

**Clergy:** Msgr. Frank H. Rossi, Pastor  
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No one who sets a hand to the plow and looks to what was left behind is fit for the kingdom of God. (Luke 9:62)

Is Jesus being unreasonable? All this man wanted to do was say goodbye to his family before following Jesus. Didn't Elijah permit Elisha to say his good-byes before leaving (1 Kings 19:19-21)? To make matters worse, Jesus' response to the two other would-be disciples seems a little rigid, even unwelcoming. Was Jesus actually trying to discourage these people from following him?

If you're suspecting that something deeper is going on here, you're probably right. First, it helps to remember how this passage fits into Luke's timeline: we have just learned that Jesus is now "resolutely" traveling to Jerusalem (Luke 9:51). The hour of his passion is drawing near. Luke is showing us a new sense of urgency in Jesus' life and message. There just isn't time left for secondary things—even good, important things. For those individuals whom the Lord is calling, it's now or never!

Second, we don't know how they responded to Jesus' words. Maybe there was more to the conversation; we don't know that either. That's because Luke is actually more interested in encouraging us, his readers, to follow Jesus than in recounting the details of an event long past. As one commentator has put it, we may not know how they responded, but we do know what our own response ought to be.

There's no doubt about it; this is a hard word to hear. But Jesus knows how challenging it can be. He knows that he is asking a lot of us. He also knows how much grace he has stored up to help you. He has already determined to forgive you when you fall and to encourage you when the going gets tough. He is never one to issue a command and then wait for you to fail at it. No, he will do everything he can to help you accomplish it—short of overpowering your free will, of course!

*"Yes, Lord, I will follow you wherever you lead. I trust that your grace will be enough for me."*

Reprinted from *The Word Among Us*

**Prayer Support for Our Pastor and Parish**  
 Let's join together during this time by praying the Rosary and the Memorare daily at 4:00 pm. God's grace always remains with us.

**June 30, 2019 - July 7, 2019**  
**Readings and Mass Intentions**

**Sunday, June 30 9:00am-Mass**  
 1 Kgs 19:16b, 19-21/Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 [cf. 5a]/  
 Gal 5:1, 13-18/Lk 9:51-62  
*Mass intention for the People of the Parish*

**Monday, July 1 4:30pm-Communion Service**  
 Gn 18:16-33/Ps 103:1b-2, 3-4, 8-9, 10-11 [8a]/Mt 8:18-22

**Tuesday, July 2 10:00am-Mass**  
 Gn 13:2, 5-18/Ps 15:2-3a, 3bc-4ab, 5 [1b]/Mt 7:6, 12-14  
*Mass Intention for Sam Brocato*

**Wednesday, July 3 4:30pm-Mass**  
 Eph 2:19-22/Ps 117:1bc, 2 [Mk 16:15]/Jn 20:24-29  
*Mass intention for "Tubba" Broussard*

**Thursday, July 4 8:30am-Communion Service**  
 Gn 22:1b-19/Ps 115:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [9]/Mt 9:1-8

**Friday, July 5 9:30am-Communion Service**  
 Gn 23:1-4, 19; 24:1-8, 62-67/Ps 106:1b-2, 3-4a, 4b-5 [1b]/  
 Mt 9:9-13

**Saturday, July 6 4:30pm-Mass**  
 6:30pm-Spanish Mass  
 Gn 27:1-5, 15-29/Ps 135:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6 [3a]/Mt 9:14-17  
*Mass Intention for Sam Brocato*

**Sunday, July 7 9:00am-Mass**  
 Is 66:10-14c/Ps 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20 [1]/Gal 6:14-18/  
 Lk 10:1-12, 17-20 or 10:1-9  
*Mass intention for the People of the Parish*

**You are my inheritance, O Lord. (Ps 16)**

**Tuesday 10 am Mass**  
 Fr. Ron Foshage from St. Michael in Jasper will continue to celebrate Mass at 10:00 am on Tuesdays


**PRAYER REQUESTS**  
*Please pray for:* Bennie Mahaffey, Don Watt, Linda Dipuccio, Shirley Anderson, Ted Koch, Frank Rossi; Evelyn Daigle, Rachel Daigle, Jessie Day, Iona Watt, Kirk Daigle, Jim Muir; Diane Necessary, Frances Martin, Julie Litton, Elaine Schriver, Cecil Schriver, Rebecca Sims, Kiley Burke, Irene Johnson, Joe Ventrello, Steve Tompkins  
*Repose of the soul:* Melvin Lowrie

*Names will remain on the prayer list for two weeks. You may list names in the Prayer Book in the vestibule of the church and your intention will be offered at daily Mass.*

**Weekly Stewardship**

June 22 & 23 Weekly Offering	\$ 2,243.00
Average Weekly Cost	\$ 3,152.00
Excess/Deficit	\$ -909.00

**Thank you for your generosity.**  
 If you would like to give electronically, visit our website, [www.ourladyofthepinescatholicchurch.com](http://www.ourladyofthepinescatholicchurch.com) and click on **Donation**.

Sun. June 30 <i>13th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> 9:00am—Mass <i>Adult Faith Formation following Mass</i>	Mon. July 1 4:30pm— Communion Service	Tues. July 2 10:00am—Mass	Wed. July 3 4:00pm—Rosary 4:30pm—Mass 5:00pm—Choir	Thurs. July 4 8:30am—Communion Service 9:00am—Divine Mercy Chaplet 	Fri. July 5 9:30am—Communion Service	Sat. July 6 3:45-4:15pm—Confessions 4:30pm—Mass 6:30pm—Spanish Mass
Sun. July 7 <i>14th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> 9:00am—Mass <i>Adult Faith Formation following Mass</i>	Mon. July 8 4:30pm— Communion Service	Tues. July 9 10:00am—Mass	Wed. July 10 4:00pm—Rosary 4:30pm—Mass 5:00pm—Choir	Thurs. July 11 8:30am—Communion Service 9:00am—Divine Mercy Chaplet	Fri. July 12 9:30am—Communion Service	Sat. July 13 3:45-4:15pm—Confessions 4:30pm—Mass 6:30pm—Spanish Mass

**CCE Teacher Needed**  
 Our CCE program needs a teacher for the junior high class. Call the church office, 409-283-5367, to volunteer.

**Mark Your Calendar**  
**Fundraiser**  
**Men's ACTS Retreat for Hardin County**  
 Infant Jesus, Lumberton, TX  
 Saturday June 29th, 4-7pm  
 Gumbo and Potato Salad  
 Donations only  
 Sponsored by Infant Jesus KC's

**Pastoral Care**  
 Fr. Peter Funk will be here every Wednesday during the day for our pastoral care needs, including spiritual direction, consultations, anointings, and any other spiritual need. We appreciate the time and care he is giving to us.

**Questions for Family Discussions**  
**Adults:** When have you faltered or looked back during your journey of faith?  
**Children:** What can you do to be a stronger follower of Jesus this week?

**Stewardship Awards**  
 Nominate someone from our parish who has gone above and beyond the call of duty this year for the Diocesan Stewardship Award. Use the form in the East Texas Catholic newspaper or pick up a nomination form in the vestibule. Forms must be submitted by **July 7, 2019**.

**Garage Sale**  
**August 2, 7am-3pm**  
**August 3, 7am-2pm**  
**Drop-offs**  
**July 29 - August 1**  
**8am - 1pm**

**Upcoming Events**  
 July 27: Summer Salad and Cinema, Family Center  
 August 2-3: Annual Garage Sale, OLOP Family Center  
 August 2-3: Men's Conference, St. Francis of Assisi, Orange, TX  
 August 9-10: Liturgical Conference, Elegante Hotel, Beaumont, TX  
 August 11: Stewardship Awards, Elegante Hotel, Beaumont, TX  
 August 24: RCIA Workshop, St. Anthony Cathedral Basilica, Beaumont, TX