August 23, 2020
Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Parish Office: 973-835-0480 / 0489
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C.C.D.: 973-835-1946

We extend a warm welcome to all our parishioners, all new members and guests celebrating with us today.

We are a Catholic Community, rooted in the Trinity, sustained by the Eucharist and the Word of God, called to witness, to serve and to educate.

PARISH MEMBERSHIP
You are invited to join our parish family. We are committed to meeting the needs of all members. Please register by contacting our Parish Office. (Please notify the Parish Office of change in address or phone number and if you are moving out of the parish.)

RECREATIONAL DEVOTIONS
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena is on Monday after 8:00 am Mass
Novena Prayers in Honor of the Blessed Mother and St. Anthony: Are said every Tuesday after 8:00 am Mass
Prayer Group: Meets at 11:00 am - every Thursday
Adoration: Every Friday after Mass
Divine Mercy: Daily recitation of Chaplet after Mass

MINISTRIES
Join the various ministries and associations:
- Ministry of Lector, Eucharist, Usher, Altar Server, Respect Life and Lazarus Ministry, St. Francis Ladies Guild, Emmaus Prayer Group, Youth Group, Carnival, Knights of Columbus
- and other volunteers associated with the Church of St. Francis of Assisi.

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PARISH OF SECRETARY & ACCOUNTS
Mrs. Jane Wright & Mrs. Melissa Rivera

PARISH COUNCIL [TRUSTEES & FINANCES]
Mr. Ron Morano • Mrs. Claire Kressaty • Mr. Dale Ostrander
Mr. Tom Luciani • Mr. Bill Boswell

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE / 973-835-1946
Mrs. Maryann Marren, Coordinator
Mrs. Betty Norton, Secretary

YOUTH MINISTRY / 973-835-0480
Our youth ministry is open to all Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Grade students. Come join us.

BAPTISM: Parishioners are welcome to have their children baptized at St. Francis of Assisi. Please call the rectory for an appointment to discuss the arrangements.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE: Saturday: 4:30-5:00 pm or at other times upon request.

MARRIAGE: Arrangements to be made at least 1 year in advance by calling the Parish Office.

R.C.I.A.: Anyone interested in an update of their faith or wanting to become Catholic, call the Parish Office.

MINISTRY OF THE SICK AND ELDERLY: For the confined, elderly and/or shut-in, be they at home or in the hospital, please call the Rectory. Holy Communion is offered to any person permanently or temporarily homebound. For the seriously sick and dying contact the Rectory immediately.
Dear Friends in Christ,

“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

The declaration of faith by Peter occupies an important place in all Gospels. In Matthew, the scene is the culmination of a section in which Jesus has been instructing his disciples on various aspects of the Kingdom of Heaven and their role in it. In what Jesus says, “You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church!” is very crucial for a proper understanding of what the Church is, and also our role in the Church.

First and foremost, Jesus calls the Church ‘my Church.’ This tells us that Jesus Christ is the owner of the Church. He is the Supreme Authority. Neither Peter nor the disciples own it. Neither Pope, nor Bishops, nor Pastors own it. We all belong to the Church of Christ.

Secondly, the passage tells us that Jesus is the one who builds his Church. He is the master builder who has the building plan in his hands. Human cooperators are like masons and carpenters employed by the master builder to help him with the building. Our role is to listen and follow his instructions, doing our own small part in the grand design of the master.

So, if Jesus is the owner and builder of the Church, where then do we come in? We come in precisely where Peter comes in. Together with Peter we are
the building blocks of the Church. Peter is the foundation rock and we are the pieces of stone with which the Church is built. Actually, the power and responsibility are shared in a real sense with all the baptized.

Let us then pray during this Mass that we shall be firm in our faith in Jesus so that we may be able to give a personal response to his question “Who do you say that I am?” and also that we are always faithful to him by not failing in the responsibility he has entrusted to each one of us in building up his Church.

In 1646, he and his companions, who had offered services to the missioners, set out for Iroquois country in the belief that a recently signed peace treaty would be observed. They were captured by a Mohawk war party, and on October 18, Father Jogues was tomahawked and beheaded. Jean de Lalande was killed the next day at Ossernenon, a village near Albany, New York.

These eight Jesuit martyrs of North America were canonized in 1930.

Courtesy of Franciscan Media

**OUR AMERICAN SAINTS**

Saints Isaac Jogues, Jean de Brébeuf, and Companions

Saint of the Day for October 19

(d. 1642 – 1649)

Isaac Jogues and his companions were the first martyrs of the North American continent officially recognized by the Church. As a young Jesuit, Isaac Jogues, a man of learning and culture, taught literature in France. He gave up that career to work among the Huron Indians in the New World, and in 1636, he and his companions, under the leadership of Jean de Brébeuf, arrived in Quebec. The Hurons were constantly warred upon by the Iroquois, and in a few years Father Jogues was captured by the Iroquois and imprisoned for 13 months. His letters and journals tell how he and his companions were led from village to village, how they were beaten, tortured, and forced to watch as their Huron converts were mangled and killed.

An unexpected chance for escape came to Isaac Jogues through the Dutch, and he returned to France, bearing the marks of his sufferings. Several fingers had been cut, chewed, or burnt off. Pope Urban VIII gave him permission to offer Mass with his mutilated hands: “It would be shameful that a martyr of Christ not be allowed to drink the Blood of Christ.” Welcomed home as a hero, Father Jogues might have sat back, thanked God for his safe return, and died peacefully in his homeland. But his zeal led him back once more to the fulfillment of his dreams. In a few months he sailed for his missions among the Hurons.

**THE HOMILY**

After all the readings at Mass comes the homily, sometimes referred to as the sermon. The homily can only be given by a bishop, priest or deacon. This is because these ordained ministers are the teachers of the Church.

The homily is the teaching moment at Mass. In fact, it is the most important teaching moment in the Church. The Catechism of the Catholic Church in paragraph 132 says that “the liturgical homily should hold pride of place” among “all forms of Christian instruction.” The homily is meant to teach about the Scripture, and how we can apply them in our own lives. The Catechism number 1349 says that the homily “is an exhortation to accept this Word as what it truly is, the Word of God, and to put it into practice.”

Many popes have written and spoken about the homily, especially Pope Francis. He often exhorts priests to make sure that their homilies are “not boring” and that they put much prayer and effort into the homily.

Whether we like the preacher or the preaching, we must always be attentive and ask the Holy Spirit to enlighten us ever more through the homily.
Our Need for Support

Wouldn’t it be nice to have a direct way to know that your prayers are being heard? Moses had it: hands up, the Israelites win the battle. Hands down, they lose. It was as simple as that. But Moses couldn’t persevere on his own. He needed help to hold his hands high. This story tells us that we all need support at times. It can be very tiring to keep praying. It takes a lot out of us. That’s they we can all appreciate the image of Aaron and Hur holding up Moses’ hands as he prayed for the Israelites’ victory in battle. His friends stood by him and helped him to do what he couldn’t do on his own.

The truth is, each one of us needs our brothers and sisters in Christ to hold us up. They help us persevere. You can probably recall times when you’ve reached out to a friend and asked him to pray with you for something important. His support meant a lot to you. When you don’t see an immediate answer to your prayers, your friends, like Moses’ friends, can help you perceive the field of battle more clearly and draw your attention to the ways God is already working. They might remind you of specific times that God has answered your prayers – or theirs – in the past. And when you feel completely in the dark, they stand with you and pray with you as you do your best to keep moving forward. You can do the same for them too. So don’t go it alone!

Maybe you already have someone who can stand with you in prayer, a friend who will join her voice to yours as you intercede. But if not, ask the Lord for someone to partner with you. He loves to send people who will be there to hold you up.

From: The Word Among Us

SILVER WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

Couples, were you married in 1995? The Diocese of Paterson invites you to celebrate your 25th wedding anniversary during a special Mass to be offered at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Paterson, NJ. Bishop Sweeney will serve as main celebrant on this joyful occasion to be held: Sunday, November 8th, 2020 at 3:30pm. Arrangements can be made by contacting the parish office. The deadline to register is Thursday, October 1st, 2020. You will receive additional information from the Office of Family Life once your registration has been processed. Congratulations on this joyous occasion!

OUR LADY’S BLUE ARMY


ENJOY EVERY DAY

Enjoy every day that’s been given
And life will be sweeter by far,
No matter the place or the moment –
God loves you wherever you are.

Enjoy every day; it’s a treasure.
There is nothing on earth could compare
To the sunrise of morn in its beauty,
And a quiet tranquil moment of prayer.

Katherine Smith Matheney

LECTORS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 2020
5:30 P.M. Pat Demarest

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2020
7:30 A.M. Margaret O’Neill
10:00 A.M. Sue Kummer
12 NOON Armando Haro
Who do you say I AM?

Jesus told Peter he was the rock upon which He would build His church. Peter who was firm and dependable would begin the formation of the church and the key. The symbol of Authority, would be given to him.

- The bold words are found in the puzzle -

ACROSS

1] The Promised One

3] Peter’s ___ was solid as a rock

4] To construct

5] A place we go to worship

8] The Apostle who responded to Jesus

10] Jesus is The ___ of God.

11] Jesus said “who ___ you say that I AM”.

12] What we use to open a locked door

DOWN

1] Today we read the gospel of ___.

2] Jesus is The Messiah, or ___.

3] The act or process of forming

6] Our Father, The Almighty

7] To give an answer

9] Solid, natural mineral object

On this rock I will build my church.
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