



22nd Sunday In
Ordinary Time

**St. Mary's
Catholic Church**
August 30, 2020

Today we hear Jesus tell his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem, where he will suffer and be killed and that—guess what?—whoever comes after him must take up his cross and follow him. It must have been quite a shock. This is the first time Jesus told them this. We know what happened nearly two thousand years ago, but the challenge is new for each generation of disciples. Are we willing to take up our crosses? Will we follow? Let our sharing in the Eucharist strengthen us as we take up the cross and follow him.



Cycle A -- Reflections on the Readings

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 20:7-9; Psalm 63; Romans 12:1-2; Matthew 16:21-27

Theme: Redemptive Suffering

The Scripture for this weekend has to do with God's point of view. These passages respect human opinion yet challenge us to discern and act in accord with God's will.

The story of young Jacqueline

Jacqueline, an attractive young lady, was the personal secretary to the manager of her department. She handled the tasks allotted to her with great efficiency. She phoned clients on his behalf, handled his correspondence, and smoothed out conflicts with customers. The boss came to rely on her more and more. He trusted her intuition and keen judgement. He often confided to her very personal matters, especially his conflictual relationship with wife. She listened with a great deal of understanding and he felt relieved as he got things off his chest. "If only this girl were my wife rather than the stupid one back home," he mused, "life would have been so different." He drew closer to her, began to spend more time in her company on some pretext or the other and gradually tried to make some sexual advances towards her. She responded with a polite "No" at first. "Sir, she added, "there is no future in this kind of a relationship with me. You are a married man. Why not keep things professional?"

But he wouldn't take "No" for an answer. She threatened to tell his boss. That's when his ego was hurt, and all hell broke loose. He harassed her with work, picked on her for the slightest faults, gave her memos and scolding right and left till Jacqueline, in utter exasperation, was almost forced out of the organization.

Many people suffer in this world. But the suffering is of two kinds: **redemptive and Unredemptive**. Unredemptive suffering is the wasted and often needless pain we cause to ourselves. One may overeat and get a stomach upset. A student may avoid studying through the year and face the humiliation of failure in an exam. continued.....

People are sometimes overloaded with work just because they have not learnt to say “No”. All this suffering is what we have brought upon ourselves. We need to bear responsibility for our present situation, take the steps required to rectify matters and get on the right track.

The other kind of suffering is redemptive suffering. It is the pain we sometimes have to inevitably go through because of choices we make to live a life of honesty and integrity in accordance with God’s plan. It is the suffering that Jacqueline had to go through to uphold in her life certain values and principles which were dear to her.

This is the type of suffering that we are concerned about. And Jesus is referring to this manner of suffering which He would have to undergo at the hands of the chief priests and scribes. But Peter whom Jesus had proclaimed as the Rock on whom He would build His Church was not prepared for this.

God’s Revelation to Peter

Peter, by God's revelation, understands that Jesus is the Messiah (Matthew 16:16). On the other hand, Jesus' mission as a suffering Messiah is too much for Peter to comprehend. Suffering and death should not be the path to glory. Peter suggests an easier way to fulfill God's will and thus becomes an obstacle to the mission. Jesus says, "You are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things" (Matthew 16:23). Jesus knows that to lose oneself for God's sake is to find oneself.

Act Now

It is often a chore to cook tasty meals that please different members of the family. Hard work is required to study effectively to get a high percentage and, in the process, forego the relaxation one might otherwise enjoy. Standing up for principles in an organization or rallying a community together demand a lot from us.

We are practical people. We seek the opinions of physicians, lawyers, business consultants, and friends. These are reasonable paths; clearly, God can speak to us through other people, especially through the Christian community. Our task is to constantly monitor God's counsel. Like Jesus, we assume that God may have a bigger and better way to accomplish God's plan!

Motivation for the week

Your talent only matters if you are somewhere it can be used

“A mother and a baby camel were lying around under a tree.

Then the baby camel asked, ‘Why do camels have humps?’

The mother camel considered this and said, ‘We are desert animals so we have the humps to store water so we can survive with very little water.’

The baby camel thought for a moment then said, ‘Ok...why are our legs long and our feet rounded?’

The mama replied, ‘They are meant for walking in the desert.’

The baby paused. After a beat, the camel asked, ‘Why are our eyelashes long? Sometimes they get in my way.’

The mama responded, ‘Those long thick eyelashes protect your eyes from the desert sand when it blows in the wind.’

The baby thought and thought. Then he said, ‘I see. So, the hump is to store water when we are in the desert, the legs are for walking through the desert and these eye lashes protect my eyes from the desert then why in the Zoo?’”





RCIA – Adult Faith Formation

❖ Do you or someone you know desire to know more about the Catholic Faith and deepen your prayer life through praying with scriptures (Lectio Divina)? If you desire to join the Church, kindly register with the secretary. Teaching starts in October 2020

Journey songs, Third Edition

- ❖ We have successfully taken delivery of the “Journey songs, Third Edition.” This is a hard copy with 3-year cycle Readings. Each journey songs book cost approximately \$20 without shipping cost.

If you have not purchase one yet in memory of a love member of your family or in honor of someone. Please do so. Your name and that of the person will be embossed in the hymn book.

Kindly send check of \$20 or more to St. Mary’s church with memo “Journey song.”

Please add your name and the person whose memory/honor you are buying the hymnal. Thanks for your consideration!

Annual Diocesan Appeal (ADA)

- ❖ I wish to express my profound gratitude to you for your generous contributions towards our ADA in this pandemic. In respond to recent letters sent, some of you have given a second gift and others first contribution towards or goal. Each step taken financially is a sure way of making our goal and getting 100% participation.

I would like to appeal to all families in humility to prayerfully support our parish goal. Any amount raised over our goal comes back to the parish. Thanks for your prayerful consideration.

- ❖ **Appreciation:** I wish to express my profound gratitude to all and sundry for your prayers, text messages, gifts, and cards on my Priestly anniversary. May God bless you.

Misconception of Anointing of the sick (Last Rites)

Anointing of the sick is one of the seven sacraments in the church. “Extreme unction,” which may also and properly be called “anointing of the sick,” is not a sacrament for those only who are at the point of death. Hence, as soon as any one of the faithful begins to be in danger of death from sickness or old age, the fitting time for that person to receive this sacrament has certainly already arrived.

The term “Extreme unction,” was discarded in 1972 with the establishment of the more general sacrament of Anointing of the Sick. The priest anoints the sick person with oil and prays over the person. When combined with confession and the Eucharist, it is called “Last Rites.” At one time it was reserved for those extremely ill and thought close to death. The second Vatican Council makes this rite *Pastoral Care of the Sick*. The Catholic Church states that this sacrament can be repeatedly used during the long course of an ongoing illness and that it should be used before serious surgery when a dangerous illness is the reason for the surgery. It can also be requested for those who are unconscious or who have lost the use of reason if they would have asked for it were they in control of their faculties.

The biblical basis for the sacrament is the following passage: "Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven... James 5:13-16.

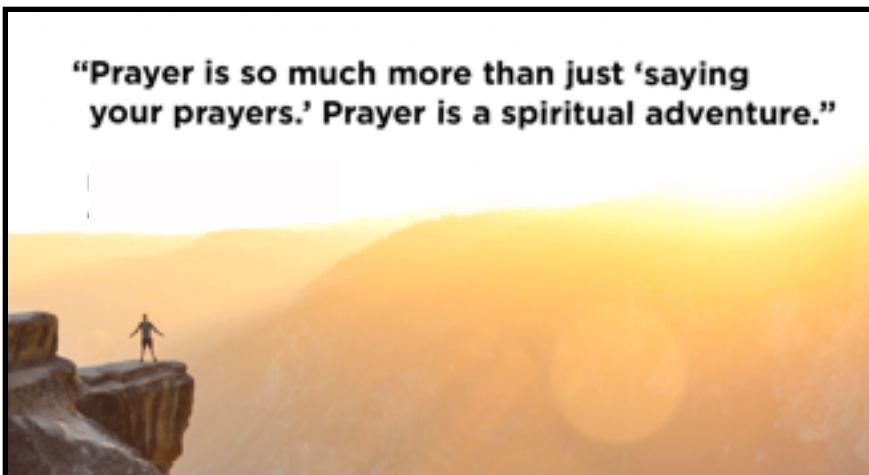
While the Catholic Church sees it as the responsibility of every Christian to care for the sick, it states that Christ charged “His priests to anoint the sick while praying over them in a sacramental gesture that would be more properly a deed of His own

Personally, anointing someone in danger of death does not mean the person will die. God has the final say. It is easy to call a priest to anoint someone in danger of death thinking the person will die soon. Many in such situation live for years/months. To say last rites, sometime send fears into the spine of the near-death person. It might be the last sacrament this person will receive on earth. However, preferable, it should be *Pastoral care for the sick or anointing of the sick.*

I have received the anointing of the sick with confession and the Eucharist several times. Let us not perceive this sacrament as for those about to die. Pregnant women or the elderly can also receive this sacrament. Let us not wait till danger of death before requesting for this sacrament of healing.

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion or pastoral visitors to the sick are under oath of confidentiality to respect a person's privacy. However, the pastor who is not aware can be inform in confidence. Some people are private and prefers to keep things. Failure to keep and respect boundaries without discussing with the affected person is a disservice to the person's privacy and pastoral care for the sick.

Fr. Raphael



Dear Friends in Christ,

Derecho & Beirut Disaster Relief

On August 10, 2020, a straight-line windstorm, called a derecho, hit Iowa with hurricane-force winds. The storm caused severe damage to crops, businesses, and homes. Tens of thousands of individuals and families, more than a week afterwards, are still without power, assessing damages, and removing debris from their properties.

Six of the 23 counties within the Diocese of Des Moines are part of Governor Kim Reynold’s Proclamation of Disaster Emergency including Audubon, Cass, Dallas, Guthrie, Madison, and Polk. Out of these six counties, Polk and Dallas counties have been declared Federal Disaster Areas. The recovery process it expected to be lengthy and costly.

The Diocese of Des Moines is working with our local Catholic Charities to help the individuals and families most severely affected by the derecho. A Derecho Relief Fund has been established for this work of mercy. If you are able to help, your donation will provide direct relief to those in most need. If our collective generosity meets the scope of need in the Diocese of Des Moines, we will be contacting neighboring dioceses with significant damage such as the Archdiocese of Dubuque and the Diocese of Davenport to share these relief funds. We are in the process of exploring a further collaboration with the three other dioceses in Iowa to provide statewide assistance to all the affected peoples and areas.

In addition to the foregoing, our Church mourns the terrible suffering of those impacted by the tragic explosion in Beirut, Lebanon that killed so many without warning in early August, 2020. 2,750 tons of ammonium nitrate detonated at the city’s port resulting in the deaths of at least 160 people. Thousands of people remain injured or homeless and the scope of suffering has only begun to be grasped. We have been asked by the bishops of the United States to offer a response of prayer, fasting, almsgiving, and advocacy.

In response to these local and global disasters, I ask that a special collection be taken up at our parishes the weekend of August 29-30. Continue to pg. 9.....

Donations can be made directly to the Diocese with the notation they are for “Beirut disaster relief and/or derecho disaster relief”. Gifts can also be made online dmidiocese.org/giving. Contributions to disaster relief efforts in Beirut will be sent to Catholic Relief Services.

May the God who is never outdone in generosity bless you as you reach out to those in need – locally and globally.

Faithfully in Christ,

Most Rev. William M. Joensen, Ph.D. Bishop of Des Moines

The Stations of the Cross Reopening



The Stations of the Cross at **The Cloisters on the Platte** has reopened to the public. Precautions will be taken to implement social distancing and to sanitize audio equipment and indoor areas to prevent spreading COVID-19. Plan to wear a mask for your shuttle ride and gift shop visit.

Experience the 2,500 foot long walking tour of **The Stations of the Cross**, comprised of 14 sculptures depicting Christ's trial through his burial. Visitors are encouraged to donate \$10 or more per person. With each donation, visitors will receive a complimentary audio tour.

The new expanded visiting hours are Monday through Thursday 9am to 4pm; Friday and Saturday 9am to 3pm. Visitors may remain at the Stations of the Cross for up to an hour after closing time. For groups of 20 or more, please contact Darla Koch at darlakoch@cloistersontheplatte.com. Location: 23332 Fishery Road, Gretna, NE 68028. **For more information visit cloistersontheplatte.com.**

Coming soon.....

Sept. 2 ———Adoration & Divine Mercy Chaplet @ 6 - 6:30 PM
Board of Religious Ed meeting @ 6:35

Sept. 4——Sunday Mass in the church and on Zoom 8:30 am.

Holy Humor

ANGRY GIRLFRIEND

A man came through my lane at the grocery store with a jug of wine and a bouquet of roses. But before paying, he set the two items aside and said, “I’ll be right back.” He ran off, only to return a minute later with a second jug of wine and another bouquet of roses. “Two girlfriends?” I asked. “No,” he said. “Just one really angry one.”



Readings for the week of 8-30–20

Sunday: Jer 20:7-9/Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [2b]/Rom 12:1-2/
Mt 16:21-27

Monday: 1 Cor 2:1-5/Ps 119:97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102 [97]/Lk 4:16-30

Tuesday: 1 Cor 2:10b-16/Ps 145:8-9, 10-11, 12-13ab, 13cd-14 [17]/Lk
4:31-37

Wednesday: 1 Cor 3:1-9/Ps 33:12-13, 14-15, 20-21 [12]/Lk 4:38-44

Thursday: 1 Cor 3:18-23/Ps 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [1]/Lk 5:1-11

Friday: 1 Cor 4:1-5/Ps 37:3-4, 5-6, 27-28, 39-40 [39a]/Lk 5:33-39

Saturday: 1 Cor 4:6b-15/Ps 145:17-18, 19-20, 21 [18]/Lk 6:1-5

Next Sunday: Ez 33:7-9/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 [8]/Rom 13:8-10/Mt 18:15-20

ST. MARYS HAPPENINGS

PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

CHRIS HINES

JOSH SIMMONS

JACOB ANDERSON

DERRICK HUBARD

STEVEN ANDERSON

COLBY MCGINLEY



9-2—*John Moody*

9-5—*Mike Callahan*

9-5—*Isaac Hutt*

9-6—*Teresa Jamison*

9-6—*Robert Burkhiser*

9-8—*Rosie Callahan*

9-8—*Keely Mount*



8-5—Pat & Angie Sheldon

8-16—Vince & Susan Hilton

8-30—Mike & Kathy Moody



Greg Andersen
Grady Secht
Reese Kemp
James Dowling
LeRoy Herscheid
Noah Howe
Mary Lou Miller
Dottie Dankof
Isacc Durr
Nancy Dalton
Todd Quick
Verona Mitchell
Joel Loggins
Kenneth Russell
Bill Long
Henry Johnsen
Lawrence DuBois
Pat Sheldon
Joe Kirk
Tim Konecny
Esther McCowan
Shawn Collins
Drake Travis
Martha Gude
Bill & Gloria Green
Larry Dalton
Vickie Graham
Glen Whitehead
Ronda Shirley
Zayne Osborn
Cathy Mason
Anna Weber
Alan Briggs
Chuck Mitchell
Dee Ann Crews

Your Contributions

Aug. 23, 2020

Tithes—\$745.00

Plate—\$20.00

Coffee —\$40.00

Thank You!!

2020	August 30 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time 8:30	Sept. 6 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time 8:30	Sept. 13 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time 8:30	Sept. 20 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time 8:30	Sept. 27 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time 8:30
Lector	Teresa Jamison	Dave Dowling	Kathleen Lorimor	Linda Dewhirst	Joe Travis
Mass Setup	Joe	Rosie	Joe	Rosie	Joe
Cantor	Kim Laumann				
Accompanist	Nancy Pitts				
Coffee and Donuts		n & Donna Whelan	Joe & Robbi Travis	Jeff & Lisa Phillips	Cheryl & Jim Owen
Wash Linens	Annie Wakefield	Ruthie Paper	Ruthie Paper	Ruthie Paper	Ruthie Paper

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