

24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - SEPTEMBER 16, 2018

SUNDAY'S READINGS - EXCERPTS TO PLACE IN YOUR COMMUNICATIONS

First Reading:

The Lord GOD is my help,
therefore I am not disgraced. (Is 50:7a)

Psalm:

I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living. (Ps 114) or Alleluia.

Second Reading:

What good is it, my brothers and sisters,
if someone says he has faith but does not have works?
Can that faith save him? (Jas 2:14)

Gospel:

"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself,
take up his cross, and follow me." (Mk 8:34b)

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

Readings for the Week of September 16, 2018

Sunday: Is 50:5-9a/Ps 116:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [9]/Jas 2:14-18/Mk 8:27-35

Monday: 1 Cor 11:17-26, 33/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17 [1 Cor 11:26b]/ Lk 7:1-10

Tuesday: 1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5 [3]/Lk 7:11-17

Wednesday: 1 Cor 12:31--13:13/Ps 33:2-3, 4-5, 12 and 22 [12]/Lk 7:31-35

Thursday: 1 Cor 15:1-11/Ps 118:1b-2, 16ab-17, 28 [1]/Lk 7:36-50

Friday: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5 [5]/Mt 9:9-13

Saturday: 1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49/Ps 56:10c-12, 13-14 [14]/Lk 8:4-15

Next Sunday: Wis 2:12, 17-20/Ps 54:3-4, 5, 6-8 [6b]/Jas 3:16--4:3/Mk 9:30-37

Observances for the Week of September 16, 2018

Sunday: 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Catechetical Sunday

Monday: St. Robert Bellarmine, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

Tuesday: - - -

Wednesday: St. Januarius, Bishop & Martyr

Thursday: Sts. Andrew Kim Tae-g?n, Priest, and Paul Ch?ng Ha-sang, and Companions, Martyrs

Friday: St. Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist

Saturday: - - -

Next Sunday: 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

September 16, 2018 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

We know the signs of defeat: slumped shoulders, downcast eyes, a chastened demeanor. For those of us sincerely trying to follow Jesus, defeat is inevitable. We commit to spending more time with our kids, but that one project still looms. We resolve to be a good person, but our selfishness strikes again. It can be easy to get discouraged over our moral failures. Today's Gospel is a small, intriguing look at this process in the life of St. Peter.

First, Jesus' questions get the Apostles thinking about his true identity. This results in a confession of faith from Peter: "You are the Christ." Eager faith characterizes Peter's relationship with Jesus. First to follow, first to leap out of the boat, and, we know, first to deny. It's the latter tendency that manifests itself later in the Gospel. When Jesus predicts the Passion, "Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him." Jesus' rebuke in turn is stinging. While Peter's caution to Jesus is in private, Jesus intentionally turns back to the others as he declares, "Get behind me, Satan. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do."

Like Peter, we rarely get it right all the time. Peter understood that Jesus was the Messiah, but he had a false concept of what that Messiah would accomplish. Jesus wants to make sure the rest of the disciples don't follow down the wrong road. The Christian life is a difficult one, as Jesus later tells the crowds. "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself." Yet the mercy of God is abundant. If we renew our trust and our efforts after a fall, every defeat is transformed into redemptive grace. "Whoever loses his life for my sake ? will save it."

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Who do you say Jesus is? Some look to Jesus as the reliever of pain and suffering. We want to believe in a God who will take away the discomfort we are feeling and make things better. Frustration and even a lessening of faith can happen when we realize this is not happening. Jesus is the Christ. As the Christ, he is the one who shows us how to keep both the joys and sorrows of life in balance. There is no hopping, skipping, or jumping over suffering. It is a part of life. In addition to the physical pain we are asked to endure, living the Gospel can bring rejection and suffering as well. Jesus the Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Do we have the desire and faith to follow him?

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

I must confess. I have not always prayed for someone if I told him or her I would. I have fallen victim to making the phrase, "You are in my prayers," a sentence void of real emotion or intent. It is like asking the question, "How are you?" Do I always want to know how you are at the time? Then follows the most common responses of "fine" or "good." I could have had the worst day, but I still utter a response that does not reflect my true state. Many of us say things to be nice without really thinking about it. At least, I hope I am not the only one.

The truth is that words are meaningless without action. We sometimes make ourselves and others feel better by saying we will do things only to provide no action at all. Offering best wishes to those in real need without any action is worth little. Even if we think we are sincere, true faith without works is dead.

Good stewardship requires us to say what we mean and mean what we say. Stewardship is a way of living. It does ask for sentiments of love. It asks for profound actions of love. We need to offer our gifts, talents, time, and prayers to one another and then follow through. This means we need to be more mindful of what we are saying, more committed to following through, and more accountable for our actions if we fail. If we practice this way of living, not only will we be able to say we are doing the right thing, but our integrity will be intact and we will bear witness to the transforming power of Jesus Christ.

--Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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

First Reading

We hear today how the prophet Isaiah suffered, even though he was innocent of any wrongdoing. Yet Isaiah put his trust in the Lord. What does this tell us about Isaiah's character?

Second Reading

James emphasizes the importance of faith producing good works. What good works do you do that stem from your faith?

Gospel Reading

Jesus asks the disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" Peter rightly identifies him as the Messiah but fails to see the role of Jesus' suffering. Why do you think Peter (and many modern believers) struggles with the idea of a suffering Messiah?

CATHOLIC QUOTES - WORDS TO INSPIRE THE FAITHFUL

There can be no peace unless there is soul peace. For nothing happens in the external world that has not first happened within a soul.

--Ven. Fulton Sheen

WHY DO WE DO THAT? - CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

Question:

Why do we celebrate Catechetical Sunday?

Answer: The mission of the church reflects the mission of Jesus to teach, preach, heal, and forgive. Through these acts, Jesus shares the good news of salvation and invites all people to share in the life and love of God. The church continues this mission in all its ministries, but especially, and perhaps most importantly, through catechesis.

Catechetical Sunday is celebrated on the third Sunday of September. The task of handing on the Gospel is entrusted to the whole community, who by word and example, form young and new members in the way of the Gospel. Parish programs assist parents in teaching the basics of faith through liturgical experience, instruction, and faith formation. This ministry is essential for the parish to grow, for individuals to develop as believers, and for the ongoing spiritual formation of the whole community. It reminds the church that preaching the Gospel and growing in faith are essential to our sacramental practice and our liturgical prayer.

On this Sunday, we recognize those who are called to be teachers and ask for God's blessing and grace.