

From the Pastor
July 17, 2022
Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

St. Ann

Dear Parishioners of Our Beloved St. Paul:

Praised be Jesus Christ, and Mary, His Most Holy Mother! On, Tuesday July 26th, the Church will keep the liturgical commemoration of Sts. Joachim and Ann, the Holy and Righteous Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary. They are the grandparents of Our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and in the Eastern Church they are called, *the Holy and Righteous Ancestors of God*.

As is well known, often a grandmother is called *nana* or a variation of that word. It, in turn, is derived from the Latin for *Ann* which is *Anna*. St. Ann's very name indicates that she is a grandmother.

St. Ann is one of the most powerful intercessors in Heaven. She has been invoked by the Christian faithful since time immemorial. She is the patroness of expectant mothers, of women experiencing difficult pregnancies, of all children and of young women seeking a suitable Catholic husband. She is invoked as a protectress against lightning. St. Teresa of Avila founded over 16 Carmelite monasteries in Spain during the sixteenth century, and she placed all of them under the patronage of good St. Ann. St. Teresa wrote, *Surely, Our Lord Jesus Christ, will never allow to founder any home dedicated to his most Holy and Glorious Grandmother*.

After her death in the Holy Land St. Ann's Holy Body was brought to Brittany in France and buried deep in the mountains for protection. During the sixteenth century, miners discovered the holy remains of St. Ann in a mine. In that place today stands the magnificent basilica of St. Ann d'Auray. In that basilica many pilgrims come to pray before the tomb of St. Ann. The Breton people (the inhabitants of Brittany in France) brought their love of St. Ann to the New World, to New France. And there in Quebec they built the magnificent shrine of St. Ann de Beaupré. Perhaps some of our parishioners have even visited that lovely shrine where so many miracles have occurred.

Because of the circumstances surrounding the discovery of her body, St. Ann is the patron of miners. For that reason, each year at the Basilica of St. Ann in Scranton, Pennsylvania, there is a novena in her honor attended by scores of thousands. (Scranton was formerly a major coal mining region in our country).

I know a lady who had a difficult pregnancy and who was told by many doctors she would lose her child. She had to remain on total bed rest for six months of her pregnancy and she prayed to St. Ann incessantly to spare the child. She dedicated her unborn child to St. Ann and promised that, if the baby were a girl, she would name her Ann. A baby boy was born safely, and in the providence of God became a priest. The miracles, graces and favors wrought through the

intercession of St. Ann are innumerable. The Little Sisters of the Poor are very devoted to St. Ann, and after St. Joseph, she is the secondary patroness of the congregation.

How blessed we are that a family has given to St. Paul's a magnificent woodcut statue of St. Ann, hand carved in Italy. Visit this statue and pray to good St. Ann. It is my hope that after we are all gone and forgotten the future generations of St. Paul's will love and invoke St. Ann. The presence of this statue gives me great personal joy because when I was ordained a priest 40 years ago, I had made a promise that if ever I were to be made a pastor of a Church, I would place a statue of St. Ann in the Church. For you see, the lady to whom I referred above is my own mother who passed away over six years ago, and the baby boy is now your Pastor. Had it not been for St. Ann, I would not be here with you today.

St. Ann, Mother of her who is our life, our sweetness, and our hope, pray for us!

ST. PAUL'S PICNIC: Our annual parish picnic will be held on **Sunday, September 18th**. It will begin at 12 noon and all parishioners are most cordially invited to attend.

Many of the events from the Casino Night (50/50, raffles, prizes, etc.) will be available the day of the Picnic. The parish picnic is a way to thank all parishioners. Admission is a gift, but we hope many parishioners will enjoy themselves and purchase the raffles. We will not be having the Casino Night in the autumn. We place all our hard work and energy into just one Fund Raiser each year namely the Golf Outing and Awards Dinner.

St. Philip Neri: *We must not be behind time in doing good; for death will not be behind his time.*

St. Josémaría Escrivá: *Do not lament the past; learn from it and begin again.*

Pope Francis: *Happy are the young because they have time before them to do good.*

In Jesus and Mary,
Monsignor James F. Pereda