

Sunday August 24th, 2025

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

(Is. 66:18-21, Heb. 12:5 -7, 11-13, Lk. 13:22-30)

THEME: THEOLOGY OF THE NARROW GATE

Why and How God Disciplines His Children: Like the fruitful branch of the true vine, we now and then put up some unhealthy offshoots. God in his love, comes to our aid to prune us of such outgrowths. Examples of such spiritual vices abound in the teaching of saint John of the Cross. First, there is a tendency to secret pride in our heart when we see ourselves fervent in prayer and along with it, a degree of satisfaction with ourselves when we feel some delight in spiritual things. This secret feeling easily leads such souls to judge and condemn others who may appear less devout. Just like the Pharisee who boasted of himself while despising the Publican; some devout souls grow prideful and judgmental at the detriment of their spiritual life. To prune the soul of this, God, as a loving father, can withdraw all the spiritual delight such soul hitherto enjoyed and place it on a dry and arid desert of spiritual therapy where he heals us of spiritual pride and trains us in humility.

Again, some spiritual persons slide to spiritual anger and resentment. They are easily irritated at the sins of others, and so, they keep watch on those others with a sort of uneasy zeal. At times the impulse comes to them to reprove them angrily and by so doing, set themselves as masters of virtue. All this is contrary to spiritual meekness. God's grace may subject them to spiritual trials and crises so that they learn meekness and compassion for sinners.

**Read the complete Reflection at*

<https://stpeterchurchaz.com/reflections>

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT SUNDAY

THE PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION is a gesture of solidarity through which every member of the faithful can participate in the activity of the Pope as Pastor of the universal Church. The faithful's offerings to the Holy Father through the Peter's Pence Collection are destined to Church needs, to humanitarian initiatives and social promotion projects, as well as to the support of the Holy See. For more information:

<https://www.obolodisanpietro.va/en.html>

SURPRISING FACTS ABOUT THE VATICAN

The portico features various biblical scenes from St. Peter's life

Scenes from the life of St. Peter, such as the healing of his mother-in-law and walking on water, located on the central panels of the vaults of the basilica's portico. These recall the humanity of the Apostle and remind visitors and pilgrims of actual accounts in the saint's life. Along the edge of the portico, there are statues of the firsts thirty-one successors of St. Peter, all of whom are revered as martyrs for the Faith. Before the legal toleration of Christianity beginning in 313 AD, it was considered a death sentence to be elected pope.

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

SUNDAY MASS INTENTIONS

9:00 am Mass - Bill Moriarty (surgery) by Sue Moriarty

11:00 am Mass - +Raquel Dominguez Campos by The Campos Family

DAILY MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE COMING WEEK

Monday 9:00am - +Rolla Smith by Pat Rubalcaba

Tuesday 9:00am – Barb & Joe Bernice by

Bob & Kay Dyson

Wednesday 9:00am - +Poor Souls in Purgatory

Thursday 9:00am Intentions of John & Jason Tryka by Linda Tryka

Friday 9:00am +John & Jean Hall by the parishioners of St Peter's

Friday Holy Hour 9:30am

PRAYER TREE - LET US PRAY FOR:

Family of +Pat Hanrahan, Family of +Karlene Ochoa, Friends/Family of +Rebekah Talbot, Maria & Clara Archuleta, Jeanne Allen, Joe Warne, Larry Tyrrell, Tom Malone, Eva Orona, David & Geri Silva, Margie Gowey, Cora Lee, Liz Ketring, Jeannette Davis, Maria Lopez, 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 info