



24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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." - Mk 8:34-35

OUR LADY OF PEACE CHURCH...Sunday, September 12, 2021

FROM THE DESK OF FR. STAN

My dear friends,

Pick up your cross and follow Jesus

Our first reading for this Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time presents part of one of the so-called Suffering Servant Songs of Isaiah, chapter 50, verses 5-9. It is not exactly clear as to whom Isaiah had in mind when he composed these verses. Often in the Bible there is a kind of corporate identity that is attributed to an individual. For example, we might find a statement that “Jacob is so small.” Jacob was one of the Patriarchs of Israel, the grandson of Abraham and the son of Isaac. The statement may refer, however, not to Jacob as an individual, but as one who stands for all of Israel. Thus, Isaiah may have thought, for example, of some ruler or hero of his day, but he may also have been thinking of the nation of Israel as a whole. Later on these passages came to be associated with the Messiah, and they are read in the liturgies of Holy Week and especially Good Friday.

With this as a background, the text should sound very familiar. “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?”

This passage follows a typical pattern that is found in these Songs in the book of Isaiah, and also in many of the Psalms. First, there is a complaint that makes explicit the particular pain and suffering that is taking place. But, in the end, the text always seems to come to a positive conclusion, as a statement of trust and hope in the providential care of God. Our responsorial psalm, Psalm 116, echoes the Isaiah passage. “I love the Lord because he has heard my voice in supplication, because he has inclined his ear to me the day I called. The cords of death encompassed me; the snares of the netherworld seized upon me; I fell into distress and sorrow, and I called upon the name of the Lord, ‘O Lord, save my life!’ Gracious is the Lord and just; yes, our God is merciful. The Lord keeps the little ones; I was brought low, and he saved me. For he has freed my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling. I shall walk before the Lord in the land of the living.”

For purposes of meditation, it might be helpful to prayerfully read through these Scriptures more than once. Imagine Jesus saying these words as he was going through his crucifixion. Then, if you are experiencing personal suffering of any kind, offer these words from your own heart, from the experience of your own life. Can you find trust and hope in God, even on days when it is most difficult?

These readings from the Old Testament fit right into the issue that is taken up in our gospel passage, Mark 8:27-35. The Apostles have been with the Lord for some time now. They have heard his powerful teaching. They have witnessed his healings. They are full of expectation and zeal. Jesus begins by asking them a less important question: “Who do people say that I am?” They respond with the various possibilities, that he is a return figure, such as John the Baptist, the prophet Elijah, or still one of the other prophets. Then Jesus asks the far more important question: “But who do you say that I am?” Peter then says in reply, either speaking for the group or just in his own name: “You are the Christ” [the Messiah, or Anointed One]. So far so good.

Then, Jesus goes on to make clear precisely what *kind* of Messiah he is—a Messiah along the lines of the suffering servant of Isaiah, rather than a more glorious figure. “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.” Peter rejects this line of thinking: a Messiah being killed? It made no sense to him. “Then Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.” Then notice how strongly Jesus reacts, perhaps indicating that he had to struggle with his own identity and that he did not particularly relish the thought of suffering and humiliation. “At this he [Jesus] turned around, looking at his disciples, rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do.”

Then Jesus makes it very clear that the path he has chosen will also be the path on which his disciples must walk. “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.” In the end, Peter and most of the Apostles will indeed follow their Master and be put to death as he was.

Of course, there are many ways of picking up a cross. For Pope John Paul II it was persevering, remaining active even though his body was giving out. For Mother Teresa following Jesus meant picking up the poorest of the poor and treating them with love, smiling at them, showing them the tenderness and compassion of God. Both had learned to pick up their crosses and invite others to follow them on the road to resurrection.

**The book is now open for all Mass intentions in 2022.
Call the rectory to reserve Masses.**



Saturday, September 11-Rosary at 3:15P

4:00P *Stanley & Lorraine Wasileski*
by Ed & Dottie Pelis

Sunday, September 12

8:00A *Raymond & Rose Zukowski*
by their family

10:00A *In honor of Eileen Mariani on her birthday*
by her family

Saturday, September 18-Rosary at 3:15P

4:00P *Manny Flores*
by the parish staff

Sunday, September 19

8:00A *Artie & Annie Cotton*
by the Bucci family

10:00A *Sandy Weller*
by Peg Rewa & daughters

DAILY MASS

Monday, September 13

8:00A *Grace, health & blessings for Jill Mackin Betters*
by the Eichorn family

Tuesday, September 14

8:00A No intention

Wednesday, September 15

8:00A *Paul Gallant*
by his family

Thursday, September 16

8:00A *No intention*

Friday, September 17

8:00A *Holy Communion Service*



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.



CALL TO REGISTER NOW! In cooperation with Walgreens we will be sponsoring a free flu clinic on **October 6** from 9:00-11:30A in our parking lot. Call Marguerite 863.2585 ext. 103 to register in advance.



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

Our Lady's Window
September 12
In honor of Eileen Mariani on her birthday
September 13
Helen Wesolowski
by her daughter, Diane Tabor
September 16
Joanne O'Shea, 2nd anniversary
by Gladys Lapinski



Please remember in your prayers
+Sean Connelly
+Theresa Waryasz
+Brandin Weinacker



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

Classes for 2021-2022 will begin on Sunday, **October 3** at 9:00A. **September 19** is Catechetical Sunday. That day 4 students will receive their First Communion as they could not do so last year. If parents or new families have any questions, call Carol at 863.4015.

PARISH COLLECTIONS

Weekend of September 12
Regular \$4,197.00
On-line \$1,004.00

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