

St. Philomena

(August 11th)

On May 24th 1802, archaeologists discovered a sealed tomb in the catacombs of St. Priscilla in Rome. The vault was walled up with three terra cotta slabs on which were depicted in red the symbols of martyrdom. They bore the following inscription:

LUMENA – PAX – TE – CUM FI
PEACE BE WITH YOU, PHILOMENA



In addition to the inscriptions, there were various emblems painted on the slabs: an anchor, two arrows, a lance, a palm, and a lily. Two vials of dried blood were found upon opening the tomb. Doctors, Surgeons, and Theologians examined this new found Saint. The skull was found to have been fractured. The bones were found to be those of a young girl, about 13 years old.

Who is St. Philomena? There is little known about the 13-year-old virgin martyr, who had been hidden for more 1,700 years. St. Philomena herself reveals her story to Mother Mary Louisa, the Superior General of the Congregation of the Dolours of Mary, who died in the odor of sanctity in the year 1875.

St. Philomena tells that she was a Grecian Princess. Her father and mother were rulers of a Greek City-State. One day, the Roman Emperor, Diocletian, unjustly declared war on them. St. Philomena and her parents journeyed to Rome in hopes to make peace with the Emperor. Impressed by the beauty of St. Philomena, Diocletian offered to make peace in exchange for the hand of their daughter in marriage. While the parents happily agreed, Philomena staunchly refused, for she had made herself spouse of Jesus by a vow of chastity when she was 11 years old.

Consequently, she was subjected to many and various tortures. She was thrown in prison, bound hand and foot and loaded with chains. When nothing could induce her to break her vow to Heaven, she was tied to a pillar and scourged mercilessly, until her body was one gaping wound. Still, she did not die, but was cured. Orders were given to tie an anchor around her neck and drown her in the Tiber, but two angels came and cut the cord and carried her back to land. More maddened than before, Diocletian declared her to be shot by red-hot arrows, but the arrows turned back on the archers, six of whom were killed. Finally, she was beheaded and her soul flew to her Spouse, to Whom she was so loyal.

St. Philomena, who suffered so much for God is for that reason now so powerful with God. In the words of St. John Marie Vianney, "To Saint Philomena, nothing is refused."

August 13, 2023



*Saint Joseph's
Traditional Roman Catholic Chapel
Traditional Latin Mass*

*29968 County 22
Harmony, Minnesota 55939*

Sunday, August 13

11th Sunday After Pentecost

Confessions 12:30 pm
Holy Mass 1:00 pm

(Ss. Hippolytus & Cassian, Mm)

Tuesday, August 15

Assumption BVM

Confessions 10:00 am
Holy Mass 10:30 am

(St. Eusebius, C)

Sunday, August 20

12th Sunday After Pentecost

Confessions 12:30 pm
Holy Mass 1:00 pm

(St. Bernard, AbCD)

CONTACTS:

Most Rev. Mark Pivarunas, CMRI (402) 571-4404
Fr. Carlos Borja (405) 473-4343
Fr Nino Molina (320) 266-4914 frnmolina13@gmail.com
St Joseph Church (402) 332-7609 www.saintjosephofharmony.org

MASS INTENTIONS may be submitted to Father for a stipend of \$25.00. If you wish a specific date, please submit well in advance. Mass Intention envelopes are available in the vestibule.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to provide Father with a meal-to-go after Holy Mass each Sunday when there is no potluck. Please see sign-up sheet on vestibule bulletin board. *Thank You* to all those who have been assisting with this Corporal Work of Mercy to feed the hungry; and supporting your parish priest.

AUGUST 15th - the Feast of the Assumption: Mass will be offered at 7:00 am at Our Lady of Grace, Seneca, WI, and 10:30 am at St. Joseph's

SPECIAL THANK YOU: The CMD Sisters wish to thank each and all who gave donations in the second collection last Sunday. May God reward you for your kindness and generosity. Be assured of the prayers of the Sisters, especially when they pray for their benefactors. God bless you all.

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND for May of 2024 is being coordinated by Fr. Benedict Hughes. Please see flyer in the vestibule and contact Fr. Benedict if interested.

NOVENA PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEPH to be prayed after the Holy Rosary. The prayer will be in the pews

FINANCIAL AWARENESS: FROM THE PARISH BOARD:

For some time the chapel has been struggling at a deficit. Please give generously if you can afford to.

Average Weekly Operating Costs: \$590

Average Weekly Collection (year-to-date): \$ 675

Last Four Collections: **7/16** \$1,064 **7/23** \$571 **7/30** \$733 **8/6** \$936