

AUG 14, 2016

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Our Lady of Lourdes

Catholic Church

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coming to know
the kingdom of God
by being Christ
to the world.



Jesus said to his disciples: "I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!" - Lk 12:49

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

3722 S. 58th Street | Milwaukee, WI 53220-2053 | (414) 545-4316

EUCCHARIST:

SAT 5:00 PM

SUN 8:00 AM/10:30 AM/6:00 PM

MON 8:00 AM

WED 9:30 AM

THU 8:00 AM

PRIEST

FR. BILL BURKERT

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Home: (414) 645-8053

DEACON

JOHN MONDAY

(414) 550-6053

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FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Parish Support - July 25-31, 2016

| | |
|---|------------|
| Stewardship Offering (Envelopes/Electronic) | \$9,225.40 |
| Offertory | \$1,303.83 |

Budget Updates Fiscal Year: July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Contributions Received | \$65,102.01 |
| Contribution Budget | \$58,500.00 |
| Difference as of 7/31/16 | \$6,602.01 |

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Operating Income* | \$88,460.30 |
| Operating Expenses | \$66,732.12 |
| Balance as of 7/31/16 | \$21,728.18 |

*Includes Bequest of Life Insurance Benefit = \$17,488.54

Improvement Fund Updates

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Beginning Balance 7/1/16 | \$103,671.52 |
| Donations | \$5,421.00 |
| Expenses | \$0.00 |
| Balance as of 7/31/16 | \$109,092.52 |

Keep Our Vision Growing Campaign Capital Appeal

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| KOVG Cash Balance as of 7/31/16 | \$158,214.03 |
| Music Ministry Platform Renovation (Spring 2016) | \$190,267.00 |
| Expenses already paid | (\$34,686.12) |
| Remaining Project Expenses | \$155,580.88 |

COMMUNITY LIFE

Wedding Banns

Il Megan Sajdak & Thomas Holtan

Faith Sharing Group

The Faith Sharing Group will begin its 2016-2017 book discussion sessions on Tuesday, September 6, and continue every other Tuesday evening through May (excluding December). We meet in Room 3 from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm. This year, we will be reading and discussing the book, *Jesus: A Pilgrimage* by James Martin, SJ.

Author Scott Hahn says, "This book isn't about a pilgrimage. It is a pilgrimage, and we make it in the company of a great raconteur. I didn't want the pilgrimage to end."

All are welcome to accompany us on this pilgrimage with Fr. Martin. The book is available at Barnes & Noble and on Amazon.

For more information, contact Judy Monday at (414) 427-0216 or judymonday@wi.rr.com.

CALENDAR RAFFLE 2016

| Date | Prize | Ticket | Winner |
|------------|---------------|------------|---------------|
| 7/31 | \$50.00 | 0941 | Mel Hynek |
| 8/1 | \$20.00 | 0421 | David Cooper |
| 8/2 | \$20.00 | 0269 | Deb Bursik |
| 8/3 | \$20.00 | 0072 | Stacy Bosch |
| 8/4 | \$20.00 | 0406 | Judy Kesser |
| 8/5 | \$20.00 | 0727 | Olga Obando |
| 8/6 | \$20.00 | 0002 | Rita Spalholz |

Save the Date!

Join us Saturday, October 29, from 9:00 am to noon, in the Parish Hall for Fare-Thee-Well — an opportunity to learn about, talk about, ask questions, and make plans for your funeral or that of a loved one. More information to come!

SUN 14

| | |
|------------------|--------|
| 8:00 am Liturgy | Church |
| 10:30 am Liturgy | Church |
| 6:00 pm Liturgy | Church |

MON 15

| | |
|--------------------------|------|
| 8:00 am Liturgy | Rm 9 |
| 6:30 pm Centering Prayer | Rm 9 |

TUE 16

| | |
|----------------------------------|------|
| 8:00 am Communion Service | Rm 9 |
| 6:30 pm Social Justice Cmte. | Rm 9 |
| 7:00 pm St. Vincent de Paul Mtg. | Rm 3 |

Mercy Moment

"Though I am afflicted and poor, yet the LORD thinks of me."

[Ps 40:18]



FORMATION

Do You Like to Read, Discuss, and Share?

Here's what's coming up for the independent book group: *Two Dogs and a Parrot: What Our Animal Friends Can Teach Us About Life* – by Joan Chittister.

Joan Chittister, a leading inspirational writer, invites you to embrace and celebrate the deep bond between humans and animals. She illuminates the significance of sharing our lives with a pet and celebrates the great gift of animals in our world.

We will meet beginning Tuesday, September 13, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm and continue through the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Read the first two chapters for September 13.

GIFT and Joy!

It's never too early to register for GIFT: Generations in Faith Together, our primary formation opportunity! This coming year, we will explore many aspects of the joy of the Gospel. Learn more about the topics and register by visiting our webpage: <http://www.ololmke.org/gift/>. New to OLOL? Information about GIFT and how it works as well as sacrament preparation can be found at this same site, or contact Steve Szymanski, Mary Osep, or Nancie Chmielewski at (414) 545-4316.

Who's Ready for a Bible Study?

Mark your calendars! Beginning Thursday mornings, 10:00 am - 11:30 am, September 1 - October 6, we are offering *Relating to Others as Jesus Would: Six Weeks with the Bible*. An evening option will be available at St. Greg's beginning Thursday, September 15 - October 20, 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm. As in the past, we ask you to register ahead of time by contacting Nancie Chmielewski at chmielewskin@ololmke.org or (414) 545-4316 x13. There is an \$8.00 fee to cover the cost of the book.

Discipleship of All!

Our Discipleship Institute is ready to roll out Year 2 with more opportunities to grow as disciples! Watch for information on a 6-week program on the Gospel of Matthew as well as many other great experiences.

Is RCIA for You?

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is the means of entering the Catholic Church. Do you know someone who is searching for more? Perhaps you were baptized in another faith tradition or never completed your sacramental journey? Contact Nancie Chmielewski at (414) 545-4316 x13 or at chmielewskin@ololmke.org to learn more.

VIRTUE OF THE WEEK

CHEERFULNESS

Cheerfulness is seeing the bright side and looking in for the good in whatever happens. It is maintaining a positive attitude of optimism and confidence.

When we give cheerfully, we are wholeheartedly helpful. Even when life is challenging, we make the best of it. We trust that all will be well.

A cheerful smile can light up everyone's day.

How can you share your cheerfulness with our community at the parish festival next week?

WED 17

9:30 am Liturgy Church
5:00 pm S. 60th Street Public Info Mtg. Rm 3

THU 18

8:00 am Liturgy Rm 9
10:00 am Health & Wellness team Mtg. Rm 3
6:00 pm Good Grief Guys Grp. Rm 6

FRI 19

8:00 am Communion Service Rm 9

OUR LADY OF LOURDES
FESTIVAL
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AUG. 19, 20 & 21

WORSHIP

The Mass: The Psalm as Prayer

In the initial reforms of the liturgy after Vatican II, a step was taken to give the psalms back to all of us. Usually, our part is a brief refrain. This refrain is sometimes taken directly from a psalm, but it can also come from another passage of scripture that upholds the text of the psalm. The text of the psalm is proclaimed in song by a cantor or choir. In this way, a dialogue is created between the cantor and the assembly. And although our part, the refrain, may be brief, it has the potential to become a tiny prayer for us during the week. Often, the refrain can be haunting, stirring in our souls for days afterward. "Psalm 90: If Today" by Paul Tate, which we sang on July 30/31, comes to mind. I hear a lot of music, and yet this small refrain was with me all week! When we experience the psalms in this way, the psalms are doing their ancient work: They teach us to pray. They show us how many ways we need to speak to God. If we truly give our attention to the psalms, they can be a source of inspiration and consolation and prayer.

(adapted from an article by Gabe Huck in *Celebrations*, June 2016)

New Technology on the Music Ministry Platform

Now that the Music and Media Platform is fully renovated, the sound board is situated on the opposite side from the music ministers. Luckily, our new digital sound board makes it possible to control the sound from anywhere in the worship space with the use of an iPad as a remote control. Rather than cause a distraction by walking across the platform, the musician can now regulate the volume levels without leaving the piano. If we are hosting a concert, like the one coming up in September, someone could sit in the audience and adjust all of the levels from his/her seat without bothering or distracting anyone. So, if you notice the musician tapping an electronic screen, he/she is not texting or checking e-mails. The accompanist is working to make sure that the sound is optimal for everyone in the worship space.

Save the Date!

On **Friday, September 16 at 7:00 pm**, we will host **Gaelynn Lea** in concert. A violinist, singer, and composer, Gaelynn is the winner of the 2016 Tiny Desk Concert Contest on National Public Radio, and has recently performed at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. See ololmke.org/concerts for more details and samples of her music.

SAT 20

5:00 pm Liturgy Church

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AUG. 19, 20 & 21

SUN 21

8:00 am Liturgy Church
10:30 am Liturgy Church
6:00 pm Liturgy Church

OUR LADY OF LOURDES
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OUTREACH

St. Vincent de Paul

In today's Gospel, Jesus said to his disciples: "I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing! There is a baptism with which I must be baptized, and how great is my anguish until it be accomplished!"

Your gift to the Society to assist those suffering in poverty will help set the earth on fire with the power of God's love.

Good Grief Guys Group: A monthly widowers' group.

Thursday, August 18
6:00 pm
LOL

We are sharing the journey that is unique for a man who has lost his beloved wife. This is collaboration of St. Gregory the Great, Our Lady of Lourdes, and St. Matthias. We invite any man who is looking for some support, guidance, and companionship on his grief journey.

Contact Wanda, your Parish Nurse for questions, (414) 545-4281.

Volunteers Needed

The St. Vincent de Paul meal site located at 10th and Madison needs your help in serving food and drink to those in need on Wednesday, August 17. A car pool is available from the LOL south parking lot leaving at 4:45 pm. Serving begins at 5:30 pm and ends at 6:30 pm. Help in cleaning up would be appreciated. If you need any other information, please see the SVDP bulletin board in the meeting room hallway or call the Parish Office.

In Case You Missed It!

Our Haiti pilgrims have returned! For a number of years now, we have chronicled the journey of each group with an e-journal on our website. This year's version has a short reflection from each person who went and lots of pictures. You will also get updates to see how the generous contributions given by OLOL parishioners are being put to use. Just go to our website at ololmke.org and click on the Haiti 2016 link under the What's New section or go to: ololmke.org/Haiti-2016



Oktoberfest Basket Raffle

Soft strains of polka music are beginning to be heard at Lourdes...music notes will soon fill a display board in the hallway for our Oktoberfest theme baskets. Let's keep the music swelling!

Basket themes cover a vast range of ideas and interests. Themes could be sports, events, gardens, entertainment, crafts, kitchen, hobby, movies (at home or night out), relaxation, holidays, a cold winter's night, or a hot summer's day. There is a possible theme or interest for everyone.

The baskets can be done by one person, a family, or a group. This might be an opportunity to reach out and get to know other people by asking about cooperating on a basket. Building community is a part of our Oktoberfest mission.

If you do not want to assemble a basket, but are willing to donate items, keep in mind the artistic aspects of the event. When donating items, please consider that our baskets are for the Oktoberfest Artisans Fair. Use your most discerning eye when sharing your treasures.

Look for the Oktoberfest music notes with themes and an item list up in the church hallway the weekend after the festival. We are looking forward to hearing the beautiful music we will compose as we work together for another successful Oktoberfest.

Kris Strnad
Oktoberfest Raffle Songstress

CONNECT! WITH THE WORD

MESSAGE FOR THE WEEK - LUKE 12:49-53

What a sad image Jesus paints in today's Gospel. Causing family strife—fathers against sons and mothers against daughters—is not the effect we like to imagine Jesus having on people. But as he says today, "Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division." The fact is, and always has been, that not everyone chooses to follow Christ. This causes conflict.

However, this needs to be understood in the light of Jesus' desire to bring peace. He often used the greeting, "Peace be with you," and clearly promised peace to his disciples. Today's Gospel should not be taken to mean that Jesus desires division. Rather, he is acknowledging the fact that division will inevitably result as people declare their differing allegiances. But thankfully, when we align ourselves with Christ, we are also uniting ourselves to the One who can restore peace even in the midst of conflict. So when we see turmoil arise, let's call upon the power of the true Prince of Peace.

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SUNDAY READINGS

Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10:

How are prophetic voices silenced today?

Hebrews 12:1-4:

Which insights about Jesus do you gain from the title, "The leader and perfecter of faith"?

Luke 12:49-53:

How do you deal with non-believers in your family?

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Our Lady of Lourdes **FESTIVAL** Food

August 19-21, 2016

SERVED ALL WEEKEND LONG

Brat/Polish/Italian/Burger/Chicken/Cheeseburger/Hot Dog/Pizza/Nachos/Nachos Grande/Pretzel w/ Cheese/
French Fries/Sweet Potato Fries/Eggplant Stix/Mozzarella Marinara/Ruben Bites/Cheddar Nuggets/Combo Basket/
Popcorn/Corn/Baked Potato/Ice Cream/Ice Cream Sundae/Brownie /Brownie Sundae/Root Beer Float

FISH FRY

Friday, August 19th

4:00 PM until sold out

Baked or Fried Icelandic Cod
French Fries or Boiled Potatoes
Cole Slaw
Baked Beans
Rye Bread and Butter
Cake or Jello or Pudding
Coffee or Milk

\$10

NEW! **RIB DINNER**
Saturday, August 20th
3:30 PM until sold out

1/2 Rack of Ribs
w/ Big Boss BBQ Sauce
French Fries
Ear of Sweet Corn
Roll and Butter

\$12

CHICKEN DINNER

Sunday, August 21st

11:30 AM until sold out

Grilled Rotisserie Chicken
Mashed Potatoes and Gravy
Green Beans
Roll and Butter
Cake or Jello or Pudding
Coffee or Milk

\$10

1/2

\$8.⁵⁰

1/4

THE DISCIPLESHIP INSTITUTE PRESENTS “PERSONALITY OF GROUPS & EFFECTIVE TEAMS”

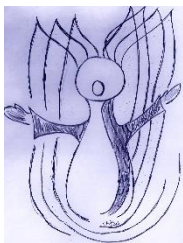
Thursdays 6:30-7:45 pm

September 1 – October 6

Facilitators: Marc Puechner & Joe Kallenberger

A detailed exploration into how a team/group evolves from conception, as a gathering of individuals, through change, and into a cohesive unit. Participants will learn how the interplay of individual personality types impact a group and how a team's purpose/mission defines the group's personality. With appropriate understanding and engagement, teams can find success.





DISCIPLESHIP INSTITUTE

OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH

Registration 2016-2017

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PARISH _____

I AM REGISTERING FOR THE FOLLOWING:

| EVENT NO. | NAME OF EVENT | DATES OF EVENT | TIME OF EVENT |
|-----------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
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| | | | |
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Studying God's Word

- Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10
- Hebrews 12:1-4
- Luke 12:49-53 [120C]

The readings for the Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time preserve a historical and unfortunate reality: many people are threatened by God's message and his messengers. From the Old Testament prophets to members of the earliest Christian communities, those who spoke God's word often faced social harassment, intolerance, persecution, and, at times, even death.

In today's first reading from the Book of Jeremiah, we hear about the persecution that the prophet Jeremiah suffered at the hands of the ruling elite in the southern kingdom of Judah. During the reign of Zedekiah over Judah (598–587 BC), Jeremiah served as a counselor for the young king, who was only twenty-one years old when he ascended to the throne. As heard in today's reading, the "princes" of the king, who carried out many of the day-to-day operations in the kingdom, complained bitterly to Zedekiah about Jeremiah who they perceived as "demoralizing" the soldiers and the people. (Jeremiah was well-known for openly confronting the idolatry and even the apostasy of the Israelites living in Judah during the years leading to their exile into Babylon in 597 and 587 BC). Unwilling to protect Jeremiah, Zedekiah allowed his princes to silence the prophet by placing him in muddy cistern (dry well), leaving him to die of starvation and dehydration. It

was only through the intervention of one of the Zedekiah's court officials, the Ethiopian Ebed-melech, that Jeremiah was rescued from sure death in the cistern.

The second reading from Hebrews picks up from last Sunday when we heard about Old Testament exemplars of the faith. Abraham's faith was highlighted in the reading, although Hebrews 11 offers many other examples. Today's reading begins by speaking of these ancient Israelite men and women of faith as "so great a cloud of witnesses" and a source of inspiration for members of the Christian community to whom the author of Hebrews writes. He then refers to Jesus as "the leader and perfecter of faith." This is a title for Jesus found only in Hebrews. In fact, Hebrews uses over a dozen titles for Jesus, many of which are unique within the New Testament (for example, "high priest," "forerunner," and "minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle"). The author sees Jesus' agony on the cross and his resurrection and ascension to God's throne in heaven as affirmation of the title "leader and perfecter of faith." Furthermore, although some community members seem to be faced with various levels of harassment, the author tells the community to keep their "struggle against sin" in perspective, since—unlike Jesus—they have not "resisted" the opposition they face "to the point of shedding blood."

The Gospel reading presents one of Jesus' more startling statements: "Do you think I have come to establish peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. From now on a household of five will be divided, three against two and two

against three.” Scholars often speculate that this social reality likely reflects the tensions of Luke’s time toward the end of the first century AD, two generations removed from Jesus’ death and resurrection. As the Christian message spread through evangelization, clearly there were those who accepted and believed and others who rejected the message. In today’s reading, Jesus forewarns that this reaction to the proclamation of the kingdom of God will be experienced in a personal and profound way.

Dr. Daniel J. Scholz

Inspiring Your Homily

“I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!” proclaims Jesus in today’s Gospel. When I shared these uniquely perplexing words from Scripture with a friend, her initial comment was, “Maybe Jesus was having a bad day.”

Could something particularly agonizing have occurred for Jesus to ask, “Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division”? If, indeed, that were his goal, would he not be pleased to see the politics in practice around the world, as divisions appear to have increased exponentially over time?

Yet we also hear stories that seem to advance our species progressively forward although usually they are not as widely, nor loudly, proclaimed. Steve Hartman’s *On the Road* series often offers a glimpse of hope to a weary world, as it did on the CBS *Sunday Morning* show in late April 2016.

In 2005, police officer Andrew Collings purposely falsified a drug charge against Jameel McGee, in order to inflate his arrest record. Collings told himself that morning, at the beginning of his shift in Benton Harbor, Michigan, that he would make a drug arrest, which he did. Unfortunately, he was willing to make up the charges against a completely innocent man. McGee spent four years in prison pondering nothing more important than getting

out and seeking revenge against the dishonest cop who’d taken precious years from his life. “I lost everything,” he told Steve Hartman during the interview.

But McGee did not have to wait until the end of his sentence to be freed from prison because Collins, the arresting officer, had falsified many similar arrests, leading to his own incarceration for eighteen months. After serving his sentence, Andrew Collins found himself at the Café Mosaic, a faith-based employment agency in Benton Harbor, working with none other than Jameel McGee. Neither Jameel nor Andrew could ignore where they found themselves nor ignore the circumstances of where and how they had previously met.

With nowhere else to go, Andrew confessed to Jameel he had no excuse or explanation for what he’d done and all he could say was, “I’m sorry.” Amazingly, those two simple words were enough for Jameel to hear, resulting in the two men actually becoming friends. At one point Jameel told Andrew that he loved him and Andrew wept, barely able to accept that he, a dishonest cop who stole four years of life from an innocent man, could be forgiven, saying, “I didn’t deserve that.”

After relating this story of forgiveness and redemption to a friend who happens to be Catholic, his immediate reaction was, “No way. That would not be the way I would go. Revenge—yes; forgiveness—no.” In many ways, his impromptu response became the perfect example of the division Jesus speaks about in today’s Gospel and the fiery attitudes that can separate father from son and mother from daughter, when those within the same household disagree on the right response to adversity, with one person desiring the fire of revenge and another practicing the purifying fire of forgiveness

In truth, if all of us got exactly what we deserved, we’d probably be a pretty crispy lot overall. Whether we like it or not, it takes those who do not hand out what is deserved—choosing to distribute forgiveness instead—who



save the world over and over from a fiery demise.

It may be difficult to conjure up the strength to act in magnanimous ways, but as advised in the Epistle to the Hebrews, “Consider how [Jesus] endured such opposition from sinners, in order that you may not grow weary and lose heart.”

Jeremiah attempted not to lose heart in today’s first reading, even after he had been thrown down a cistern due to his controversial advice to the king. Based on instructions from Yahweh, Jeremiah advised the king to surrender to the enemy at his gate in order to save the people from bloodshed. Yahweh promised that if the king surrendered, everyone would be spared, whereas if he waited to be attacked, the kingdom would be lost, with great casualties sustained by the sword and through pestilence and famine. With the king unable to make a decision, the princes made one for him and threw Jeremiah down a cistern to cease his traitorous prophesying.

Although Jeremiah was rescued, the city was not. Though countless lives could have been spared, surrender was seen as cowardice, whereas the fire of battle appeared courageous. Similarly, the humility required to offer forgiveness rather than retribution may be seen as lacking in justice, as it was by my friend who disagreed vehemently with Jameel’s decision to forgive rather than avenge. The courage required for forgiveness to be offered requires self-esteem and the ability to withstand derogatory comments from others who view forgiveness as weakness rather than courage.

Surely, the fire Jesus wished the world to become ablaze with was the fire of love, based on faithfulness to a God who sought to engender life, through a surrender of our avenging nature to the fire of forgiveness. No doubt there are many who would call Jameel a fool for forgiving the person who stole years from his life but, we can be assured, Jesus would not be one of those critics.

Dr. Constance M. Popp

Quoting from Tradition

Keep yourselves from those evil plants which Jesus Christ does not tend, because they are not the planting of the Father. Not that I have found any division among you, but exceeding purity. For as many as are of God and of Jesus Christ are also with the bishop. And as many as shall, in the exercise of repentance, return into the unity of the Church, these, too, shall belong to God, that they may live according to Jesus Christ. Do not err, my brethren. If any man follows him that makes a schism in the Church, he shall not inherit the kingdom of God. If any one walks according to a strange opinion, he agrees not with the passion [of Christ.]. Keep yourselves, then, from those evil planes which Jesus Christ does not tend, but that wild beast, the destroyer of men, because they are not the planting of the Father, but the seed of the wicked one. Not that I have found any division among you do I write these things; but I arm you beforehand, as the children of God. For as many as are of Christ are also with the bishop; but as many as fall away from him, and embrace communion with the accursed, these shall be cut off along with them. For they are not Christ’s husbandry, but the seed of the enemy, from whom may you ever be delivered by the prayers of the shepherd, that most faithful and gentle shepherd who presides over you. I therefore exhort you in the Lord to receive with all tenderness those that repent and return to the unity of the Church, that through your kindness and forbearance they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, and becoming worthy of Jesus Christ, may obtain eternal salvation in the kingdom of Christ.

Ignatius, Epistle to the Philadelphians.

Translation from The Ante-Nicene Fathers of the Christian Church. Volume 1. Edited by P. Schaff et al. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, reprint 2001. Research by Jay Martin

Building Your Liturgy

August 14, 2016

This week is a bit challenging to pull together. There are moments of great joy and despair, much like our lives. The entrance antiphon from Psalm 84 reminds us that God's eyes are upon us, and that time with God is the best thing we can have, and the Collect speaks of God's great love, as it challenges us, "O God, who have prepared for those who love you good things which no eye can see, fill our hearts, we pray, with the warmth of your love, so that, loving you in all things and above all things, we may attain your promises..."

Our Gospel offers little comfort, as families are divided in their beliefs, yet we all know this to be true in our families today.

Yet our first reading and response help us through these hard times. Jeremiah is literally in a cistern, a giant pit. Psalm 40, which is sung in response, is the *De Profundis*, the great psalm of despair. Many scholars point out there are three basic places within the psalms. Psalms of orientation—those moments when life is ok; psalms of disorientation—when our life has been pulled out from under us do to accidents, illness, or other tragedy; and psalms of reorientation—when we discover how God has been working in our lives and with it through us all. This is when we know that God's eyes have seen all and been with us through the entire time.

Consider using Sunday Preface 6 today. It has that beautiful tender line, "For in you we live and move and have our being, and while in this body we not only experience the daily effects of your care, but even now possess the pledge of life eternal."

Prayer over the People #16 also speaks of God looking down upon his people.

"Eye Has Not Seen," "How Lovely Is Your Dwelling Place," "Rain Down," and "Amazing Grace" are apt choices. If you have the people to pull it off, "His Eye Is on the Sparrow" would be beautiful today. Rory Cooney's "Canticle of the

Turning" or Marty Haugen's "Send Down the Fire" fits the tone of the Gospel in its urgency.

There are many settings of Psalm 40, from Steven Warner's Notre Dame to John Angotti's contemporary one that respond well with "Here I Am." Ed Bolduc's "Journey for Home" is worth a look too.

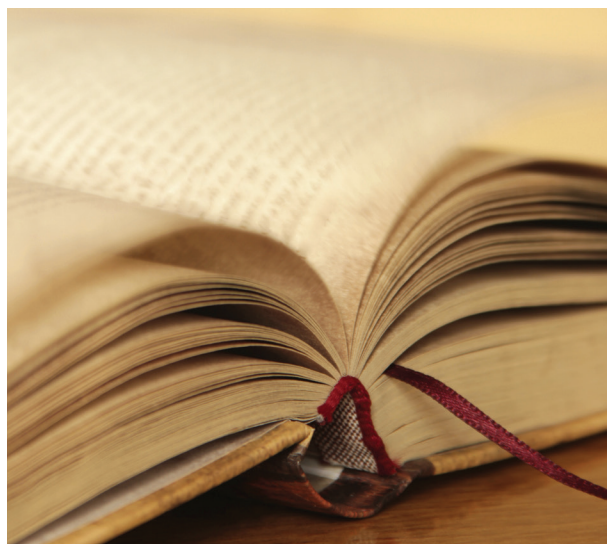
The Assumption is on a Monday this week, and is not a holy day of obligation. You may wish to mention that at weekend liturgies.

Planning Your Week

Monday is the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and it is still celebrated with a Gloria, and has its own preface. You could still do a solemn blessing for the Blessed Virgin (#15) at the end of the liturgy. Saturday is the memorial of St. Bernard, doctor of the church. Bernard was a Cistercian monk who founded several abbeys and had a very strong Marian devotion.

Depending upon the area you live, you may be starting to think about changing from a summer ordinary time to a fall theme. If the area is harvesting wheat, or tall grasses, these shocks can be lovely free-standing or in a tall vase or pottery. In any event, shades of green should be neutral enough not to clash with common wedding colors.

Jill Maria Murdy



Raising Your Prayers

Introductions

For the Mass of the Day (to use after the Greeting).
The truth of the Gospel will not always graciously be received. At times, it may be met with rejection and even cause division, even among those we love. We must have courage and always persevere in following God's call and not be sidetracked by the possible ramifications of doing so.

Penitential Act

We have to keep our eyes on Jesus
if we are going to persevere
in running the race that lies before us.
We now call to mind our sins
that often distract us and weaken us.
(Pause for silent reflection.)

O Lord,
you are my help and my deliverer.
Lord, have mercy.

O Lord,
you inclined your eye toward me and heard
my cry.
Christ, have mercy.

O Lord,
you are my God who comes to my aid.
Lord, have mercy.



Prayer of the Faithful

Hardships we encounter can challenge our faith.
Despite the difficulties, we cannot lose hope.
Many who have gone before us
have shed their blood
and died for what they believe.
Seeking that same strength of faith,
we bring our needs and those of the world
before our compassionate Father.

For all leaders in the church,
especially Pope Francis and our bishop N.,
may they not only continue to be
examples of fortitude and courage
but of compassion and mercy.

We pray to the Lord.

For those who do not have faith
or do not believe in the values of the Gospel,
that we will not grow weary
of bringing the truth to them
and showing them the way God calls us to live.

We pray to the Lord.

For our world,
torn and conflicted by corruption and violence;
may we find the strength to speak to these evils,
proclaiming the justice and peace of the Gospel.

We pray to the Lord.

For those who have died,
that they may join the countless saints in heaven
who have finished the race
and now see God face-to-face.

We pray to the Lord.

Loving God,
may the power of your Holy Spirit
give us the courage to speak our faith.
May we care less about the opinions of others
and more about standing firm and loyal
in our commitment to you.
Hear the prayers we place before you.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Rev. Mark Suslenko



Engaging Your Parishioners

Reflections to use for your bulletins, website, social media, and more.

Message of the Week

Luke 12:49-53

What a sad image Jesus paints in today's Gospel. Causing family strife—fathers against sons and mothers against daughters—is not the effect we like to imagine Jesus having on people. But as he says today, "Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division." The fact is, and always has been, that not *everyone* chooses to follow Christ. This causes conflict.

However, this needs to be understood in the light of Jesus' desire to bring peace. He often used the greeting, "Peace be with you," and clearly promised peace to his disciples. Today's Gospel should not be taken to mean that Jesus *desires* division. Rather, he is acknowledging the fact that division will inevitably result as people declare their differing allegiances. But thankfully, when we align ourselves with Christ, we are also uniting ourselves to the One who can restore peace even in the midst of conflict. So when we see turmoil arise, let's call upon the power of the true Prince of Peace.

Questions of the Week

Luke 12:49-53:

How do you deal with non-believers in your family?

Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10:

How are prophetic voices silenced today?

Hebrews 12:1-4:

What insights about Jesus do you gain from the title, "The leader and perfecter of faith"?



Everyday Stewardship

Politics and religion are supposed to be two topics you never bring up at family gatherings. These topics too often seem to drive wedges between people who love each other. It would be easier to talk about pop culture and other frivolous topics. I remember when I was a teenager my uncle became a born-again Christian. Suddenly, his siblings wanted to talk to him less. When there was the rare family gathering, great effort was put into bringing up topics of less substance so as to crowd out of the conversation of his take on faith.

But that seems pretty unfortunate. In fact, faith seems like the most important topic to bring up with those you love. Jesus knew his message would bring division and conflict to many a household. Fear of conflict was not to be a reason for not sharing one's faith. It is through our witness and testimony that others see what a difference Jesus makes in life.

Perhaps the best way of giving witness is by how we live our lives. If we are striving to live an authentic stewardship way of life, we will be speaking volumes about faith without saying a word. We need to share with family our journey because we love them.

My uncle had found a path, but he wanted to forcibly tell everyone what he or she needed to do, rather than simply demonstrate that through his actions. Will the good news of Jesus Christ sometimes cause a rift in the fabric of a family? Yes, because the way of the cross is not easy. But if at the next family gathering you take the time to give of yourself freely and completely to those around you, then those you love may take notice and may want to know the reason for your generosity and graciousness.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS