

Welcome to *Opening Doors!*

Hail Holy Queen

Hail Holy Queen, Mother of mercy, Our life, our sweetness, and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy towards us. And after this, our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement O loving O sweet Virgin Mary.

V. Pray for us oh holy mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

The Hail Holy Queen prayer, originally known by its Latin name, *Salve Regina*, is recited at the end of [the Rosary](#) and is also used in night prayers. It dates back to around the 11th century and is still sung today as a hymn in various forms, among them a beautiful chant.

St. Alphonsus Liguori thought so highly of the Hail Holy Queen that he analyzed it in great detail in his well-known 18th century book *The Glories of Mary*. In this prayer we pay homage to the Blessed Virgin Mary, our "Mother of Mercy," and humbly ask for her assistance. Many religious over the centuries (including quite a few saints!) have considered her help to be essential for our salvation.

One can relate to the lines about our exile in the Hail Holy Queen fairly easily: When our first parents, Adam and Eve, were banished from the Garden of Eden, from Paradise in one with God (because of Original Sin), we were as well. And how many times do we find ourselves, one way or another thinking of our lives with "sighs, mourning and weeping"?

We are indeed exiles from Paradise! Yet in Mary, we have a new Eve to help guide us on our earthly journey towards Heaven. St. Irenaeus once remarked that as Eve was seduced by a fallen angel (Lucifer) to flee from God, so Mary was led to receive God into her womb, obeying a good angel (Gabriel). She thus "repaired Eve's disobedience" as St. Alphonsus Liguori once wrote

In doing so she also became, as we say in the Hail Holy Queen, *our* "most gracious advocate," with *God's* advocate, His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ!

We can take comfort in knowing that if we pray to her with a sincere and contrite heart she in turn will pray to her Son for us. And her prayers are especially dear to Him. As St. Bernard said "Her requests can never be refused."

[Hail Holy Queen: To Our Sweetness For Our Salvation \(ourcatholicprayers.com\)](http://ourcatholicprayers.com)

I. ***Did You Know?***

April Autism Awareness Month

Let us take this month of April, Autism Awareness Month, to challenge ourselves to learn more about the ways in which we can accommodate the needs of those in our community who experience autism so that they may participate more fully, and to seek out and celebrate the richness of the gifts they have to offer.

Sample Parish Bulletin for Autism

[https://ncpd.org/files/resources-toolkits/Parish Bulletin for Autism.pdf](https://ncpd.org/files/resources-toolkits/Parish_Bulletin_for_Autism.pdf)

Prayers of the Faithfull: Autism Awareness Month

[Prayers of the Faithful: Autism Awareness Month | NCPD - National Catholic Partnership on Disability](#)

II. ***What's Happening!***

Saturday, April 17, 2021 from 9 am – 12 noon The Archdiocese Commission on People with Disabilities is pleased to present a workshop on: ***Hope and Healing: Equipping Ministers to Serve Persons with Mental Health Issues***

Featured Speakers

Chris Miller is a religious studies teacher at a Catholic High School in the San Francisco Bay Area. Chris is the Chair of the Council on Mental Illness from National Catholic Partnership on Disability, a founding member of the Diocese of San Jose Mental Health Ministry Network, a member of the California State Mental Health Policy Workgroup, NAMI National FaithNet Steering Committee, and the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention's Faith Communities

Ed Shoener was ordained a permanent deacon in 2004 and serves at St. Peter's Cathedral in the Diocese of Scranton, PA. He is a founding member of the Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministers and the Catholic Institute of Mental Health Ministry at the University of San Diego and the Scranton Mental Health Ministry. Shoener's family and friends founded The Katie Foundation after his daughter, Kathleen, died by suicide in 2016. concerns of people who live with mental illness.

Workshop Agenda

8:30-9:00 AM Zoom link is live. Please login early to test system requirements.

9:00-9:15 AM Welcome/Opening Prayer

9:15-10:00 AM Hope and Healing Part 1

10:00-10:15 AM Break 10:15-11:55 AM Hope and Healing Part 2

11:55-12:00 PM Wrap-up/Closing Prayer

R.S.V.P.

Register in advance for this workshop using this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcrcOqspjkuEtIHY7qrluHsoAJcWp5jAPai>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email from Arthine Powers containing information about joining the meeting online or by phone.

If you need assistance registering, please contact Ann Lupo at 504.275.7508

The NCPD is offering Webinar Series: Five Tasks of Catechesis for Diverse Learners

The five tasks of catechesis, grounded in the mission of Jesus Christ, serve as the model for Christian life for ALL disciples. The following three learning sessions will address the Five Tasks of Catechesis for Diverse Learners. No cost to attend. The sessions are presented at 1:00 pm ET on April 8, 2021, June 10, 2021, and August 12, 2021.

For more information and to register you can click the link here

[Five Tasks of Catechesis for Diverse Learners 2021.pdf \(ncpd.org\)](#)

God's Special Children's

Mass for God's Special Children, their families and friends is held every month at 2:00 p.m. at St Francis Xavier Church, 444 Metairie Road, Metairie, LA on the following dates:

- April 11
- May 9
- June 6
- July 11
- August 1

- September 12
- October – to be determined based on Archbishop Aymond's schedule
- November 7
- December Dear God's Special Children Families and Friends,

Thanks to God's Special Children's Friends Fr. Jim, Sr. Briege McKenna and Pete Quirk and to Andrew's Uncle Mike, please see the following in honor of Down Syndrome Day :

1) Chris Nikic became first person with Down syndrome to complete Ironman; now he's inspiring others to do the same

https://www.espn.com/olympics/story/_/id/31094333/special-olympics-ironman-athlete-chris-nikic-inspires-others-follow-footsteps

2) Pope on Down Syndrome Day: Every child is a gift to whole family <https://aleteia.org/2021/03/21/pope-on-down-syndrome-day-every-child-is-a-gift-to-whole-family/>

3) 5 Stories of people with Down syndrome inspiring the world during the pandemic <https://aleteia.org/2021/03/21/5-stories-of-people-with-down-syndrome-inspiring-the-world-during-the-pandemic/>

4) **Subject: Independence with Down Syndrome**

<https://youtu.be/z-GSCDIKylA>

We welcome and encourage you to share any information or questions or you would like to see in Opening Doors e-Newsletter to klivauda@bellsouth.net. Please use Opening Doors in the subject line. We encourage you to share some of what is in **Opening Doors** with your parish by publishing some info in your church bulletins.