

Invest just five minutes a day, and your Faith will deepen and grow, a day at a Time

Sunday, Sep 02, 2018

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Law is good, love is better

It seemed like such a good idea at the time: carve the law of the nation in stone. We citizens of another land and millennia can appreciate how final the Ten Commandments must have felt—and yet how inadequate they turned out to be. We too have laws and rules, Declaration and Constitution, rights and amendments. But a community doesn't emerge from stone or paper, from documents and words and promises. We may give lip service to high ideals, but only love leads to the common good. Do we really love our neighbor as ourselves?

TODAY'S READINGS: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8; James 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23. "What great nation has statutes and decrees that are as just as this whole law?"

Monday, Sep 03, 2018

MEMORIAL OF GREGORY THE GREAT, POPE, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

The law of love

The Pharisees criticized Jesus for letting his disciples pick grain on the sabbath to eat. The disciples were desperately hungry, or they would not have been breaking the sabbath rules. Jesus' radical idea is that the sabbath is made for people, not the other way around. As Lord of the sabbath, Jesus recognizes that if religious observance hurts people, something's wrong with our priorities. Religion can seem to focus on the do's and don'ts, but rules are not ends in themselves. They serve to bring about love and justice, not give us opportunities to oppress or exclude one another. In his Book of Pastoral Rule, Pope Gregory, celebrated today, says, "The law of Christ is charity." Try to keep the rules in perspective when you apply them to yourself or others.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Corinthians 2:1-5; Luke 4:16-30 (431). "Amen, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own native place."

Tuesday, Sep 04, 2018

O little town of Capernaum

You've probably heard the saying, "All politics is local," suggesting that people are mostly concerned about the quality of life in their neighborhood or town. The same might be said of religion. Though Christianity now counts more than 2 billion believers worldwide, it all began in Capernaum, a small fishing village on

the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee. Reportedly the home of the apostles Simon Peter, Andrew, James, John, and the tax collector Matthew, Jesus selected this hamlet as the center of his public ministry after he left the mountainous town of Nazareth. Think of Capernaum as the mustard seed from which a great world religion sprung forth. And never underestimate the power of your own "small" life to bear great fruit as well.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Corinthians 2:10b-16; Luke 4:31-37 (432). "Jesus went down to Capernaum, a town of Galilee."

Wednesday, Sep 05, 2018

Faith comes first

A major part of Jesus' active ministry was as a healer. Those who came to him had faith that he could heal them; they believed in his power and were changed because of it. Scripture scholar Father Donald Senior, C.P. writes, "If there was faith, then the miracle had already begun: the miracle of a transformed life . . . physical cures were simply dramatic illustrations of the fundamental restoration Jesus worked in everyone whom he touched and who believed in him." Faith drew people to Jesus for healing, not the other way around. Believing opens your life to God and allows for transformation that's nothing short of miraculous.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Luke 4:38-44 (433). "He laid his hands on each of them and cured them."

Thursday, Sep 06, 2018

Reach beyond patience

In the confessional recently, a friend admitted she lacked gratitude. "I hate my life!" she told the priest. To her surprise he accepted her frank admission. "Some people suffer from poor health, others from a poverty of peace in their circumstances," he observed. Then he advised her: "Pray for peace. Not for patience to simply bear your life, but peace to fully live it." Many of us endure seasons when our days feel infertile, our efforts seem purposeless. We lower the nets, again and again, and come up empty. In these hours, pray not for patience but for an enlivening peace.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Corinthians 3:18-23; Luke 5:1-11 (434). "We have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets."

Friday, Sep 07, 2018

Reserve judgment

Two very old titles for Jesus are *King* and *Judge*. His kingship

over the universe is one of the "offices" or aspects of his divinity in which believers share, the other two being the priestly and prophetic. Jesus is also the ultimate judge of the world—only God can judge, and Christ is God revealed. Hand in hand with Jesus being the Judge is that the rest of us are not. The biblical message is clear: Judging others calls down God's judgment on yourself. Another downside to judging is that it sets people over one another—"I'm better than you and so I can judge you"—when in fact all are equally subject to God. Leave the ruling and judging to God and get to work loving your neighbor.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Corinthians 4:1-5; Luke 5:33-39 (435). "Do not make any judgment before the appointed time, until the Lord comes."

Saturday, Sep 08, 2018

FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Unbroken chain

Birthdays are great stopping-off points on life's journey; they are days to look backward and forward. We marvel at the patterns of our lives that are visible only from a distance. We look ahead to the future with hope. On Mary's birthday, we recall the extraordinary circumstances leading to her birth—an aging, barren couple, a surprise visit from an angel, a prayer answered—and we look forward with wonder at the life of the child who became the Mother of God. Scripture offers a long genealogy of Jesus—another reminder that life is an unbroken chain of births and deaths, deeds and consequences. Today ask yourself, "What might the action I'm contemplating set into motion? Will it be for good or ill?" and then act accordingly.

TODAY'S READINGS: Micah 5:1-4a or Romans 8:28-30; Matthew 1:1-16, 18-23 or 1:18-23 (636). "She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

Next Sunday

Sunday, Sep 09, 2018

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 35:4-7a; James 2:1-5; Mark 7:31-37 "Have you not made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil designs?"

Catholic Social Teaching Corner

Sept. 1-2 -- 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
In the Gospel this Sunday, Jesus reminds us that it is not what enters from the outside which makes us impure, but what is deeply rooted in our hearts. In the Letter of James

SEPTEMBER 2, 2018 ~ HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH AUSTIN, TX.

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

We are exhorted to "humbly welcome the word that has been planted in you..." and to be "doers of the word and not hearers only." God's word is a message of love, mercy, compassion and freedom to all people. Is that showing in our lives? Are we rooted in that Good News so that it spills over to others?

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, September 1, 5:30PM

For Holy Cross Bulletin Sponsors, may God bless them for providing this service to our Parishioners.

SUNDAY, September 2, 8:00AM

This Mass is for Lt. Andy Michel as he serves our country overseas; please pray for God's protection and safe return.

SUNDAY, September 2, 10:00AM

Repose of the soul of Mrs. Theresa Njoku, may her soul rest in peace, requested by Mercy Chima

Sunday, September 30th, at 1:30pm. Help spread the news. Holy Cross will have a monthly **IGBO** Mass, every last Sunday of the month. All **IGBO** Catholics are welcome

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE

Registration for Religious Education Classes will begin Aug25/26 after all Masses and will continue until Sunday, September 16. Please register your child/children if they are going to participate in Holy Cross CCD/ Sacramental/RCIA classes or the High School Youth Ministry. Classes begin on Sunday, September 16 at 12noon. The Religious Education Ministry is in need of Catechists and volunteers who are willing to share their time and talents with the youth of our church. If you can share your time, talent, treasure and commitment to the Religious Education Ministry in any way, please contact Jennifer Brooks, DRE.

REGISTER & VOTE!!

To Vote in the November 6th election, you must be register in Travis & Williamson County by, October 9th. Early Voting begins October 22nd and ends November 2nd. Please stop by the Voting table in Weber Hall and complete a voter registration form if you are not already registered.

SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL

"The Society of St Vincent de Paul Ministry is in need of parishioners who want to share their gifts, talents, and love for others. This ministry helps the poor and needy with rent, utilities and sometimes with food. Please consider joining the Society of St Vincent de Paul Ministry. Meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of every month at 6:00 PM. Contact Tina Frank at 512-965-5949 or church office for additional information."

Calendar of Events

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| Sunday Sept 2 2018 | |
| Mass | 8:00AM |
| Rosary | 9:30AM |
| Tuesday Sept 4, 2018 | |
| Noon Mass | |
| Wednesday Sept 5, 2018 | |
| Noon Mass | |
| Thursday, Sept 6, 2018 | |
| Noon Mass | |
| Choir 6:30 | |
| Friday Sept 7, 2018 | |
| Noon Mass | |

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| Weekend Aug 25/26, 2018 | |
| ATTENDANCE | |
| VIGIL MASS | 35 |
| SUNDAY | |
| 8:00 am | 56 |
| 10:00 am | 282 |
| IBGO | 75 |
| Weekend August 25/26, 2018 | |

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| OFFERTORY | \$3364.00 |
| Children | 47.00 |
| E-GIVING | 1063.85 |
| SVDP (E-GIVING) | 132.00 |
| Assumption of Mary | 10.00 |
| Mission Appeal | 3395.00 |
| IGBO | 203.00 |
| GIFT STORE | 440.00 |

Office Closed

Monday, September 3rd the church office will be closed in observance of Labor Day.

IGBO MASS SEPTEMBER 30th, 2018

Please join us for our next IGBO Mass

5TH YEAR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Please return your 5th year Capital Campaign Pledge envelopes if you have not done so. If you did not receive a letter and want to contribute, put a note in an envelope and bring to the office. If you have not yet finished your 4th Year Campaign payment, I encourage you to do so as we need every cent we can get as the construction is moving very fast. Those have never made any contribution towards the project, please consider making a donation. Thank you so much for making our dream come true. Fr Basil

MEN'S ACTS RETREAT

Come join the ACTS Men's retreat for a personal encounter with God while forming the bonds of brotherhood. ACTS Team members will be available after the 8am & 10am Masses in Weber Hall. For more information please contact Men's Retreat Director – Craig Williams (512) 626-1934 or Co-Directors Alex King (512) 468-0366, John James (409) 466-1569

NEW TO OUR PARISH?

If you have just moved to East Austin and new to our Parish we are glad to welcome you to Holy Cross. Let us know how we can help serve your spiritual needs. Call the office 512-472-3741 to speak to Fr Basil Aguzie, MSP.

ANNUAL FAMILY APPRECIATION DAY

DATE: Sunday October 7th
TIME: After 10 Am Mass
VENUE: Blackshear Elementary School pavilion

FUNDRAISER

Holy Cross ACTS Retreatant will host a Brisket Sale, Sunday, September 16th, after the 8 and 10AM Masses Brisket Sandwich, Chips, Drink and trimmings, only \$7.00



CONSIDER HOLY CROSS IN YOUR WILL

Call the Church Office 512 472 3741