

September 15, 2024 • 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time



The Cathedral of
SAINT JOSEPH

521 North Duluth Avenue • Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57104

www.stjosephcathedral.net

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

BUT WHO DO
YOU SAY THAT
I AM?

MARK 8:29



©LPI

DIOCESE OF SIOUX FALLS

Most Reverend Donald E. DeGrood, *Bishop*

LITURGY GUIDE - September 15, 2024

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Welcome to the Cathedral of St. Joseph and thank you for joining us for the celebration of Holy Mass today!

Please, silence your cell phones and refrain from eating, drinking or chewing gum in the Cathedral. Help keep our Cathedral tidy by utilizing the waste baskets found near the main entrances.

Please, do not take pictures during the Mass celebration. You are welcome to take pictures after Mass.

INTROIT - (At 9:15 AM & 11:00 THE INTROIT IS SUNG BY THE CHOIR, FOLLOWED BY THE OPENING HYMN)

Da pacem, Domine, sustinentibus te, ut prophetae tui fideles inveniantur: exaudi preces servi tui, et plebis tuae Israel. Verse: Laetatus sum in his quae dicta sunt mihi: in domum Domini ibimus.

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel. Verse: I rejoiced when it was said unto me: "Let us go to the house of the Lord."

OPENING HYMN

614

CRUCIFER

Lift High the Cross

PENITENTIAL ACT

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, **(striking breast three times)** through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; Therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

right hand of the Fa - ther, have mer - cy on us. For you a - lone are the
Ho - ly One, you... a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most...
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of...
God... the Fa - ther. A - men. A - men.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 50:5-9a

The Lord GOD opens my ear that I may hear; and I have not rebelled, have not turned back. I gave my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who plucked my beard; my face I did not shield from buffets and spitting.

The Lord GOD is my help, therefore I am not disgraced; I have set my face like flint, knowing that I shall not be put to shame.

He is near who upholds my right; if anyone wishes to oppose me, let us appear together. Who disputes my right?

Let that man confront me.

See, the Lord GOD is my help; who will prove me wrong?

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 116:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9

(Refrain sung first by cantor, then congregation repeat)

I will walk be - fore the Lord, in the land of the liv - ing.

TEXT: Refrain trans., Lectionary for Mass, © 1969, 1981, 1997, ICEL; verses, New American Bible, © 1970, Confraternity of Christian Doctrine Music: Michel Guimont, © 1994, 1998, GIA Publications, Inc.

I love the Lord, for he has heard my voice, my appeal; for he has turned his ear to me whenever I call. **R**

They surrounded me, the snares of death; the anguish of the grave has found me; anguish and sorrow I found. I called on the name of the Lord: "Deliver my soul, O Lord!" **R**

How gracious is the Lord, and just; our God has compassion. The Lord protects the simple; I was brought low, and he saved me. **R**

He has kept my soul from death, my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling. I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living. **R**

GLORIA

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and on earth peace to people of good
will. We praise you, we bless you, we a - dore you, we glo - ri - fy you, we give you thanks for your
great glo - ry, Lord God, hea - ve - nly King, O God, al - migh - ty
Fa - ther. Lord Je - sus Christ, On - ly be - got - ten Son, Lord God,
Lamb of God, Son of the Fa - ther, you take a - way the sins of the world, have mer - cy on
us; you take a - way the sins of the world, re - ceive our prayer, you are sea - ted at the

SECOND READING**James 2:14-18**

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone says he has faith but does not have works?
 Can that faith save him?
 If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them,
 "Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well,"
 but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it?
 So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

Indeed someone might say,
 "You have faith and I have works."
 Demonstrate your faith to me without works, and I will demonstrate my faith to you from my works.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**Please Stand****(Sung first by cantor, then congregation repeat)**

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

GOSPEL**Mark 8:27-35**

Jesus and his disciples set out for the villages of Caesarea Philippi.
 Along the way he asked his disciples,
 "Who do people say that I am?"
 They said in reply, "John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others one of the prophets."
 And he asked them,
 "But who do you say that I am?"
 Peter said to him in reply,
 "You are the Christ."
 Then he warned them not to tell anyone about him.

He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer greatly and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and rise after three days.
 He spoke this openly.
 Then Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.
 At this he turned around and, looking at his disciples, rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan.
 You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do."

He summoned the crowd with his disciples and said to them,
 "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.
 For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the gospel will save it."

PROFESSION OF FAITH**Please Stand**

I believe in one God,
 the Father almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth,

of all things visible and invisible.
 I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
 the Only Begotten Son of God,
 born of the Father before all ages.
 God from God, Light from Light,
 true God from true God, begotten, not made,
 consubstantial with the Father;
 through him all things were made.
 For us men and for our salvation
 he came down from heaven,
 (*bow here*) and by the Holy Spirit
 was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.
 For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
 he suffered death and was buried,
 and rose again on the third day
 in accordance with the Scriptures.
 He ascended into heaven
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead
 and his kingdom will have no end.
 I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
 who has spoken through the prophets.
 I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
 I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
 and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
 and the life of the world to come.
 Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST
 PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY HYMN (4:00 PM & 7:30 AM) LASST UNS ERFREUEN 410
 All Creatures of Our God and King

OFFERTORY ANTIPHON (9:15 AM)

<i>Sanctificavit Moyses altare</i>	Moses consecrated an altar
<i>Domino, offerens super illud</i>	to the Lord, and presented
<i>holocaust, et immolans victimas:</i>	thereupon burnt offerings and
<i>fecit sacrificium vespertinum in</i>	sacrificial victims; he made an
<i>odorem suavitatis Domino Deo, in</i>	evening sacrifice as a fragrant
<i>conspectus filiorum Israel.</i>	offering to the Lord, in the
	presence of the sons of Israel.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM (11:00 AM)
 Thou Wilt Keep Him in Perfect Peace

Samuel S. Wesley
 (1810-1876)

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee.
 The darkness is no darkness with thee, but the night is as clear as the day. The darkness and the light to thee, are both alike.
 God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. O let my soul live, and it shall praise thee. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forevermore.
 Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee.

Celebrant: Pray brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

SANCTUS

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of hosts.
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Text: ICEL, © 2010
Music: A Community Mass, Richard Proulx, © 1971, 1977, 2006, GIA Publications, Inc.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Re-sur - rec - tion un - til you come again.

AGNUS DEI

Cantor or Choir: *Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world,
All: have mer - cy on us. *Last time* grant us peace.

To repeat

ECCE AGNUS DEI

Celebrant: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

R. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

HOLY COMMUNION

All Catholics who have prepared themselves to receive Holy Communion are invited to come forward. Our brothers and sisters of other faiths are invited to approach with their arms crossed over their chest to signal their desire to receive a blessing.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (4:00 PM, 7:30 AM)

Who - e - ver wi - shes to come af - ter me must de - ny - him -
self, take up his cross, and fol - low me.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (9:15 & 11:00 AM)

Qui vult venire post me, abneget semetipsum: et tollat crucem suam, et sequitur me.

Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.

COMMUNION MEDITATION (11:00 AM)

Ave Verum Corpus

W.A Mozart (1756-1791)

Ave, verum corpus natum de Maria Virgine: vere passum, immolatum in cruce pro homine: cuius latus perforatum fluxit unda et sanguine: Esto nobis praegustatum, Mortis in examine.

Hail the true body, born of the Virgin Mary: Who truly suffered and were sacrificed on the cross for the sake of man. From whose pierced side flowed water and blood: Be a foretaste (of Heaven) for us in the trial of death.

HYMN OF THANKSGIVING 528

BICENTENNIAL Gift of Finest Wheat

CLOSING HYMN 641

NUN DANKET Now Thank We All Our God

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Right to Life Events

Abortion Pill Reversal Procedure Talk - September 26, 7 pm at **St. Therese Parish**, Sioux Falls. The Abortion Pill is the most common type of abortion performed today, but what happens if the mother has a change of heart after taking the pill? Join Deacon Dr. Glenn Ridder, M.D. as he discusses his experience in helping mothers save their unborn children through the abortion pill reversal process. Join us Thursday at 7 p.m. at St. Therese Parish in Sioux Falls to hear this amazing story of hope and women who have chosen life for their children.

Mitchell Catholic Parishes' Theology on Tap - will be featuring "Battle for the Ballot: A Catholic Lens" with Michael Pauley, Executive Directory of the SD Catholic Conference on **Thursday, September 26 at 7 PM at Blarney's Sports Bar & Grill in Mitchell, SD.** This event is for young adults and those young at heart! All are welcome, and free appetizers are served.

LIFE CHAIN Sunday, October 6 2-3 pm, Sioux Falls

N. sidewalk of W. 41st St. from S. Sertoma to S. Jefferson Ave.

Signs may be picked up from and returned to the parking lots of LifeChange Church (6300 W. 41st St.) or O'Gorman High School (2501 S. Kiwanis Ave.)

A peaceful, prayerful, public witness standing for Life all across the USA and Canada.

Contact 605-929-6531 or visit siouxfallsarearighttolife.org for more information.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Perpetual Adoration Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament



Fundraising Fiesta

Sunday, October 6

1:00 pm - 5:30 pm

Mater Ecclesiae Monastery -

707 W 4th Street



This year The Games and Activities Committee would like every parish to help by donating Cakes for the Cake Walk.

Please contact Karla Ball krlb2014@gmail.com

Or call 605-940-2454 for details

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas - Court St



Patricia, invite all Catholic Women to our monthly meeting, **September 17th** at Holy Spirit Church, off Bahnson and Dudley Dr. A rosary will be prayed before the meeting at 6:15 and the meeting will

begin at 6:30pm. We will have a discussion about how the diocese has found success with the Discipleship programs held at the Broom Tree Retreat Center.

Friends of the Poor Walk - September 28, hosted by **St. Michael Parish**, Sioux Falls (St. Vincent de Paul Society) starting with **Mass at 8:15 a.m.** followed by the walk in the parking lot. Please register ahead of time but same day registration is possible. Free-will donations accepted the day of the walk. All proceeds go to St. Michael SVdP Conference. Funds go to those most in need. No help is foreign to the Society; therefore, we (Vincentians, in pairs) can work with our neighbors in need by going directly to those in need in the form of a "home visit."

Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary Visit - Young Men (16-25 yrs old) are welcome to join! Completely FREE. **Nov. 7-9, 2024.** email Fr. Klein: frtonyklein@sfcatholic.org or call Emma at [605-988-3772](tel:605-988-3772).

Sacred Arts Series - "Dawn"

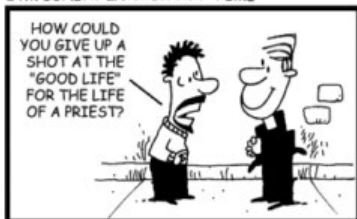
Saturday, September 21, 2024 - 7:30 pm

Vocal Ensemble Transept, with director Timothy Campbell returns to the Cathedral to open the 2024-25 Season with a journey from darkness to light. This varied program includes a selection of exciting music from contemporary composers.

Works by Tallis, Lassus, Macmillan, Caroline Shaw, Dobrogosz, and Kirchner.

Tickets available on Transepts website or Cathedral Sacred Arts website. \$30(general) or \$5 (student).

24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Liturgical Roles

Daily Mass Reader -
12:00 pm As Scheduled



September 21/22

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

4:00 pm Karen Christiansen, Nancy Ann Kadinger
7:30 am Carl Eisenberg, Sandy Fitzgibbons
9:15 am Larry Canfield, Mary Canfield, Craig Meyer
11:00 am Bob Lux Mary Enderson, Matthew Enderson
4:00 pm Ministers as Scheduled

Lectors

4:00 pm Suzanne Bradford, Mary Glenski
7:30 am Michael Fitzgibbons
9:15 am Jeff Heron, Bette Theobald
11:00 am Al Costanzo, Andrew Welbig
4:00 pm Readers as Scheduled

Altar Servers

4:00 pm Pontifical Servers
7:30 am Will Ulin, Megan Ulin
9:15 am Asher Hunt, Quintin Rasmussen, Owen Rislov
11:00 am Jonathan, Billion, Dominic Ostermann, Isaac Stanek
4:00 pm Servers as Scheduled

Mini-Bus Driver

4:00 pm Bill Barnett
Dow Rummel Tonia & Ryan Groeneweg
Good Sam Nancy Jerentowski

Readings for the week of September 15, 2024

Sunday: Is 50:4c-9a/Ps 116:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 (9)/
Jas 2:14-18/Mk 8:27-35
Monday: 1 Cor 11:17-26, 33/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17/
Lk 7:1-10
Tuesday: 1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/
Lk 7:11-17
Wednesday: 1 Cor 12:31—13:13/Ps 33:2-3, 4-5,
12 and 22/Lk 7:31-35
Thursday: 1 Cor 15:1-11/Ps 118:1b-2, 16ab-17, 28/
Lk 7:36-50
Friday: 1 Cor 15:12-20/Ps 49:6-7, 8-10, 17-18, 19-20/
Lk 8:1-3
Saturday: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Mt 9:9-13
Next Sunday: Wis 2:12, 17-20/Ps 54:3-4, 5, 6-8 (6b)/
Jas 3:16—4:3/Mk 9:30-37

CONGRATULATIONS

Jill Earl is Cathedral 500 Club's third winner for September 2024. She has received a check for **\$89**. Anyone interested in joining will find applications at the front entrance (Duluth Ave) of the Cathedral. Cost is \$5/month. Applications must be received by **September 30th** to be in the October 2024 drawings. Call the Parish Office at [605-336-7390](tel:605-336-7390) for details.

Mass Intentions

- Mon. Sept. 16•** *Sts. Cornelius, Pope, & Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs*
 12:00 pm Duyen Grace Nugyen
- Tue. Sept. 17•** *St. Robert Bellarmine, Bishop & Doctor of the Church; St. Hildegard of Birgen, Virgin & Doctor of the Church*
 12:00 pm † JoAnne Aschoff
- Wed. Sept. 18•** *Weekday*
 12:00 pm † Arlen Schmuck
- Thu. Sept. 19•** *St. Januarius, Bishop & Martyr*
 12:00 pm † Carol Federico
- Fri. Sept. 20•** *St. Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Priest and Paul Chong Ha-sang and Companions, Martyrs*
 12:00 pm † Marjorie Tapken
- Sat. Sept. 21•** *St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist*
 4:00 pm Ruth Bordewyk
- Sun. Sept. 22•** *Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time*
 7:30 am † Fr. Antonio Ramos
 9:15 am John & Laura Radley, Rome & Azalea
 11:00 am † Margaret Thuringer
 4:00 pm Pro Populo

Sanctuary Candles

The five hanging Sanctuary Candles in the Sacred Heart Chapel are available for prayer intentions. The candles remain lit for the week.

- 1.) Reunion of all Christians
- 2.) Ken Bunkers
- 3.) † Marjorie Tapken
- 4.) † Ronald Tapken
- 5.) Nicole Todd

Cathedral Events Calendar

- Monday, September 16-**
 6:30 pm - Young Adults
- Tuesday, September 17 -**
 9:00 am - Quilter's Group
- Wednesday, September 18 -**
 6:45 pm - OCIA, Parish Hall
- Thursday, September 19-**
 7:00 pm - Adoration & Reconciliation Sacred Heart Chapel
- Saturday, September 21 -**
 12:00 pm - Reconciliation in the Sacred Heart Chapel
 3:00 pm - Reconciliation in the Cathedral Nave
 7:30 pm - **Transept Concert** - Cathedral Nave

Next Sunday, September 22 -

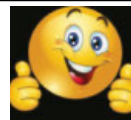
After 9:15 am Mass, **First Communion Meeting**
 Parents and Students in the Parish Hall

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

First Communion meeting: September 22 after the 9:15 am Mass in the parish hall- Parents & Students, please attend

Attention all Altar Servers - We are in need of servers that may be available to help with serving at Weddings and Funerals. Please contact the Parish Office [605-336-7390](tel:605-336-7390) with your availability. Training will be provided.

Advertise in our bulletin—Angela Haschka from LPi, our bulletin printer, will be securing new ads for our church in the coming weeks. As a valuable member of the business community, we invite you to expand your reach and grow your business with a print ad in our parish bulletin and/or a digital ad featured on ParishesOnline.com. If you would like to place an ad please call Angela at [216-307-8283](tel:216-307-8283) or [800-477-4574](tel:800-477-4574) x 6106 or email: ahaschka@4lpi.com.



COME SMILE WITH US

What a difference it makes to be warmly greeted! Our current core group of friendly folks strives to foster the welcoming community of Christ at **Cathedral of St. Joseph**. For visitors who are unaware of Mass guidelines in our bulletins or how to locate a restroom, and for current parishioners who just appreciate a personal hello, we are at the ready. We need YOU!!! We are looking to bolster this ministry. Won't you join in to help? It's easy, Only one Mass time (your regular attendance) - only one Sunday per month - arrive 20 minutes before Mass - bring your smile. Please contact us for details: Barbara & John Lockwood, [605-941-4981](tel:605-941-4981); lockwoodjsl@gmail.com.



Congratulations!

Zach Pardy & Grace Madison
Riley Van Orman & Abigail Thompson
Blessings for Healthy, Happy and Holy Marriages.



Anointed by the Holy Spirit
through the waters of Baptism

Abigail Grace Lowrey— daughter of Bryan & Emily Lowrey
Lauren Kate Oertli - daughter of Mason & Katherine Oretli

Congratulations and welcome into our Family of Faith!

If you are expecting or have a child to be baptized, please call Deacon Bill Radio [605-336-7390](tel:605-336-7390) for baptism planning.

WEEKLY OFFERING SEPTEMBER 7/8



Envelopes	\$	9,625.00
Online/EFT	\$	9,381.00
Visitors/Loose Cash	\$	4,375.02
Total	\$	23,381.02

Scan QR code to be directed to our Giving Page
Thank you for your Support and Prayers!

CATHEDRAL INFORMATION

Parish Office: [605-336-7390](tel:605-336-7390)

Parish Office Email: cathedral@sfcatholic.org

Office Hours: 9:00am-4:00pm M-Th, 9:00am-3:00pm Friday
Closed - Saturday and Sunday

Cathedral Church Hours:

Monday-Saturday - 8:00am-5:00pm

Sunday - 7:00am-Noon & 3:30pm-5:00pm

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday 4:00pm (First Saturday of the Month Mass 9:00am)

Sunday 7:30am, 9:15am, 11:00am,
4:00pm (St. Josephine Bakhita Community)

Weekday Masses

Cathedral - Monday - Friday, 12:00pm (Noon)

Monastery - Monday - Saturday, 7:00am

Confessions

Thursday 7:00pm w/Adoration in the Sacred Heart Chapel

Saturday 12:00pm & 3:00-3:30pm in Cathedral

(In the Sacred Heart Chapel if a Wedding is scheduled)

Adoration

Sacred Heart Chapel - Thurs. 7:00pm-8:00pm (Confessions)

Cathedral - 11:00am, First Friday of the month

Monastery - Mon-Sat 8:00am-6:00pm, Sun 10:30am-6:00pm

Tours

Self-guided - 1:00pm Monday-Friday (except Holy Days)

Guided Tours-By appointment [605-336-7390](tel:605-336-7390)

Parish Staff

Rector, Very Rev. James P. Morgan

Parochial Vicar, Rev. Pasquale Armando Francesco

Weekend Sacramental Assistance, Rev. Anthony Klein

Deacon, William Radio

Deacon, Jonathan Eckrich

Director-Operations & Finance, Heidi Solem

Administrative Assistant, Mary Anne Lux

Music Director, Dr. Jared Ostermann

Assistant Music Director, Nicole Gerdes

Tour Docent/Guide, Susan Albers

Wedding Coordinator, Mary Enderson

Counseling Services, The Lourdes Center - [605-988-3775](tel:605-988-3775)

Sacramental Preparation:

Baptism - The sacrament of Baptism is celebrated for our parishioners on Sundays after the 11:AM Mass. Parents must attend a Baptism preparation meeting. To schedule a meeting for preparation contact the parish office at [605-336-7390](tel:605-336-7390).

Matrimony - Six months preparation required. Registered parishioners, please contact the parish office. All others please contact the pastor of your home church. For wedding information, go to www.stjosephcathedral.net under Sacraments.

Anointing of the Sick - Please call the parish office to request this Sacrament if you have been diagnosed with an illness, in preparation for surgery or in the case of serious illness.

Catholic Cemetery - St. Michael's Cemetery [605-338-3376](tel:605-338-3376)

CLERGY REFLECTION

“Who do people say that I am?” (Mark 8:28)

An Eritrean Proverb says “Ear is a stranger to owner” which means your ear can hear everything about others but not about you, the owner, especially when it comes to gossip. Jesus wanted to know something about himself which His ears were not hearing about him.

The proverb “A bad name is worse than bad deeds” means that having a negative reputation for being known as a dishonest or untrustworthy person can be more damaging than actually doing something wrong. The proverb suggests that people’s perceptions of you and how others perceive you are often more important than your actions or mistakes. The idea behind this proverb is that a good reputation is valuable and can be difficult to regain once lost. In contrast, the impact of specific actions or mistakes may be more fleeting or easier to overcome.

Talking about someone behind him is not necessarily gossip but if it is negative energy it is gossip and gossip is one of the sins that can easily get you addicted to it. Gossip is like a secret craving. We say we don’t like it, but when it’s within reach, we almost can’t resist it. We get a sudden appetite to know what we don’t know... about somebody else.

Proverbs 18:8 says, “The words of a gossip are like choice morsels; they go down to a man’s inmost parts.” You might say I am not into sharing the dirty details about a person’s life just for fun. But gossip comes in many flavors, and it involves listening, as well. Proverbs 17:4 notes: “Wrongdoers eagerly listen to gossip; liars pay close attention to slander.” Yikes!

Today’s message is what do you say about yourself when people talk about you behind you? What do you tell people when they gossip about their fellow friends and families or someone they know? Whenever we participate in gossip we gossip against Jesus because, Jesus himself said; “whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.”

What do we say about our church and Jesus in our church and other Churches?

What do we say about our bishop and other bishops?

What do we say about our pastors and other pastors?

“Don’t grumble against one another, brothers and sisters or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!” (James 5:9)

Fr. Pasquale Armando Francesco

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