



## 29<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“But it shall not be so among you. Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all. For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.” - Mk 10:43-45

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OUR LADY OF PEACE CHURCH

Sunday, October 17, 2021

**FROM THE DESK OF FR. STAN**

May dear friends,

## Who is this Jesus the Messiah?

At the time of Jesus, there were many competing philosophies and worldviews. For example, Stoicism believed that the highest virtue was to live in harmony with the divine, based on reason, and that lesser attention should be paid to one's changing circumstances. Stoics believed that pain and hardship should simply be endured without emotion. Another philosophy, Epicureanism, taught that pleasure was the highest good, with mental pleasure, especially freedom from anxiety, considered of a higher nature than physical pleasure.

Within Israel there were various schools of theology. The Sadducees, for instance, were a conservative, aristocratic group that only accepted the first five books (the so-called books of Moses) of the Bible as being authoritative. The Pharisees, whom we encounter many times in the gospels, put the emphasis on keeping the Law, which included more than six hundred individual rules and statutes. Some Pharisees believed that if the Law were kept perfectly in Israel for just one Sabbath, then the Messiah would come. Zealots took a militant stance, teaching that the long-awaited Messiah would lead a glorious army to throw off the Roman occupation and restore an independent Israel. Finally, the Essenes put the emphasis on a life of sacrifice, living with harmony and simplicity, poverty and asceticism as the ideal way to live in expectation of the Messiah.

Today's readings for the Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time help us to understand that the approach Jesus took was different, counter-intuitive and challenging. The first passage, Isaiah 53:10-11, is one of the mysterious "Suffering Servant" songs, texts teaching that God's servant, by means of suffering, will bring salvation. Scholars are divided as to whom Isaiah had in mind at the time this book was written, whether it was a particular individual or the nation as a whole. The Church found in these passages ideal indications of who Jesus is. Consider the text: "The Lord was pleased to crush him in infirmity. If he gives his life as an offering for sin, he shall see his descendants in a long life, and the will of the Lord shall be accomplished through him. Because of his affliction he shall see the light in fullness of days; through his suffering, my servant shall justify many, and their guilt he shall bear."

In our gospel reading, Mark 10:35-45, we find Jesus' understanding of who he is as a Messiah one who suffers and serves—against the backdrop of total misunderstanding on the part of his disciples. "James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Jesus and said to him, 'Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.' He replied, 'What do you wish me to do for you?' They answered him, 'Grant that in your glory we may sit one at your right and one at your left.'" Clearly, the brothers do not understand that the road to resurrection first leads to the cross. "Jesus said to them, 'You do not know what you are asking. Can you drink the cup that I drink or be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?' They said to him, 'We can.' Jesus said to them, 'The cup that I drink, you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right or at my left is not mine to give but is for those for whom it has been prepared.'" Please note that Jesus' reference to the "cup" and the "baptism" refer to his sufferings on the cross. And how ironic, then, that when Jesus is crucified, those on his right and left are two thieves—hardly what James and John would have hungered for!

The passage doesn't absolve the other ten Apostles either, suggesting that they probably were hoping for top billing as well. "When the ten heard this, they became indignant at James and John." This, then, sets the stage for Jesus to offer a fuller explanation of how he understands himself—and what he expects of those who follow him. "You know that those who are recognized as rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones make their authority over them felt. But it shall not be so among you. Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all. For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many." Thus, Jesus does what Isaiah spoke many centuries before: through his suffering, my servant shall justify many, and their guilt he shall bear. Jesus is the Messiah who suffers and serves.



**Knights of Columbus Council 737,  
Our Lady of Peace & Our Lady of Czestochowa, Turners Falls**  
**Monthly Meeting:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 6:30 P,  
 At Our Lady of Czestochowa  
 Consider Joining Now!  
 Ask A Knight about Becoming A Member



**Saturday, October 16**-Rosary at 3:15P

4:00P *Joan Theroux*  
by her nieces & nephews

**Sunday, October 17**

8:00A *John C. Hahn, Irma Hahn & John A. Hahn*  
by their daughter & sister, Pat Hahn Smith

10:00A *Sean Connelly*  
by Suzanne, Jack, George, Joan & Ralph

**Saturday, October 23**-Rosary at 3:15P

4:00P *Joseph Demers*  
by Nancy Aubrey

**Sunday, October 24**

8:00A *Deceased members of the Washer & Bissell family*  
by Bob & Yvette Bissell

10:00A *Bob Martineau & Ed Sojka*  
by their family

**DAILY MASS**

**Monday, October 18**

8:00A *William & Viola Nadeau*  
by Michelle Turner

**Tuesday, October 19**

8:00A *James Kiley family*

**Wednesday, October 20**

8:00P *Pat Caloon*  
by John

**Thursday, October 21**

8:00A *Lorraine Coyle*  
by Sue Hastings

**Friday, October 22**

Holy Communion Service

**LECTORS** are reminded to pick up their new 2022 Lector Workbooks that are in the sacristy. If you are interested in becoming a lector or Eucharistic Minister, call Marguerite at 863.25585 ext. 103.



We thank Walgreens for sponsoring a drive-thru flu clinic at our church which served more than 60 members of our community.



Please Support Montague Catholic Social Ministries Today!

Our parish donations of non-perishable food and goods are given to stock the food pantry at MCSM and help the many families in need in our community.



**HOW TO BECOME A CATHOLIC**

The RCIA process is for anyone interested in learning about Catholicism, becoming a Catholic or receiving the sacraments of baptism, First Communion and Confirmation. We will meet Sunday, **October 24 & 31** at 9:00A in the rectory. There is no pressure or commitment. For more information, call Marguerite 863.2585 ext. 103.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION** Thanks to teachers, parents and children, our first class in religious education went very smoothly! 3 new families joined our parish! Next classes are **October 17 & 24**. We will also have class on Halloween, **October 31**. The kids may wear costumes if they want, and we will be giving out treats!

**MASS BOOK FOR 2022** still has weekend and weekday Masses available for your special intentions. Our Lady's Window is also available for lighting. Call the rectory.



Join in praying the rosary each Saturday beginning at 3:15P. All are welcome!

**PARISH COLLECTIONS**

Weekend of October 10

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