

SAINT FRANCIS EXCHANGE

The Newsletter and Bulletin of the Oratory of Saint Francis of Assisi

MONTH OF OUR LADY – MAY 2026

LETTER FROM THE MONSIGNOR

Grant us Thy servants, we beseech Thee, O Lord God, to enjoy perpetual health of mind and body, that by the glorious intercession of Blessed Mary ever Virgin, we may be delivered from present sorrow, and enjoy everlasting happiness.

– Collect from the Our Lady's Mass on Saturday from Easter to Pentecost

DEVOTION to the Blessed Virgin Mary is quite ancient, the feast of her *Assumption* (or *Dormition* in the Eastern Catholic Church) has been celebrated since *at least* the fourth century, just slightly before the feasts of Our Lord's *Nativity* and the *Epiphany* were established. We have the written text of a prayer to Our Lady from c.250, written in Greek, called the *Sub Tuum Præsidium*:

We fly to thy protection,
O Holy Mother of God;
Do not despise our petitions
in our necessities,
but deliver us always
from all dangers,
O Glorious and Blessed Virgin.

The month of May, traditionally dedicated to Our Lady, is an appropriate time to reaffirm our proper and well-ordered love and devotion to her. All the feasts dedicated to her concern great events in the history of our salvation, and of her cooperation with the will and grace of God: her *Immaculate Conception*, her *fiat* at

the *Annunciation*, her *Divine Maternity*, her *Queenship*, her *Seven Sorrows*, her *Most Holy Rosary*, and these do not even begin to demonstrate the Holy Church's liturgical devotion to her.

When Our Lady said "yes" to God through the Archangel Gabriel (cf. S. Luke 1:26–38), she accepted the holy burden of becoming not only the Mother of God but also our mother; *I am the mother of fair love, and of fear, and of knowledge, and of holy hope* (Ecclesiasticus 24:24). Only God is more generous than she, and because she gave her whole self without hesitation or thought of cost she is the greatest of all human creatures. Her generosity is the source of all perfection and privileges that she has, which she shares with us unhesitatingly.



Our Lord has given us His very own mother to be our as well, *behold thy mother* (S. John 19:27), this mother who gave Him His human nature – could there ever be a more generous and grace filled outpouring of human love to the Lord of All and His creation? When God

chose her, from all eternity, He knew that she would forever dispel doubt in the promises of God, which began as a prophecy after our First Parents fell from God's grace: *I will put enmities between thee and the woman, and thy seed and her seed: she shall crush thy head, and thou shalt lie in wait for her heel* (Genesis 3:15).

We must honour and love Our Lady, not only because of what she has done, and continues to do for us, but because *God loves her!* When you pray the Rosary, please do so with care and purpose; when you speak of Our Lady please do so with care and purpose; when you wish to live by her most holy example please do so with care and purpose, and embrace God's most holy will in all things and at all times, with faith, humility, obedience, patience and love.

We are grateful for your continued support and prayers for our little Chapel, we ask that you continue to remember us in your prayers. You and your intentions are prayed for every single day, especially at Holy Mass offered on our Altar.

In Christ the King,
Monsignor ✠ Thomas JF Sebastian

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: My Lord:
As I grow in my faith (thanks to you and other true Catholic clergy) how can I grow even more in my love of the Lord and His Blessed Mother?

Anonymous

A. I rejoice in your cooperation with the grace of God and your desire for increased sanctification. The surest sign of active grace in man's soul is *Apostolic Zeal*; the actualised work for God's Kingdom by acts of heroic charity, that is, doing good for God's sake alone. All human love is predicated upon a relationship, and our relationship with God, specifically to Our Lord and Our Lady, begins with communication. Daily and frequent prayer is the most effective way for our heart, mind and souls to communication with Heaven. I highly recommend that when you pray, especially the Holy Rosary, that you truly meditate and consider the *Mysteries* that you pray, and be sure to offer prayers of thanksgiving, because the soul in grace is grateful to God for all His gracious gifts. Also, when you receive Holy Communion, *please* take time to thank God for the tremendous gift you have just received, Christ Jesus' true Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity.

If you have a question, please feel free to e-mail:

info@stfrancisoratory.org

PRAYER REQUESTS

YOUR continued prayers are requested for the sick, especially Fr. Matthew Howard, Mrs. Denise Huizenga, Mrs. Norma Hernandez and Mr. Charles Edward McClusky. Please also remember in your prayers the souls of those who have died, especially Mr. Paul Howard†, Mr. John Owen† and Mr. Atilano Duarte†. *If you know*

of someone unable to attend Holy Mass due to sickness, please be sure to let the Monsignor know so he can arrange for a sick call.



Real Men Kneel at Holy Mass!

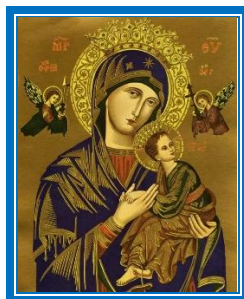
HOW TO DONATE AND SEND MASS STIPENDS

DONATIONS and Mass Stipends can be sent online via **Zelle** (be sure to select *donation* and not *payment*) or you can always send a cheque to our Post Office Box:

St. Francis of Assisi
PO Box 8469
Van Nuys, CA 91409-8469

The normal stipend for a Mass Intention is \$20.00. Please be sure to include the person's name (w/Mr., Mrs. or Miss) and if they are living or deceased. Also, be sure to indicate if you wish a Mass Card to be sent to that person or their family.

Your continued support is appreciated and quite needed to continue our mission of offer the true and traditional Latin Mass of the Holy Catholic Church. The True Mass and Faith are ours to protect, defend and support!



ASCENSION OF THE LORD: HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

THURSDAY the 14th of May is the feast of the *Ascension of the Lord*, an Holy Day of Obligation: Holy Mass will be offered at 7:00 PM.

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION FOR 2026

14 May 2026 (Thursday)
Feast of the Ascension of the Lord
15 August 2026 (Saturday)
Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
1 November 2026 (Sunday)
Feast of All Saints
8 December 2026 (Tuesday)
Feast of the Immaculate Conception
25 December 2026 (Friday)
Feast of the Nativity of the Lord

SUNDAYS OF MAY: THE CATHOLIC HAND MISSAL

In order to assist the faithful following Holy Mass with their hand missals here are the Sunday Masses for May:

3 May 2026:

Finding of the True Cross:
Commemoration of the *Fourth Sunday after Easter* and *S. Pope Alexander I & Companions, Martyrs* at the Collect, Secret

and Postcommunion, with the *Preface of the Holy Cross*.

10 May 2026:

Fifth Sunday after Easter:

Commemoration of *S. Antoninus, Bp & Confessor* and *Ss. Gordian & Epimachus, Martyrs* at the Collect, Secret and Postcommunion, with the *Preface of Easter*.

17 May 2026:

Sunday within the Octave of the Ascension:

Commemoration of *S. Paschal Baylon, Confessor* and the *Octave* at the Collect, Secret and Postcommunion, with the *Preface of the Ascension*.

24 May 2026:

Pentecost Sunday:

No Commemorations with the *Preface of the Holy Ghost*.

31 May 2026:

Trinity Sunday:

Commemoration of the *First Sunday after Pentecost* at the Collect, Secret and Postcommunion, with the *Preface of the Holy Trinity* and the Last Gospel of the *Sunday*.

To participate *correctly* at Holy Mass one *silently* unites his prayers with those of the Church through pious and attentive meditation of the prayers and reading of Holy Mass.

If you are unsure how to correctly set your hand missal arrive early for Holy Mass and ask the Monsignor to assist you. It is also important to become familiar with the *Ordinary of the Mass*, those parts that never change, *i.e.*: Kyrie, Gloria, Creed, Sanctus, Benedictus, and the Agnus Dei. And, of course, the Canon of the Mass, and the *Propers of the Mass*, those which vary according to the feasts of the day, *i.e.*, Introit, Collect(s) (after the Gloria or Dominus Vobiscum), Epistle, Gradual, Alleluia, Tract or Sequence, Gospel, Secret, Communion Verse and Post

Communion. On many feasts or days there are *Commemorations* (additional prayers) at the Collect, Secret and Postcommunion. The careful attention to these prayers and readings will help one enter into a deeper spiritual relationship with the Holy Liturgy, the Saints and Mysteries of God.



The Hiding Mass in Van Nuys

Sunday Mass Time:

10:00 am

(818) 786-2540

e-mail: info@stfrancisoratory.org

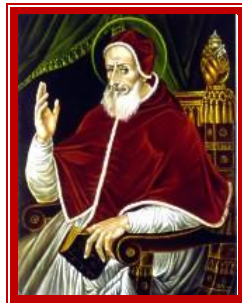
Be sure to visit our web site at:

www.stfrancisoratory.org

N.B.: Our Mailing Address is:

Post Office Box 8469

Van Nuys, CA 91409-8469



S. Pope Pius V, Confessor

(5 May):

Pray for us!



S. Athanasius, Bishop & Confessor

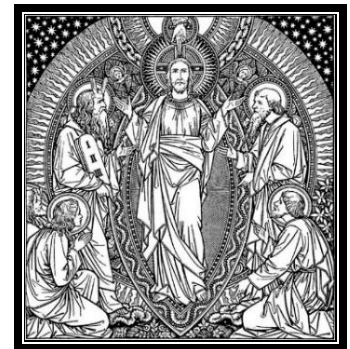
(2 May):

Pray for us!



S. Monica, Widow (4 May):

Pray for us!



✿ **Saint Francis Chapel** is staffed by the **Priestly Society of Christ the King (SSCR)**; properly trained and ordained Roman Catholic Priests who are faithful to the teachings and disciplines of the Roman Catholic Church. Saint Francis is not affiliated with the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Our Holy Fathers, the Popes, most especially Saint Pope Pius V in His infallible decree *Quo Primum*, have given their permission in perpetuity to offer the Traditional Latin Mass (*Missal of S. Pope Pius V* and rubrics of *S. Pope Pius X*).

MASS GUILD

HOLY MASS is offered on the First Saturday of every month for all Friends and benefactors of SAINT FRANCIS ORATORY CHAPEL. Your generous donation (one time or monthly) enables you to be remembered upon the Altars of the Society, where *only* the traditional Latin Mass is offered, as codified and canonized by His Holiness, Saint Pope Pius V, *perpetually* approved of.

We would like to remind those who send Mass requests to PLEASE include the name of the person and/or intention with your stipend. Mass Cards will be sent to concerned parties upon request. Thank you and God bless you!

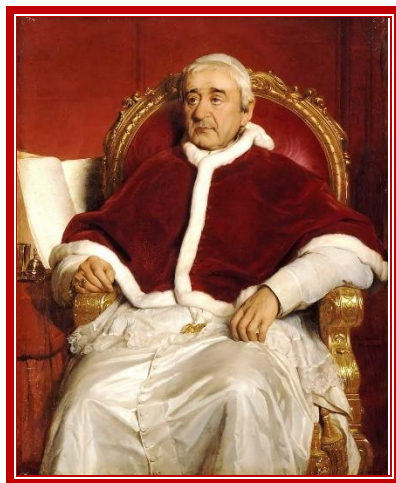


RECOMMENDED WEBSITES:

www.traditio.com
www.traditioninaction.com
www.traditionalmass.org
www.novusordowatch.com

N.B.: Recommendation of a website is for information and does not constitute association with or full agreement of opinions or positions.

PETER SPEAKS:



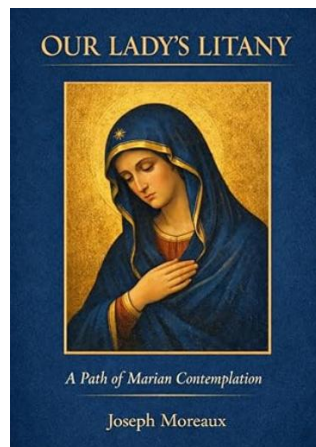
THAT all of this may come to pass prosperously and happily, let Us raise Our eyes and hands to the most holy Virgin Mary, who alone crushes all heresies, and is Our greatest reliance and the whole reason for Our

hope (cf. S. Bernard, *Serm. De Nat. BVM, scet.7*). May she implore by her patronage a successful outcome for Our plans and actions.

Gregory XVI, *Mirari Vos*, 15 August 1832, no. 24



Have you or someone you know ever considered a vocation as a Priest or Religious? If so, please contact us to schedule a conversion and visit. The Holy Church, especially here in Southern California, needs generous men who can continue the Lord's work.



BOOK RECOMMENDATION

One of our own parishioners, Mr. Joseph Moreaux, has published his second spiritual work, *Our Lady's Litany: A Path of Marian Contemplation*, and is available on the Amazon book platform. It is

a beautiful devotional and will bring readers to a greater appreciation of this Litany.

ON S. LOUIS DE MONTFORT
BY SIR SHWAN SMITH, MCR

Empress of Hearts
St. Louis de Montfort's Light to Heaven

If our Lord subjected His childhood through adulthood to the authority of His Mother, then we who wish to follow in His footsteps, for the servants are not greater than the Master, should do the same that we may truly disappear and be formed into Christ. That all our actions, no matter how small, so long as they are worthy of God, should gladly be given to her and she will deposit them in such a way that they will be most prosperous for our soul and pleasing to Her Son. This is a rudimentary explanation of what St. Louis de Montfort has taught me through his book, *True Devotion to Mary*. It has impacted my soul and given me peace beyond anything I have read outside of the Bible. *True Devotion to Mary* was written for our time of darkness that we might be given a brilliant light to pierce through the black fog of Satan. The words of Our Lady of Guadalupe to Juan Diego, encapsulates the sentiment of St. Louis's writings. They should touch the hearts of all who read them as they are said tenderly to us wandering children. "Am I not here, I, who am your Mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Am I not the source of your joy? Are you not in the hollow of my mantle, in the crossing of my arms? Do you need anything more? Let nothing else worry you, disturb you."