

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

He woke up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Quiet! Be still!" The wind ceased and there was great calm.
Then he asked them, "Why are you terrified? Do you not yet have faith?"
They were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this whom even wind and sea obey?"

Mark 4:39-41

June 13th Collection

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



OUR MOTHER OF MERCY

Historically African-American Catholic Church—all are welcome!

June 20, 2021



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

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ORDINARY TIME : June 20th

The **Gospel** is from St. Mark 4:35-41. There is a very important lesson for every one of us in today's gospel story. Our lives are really a journey across the sea of time to the shore of eternity. During that crossing all who come to the use of reason encounter some storms. There is no smooth, calm crossing for anyone. This is the will of God. Our Lord knew that a storm was going to blow up that night in the Sea of Galilee. He allowed his disciples to face that terrifying ordeal, because he wanted his future Church to have confidence in his divine power and assistance, when tribulations and persecutions would seem to be on the point of ending her forever. Down through the centuries the Church of God has had to face storms and trials which would have swamped her if she had not a divine Founder and Protector. Christ, however, kept his promise — the gates of hell cannot prevail against her. She survived the storms and as a consequence of them gained new vigor and strength.

That same divine guarantee which Christ gave his Church will be with her until the last human being on earth has entered heaven. It is with her today. It will save her from internal weaknesses which could do more damage to her spiritual vitality than open persecution from without could ever do. We know Christ is in the barque of Peter. He is waiting to be called. If we realize that of ourselves we are not able to weather this storm, and call on him, he will rebuke the winds of pride and calm the waves of turbulent self-assertion. The barque of Peter will enter calm waters once more.

What is true in the life of the Church is true also in the life of each member of the Church. God foresees all our life's storms. He permits them, because he is

to use them as means to help us in our struggle to reach heaven. If we use these storms or trials of life to come closer to Jesus, to throw ourselves on his mercy, they will serve the purpose for which he permits them. Unfortunately, there are Christians who question not only the goodness of God, but his very existence, when some heavy seas break across their life's barque. "How could God, if he be good," they ask, "allow me to suffer like this, I who have been so faithful? Why should he let me bear all this poverty, all these pains, all this dishonesty of my fellowmen, when a small act of his will could remove it all and make me healthy, happy and prosperous?"

What such a Christian forgets is that God's purpose in creating him was not to make him healthy, happy and prosperous in this life, but to give him a share in his own eternal happiness in heaven. If this life were the end and sum-total of man, if all ended with death, then certainly that complaint would have some foundation. However, our human intelligence, and divine revelation, prove to us conclusively that this life is not an end for man but a means with which to attain his real end, perfect happiness.

Therefore, we must not expect to get from life what it cannot give. Instead, we must use what it gives us, the unpleasant as well as the pleasant, the rain as well as the sunshine, the pain as well as the pleasure, as means which will help us to reach our perfect ending, our eternal dwelling-place in heaven. Too often like the disciples that night in the storm, we think that God has forgotten us, that he is not interested in us when storms break around us. In fact, it is then that he is nearest to us.

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

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

Space Available

Please contact Lydia

at the Church Office

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FATHER BART'S CORNER

My sisters and brothers:

Solemnity of St. John the Baptist

St. Luke tells us in his Gospel that John was conceived in a miraculous manner and that his parents were Zachary and Elizabeth. He spent his youth in the desert, and at the age of 30 came to Judea and preached near the Jordan. He exhorted the people to do penance because the kingdom of God was at hand. He baptized the Savior in the Jordan. He rebuked Herod Antipas for taking to himself Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip; at the request of the dancing daughter of Herodias he was imprisoned and beheaded.

John the Baptist is the only saint whose birthday is observed by the Church; he is the only saint who was cleansed from original sin in his mother's womb and who consequently was holy at his birth. The Gospel describes the joy caused by his birth, and recalls that at the circumcision he did not receive the name of his father, as was customary among the Jews, but the name designated by the angel. He was to be the precursor of the Lord, a mission prefigured by that of Isaias and destined for him by God even before his birth.

The Introit tells us that God made John's "mouth like a sharp sword." John was uncompromising in his attitude towards sin, condemned fearlessly his incredulous and adulterous generation, and accepted martyrdom rather than flatter or condone the vices of the rich and the mighty.

Excerpted from *The Cathedral Daily Missal*, E. M. Lohmann Company

The Jewish historian Josephus, giving further testimony of John's holiness, writes: "He was indeed a man endued with all virtue, who exhorted the Jews to the practice of justice towards men and piety towards God; and also to baptism, preaching that they would become acceptable to God if they renounced their sins, and to the cleanness of their bodies added purity of soul."

Excerpted from *Lives of the Saints*, Published by John J. Crawley & Co., Inc.

With prayers and love,

Fr. Bart, S.V.D

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

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Monday, June 21

Live Stream Mass: 7:00 a.m.

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Tuesday, June 22

Live Stream Mass: 7:00 a.m.

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Wednesday, June 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, June 24

Live Stream Mass: 7:00 a.m.

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Friday, June 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, June 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, June 27

Live Stream Mass: 10:00 a.m.

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Weekday Confessions thirty minutes before morning Mass.

Weekly Readings

6/21—GN 12:1-9; MT 7:1-5

6/22—GN 13:2, 5-18; MT 7:6, 12-14

6/23—GN 15:1-12, 17-18; MT 7:15-20

6/24—JER 1:4-10; 1 PT 1:8-12; LK 1:5-17

6/25—GN 17:1, 9-10, 15-22; MT 8:1-4

6/26—GN 18:1-15; MT 8:5-17

6/27—WIS 1:13-15, 2:23-24; 2 COR 8:7, 9, 13-15; MK 5:21-43 or 5:21-24, 35b-43

Vocation View

"Why are you terrified? Why are you lacking in faith?" If God is calling you, don't let fear stop you.

Matthew 8:26

Divine Word Vocation Office

1-800-553-3321

www.svdvocations.org

PARISH CORNER

History of Father's Day

Father's Day in the U.S. has a fairly straightforward backstory (unlike Mother's Day, which isn't quite as cut-and-dry). The only fact that might surprise you? The holiday was dreamt up by a woman! According to History.com, the celebration of Father's Day as we know it today was spearheaded by a woman named Sonora Smart Dodd in 1909. She "tried to establish an official equivalent to Mother's Day for male parents," and it wasn't long before she won support from local businesses and beyond. On June 19, 1910, the first-ever Father's Day was celebrated in the state of Washington.

The idea of officially celebrating fatherhood spread quickly across the United States, as more and more states adopted the holiday. In 1924, President Calvin Coolidge recognized Father's Day as the third Sunday in June of that year and encouraged states to do the same. Congress officially recognized Father's Day in 1956 with the passage of a joint resolution.

Ten years later, in 1966, President Lyndon Johnson issued a proclamation calling for the third Sunday in June to be recognized as Father's Day. In 1972, President Richard Nixon permanently established the observance of the third Sunday in June as Father's Day in the United States.

St. Joseph is our model for Spiritual Fatherhood. Joseph is exalted as a father by God. Joseph is a spiritual father to Jesus.

St. Joseph is the Patron Saint of the Church and of fathers – St. Joseph is the second greatest saint (after Our Lady) and is the Patron (meaning, "defender, protector, father") Saint of the Catholic Church and of fathers. St. John Paul II wrote the apostolic exhortation *Redemptoris Custos*, (Guardian of the Redeemer) to promote St. Joseph as the model of fatherhood.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you!

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul thanks our church family for their generosity and faithfulness with your donations. This quarter covering February 16, 2021 through May 15, 2021 we have served 46 families, distributing \$6,668.36 in aid.

"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased." Hebrews 13:16

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2021 Office of Youth, Young Adult, Campus Ministry

Diocese of Fort Worth Calendar

The Diocese of Fort Worth is offering youth summer and fall programs.

The following is a calendar for the remainder of 2021. It has been exciting to put some dates together for all of you as you plan for fall programming and events. If you have any questions please let us know.

SUMMER

June 25-27th Steubenville Lone Star Conference *Irving, TX*

July 12-15th John Bosco Conference *Franciscan U of Steubenville, OH*

August 6th New YM Orientation *Catholic Center*

FALL

September 3-4th YM Retreat *Lone Oak Retreat Center, Gainesville*

September 23rd Well Meeting *TBD*

October 2nd Source & Summit *St. Michael, Bedford*

November TBD Lock-in For Life *TBD*

November 29th *Young Adult Advent Series*

December 6th *Young Adult Advent Series*

December 9th Day of Reflection *TBD*

December 13th *Young Adult Advent Series*

December 20th *Young Adult Advent Series*

Contact the Office of Youth Ministry

Office: 817-945-9355: Jason -9352: Victoria / -9356: Melissa

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

PRAYER IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

THE TRADITION OF PRAYER

In communion with the holy Mother of God

2677 *Holy Mary, Mother of God:* With Elizabeth we marvel, "And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?"³⁶ Because she gives us Jesus, her son, Mary is Mother of God and our mother; we can entrust all our cares and petitions to her: she prays for us as she prayed for herself: "Let it be to me according to your word."³⁷ By entrusting ourselves to her prayer, we abandon ourselves to the will of God together with her: "Thy will be done." *Pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death:* By asking Mary to pray for us, we acknowledge ourselves to be poor sinners and we address ourselves to the "Mother of Mercy," the All-Holy One. We give ourselves over to her now, in the Today of our lives. And our trust broadens further, already at the present moment, to surrender "the hour of our death" wholly to her care. May she be there as she was at her son's death on the cross. May she welcome us as our mother at the hour of our passing³⁸ to lead us to her son, Jesus, in paradise.

2678 Medieval piety in the West developed the prayer of the rosary as a popular substitute for the Liturgy of the Hours. In the East, the litany called the *Akathistos* and the Paracletis remained closer to the choral office in the Byzantine churches, while the Armenian, Coptic, and Syriac traditions preferred popular hymns and songs to the Mother of God. But in the *Ave Maria*, the *theotokia*, the hymns of St. Ephrem or St. Gregory of Narek, the tradition of prayer is basically the same.

36 Lk 1:43.
37 Lk 1:38.
38 Cf. Jn 19:27.

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Jesus, I trust in you.

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