Saint Jerome Catholic Church

August 29, 2021

Address:
5205 Forty-third Ave.,
Hyattsville, MD

Parish Office:
301-927-6684
astjerome@hotmail.com

St. Jerome Academy:
301-277-4568

Child Center:
301-699-1314

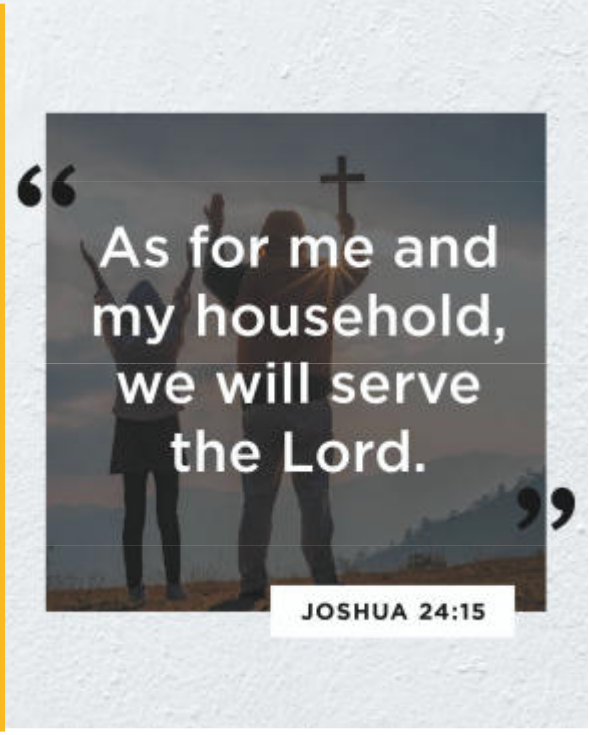
Website:
stjeromes.org

Mass Schedule

- Monday-Friday 8am
- Saturday vigil 4:30pm
- Sunday 8:30am, 10:30am, 12:30pm (Nigerian Community)
- Holy Days as announced

Sacrament of Reconciliation

3pm to 3:50pm in the Gold Room, sign up via Flock-note



Mass Intentions

For the week of August 29

Sunday:
Family of Raelyn Grace Jusey; Heather Dengler (L); For the People

Monday:
Fred Brewer

Tuesday:
Fr. Philip Tighe

Wednesday:
Linda Foster

Thursday:
Bonnie & Bernard Dengler, on the occasion of their 50th Anniversary

Friday:
Chuck Brown

VOLUNTEER WITH CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Catholic Charities ADW is seeking volunteers for many different projects this summer!

- St. Maria's Meals is back! Every Tuesday in Temple Hills and Wednesday in downtown DC, Catholic Charities volunteers and staff members provide individuals and families with hot meals. Sign up on our event calendar: https://www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/volunteercalendar/
- Food Distributions: Throughout the summer, we will help deliver food items at St. Bernard in Riverdale, MD every other Tuesday. Learn more and sign up on our event calendar!
- Prepare and deliver a meal for 20 people at Dorothy Day Place in Rockville, any night of the week! Signing up to cook a meal helps staff focus on other priorities such as clinical work and employment services. http://bttr.im/80hmc

PRAY FOR OUR Saint Jerome Academy students, teachers, and staff, as they return to school this Tuesday, August 31!

Feed the Turtle Oct. 20th, 2021

Thanks to vaccines, the UMD Catholic Student Center is resuming its Wednesday night dinners. Once again, the people of St. Jerome are supporting the Catholic Terps. To sign up, go to SignupGenius.com and search: roultm@netscape.net

47th Annual DeMatha Senior Booster's
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Please enter from 43rd Avenue back parking lot

Pay by Credit Card:
store.dematha.org
(Note: the web address does not have a www. in front of it. Please type in exactly as you see it).

Questions/Seating Preferences:
demathacrabfeast@gmail.com

GIVE IT ALL BACK

Pop culture has given us a unique idea of the term justice. Justice, we often think, is about taking. Taking what's owed. Taking revenge. Taking what we deserve. This worldview tends to make mincemeat of our Catholic social teachings. Seeking the good of the poor, a call to community and participation, solidarity — on the face of it, in a society where everything must be earned and we are encouraged to hoard for ourselves whatever success we can achieve, these principles look a lot like highway robbery.

But when you remember the presence of an omnipotent, all-loving and all-merciful God, it turns our gunslinging sense of justice on its head. For how does justice inhabit the same universe as a God who is so quick to give and indeed to forgive?

Well, very easily, when we remember Who exactly is the source of every good and perfect thing in this world. There is no law that cannot be traced back to the Word. And the Word saves our souls.

Is that justice? No, that is a gift. It is the reckless, indulgent gift of a father whose love is greater than His anger. What is justice in the Biblical sense?

The answer is simple. Look at your life. See the hours in your day? See your spouse, your kids, your grandkids? See the house they live in, the money in your wallet, the food in your fridge, the breath in your lungs?

Calling it all your own, refusing to share any of it — that's robbery. Giving it all back to the One who gave it to you — that's justice.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

MY FRIEND HAS NEVER HEARD OF CHRIST AND I WANT TO SHARE THE GOSPEL WITH HER BUT I'M AFRAID TO. HOW DO I SHARE MY FAITH?

There are a lot of ways to bring up the topic of religion, without being judgmental or pushy. Begin by asking what her thoughts are about religion, or what her experience was growing up. Finding common ground is often easier than you think, because the questions and problems we have about God, the presence of evil, our purpose in life, and our relationship with God are universal concerns.

Why are you afraid? If you do not want to insult or offend someone, don't be pushy or judgmental. If you are uncertain about how to explain your own faith, do a little reading or practice with a friend. If you measure success only by this person converting, focus your attention more on beginning the conversation, not on bringing it to a perfect close! Faith is a journey of many acts of belief, many discussions about God, and many choices about how we practice what we preach. In some we will have great success; in others we will need forgiveness and perseverance. The most important thing to keep in mind is that the Holy Spirit is always at work and our most humble efforts can bear great fruit. Have faith in God because he has faith in you!

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GOSPEL MEDITATION
ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

Albert Einstein said that the "true measure of intelligence is not knowledge but imagination." Being a disciple of Jesus Christ requires a great deal of imagination. It is not enough to simply attend to facts, rules and rituals and consider the job done. Quite contrarily, the Gospels demands creativity, of trying to discern how to put flesh on the Beatitudes and properly serve God's children. Jesus never doled out a top down agenda. Not once did he ever demand conformity over conversion or sacrifice over mercy. The Gospel is always about putting people in touch with their compassionate, forgiving, and unconditionally loving God and meeting them where they are.

For Jesus, it often meant breaking a few rules. Well respected and time-honored traditions had to be set aside in order to attend to what really mattered. God's compassion, mercy and true conversion were always the trump cards. The story of the Good Samaritan, healing on the Sabbath, and bypassing of purification rituals all display this theme. Human beings can get too hung up on protocol and tradition. This is so much so that often preserving all of these things is of greater concern than the beggar knocking on our door or the sinner looking for mercy. It is no wonder, then, that we can easily become hypocritical. Many can see us on our knees in prayer while our true heart and actions, rooted in judgment and self-preservation, are hidden from others. It is a trap into which we can easily fall. Who cares how we live our lives as long as our hands are properly washed!

Here enters the need for imagination and the distinction of truly being a wise and intelligent person. It takes a good measure of creativity and a lot of guts to really be a doer of God's word and not merely a hearer. Being a person who doesn't just tell people about God but shows people God requires courage and ingenuity. That's why people like St. Francis of Assisi and St. Teresa of Calcutta are timeless. Their genuineness speaks volumes generation to generation. It's risky business taking the step to allow God into our hearts. Permitting God to release us from the grip of our evil thoughts, infidelity, greed, malice, sexual improprieties, licentiousness, envy, arrogance, folly, and the like takes courage. That's why we prefer to spend our energy rearranging the future rather than take measures to secure a foundation that is most certainly crumbling.

"Why do your disciples not follow the tradition of the elders but instead eat a meal with unclean hands?" He responded, "Well did Isaiah prophesy about you hypocrites, as it is written: This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me." - Mk 7:5b-6

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