

Our Lady of Ransom
(September 24)

Adapted from *The Liturgical Year*
by Abbot Gueranger

Finding their power partly crushed in Spain, and in the East checked by the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem, the Muslim Saracens in the 12th century became wholesale pirates, and scoured the seas to obtain slaves for the African markets. Numberless victims, of every age, sex, and condition, suddenly carried off from the coasts of Christian lands, or captured on the high seas, and condemned to the disgrace of the harem or the miseries of the bagnio. Here, nevertheless, in many an obscure prison, were enacted scenes of heroism worthy to compare with those witnessed in the early persecutions; here was a new field for Christian charity; new horizons opened out for heroic self-devotion. Is not the spiritual good thence arising a sufficient reason for the permission of temporal ills? Without this permission, Heaven would have forever lacked a portion of its beauty

Differing from the Order of the Most Holy Trinity (Trinitarians), which had been already 20 years in existence, the Order of Mercy (Mercedarians) was founded as it were in the very face of the Moors; and hence it originally numbered more knights than clerics among its members. It was called the Royal, Military, and Religious Order of Our Lady of Mercy for the Redemption of Captives. The clerics were charged with the celebration of Mass and the Divine Office in the commandaries; the knights guarded the coasts, and undertook the perilous enterprise of ransoming Christian captives. St. Peter Nolasco was the first Commander or Grand Master of the Order; when his relics were discovered, he was found armed with sword and cuirass.

In the lessons of Matins for this Feast, Holy Church gives us Her thoughts upon these facts:

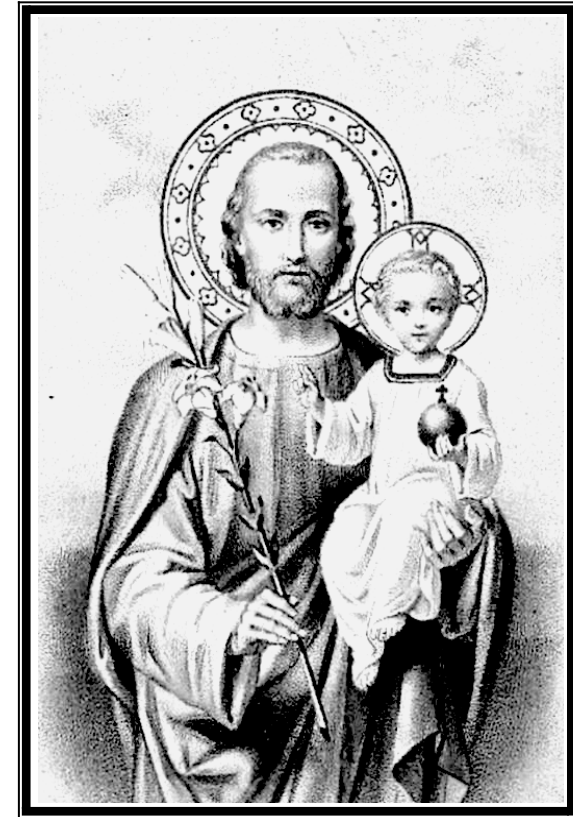
At the time when the Saracen yoke oppressed the larger and more fertile part of Spain, and great numbers of the faithful were detained in cruel servitude, at the great risk of denying their Christian Faith and losing their eternal salvation, the Most Blessed Queen of Heaven graciously came to remedy all these great evils, and showed Her exceeding charity in redeeming Her children. She appeared with beaming countenance to Peter Nolasco, a man conspicuous for wealth and piety, who in his holy meditations was ever striving to devise some means of helping the innumerable Christians living in misery as captives of the Moors. She told him it would be very pleasing to Her and Her Only-Begotten Son, if a Religious Order were instituted in Her honor, whose members should devote themselves to delivering captives from the tyranny of the Turks. Animated by this heavenly vision, the man of God was inflamed with burning love, having but one desire in his heart, that both he and the Order he was to found, might be devoted to the exercise of that highest charity – the laying down of life for one's friends and neighbors.



That same night, the Most Holy Virgin appeared also to Blessed Raymond of Pennafort, and to King James of Aragon, telling them of Her wish to have the Order instituted, and exhorting them to lend their aid to so great an undertaking. Meanwhile Peter hastened to relate the whole matter to Raymond, who was his confessor; and finding it had been already revealed to him from Heaven, submitted humbly to his direction. King James next arrived, fully resolved to carry out the instructions he also had received from the Blessed Virgin. Having therefore taken counsel together and being all of one mind, they set about instituting an Order in honor of the Virgin Mother, under the invocation of Our Lady of Mercy for the Ransom of Captives.

On the 10th of August, in the year of Our Lord 1218, King James put into execution what the two holy men had planned. The members of the Order bound themselves by a fourth vow to remain, when necessary, as securities in the power of the pagans, in order to deliver Christians. The King granted them license to bear his royal arms upon their breast, and obtained from Pope Gregory IX the confirmation of this Religious institute distinguished by such eminent charity toward neighbor. God Himself gave increase to the work, through His Virgin Mother; so that the Order spread rapidly and prosperously over the whole world. It soon reckoned many holy men remarkable for their charity and piety who collected alms from Christ's faithful, to be spent in redeeming their brethren; and sometimes gave themselves up as ransom for many others. In order that due thanks might be rendered to God and His Virgin Mother for the benefit of such an institution, the Apostolic See allowed this special Feast and Office to be celebrated, and also granted innumerable other privileges to the Order.

September 24, 2023



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

*29968 County 22
Harmony, Minnesota 55939*

Sunday, September 24

17th Sunday After Pentecost

(Our Lady of Ransom)

Confessions 12:30 pm
Holy Mass 1:00 pm

Saturday, September 30

St. Jerome PrCD

Confessions 10:30 am
Holy Mass 11:00 am

Sunday, October 1

18th Sunday After Pentecost

(St. Remigius, BC)

Confessions 12:30 pm
Holy Mass 1:00 pm

CONTACTS:

Most Rev. Mark Pivarunas, CMRI (402) 571-4404

Fr. Carlos Borja (405) 473-4343 fr.carlosborja@gmail.com

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.

MEAL VOLUNTEERS: There is a new sign up sheet in the vestibule for the month of October to help provide Father with a meal-to-go after Mass. *Thank You* to all those who have been assisting with this Corporal Work of Mercy to feed the hungry; and supporting your parish priest.

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.

ST. JOSEPH'S ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL will be this week, Saturday, September 30th. We will begin with a Solemn High Mass at 11:00 am. Mark your calendars for a day of wholesome fun and entertainment! For more information please see flyer in the vestibule.

CONGRATULATIONS to Clement and Precious Stephas on the birth of their son, Leonidas Androcles Stephas. He will be baptized today after Mass.

SPECIAL REQUEST: Please pray for His Excellency, Bishop Mark A. Pivarunas, CMRI, as he celebrates today, his 32nd anniversary of episcopal consecration. Ad multos annos!

BANNS OF MATRIMONY are announced for the second time for Patrick Rinkleff and Sydney Alexander. If anyone is aware of an impediment to this marriage, please notify Father.

FATIMA CONFERENCE – OCTOBER 11-15, 2023: A gathering of Traditional Catholics from around the country at historic Mount St. Michael for five days of Latin Masses, spiritual exercises, inspiring lectures and sermons. For more information please see the flyer in the back of the vestibule.

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): \$698

Last Four Collections: 8/27 \$750 9/3 \$657 9/10 \$685 9/17 \$1,211