

PARISH CALENDAR

Twentieth Sunday in
Ordinary Time

August 18, 2019

With the Lord there is mercy!

Saturday, Aug 17	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, Aug 18	..... 7:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Monday, Aug 19	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
	..... 9:00-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Tuesday, Aug 20	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
Wednesday, Aug 21	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
	..... 9:00-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, Aug 22	..... 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
	..... 7:30 p.m.	Prayer Meeting - Church
Friday, Aug 23	..... 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
	..... 9:00-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Saturday, Aug 24	..... 4:00-4:45 p.m.	Confession
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass

NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

Isa:66:18-21: I gather the nations of every language.

Heb:12:5-7, 11-13: The Lord disciplines those he loves.

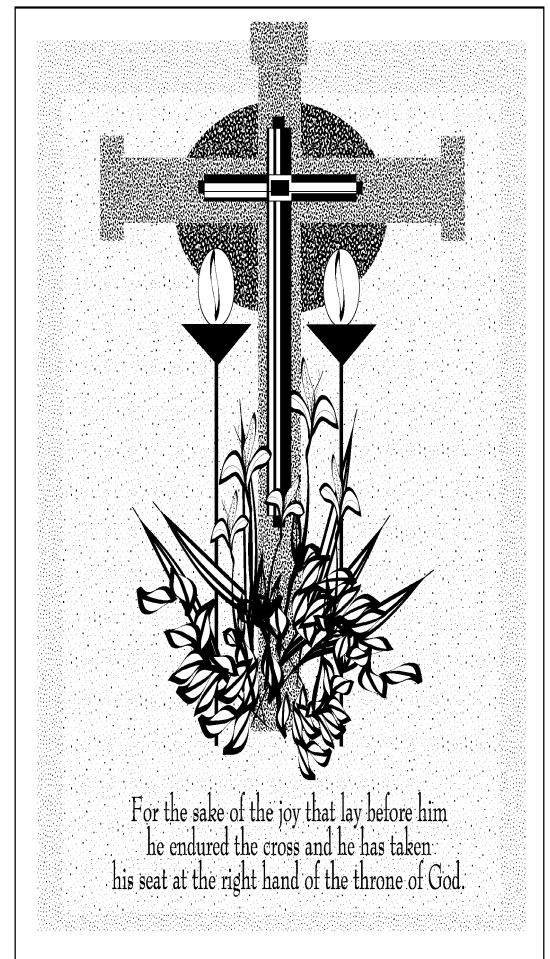
Luke:13 :22-30: People will come from everywhere to sit at table in the kingdom of God

The prophet Jeremiah's life was surely not an easy one. He lived in tough times. He faithfully carried God's messages, and he paid the cost for this faithfulness. He was not ignored, of course. He lived in a time when people paid close attention to the prophets. They were taken seriously. This is what got him in deep trouble, literally. The city of Jerusalem was under siege and had been for a long time. The soldiers did what they could to protect the walls. The inhabitants did what they could to keep alive, but they were at their wits' end. It cannot have helped them when Jeremiah said that holding out would be futile and that God would hand them over to the Babylonians, who waited patiently and menacingly outside the walls.

It is hard enough to tell people the bad news they already intuitively know. The bad news for the city dwellers of Jerusalem is that they will be better off surrendering; it beats dying one by one of starvation and thirst. But to give God the power to hand over beloved Israel to the Babylonians ... well, that was a new thought. And it just added injury to insult. Now, it was not Jeremiah's vocation to decide on the message from God; it was his vocation to deliver it. So Jeremiah delivered the message of the futility of holding out and the further implication that Babylon was God's servant. Babylon! Well, of course the leaders threw him in a well—a muddy one, at that. Not only was there little food; water, too, was scarce. Death was imminent anyway, by siege or out-and-out war. Holding out or fighting it out could be construed as honorable. Dying in a muddy cistern was not.

It took a foreigner, Ebed-melech the Cushite (or Ethiopian), to reverse this nonsensical decision. He got help and fished poor Jeremiah out of the cistern. So Jeremiah's life continued, but it continued to be difficult. In the end, Jerusalem did surrender, and the people suffered the indignity of the Babylonian exile. Jeremiah, too, was exiled with his people.

Jeremiah must have wished it had not turned out this way. Jesus, too, wishes that the message he brings would not cause division and dissention. In today's Gospel, we are given a rare glimpse into his inner soul. His emotional outburst feels as heavy as that in the Garden of Olives and even on the cross. But here, on the way to Jerusalem, the place of his agonizing death, Jesus cries out, "How great is my anguish!" This cry of distress is matched by the clear knowledge that his work is to bring the fire that purifies, clarifies. Jesus does not intend harm, much less death. In this, Jesus is in the line of prophets like Jeremiah. Or more accurately, Jeremiah is a type or figure of Jesus. Jeremiah who goes down into the murky pit is a shadow of Jesus who must go down—be plunged—into his death and thus rise to life. Copyright © 2003, World Library Publications. All rights reserved



©Religious Graphics, Ltd.



©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

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 8, 2019.**
- 2) RCIA candidates will meet roughly every other Sunday night at 7:00 pm in the St. Francis Trailer or 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 our RCIA Director (Don Gerry, 489-9529)

WORD OF LIFE: "The Church affirms the inviolable dignity of every person, regardless of the duration or extent of the person's incapacity or dependency. Nothing diminishes the unchangeable dignity and sanctity of a person's life, or the obligation to protect and care for it." *USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "Catholic Considerations for Our Earthly Passing"*

WEEKLY READINGS

Aug 18 Sun: 20TH Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jer:38:4-6, 8-10 ; Ps:40; Heb:12:1-4; Lk:12:49-53:

Aug 19 Mon: Ordinary Weekday

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

Aug 20 Tue: Saint Bernard, Abbot and Doctor

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

Aug 21 Wed: Saint Pius, X, Pope

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

Aug 22 Thur: The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Judg:11:29-39a; Ps:40:5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10; Mt:22:1-14

Aug 23 Fri: Ordinary Weekday

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

Aug 24 Sat: Saint Bartholomew, Apostle

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

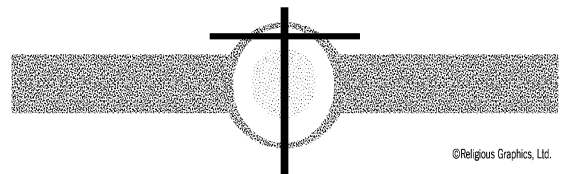
Journeys

Road, highway, trail, track, path, trek. These words are often used as metaphors for life's journey. Today, we are invited to think and pray about following Jesus on our journey, which is his, too. Copyright © 2003, World Library Publications. All rights reserved.



NOTE ON STEWARDSHIP

In today's second reading, we hear the author of the letter to the Hebrews liken the daily life of the Christian steward to a race, a long-distance race perhaps, certainly not a sprint; requiring endurance and single-minded focus on Jesus at the finish line. Good stewards are firmly committed to running the race, to live the Christian life to the fullest, to keep their eyes focused on Jesus. They don't grow weary. They don't lose heart. They know there is immense joy waiting for them at the finish line. Are you fully committed to living each day for Christ? Are you running the race, or are you simply jogging? Just walking? Sitting? Going backwards? Going nowhere? Some of us may want to reflect on what we can do to run the race with even more conviction. Others may want to reflect on how to simply enter the race and start running. (International Catholic Stewardship Council)



©Religious Graphics, Ltd.