# For August of the Year of the Pandemic 2020

Mass Schedule Saturday: 4:30 pm

Sunday: 7:00 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am,

1:00 pm Spanish, 5:00 pm

Mass sign up required for each weekend:

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DA4A82DA0FDCE9-mass

Sacrament of Reconciliation Saturday: 3:00-4:00 pm Wednesday: 11:00-noon, 7:00-8:00 pm

Stay tuned for September of the Year of the Pandemic 2020



### WELCOME TO ST. JOHN

St. John the Evangelist, a Catholic Capuchin Franciscan Parish, welcomes all who are called to be disciples of Jesus Christ and proclaims His Gospel through prayer, worship, His Word, and the sacraments. Members, inspired by the Holy Spirit through faith formation and spiritual renewal, witness to the Gospel in lives of justice and charity, build up families and children through education, hospitality and fellowship, and serve those in need with compassion.

## "DARKNESS CAN ONLY BE SCATTERED BY LIGHT. HATRED CAN ONLY BE CONQUERED BY LOVE." ~St. John Paul II

### PARISH STAFF

Pastor		
St. John Catholic School		
Catholic CharitiesAbigail Chikanda 1525 W. 6th, Suite A 785-856-2694 achikanda@catholiccharitiesks.org		
Rummage HouseLinda Brey 13th & Kentucky <u>lbrey525@gmail.com</u>		
Shopping Hours:Open (if staff is available) Wednesday - 11:00 am-3:00 pm; Saturday - 8:30 am-12:30 pm		
Centro HispanoLydia Diebolt 204 W. 13th St. 785-843-2039 centrohispano.lydia@gmail.com		

### SIMON PARISH CENTER

Mailing Address 1229 Vermor	it St., Lawrence, KS 66044	
Phone	785-843-0109	
Summer Office HoursCLOSE	O TO PUBLIC, please call	
Monday—Thursday	8:30 am—3:00 pm	
Friday	8:30 am—Noon	
Weekend Masses		
Saturday	4:30 pm	
Sunday	7:00 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am,	
	1:00 pm (Spanish), 5:00 pm	
Mass sign up required for each weekend:		
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0l		
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https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0l  Masses to be livestreamed at:ht	04DA4A82DA0FDCE9-mass tps://youtu.be/lb18-GJL4zM	
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https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0l  Masses to be livestreamed at:ht  Sunday	tps://youtu.be/lbl8-GJL4zM 11:00 am & 1:00 pm (Spanish)	
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0l  Masses to be livestreamed at:ht  Sunday  Weekday Masses	tps://youtu.be/lbl8-GJL4zM 11:00 am & 1:00 pm (Spanish)	
Masses to be livestreamed at:ht Sunday Weekday Masses Monday-Friday	tps://youtu.be/lbl8-GJL4zM 11:00 am & 1:00 pm (Spanish)	
Masses to be livestreamed at:ht Sunday Weekday Masses Monday-Friday Sacrament of Reconciliation In the Padre Pio Chapel (inside the	tps://youtu.be/lbl8-GJL4zM 11:00 am & 1:00 pm (Spanish) 7:30 am	
Masses to be livestreamed at:ht Sunday Weekday Masses Monday-Friday Sacrament of Reconciliation In the Padre Pio Chapel (inside the Wednesday	tps://youtu.be/lbl8-GJL4zM 11:00 am & 1:00 pm (Spanish) 7:30 am north church entrance) m-12:00 pm, 7:00-8:00 pm	
Masses to be livestreamed at:ht Sunday Weekday Masses Monday-Friday Sacrament of Reconciliation In the Padre Pio Chapel (inside the	tps://youtu.be/lbl8-GJL4zM 11:00 am & 1:00 pm (Spanish) 7:30 am north church entrance) m-12:00 pm, 7:00-8:00 pm 3:00 pm-4:00 pm	

#### **Bulletin Deadline**

Submit info by **noon on Thursday** to <u>bulletin@sjevangelist.com</u> ten (10) days prior to the bulletin you wish info to appear. Please submit text electronically (via computer/email) as you would like it to appear in the bulletin.

#### **Advertise in the Bulletin**

Revenue from ads is what makes the bulletin possible at no cost to our parish. Please support your bulletin advertisers. For information call Doug Wolfe:

800-950-9952 x5833

dwolfe@4LPI.com

### **Pastoral Council**

### parishcouncil@sjevangelist.com

Connie Ehrlich-Chair, Christine Wenger-Vice Chair, Susan Tabor-Secretary, Brent Crandon, George Diepenbrock, Luis Gonzalez, Larry Koster, Lisa Leroux-Smith, Jason Tanking

#### **Finance Council**

Brian Green, David Ehrlich, Brent Crandon, Jeannette Mercier, Terry Gunselman, Michael Burrichter

### **School Council**

Mr. Chris Reffett,
Mike McDonald–President
Caroline Bennett–Vice President
Jim McDonald–Secretary
Hanon Misko, Emily Malin
Lisa Leroux-Smith



## IT TAKES HEART

Recently, when asked what word would come to mind when she thought of Samantha Romero, this parishioner responded, "heart." It is most difficult to describe someone in one word, but this one does the trick. There is a song that begins: You gotta have heart, miles and miles of heart.... That Sam has. It has stretched into every mile of the parish life of St. John. Her dedication to the St. John community reveals a heart full of life-giving care and concern that always went a mile beyond. It was about a heart that brought others into the heart of the Lord. One person wrote: "She brought a deep faith to her work, desiring to bring others to a deeper relationship with God." Another said: "She has truly been changing the hearts of the parishioners to be good stewards."



Sam has continually opened her heart to so many parishioners. She has brought heart to the activities and events that she has been part of. It is only through heart that you can make a mark on the lives of so many, helping parishioners see how God has blessed their lives and how to share those blessings. Her listening heart has been a blessing. One coworker commented: "She has brought many blessings to this parish." Another told of the passion she brought to her many endeavors.

In the words of that song: she always put the horse before the cart. Translated, it reads: she put love before all else, showing by example that, in the same song, there's nothing to it, but to do it.

To sum up, paraphrasing the words of another co-worker to include all the parish: Sam, from the bottom of our hearts, thank you.



### SAINT JOHN SCHOOL





### 2020 School Year Wish List

As we have been working on our plans for this coming year, the staff has been developing safety protocols and a list of needed materials. Some of the materials on this list are part of our daily routines and some are precautions. I have created a Amazon Wish List if parents or extended family members would like to help the school. Any item you purchase will ship directly to the school to help with coordination. Any help that you may be able to provide would be greatly appreciated. Please feel free to share the link with friends and family if they would also like to help. Here is the link for the Wish List: <a href="https://a.co/10K4BEi">https://a.co/10K4BEi</a> God bless.

Mr. Reffett

### PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS







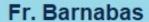




















### YOUR INVITED TO A CARD PARTY FOR FATHER BARNABAS

Due to the Corona virus, it will not be feasible to have a formal going away party for Father Barnabas as he leaves St. John. While we cannot let him leave without some way to honor his time here, we thought having a card party would be a wonderful idea! Parishioners could send him a card with thoughts about his friendship with them, times spent together, or whatever memory you feel like sharing. If possible, please send your card to arrive the week of August 24. Please send the card to Father Barnabas at: 1229 Vermont Street, Lawrence, KS 66044.

Thank you and please continue to stay safe!

### STEWARDSHIP OF PRAYER

### PARISH PRAYER LIST

The "Prayer List" includes the most recent information that the Simon Parish Center has about a parishioner and/or their family member.

Contact the Center to request someone for the "Prayer List."

**Thank you** on behalf of the families of those individuals for whom we pray.

**Andrew Bouchard Susan Guenther Brown Curtis Burns Donna Callaghan Hank Desch Garrett Dreiling** Linda Erp Joanne Feist **Colette Fisher Linda Flyer Janet Fox Rudy Fritz Ed Garza Bonnie Griggs** Tony Guadian **Buddy Hadl** Michael Hamer **Lonna Hamm Peggy Harders Newt Hasson Christian Heady Luke Henry Charles Hermann Kathy Higley Bob Holek** Tina Jinkens Michele Johnson Allen Kehde **Becky Kuhn** Patty Lyon Diana Matthews **Leo Mauler** Russ McDonald Jim McMurray

**Ed Medrano** 

**Zackary Messerly** Linden Morgan Lisa Morrow-Welsh **Augustus Nelson Danny Nguyen** Theophilus Obiefule Mike Owens Josephine Ramirez Mike Reilly **Eva Ricketts** Joel Rivera Virginia Romero Jon Rossillon **James Sandy** Alexander Kamirez Salazar **Jerry Scherer** Greg Schurer Mary Kay Seidl Pete Sethatut **Christine Shipley Gerald Simon Brett Smith** Linda Snyder Joseph Soza Cameron Stupansky **Jack Taylor Deloris** Tharp Oscar Tharp, Jr. **Amelia Tinio Enriqueta Valverde** Mary Vannicola Cindy Vasquez Marianne Vietti **Trent Wallace** Jeanette Walker

Susan Williams Nancy Wright Jon Yarnell In Memoriam- Mary Hope

### MASS INTENTIONS

### AUGUST 17 – AUGUST 23

<b>Mon.:</b> 7:30 am	Garrett Dreiling
Tues.: 7:30 am	Joanne Feist
<b>Wed.:</b> 7:30 am	Jon Yarnell
Thurs.: 7:30 am	Jenesto Floro
Fri.: 7:30 am	Rita Roush†
<b>Sat.:</b> 4:30 pm	End To The Pandemic
<b>Sun.:</b> 7:00 am	
9:00am	Ramon Romero†
11:00 am	Mary Hope†
1:00 pm (Sp.)	Parishioners of St. Johns
	Susan Williams

FAITH IS THE
REALIZATION OF
WHAT IS HOPED FOR
AND EVIDENCE OF
THINGS NOT SEEN.

HEBREWS 11:1

### STEWARDSHIP OF GIVING

### WEEKLY PARISH GIVING

Our fiscal year is July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021
Information below reflects donations received July 1, 2020 through Aug. 9, 2020.

Visit: www.sjevangelist.com/giving for more information or to set up and manage your account today!

Contact Cris Denning at:

cdenning@sjevangelist.com or by
phone at 785-843-0109 if you have
any questions.

Photo by: Jay Soldner/The Leaven

Until weekend
Masses resume and
the parish office
reopens,
parishioners may
send their tithe in
the mail.
Or you may sign up
for PushPay for
auto bank
withdraws at:
sjevangelist.com

#### **MEDITACIÓN DEL EVANGELIO**

n el pasaje del Evangelio de hoy, Jesús sana a la hija de una mujer cananea. Ésta insiste a Jesús sobre la enfermedad de su hija, hasta que Jesús le concede el milagro de sanarla. Recordemos, que Dios envía a Jesús no sólo al pueblo judío, sino a todos los pueblos. La circunstancia del momento no es sólo cuestión de la fe tan grande de la mujer cananea, sino su situación de no ser del pueblo escogido. "Ese era el dilema". Pues, al parecer aquella mujer no tenía derecho a la salvación. Pero, ella reconoce en Jesús al Mesías y no duda en insistir. Reflexionemos en el diálogo de la mujer y Jesús.

"La mujer se acercó a Jesús y, de rodillas, le decía: ¡Señor ayúdame! Jesús le dijo: "No se debe echar a los perros el pan de los hijos". La mujer le contestó: Es verdad, Señor, pero también los perritos comen las migajas que caen de la mesa de sus amos". Entonces Jesús le dijo: "Mujer, ¡qué grande es tu fe! Que se cumpla tu deseo". Y en aquel momento quedó sana su hija. (Mateo 15:25-28). ¿Crees tú que el anuncio del Evangelio es solamente para las personas que asisten a la iglesia cada domingo? Jesús, quiere romper las barreras de los que se sienten particulares y únicos. La salvación es de todos y para todos, es la clave del mensaje. Es un momento importante para los paganos de hoy el acercarse y dialogar sus dudas y encontrar el camino. El Papa Francisco, nos invita a ser Iglesia en salida, Iglesia peregrina que motiva a la santidad y misión. Debemos de aprender mucho de esta mujer que no tenía prejuicios y sabía bien ante quien se encontraba. **©LPi** 



No está bien quitarles el pan a los hijos para echárselo a los perritos". Pero ella replicó: "Es cierto, Señor; pero también los perritos comen las migajas que caen de la mesa de sus amos". Entonces Jesús le respondió: "Mujer, ¡qué grande es tu fe! Que se cumpla lo que deseas". Y en aquel mismo instante quedó curada su hija. — Mt 15, 26-28

Leccionario II © 1987 Comisión Episcopal de Pastoral Litúrgica de la Conferencia del Episcopado Mexicano.

#### MUSICA, CORO, MUSICA

¿Te gusta cantar? ¿Tocas algún instrumento musical, o te gustaría aprender? Ven a practicar con nosotros, comunícate al 785-304-5509.

#### **CADA LUNES EN TODO EL AÑO**

A las 8 de la noche rezamos el Santo Rosario, para pedir pos nuestras necesidades y por los que amamos; también si alguno de sus parientes fallece podemos hacer el novenario, nos vemos los lunes en LA CAPILLA DEL PADRE PIO, frente a las veladoras.

#### **PLATICAS PARA BAUTIZAR**

Cada primer sábado del mes de 6:00 a 9:00 de la noche, sin niños, llamar antes para anotar su asistencia.

#### **RECICLAGE**

Trae tus latas de aluminio y ayuda a tu Parróquia, por un mundo mas limpio, déjalas atrás de la oficina y ponle para María Mota. Gracias.

#### LA FE SE PUEDE ALIMENTAR

Hermano, a veces te sientes triste o con necesidad de Dios, ven yo te puedo acompañar a orar, nos podemos ver en la Iglesia o en la oficina. Estoy para ayudarte. Oro por todos, bendiciones María Mota.

Preparación al matrimonio por la Iglesia Catolica, solo para pareias que viven juntos y tienen niños.

Adultos que necesitan los sacramentos de confirmación y primera comunión.

#### **CATECISMO EN ESPANOL**

Las Inscripciones son en agosto. Por favor para mas información llamar a Maria Mota.

#### **CONFESIONES**

De 1:00 pm a 1:45 pm Habrá confesiones en español para quien lo necesite, y pueda recibir este sacramento.

#### LAS LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA DEL 16 DE AGOSTO

**Domingo:** Is 56, 1. 6-7/Sal 67, 2-3. 5. 6. 8 [4]/Rom 11, 13-15. 29-32/Mt 15, 21-28

Lunes: Ez 24, 15-24/Dt 32, 18-19. 20. 21 [cfr. 18]/Mt

Martes: Ez 28, 1-10/Dt 32, 26-27. 27-28. 30. 35-36

[39]/Mt 19, 23-30

Miércoles: Ez 34, 1-11/Sal 23, 1-3. 3-4. 5. 6 [1]/Mt 20, 1-16 Jueves: Ez 36, 23-28/Sal 51, 12-13. 14-15. 18-19 [Ez

36, 25]/Mt 22, 1-14

Viernes: Ez 37, 1-14/Sal 107, 2-3. 4-5. 6-7. 8-9 [1]/Mt 22, 34-40

**Sábado:** Ez 43, 1-7/Sal 85, 9 y 10. 11-12. 13-14 [cfr.

10]/Mt 23, 1-12

**Domingo siguiente:** Is 22, 19-23/Sal 138, 1-2. 2-3. 6.

8 [8]/Rom 11, 33-36/Mt 16, 13-2

### **SOCIAL JUSTICE** SOCIAL ACTION

By Susan Tabor Social Concerns for Peace and Justice Committee

ast week, we began our discussion of justice by learning about how the harvest of justice is sown in peace. This week, we will look at some of the differences between justice and charity, or deeds of mercy.

Charitable works and social justice have been called the two feet in action of Catholic social teaching. Charitable works meets the immediate needs of persons and families. It treats the symptoms of social problems. Charitable works calls forth a generous response from individuals and responds to particular situations. Social justice changes social structures that attack human dignity, oppress people, and contribute to poverty. It focuses on the rights of people, addresses underlying social causes, and works for long term social change.

It is generally easier for us to respond to calls for responses to charitable and mercy needs. They are more concrete and the "fix" is more readily and more quickly available; food for the pantry, money for the shelter, gloves, socks and blankets for our homeless brothers and sisters. And meeting these needs is necessary. They are part of our call, too; our call to meet the needs of charity and mercy.

But we are also called to respond to the need for justice in our lives, community and world. Acting for justice in our community gives us the chance to change social structures that oppress people right here in Lawrence, Kansas. By identifying the problems in our community. And by collectively acting to change the structures that create those problems, we can make life

better for ourselves and others right here; we can make life more just; and when we have justice, we then have peace. In justice work, we can also build helpful alliances in the community that can help us keep the system accountable. Some of those partnerships may be with groups outside the system, and sometimes we can find allies within the system to help us create change.

Creating change can take time. But the more people that are involved, the greater the chance that change may be created more quickly.

This work is a bit more abstract and requires that we give of ourselves; that we use our spiritual and personal gifts to help bring about change. Sometimes it's easy to think you have nothing to give, but you do. You have yourself. And if you don't know what your gifts are, doing justice work may help you identify them.

Doing justice calls us directly out of ourselves. Although this kind of call may feel threatening (I'm too shy), or may feel imposing (I don't have time), the work is rewarding as you see goals accomplished and you realize that you were part of that change, no matter how large or small your participation. In a few weeks, you will be getting a call to attend a meeting to talk about making social change. Please consider the call to do justice; that call to move you out of your comfort zone possibly; to give directly of yourself for the cause of making structural changes in our community that bring about justice, which will

ultimately bring about peace in our community.

Next week, we will look at the Biblical foundation for the call to do justice. Please stay tuned!

### **AREA NEWS AND EVENTS**

### VIRTUAL BREATHE SESSION

As our days of social distancing continue, Benedictine College students who are preparing to be special education teachers would like to offer a virtual alternative to BREATHE -- A Respite Program. I am grateful to Dr. Kelly Cogan, assistant professor of special education, for reaching out and offering this service! Since we can't be together in person we plan to provide fun, engaging support virtually. Spending time with a college student will offer structure and a meaningful experience for your child with a disability.

I am hopeful many of you will participate in our virtual programming. It will include utilizing technology (computer, tablet or phone) to video conference with the college students. The sessions will be 40-60 minutes in length, with no more than three participants with the college students. Our goal is to begin the service the week of **September 7**.

Using an online platform, (most likely Zoom), college students will support your loved one to engage in the following: Greeting & Prayer; Warm-Up Activity/Conversation; Life Skill or Academic Lesson; Gospel Message; Stretches/Physical Activity

Conversation; Closing Prayer In our continuing efforts to stay connected, I am hopeful you will give this a try! There are other programs in the area providing virtual supports to individuals with disabilities that have had great success.



This is all in the development stage Feel free to share your thoughts and ideas through the attached survey.

Two informational meetings are scheduled so you can meet Dr. Cogan and some of the students, learn more about the program and ask questions. You can participate in a meeting either Tuesday, August 25 at 7:00 pm or Thursday, August 27 at 7:00 pm. I will send Zoom links for these meetings on August 20.

Please fill out the survey which will indicate interest in participating in our new "innovative" partnership with students from Benedictine College: **Special Needs Ministry Survey**. We ask that you complete the survey by **Friday, August 21**.

### **AREA NEWS AND EVENTS**

### SAFE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM - ADULT TRAINING (VIRTUS) EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

In light of the current health conditions, one prudent and preventative measure we are taking is to make the VIRTUS Protecting God's Children for

Adults training available Online as an option. Effective immediately, due to COVID-19, the Archdiocesan requirement for attending a VIRTUS Protecting God's Children for Adults workshop live session will be suspended and the option



of the online version of the module can be offered in lieu of live training. This is a temporary safety precaution, and parishes may still offer the live training session available as an option if they prefer as long as the local county and state ordinances in effect at the time of the event are followed. Please note, the training must still be completed prior to participants working around youth, but the requirement may now temporarily be met by completing the online Protecting God's Children module. Individuals needing to attend a session will be offered the option of the online module at the time of registration. They will still need to follow the background screening and policy completion process at the time of registration. Individuals who are already currently registered for an upcoming live session, may log back into their account and change to the online module. These procedures will be reviewed and updated periodically as needed and are in place to protect you, those you work with, and your family. Please stay safe and healthy and continue to pray for all our brothers and sisters in Christ! We are praying for all of you and your families. If you have questions, please contact Sandy Vielhauer at: svielhauer@archkck.org or Jenifer Valenti at: jvalenti@archkck.org. May God bless you and keep you safe.

### ARCHDIOCESAN 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

The Archdiocesan 50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration has been rescheduled to **Sunday**, **August 23, 2:00 pm, Church of the Nativity in Leawood**. If you would like to receive an invitation from Archbishop Naumann and have not yet submitted your information, please call Mary Anne Kierl at the Archdiocese **913-647-0345** or **flifesec@archkck.org** 

### FERTILITY CARE CENTER CLASS

Fertility Care Center is planning to hold their next Creighton Model Education Class in August (EPI) & March (EPII). They will provide the class over two extended weekends to help accommodate every-one's busy schedules.

Fertility Care Center Of Kansas City



THE DATES ARE:

**Education Phase One:** 

August 21-24 & August 28-31, 2020

**Education Phase Two:** 

March 6-8 & March 13-15, 2021

The link to their website with all the information needed to apply is:

http://www.fertilitycarekc.com/fertilitycarepractitioner-training.html Questions can be referred to: admin@fertilitycarekc.com or

pwhite@fertilitycarekc.com.

## "COPING WITH LIFE ALONE" PEER-TO-PEER GRIEF SUPPORT NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE!

"Coping with Life Alone "" is a Beginning Experience " grief support program that meets each week for eight weeks. The program helps those who have lost a love relationship due to death, divorce or separation, move through the experience of grief and loss into a future with renewed hope.

Upcoming program dates:

Saturdays, September 12 through October 31, from 1:00 to 3:00 pm
This session will be held online using Zoom.
Contact Donna at 816-305-3760, for more information and required registration by September 1.

#### **NEW: ADAPTED FAITH FORMATION LESSONS**

"Since parents have given children their life, they are bound by the most serious obligation to educate their offspring and therefore must be recognized as the primary and the principal educators." The Declaration on Christian

#### **Education from Vatican II**

The NCPD Council on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (CIDD) is dedicated to offering adapted materials to assist families in offering faith formation at home. These resources can be used with children of all ages. Each month you will find lessons on a topic that follows the liturgical calendar. Keeping in mind that children and youth with disabilities have different learning needs, you will find a few 'Tips and Tools' included in each monthly lesson to further help with instruction.

If you have any questions about using these lessons, or if you have prepared materials that you would like to share, please contact us at: <a href="mailto:ncpd@ncpd.org">ncpd@ncpd.org</a>

We hope that these resources will help you keep Jesus alive in your home! May God bless you and keep you safe.

### KIDS SHARING THE GOSPEL

### SHARING THE GOSPEL

Jesus met a woman who had amazing faith. She was brave. She was loud. She did not care what anybody else thought. Jesus was the Savior, and she knew he could heal her daughter. Jesus can help you with any problem you have, too. Be brave. Keep asking Jesus for help. God is strong. He can do anything.

### **PRAYER**

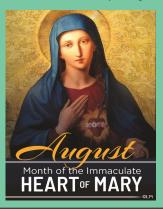
Jesus, help me to be brave. I know you can do anything.

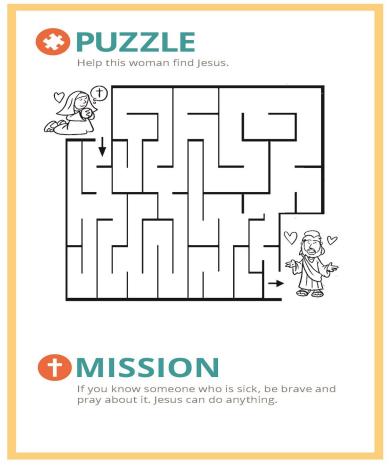
### SOMETHING TO DRAW

Draw a picture of the brave woman asking Jesus for help.

### MISSION FOR THE WEEK

If you know someone who is sick, be brave and pray about it. Jesus can do anything.

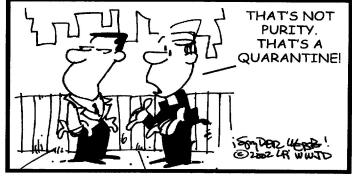






#### 20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME





### **DAILY READINGS**

**Sunday:** Is 56:1, 6-7/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [4]/Rom 11:13-15, 29-32/Mt 15:21-28

Monday: Ez 24:15-24/Dt 32:18-19, 20, 21 [cf. 18a]/Mt 19:16-22

**Tuesday:** Ez 28:1-10/Dt 32:26-27ab, 27cd-28, 30, 35cd-36ab [39c]/Mt 19:23-30

Wednesday: Ez 34:1-11/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [1]/Mt 20:1-16

Thursday: Ez 36:23-28/Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19 [Ez 36:25]/Mt 22:1-14

Friday: Ez 37:1-14/Ps 107:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [1]/Mt 22:34-40

**Saturday:** Ez 43:1-7ab/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [cf. 10b]/Mt 23:1-12 **Next Sunday:** Is 22:19-23/Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 6, 8 [8bc]/Rom 11:33-36/Mt 16:13-20



### FOCUS ON THE WORD

### UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

We are hardwired for wholeness and crave it. When something is broken, we want it fixed. If a part of our body is not working properly, we want it healed. How often do we find ourselves saying, "I'm tired of struggling with this cold, I can't wait for my surgery to heal, or I want my treatments to make me better." Wholeness and healing restore our relationships and make us free to love as we desire. We know very well how our limitations, imperfections, and brokenness really limit us. They can easily prevent us from being and doing what we want to do.

Our physical and emotional wounds and maladies are easier to identify. If my back hurts, I feel it and know what part of my body needs attention. If I am feeling intense anger, I can identify the emotion and take necessary steps to uncover its cause. Being persistent often brings greater and quicker results. But will pursuing and even achieving our physical and emotional healings really be enough? We forget that there is a deeper healing that we seek and desperately need. As we look around at humanity, there are some physical and emotional wounds and



scars that cannot be made whole. They are limitations that must remain and, for one reason or another, cannot be rectified. Does this mean that the wholeness and healing that my being longs for is not possible for me? Must I settle with less than what God promises?

The answer is no. Ultimately, there is a desire that goes deeper than the physical and emotional. It is a desire that resides in our soul. What we really seek and thirst for is healing and wholeness for our soul. Inner strength, conviction, focus, grounding, love, hope, faith, courage, determination, peace, and connectedness are all words

that center us on eternity. They direct us to a presence we discover in our core, which is none other than the presence of God. In God, we are healed. When we are persistent in reaching out to and establishing our relationship with God, real healing and wholeness begin to happen.

There are some limitations and some of our brokenness with which we may simply have to live. This does not mean that we have to abandon our journey to wholeness and healing. If we have done our inner soul work, we have worked toward and acquired what and who we ultimately need and desire.

©l Pi

### RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

### The Challenge of Stewardship

Every day we are called by Christ to respond in some way. The more practice we have at giving of ourselves freely and living in His presence, the easier it is to discern that call. Once we hear the call, the choice is ours: will we respond with yes or no? We could say that we are not required to say yes because God has given us free will. However, our response speaks much to where we are in our maturity of faith. When we were children, the word "no" used to be one of our favorites. If we continue to say that as we get older, well, that says something about where we are in our walk with the Lord. If we truly are disciples of Jesus Christ and are serious about growing in our faith,

we will say "yes." We are not required to say yes, but we say yes because that is who we have become.

This is the challenge of a stewardship way of life. Have we matured enough to say yes when God calls, regardless of how much our answer may cost us? What matters more to us: what it will cost us or our relationship with Jesus? Some days we will easily be able to say yes. The grace and love he gives us will be plenty to see us through whatever situation in which we find ourselves. However, we are imperfect beings and there will be days when we are more into ourselves than him. It is on those days that we find ourselves at a true crossroads of a challenge. The choice is always ours. Hopefully, our faith will be strong enough. His call is never for his own sake. He calls us because the world he created and the Church he instituted

need us. They wait just as he does for our response.

- Tracy Earl Welliver

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