July 19, 2021 Gospel Matthew 12 38-42

Homily by Deacon Luis P. Villanueva for 8AM Mass on Monday, at St-

Joseph Church, Devine, Texas-Fr. Antonio Hernandez, Pastor-In the name of the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit, amen.

The Gospel of St. Matthew tells us today that in the crowd of people that followed Jesus there were some unbelievers who demanded a sign from him that would make them believe that all the miracles and healings that Jesus performed were from the power of God and that this sign would prove Jesus' divinity once and for all.

The same type of unbelievers exist today and Jesus offered the scribes and Pharisees and the unbelievers of today the sign of Jonah as the only sign he would give them as proof he was and is the Son of God, our Messiah.

The only sign that Jesus would offer all of humanity was his Passion, Death and

Resurrection (the sign of Jonah) as his final testament of his identity and his love for all of mankind.

With this sign Jesus gave us then, now and always our FREEDOM from being under the tyranny of sin and death.

With this sign Jesus calls us to repentance, transformation and salvation by believing in him and accepting him as our Savior.

At every Eucharistic celebration (Holy Mass), we are called to recall, to be grateful, and to celebrate that great sign of love for us.

Jesus is our Savior and he continues to offer us his fountain of mercy and forgiveness. No one is forced to believe in Jesus as our Savior. It is a matter of choice for everyone.

The Lord promises us that he Will cleans us of our sins when we return to him with true repentance. God bless you.

El mundo siempre ha buscado de Jesús una señal que pruebe su identidad como Dios y Salvador. Y Jesús ha dado al mundo el único signo de su Pasión, Muerte y Resurrección como prueba de su identidad y amor por toda la humanidad. En cada celebración de la Sagrada Eucaristía (Santa Misa) estamos llamados a recordar, estar agradecidos y celebrar ese gran signo de amor por nosotros.

Jesús es nuestro Salvador y continúa ofreciéndonos su fuente de misericordia y perdón. Nadie está obligado a creer en Jesús como nuestro Salvador. Es una cuestión de elección para todos.

El Señor nos promete que nos limpiará de nuestros pecados cuando regresemos a él con verdadero arrepentimiento. Dios los bendiga.