



22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

He summoned the crowd again and said to them, "Hear me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person; but the things that come out from within are what defile." - Mk 7:14-15

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

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Our Lady of Peace Church Sunday, August 29, 2021

FROM THE DESK OF FR. STAN

My dear friends,

Do we need all the rules and regulations?

In our first reading for this Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8, we are taken back once again to the time of Moses, the ancient leader of the Hebrew people from bondage in Egypt. Moses has received the Ten Commandments from God, along with other laws that are intended to keep the people close to God and to build a community that is moral, compassionate and just. In our passage we find Moses giving a kind of pep-talk as to why the revealed will of God is so significant and important for their lives from that day forward.

Moses begins, “Now, Israel, hear the statutes and decrees which I am teaching you to observe, that you may live, and may enter in and take possession of the land which the Lord, the God of your fathers, is giving you.” The reference to “fathers” recalls the promises that God had made to the great patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, who lived some four to five hundred years before the time of Moses. God had promised that, one day, the people would have a land of their own, and that their descendants would be as numerous as the stars of the sky. God had entered into a special relationship with the people through a covenant, an agreement that God would be their only God, that God would watch over and protect them in a special way, and that they were to live in accordance with the will of God.

Moses is recalling the ancient promises and now pointing to a further stage of development of that covenant between God and Israel—through the law that has now been revealed on Mount Sinai. Notice the appeal that Moses makes for keeping the law—that the people may live, hopefully in peace and stability, and that they may have a land of their own. In this way they can be God’s special people of the covenant, called to be a kind of seed planted in the larger world, demonstrating to others the ideal way in which God expects humanity to live.

Moses then warns the people, “In your observance of the commandments of the Lord, your God, which I enjoin upon you, you shall not add to what I command nor subtract from it. Observe them carefully, for thus you will give evidence of your wisdom and intelligence to the nations, who will hear of all these statutes and say, ‘This is truly a wise and intelligent people.’” The key point here is that God’s will is revealed in a rather special and specific way, and since God’s ways are not the ways of humanity, it is not wise to tamper with the divine commandments precisely because of their origin in God.

The passage concludes with Moses’ appeal to the people’s pride in their new identity and dignity as, not just another nation, but the very people of God. “For what great nation is there that has gods so close to it as the Lord, our God, is to us whenever we call upon him? Or what great nation has statutes and decrees that are as just as this whole law which I am setting before you today?”

As time went on, the initial revealed law had to be applied in specific circumstances. For example, the commandment to keep the Sabbath holy included the notion of rest; no work was to be done. However, critical issues led to the expansion of the law. For example, if a cow or a donkey falls into a ditch, is it permitted to remove them? How far may one walk, and for what purposes, if work is forbidden? As time went on, so many rules and regulations were added that it was difficult for the average person even to know them all. This is the situation Jesus addresses in today’s gospel passage.

The reading from Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23, begins with the Pharisees complaining that some of Jesus’ disciples eat without first performing the religiously required purification of their hands. Luke summarizes the situation: “For the Pharisees and, in fact, all Jews, do not eat without carefully washing their hands, keeping the tradition of the elders. And on coming from the marketplace they do not eat without purifying themselves. And there are many other things that they have traditionally observed, the purification of cups and jugs and kettles and beds.”

Jesus responds to the Pharisees, “You disregard God’s commandment but cling to human tradition.” In other words, they have forgotten Moses’ command about not adding or subtracting from the intention of the original revelation. Furthermore, they have forgotten that the Ten Commandments and other statutes were put in place because of love. They were further explications of how the people were to remain faithful to God and to the way in which God expected them to relate to their neighbor. The Pharisees, in a sense, had made an idol out of their rules and regulations, enabling them to feel superior to everyone else, and not really concerned about the interior virtues that were far more crucial than the simple external washing of hands. Jesus makes this clear: “From within people, from their hearts, come evil thoughts, unchastity, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit...” Thus, Jesus calls the people back to God’s wisdom in giving the Commandments in the first place: the need to make love the heart of our life, and to strive each day, through a process of interior renewal and conversion, to become the persons God wants us to be. That’s far more important than blindly following rules.



Saturday, August 28-Rosary at 3:15P

4:00P *Michael & Helen Milewski*
by Cindy

Sunday, August 29

8:00A *Carolyn Morahan*
by Harry & Margaret Gove
10:00A *Genevieve Guy*
by the parish staff

Saturday, September 4-Rosary at 3:15P

4:00P *Michael Cenzano*
by Ann & the girls

Sunday, September 5

8:00A *Health & blessings for Mary Jane Garbiel*
by a friend
10:00A *Our Lady of Peace Women's Group*

DAILY MASS

Monday, August 30

8:00A *Loretta Patterson*
by her family

Tuesday, August 31

8:00A *Genevieve Guy*
by Ed & Dottie Pelis

Wednesday, September 1

8:00A *Elaine Gavin*
by the Ryan family

Thursday, September 2

8:00A *Sylvia Hassett*
by Friday Morning Friends

Friday, September 3

8:00A *Holy Communion Service*

Our Lady's Window

September 4 *Guyla Rodovich*
by her family

ANNUAL BLUE MASS to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of 9-11 will be Sunday, **September 12**, 10:00A in St. Michael's Cathedral, 260 State Street, Springfield. Families are invited to attend and the Mass will be televised live on "Chalice of Salvation," on WWLP-Channel 22.

MASS FOR ESSENTIAL WORKERS Bishop William D. Byrne will celebrate a Mass for essential workers at the Forest Park amphitheater, adjacent to the Barney Estate, Springfield, Sunday, **September 5** at 10:00A. The Mass will be broadcast live on WWLP-Channel 22, and will recognize and lift up in prayer healthcare workers, first responders, employees of grocery stores, gas stations and other businesses considered essential during the state of emergency. Please bring your own chairs or blankets for seating.



Support Montague Catholic Social Ministries
Our parish donations of non-perishable food and goods will now be given to stock the food pantry at MCSM and help the many families in need in our community.



COMING SOON!

In cooperation with Walgreens, we will be sponsoring a free drive-thru flu clinic on Wednesday, **October 6** from 9:00-11:30A in our parking lot.

Watch the bulletin for more details regarding sign-ups. Have questions? Call Marguerite 863.2585 ext. 103.

LOOKING AHEAD! The Annual Women's Group Mass will be Sunday, **September 5** at 10:00A. The next meeting will be Tuesday, **September 7** at 6:00P.



Inquiry sessions will be Sunday, **September 12** at 9:00A and Monday, **September 13** at 6:30P in the church. There is no pressure or commitment. If you wish more information, call Marguerite 863.2585 ext. 103



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

will begin Sunday, **October 3**.

Registration forms and calendars will soon be mailed out to each home If you have

questions or are new to the parish, call Carol 863-4015.

PARISH COLLECTIONS

Weekend of August 22

Amounts not available at press time

Regular \$0.00

On-line \$0.00

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