

COMING EVENTS

Novena May 17th thru 25th.

Pilgrimage Sunday, May 25th

Mass at 11:00 AM

Rosary and Novena Prayers before Mass

Mass Times at St. Wenceslaus Home of the
National Shrine of the Infant Jesus

Saturday Night Vigil 5:00 PM

Sunday 11 :00 AM

Tuesday through Friday at 9:00 AM

Holy Hour 9:30 to 10:30 AM

First Friday and First Saturday Mass 9:00 AM

Holy Hour 9:30 to 10:30 AM

Gift Shop hours are Tues-Fri 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Sunday Shrine open till 2:00 PM

This newsletter is published monthly to promote
the devotion to the Infant Jesus of Prague at the
National Shrine in Oklahoma, USA.

www.shrineofinfantjesus.com

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THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE INFANT JESUS OF PRAGUE

May 2025

THE MORE YOU HONOR ME
THE MORE I WILL BLESS YOU



Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

October is the month of the Most Holy Rosary; November is the month of praying for the faithful departed; June is when we immerse ourselves in the ocean of mercy of the Sacred Heart of Jesus; July is when we praise and adore the Precious Blood of Jesus, the price of our redemption. May is the month of Mary.

May comes again, bringing with it the brilliant scent of flowers, signals a special time in religious life: May – the month dedicated to the Virgin Mary. This is the time for us to together offer to Mother Mary fresh flowers of love, fervent prayers and silent sacrifices, as spiritual gifts to show our filial piety to Mother Mary.

Mother Mary, the gentle Mother who always protects and leads us to Jesus. Like good children, let's prepare our hearts together, renew our lives of faith, so that this May becomes an opportunity to renew our souls, living fully in the love of God and Mother Mary.

But May has its own special color: With the warm and fresh weather, natural landscape, trees, flowers, etc. after a long sleep during the cold winter days, now awaken together, blooming together, adding beauty to the universe. All of them seem to be calling and urging us to pick and offer pure first flowers to Mother Mary. Yes, the altar honoring Mother Mary in May must be full of fresh flowers, a symbol of our grateful devotion to Mother, a symbol of the renewal of each of our lives after months buried in the “winter” of fallen mistakes, of separation from the “sun” of God's grace, and beginning to blossom and bloom under the “warm sunshine” of the grace of the Holy Spirit.

In the early centuries, every year, when May came, the Romans honored nature's awakening after the long winter by organizing so-called festivals in honor of Flowers, the Goddess of Spring. Catholics in parishes have sanctified the above custom. They organize flower processions and pray for abundant harvests. In some places, people organize “Green Processions.” People cut fresh green branches that are in bloom, bring them back to decorate Churches and especially Altars dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Poets and saints compete to compose songs and Homilies praising those holidays as well as praising the Virgin Mary.

Mother Mary is also compared to a wonderful woman, the most beautiful among thousands of women, she is beautiful in soul, she is beautiful in body. Therefore, the flowers give off a sweet fragrance, symbolizing her virtues. At the same time, the colors of the flowers symbolize that she is the Mother of all creatures when accepting the role of Mother of God.

Mother Mary is likened to a fragrant flower before the Throne of God, but before that, she was also a very ordinary person like many other women. However, she was chosen by God, and through her “Yes”, she became more beautiful than thousands of women. She became a fragrant flower before the Throne of God. She became a unique flower in the human world. Why is that so? Simply because she is the Mother of God and, as a matter of course, she is the Mother of mankind.

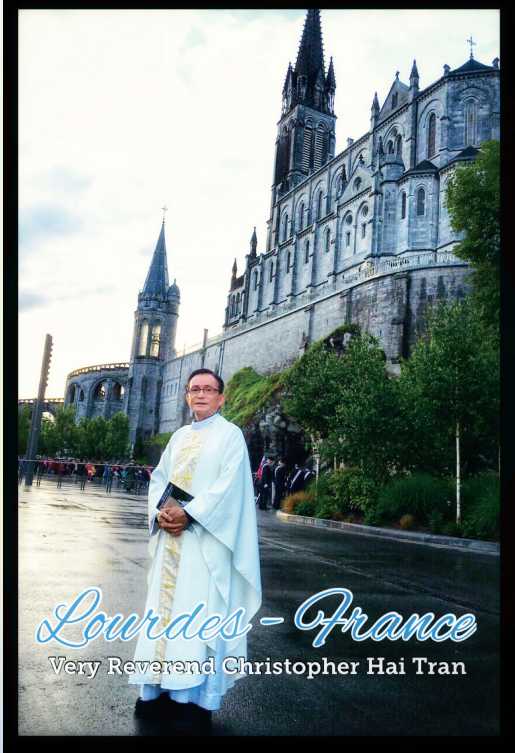
Thanks to God’s grace, Mary became a masterpiece flower: The grace of Immaculate Conception, the grace of Perpetual Virginity, Mother of God, Assumption into heaven, and she is like a “mysterious rose.”

Pope Leo XIII said: “It can be said that, according to the will of God, nothing comes to us except through Mary. No one can approach the Father except through the Son, and no one can approach Christ except through Mary” (Apostolic Letter Octobri Mense). After Jesus, Mary is our Mediatrix, because while Jesus continues to reconcile us with the Father, Mary also reconciles us with Jesus. Our Lady gives us all the blessings we need. Saint Paul calls Mary “the throne of grace.” She can ask her Son for everything for us, and she intercedes for us as our Mother.

Saint Bernard once said: Writing about Mary is never enough, talking about Mary is never enough, meditating on Mary is never enough. Of Mary, there is never enough, for God so loved her that He gave His only begotten Son, that we all might have life. God so trusted her that He allowed her to raise the Son. A few simple thoughts like wanting to contribute a fresh flower to Mother Mary, praising her on the occasion of May. Wishing that more people will respect and love Mother Mary more, so that through her intercession, God will pour out countless blessings. Saint Hilary, Doctor of the Church says: “No matter how sinful one may have been, if he has devotion to Mary, it is impossible that he be lost.” So in this month of May, each of us is invited to love Our Lady even more. This love needs to be concrete through living the faith, praying the Rosary, and doing charitable works. Offer to the Virgin Mary lots of fresh flowers full of the fragrance of holy sacrifices.

The famous Rosary priest, Father Patrick Peyton put it concisely: “The family that prays together stays together”... and “A world at prayer is a world at peace.”

Sincerely in Christ,
Very Reverend Christopher Hai Tran, Rector



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