

CELEBRATE!

A NEWSLETTER FOR VIEWERS AND FRIENDS OF THE SUNDAY TV MASS

SPRING 2019

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The Sunday TV Mass airs every Sunday morning on WDCW-50 at 10:30 a.m.

Production Crew

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Bob Hemmerich



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

CRYPT ALTAR HONORS MARY AND MARYS



Detail of the Mary Memorial Altar of the Crypt Church.

Photo courtesy of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

The month of May is traditionally dedicated to Mary. Pagan Greek and Roman festivals during this month observed the goddesses of fertility and springtime. Early Christian traditions then adapted this month of “new life” and motherhood to honor our Lady. Various Marian feast days were celebrated during this month, and in 1945, Pope Pius XII instituted the feast of the Queenship of Mary on May 31 – now the feast of the Visitation of Mary. The feast of Our Lady of Fatima also falls during this month on May 13.

Our Lady is venerated in a unique way during every TV Mass liturgy celebrated in the Crypt Church. The Mary Memorial Altar is the freestanding altar at the center of the crypt is dedicated to Our Lady of the Catacombs. Molded from translucent golden Algerian onyx and Roman Tavertine marble, the altar

weighs 5,000 pounds. It was presented in 1928 through support from the International Federation of Catholic Alumnae.

In 1921, the International Federation of Catholic Alumnae sent a letter to alumnae, asking them to send a \$1 donation for the funding of the altar. The more than 30,000 women who contributed had a nominal thing in common: they all held “even a remote kinship with the name Mary.” The Marian-themed names of these women (Mary, Maria, Miriam, etc.) are memorialized and sealed within the altar. So while the faithful remember the names of the women who made the Mary Memorial Altar possible, they more importantly honor Mary, our Queen and mother, the model for all women and all Christians seeking to live out the universal call to holiness.

2 WOMEN OF THE CRYPT SERIES

Did you know the Crypt Church of the Shrine of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception features mosaics of great women of the Church? TV Mass viewers can catch a glimpse of many of them during the Masses. The Catholic Church extols women and their unique role in society and in salvation history as artists, educators, evangelists, mothers, martyrs, religious, virgins, and more. This and future *Celebrate!* newsletters will feature some of the stories of these inspiring female saints.

Ss. Perpetua and Felicity

Ss. Perpetua and Felicity were women of the early Church who lived in Carthage during the rule of Roman Emperor Septimius Severus. Perpetua was a noblewoman, a mother to a young son, and a Christian catechumen who was arrested and imprisoned because of her faith. Felicity was an expectant mother and an enslaved woman who was also imprisoned with Perpetua and other companions. Because they would not renounce their faith, they were condemned to die at games at the amphitheater. A few days before the games, they were baptized, and Felicity gave birth to her child, a baby girl, who was taken and cared for by fellow Christians.

While in prison, Perpetua kept a diary recounting the conditions of their imprisonment, visions she had, and the dialogue with her father, who begged her to renounce the faith that she might be spared. Perpetua wrote:

“My father, for the sake of his affection for me, was persisting in seeking to turn me away, and to cast me down from the faith, - ‘Father,’ said I, ‘do you see, let us say, this vessel lying here to be a little pitcher, or something else?’ And he said, ‘I see it to be so.’ And I replied to him, ‘Can it be called by any other name than what it is?’ And he said, ‘No.’ ‘Neither can I call myself anything else than what I am, a Christian’”

(The Martyrdom Of Perpetua And Felicitas, Ch. I)

A witness who finished Perpetua’s diary after her martyrdom recounts the saints entered the amphitheater “joyous and of brilliant countenances” to meet their deaths.



The mosaic of Ss. Perpetua and Felicity in the Crypt Church
Courtesy of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

The mosaic, which is located to the left of the crypt altar, depicts Ss. Perpetua and Felicity side by side. The Latin phrase “*alius erit in me qui patietur pro me, quia et ego pro illo passura sum*” is also depicted. This phrase is part of a longer sentence spoken by St. Felicity before her martyrdom, which as a whole reads, “Now it is I that suffer what I suffer; but then there will be another in me, who will suffer for me, because I also am about to suffer for Him.” In unifying her suffering and martyrdom with Christ’s passion, St. Felicity realized it was truly Christ Himself who was suffering in her body.

Beside them is an artistic rendition of one of Perpetua’s visions: a ladder ascending to a heavenly garden, with the Lamb of God in the center, surrounded by two sheep. Perpetua interpreted this dream to be a foretelling of their future passion and martyrdom.

Ss. Perpetua and Felicity are mentioned in the Mass in the first Eucharistic Prayer, and their feast day is March 7. Ss. Perpetua and Felicity, pray for us!

TV MASS AVAILABLE ONLINE **3**

WATCH THE TV MASS ONLINE

The TV Mass is available online for those viewers who are unable to watch on TV. Many already watch the Mass online, with Masses during Ordinary Time gaining more than 15,000 views. Last year's Christmas Mass had more than 25,000 views.

Watch the Masses at the National Shrine's YouTube channel:
www.youtube.com/user/marysshine

Make sure to like, share, and subscribe to the channel to never miss another TV Mass!



EASTER TV MASS

APRIL 21, 2019
10:30-11:30 A.M.

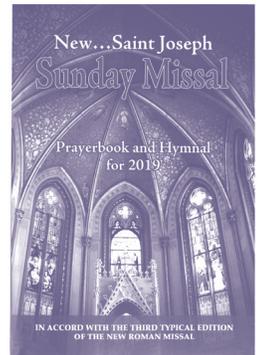
On Easter morning, Most Reverend Michael W. Fisher, Auxiliary Bishop of Washington will be joined by the Saint John Paul II Seminary Choir in celebrating a special hour-long Mass that will air at **10:30-11:30 a.m.**

KNOW, LOVE AND LIVE THE MASS WITH A 2019 ST. JOSEPH SUNDAY MISSAL

The 2019 Saint Joseph Sunday Missal is now available to order! It began on the first Sunday of Advent -Dec. 2, 2018, for the entire liturgical year.

This pocket-sized missal is a wonderful tool to help TV Mass viewers understand the Mass and actively participate in it.

The missal provides each Sunday's prayers, readings and responses so viewers can unite with the prayers of the priest and recite or sing their parts with understanding and devotion. It includes the Order of Mass in two colors and large type with the People's Parts in bold type for quick identification and an updated hymnal section with over 90 popular hymns as well as many prayers.



Send in the coupon below today!

DO YOU NEED A EUCHARISTIC MINISTER TO VISIT YOU ON SUNDAYS?

Please call your local parish to request that a Eucharistic Minister visit you at home.

If you live in the Archdiocese of Washington and are not sure which parish is closest to you, please call Claudia Cheek at the Archdiocese of Washington at 301-853-4516.

CELEBRATE!

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CELEBRATE! Support the Sunday TV Mass

I would like to make a donation to support the Sunday TV Mass ministry \$ _____

THE 2019 ST. JOSEPH MISSAL IS NOW AVAILABLE - ORDER YOURS TODAY!

Please send me _____ copies of the **2019 St. Joseph Sunday Missal**.

Suggested donation \$7 per copy (includes shipping)

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Please make your check payable to 'Archdiocese of Washington' and return this coupon to:

Sunday TV Mass - Office of Media and Public Relations

Archdiocese of Washington , PO Box 29260, Washington, DC 20017-0260

JOIN THE TV MASS CONGREGATION!

Share the TV Mass with friends and family by asking if they would like to be part of the congregation.

7:30 - 8:45 pm
 Crypt Church
 Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception
 400 Michigan Avenue, NE, Washington, DC
 (enter through the front lower doors by the gift shop / free parking)

Taping	Air dates	Liturgy (30 minutes each)
Thursday, March 21	April 21	Easter
Thursday, April 4	May 5 May 19	3rd Sunday of Easter 5th Sunday of Easter
Thursday, May 2	May 26 June 9	6th Sunday of Easter Pentecost Sunday
Thursday, May 9	June 2 June 16	7th/Ascension of the Lord Trinity Sunday
Thursday, May 23	June 23 July 7	Body and Blood of Christ 14th Sunday in Ord Time
Thursday, June 6	June 30 July 14	13th Sunday in Ord Time 15th Sunday in Ord Time
Thursday, June 20	July 21 August 4	16th Sunday in Ord Time 18th Sunday in Ord Time

The Sunday TV Mass airs every Sunday morning:
 10:30 am on WDCW Channel 50, Washington, DC.

How to order a DVD copy of the TV Mass

Watch the TV Mass whenever you like by ordering a particular Mass on DVD! Parish and school choirs who were part of the TV Mass congregation may also want to order a DVD as a keepsake of their experience.



How to order:

Email: ccheek@adw.org or call 301-853-4516 to place your order. Please include the date the Mass was taped or the air date, quantity and your name, address and tel. no.

Cost:

1-10 copies - \$20.00 each
 11 or more copies - \$15.00 each

Send your check, made payable to *Archdiocese of Washington*, to:

Archdiocese of Washington,
 Sunday TV Mass,
 Office of Media and Public Relations,
 PO Box 29260,
 Washington, DC 20017

Address Service Requested



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