

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Intention

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4 – 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 A.M. Raymond Loud
9:30 A.M. For the People of St. Francis
11:00 A.M. Ida Zoppo
12:30 P.M. **90th Anniversary Mass**

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5- WEEKDAY

9:00 A.M. Paula Dombkowski

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6 - WEEKDAY

9:00 A.M. Thomas Carney

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7 - Our Lady of the Rosary

9:00 A.M. Paud Flynn

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8 - WEEKDAY

9:00 A.M. Gerry Sarro

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8 - WEEKDAY

9:00 A.M. Matejo Ferrana

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10- WEEKDAY

9:00 A.M. Purgatorial Society
Justin C. Lenz
Mary Ethel McCann
Mary Rerecich
Charlotte Lechner
Gaspere Randazzo
Rosalia Randazzo

5:00 P.M. Patricia Hili

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11– 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 A.M. Holy Name
9:30 A.M. For the People of St. Francis
11:00 A.M. Steve Fulop
12:30 P.M. Adriano Terranova
Anthony Paul Carullo
Eduardo Pistola
Antonio Erricis



Today's Readings

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 5:1-7
Philippians 4:6-9
Matthew 21:33-43

Readings for the Week

MONDAY: Galatians 1:6-12
Luke 10:25-37

TUESDAY: Galatians 1:13-24
Luke 10:38-42

WEDNESDAY: Galatians 2:1-2, 7-14
Luke 11:1-4

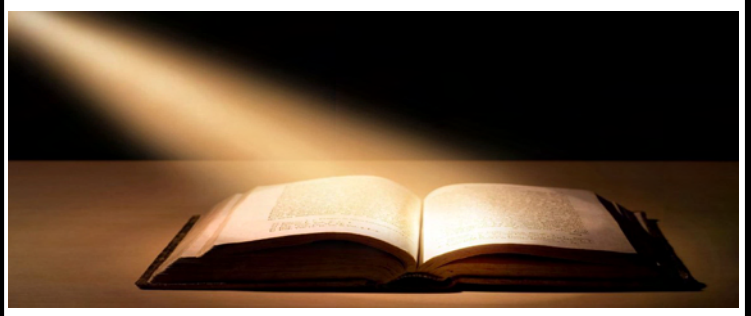
THURSDAY: Galatians 3:1-5
Luke 11:5-13

FRIDAY: Galatians 3:7-14
Luke 11:15-26

SATURDAY: Galatians 3:22-29
Luke 11:27-28

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 25:6-10a
Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20
Matthew 22:1-4





FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



My Dear Parishioners,

In Scripture the vineyard is often used as an image for God's kingdom. As Isaiah describes, the people of Israel received an invitation from God but reacted in a violent and selfish way. Instead of choice grapes the vineyard produced only wild grapes. Where the Lord looked for judgment and justice, he found only bloodshed and the cry of distress. The vineyard will have to be trampled upon and the vines uprooted because the infidelity of Israel is in the vines themselves.

In the form that the story was used by the early Christians and by Matthew, it is an extended commentary on the dealings of God with his people. The vineyard which God planted is fine; it is the tenants who have failed because of their infidelity. The key point of the parable is the rejection by Israel and the acceptance by the Gentiles, of Christianity. As told in the parable, servants are twice sent, the earlier and the later prophets. Matthew gives special emphasis to the son of the owner of the field and describes him, drawing on Psalm 118, as the Father's rejected Son who becomes the cornerstone of the new Israel.

The dealings of God with his people are what we describe as the history of salvation. The salvation of God is the action of the living God that directs and coordinates events so that people might be saved. The whole of this work had its climax in the saving action of Christ. For Matthew's community the new tenants are the Gentiles. They come to the new Israel in which the good fruit of mercy, justice, and forgiveness will be produced. The old tenants have lost their kingdom of promise because of killing the son.

Living in the new Israel is a constant call to conversion for those who have accepted the invitation to follow Christ. Previously, Matthew made it clear that the new kingdom must be a humble one, where the children and the weak are not scandalized by those who grasp for power, where lost sheep are sought and there is rejoicing at their recovery. Above all, the response of the people of the new kingdom to God must be one of compassion and mercy, a response that is in keeping with the love of God.

The demands of the kingdom of God on all of us come expressed in the loving language and actions of God toward us. We have to listen to His word and keep our eyes on Him unfailingly so that we may be productive tenants, tending a fruitful garden. We approach God's table to be fed so that we, too, may sustain others. We build our lives on His solid foundation, witnessing to a broken society that needs healing and compassion. We are disciples if we have learned to be servants.

***All God's Blessings,
Msgr. Maresca***



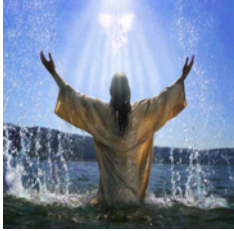
Welcome New Parishioners

Welcome

We welcome those who registered in our parish during the month of September 2020.

Marilou Pusunq & Steven Malecki

Baptisms



We welcome those who were Baptized during the month of September 2020.

Dylan Thomas McLoughlin

Naimh Rosaria Gurreri

Gianna Luisa DeChirico

Purgatorial Society



The following names have been enrolled in our Purgatorial Society for the month of September 2020. Please remember to continue to pray for their families.

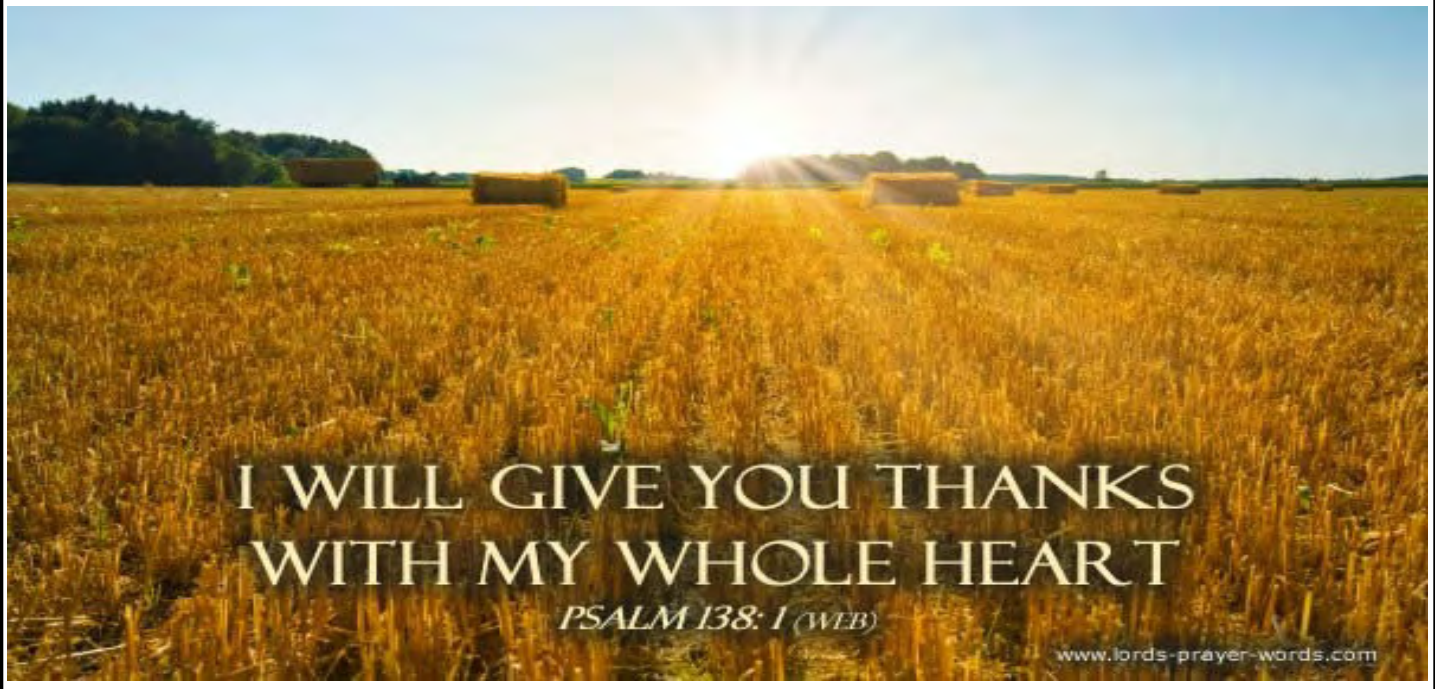
Joseph P. Cromwell

Recently Deceased



The following have passed away during the month of September 2020. We continue to pray for the recently deceased members of our parish.

Dennis Malone



**I WILL GIVE YOU THANKS
WITH MY WHOLE HEART**

PSALM 138: 1 (WEB)

www.lbrds-prayer-words.com



*Sunday
October 4, 2020
is the Feast of
St. Francis of Assisi*

The patron saint of Italy, Francis of Assisi, was a poor man who astounded and inspired the Church by taking the gospel literally—not in a narrow fundamentalist sense, but by actually following all that Jesus said and did, joyfully, without limit, and without a sense of self-importance.

Serious illness brought the young Francis to see the emptiness of his frolicking life as leader of Assisi's youth. Prayer—lengthy and difficult—led him to a self-emptying like that of Christ, climaxed by embracing a leper he met on the road. It symbolized his complete obedience to what he had heard in prayer: “Francis! Everything you have loved and desired in the flesh it is your duty to despise and hate, if you wish to know my will. And when you have begun this, all that now seems sweet and lovely to you will become intolerable and bitter, but all that you used to avoid will turn itself to great sweetness and exceeding joy.”

From the cross in the neglected field-chapel of San Damiano, Christ told him, “Francis, go out and build up my house, for it is nearly falling down.” Francis became the totally poor and humble workman.

He must have suspected a deeper meaning to “build up my house.” But he would have been content to be for the rest of his life the poor “nothing” man actually putting brick on brick in abandoned chapels. He gave up all his possessions, piling even his clothes before his earthly father—who was demanding restitution for Francis’ “gifts” to the poor—so that he would be totally free to say, “Our Father in heaven.” He was, for a time, considered to be a religious fanatic, begging from door to door when he could not get money for his work, evoking sadness or disgust to the hearts of his former friends, ridicule from the unthinking.

But genuineness will tell. A few people began to realize that this man was actually trying to be Christian. He really believed what Jesus said: “Announce the kingdom! Possess no gold or silver or copper in your purses, no traveling bag, no sandals, no staff” (Luke 9:1-3).

Francis’ first rule for his followers was a collection of texts from the Gospels. He had no intention of founding an order, but once it began he protected it and accepted all the legal structures needed to support it. His devotion and loyalty to the Church were absolute and highly exemplary at a time when various movements of reform tended to break the Church’s unity.

Francis was torn between a life devoted entirely to prayer and a life of active preaching of the Good News. He decided in favor of the latter, but always returned to solitude when he could. He wanted to be a missionary in Syria or in Africa, but was prevented by shipwreck and illness in both cases. He did try to convert the sultan of Egypt during the Fifth Crusade.

During the last years of his relatively short life, he died at 44, Francis was half blind and seriously ill. Two years before his death he received the stigmata, the real and painful wounds of Christ in his hands, feet and side.

On his deathbed, Francis said over and over again the last addition to his *Canticle of the Sun*, “Be praised, O Lord, for our Sister Death.” He sang Psalm 141, and at the end asked his superior’s permission to have his clothes removed when the last hour came in order that he could expire lying naked on the earth, in imitation of his Lord.



***Wednesday, October 7, 2020
is the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary***

Saint Pius V established this feast in 1573. The purpose was to thank God for the victory of Christians over the Turks at Lepanto—a victory attributed to the praying of the rosary. Clement XI extended the feast to the universal Church in 1716.

The development of the rosary has a long history. First a practice developed of praying 150 Our Fathers in imitation of the 150 Psalms. Then there was a parallel practice of praying 150 Hail Marys. Soon a mystery of Jesus' life was attached to each Hail Mary. Though Mary's giving of the rosary to Saint Dominic is recognized as a legend, the development of this prayer form owes much to the followers of Saint Dominic. One of them, Alan de la Roche, was known as "the apostle of the rosary." He founded the first Confraternity of the Rosary in the 15th century. In the 16th century, the rosary was developed to its present form—with the 15 mysteries: joyful, sorrowful and glorious. In 2002, Pope John Paul II added five Mysteries of Light to this devotion.

The purpose of the rosary is to help us meditate on the great mysteries of our salvation. Pius XII called it a compendium of the gospel. The main focus is on Jesus—his birth, life, death, and resurrection. The Our Fathers remind us that Jesus' Father is the initiator of salvation. The Hail Marys remind us to join with Mary in contemplating these mysteries. They also make us aware that Mary was and is intimately joined with her Son in all the mysteries of his earthly and heavenly existence. The Glory Bes remind us that the purpose of all life is the glory of the Trinity.

The rosary appeals to many. It is simple. The constant repetition of words helps create an atmosphere in which to contemplate the mysteries of God. We sense that Jesus and Mary are with us in the joys and sorrows of life. We grow in hope that God will bring us to share in the glory of Jesus and Mary forever.



St. Francis of Assisi Parish 90 Years of Faith and Family

Today we celebrate the feast of St. Francis of Assisi our patron saint and the 90th anniversary of our parish. In Francis' journey of faith he heard the call from the Lord: ***“Rebuild my Church!”*** Francis responded by physically rebuilding the chapel at San Damiano, which had fallen into disrepair. Over time, Francis attracted followers to help him feed the hungry and teach the people about the truths of the Church. The *rebuilding of the Church* continues to be the work of the religious women and men who have adopted the rule of Francis of Assisi and follow his Christ-like example.

What does all this say to us on our journey of faith today? We have been called into Christian life through the waters of baptism and are nourished in God's love by the Bread of Life. Our journey of faith has its own highs and lows where we move from joyous celebrations to quiet sufferings. Faithfulness to Christ remains the most important thing in our lives.

Just as Francis did, we may hear God's message for us but not fully understand its meaning. It is through sincere prayer, continual listening for God's direction, and openness to the working of the Holy Spirit within us that we can discern our role in the Kingdom of God and our journey of faith. And when we do, then, we will become Instruments of Peace.

***Happy Feast Day!
God Bless Msgr. Maresca***

One Tree, Many Branches





Remember in your prayers all those in our parish who are sick, that they may find health and comfort:

Ana Balint, John Wrenn, Rose Williams, George Behringer, Augustin Cisneros, Mario Floramo, Martha Calado, James Nunez, Vincent Wytak, Carol Ross, Jeffrey Hyans, Marie LoVolpe, Jessica St. Preux, Al Ciani, Alesha Moses, Nancy McCaffrey, Christopher Wojtalik, Marie Guerriero, Theresa Pacheco, William Goss, Luke Pacheco, Vincenza Papa, Jim Schneggenburger, Anthony Criscuolo, John Ross, Samantha O'Sullivan, Marilyn Miller, John Carmody, Rosario Duran, Vivian Papa, Joel Steinmann, Anna Governali, Antonio Postiglione, Mario Tamburello, Christopher Araimo, Charles Principato, Jim Kreitler, Humberto Cordova, John Schakir, Louise Joyce Mastromarco, Margaret Culhane, Benedicto Randazzo

Also remember in your prayers all the deceased of the Parish. Please remember to continue to pray for vocations to the priesthood, religious life, diaconate, and married life.

SFA SCRIPTURE STUDY

ALL ARE WELCOME

"Not by bread alone shall man live, but by every word of God"

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

Join us in our virtual scripture study. We meet every Thursday at 7:30pm. The October 8th meeting will continue with the study of John Chapter 1.

We are using Zoom as our platform. Technical assistance will be provided by Ellen Vento for accessing and using the program.

The Gospel readings and study will be conducted using the Little Rock Scripture program. Study booklets will be provided.

If you are interested in joining the study group or would like further information, please contact us through our email at sfascripturestudy@gmail.com or call the rectory at (718) 728-7801. Please be sure to leave your name and contact information.

Grow in Knowledge and Love of Scripture--
All Are Welcome!

For information contact:
sfascripturestudy@gmail.com



FOCUS:

**Nothing we have is truly our own.
It is all a gift from God**

As humans, we can be possessive of our worldly goods and take credit for our talents. Yet, everything we have is a gift from God - even the work we do to earn a living is done through the energy and talents that God gave to us. Like the tenants in today's Gospel, we owe everything to God, our divine Landlord.



ATTENTION:

Please DO NOT light the candles in Church by using another candle. One could get burned and the wax is dripping all over the candle stands creating a mess. **PLEASE** use the lighter. If you have trouble with the lighter, ask for help.



RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

Just a reminder when coming up to receive Holy Communion, and after receiving Jesus, one should be thinking of the wonderful privilege as a Catholic to receive Jesus, that special time we have with our Lord and Savior. It is not a time to allow oneself to be distracted by looking all around, waving, or speaking with the person on the end of the pew.

The Roman Missal states that,
"one should prepare by praying quietly, so that one may fruitfully receive the Body and Blood of Christ".

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
October 4, 2020



"This is the Lord's doing and it is amazing in our eyes."

Consider a vocation as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life.

Contact the Vocation Office at (718) 827-2454 or email: vocations@diobrook.org



Annual Catholic Appeal 2020
DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

Bishop DiMarzio is calling for a diocesan wide Annual Catholic Appeal in Pew commitment this weekend. Envelopes are in the pews for your use. Our parish goal is \$42,815.00. At this time \$22,185 has been pledged towards our goal.

I am well aware of the challenging times we are living and the financial stress place on each of us. However, I ask you to do whatever you can to help us reach our goal. Please fill out the envelope with your pledge commitment. No money needs to be given at this time. Return your envelope when you leave Church by placing it in the collection boxes in the back of Church.

I want to express my appreciation to all who have already pledged or given your donation. Your support of this Appeal enables the Diocese to uphold its mission of feeding the sick, caring for the elderly, educating our young, forming deacons and priest, and much more.

THANK YOU for all your support and generosity in helping us reach our goal.

Msgr. Maresca

Ensuring the Future of Your Church

Saint Francis of Assisi Parish relies on your goodness and generosity to ensure that the ministry of Jesus continues here in Astoria. A charitable bequest is an excellent way to create a lasting memorial. Many of our parishioners use their wills or living trusts to make their most generous gifts. Please remember us when you create yours.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish Weekly Offering

Thank you for your continued generosity of giving each week. Your weekly offering helps us pay our monthly bills.

The Collection/Donation for the weekend:

Collection 9/19-20	\$3,785.00
Disaster Relief	695.00

School parents must use church envelopes.



**50/50 Winners
September 2020**



First Prize

Mr. & Mrs. William Skinner

Second Prize

Mr. & Mrs. Terence Sweeney

Third Prize

Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Hosey



Society of St. Vincent de Paul Gives Back

For each car, truck or van, running or not, St. Vincent de Paul will give back to St. Francis of Assisi \$50/100 per vehicle. Maybe you don't have a vehicle, but a family member, friend or neighbor has an old or neglected vehicle in their driveway that they would like to dispose of.

Call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul at
(718) 491-2525.



STATUE OF ST. CLARE OF ASSISI

Our new statue of St. Clare of Assisi is up in the front of Church on the right side of the sanctuary.

If anyone would like to make a donation toward the statue, your name will be placed on a plaque. A minimum donation of \$100 is requested.

The new statue will be blessed by Bishop Massa during the 90th Anniversary Mass on October 4th at 12:30 PM.



During this time of Covid-19, if you are not feeling well, have a temperature, or have a cough, please stay home and watch the mass on television. There are a number of stations that carry Sunday Mass for you to watch. Please know this is for your health and the health of others.



Welcome to Our Church

If you wish to register as a parishioner of St. Francis of Assisi Church, please stop by the Rectory Office during regular business hours. There you can pick up a census card which can be filled out at that time or returned by mail or in the Sunday Collection Basket. You can even download the census card on line. Just check our website at:

stfrancisofassisiastoria.org

You will then begin to receive weekly offering envelopes.

Autumn Prayer

O God of Creation, you have blessed us with the changing of the seasons. As we embrace these autumn months, May the earlier setting of the sun remind us to take time to rest. May the crunch of the leaves beneath our feet remind us of the brevity of this earthly life. May the steam of our breath in the cool air remind us that it is you who give us your breath of life. May the scurrying of the squirrels and the migration of the birds remind us that you call us to follow your will. We praise you for your goodness forever and ever. Amen.



CatholicFaithStore.com

2021 Mass Book

The **2021 Mass Book** will be opening soon.

Please note the following:

The 9 AM Mass Monday to Friday is a **single intention** Mass

On Saturday the 9 AM Mass is a **multiple intention** Mass and the 5 PM Mass is a **single intention** Mass.

Sunday **12:30 PM** Italian Mass is a **multiple intention** Mass.

All Announced Masses are \$15.00

Purgatorial Mass Cards are \$30.00

Memorials (Altar Bread, Wine, Sanctuary Lamp & Altar Candles) are \$60.00

Altar Flowers are \$75.00

**OCTOBER 2020
LECTOR ASSIGNMENTS**

	TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	TWENTY-NINETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	THIRIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	ALL SAINT'S DAY
	October 3-4	October 10-11	October 17-18	October 25-26	Oct 31-Nov 1
Saturday 5:00 P.M.	Debbie Skinner	Lector Needed	Edward Kubina	Debbie Skinner	Dolores Ratkowski
Sunday 8:00 A.M.	Robert Laucella	Robert Laucella	Andrew Soltesz	Robert Laucella	Andrew Soltesz
Sunday 9:30 A.M.	Josephine Corso	Chris Ronacher	Josephine Corso	Sharon Costanza	Josephine Corso
Sunday 11:00 A.M.	Jane Di Donato	Sharon Costanza	Jane Di Donato	Jane Di Donato	Jane Di Donato
Sunday 12:30 P.M.	No Lector Needed	Vincenza Galina Eterna Bruno	Anna Maria Del Carro Concetta D'Angelo	Nicoletta Cosentino Vincenza Galina	Anna Maria Tenaglia Eterna Bruno

***** REMINDER *****
Once you are scheduled, if you cannot fulfill your assignment, please make every effort to call and get a replacement. Thank you



LECTORS

Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

October 2020

St. Francis of Assisi Parish
Msgr. Ralph J. Maresca, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

True happiness

Popular theologian C.S. Lewis wrote, "Aim at Heaven and you will get Earth thrown in. Aim at Earth and you get neither." We were made for God and can't be truly happy unless we are united with him. If we focus on worldly concerns, we will never know the meaning of true happiness. If we focus on God, we will know happiness even on Earth.

The Commandment imbalance

Of the Ten Commandments, only the first three address how we are to respect the Creator of the universe. The other seven detail how we are to treat each other. It is one way God lets us know how much he wants us to love one another.

Silence of the heart

"In the silence of the heart God speaks. If you face God in prayer and silence, God will speak to you. Souls of prayer are souls of great silence." Mother Teresa of Calcutta

"Live in harmony with one another"

In times of uncertainty or stress, tempers can shorten, perspectives narrow, and peace suffers. It is important to remember that Jesus came to bring love and unity. His followers are asked to do the same.

"The rich and the poor meet together; the Lord is the maker of them all" (Proverbs 22:2) – embrace diversity, don't just tolerate it. Different as we are, we are all made in God's image and likeness. There is great diversity in the communion of saints.

"Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another" (1 John 4:11) – as children of God, all humans were created with inherent dignity that we are required to acknowledge.

Trying to understand others' perspectives is the best way to realize the impact of our actions on them.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God" (Matthew 5:9) – a

steady diet of violent entertainment and media helps us become comfortable with violence and to see people as characters rather than humans.

Instead, live with peace and pray for victims of violence.

"And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts" (Colossians 3:15). This means we have to make the choice to trust God's promises (letting His peace rule) or to rely on ourselves and reject the peace He offers.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

God gives us a free gift to share in His life, a gift that we can't earn and don't deserve. Called, "grace," this gift helps us to become His adopted children. When God shares His divine life with us as sanctifying grace, we



What is grace?

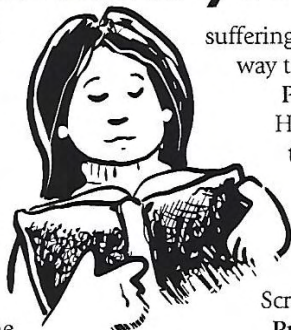
are strengthened to act in His love. Through actual grace, God strengthens us to live in harmony with His will. Sacramental and special graces – gifts of the Holy Spirit – help us to live out our Christian vocation.

Make holiness your goal

All people are called to be holy, "Be you therefore perfect, as also your heavenly Father is perfect" (Matthew 5:48). Achieving holiness requires a constant effort like climbing a mountain. To stop trying, even for a little while, is to lose ground. Daily effort will pay off with results.

Look for Jesus' presence. Search for Him each day. Not only will awareness of His presence help you grow in love and kindness toward everyone, you will find it easier to control your faults.

Don't avoid suffering. Jesus experienced extreme



suffering in His time on Earth and used it to pave our way to Heaven.

Pay attention to His voice. Speak to Him, ask Him for help, express sorrow for your mistakes, tell Him you love Him.

Nurture your faith. Just as food nourishes our bodies, faith feeds our souls. Scripture is a staple of our spiritual diet. Ask for the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to meditate on Scripture every day.

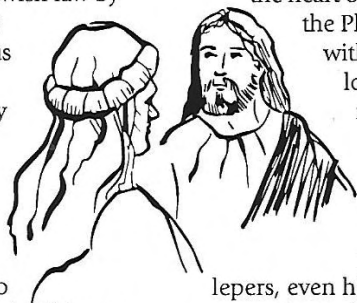
Practice patience. It's the first step toward holiness.

from Scripture

Matthew 22:34-40, Jesus has the right answers.

In their first meeting with Jesus, the Pharisees attempted to trap him into publicly contradicting Jewish law by sending a slick lawyer to "engage" him. Then Jesus could be arrested and silenced. The lawyer they sent knew that generations of Jews had debated fruitlessly about which law was the most important. Pretending to seek Jesus' opinion, he asked him to choose which of the 613 commandments of the Jewish law was the most important.

Jesus silenced them by saying that everything starts and ends with love –



love of God and love of others. To love God is to love one another. Love is at the heart of all the other laws. Even the Pharisees couldn't argue with that. While it is easy to love God, loving others is more difficult. It means including those our natural inclination says to exclude or avoid. Jesus loved prostitutes, thieves, lepers, even his political enemies.

True love of neighbor is measured by how we treat the poor, the vulnerable, and our enemies. This is how God loves and he calls us to the same.

Q & A

How can I develop more faith?

Faith is not a single event or a mastered skill. It's a journey that develops and grows over time. A father asking Jesus for a miraculous cure for

his son cried out, "I do believe, help my unbelief" (Mark 9:24). We have to ask God to help our faith develop and grow.

The best way to develop a strong faith is to pray.



Prayer is a conversation with God. Most of us use prayer to talk to God, but it's important to listen, too.

One good way to listen to God is to read his Word in the Bible. Start by reading a passage from Scripture, particularly the Gospels. Then ask yourself what the passage is saying to you, personally.

For example, ask yourself, "What is God saying to me through this reading?" Or "How can I put his message into practice in my life?" We need to meditate on the message and put it into action in our lives. Only then can the word be "living and effective" (Hebrews 4:12).

Feasts & Celebrations

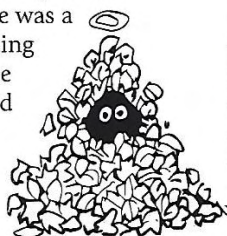
In October we celebrate the Rosary with the feast of **Our Lady of the Rosary on October 7th**. The Rosary helps us meditate on the mysteries of our salvation – Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection.

Oct. 15 - St. Teresa of Avila (1583). St. Teresa founded a strict religious order whose nuns wore rough brown habits and sandals instead of shoes. St. Teresa established more than 17 convents of Discalced Carmelites and helped reform the Carmelite friars.

Oct. 17 – St. Ignatius of Antioch

(1st century). Succeeded St. Peter as the second bishop of Antioch, St. Ignatius encouraged obedience to the world's bishops and reminded people that Jesus is present in the Church and in each other.

Oct. 28 – St. Simon and St. Jude (1st century). St. Simon was a Zealot – Jews who believed that the Messiah would free them from political oppression. St. Jude was a fisherman. After being called by Jesus to be apostles, they ended up in Persia where they evangelized until they were martyred.



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