



## **Santa Cruz Roman Catholic Church** **Disalced Carmelite Friars**

### **Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

"If you pull up the weeds  
you might uproot the  
wheat along with them.  
Let the weeds and the  
wheat grow together  
until harvest."

Matthew 13:29-30

**July**  
**23**  
**2023**



### **Sunday Masses**

**5:30pm Saturday Vigil**

#### **Sunday**

6:30 am

10:00 am

12:00 pm

6:00 pm

8:00 am Spanish  
at Capilla de Guadalupe  
(409 E. 31st Street)

#### **Monday - Saturday**

8:00 am

#### **Confessions**

#### **Saturday**

3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

#### **Office Hours**

Monday - Friday  
8:30am - 3:00pm



Pastor

Rev. Stephen Watson, O.C.D.

Associate Pastors

Rev. David Costello, O.C.D.

Rev. Julius Ntalo, O.C.D.

Deacon

Rev. Ernesto Lujan

#### **Facebook**

Stephen Watson

## Reflection for the 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time

### *Choosing Wisely the Things that We Attend To*

When Doppler radars were first deployed across the American landscape, many people initially thought we were suddenly being overwhelmed by tornados. What was *happening* was that we were suddenly able to “see” the tornados that had always been there but went largely undetected.

It is hard for us to know, in the current high-velocity information environment, whether things are as bad as they seem or if we just have more comprehensive visibility into how fallen the world has always been. The weirdly prevalent negativity bias of human beings can easily be overstimulated by online prophecies of doom.

According to the Bible's book of Genesis, one of the first lessons God gave to Adam and Eve was that there are things in the cosmos that are unsafe for human beings to know. The knowledge of good and evil was at the top of the list of things we would never be able to cope with well, once we acquired such knowledge. Alas, there is no putting that genie back in the bottle now.

J.R.R. Tolkien also wrote of a source of knowledge that is too great to wield, using the plot device he called a palantir. The palantir was an orb that could be looked into by whomever possessed it, ostensibly to gain knowledge and, even, foreknowledge. But the palantir could deceive the average seeker and could only be put to truly constructive use by the king himself. When one of the hobbits looked into it out of curiosity, the entire Fellowship was nearly undone. Not everything that *can* be known *should* be known.

Jonathan Haidt has been chronicling the injurious mental health effects of social media, and those effects on young women especially. It seems that having relentless visibility into the lives of others has the alarming effect of compromising the mental health of many adolescent females. It calls to mind the possibility that social media is a 21st century corollary to Tolkien's palantir, at least to this extent: adolescents who look into the social media orb have an alarming probability of being harmed by doing so.

What is striking about Haidt's analysis is the extent to which these young women's mental health is damaged for reasons unrelated to whether the actual circumstances of their lives have really changed. It is apparently the mere act of marinating in the *comparative* knowledge of the lives of others that elevates levels of depression and self-loathing.

Jordan Peterson was quoted on Twitter this week as having said, “The best path to misery is to continually think about how you feel.” No kidding. But surely getting beyond “continually thinking about how you feel” involves finding some alternative - some way to shift our attention away from ourselves and onto someone or something more worthy.

I'm starting to believe that there may be nothing more important than where we *choose* to place our attention. Yet volitional attention is the very thing most social media companies want to deny us. Their business models involve the monetization of our very thoughts, thus their Herculean effort to manage what our minds attend to. The continual stream of flattery, nudging, and notifications is motivated by the economic self-interests of these purveyors of online ads. The evidence is becoming unavoidable that the long-term effects of having our attention managed in this way, by those who wish to monetize it, are dire. Especially dire for adolescents.

Maybe there really is such a thing as a palantir. And maybe Paul, the apostle of Jesus, was really onto something when he advised the Christians at Philippi to manage their own attention by choosing to dwell on things outside themselves. Paul proposed thinking on such things as whatever is true, noble, pure, lovely, excellent, and praiseworthy, see St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians, chapter 4, verse 8.

We could do much worse than to turn off all notifications on our phones and, by that expedient, silence the clamor for our attention that perpetually emanates from social media. We might then rediscover the benefits of intentionally choosing, for ourselves, the things that we attend to.

*\* Taken from the blog of Keith Lowery who was for a time the principal engineer at Amazon.com.*

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



# Farewell

## Cena de Despedida

Thank  
you's

Well  
Wishes

Music

Food

FAREWELL MASS HERE AT SANTA CRUZ CHURCH ON  
*MISA DE DESPEDIDA AQUÍ EN LA IGLESIA DE SANTA CRUZ EL*  
SUNDAY, JULY 30<sup>TH</sup> AT 12:00 PM

A GATHERING IN THE CARMELITE HALL WILL FOLLOW. WE ASK FOR PARISHIONERS  
PARTICIPATION BY THIS BREAKDOWN OF LAST NAMES FOR THE POTLUCK:  
*SEGUIDA POR UNA REUNIÓN EN EL SALÓN CARMELITA. PEDIMOS LA PARTICIPACIÓN  
DE LOS FELIGRESES PARA LA COMIDA COMPARTIDA USANDO SU APELLIDO:*

• A – H •  
SALADS, BREAD ROLLS  
*ENSALADAS, PAN*

• I – P •  
MAIN DISH  
*PLATILLO PRINCIPAL*

• Q – Z •  
SIDE DISH  
*PLATILLO DE  
ACOMPAÑAMIENTO*

**Pilgrimage to Egypt with  
Bishop Gerald Kicanas &  
Deacon Ed Sheffer  
April 23 to May 5, 2024**

Join in this unforgettable Pilgrimage to Egypt, led by Bishop Gerald Kicanas and Deacon Ed Sheffer from April 23 to May 5, 2024. Visit iconic historical sites, reflect on the coexistence of different spiritual traditions, and find unity in our shared faith and in our own way, we will contemplate the face of God like Moses. There is deep meaning to Egypt and why St. Joseph, the Virgin Mary, and Baby Jesus, and many prophets lived there for a period. <https://www.canterburypilgrimages.com/tour/egypt-pilgrimage-with-bishop-kicanas-deacon-ed>

Contact Canterbury Pilgrimages or contact Deacon Ed Sheffer – [edwardsheffer1@gmail.com](mailto:edwardsheffer1@gmail.com)

As we prepare to celebrate our farewell for our Carmelite Priests we ask for your help and generosity. In order to accomplish a successful farewell, we ask if you could help by donating these items that are needed:

3 SECTION FOAM PLATES  
PAPER PLATES

Please turn in your donated items to the parish office. Thank you for your support and generosity!



### Discalced Carmelite Secular Order

Are you seeking a closer relationship with Jesus and a deeper prayer life? Do you have a devotion to Our Blessed Mother and an interest in the teachings of the Carmelite Saints?

During the months of July, August and September, the Santa Cruz Community of Secular Discalced Carmelites welcomes visitors to attend our meetings and find out about our way of life in order to discern whether God is calling you to be part of the Carmelite religious order as a lay person. For more information, visit our website <http://ocds.info> and contact the OCDS Council President via e-mail at: [j5m2j@icloud.com](mailto:j5m2j@icloud.com)



Santa Cruz Grupo  
Guadalupeano meets at  
Capilla de Guadalupe every  
Monday at 6:00 pm to pray  
the Rosary and for  
spiritual talks.

Please contact the parish office at 520-623-3833  
for more information and pricing.

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## Mass Intentions

### Saturday, July 22nd

8:00am Delma & Damian Huggins/R.I.P.

5:30pm In Honor of the Immaculate Conception/  
Int./Advocate for us

### Sunday, July 23rd

6:30am Santa Cruz Parishioners

8:00am Virginia Arevalo/R.I.P.

10:00am Martha Martinez/R.I.P.

12:00pm In Honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus/  
Int. Nieves Ortiz & Family

6:00pm Reina Lopez & Isabel Galaz/R.I.P.

### Monday, July 24th

Special Int./Benefactor

8:00am Special int./James Felix

### Tuesday, July 25th

8:00am Special Int./The Daz Family

### Wednesday, July 26th

8:00am Brian Rucker/Happy Birthday

### Thursday, July 27th

8:00am Special Int./Ingrid Close

### Friday, July 28th

8:00am Albert Frias/R.I.P.

### **New Parishioners: Always welcome!**

Please register by using our forms available in the church.

**Baptisms:** Call the parish office/Llame a la oficina parroquial

**Matrimony:** Please call at least six months in advance.

Por favor de llamar con seis meses de anticipación.

Si quieres crecer en tu vida espiritual y enriquecer tu vida de oración, los Talleres de Oración y Vida (TOV) son para ti. Los TOV se ofrecerán en español en la Capilla de Guadalupe (409 E. 31st Street) empezando el miércoles, 16 de agosto hasta el sábado, 9 de diciembre a las 6:30 pm hasta las 8:30 pm. Son 15 talleres. El último taller será en la Escuela del Inmaculado Corazón de María (410 E. Magee Road). Terminaremos con un día en silencio, e intimidad, en el Desierto para estar más cerca con el Señor. El costo es mínimo, nada más para el material. Hablen al 520-704-5047 para más información, y registración.

### **Santa Cruz Religious Ed.**

Registration for Catechism Classes will begin on **Tuesday, August 1st**. Call the Religious Education Office (520) 882-9687, to make an appointment to register your child. Information regarding class times will be given to you when you call. **Classes will begin Saturday, September 9th.**

La inscripción para las clases de catecismo comenzará el **martes, 1 de agosto**. Debe llamar a la Oficina de Catecismo (520) 882-9687, para hacer una cita para registrar a su hijo. Se le dará información sobre los horarios de clase cuando llame. **Las clases comenzarán el sábado, 9 de septiembre.**



Legion  
of Mary

The Legion of Mary  
continues to meet at  
Capilla de Guadalupe at  
4:00 pm on Mondays.

— Catholic Men —

Support the Church and your community  
by joining the **Knights of Columbus**  
**Fr. Ignacio / Bro. Angel Santa Cruz**  
**Council 14139** For more information on  
upcoming meetings please call the parish  
office 520-623-3833. [KofC.org/JoinUs](http://KofC.org/JoinUs)

### **Parish Collections**

**Sunday, July 16th, 2023**

**Collection: \$ 5,408.81**

**Misa de Sanación:**  
**\$ 640.77**

**MY SUNDAY OFFERING**  
Your generous donations are  
greatly appreciated and are  
definitely needed. Thank you  
and God bless!

