

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Our Lady of Lourdes,

I share with you this reflection on saints and the spiritual life. Some of us consider ourselves "extroverted" or "introverted". These labels are often used to mean something positive or negative psychologically.

However, being an extrovert is not better than being an introvert. While we may feel 'labeled' in this way, it need not be a liability. It's also true that many successful people consider themselves to be introverted and, at times, given to great reserve and shyness.

God Himself also invites us not to put on a show, to be the best versions of ourselves. There are spiritual strengths also in our ability to look inside of ourselves as we also relate to others.

This an article from BUSTEDHALO.COM, in 3 parts.

Patron Saints for Introverts: How to Live Your Best Introverted, Spiritual Life (Part 2 of 3) BY JOSH MCDONALD JUNE 19, 2019 (Site: bustedhalo.com)

We live in an extroverted world, and as an introvert and a writer, I love the idea of shutting out the rest of the world for several hours each day to write about faith. I often find it beneficial to remember what the Prophet Elijah experienced in 1 Kings, 19:12 when he found God's presence not in the earthquake or fire but in "a light silent sound."

God speaks to us in those silences, which, in all the bustle and noise of modern life, can be hard to come by. As Catholics, our faith brings us to an experience of God through communal worship in the liturgy, as well as through parish life and the Works of Mercy. But for a Catholic introvert like me, it can be a challenge to find the balance between that active engagement with the world and the quiet contemplation I need to sustain me.

Fortunately, our faith connects us with the great Communion of Saints — all those holy souls who have gone before us and still offer us their wisdom and guidance in living a holy life.

Whether or not any of them were true introverts is a question lost to history, but the saints can teach us valuable life lessons about how to be our best introverted, spiritual selves.

#### Saint John the Baptist

A fiery, outspoken prophet might seem like an odd example of an introverted saint. But in my own experience as both introvert and amateur stage-actor, I can say that losing oneself in a role is a great way to engage the outside world from within the sanctuary of an outsized personality. And John the Baptist certainly threw himself into playing the role of a prophet.

According to Scripture, the Prophet Elijah was supposed to return to announce the coming of Christ. And the Angel Gabriel declared that John "will go before him with the spirit and power of Elijah." John the Baptist was a star prophet — from the camel's hair tunic to the backdrop of the Jordan River where he performed baptisms.

But when Christ appears, John willingly – joyfully, even – recedes into the background. "He must increase; I must decrease," John says. For an introvert, there can be a difficult balance between wanting to be seen and noticed, but not wanting to be the center of attention. John strikes that balance well, taking on a supporting role and then playing it to the hilt.

So, the next time you feel like an introvert out of place in an extroverted world, remember the saints who went before you, setting an example of how to be a vessel that God can use.

Bibliographic Source: WWW.BUSTEDHALO.COM

In Christ's Peace, Father Jim **Ferry** 



For Your Stewardship of Time, Talent and Treasure

FISCAL YEAR STARTING JULY 2018

WEEKLY GOAL \$ 6800 Collection: June 29-30\* \$ 4190 Deficit: \$ 2610

\* Includes Online Giving Weekly Average Deposit

MASSES FOR THE WEEK				
	Ann Strollo (25th Ann.) Edna Drudy			
9:30 am	People of the Parish Deceased Members of the Pflug & Napolitano Families Richard Iannacone			
MONDAY 15 JULY 8:30 am	Chiara Viola			

#### TUESDAY 16 JULY

8:30 am Frank Ferrara

#### **WEDNESDAY 17 JULY**

8:30 am John Gaeta

#### **THURSDAY 18 JULY**

8:30 am William McCurdy III

#### **FRIDAY 19 JULY**

8:30 am Phyllis Neglia

#### **SATURDAY 20 JULY**

8:30 am Thomas Gawenus

5:30 pm Maria Matias (16th Ann.)

#### **SUNDAY 21 JULY**

7:30 am People of the Parish

9:30 am Michael Chiaramonte (39th Ann.)

11:30 am Frank Ludwiczak

<b>SUNDAY 14 JULY</b> 9:30 am		
<b>THURSDAY 18 JULY</b> 10:00 am	Deadline for News & Announcements for July 28th bulletin email: lourdesbulletin@aol.com.	
SUNDAY 21 JULY ALL MASSES THIS WEEKEND	Missionary Co-Operative Appeal Collection	



This week's Bread and Wine, a gift of Michael & Nancy Lanfrank, is in memory of **CHARLES & HELEN RICE.** 



#### **PRAY FOR THE SICK**

Vincent Aiello, Sean Bailey, Josefina Balerdi, Suzane Ball, Kazimiera Borchet, Darlene Cangialosi, Teresa Carbin, Josephine Ciullo, Tom Collinson, Jeannie Cox, Ramona De Castro, Peggy Dolan, Pierre Ferrus, Catherine Gascoyne, Al Gebhardt, Judy Givas, Alberta Greco, Michael Harris, Marissa and Richard Hedstrom, Jovann Henry, Yann Henry, Glenn Holland, Prepty Joint, Bruce Kiefer, Tim Klein, James Leung, Rose Mateus, Marion McConville, Mary McGuiness, Stephanie Montano, Noreen Meyers, Liam Morley, Florence Olabiyi, William Ollenschleger, Otilia Ortega, Idelourdes Petion, Patrick Pierre, Mark Quarno, Thelma Ramaglia, Amy Ricciardi, Mary Lou Ruppel, Vincent Santucci, Jr., Heather Scoffone, Patricia Seib, Natalie Sims, Jimmy Tiernan, Robin Tobia, Harry Vendemia, Annalisa Verdi, Ann Whelan, Kathy Whelan, George Zachos.

If you wish to have a loved one prayed for, please call the rectory at 973.325.0110.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS— SUNDAY 21 JULY				
Mass	Lector	Eucharistic Ministers	Altar Servers	
5:30 pm	Sharon Rosario	Judith Albore Frank Refinski Eileen Reilly	Francesca Appolon Liam Cunningham Thiago Lavado	
7:30 am	Mary Cassels	Bless Bernardo Mary Cassels MaryEllen Chandler	Joseph Lobo Barry Skinner	
9:30 am	JoAnn Melhorn	Annette Chiaramonte Joseph Petrillo Ann Pflug John Pflug	Seamus Murphy Volunteer	
11:30 am	Wendy Sheyka	Carmelita Dizon Michelle Gizzi Nancy Lanfrank Wendy Sheyka	Gregory Clark Anika Fernandes Jennifer Fernandes	
11:30 am	Children's Liturgy -	Carol Ford	L'inagent Homenen	

## **Around the Parish & Community**



#### **FOOD FOR THE NEEDY**

July 27-28 is our monthly food collection for St. John's Church, Newark. Please bring non-perishable food and place it in the bins in the Church lobbies.

Thank you.









# Lourdes PIPE DREAM Organ Raffle Tickets

### **\$50.00** per ticket **10** chances to win **\$500!**

Maximum 400 Tickets Sold
Available after Saturday evening and
Sunday morning Masses or at the
rectory 9 am—2 pm Monday-Friday.

2 Drawings to be held on the 1st Sunday of the month beginning November 3, 2019 - March 1, 2020.



