REFLECTIONS ON THE READINGS FOR THE 16th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Once again, our liturgy focuses on who God is and what He has in store for His people who have faith in Him. Unlike the pagan societies, whose gods are anthropomorphic and exhibit both the positive and negative features of man, the Jewish God, Yahweh, is very different. Instead of being a god made like a super human, Yahweh has none of the negative qualities found in pagan gods. Instead, the Jewish God is perfected Love who establishes Covenants, intimate familial relationships, with His people. He brings Justice and Righteousness to His creation, as He forgives human transgressions through the creation of a Redemptive Plan in order to restore creation to its fulness of being.

The qualities of Yahweh are extolled in the Book of Wisdom, the source for our first reading. Under Jewish beliefs man was made in the image of God; therefore, it only follows that their God would have qualities to restore

(Deacon Rob’s Reflections continue on the next page)

PRAYER FOR PEACE IN ANXIETY DURING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Loving God, we come to You full of anxiety about what may happen in the coming days and weeks. Shower us with the peace Jesus promised to his disciples, and make us into steady pillars for those around us. In this time of uncertainty and epidemic, wake us up to the reminder that we are not alone.

Even as we are asked to keep our distance from others, help us to find ways to reach out to those who need our support. We pray especially for those whose incomes and livelihoods are threatened.

For the children who will miss meals due to school closures. For those already isolated, lonely and scared.

Loving God, give them Your peace and, through our hands, ensure they have what they need.

Sustain, strengthen and protect all caregivers. Bless them as they offer compassionate care and show selfless courage in the face of risk.

Remind us, each time we wash our hands, that in our baptism You call us to let go of our fears and live in joy, peace, and hope. Amen.

(Courtesy of The Catholic Health Association)

CONTACT LIST FOR ATTENDENCE SIGN-UPS
LISTA DE CONTACTOS PARA ASISTIR SIGN-UPS

+ For English & Daily Masses: Maria Addessi (503-991-2516)
+ For Spanish Masses: Gloria Ahumada (503-991-3910)
+ For Adoration: Gloria Cisneros (503-551-2767)
+ To Schedule a Parish Group Meeting: Forms are available at the Office & through the website
REFLECTIONS on the READINGS for THIS SUNDAY, CONTINUED

...mankind to his original state. Therefore, instead of a revengeful and uncaring god like the pagan deities, Yahweh is depicted as a merciful, caring and just God who has the interest of those who follow Him at heart. This deity offers hope and guidance to His children even when they sin.

In the second reading from St. Paul to the Romans, this same relationship is extolled by the Apostle to the Gentiles. Paul explains that it is through the Advocate sent by Christ, the Spirit, who intervenes when we fail. Only through prayer can the Spirit intercede for our weaknesses. With prayer, the Spirit, God’s sovereign power, will intercede and bring about the necessary transformation of our being and the world. It is this same Spirit through which the transformation of our world will take place bringing to fruition the kingdom of God. This can only happen through the efforts of the Children of Light.

It is this Kingdom of God that is revealed in today’s Gospel by Matthew. In this lengthy selection, Jesus utilizes parables to explain his mission of ushering in the kingdom of heaven—a long awaited reality. The first parable encountered is the parable of the sower of good seed. Here, God plants good “seed” but an enemy comes and plants weeds. Questioned by the workers, God instructs them to let all grow and separate the good from the bad at harvest time. Thus, Jesus is saying that evil can temporarily exist in the Kingdom but evil-doers will not remain. Rather, God will eventually permit only the good, the Children of Light, to remain. Thus, the Kingdom of God will be a perfected creation.

Continuing to teach, Christ uses the mustard seed to express how the faith of the Children of Light will be firmly entrenched for the sake of the Kingdom. This particular seed is extremely small; yet, when planted and fully grown the seed becomes a large bush/tree that gives rest and nourishment to others. The Lord clearly indicates the role and destiny of the Children of Light. They will overtake the world through the spreading of the Word and their faith in God. The symbolism found in this image is rich as it shows how the smallest amount of faith can grow and give relief to a stressed world. Then, Jesus turns to baking as an example. Using the results of mixing yeast with wheat flour, Christ depicts the growth and rise of the Kingdom of God. This culinary example sets the foundation for the Church He is establishing. The image is clear and almost tactile.

Matthew concludes today’s Gospel with the Lord explicitly revealing the mystery of his parables when questioned by His disciples. In this explanation there exists a revelation that explains the existence of evil with good in today’s world. Christ reveals the origin of evil and its effects. Despite the illusion of victory by evil, Jesus explains that in the final analysis, faithful followers of the Light will triumph over malefactors and those same transgressors will receive appropriate punishment when the Kingdom is fully attained.

Holy Mother the Church wants us to remember that we are the “Children of Light”. Christ has established His Church to bring to fruition the Kingdom. As we ponder the effects of evil in our world, we must have faith in the Father and His Plan of Redemption. Knowing that the evil we witness today is just temporary and coupled with Divine assurance in the triumph of Light over Darkness, we need to live our lives according to the Word and meet our responsibility as Children of the Light. That responsibility comes with the New Covenant established by Christ. It makes us Divine family members and directs us to spread the Gospel to our world. We are the Light of the World in Christ, Jesus!

Deacon Rob

THANK YOU to our Knights of Columbus for coordinating & distributing the Free Food Boxes each week!

¡GRACIAS a nuestros Caballeros de Colón por coordinar y distribuir las Cajas de comida gratis cada semana!

¡FELICIDADES a todos nuestros jóvenes feligreses que recientemente recibieron el sacramento de la Confirmación!

CONGRATULATIONS to all our young parishioners who recently received the sacrament of Confirmation!

REMINDER: Anyone who shows up at the church for Mass or Adoration and has pre-registered will be not be admitted.

RECORDATORIO: No se admitirá a nadie que se presente en la iglesia por La Misa o Adoracion y no se haya registrado previamente.

Please join us in PRAYING FOR THE REQUESTS of our own parishioners. Just go to: https://www.stpatrickindependence.org/prayers-and-intentions to find the most current requests and activate your prayer warrior spirit for others.
**THIS WEEK’S MASS SCHEDULE**

**HORARIO DE MISAS DE ESTA SEMANA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Language</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7/21</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>10:00 am, in English</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/22</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>6:30 pm, en Español</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/23</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>10:00 am, in Spanish</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/24</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>10:00 am, en Español</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/25</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>5:00 pm, en English</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/26</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>9:00 am, in English</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>11:00 am, en Español</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**REMINDER:** All Masses & Adoration will be live-streamed via the parish’s Facebook page.

**RECUERDE:** Todas misas y adoraciones se transmitirán en vivo a través de la página de Facebook de la parroquia.

---

**ADORATION THIS WEEK**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7/22</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>5:30—6:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/24</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>3:00 pm—8:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(Benediction at 7:00 pm)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ADORATION sign-up (per hour) by contacting**

Gloria Cisneros (503-551-2767)

Se requiere inscripción ADORACIÓN (por hora) contactando a Gloria Cisneros (503-551-2767)

---

**CONFessions**

Saturday / Sabado

3:30—4:30 pm

(Also available by individual appointment // Por cita individual con el Padre Kiko)

---

**FREE FOOD BOXES** will be available for pick-up, at the church, on **TUESDAY, JULY 21**. Check the parish’s Facebook page for the times. Las **CAJAS DE ALIMENTOS GRATUITAS** estarán disponibles para que las recojan en la iglesia el **MARTES 21 DE JULIO**. Consulte la página de Facebook de la parroquia para conocer los horarios.

**SAINTS OF THE WEEK:**

July 19: Macrina
July 20: Apollonaris
July 21: Lawrence of Brindisi
July 22: Mary Magdalene
July 23: Bridget
July 24: Sharbel Makhluf
July 25: James the Apostle

All ye saints, pray for us.

---

James was raised a fisherman by his father, Zebedee, along with his brother John. He was called from fishing by Jesus and was one of the earliest disciples (see Matthew 4: 21-22). James was one of only three called by Jesus to witness his Transfiguration (Mark 9:2-3).

Following Christ’s Ascension, James spread the Gospel across Israel and the Roman kingdom as well. He traveled and spread the Word for nearly forty years in Spain. It is said that one day, as he prayed, The Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to him and asked him to build her a church, which he did. Later, James returned to Jerusalem but was martyred for his faith by King Herod, who decapitated him. Saint James the Greater is known as the first apostle to die. As he was not allowed to be buried following his martyrdom, his remains were taken to Spain and buried.

In the ninth century his remains were discovered and moved to a tomb in the Cathedral of Santiago. Pope Leo declared it a shrine. The cathedral has historically been a place of pilgrimage on the Way of St. James (Camino de Santiago) since the early Middle Ages and marks the traditional end of the pilgrimage route from the Holy Land.

---

**WEEKLY COLLECTION COLECCION SEMANAL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Envelopes</th>
<th>Loose</th>
<th>Mod Project</th>
<th>Faith Formation</th>
<th>TOTAL GIVING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$ 1,986.00</td>
<td>$ 332.00</td>
<td>$ 50.00</td>
<td>$ 25.00</td>
<td>$ 2,318.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$ 2,515.00</td>
<td>$ 153.00</td>
<td>$ 100.00</td>
<td>$ 35.00</td>
<td>$ 1,666.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**CHANGES TO NOTICE**

- Time of Daily Mass on Thursday
- Time for Adoration on Fridays
- Maximum number of people allowed to attend Mass

**CAMBIOS DE AVISO**

- Hora de la misa diaria los jueves
- Hora de adoración los viernes
- Número máximo de personas permitidas para asistir a misa

---

You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in kindness and fidelity. Psalm 86