

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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Dear Parishioners:

The glorious month of May is here again. Spring is at its height. First Holy Communion and Confirmation are being celebrated. And it is the month of Mary, the Mother of God and our Mother. This Sunday, the 2<sup>nd</sup>, we are having our May Procession after the 10:00am Mass and all parishioners are invited to attend. The procession will be led by the children who made their first Holy Communion the day before. On Monday our school children will offer a living Rosary and celebrate another May crowning.

Another wonderful practice in honor of Mary that would be good to take up is the recitation of the *Angelus*. The *Angelus* is a combination of prayer antiphons and Hail Mary's in honor of the Incarnation of Christ which are reprinted on this page. The antiphons recall how the Angel (thus *Angelus*) appeared to Mary and announced that she would be the mother of our Savior. During the Middle Ages, the custom developed of saying the *Angelus* prayers at three times during the day. This is why church bells, including ours, toll each day at 6a.m., 12 noon and 6p.m. When people hear the bell ring they are invited to pause from their work or leisure and say the prayers.

For almost thirty years I've prayed the *Angelus* after making my Morning Offering while I'm getting ready for the day. Then the tolling of the bell reminds me to pray at noon and again at 6pm. Saying the *Angelus* each day is a wonderful way of remembering that we are always in the presence of God while honoring the Blessed Virgin Mary. Please try it. You'll like it and will grow closer to God as well.

With my prayers,

Fr. Conley