ST. AMBROSE PARISH

St. Augustine Church
30 Caputo Rd.
North Branford, CT 06471

St. Monica Church
1321 Middletown Ave.
Northford, CT 06472

5th Sunday IN ORDINARY TIME

He cured many who were sick with various diseases, and he drove out many demons, not permitting them to speak because they knew him. - Mk 1:34

DUE TO PANDEMIC BUILDING RESTRICTIONS,
ALL MASSES WILL TEMPORARILY BE CELEBRATED AT ST. AUGUSTINE

Daily Mass
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 9:00 AM

Sunday Masses
Saturday Vigil 5:00 PM English Ordinary, No Incense
Sunday 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM Latin Ordinary with use of Incense

Confessions will be heard 30 minutes prior to daily Mass

Parish Office
Open Monday - Friday 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM • 203-484-0403

SUNDAY'S READINGS

FIRST READING:
I am filled with restlessness until the dawn. (Jb 7:4)

PSALM:
Praise the Lord, who heals the brokenhearted. (Ps 147)
Or Alleluia.

SECOND READING:
I have become all things to all, to save at least some.
All this I do for the sake of the gospel,
so that I too may have a share in it. (1 Cor 9:22-23)

GOSPEL:
He cured many who were sick with various diseases,
and he drove out many demons,
not permitting them to speak because they knew
him. (Mk 1:34)

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OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 7, 2021

Sunday:	5th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday:	St. Jerome Emiliani; St. Josephine Bakhita, Virgin
Wednesday:	St. Scholastica, Virgin
Thursday:	Our Lady of Lourdes
Saturday:	Blessed Virgin Mary
Next Sunday:	6th Sunday in Ordinary Time; World Marriage Day; Valentine's Day

REFLECT

FIRST READING
We hear how Job struggled to find meaning and hope in his life. How does your faith help you get through difficult times in your life?

SECOND READING
Paul speaks of his singular desire to preach the "gospel" (the Good News of Jesus Christ). When do you share the gospel message with others?

GOSPEL READING
We learn that from the beginning of his public ministry Jesus was very purpose-driven: healing the sick and preaching the good news. How intentional is the practice of faith in your daily life?

THE AUDACITY OF HOLINESS

Do you know a holy person? I'm not talking about piety — that's important, too, in its own way. But right now, I'm speaking of holiness.

St. Therese of Lisieux called holiness "a disposition of the heart that makes us humble and little in the arms of God, aware of our weakness, and confident — in the most audacious way — in His Fatherly goodness."

The holy person sees a storm on the horizon of life, and rather than give themselves over to fear and despair (natural and understandable reactions), regards the gathering winds as an opportunity to rely more fully on God. The holy person takes a bad situation and sanctifies it with charity and understanding that defies our fallen human nature.

Peter's mother-in-law was still in the throes of a fever when Jesus grasped her hand. It wasn't until she took his hand and allowed him to help her up that "the fever left her and she waited on them." Before the fever could leave her, she had to commit to holiness — to put her trust in him in a most audacious way. She had to find it within herself to lift her weakened hand to grasp his — and as soon as she did, she was rewarded. Her bodily health restored, she gave thanks, and attended to his needs.

God's hand is always outstretched to us. Will we take it, even if the fever of sin and pride and worldly concerns rages in our souls? Will we muster the strength? Will we be audacious enough to have confidence in His Fatherly goodness?

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

IS IT EVER OK TO LEAVE MASS BEFORE IT ENDS?

This is an interesting question because beneath the surface there seems to be an assumption that if it's okay, then why do we have to stay after we receive communion? The short answer is "no," but we definitely want to go a bit deeper as we consider why.

First, when we think about questions like this, we must consider this in adult terms. If there is something gravely important that we need to do, then we must attend to that. However, if it is a matter of convenience or preference, then we really have to stop and think again. First, while we always want to recognize the importance of sacramental communion in the Mass, we also need to understand how important the time of thanksgiving and prayer after communion is. This is summarized in the Prayer After Communion offered by the celebrant and then we are also commissioned to "Go forth" during the Dismissal of the Mass, reminding us that we have been entrusted with a gift — the Word of God and the Presence of Christ in the sacrament — and that we are to share that gift with others.

If we simply leave after we receive communion, we risk two things. First, there is the possibility that we will turn our reception of communion into a purely personal, individual experience that is separated from our common experience of worship — and communion in the fullest sense — and, second, we lose an opportunity for gratitude and serious reflection if we simply leave after communion. This time of thanksgiving, reflection, and, ultimately, missioning, are important and, in the end, an essential part of the celebration of the Mass.

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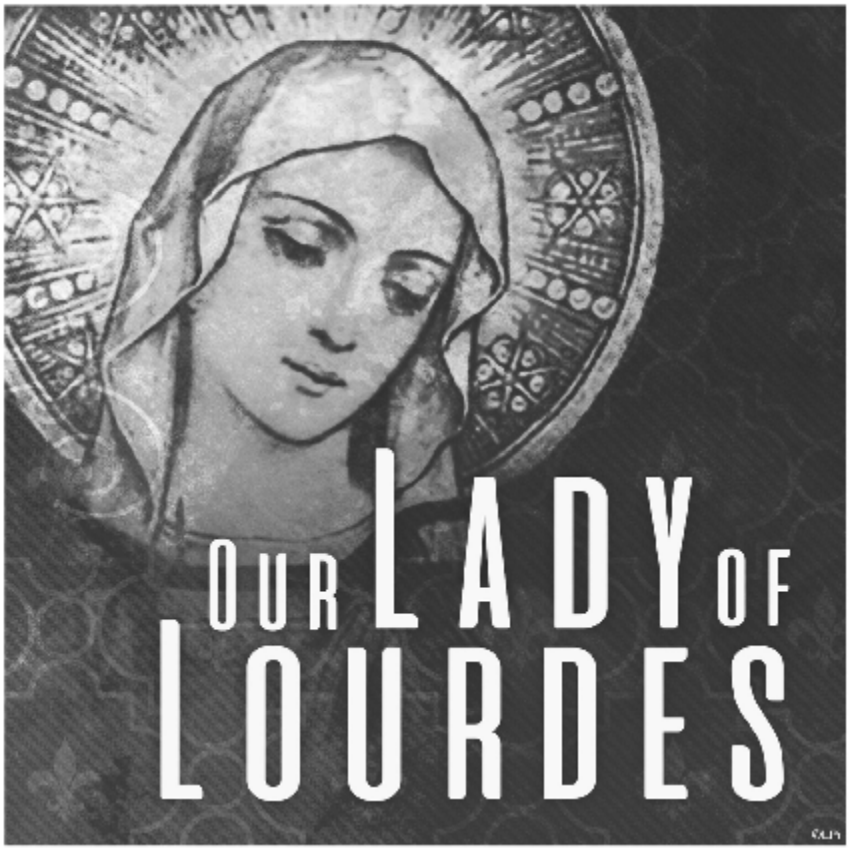
LIVE THE LITURGY

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Have you ever wondered what life would be like if you could see the future and know how things turn out? While it's intriguing to ponder what life would be like if we possessed this knowledge, actually knowing could easily rob us of the thrill, adventure, and soul-searching graces of our journey. Like Job, life does not always leave us on a happy note. Life experience can bring us face-to-face with our mortality and leave us with a profound sense of helplessness. We do not see the wholeness and fulfillment that will one day come and cannot grasp the certainty that a resolution to our plight will come our way. We need to learn how to reach for Jesus' hand and let him help us to our feet. Living a life of faith means realizing that we are not here to figure out life on our own. In order to drink deeply of what life presents us, we have to wrestle in the depths of our souls, agonize and search, possibly reach the lowest point of desperation, and cry out for the Divine healing we need to restore our faith, hope, and love. It is no wonder that those who are touched by God's healing power want to then serve others and show them the deeper waters that can be explored. Knowing too much can rob us of joyful surprises.



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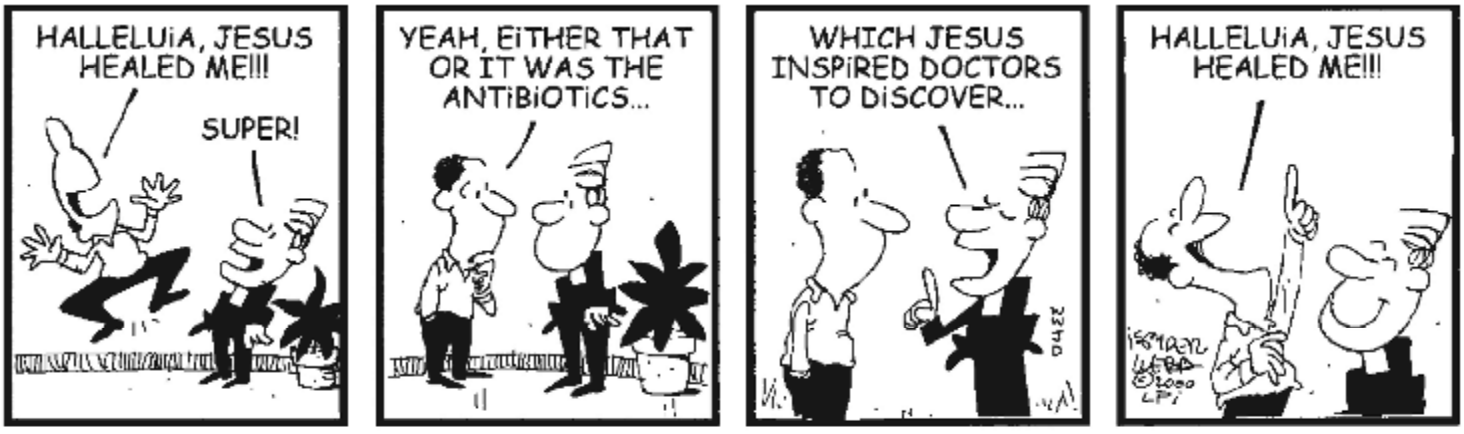
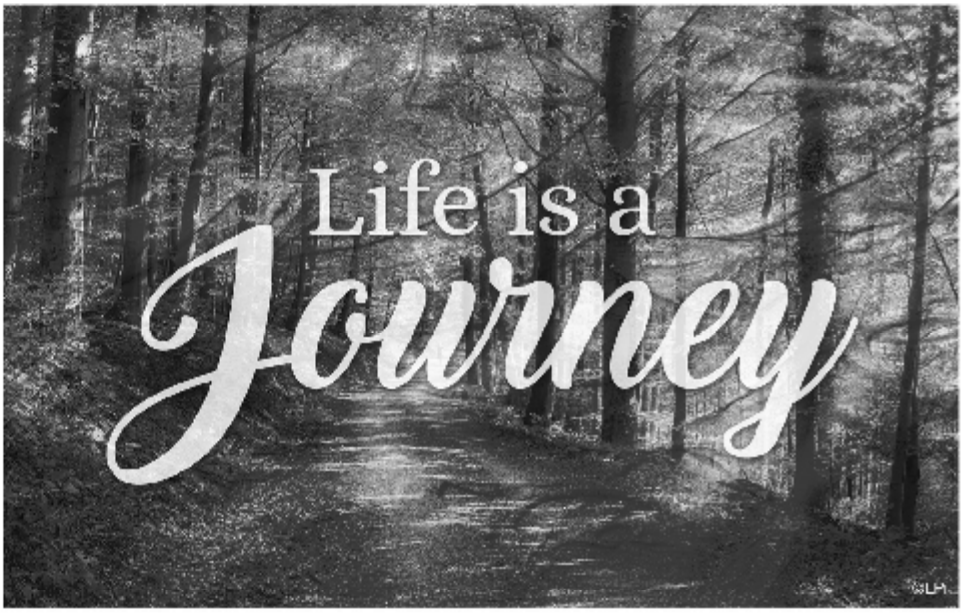
5th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



GOSPEL MEDITATION
ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE



If I only knew then what I know now, how different life would be. This sentiment, expressed in myriad ways, is found on every human being's lips at one point or another. Life may have brought us to a vulnerable place where we see some of the poor choices we made and the effects they are having. Perhaps we fell into some destructive and dysfunctional relationships or behaviors and are finding how they hold us captive. Our zeal and passion for life may have drifted away and we are waking up to the reasons apathy has taken hold. Life can be hard. In fact, some would describe their lives as a drudgery. They walk through each day with an anxious unsettledness, wondering when their restlessness will cease. There is a temptation to believe that what I see is all I will get. Mortality and hopelessness await the dawn. If I could only have known what would come in the future, I could have made better choices and avoided all of this misery!

Really? While we can certainly give into weakness, sin, impulsiveness, and idiosyncrasies that cause us to stumble over ourselves, life is really a journey. If we don't make the mistake of wallowing in the mire of self-pity and realize the new life God is calling us to, then there are thrills, adventures, surprises, and soul-searching graces we can surely miss. We are not tethered to our past nor are we bound to the ills life can bring upon us. We are never hopeless or helpless. The problem is that our myopic vision only allows us to see the misery and misfortune that is before us, not the potential that can come from choosing healthier and more life-giving options. Jesus came that we might have fullness of life. We need to learn how to reach for Jesus' hand and let him help us to our feet.

We need to allow God into our pain and heal our past. We have to wrestle with our histories, agonize and search and cry out for the Divine healing we need to restore our faith, hope, and love. Job could not see how his story would end or trust the guidance of the God who called him. We live in that same blindness and suffer from the same lack of confidence. Once we allow ourselves to be touched by God's healing power, we begin to see that all of the pieces of our lives are necessary parts of a greater whole. Along the way of our lives, God uses our omissions and failures to create new things and possibilities. When doors close, others open and we can be amazed by the joyful and unexpected surprises we receive. Once we know the power of God's creative, healing, life-giving, forgiving, and dynamic presence, it is no wonder we want to put ourselves at the service of others and show them what life can be.

When it was evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were ill or possessed by demons. The whole town was gathered at the door. He cured many who were sick with various diseases, and he drove out many demons, not permitting them to speak because they knew him. - Mk 1:32-34

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

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DATE	CHURCH	MASS TIME	INTENTION	REQUESTED BY
MONDAY 2/8	St. Augustine	9:00 AM	† Lucille & Mario Donini	Giacinto & Maria Cervoni
TUESDAY 2/9	St. Augustine	9:00 AM	† Fr. Antonio Ventura † Bill Berger † Casper "Cappy" Vollero	The Marenna Family Enrico & Maria Cervoni The Yacono Family
WEDNESDAY 2/10	St. Augustine	9:00 AM	† Fr. Robert Lord	
THURSDAY 2/11		No Mass		
FRIDAY 2/12	St. Augustine	9:00 AM	† Kathleen Lyon	Jennette Family
SATURDAY 2/13	St. Augustine St. Augustine	9:00 AM 5:00 PM	No intention Parishioners of St. Ambrose	
SUNDAY 2/14	St. Augustine S. Augustine	9:00 AM 11:00 AM	† Nicholas DeSarbo † Cleo Ditman † Margaret Mete † Salvatore & Giuseppe Curcio	 Family Granddaughter Aniello, Antoinette, Salvatore & Antonio

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40 Days for Life , a peaceful prayer vigil, will be held in front of the Planned Parenthood facility at 345 Whitney Av, New Haven, CT. Volunteers are needed to help in this effort and for prayer teams (minimum 2 people per hour) to sign up to participate in the prayer vigil between the hours of 7 AM – 7 PM daily, from Feb 17th to Mar 28th 2021. For more information or questions you can e-mail Tim and Lanae Virkler at NewHaven40DaysforLife@gmail.com

To Sign up / register for hours

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