

**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 sabbath came he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What kind of wisdom has been given him? What mighty deeds are wrought by his hands!"

Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his native place and among his own kin and in his own house."

So he was not able to perform any mighty deed there, apart from curing a few sick people by laying his hands on them.

He was amazed at their lack of faith.

Mark 6:2, 4-6

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Thank you so much



# OUR MOTHER OF MERCY

Historically African-American Catholic Church—all are welcome!

July 4, 2021



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**Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church**

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Fort Worth, TX 76104  
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**ORDINARY TIME : July 4th  
Fourteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time**

The **Gospel** is from St. Mark 6:1-6. What happened in Nazareth was a foretaste of the later reaction of the scribes and Pharisees, the leaders of the people, to Christ's claim to be the promised Messiah. What the people of Nazareth tried to do (Lk. 4:29-30), the religious authorities in Jerusalem succeeded in doing, because they were able to threaten the Roman governor with blackmail. Even in their wickedness and unknown to themselves, they were putting into action God's plan for mankind. It was necessary that Christ should die so that all men could live forever with God. Christ's death, followed by his resurrection, was the key that opened the door of eternity for the human race.

Unfortunately for the leaders of the Jews, the good end did not justify the evil intentions and evil means which they used. The people of Nazareth had heard nothing but marvelous reports of his wonderful preaching and miracles. One would therefore expect that if they were at all reasonable, they would rejoice on having one of their own citizens admired by thousands and looked upon as the long-promised Messiah. Instead, they turned against him in bitter hatred and there and then decided to put an end to his career (Lk. 4:29). Why? Because the demon of envy, a daughter of pride, laid hold of their hearts and minds. Why should a neighbor's son, and one of a lower status than many of them—a mere carpenter, be given this privilege while their sons were passed over? This could not be, their envy told them, and so they shut their minds against any proof to the contrary.

It was the same later in the case of the

Pharisees. The same vices, pride and envy, darkened their intellects and prevented them from seeing the truth. They were the religious leaders of the people. If the Messiah had come they felt that he should have come through them and with their approval. This impostor Jesus could not possibly be the Messiah. Not only was he not keeping the law as strictly as they kept it, but he was friendly with sinners and tax-gatherers. Furthermore, he was talking of some faraway kingdom in heaven and not of the earthly empire which they decided the real Messiah would establish. In Bethany only a few miles from Jerusalem Lazarus had been raised to life after four days in the grave. They tried very hard to deny these miracles (see Jn. 9: the man born blind), and they even thought of killing Lazarus to make the people forget the miracle! (Jn. 12:11). Thus their pride and envy made them irrational. Nothing but the cruelest possible death of the one hated could satisfy their hatred. But that very death was Christ's road to glory. Lifted up on the cross he drew all men to himself as he had foretold (Jn. 12:32). Those on Calvary beheld the triumph of failure.

Would that all the opposition to Christ and his teaching, caused by human pride and envy, had ended with the Nazarenes and Pharisees! Far from it. Pride and envy are still rife among us. All through the twenty centuries of Christianity, there have been proud men, men high in their own esteem. Not only would they not have Christ to reign over them, but they have tried to prevent his reign over even those who are gladly and proudly his subjects. Not content with dethroning Christ in their own hearts and minds, they have devoted all their energies to abolishing him and his Church from the face of our earth. Such enemies of Christ are still among 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

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**FATHER BART'S CORNER**

**My sisters and brothers:  
St. Maria Goretti**

St. Maria Goretti is unique in that she is the youngest canonized saint in the Church. She died tragically on July 6, 1902, at the age of eleven.

Born into poverty, her father moved the family when Maria was just six years old from the east side of Italy to the west side near Anzio. In hopes of escaping the grinding poverty that was gripping the area.

Just three years later, when Maria was nine, her father died. It fell to her at that time to raise her five siblings while her mother worked the fields to produce the crops with which they would both pay the rent and feed themselves.

This was a terrible time of trial and suffering for the whole family. For Maria it was especially difficult. Aside from having the responsibility of caring for her family, she had to also cook and clean for her two next door neighbors—Giovanni Serenelli and his son, Alessandro—who assisted her mother with the farm tasks.

It was also during this time that Alessandro began to develop an impure liking for Maria. The big 20-year-old would say rude and crude things to her, things that were inappropriate and embarrassing, and that would cause her to run away. However, at a certain point he began to make direct sexual advances towards her, demanding her virginity and threatening her with violence for non-compliance.

Finally, after many months of this, Alessandro forced himself upon Maria in an attempt to rape her. Though she prevented him from violating her, Alessandro brutally stabbed her numerous times. Maria died the next day in the midst of horrendous infection brought on by her lacerations. Her last words were, "I forgive Alessandro Serenelli ... and I want him with me in heaven forever."

During his prison sentence Maria appeared to Alessandro and forgave him. That act of mercy and forgiveness—that act of love—filled Alessandro with contrition for his crime. It was also a turning point for him where grace entered his heart. From that point on, he lived a beautiful and converted life of holiness, eventually becoming a Franciscan lay brother.

**With prayers and love,**

*Fr. Bart, S.V.D*

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

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**Monday, July 5**

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

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**Tuesday, July 6**

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

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**Wednesday, July 7**

**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, July 8**

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

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**Friday, July 9**

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

**Adoration 8:00 a.m.—noon**

**Confessions 9:00 a.m.—noon**

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**Saturday, July 10**

**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, July 11**

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

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

**Weekly Readings**

7/5—GN 28:10-22a; MT 9:18-26

7/6—GN 32:23-33; MT 9:32-38

7/7—GN 41:55-57, 42:5-7a, 17-24a; MT 10:1-7

7/8—GN 44:18-21, 23b-29, 45:1-5; MT 10:7-15

7/9—GN 46:1-7, 28-30; MT 10:16-23

7/10—GN 49:29-32, 50:15-26a; MT 10:24-33

7/11—AM 7:12-15; EPH 1:3-14, or 1:3-10; MK 6:7-13

*Vocation View*

**God works through the prophets to make known His message of salvation. Has He called you to be a prophet in our day and age?**

**Divine Word Vocation Office  
1-800-553-3321  
www.svdvocations.org**

**PARISH CORNER**

**Augustine Zhao Rong and Companions**

Christianity arrived in China by way of Syria in the 600s. Depending on China's relations with the outside world, Christianity over the centuries was free to grow or was forced to operate secretly.

The 120 martyrs in this group died between 1648 and 1930. Most of them (eighty-seven) were born in China and were children, parents, catechists or laborers, ranging from nine years of age to seventy-two. This group includes four Chinese diocesan priests.

The thirty-three foreign-born martyrs were mostly priests or women religious, especially from the Order of Preachers, the Paris Foreign Mission Society, the Friars Minor, Jesuits, Salesians and Franciscan Missionaries of Mary.

Among their number was an eighteen-year-old boy, Chi Zhuzi, who cried out to those who had just cut off his right arm and were preparing to flay him alive: "Every piece of my flesh, every drop of my blood will tell you that I am Christian."

Augustine Zhao Rong was a Chinese soldier who accompanied Bishop John Gabriel Taurin Dufresse (Paris Foreign Mission Society) to his martyrdom in Beijing. Augustine was baptized and not long after was ordained as a diocesan priest. He was martyred in 1815.

Beatified in groups at various times, these 120 martyrs were canonized in Rome on October 1, 2000.

Excerpted from *Saint of the Day*, Leonard Foley, O.F.M.

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*"As the Lord spoke to me, the spirit entered me and set me on my feet, and I heard the one who was speaking say to me, 'Son of man, I am sending you...'" EZEKIEL 2:2-3*

God has a plan for each of us. He calls us to do something for Him. But, He doesn't leave us on our own to figure it out. He gives us the resources we need to do His work. Are you listening for God's call? When you hear it, do you get on your feet and do the work He asks of you? Do not be afraid. God doesn't call the equipped, he equips the called. Answer His call.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dear Parishioners of OMM,

By now, you should have received the notice from Nancy Eder about Father Bart. Father Bart asked that a Thank you be sent to everyone who has been praying for him. He is at home resting. He has everything that he needs for the next ten days to quarantine and get well. He appreciates everyone's concerns but for now, he is asking everyone to please hold all calls or texts. He is simply asking for your prayers.

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St. Veronica Court 89 Ladies Auxiliary is having a Po Boy on the Run Fundraiser consisting of Sausage or Meatball Po' Boy with chips, tea or water \$10 benefiting our Florida Johnson Scholarship July 18, 2021, in Life Center Garage following the 10 AM Mass. See any member of KPCLA St Veronica Ct 89 for pre purchased tickets.

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Jesus sent out the Apostles two by two to preach. Our marriage sacrament is a sign to others – what sign are we showing? Sign up today to attend the upcoming Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next IN-PERSON Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend is Sept 10-12. For more information visit

<http://www.dfwme.org/>,

e-mail [apply@dfwme.org](mailto:apply@dfwme.org)

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**CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**PRAYER IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE**

**THE TRADITION OF PRAYER**

**GUIDES FOR PRAYER**

**Servants of Prayer**

**2685** The *Christian family* is the first place of education in prayer. Based on the sacrament of marriage, the family is the "domestic church" where God's children learn to pray "as the Church" and to persevere in prayer. For young children in particular, daily family prayer is the first witness of the Church's living memory as awakened patiently by the Holy Spirit.

**2686** *Ordained ministers* are also responsible for the formation in prayer of their brothers and sisters in Christ. Servants of the Good Shepherd, they are ordained to lead the People of God to the living waters of prayer: the Word of God, the liturgy, the theological life (the life of faith, hope, and charity), and the Today of God in concrete situations.<sup>45</sup>

**2687** Many *religious* have consecrated their whole lives to prayer. Hermits, monks, and nuns since the time of the desert fathers have devoted their time to praising God and interceding for his people. The consecrated life cannot be sustained or spread without prayer; it is one of the living sources of contemplation and the spiritual life of the Church.

**2688** The *catechesis* of children, young people, and adults aims at teaching them to meditate on The Word of God in personal prayer, practicing it in liturgical prayer, and internalizing it at all times in order to bear fruit in a new life. Catechesis is also a time for the discernment and education of popular piety.<sup>46</sup> The memorization of basic prayers offers an essential support to the life of prayer, but it is important to help learners savor their meaning.

<sup>45</sup> Cf. PO 4-6.

<sup>46</sup> Cf. CT 54.

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**"Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless."**

**- Mother Teresa**