

Padre's Ponderings

Dear Parishioners,

This coming Saturday, the Church celebrates the memorial of Saint Monica (d. 387). Saint Monica is well-known for her intercession for her son, Augustine, who, through her prayers, was converted and became one of the most significant figures in the history of the Christian tradition. His memorial is observed on August 28, although the Sunday observance will take precedence this year.

I have come to believe that Saint Monica is truly a saint for our times. Many of you who come to church regularly have children, grandchildren, and other relatives who no longer or simply never practiced the faith. For you, whose faith is so central to your lives, this can be an experience of great sorrow and pain. I constantly hear from regular church-goers how difficult an experience it is to have raised a child in the faith only to see them abandon its practice or to not pass that faith on to their own children.

Saint Monica prayed—often in great sorrow and distress—for the conversion of her son. In God's Providence, he willed that Augustine be converted through his mother's prayers and penances. Nonetheless, Monica always understood the primacy of God's will. She would have recognized that had God *not* willed to bring about her son's conversion in the way she hoped or imagined, his Providence would still be at work. Her prayers and penances could have merited the conversion of another whom God willed, or have been conducive to her own growth in holiness and love for the sinner. She always trusted more in God's will than her own. That is the great lesson she teaches us.

It might be tempting to think that if we, like Saint Monica, just pray hard enough for those we love to return to the Church, then things will work out the way we hope or imagine. But that isn't what Saint Monica has to teach us. The beginnings of conversion might look different for different people, and sometimes the prayers we direct for one person end up—in God's mysterious Providence—helping another. We might not know who until the Kingdom. In the meantime, we keep hoping and loving and praying, trusting that God's will is always more effective than our own. And we can always pray for guidance in choosing prudent and charitable ways to invite our loved ones back to the practice of the faith.

Until next week,

F. Joe



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Rev. Joseph R. Upton, Ph.D.
*Administrator, Saint Alexander
Pastor, Saint Mary of the Bay*



MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday at 9am
Saint Alexander

Saturday Vigil at 4pm

(Preceded by Confessions at 3pm)
Saint Mary of the Bay

Sunday at 8am, 10:30am and 6pm
Saint Mary of the Bay

Monday-Friday 8am
Saint Mary of the Bay

Holy Days as Announced



TRUSTEES & AUDITORS

Nancy Urban, Trustee
John Saviano, Trustee
Patricia Dugan, Auditor
John Flynn, Auditor

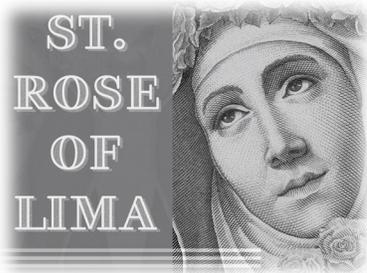
☞ MASS INTENTIONS ☞

August 21, 2022

9am: Edward Godek

Requested by Betty & David Hoague

"Thus he made atonement for the dead..." (2 Macc 12:46a). If you would like to have Mass offered for a deceased loved one (or for another intention), please call the parish office at 401-245-6369 or email parishoffice@saintalexanders.com. Please also note that the 2023 Mass Book is now open for bookings.



☞ SAINT OF THE WEEK ☞

Born Isabel Flores de Olivia in April 1586 in Lima, Peru to Spanish colonists, Saint Rose of Lima took the name Rose at her confirmation in 1597. Legend holds that she received this nickname as an infant because a servant saw her face transformed into a rose.

Even as a child Saint Rose was dedicated to Christ. Growing up she made many secret penances. And when she was old enough to be married, deterred suitors by cutting off her hair and rubbing pepper on face to make it blister. She took a vow of chastity even though her parents wished her to marry. She fasted many times a week and permanently abstained from meat.

Eventually her parents gave in and allowed her to join the Third Order of St. Dominic, although she was not permitted to live in a convent. Saint Rose undertook severe penances, allowing herself only two hours of sleep a night in order to have more time to pray, wearing a heavy silver crown with spikes on the inside imitating Christ's crown of thorns, and even burning her own hands. However, she also cared for the sick and hungry, and sold her beautiful embroidery and fine lace, as well as flowers she grew to help raise funds for the poor.

She died at the age of 31 on August 24, 1617. Pope Clement X canonized her in 1671, she was the first saint of the New World, born in the Americas. Saint Rose of Lima is the patron saint of Latin America and the Philippines.

☞ LIVING THE SCRIPTURES ☞

Today's Readings:

Is 66:18-21/Ps 117:1, 2/Heb 12:5-7, 11-13/
Lk 13:22-30

From today's First Reading:

They shall bring all your brothers and sisters from all the nations as an offering to the LORD. (Is 66:20)

Consider: **The final prophecy in the Book of Isaiah speaks about the end times when God will gather "all nations and tongues" and all the world will finally see the full "glory" of God. Why do you think this event has been revealed to us?**

From today's Second Reading:

"My son, do not disdain the discipline of the Lord or lose heart when reproved by him; for whom the Lord loves, he disciplines." (Heb 12:5-6)

Consider: **Our author of Hebrews speaks of the trials and tribulations of our lives as a "discipline" from God meant to teach and train us. Can you think of a lesson learned from some difficult situations in your life?**

From today's Gospel:

And people will come from the east and the west and from the north and the south and will recline at table in the kingdom of God. (Lk 13:29)

Consider: **As Jesus continues on his journey to Jerusalem, he teaches the crowds about the urgency to accept his invitation for salvation. Why do you think so many people lack this sense of urgency for their own salvation?**

