

Aug. 22 Saints Peter & Paul The Apostles

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Pastor

Fr. Mark Heuberger

Parochial Vicar

Fr. Anthonio Jean

Parochial Vicar

Fr. Phillip Schweda

Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil: 4:30pm Sunday: 7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am

Daily Masses

Mon, Wed, Fri: 11am Tue, Thur, Sat: 8am

Holy Days

Holy Day Vigil: 4:30pm Complete schedules are listed in the bulletin prior to the Holy Day

Confessions

Saturdays 3:30pm - 4:20pm

Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesdays 6:30-7pm preceding the **Chaplet of Divine Mercy**

"First Friday" of every month, 11:30am-3pm

"Do we not have in the Eucharist the living, true and real Jesus present before us?"







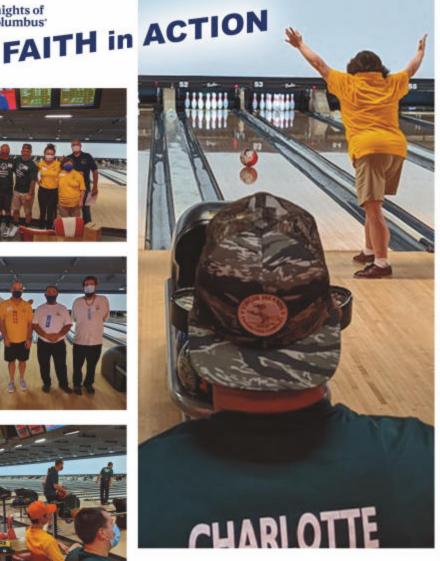












The Knights of Columbus have always fostered a unique partnership with the Special Olympics, helping disabled athletes train and compete in games around the world. On August 7th, our Knights had a great time assisting in the Annual Bowling Competition. About 225 participants filled Bowlero in Bradenton. The winners of this regional competition will now move up to the state level. Way to go, athletes and Knights!



ੳ Deceased ♥ Living

Monday, August 23

St. Rose of Lima 1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10 • Mt 23:13-22

11am 🕆 Toni Pinelli

Tuesday, August 24

St. Bartholomew, Apostle Rv 21:9b-14 • Jn 1:45-51

8am T Vincent Lubrani

Wednesday, August 25

St. Louis; St. Joseph Calasanz, Priest 1 Thes 2:9-13 • Mt 23:27-32

11am T Philip Mulvey

Thursday, August 26

1 Thes 3:7-13 • Mt 24:42-51

8am Tr Rita Gurley

Friday, August 27

St. Monica

1 Thes 4:1-8 • Mt 25:1-13

11am 🕆 Bridget McFadden

Saturday, August 28

St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

1 Thes 4:9-11 • Mt 25:14-30

8am T Robert Petroski

4:30pm ♥♥ SSP&P Parishioners

Sunday, August 29

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Dt 4:1-2, 6-8 • Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27 Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

7:30am T Joseph Irwin

9:30am Toe Spampanato

11:30am The Heather Harrington

Going Deeper Into the Gospel



"Far be it from us to forsake the Lord for the service of other gods." We struggle with our gods. They appear in the forms of things like money, power, prestige, popularity, privilege, and self-fulfillment. We like these "gods" because they make us feel good and ask very little of us in return. When we worship them, we worship ourselves. How can you go wrong with that? We buy into the illusion that if something can give us a comfortable life, free of want and need, then it is worth setting other things aside to pursue it. In essence, we sell our souls. Our struggle with "who is God" and to whom do we belong is a real one and one that can easily find us empty and experiencing disillusionment.

The devil tempted Jesus in the desert and promised him more. We are promised "more." But in pursuing the more and the satisfying we lose track of the cost, and the cost is great. We sacrifice our very life

LIVE STREAM MASSES

Mon-Wed-Fri at 11:00AM Tue-Thur-Sat at 8:00AM Sundays at 9:30AM

To watch: go online to

www.sspeterandpaul.org

Click on the Facebook logo **1** at the top.



You do not have to have a Facebook account to view the Mass.

LOW-GLUTEN HOSTS AVAILABLE

If you have a medical need to avoid gluten, please see the sacristan at least 10 minutes before Mass begins to request a low-gluten host.

Next Sunday's Readings

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8

James 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 in pursuit of something disguised as life. We sacrifice truth for something that only "feels" true. While the true and real God certainly promises us many things, many things are also required. It is not about the warm and secure feelings and self-absorption the world wants to provide, but of giving back. There can be no lukewarm stance with regard to faith. If we are in, then faith in Jesus Christ asks us to do some difficult things: work in service of God's kingdom (not our own), love our enemies, offer no resistance to injury, that we must die to ourselves in order to find ourselves, and trust that Jesus truly gives us his flesh and blood to eat and drink. These are hard things to accept and even harder to put into practice. It is no wonder that many, who may be attracted to Jesus at first, walk away in pursuit of the more self-satisfying gods.

But truth is truth. If we cannot accept it from the lips of Jesus Christ, then where else will we find it? To whom can we go? There is only one source of truth and life, Jesus Christ. Jesus has the words of eternal life and if we do not go to him, then where else will we find this gift? But we must be faithful and buy into the whole package deal that requires sacrifice and fidelity. When we do, we find ourselves, through the Body and Blood of Christ, connected to the Source of all life and then intimately bound with our brothers and sisters. We all have to decide whether we want to stay or go and if we can accept what Jesus has to say. It's a choice we all have to make.

©LPi

SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING

Anyone can receive the Sacrament of Anointing after any Saturday 8am Mass or by appointment. Call the church office at 795-1228 to make arrangements.

Also, please remember to notify us directly if you will be in the hospital.

Diocese of Venice TV Mass SUNDAYS AT 9:30AM

Comcast Channel 9
Frontier Channel 4
Direct TV Channel 44
Dish Network Channel 44
Spectrum Channel 4
Universal Channel 11
Verizon Channel 4



Stewardship of Treasure

Thank you for your commitment to support your parish!

<u>Aug 8 - 14</u>

Attendance... 700 Debt Reduction.... \$ 410.00 Offertory... \$12,379.13 Online Giving.... \$ 2,681.00



Parish Directory

Church Office

2850 75th Street West Bradenton, FL 34209 (941) 795-1228

Office Hours

Mon-Fri 8:00AM-4:00PM Phone Hrs 8:30AM-12PM and 1:30PM-4:00PM Closed for Lunch NOON-1:30PM

Website

www.sspeterandpaul.org

Email

parishoffice@sspeterandpaul.org

Fax

(941) 794-0127

Msgr. Moretti Center (941) 795-2540

St. Vincent de Paul Society (941) 794-1328

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISM

Parent baptism instruction is required; call the office.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Call office to schedule.

MARRIAGE

Please contact a priest at least six months prior to wedding date.

BULLETIN DEADLINE:

MONDAYS AT NOON; watch bulletin for early holiday deadlines



Et Cetera

Knights of Columbus 1st Wednesday/Month: OFFICERS PLANNING MEETING at 6pm. 2nd Wednesday/Month: MONTHLY MEETING at 6:30pm. Both meetings are open to all members. Meet in Council Room at MMC. Tex Johnson: (941) 704-2822 Bill Dunn: (941) 840-3653

Poor Boxes

are located at each doorway as you exit the church. All donations benefit our St. Vincent de Paul Society. Green donation envelopes are in the info boxes at exits.

Holy Water

To refill your personal holy water bottles, please use the holy water dispenser and the small funnel. Holy water is located in the vestibule.

Votive Candles

are located in the vestibules of the church and the chapel.

Religious Articles Store

is closed until further notice.

Altar Flowers

parishioners Mark & Susan Clark of Flowers by Edie donate the altar flowers.

Grief Support

call (941) 795-2540

Marriage Preparation & Marriage Encounter call (941) 795-1228

Retrouvaille

to heal and renew marriages call (239) 395-0810

Venerable Augustus Tolton

April 1, 1854 - July 9, 1897

Father Augustus Tolton was the first freed black slave from the United States to become a



Catholic priest. Born in Missouri on April 1, 1854, Augustus was born into slavery. There are indications that their owners freed his family at the outbreak of the Civil War.

Although Augustus and his siblings attended Catholic schools, they were subjected to situations of cruelty and racism because they were black. At the age of 16, through teachings on the Eucharist and the Sacrifice of the Mass, Augustus heard his call to priesthood.

Due to the fact that U.S. seminaries wouldn't receive African-Americans, it was not until 1880 that Augustus was accepted into a seminary in Rome. He believed that once ordained he would serve as a missionary and be sent to Africa, however, Cardinal Giovanni Simeoni insisted that the United States had to see the first black priest. He then obediently returned to work with the black community in the U.S., the place where he was most persecuted. He was assigned to serve as a missionary in Quincy, Illinois.

Fr. Augustus soon became well-known for his beautiful homilies, his voice and his talent when playing the accordion. His effectiveness as a preacher and spiritual leadership began to attract large numbers of white people who attended his Masses to hear his sermons at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Chicago, something that his fellow white priests didn't like. Despite all the challenges he had to face during his apostolate, Father Augustus never gave up and accepted the cross he had to carry for being the only black priest in the country.

Father Augustus never spoke in public about the racism he suffered from his fellow Catholics. Instead, he taught that Catholicism has always welcomed the different races, since one of the wise men, who Father Augustus called "a negro king," was one of the first ones to greet the newborn Savior. He also preached that the Catholic Church was the only true liberator of blacks in America. He died on July 9, 1897, at the age of 43, of a stroke during a heat wave in Chicago.

He was named Venerable by Pope Francis on June 12, 2019.

Quote by Augustus Tolton: "The Catholic Church deplores a double slavery – that of the mind and that of the body. She endeavors to free us of both. I was a poor slave boy but the priests of the Church did not disdain me. It was through the influence of one of them that I became what I am tonight. I must now give praise to Father Peter McGirr who promised me that I would be educated and who kept his word. It was the priests of the Church who taught me to pray and to forgive my persecutors... it was through the direction of a Sister of Notre Dame, Sister Herlinde, that I learned to interpret the Ten Commandments; and then I also beheld for the first time the glimmering light of truth and the majesty of the Church. In this Church we do not have to fight for our rights because we are black. She has colored saints – Augustine, Benedict the Moor, Monica. The Church is broad and liberal. She is the Church for our people."

Free consultations - The National Catholic Bioethics Center answers questions from individuals who seek to better understand or apply Catholic moral teaching to specific ethical issues they are facing in health care or the life sciences — real-life problems or dilemmas. These consultations are free and confidential. You can complete an online form at **www.ncbcenter.org** or call **215-877-2660**, 24 hours/day, 7 days/week.

YOU ARE INVITED TO:

A special Mass at Epiphany Cathedral on Sunday, October 17 at 2:30pm

Every parish is asked to send a delegation of ministry leaders, volunteers, and other parishioners. Contact Fr. Mark at (941) 795-1228 if you are interested.

THE OCCASION:

In April of this year, Pope Francis approved a new Synod of Bishops that emphasizes *communion*, *participation*, *and mission*. It will include consulting the faithful throughout each diocese. The Diocese of Venice will be holding "listening sessions" in multiple parishes between Oct 2021 and April 2022. Pope Francis' inauguration of this synodal path at the Vatican will be held October 9-10th. The Mass at Epiphany Cathedral, to which you are invited, offers the same celebration. Please participate in this opening Mass if you are able.



Helping Hands

Sometimes we NEED a helping hand.

Sometimes we can BE a helping hand.

Either way, here are some great places to start.

Our Daily Bread

(941) 745-2992 6:15 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

SOLVE Maternity Homes

(941) 748-0094

St. Joseph Food Pantry (941) 756-3732

Bethesda House

(941) 366-1886



St. Vincent de Paul Society

Do you have a neighbor or friend who is in temporary need because of a job loss or an illness?

Please leave a message for us... we want to help!

941-794-1328

St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store

Come in to shop or donate or both! Please call if you are donating larger items... we can pick them up.

1111 8th Ave. W., Bradenton (941) 746-0622 Mon-Fri 10-3 • Sat 10-2 www.stvdpstore.org



DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

August 17, 2021

My Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

On August 14, 2021, an earthquake of magnitude 7.2 hit the southwestern region of Haiti. This earthquake was stronger than even the devastating earthquake that hit Port-au-Prince in 2010. Though the full extent of the damage is yet unknown, over 1,400 people have lost their lives, those injured is now estimated at over 6,000 and thousands of buildings, including homes and Churches, are destroyed. This has been complicated by heavy rains and flooding.

Our Catholic Faith calls each of us to care for those in need, and, at this time in particular, for those who are suffering in the wake of this terrible tragedy. Recognizing the need of those who have been so severely impacted by the earthquake, I am asking Pastors and Administrators throughout the Diocese of Venice to take up a second collection on the weekend of August 21-22, which will be sent to assist in recovery.

Your generosity and your prayers for the people of Haiti are deeply appreciated. If you are not prepared when the collection is taken, donations may be sent with a check marked "Diocese of Venice Haitian Relief" to:

* Diocese of Venice in Florida Haitian Relief 1000 Pinebrook Road Venice, Florida 34285

May Almighty God bless you and your families. Please continue to pray for all who are suffering in Haiti.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Frank J. Dewane Bishop of the Diocese of Venice in Florida

* If you wish, you may put your donation in the offertory next week at church. Please use a plain envelope marked "Haitian Relief" and write "Haiti" on the memo line if using a check.

We will forward all donations to the Diocese.

Encounter. Connection. Peace.

Are you interested in this spiritual journey of the Catholic Christian community?
Or do you have a friend who has asked you about your own spiritual life?
Then RCIA is for you. It is the path for those searching for Encounter and Connection and Peace through the Church. It is led by people who live and love their faith, and who want to share their own encounter with you in a warm, accepting setting.
We'd like to walk with you on your journey. No pressure, no commitment.
Just bring your desire to explore the fullness and beauty of the Catholic faith
– and the possibilities it brings to your life.

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE RCIA MEET & GREET

Stop by on Saturday, September 4, 2021 at 5:30pm in the Moretti Center OR on Sunday, September 5, 2021 at 12:30pm in the Moretti Center. If you have a friend who is searching for a spiritual home, offer to bring them!

Our first RCIA session is September 9, 2021.

We meet on Thursdays from 6:30-8:00pm in the Moretti Center. Questions? Email Jeri at RCIA@sspeterandpaul.org or call (941) 795-2540.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults



Saints Peter & Paul the Apostles

Two more Catechist Assistants Needed!

5th/6th grade Catechist Assistant
 9th/10th grade Catechist Assistant

What is a Catechist Assistant? A Catechist Assistant is a very special position. You will be in the classroom to welcome students as they come in, and help the Catechist wherever in various ways as needed.

When are classes? Classes start in October in the Msgr. Moretti Center. You will assist two Sundays a month from 9:45am to 11:25am. (Grades 3 &4 come on the first and third Sunday; grades 5/6 & 9 come on the second and fourth Sunday.)

Questions? Interested? Please call Kim at 941-795-2540.

All volunteers will be required to be fingerprinted and take the Safe Environment Training (SET) program.



- Faith Formation Classes begin in October
- Letters will be sent to parents about the new online registration process
- Watch the bulletin for registration updates

Support and encourage our future priests!



Venice Diocesan

Council of Catholic Women

VOCATION FUND

The Council of Catholic Women of the Diocese of Venice invites you to join them in celebrating

PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY

September 26, 2021

in a special and lasting way —by sending a donation to the **VDCCW Vocation Fund** "In Honor of" the priest(s) in your Parish. Our diocese is educating 16 MEN in various seminaries so YOUR donation of ANY AMOUNT will be a GREAT HELP!

To take part, please send \$1.00 for EACH card in addition to your donation. The extra \$1.00 covers the cost of the "IN HONOR OF" card(s) and mailing them to you so you can deliver to your Priest(s).

Your donation amount will not be revealed to the Priest(s). And please remember that this is a gift that keeps on giving!

Please send \$1.00 plus your donation to (made out to VDCCW Vocation Fund)

Cornelia Zanetti

5808 Gulf Drive, #204,

Holmes Beach, FL 34217.

Questions? Please email me at Corniez@aol.com

THANK YOU, AND GOD BLESS, Cornelia



Divine Mercy Chaplet

Wednesdays in the Chapel Adoration 6:30pm Divine Mercy 7:00pm



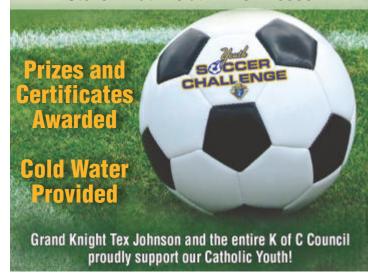
Saturday, September 4, 2021

9:00am-Noon at the Soccer Field St. Joseph Catholic School 2990 26th Street West, Bradenton, FL

- Open to Catholic Youth Ages 9-14 Proof of Age Required Day Of Event
 - Girls and Boys Categories for Each Age
- Winners from Each Category Advance to District Level
 - 15 Shots from Penalty Line for Each Contestant

REGISTER ON SITE

Questions? Call K-of-C Program Director Steven Watkins at 727-527-0390





Submission as Stewardship

We aren't comfortable with the idea of submission. Our society champions equality, and rightly so – but it's a mistake to think that submission is at odds with equality. To submit ourselves fully, we must first be free. We must first be our own masters. God has granted us that freedom with the salvation He offers. We are no longer the slaves of sin. Now He asks us to be subordinate to one another, in the name of Christ.

What a completely uncomfortable task! What He's asking is for us to be subordinate to the person who irritates us the most. The person we really can't stand. The person who doesn't respect us or appreciate what we have to offer. The person we think we're smarter than, more talented than. The person we envy.

That's the real challenge of stewardship, isn't it? Subordination. Inconveniencing myself by giving of time, of money, of relationship. Putting the needs or wants of another above my own when they haven't done anything special to earn it.

I invite you to consider the cross – the most radical expression of submission, and of stewardship, that ever existed. If there was ever someone who deserved superiority, isn't it the God who let Himself be nailed to a tree, who gave so freely of His life, His body, His blood, His everything?

To look at him in his agony is to truly understand the beauty of submission – of laying down what you have for the good of the other.

- Tracy Earl Welliver



Since the first 40 Days for Life campaign started:

- ✓ 19,000 babies saved
- ✓ 221 Abortion workers have quit
- ✓ 112 Abortion centers closed

Now we can help to save many even more lives!!!

This enhanced version of 40 Days for Life will cover the Sarasota Planned Parenthood with prayer during all business hours throughout the year.

Ss. Peter & Paul Church will be filling the 1-hour prayer vigil slots from 1:00-6:00PM on the 2nd Thursday of each month.

Cities where 40 Days for Life 365 has already been implemented have shown marked increases of "saves".



Help spare moms and babies from the horror of abortion!

In preparation for our September 9 prayer date we will have PHONE REGISTRATION.

Please call Bonnie at 941-792-1839 to sign up.



Hello ladies of Saints Peter & Paul Catholic Church!

We are excited to announce a new season of WA (Catholic Women's Association). Get ready for **new topics** as well as a **puzzle exchange** at every meeting.

We are a social and philanthropic group that includes: F.E.L.T. Feeding Empty Little Tummies, St. Vincent de Paul Society, St. Joseph School and Food Pantry, SOLVE (housing and support for the woman at risk during pregnancy), and our parish Faith Formation program. We are grateful to have the opportunity to support these organizations, and we seek to grow.

The WA 2021-2022 Directory will be ready in the fall. Each member will have their **contact information** listed along with their **photo**. Please email your pictures to wbs@sspeterandpaul.org or text Cindy at 765-617-3550.

<u>Mail</u> your membership registration form and dues to: LouAnn Mossien, 4222 Overture Circle, Bradenton 34209. Dues are \$20; make check payable to: *Ss. Peter and Paul*

the Apostles; in the memo line write: CWA Dues.

Questions? Call or text LouAnn at 941-448-8344.

Note: Please do <u>not</u> place in the offering basket at church.

To ensure an accurate membership list and directory, please send your registration, dues, and picture BY SEPTEMBER 4, 2021.

Next meeting:
Thursday,
October 7, 2021
3:00PM in the
MMC

REGISTRATION (BY MAIL ONLY)	Amount Enclosed \$
Name	Phone
Address	
Email	Remember to send photo!



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MAMMA MIAS

ABBA's hits tell the hilarious story of a young woman's search for her birth father. This sunny and funny tale unfolds on a Greek island paradise. The storytelling magic of ABBA's timeless songs propels this enchanting tale of love, laughter and friendship, creating an unforgettable show.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17

Manatee Performing Arts Center 502 Third Ave. West

DOORS OPEN AT 1:00PM
MUSICAL BEGINS AT 2:00PM
Cost: \$30.00 per person

(Make checks payable to: ROAMIN' CATHOLICS)

Drop check off at church office or mail to: Sandy Spenner, 2850 75th St. W., Bradenton, FL 34209

These tickets will go quickly — reserve yours NOW if you want to go!

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL SANDY AT 941-792-4610

BOWLING LEAGUE MYTH:

"You have to be a great bowler to be on the parish bowling league."

WRONG! Our league is about having fun, getting some exercise, and enjoying life! Join us!



SSP&P BOWLING LEAGUE

Starts Mid-September Mondays at 6:30pm 26 weeks ... \$17/week

- 2 Free Practice Games a Week
- Discounts on Food & Beverages
 - League Banquet

Questions? Wanna sign up? Email Jeanne at: jlindberg@sspeterandpaul.org

Ss. Peter and Paul the Apostles Church Profit & Loss Statement Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021

INCOME (1)	\$1,317,780.23
INCOME (2)	59,142.80
INCOME (3)	8,156.14
INCOME (4)	13,132.33
INCOME (5)	329,704.34
INCOME (6)	92,692.35

EXPENSES

Personnel (6)	\$542,496.26
Building & Grounds (7)	276,600.28
Ministries (8)	43,904.82
General & Administrative (9)	394,831.00
Other Expenses (10)	150,700.80
Prior Year Expenses (11)	-0-
Depreciation Expense (12)	237,069.14

NET INCOME

\$175,005.89

Note - Included (but not limited to) I the Income/Expense figures, are the following:

- All Offertory collections, direct deposits to Catholic Faith Appeal, Diocesan Non Parochial Collections, Adopt-a-Student; Mission Church.
- 2) Bequests; Gifts & Donations
- 3) Religious Articles Store; CWA, Rosary Makers, KOC, Memorial Garden, Food Pantry
- Parish Activities & Hospitalities; Religious Education and Parish Adult education; Youth Ministry
- 5) CFA
- 6) Prior Year Income; (Funds received relating to prior fiscal year of operation)
- 6) Salaries; Employer Payroll taxes (FICA); Unemployment taxes; Pension and Health Benefits
- 7) Maintenance; Property insurance; Utilities; Mortgage interest
- Liturgy; Music ministry; Religious Education; Parish Adult Education; Charitable donations to Community programs; Youth Ministry
- Assessment to Diocese; Monthly financial aid to specific areas as designated by the Bishop's Office; tuition assistance for St. Joseph Catholic School; Office expense and supplies
- Religious Article store; Catholic Women's Association; Rosary Makers, Other Parish Activities
- 11) Prior Year Expenses-capitalize items reclassified or written off; expenses relating to prior Fiscal year of operation
- 12) Depreciation Expense

This is a copy of the annual financial report posted in the Parish Bulletin as required by Canon

Law

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time

Sunday, Aug 22, 2021

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Who do you serve?

Songwriter Bob Dylan had a come-to-Jesus moment in 1978 in a hotel room in Tucson, Arizona. More accurately, it seemed like Jesus came to him, as he felt "a presence in the room that couldn't have been anybody but Jesus." For four years, Dylan wrote songs critics panned as "God-awful gospel," and fans mourned the loss of what they'd come to expect from him. By 1981, Dylan had returned to his Jewish and folk-rock roots. Yet he never retracted his vision: "Well, it may be the devil, or it may be the Lord, but you gotta serve somebody." The choice remains ours.

TODAYS READINGS: Joshua 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b; Ephesians 5:21-32; John 6:60-69 (122). "If it does not please you to serve the LORD, decide today whom you will serve."

Monday, Aug 23, 2021

MEMORIAL OF ROSE OF LIMA, VIRGIN

Family finesse

Parents have expectations of their kids, and kids want to make their own choices—it's part of the painful growing-up process. Rose of Lima was like a lot of teenagers who clashed with her parents about her future, and she was like a lot of saints who rankled family by refusing to marry. They never let her join a convent, but they didn't force her to wed either, finally relenting to her choice of chastity. She lived out her brief life as she had wished, in prayer and penance. She is the patron saint of family problems. Everyone has them, so ask Rose for help.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5, 8b-10; Matthew 23:13-22 (425). "One who swears by heaven swears by the throne of God."

Tuesday, Aug 24, 2021

FEAST OF BARTHOLOMEW, APOSTLE

Play a stirring role

Bartholomew, also called Nathanael, was one of the original 12 apostles and later, a traveling missionary. He embodied what it means to become a missionary disciple—one who, upon being led to Jesus, wishes to lead others to him, too. As the U.S. bishops say in *Go and Make Disciples*, Jesus "gave the Church the unending task of evangelizing as a restless power, to stir and to stimulate." Where can you stir interest in Jesus today?

TODAY'S READINGS: Revelation 21:9b-14; John 1:45-51 (629). "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel."

Wednesday, Aug 25, 2021

The past is present

Today, we are becoming aware of the deep truth that wrongs committed in the past, even generations ago, can still perpetuate evil. Such is the sin of racism, which the U.S. Catholic Bishops have repeatedly called "an evil which endures in our society and in our Church" (Brothers and Sisters to Us). Each of us is called to help dismantle racism, to reject profiting from the oppression of others, and to listen to the voices of those who have been silenced too long—for the sake of our past, present, and future.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:27-32 (427). "You are like whitewashed tombs."

Thursday, Aug 26, 2021

Be alert!

Wakefulness is a term often used in spiritual writing. In today's gospel, Jesus tells his disciples, "Stay awake! You do not know on which day your Lord will come." The Catechism of the Catholic Church contains at least 20 references to being awake, usually in regard to "awakening faith." The church wants its members to be vigilant and tells us in the catechism that the "Holy Spirit constantly seeks to awaken us to keep watch!" Ask the Holy Spirit to help you awaken to God's presence today.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Thessalonians 3:7-13; Matthew 24:42-51 (428). "Jesus said to his disciples: 'Stay awake!"

Friday, Aug 27, 2021

MEMORIAL OF MONICA

Hang in there

Sometimes it feels like all of our small choices and actions will never amount to anything. Go big or go home, we're told. Yet the stuff of transformation, healing, and love is knitted together one small thing at a time. Our call is to have faith and persist. Take a look at Saint Monica, a laywoman from North Africa, who day in and day out offered "small" acts of kindness, love, and care for her beloved yet wayward son Augustine. She never tired of believing in him, even storming heaven on his behalf. Persisting in the small things that are good, beautiful, and true can make a big difference. What small things are you called to persist in?

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Matthew 25:1-13 (429). "Stay awake."

Saturday, Aug 28, 2021

MEMORIAL OF AUGUSTINE, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Let happiness be your song

Like all larger-than-life historical figures, Saint Augustine and his legacy are subject to debate. Some find in his vast work reason to take a pessimistic view of humanity. But he was quite life-affirming in his conviction that the happiness found in following God is indeed the only worthy and lasting happiness. "Happy is [the one] who has God," he succinctly put it. To "have" God for Augustine meant to love God, citing Psalm 72: "For me it is good to cling to God." Or, as Pharrell Williams put it in his blockbuster song "Happy" a few years back, "Clap along if you feel like happiness is the truth."

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Thessalonians 4:9-11; Matthew 25:14-30 (430). "You yourselves have been taught by God to love one another."



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Scripture citations from the New American Bible Revised

"Do not accept anything as the tkuth if it lacks love. And do not accept anything as love which lacks tkuth."

~ St. Edith Stein



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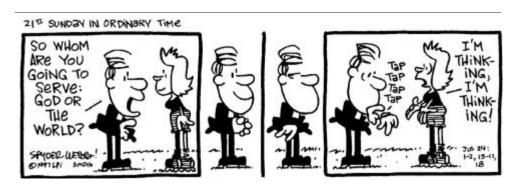


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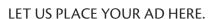
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