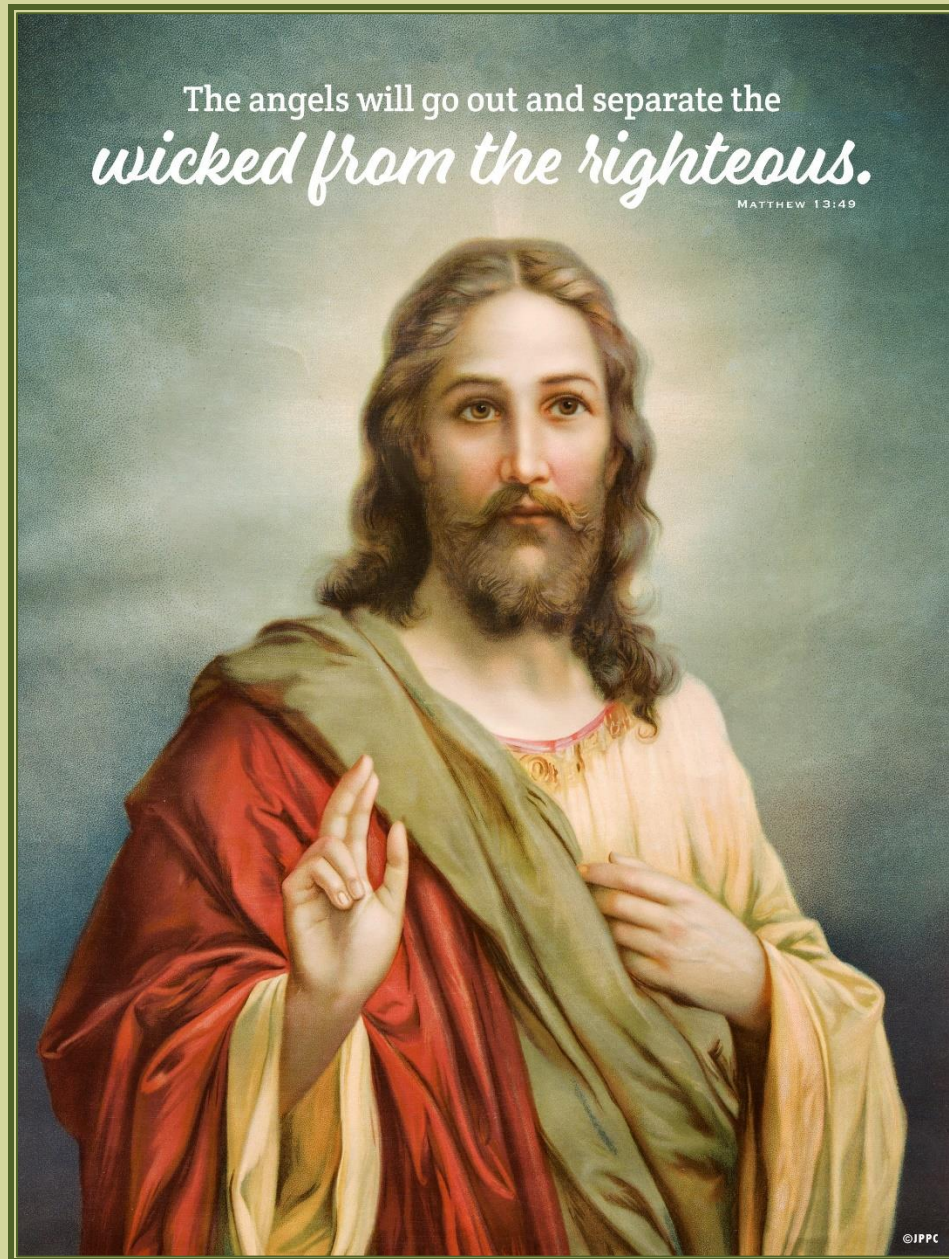


Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 30, 2023



Saint Mary 14 Park Street + Sacred Heart 58 Church Street + Saint Mark 105 Stanley Street
North Attleborough, Massachusetts

Transfiguration of the Lord Parish

Rev. David A. Costa, Pastor
Rev. Deacon Joseph E. Regali, Parish Deacon
Sister Kathleen A. Corrigan, S.U.S.C., Pastoral Associate
Rev. Kenneth R. Sicard, O.P. & Rev. R. Gabriel Pivarnik, O.P., Weekend Assistants
Mrs. Jean Howard, Business Manager
Mrs. Elaine Corvese, Director of Religious Education
Mrs. Lisa Serak, Principal, Saint Mary-Sacred Heart School
Mr. Miguel Peixoto, Buildings Supervisor
Mr. James Kitsock, Building Maintenance

Saint Mary-Sacred Heart School

Mrs. Lisa Serak, Principal
57 Richards Avenue,
North Attleborough, Massachusetts 02760
(508) 695-3072 FAX (508) 695-9074
smsh@smsh.dfrcs.org www.smshschool.com

Saint Mary Cemetery

Mr. Jarrod Ward, Superintendent
Towne Street
North Attleborough, Massachusetts 02760
(508) 695-1173 or email ripco@comcast.net

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Summer)

Saint Mark Church • Saturday 3:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Sacrament of Baptism

Baptisms are celebrated on designated Sunday afternoons at 12:30 pm, with a limit of four families at each baptism. Please contact the office at stmaryna@noozi.com for more information and available dates/locations.

Sacrament of Marriage

Marriage is usually celebrated on Saturday morning and afternoon. Please contact the Parish Office at least nine months in advance to begin preparation.

Sacrament of the Sick

Pastoral care to those in need of the sacrament of the sick is arranged through the parish office. Please call to arrange a visit.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Adoration is offered on the first Friday of each month in **Saint Mark Church** (*for the summer months*), beginning at 9:00 am and ending at 6:00 pm with Benediction.

Parish Offering

If you are attending in person, you may drop your contribution in the collection basket. You are welcome to mail your budget envelope to the parish office, at 14 Park Street, North Attleborough, MA 02760. You may also leave your envelope in the drop box located outside the parish office door, to the right on the landing. Or you can use this link for online giving:

<https://app.gabrielsoft.com/guest/mafrdiocese/31>

Thank you for your ongoing support!

Weekend Masses

Saturday 4:00 pm **Saint Mark Church (Summer)**

Sunday 8:00 am **Saint Mark Church**

Sunday 9:30 am **Saint Mark Church (Summer)**

Sunday 11:00 am **Saint Mark Church (Summer)**

Weekday Masses

Monday 4:30 pm **Saint Mark Church (for Summer)**

Rosary for Life 4:00 pm each Monday prior to 4:30 pm Mass

Tuesday 8:00 am **Saint Mark Church**

Wednesday 4:30 pm **Saint Mark Church (for Summer)**

Thursday 8:00 am Communion Service

Saint Mark Church

Links to: Transfiguration of the Lord Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/Transfiguration-of-the-Lord-Parish-North-Attleborough-106529317647894/>

YouTube at <https://tinyurl.com/ysfaxaty>

Parish Office

14 Park Street, North Attleborough,
Massachusetts 02760

Parish e-mail • stmaryna@noozi.com

Parish website • www.saintmaryna.com

Phone 508-695-6161 Fax 508-695-5248

Faith Formation • TransfigurationRelEd@gmail.com

Faith Formation • 508-695-3823

MASS Intentions

July 29/30- 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday July 29 – Vigil (St. Mark)

4:00 pm Diana Larocque

Sunday July 30 (St. Mark)

8:00 am Raymond Gauthier

Sunday July 30 (St. Mark)

9:30 am Anne Hare

Sunday July 30 (St. Mark)

11:00 am People of the Parish

+++++

Monday July 31 (St. Mark)

4:30 pm Adolph & Irene Soeldner

Tuesday August 1 (St. Mark)

8:00 am Gerrard Sirois

Wednesday August 2 (St. Mark)

4:30 pm Maria E. Pereira

Thursday August 3 (St. Mark)

8:00 am People of the Parish

+++++

August 5/6- The Transfiguration of the Lord

Saturday August 5 – Vigil (St. Mark)

4:00 pm Barbara Linfield

Sunday August 6 (St. Mark)

8:00 am William M. Copley, Sr.

Roger Corriveau

Sunday August 6 (St. Mark)

9:30 am Deceased Members of the Gray Family

Sunday August 6 (St. Mark)

11:00 am Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Paquin

+++++

Parish Contributions

Collection for July 22/23: \$9,576.25

+++++

Rosary for Life

The Respect Life Committee of Transfiguration of the Lord Parish is pleased to announce that every Monday we will lead a Rosary for Life at 4:00 pm, prior to the 4:30 pm daily Mass in **Saint Mark Church**. The communal Rosary is also livestreamed each week for any participants who wish to join us remotely. **Please note the revised location for the summer months.**



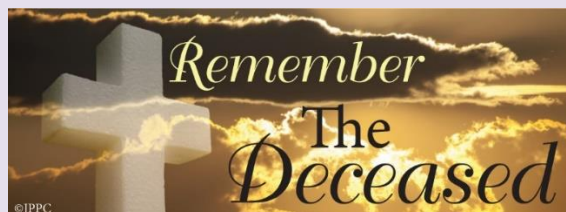
Archbishop Fulton Sheen once said:
"A Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration is a sharing in the work of Redemption."

Please join us at **Saint Mark Church**, Friday, **August 4th**, beginning at 9:00 a.m. and ending at 6:00 p.m. with Benediction. **Please note the revised location for summer Adoration.** Remember, as we share in the work of Redemption, so will we be rewarded with our own redemption.

For more information call Joanne Regali (508-643-3821) or Arlene Hall (508-801-2243). Please leave a message if the call is not answered immediately.

Update on Sister Kathee

Last Sunday, Sister Kathee arrived safely in Rome following a seven hour flight from Boston. Sister joined Holy Union Sisters from Argentina, Belgium, Cameroon, England, France, Ireland, Tanzania, and the United States as a participant in the Holy Union Collegial Assembly. At this gathering, held every six years, the Sisters reflect on how they have lived their charism in various ministries and locations across the globe, elect leadership (a general superior and four council members), and set directions for the next six years. Sister is doing well despite the dramatic heat wave affecting Italy. Please continue to pray for Sister Kathee and the Holy Union Sisters at this important international gathering!



Please Pray for our Deceased:

Roderick A. McGarry, III

Thomas M. Pastore

Irene "Rita" Riel

*Eternal rest grant unto our beloved dead, O Lord.
 Let perpetual light shine upon them.*

82nd Annual Catholic Appeal



82ND ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL
DIOCESE OF FALL RIVER

*Thank you for your most generous support of the 2023 Catholic Appeal! The books are now closed. We are proud to report that our parish community has contributed **\$96,390.00** in 2023! Thank you to the 378 donors from Transfiguration of the Lord Parish who stepped forward and made a gift to ensure the campaign was an overwhelming success.*

Thanks to the generosity of the faithful parishioners of the Diocese of Fall River, the 2023 Catholic Appeal raised \$4.5 million in gifts and pledges to sustain its longstanding mission of serving those in greatest need. While the 2023 book are now closed, please note that the Catholic Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts encourages support for the Catholic Appeal at any time. They continue to welcome donations (which will now be counted as “new money” toward the 2024 Appeal) online at www.givefrdiocese.org, by mail, or dropped off at the parish. It is more important than ever that we spread the mission and the message of the Catholic Appeal every day. We can’t thank you enough for your loving support.

Thank you for sponsoring our new Ritual Books!

We are extremely grateful for the outpouring of support and interest in sponsoring the purchase of new ritual books for each of our 3 churches. Given their importance and the respect these books deserve, we are able to invest in some new editions thanks to your generosity. As of the printing deadline for this week’s bulletin, **ALL** ritual books have now been sponsored.

Memorial names will be inscribed on the inside cover of each book and will be recognized in an upcoming edition of the parish bulletin. We are most appreciative of your kindness and generosity!

~Father Costa

The Sacrament of the Sick

If an ill family member is desirous of or in need of the comfort and grace of the Sacrament of the Sick, please call the parish office to make an appointment for Fr. Costa to visit. With the present vocation crisis in our Diocese, priest chaplains are not available at Sturdy Hospital. Pastoral Care of the Sick is provided ably and graciously by Deacon Del Malloy. If a family member is at Sturdy and would like to celebrate the Sacrament of the Sick, please call the parish office in order for Fr. Costa to visit as soon as he is able. The hospital does not send out notifications to the parishes when parishioners are admitted.



ANOINTING
OF THE SICK
©JPPC

Ignatian Spirituality



Ignatian Spirituality emphasizes finding God in all things. It is a spirituality for busy people with hectic lives, who cultivate the spiritual disciplines of reflecting on their days and noticing where God was present and where God is leading.

Ignatian spirituality is rooted in the belief that God created the world and it is good. Wherever we find goodness, truth, and beauty, God is there. We should strive to pay attention to the goodness in the world around us, and to recognize the face of God in those things. The goal is to become more aware of the love of God in our lives, so that we deepen our friendship with Jesus.

FAITH FORMATION

Director of Religious Education ~ Mrs. Elaine Corvese

508-695-3823

transfigurationreled@gmail.com

Faith Formation Program 2023-2024

Summer Office hours from July 3rd to August 9th:

**Monday and Tuesday
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

Faith Formation Office hours (after August 9th):

**Monday – Thursday
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

The students currently enrolled in the Faith Formation program will be promoted to the next grade level. Parents/guardians will receive information regarding their child's grade in August 2023.

Registration for students entering first grade or are new to the program will begin on August 9th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Contact the Faith Formation office at: 508-695-3823 or transfigurationreled@gmail.com to register.

Mrs. Elaine Corvese

SAINT MARY-SACRED HEART SCHOOL - JOIN NOW!

Give the gift of a Catholic education - the faith formation and goal of creating saints is priceless!



When I say "we are" - you say "Saints!" **We are Saints!**

Our students participate in a variety of sports offerings from cross country to tennis to basketball to volleyball to track and field - we have something for everyone. Skill building and sportsmanship are the foundation of our SMSH athletic program. We invite you to learn more about our sports teams and Saint Mary-Sacred Heart School by visiting our website www.smshschool.com.

Transfiguration of the Lord Parish Saint Vincent de Paul Society

Inspired by Gospel values, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, a Catholic lay organization, leads women and men to join to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to those who are in need or are suffering, in the tradition of its founder, Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, and patron, St. Vincent de Paul. The Society meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month in the parish hall in Saint Mary Church. Please join us!

Call for Assistance If you need assistance, please call the help line for our parish Saint Vincent de Paul Society. They can offer information about the types of assistance available. Please call 508-212-4755 for help or more information.



**Knights of
Columbus®**

Council #330 of the Knights of Columbus has been serving the Catholic Community of North Attleborough for 125 years. The Knights meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7pm, in the St. Mary Church Hall. Please drop by on meeting nights if you'd like to learn more about the Knights. Council #330 is committed to assisting local charities that align with the values of our Faith such as the Parish, the Parish school, and Abundant Hope. Contact Jim Schromm with any questions: jim.schromm@verizon.net.

Pax Christi at LaSalette Shrine



Save the Date! Pax Christi at LaSalette Shrine, Attleboro, will host an evening program entitled "Building a World Without Nuclear Weapons," on **Thursday, September 28, at 7:00pm at the Shrine**. The guest speaker will be Peter Metz, a retired MIT-educated engineer who, motivated by his Catholic faith, works on social action initiatives, chief among them the creation of a world without nuclear weapons. The program is free and open to the public. Mark your calendars now!

Saint of the Week: Saint Ignatius of Loyola
Celebrated on Monday, July 31

The founder of the Jesuits was on his way to military fame and fortune when a cannon ball shattered his leg. Because there were no books of romance on hand during his convalescence, Ignatius whiled away the time reading a life of Christ and lives of the saints. His conscience was deeply touched, and a long, painful turning to Christ began. Having seen the Mother of God in a vision, he made a pilgrimage to her shrine at Montserrat near Barcelona. He remained for almost a year at nearby Manresa, sometimes with the Dominicans, sometimes in a pauper's hospice, often in a cave in the hills praying. After a period of great peace of mind, he went through a harrowing trial of scruples. There was no comfort in anything—prayer, fasting, sacraments, penance. At length, his peace of mind returned. It was during this year of conversion that Ignatius began to write down material that later became his greatest work, the *Spiritual Exercises*.

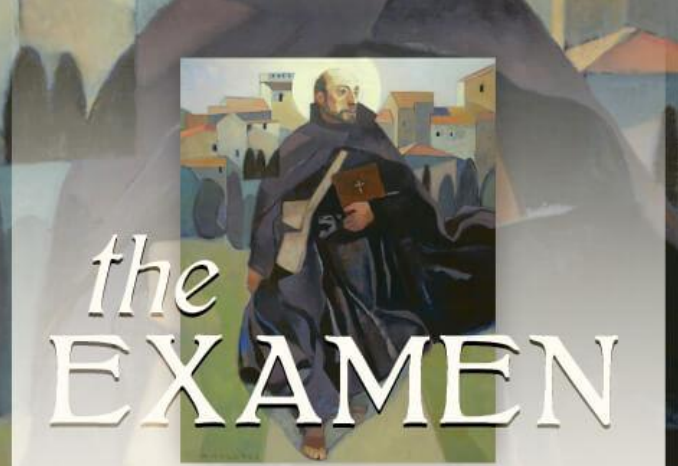
He finally achieved his purpose of going to the Holy Land, but could not remain, as he planned, because of the hostility of the Turks. Ignatius spent the next 11 years in various European universities, studying with great difficulty, beginning almost as a child. Like many others, his orthodoxy was questioned; Ignatius was twice jailed for brief periods.

In 1534, at the age of 43, he and six others—one of whom was Saint Francis Xavier—vowed to live in poverty and chastity and to go to the Holy Land. If this became impossible, they vowed to offer themselves to the apostolic service of the pope. The latter became the only choice. Four years later Ignatius made the association permanent. The new Society of Jesus was approved by Pope Paul III, and Ignatius was elected to serve as the first general.

When companions were sent on various missions by the pope, Ignatius remained in Rome, consolidating the new venture, but still finding time to found homes for orphans, catechumens, and penitents. He founded the Roman College, intended to be the model of all other colleges of the Society.

Ignatius was a true mystic. He centered his spiritual life on the essential foundations of Christianity—the Trinity, Christ, the Eucharist. His spirituality is expressed in the Jesuit motto, *Ad maiorem Dei gloriam*—"for the greater glory of God." In his concept, obedience was to be the prominent virtue, to assure the effectiveness and mobility of his men. All activity was to be guided by a true love of the Church and unconditional obedience to the Holy Father, for which reason all professed members took a fourth vow to go wherever the pope should send them for the salvation of souls.

The Examen of St. Ignatius



the
EXAMEN

The *Examen* is a method of reviewing your day in the presence of God. It's actually an attitude more than a method, a time set aside for thankful reflection on where God is in your everyday life. It has five steps, which most people take more or less in order, and it usually takes 15 to 20 minutes per day. Here it is in a nutshell:

- 1** Ask God for light.
I want to look at my day with God's eyes, not merely my own.
- 2** Give thanks.
The day I have just lived is a gift from God. Be grateful for it.
- 3** Review the day.
I carefully look back on the day just completed, being guided by the Holy Spirit.
- 4** Face your shortcomings.
I face up to what is wrong—in my life and in me.
- 5** Look toward the day to come.
I ask where I need God in the day to come.

Version of the Examen from A Simple Life-Changing Prayer by Jim Manney © Loyola Press

WWW.IGNATIANSPIRITUALITY.COM

The Examen of St. Ignatius is a prayer of reflection, typically prayed daily.

The prayer usually lasts only a few minutes. Pause and reflect on your day, notice when God felt near to you, and then ask for the grace to love God and others a little more deeply tomorrow.

Many versions of the Examen exist, because there are no prescribed words to pray — only a series of steps. Here are the five steps as St. Ignatius described them in the *Spiritual Exercises*. Remember that these steps are meant to guide your prayerful reflection. They are not rules that must be followed to “pray correctly.”

Reflections for the Week beginning Sunday, July 30, 2023

Sunday, Jul 30, 2023

String your own pearls

Jewelry is a matter of taste. Some folks like gold; others prefer silver. But in Jewish tradition, the pearl is a metaphor for valuable teaching. Our "pearl of great price," then, is the teaching upon which we build everything else, the motivation that governs our decision-making. What's yours? For some, it's that all life is sacred. For others, the common good must be served. Still others take the preferential option for the poor, or champion stewardship of creation. Remember: You don't have to choose just one.

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12; Romans 8:28-30; Matthew 13:44-52 (109). *"The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls."*

Monday, Jul 31, 2023

Speak his name without shame

Spanish priest Ignatius of Loyola founded the Society of Jesus (along with Saints Peter Faber and Francis Xavier) in Paris in 1541. Members of this religious order are known as Jesuits. Today, the Jesuits are the largest male religious order in the church, and Pope Francis is the first Jesuit pope. The term Jesuit was originally meant as an insult, meaning "someone who too frequently used the name of Jesus." Ignatius never used the term, but members later embraced it with positive meaning. After all, how could anyone use the name of Jesus too much?

Take a cue from the Jesuits and don't hold back!

MEMORIAL OF IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA, PRIEST

TODAY'S READINGS: Exodus 32:15-24, 30-34; Matthew 13:31-35 (401). *"The Kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a person took and sowed in a field."*

Tuesday, Aug 01, 2023

Our saving grace

Alphonsus gave us much, but perhaps the greatest gift was his fight against the Jansenist heresy, encapsulated in his 1748 volume *Moral Theology*. Thanks to Alphonsus, Catholicism has been able to steer a middle path between a darkly pessimistic view of human worth on the one hand and moral laxity on the other. Jansenists held an extreme view of original sin, believing only some are pre-ordained for salvation, saying grace had little chance of saving the rest—even through the sacrament of Reconciliation. Alphonsus encourages us to trust and use the sacrament, but also to "acquire the habit of speaking to God as if you were alone with Him, familiarly and with confidence and love, as to the dearest and most loving of friends."

MEMORIAL OF ALPHONSUS LIGUORI, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

TODAY'S READINGS: Exodus 33:7-11; 34:5b-9, 28; Matthew 13:36-43 (402). *"Pardon our wickedness and sins, and receive us as your own."*

Wednesday, Aug 02, 2023

Meet your maker

As we honor Saints Eusebius and Peter Julian Eymard, two staunch defenders of the faith during their times, we would do well to remember that "faith is born of an encounter with the living God who calls us and reveals his love," writes Pope Francis in *Lumen*

Fidei. How do we encounter God? Any embrace of love is a start, but Peter Eymard is more specific: "Happy the soul that knows how to find Jesus in the Holy Eucharist, and in the Eucharist all things!"

MEMORIALS OF EUSEBIUS OF VERCELLI, BISHOP; PETER JULIAN EYMARD, PRIEST

TODAY'S READINGS: Exodus 34:29-35; Matthew 13:44-46 (403). *"The skin of his face had become radiant while he conversed with the LORD."*

Thursday, Aug 03, 2023

God's dwelling place

Biblical faith is unique in its image of a universal God who nevertheless chooses to dwell among his people. We have an intimate portrait of this in the Exodus story where Moses is instructed to build a tent that the people of Israel are to carry with them as they sojourn through the desert toward the Promised Land. We can take heart in the notion that God is with us as well, along for the ride so to speak. He will not leave us orphaned. Call on God today, he's right there with you.

TODAY'S READINGS: Exodus 40:16-21, 34-38; Matthew 13:47-53

(404). *"He spread the tent over the Dwelling and put the covering on top of the tent, as the LORD had commanded him."*

Friday, Aug 04, 2023

The garden of the soul

John Vianney was dedicated to helping people understand and live the Catholic faith. On the street, in the confessional, and in his writings, John offered wisdom and counsel to encourage people. He wrote many small catechetical teachings collected within his "Little Catechism." In one, John writes, "The Holy Spirit is like a gardener cultivating our souls." The soul as a garden is a beautiful image to meditate on. What does your garden look like? How are you growing in your relationship with God? With John, let us pray his words: "O God, send me Your Spirit to teach me what I am and what You are."

MEMORIAL OF JOHN VIANNEY, PRIEST

TODAY'S READINGS: Leviticus 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34b-37; Matthew 13:54-58 (405). *"Where did this man get such wisdom and mighty deeds?"*

Saturday, Aug 05, 2023

Take a holy walk

The 16th-century Italian priest Saint Philip Neri liked to organize a walk through Rome with a few of his friends and acquaintances, visiting churches along the journey. It was a nice way to combine friendly conversation and a shared religious activity. The churches they visited—St. Peter's Basilica, St. Paul Outside-the-Walls, St. Sebastian's, St. John Lateran, Holy Cross-in-Jerusalem, St. Lawrence-Outside-the Walls, and the Basilica of St. Mary Major—became known as the Seven Pilgrim Churches of Rome and the walk is now repeated annually on Wednesday of Holy Week. Seek out holy places wherever you live—they can be a refuge in difficult times.

MEMORIAL OF THE DEDICATION OF THE BASILICA OF ST. MARY MAJOR

TODAY'S READINGS: Leviticus 25:1, 8-17; Matthew 14:1-12 (406). *"This fiftieth year you shall make sacred by proclaiming liberty in the land for all its inhabitants."*

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time



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17th Sunday in Ordinary Time - July 30, 2023

First Reading

A reading from the first Book of Kings

The LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream at night. God said, "Ask something of me and I will give it to you." Solomon answered:

"O LORD, my God, you have made me, your servant, king to succeed my father David; but I am a mere youth, not knowing at all how to act. I serve you in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a people so vast that it cannot be numbered or counted.

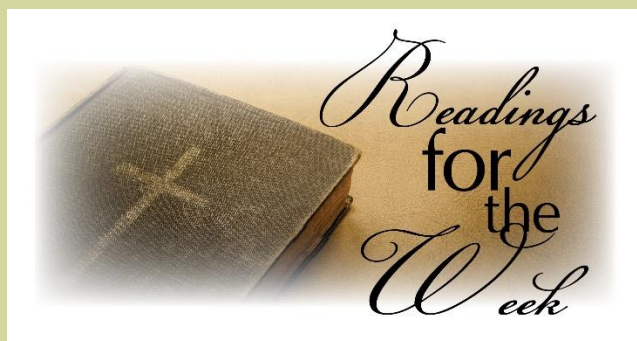
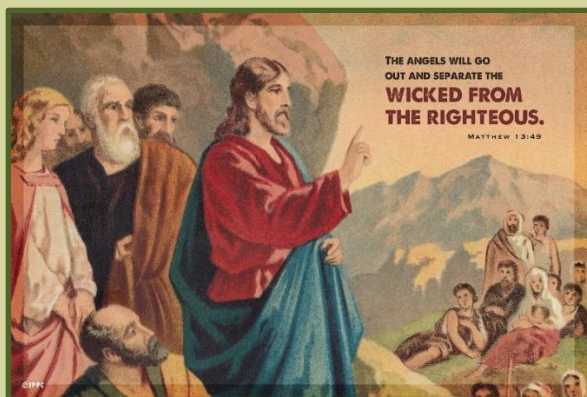
Give your servant, therefore, an understanding heart to judge your people and to distinguish right from wrong. For who is able to govern this vast people of yours?"

The LORD was pleased that Solomon made this request. So God said to him:

"Because you have asked for this—not for a long life for yourself, nor for riches, nor for the life of your enemies, but for understanding so that you may know what is right—I do as you requested. I give you a heart so wise and understanding that there has never been anyone like you up to now, and after you there will come no one to equal you."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Responsorial Psalm

R. Lord, I love your commands.

I have said, O LORD, that my part
is to keep your words.
The law of your mouth is to me more precious
than thousands of gold and silver pieces.

R. Lord, I love your commands.

Let your kindness comfort me
according to your promise to your servants.
Let your compassion come to me that I may
live, for your law is my delight.

R. Lord, I love your commands.

For I love your command
more than gold, however fine.
For in all your precepts I go forward;
every false way I hate.

R. Lord, I love your commands.

Wonderful are your decrees;
therefore I observe them.
The revelation of your words sheds light,
giving understanding to the simple.

R. Lord, I love your commands.

Second Reading

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined he also called; and those he called he also justified; and those he justified he also glorified.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Alleluia

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

*Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.*

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

† A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples:

"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls. When he finds a pearl of great price, he goes and sells all that he has and buys it.

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net thrown into the sea, which collects fish of every kind. When it is full they haul it ashore and sit down to put what is good into buckets. What is bad they throw away.

Thus it will be at the end of the age.

The angels will go out and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.

"Do you understand all these things?"

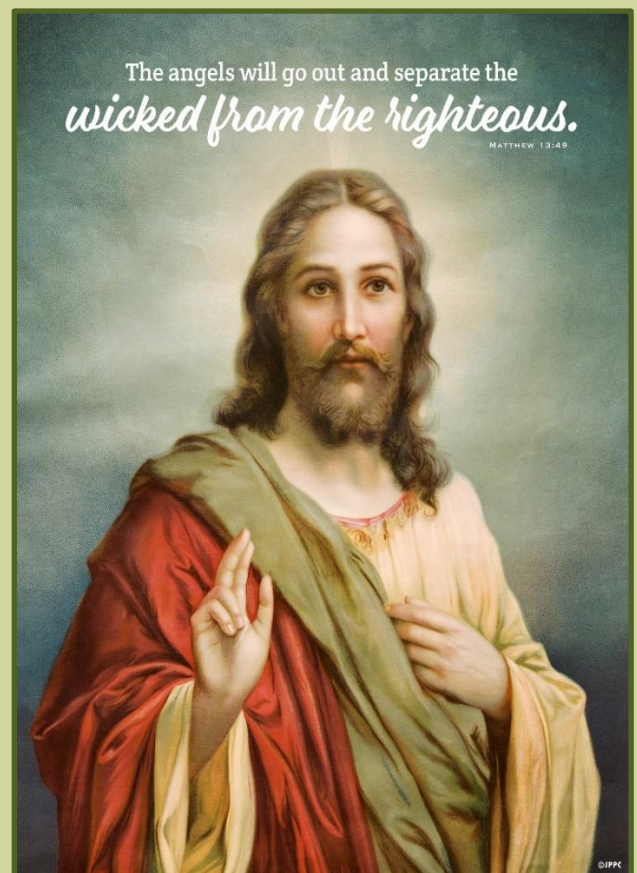
They answered, "Yes."

And he replied,

"Then every scribe who has been instructed in the kingdom of heaven is like the head of a household who brings from his storeroom both the new and the old."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Pearl of Wisdom:

As a young adult, when I thought my choice of vocation was a given and didn't wonder much about God's choice, I dreamed of serving in the Peace Corps. I was challenged by the world, its hungry and helpless. God had a different vocation in mind, a smaller world. It consists of a handful of children, a husband, pets, and some relatives. I feed them when they're hungry and share the Good News with them. I think of Solomon each day as I face the challenges of my vocation. Solomon asked God for the gift of wisdom. Whatever the gift each of us receives, it is the priceless jewel that we need to carry out the responsibilities of our simple and ordinary worlds.

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 3:5, 7–12

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 119:57, 72, 76–77, 127–128, 129–130

SECOND READING: Romans 8:28–30

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:44–52 [44–46]

Comment:

God was pleased with King Solomon. The king was a good and just ruler and devoted to God. However, he felt humble as a successor to David and was concerned about his leadership skills. God came to Solomon in a dream, offering Solomon a gift of his choice. As a rich and powerful ruler, Solomon might have asked for a long life, more riches, and more power. Instead, he asked for wisdom so that he might distinguish between right and wrong.

The gifts of the kingdom are greater than anything we know. Jesus compares the kingdom to the finest jewels. If we found one such jewel in a field, we would sell all that we own in order to buy the land.

Reflection:

We are told to renounce all that we have in order to acquire the kingdom of heaven. The kingdom is more precious than anything we know. It's easy to understand something more precious than jewels and other worldly possessions. But heaven is even more precious than our loved ones. It is more precious than wisdom, peace, and justice.

All things work for good for those who love God. The greatest treasure is one we don't yet know, but what of all the treasures working toward that ultimate treasure? Perhaps we haven't been given the exact gifts we've asked for, but what treasures lie in our fields today? Is there a gift we've overlooked until now that hasn't been fully realized? Maybe today is the day to unearth the treasure and put it to work for a greater good.

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