

**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**

And people were bringing children to him that he might touch them,  
but the disciples rebuked them.  
When Jesus saw this he became indignant and said to them, "Let  
the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of  
God belongs to such as these.  
Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God  
like a child will not enter it."  
Then he embraced them and blessed them, placing his hands on  
them.  
Mark 10:13-16

**September 26<sup>th</sup> 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!

October 3, 2021



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Catholic Church**  
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**ORDINARY TIME : OCTOBER 3<sup>rd</sup>  
TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY**

The **Gospel** is from St. Mark, 10:2-16. On the "divorce" section of this Gospel see today's first reading. Christ clearly states that from the very beginning, God's plan for marriage was that it should be a life-long unity of one man and one woman. Its purpose is the procreation of children and their education, as well as the mutual love and fulfillment of the husband and wife. These demand this life-long bond. Divorce, which tries to break this bond, breaks the law of the Creator who decreed what was best for the temporal and spiritual welfare of the human race.

The last four verses of today's Gospel describe an incident which is in no way connected with the previous discussion but which has a very useful lesson for all Christians. It describes Christ's love for children and while manifesting this love he stresses the need for all his true followers to be childlike. "I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." To receive the kingdom of God is to accept the teaching of Christ and live according to it in his kingdom on earth. He who does this will enter, after death, into the eternal kingdom of heaven. Christ says, however, that we must accept "like a child": his kingdom on earth, his teaching and the Church he founded to carry on that teaching. It does not mean: in a childish way, an unthinking, uneducated way, but in a child-like way a humble, grateful, receptive way. A child is unselfconscious, content to be dependent on others' care and generosity. Christianity is a gift of the generous God to us, we have done nothing and never could do anything to merit it. We must accept it simply and gratefully as a gift; we could never

deserve it. While Christianity is a religion of reason and conforms in all its aspects to the rational nature of man—its basis is the revelation of God who is the author and foundation of all rationality—yet it is the heart of man rather than his intellect which Christ means to capture. The assent of the intellect to the doctrine revealed by Christ is not sufficient of itself for a Christian to earn the eternal kingdom; faith is the total acceptance and commitment of the believer to God through Jesus Christ. The man of true faith commits himself to God with a filial childlike trust, assured that if he does all that he can God will do the rest.

Therefore, our Christian faith must be childlike, a trusting, humble and obedient faith. This is the kind of faith that will move mountains—the mountains that loom so large in the vision of too many Christians today—the mountains of doubt, selfishness, unwillingness to be subjected to authority. Christ asks us, if we would be his followers: to take up our daily cross and climb the way to Calvary after him. This daily cross is made of the troubles and trials of life from which no one can escape. They can be borne with reluctance and grumbling or they can be accepted as the loving God's means of training us for the future life. Every true Christian accepts his trials in the latter way, for if he is true to his faith he knows that his years on earth are his apprenticeship to prepare him for his eternal life.

God is surely not asking too much of us when he asks us to live our Christian faith in childlike humility, candor and confidence during the days of our pilgrimage on this earth.

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

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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:  
Respect for Life**

Every October the Catholic Church in the United States celebrates Respect Life Month, and the first Sunday of October is observed as Respect Life Sunday. As Catholics, we are called to cherish, defend, and protect those who are most vulnerable, from the beginning to the end of their lives, and at every point in between. During the month of October, the Church asks us to reflect more deeply on the dignity of every human life.

As part of the Year of St. Joseph declared by Pope Francis, this year's celebration highlights the example of that great saint. As the faithful protector of both Jesus and Mary, we find in St. Joseph a profound reminder of our own call to welcome, safeguard, and defend God's precious gift of human life.

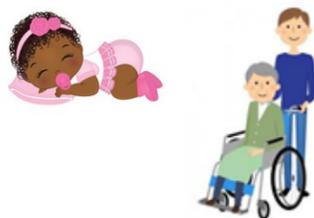
We can follow in the footsteps of St. Joseph as protector by advocating against taxpayer-funded abortion, which targets the lives of millions of poor children and their mothers here in the United States. We can imitate his care and provision by helping to start Walking with Moms in Need at our parishes, "walking in the shoes" of mothers experiencing a difficult pregnancy, especially low-income mothers in our communities.

At times, we may feel uncertain of our ability to answer the Lord's call. But He invites us to faithfully respond, despite our own fears or weaknesses: "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Cor 12:9). May we imitate St. Joseph's faithful trust and courage as we work to uphold the dignity of every human life.

St. Joseph, defender of life, pray for us!

**With prayers and love,**

*Fr. Bart, S.V.D*



**WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

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**Monday, October 4**

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

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**Tuesday, October 5**

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

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**Wednesday, October 6**

**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, October 7**

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

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**Friday, October 8**

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

**Adoration 8:00 a.m.—noon**

**Confessions 9:00 a.m.—noon**

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**Saturday, October 9**

**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, October 10**

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

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

**Weekly Readings**

- 10/4—JON 1:1-2:1-2, 11; LK 10:25-37
- 10/5—JON 3:1-10; LK 10:38-42
- 10/6—JON 4:1-11; LK 11:1-4
- 10/7—MAL 3:13-20b; LK 11:5-13
- 10/8—JI 1:13-15, 2:1-2; LK 11:15-26
- 10/9—JI 4:12-21; LK 11:27-28
- 10/10—WIS 7:7-11; HEB 4:12-13; MK 10:17-30 or 10:17-27

*Vocation View*  
**Vocations to the priesthood and religious life spring from holy families, who strive to truly be united in Christ. Each vocation lived out in holiness strengthens and enriches the other vocations in the Church.**

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

**PARISH CORNER**

**Our Lady of the Rosary**

This feast was instituted by Pope St. Pius V in thanksgiving for the great naval victory over the Turks at the battle of Lepanto on October 7<sup>th</sup> in the year 1570, a favor due to the recitation of the Rosary. This victory saved Europe from being overrun by the forces of Islam.

Lepanto, perhaps the most complete victory ever gained over the Ottoman Empire, on October 7, 1571, is commemorated by the invocation "Help of Christians," inserted in the Litany of Loretto. At Belgrade the Turks were defeated on the Feast of Our Lady ad Nives in 1716. A second victory gained that year on the Octave of the Assumption determined Pope Clement XI to command the Feast of the Rosary to be celebrated by the universal Church. Leo XIII added the invocation "Queen of the most Holy Rosary, pray for us," to the Litany of Loretto. The Feast is in reality a great festival of thanksgiving for the signal and countless benefits bestowed on Christendom through the Rosary of our blessed Queen.

In modern times successive popes have urged the faithful to pray the Rosary. It is a form of contemplative prayer, mental and vocal prayer, which brings down God's blessing on the Church. It is a biblically inspired prayer which is centered on meditation on the salvific mysteries of Christ in union with Mary, who was so closely associated with her Son in his redeeming activity.



**Praying the Rosary**

We are encouraging you to come and pray the Rosary every Sunday before Mass at 9:30 a.m. especially for the month of October, in observance of Our Lady of the Rosary. We also have new prayer cards, please pick one up per family for now, off the back table.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**St. Vincent de Paul**

Quarterly Report St. Vincent de Paul, of Our Mother of Mercy would like to thank our church family for your continued generosity and faithfulness with your donations. This quarter covering May through August, we served 27 Families, for a total of \$4,675.48. Including rent and utilities.

**Feast Day**

Preparations for feast day celebration.



**CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**PRAYER IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE**

**THE LIFE OF PRAYER**

**THE BATTLE OF PRAYER**

**HUMBLE VIGILANCE OF HEART**

**Facing temptations in prayer**

**2733** Another temptation, to which presumption opens the gate, is acedia. the spiritual writers understand by this a form of depression due to lax ascetical practice, decreasing vigilance, carelessness of heart. "The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."<sup>21</sup> The greater the height, the harder the fall. Painful as discouragement is, it is the reverse of presumption. the humble are not surprised by their distress; it leads them to trust more, to hold fast in constancy.

**FILIAL TRUST**

**2734** Filial trust is tested - it proves itself - in tribulation.<sup>22</sup> The principal difficulty concerns the prayer of petition, for oneself or for others in intercession. Some even stop praying because they think their petition is not heard. Here two questions should be asked: Why do we think our petition has not been heard? How is our prayer heard, how is it "efficacious"?

Why do we complain of not being heard?

**2735** In the first place, we ought to be astonished by this fact: when we praise God or give him thanks for his benefits in general, we are not particularly concerned whether or not our prayer is acceptable to him. On the other hand, we demand to see the results of our petitions. What is the image of God that motivates our prayer: an instrument to be used? or the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ?

**21** Mt 26:41.

**22** Cf. Rom 5:3-5.

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**"Three things in human life are important; The first is to be kind. The second is to be kind. The third is to be kind."**

**Mother Teresa**