

"It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah." (Lk 2:26)

Divine Liturgy

Sunday at 11:30 am Our Lady of Victory 1559 Roxbury Rd. Columbus, OH



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New Testament Reading: 1 Peter 1:13-25

- Therefore prepare your minds for action; discipline yourselves; set all your hope on the grace that Jesus Christ will bring you when he is revealed.
- Like obedient children, do not be conformed to the desires that you formerly had in ignorance. Instead, as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct; for it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."
- If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile.
- You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inheritedfrom your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish.
- He was destined before the foundation of the world,
- but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake.
- Through him you have come to trust in God,
- who raised him from the dead and gave him glory,
- so that your faith and hope are set on God.
- Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart.
- You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed,
- through the living and enduring word of God.
- For "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass.
- The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord endures forever."
- That word is the good news that was announced to you.

The Gospel: Luke 2:22-35

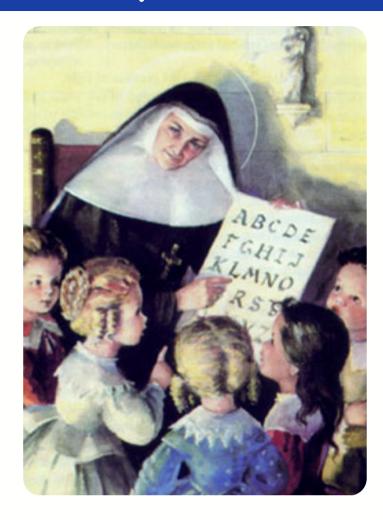
When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses,

- they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."
- Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him.
- It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death
- before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.
- Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre- pared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."
- And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.
- Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary,
- "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

Saint Jeanne De Lestonnac - Feast Day: Feb. 2

De Lestonnac was born in Bordeaux in 1556 to Richard de Lestonnac, a member of the Parlement of Bordeaux, and Jeanne Eyquem, the sister of the noted philosopher, Michel Eyquem de Montaigne. She grew up in a time where the conflict between the Protestant reformists and the defenders of the Catholic faith was at its height. This was evident in her own family. While her mother became an enthusiastic Calvinist and tried to persuade her to convert, her father and her uncle Montaigne adhered to the Catholic faith and were her support in remaining a Catholic.

At the age of 17 De Lestonnac married Gaston de Montferrant, with whom she had seven children, three of whom died in infancy. She was married for 24 years when her husband died. This marked the beginning of a very painful period in her life, with the further loss, within seven months, of her father, uncle and eldest son.



Following her husband's death, Jeanne De Lestonnac, at the age of 46, and with her children now grown, turned to a contemplative life and entered the Cistercian Monastery in Toulouse where she was given the religious name of Jeanne of Saint Bernard. She found great peace and satisfaction in the monastic life, but, after six months, she became very ill and had to leave the monastery.

She then went to live on her estate La Mothe Lusié to recover her health, and there she adopted the lifestyle of a secular dévote, performing many acts of charity, including food and alms distribution, and regularly met with young women of her social class to pray and discuss religious questions. She sought for models of Catholic women to be her guides and cultivated an interest in the lives of Scholastica, Clare of Assisi, Catherine of Siena and Teresa of Avila.

A few years later, in 1605, a plague broke out in Bordeaux. At risk to her own life, De Lestonnac returned to her native city to help care for the sick and suffering in the slums of the city.

Lestonnac's brother, a Jesuit attached to the college in Bordeaux, arranged a meeting between Lestonnac and two Jesuit fathers: Jean de Bordes and François de Raymond. The Jesuits asked de Lestonnac to serve as founder of a new teaching order for young women. They encouraged her to establish for girls in terms of formal education what they were doing for boys. The three decided upon a cloistered community to follow the Benedictine rule, modified to allow sisters to teach. The group gained the approval of Pope Paul V in 1607. The community took the name of the Compagnie de Notre-Dame.

The group purchased an old priory near the Château Trompette, but moved in September 1610, to a larger old monastery on rue du Hâ. They were well-received and financially supported by the city's elite. The first five members of the new order took their religious vows on December 10, 1610. The community established its first school for girls in Bordeaux. Foundations proceeded in Beziers, Périgueux, and Toulouse through Lestonnac's personal connections as well as her connections with the Jesuits and Bordelaise political elites. By the time she died in 1640, at the age of 84, 30 houses existed in France.

De Lestonnac was beatified in 1900 by Pope Leo XIII and was canonized on May 15, 1949 by Pope Pius XII. As of 2016 her religious order has over 1,450 sisters found in 27 countries throughout Europe, Africa, North America and South America.



May her prayers be with us, amen!

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