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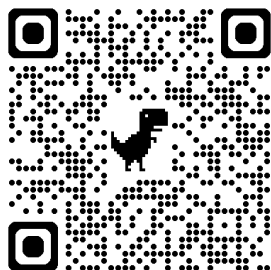


GO AND DO
LIKEWISE.

— LUKE 10:37 —

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

USING QR CODES. With your smartphone camera, center the view-finder on the QR code. Adjust the distance until you see the four yellow open brackets at the four corners of a square. Usually, a note can be seen below those brackets, saying "Open in Chrome". Touch that field, and your phone will automatically open your internet browser window to the link indicated by the code. For instance, if making a donation to the church, scan this QR code:




**SUNDAY
SCHOOL**

**CCD REGISTRATION NOW
OPEN FOR 2025-2026**

To register, simply scan the QR code below
or pick up a paper form at the parish office.

REGISTER



To pay by credit card:
Please scan the QR code below to
access the Giving section of our
website. Scroll down and select "CCD
Payment" from the Fund dropdown
menu. Cost is \$35 per
child.

PAY



PARISH INFORMATION

02 | PARISH FAMILY | GOD IS WITH US



OUR MISSION

Emmanuel Catholic Church which means, **God is with us**, is a faithful community of believers dedicated to proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ as taught by the Roman Catholic Church through word, sacrament, and service. As a parish family of God, we live by faith, truth, and love as we value the sanctity of life in all its stages and make the Holy Eucharist the center of our lives. Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the consultation with our parish ministries, we desire to be witnesses of God's presence as we share our gifts of time, talent, and treasure with God's Family.

CLERGY

Pastor

Rev. Fr. Gaudioso Zamora

Parish Vicar

Rev. Fr. Theodore Ihedoro

In Residence

Rev. Fr. Joseph Papes

Weekday/Weekend Associates

Rev. Fr. Timothy Canaan

Rev. Fr. David Carr

Deacon Anthony Cuseo

PARISH MINISTRIES

OCIA & Sacramental Preparation

Deacon Anthony Cuseo

Religious Education

Jean Krokus | Ext. 1005

religiouseducation@emmanuelcatholic.church

Sandra Gallegos Sgallegos@emmanuelcatholic.church

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Fr. Theo Ihedoro | Ext. 1004

Lectors

Fr. Theo Ihedoro | Ext. 1004

Hospitality / Ushers

Bob Bonney & Chuck Dolce

Music

Linda Coz, Ree Joy Baldonado, Men's Choir

Altar Flowers

Bella Simbajon & Filipino Community

Altar & Clergy Vestments

Carol Chapman, Nancy McDonald,

Homebound / Hospital Ministry

Fr. Theo Ihedoro | Ext. 1004

PARISH STAFF

Director of Finance

Tanya Kuppamala Ext. 1001 tkuppamala@emmanuelcatholic.church

Secretary

Stella Sadolfo Ext. 1007 secretary@emmanuelcatholic.church

Property Manager

Edward Shannon Ext. 1006 maintenance@emmanuelcatholic.church

Receptionist

Rose Marie Baldonado Ext. 1000 receptionist@emmanuelcatholic.church

Gift Shop

Josephine Joan | Ext. 1009

Blood Drive

Patti Gomez | 561-293-9761

Finance Council

Parish Council

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

Ladies Guild

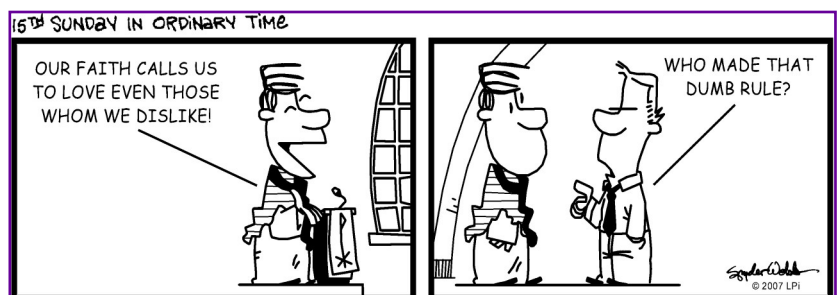
President Nancy McDonald

Knights of Columbus

Grand Knight Luke Van Hove

Legion of Mary

President Maude Cassagnol



PARISH REGULAR SCHEDULE

TAIZÉ PRAYER

Every Friday at 6:30pm—7:30pm
(after 6:00pm Mass) except for First Fridays.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

Every Thursday after the 8:30am mass
or call the parish office

BAPTISMS

Sundays at 1:00pm. Schedule one month in advance.
Contact Parish Office.

WEDDINGS

Contact Deacon Tony at least 6 months in advance

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

5:00pm Vigil Mass
7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am, 12:00pm

GIFT SHOP

Monday & Wednesday **8am-1:00pm**

Tuesday Closed

Thursday & Friday **8am-1pm**

Saturday Closed

4th Sunday of the Month **10:00AM- 1:30PM**

NOTE: Gift shop will be closed when the parish office is closed

ROSARY GROUP

Monday—Friday after the 7:30am Daily Mass

RECONCILIATION

Saturday after the 8:30am Mass

SCHEDULE CHANGES?

Inquiries regarding possible adjustments (to date or time) of scheduled parish events or activities this week should be addressed to the parish office during business hours. Call us at **561.496.2480**.

Our Blessed Mother instructed
us to "**SAY THE ROSARY**"
We are listening, we invite you to
join us every Saturday
at 6:15 pm (after the 5:30 pm mass) as we pray
THE ROSARY
FOR WORLD PEACE

PARISH CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, July 13

9:00A..... Ladies Guild Mass
1:00P..... Pre-baptism class

Monday, July 14

6:30A..... Adoration
1:00P..... Movie Mondays
6:00P..... Legion of Mary

Tuesday, July 15

6:30A..... Adoration
10:00A..... Faith Sharing

Wednesday, July 16

6:30A..... Adoration
4:00P..... SoulCore—stretch & pray
www.soulcore.com

Thursday, July 17

6:30A..... Adoration
9:00A..... Anointing of the sick
3:00P..... Holy Hour
6:30P..... AA Meeting

Friday, July 18

6:30A..... Adoration
6:30P..... Taize

Saturday, July 19

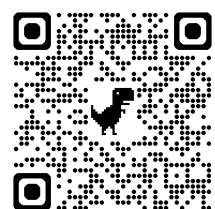
9:00A..... Confession

Sunday, July 20

1:00P..... Baptism

WHAT IS SOULCORE?

(See Wednesday
schedule above)



PARISH LIFE

4 | CLERGY & MASS SCHEDULE

CLERGY & MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, July 13

7:30A Fr. Theo 9:00A Fr. Theo
10:30A Fr. Zamora 12:00P Fr. Theo
6:00P Fr. Zamora

Monday, July 14

7:30A Fr. Zamora 8:30A Fr. Zamora

Tuesday, July 15

7:30A Fr. Zamora 8:30A Fr. Theo

Wednesday, July 16

7:30A Fr. Theo 8:30A Fr. Theo

Thursday, July 17

7:30A Fr. Theo 8:30A Fr. Zamora

Friday, July 18

7:30A Fr. Zamora 8:30A Fr. Theo
6:00P Fr. Zamora

Saturday, July 19

8:30A Fr. Zamora 4:00P Fr. Theo
5:30P Fr. Theo

Sunday, July 20

7:30A Fr. Zamora 9:00A Fr. Theo
10:30A Fr. Zamora 12:00P Fr. Zamora
6:00P Fr. Theo



OUR GIFTS TO GOD

June 30, 2025

First Collection	\$ 10,687.00
Second Collection	\$ 2,285.00
Online (06/28)	\$ 1,615.94
TOTAL	\$ 14,587.94

July 07, 2025

First Collection	\$ 11,523.00
Second Collection	\$ 2,279.00
Online (07/05)	\$ 2,135.82
TOTAL	\$ 15,937.82

DIOCESAN SERVICES APPEAL

June 26, 2025

Goal Amount for Emmanuel	\$185,000.00
Current	\$ 135,534.09
Remaining Balance	\$49,465.91

Thank you all for your continued support and generosity!

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

JUNE 13-JULY 20, 2025 | 05

SCHEDULED INTENTIONS

Sunday, July 13

7:30am	*Monica & Ryan Holley by Lori Davanzo	†Fr. Richard Champigny O. Caron by Dorothy Deedy
9:00am	*Ladies Guild by Ladies Guild	*Carmella Donnino/92 nd Birthday by Nancy Silvestri
10:30am	PARISHIONERS & BENEFACTORS	PARISHIONERS & BENEFACTORS
12:00pm	*All priests in our parish by Alex Lee & Family	†Margaret & George Gerhard by Anne & Gerry Gerhard
6:00pm	†Clarita Bengua by Family	†George Dragan by Rosemarie Maimone

Monday, July 14

7:30am	*Carisema Saint Jean & Family by Carisema Saint Jean	†Jorge Henriod by Cannon Family
8:30am	†Vivian Brennan by Family	*Thanksgiving/EMTECH by Carmelle Cadet

Tuesday, July 15

7:30am	†Winifred Jones/Healing by Brother	†All Souls in Purgatory by Elsa Caraballo
8:30am	*Joseph Salamone by Mom & Tom Depko	*Donna Salamone by Mom & Tom Depko

Wednesday, July 16

7:30am	*Elizabeth & Michael Dye by Mom & Dad	*Celia Blum Guerra by Marton Fabian
8:30am	*Marilyn Penserga/Birthday by M. Penserga	*/ †Carmelite Nuns by Marton Fabian

Thursday, July 17

7:30am	*Maryse Racine/Thanksgiving by Maryse Racine	*Peace /End of Wars (foreign & civil) by Elsa Caraballo
8:30am	*Carmelle Cadet/Thanksgiving by EMTECH	†Herman Guzman by Marie Guzman

Friday, July 18

7:30am	†Angela & Carlos Henriod by Cannon Family	†Percy Cannon Sr. by Cannon Family
8:30am	†Laureano Baldonado by Family	*Julanie Baldonado by Family
6:00pm	FOR PRIESTS	FOR PRIESTS

Saturday, July 19

8:30am	†Mr. & Mrs. Vergniaud Racine by Maryse Racine	*Karl E. Racine by Mother
4:00pm	BOOK OF THE DEAD	BOOK OF THE DEAD
5:30pm	†Andrea Lo Piccolo by Scarcella Family	†James Clancy by Wife
	*Francis & Mia Alo/Thanksgiving by Family	

Sunday, July 20

7:30am	†Judith Everts by Son/Ramon Palmero	*Emilia D. Gajdus by Jorge & Martha Carvajal
9:00am	†Patricia Sliker by The Rosary Group at Cascades	*Colleen & John Prokop by Armando Minutoli
10:30am	PARISHIONERS & BENEFACTORS	PARISHIONERS & BENEFACTORS
12:00pm	†John Palmieri by Family	†William Walter Stafford Sr. by Julius & Linda Coz
6:00pm	†Phebe McPherson by Lisa Carnevale	*Darren Guzman by Marie Guzman

UNSCHEDULED

*†Paolino Family by Kristin *Kristin Brooks by Kristin *Tom Marland by Annet & Gerry Gerhard
*Patti Gomez by Ladies Guild †Nancy Dusheck by Barbara Sanko *Michael Manuele by Rose Manuele
*Evelyn Baroni by Clara Depko *Alain Dubreuil *Eva Dubreuil *Kadia Pierre *Ann Gerard by Rose Manuele
*Mary Baccella by Anne & Gerry Gerhard *Michael Dandry by Anne & Gerry Gerhard
*Miriam Boggio by Anne & Gerry Gerhard *Margaret Arcara by Anne & Gerry Gerhard
†Mark Reicher by Anne & Gerry Gerhard

Please take some time this week to remember the following in your prayers: For all in our parish family who are suffering serious or terminal illness:

For men and women in the Armed Forces, and their families: AND FOR ALL LISTED BELOW

Dave Ruiz	Joseph	Judy Lew
Victoria Robelo	Salamone	Ernie Skelton
Ms. S.	Maria Amaro	Carlotta
Rose Borsella	Aniela Ignaczak	Josefa & Dolores
David Smeraldo	Lillian Campayno	Echavarrria
Janette Cole	Terry Schwinge	Amparo Longalong
Steven Martin	Tom D'Amico	Annie Lee
Sikes	Gabriel Zamora	Eugene Langel
Gianna Pagan	Vincent Blum	Delma Langel
Mary Loveland	Ricardo Blum	William Ward
Sam Falcone	Gina Marie B. Cohen	Gaetano Sansone
Patricia Golstein	David Strompf	Alexis Thompson
Taylor Dosh	Sal Hanono	Griffin Bates
Marilyn Martino	Heather Smith	Miriam Teixeira
Gulshan Modena	Jason Smith	Kevin Marshall
Maggie Dolan	Ronald Merhige	Andrea Anastasi
Amelita Coz-Zarraga	Roshan	John & Alma Gardner
Heather Martin	Karen Jensen	Elaine Garofano
Ronald Griffiths	Cynthia Martin	Julia Lea
Margie Giaquinto	Garry Solomon	Buddendorf
Maria Fernandez	Ilda Sosa Botero	Albertina Hughes
Raphael Roman	Carlos Tobon	Kamm Trumble
James Ezeilo	Jill Forshey	Linda Beamish
Brenda Ezeilo	Gerry Santilli	Quinn Morris
Cynthia Martin	Gail Hill	Henry Morris
Francis Martin	Chrissie Budrick	Marcia Riopol
Hermoine D'Cruz	Frank Dazzo	Mumtaz Begum
Brigitte Knops	Dina Quelch	Lance Joseph
Toni Kreamer	Stewart Librizzi	Michelle Pierno
Gerry Gerhard	Thomas Land	John Wilmere
Euclides Cerutti	Agatha Saccio	Keith Johnson
Samuel Gonzales	Robert Albertson	Betty Lou Johnson
Victorio	Rafael Botero	Christine Thurman
Ray Wolff	Albert Fernandes	Connie Panepinto
Ida Giannettina	Romano Britney	Edwin Villarosa
Josette Weber	Closson Jeanette	Brian Sullivan
Ann Cavaseno	Gallegos Adriana	Dominic Canzano
Charles C. Tufano	Elejalde Oswaldo	Kyle Buenconsejo
Angela Discepolo	Cesar Monasterio	Evelyn Baroni
Anna Halford	Michael Cecere	Olga Galarza
Sal Yanello	Jahaziel Roldan	The Taffe Family
Victor Rivera	Abigail Chin-Lenn	Alexander Barone
William Lindner	Gertrudis Rivera	Joanne Liantonio
Lisa Della Femina	Martinez	John Petrich
Maria E. Quiñones	Merrill Tucker	Mary Karten
Mercado	Maggie Dazzo	Luca Diomampo
Diane Daniels	Martha Gutzman	Michael Manuele
Carmen Jones	Noah Altherios	Robert Wiczowski
Bill Hamilton	Debra Serritella	Mady and Ruth Petersen
Ralph Senese	Anthony Spirito	Ann Carro
Ramona	Rhea Reacher	Debbie Boburka
Ash Gaballah	Doug Rodgers	
Karen Ramey	Doris Vourinen	
Mary Ann	SrVeronique DCSO	
Lisa Payne	Danny Berciles	
Marilyn Green	Eleanor Hemmer	
	Joseph Lauria	

PRAYER BEFORE HOLY COMMUNION . Lord, I believe and profess that You are truly Christ, Son of the Living God, who came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the first. Accept me this day as I partake of your mystical supper, O Son of God. May the partaking of your holy mysteries, O Lord be not for judgment or condemnation, but for the healing of body and soul. I also believe and profess that this, which I am about to receive, is truly your most precious Body and Blood, which, I pray, make me worthy to receive for the remission of all my sins and life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER TO SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS. Lord Jesus, as You once called the first disciples to make them fishers of men, let your sweet invitation continue to resound: Come follow Me! Give young men and women the grace of responding quickly to your voice. Support our bishops, priests and consecrated people in their apostolic labor. Grant perseverance to our seminarians and to all those who are carrying out the ideal of a life totally consecrated to your service. Awaken in our community a missionary eagerness. Lord, send your workers to your harvest and do not allow humanity to be lost for the lack of pastors, missionaries and people dedicated to the cause of the Gospel. Mary, Mother of the Church, the model of every vocation, help us to say "yes" to the Lord who calls us to cooperate in the divine plan of salvation. Amen.

PRAYER FOR OUR MILITARY. Almighty God We stand before you in supplication, Asking Your Divine mercy and protection, To envelop with Your invincible armor, Our loved ones in all branches of the service. Give them courage and strength Against all enemies, Both spiritual and physical, And hasten their safe journey, Back to their homes and families. If it be Your Holy Will That they be gathered to Your bosom, With the eternal vanguard of the saints, Let their journey to Your everlasting arms Be swift and painless, Where they may stand in honor and glory, Praising You for all eternity. Amen



CHOOSE LIFE— EMBRACE THE CALL TO LOVE

Today, we gather to reflect on the profound message of love and choice found in our readings. In Deuteronomy 30:14, we are reminded that God's word is near to us, in our mouths and in our hearts. This nearness emphasizes that the path to life is accessible, and it calls us to choose life and love: "I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction." Here, God gives us the freedom to decide how we will respond to His call.

In our Psalm for today, we celebrate the marvels of God's creation: "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands." This psalm invites us to acknowledge that all creation speaks of God's immense love for us. As we look at the natural world, we see the beauty of God's love reflected in the light of the sun, the breath of the wind, and the rhythm of the seasons.

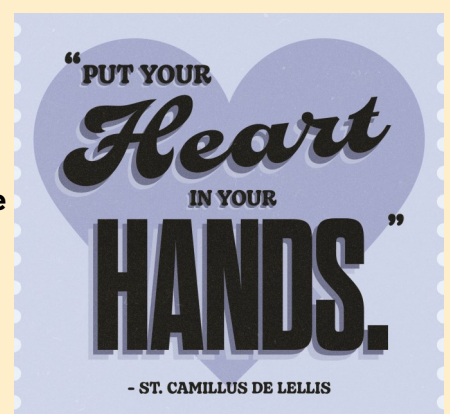
As St. Paul reminds us in Colossians 1:15, Jesus is "the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation." In Christ, we see the fullness of God's love and the perfect example of how to live in that love. It is through Jesus that we learn to love as God loves — unconditionally, selflessly, and fully. Our call is to reflect that image in our daily lives, to be ambassadors of

Christ's love.

Jesus further instructs us in Luke 10:25-37 through the parable of the Good Samaritan. Here, we see that love knows no boundaries; it transcends race, religion, and social status. The Samaritan's compassion teaches us that to love our neighbor means to take action, to make choices that affirm life and dignity for all.

Pope Francis beautifully states, "Love is not just a feeling; it is a choice, an act of the will." As we navigate our lives, let us choose love daily. Let us not only listen to God's word but live it out, allowing it to transform us.

Today, let us recommit ourselves to the call of God — a call to life, a call to embrace love, and a call to action. May we respond with hearts full of gratitude and hands ready to serve. In choosing life, we choose God. Amen.



Saint of the Week - Saint Kateri Tekakwitha

Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, known as the "Lily of the Mohawks," was born around 1656 in what is now New York State. She was the daughter of a Mohawk chief and a Catholic Algonquin mother. Orphaned at a young age due to smallpox, Kateri's health was severely affected, leaving her with facial scars and impaired vision. Despite these challenges, she embraced her Catholic faith, which she learned from missionaries who came to her village.

At the age of 19, Kateri decided to embrace her faith fully, defying the customs of her tribe, as she sought a more profound spiritual life. She fled to the Jesuit mission in Ville de la Nouvelle-Église (now Auriesville, New York) to live among fellow Christians. There, she dedicated her life to prayer, penance, and service, making a vow of lifelong virginity and devoting herself to Christ.

Kateri's faith was marked by a deep love for the Eucharist and a commitment to helping others. She became a source of inspiration to those around her, demonstrating remarkable resilience and dedication.

Despite facing challenges, she exemplified a life of holiness and compassion until her death on April 17, 1680, at the age of 24.

Saint Kateri was canonized on October 21, 2012, by Pope Benedict XVI, becoming the first Native American saint in the Catholic Church.

Motivational Reflection

Saint Kateri Tekakwitha's life reminds us that our circumstances do not define our capacity for holiness. She faced significant challenges, yet she transformed her suffering into a deep faith that inspired others. Kateri teaches us that true strength lies in our commitment to love, serve, and trust in God, regardless of our trials.

Let us take her example to heart; we, too, can rise above our difficulties and make a profound impact in our communities. Like Kateri, may we strive to live a life marked by faith, courage, and compassion, allowing our light to shine brightly in a world that deeply needs hope and love. In every action, let us remember that we can be instruments of God's peace and love, just as Kateri was during her time.

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

No, it is something very near to you,
already in your mouths and in your hearts;
you have only to carry it out." (Dt 30:14)

Psalm:

Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life. (Ps 19)

Second Reading:

Christ Jesus is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation. (Col 1:15)

Gospel:

*You shall love the Lord, your God,
with all your heart,
with all your being,
with all your strength,
and with all your mind,
and your neighbor as yourself. (Lk 10:25)*

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Everyone is our neighbor — those we love
and those we can't stand, the people we
agree with and the people whose opinions we
hate. In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us that we
must not only see ourselves in every person
we meet — we must see him, too.

Observances for the week of July 13, 2025

- Sunday:** 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday: St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin
Tuesday: St. Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Wednesday: Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Friday: St. Camillus de Lellis, Priest
Next Sunday: 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Devotions, Explained!

Spiritual direction is the practice
of seeking counsel from someone
who is learned in the faith for the
purpose of discerning the will of
God in one's life.

Prayer for Charity

Give me the grace, Lord, to
truly see those around me: the
overlooked, the uncomfortable,
the odd and disliked.
Your kingdom is one of belonging,
help us to be the types of
neighbors who see and respond
with Godly generosity.
Amen.

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of July 13, 2025

Sunday:

Dt 30:10-14/Ps 69:14, 17, 30-31, 33-34, 36, 37 (see 33)/Col 1:15-20/Lk 10:25-37

Monday:

Ex 1:8-14, 22/Ps 124:1b-3, 4-6, 7-8/
Mt 10:34-11:1

Tuesday:

Ex 2:1-15a/Ps 69:3, 14, 30-31, 33-34/
Mt 11:20-24

Wednesday:

Ex 3:1-6, 9-12/Ps 103:1b-2, 3-4, 6-7/
Mt 11:25-27

Thursday:

Ex 3:13-20/Ps 105:1 and 5, 8-9, 24-25, 26-27/Mt 11:28-30

Friday:

Ex 11:10-12:14/Ps 116:12-13, 15 and 16bc, 17-18/Mt 12:1-8

Saturday:

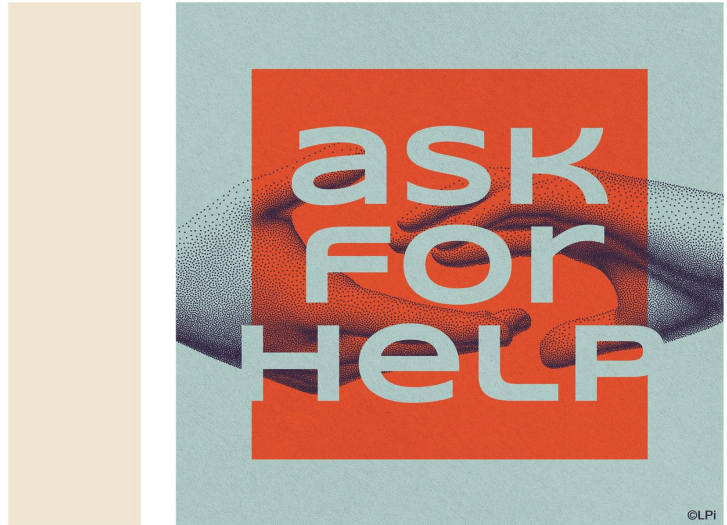
Ex 12:37-42/Ps 136:1 and 23-24, 10-12, 13-15/Mt 12:14-21

Next Sunday:

Gn 18:1-10a/Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 5 (1a)/
Col 1:24-28/Lk 10:38-42



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

I used to be a bad neighbor. I'd get wrapped up in my life and ignore those around me. Then I found sage advice from Benjamin Franklin to this effect: to be a better neighbor, ask someone to do a favor for you. It's counterintuitive, isn't it? Tell strangers that I need their help? Yuck. I'll risk looking needy. Worse, I'll be indebted to them. But I tried it, and it works like a charm. Recently I asked my neighbor Alan for a hacksaw, and Inga for an egg. They kindly obliged, and our friendship is growing.

This week we hear a scribe of the law cynically ask Jesus, **"And who is my neighbor?" (Luke 10:29)**. Like him, we prefer to keep the list of our "neighbors" as short as possible. It requires less interruption and inconvenience. But when Jesus tells the parable of the Good Samaritan, he exposes the lonely, cold-heartedness tendency of the scribe's (and our) heart. My "neighbor" is anyone I encounter who manifests a concrete need. There isn't time to require any other credential because human need opens us to the happy reciprocity which is love.

Jesus' words challenge us this week to ask a neighbor for help in some small way. How marvelous that God himself shows us how. He moves into our world and asks us to love Him with small deeds of love. Maybe that's where Ben Franklin got the idea.

— Father John Muir

Liturgical Life

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: As Christians we know that everyone is our neighbor. It's drilled into us from the first time we hear this reading. But do we approach the victims that we see? Or do we draw away from the suffering of others in fear and confusion, thinking: "That's not my problem"?

Crossing the Street

It takes a cold, hard, godless heart to step over a wounded man on the street.

But in the parable of the Good Samaritan, the priest and the Levite didn't step over the half-dead traveler. I think we picture them doing so, in our collective imagining of this well-known story, but the words of the Gospel are quite clear. "When he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side," Jesus says of both.

So they saw him. They saw his need. It made them uncomfortable; it confused them — many scholars have said that Judaic law concerning the touching of dead bodies might have made them reluctant to approach — and so they decided the simplest way to file this situation in the Not My Problem category was to cross the street.

But that still leaves a half-dead guy on the road. And we all, 2,000 years later, still think of the priest and the Levite as cold and hard and godless — even if they didn't *want* to be, even if they didn't think of themselves that way — because the bottom line is, they didn't see the half-dead guy as their problem.

As Christians we know that everyone is our neighbor. It's drilled into us from the first time we hear this reading.

Well, I don't know about you, but I find myself crossing the street a lot more than I should.

There is so much pain and suffering in the world. We certainly can't begin to alleviate it all. But we have to start with the pain and the suffering that we see, that's right in front of us — even if it's something we really, really want to ignore. Even if we find it inconvenient or confusing or scary or weird.

The heroism of the Good Samaritan wasn't in his selfless actions, although those were certainly commendable. It was in his courage. "He approached the victim," Jesus said.

Can we approach the victims we see? Do we have that courage?

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that?

Catholic Life Explained

Question:

When Jesus says, "*You cannot serve both God and mammon,*" what does he mean? What is mammon?

Answer:

When you hear Scripture proclaimed each Sunday, remember it wasn't originally written in English. Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek — these ancient tongues were the original language of our Old and New Testaments. Most of the time, all of the words are translated into our native language. Sometimes, a word or two is left in the original language. Such is the case in this Scripture passage.

Mammon is an ancient Aramaic word referring to money, wealth, or profit. Earthly wealth isn't bad in itself, nor does it automatically exclude us from being a disciple of Jesus. But what dominates our life? To serve money — that is, to seek accumulation of wealth for its own sake and to structure our lives around it — is morally problematic. What good is our wealth if it isn't at the service of others? What good is our wealth if its pursuit leads us to selfishness, obsession, greed, envy, and comparison? There are many things that can be opposed to our service of God — power, prestige, popularity. Ultimately, something in our lives will be our master. But there is only one God worth serving.



PRAYER FOR PROTECTION FROM STORMS.

God our Father, Creator of the Universe and Lord over all creation, we humbly stand before you as your children in thanksgiving for your loving care and protection. We ask that you keep us safe from all hurricanes and illness which may threaten us in the coming seasons. Protect us from all fear and anxiety and give us an ardent trust and hope in Your love and mercy. You alone have the power to command the sea, the wind, and the rain. You alone bring peace, calm, and safety. Father, we thank you in advance, for you are our only Refuge. We ask this through Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever. Amen.

Mary, Queen of the Apostles, and Patroness of our Diocese, pray for us.

WHAT JESUS DOESN'T SAY

"If Jesus wanted us to (fill in the blank), he would have said so." We hear this argument applied to every controversial topic under the sun — and even some not-so-controversial topics, too. Whenever someone is trying to make a case for a decision they have already made, they call in Jesus' scriptural silence on the matter as their expert, unimpeachable witness.

And sure, there's much Jesus doesn't talk about in the Gospels. But by this logic, we would have to assume that Jesus doesn't care, for instance, if we drive well over the speed limit (he doesn't discuss cars and highways in the Bible) or what we do online (he never mentions the Internet or websites at all!), when we know that certainly is just not the case.

Like the scholar of the Jewish law who challenges Jesus

to define who exactly his "neighbor" is, we can argue semantics all we want. But if we rest in prayer and look deep into our hearts, we know what path we need to take, and it's usually not the easy one.

I find that I do this plenty in ways that are far more subtle. I lament that the situation facing me is not sufficiently "black and white." I become frustrated by the shades of moral grey and toss up my hands, claiming I don't know what the right answer is, insisting that I can't be blamed for the ramifications of whatever decision I make.

What I need to be doing in these situations is asking God for His guidance, even if it makes me nervous. I need to be like the scholar. He was brave enough to ask, even though I think he knew he wouldn't particularly like the answer. Let's strive for that same courage.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



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