

Sunday June 21st 2026

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

(JER. 20:10-13; ROM. 5:12-15; MT. 10:26-33)

THEME: A PEACEFUL SAIL IN THE STORM

Introduction: True peace is internal; those who possess it experience calm in the face of tribulation. The Lord did not only promise peace to his disciples, but he gave them peace as a gift: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you" (Jn. 14:27). Yet, they never obtained peace externally with the world. Nonetheless, they found peace in tribulation, and joy in suffering. This peace comes through faith in Jesus Christ. It makes us see the will of God in the cross, yield the fruit of perseverance in the face of persecution, and foresee a glimmer of life in death.

Adversity in Witnessing: Jeremiah laments the multiple attacks on him coming from every direction. He does not stop there; but immediately reveals his source of courage and defense: "But the Lord is with Me" (Jr.20:11). This was exactly God's promise to the prophet at the beginning of his mission: "Be not afraid of them for I am with you to deliver you" (1:8). Right from Jeremiah's call to prophetic ministry, God made it clear that he would experience persecution and rejection but would at the same time enjoy his divine protection.

In the same manner, Jesus hints on the imminence of persecution and martyrdom as indispensable elements of apostolic witnessing. However, he assures these witnesses that their heavenly Father has the ultimate power to save even when his divine will permits them to "fall to the ground". So, their job was to "acknowledge him before others" even when this portends danger to their earthly life. Even though this natural life is the highest temporal value, it is not the ultimate value. There is life after death; eternal life. Loss of eternal life should be dreaded more than threats to natural life.

The Lord predicts and permits afflictions to come to his faithful witnesses so that true servants may serve him from the motive of total commitment to his divine will rather than self-interest. True servants of God are those who would remain faithful in moments of such affliction. Saint Francis de Sales says, it is more meritorious for a servant to remain faithful to the king in the days of war than in days of peace and prosperity. By means of persecution and affliction, faithful witnessing is borne. As true gold is revealed by fire, true faith is revealed in faithfulness. The church is full of believers, but not many faithful witnesses. Faith is proved by faithfulness.

... (read the full text of Father's Reflection on our web page at stpeterchurchaz.com)

Surprising Facts about the Vatican

Barberini's crest depicts a woman in travail and new life

Barberini's crest is at the base of the *Baldacchino*. Above the family crest, we see a woman's face. Beginning from the southeast, right side of the canopy, and moving clockwise, the woman's face changes. At first, it appears distressed and then joyful and then restful. It concludes with the face of a baby. On the base of the columns, the natural process of the marital act is displayed, and it concludes on the northeast, the left side of the canopy, with the fruition of a child. This series of images, using the natural process as a guide, shows the spiritual union between God and the person who accepts his invitation to be within him. As the natural union brings forth new life, so union with God also brings forth new life.

By Fr. Jeffery Kirby, S.T.L.

SUNDAY MASS INTENTIONS

9:00 am Jason Pittman & Antonio Alvarez by Monica Pittman

11:00 am Poor Souls in Purgatory

DAILY MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE COMING WEEK

Monday 9:00am +Ray Barazza by Rick & Lorraine Alvarez

Tuesday 9:00am +Dolores Hanrahan by Bob & Kay Dyson

Wednesday 9:00am +Karlene Ochoa by James Ochoa

Thursday 9:00am +Pat Hanrahan by Bob & Kay Dyson

Friday 9:00am +Meredith & Elizabeth Ketring

9:30am Eucharistic Adoration

PRAYER TREE - LET US PRAY FOR:

Family & Friends of +Margie Gowey, Laurie Becker, Family & Friends of +Dolores Hanrahan, Family & Friends of +Elizabeth Ketring, Elijah Baca, Joe Barraza, David Baca, Fallon Walker, Judy Bragg, Maria Archuleta, Joe Warne, Larry Tyrrell, Tom Malone, Eva Orona, David & Geri Silva, Jeannette Davis, Angela Gonzales, Joe and Margie Tapia, Bernice & Roxanne Chavez, Lilly Hill, Sophie Pena, Juan Quevedo, Lydia Gonzalez, Sophie Montoya.

TO MAKE PRAYER REQUESTS Please contact the church office at (928) 333-4423. Leave a message, if there is no answer, please include your name and phone number with information.