



Saint John XXIII Roman Catholic Church

3390 Portage Avenue

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3K 0Z3

Telephone: 204-832-7175 • Fax: 204-885-2447

Email: office@johnxxiii.ca • Website: www.johnxxiii.ca

Office Hours: *As announced in the schedule for the week*

SACRAMENT OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

SUNDAY LITURGIES (MASSES)

*Due to limits imposed by public health orders,
please call ahead of time to make reservations*

WEEKDAY LITURGIES

You may call ahead of time to make reservations

ASSISTANCE TO THE SICK AND SHUT-IN

For emergencies, you may contact the parish office

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSIONS)

As circumstances permit, when the Pastor is available
on Friday afternoons and/or by appointment

PARISH BULLETIN

FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE MONTH OF JULY 2020

with schedule for July 12, 2020 to August 2, 2020

PARISH PASTORAL TEAM

Pastor: Reverend Fr. Robert Polz

204-832-7335 rpolz.johnxxiii@gmail.com

Pastoral Assistant: Sharon Camier

204-832-7206 sharon@johnxxiii.ca

Ministry Coordinator/Office Volunteer: Lynda Hunt

204-832-7175 lynda@johnxxiii.ca

Trustee: Loris Vendramelli

204-888-8200 loris@mymts.net

Trustee: William Gould

204-832-7175 william.d.gould@gmail.com

Parish Stewardship Committee**Facilitator: Loris Vendramelli**

204-888-8200 loris@mymts.net

Administrative Assistant: Joanna Mason

204-832-7175 joanna@johnxxiii.ca

Head Custodian: José Barrera

204-888-9340

Music Ministry: Donna Vendramelli

204-888-8200 d_vendramelli@mymts.net

Building and Maintenance Chair: Claude Precourt

204-898-1893 cfp3899@gmail.com

Fundraising and Development Committee

204-832-7175 call if interested in serving

Parish Pastoral Council**Facilitator: Laurette Burch**

204-885-6988 burchd@mymts.net

FAITH FORMATION: In regular circumstances, catechism sessions for children (K to Grade 8) are held on Sunday mornings, September through May, from 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. Periodically other programs, workshops, and/or study sessions are offered for adults. Contact our Pastoral Assistant (Sharon) for further information.

SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION (BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION, EUCHARIST): Contact the parish office for further information.

SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK: Contact the Pastor (Fr. Robert).

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE: Arrangements for preparation and celebration should be made at least six months in advance.

CELEBRATION OF CHRISTIAN FUNERALS: Contact the parish office before finalizing arrangements with funeral directors.

HOLY COMMUNION DURING MASS AND OUTSIDE OF MASS

We continue to provide opportunities for parishioners to come to church for prayer and the celebration of the Sacraments, especially the reception of Holy Communion. Please note we need to respect the current Phase 3 protocols including limiting gatherings inside the building to **50 people** at any one time. **PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE AHEAD OF TIME TO MAKE RESERVATIONS to take part and receive Holy Communion at Mass and/or for the reception of Holy Communion Outside of Mass.** We request everyone to make reservations beforehand for all weekend liturgies. Nevertheless, given the recent increase to 50 people, for weekday liturgies you may register beforehand or take your chances for “rush seating” provided space is available. In the latter case, you will still need to register your name upon arrival.

HAND SANITIZING, FACE COVERINGS, ETC.

All assisting ministers, parishioners and visitors are to SANITIZE THEIR HANDS UPON ARRIVAL and to observe appropriate PHYSICAL/SOCIAL DISTANCING (i.e. stay 2 metres apart) during their time at the church.

In most cases, the wearing of a face covering (mask) is encouraged but ultimately is left to the discretion of the individual. Further instructions concerning this and other procedures for assisting ministers and those faithful in attendance will be communicated beforehand or at appropriate times during each celebration.

The offertory procession at Masses is suspended at this time. **An OFFERING BOX to receive your collection envelopes is available in the narthex on a table near the main aisle or you may drop your donations off at the parish office.**

If at all possible, we ask that you USE THE WASHROOM AT HOME before you come to church. We need to sanitize areas appropriately after you leave the building. It is an even bigger job if someone has to guess your tracks all through the building and downstairs into the washrooms. Please be respectful of your place in the greater picture for the good of all.

Let us all continue the everyday activities that can help reduce exposure to COVID-19 and protect the health of one another: wash your hands often with soap and water; sneeze or cough into your sleeve; avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth; IF YOU ARE SICK or in a vulnerable state, PLEASE STAY AT HOME.

LIVESTREAMING OF SUNDAY MASS FROM SAINT JOHN XXIII CHURCH

We continue to livestream from Saint John XXIII Church the celebration of Sunday Eucharist each Saturday afternoon during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic. If there are any glitches uploading the livestream of these liturgies on Saturday afternoon, we will do our best to upload them as soon as possible afterwards so you can access the Mass anytime on Sunday. To access livestreaming of liturgies via YouTube and/or an archive of liturgies posted online, go to links found on the home page of our parish website www.johnxxiii.ca

SO... ACCORDING TO THESE STATISTICS, **THREE OUT OF FOUR** CONDITIONS DO NOT RESULT IN THE **DESIRED OUTCOME.**



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

I GUESS THAT'S **ONE WAY** OF LOOKING AT IT.



PREACHERS MUST LIKE **LONG ODDS!**



MATTHEW 13:1-9 & 18-23



© WETZSTEIN 20-07-05

PARISH OFFICE NOW OPEN – TUESDAY AND FRIDAY AFTERNOONS AS ANNOUNCED

While the parish facility is accessible on designated afternoons to offer some limited in person assistance at the office and for personal prayer in church, **ALL VISITORS must respect proper COVID-19 protocols including social distancing and sanitization measures.** Please **USE THE WASHROOM AT HOME before you come to church.** The wearing of a face covering (mask) is very much encouraged. **IF YOU ARE SICK or in a vulnerable state, PLEASE STAY AT HOME.** We continue to do our best to answer emails and respond to telephone voice mail messages in a timely fashion. For further information, please consult our parish website at www.johnxxiii.ca or call and leave a message at 204-832-7175.

ARCHDIOCESAN PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS

The Memorandum from Most Reverend Richard Gagnon dated July 3, 2020 is posted on the parish bulletin board and is also available on the parish website posted under the bulletins tab for the date July 3, 2020.

SEA SUNDAY MESSAGE 2020

The Sea Sunday Message from the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development is available on the parish website posted under the bulletins tab for the date July 10, 2020.

The Summer Edition of On the Way Magazine *COVID-19 Stories of Faith* is now available online via the Archdiocesan website www.archwinnipeg.ca

TABERNACLE LAMP OFFERING

July 12 – 18, 2020 *James Polz+, requested by Donna and Loris Vendramelli*
July 19 – 25, 2020 *James Polz+, requested by Fr. Robert Polz, Susan Polz and family*
July 26 – August 1, 2020 *For the conversion of sinners by the infinite merits of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, requested by a parishioner*

If you wish to have the Tabernacle Lamp in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel of Saint John XXIII Church burn in memory of a loved one, to honour a special occasion, or for a particular intention, you may make arrangements through the Parish Office. Call or email for assistance. The offering to cover one week (from Sunday through Saturday) is \$25.00.



PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE OF OUR COMMUNITY IN NEED OF HEALING AND COMFORT

Darrell Aucoin, Gladys Barton, Annette and Maynard Bates, Catherine Blaquera, Freda Broughton, Bill Camier, Marilyn Crakewich, René Defries, Alice Edwards, Ray Fleury, John Foucart, Audrey Fraser, René Gobeil, Helen Hallack, Darryn Hellofs, Bev and Steve Hewitt, Rosario Jequinto, Tracy Kingsland, Amanda Klaasen, Angela Krassie, Maureen Kuntz, Marie Mangin, Norman Mangin, Yvonne Mason, Deb McEnturff, Frances Mijker, Susan Murphy, Zonia Patson, Shirley Payment, Larrie Pushka, Owen Robertson, Janice Skene, Joe Wallack and Helen Yankoski.

THE WORD AMONG US *Daily Meditations for Catholics*: Canadian Edition with CCCB approved Mass readings. Copies of the summer July/August issue are now available. Call the parish office to reserve your copy. **Price \$5.00 each.**

THREE WEEK SCHEDULE FOR JULY 12 – AUGUST 2, 2020

N.B.: Reduced office hours and liturgies during the summer while parish staff take some holidays.

As circumstances suggest, the schedule published here may be subject to change.

Sunday, July 12	THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
4:00 pm Saturday	MASS (livestreamed) – “Pro populo” – reservations full <i>Masses on Sunday will include the First Holy Communion of some children of the parish</i>
9:00 am	MASS – “Pro populo” (Intentions of parishioners) – reservations full
11:45 am	MASS – “Pro populo” (Intentions of parishioners) – reservations full
Monday, July 13	FERIAL <i>Parish office closed Monday</i> MASS (offered in private) – Intentions of José Barrera, requested by anonymous
Tuesday, July 14	FERIAL <i>(Fr. Robert on-call for emergency sacramental care at Grace Hospital, 12:00 midnight July 14 to 12:00 noon July 17)</i>
12:00 pm	Praying of the “Angelus”
12:10 pm	Liturgy of the Word with the distribution of Holy Communion
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Parish Office Open in the afternoon
1:00 pm – 3:45 pm	Adoration Time (Blessed Sacrament Chapel) – ring door buzzer for access
Wednesday, July 15	MEMORIAL: SAINT BONAVENTURE, Bishop, Doctor <i>Parish office closed Wednesday</i>
6:45 pm	OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTIONS
7:00 pm	MASS – In thanksgiving, requested by Laurette and Doug Burch

Thursday, July 16	FERIAL <i>Parish office closed Thursday</i>	
Friday, July 17	FERIAL	
12:00 pm	Praying of the "Angelus"	
12:10 pm	MASS – Louise Lane+, requested by Mona Harper	
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Parish Office Open in the afternoon	
1:00 pm – 3:45 pm	Adoration Time (<i>monstrance on altar in main worship space</i>)	– ring door buzzer for access
3:00 pm	Recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy	– ring door buzzer for access
3:45 pm	BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT	
Saturday, July 18	FERIAL	
11:00 am	Funeral Mass for John Baziuk+	– private, by invitation only
4:00 pm	MASS (livestreamed) – "Pro populo"	– call office for reservations
Sunday, July 19	THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	
9:00 am	MASS – Dolores Medina (90 th birthday), req. by Medina family	– call office for reservations
11:45 am	MASS – "Pro populo" (<i>Intentions of parishioners</i>)	– call office for reservations
Monday, July 20	FERIAL <i>Parish office closed Monday</i> MASS (offered in private) – <i>Intentions of José Barrera, requested by anonymous</i>	
Tuesday, July 21	FERIAL	
12:00 pm	Praying of the "Angelus"	
12:10 pm	Liturgy of the Word with the distribution of Holy Communion	
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Parish Office Open in the afternoon	
1:00 pm – 3:45 pm	Adoration Time (<i>Blessed Sacrament Chapel</i>)	– ring door buzzer for access
Wednesday, July 22	FEAST: SAINT MARY MAGDALENE, Disciple of the Lord <i>Parish office closed Wednesday</i>	
6:45 pm	OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTIONS	
7:00 pm	MASS – Alexandra Crozier+, requested by Laurette and Doug Burch	
Thursday, July 23	FERIAL <i>Parish office closed Thursday</i>	
Friday, July 24	FERIAL	
12:00 pm	Praying of the "Angelus"	
12:10 pm	MASS – Gerwaine Minerva (birthday), requested by Gemma and Edwin Minerva	
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Parish Office Open in the afternoon	
1:00 pm – 3:45 pm	Adoration Time (<i>monstrance on altar in main worship space</i>)	– ring door buzzer for access
3:00 pm	Recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy	– ring door buzzer for access
3:45 pm	BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT	
Saturday, July 25	FEAST: SAINT JAMES, Apostle	
4:00 pm	MASS (livestreamed) – Dominik & Cecile Capri+, req. by Tannena Korolyk	– call office for reservations
Sunday, July 26	THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	
9:00 am	MASS – Wayne Piper+ (13 th Anniv.), requested by Kitty Piper	– call office for reservations
11:45 am	MASS – "Pro populo" (<i>Intentions of parishioners</i>)	– call office for reservations
Monday, July 27	FERIAL <i>Parish office closed Monday</i> MASS (offered in private) – <i>Intentions of José Barrera, requested by anonymous</i>	
Tuesday, July 28	FERIAL	
12:00 pm	Praying of the "Angelus"	
12:10 pm	Liturgy of the Word with the distribution of Holy Communion	
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Parish Office Open in the afternoon	
1:00 pm – 3:45 pm	Adoration Time (<i>Blessed Sacrament Chapel</i>)	– ring door buzzer for access

Wednesday, July 29	MEMORIAL: SAINT MARTHA, Disciple of the Lord <i>Parish office closed Wednesday</i>
6:45 pm 7:00 pm	OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTIONS Liturgy of the Word with the distribution of Holy Communion
Thursday, July 30	FERIAL <i>Parish office closed Thursday</i>
Friday, July 31	MEMORIAL: SAINT IGNATIUS LOYOLA, Priest
12:00 pm	Praying of the "Angelus"
12:10 pm	MASS – <i>Intentions of Zonia Patson (birthday Aug. 2nd)</i>
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Parish Office Open in the afternoon
1:00 pm – 3:45 pm	Adoration Time (<i>monstrance on altar in main worship space</i>) – ring door buzzer for access
3:00 pm	Recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy – ring door buzzer for access
3:45 pm	BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
Saturday, August 1	MEMORIAL: SAINT ALPHONSUS LIGUORI, Bishop, Doctor
4:00 pm	MASS (livestreamed) – <i>"Pro populo" (Intentions of parishioners)</i> – call office for reservations
Sunday, August 2	THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
9:00 am	MASS – <i>Intentions of Margaret and Jerome Strachan, requested by Leisha Strachan</i> – call office for reservations
11:45 am	MASS – <i>"Pro populo" (Intentions of parishioners)</i> – call office for reservations

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

Sunday, Jul 12, 2020

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Tell me what you see

Most stories aren't very mysterious. Even so-called mysteries have predictable plots that we anticipate before they unfold. We know, for example, that the fellow wandering into the cemetery at dusk is going to meet a bad end, and the storyteller knows that we know. It's all part of the fun. When reading Bible parables, the meaning is rarely mysterious. Seeds fall on different soil, reap different results. No surprise there. A parable's mystery isn't in not knowing, but in not seeing. What kind of soil are we? What seed has been planted in us, awaiting its harvest?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 55:10-11; Romans 8:18-23; Matthew 13:1-23 (103). "The disciples approached him and said, 'Why do you speak to them in parables?'"*

Monday, Jul 13, 2020

FERIAL

Looking for prophets in our midst

Many of us lately have learned what it's like to be held back by illness, as the coronavirus brought about grinding halts to life as we knew it. Blessed Charlie Rodríguez Santiago, a candidate to be the first Puerto Rican saint, was prevented from getting an education because of severe chronic illness. He died on this day in 1963 at the age of 44—and left behind a legacy of liturgical renewal in the church. He advocated for use of vernacular languages and increased lay participation—which came to be shortly after his death with Vatican II reforms. How can you too be a prophet for hope and change in our own disease-challenged days?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 1:10-17; Matthew 10:34-11:1 (389). "Whoever receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward."*

Tuesday, Jul 14, 2020

CANADA: FERIAL

USA: MEMORIAL OF SAINT KATERI TEKAKWITHA, VIRGIN

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 7:1-9; Matthew 11:20-24 (390). "Will you be exalted to heaven?"*

Wednesday, Jul 15, 2020

MEMORIAL OF SAINT BONAVENTURE, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Love finds the common ground

Saint Bonaventure (1221-74) was born Giovanni di Fidanza to a noble Italian family and joined the Franciscan order at the age of 22. By then, Francis had been dead for 17 years, and conflict had arisen among his followers as they tried to imitate the poverty Francis embraced. Bonaventure, who brought gifts of intellect and organization, emerged as a leader and teacher who helped the order resolve

differences and renew its purpose. He encouraged a Franciscan detachment from wealth and practiced it himself, but not at the expense of generous love. Bring a spirit of love to the conflicts you face today.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 10:5-7, 13b-16; Matthew 11:25-27 (391)*. "What you have hidden from the learned and clever, you have revealed to the merest children."

Thursday, Jul 16, 2020

FERIAL

Easy does it

Today's readings promise both a smooth path (the first reading) and a light yoke (the gospel). But Christianity does not promise comfort and ease. Rather, our faith is founded on the idea that Christ conquered death *through* suffering. One of our primary symbols is the crucifix, an ongoing reminder that Christ offers victory over suffering and death but first experienced them. Ultimately, our rough paths and burdens do find rest in Christ. If you are tempted today to give in to ridicule, anger, despair, or a sin that weighs you down, try to "put on the yoke of Christ," and see if your mood lightens.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 26:7-9, 12, 16-19; Matthew 11:28-30 (392)*. "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest."

Friday, Jul 17, 2020

FERIAL

Kyrie eleison, down the road that I must travel

The Greek words *Kyrie eleison* are some of the most ancient—and powerful—words of the Christian liturgy: "Lord, have mercy." Typically we find these words in the penitential rite where the church asks God's mercy and forgiveness. But these words are not just for penance; they are words of life and encouragement to the weary soul. It's as if we are saying, "Look kindly upon me." This call for mercy is not just directed toward God; it is also part of the fabric of our relationships with ourselves and the world. We can look kindly upon ourselves, instead of berating ourselves for what we didn't get done. We can look kindly upon those around us filled with fear and hatred. We can look kindly upon the fragile earth and God's good creation. How is mercy calling you?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8; Matthew 12:1-8 (393)*. "If you knew what this meant, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned these innocent men."

Saturday, Jul 18, 2020

FERIAL

A tireless voice for justice

During the era of European conquest of the Americas, Native American people were typically regarded as savages who must be "conquered" and coerced into conversion or pushed aside. Bartolomé de Las Casas is remembered today as one of the few voices opposing the dominant ideology of religious and secular leaders alike. Appalled by colonial cruelties in the Caribbean in the 1500s, he doggedly advocated for the rights of indigenous people for some 50 years, urging an end to the cruelties and coerced conversions. Remember de Las Casas and make justice a central part of your own witness.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Micah 2:1-5; Matthew 12:14-21 (394)*. "They oppress householder and house, people and their inheritance."

Sunday, Jul 19, 2020

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

With friends like this ... we're blessed!

We tend to find what we're looking for. First Bishop of Boston John Cheverus, who died this day in 1836, always sought—and brought—friendship. Forced to flee France after his ordination because of the French Revolution, he arrived in the United States to become the trusted pastor of native peoples in Maine. Named Bishop of Boston, he drew resistance from Protestant leaders there, who later wept and protested when Cheverus was called back to France. His priests followed him, laypeople trusted him, poor families relied on him. However you lead, do it with love and friendship.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Wisdom 12:13, 16-19; Romans 8:26-27; Matthew 13:24-43 (106)*. "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed . . . until the whole batch was leavened."

Monday, Jul 20, 2020

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL OF SAINT APOLLINARIS, BISHOP, MARTYR

Stay the course

According to tradition, the Syrian Saint Apollinaris was made a bishop of Ravenna, Italy by Saint Peter himself. The miracles and preaching of Apollinaris won over many converts, and the Romans in charge tortured and drove him from his city multiple times, but nothing could stop him from returning to his flock, until he eventually died from his beatings. If you need help persevering in the face of great challenges, look to this early Christian leader and pray for a dose of the strength he found in staying unwaveringly true to his faith and his church.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Micah 6:1-4, 6-8; Matthew 12:38-42 (395)*. "There is something greater than Solomon here."

Tuesday, Jul 21, 2020

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL OF SAINT LAWRENCE OF BRINDISI, PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Operate out of love

Lawrence of Brindisi, an Italian priest, surrendered everything he had to God's will. His offering consisted not only of the poverty, chastity, and obedience required of his Capuchin religious order, but also his compassion and considerable intellect. Lawrence's fluency in Latin, Hebrew, Greek, German, Bohemian, Spanish, and French meant he was tasked to translate the Bible as well as negotiate peace with other countries. None of these lofty pursuits kept him from showing love to everyone he met. May we all practice what he preached: "God is love and all his operations proceed from love."

TODAY'S READINGS: *Micah 7:14-15, 18-20; Matthew 12:46, 48-50 (396). "Whoever does the will of my heavenly Father is my brother, and sister, and mother."*

Wednesday, Jul 22, 2020

FEAST OF SAINT MARY SAINT MAGDALENE, DISCIPLE OF THE LORD

Be the bearer of Good News

Contrary to the mistaken legend that arose later, Mary Magdalene was not a prostitute. She was a friend and follower of Jesus who accompanied him during his ministry and remained with him through the agony of his death. Compelled by unbearable grief, she is the first person in all four gospels to witness the empty tomb. In 2016, Pope Francis issued a decree that elevated this day from a memorial to a feast day as he called Mary Magdalene the Apostle to the Apostles. What good news of Jesus can you bring to others today?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Song of Songs 3:1-4b or 2 Corinthians 5:14-17; John 20:1-2, 11-18 (603). "Jesus then said . . . 'Go to my brothers and tell them . . .'"*

Thursday, Jul 23, 2020

FERIAL

Your turn to keep the faith going

In today's gospel Jesus notes that the crowd hears him but doesn't understand. Misunderstanding the message of Jesus was a problem from the beginning, which is why we all can use help in understanding matters of faith, help that is available from the Christian community. Catholics do not isolate scripture alone as the sole basis of faith but also emphasize tradition as essential to our understanding; tradition handed on through the church. You are part of the living Body of Christ that carries on the tradition. Today recall that you help express and form the tradition through your actions—make them good ones!

TODAY'S READINGS: *Jeremiah 2:1-3, 7-8, 12-13; Matthew 13:10-17 (398). "The disciples approached Jesus and said, 'Why do you speak to the crowd in parables?'"*

Friday, Jul 24, 2020

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL OF SAINT SHARBEL MAKHLŪF, PRIEST

Healing measures

Legend says healing might be gained by traveling to Lebanon and praying at the tomb of Sharbel Makhhlūf (1828-98), a Maronite monk known for his virtue and holiness. Closer to home, there's a mosaic shrine to Saint Sharbel located in New York City's St. Patrick Cathedral. Throughout the world, there are more than 3 million Maronite Christians, an Eastern Catholic Church established in the fifth century and in full communion with Rome. In a world with so much illness, today is a good day to ask Saint Sharbel to lend a healing hand. And we should all do the same.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Jeremiah 3:14-17; Matthew 13:18-23 (399). "The seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it."*

Saturday, Jul 25, 2020

FEAST OF SAINT JAMES, APOSTLE

Let the storm subside

The apostle James, along with his brother John, members of Jesus' inner circle, were nicknamed the "sons of thunder" perhaps because of their fiery personalities. At one point in the gospels they asked Jesus if they should call "fire down from heaven" on a village that does not welcome them. Fortunately for the villagers (and for us) Jesus had a different idea of how power should be used—not for vengeance but for healing. Pray that those who wield great power in our own nation and world might take their cue on this point from Jesus rather than James.

TODAY'S READINGS: *2 Corinthians 4:7-15; Matthew 20:20-28 (605). "Whoever wishes to be great among you shall be your servant."*

Sunday, Jul 26, 2020

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Treat the children well

Happy Parents' Day! Children are the treasure in every society. For a viable future, we have to invest deeply in their upbringing. Golden-mouthed saint John Chrysostom offered tips on child-rearing: Let the saints enter your home through the naming of your children. Teach your kids Bible stories. Raise them singing psalms and hymns. Encourage in them a bold, not timid, spirit. Disciplined self-possession will benefit them all their lives. Show them actions have consequences, now and in eternity. Finally, give more care to your children than you do for your job, home, wealth, and possessions.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Kings 3:5-12; Romans 8:28-30; Matthew 13:44-52 (109). "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field."*

Monday, Jul 27, 2020

FERIAL

What is the parable of your life?

Jesus used a lot of parables to teach his followers—so many that his disciples asked him why. So that the “mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you,” he answered. Parables offer a relatable way to understand an abstract spiritual lesson. Most of us know what it is like to plant, cook, eat, manage money, run a business, deal with relationship conflict. What Christian truths would you like your own simple life story to reveal to others? How that parable unfolds is up to you.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Jeremiah 13:1-11; Matthew 13:31-35 (401). “All these things Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables.”*

Tuesday, Jul 28, 2020

FERIAL

Sow the seeds of faith

Blessed Stanley Rother, a missionary and the first U.S. priest to be declared a martyr, died this day in 1981. Not only did he love and serve his flock of indigenous Guatemalans, he helped build a medical clinic, school, and radio station. But it was his upbringing as an Oklahoma farm boy that endeared him even more to his modest agricultural community—a priest who preached but also plowed their fields. As a farmer, he understood the parables of Jesus more than most: how seeds must die, how flocks need a shepherd, how the harvest requires extra help—our help. Play your part.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Jeremiah 14:17-22; Matthew 13:36-43 (402). “The field is the world, the good seed the children of the Kingdom.”*

Wednesday, Jul 29, 2020

MEMORIAL OF SAINT MARTHA, DISCIPLE OF THE LORD

Let Martha be an inspiration

We remember today a friend of Jesus who with her brother, Lazarus, and her sister, Mary, provided a home of friendship that was a place of respite for the Lord. She could prepare a meal and manage the many details of hosting a gathering of friends. She could speak her mind honestly and trust that she would be heard. She recognized that Jesus was the Messiah. She was human enough to be crabby yet faithful enough to believe that Jesus was able to bring life out of death. Saint Martha, in these challenging days, pray for us.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Jeremiah 15:10, 16-21 (403); John 11:17-27 or Luke 10:38-42 (607). “Yes, Lord, I have come to believe that you are the Messiah.”*

Thursday, Jul 30, 2020

FERIAL

Deliver us from evil

The United Nations has declared today “World Day Against Trafficking in Persons.” Church leaders have been outspoken on this global issue that targets poor and marginalized people, robbing them of their God-given dignity. In today's gospel Jesus envisions the kingdom of heaven as devoid of wickedness. Today is a good moment to oppose the wickedness of trafficking by adding your voice to the many who are committed to raising awareness and rooting out this evil.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Jeremiah 18:1-6; Matthew 13:47-52 (404). “The angels will go out and separate the wicked from the righteous.”*

Friday, Jul 31, 2020

MEMORIAL OF SAINT IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA, PRIEST

Soldier us through

Saint Ignatius of Loyola died in 1566 of Roman fever, a type of malaria. During a time of pandemic, it seems appropriate to call on the aid of a saint known for his survival instincts and spiritual prowess. After all, most thought Ignatius, a Castilian soldier, would die from injuries sustained in battle at age 30, but instead he lived another 35 years. During his time of convalescence, he experienced a spiritual conversion that led to the development of his popular *Spiritual Exercises* and the founding of the Jesuit order that has as its motto “For the greater glory of God.” What can you do today, following Ignatius' example, to give God glory despite times of confinement and uncertainty?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Jeremiah 26:1-9; Matthew 13:54-58 (405). “A prophet is not without honor except in his native place and in his own house.”*

Saturday, Aug 01, 2020

MEMORIAL OF SAINT ALPHONSUS LIGUORI, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Speak plainly

Alphonsus was a bright and gifted youth, earning doctorates in both civil and canon law in Naples at 16. He was so small at the time of his graduation, he later wrote, that his doctoral robes swallowed him up, causing spectators to erupt in laughter. But faith was no laughing matter to the young man, who in short order left the legal profession and dedicated his life to the church to serve those on the margins. This brilliant doctor of the church believed in plain speech. “I have never preached a sermon which the poorest old woman in the congregation could not understand,” he said. Let your own witness be simple and direct.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Jeremiah 26:11-16, 24; Matthew 14:1-12 (406). “For in truth it was the LORD who sent me to you, to speak all these things for you to hear.”*