



SANTA CRUZ ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
DISCALCED CARMELITE FRIARS



FIFTH SUNDAY

in Ordinary Time

February 7, 2021

JESUS CURED
MANY WHO WERE
SICK WITH
VARIOUS DISEASES,
AND HE DROVE OUT
MANY DEMONS.

MARK 1:34



Rising early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed. Mk.1:35

Jesus prays. If you need any motivation to pray realize that Jesus sometimes spent the whole night in prayer to God, see Luke 6:12, or, as in today's Gospel, he prayed early in the morning before the sun came up. Furthermore, he prayed in a solitary place. "He frequently withdrew to the wilderness to pray," Luke 5:16. It is important to remember this when, in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus teaches that when we pray, "Go into your room, close the door, and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you," Mt. 6:6.

We may wonder why Jesus prayed. After all, he is the Son of God. Did he have need of prayer? Yes, Jesus had need of prayer because he was truly human. Prayer is the unfolding of our will before God, that he may fulfill it. Jesus had a true human will, distinct from the divine will. Because the divine and human wills are distinct in Christ, Christ prays as a man having a human will. As God, Christ could accomplish all that he desired, but not as man. He needed to pray. Even though in his one person, he was God as well as man, he wished to offer prayer to the Father.

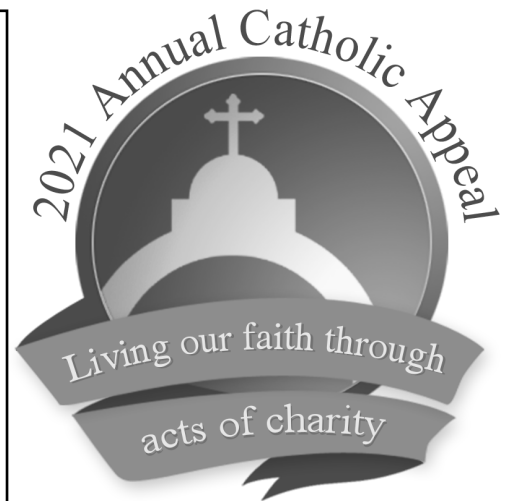
Perhaps Jesus' primary purpose in praying was to draw us to imitate him. By his prayer, St. Thomas Aquinas explains, Jesus wished to reveal to us first, that he had assumed a true human nature, with all its natural urges. Second, he wished to show that it is permissible for someone to entertain an instinctive affection for something which God does not will. Third, he wished to show that we must submit our own impulses to the Divine will.

We can learn so much from the way Christ prayed. Sometimes he made a prayer of praise. Full of joy through the Holy Spirit, he prayed, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do." At the Last Supper he prayed for unity among his followers. "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me." His prayer in the garden teaches us that we must learn to sacrifice our own needs for a greater good. "Abba, Father," he said, "Everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will." The Apostle Paul says, "During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission," Heb. 5:7. St. Paul who says, "Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ," 1 Cor.11.1, teaches us to "Pray always without ceasing," 1 Thess. 5:17, an example first given by our Lord.

February 17 is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. Lent is a season when we insist more on prayer, along with fasting and almsgiving. Let us make a resolution now to give more attention to our prayer, even if it means rising a little earlier to ensure we have quiet time alone with God.

All we need to know is that Jesus prayed on earth. He continues to intercede for us in heaven. Let us imitate him as we journey together in faith.

~ Fr. Stephen F. Watson, O.C.D.



Each year, at this time, we are encouraged to consider the needs of our Church and of the Diocese as one family in Christ.

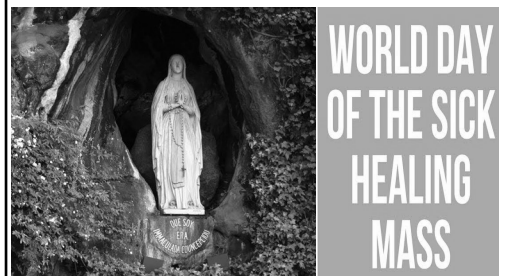
Through the Annual Catholic Appeal, we are asked to make a commitment to support the work of our diocesan programs and ministries, that provide services which no one parish could provide on its own. It is our call to reach beyond the boundaries of our parish, and the confines of our own personal sphere, to help build up our faith community and uplift our brethren. Just as we are one in the Body of Christ, we must remember that we are one with other parishes.

Thank you for your prayers, support and participation!

Text ACA to 41444 ~ OR ~
visit www.cathfnd.org/donate

Todos los años en esta época la Campaña Católica Anual exhorta a los fieles a considerar como familia unida en Cristo las necesidades de nuestra Iglesia y de la Diócesis.

La Campaña nos invita a comprometernos a apoyar la labor de los programas y ministerios diocesanos dedicados a brindar servicios que ninguna parroquia por sí sola podría brindar. Debemos responder al llamado a tender la mano al prójimo más allá de los límites de nuestra parroquia y de los confines de nuestra esfera personal, para ayudar a edificar nuestra comunidad de fe y elevar a nuestros hermanos en Cristo. Así como somos uno unidos en el Cuerpo de Cristo, debemos recordar que somos uno unidos con las demás parroquias.



World Day of Prayer for the Sick, we will be praying for the sick with a live stream Mass on Thursday, February 11th at 12:00 noon.

FROM THE APOSTOLIC LETTER
PATRIS CORDE
OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS

The evil one makes us see and condemn our frailty, whereas the Spirit brings it to light with tender love. Tenderness is the best way to touch the frailty within us. Pointing fingers and judging others are frequently signs of an inability to accept our own weaknesses, our own frailty. Only tender love will save us from the snares of the accuser (cf. *Rev* 12:10). That is why it is so important to encounter God's mercy, especially in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, where we experience his truth and tenderness. Paradoxically, the evil one can also speak the truth to us, yet he does so only to condemn us. We know that God's truth does not condemn, but instead welcomes, embraces, sustains and forgives us. That truth always presents itself to us like the merciful father in Jesus' parable (cf. *Lk* 15:11-32). It comes out to meet us, restores our dignity, sets us back on our feet and rejoices for us, for, as the father says: "This my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found" (v. 24).

Even through Joseph's fears, God's will and his plan were at work. Joseph, then, teaches us that faith in God includes believing that he can work even through our fears, our frailties, and our weaknesses. He also teaches us that amid the tempests of life, we must never be afraid to let the Lord steer our course. At times, we want to be in complete control, yet God always sees the bigger picture.

Wednesday, February 17th

Ash



Wednesday

~ In the Church Patio ~

9:00 a.m. Mass
12:00 p.m. Service of the Word
3:00 p.m. Service of the Word

~ School Field ~

6:00 p.m. Mass

Most Rev. Edward J. Weisenburger
Diocese of Tucson (520) 838-2500

Santa Cruz Catholic Parish
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Tucson, Arizona 85713

Parish Office (520) 623-3833 Fax (520) 903-2742

~ Website santacruzchurchtucson.com ~

~ Email avemarias@hotmail.com ~

Business Hours Monday - Friday 8:30am - 4:30pm

Closed for lunch 12:45pm - 1:45pm

Pastor:

In Residence:

In Residence:

Rev. Stephen Watson, O.C.D.

Rev. Jose Luis Ferroni, O.C.D.

Rev. David Costello, O.C.D.

Mass Intentions

In Honor of San Pedro

Special Int./Johnny, Sr. & Hilda Cabrera
& Family

Santa Cruz Parishioners

Special Int./Johnny, Sr. & Hilda Cabrera
& Family

Special Int./Martha Flores

Eva Anaya/R.I.P.

Special Int./Mary Bass

In Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Santiago Palafox/Happy Birthday

In Honor of San Pedro

Special Int./Ted Davis

In Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Special Int./All Priests

Deacon Richard Ornelas/R.I.P.

In Honor of San Pedro

Angel & Suzy Sabala/Improved Health

In Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Parish Collection January 31st, 2021

Collection: \$ 3,871.14

*Thank you and God bless your generosity!
¡Gracias y que Dios bendiga su generosidad!*

Thanking You for Your Service to Our Parish

New Parishioners: Always welcome!

Please register by using our forms available in our parish office.

~ Masses ~ Note these are suspended during COVID-19

Sun. 6:30 am, 8 am (Spanish), 10 am, 12 noon, & 6 pm

Mon. - Fri. 6:30 am & 8:00 am Sat. 8 am & 5:30 pm (Vigil)

Confession: Sat. 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Baptisms: 2nd Sunday of the Month (English) / 4° Domingo del Mes (Español)

Matrimony: Please call at least six months in advance.

Por favor de llamar con seis meses de anticipación.

Parish Administrative Assistant: Hada Reyes (520) 623-3833

Religious Education: Martin Doe, Director (520) 882-9687

Santa Cruz Catholic School: Angelina Schmidt, Director
(520) 624-2093

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