

# Living the Gospel

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## ST. MARY'S CHURCH

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## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

### THE ROMAN CANON & THE NAMES OF THE SAINTS CITED



At the Easter Vigil and the Masses of Easter Sunday, I used the Roman Canon or Eucharistic Prayer I. It is the longest of the Eucharistic Prayers and dates back in its original use in Latin 1600 years. It is seldom used likely for its length but also because it calls on the name of no less than 42 of the saints. When we hear these names, we might (and should) wonder what the significance of these saints are in the celebration of the Eucharist, particularly when one considers that we are a Church filled with the names and memories of great Saints spanning two millennia, (likely well over 10,000 by some estimates) among them popes, bishops, deacons and laity alike. All four of these groups are found in the names cited in Eucharistic Prayer I. So, I thought parishioners might be interested in discovering just who these Saints are and why they exclusively deserve place in this Eucharistic Prayer.

The first 12 names are the easiest to understand as they are the names of the 12 Apostles, excluding Judas but adding **St. Paul**, and these names follow, of course, **the Blessed Virgin Mary** and **St. Joseph**. While Matthias took Judas' place, he is not mentioned here but later on in the Eucharistic Prayer.

So, we have listed: **Peter and Paul, Andrew, James, John, Thomas, James, Philip, Bartholamew, Matthew, Simon and Jude**.

The next 12 names are early martyrs of the Church:

**Linus**, who was made a bishop by St. Paul and succeeded St. Peter as pope in the year 67. He died a martyr in the year 76

**Cletus**, the 3<sup>rd</sup> pope after Peter, died a martyr in 92 AD

**Clement**, reigned as the fourth pope, died in 99 AD, martyred due to a miracle wrought at his hands in discovering a miraculous water source for those dying of dehydration

**Sixtus**, pope who died in 125 AD as the seventh pope of the Church

**Cornelius**, pope who died in 253 AD as a martyr

**Cyprian**, an early Church bishop, died in 258 AD

**Lawrence**, Deacon, was and still is greatly loved and honoured for his great teaching, deeds and even his sense of humour, for in his martyrdom being roasted on a spit, exclaimed to his captors that they should turn him over because he was done on this side.

He is the patron Saint, believe it or not, of chefs, Deacons and Firefighters. He died

**Chrysogonus,**

**John and Paul,**

**Cosmas and Damien].**

The first five of these were popes that were martyred, **Cyprian** was a bishop martyr, and the last five named are laymen. These 12 represent the hierarchy of the Church.

Following the commemoration of the dead, there are listed and invoked 15 more Saints, the first 8 being male and the remaining 7 are female. (Of course, this is back when there were only two genders.) They are:

**John the Baptist**, the last of the prophets and the foretold forerunner of Jesus who was beheaded by Herod

**Stephen**, the first martyr of the Church who, for his boldness in proclaiming Jesus risen was stoned to death, but not before he saw Jesus standing (not sitting) at the right hand of the Father. He forgave his persecutors.

**Matthias** (the Apostle who replaced Judas)

**Barnabas** (a companion of St. Paul)

**Ignatius of Antioch** (a bishop who was martyred in the year 110)

**Alexander** (a pope who was martyred around 115)

**Marcellinus and Peter** were martyred together: the first was a priest and the second was an exorcist, both died near the end of 4<sup>th</sup> century)

**Felicity and Perpetua** were women martyrs from Africa. St. Perpetua wrote: "And I awoke; and I understood that I should fight, not with beasts but against the devil; but I knew that mine was the victory". Felicity was seven months pregnant and Perpetua had a young child at the time of their deaths.

**Agatha**, was a virgin martyr from Sicily and is the patron saint of people with Breast Cancer. She died in 251. She had consecrated her life to Jesus as a virgin. She prayed before her death: "Jesus Christ, Lord of all, you see my heart, you know my desires. Possess all that I am. I am your sheep: make me worthy to overcome the devil."

**Lucy**, also from Sicily, was martyred in 304

**Agnes** was a Virgin martyr of Rome (the patron saint of music)

**Cecilia**, the patron Saint of music,

**Anastasia** was a virgin martyr of Croatia.

The first part of the Eucharistic Prayer I, before the Epiclesis (calling on the Holy Spirit in blessing the gifts, states the reason for invoking the names of the Saints that follow in the words;

*"In communion with those whose memory we venerate, especially the glorious ever-Virgin Mary,.."*, which is to say that we honour them as members of the Church who, like us, have lived a human life, with the exception of Mary, the Mother of God, who had no sin, they lived their lives or went to their deaths in love with and defending the name of Jesus as the Lord and Saviour of the world. They are the brothers and sisters of all the baptized in every age and the summation of the first list of names of popes, bishops and Deacon states that *"we ask that through their merits and prayers, in all things we may be defended by your protecting help"*.

In the second invocation of Saints and martyrs and lay faithful it begins: *"To us, also, your servants, who, though sinners, hope in your abundant mercies, graciously grant some share and fellowship with your holy Apostles and Martyrs:..."*. Again, we are asking the Father, because the whole Eucharistic Prayer is addressed to the heavenly Father, for a share of all that they endured for the faith in the lives we are called to live from our baptism and with our daily crosses and to share in their blessings and fellowship in our relationship to God. They are our heavenly friends who pray for and with us. (Fr. C.)

APRIL 21, 2024

**MASS**  **SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS**

Tues April 23 7:00pm	+Katherine Cudney Requested by the Cudney Family
Wed April 24 8:30am	Intentions Gal & Jagielski Families  Unannounced Mass
Thurs April 25 8:30am	For the People
Friday April 26 7:30am	Holy Hour
8:30am	Unannounced Mass  Unannounced Mass
Sat April 27 3:30 to 4:00pm 4:30pm	Confessions +Patrick Prevost Requested by the O'Hearn Family
Sunday April 28 9:00am	Intentions of Ludger Mosler Requested by Ingeborg Scholtz
11:00am	For the People

*Please Pray for the Sick*

Dorothy Dynes, Margot Brandreth, Jean Ferguson, Fred Coulson, Hilary Joseph, Henry Niepalla, Mary Little, Kaz Watroba, Albert Sant & Tracy Rivers, Rose Flanagan, Teresa & Feliks Kosierb, Patrick McKee, Elizabeth Pavilsa.

*Please Pray for the Recently Deceased*

Father James Martin Reposkey

The Sanctuary Lamp Burns  
For the Intentions of Tiago Furtado  
From April 7<sup>th</sup> to April 27<sup>th</sup>



Regular Collection \$4948.00 (Inc PAG)



The Knights of Columbus Council 5793 here at St. Mary's will be holding a membership drive after all the masses on the weekend of May 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

**World Day of Prayer for Vocations**  
**April 21, 2024**



**Invest in our Church's future by giving to ShareLife**

Your kindness and devotion enable St. Augustine's Seminary, along with the Office of Vocations and Redemptoris Mater Missionary Seminary, to provide an excellent formation for our seminarians as they pursue a life of service. This past year, you invested in our Church's future by supporting 58 seminarians at St. Augustine's Seminary and Redemptoris Mater Missionary Seminary.

This Sunday, April 21, we celebrate the 61<sup>st</sup> World Day of Prayer for Vocations. There has never been a better time to support and pray for our seminarians, wherever they may be on their journey.

Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at [sharelife.org/donate](http://sharelife.org/donate).

**Next Sunday is our second ShareLife Sunday Collection**

**Parish Goal 2024 \$41,000.00**  
**Raised so far \$12,045.00**

**Year of Prayer**

On January 21, 2024, Pope Francis inaugurated a Year of Prayer ahead of the [2025 Jubilee](#), calling on the faithful "to pray more fervently to prepare ourselves to live properly this grace-filled event and to experience the power of hope in God."

[The Year of Prayer](#), the Holy Father explained, is dedicated "to rediscovering the great value and absolute need for prayer, prayer in personal life, in the life of the Church, prayer in the world."

**The Jubilee Prayer**

Father in heaven,  
may the **faith** you have given us  
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,  
and the flame of **charity** enkindled  
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,  
reawaken in us the blessed **hope**  
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us  
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.  
May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the  
whole cosmos

in the sure expectation  
of a new heaven and a new earth,  
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,  
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee  
reawaken in us, **Pilgrims of Hope**,  
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread  
the joy and peace of our Redeemer  
throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,  
be glory and praise for ever.  
Amen.

"To love another person is to touch the face of God." "It is possible to give without loving, but it is impossible to love without giving." "In the twilight of life, God will not judge us on our earthly possessions and human successes, but on how well we have loved."

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