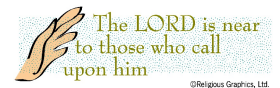


PARISH CALENDAR

Twentieth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

August 20, 2023

With the Lord there is mercy!



Saturday, August 19	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, August 20	..... 7:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:00 a.m.	Mass (Live Stream)
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Monday, August 21	..... 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Tuesday, August 22	..... 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Wednesday, August 23	..... 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
	..... 7:00 p.m.	Eucharistic Minister & Lector Meeting - Church
Thursday, August 24	..... 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Friday, August 25	..... 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Saturday, August 26	..... 4:00-4:30 p.m.	Confession - Church
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass

NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

Is:22:19-23: The Lord's servant will receive the key of the House of David. What the servant does, God confirms.
Rom:11:33-36: The riches, wisdom, and knowledge of God are too deep for humans to fathom.
Mt:16:13-20: At Caesarea Philippi, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Upon this rock I will build my church."

Gospel Reflection

At that time, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman of that district came and called out, "Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David! My daughter is tormented by a demon." Matthew 15:21-22
 After Jesus was harshly challenged by the Pharisees, He and His disciples took a 35-mile journey to the northwest to a region that was in pagan territory and outside of the jurisdiction of Herod and the Jewish leaders. It might have been a time of repose for Him and His disciples and an opportunity for Jesus to form the disciples more directly. It was during this retreat that a pagan woman came to ask Jesus for help.

As the story unfolds, we see that her prayer is a model for us all. First, she acknowledges Who Jesus is—the Son of David. This is a manifestation of her faith and a clear contrast to the lack of faith Jesus had experienced with many of the people in Galilee. Second, her request is expressed in straightforward and simple language, "Have pity on me!" And, "Lord, help me." Third, her prayer is persistent. Jesus allows her to manifest her persistence by first being silent to her request and then telling her "It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs." Jesus obviously does not say this to be rude, but to invite her to manifest her faith in a persistent way. And that she does. Finally, her prayer is one of deep humility. She responds, "Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters." She was begging for the "scraps" of Jesus' mercy, and she received His mercy in abundance.

Do you desire the scraps of Jesus' mercy in the way a dog desires the scraps from the table of its owner? Hopefully you do. This is the disposition that we must all have in prayer. Sometimes, out of pride, we can think that we have a right to God's mercy. We can think that God owes us. And though we might realize that mercy is not deserved, we must allow that truth to sink in deeply. That is why this story is so important. It presents us with the ideal way to pray and the humble interior disposition we must have when approaching God.

Prayerfully sit with the image of a dog begging for scraps from the table. When a dog is given what is left over, it is thrilled. To us, eating the scraps from another's plate is undesirable. But if the "plate" belongs to the Savior of the World and the "food" is His grace and mercy, then that changes everything. In the end, the Master also invites us to the table and feeds us with the finest of spiritual food. But that doesn't change the fact that we must always have the humble disposition exemplified by this humble woman.

Reflect, today, upon this holy woman. In the end, Jesus cried out, "O woman, great is your faith!" But that did not come until she wholeheartedly expressed her faith with humility and persistence. With her as a shining example, reflect upon how you pray to God. Do you pray with self-righteousness, as if you deserve God's mercy? Do you tend to see God as one Who owes you something? Do you get angry with God when He doesn't immediately answer your demands? Try to humble yourself like this woman. Beg for whatever God wants to give to you. Do so with perseverance and the utmost trust. If you do, our Lord will not only pour forth the scraps of His mercy, He will also pick you up and invite you to the glorious meal of His abundant grace.

Most merciful Jesus, I beg of You that I be given only the scraps from the table of Your mercy. I beg this of You with all my heart. Though I do not deserve You, I seek You anyway. You know what I need, dear Lord; please bestow upon me Your mercy for those needs. Jesus, I trust in You. .. (My Catholic Life)

LOVE

is the command of the Lord

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

R. C. I. A.: "Do you or someone you know want to become a Catholic? Do you or someone you know want to complete the Catholic Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Communion, & Confirmation)? Do you want to do your part fulfilling the Church's evangelization goals? The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (or RCIA for short) is the process the Catholic Church uses to achieve these goals for those who desire to participate and become candidates. Here's a few details of the program:

- 1) St. Rita's RCIA program will begin **Sept 10, 2023**
- 2) RCIA candidates will meet roughly every other Sunday night at 6:30 pm in the church.
- 3) RCIA sessions will last for 1.5 hours. These sessions will be based on adult learning principles, with candidate participation a must. However, there will be no formal text or homework.
- 4) RCIA candidates will participate in some or all of the following ceremonies leading up to the Easter Vigil mass:
 - a. Rite of Acceptance (beginning of Advent)
 - b. Rite of Election (beginning of Lent)
 - c. RCIA Scrutinies (during Lent)

If you or someone you know is interested, please call or our **RCIA Director (Don Gerry, (808) 489-9529)**

WORD OF LIFE: "God's love—individual, real, unchanging—is the true source of our worth, identity, and dignity. It really is not a question of who we are, but rather whose we are. Because his love will never change, nothing can reduce our God-given dignity, and nothing can diminish the immeasurable worth of our lives." *USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "How to Build a Culture of Life"*

WEEKLY READINGS

Aug 20 Sun: 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is:56:1, 6-7; Ps:67; Rom:11:13-15, 29-32; Mt:15:21-28

Aug 21 Mon: Saint Pius X, Pope

Jgs:2:11-19; Ps:106:34-35, 36-37, 39-40, 43ab & 44; Mt:19:16-22

Aug 22 Tue: The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Jgs:6:11-24a; Ps:85: 9, 11-12, 13-14; Mt:19:23-30

Aug 23 Wed: Ordinary Weekday

Jgs:9:6-15; Ps:21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Mt:20:1-16

Aug 24 Thur: Saint Bartholomew, Apostle

Rv:21:9b-14; Ps:145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18; Jn:1:45-51

Aug 25 Fri: Ordinary Weekday

Ru :1:3-6, 14b-16, 22 ;Ps:146:5-6ab, 6c-7, 8-9a, 9bc-10; Mt:22:34-40

Aug 26 Sat: Ordinary Weekday

Ru:2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17; Ps:128:1b-2, 3, 4, 5; Mt:23:12



NOTES ON STEWARDSHIP

In today's first reading, the Lord speaks through the prophet Isaiah during a time of political dissolution and moral decline. The prophet had warned God's judgment against people for the feelings of self-importance they found in their possessions, and condemned them for various forms of economic injustice such as exploiting the poor and immigrants. Good stewards know that Isaiah's message is as compelling today as it was in the time of the kingdom of Judah: Do the right thing. Offer justice and compassion toward others. Be honest in all your dealings. As remember to observe the day of the Lord.. International Catholic Stewardship Council)

Mercy Beyond Adversity

God can use adversity to bring blessing. No one wants adversity. We pray for bad times to go away. We envision a world with less pain and suffering, and we ask God to accept this vision.

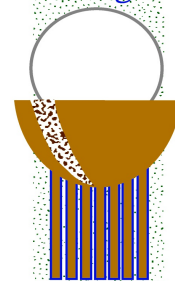
God does not always answer those prayers. Sometimes the adversity we seek to avoid comes in spite of our prayer. The weather turns bad. Property is destroyed. Illness is not cured. Death comes to a good friend. If adversity comes in spite of our prayer, we may begin to doubt. We doubt the goodness of God or we doubt the skill of our prayer.

God looks at things differently. Sometimes adversity brings new hope and promise. People rely less on themselves and more on the Spirit. They accept illness and death and live with less selfishness. They realize what matters in life and they thank God for the blessings that abound.

St. Paul rehearses for the Romans how God brought good out of adversity for them. God called everyone to salvation, but not everyone has accepted. Paul tells the Gentiles about the Israelites: "Just as you once disobeyed God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now disobeyed in order that, by virtue of the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy."

When the Gentiles rejected the covenant, God gave it to the Israelites. When the Israelites rejected it, God offered it to the Gentiles in Christ. God still looks beyond our adversity and offers mercy. Lectionary Bulletin Inserts: Reflections on the First and Second Readings, Year A © 2019 Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications. All rights reserved. Written by Paul Turner. Lectionary for Mass © 2001, CCD.

His gift
is his
sacramental
presence
among us



Aloha My brothers and sisters in Christ,

I want to make a brief summary report to update you all on what is currently being planned and taking place in our St. Rita Parish Building Project.

You may have noticed by now that we have started our long-awaited Phase 1 Construction of New St. Rita Parish Gathering Building. We have:

- 1 Removed the Quonset and old Restroom.
- 2 Relocated the temporary trailers.
- 3 In the process are removal of the old wastewater tank and installation of the new one.
- 4 In the process are placements of dust screens BMPs around the construction site.
- 5 The site work will begin with the clearing of AC paving, and the digging of the building foundation.
- 6 Additional site work to follow is the installation of a new Fire Hydrant, potable water service, electrical telephone, and cable service to be installed.

At the present time the Building Permit has not been issued yet. We keep in our prayers that it will soon be issued.

But meanwhile we do not want to totally stop the construction phases. Pending the issuing of the Building Permit, I will submit a request to have a courtesy inspection for the installation of power and water infrastructure which would allow us to continue with the building project.

As we proceed with the construction of **St. Rita Parish Gathering Building**, I ask for your patience and kokua in the inconveniences we would have to bear, especially with the parking lot area behind the church that would be closed off for everyone's safety and in compliance to the City and County Permit.

We would also like to beautify our current St. Rita Church Building. Our parish church building has been here a long time and is now due for some good "face lifting."

We do not want to spend much money for the old church building since we intend to build a new church, yet at the same time we want to upkeep and bring honor to God by giving some needed repairs to the Church Building of St. Rita where we gather for our Sacred Worship, our Holy Mass.

In order to defray the cost, we are asking for your kokua – your stewardship in use of your time and talent. We need laborers to come out on **Saturdays of the month of September, beginning with Saturday, September 9th between 8:00am and 2:00pm.**

We are asking for carpenters, painters, plumbers, electricians and spirit-filled laborers. Please contact the church office 808 668-7833 through Mele, Fr. Paulo or me if can come and share your time and talent.

Also, we are also looking to form a **Repair and Maintenance Committee** so that we can continuously upkeep and the maintain the church and other buildings.

We Planned to Work on the Church Repairs in 2 Steps:

Step 1 Exterior of the Church Building:

- a. The exterior walls need scraping, caulking and repainting.
- b. Some sidings need replacing.
- c. Gutters require repairs, replacements or removal.
- d. Electrical work needs fixing.
- e. Repair the tile at the ramp and railing.

RESTROOMS

- a. Fix men's restroom-change of urinal and sink.
- b. Remove portions of rotted wall base by the toilet.
- c. Clean and paint as needed.

Step 2 Some but Not All of the Interior Church Building Repairs:

- a. Removal of the old and dirty carpet and replace it with vinyl/laminate flooring.
- b. Inspect damaged foundation and repair if necessary.
- c. Redo Sacristy closet and add a new hand sink.
- d. The assembly area repair ceiling, parch ceiling, caulk and paint where necessary.

OUR CURRENT PARISH NEW BUILDING FUNDS

We currently have sufficient funds to complete **Phase 1 – Our St. Rita Parish Gathering Building**. But we do not have funds for **Phase 2 Our New St. Rita Church and Office Buildings**. We continue to ask for your generous assistance and prayers in raising funds for our **Phase 2 New Church Building Fund**.

The Finance Committee is planning further New Church Building Fund Raise. Should you have ideas that you would like to share in this regard please do not hesitate to call the Church Office.

We urge you to do continue to support our **Repair and Maintenance Funds** so that we can beautify our old but rich in history, the Church of St. Rita. Most of all, by your stewardship to share your time and talents to help defray the cost of upkeep, repairs and maintenance.

I am setting up a meeting for the volunteers for the Repair and Maintenance Committee on Saturday, August 26, at 9:00am under the banyan tree.

If you are interested in being a part of the Repair and Maintenance Committee, please come to the meeting or contact me at **808 347-2384**. Mahalo for your generosity and God bless you all.