



From the beginning of creation,
God made them male and female.
For this reason a man
shall leave his father and mother
and be joined to his wife,
and the two shall become one flesh.

MARK 10:6-8

Detail, Anonymous, *The Creation of the World*, Germany, c. 1170s

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

OCTOBER 3, 2021

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Today's passage from Mark's Gospel is in the context of Jesus' teaching about the kingdom, or reign, of God. A common understanding was that entering the kingdom was based on family origin, or achievement, or status in the community. Jesus pushes back on this, and presents a child as a model of receptivity and openness.

This is not to suggest that adults must somehow reject the wisdom gained through adult experience and return to childhood. Adult maturity also includes the difficult journey, usually later in life, of letting go of illusions that we have built up about our own virtue, skills, and autonomy. Jesus' teaching pushes back against our culture, which honors energy and vigor, expertise and achievement. These valuable gifts can fail us if we cannot accept our dependence on God who provides and cultivates these gifts. We can accept God's graciousness in our life when we open our hearts as a child does.

PROUD TO BE HUMAN

This is the first of seven consecutive Sundays that we will share passages from the Letter to the Hebrews. The letter is an extended sermon by an unknown author directed to a Christian community where likely many were converts from Judaism. The author attempts to link Jesus to the story of the people of Israel, building toward an image of Christ as God's perfect high priest. Christ the High Priest is described as the central link between humanity and God.

When we reflect upon the life and death of Jesus, we can more deeply accept that through Jesus, God knows what we humans experience. Jesus the High Priest embraces his humanity. In today's passage, the author claims that Jesus is proud to be human, proud to be our brother in the family of God. The letter to the Hebrews is not only a celebration of Christ, it is an affirmation of the dignity of our own human life.

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Today's Readings: Gen 2:18-24; Ps 128: 1-2, 3, 4-5, 6;
Heb 2:9-11; Mk 10:2-16 [2-12]

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

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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!*

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

George & Judy Smith. Thomas Holzmann. Jim Hickey. Michael Allen. Joe Fazio. Rick & Teri Jackson. Ron Emma. Kate Serres. Belinda Flowers. Dona Jordan. Jaye Anderson. Georgette March. Kyle Fabitz. Greg Mooney. Garry 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. Geri O'Neil. We list the names of our sick Parishioners. Friends and Relatives for one month. **We remember in our prayers all those who have recently died, especially: Jim O'Neil, long time parishioner.**

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; 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. 10/02 9:00AM Mass/Rosary Kathryn Allen+ (Jane Bidlack)
5:00PM Ann & Joe Pericak+ (Mary Catalano)
Sun 10/03 Judi Fazio+ (Joe Fazio)
Tue 10/05 Adam, James & Brent Boyd+ (M/M Boyd)
Wed 10/06 9:00AM Communion Service
Thurs 10/07 9:00AM Judi Fazio+ (Joe Fazio)
Fri. 10/08 Deceased Legionaries+ (Legion of Mary)
Sat. 10/09 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 9/25 Saturday 56 9/26 Sunday 56

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



Pope's Intention for October:

Missionary disciples.. We pray that every baptized person may be engaged in evangelization, available to the mission, by being witnesses of a life that has the flavor of the Gospel.

SPEAKING OF GOD

Almost everything said of God is unworthy, for the very reason that it is capable of being said.—St. Gregory the Great

ENCOURAGEMENT

As vital as oxygen is to the body, so is encouragement to the soul.—Anonymous

THE BARRIERS THAT SEPARATE US

We live in a society that has many technological avenues for stimulation and entertainment, one in which the urban population exceeds the non-urban. It is curious that loneliness is a prevalent malady. It is easy to reach out and touch someone, we are told. But—in truth—it is not all that easy, and statistics from the mental health field will reinforce that opinion. Today's readings are about the ways in which we can authentically reach out: God touches Adam to create a mate and end his solitude; God-in-Jesus takes on human flesh and death in order that we might come to glory; Jesus reaches out to the children whom the disciples had tried to keep away, showing us the manner in which we must approach the loving embrace that awaits us in heaven. Until that day, however, we must remember that ours is a sacramental church, a church of signs of the love of God. And so we are called to reach out continually to ease the loneliness and the barriers that separate us from one another and, therefore, from the love of Christ.

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading: The man said, "This one is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called 'woman' " (Genesis 2:18-24).

Psalms: May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives (Psalm 128).

Second Reading: He who consecrates and those who are being consecrated all have one origin (Hebrews 2:9-11).

Gospel: Whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it (Mark 10:2-16 [2-12]).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Jon 1:1 — 2:2, 11; Jon 2:3-5, 8; Lk 10:25-37

Tuesday: Jon 3:1-10; Ps 130:1b-4ab, 7-8; Lk 10:38-42

Wednesday: Jon 4:1-11; Ps 86:3-6, 9-10; Lk 11:1-4

Thursday: Mal 3:13-20b; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 11:5-13

Friday: Jl 1:13-15; 2:1-2; Ps 9:2-3, 6, 16, 8-9; Lk 11:15-26

Saturday: Jl 4:12-21; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Lk 11:27-28

Sunday: Wis 7:7-11; Ps 90:12-17; Heb 4:12-13; Mk 10:17-30 [17-27]

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.



Holly Lake Ranch/Hawkins FM 2869 Life Chain 2021

The National Life Chain is the largest peaceful, prayerful, pro-life, public witness in the world. More than 1500 cities across the US & Canada are expected to participate on Sundays in Oct. & Nov. Christians should attend the local Life Chain to help build a resolute army of Christians who are pro-life in both word and deed. Let us engage the enemy, boldly & unashamed, until the curse of legal abortion is swept from our land and again provide security & freedom for every citizen, born & unborn. **Holy Spirit Catholic Church will be participating in the 2021 Life Chain on FM 2869 on Sun., Oct. 10th at 2:00pm—3:30pm.** If you have questions call Richard Boultinghouse, Life Chain Comm. Chairman, 903-769-4257 or rbhouse61@aol.com.

Statement of Respect for Life Month from Most Reverend Joseph F. Naumann, Chairman U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities

The month of October brings with it our annual observance of Respect Life Month. As part of the Year of St. Joseph declared by Pope Francis, this year's celebration highlights the example of that great saint.

As the faithful protector of both Jesus and Mary, we find in St. Joseph a profound reminder of our own call to welcome, safeguard, and defend God's precious gift of human life.

Despite the mysterious circumstances surrounding Mary's pregnancy, St. Joseph took her into his home at the word of the angel. He guided their journey to Bethlehem, found shelter, and welcomed the infant Jesus as his son. When Herod threatened the life of the Christ Child, St. Joseph left his homeland behind and fled with Jesus and Mary to Egypt.

Like St. Joseph, we are also called to care for those God has entrusted to us—especially vulnerable mothers and children. We can follow in the footsteps of St. Joseph as protector by advocating against taxpayer-funded abortion, which targets the lives of millions of poor children and their mothers here in the United States. We can imitate his care and provision by helping to start *Walking with Moms in Need* at our parishes, "walking in the shoes" of mothers experiencing a difficult pregnancy, especially low-income mothers in our communities.

At times, we may feel uncertain of our ability to answer the Lord's call. But He invites us to faithfully respond, despite our own fears or weaknesses: "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Cor 12:9).

May we imitate St. Joseph's faithful trust and courage as we work to uphold the dignity of every human life. St. Joseph, defender of life, pray for us!

To learn more about preventing taxpayer-funded abortion, visit www.notaxpayerabortion.com. To walk with moms in need through your local parish, go to www.walkingwithmoms.com. To join in prayer for the intercession of St. Joseph, defender of life, visit www.respectlife.org/prayer-to-st-joseph.

OCTOBER NEWS & EVENTS

Sat., Oct. 2nd: 9:00am Patriotic Mass & Rosary for Peace in America

Sun., Oct. 3rd: Coffee & donuts resumes after 9:00am Mass. Blessing of the animals 2:00pm

Sat., Oct. 9th & Sun., 10th: Annual K of C Pro-Life Baby Shower

Sun., Oct. 10th: 2:00—3:30pm Life Chain in front of church

Tues., Oct. 12th—Fri., 15th: Fr. Mike attending the Priests Convocation, Tyler

Sat., Oct. 16th & Sun., 17th: Annual K of C Pro-Life Baby Shower

Sun., Oct. 17th: Immediately following 9:00am Mass Jane Bidlack facilitates "The Bible and the Mass Study."

Sun., Oct. 31st: 5:00pm Mass of anticipation of "All Saints Day."

October Second Collections:
2nd & 3rd: "Building & Maintenance."
23rd & 24th: "World Mission Sunday."

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: Marge Clymer, 903-216-7953 or Jane Bidlack, 903-569-7749.** 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



PARISHIONERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO WEAR MASKS

Annual Knights of Columbus Pro-Life Baby Shower

The K of C **sixth baby shower** event will be held for two weekends: **Oct. 9 & 10th and Oct. 16th & 17th**. The year the Knights will again be supporting the Building Blocks, Living Alternatives Ministry (<https://livingalternatives.org/building-blocks/>).

The Building Blocks Ministry offers practical help to parents that encourages and renews hope for the future. It's a unique earn-while-you-learns program where moms and dads earn points for going to doctor appts, attending parenting classes, and meeting with parenting mentors.

A portable play pen will be located in the entry to the parish hall for donated items, including: baby wipes, fall & winter clothes, (newborn to 2T), bobby pillows, bedding, car seats, babies & children's toys, and, of course, monetary donations.

Blessing of the Animals

Remember the Blessing of the Animals this **Sun., Oct. 3rd at 2pm** in the **Meditation/Prayer Garden**. Please have pets on leashes or in carriers. In case of inclement weather the blessing will take place at the main entrance of the church. Masks & social distancing are requested. Hope to see you and your pets.

Article for the Big Sandy-Hawkins Journal. 29 September 2021 Edition
(Submission date: 24 September 2021) Submitted by Randy Munoz

How about a little Halloween history? An article from the History Channel yields interesting information (<https://www.history.com/topics/halloween/history-of-halloween#:~:text=Halloween%E2%80%99s%20origins%20date%20back%20to%20the%20ancient%20Celtic,France%2C%20celebrated%20their%20new%20year%20on%20November%20>)

Ancient Origins of Halloween Halloween's origins date back to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain (pronounced sow-in). The Celts, who lived 2,000 years ago, mostly in the area that is now Ireland, the United Kingdom and northern France, celebrated their new year on November 1st. This day marked the end of summer and the harvest, and the beginning of the dark, cold winter, a time of year that was often associated with human death. Celts believed that on the night before the new year, the boundary between the worlds of the living and the dead became blurred. On the night of October 31st they celebrated Samhain, when it was believed that the ghosts of the dead returned to earth. In addition to causing trouble and damaging crops, Celts thought that the presence of the otherworldly spirits made it easier for the Druids, or Celtic priests, to make predictions about the future. For a people entirely dependent on the volatile natural world, these prophecies were an important source of comfort during the long, dark winter. To commemorate the event, Druids built huge sacred bonfires, where the people gathered to burn crops and animals as sacrifices to the Celtic deities. During the celebration, the Celts wore costumes, typically consisting of animal heads and skins, and attempted to tell each other's fortunes. When the celebration was over, they re-lit their hearth fires, which they had extinguished earlier that evening, from the sacred bonfire to help protect them during the coming winter. The tradition of **dressing in costume** for Halloween has both European and Celtic roots. Hundreds of years ago, winter was an uncertain and frightening time. Food supplies often ran low and, for the many people afraid of the dark, the short days of winter were full of constant worry. On Halloween, when it was believed that ghosts came back to the earthly world, people thought that they would encounter ghosts if they left their homes. To avoid being recognized by these ghosts, people would wear masks when they left their homes after dark so that the ghosts would mistake them for fellow spirits. On Halloween, to keep ghosts away from their houses, people would place bowls of food outside their homes to appease the ghosts and prevent them from attempting to enter. By 43 A.D., the Roman Empire had conquered the majority of Celtic territory. In the course of the 400 years that they ruled the Celtic lands, two festivals of Roman origin were combined with the traditional Celtic celebration of Samhain. The first was **Feralia, a day in late October when the Romans traditionally commemorated the passing of the dead.** The second was a day to honor Pomona, the Roman goddess of fruit and trees. The symbol of Pomona is the apple, and the incorporation of this celebration into Samhain probably explains the tradition of bobbing for apples that is practiced today on Halloween.

All Saints' Day On May 13, 609 A.D., Pope Boniface IV dedicated the Pantheon in Rome in honor of all Christian martyrs, and the Catholic feast of All Martyrs Day was established in the Western church. Pope Gregory III later expanded the festival to include all saints as well as all martyrs and moved the observance from May 13 to November 1. By the 9th century, the influence of Christianity had spread into Celtic lands, where it gradually blended with and supplanted older Celtic rites. In 1000 A.D., the church made November 2 **All Souls' Day, a day to honor the dead.** It's widely believed today that the church was attempting to replace the Celtic festival of the dead with a related, church-sanctioned holiday. All Souls' Day was celebrated similarly to Samhain, with big bonfires, parades and dressing up in costumes as saints, angels and devils. **The All Saints' Day** celebration was also called **All-hallows or All-hallowmas** (from Middle English *Alholowmesse* meaning All Saints' Day) and **the night before it** (the traditional night of Samhain in the Celtic religion) **began to be called All-Hallows Eve and, eventually, Halloween.** (To be continued.)



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