



Whoever receives one child such as this
in my name, receives me;
and whoever receives me, receives not me
but the One who sent me.

Mark 9:37

Twenty-fifth
Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 19, 2021

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Today's Gospel passage has two parts: Jesus' announcement again of his coming suffering and death, and a scene with the disciples arguing about who is the "greatest." Mark places these scenes next to each other to emphasize the disciples' failure to understand. Their petty argument was the opposite of what Jesus had described as the way to follow him. The disciples were following the common understanding of group status: to honor the influential and those who seem to contribute the most. Jesus points to the opposite: he honors the vulnerable, the "least" in the community; in this case, a child. And he honors those who welcome the child.

Mark was addressing his own community in the early Church, who were seeking to learn how to live their faith. His questions may be important for us too. Who is honored in our faith community, and why? How do we honor those whom we set as examples? Who benefits from this different kind of "greatness"?

ASK THE HARD QUESTIONS

Twice in today's Gospel, Jesus' disciples are reduced to silence. First when Jesus describes his future suffering and death, and again when caught in their argument about who is the greatest. Perhaps they were afraid to really understand his teachings because of what it might cost them. Maybe they were afraid of being seen as ignorant by Jesus and especially by each other. What if they had dared to admit their confusion and ignorance and asked Jesus hard questions? Would Jesus have welcomed them?

Jesus presents a child who is to be welcomed and embraced. The child sets an example: it is the child who knows that he or she doesn't know. The child is free to ask "childlike" questions, and is open to answers. What if, in the intimacy of our prayer, we asked Jesus our own hard, embarrassing questions: about life, about ourselves and our relationships, about God? How might our relationship with God then change?

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Today's Readings: Wis 2:12, 17-20; Ps 54:3-4, 5, 6-8; Jas 3:16 — 4:3; Mk 9:30-37

PASTOR: Rev. Michael T. "Mike" Snider

Celebration of the Sacraments:

Mass: Saturday: 5:00 PM
Sunday: 9:00 AM
Tues - Fri: 9:00 AM

Reconciliation:

Saturday & Sunday:
45 minutes before Mass

Marriage or Baptism:

Contact the parish office six
(6) months prior to the
anticipated date 903-769-3235

Welcome Visitors!

*We hope that you have enjoyed celebrating Mass with us
and felt welcomed in our church as your "home away from home."*

*Whether you are new to the area or have lived here for years,
you are invited to join our parish family. **Please come again!***

Holy Spirit

Catholic Church

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holy.spirit2@yahoo.com

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

We remember in our prayers all the sick, especially the following:

Jim Hickey. Michael Allen. Joe Fazio. Rick & Teri Jackson. Ron Emma. Kate Serres. Belinda Flowers. Dona Jordan. Jaye Anderson. Georgette March. Daniel Corrigan. Kyle Fabitz. Greg Mooney. Gary Fetsch. Karee Haney. Bollinger Family. Charlie Parker. . Tammy Johnson. Carolyn Simmons. Dianne & Gary Laudt. Wanda & George Duke. Fleming Family. Doris & Jo Hoffman. Jo Ann Crowell. Ann Richardson. Jacob Stephens. Mary Margaret Ellison. John Kominis. Ester Coronel. Elise Sugg. Joann Rayl. Avery Boultinghouse. Wanda & Mike Stephens. Jim & Geri O'Neil. We list the names of our sick Parishioners. Friends and Relatives for one month.

Please pray for the men and women active military service from our parish community:

Dawn Quinn, US Army PVT 2nd Class (Granddaughter of Bob & Jean Quinn). Reid Patrick Hope, US Marine (Nephew of Mike & Wanda Stephens). 1LT Joey Chaney, U.S. Army (Nephew of Mike & Margaret Jernigan) Seaman Logan Adkinson (great grandson of Fr. Mike). Jay Guajardo, Navy Rescue School (Great Nephew of Lex & Liza Forster). Senior Airman, Natalie York (Daughter of Steve & Julie York). Pvt First Class Randall Scheaffer US Army (Grandson of Carlos & Pat Gallardo). Lt. Col. William P Shea. (Nephew of Deacon Sam and Nancy Mullen). Colonel John Anthony Fontana. U.S. Army (Son of John & Mary Fontana). Lt. "JG" Gary Buchanan; 2nd Capt. Blake Gaughan; 2nd Lt. Will Corrigan (Great Nephews of Jess & Eva Corrigan). Paul Moreno E4 AMT 3rd Class (Grandson of Kathy & Dale Boman). Staff Sergeant Daniel Hodan. U.S. Army (Grandson of Ron & Barbara Eamma). Warrant Officer Michael Hauck (Son of Jerry & Vicki Hauck & brother of Cathy Ellis) & Seaman Rainer Hauck (Grandson of Jerry & Vicki Hauck & nephew of Jeff & Cathy Ellis).

Mass—Intentions

Sat. 9/18 Brandon Bonicard (M/M Bonicard)

Sun 9/19 Stanley Lefler+ (M/M Stephens)

Tue 9/21 Tom Moroney+ (Bridget Rich)

Wed 9/22 Judi Fazio+ (Joe Fazio)

Thurs 9/23 Collins Bonicard+ (M/M Bonicard)

Fri. 9/24 Megan & Carol Dougal+ (M/M Laudt)

Sat. 9/25 Rita Joyce Aucoin+ (M/M Bonicard)

PARISH SUPPORT

Average weekly amounts for the month of August, 2021

Expenditures \$ 3,882

Regular and debt & maintenance collections \$ 3,628

Attendance 9/11 Saturday 54 9/12 Sunday 63

One can Give without Loving...But one cannot Love without Giving.

Approximate Payoff:

Rectory \$ 39,055

Parish Hall \$ 106,385

Pope's Intention for September:



An environmentally sustainable lifestyle. We pray that we all will make courageous choices for a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle, rejoicing in our your people who are resolutely committed to this.

OUR BEST

The more the world is at its worst, the more we need the Church at its best. —Anonymous

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading: The wicked say: With revilement and torture let us put the just one to the test (Wisdom 2:12, 17-20).

Psalms: The Lord upholds my life (Psalm 54).

Second Reading: The wisdom from above is full of mercy and good fruits (James 3:16 — 4:3).

Gospel: Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me (Mark 9:30-37).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Ezr 1:1-6; Ps 126:1b-6; Lk 8:16-18

Tuesday: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13; Ps 19:2-5; Mt 9:9-13

Wednesday: Ezr 9:5-9; Tb:13:2, 3-4abefghn, 7-8; Lk 9:1-6

Thursday: Hg 1:1-8; Ps 149:1b-6a, 9b; Lk 9:7-9

Friday: Hg 2:1-9; Ps 43:1-4; Lk 9:18-22

Saturday: Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a; Jer 31:10-12ab, 13; Lk 9:43b-45

Sunday: Nm 11:25-29; Ps 19:8, 10, 12-14; Jas 5:1-6; Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

THE MEANING OF DISCIPLESHIP

The geography of today's Gospel is significant. Jesus is completing his ministry in Galilee and beginning his journey to Jerusalem, where he will meet both death and resurrection. The prediction of his death placed here is the second of three in Mark's Gospel, and as usual it is the occasion for an important teaching on the part of Jesus. Today that lesson is tied to the need for his disciples to embrace a ministry of service. A play on words in Aramaic would have linked the words "child" and "servant," thus turning Jesus' gesture of placing a child in their midst into an illustration of his understanding of himself as the Servant of the Lord. It is that same awareness of the meaning of their ministry that Jesus (and Mark) wishes to instill in the disciples. Theirs must be a ministry of service if they are to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. And that service might even require of them that they be "handed over" to death. What would have been—in the culture of Jesus' day—an ordinary discussion of social status ("who is the greatest") becomes in Mark's context a key insight into the meaning of discipleship for the disciples and for us.

Would you be interested in spending an hour with our Lord in adoration?



Please contact Cathy Ellis at cathy.ellis@gmail.com. Cathy will need your name, and a one hour time slot on Tuesdays that you would be willing to come to the church and adore our Lord.



Patriotic Rosary for Peace in America
RESUMES SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 2nd at 9:00 a.m.



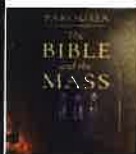
Coffee and Donuts resumes Sun., Oct. 3rd
immediately following 9:00am Mass

Thank you to all that signed up for kitchen duties, picking up donuts, purchasing donuts and the alternates. Also, thanks to Carol Szczepanski for taking the chair position. Carol, will be calling these volunteers with detailed information for each and everyone of you.

Sincerely, Fr. Mike

SEPTEMBER NEWS & EVENTS

Saturday & Sunday Sept. 18th & 19th Children's Faith Formation Registration Begins. Forms located outside Bridget's office.



Sunday, Sept. 19th Catechetical Sunday.
All Catechist of Holy Spirit please attend the 9:00am Mass. Immediately following 9:00am Mass Jane Bidlack will facilitate the

Parousia: The Bible and the Mass Study in the parish hall.

Thurs., Sept. 30th at 6:00PM

Bishop Joseph Strickland will celebrate Mass with the blessing and dedication of our new St. Joseph Statue.



Also, he will bless and dedicate our parish hall as "**St. Jude's Hall.**"

All are welcome to attend this special event.



September Second Collections:

25th & 26th: "Aid to the Church in Central/Eastern Europe."

Cenacle of Life: Cenacle of Life devotion each **Wed. from 3:30—4:30pm.** Please join us in church as we pray two rosaries for an end to abortion, euthanasia and all sins against the sanctity of human life. **Questions call Vicki Hauck 817-637-9382**

Legion of Mary—Pilgrim Statue: Our Lady of Fatima Statue is now ready to visit your home. **There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex or you may contact: Jane Bidlack, 903-569-7749 or Marge Clymer, 903-216-7953.** The Statue will be delivered to your home on the day of your choice and picked up at the end of one week. If scheduling permits, the Statue may be kept for two weeks.

The Holy Spirit Food Ministry would like to thank all our parishioners for their food donations. The large plastic bin is located by in the hallway by Bridget's office. **We are in the need of peanut butter; canned vegetables; cereal; boxes of pudding & jello.**

Looking for volunteers to get involved with the Food Ministry. Call or email **Bob Mailliard at 903-769-3963 or theduckdude@att.net**



Thank you,
*Bob Mailliard; Bryan & Dolly Todd;
Stan & Terry Evans; Al & Evelyn Murfin
Holy Spirit Food Ministry Team*

HELP NEEDED — CALL FR. MIKE 903-769-3235

1. **We are in need of an organist, do you know of anyone that would be interested?**
2. **Help needed in maintaining our meditation garden?**
3. **Fr. Mike needs someone that can climb a ladder to change light bulbs.**

Did you know that our **Rosary Group** repairs broken rosaries? Also, if you have **old jewelry** that you don't want any longer, they will be glad to take it off your hands. They use old jewelry to make rosaries. What a precious gift to have from your mother's or grandmother's jewelry made into a rosary. Call Jean Kelly 903-857-9868

CHOIR PRACTICE is held in our church every **Wed., at 2:00pm..**
We need more voices to join us!!!

PARISHIONERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO WEAR MASKS

Blessing of the Animals

Be sure to bring your pet, or something belonging to the pet (if your pet is unable to attend), to be blessed on **Sun., Oct. 3rd at 2pm** in the **Meditation/Prayer Garden.** This blessing is in honor of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi and his love for animals. Pets need to be on a leash or in a carrier. The blessing will be moved to the main entrance of the church in case of inclement weather. Masks & social distancing are requested.

Our Pets Are A Blessing...



...Join Us In

A Blessing of the Animals

In honor of The Feast of St. Francis of Assisi

Sunday, October 3, 2021

2 pm

Holy Spirit Catholic Church

Meditation / Prayer Garden

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Holly Lake Ranch

Please have your pet on a leash or in a pet carrier for their safety and ours. If your pet is uncomfortable around other animals or cannot attend in "person", feel free to bring an item such as a collar, leash, or favorite toy to be blessed.

***In case of inclement weather, meet at the main entrance of the church**

Masks Encouraged. Social Distancing for Everyone's Safety

Please invite family, friends and neighbors.

Article for the Big Sandy-Hawkins Journal. 15 September 2021 Edition
(Submission date: 10 September 2021) Submitted by Randy Munoz

An article (<https://www.scripturecatholic.com/top-10-patron-saints-list/>) offers a perspective on the top 10 saints. (Continued from last week.)

St. Michael, the Archangel in fact an angel and has never been a man. This technically means that St Michael is not a saint. He is however, recognized as the protector and guardian of the church, the Pope and of the people. For this reason St. Michael is prayed to for assistance in driving back evil influences. St. Michael is the leader of Gods army and was instrumental in casting Satan and his fallen angels out of heaven and into hell. He stands by our side at the hour of our deaths and guides us to the judgment that awaits us. Even though St. Michael is not a canonized saint. He nonetheless remains a patron saint that watches over: the Pope, grocers, mariners, paratroopers, police officers, military members.

St. Paul of Tarsus (4bce – 64?ce) was a Greek speaking Jew from Asia Minor. As a member of the Pharisees, he was a zealot that not only hated and condemned Christians, he regarded the followers of Christ to be dangerous heretics, and blasphemers. To him Christianity was nothing more than a cult set about to destroy Judaism. Commissioned by the Sanhedrin, he was tasked with hunting down and exposing all Christians and where necessary, to eliminate any Christians that posed an immediate threat to the Hebrew religious teachings and way of life. Christ being the merciful savior that he is, did not smite Saul. Instead, while on the road to Damascus, he was thrown from his horse and rendered blind. Hearing the voice of Jesus, he was asked "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" (Acts 9:4-6). In hearing the voice of Christ, Saul realized that in persecuting Christians, he was opposing Jesus himself. Having realized his folly, he joined Saint Peter's cause and spread the word of the Lord, preaching the Gospel far and wide. Now calling himself Paul, he made three journeys throughout Greece and Asia Minor. He was eventually taken prisoner by Caesar and executed by beheading; thus turning a once dangerous enemy of Christians, into one of their greatest martyrs.

St. Peter (1 bce – 64ce) was born Simon Peter, a humble fisherman. St. Peter was not only the first Pope, he was also the first of the Apostles to be ordained by Jesus. Simon became a follower of Christ, after a long night of fishing yielded not a single catch. At the behest of Jesus, he cast his net one last time, and immediately caught a great number of fish. So many in fact, that the net began to tear, and it took the efforts of another group of fishermen to help pull the net out of the water. Both boats were so overladen with fish that they were close to sinking. Jesus declared the men, including Simon's brother Andrew, "fishers of men", meaning that they would go on to spread the word of the Lord, to the people, bringing them to the Lord. St. Peter did not remain fully committed to Jesus however; for he denied Christ three times, as foretold by Jesus at the Last Supper (Mark 14:18-31) (Mark 14:66-72). Following the death of Jesus, it was Peter who first walked into the tomb. Though he saw that it was empty, he left without telling the rest of the Apostles what he had seen. Peter was the first of whom, Jesus appeared following his resurrection. He gave Peter three chances to admit his love for Christ, and three times he did, thus annulling his denials. In 64 A.D. St. Peter was martyred in Rome, when he was crucified upside-down for spreading the Gospel to the people.

St. Vincent de Paul (1581 – 1660) was born to peasant farmers and grew up working on his family's farm, herding livestock. At a young age, he displayed a talent for reading and writing. So when he was 15, his father sold an oxen to pay for his education, at a college that adjoined the French monastery of Friars Minor, in Dax. He was able to pay for his ongoing education, by tutoring other students. Graduating at 19 years of age, he was ordained in 1600. Unfortunately, this was in violation of the Council of Trent's established regulations that forbade the ordaining of anyone under the age of 24. he resigned from the position that was on offer to him and continued with his studies. Five years later, while sailing back from Castres, after arranging to sell his inheritance, he was abducted by Barbary pirates, who sold him into slavery. For the next two years, Vincent was traded two more times, finally becoming the property of a former priest. His new master, Guillaume Gautier, had converted to Islam in order to gain his own freedom. While working the fields, one of his master's three wives questioned Vincent about his own faith. Convinced that Vincent's faith was true, she berated her husband for abandoning his own Christianity. A remorseful Guillaume spent ten months planning their return to France. Boarding a small boat, they crossed the Mediterranean, landing in Aigues-Mortes in late June, 1607. Having experienced a life of poverty and struggle, as a slave, Vincent shifted his focus to the poor and destitute. Working alongside the Daughters of Charity, he helped feed and clothe the poor, and provide shelter for women and children. As he became more familiar with the needs of the people, he found financial backers that helped to fund hospitals, gather relief funds for the victims of war, and he helped free 1,200 gallery slaves from North Africa. Today, there are many charities all over the world, that have been setup in his name. Many claim that he was their founder and is their patron saint. The charity and compassion displayed by St. Vincent de Paul during his lifetime, still serves as an inspiration for us all today. He is the patron saint of: Charities, volunteers, hospitals, prisoners, spiritual help, horses, lost articles, leprosy, Saint Vincent de Paul Societies, Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory, Vincentian Service Corps.

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