22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.” - Mt 16:24b-25

OUR PARISH MISSION & VISION
St. Martin de Porres is a Stewardship and Hospitality parish. As Catholic Christians guided by the Holy Spirit, we are Christ’s disciples dedicated to faith formation, worship, community life, and service. All are welcome as we use our unique gifts to serve the world as a visible sign of God’s love.

For an electronic version of the bulletin visit: smdpyl.org/bulletins
WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 30, 2020

SUN 8/30  Jer 20:7-9/Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [2b]/Rom 12:1-2/Mt 16:21-27
MON 8/31  1 Cor 2:1-5/Ps 119:97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102 [97]/Lk 4:16-30
TUE 9/1   1 Cor 2:10b-16/Ps 145:8-9, 10-11, 12-13ab, 13cd-14 [17]/Lk 4:31-37
WED 9/2   1 Cor 3:1-9/Ps 33:12-13, 14-15, 20-21 [12]/Lk 4:38-44
THR 9/3   1 Cor 3:18-23/Ps 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [1]/Lk 5:1-11
FRI 9/4   1 Cor 4:1-5/Ps 37:3-4, 5-6, 27-28, 39-40 [39a]/Lk 5:33-39
SAT 9/5   1 Cor 4:6b-15/Ps 145:17-18, 19-20, 21 [18]/Lk 6:1-5
SUN 9/7   Ez 33:7-9/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 [8]/Rom 13:8-10/Mt 18:15-20

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 30, 2020

Sunday:  22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Thursday: St. Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church
Next Sunday: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

LIVE THE LITURGY
Inspiration for the week

Secular problems require savvy secular solutions. We are trained to solve problems, be successful and productive, and find our way through all that life presents to us. Corporations value those who can decipher the best avenue to take in order to resolve an issue. How do you train and renew your mind? Facts, figures, scientific tools, analytical processes, best practices, and models of varying kinds are at our disposal. If we don't know the full and proper course of action, we can easily find it. But there is a knowledge that goes far beyond all these things that makes a direct claim on the essence of our being. It satisfies a deeper thirst and hunger that keeps us restless until it is satisfied. Our minds, hearts, and souls cannot only be nurtured purely by secular and temporal things. We must seek the enlightenment that comes from God. This allows us to see the value of suffering in order to achieve a greater good and the losing of our very self in the service of something greater. Faith only makes sense if it can bring us to this heightened awareness.
FIRST READING:
Whenever I speak, I must cry out, violence and outrage is my message; the word of the LORD has brought me derision and reproach all the day. (Jer 20:8)

PSALM:
My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God. (Ps 63)

SECOND READING:
I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship. (Rom 12:1)

GOSPEL:
Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.” (Mt 16:24)

Secular pursuits only bring a temporary amount of satisfaction and fulfillment. As much as we may think that achieving worldly success, economic security, personal well-being, and self-fulfillment are worthy goals to obtain, they all are dependent on external variables and can lead to emptiness. We are trained to be very pragmatic and productive. Unless we are able to check off all of the boxes or comply with specific measurable requirements, our value and worth becomes questionable. Corporations, educational institutions, systems, structures, and secular ideology rarely consider deeper, more spiritual, and human contributions a person can and needs to make.

To the secular mind, the wisdom and ideals of the Gospel are making less and less sense. Consider for a moment this question: “What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?” While Jesus is asking this very challenging question to people who are considering his message, many in our world are in a quite different place. Whether we realize it, many folks are asking a much different question. Why would you not want to gain the whole world and secure your life? If you look at where a lot of folks are investing their time, energy, and resources, it becomes obvious where current priorities rest.

Modern day comforts and possibilities are backing us out of our relationship with God. The fire burning in every human heart is trying to find its satisfaction in the things that humans have created and not God. Being altruistic and offering compassion for those most in need becomes a political responsibility or responsible gesture. We realize that our hearts need to be centered on something and someone who calls us out of ourselves, but we struggle and battle with naming the source of that call. God places the desire to seek, find, and love Him in the core of every soul. We are not abandoned and left to fend for ourselves. But we can easily get confused. We know that when we extend ourselves to another self-sacrificially, we are doing what is just and right. We know that we can work through suffering and loss and come out better and more whole on the other side.

Our minds need to be renewed so that they can begin to understand that there is much more to who we are, and that faith plays a pivotal role in achieving our true and everlasting goals. It is when we see that it is only faith that can bring us to this heightened awareness of ourselves and God that it will begin to make sense. Then, we can put things in proper perspective and consider being a disciple.
EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

The Vision of Stewardship

I love the original movie Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory. All the way through while I watch the film I still laugh and feel like a child. It is only the last line with which I have an issue. Wonka by now has chosen Charlie to succeed him as head of the chocolate factory. They board an elevator that proceeds to crash through the roof and begins to fly. Wonka then asks Charlie if he ever heard of what happened to the boy who got everything he ever wanted. After Charlie says no, Wonka explains, "He lived happily ever after." As I get older, I can say I have met several people who got all or most of all they have ever wanted, but unlike Charlie, it did not lead to endless bliss. In fact, as a Christian I know that that statement of Wonka's is a lie. The secret to living happily ever after lies in not getting all you ever wanted, but instead in giving all you ever wanted away.

A person can't have any sense of that reality until they begin to see his or her life transformed by Jesus. When we have accepted the challenge placed before us and made a choice to live a certain way daily, we can find ourselves transformed. Following Jesus is not easy, but it is the only true way to find authentic joy. When we have emptied ourselves and allowed him to fill the open spaces in us, we become different. We are transformed and, if enough of us in a parish community experience the same journey, our parish is transformed as well. Then we begin to transform the world around us. Don't be fooled: A flying elevator is cool, but it pales in comparison to what can happen when we find a new life in Jesus Christ.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

PLEASE CONSIDER ONLINE GIVING

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED GIVING

"For God Loves a Cheerful Giver" 2 Corinthians 9:7
SHARING THE GOSPEL
If it were up to Peter, Jesus would never have died on the cross. Peter did not want to see his dear friend get hurt. It could have been tempting for Jesus to listen to Peter. But Jesus did not come to be happy or comfortable. Jesus came to die on the cross and rise again. He came to take your sins away. Jesus gave up his own life so that your life could be saved. He did it for you.

PRAYER
Thank you, Jesus, for giving up your life to save mine.

MISSION FOR THE WEEK
Every day firemen, policemen and soldiers give up their lives to protect yours. Thank God for them.
ATTENTION BUSINESS OWNERS, SELF-EMPLOYED AND FAMILIES!

Build your business and help us grow a vibrant faith community!

Available Advertising Space

Kjirsten Finnegan from LPI, our NEW bulletin printer, is securing new ads for our bulletin. Please consider purchasing an ad, sponsoring a charity, or in Memory of a Loved One. Your participation makes our bulletin successful, and you attract customers!

BENEFITS OF ADVERTISING
- Local, targeted community advertising for one full year, at one low price.
- A FREE ad listing on parishesonline.com.
- FREE, professional ad design, and 4 free ad changes per year.

Kjirsten Finnegan
402-312-9955 | kfinnegan@4LPi.com

We are working with a new partner LPI in providing our bulletin going forward to better communicate with our St. Martin de Porres community. It's because of ad sponsors like you who allow us to receive the bulletin at no cost. Please consider sponsoring an ad this year! Thank you in advance for your support!

SUPPORT OUR LOCAL ADVERTISERS
Our advertisers need your help during these difficult times!

Please show your support for your parish by also supporting our advertisers. We wouldn't be able to bring you our bulletin every week without them, and right now they need your help more than ever. Please encourage and remind others to show their support and shop local during these hard times!

“What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? Or what can one give in exchange for his life? For the Son of Man will come with his angels in his Father’s glory, and then he will repay all according to his conduct.”
- Mt 16:26-27