

Homily Summary - 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Main Themes:

- Patience and service are essential to living out our Christian faith.
- Patience is the foundation of serving others, just as God is patient with us.

Key Scripture Passages:

- **Mark 9:35:** "If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all." Jesus calls us to humility and service, teaching us that true greatness comes through serving others.
- **James 3:16-18:** "Where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder... But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, compliant, full of mercy and good fruits." God's wisdom calls us to peaceful service, free from selfish ambition.
- **Psalms 103:8:** "The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love." God's patience with us should inspire our patience with others.

Catechism of the Catholic Church:

- **CCC 1825:** "Christ died out of love for us, while we were still 'enemies.' The Lord asks us to love as he does, even our enemies, to make ourselves the neighbor of those farthest away, and to love children and the poor as Christ himself."
Through patience and service, we love others as Christ loves us.
- **CCC 2840:** "Now—and this is daunting—this outpouring of mercy cannot penetrate our hearts as long as we have not forgiven those who have trespassed against us."
Patience and forgiveness are inseparable, and we must practice them to fully receive God's mercy.

Practical Reflection: Why Be Patient?

- Patience reflects God's love and mercy.
- It brings peace into our hearts, allowing us to handle life's frustrations with grace.
- Patience transforms conflict and helps build a more compassionate world.

Connection to the Sacraments:

- **Reconciliation:** In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we experience God's patience and mercy firsthand. By confessing our impatience or lack of service, we receive grace to grow in these virtues.
 - Canon Law (CIC 989): "After having reached the age of discretion, each member of the faithful is bound by an obligation to confess serious sins at least once a year." Reconciliation not only heals us but also strengthens our patience and commitment to service.
- **The Eucharist:** Spending time in prayer before the Eucharist helps increase our patience and guides us in serving others, as Christ serves us through the Eucharist.

Reflection Questions:

- How patient am I with those around me, especially when they frustrate me?
- Do I serve others with joy and humility, or do I let selfish ambition get in the way?

Mary's Example: Mary, our Mother, lived a life of patience and humble service, trusting God's plan from the Annunciation to the Cross. Her example reminds us that through patience, we can serve God and others with love.

Rap Summary:

Patience leads to love, and love leads to peace,
When we serve each other, our burdens will decrease.
God calls us to wait, to forgive, and to care,
His grace will guide us even when we despair.

Reasons to come to Mass each weekend

Hebrews 10:24-25 - "And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Exodus 20:8 - "Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy."

Luke 22:19 - "Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'"

Acts 2:42 - "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

John 6:53-54 - "So Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day.'"

Psalms 122:1 - "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'"

Matthew 18:20 - "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Colossians 3:16 - "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God."

Additional resources to learn more about God and the Catholic faith

- Check out the resource list available on www.frmerkley.com
- Catholic Answers: <https://www.catholic.com/>
- Word on Fire: <https://www.wordonfire.org/>
- Formed: <https://formed.org/>
- The Coming Home Network: <https://chnetwork.org/>
- Catholic Exchange: <https://catholicexchange.com/>
- Dynamic Catholic: <https://dynamiccatholic.com/>
- The Augustine Institute: <https://augustineinstitute.org/>
- Ascension Press: <https://ascensionpress.com/>
- EWTN: <https://www.ewtn.com/>
- The Catholic Company: <https://www.catholiccompany.com/>
- Busted Halo: <https://bustedhalo.com/>
- CatholicCulture.org: <https://www.catholicculture.org/>
- The Thomistic Institute: <https://thomisticinstitute.org/>
- Ignatius Press: <https://www.ignatius.com/>
- Catholic Education Resource Center (CERC): <https://www.catholiceducation.org/>