



CATECHETICAL SUNDAY

ENLISTING WITNESSES FOR JESUS CHRIST

OUR LADY OF PEACE CHURCH...Sunday, September 19, 2021

FROM THE DESK OF FR. STAN

My dear friends,

Our readings for this Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time celebrate the gift of wisdom, and the fact that God's wisdom, God's way of understanding things, can be very different from our own. The first passage, Wisdom 2:12, 17-20, speaks of a process of attacking and undermining the "Just One". It is unclear who the human author had in mind, whether it was a particular wise man, ruler or a whole class of people, but one can immediately see how the passage came to be associated with Jesus, the Messiah.

"The wicked say: Let us beset the just one, because he is obnoxious to us; he sets himself against our doings, reproaches us for transgressions of the law and charges us with violations of our training. Let us see whether his words are true; let us find out what will happen to him. For if the just one be the son of God, God will defend him and deliver him from the hand of his foes. With revilement and torture let us put the just one to the test that we may have proof of his gentleness and patience. Let us condemn him to a shameful death; for according to his own words, God will take care of him."

One is reminded of the jeering Jesus receives while he is on the cross, the bystanders taunting him to come down from the cross if he is who he says he is. The Responsorial Psalm continues this theme. Once again, we are not certain whom the Psalmist intended when this text was written several centuries before Christ, but even as it applies to Jesus, so it can be a prayer for anyone who feels unjustly accused. "O God, by your name save me, and by your might defend my cause. O God, hear my prayer; hearken to the words of my mouth. For the haughty have risen up against me, the ruthless seek my life; they set not God before their eyes. Behold God is my helper; the Lord sustains my life. Freely will I offer you sacrifice; I will praise your name, O Lord, for its goodness" (Psalm 54).

The second reading, James 3:16-4:3 continues our theme of the beauty of wisdom from above, even if it is contrary to human wisdom. "Beloved: Where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every foul practice. But the wisdom from above is first of all pure, then peaceable, gentle, compliant, full of mercy and good fruits, without inconstancy or insincerity. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace for those who cultivate peace."

The Gospel reading, Mark 9:30-37, continues our examination of Jesus' journey to Jerusalem and his understanding of the type of Messiah he is. "He was teaching his disciples and telling them, 'The Son of Man is to be handed over to men and they will kill him, and three days after his death the Son of Man will rise.'" Mark simply reports the reaction of Jesus' followers: "But they did not understand the saying, and they were afraid to question him."

The remainder of the passage gives a concrete example not only of the disciples' lack of understanding, but also the jealousy and selfish ambition that James warns against. "They came to Capernaum and, once inside the house, he began to ask them, 'What were you arguing about on the way?' But they remained silent. They had been discussing among themselves who was the greatest." Jesus then teaches clearly that his wisdom is the way of humility and service. "If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the least of all and the servant of all." Then, to make his teaching more concrete, he places a child in their midst and embracing the child, states, "Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but the One who sent me."

These readings give us a lot to think about. Do we find ourselves becoming envious of another person's good fortune, or jealous because someone seems to have an easier life than we do? In our desire to achieve, are we blinded by ambition? I guess it's natural, even Jesus' closest disciples found the lesson of humility difficult to learn.

NEW DIOCESAN INITIATIVES

Bishop William D. Byrne has begun a new Committee for Pro-Life activities.

The liaison for Our Lady of Peace is Dennis Grader. Upcoming activities at Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Church in Westfield include a Holy Hour for Pro Life on Tuesday, **September 21** at 7:00P. To contact Dennis: call 413.863.8567.

**Knights of Columbus Council 737**

Our Lady of Peace/Our Lady of Czestochowa, Turners Falls MA

Monthly Meeting: 3rd Wednesday at 6:30P,

Our Lady of Czestochowa

Consider Joining – Ask A Knight about Becoming

A Member



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

Saturday, September 25-Rosary at 3:15P

4:00P *Genevieve Guy*
by the parish staff

Sunday, September 26

8:00A *Dean Letourneau*
by John Caloon

10:00A *Sandy Weller*
by Bruce & Mary

DAILY MASS

Monday, September 20

8:00A *Frances DeVivo*
by Sue Hastings

Tuesday, September 21

8:00A *Pat Caloon*
by John

Wednesday, September 22

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

Thursday, September 23

8:00A *Sean Connelly*
by Peg Rewa

Friday, September 24

8:00A *Holy Communion Service*

Flowers in front of the altar during the month of September are in memory of *Rose & Raymond "Gump" Zukowski*, and *Blanche & Bernard McCarthy* from their families.

Our Lady's Window

September 21

*In memory of Sean Connelly
on his birthday
by the Mainville family*



ANNUAL BLESSING OF ANIMALS in honor of St. Francis, patron saint of all creation and creatures, will take place Saturday, **October 2** at 10:00A in the parking lot. There will be treats for everyone!



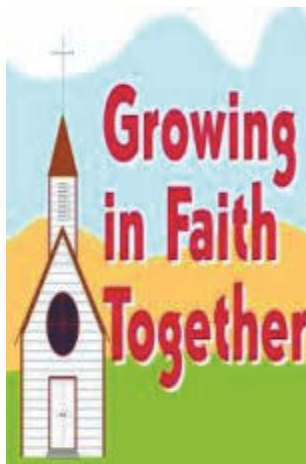
Please Support Montague Catholic Social Ministries Today!

Do you know that according to the USDA **16 million** American kids struggle with hunger each year? 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 Wednesday, **October 6** from 9:00-11:30A in our parking lot. Call Marguerite 863.2585 ext. 103 to register in advance and to get additional information.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM



All classes for 2021-2022 will begin on Sunday, **October 3** at 9:00A in the church hall. **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	\$2,648.00
On-line	\$634.00

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