

PRAYER CORNER

Almighty God, as we ask your help

for our brothers and sisters who are ill,
we ask you to help us to be healing people in our time and place.

May your love touch others through us,
and may I help all people to live in peace.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

St. Frances of Assisi

JESUS SPEAKS TO US

When the disciples saw him walking on the sea they were terrified.

"It is a ghost," they said, and they cried out in fear.

At once Jesus spoke to them,

"Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid."

Mt 14:26-27

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St. Vincent de Paul:	\$115.00
Mass Intentions:	\$90.00
Priest Care Offering:	\$477.00
Assumption:	\$25.00
Online 7/27-8/2:	\$160.00

Thank you so much
for your generosity
and support of our Parish.



OUR MOTHER OF MERCY

Historically African-American Catholic Church—all are welcome!

August 9, 2020



*Bulletin printed in-house at:
Our Mother of Mercy
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THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The **Gospel** is from St. Matthew 14:22-33. Our Lord sent His disciples to row across the lake, instead he lets them take their course, because they can and should be the means of educating us in our knowledge of life's true meaning and they should draw us closer to him. Christ foresaw the storm and the grave risk His Apostles would run when He sent them off across the lake. But that trial and the grave danger they ran was for their own good, because they learned to realize that He was from God and they could always trust Him. Our trials and our earthly ailments are also foreseen by God and permitted by him (even if inflicted on us by a sinful fellowman) so that they will draw us closer to Him and help us on the road to heaven.

This they will do, if we accept them and bear with them until He comes to our aid. Our troubles in life are like the growing pains of our youth — they are necessary if we are to arrive at our full stature as sons of God. They form, mold and shape our religious character and bring us closer to God

remainder can be attributed to our own defects and sins or to some weakness in our mental and bodily make-up. But God foresees all these misfortunes, and can prevent them.

He did this because He wanted to strengthen their faith and trust in Himself. He intended to come to them at the right moment, working two miracles — walking on the water and calming the storm. This He did and the result was as He had intended — their faith in Him was strengthened, they declared He was the Messiah, the Chosen of God. Peter, already the recognized leader, and always the most daring among them, showed himself ready to risk drowning in order to prove his trust and confidence in Christ. While he trusted in Christ, all went well, but when his faith weakened he would have been lost were it not for the outstretched helping hand of his master. This was also a very necessary lesson in the education of Peter and his companions.

For us, too, there is a necessary lesson in this incident. It is that we must continue to trust in Christ and his loving Father, even when God seems to have deserted us. Most of the troubles and trials of our lives are caused by the injustice and lack of charity of our fellowmen. The

*Excerpted from The Sunday Readings
by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.*

Reconciliation (Confession):

Friday & Saturday Confessions
9:00 a.m. noon

Office Hours:

Mon, Wed, & Fri
10 a.m.—3 p.m.

Mass Schedule:

Monday-Friday — 7 a.m.

Saturday — 8 a.m.

Saturday — 5 p.m.

Sunday — 10 a.m.

Holy Day—see bulletin

FATHER BART'S CORNER**Saint Clare, Virgin**

The Breviary says of her: "Following the example of St. Francis, she distributed all her possessions among the poor. She fled from the noise of the world and betook herself to a country chapel, where St. Francis himself sheared off her hair and clothed her with a penitential garb (on March 18, 1212, at the age of eighteen). Then she resided at the Church of St. Damian, where the Lord provided for her a goodly number of companions. So she established a community of nuns and acted as their superior at the wish of St Francis. For forty-two years she directed the nunnery with zeal and prudence, her own life serving as a constant sermon for her sisters to emulate. Of Pope Innocent IV she requested the privilege that she and her community live in absolute poverty. She was a most perfect follower of St. Francis of Assisi.

Heroic in suffering (she was sick for twenty-seven years), she was canonized only two years after her death. Thomas of Celano coined the saying: *Clara nomine, vita clarior, clarissima moribus.*

Clare was the first flower in the garden of the Poor Man of Assisi. Poor in earthly goods, but rich in her utter poverty, she was a replica of Jesus, poor in the crib and on the Cross. At her time the Church generally and many Church men were enmeshed in financial matters and political maneuvering. Through the renewal of the ideal of poverty, St. Francis effected a "reform of Christian life in head and members."

**With prayers and love,
Fr. Bart, S.V.D**

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Monday, August 10

Live Stream on
our Church Website
Mass: 7 a.m.



Tuesday, August 11
Live Stream on
our Church Website
Mass: 7 a.m.



Wednesday, August 12

Live Stream on
our Church Website
Mass: 7 a.m.



Thursday, August 13
Live Stream on
our Church Website
Mass: 7 a.m.



Friday, August 14

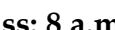
Live Stream on
our Church Website
Mass: 7 a.m.



Adoration: 8:00 a.m.—noon



Saturday, August 15
Live Stream on
our Church Website
Mass: 8 a.m.



Mass: 5 p.m.



Sunday, August 16
Live Stream on
our Church Website
Mass: 10 a.m.

**Vocation View**

"Take courage, it is I, do not be afraid." By keeping our eyes set on Jesus, we are able to do marvelous things. Trust that he will not allow you to stumble or fall.

Matthew 14:27**Divine Word Vocation Office****1-800-553-3321****www.svdvocations.org****Weekly Readings**

08/10—2 COR 9:6-10;
JN 12:24-26
08/11—EZ 2:8—3:4; MAT 18:1-5;
12-14
08/12—EZ 9:1-7, 18-22; MAT 18:15-20
08/13—EZ 12:1-2; MAT 18:21—19:1
08/14—EZ 16:1-15, 60, 63; MAT 19:3-12
08/15—1CHR 15:3-4, 15-16, 16:1-2
1COR 15:54b-57/LK 11:27-28
08/16—IS 56:1, 6-7; ROM 11:13-15, 29-32; MAT 15:21-28

**PARISH CORNER**

On August 15th we will celebrate the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

On November 1, 1950, Pius XII defined the dogma of the Assumption. Thus he solemnly proclaimed that the belief whereby the Blessed Virgin Mary, at the close of her earthly life, was taken up, body and soul, into the glory of heaven, definitively forms part of the deposit of faith, received from the Apostles. To avoid all that is uncertain the Pope did not state either the manner or the circumstances of time and place in which the Assumption took place — only the fact of the Assumption of Mary, body and soul, into the glory of heaven, is the matter of the definition.

Now toward the end of the summer season, at a time when fruits are ripe in the gardens and fields, the Church celebrates the most glorious "harvest festival" in the Communion of Saints. Mary, the supremely blessed one among women, Mary, the most precious fruit which has ripened in the fields of God's kingdom, is today taken into the granary of heaven.

— Pius Parsch, *The Church's Year of Grace*

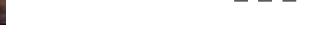
The Assumption is the oldest feast day of Our Lady, but we don't know how it first came to be celebrated.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS****CCE and Confirmation**

CCE and Confirmation registration forms are now available on Our Mother of Mercy website along with instructions on returning the forms to the rectory. If you have any questions please contact Linda Campbell, DRE at 979-201-5816.

**Rachel Ministries****Who We Are**

Rachel Ministries is a ministry dedicated to helping and supporting anyone who needs emotional and spiritual healing after an abortion experience. We welcome anyone from any faith tradition to come and find healing through our programs and services. Our healing team is made up of professional counselors, clergy, and a lay team of well trained volunteers dedicated to helping you find healing after abortion.

**CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH****PRAYER IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE****Prayer as Communion**

2565 In the New Covenant, prayer is the living relationship of the children of God with their Father who is good beyond measure, with his Son Jesus Christ and with the Holy Spirit. The grace of the Kingdom is "the union of the entire holy and royal Trinity . . . with the whole human spirit."¹² Thus, the life of prayer is the habit of being in the presence of the thrice-holy God and in communion with him. This communion of life is always possible because, through Baptism, we have already been united with Christ.¹³ Prayer is *Christian* insofar as it is communion with Christ and extends throughout the Church, which is his Body. Its dimensions are those of Christ's love.¹⁴

¹² St. Gregory of Nazianzus, *Oratio*, 16,9:PG 35,945.

¹³ Cf. *Rom* 6:5.

¹⁴ Cf. *Eph* 3:18-21.

The Universal Call to Prayer

2566 *Man is in search of God.* In the act of creation, God calls every being from nothingness into existence. "Crowned with glory and honor," man is, after the angels, capable of acknowledging "how majestic is the name of the Lord in all the earth."¹ Even after losing through his sin his likeness to God, man remains an image of his Creator, and retains the desire for the one who calls him into existence. All religions bear witness to men's essential search for God.²

¹ Ps 8:5; 8:1.

² Cf. *Acts* 17:27.

