

**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**

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’

But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you,

that you may be children of your heavenly Father, for he makes his sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust.

For if you love those who love you, what recompense will you have? Do not the tax collectors do the same?”

Matthew 5:43-46

**February 13<sup>th</sup> Collection**

- Regular: \$2,112.25
- Parish Maintenance: \$187.00
- St. Anne’s (Candles): \$63.00
- Social Outreach: \$520.00
- Bricks \$500.00
- Online 2/12–2/18: \$239.00

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



# OUR MOTHER OF MERCY

Historically African-American Catholic Church—all are welcome!

February 20, 2022



Bulletin printed in-house at:  
**Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church**  
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**ORDINARY TIME : February 20<sup>th</sup>  
Seventh Sunday**

The **Gospel** is taken from St. Matthew (5:38-48). The lesson we have to learn from today's gospel hardly needs any emphasizing. We must, if we are truly Christian, forgive those who offend or injure us. We must love all men, whether they be friends or enemies. G. K. Chesterton says : "We are commanded to love our neighbors and our enemies; they are generally the same people." This is very true for all of us. It is very easy for me to love (in a theoretical way) all Japanese, Chinese, Russians and most Europeans—they never come in contact with me and never tread on my corns. But it is my neighbors, those among whom I live and work, who are liable to injure me and thus become my enemies.

Charity begins at home, because it is here that it can and should be learned and practiced. It is first and foremost necessary for Christian peace in the home. Husband and wife must learn to understand and tolerate each other's imperfections and faults. If one offends in what the other would regard as something serious, the offended one should not demand an apology but should show forgiveness before the other has humbly to apologize. No two persons in the world, not even identical twins, can agree on all things, so it is vain and unrealistic to expect even one's married partner to agree with one in all points. Christian charity alone can cover the multitude of faults of both partners.

If there is peace and harmony between husband and wife, as there will be if both are truly charitable, the children will learn too to be understanding and forgiving. Such a home will be a truly happy home even if it has little of the world's riches.

Our charity must spread from the home to our neighbors—to all those with whom we have contact. It is easy to get on with most people, but in every neighborhood and in every village or town there will always be those who are difficult. There will be the dishonest, the tale-bearers, the quarrelsome, the critic of everyone and everything. It is when we have dealings with such people that all our Christian charity is necessary. Most likely we will never be able to change their ways of acting, but charity will enable us to tolerate their faults and will move us to pray for their eternal welfare.

Life for many, if not for most people, has many dark, gloomy and despairing moments. The man or woman who is moved by true Christian charity can bring a beam of sunshine, a ray of hope, into the lives of these people. Fr. Faber in a booklet on kindness has a poem which we could all learn and practice with great profit for ourselves and for a neighbor in need of kindness. He says:

"It was but a sunny smile,  
And little it cost in the giving,  
But it scattered the night like the morning light  
And made the day worth living."

It was but a kindly word,  
A word that was lightly spoken,  
Yet not in vain for it chilled the pain  
Of a heart that was nearly broken."

It was but a helping hand,  
And it seemed of little availing,  
But its clasp was warm, it saved from harm  
A brother whose strength was failing."

Try the sunny smile of true love, the kindly word of Christian encouragement, the helping hand of true charity, and not only will you brighten the darkness and lighten the load of your brother but you will be imitating in your own small way the perfect Father of love who is in heaven.

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

**Mass Schedule:**

Monday-Friday — 7:00 a.m.

Saturday — 8:00 a.m.

Saturday — 5:00 p.m.

Sunday — 10:00 a.m.

Holy Day -- see bulletin

**Confessions:**

Wednesday 6:00 p.m. — 6:50 p.m.

Friday 9:00 a.m. — noon

Saturday 4:00 p.m. — 4:50 p.m.

**Office Hours:**

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday

10:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.

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In Loving Memory of  
**Larry & Olga Martinez,**  
One Day at a Time. ✝

**FATHER BART'S CORNER**

**My sisters and brothers:**

**Chair of St. Peter**

Since early times, the Roman Church has had a special commemoration of the primatial authority of St. Peter. As witness one of the most renowned of the Apostolic Fathers, the Roman See has always held a peculiar place in the affection and obedience of orthodox believers because of its "presiding in love" and service over all the Churches of God.

"We shall find in the Gospel that Jesus Christ, willing to begin the mystery of unity in His Church, among all His disciples chose twelve; but that, willing to consummate the mystery of unity in the same Church, among the twelve He chose one. He called His disciples, said the Gospel; here are all; and among them He chose twelve. Here is the first separation, and the Apostles chosen. And these are the names of the twelve Apostles: the first, Simon, who is called Peter. [Mt. 10, 1-2] Here, in a second separation, St. Peter is set at the head, and called for that reason by the name of Peter, 'which Jesus Christ,' says St. Mark, 'had given him,' in order to prepare, as you will see, the work which He was proposing to raise all His building on that stone.

"All this is yet but a beginning of the mystery of unity. Jesus Christ, in beginning it, still spoke to many: Go, preach; I send you. Now, when He would put the last hand to the mystery of unity, He speaks no longer to many: He marks out Peter personally, and by the new name which He has given him. It is One who speaks to one: Jesus Christ the Son of God to Simon son of Jonas; Jesus Christ, who is the true Stone, strong of Himself, to Simon, who is only the stone by the strength which Jesus Christ imparts to him. It is to him that Christ speaks, and in speaking acts on him, and stamps upon him His own immovableness. And I, He says, say to you, you are Peter; and, He adds, upon this rock I will build my Church, and, He concludes, the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. To prepare him for that honor Jesus Christ, who knows that faith in Himself is the foundation of His Church, inspires Peter with a faith worthy to be the foundation of that admirable building. You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. [By that bold preaching of the faith he draws to himself the inviolable promise which makes him the foundation of the Church.

**With prayers and love,**

*Fr. Bart, S.V.D*

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

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**Monday, February 21**

**Live Stream Mass: 7:00 a.m.**

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**Tuesday, February 22**

**Live Stream Mass: 7:00 a.m.**

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**Wednesday, February 23**

**Live Stream Mass: 7:00 a.m.**

**Adoration 6:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.**

**Confessions 6:00 p.m.—6:50 p.m.**

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**Thursday, February 24**

**Live Stream Mass: 7:00 a.m.**

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**Divine Word Vocation Office**

**1-800-553-3321**

**www.svd vocations.org**

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**Friday, February 25**

**Live Stream Mass: 7:00 a.m.**

**Adoration 8:00 a.m.—noon**

**Confessions 9:00 a.m.—noon**

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**Saturday, February 26**

**Live Stream Mass: 8:00 a.m.**

**Adoration 4:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.**

**Confessions 4:00 p.m.—4:50 p.m.**

**Mass: 5:00 p.m.**

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**Sunday, February 27**

**Live Stream Mass: 10:00 a.m.**

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**Weekday Confessions thirty minutes before morning Mass.**

**Weekly Readings**

2/21—JAS 3:13-18; MK 9:14-29

2/22—1 PT 5:1-4; MK 16:13-19

2/23—JAS 4:13-17; MK 9:38-40

2/24—JAS 5:1-6; MK 9:41-50

2/25—JAS 5:9-12; MK 10:1-12

2/26—JAS 5:13-20; MK 10:13-16

2/27—SIR 27:4-7; 1 COR 15:54-58;

LK 6:39-45

**PARISH CORNER**

**Celebrating Black Catholics During Black History Month**

Throughout the month of February, in recognition of Black History Month, people of all races and faiths across the U.S. celebrate black Americans and their stories. The story of black Catholics in the United States is about communities tenaciously clinging to faith amidst great hardship. Much of their history is centered in the South, which to this day has the largest concentrations of black people in the United States, and includes over two dozen of the dioceses served by Catholic Extension. Even among many black people that live in the urban areas of the North, though, there are many whose families have roots in the South.

There are many causes for celebrating the gifts of black Catholics today. One is simply the numbers that populate parishes across the country: the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops estimates that there are 3 million black Catholics in the U.S., and 798 predominantly African American parishes. While many black people are Baptist, the second largest religious group that black people belong to in the U.S. is the Catholic Church. There are 250 African American priests, 437 deacons, 75 men of African descent in seminary formation, 400 African American religious sisters, and 50 religious brothers. These numbers do not include missionaries from Africa who now serve in various ministries throughout the United States.

Recent years have also seen the rise of black Catholic leadership in the Church. Joseph Howze, the founding bishop of the Diocese of Biloxi, died on January 9 at the age of 95. He was only the second black bishop to lead a diocese in the United States, after James Augustine Healy was named the ordinary of Portland, Maine, in 1875. Today, though, there are eight active, six retired, and twelve deceased black bishops. Many of them have roots in mission dioceses, such as those members of the Society of the Divine Word who were trained at the United States' first black seminary, Saint Augustine in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi.

—Excerpted from Tim Muldoon, Ph.D., is the former Director of Mission Education at Catholic Extension

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**St. Anne's Soul Food Dinner**

Get your taste buds ready!!! It is time again for St. Anne's Soul Food Dinner. St. Anne's Altar Society will sell soul food dinners on Sunday, February 27<sup>th</sup> from the Parish Life Center, 11:30am --1:30pm or while supplies last. Dinners are \$10 each which will include 1 entrée , 2 sides, dinner roll and dessert. Dinners are carryout only. Call ahead to reserve your order at 682-231-3462 or email [stannealtarsociety.omm@gmail.com](mailto:stannealtarsociety.omm@gmail.com). Flyers are available at the back of the church. Thank you for your support!

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**Worldwide Marriage Encounter**

March 5-6, 2022 - Are there times in your life or marriage relationship when you judge you are in a spiritual desert? Give life to your marriage, sign up today to attend one of the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experiences. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend is Mar. 18-20, 2022. To apply go to [www.wwme.org](http://www.wwme.org). Questions – email [apply@dfwme.org](mailto:apply@dfwme.org) or call 469-444-0904. Para mas informacion de Encuentro Matrimonial en Espanol, escriba a [mdgallegos06@gmail.com](mailto:mdgallegos06@gmail.com) 214-497-0188.

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Everyone involved in any ministry at any Catholic Church or school is required to attend a Safe and Sacred/ Environment class every 2 years. Please create a profile under [Virtus.org](http://Virtus.org). and then it will prompt you to sign up for a class. You can pick a location, time and date convenient to your schedule.

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**That we practice mercy and compassion more frequently and pray for those that annoy us.**

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**CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**THE LIFE OF PRAYER**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**"Who Art in Heaven"**

**2795** The symbol of the heavens refers us back to the mystery of the covenant we are living when we pray to our Father. He is in heaven, his dwelling place; the Father's house is our homeland. Sin has exiled us from the land of the covenant,<sup>56</sup> but conversion of heart enables us to return to the Father, to heaven.<sup>57</sup> In Christ, then, heaven and earth are reconciled,<sup>58</sup> for the Son alone "descended from heaven" and causes us to ascend there with him, by his Cross, Resurrection, and Ascension.<sup>59</sup>

**2796** When the Church prays "our Father who art in heaven," she is professing that we are the People of God, already seated "with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus" and "hidden with Christ in God,"<sup>60</sup> yet at the same time, "here indeed we groan, and long to put on our heavenly dwelling."<sup>61</sup>

[Christians] are in the flesh, but do not live according to the flesh. They spend their lives on earth, but are citizens of heaven.<sup>62</sup>

**IN BRIEF**

**2797** Simple and faithful trust, humble and joyous assurance are the proper dispositions for one who prays the Our Father.

**2798** We can invoke God as "Father" because the Son of God made man has revealed him to us. In this Son, through Baptism, we are incorporated and adopted as sons of God.

**2799** The Lord's Prayer brings us into communion with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. At the same time it reveals us to ourselves (cf GS 22 # 1).

- 56** Cf. Gen 3.
- 57** Jer 3:19- 4:1a; Lk 15:18, 21.
- 58** Cf. Isa 45:8; Ps 85:12.
- 59** Jn 3:13; 12:32; 14 2-3; 16:28; 20:17; Eph 4:9-10; Heb 1:3; ⇒ 2:13.
- 60** Eph 2:6; Col 3:3.
- 61** 2 Cor 5:2; cf. Phil 3:20; Heb 13:14.
- 62** Ad Diognetum 5: PG 2, 1173.

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