

13th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - JULY 1, 2018

SUNDAY'S READINGS - EXCERPTS TO PLACE IN YOUR COMMUNICATIONS

First Reading:

For God formed man to be imperishable;
the image of his own nature he made him. (Wis 2:23)

Psalm:

I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me. (Ps 30)

Second Reading:

For you know the gracious act of our Lord Jesus Christ,
that though he was rich, for your sake he became poor,
so that by his poverty you might become rich. (2 Cor 8:9)

Gospel:

He took the child by the hand and said to her, "Talitha koum,"
which means, "Little girl, I say to you, arise!"
The girl, a child of twelve, arose immediately and walked around.
At that they were utterly astounded. (Mk 5:41-42)

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WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES - ENGAGE PARISHIONERS IN DAILY MASS AND PRAYER

Readings for the Week of July 1, 2018

Sunday: Wis 1:13-15; 2:23-24/Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11, 12, 13 [2a]/2 Cor 8:7, 9, 13-15/

Mk 5:21-43 or 5:21-24, 35b-43

Monday: Am 2:6-10, 13-16/Ps 50:16bc-17, 18-19, 20-21, 22-23 [22a]/Mt 8:18-22

Tuesday: Eph 2:19-22/Ps 117:1bc, 2 [Mk 16:15]/Jn 20:24-29

Wednesday: Am 5:14-15, 21-24/Ps 50:7, 8-9, 10-11, 12-13, 16bc-17 [23b]/Mt 8:28-34

Thursday: Am 7:10-17/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [10cd]/Mt 9:1-8

Friday: Am 8:4-6, 9-12/Ps 119:2, 10, 20, 30, 40, 131 [Mt 4:4]/Mt 9:9-13

Saturday: Am 9:11-15/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [cf. 9b]/Mt 9:14-17

Next Sunday: Ez 2:2-5/Ps 123:1-2, 2, 3-4 [2cd]/2 Cor 12:7-10/Mk 6:1-6a

Observances for the Week of July 1, 2018

Sunday: 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday: - - -

Tuesday: St. Thomas, Apostle

Wednesday: Independence Day

Thursday: St. Anthony Zaccaria, Priest; St. Elizabeth of Portugal

Friday: St. Maria Goretti, Virgin & Martyr

Saturday: - - -

Next Sunday: 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

July 1, 2018 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today's Gospel offers a rare framework -- a story in a story. Most of the healing miracles are standalone encounters. One person approaches Jesus, demonstrates faith, and is healed. The evangelist tells the next story. This Gospel, however, is different. Jesus is on his way to heal one person, a young girl of twelve, and is interrupted on his journey by "a woman afflicted with hemorrhages." She bravely approaches Jesus in a crowd, despite being ritually unclean from her bleeding, and stretches out to touch his cloak. She is healed! Jesus meets her eye, confirms her faith, and continues on to resurrect the young girl.

Reading this passage, it might be easier to identify with one story -- the long-suffering woman or the young, innocent girl -- and to move past the other. But here they sit side by side. The girl is twelve. The woman has been suffering for twelve years. For the Gospel writers, number parallels have deep symbolic meaning.

Between the woman and the young girl, we are not one or the other. We are both. None of us had a perfect childhood, perfect families, or a perfect peer group. As we endure pain, disappointment, or unmet expectations, it can feel like a part of our childhood hopes have died. Our coping mechanisms, social adaptations, and hidden secrets can make us the "walking wounded" in some respects. Jesus wants to do more than simply staunch the bleeding. His healing hand makes dead things come alive. He awakens the dreams that are asleep. This process requires prayer, conversations with trusted community and spiritual mentors, and critical looks at difficult areas of our life. However, we can believe the words of our Lord. If we approach Jesus in faith, believing that he wants to heal and save, we, too, will hear his calming words spoken over the hurts of our life. "I say to you, arise!" "Go in peace."

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

God does not rejoice in our demise or our destruction. Rather, He made us in His image and desires that we have life. He also desires that we be healed and know His loving touch. There is great power in an embrace. The touch of another can heal wounds and restore life. There is also power in faith. Faith can turn us toward the truth and turn us toward God. God can profoundly change how we see Him, ourselves, and one another. God desires that we turn toward Him and be healed of all that wounds and binds us so that we can be free and enjoy the fullness of life. Reach out and share your faith with someone this week so that they can receive God's life-changing embrace.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

As the baptized, we are called into community, and we are strongest when all members have full faith in Jesus Christ. When one of us falters or begins to doubt his or her faith, that is when our faith is to be shared freely as a source of strength. If we hold our faith inside, then those around us will miss a chance to be edified and strengthened by our witness.

We can give freely of our money, our time, and our talents but still not share our faith with those around us. This hinders the Body of Christ's ability to evangelize and spread the Good News. It also helps to keep members of that Body weak, because without the chance to hear our stories of faith, those with the need to hear can remain discouraged and lost.

Faith is a gift from God to us, just like any other. We are called to cultivate our faith and grow it into abundance. If we do not share it with others, then why grow it at all? We are not saved because we have more faith than someone else. We are no better off with storage bins filled with knowledge, devotion, and faith experience than a baby on its day of baptism. The difference between the baby and us is that we have something now to share and the responsibility to do so.

-Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - INVITE PARISHIONERS TO REFLECT AND RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE

First Reading

According to the Jewish sage, "God did not make death." How then did death enter into the world, according to Wisdom?

Second Reading

Paul encourages the wealthier Christians in Corinth to help the needy in the community out of their abundance. In what ways do you live by this spiritual practice?

Gospel Reading

We hear two healing miracles in today's Gospel reading, both of which connect one's faith to healing. When has your faith led to healing?

CATHOLIC QUOTES - WORDS TO INSPIRE THE FAITHFUL

Freedom consists not in doing what we like, but in having the right to do what we ought.

- St. John Paul II

WHY DO WE DO THAT? - CATHOLIC TRADITIONS EXPLAINED

Question:

There seems to be a lot of division in some Christian churches over moral issues, especially abortion, ordination, and end-of-life care. If all Christians follow the Gospel of Jesus, why is there such a difference of opinion?

Answer: There is always a struggle between culture and religion, and part of that struggle is politics. To be politically correct means that you must embrace the secular virtue of the moment so that you are "enlightened," "sensitive," "aware," and, most importantly, "open-minded." Unfortunately, common sense can be sacrificed in the race to be "PC."

Some factions within Christian denominations have tried to redefine tradition, history, and biblical teaching to bend it around the politically correct religious thinking of the day. On the life issues that you mention, there are those who began with their own conclusions and have tried to bend theology around their conclusions. This is possible in part because of a lack of a central teaching authority and partly because society has become apathetic to these issues. It will result in a lot of division, factions, and schisms. The Gospel calls all believers to embrace the truth, to turn from sin, and to seek holiness and justice. No matter how hard some may try, a square peg will not fit a round hole. The camel cannot fit through the eye of the needle.