

### 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

So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my community. And the gates of the underworld can never overpower it.

I will give you the keys of the kingdom of Heaven: whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.'

Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to say to anyone that he was the Christ.

Mt 16:18-20

### August 16 Collection

|                           |            |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Regular:                  | \$2,200.00 |
| Children's Collection:    | \$2.05     |
| Parish Hall:              | \$10.00    |
| Faith Formation:          | \$15.00    |
| Foundation:               | \$62.54    |
| St. Vincent de Paul:      | \$55.00    |
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| Weekday Mass:             | \$45.00    |
| Priest Care Fund:         | \$10.00    |
| Online 8/15-8/19:         | \$373.50   |
| Special Collection-Beirut | \$17.46    |

for your generosity



# OUR MOTHER OF MERCY

Historically African-American Catholic Church—all are welcome!

August 23, 2020



Bulletin printed in-house at:  
**Our Mother of Mercy  
Catholic Church**

1001 E Terrell Avenue  
Fort Worth, TX 76104

**817-335-1695**  
ommftworth1@gmail.com

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**Pastor:** Fr. Bartłomiej "Bart" Jasilek, SVD

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**Parish Secretary:** Lydia Salas

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**Bookkeeper:** Jennifer Rattliff

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**Musician:** Zenobia Collins

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**Society of St. Vincent de Paul**

Help Line: 817-768-1950/svdpomm@gmail.com

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## THE TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The **Gospel** is from St. Matthew 16:13-20. Jesus, the true Son of God, became man in order to make all men His brothers and co-heirs with Him, to the divine, eternal kingdom. To carry on His divine mission on earth (after He had ascended into heaven), He founded the Church on the twelve Apostles. This Church was to be God's new Chosen People (hence perhaps the twelve Apostles take the place of the heads of the twelve tribes of the Chosen People of old). It was to be made up of all races from all parts of the world. As its mission was to bring the message of salvation to all men, it was to go on until the end of time. For this Church, this divinely instituted society of human beings, to carry out its mission of helping all men to reach their eternal kingdom, it was necessary to be sure of the road and the aids offered to its members. In other words, the Church should be certain that what it told men to believe and to practice was what God wanted them to believe and to practice. Today's reading from St. Matthew tells us how Christ provided for this necessity. In making Peter the head of the Apostolic College, the foundation-stone of his Church, the guarantor of its stability in the symbol of the keys and the promise that all his decisions would be ratified in heaven, Christ gave him the power of freedom from error when officially teaching the universal Church.

primacy in the Church and the gift of infallibility in his official teaching on matters of faith and morals. As the Church was to continue long after Peter had died, it was rightly understood from the beginning that the privileges given to him and which were necessary for the successful mission of the Church, were given to his lawful successors—the Popes.

This has been the constant belief in the Church from its very beginning. The first Vatican Council solemnly defined this dogma and it was reconfirmed recently in the second Vatican Council. In giving these powers to Peter and to his lawful successors Christ was planning for our needs. In order to preserve and safeguard the right conduct of all its members He provided a central seat of authoritative power in His Church. Through the gift of Infallibility He assured us that whatever we were commanded to believe (faith) or to do (morals) would always be what He and his heavenly Father wanted us to believe and to do.

How can we ever thank Christ for these marvelous gifts to his Church, that is, to us? Let us say a fervent: "thank you, Lord; You have foreseen all our needs and provided for them, grant us the grace to do the little part you ask of us in order to continue our progress on the one direct road to heaven."

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

In other words, Peter received the

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### Mass Schedule:

Monday-Friday — 7 a.m.

Saturday — 8 a.m.

Saturday — 5 p.m.

Sunday — 10 a.m.

Holy Day—see bulletin

### Reconciliation (Confession):

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

### Office Hours:

Mon, Wed, & Fri  
10 a.m.—3 p.m.

**FATHER BART'S CORNER**

**My sisters and brothers:**

**St. Bartholomew**

In St. John's Gospel, Bartholomew is known by the name Nathaniel (the liturgy does not always seem aware of this identity). He hailed from Cana in Galilee, was one of the first disciples called by the Lord. On that initial meeting Jesus uttered the glorious compliment: "Behold, an Israelite indeed in whom there is no guile!" After the Resurrection he was favored by becoming one of the few apostles who witnessed the appearance of the risen Savior on the sea of Galilee (John 21:2). Following the Ascension he is said to have preached in Greater Armenia and to have been martyred there. While still alive, his skin was torn from his body. The Armenians honor him as the apostle of their nation. Concerning the fate of his relics, the *Martyrology* says: "His holy body was first taken to the island of Lipari (north of Sicily), then to Benevento, and finally to Rome on an island in the Tiber where it is honored by the faithful with pious devotion."

The Church of Armenia has a national tradition that St. Jude Thaddeus and St. Bartholomew visited the Armenians early in the first century and introduced Christianity among the worshippers of the god Ahura Mazda. The new faith spread throughout the land, and in 302 A.D., St. Gregory the Illuminator baptized the king of Armenia, Dertad the Great, along with many of his followers. Since Dertad was probably the first ruler to embrace Christianity for his nation, the Armenians proudly claim they were the first Christian State.

Excerpted from *The Church's Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch

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

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

Monday, August 24

Live Stream on  
our Church Website  
Mass: 7 a.m.  
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Tuesday, August 25

Live Stream on  
our Church Website  
Mass: 7 a.m.  
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Wednesday, August 26

Live Stream on  
our Church Website  
Mass: 7 a.m.  
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Thursday, August 27

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

Friday, August 28

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

Adoration: 8:00 a.m. — noon  
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Saturday, August 29

Live Stream on  
our Church Website  
Mass: 8 a.m.

Mass: 5 p.m.  
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Sunday, August 30

Live Stream on  
our Church Website  
Mass: 10 a.m.  
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**Weekly Readings**

- 08/24— RV 21:9B-14; JN 1:45-51
- 08/25—2 THES 2:1-3A, 14-17; MT 23:23-26
- 08/26—2 THES 3:6-10, 16-18; MT 23:27-32
- 08/27—1 COR 1:1-9; MT 24:42-51
- 08/28—1 COR 1:17-25; MT 25:1-13
- 08/29 —1 COR 1:26-31; MK 6:17-29
- 8/30—JER 20:7-9; ROM 12:1-2; MT 16:21-27

*Vocation View*

“Who do you say that I am?” We confess with Peter that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God.

**Matthew 16:15-16**

**Divine Word Vocation Office**  
1-800-553-3321  
[www.svdvocations.org](http://www.svdvocations.org)

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**PARISH CORNER**



The new ramp, railing and sidewalk at the Parish Life Center will make it much easier for those with walkers and wheel chairs to enter.



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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
**MINI-LOAN CONVERSION PROGRAM**

The Mini-loan Conversion Program seeks to alleviate the financial stress of our neighbors who have become trapped by predatory lenders (title and payday loan shops). We convert loans that range from 100% - 700%, to loans just over 3% from regulated financial institutions. We partner with local financial literacy nonprofits to then promote sound budgeting practices, as well as establishing a savings account. We raise awareness of this predatory lending crisis and seek to generate collateral funds for these loans from generous contributors. Please consider supporting this effort through your contribution at [www.svdpcf.org/mlcp/](http://www.svdpcf.org/mlcp/).

**2020 CENSUS**

As the 2020 Census enters its final stages, it is important that every Catholic be counted.

Being counted matters for you and our community regardless of your religious affiliation. The 2020 Census will determine how many representatives Texas will have in Congress. Census results will also help determine how billions of dollars in federal funding are allocated to states and communities each year for housing, schools, food assistance, health care, and other vital services.

You may still complete and return the census form mailed to you. Or if you have not received the census form, you may go to [my2020census.gov](http://my2020census.gov). Select the link that says, “If you do not have a Census ID, click here.” It is located below the Census ID login field.

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**CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
**PRAYER IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE**

**Creation—source of prayer**

**2569** Prayer is lived in the first place beginning with the realities of *creation*. The first nine chapters of Genesis describe this relationship with God as an offering of the first-born of Abel's flock, as the invocation of the divine name at the time of Enosh, and as "walking with God."<sup>5</sup> Noah's offering is pleasing to God, who blesses him and through him all creation, because his heart was upright and undivided; Noah, like Enoch before him, "walks with God."<sup>6</sup> This kind of prayer is lived by many righteous people in all religions.

In his indefectible covenant with every living creature,<sup>7</sup> God has always called people to prayer. But it is above all beginning with our father Abraham that prayer is revealed in the Old Testament.

**2570** When God calls him, Abraham goes forth "as the Lord had told him";<sup>8</sup> Abraham's heart is entirely submissive to the Word and so he obeys. Such attentiveness of the heart, whose decisions are made according to God's will, is essential to prayer, while the words used count only in relation to it. Abraham's prayer is expressed first by deeds: a man of silence, he constructs an altar to the Lord at each stage of his journey. Only later does Abraham's first prayer in words appear: a veiled complaint reminding God of his promises which seem unfulfilled.<sup>9</sup> Thus one aspect of the drama of prayer appears from the beginning: the test of faith in the fidelity of God.

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