

From the Pastor

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 3, 2023

Praised be Jesus Christ and Mary His Most Holy Mother! This week I wish to write about several of the feasts of Our Blessed Mother that are celebrated in the month of September and about other items concerning our parish.

On September 8th we celebrate the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, nine months to the day after the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. The birth of Our Lady was the dawn of our salvation, for St. Ann gave birth to that One who would be the Mother of God. On September 12th we keep the Feast of the Most Holy Name of Mary.

The Feast of the Most Holy Name of Mary is an historical feast, i.e., it celebrates an historical event in the life of the Church. On September 12, 1683, exactly 340 years ago, the Turks were poised to invade Vienna, the very heart of Christian Europe, and to impose Islam on the Holy Roman Empire. The faithful of the City prayed for the protection of the Holy Virgin and at the great battle of Vienna, the Christian forces were victorious over the Turks. This was due in large part to the intervention of the Polish King John Sobieski, the maternal grandfather of the martyred King Lois XVI of France. In celebration of the victory the Viennese bakers baked the bread the next day in the shape of the crescent moon, the symbol of Islam, to show that the Turks were broken as bread is broken. The French name for crescent is *croissant*, and thus was born the famous breakfast bread eaten in Catholic nations. The Turks fled so quickly that they left bags of Arabica coffee beans in their camps. The coffee was discovered by the Viennese and thus began the great custom in Vienna of drinking coffee (sometimes with the wonderful chocolate cake called the *sachretort!*)

On September 15th we celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows as we recall Our Lady's standing at the Cross of Our Lord and on September 24th we keep the Feast of Our Lady of Ransom or Our Lady of Mercy. Our Blessed Mother is that Inexhaustible Cup which satisfies every desire of the human heart. Go to Her on Her Feast days and seek her never-failing protection.

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR: Today we welcome the Little Sisters of the Poor who come to us as beggars for their elderly poor. On August 30th we celebrated the Feast of their Foundress, Saint Jeanne Jugan. Please be generous to the Little Sisters as you have always been.

PARISH PICNIC: Our parish picnic will be on Sunday, September 24th beginning at 12 noon. All are most welcome. It will be a fun-filled afternoon for the whole family with treats for the little ones. Please be sure to attend and greet your fellow parishioners.

A Blessed Labor Day to All and we pray for our nation and all who died on September 11, 2001, and the wars which followed it.

As the summer ends let us keep in mind the beautiful words of my favorite saint. St. Philip Neri,

The hour is finished – we may say the same of the year; but the time to do good is not finished yet.

In Jesus and Mary,

Monsignor James F. Pereda