

**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**

Then he sat down, called the Twelve, and said to them, "If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all."  
Taking a child he placed it in their midst, and putting his arms around it he said to them,  
"Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but the One who sent me."  
Mark 9:35-37

**September 12<sup>th</sup> Collection**

- Regular: \$2,912.00
- Parish Maintenance: \$230.00
- St. Vincent de Paul: \$75.00
- Mass Intentions: \$30.00
- St. Anne's (Candles): \$56.00
- Utility Reimbursement: \$132.72
- Catholic University: \$247.00
- Online 9/6-9/13: \$664.00

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



# OUR MOTHER OF MERCY

Historically African-American Catholic Church—all are welcome!

September 19, 2021



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

1001 E. Terrell Avenue  
Fort Worth, TX 76104  
**(817) 335-1695**  
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**Musician:** Zenobia Collins

**Society of St. Vincent de Paul**  
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**ORDINARY TIME : SEPTEMBER 19<sup>th</sup>  
TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY**

The **Gospel** is from St. Mark 9:30-37. The Apostles were still very worldly-minded. They were full of the hope that Christ would establish an earthly messianic kingdom, that he would not only free their holy land from the hated pagan rulers but that he would set up a worldwide empire for the people of God. Many of the messianic prophecies of the Old Testament spoke of a worldwide kingdom; all nations would submit to the descendant of David; Jerusalem would be the magnet which would attract all peoples. The prophets, however, were speaking of the true messianic kingdom, the spiritual kingdom that Christ would establish. The Apostles were as yet unable to see the true meaning of these prophecies. They took them as referring to a worldly kingdom. They had come to believe that Christ was the promised Messiah, therefore, he would overcome all enemies and all opposition and set up this kingdom. How, therefore, could his enemies overpower him much less put him to death before he had accomplished his task? Thus they refused to believe his prophecies concerning his coming tortures and death.

Now, either in trying to understand what he had so plainly told them, or maybe in putting this disturbing thought far from their minds, they began disputing with one another as to which of them would have the highest post of honor in the earthly messianic kingdom which they had envisaged. How worldly but how human they were! We must not forget though, that they were not yet really Christians — they needed the death and resurrection of Christ to make them what they became — His true followers and loyal disciples.

There was in the unformed Apostles a desire to turn Christ's kingdom into an earthly welfare state, rather than into a preparation for heaven. All Christians

know that Christ suffered and died for their salvation, and that he asked his followers to take up their cross and follow him if they wished to be his disciples. The first generations of Christians fully understood this and faithfully followed him even to martyrdom. However, as time went on and opposition to the Christian faith disappeared, so too did the zeal and fervor of many Christians. For centuries we have had nominal Christians in Christ's Church -- men and women who tried to make their paradise in this world, and forgot the everlasting heaven.

Our own age has seen an unprecedented increase in this falling away of Christians. Leaving aside the parts of Europe which are professedly atheist -- but where in spite of the leaders there are many sincere and devout Christians -- the number of lapsed and nominal Christians in the other Western countries is frightening. These non-practicing Christians, unwilling to carry their crosses, have decided to make this earth their paradise. They want prosperity, comfort and happiness in this world. Die they must; "and what then?" should be a question which overshadows their lives.

Many of these people who in practice have abandoned Christianity, try to salve their consciences by devoting any time they can spare to making this planet a better place in which to live. If God, and Christ's teaching are left out of our reckoning, we shall ever have jealousies, enmities, hatred and wars. What chance then has the world when Christ and Christianity are banished from it?

Today's thought for each one of us is this: Christ became man, suffered and died as man, for our sakes. By his resurrection He conquered death and opened heaven for us. Heaven is our true destiny. Loving God and our neighbor and carrying our cross is the only way to reach heaven.

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:  
St. Pio of Pietrelcina**

Born to a southern Italian farm family, the son of Grazio, a shepherd. At age 15 he entered the novitiate of the Capuchin Friars in Morcone, and joined the order at age 19. He suffered several health problems, and at one point his family thought he had tuberculosis. He was ordained at age 22 on 10 August 1910.

While praying before a cross on September 20, 1918, Padre Pio received the stigmata. He is the first priest ever to be so blessed. As word spread, especially after American soldiers brought home stories of Padre Pio following WWII, the priest himself became a point of pilgrimage for both the pious and the curious. He would hear confessions by the hour, reportedly able to read the consciences of those who held back. He was reportedly able to bi-locate, levitate, and heal by touch.

In 1956 he founded the House for the Relief of Suffering, a hospital that serves 60,000 a year. Padre Pio died on September 23, 1968 at age 81.

His canonization miracle involved the cure of Matteo Pio Colella, age 7, the son of a doctor who works in the House for Relief of Suffering, the hospital in San Giovanni Rotondo. On the night of June 20, 2000, Matteo was admitted to the intensive care unit of the hospital with meningitis. By morning doctors had lost hope for him as nine of the boy's internal organs had ceased to give signs of life. That night, during a prayer vigil attended by Matteo's mother and some Capuchin friars of Padre Pio's monastery, the child's condition improved suddenly. When he awoke from the coma, Matteo said that he had seen an elderly man with a white beard and a long, brown habit, who said to him: "Don't worry, you will soon be cured." The miracle was approved by the Congregation and Pope John Paul II on 20 December 2001.

--Adapted from the Discount Catholic Store, Inc.

**With prayers and love,**

**Fr. Bart, S.V.D**

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

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**Monday, September 20**

Live Stream Mass: 7:00 a.m.

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**Tuesday, September 21**

Live Stream Mass: 7:00 a.m.

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**Wednesday, September 22**

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 23**

Live Stream Mass: 7:00 a.m.

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**Friday, September 24**

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 25**

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 26**

Live Stream Mass: 10:00 a.m.

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Weekday Confessions thirty minutes before morning Mass.

**Weekly Readings**

9/20—EZR 1:1-6; LK 8:16-18

9/21—EPH 4:1-7, 11-13; MT 9:9-13

9/22—EZR 9:5-9; LK 9:1-6

9/23—HG 1:1-8; LK 9:7-9

9/24—HG 2:1-9; LK 9:18-22

9/25—ZEC 2:5-9, 14-15a;

LK 9:43b-45

9/26—NM 11:25-29; JAS 5:1-6;

MK 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

**Vocation View**

**For those who are called, Jesus promises only one thing: the Cross. If one seeks power and prestige in this world, there will be no reward in the Kingdom of Heaven.**

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

**PARISH CORNER****Feast of St. Matthew,  
Apostle and Evangelist**

No one was more shunned by the Jews than a publican, who was a Jew working for the Roman enemy by robbing his own people and making a large personal profit. Publicans were not allowed to trade, eat, or even pray with others Jews.

One day, while seated at his table of books and money, Jesus looked at Matthew and said two words: "Follow me." This was all that was needed to make Matthew rise, leaving his pieces of silver to follow Christ. His original name, "Levi," in Hebrew signifies "Adhesion" while his new name in Christ, Matthew, means "Gift of God." The only other outstanding mention of Matthew in the Gospels is the dinner party for Christ and His companions to which he invited his fellow tax-collectors. The Jews were surprised to see Jesus with a publican, but Jesus explained that he had come "not to call the just, but sinners."

St. Matthew is known to us as an Evangelist, with his Gospel being the first in the New Testament. His Gospel was written in Aramaic, the language that our Lord Himself spoke and was written to convince the Jews that their anticipated Messiah had come in the person of Jesus.

Not much else is known about Matthew. According to tradition, he preached in Egypt and Ethiopia and further places East. Some legends say he lived until his nineties, dying a peaceful death, others say he died a martyr's death.

In the traditional symbolization of the evangelists, based on Ezech. 1:5-10 and Rev. 4:6-7, the image of the winged man is accorded to Matthew because his Gospel begins with the human genealogy of Christ.

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS****Special Collection for Hurricane  
Ida, September 25-26  
Bishop Asks for Support of Diocese  
of Houma-Thibodaux**

At the request of Bishop Olson, all parishes in the Diocese of Fort Worth will take up a special collection the weekend of September 25-26 to provide immediate assistance for those affected by Hurricane Ida in the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux. Your gifts will go directly to bring relief to the parishioners of this diocese. On behalf of Bishop Fabre and the priests, religious, and lay leadership of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux, thank you for your charitable generosity and expression of solidarity among God's people. Please generously support this collection when it is taken in your parish or visit <https://bit.ly/DioceseSpecialCollections>. Please select Hurricane Ida/Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux from the drop down menu when making your donation.

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**Family Day**

On September 26<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate the Feast Day of Our Lady of Ransom that occurred on September 24<sup>th</sup>. Festivities will begin after 10am Mass and conclude at 1pm. Some refreshments and t-shirts will be provided.

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**10 Day PILGRIMAGE TO THE  
HOLY LAND**

You are invited to join Father Mike Austin and Mrs. Paula Spears as we travel to the Holy Land, February 14 - 23, 2022. Through this life-changing Pilgrimage, we will have the opportunity to visit many holy sites including Bethlehem, Caesarea, Cana, Haifa, Jerusalem, Nazareth, Sea of Galilee, and Tiberias. Feel the Bible come alive with names, places and events we have been hearing about all our lives. The cost is \$3999, round trip from New Orleans. [Pilgrimagetotheholyland@gmail.com](mailto:Pilgrimagetotheholyland@gmail.com) or call Paula Spears (228) 697-7814

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**CATECHISM OF THE  
CATHOLIC CHURCH****PRAYER IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE****THE TRADITION OF PRAYER****THE BATTLE OF PRAYER****OBJECTIONS TO PRAYER**

**2728** Finally, our battle has to confront what we experience as *failure in prayer*: discouragement during periods of dryness; sadness that, because we have "great possessions,"<sup>15</sup> we have not given all to the Lord; disappointment over not being heard according to our own will; wounded pride, stiffened by the indignity that is ours as sinners; our resistance to the idea that prayer is a free and unmerited gift; and so forth. The conclusion is always the same: what good does it do to pray? To overcome these obstacles, we must battle to gain humility, trust, and perseverance.

**HUMBLE VIGILANCE OF HEART****Facing Temptations in prayer**

**2729** The habitual difficulty in prayer is *distraction*. It can affect words and their meaning in vocal prayer; it can concern, more profoundly, him to whom we are praying, in vocal prayer (liturgical or personal), meditation, and contemplative prayer. To set about hunting down distractions would be to fall into their trap, when all that is necessary is to turn back to our heart: for a distraction reveals to us what we are attached to, and this humble awareness before the Lord should awaken our preferential love for him and lead us resolutely to offer him our heart to be purified. Therein lies the battle, the choice of which master to serve.<sup>16</sup>

**2730** In positive terms, the battle against the possessive and dominating self requires vigilance, sobriety of heart. When Jesus insists on *vigilance*, he always relates it to himself, to his coming on the last day and every day: *today*. The bridegroom comes in the middle of the night; the light that must not be extinguished is that of faith: "'Come,' my heart says, 'seek his face!'"<sup>17</sup>

15 Cf. *Mk* 10:22.  
16 Cf. *Mt* 6:21,24.  
17 *Ps* 27:8.

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