



HOLY FAMILY
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Small Christian Communities Gatherings in Grace

*The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity
June 15, 2025*

through

*22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 31, 2025*

*“For where
two or three
have gathered
together
in my name,
I am there
in their midst”*

(Matthew 18:20)

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COVENANT PRAYER

*Loving God, we are thankful for this Small Christian Community, Gathered in Grace,
to hear your Word and share Your Good News*

for the salvation of the world.

*We believe Jesus is present and continues
to break open the Word and speak to our hearts
as once He did for His disciples.*

*Open our minds, our hearts and our lips
so that what we hear we will understand,
what we understand we will share.*

*Remind us of the needs of our community, our church
and our world as we strive to know your Word.*

*Give us the strength to be present to one another
and while in this community may we always
be respectful of each other and honor a spirit
of confidentiality and trust.*

*Temper our differences with love and understanding,
and call us all to mutual respect and compassion.*

*May this community and the covenant we share,
be a reflection of the covenant you made with our ancestors,
a bond that is only strengthened and deepened each time
we gather to know, love and serve You.*

*When our time of prayer and reflection is complete,
may your Spirit be with us as we,
together with our larger community of faith,
live the Word in our world.*

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen!

GRACE MOMENTS

Share your experience of one of the following Adventures in Grace spiritual exercises since you last met:

1. Grace is God's Presence and Gift of Self. When, where, and/or how did I experience Grace?
2. Baptism is being drenched in the mysterious Love of God. How did I experience myself as baptized?
3. What gift was I able to affirm, call forth, give thanks for?
4. How did I mediate the Grace of Mercy to someone or in some situation.
5. How was I fed/nourished spiritually?

LECTIO DIVINA (Sacred Reading)

Settle into silence for a moment. Remember that God is always present. Allow silence to take root for several long moments.

Someone volunteers to read the First Reading. Invite the group to open their hearts to the passage, be curious, and listen as if they are hearing it for the first time. Listen for a word, phrase, thought, or image that speaks to them today. The text is then read slowly and meditatively. After a moment of silence, continue with the discussion questions for the reading.

Repeat this format for the Second Reading.

Repeat this format for the Gospel, but after the reading and moment of silence, invite group members to speak their word, phrase, thought, or image aloud with no elaboration or discussion. They may also "pass." When all who wish to speak have done so, silently meditate on what has been shared for a few moments, then continue with the discussion questions for the Gospel.

At the end of the discussion, invite everyone to offer prayers of petition. Conclude with:

"For these prayers that we speak, and for those we hold in the silence of our hearts, we pray together in the words that Jesus taught us, 'Our Father, ...' Amen."

Small Christian Community Guide

The Most Holy Trinity through 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Solemnity of The Most Holy Trinity. . . . 5 June 15, 2025	17 th Sunday of Ordinary Time. 17 July 27, 2025
Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ 7 June 22, 2025	18 th Sunday in Ordinary Time 19 August 3, 2025
Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul.9 June 29, 2025	19 th Sunday in Ordinary Time 22 August 10, 2025
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Solemnity of The Most Holy Trinity June 15, 2025

FIRST READING

Proverbs 8:22-31

A reading from the Book of Proverbs.

Thus says the wisdom of God:

"The LORD possessed me, the beginning of his ways, the forerunner of his prodigies of long ago; from of old I was poured forth, at the first, before the earth.

When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no fountains or springs of water; before the mountains were settled into place, before the hills, I was brought forth; while as yet the earth and fields were not made, nor the first clods of the world.

"When the Lord established the heavens I was there, when he marked out the vault over the face of the deep;

when he made firm the skies above, when he fixed fast the foundations of the earth; when he set for the sea its limit, so that the waters should not transgress his command;

then was I beside him as his craftsman, and I was his delight day by day, playing before him all the while, playing on the surface of his earth; and I found delight in the human race."

SECOND READING

Romans 5:1-5

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters:

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in hope of the glory of God.

Not only that, but we even boast of our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance proven character, and proven character, hope, and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

GOSPEL

John 16:12-15

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:

"I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now. But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all the truth. He will not speak on his own, but will speak what he hears, and will declare to you the things that are coming.

He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

Everything that the Father has is mine; for this reason I told you that he will take what is mine and declare it to you."

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FIRST READING

Wisdom originates from God. We have an amazing opportunity to choose to align with God's wisdom that exists within our being.

- Have you experienced a time when your attempt to defy God's wisdom led you down the wrong path, away from God's presence?
- How do you feel when you discern and choose to follow God's given Wisdom?

SECOND READING

- The three persons of the Blessed Trinity each provide us with a means of comfort and relationship to God. How have you experienced the gifts of the Spirit?
- If we are disheartened by world events which feel beyond our control or are currently suffering from a personal affliction, how might we use this reading from Romans to access God's healing peace through Christ?

GOSPEL

As Jesus says farewell to his disciples and prepares to return to God, he tells them that the Holy Spirit will always be with the community.

- How do you experience the presence and truth of the Holy Spirit in your life, SCC, in our parish community?

Solemnity of The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ June 22, 2025

FIRST READING

Genesis 14:18-20

A reading from the Book of Genesis.

In those days, Melchizedek, king of Salem, brought out bread and wine, and being a priest of God Most High, He blessed Abram with these words:

“Blessed be Abram by God Most High,
the creator of heaven and earth;
and blessed be God Most High,
who delivered your foes into your hand.”
Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Brothers and sisters;
I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus, on the night he was handed over, took bread, and, after he had given thanks, broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way, he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes.

Solemnity of The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ • June 22, 2025

GOSPEL

Luke 9.11b-17

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus spoke to the crowds about the kingdom of God, and healed those who needed to be cured. As the day was drawing to a close, the Twelve approached him and said, “Dismiss the crowd so that they can go to the surrounding villages and farms and find lodging and provisions; for we are in a deserted place here.”

He said to them, “Give them some food yourselves.”

They replied, “Five loaves and two fish are all we have, unless we ourselves go and buy food for all these people.”

Now the men there numbered about five thousand. Then he said to his disciples, “Have them sit down in groups of about fifty.”

They did so and made them all sit down. Then taking the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he said the blessing over them, broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. They all ate and were satisfied. And when the leftover fragments were picked up, they filled twelve wicker baskets.

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FIRST READING

On this Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, we recall the simple elements of the Mediterranean diet as staple to our celebration of the Eucharist.

- How has the gift of the Eucharist blessed you? How can you take this remembrance into your life this week?

SECOND READING

- As recalled here by Saint Paul, the Institution of the Eucharist is a key aspect of our Catholic Mass. The Eucharist is a powerful reminder that everything we have is a gift from God.
- Do you see your life as a gift from God? How do you share that gift with others?

GOSPEL

Jesus challenges us to look at 2 contradictory values: every person for themselves (the disciples) or communal responsibility and common good (Jesus).

- Have you ever struggled to reconcile these 2 values in your own life? How have you lived out Jesus’ teaching of service to others.

Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles June 29, 2025

FIRST READING

Acts 12:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

In those days, King Herod laid hands upon some members of the Church to harm them. He had James, the brother of John, killed by the sword, and when he saw that this was pleasing to the Jews he proceeded to arrest Peter also. -It was the feast of Unleavened Bread.- He had taken him into custody and put in prison under the guard of four squads of four soldiers each. He intended to bring him before the people after Passover. Peter thus was being kept in prison, but prayer by the Church was fervently being made to God on his behalf.

On the very night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter, secured by double chains, was sleeping between two soldiers, while outside the door guards kept watch on the prison. Suddenly the angel of the Lord stood by him and a light shone on the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and awakened him, saying, "Get up quickly." The chains fell from his wrists. The angel said to him, "Put on your belt and your sandals." He did so. Then he said to him, "Put on your cloak and follow me." So, he followed him out, not realizing that what was happening through the angel was real; he thought he was seeing a vision. They passed the first guard, then the second, and came to the iron gate leading out to the city, which opened for them by itself. They emerged and made their way down an alley, and suddenly the angel left him. Then Peter recovered his senses and said, "Now I know for certain that the Lord sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people had been expecting."

SECOND READING

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18

A reading from the second letter to Timothy.

I, Paul, am already being poured out like a libation, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. From now on the crown of righteousness awaits me, which the Lord, the just judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but to all who have longed for his appearance.

The Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the proclamation might be completed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil threat and will bring me safe to his heavenly Kingdom. To him be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles • June 29, 2025

GOSPEL

Matthew 16:13-19

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

When Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” They replied, “Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”

Simon Peter said in reply, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Jesus said to him in reply, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father.

And so I say to you, 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.”

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FIRST READING

In 12:11, Peter “snaps out of it” and finally understands how much God has done for him.

- Recall a moment in your life when you really understood how much God has done for you. How did that make you feel?

SECOND READING

Paul professes both a weariness from his struggles, and a firm assurance that God has rescued him and continues to stand by him amid his trials.

- Have you felt God’s presence when you have been in the “lion’s mouth?” How would you describe that experience?

GOSPEL

Jesus tells Peter that he is the rock on which he will build the Church. But each of us also holds a piece of the foundation of the living Church.

- How do you envision your contribution? How can you live out that gift today within our church community?

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time July 6, 2025

FIRST READING

Isaiah 66:10-14c

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the LORD:

Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad because of her, all you who love her;

exult, exult with her,

all you who were mourning over her!

Oh that you may suck fully of the milk of her comfort, that you may nurse with delight at her abundant breasts!

For thus says the LORD:

Lo, I will spread prosperity over Jerusalem like a river, and the wealth of the nations like an overflowing torrent.

As nurslings, you shall be carried in her arms, and fondled in her lap;

As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you;

in Jerusalem you shall find your comfort.

When you see this, your heart shall rejoice and your bodies flourish like the grass; the LORD's power shall be known to his servants.

SECOND READING

Galatians 6:14-18

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians.

Brothers and sisters:

May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

For neither does circumcision mean anything, nor does uncircumcision, but only a new creation. Peace and mercy be to all who follow this rule and to the Israel of God.

From now on, let no one make troubles for me; for I bear the marks of Jesus on my body.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.

GOSPEL

Luke 10:1-12, 17-20

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

At that time the Lord appointed seventy-two others whom he sent ahead of him in pairs to every town and place he intended to visit. He said to them, “The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest. Go on your way; behold, I am sending you like lambs among wolves. Carry no money bag, no sack, no sandals; and greet no one along the way. Into whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace to this household.’

If a peaceful person lives there, your peace will rest on him; but if not, it will return to you. Stay in the same house and eat and drink what is offered to you, for the laborer deserves his payment. Do not move about from one house to another. Whatever town you enter and they welcome you eat what is set before you, cure the sick in it and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God is at hand for you.’ Whatever town you enter and they do not receive you, go out into the streets and say, ‘The dust of your town that clings to our feet, even that we shake off against you.’ Yet know this: the kingdom of God is at hand. I tell you, it will be more tolerable for Sodom on that day than for that town.”

The seventy-two returned rejoicing, and said, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us because of your name.”

Jesus said “I have observed Satan fall like lightning from the sky. Behold, I have given you the power to ‘tread upon serpents’ and scorpions and upon the full force of the enemy and nothing will harm you. Nevertheless do not rejoice because the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice because your names are written in heaven.”

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FIRST READING

In this passage from Isaiah, the Lord’s power showers upon a fragile yet nurturing and joyful mother, reflecting God’s promises of restoration and abundance. Isaiah implies that God’s judgment is part of a larger plan of redemption, where evil is eliminated and salvation is offered.

- How do you actively participate in the Church’s joy in how you experience God’s comfort and care?

SECOND READING

Paul presents a powerful message about the importance of the Cross in our daily lives, and the call to joyfully embrace it as a source of strength and grace.

- What does it mean to only boast in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ?
- Do I boast about my personal accomplishments or those of God working through me?

GOSPEL

- Portrayed here by Luke, being called to go forth to spread the good news appears quite daunting. Are you intimidated by your call to be a disciple of Christ?
- Jesus assures us that we should not be hindered by worry over how precisely to share His Word, rather trust that the Holy Spirit will step in and help guide the conversation and the hearts of those listening. It’s the listener’s choice to either accept or reject God’s message. If I shared my faith in Jesus and everything He has done for me, how would I feel if the message is dismissed or even disparaged?
- Am I hesitant to share my faith and faith journey knowing that at times it will not be well received?
- Considering Luke’s teaching, what do I need to do to strengthen myself to “Be More,” so I don’t take rejection personally?

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time July 13, 2025

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 30:10-14

A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy.

Moses said to the people:

“If only you would heed the voice of the LORD, your God, and keep his commandments and statutes that are written in this book of the law, when you return to the LORD, your God, with all your heart and all your soul.

For this command that I enjoin on you today is not too mysterious and remote for you. It is not up on the sky, that you should say, ‘Who will go up in the sky to get it for us and tell us of it, that we may carry it out?’

Nor is it across the sea, that you should say ‘Who will cross the sea to get it for us and tell us of it that we may carry it out?’

No, it is something very near to you, already in your mouths and in your hearts; you have only to carry it out.”

SECOND READING

Colossians 1:15-20

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him were created all things in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers; all things were created through him and for him.

He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

He is the head of the body, the church.

He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things he himself might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile all things for him, making peace by the blood of his cross through him, whether those on earth or those in heaven.

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time • July 13, 2025

GOSPEL

Luke 10:25-37

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

There was a scholar of the law who stood up to test Jesus and said, “Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

Jesus said to him, “What is written in the law? How do you read it?”

He said in reply, “*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.*”

He replied to him, “You have answered correctly; do this and you will live.”

But because he wished to justify himself, he said to Jesus “And who is my neighbor?”

Jesus replied, “A man fell victim to robbers as he went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. They stripped and beat him and went off leaving him half-dead. A priest happened to be going down that road, but when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. Likewise a Levite came to the place, and when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side.

But a Samaritan traveler who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight.

He approached the victim, poured oil and wine over his wounds and bandaged them. Then he lifted him up on his own animal took him to an inn and cared for him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper with the instruction, ‘Take care of him. If you spend more than what I have given you, I shall repay you on my way back.’

Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the robbers’ victim?”

He answered, “The one who treated him with mercy.”

Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FIRST READING

Moses’ farewell speech is a poignant one. After wandering for 40 years, the whole group is gathered on the cliff overlooking the Promised Land. Moses gives a surprising teaching; the commandments they must keep are not given by an external authority, but rooted in their hearts by God.

- What has God rooted in your heart, something that no one needs to tell you, but that guides you in everything that you do? When do you hear this voice most?

SECOND READING

Colossians says that Jesus is the image of God, the firstborn, and the one who has created all things, but we are also created in God’s image and are all adopted sons and daughters of Christ.

- When you think about these words-being made in the image of, and adopted child of Christ, how does this make you feel? What is the joy and responsibility of these titles?

GOSPEL

Just before this story, a Samaritan town has rejected Jesus (Lk. 9:51-55). Instead of thinking about revenge, Jesus challenges the reader by asking an important question, “*to whom am I a neighbor?*” (rather than “Who is my neighbor?”).

- To whom are you a neighbor? To whom could you be a neighbor? How do you hear Jesus’ challenge right now?

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time July 20, 2025

FIRST READING

Genesis 18:1-10a

A reading from the Book of Genesis.

The LORD appeared to Abraham by the terebinth of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent, while the day was growing hot. Looking up, Abraham saw three men standing nearby.

When he saw them, he ran from the entrance of the tent to greet them; and bowing to the ground, he said:

“Sir, if I may ask you this favor, please do not go on past your servant. Let some water be brought, that you may bathe your feet, and then rest yourselves under the tree. Now that you have come this close to your servant let me bring you a little food that you may refresh yourselves; and afterward you may go on your way.”

The men replied, “Very well, do as you have said.”

Abraham hastened into the tent and told Sarah, “Quick, three measures of fine flour! Knead it and make rolls.”

He ran to the herd, picked out a tender, choice steer, and gave it to a servant, who quickly prepared it. Then Abraham got some curds and milk, as well as the steer that had been prepared, and set these before the three men; and he waited on them under the tree while they ate.

They asked Abraham, “Where is your wife Sarah?”

He replied, “There in the tent.”

One of them said, “I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah will then have a son.”

SECOND READING

Colossians 1:24-28

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

Brothers and sisters:

Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ on behalf of his body, which is the church, of which I am a minister in accordance with God’s stewardship given to me to bring to completion for you the word of God, the mystery hidden from ages and from generations past.

But now it has been manifested to his holy ones, to whom God chose to make known the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; it is Christ in you, the hope for glory. It is he whom we proclaim, admonishing everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time • July 20, 2025

Gospel

Luke 10:38-42

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus entered a village where a woman whose name was Martha welcomed him. She had a sister named Mary who sat beside the Lord at his feet listening to him speak.

Martha, burdened with much serving, came to him and said, “Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me by myself to do the serving? Tell her to help me.”

The Lord said to her in reply,

“Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her.”

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FIRST READING

Abraham and Sarah offer overflowing hospitality to the strangers who are passing by their tent. Whoever the strangers are-human or divine-they deserve the very best that Abraham’s household can offer.

- How can we welcome the stranger with this kind of overflowing hospitality rather than fear?

SECOND READING

Paul talks about the suffering he has endured in his apostolic role of bringing the gospel to many. But the suffering is not the headline here – every human being endures some suffering – the good news is found in last week’s reading; we have Christ in us.

- How do you experience this glorious mystery of Christ within you? How does it give you hope?

GOSPEL

Last week, Jesus challenged us to think about who we are neighbors to. This week he challenges us to remember that when we are in the presence of the Lord, we must set aside our busyness and listen.

- Imagine yourself sitting at the feet of the Lord. What would you need to set aside to be fully present to his word? What do you imagine he would say to you if you really listened?

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time July 27, 2025

First Reading

Genesis 18:20-32

A reading from the Book of Genesis.

In those days, the LORD said, “The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great, and their sin so grave, that I must go down and see whether or not their actions fully correspond to the cry against them that comes to me. I mean to find out.”

While Abraham’s visitors walked on farther toward Sodom, the LORD remained standing before Abraham. Then Abraham drew nearer and said: “Will you sweep away the innocent with the guilty? Suppose there were fifty innocent people in the city; would you wipe out the place, rather than spare it for the sake of the fifty innocent people in the city; would you wipe out the place, rather than spare it for the sake of the fifty innocent people within it? Far be it from you to do such a thing, to make the innocent die with the guilty so that the innocent and the guilty would be treated alike! Should not the judge of all the world act with justice?”

The LORD replied, “If I find fifty innocent people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake.”

Abraham spoke up again:

“See how I am presuming to speak to my Lord, though I am but dust and ashes! What if there are five less than fifty innocent people? Will you destroy the whole city because of those five?

He answered, “I will not destroy it, if I find forty-five there.”

But Abraham persisted, saying, “What if only forty are found there?”

He replied, “I will forbear doing it for the sake of the forty.”

Then Abraham said, “Let not my Lord grow impatient if I go on. What if only thirty are found there?” He replied, “I will forbear doing it if I can find but thirty there.”

Still Abraham went on, “Since I have thus dared to speak to my Lord, what if there are no more than twenty?”

The LORD answered, “I will not destroy it, for the sake of the twenty.”

But he still persisted:

“Please, let not my Lord grow angry if I speak up this last time. What if there are at least ten there?”

He replied, “For the sake of those ten, I will not destroy it.”

Second Reading

Colossians 2:12-14

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

Brothers and sisters:

You were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.

And even when you were dead in transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, he brought you to life along with him, having forgiven us all our transgressions; obliterating the bond against us, with its legal claims, which was opposed to us, he also removed it from our midst, nailing it to the cross.

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time • July 27, 2025

Gospel

Luke 11:1-13

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples.”

He said to them, “When you pray, say: ‘Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone in debt to us. And do not subject us to the final test.’”

And he said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend to whom he goes at midnight and says, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, for a friend of mine has arrived at my house from a journey and I have nothing to offer him,’ and he says in reply from within ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been locked and my children and I are already in bed. I cannot get up to give you anything.’

I tell you, if he does not get up to give the visitor the loaves because of their friendship, he will get up to give him whatever he needs because of his persistence.

And I tell you, ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. What father among you would hand his son a snake when he asks for a fish? Or hand him a scorpion when he asks for an egg?

If you then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?”

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FIRST READING

Abraham and Sarah’s overflowing hospitality is contrasted with the residents of Sodom’s lack of hospitality, mercy and compassion for those in need. The prophet Ezekiel says that the sin of Sodom is, “She and her daughters were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and the needy.”

- How has God’s mercy touched your life even when you feel you did not earn it? When have you shown someone mercy without thinking about if they deserved it or not?

SECOND READING

Paul explores the meaning of baptism and crucifixion. In both ways, Jesus removes our burdens and invites us to new life.

- How do you understand the importance of your baptism?
- How does God continue to “baptize” you by helping you to release burdens and live more full in Christ?

GOSPEL

In this passage, Jesus invites us into the practice of prayer. The prayer that he offers may be simple, but Jesus challenges us to be persistent, to pray often knowing that God will give us what we truly need.

- As you read Luke’s version of the “Our Father,” what does the prayer ask for? Perhaps pray this version as a group and then listen to what it is God is saying to you. Share what you hear.

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time August 3, 2025

First Reading

Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes.

Vanity of vanities, says Qoheleth,
vanity of vanities! All things are vanity!

Here is one who has labored with wisdom and
knowledge and skill, and yet to another who has not
labored over it, he must leave the property.
This also is vanity and a great misfortune.
For what profit comes to man from all the toil and
anxiety of heart with which he has labored under
the sun?

All his days sorrow and grief are his occupation;
even at night his mind is not at rest.
This also is vanity.

Second Reading

Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the
Colossians.**

Brothers and sisters:

If you were raised with Christ, seek what is above,
where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.
Think of what is above, not of what is on earth.
For you have died,
And your life is hidden with Christ in God.
When Christ your life appears,
then you too will appear with him in glory.

Put to death, then, the parts of you that are earthly:
Immortality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and the
greed that is idolatry.
Stop lying to one another,
since you have taken off the old self with its
practices and have put on the new self,
which is being renewed, for knowledge,
in the image of its creator.
Here there is not Greek and Jew,
Circumcision and uncircumcision,
Barbarian, Scythian, slave, free;
But Christ is all and in all.

Gospel

Luke 12:13-21

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, tell my brother to share the inheritance with me.”

He replied to him, “Friend, who appointed me as your judge and arbitrator?”

Then he said to the crowd, “Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one’s life does not consist of possessions.”

Then he told them a parable.

“There was a rich man whose land produced a bountiful harvest. He asked himself, ‘What shall I do, for I do not have space to store my harvest?’

And he said, ‘This is what I shall do:

I shall tear down my barns and build larger ones.

There I shall store all my grain and other goods and I shall say to myself, “Now as for you, you have so many good things stored up for many years, rest, eat, drink, be merry!”

But God said to him,

‘You fool, this night your life will be demanded of you; and the things you have prepared, to whom will they belong?’

Thus will it be for all who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich in what matters to God.”

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FIRST READING

The word that is translated as “vanity” means “breath” in Hebrew. All the things we labor for, worry over and try to store up like a single breath, gone in a moment. This is not a pessimistic view of life, but one meant to help us focus on what lasts.

- As you think about the word of this passage, what is like “breath” and what really matters in your life? How does this make you feel?

SECOND READING

In this last reading from Colossians in this cycle, Paul reaches a climax of his argument. If we have been baptized into a new life with Christ, it changes us. We enter into a community where we are meant to think about and care for one another.

- How is being a part of a community an important part of the spiritual life?
- What are the gifts a community offers that might not be available when you pray and worship alone?

GOSPEL

Jesus’ message is very clear: we do not have control over how long we live, only how we will live during the time God has given us. Personal gain is not happiness.

- Jesus provides a simple but powerful lesson in this gospel, one that can be hard to live. Where do you struggle with this in your life? Where have you seen evidence of God’s generosity?

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time August 10, 2025

First Reading

Wisdom 18:6-9

A reading from the Book of Wisdom.

The night of the Passover was known beforehand to our fathers, that with sure knowledge of the oaths in which they put their faith, they might have courage. Your people awaited the salvation of the just and the destruction of their foes. For when you punished our adversaries, in this you glorified us whom you had summoned. For in secret the holy children of the good were offering sacrifice and putting into effect with one accord the divine institution.

Second Reading

Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Brothers and sisters:

Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen. Because of it the ancients were well attested.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; he went out, not knowing where he was to go. By faith he sojourned in the promised land as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs of the same promise; for he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and maker is God. By faith he received power to generate, even though he was past the normal age – and Sarah herself was sterile-for he thought that the one who had made the promise was trustworthy.

So it was that there came forth from one man, himself as good as dead, descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sands on the seashore.

All these died in faith. They did not receive what had been promised but saw it and greeted it from afar and acknowledged themselves to be strangers and aliens on earth, for those who speak this show that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land from which they had come, they would have had opportunity to return. But now they desire a better homeland, a heavenly one.

Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them. By faith Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was ready to offer his only son, of whom it was said, “Through Isaac descendants shall bear your name.”

He reasoned that God was able to raise even from the dead and he received Isaac back as a symbol.

Gospel

Luke 12:32-48

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus said to his disciples,
 “Do not be afraid any longer, little flock, for your Father is pleased to give you the kingdom. Sell your belongings and give alms. Provide money bags for yourselves that do not wear out, and inexhaustible treasure in heaven that no thief can reach nor moth destroy. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.

“Gird your loins and light your lamps and be like servants who await their master’s return from a wedding, ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival.

Amen, I say to you, he will gird himself, have them recline at table, and proceed to wait on them. And should he come in the second or third watch and find them prepared in this way, blessed are those servants.

Be sure of this:

if the master of the house had known the hour when the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into.

You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.”

Then Peter said, “Lord, is this parable meant for us or for everyone?”

And the Lord replied,

“Who then, is the faithful and prudent steward whom the master will put in charge of his servants to distribute the food allowance at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master on arrival finds doing so.

Truly, I say to you, the master will put the servant in charge of all his property. But if that master says to himself, ‘My master is delayed in coming,’ and begins to beat the menservants and the maidservants, to eat and drink and get drunk, then that servant’s master will come on an unexpected day and at an unknown hour and will punish the servant severely and assign him a place with the unfaithful.

That servant who knew his master’s will but did not make preparations nor act in accord with his will shall be beaten severely; and the servant who was ignorant of his master’s will but acted in a way deserving of a severe beating shall be beaten only lightly.

Much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more.”

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FIRST READING

- Like the Israelites in the Book of Wisdom, how has your faith enabled you to endure and/or overcome hardships?
- The reading balances salvation of the just with the destruction of their foes. How do you understand this balance?

SECOND READING

Sarah never doubted that she would conceive, *“because she considered him faithful who had promised.”*

- When has your faith enabled you to receive something when you thought it was impossible?
- How has your faith guided you when you did not receive what you felt was promised?

GOSPEL

Jesus said, “For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.”

- What message was Jesus trying to convey with this statement? Where does your treasure lie?
- What does it mean to you to be “prepared?”

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time August 17, 2025

First Reading

Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah.

In those days, the princes said to the king: “Jeremiah ought to be put to death; he is demoralizing the soldiers who are left in this city and all the people, by speaking such things to them; he is not interested in the welfare of our people, but in their ruin.”

King Zedekiah answered: “He is in your power”; for the king could do nothing with them. And so they took Jeremiah and threw him into the cistern of Prince Malchiah, which was in the quarters of the guard, letting him down with ropes.

There was no water in the cistern, only mud, and Jeremiah sank into the mud.

Ebed-melech, a court official, went there from the palace and said to him: “My lord king, these men have been at fault in all they have done to the prophet Jeremiah, casting him into the cistern. He will die of famine on the spot, for there is no more food in the city.”

Then the king ordered Ebed-melech the Cushite to take three men along with him, and draw the prophet Jeremiah out of the cistern before he should die.

Second Reading

Hebrews 12:1-4

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Brothers and sisters:

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us and persevere in running the race that lies before us while keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the leader and perfecter of faith.

For the sake of the joy that lay before him he endured the cross, despising its shame, and has taken his seat at the right of the throne of God. Consider how he endured such opposition from sinners, in order that you may not grow weary and lose heart.

In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood.

Gospel

Luke 12:49-53

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

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 is accomplished! Do you think that I have come to establish peace on 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; a father will be divided against his son and a son against his father, a mother against her daughter and a daughter against her mother, a mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.”

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FIRST READING

- In the reading, Jeremiah is wrongly accused by the princes for stating his beliefs. When have you or someone you know been ridiculed for expressing your beliefs?
- Like Ebed-melech, have you ever spoken up in response to an injustice? What was the result?

SECOND READING

- The passage is intended to encourage us to persevere in our faith. Where do you find the faith to persevere in difficult times?
- Hebrews tells us that we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses – past and present. Who are the models for hope, courage and perseverance on your faith journey?

GOSPEL

- What is your reaction to Jesus’ statement, “Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division.” What do you think he means by this?
- Have faith issues ever caused a division between you and your family or friends? How have you moved forward with that division?

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time August 24, 2025

First Reading

Isaiah 66:18-21

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the LORD:

“I know their works and their thoughts, and I come to gather nations of every language; they shall come and see my glory.

I will set a sign among them; from them I will send fugitives to the nations:

to Tarshish, Put and Lud, Mosoch, Tubal and Javan, to the distant coastlands that have never heard of my fame, or seen my glory; and they shall proclaim my glory among the nations.

They shall bring all your brothers and sisters from all the nations as an offering to the LORD, on horses and in chariots, in carts, upon mules and dromedaries, to Jerusalem, my holy mountain, says the LORD, just as the Israelites bring their offering to the house of the LORD in clean vessels.

Some of these I will take as priests and Levites, says the LORD.

Second Reading

Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Brothers and sisters:

You have forgotten the exhortation addressed to you as children:

“My son, do not disdain the discipline of the Lord or lose heart when reproved by him; for whom the Lord loves, he disciplines; he scourges every son he acknowledges.”

Endure your trials as “discipline”;

God treats you as sons.

For what “son” is there whom his father does not discipline?

At the time, all discipline seems a cause not for joy but for pain, yet later it brings the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who are trained by it.

So strengthen your drooping hands and your weak knees. Make straight paths for your feet, that what is lame may not be disjointed but healed.

Gospel

Luke 13:22-30

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus passed through towns and villages, teaching as he went and making his way to Jerusalem. Someone asked him, “Lord, will only a few people be saved?”

He answered them,

“Strive to enter through a narrow gate, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough.

After the master of the house has arisen and locked the door, then will you stand outside knocking and saying, ‘Lord, open the door for us.’

He will say to you in reply, ‘I do not know where you are from.’

And you will say,

‘We ate and drank in your company and you taught in our streets.’

Then he will say to you,

‘I do not know where you are from. Depart from me, all you evildoers!’

And there will be wailing and grinding of teeth when you see Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God and you yourselves cast out.

And people will come from the east and the west and from the north and the south and will recline at table in the kingdom of God.

For behold, some are last who will be first and some are first who will be last.”

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FIRST READING

Isaiah calls all people to the central place of worship, which at the time was symbolized by Jerusalem. Everyone is included in this in-gathering.

- Reflect on your thoughts on *synodality* in our Church (remember, it simply means “walking together”). Although the synodal process began in Rome with Cardinals and select lay people, we are all called to walk this road to create and energized, faith-filled and renewed Church. How do you feel called to be a part of that process?

SECOND READING

- Hebrews tells us that the “*Lord disciplines those whom he loves.*” What does the word “discipline” mean to you in this context? Have you ever experienced the Lord’s discipline? How has it affected your life?

GOSPEL

- What are your thoughts about the “narrow gate” that we need to strive to enter? What will it take to enter through the “narrow gate”?
- The Gospel ends with: “*Indeed, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.*” What does this statement mean to you?

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time August 31, 2025

First Reading

Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29

A reading from the Book of Sirach.

My child, conduct your affairs with humility,
and you will be loved more than a giver of
gifts. Humble yourself the more, the greater
you are, and you will find favor with God.
What is too sublime for you, seek not, into
things beyond your strength search not. The
mind of a sage appreciates proverbs, and an
attentive ear is the joy of the wise.
Water quenches a flaming fire, and alms atone
for sins.

Second Reading

Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Brothers and Sisters:

You have not approached that which could be
touched and a blazing fire and gloomy darkness
and a storm and a trumpet blast and a voice
speaking words such that those who heard
begged that no message be further addressed to
them.

No, you have approached Mt. Zion
and the city of the living God, the heavenly
Jerusalem, and countless angels in festal
gathering, and the assembly of the firstborn
enrolled in heaven, and God is the judge of all,
and the spirits of the just made perfect,
and Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant,
and the sprinkled blood that speaks more
eloquently than that of Abel.

Gospel

Luke 14:1, 7-14

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

On a sabbath Jesus went to dine at the home of one of the leading Pharisees, and the people there were observing him carefully.

He told a parable to those who had been invited, noticing how they were choosing the places of honor at the table. “When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not recline at table in the place of honor. A more distinguished guest than you may have been invited by him, and the host who invited both of you may approach you and say, ‘Give your place to this man,’ and then you would proceed with embarrassment to take the lowest place.

Rather, when you are invited, go and take the lowest place so that when the host comes to you he may say, ‘My friend, move up to a higher position.’

Then you will enjoy the esteem of your companions at the table. For every one who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Then he said to the host who invited him, “When you hold a lunch or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or your wealthy neighbors, in case they may invite you back and you have repayment.

Rather, when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed you will be because of their inability to repay you.

For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FIRST READING

The passage emphasizes the role of humanity in pursuing wisdom. It presents the paradox of being greater by means of humbling oneself.

- What instruction and wisdom might you take from Sirach? Why do you think humility is considered a fundamental attitude of wisdom?
- Do you know someone who, despite their many accomplishments, has remained humble? How has this person inspired you?

SECOND READING

The reading highlights the contrast of the Israelites distancing themselves from God and the distinction of approaching God through the new covenant established by Jesus.

- When have you felt most distant from God?
- What practices do you follow to connect closer to God?

GOSPEL

- Jesus states that “when you hold a banquet, invite the crippled, the lame, the blind...because of their inability to pay you.” Why is it important to not look for repayment when helping someone else?
- Do you believe God invites everyone to the kingdom? How does this challenge you to see all people as the children of God?