local customs when possible. Eventually King Ethelbert was baptized. By the time St. Augustine died in 604, the results of his and his monks' labor were lasting.

St. Augustine's feast day reminds us that evangelization continues in the Church. The *Decree on the Church's Missionary Activity* encourages missionaries to be mindful of the goodness of peoples, their particular customs and cultures, and to purify rather than destroy what can be built upon.

Source: IN HIS LIKENESS, Rev. Charles E. Yost; SAINTS AND FEAST DAYS, Loyola University Press



**THOUGHTS FROM THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**Wholly united with her Son...**

**# 964** Mary's role in the Church is inseparable from her union with Christ and flows directly from it. "This union of the mother with the Son in the work of salvation is made manifest from the time of Christ's virginal conception up to his death; it is made manifest above all at the hour of his Passion."

**# 965** After her Son's Ascension, Mary "aided the beginnings of the Church by her prayers." In her association with the apostles and several women, "we also see Mary by her prayers imploring the gift of the Spirit, who had already overshadowed her in the Annunciation."



### A LESSON OF THE VISITATION

When Mary was greeted by her elderly cousin Elizabeth, she at once sang her *Magnificat*, that great song of joy and of self-knowledge in God: “My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in the Lord God, my Savior!” Mary was not able to respond in this way when she was greeted by the angel Gabriel. No – what in the end occasioned her joy were words spoken to her by Elizabeth, her elderly relative, very simple and very humble words of delighted recognition: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!”

There is here, if I’m not mistaken, an important but unexpected lesson. Sometimes we might be inclined to think that, without the confirmation of some interior vision or some deep experience in prayer, we cannot hope to know the joy of God’s love for us. But Mary’s experience at the Visitation reminds us that such a deep and joyful realization can be the result of a simple good deed or act of generosity done to someone in need. Again and again, to our astonishment, we discover that it is in the poor, in those who need our help, that the Lord is waiting to fill us with the knowledge, the joyful knowledge that we are loved.

This knowledge is knowledge that heals. If we, who know ourselves to be wounded in some way, make an effort to help others who are suffering, if we “share our bread with the hungry” and try to “shelter the homeless poor” or “make a visit to someone in need” like Mary, then, according to the prophet Isaiah, not only will we experience enlightenment of some kind, but our wound will quickly be healed over (Is 58: 6-8). And why? Because in those who are most in need of help we will meet Christ himself: “Whatever you do to one of these, the least of my brothers, you do to me.”

By Father Paul Murray, O.P.