

5th Sunday of Ordinary Time - Feb 7, 2021

Sunday's Readings

First Reading

Job 7:1-4,6-7

Job laments his sufferings and his life.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 147:1-6

A song of praise for the Lord's goodness to the lowly.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 9:16-19,22-23

Paul explains the conditions under which he preaches the gospel and the reasons why he will not accept financial help from the Corinthians.

Gospel Reading

Mark 1:29-39

Jesus cures Simon's mother-in-law and many others as well.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today we continue to read from Mark's Gospel, learning more about the ministry of Jesus. Jesus cured Simon's mother-in-law, and she immediately began to serve Jesus and his disciples. Jesus also cured many others who were brought to him, healing their illnesses and driving out demons. As we will see throughout Mark's Gospel, Jesus did not permit the demons to speak because they knew his identity and would have revealed it to those who were present.

On the morning after this busy day, Jesus retreated in prayer, but was pursued by Simon and others who brought news that many people were looking for him. At this point in Mark's Gospel, we begin to see a distinct role for the inner circle of Jesus' disciples—they act as intermediaries between Jesus and the people. Jesus reports to his disciples that they need to leave Capernaum to preach in other places.

Today's Gospel completes a picture of Jesus' ministry: preaching, curing the sick, driving out demons, and then moving on to continue this work in another place. Mark's Gospel tells us that Jesus did this throughout Galilee.

Jesus' compassion and healing of the sick is a sign of the Kingdom of God. The Church continues to extend Christ's healing presence to others in its ministry to the sick. In the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, the Church prays for spiritual and physical healing, forgiveness of sins, and comfort for those who are suffering from illness.

In today's Gospel we also notice the importance of prayer in Jesus' daily life. Jesus rose early in the morning, removed himself from the crowds, and went to a deserted place to pray. When the disciples found him, he told them that it was time to move on. We believe that in his prayers Jesus found guidance and direction from God. We also bring our decision-making to God in prayer, asking for his guidance and direction in our lives.

We know from last week's Gospel that Jesus gathered and prayed with the community in the synagogue. Today we learn that Jesus also took the time to pray alone. Following the example of Jesus, we also pray together with our community, and we take the time to pray alone. Our children observe our prayer with others. We might want to take the opportunity to talk with them about our private prayer, however, so that through our example, they may learn to make private prayer an important part of their daily lives.

Gather as a family and talk about the ways in which your family prays together (at Mass, grace before meals, bedtime prayers). Invite each member of the family to talk about his or her private prayer: When do you pray? Where do you pray? How do you pray? What do you pray for?

Jesus modeled for us a life of prayer. Read together today's Gospel. Talk about this Gospel with your family. Ask questions such as the following: What do you think Jesus was praying about in today's Gospel? What guidance have you received from God in prayer? Conclude by asking God to bless our times of prayer so that we can know and follow God's ways. Pray together the Lord's Prayer.

<https://www.loyolapress.com>

" EVERYONE IS SEARCHING FOR YOU,"

the disciples say to Jesus. Two thousand years later we still search for Jesus, each in our way, even when we do not realize it. There is a hunger in the human heart that only God can fill.

Once, while camping with friends, one of our young children wandered away from the group. She went in the wrong direction and found herself alone in the woods. We soon realized she was not in the camp and I started searching in the direction that felt right. I found her running deeper into the woods. Later she told me she had been trying to find me, but it was I that found her. She was looking in the wrong place, but we would have found her no matter how long it took.

It is the same with Jesus- we may be searching for him, but he is intently seeking us and he will never give up. He is the shepherd who searches for the lost sheep, the patient one who stands knocking at the door, the God who draws near to us when we draw near to him.

As we enter into the Eucharistic celebration, our part is to let God find us, not to hide but rather to receive him as he gives himself in the guise of bread and wine.

by Kathleen Giffin Hinton, AB

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Liturgical Calendar

Feb 8- St. Jerome Emiliani- was the founder of the Somascan Fathers and Brothers, also known as the Company of the Servant of the Poor.

- St. Josephine Bakhita- is the first saint from Sudan and she is a patron of that country.

Feb 10- St. Scholastica- was a leader of a women's community. She is a patron of nuns- especially Benedictines - and children with convulsive disorders.

Feb 11- Our Lady of Lourdes- in 1858 Mary, the Mother of Jesus, The Immaculate Conception, appeared to Bernadette Soubirous in a cave at Massabielle, near Lourdes in France.

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If then you remain constant in your faith in the face of trial, the Lord will give you peace and rest for a time in this world, and forever in the next.

- St. Jerome Emiliani

The secret of happiness is to live moment by moment and to thank God for all that he in his goodness sends to us day after day.

- St. Gianna Molla

When the devil reminds you of your past, remind him of his future. - St. Teresa of Avila

The rosary helps us to be conformed ever more closely to Christ until we attain true holiness.

- St John Paul II

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Joseph, Mainstay of Families

Attentive Joseph, in Mary and you, the Divine Word finds a favourable environment in which to carry out the will of the Father; thus, you become the family of the Child-God.

In your gentle life together, you experience Love daily.

The unity of your hearts transforms life's lessons into growing wisdom and grace.

Open our hearts to the Word that lives within us, that our actions may bear witness to our connection to the family of God.

Sustain us in our emotional commitments, where giving and forgiveness shape our identities.

Grant us your tenderness in the things we do

each day ! Amen.

<https://www.saint-joseph.org>

Joseph, Terror of Demons

Courageous Joseph, advised by an angel, you confront your fears of the unknown. Your light shines brightly, penetrating the dark corners of your being. Your fears dispersed, you rediscover your true face, and actively participate in the divine project reuniting mother and Child, and the people with their God. Together with Mary and Jesus, you dwell in the love of God.

Help us to rediscover the united core of our identities, beyond all internal fears.

Counsel us so we may build a better world to welcome the coming Kingdom.

Shed your light on our inner lives that, freed from the grip of our fears, our decisions may be founded in Love.

May the face of God shine on us !

Amen.

<https://www.saint-joseph.org>

The Ten Commandments

By: Michael Hains

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

1. I AM THE LORD THY GOD: THOU SHALT NOT HAVE STRANGE GODS BEFORE ME.

COMMANDS: faith, hope, love, and worship of God; reverence for holy things; prayer.

FORBIDS: idolatry; superstition; spiritism; tempting God; sacrilege; attendance at false worship.

2. THOU SHALT NOT TAKE THE NAME OF THE LORD THY GOD IN VAIN.

COMMANDS: reverence in speaking about God and holy things; the keeping of oaths and vows.

FORBIDS: blasphemy; the irreverent use of God's name; speaking disrespectfully of holy things; false oaths and the breaking of vows.

3. KEEP THE SABBATH HOLY.

COMMANDS: going to church on Sundays and holy days of obligation.

FORBIDS: missing church through one's own fault; unnecessary servile work on Sunday and holy days of obligation.

4. HONOUR THY FATHER AND THY MOTHER.

COMMANDS: love; respect; obedience on the part of children; care on the part of parents for the spiritual and temporal welfare of their children; obedience to civil and religious superiors.

FORBIDS: hatred of parents and superiors; disrespect; disobedience.

5. THOU SHALT NOT KILL.

COMMANDS: safeguarding of one's own life and bodily welfare and that of others.

FORBIDS: unjust killing; suicide; abortion; sterilization; dueling; endangering life and limb of self or others.

6. THOU SHALT NOT COMMIT ADULTERY.

COMMANDS: chastity in word and deed.

FORBIDS: obscene speech; impure actions alone or with others.

7. THOU SHALT NOT STEAL.

COMMANDS: respect for the property of rights and others; the paying of just debts; paying just wages to employees; integrity in public office.

FORBIDS: theft; damage to the property of others; not paying just debts; not returning found or borrowed articles; giving unjust measure or weight in selling; not paying just wages; bribery; graft; cheating; fraud; accepting stolen property; not giving an honest day's work for wages received; breach of contract.

8. THOU SHALT NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS AGAINST THY NEIGHOUR.

COMMANDS: truthfulness; respect for the good name of others; the observance of secrecy when required.

FORBIDS: lying; injury to the good name of others; slander; talebearing; rash judgment; contemptuous speech and the violation of secrecy.

9. THOU SHALT NOT COVET THY NEIGHOUR'S WIFE.

COMMANDS: purity in thought.

FORBIDS: wilful impure thought and desires.

10. THOU SHALT NOT COVET THY NEIGHOUR'S GOODS.

COMMANDS: respect for the rights of others.

FORBIDS: the desire to take, to keep, or damage the property of others.

<https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/library>

PRAY THE HOLY ROSARY

Mon & Sat: Joyful mysteries

Tue & Fri: Sorrowful mysteries

Wed & Sun: Glorious mysteries

Thurs: Mysteries of Light

After the completion of five mysteries (5 decades), or 15 or 20, the following is customarily said:

Hail Holy Queen (or Salve Regina may be sung)

Hail, holy Queen, mother of mercy, our life, our sweetness, and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To thee do we send up our sighs mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us, and after this our exile show us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

(Verse) Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.

(Response) That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Rosary Prayer

(Verse) Let us pray,

(Response) O God, whose only begotten Son, by His life, death, and resurrection, has purchased for us the rewards of eternal salvation. Grant, we beseech Thee, that while meditating on these mysteries of the most holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, that we may both imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise, through Christ our Lord. Amen. Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us. Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us.

Salve, Regina

Salve, Regina, mater misericordiae;
vita, dulcedo et spes nostra, salve.
Ad te clamamus exsules filii Hevae.
Ad te suspiramus gementes et flentes
in hac lacrimarum valle.
Eia ergo, advocata nostra,
illos tuos misericordes oculos ad nos converte.
Et Iesum, benedictum fructum ventris tui,
nobis post hoc exsilium ostende.
O clemens, o pia, o dulcis Virgo Maria.