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My dear parishioners:

Tomorrow our country reverently remembers the brave men and women of the Armed Forces who have died in the service of our country and gone to their eternal reward. These fellow Americans put their lives in jeopardy so as to protect our lives and freedom. It would serve us well to be reminded on how Memorial Day became an important national holiday.

The practice of visiting the graves of loved ones is ancient; it is found in both early Greek and Roman tradition. Graves were a memorial to the family members buried there, so keeping the grave site beautiful was an expression of holding the deceased family members in honor. This tradition continued in Europe throughout the modern centuries.

Starting in the latter 1700's in the United States grave sites were often decorated with the planting of flowers in the middle of spring (the month of May) to ensure a late freeze would not harm them. This practice of planting spring flowers on the graves of deceased family members, community leaders, and soldiers would ultimately become known as Decoration Day.

The practice of the local community specifically decorating the graves of military servicemen finds its recorded origin during the American Civil War. In 1862, women in Savannah, Georgia decorated the graves of Confederate soldiers who died and were buried in the area, as most of these men were from southern states whose families could not visit their graves. In April 1865, following the death of President Abraham Lincoln, commemorations for the war dead became widespread. More than 600,000 U.S. servicemen died in the Civil War (Union and Confederate), and this national tragedy required a sincere and appropriate memorialization. It was in 1865 that the federal government began creating national military cemeteries.

Starting in 1868, an annual ceremony was held at Gettysburg National Park to remember the nation's war dead. It was officially called Decoration Day, as a part of the ceremony was to decorate the graves of the deceased. However, it was more often referred to as a "memorial day", as it was not meant to be a day of fun and food for the living, but a day of tears and sadness as were remembered those who lost their lives in war. After World War II the day was unofficially called Memorial Day and would officially be declared so by an act of Congress in 1967.

With Memorial Day now officially observed on the fourth Monday of May, the day seems to be focused on the unofficial start of summer and a three-day weekend of family fun. Often lost, or at least minimized, is the reverential remembrance of our country's war dead, and the nation's gratitude for the absolute dedication of the military men and women who died in service to our country. For this reason, Congress in 2000 passed the National Moment of Remembrance Act, asking people throughout the United States on Memorial Day to stop whatever they are doing at 3:00 pm and quietly remember the brave men and women throughout our nation's history who have given the ultimate sacrifice for the freedom of this country and its people.

Our Lord told his disciples, "There is no great love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." (John 15:13) On Monday, in the midst of shopping or outdoor grilling or however you will be spending your day, please take a bit of quiet time to pray. Thank God for the lives of our beloved war dead, and beg God to grant each of them a place in his Kingdom of Heaven.

Not only must we pray for those who gave the ultimate sacrifice of their lives in service to our country, but we must also always remember in prayer the countless military veterans who carry with them each day the injuries and effects of military service. Many have lost limbs, or sight, or live in constant pain. Many carry burdensome memories of horrific scenes of violence and death. Some must even carry the emotional wound of having been

**May 26, 2019 - June 1, 2019  
 Readings and Mass Intentions**

<b>Sunday, May 26</b> Acts 15:1-2, 22-29/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [4]/Rv 21:10-14, 22-23/ Jn 14:23-29 <i>Mass intention for the People of the Parish</i>	<b>9:00am-Mass</b>
<b>Monday, May 27</b> Acts 16:22-34/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8 [7c]/Jn 16:5-11	<b>4:30pm-Mass</b>
<b>Tuesday, May 28</b> Acts 16:22-34/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8 [7c]/Jn 16:5-11	<b>No Mass</b>
<b>Wednesday, May 29</b> Acts 17:15, 22--18:1/Ps 148:1-2, 11-12, 13, 14/Jn 16:12-15 <i>Mass intention for Clinton Moore</i>	<b>4:30pm-Mass</b>
<b>Thursday, May 30</b> Acts 18:1-8/Ps 98:1, 2-3cd-4 [cf. 2b]/Jn 16:16-20	<b>8:30am-Mass</b>
<b>Friday, May 31</b> Zep 3:14-18a or Rom 12:9-16/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 [6]/Lk 1:39-56	<b>9:30am-Communion Service</b>
<b>Saturday, June 1</b> Acts 18:23-28/Ps 47:2-3, 8-9, 10 [8a]/Jn 16:23b-28 <i>Mass intention for Billie Moore</i>	<b>4:30pm-Mass</b> <b>6:30pm-Spanish Mass</b>
<b>Sunday, June 2</b> Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 [6]/Eph 1:17-23 or Heb 9:24-28; 10:19-23/Lk 24:46-53 <i>Mass intention for the People of the Parish</i>	<b>9:00am-Mass</b>

**O God, let all the nations praise you!  
 (Ps 67)**



mistreated or abused by a fellow serviceman. Each veteran entered military service young and healthy. They now must live daily with the effects of their sacrificial service. Let us always honor them with our prayers and our support. God bless the members of our Armed Forces and God bless America.

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
  
 Msgr. Frank H. Rossi  
 Pastor

<b>Sun. May 26</b> <i>6th Sunday of Easter</i> 9:00am—Mass <i>Blessing/Thanks of Catechists</i> <i>Adult Faith Formation following Mass</i>	<b>Mon. May 27</b> <b>Memorial DAY</b> 4:30 pm—Mass	<b>Tues. May 28</b>	<b>Wed. May 29</b> 4:00pm—Rosary 4:30pm—Mass 5:00pm—Choir	<b>Thurs. May 30</b> 8:30am—Mass 9:00am—Divine Mercy Chaplet	<b>Fri. May 31</b> 9:30am—Communion Service	<b>Sat. June 1</b> 3:45-4:15pm—Confessions 4:30pm—Mass Anointing during Mass 6:30pm—Spanish Mass
<b>Sun. June 2</b> <i>The Ascension of the Lord</i> 9:00am—Mass Anointing during Mass <i>Adult Faith Formation following Mass</i>	<b>Mon. June 3</b> 4:30 pm—Mass 6:30pm—Pastoral Council	<b>Tues. June 4</b>	<b>Wed. June 5</b> 4:00pm—Rosary 4:30pm—Mass 5:00pm—Choir	<b>Thurs. June 6</b> 8:30am—Mass 9:00am—Divine Mercy Chaplet <b>6:30pm-Confirmation Mass</b>	<b>Fri. June 7</b> 9:30am—Communion Service	<b>Sat. June 8</b> 3:45-4:15pm—Confessions 4:30pm—Mass 6:30pm—Spanish Mass

**LADIES ALTAR SOCIETY  
 YEAR END DINNER**  
 June 11, 2019 6:30 pm.  
 La Enchilada Restaurant  
 all women and spouses are welcome  
 RSVP to Thelma West, 936-933-0199

**PRAYER REQUESTS**  
*Please pray for:* Bennie Mahaffey, Don Watt, Linda Dipuccio, Shirley Anderson, Sam Brocato, Ted Koch; Sharon Bennett, Debbie Graham, Mark Lunsford; Dee Baier, Linda Spell, Jeanette Borque, Willie Frazier, Fran Stephens, Sarah LeBeouf  
*Repose of the soul:* LaQuita Dickey, Sister Barbara Anne Osterhaus, CVI; Debra McGlothlin, Margaret Ann Anderson  
 Names will remain on the prayer list for two weeks. You may list names in the Prayer book in the vestibule of the Church and your intention will be offered at daily Mass.

**Questions for Family Discussions**  
**Adults:** What difference has it made in your life when you made a decision in accord with Jesus' teaching?  
**Children:** When will you have to make a decision this week? What will help you make a good decision?

**Weekly Stewardship**  
 May 18 & 19 Weekly Offering \$ 2,780.40  
 Average Weekly Cost \$ 3,152.00  
 Excess/Deficit \$ -371.60  
**Thank you for your generosity.**  
 If you would like to give electronically, visit our website, [www.ourladyofthepinescatholicchurch.com](http://www.ourladyofthepinescatholicchurch.com) and click on **Donation**.

We are looking for someone to volunteer to direct Vacation Bible School this summer. If you are willing to give of your time and talents please let us know. Call the office, tell Fr. Rossi or Lynn Stacy if you are the one. There will also be a need for volunteers to help with crafts, stories, games and snacks. You will be greatly appreciated.

Grow closer to God this summer! Pick up a copy of the devotional publication *The Word Among Us* and spend 5 to 10 minutes each day reflecting on the word of God for your life. Limited complimentary copies are located in the church vestibule.

*The Word Among Us* features uplifting and thought-provoking meditations based on the daily Mass readings.

- The June issue will help you understand the truth of who you are and who God is—and the truth will set you free.
- The July/August summer issue speaks of God's faithful, covenant love—and why it matters to you.
- The September issue on the Beatitudes shows how you can be poor in spirit, merciful, and a peacemaker in your daily life.

Please pick up a copy as each one of these issue becomes available and experience the joy of hearing from God each day. If you find this devotional helpful you can order future copies for your personal use.

**Upcoming Events**  
 June 6: Confirmation, Our Lady of the Pines, 6:30pm  
 June 11: Altar Society End-of-year Dinner, La Enchilada, 6:30pm  
 August 2-3: Annual Garage Sale, OLOP Family Center  
 August 2-3: Men's Conference, St. Francis of Assisi, Orange, TX