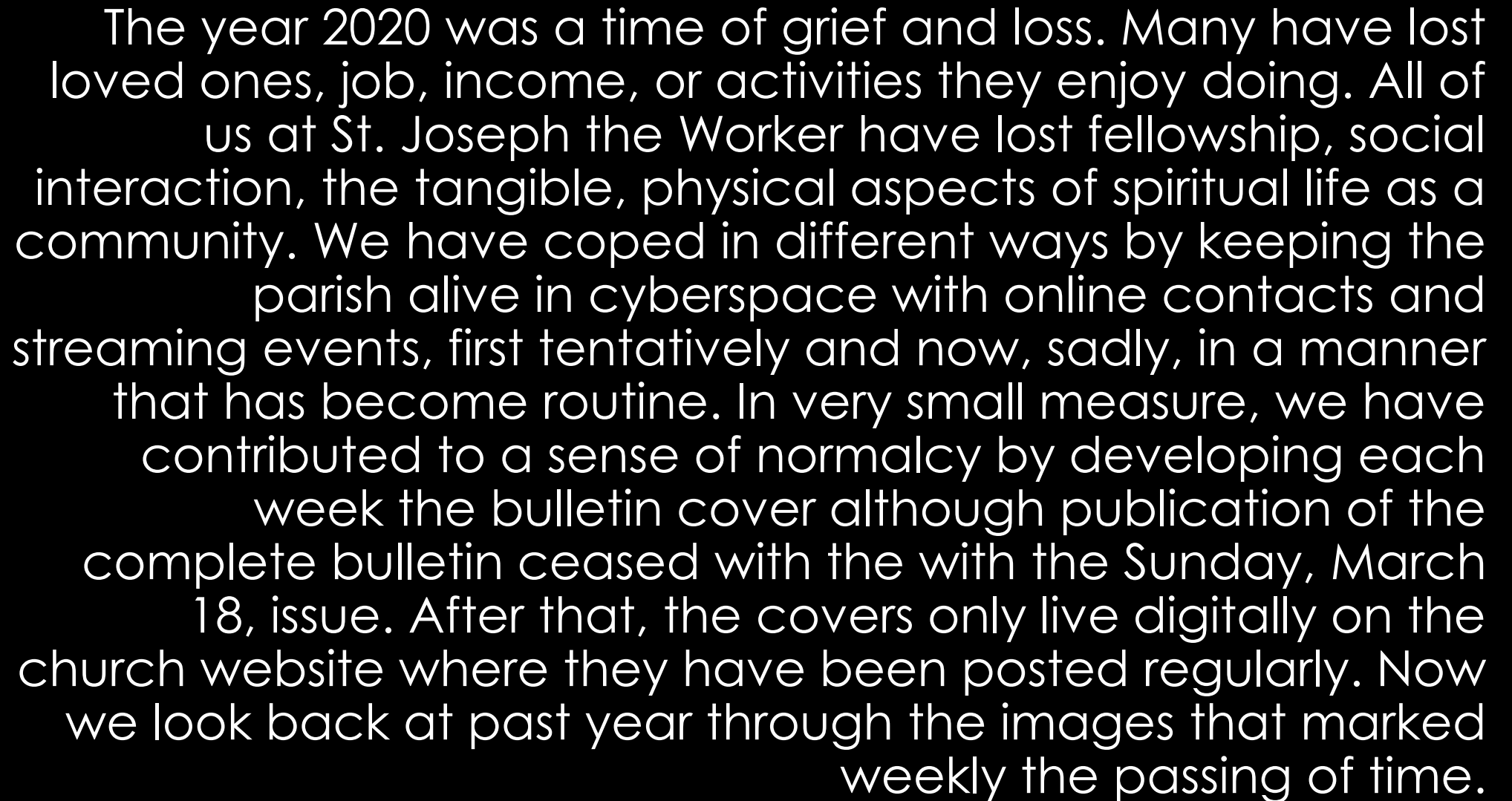




2020 The Year In Review



The year 2020 was a time of grief and loss. Many have lost loved ones, job, income, or activities they enjoy doing. All of us at St. Joseph the Worker have lost fellowship, social interaction, the tangible, physical aspects of spiritual life as a community. We have coped in different ways by keeping the parish alive in cyberspace with online contacts and streaming events, first tentatively and now, sadly, in a manner that has become routine. In very small measure, we have contributed to a sense of normalcy by developing each week the bulletin cover although publication of the complete bulletin ceased with the with the Sunday, March 18, issue. After that, the covers only live digitally on the church website where they have been posted regularly. Now we look back at past year through the images that marked weekly the passing of time.

The Joy of Giving

"Then they
opened their
treasures and
offered him
gifts of gold,
frankincense,
and myrrh."

—Matthew 2:11

January 5, 2020
The Epiphany of the Lord

JANUARY



Diego Velázquez
The Adoration of the Magi (1619)
Museo del Prado, Madrid

GOD'S BELOVED

This is my beloved Son,
with whom
I am well pleased.

January 12, 2020
The Baptism of the Lord

JANUARY



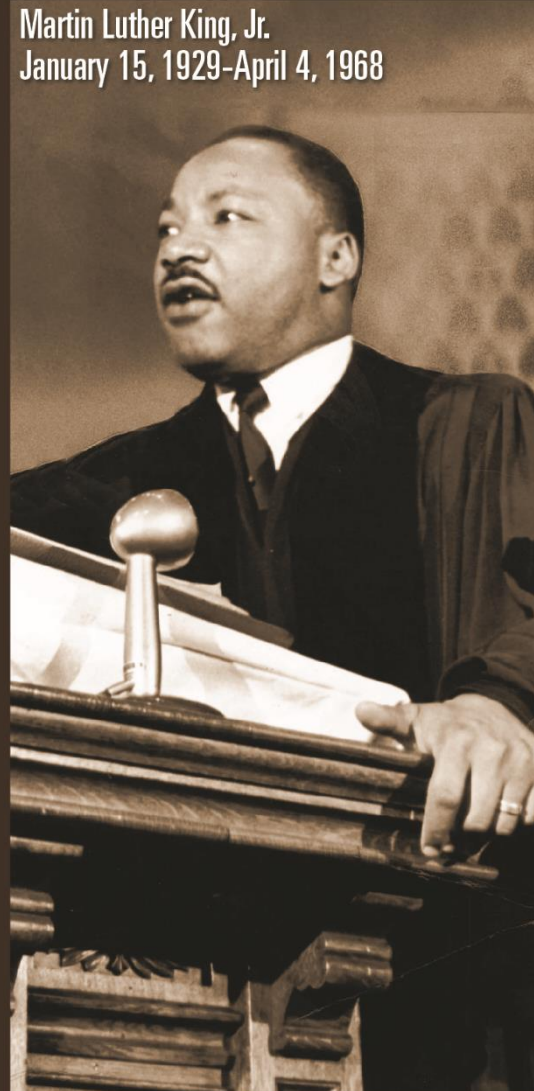
François Rude, **The Baptism of Christ by Saint John the Baptist** (1838), Eglise de la Madeleine, Paris, France

On Monday we observe the Martin Luther King, Jr. federal holiday, established in 1986 to honor the life and work of this social reformer and civil rights leader. At the historic March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, on August 28, 1963, Dr. King made his famous "I Have a Dream" speech, declaring his conviction that someday all could be brothers.

The 1963 march was for Rev. King a religious experience and the "Dream" speech a sermon rooted in the words of the prophet Isaiah who too had a dream of a world made new with God's loving justice. Formed by faith, Martin Luther King himself said, "In the quiet recesses of my heart, I am fundamentally a clergyman, a Baptist preacher."

DARE TO DREAM

Martin Luther King, Jr.
January 15, 1929-April 4, 1968



January 19, 2020
Second Sunday
in Ordinary Time

JANUARY

St. Joseph the Worker School

Creating Tomorrow's Leaders Through Faith, Academics, and Service for Over 60 Years!

Catholic Schools Week: January 26 - February 1

Kickoff Celebration: Sunday, January 26

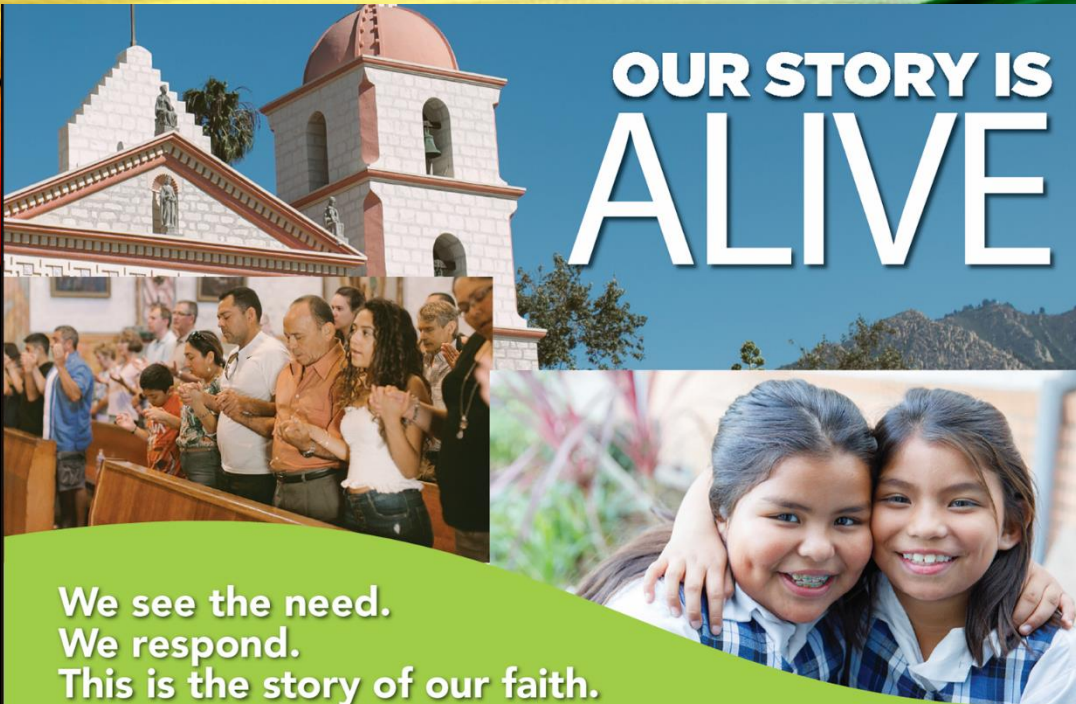
School Mass, 9:30 a.m. • Coffee and Donuts after Mass



January 26, 2020
Third Sunday
in Ordinary Time

JANUARY

Visit Us This Week. See page 4 for schedule of activities.



OUR STORY IS ALIVE

We see the need.
We respond.
This is the story of our faith.

The parishes and schools of the Archdiocese are committed to serving our communities. We care for children, families, immigrants, homeless people, and vulnerable populations in our midst. Some of our parishes, however, struggle to keep the lights on.

All funds raised by Together in Mission are used exclusively to sustain our schools and parishes in great need so that they can thrive and serve their communities. The 2020 campaign will help 67 parishes and 74 schools to fund ministry and educational programs, parish operations, services to the poor, and emergency projects.

ARCHDIOCESE OF
**TOGETHER IN
MISSION**
LOS ANGELES

Keep the story of our faith alive.
Give generously to Together in Mission.
Donate online: www.sjwchurch.com

February 2, 2020
The Presentation of the Lord

February



Salt & Light

What must the people have thought when Jesus called them "the salt of the earth" and "the light of the world"? We can ask the same question today because Jesus also meant those words for us. As salt gives flavor, we are to contribute to enhancing the quality of others' lives. As light illuminates, we are to let the light of Christ shine through us wherever we are, in whatever we do.

February 9, 2020
Fifth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

February

Touched by the Angels



Fra Angelico, *The Annunciation*
San Marco Museum, Florence

Tuesday of this week (February 18) is the feast of the Dominican friar and artist **Blessed Fra (Friar) Angelico** (1395?-1455). He joined the Dominicans at about age twenty, taking the name Fra Giovanni. He eventually became known, posthumously, as Fra Angelico, a tribute to his own angelic qualities and the devotional tone of his works. The frescoes in the Florentine monastery of San Marco are among his most famous works. Viewers were to place themselves in the scene before them and identify with the attitude of devotion displayed in the painting itself. Fra Angelico was beatified in 1982 by Pope John Paul II, who also named him patron of artists.

February 16, 2020
Sixth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

February

DEVOTED TO SERVICE

With reverence, grace, and attention to detail, the Mass Coordinators at our Saturday Vigil, Sunday, weekday, Holy Day, and special Masses assure a smooth and graceful liturgy. We are grateful for their commitment to serving our Lord and his people.



Seated, left to right: Lorayne Helin, Lucy San Martín, Carmen Dashiell, Jean Marie Sindelar, Janie Pulte

Back row, left to right: Fr. Beto, Veronica Rosete, Melita Bernabe, Cristina Thomas, Sarita B. White, James Dao, Maria Rosel, Onie Mora

Not pictured: Jesús Escobar, Cecil Nyein

About the role of the Mass Coordinator, see page 5.

February 23, 2020
Seventh Sunday
in Ordinary Time

February



LENT

Life in the Desert

Lent is a time to die to ourselves in order to draw closer to our Lord and to identify with him in his sacrificial actions. The season is often described as a journey into the desert. While the desert may seem a desolate place, it is actually full of life. Placing ourselves spiritually in the desert, we will discover an abundance of life in Christ Jesus. Here we will encounter our Lord, just as Jesus himself encountered God the Father in the desert, where he was put to the test.

Let us enter into the life of the desert and pray for one another, that all may encounter our God and be transformed. The journey will lead us to the celebration of Easter in a new and powerful way.

Know of my prayers for you, especially during this Lenten season.

Blessings, Fr. Beto

March 1, 2020
First Sunday of Lent

March

The background of the slide features a dramatic landscape of mountains under a cloudy sky. Bright rays of light break through the clouds, illuminating the mountain peaks. The overall color palette is dominated by blues, greys, and yellows from the light rays. In the top left corner, there is a decorative graphic with horizontal bands of orange, red, and yellow.

LENT

Away with Fear

Jesus took his three closest friends up a mountain, Mount Tabor, where, before their very eyes, He was transfigured. The bright, dazzling light, the voice, the cloud all caused much fear among the disciples on that mountaintop. As our Lenten journey continues, we can turn to the words Jesus spoke to his friends, "Rise, and do not be afraid."

March 8, 2020
Second Sunday of Lent

March



LENT

Come to the Water

**"... whoever drinks
the water I shall
give will never
thirst; the water I
shall give will
become in him a spring
of water welling up to eternal life."**

—John 4:14

March 15, 2020
Third Sunday of Lent

March



LENT

Light of Belief

March 22, 2020
Fourth Sunday of Lent

March

**"Jesus said to him
[the man born blind],
'You have seen him, and
the one speaking with
you is he.' He said,
'I do believe, Lord,'
and he worshiped him."**

—John 9:37-38



LENT

Light in the Darkness

March 29, 2020
Fifth Sunday of Lent

March

**"Lazarus, come out!"
The dead man came out,
tied hand and foot with burial bands,
and his face was wrapped in a cloth.
So Jesus said to them,
'Untie him and let him go.'"**

—John 9:37-38

**HOLY
WEEK**

“It is finished.

—John 19:30



April 5, 2020
Palm Sunday of
the Passion of the Lord

April

Joyful, Joyful



April 12, 2020
Easter Sunday of
the Resurrection of the Lord

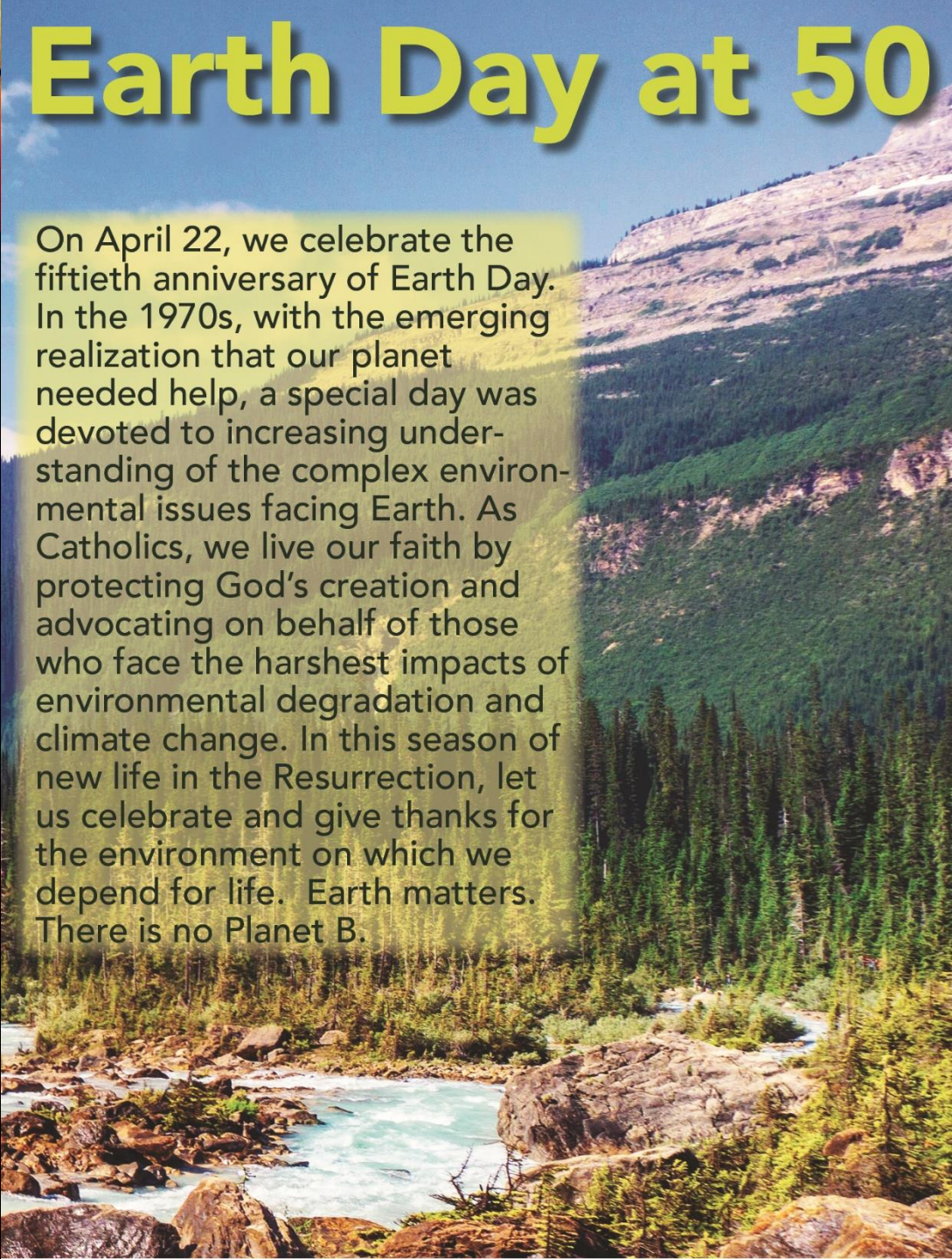
April

Earth Day at 50

On April 22, we celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of Earth Day. In the 1970s, with the emerging realization that our planet needed help, a special day was devoted to increasing understanding of the complex environmental issues facing Earth. As Catholics, we live our faith by protecting God's creation and advocating on behalf of those who face the harshest impacts of environmental degradation and climate change. In this season of new life in the Resurrection, let us celebrate and give thanks for the environment on which we depend for life. Earth matters. There is no Planet B.

April 19, 2020
Second Sunday of Easter

April



IN THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

In today's Gospel (Luke 24:13-35), we learn more about how the first community of disciples came to believe that Jesus had risen from the dead. Cleopas and an unnamed person are walking along the road to Emmaus and unknowingly encounter and converse with the risen Christ. The disciples invite the stranger to stay with them, and they share a meal. When Jesus takes bread, blesses, breaks, and gives it to them, their eyes are opened and they recognize who he is. In the Eucharist, we too share in the breaking of bread and discover Jesus in our midst.



Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio • **The Supper at Emmaus**, 1601 • National Gallery, London

April 26, 2020
Third Sunday of Easter

April

HOLY MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Dedicating the month of May to our Blessed Mother is a tradition that goes back centuries. Pope Francis has asked Catholics to make a special effort this month to unite with others around the world in asking for Mary's intercession in confronting the coronavirus pandemic.

“... contemplating the face of Christ with the heart of Mary our Mother will make us even more united as a spiritual family and will help us overcome this time of trial.

—Pope Francis
April 25, 2020

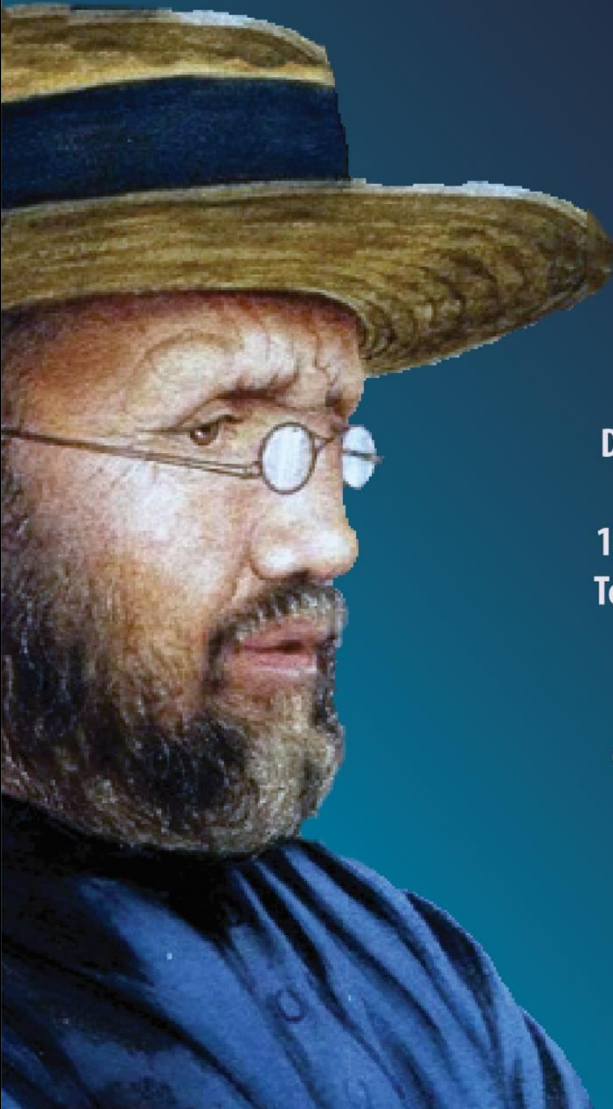
May 3, 2020
Fourth Sunday of Easter

May



Damien of Molokai

Saint of Service



DAMIEN DE VEUSTER, a young Belgian priest, had served nine years as a missionary in the Hawaiian Islands when he felt called to request a perilous assignment. He asked his superiors to be allowed to serve on the island of Molokai, the notorious leper colony. Conditions on the island were horrific. Fr. Damien served there for the rest of his life. He died of leprosy in 1889 and was canonized in 2009. Today (May 10) is the feast day of St. Damien of Molokai.

In our own time, during the coronavirus pandemic, saints of service like St. Damien tend to the sick and dying, provide compassionate care amidst complex challenges, and place the needs of others before their own. Pray for them.

May 10, 2020
Fifth Sunday of Easter

May

Everything *Is* Connected

During the week of May 16-24, the global Catholic community celebrates the fifth anniversary of Pope Francis's landmark encyclical, *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*. In this document, the Holy Father offers a vision for building a more just and sustainable world. The lessons of the encyclical can provide a path forward as societies emerge from the coronavirus pandemic, which has brought to many parts of the world sickness and death, social and educational challenges, and economic uncertainty. Inspired by the theme "Everything Is Connected," Laudato Si' Week calls us to use the teachings of Pope Francis to guide our actions as we struggle, grow, and transform through this crisis together.



May 17, 2020
Sixth Sunday of Easter

May

The Great Commission

“

“Go, therefore,
and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of
the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit,
teaching them to observe
all that I have
commanded you.

—*Matthew 28:19-20*



May 24, 2020
Seventh Sunday of Easter

May

PENTECOST

COME HOLY SPIRIT,
FILL THE HEARTS OF YOUR FAITHFUL
AND KINDLE IN THEM THE FIRE OF YOUR LOVE.
SEND FORTH YOUR SPIRIT
AND THEY SHALL BE CREATED.
AND YOU SHALL RENEW THE FACE OF THE EARTH.



Daniel Gran, Ceiling fresco in the Herzogenburg Abbey Church (Lower Austria), *The Miracle of Pentecost*

May 31, 2020
Pentecost Sunday

May

This week we return to the liturgical season of Ordinary Time. This Sunday and next, however, are designated as solemnities—special days that call our attention to central mysteries of our faith. Today on Trinity Sunday we celebrate the mystery of the Holy Trinity, one God in three persons. The reading from the Gospel of John calls our attention to the action of God, who reveals himself in three persons: God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

TRINITY SUNDAY

June 3, 2020
The Most Holy Trinity



Andrei Rublev, *Trinity*, 1410-1420, Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow

June

THE GREAT GIFT



This Sunday the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, traditionally known by its Latin title, Corpus Christi. Today's observance recognizes the great gift of the Real Presence of Our Lord in the Holy Eucharist. When we share in the Body and Blood of Christ, Jesus himself comes to dwell within us. This communion with the Lord makes us one body and sends us forth to be Christ's Body in the world.

June 14, 2020
Corpus Christi

June

“I am the voice
of one crying
in the wilderness.
'Make straight
the way of the Lord.'”

On Wednesday of this week (June 24) we celebrate the Solemnity of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist. This is an ancient feast, reaching back to the fourth century. John the Baptist, herald of Jesus the Messiah, prepared the way of the Lord and revealed Jesus to others as both the Messiah and the Lamb of God.

St. John the Baptist, Prophet

June 21, 2020
Twelfth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

June



Bartolomé Esteban Murillo
The Infant St. John with the Lamb, ca. 1660
National Gallery, London

Giants of the Church



This week (June 29) we celebrate the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles. Peter was a Galilean fisherman and bold follower of Jesus. He and Jesus were good friends. Peter was called directly by our Lord and given “the keys to the kingdom.” He became the first bishop of Rome. Paul, on the other hand, probably never met Jesus. Before receiving the name Paul, he was Saul, a Jewish Pharisee who zealously persecuted Christians. Following his conversion, he spent the remainder of his life preaching the Gospel to the Gentiles of the Mediterranean world. While different in life, Peter and Paul suffered similar deaths, by martyrdom, at about the same time (64-67 A.D.).

Carlo Crivelli
Saints Peter and Paul
Part of the Porto San Giorgio Altarpiece (1470)

June 28, 2020
Thirteenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

June

God's Rest

Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.

The final verses of Chapter 11 of Matthew's Gospel (11: 28-30) are among the most familiar. This passage is an invitation from our Lord to those who are weary and burdened, and that includes most of us at some time. We might hear it spoken to all who are working tirelessly to address the effects of COVID-19. We might hear it addressed to those who are weary and burdened while waiting for justice. The "Rest" that Jesus offers is God's rest. This form of rest restores life to our wearied spirits. It frees us to open ourselves to new possibilities and to be there for others. Let each of us spend time each day entering into God's rest.

July 5, 2020
Fourteenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

July



Rich Soil

“ . . . the seed sown on
rich soil is the one who
hears the word and under-
stands it, who indeed bears
fruit and yields a hundred or
sixty or thirtyfold.

—*Matthew 13:23*

July 12, 2020
Fifteenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

July

Mustard, Wheat, and Weeds

What is heaven like?
People asked Jesus this
question. In response, he
told them about seeds.

Today's reading, from Mat-
thew (Chapter 13), continues
Jesus' Parables Discourse. Two
short parables—about a mus-
tard seed and yeast—and a long
one about wheat and weeds propose to tell us what
the Kingdom is "like." Each image suggests the
abundance that God brings out of the smallest of
signs of the Kingdom.

July 19, 2020
Sixteenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

July





BURIED TREASURE

**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.**

—Matthew 13:44

July 26, 2020
Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July

Trust *in the* ABUNDANCE of GOD

Today's reading from Matthew (Chapter 14) is the story of Jesus' multiplication of the loaves and fish, an account that appears in each of the four Gospels. Surrounded by a crowd of followers seated on the grass, Jesus takes five loaves and two fish, says a blessing, and feeds the multitudes, with enough left over to fill twelve baskets. This miracle story is an anticipation of the Eucharist in which we are fed by the abundant grace of God.

August 2, 2020
Eighteenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

August



Fifth-century mosaic floor before the altar, Church of the Multiplication of the Loaves and Fishes, Tabgha, Sea of Galilee, Israel



The **St. Edith Stein** *Story*

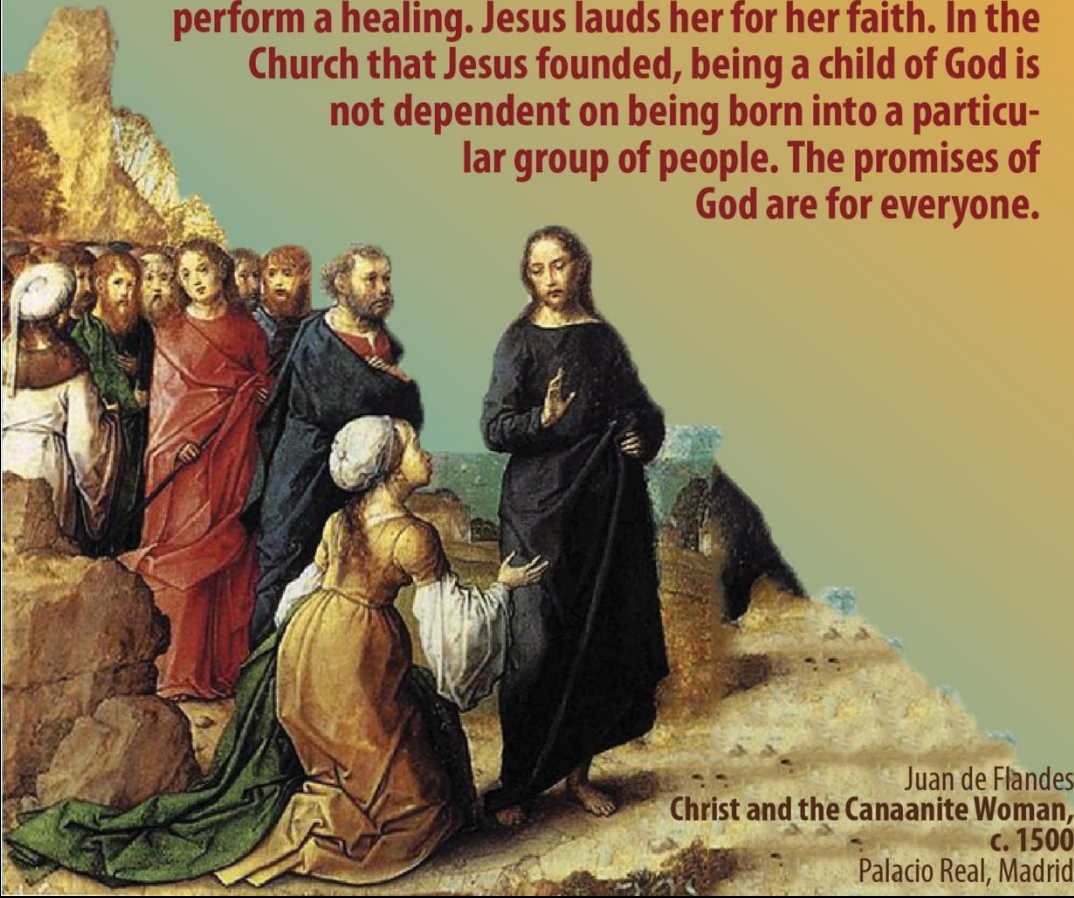
On August 9 the church celebrates the feast day of the Carmelite Sister Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (St. Edith Stein). Born of observant Jewish parents in Breslau, Germany, in 1891, Edith Stein became an atheist by her teenage years. She devoted herself to the study of philosophy and was a prolific writer. Inspired by an autobiography of St. Teresa of Avila, she was baptized in 1922 and became a Carmelite in 1934. She died in the gas chamber of Auschwitz on August 9, 1942, because of her Jewish ancestry and is regarded as a modern martyr. She was canonized in 1998 by Pope John Paul II.

August 9, 2020
Nineteenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

August

EVERYONE BELONGS

A major part of Jesus' ministry was to break down cultural barriers that divided people and to encourage a new way of looking at people, especially a society's outcasts. In today's Gospel, we hear the story of the Canaanite mother, a Gentile, who seeks healing for her daughter. Jesus initially ignores her request, but the woman persists and convinces him to perform a healing. Jesus lauds her for her faith. In the Church that Jesus founded, being a child of God is not dependent on being born into a particular group of people. The promises of God are for everyone.



Juan de Flandes
Christ and the Canaanite Woman,
c. 1500
Palacio Real, Madrid

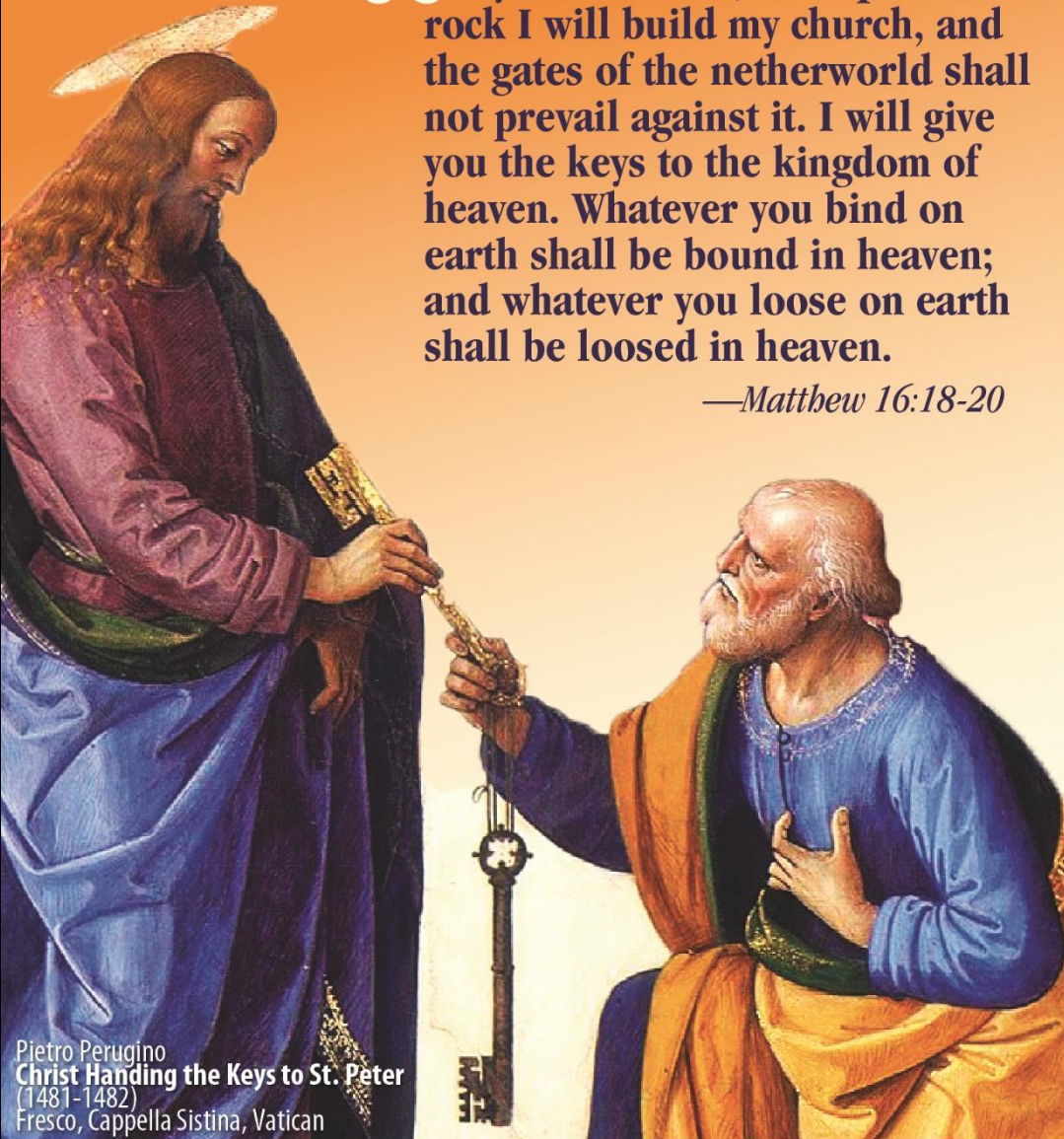
August 16, 2020
Twentieth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

August

Keys to the Kingdom

“... you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

—*Matthew 16:18-20*



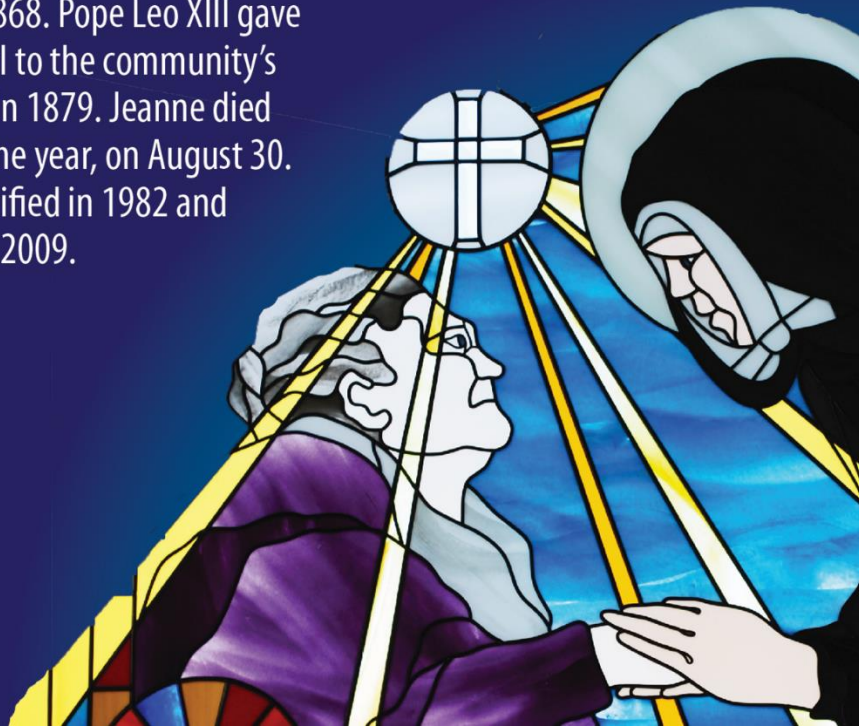
Pietro Perugino
Christ Handing the Keys to St. Peter
(1481-1482)
Fresco, Cappella Sistina, Vatican

August 23, 2020
Twenty-First Sunday
in Ordinary Time

August

HOSPITALITY *and* FRATERNAL LOVE

Today (August 30) is the feast day of St. Jeanne Jugan, foundress of the Little Sisters of the Poor. Jeanne Jugan (1792-1879) was born into a poor family in northern France and devoted her early years to assisting people in need. By 1839, she realized her mission was to care for abandoned poor and elderly and formed a religious association of women, the Little Sisters of Poor. The Congregation expanded in Europe and came to America in 1868. Pope Leo XIII gave final approval to the community's constitution in 1879. Jeanne died later that same year, on August 30. She was beatified in 1982 and canonized in 2009.



August 30, 2020
Twenty-Second Sunday
in Ordinary Time

August



WORK and WORKERS

ON LABOR DAY WEEKEND
we reflect on the Church's history of
honoring the dignity of work and
advocating for the rights of work-
ers. This Labor Day our thoughts
turn especially to those whose
livelihoods and security have
been affected by the corona-
virus pandemic. Amidst the
unequal impacts of
COVID-19, many commu-
nities are experiencing
deep economic dis-
parities and the
devastating
impacts of sys-
temic injustices.
Let us pray for
justice and
healing.

September 6, 2020
Twenty-Third Sunday
in Ordinary Time

September

The background image shows a flock of birds, possibly terns, flying over a body of water. In the foreground, a large, dark metal chain is draped across the water's surface. The sky is a mix of blue and white, suggesting a bright day.

Forgive *and* Be Forgiven

September 13, 2020
Twenty-Fourth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

September

Today's Gospel
(Matthew 18:21-35) is
about mercy and forgiveness. In
the parable of the unforgiving servant, Peter
asks Jesus how often he should forgive
people in his community. Peter proposes
seven times, but Jesus responds seventy-
seven times, suggesting there is no limit on
forgiveness. You must always forgive. Forgiv-
eness is not about quantity. Through the pa-
rable we come to understand the depths of
God's mercy toward us and the results of our
acceptance of God's forgiveness.

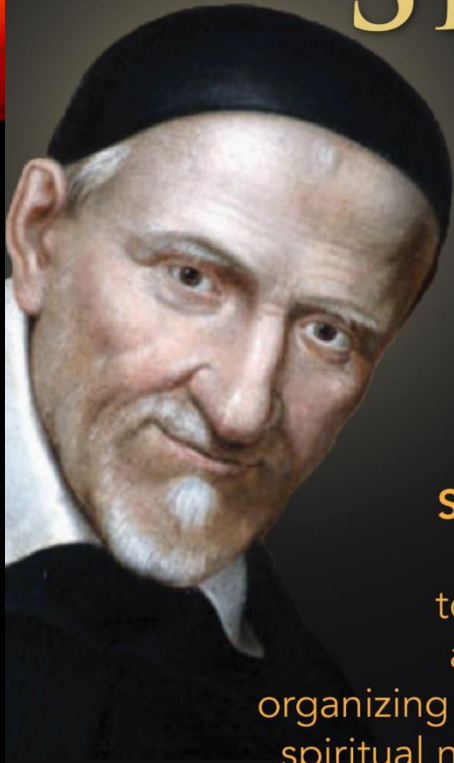
GOD's JUSTICE

On the surface, the parable of the workers in the vineyard (Matthew 20:1-16) appears to be an offense to common sense. People who work an hour in the late afternoon are paid the same as those who work all day long. This doesn't seem fair. But God doesn't think like we do. The landowner acted justly and is abundantly generous. No one is cheated. God thinks in terms of people's dignity, their right to a decent life. Such is God's justice.



September 20, 2020
Twenty-Fifth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

September



SERVANT OF THE POOR

The French priest **St. Vincent de Paul** (1581-1660), whose memorial is celebrated today, had a passion for the poor and a genius for networking and organizing others to meet the material and spiritual needs of those on the margins of society. He inspired works of charity, established hospitals, and founded two religious orders. Pope Leo XIII named him the patron of all charitable societies. Outstanding among these is the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, founded in 1833 by Vincent de Paul's admirer Blessed Frédéric Ozanam. Vincent de Paul died on September 27, 1660, and was canonized in 1737.

September 27, 2020
Twenty-Sixth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

September



The **HOLY ROSARY**

A SCRIPTURAL PRAYER

THE MONTH OF OCTOBER each year is dedicated to the Most Holy Rosary to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary in gratitude for the protection that she gives the Church in answer to the praying of the Rosary by the faithful. The practice of dedicating the month of October to the Holy Rosary developed toward the end of the nineteenth century. Pope Leo XIII strongly promoted the increase of devotion to the Blessed Mother by encouraging the use of the Rosary. He issued twelve encyclicals on the Rosary between 1883 and 1898.

October 4, 2020
Twenty-Seventh Sunday
in Ordinary Time

October

On **Fraternity and Social Friendship**

ON THE FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS (October 4), Pope Francis released the third encyclical letter of his papacy, titled “Fratelli Tutti” (On Fraternity and Social Friendship). The Holy Father traveled to Assisi to sign the social encyclical at the tomb of St. Francis. The pope noted that the saint used the phrase “Fratelli Tutti” as he “addressed his brothers and sisters and proposed to them a way of life marked by the flavor of the Gospel.” Francis calls all people to recognize our common fraternity and suggests ways we can build a more just, peaceful world, one in which



we recognize
each other as
brothers and
sisters of one
human family.

Pope Francis signs his encyclical “Fratelli Tutti” after celebrating Mass at the Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi, Italy, October 3, 2020.
(CNS photo/Vatican Media)

October 11, 2020
Twenty-Eighth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

October

St. Luke, Evangelist



St. Luke (first century) was the author of one of the four Gospels as well as the Acts of the Apostles. His feast day is celebrated on October 18. A Gentile from Antioch, in Syria, Luke accompanied St. Paul on some of his journeys, remaining with Paul when he was imprisoned in Rome. Luke's Gospel is marked by a special concern for the poor, the marginalized, women, and social outcasts. Luke never met Jesus. His knowledge of Jesus came from his encounter with the Risen Lord, present in the Christian communities he described in Acts.

October 18, 2020
Twenty-Ninth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

October

The Greatest Commandments

LOVE GOD

LOVE YOUR
NEIGHBOR

—Matthew 22:34-40



October 25, 2020
Thirtieth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

October

ALL SAINTS




On the Solemnity of All Saints, the Church recalls the holy women and men who have been identified by the Church as Saints. They are more than just role models; they are family members with whom we continue to share a relationship, in a bond of prayer, called the Communion of Saints. The Gospel proclaimed today is the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12). Saints are people who lived the spirit of the Beatitudes as Jesus lived. On this day, we too are challenged to model our lives on the spirit and promises of the Beatitudes.

November 1, 2020
All Saints

November

BE PREPARED

Scholars tell us that it was a wedding custom in first-century Palestine for young maidens to meet the bridegroom when he came to bring his bride to her new home. In the parable of the wise and foolish virgins, Jesus teaches his disciples about the importance of being prepared to receive the Kingdom of Heaven. He tells them to remain vigilant so that they will not be caught unprepared, like the foolish virgins.



Ten virgins "took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones, when taking their lamps, brought no oil with them, but the wise brought flasks of oil with their lamps" (Matthew 25:1-4).

November 8, 2020
Thirty-Second Sunday
in Ordinary Time

November

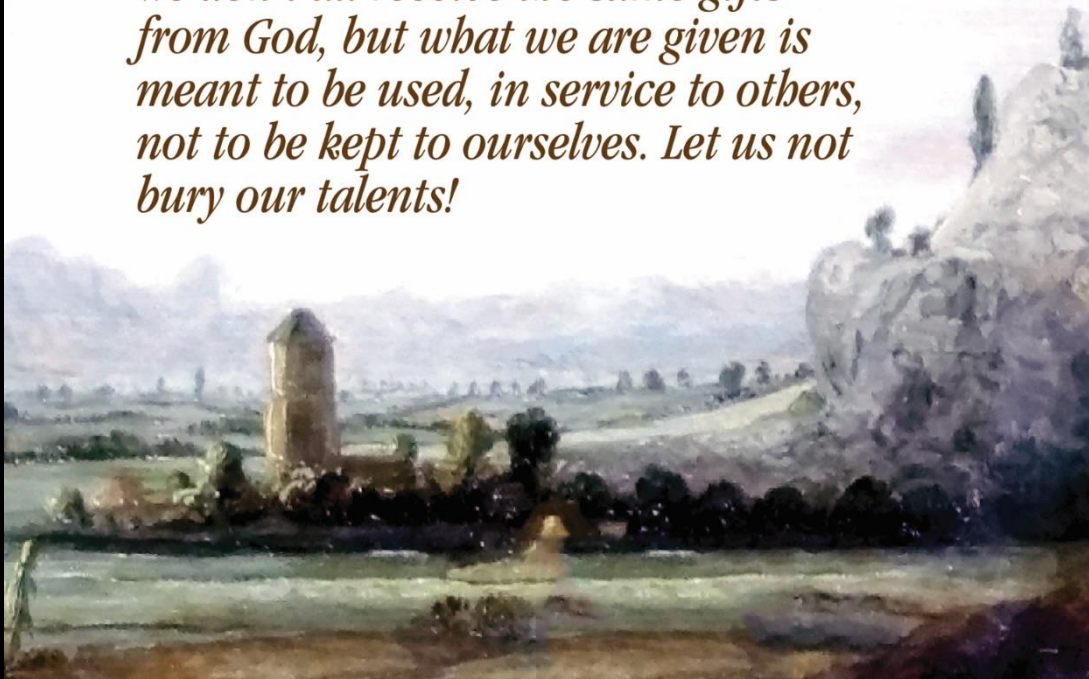
Today's Gospel (Matthew 25:14-30) speaks to us about how Jesus' disciples are to conduct themselves as they await the Kingdom of Heaven. Before he leaves on a journey, the master entrusts to each of his three servants a different number of "talents" (a coin of great value in Jesus' day), to assure that the money will be put to good use during his absence. The three servants respond differently to the resources their master gave them.

The **Parable** *of the* **Talents**

We don't all receive the same gifts from God, but what we are given is meant to be used, in service to others, not to be kept to ourselves. Let us not bury our talents!

November 15, 2020
Thirty-Third Sunday
in Ordinary Time

November



A THANKFUL PEOPLE

If the only prayer
you ever say in your
entire life is
Thank You,
it will be enough.

—*Meister Eckhart*,
Dominican Theologian and Mystic,
1260-1329



November 22, 2020
Our Lord Jesus Christ
King of the Universe

November

Advent WATCHFULNESS

TODAY WE BEGIN THE SEASON OF ADVENT and a new liturgical year. This four-week period has a twofold emphasis, as we await both the Christmas feast of Christ's Incarnation and his second coming at the end of time. This Sunday's Gospel (Mark 13:33-37) opens with Jesus' words to his disciples, "Be watchful! Be alert!" Like the disciples, we too must remain alert and watchful, open to God's presence in our world and the moments of grace that come our way.

November 29, 2020
First Sunday of Advent

November



Advent PREPARE THE WAY

TODAY'S GOSPEL begins with the appearance of John the Baptist in the desert. On this the Second Sunday of Advent, we are invited to reflect on the role of John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Jesus and the salvation that he would bring. John the Baptist is presented as a model during Advent. We, too, are called upon to prepare a way for the Lord. This means going up the mountain and into the desert, setting aside everyday distractions to dedicate more time to preparing our hearts and minds for the Nativity of the Lord.

December 6, 2020
Second Sunday of Advent

December



Rejoice!

Advent
Gaudete in
Domino semper!
Rejoice in the
Lord always!

—*Philippians 4:4*

TRADITIONALLY, the third Sunday of Advent has been called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete, “Rejoice” in Latin, is the first word of today’s Entrance Antiphon. How are we to rejoice in these times of illness, separation, despair, and loss? Let us think about how God has acted in our midst, transforming us through the varied experiences of these days. While physically distant, perhaps we have come to see others with greater clarity. An invisible virus has shown us how interconnected we are, that the actions of one have effects on others. We are one body.

December 13, 2020
Third Sunday of Advent

December





Advent Awe and Wonder

TODAY, THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, we hear the account of the angel Gabriel's visit to Mary, a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, to announce the birth of Jesus. The story of the Annunciation is found only in Luke's Gospel (1:26-38). Mary greeted the angel's news with awe and wonder.

The Annunciation calls our attention to God's wondrous action in human history. God chose a human person to give birth to his Son. Thus Jesus was born as one of us, fully human and also fully divine.

This is the mystery we prepare to celebrate at Christmas, the mystery of the Incarnation.

December 20, 2020
Fourth Sunday of Advent

December



The Holy Family of Humankind

TODAY the Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family. In today's Gospel we are told that Mary and Joseph present Jesus at the Temple in accordance with the Law of Moses. When we think about all that happens in this story we realize that today's observance is about more than a nuclear family of two parents and an only child. It is a celebration of human community and families of many forms and loving relationships. The family we celebrate today is the whole, holy family of humankind, bound together across the ages by the God who loves us.

Ambrogio Lorenzetti
Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, 1342
Uffizi Gallery, Florence

December 27, 2020
The Holy Family of
Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

December