

JESUS SAID TO JAIRUS,

**“Do not be afraid;
just have faith.”**

MARK 5:36



JUNE 27, 2021

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Feast of Faith

Preparation of the Gifts

The altar is prepared, the gifts are received. Several brief rites follow with accompanying prayers, some prayed silently by the priest and deacon and others said aloud. We call this part of the Mass the “preparation.” What kind of preparation is happening? First, the presider holds up the paten or bowl containing the hosts, and says words that Jesus must have said many times, since they derive from ancient Jewish meal prayers: “Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation!” We have brought forward our gifts, our offering to God, and now we acknowledge that they are not really ours—the gifts that we give are God’s gift to us. It is “through your goodness” that we have gifts to offer. It is significant that we offer not wheat and grapes, but bread and wine; “fruit of the earth and work of human hands.” Bread and wine are both God’s work, and ours. These preparatory rites also prepare us for what we are about to do in the Eucharist, a mystery in which divine and human meet; a holy collaboration in which our action is caught up into God’s divine plan.

—Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



Jesus' Example Of Helping Others

In today’s second reading Paul offers a wonderful argument to his converts at Corinth for seeking to help those in need. He is dealing with a practical problem, arranging a collection for the poor of the church of Jerusalem; but as he often does, he develops an important teaching about Jesus to make his point.

After asking that they show their faith by generous gifts, he reminds them of the “gracious act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich” (2 Corinthians 8:9). In the Incarnation our Lord assumed our human nature, certainly becoming poor for one who is God. The ultimate gracious act of this poverty was going to the cross with all its terrible sufferings. By this act of poverty we definitely become rich. Now our sins can be forgiven; we can share in the very life of God through the sacraments; we can attain eternal salvation!

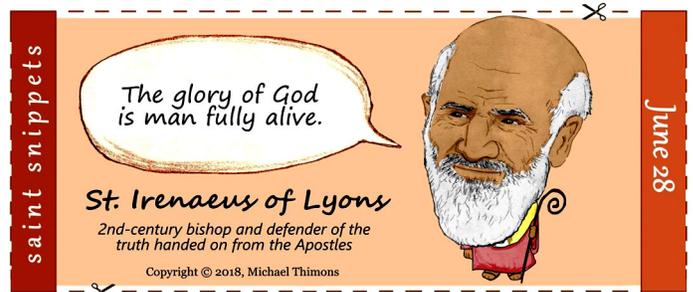
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Readings for the Week

- Monday:** Gn 18:16-33; Ps 103:1b-4, 8-11; Mt 8:18-22
- Tuesday:** Vigil: Acts 3:1-10; Ps 19:2-5; Gal 1:11-20; Jn 21:15-19
Day: Acts 12:1-11; Ps 34:2-9; 2 Tm 4:6-8, 17-18; Mt 16:13-19
- Wednesday:** Gn 21:5, 8-20a; Ps 34:7-8, 10-13; Mt 8:28-34
- Thursday:** Gn 22:1b-19; Ps 115:1-6, 8-9; Mt 9:1-8
- Friday:** Gn 23:1-4, 19; 24:1-8, 62-67; Ps 106:1b-5; Mt 9:9-13
- Saturday:** Eph 2:19-22; Ps 117:1bc-2; Jn 20:24-29
- Sunday:** Ez 2:2-5; Ps 123:1-4; 2 Cor 12:7-10; Mk 6:1-6a

Saints and Special Observances

- Sunday:** Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Monday:** St. Irenaeus
- Tuesday:** Ss. Peter and Paul
- Wednesday:** The First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church
- Thursday:** Saint Junipero Serra; Canada Day
- Friday:** First Friday
- Saturday:** St. Thomas; First Saturday



Today's Readings

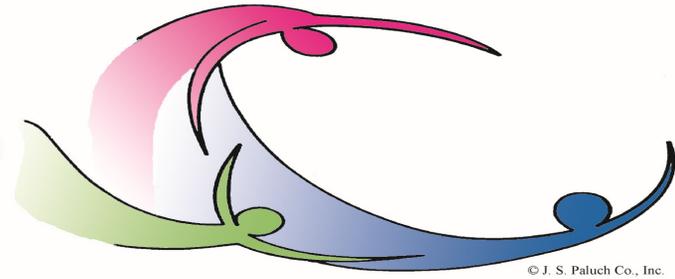
First Reading — God did not make death, nor does God rejoice in the destruction of the living (Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24).

Psalm — I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me (Psalm 30).

Second Reading — Your abundance should supply the needs of the others (2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15).

Gospel — Your faith has saved you (Mark 5:21-43 [21-24, 35b-43]).

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**Thirteenth Sunday
In Ordinary Time
June 27, 2021**

**You changed my mourning into dancing;
O Lord, my God
forever will I give you thanks.**

—Psalm 30:13

Treasures From Our Tradition

As Independence Day draws near, we think of the men and women of the military who serve with courage and competence, some far from home. How does the Church accompany them? In 1939, Pope Pius XII created an independent jurisdiction of the Catholic Church called the “Military Vicariate.” In 1985 Pope John Paul II created the “Archdiocese for Military Services, USA.” Spanning the globe and serving nearly one and a half million Roman Catholics, more than one thousand priests minister in hospitals, on military bases of all the armed forces, on ships at sea, and on the battlefield. The AMS does not ordain priests, but accepts priests on loan from religious orders and dioceses.

In 1824 a Jesuit priest named Adam Marshall enlisted in the Navy and died at sea in 1825. He was assigned as a “schoolmaster,” but he sought out and ministered to Catholic sailors. Twenty years later, President Polk was worried that the war with Mexico was seen as anti-Catholic, so he recruited two Jesuit priests to serve in the army as chaplains. At the time of the Civil War, only about ten percent of Americans were Catholic. Military policies forced Catholic soldiers to attend Protestant services. The Church protested this rule, and many priests volunteered to become chaplains. Their witness and the courage of the “Nuns of the Battlefield” (several orders of sisters who assisted Civil War victims) helped temper prejudice against Catholics and pave the way for the life and ministry of this vigorous and unique archdiocese.

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Who's More Generous?

Does the Christian duty to help the poor seem to be overwhelming? We hear more and more are out of work, more and more are homeless, and we see more and more pictures of starving children. Even in St. Paul's time there was more than enough poverty to go around. He was trying to build interest (in our second reading) in a project to help the Christians in Jerusalem. We see two of his reasons here.

First he tells what fine Christians they are, and hopes that they will be just as good in giving to his collection. (Reminds me of letters from the bishop, telling parishioners how good and generous they have been in the past.) But Paul isn't just flattering the Corinthians; he is challenging them to continue to show their love for God in their support for fellow Christians. The second reason was to show a good example: By helping the church in Jerusalem, they would show that Christians were united in faith and love for each other. He also doesn't make a competition out of who could be most generous. He expects them to be more interested in love for each other than in outdoing each other.

The main example he uses is Jesus, who made himself poor (i.e., human) so that we could be rich in grace and forgiveness. Paul challenges them, and us, to follow that example in giving from our wealth so that others can survive. Note that he doesn't expect them to live in poverty, just to share what they have out of love for Christ. Perhaps they may need help themselves sometime, and could count on the other church to do the same for them.

Today, we can ask ourselves, "Do I give to the poor because I feel guilty about all that I have? Or do I want to show my love for Jesus when I see him in the poor? Do I give because I want the parish to look more generous than the neighboring parish, or to show that we are all united in concern for each other?" By looking at why we give to charities, we may find ourselves being even more generous than we expected.

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