

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 summoned the crowd with his disciples and said to them,
“Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his
cross, and follow me.”

For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his
life for my sake and that of the gospel will save it.”

Mark 8:34-35

September 5th Collection

Regular:	\$3,027.00
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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!

September 12, 2021



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

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**ORDINARY TIME : September 12th
TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY**

The **Gospel** is from St. Mark 8:27-35. We need not be surprised at the slowness of the Apostles in grasping the messiahship of Jesus. He did not want the crowds who flocked to him to know this until later — after his resurrection — because they had the idea that the Messiah would be a political leader who would set them free from their subjection to pagan Rome. It was not until this occasion, near Caesarea Philippi, somewhat over a year after he had called them, that he admitted to his Apostles that he was the Messiah. He charged them not to make this fact known outside of their own limited circle. To forestall and erase any wrong ideas of a political leader which some of the Apostles might have, he immediately foretold the sufferings and death he would have to endure at the hands of the leaders of the Jews. He would be conquered and humiliated by his enemies but their victory would be short-lived -- death would not hold him -- he would rise triumphant on the third day.

To the Apostles this seemed incredible and Peter, their spokesman, told him so. This outlook of the Apostles is also very understandable. They had seen him work many miracles, God was evidently very near to him: how could God let his enemies humiliate and kill him? Had they read of the Suffering Servant in second-Isaiah they would not have disbelieved the prophecy of his coming sufferings, death and resurrection. And his mention of his resurrection after three days, which would prove that it was he and not his enemies who conquered, fell on deaf ears, because the idea of a resurrection of that kind was incomprehensible to them. We know how slow they were to accept his resurrection even after it had happened.

Although the message was only vaguely and dubiously grasped, Christ had forewarned his Apostles (he repeated this

twice later: Mk. 9: 9-10; 31-32 and 10: 32-34), so as to prepare them for the scandal of the cross. While it did not really prepare them because they were still too worldly-minded, it did help to strengthen their faith once the facts convinced them of the resurrection. They then realized that their beloved Master was more than Messiah, that he was in fact the Son of God, who with knowledge aforethought freely accepted his humiliations and shameful death for their sakes and ours. They gladly gave their lives to bringing this news of God's great love for men to all nations. From being a scandal the cross became the emblem and the proud standard of God's love for mankind.

We know how much God loves us; we appreciate the humiliation that the incarnation brought on his beloved Son and the sufferings and cruel death which the sins of the world, ours included, brought on the Son of God. All of this took place because God wished to make us his adopted sons and worthy of the inheritance he had planned for us. For a faithful and grateful Christian, however, theoretical appreciation is not enough. Atonement has been made for our sins, but we have still a very important part to play. Our sins can be forgiven but we must truly repent of them before God will forgive them.

St. Mark adds some words of Christ which illustrate what practical form our appreciation and gratitude for Christ's sufferings should take. We must be ready to follow him on the road to Calvary. We must deny ourselves — deprive ourselves not only of sinful pleasure or gain, but even of lawful things at times, in order to be Christ-like. We must take up our cross and follow him. This does not mean that we must search for crosses — there are plenty of them in any good Christian's life — but we must gladly accept the crosses life brings us and see in them God's means of keeping us close to him.

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

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Space Available

Please contact Lydia at the Church Office (817) 335-1695

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

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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:

Mon, Wed, & Fri

10:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.

FATHER BART'S CORNER

**My sisters and brothers:
Our Lady of Sorrows**

This feast dates back to the 12th century. "The Seven Dolors," the title by which it was celebrated in the 17th century, referred to the seven swords that pierced the Heart of Mary. The feast is like an octave for the birthday of Our Lady on September 8th.

—Excerpted from *Our Lady of Sorrows* by Fr. Paul Haffner (Inside the Vatican, September 2004)

This feast is dedicated to the spiritual martyrdom of Mary, Mother of God, and her compassion with the sufferings of her Divine Son, Jesus. In her suffering as co-redeemer, she reminds us of the tremendous evil of sin and shows us the way of true repentance. May the numerous tears of the Mother of God be conducive to our salvation; with which tears Thou, O God, art able to wash away the sins of the whole world.

As Mary stood at the foot of the Cross on which Jesus hung, the sword of sorrow Simeon had foretold pierced her soul. Below are the seven sorrows of Mary:

1. The prophecy of Simeon (*Luke 2:25-35*)
2. The flight into Egypt (*Matthew 2:13-15*)
3. Loss of the Child Jesus for three days (*Luke 2:41-50*)
4. Mary meets Jesus on his way to Calvary (*Luke 23:27-31; John 19:17*)
5. Crucifixion and Death of Jesus (*John 19:25-30*)
6. The body of Jesus being taken from the Cross (*Psalms 130; Luke 23:50-54; John 19:31-37*)
7. The burial of Jesus (*Isaiah 53:8; Luke 23:50-56; John 19:38-42; Mark 15:40-47*)

With prayers and love,

Fr. Bart, S.V.D

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

☒☒☒
Monday, September 13

Live Stream Mass: 7:00 a.m.

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Tuesday, September 14

Live Stream Mass: 7:00 a.m.

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Wednesday, September 15

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, September 16

Live Stream Mass: 7:00 a.m.

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Friday, September 17

Live Stream Mass: 7:00 a.m.

Adoration 8:00 a.m.—noon

Confessions 9:00 a.m.—noon

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Saturday, September 18

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, September 19

Live Stream Mass: 10:00 a.m.

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Weekday Confessions thirty minutes before morning Mass.

Weekly Readings

- 9/13—1 TM 2:1-8; LK 7:1-10
- 9/14—NM 21:4b-9; PHIL 2:6-11; JN 3:13-17
- 9/15—1 TM 3:14-16; JN 19:25-27 or LK 2:33-35
- 9/16—1 TM 4:12-16; LK 7:36-50
- 9/17—1 TM 6:2c-12; LK 8:1-3
- 9/18—1 TM 6:13-16; LK 8:4-15
- 9/19—WIS 2:12, 17-20; JAS 3:16-4:3; MK 9:30-37

Vocation View
**"The Lord GOD is my help."
When Christ calls one to follow
as a priest or religious, He also
gives the strength to overcome
the obstacles that are
sometimes in the way, but we
must ask to receive this
strength!**
Divine Word Vocation Office
1-800-553-3321
www.svdvocations.org

PARISH CORNER

Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

The one symbol most often identified with Jesus and his Church is the cross.

On September 14th we celebrate The Exaltation of the Holy Cross. This feast traces its beginning to Jerusalem and the dedication of the church built on the site of Mount Calvary in 335. But the meaning of the cross is deeper than any city, any celebration, any building. The cross is a sign of suffering, a sign of human cruelty at its worst. But by Christ's love shown in the Paschal Mystery, it has become the sign of triumph and victory, the sign of God, who is love itself.

Believers have always looked to the cross in times of suffering. People in concentration camps, in prisons, in hospitals, in any place of suffering and loneliness, have been known to draw, trace, or form crosses and focus their eyes and hearts on them. The cross does not explain pain and misery. It does not give us any easy answers. But it does help us to see our lives united with Christ's.

We often make the Sign of the Cross over ourselves. We make it before prayer to help fix our minds and hearts on God. We make it after prayer, hoping to stay close to God. In trials and temptations, the cross is a sign of strength and protection. The cross is the sign of the fullness of life that is ours. At Baptism, too, the Sign of the Cross is used; the priest, parents, and godparents make the sign on the forehead of the child. A sign made on the forehead is a sign of belonging. By the Sign of the Cross in Baptism, Jesus takes us as his own in a unique way. Today, let us look to the cross often. Let us make the Sign of the Cross and realize we bring our whole selves to God—our minds, souls, bodies, wills, thoughts, hearts—everything we are and will become.

O cross, you are the glorious sign of our victory.

Through your power may we share in the triumph of Christ Jesus.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Lady of Fatima

Please join us on Monday, September 13th after the 7:00am morning Mass, for rosary and other prayers to commemorate the 5th Apparition of Our Lady of Fatima, Mass will begin at 7:00a.m. with 5th Apparition prayers from 7:30am—8:30am.

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**St. Anne's Altar Society
Membership Appeal**

Corinthians 15 verse 58

So, then my dear friends, stand firm and steady keep always busy in the work of the Lord, since you know that nothing you do in the Lord's service is ever useless.

Ladies if you are a member, in good standing of Our Mother Mercy Catholic Church, do join us in this worthwhile ministry. Our primary duties are to assist our priest in the maintaining of our altar. For more information contact the Church Office for details.

Marie Guidry

President St. Anne's Altar Society.

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**2021 Frank B. Staton
Golf Classic**

Registration is now open for The 2021 Frank B. Staton Golf Classic, hosted by the Knights of Peter Claver, Our Mother of Mercy Council #89, Fort Worth, TX, September 17, 2021 at The Historic Cedar Crest Golf Course home of the 1927 PGA Championship designed by architect A.W. Tillinghast, renowned golf course architect.

1:00pm Shotgun start. Food, fun, contests, games, cash hole in one, fellowship. Benefiting: Education, Scholarship, and Community Outreach.

Visit www.kofpcntx.org/events/ for more information.

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Remembering that absolutely everything we have and everything we are is a gift from God.

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**CATECHISM OF THE
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

PRAYER IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

THE TRADITION OF PRAYER

THE BATTLE OF PRAYER

2725 Prayer is both a gift of grace and a determined response on our part. It always presupposes effort. The great figures of prayer of the Old Covenant before Christ, as well as the Mother of God, the saints, and he himself, all teach us this: prayer is a battle. Against whom? Against ourselves and against the wiles of the tempter who does all he can to turn man away from prayer, away from union with God. We pray as we live, because we live as we pray. If we do not want to act habitually according to the Spirit of Christ, neither can we pray habitually in his name. The "spiritual battle" of the Christian's new life is inseparable from the battle of prayer.

OBJECTIONS TO PRAYER

2726 In the battle of prayer, we must face in ourselves and around us *erroneous notions of prayer*. Some people view prayer as a simple psychological activity, others as an effort of concentration to reach a mental void. Still others reduce prayer to ritual words and postures. Many Christians unconsciously regard prayer as an occupation that is incompatible with all the other things they have to do: they "don't have the time." Those who seek God by prayer are quickly discouraged because they do not know that prayer comes also from the Holy Spirit and not from themselves alone.

2727 We must also face the fact that certain attitudes deriving from the *mentality* of "this present world" can penetrate our lives if we are not vigilant. For example, some would have it that only that is true which can be verified by reason and science; yet prayer is a mystery that overflows both our conscious and unconscious lives. Others overly prize production and profit; thus prayer, being unproductive, is useless. Still others exalt sensuality and comfort as the criteria of the true, the good, and the beautiful; whereas prayer, the "love of beauty" (*philokalia*), is caught up in the glory of the living and true God. Finally, some see prayer as a flight from the world in reaction against activism; but in fact, Christian prayer is neither an escape from reality nor a divorce from life.