



My Dear Parishioners,

Praised be Jesus Christ! As we enter mid-August this week, we celebrate the Assumption of the Blessed Mother into Heaven. Please note the change of Mass Schedule. There will be no Confessions or 7PM Mass on Wednesday. Rather, we WILL have a 7:30AM Mass on Wednesday with the Holy Day Schedule to follow. (See elsewhere in this bulletin for that schedule.)

On Wednesday we celebrate the Feast of St. Maximilian Kolbe. While many know him as the Martyr of Auschwitz and the great devotee of The Immaculata, his connections to Nagasaki, Japan are a less known. But with the anniversary of that bombing just last week and another nuclear war looming, I share the story of Maximilian and Japan. Let us pray for peace and seek our Blessed Mother's Great Protection.

Peace,

Fr. Rogers

St. Maximilian Kolbe, the Atomic Bomb, and a Strange Connection by Jack Hartjes

A Nagasaki monastery and the atomic bomb

The July 14 entry in Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals contains a detail that connects Maximilian's story to Nagasaki, Japan, and the atomic bomb. Here is the story as Common Prayer tells it:

Though from Poland, Maximilian had lived in Japan and founded a monastery on the outskirts of Nagasaki. Maximilian's mission work in Japan extended from 1930 to 1936. He built a monastery and a seminary and founded a Japanese paper.

Four years after his martyrdom, on August 9, 1945, the atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, but his monastery miraculously survived.

The monastery he founded remains prominent in the Roman Catholic Church in Japan. Kolbe decided to build the monastery on a mountain side that, according to Shinto beliefs, was not the side best suited to be in tune with nature. When the atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, Kolbe's monastery was saved because the blast of the bomb hit the other side of the mountain, which took the main force of the blast. Had Kolbe built the monastery on the preferred side of the mountain as he was advised, his work and all of his fellow monks would have been destroyed.

A closing comment from Common Prayer:

Maximilian's feast day, when Christians around the world celebrate his life and sainthood as a hero of the church, falls one week after Nagasaki Day. Each year, we spend the week reflecting on the best and the worst that human beings are capable of. 236

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mass Schedule

Wednesday, August 14, 2024

7:30AM & 5:00PM

NO 7:00PM MASS/NO CONFESSION

Thursday, August 15, 2024

7:30AM, 9:00AM, 12:00PM, 7:00PM

