

August 29, 2021



CHURCH OF THE
BLESSED Sacrament

“HEAR ME, ALL OF YOU, AND UNDERSTAND.”
- MK 7:14

22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

EXCERPTS FROM THE LECTIONARY FOR MASS ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LPI

2119 Stillwater Ave E St. Paul, MN 55119 651-738-0677 church@blessedsacramentsp.org
Mass Times: Saturday Anticipatory: 4 pm Sunday: 8:30 am & 11:00 am Daily, T-F 8:30am

Church of the Blessed Sacrament

True Disciple of Jesus

We live in a world filled with rules and restrictions. The rules — especially the laws — that govern our day-to-day lives are ideally there for the order of society and the safety of others.

Our introduction to rules comes early. It's hard to imagine a family that didn't have "household rules" about bedtimes, curfews, meals and snacks, and television. More recently, family rules have also come to include social networking and gaming. As we grow older, we encounter rules in school and in the workplace. In fact, while we might not think of them in this way, the policies and procedures that guide much of our academic and professional lives are, in fact, rules. This same reality holds true for the Church. Canon law and diocesan or parish policies set the course for the prayer and ministry of parishes and religious communities all over the world.

In the Gospel we hear proclaimed this Sunday, we're presented with a tense scene in which Jesus and His followers are being publicly criticized by certain religious leaders for disregarding rules of ritual washing.

Although something like ritual washings — including handwashing — might seem unimportant to us today, this act was an essential part of daily, religious observance for certain Jews at the time of Jesus. The Pharisees and scribes (two Jewish groups that prided themselves on their faithful religious observance) attacked Jesus and his disciples for not following the rules for purity that have been handed down to them.

These ritual acts of washing hands and feet go back to the Book of Exodus (cf. 30:19, 40:12) and were originally only intended for priests who were entering the Tent of Meeting. Centuries later, in the time of Jesus, some Jews who were not priests had begun to ritually wash before prayer and meals and had even extended the ritual to their cooking utensils and food. They believed that the customs they had adopted should be universal and that to be faithful meant that everyone would follow *their* religious customs and devotions.

Jesus, a poor tradesman from a poor village, would have understood that these kind of rules would have been nearly impossible for poor farmers and fishermen, especially given the scarcity of water and the frequent contact they would have had with dead fish and other things that would make them "ritually unclean." Only a privileged few could live by the strict rules of the Pharisees and scribes, most of whom were well-off and living in cities.

In response to the criticisms hurled at Him, Jesus reminded His critics of what is truly important by challenging them to change their focus: it isn't external realities that make us "unclean" or the observance of specific rules that ensures that we're in a right relationship with God. Instead, it is our intentions and the purity of our hearts that matter most to God: "Nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person; but the things that come out from within are what defile... From within people, from their hearts, come evil thoughts, unchastity, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, licentiousness, envy, blasphemy, arrogance, folly. All these evils come from within and they defile."

Rules and traditions are incredibly important, as they help us solidify our identity as Catholic-Christians. At the same time, we have to be sure that we don't become so fixated on the details


of certain traditions or teachings that we risk losing sight of what is most important: The Gospel of Jesus Christ. Rules and traditions — however important and venerable they may be — can never be an end in themselves. If they are good and worthwhile, they will always lead us to a closer relationship with God and help us live out our faith in ways that also lead others to God. We also must respect the integrity of Divine Revelation, understanding that Scripture and tradition go hand-in-hand and interpret one another, recognizing that these are guideposts for us as we walk along our pilgrim way. To focus on or ignore any one teaching or value while ignoring or dismissing others that are equally important is to risk undermining the integrity of the whole.

With this in mind, Pope Francis shared this reflection in *The Joy of the Gospel*: "Christian morality is not a form of stoicism, or self-denial, or merely a practical philosophy or a catalogue of sins and faults. Before all else, the Gospel invites us to respond to the God of love who saves us, to see God in others and to go forth from ourselves to seek the good of others. Under no circumstances can this invitation be obscured! All of the virtues are at the service of this response to love."

The second reading of this Sunday's Mass reminds us of what is essential if we are to call ourselves true disciples of Jesus: "Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deluding yourselves. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to care for orphans and widows in their affliction and to keep oneself unstained by the world" (James 1:22, 27). The invitation is for us to open our minds and hearts to look beyond the details of the "letter of the law," to find the freedom that comes from living according to the greatest commandments: love God and love one another.

Br. Silas Henderson, S.D.S.





Please join us for our
First Saturday
Healing/Anointing Mass
on Saturday, September 4
at 8:30am

Movement and Meditation Classes are set to Resume

The Fall Session is scheduled to start on September 13. This eight week session will last until November 1. Cost for the session is \$72. Classes will be held in the Robertson Room at 6:30 pm on Monday evenings and also via Zoom. To register, please call Carol in the parish office to let her know.



FROM THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

FOOD SHELF News

Here is a quick reminder that we collect food every week and deliver it to two local food shelves. Please try to make it a habit when you are grabbing your keys to drive up to church to consider grabbing something that you can put in the food shelf collection container in the gathering space. Please pay it forward and consider donating to this worthy cause.



Honoring our Military

We are always looking for more postings to go up on the new Military Honor board that is up on the wall just outside of the coatroom. Please consider bringing in a picture and dropping it off in the office. Joy will work with you on the information she needs for the posting. Special note: Watch for a new collection container for clothing for our Vietnam veterans coming real soon.

Altar Server needs

We have received two requests for funds to help our Altar Servers:

- A picnic and pontoon boat ride is being planned for our Altar Servers (and their parent) next month. We hope to raise \$200 for this event.
- Additional cassocks and surplices are needed for our Altar Servers.

We are hoping to raise \$250 to cover these expenses.

If you feel drawn to financially support these efforts, please drop off your contribution either in the collection basket or in the Collection box in the Gathering Space. Please put "Altar Server" on your contribution. Expect blessings!



SOCIAL CONCERNS FOR AUGUST

Our August mission supports the Catholic social teaching that education liberates. The Carmen Pampa Fund helps children in marginalized populations in Bolivia to have an affordable opportunity for a college education. Click to read about SOCIAL OUTREACH opportunities at Blessed Sacrament. We will take a second collection at Masses this weekend. Please mark your checks: "Pampa Fund."

ADORATION CHAPEL NEWS

Blessed Mother Teresa said that time spent with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the best time we will spend on earth. Come join Jesus in our Adoration Chapel. Our greatest need for adorers is on Tuesday during the 3pm and 5pm hours, also on Friday at 1pm. Call Kathy @ 651-247-5185 or the parish office.



S PARISH ADMINISTRATION 651-738-0677
T Rev. Benny Mekkatt, Pastor ext. 11
A John Florin, Business Administrator ext. 10
F Joy Hoffman, Administrative Coordinator ext. 12
F Deacon Jerry Saladin.....952-607-9636
D PASTORAL MINISTRY 651-738-0677
I Carol McKenna,ext. 15
R FAITH FORMATION & SAFE ENVIRONMENT 651-738-0677
E Connie Hill, Director ext. 14
C MUSIC
T Jan Meulemans, Director.....651-307-7865
O PRAYER LINE
R Please call Carol McKenna.....612-594-1290
Y CHURCH EMAIL: Church@blessedsacramentsp.org
PARISH COUNCIL: parishcouncil@blessedsacramentsp.org

S **BAPTISM** - Participation in the Baptism preparation program is a prerequisite for Baptism. Schedule with the Parish Office.
A **RECONCILIATION**— Saturday 3:00-3:45pm or by appointment on other days
C **MATRIMONY**- Make arrangements with the pastor at least six months before the date.
R **ANOINTING OF THE SICK** - Please call the parish office if you or a family member is going to be hospitalized. Also, if you are home-bound and wish to receive the Eucharist or a friendly visit, please call the parish office.
A **LOW-GLUTEN HOSTS ARE AVAILABLE**- Please come to the Sacristy before Mass to arrange to receive one.

P • Blessed Sacrament Adoration, M-F, Please see signage for hours.
R • The Rosary is said just prior to all weekend Masses.
A
Y

Sunday, August 29
Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Dt 4:1-2, 6-8/Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27/Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23
 8:30am Parish Mass
 11am † Ben Hart & Agnes Rajala and Family

Monday, August 30
Weekday
 1 Thes 4:13-18/Lk 4:16-30

Tuesday, August 31
Weekday
 1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11/Lk 4:31-37
 Joseph Nguyen Nhu Loi

Wednesday, September 1
Weekday
 Col 1:1-8/Lk 4:38-44
 † Mrs. Laura Hicks and Family

Thursday, September 2
Weekday
 Col 1:9-14/Lk 5:1-11
 Otto Savina

Friday, September 3
Saint Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church
 Col 1:15-20/Lk 5:33-39
 Theresa Tran Ngoe Minh Truyen

Saturday, September 4
Weekday/BVM
 Col 1:21-23/Lk 6:1-5(Morning Readings)
 4pm † Nicholas Chavez

Sunday, September 5
Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Is 35:4-7a/Jas 2:1-5/Mk 7:31-37
 8:30am † Leona Coenen
 11am Parish Mass

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Church of the Blessed Sacrament

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

August 29– September 5

Sun, Aug 29:	Social Concerns Collection Carmen Pampa 9:30-10:45am Coffee & Donuts
Wed, Sept 1:	Young at Heart after Morning Mass
Sat, Sept 4:	8:30am Healing/Anointing Mass
Sun, Sept 5:	9:30-10:45am Coffee & Donuts
Mon, Sept 6:	*Note: Parish Offices closed for Labor Day

FINANCE

Gifts of Treasure

August 21/22, 2021

Sunday Envelopes & Plate:	\$ 3,386.00
Holy Day:	\$ 315.00
Other:	\$ 555.00
Pampa Fund:	\$ 50.00
Additional Operations:	\$ 400.00
Total :	\$ 4,706.00

FAITH FORMATION

2021-2022 Classes begin September 12

Faith Formation classes will meet from 9:45 to 10:45 am most Sundays (off for holidays and school breaks.) **Classes include CGS, Sacrament Prep, and RCIA.** Register online or in person by September 1 to secure your spot in our small class sizes.

Our Confirmation students need YOU as their catechist!

Our students are ready for you to walk with them on a journey of sacrament preparation. Classes are Sunday mornings with a few additional times of service and worship throughout the year. No experience is necessary. VIRTUS E3 credentialing is required. All training is provided. You will give a lot and receive far more! If you or someone you know is living a vibrant Catholic life, connect with Connie about this rewarding ministry.

Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLW)

CLW begins September 12 and takes place during the 8:30 am Mass. Children (kindergarten through 3rd/4th grade) hear the Sunday scripture proclaimed and explained at an age-appropriate level. Parents are welcome to join their children and assist with this ministry.

We are actively recruiting and training CLW leaders and assistants. All volunteers must be "Essential 3" compliant by completing an online VIRTUS training, a background check, and Code of Conduct. **Contact Connie to pre-register (no cost) and express interest.**

Pontoon ride and fishing outing for Altar Servers

Save the Date of the afternoon of September 12. Details and invitations are coming this week. Call the office with questions. Thank you to all who serve our Lord at the Holy Altar!

ARCHDIOCESAN SYNOD UPDATES

Archdiocesan Synod Updates

Make your voice heard at the Synod Small Group meetings, every Wednesday September 22 through October 27. All teens and adults should plan to attend either in the morning from 9-11 or evening from 6-8. Hearty refreshments will be served. Plan to discuss the Synod Focus Areas.

- **September 22 and 29:** Forming missionary disciples who know Jesus's love and respond to his call
- **October 6 and 13:** Forming parishes that are in the service of evangelization
- **October 20 and 27:** Forming youth and young adults in and for a Church that is always young

WEBSITE UPDATES

The best way to know what's going on at your parish is to come to Mass. Listen to announcements, see promotional displays, pray and talk with your fellow parishioners. During the weekdays, just give the staff a call and we'll be happy to answer your questions. Find up-to-date info by visiting our website www.blessedsacramentsp.org. Look for what is new under "SYNOD", "UPCOMING", and "PARISH LIFE".

ATTENTION HOSPITALITY MINISTERS AND FUN FEST VOLUNTEERS

We will have a special CPR & AED review on Saturday, Sept. 11 @ 10:00 AM in the Robertson RM for all of the above mentioned ministers and volunteers.

We need to make sure we all know what to do if a parishioner or visitor begins to experience chest pain, dizziness or difficulty breathing. Please plan to attend.

HOMECOMING FUNFEST

Homecoming Funfest ~ Wine Barrel Donations!

We are looking for donations of bottles of wine, glasses, bottle opener, napkins...etc. to fill our big barrel for in the Take-A-Chance booth. Please bring your donations to church no later than September 5th. Thank you, Homecoming Funfest Committee



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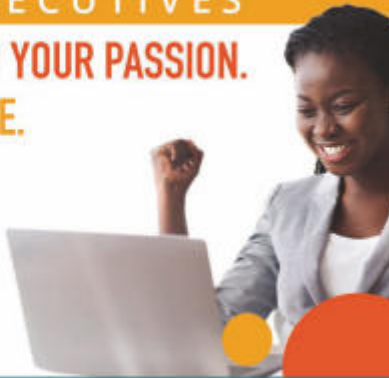
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