



Remember
your
mercies,
O Lord.

HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH

DIOCESE OF TYLER

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26th Sunday of Ordinary Time
October 1, 2023

Sunday Readings

First Reading

Ez 18 25-28

God's justice—both punishment and reward—is not passed down through the generations; instead, it is a matter of personal culpability.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 25:4-9

Remember your mercies, O Lord.

Second Reading

Phil 2:1-11

Jesus was obedient to the Father, even to death on the cross.

Gospel Reading

Mt 21:28-32

We need to never fear if we turn away from the path of virtue for the Lord is ever ready to forgive us, if we repent.

Celebration of the Mass

| | |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Saturday | 5:00 pm |
| Sunday | 9:00 am |
| Monday | 6:00 pm |
| Tuesday | 9:00 am |
| Wednesday | 9:00 am |
| Thursday | 9:00 am |
| <i>Communion Service</i> | |
| Friday | 6:00 pm |

Adoration

Tuesday 9:45 am - 12:30 pm
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Reconciliation

| | |
|------------|------------------------------|
| Saturday | 4:00 - 4:45 |
| Sunday | Before Mass upon request) |
| 1st Friday | 5:00 - 5:45 pm |

Marriage or Baptism

Contact the parish office six (6) months prior to the anticipated date



“...tax collectors and prostitutes
are entering the kingdom of God
before you.”

OCTOBER UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sun 10/1:** 9:00 am Mass
Knights of Columbus Breakfast (following Mass)
2:00 pm Life Chain in front of church
- Mon 10/2:** 6:00 pm Mass
- Tues 10/3:** 9:00 am Mass
9:45 am—12:30 pm Adoration
6:00-8:00 pm Adoration
- Wed 10/4:** 9:00 am Mass
Blessing of the Animals (following Mass)
- Thurs 10/5:** 9:00 am Communion Service
- Fri 10/6:** 6:00 pm Mass
- Sat 10/7:** 9:00 am Communion Service



Rosary (following Communion Service)

Food Pantry collection begins

- Sun 10/8:** 9:00 am Mass
Blessing of the Animals (following Mass)
Food Pantry collection begins
- Mon 10/9:** 6:00 pm Mass
- Tues 10/10:** 9:00 am Mass
9:45 am—12:30 pm Adoration
6:00—8:00 pm Adoration
6:00 pm Casino Night Meeting
- Wed 10/11:** 9:00 am Mass
- Thurs 10/12:** 9:00 am Communion Service
- Fri 10/13:** 6:00 pm Mass



OKTOBERFEST & Casino Night October 21, 2023

Doors open: 6:00 pm Dinner served: 6:30 pm

Event tickets: \$40 per person or \$320 for a table of eight (includes \$1500 casino chips)

Raffle tickets: \$5 each or six (6) for \$20

Top game winners will be able to choose from a selection of prizes. Donations are still being accepted—please consider *time share week*, *sporting event/theater tickets*, or *gift baskets/gift certificates*.

German Oktoberfest attire is welcome, so don your lederhosens and your dirndls and join in our fun!

Questions: Contact Dianne Laudt 903-769-9056

Anyone involved in any Ministry at our Parish, you need to be compliant on your ethics and integrity training with VIRTUS.

Please notify our contact person to get signed up:

Justin Mahaffey 903-714-3649 or justin.mahaffey@icloud.com

Cenacle of Life: Come join us every Wednesday at 3:00 pm.
Questions call Vicki Hauck 817-637-9382

From the desk of: **Fr. Tim Kelly**

St. Augustine wrote that when God promised to save the world, he meant it to apply to the entire world, not just to one nation or to a single person. The Church is the fruit of the suffering and death of Christ, the gathering place of all those saved from sin by Christ's generosity. The blood of Christ has been shed for everyone, sinners as well as saints, Gentiles as well as Jews. If this is true, how then can any Christian envision the Church as other than universal. How then can anybody who claims to love Christ want to confine his Body to one continent or any nation? "Christ bought the entire world when he hung upon the Cross" The shedding of Christ's blood was not a partial thing, nor did it achieve some partial salvation. "Christ bought the whole, he gave his blood for the whole, the whole wide world has Christians in it, the unity of Christ is the Church."

Christ, in the Incarnation, clothes himself with humanity. Likewise, in the Ascension, the resurrected Christ clothes himself in the Church. The outer garment must be uncut, just as the bones of Jesus were unbroken at Calvary. Like the garment that was stripped from Jesus at his execution, the Church must be woven from the top to the bottom from one piece of cloth. There must be no visible divisions. The Church should appear united from head to toe so that when people look at it, they will see the undivided Body of Christ. St. Augustine mourns that people looking at the Church in North Africa in his day saw a very fractured Body of Christ. "Why was the garment that was woven from the top not suitable for division? Because it was intended as a sign." The Unity of Christ's Church is signified in the unity of the garment.

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 Drive Ministry: *Is asking for your help in our continuing efforts to provide groceries for needy families of Holly Lake Ranch & nearby communities. Please see the attachment for more information.*

Interested in volunteering for the Food Ministry. Call or email Bryan Todd at 972-672-4218 or toddtalk@hotmail.com
Thank you, to our Holy Spirit Food Ministry

Holy Spirit Catholic Church 2023 Life Chain

Holy Spirit Catholic Church will be participating again in the 2023 Life Chain on FM 2869 on **Sunday, October 1 at 2:00 until 3:00 PM.** This year will be the **ninth year** that Holy Spirit will take a stand for Pro-Life by being part of this National Life Chain Event.

The National Life Chain is the largest peaceful, prayerful, pro-life, public witness in the world. Nearly 2000 cities across the US and Canada are expected to participate on Sundays in October and November.

For more Information, call Richard Boultinghouse, Life Chain Committee Chairman, at 903-769-4257 or rbhouse61@aol.com.

“Rebellion”

By Deacon John

“since he has turned away from all the sins that he has committed, he shall surely live, he shall not die.” – Ezekiel 18:28

I once visited a man in jail who was very bitter towards God for putting him in his situation. The guy had been convicted of murder and was awaiting his sentencing, and he was angry with God for letting him be jailed. I was astonished that he could blame God for his own decision to go down his destructive path. I mean it doesn't get much clearer when God says, “Thou shalt not commit murder”.

Sunday's readings remind us that we have two choices in life: we can either obey God, or we can rebel against Him. We're free to choose either, but we are responsible for the outcome. We can't blame God. God knows what is good, and He knows what is evil, and He shares that information with us. Then, out of respect for our freedom, He lets us act on our own.

God truly wants us to do good because He knows how fruitful and joyful that lifestyle can be, and that it's our path to everlasting life with Him. Anyone who's read the Bible knows how hard He has tried throughout our entire salvation history to persuade mankind from going the wrong way. Yet, in the end our decisions are our own.

And He gave us the greatest example in His Son Jesus, who always chose the Father's path in complete, utter obedience to Him. That obedience led Jesus to His glory. Our obedience to the Father will also lead us to our glory. That's what our First Reading from Ezekiel tells us, “since he has turned away from all the sins that he has committed, he shall surely live, he shall not die”.

Then today's Gospel adds another element. Jesus asks the Pharisees which son did the father's will - the one who refused his father's request to go work in the vineyard but then went to work anyway, or the one who agreed to his father's request to go to the vineyard but didn't go? Jesus is teaching the lesson that obedience is not so much in what we say, but in what we do.

He was criticizing the Pharisees for portraying a false obedience to God, but not living as God directed. Saying yes, but not doing it. They were hypocrites and Jesus called them on it. The tax collectors and prostitutes, at the coming of Jesus, saw the opportunity to reject their rebellion and instead turned to God. Jesus told the Pharisees, "Amen, I say to you, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you”.

We too can be rebellious to the Father's will; sometimes hypocrites ourselves. How can we say all the right prayers at Mass on Sunday, and then not act as Christians at work on Monday? Sometimes it's a kneejerk reaction, other times it's a conscious decision. We've all been there.

And the one thing I know is that we can't stop acting that way on our own. But we can stop by turning to Jesus for help. That's what the first son in the parable discovered; he regretted his selfishness, repented and then found the strength to obey his father. That's also what the prostitutes and tax collectors found out; they turned to Jesus and were able to turn away from their sinful lives.

And that's what we can do. Through prayer, Scripture, Eucharist and Confession, we seek Christ's help in fighting any resistance to obeying God's will for us. He can give us the strength to do the Father's will. And in those weak times that we act like hypocrites, in repentance we can again find Him and turn away from those sins.

We have two choices in life: either obey God, or rebel against Him. How we act on them is up to us.

Article for the Big Sandy-Hawkins Journal. 27 September 2023 Edition (Submission date: 22 Sept 2023) Submitted by Randy Munoz

This year we will conduct our 11th annual Casino/Dinner on Oct 21. The theme will be OKTOBERFEST – period dress is encouraged. In conjunction, we will also be holding our huge raffle. For \$40, one can purchase a meal/gaming ticket. In addition to the outstanding dinner meal, the ticket holder will receive \$1500 in “gaming chips” to be used on the blackjack, craps, roulette and poker tables. Approximately 30 prizes will be on display and available to the attendees with the highest “winnings”. Raffle tickets are \$5 each or 6 for \$20. The winning raffle tickets will be selected on the night of the event, but the winners do not need to be present. This year there will be 5, \$500 Visa gift cards. All tickets may be purchased at the church during regular business hours.

Brief Biography of St. Peter <https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/teachings/brief-biography-of-st-peter-87>

St. Peter is mentioned so often in the New Testament—in the Gospels, in the Acts of the Apostles, and in the Epistles of St. Paul—that we feel we know him better than any other person who figured prominently in the life of the Saviour. In all, his name appears 182 times. We have no knowledge of him prior to his conversion, save that he was a Galilean fisherman, from the village of Bethsaida or Capernaum. There is some evidence for supposing that Peter's brother Andrew and possibly Peter himself were followers of John the Baptist, and were therefore prepared for the appearance of the Messiah in their midst. We picture Peter as a shrewd and simple man, of great power for good, but now and again afflicted by sudden weakness and doubt, at least at the outset of his discipleship. After the death of the Saviour he manifested his primacy among the Apostles by his courage and strength. He was “the Rock” on which the Church was founded. It is perhaps Peter's capacity for growth that makes his story so inspiring to other erring humans. He reached the lowest depths on the night when he denied the Lord, then began the climb upward, to become bishop of Rome, martyr, and, finally, “keeper of the keys of Heaven.”

Our first glimpse of Peter comes at the very beginning of Jesus' ministry. While He was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon Peter and Andrew, casting a net into the water. When He called to them, “Come, and I will make you fishers of men,” they at once dropped their net to follow Him. A little later we learn that they visited the house where Peter's mother-in-law was suffering from a fever, and Jesus cured her. This was the first cure witnessed by Peter, but he was to see many miracles, for he stayed close to Jesus during the two years of His ministry. All the while he was listening, watching, questioning, learning, sometimes failing in perfect faith, but in the end full of strength and thoroughly prepared for his own years of missionary preaching.

Let us recall a few of the Biblical episodes in which Peter appears. We are told that after the miracle of the loaves and fishes, Jesus withdrew to the mountain to pray, and his disciples started to sail home across the Lake of Galilee. Suddenly they saw Him walking on the water, and, according to the account in Matthew, Jesus told them not to be afraid. It was Peter who said, “Lord, if it is Thou, bid me come to Thee over the water.” Peter set out confidently, but suddenly grew afraid and began to sink, and Jesus stretched forth His hand to save him, saying, “O thou of little faith, why didst thou doubt?”

Then we have Peter's dramatic confession of faith, which occurred when Jesus and his followers had reached the villages of Caesarea Philippi. Jesus having asked the question, “Who do men say that I am?” there were various responses. Then Jesus turned to Peter and said, “But who do you say that I am?” and Peter answered firmly, “Thou art the Christ, son of the living God.” (Matthew xvi, 13-18; Mark viii, 27-29; Luke ix, 18-20.) Then Jesus told him that his name would henceforth be Peter. In the Aramaic tongue which Jesus and his disciples spoke, the word was kepha, meaning rock. Jesus concluded with the prophetic words, “Thou art Peter, and upon this rock shall be built My church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

There seems to be no doubt that Peter was favored among the disciples. He was selected, with James and John, to accompany Jesus to the mountain, the scene of the Transfiguration, to be given a glimpse of His glory, and there heard God pronounce the words, “This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.”

After this, the group had gone down to Jerusalem, where Jesus began to prepare his disciples for the approaching end of his ministry on earth. Peter chided Him and could not bring himself to believe that the end was near. When all were gathered for the Last Supper, Peter declared his loyalty and devotion in these words, “Lord, with Thee I am ready to go both to prison and to death.” It must have been in deep sorrow that Jesus answered that before cockcrow Peter would deny Him thrice. And as the tragic night unrolled, this prophecy came true. When Jesus was betrayed by Judas as he prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, and was taken by soldiers to the Jewish high priest, Peter followed far behind, and sat half hidden in the courtyard of the temple during the proceedings. Pointed out as one of the disciples, Peter three times denied the accusation. But we know that he was forgiven, and when, after the Ascension, Jesus manifested himself to his disciples, He signaled Peter out, and made him declare three times that he loved Him, paralleling the three times that Peter had denied Him. Finally, Jesus charged Peter, with dramatic brevity, “Feed my sheep.” From that time on Peter became the acknowledged and responsible leader of the sect.

(To be continued.)

Holy Spirit's Food



Ministry

is asking for
your help in

our continuing efforts to
provide groceries for needy
families of Holly Lake Ranch

& nearby communities. Grocery donations in
the following categories (& quantities) are
sincerely appreciated:

Canned Foods: by the case; Fruits, Vegetables, Soups, Beans.

Canned Meats: 12 cans; Tuna, Chicken.

Canned/Boxed Meals: by the case; Pork & Beans. Pasta (SpaghettiOs,
Mac & Cheese, Ravioli). Chili con carne w/Beans. Beef Stew. Boxed Mac &
Cheese. Spaghetti Noodles (1lb package) & 24 oz canned Pasta Sauce.

Staples: by the case: 18 oz Peanut Butter/18 oz Jams. Top Ramen. Boxed
Mixes: Corn Bread, Muffin, Cake, Pancake. Instant Potatoes
packages/envelopes. Mustard, Ketchup.

Monetary Donations Accepted. Use Envelopes provided in Narthex.



Please deliver/drop-off donations at the church whenever
convenient, or on Sat. & Sun., October 7th & 8th, 14th & 15th,
people will be available to offload and carry donations.

***THANK YOU for your ongoing support of
fighting hunger in our community!***

