

Christi simus, non nostri

We belong to Christ, not ourselves

ST COLUMBAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

A Parish of the
Archdiocese of Seattle



St. Columban Church

506 First St. S | Yelm, WA 98597

Sunday Mass: 10:30 AM

Saturday 5:00 PM

Daily Mass 9:00 AM (*Tuesday-Friday, Except First Fridays*)

Eucharistic Adoration First Fridays 6:30 PM

Confessions Saturday 3:30-4:30 PM

Anointing of the Sick By request

Baptism & Wedding Preparation

Contact the Parish Office

Parish Office Hours at St. Columban Mon.-Thurs. 9:30 AM - 2:00 PM Friday by appointment

St. Peter Mission

149 Keithahn St S | Tenino, WA 98589

Sunday Mass 8:00 AM

First Friday Mass 9:00 AM

Confessions Sunday 7:30-7:45 AM

Anointing of the Sick By request

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Providing emergency assistance for those in need.

Help Line: 360-458-1904

September 3, 2023 Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time



Entrance Antiphon: *Have mercy on me O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.*

1st Reading: Jeremiah 20:7-9

Responsorial Psalm: *My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.*

2nd Reading: Romans 12:1-2

Gospel Acclamation: *May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our hearts, that we may know what is the hope that belongs to our call.*

Gospel: Matthew 16:21-27

Communion Antiphon: *Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.*

Welcome to St. Columban

Parish Staff

360-458-3031

Fr. Brian Thompson Priest Administrator
frthompson@saintcolumbanyelm.org Ext 6

Jennifer Langham PA for Admin, Liturgy, and Music
jennifer@saintcolumbanyelm.org Ext. 1

Matthew Tolar PA for Admin, Bookkeeping, & Records
matthew@saintcolumbanyelm.org Ext. 4

Gabriela Makinster Elementary & Adult Faith Formation
gaby@saintcolumbanyelm.org habla Español Ext. 2

Chad Lucero Youth Ministry
chad@saintcolumbanyelm.org Ext. 3

Steve Slater St. Columban Maintenance
steven@saintcolumbanyelm.org

Gilberto Espino St. Peter Maintenance

St. Columban Parish Pastoral Council

Judith Cusick (Chairperson), Sheila Johnson, Jerome Didier, Joseph Judge, Dennis Stumpf

St. Peter Advisory Commission

Sherry Bachmann (Chairperson), Marilyn Ritter, Bernie Schwarz, Bob Bacon, Diane Weston
stpeteradvisory@saintcolumbanyelm.org

St. Columban Parish Finance Council

Joseph Judge (St Columban), Mari Evans (St Peter)

On the cover *At the Foot of the Cross* Cristian Gutiérrez, LC catholic.com

| Week of August 20th | | |
|---|-------------|------------|
| Ordinary Income | St Columban | St Peter |
| Weekly Goal | \$5,800.00 | \$1,000.00 |
| Collection (Cash & Envelopes) | \$3,482.00 | \$529.00 |
| Online Giving | \$1,473.00 | \$15.00 |
| Net | (\$845.00) | (\$456.00) |
| Special Funds | | |
| St Vincent DePaul | \$35.00 | \$0.00 |
| Sacramentals (Candles, Beeswax tapers, Salt) | \$16.00 | \$0.00 |
| Flowers | \$35.00 | \$0.00 |
| Building Fund | \$202.00 | \$0.00 |
| Mass Intentions | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Special Donation | \$7,714.17 | \$0.00 |

Weekly Calendar & Mass Intentions

All events are at St. Columban unless otherwise noted.

MONDAY September 4 **LABOR DAY**

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED
 Rosary Prayer Group 7:00PM Church

TUESDAY September 5

NO DAILY MASS
 Spanish Prayer Group 6:30PM Church

WEDNESDAY September 6

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED
 Daily Mass 9:00AM Church

THURSDAY September 7

Daily Mass 9:00AM Church
 Choir Practice 6:00PM Church

FRIDAY September 8 **Nativity of the B.V.M.**

Daily Mass 9:00AM Church
 Homeschool Enrichment 9:30AM Church

SATURDAY September 9 **St. Peter Claver, Priest**

Confession 3:30PM Church
 Anticipatory Sunday Mass 5:00 PM *Int.: Pro Populo* Church

SUNDAY September 10 **23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Confession 7:30-7:45AM St. Peter
 Sunday Mass 8:00 AM *Int.: Pro Populo* St. Peter

Religious Ed (Grades K-5) 9:00AM-10:15AM RE Bldg
 Confirmation 9:00AM—10:15PM Youth Space

Sunday Mass
 10:30 AM *Int.: Pro Populo* Church

11:45AM Daughters of Mary Fellowship Parish Hall

From the Parish Office

We are in the process of moving to a new Church Management software provider. One of the first things you may see are messages from a new email address:

archseattle@ccbchurch.com

As always emails directly from our staff will always be from our domain saintcolumbanyelm.org and messages from ministries for the time being will come from mail@flocknote.com.

This process is also causing a delay with the monthly offering envelopes, we apologize for the inconvenience.



A Word from Father Thompson



Last week I wrote on the kinds of Love and how they can interrelate and support one another, but also mentioned that our world has done great harm to our concept of Philia, the foundational love of friendship that grows through mutual risk and trust between the friends.

Our perverse culture does not understand this nor provide young people the mental space to really appreciate how deep and virtuous Philia can become. In particular, our culture cannot fathom how such a close relationship can be a chaste one. Rather, the culture infects everything with a twisted mockery of Eros (degrading it to mere lust), asserting that any sufficiently deep love must have a romantic or sexual element, even if unbeknownst to those in the relationship; it reduces Philia to a mere preamble to romance, or at least puts a ceiling on how deep chaste Philia can be. This is profoundly unhealthy.

Now, the twistedness of Love=Eros=sexuality, seeing them as commodities traded one for another is equally as horrible, which I think does immense and particular harm to girls (boys too, obviously, but girls more), but I think this death of Philia in our society is particularly hard on boys (but girls too, obviously). Boys are by nature more often inclined towards things and ideas than people and feelings, so it is often harder for them to develop Philia in the first place, but they do have feelings and are still made for human connection.

A world that says that love past a certain level of emotional and spiritual intimacy must or should involve physical intimacy or sexual feelings is a real threat to healthy friendship, especially for boys. As youths mature, their capacity for a richer inner life and thus deeper friendships develops in parallel with the capacity for (healthy) Eros and Agape, and all this spiritual and psychological growth occurs alongside (or slightly behind) having to navigate the new dimension of carnal potency and appetite. A culture that ignores the full depth of the spiritual desire to love and be loved, or twists and conflates it overmuch with carnal expressions leaves young people in aporia—a situation where there seems no way out, Boys especially: slower as they tend to be to trust others with their inner life and feelings, but wanting to love and be loved as much as anyone.

The worst scenario, of course, is that this relational aporia leaves them vulnerable to predation: Avuncular “mentoring” of conflicted or love-starved youths by older peers or even abusive adults is a not-infrequent pattern of initiating them into aberrant behaviors and philosophies (sexual or otherwise). However, even in less horrific and more common experiences, boys can grapple with a desire to love and be loved by their friends more but, due to the death of Philia, lack the concepts needed to know what to do about it, as the only next step the world has taught or shown them is romance. So, youths might question if their deepening affection for friends is a sign of (disordered) sexual desire; this is probably not so, but it does play into the social agenda. Even if they reject that sexual confusion, conflating Eros and Philia can still lead to an unhealthy bottling up of their inner lives and desires for deeper love, settling for pleasure and distraction elsewhere, and the cycle of risking and trusting others that builds up Philia hits a ceiling. Thus, many boys and young men may have lots of buddies, but don’t know how to make—or that they can even have—incredibly deep same-sex friendships that have nothing to do with romance. Again, girls experience these things too, but in their own way and with nuances and pitfalls that I frankly know less about.

Parents should be aware of all this, and form their children in spite of this and other lies of our culture.

In Christ,

Remember in Your Prayers

Loving God, we join with others of your people here asking you to hold in Your hands all of our homebound brothers and sisters and those who have asked for our prayers:



The Sick and Homebound

Jessica Nash, Mary Taylor, Vivienne Hayden, Eitan Hadayo, Stan Villadelgado, Pam Henslee, Robert Fisher

The Deceased

Extraordinary Intentions

- + All those in harm’s way, especially those experiencing natural disasters and terrorism.
- + All the souls in purgatory, especially those who have no one to pray for them.

To add a name to this list or request a Mass Intention please contact the parish office. All submissions must have permission from the named individual or an authorized family member for privacy purposes. St. Columban Prayer Chain: Confidential and private prayer chain. To join, contact the parish office.

THE POPE’S PRAYER INTENTIONS September 2023: For people living on the margins: We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.

Faith Formation



Reflect and Respond to the Sunday Readings

First Reading: *Whenever I speak, I must cry out, violence and outrage is my message; the word of the LORD has brought me derision and reproach all the day.* (Jer 20:8)

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the loneliness and ridicule he endures for answering his prophetic call. Who do you turn to in times of personal sadness and distress?

Second Reading: *I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship.* (Rom 12:1)

Paul challenges us not to be conformed to the present world "but be transformed by the renewal of your mind." What can you do this week to grow in your thinking as someone who believes in Jesus?

Gospel: *"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 will find it."* (Mt 16:24-25)

Peter is resistant to Jesus's revelation that as the Messiah, he is destined to suffer and die before rising. How do you react to news difficult to hear?

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. Reflections ©LPI



Welcome back to a new year of Faith Formation!

POC: Mrs. Gaby Makinster *habla Español* gaby@saintcolumbanyelm.org

I cannot believe that Summer has ended and we are ready to begin our new catechetical year. I truly pray you had a restful blessed summer. It is not too late to register for classes.

Some reminders as we get ready to begin the year.

- Classes begin next Sunday September 10th from 9-10:15 am. This time is for all grades K-5 and Confirmation grades 6-12.
- During class time, there will be a parent meeting in the Hall.
- Tuition is due. Please ensure you make your tuition payment as soon as possible.



RCIA

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults will begin on Tuesday Sept 19 from 6:30 -8pm in the Religious Education building. These classes are open to all adult learners and to those seeking the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation. The first class we will be introductions and a church tour.



Youth Ministry POC: Mr. Chad Lucero chad@saintcolumbanyelm.org

For all students grades 6-12. Activities, retreats, bible Studies, and social event times vary throughout the year. Additional fees may be required for activities held outside the parish.

Upcoming events:

First weekly Youth Ministry Wednesday meeting: September 27, 6:30pm

First monthly Youth Ministry Service Saturday: September 30, 10am-3pm, at the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Wood Barn

HS Youth Convention at St. Michael, Olympia: Nov. 4

Parents of middle school and high school students! Opt-in for Youth Ministry emails at this link: saintcolumbanyelm.org/ym

Confirmation Preparation

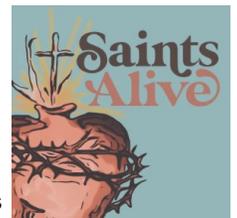
Both first year and returning second year confirmation candidates will meet at 9-10:15am in the new Youth Space starting next Sunday. Class starts promptly, so please ensure you use the restroom before class starts. You will be introduced to the catechists and go over *Lectio Divina*, something we will do every week. I will see you for the second class on the 17th! -Mr. Lucero



A Podcast Recommendation for the whole Family!

Saints Alive: Saint Maximilian Kolbe

Gather round and listen to the incredible true story of Saint Maximilian Kolbe. Many know him for his heroic martyrdom, but his life was just as extraordinary! From starting a monastery in Japan, to taking in Jewish refugees during the war and starting a newspaper! His story is defined by not just a death of sacrificial love, but a life filled with it! Search for "Saints Alive" in your favorite podcast app or you can listen directly at saintsalivepodcast.com/episodes/saint-maximilian-kolbe.



This week on FORMED

Our parish pays for a subscription to FORMED.org, a streaming service from the Augustine Institute and Ignatius press. Go to formed.org/signup and enter our parish name to redeem your FREE membership. Once logged-in, access these suggestions at watch.formed.org/this-week-on-formed

Mother Teresa: No Greater Love

This documentary is a soaring tribute to a spiritual icon, a powerful witness of authentic Christian charity, and a guidepost for all who seek hope in our turbulent times: Mother Teresa of Calcutta. This film reveals not just who Mother Teresa was, but how her singular vision to

K-12 Religious Education classes begin next Sunday, September 10!

serve Christ in the poor continues to be realized through the Missionaries of Charity today.

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary | Sacred Art

By studying Sacred Art, we fuel our prayer and contemplation. In this episode, Dr. Ben Akers sits down with Taylor Kemp to examine the theological nuances contained in Bartolome Murillo's depiction of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church

2402 In the beginning God entrusted the earth and its resources to the common stewardship of mankind to take care of them, master them by labor, and enjoy their fruits. The goods of creation are destined for the whole human race. However, the earth is divided up among men to assure the security of their lives, endangered by poverty and threatened by violence. The appropriation of property is legitimate for guaranteeing the freedom and dignity of persons and for helping each of them to meet his basic needs and the needs of those in his charge. It should allow for a natural solidarity to develop between men.

2427 Human work proceeds directly from persons created in the image of God and called to prolong the work of creation by subduing the earth, both with and for one another. Hence work is a duty: "If any one will not work, let him not eat." Work honors the Creator's gifts and the talents received from him

2428 In work, the person exercises and fulfills in part the potential inscribed in his nature. The primordial value of labor stems from man himself, its author and its beneficiary. Work is for man, not man for work. Everyone should be able to draw from work the means of providing for his life and that of his family, and of serving the human community.

For this Labor Day, a reflection from Catholic Social Teaching on the dignity of work

The economy must serve people, not the other way around. Work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continuing participation in God's creation. If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected—the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to the organization and joining of unions, to private property, and to economic initiative.

"The obligation to earn one's bread by the sweat of one's brow also presumes the right to do so. A society in which this right is systematically denied, in which economic policies do not allow workers to reach satisfactory levels of employment, cannot be justified from an ethical point of view, nor can that society attain social peace." (St. John Paul II, *Centesimus Annus*, [The Hundredth Year] no. 43)

"Work is, as has been said, an obligation, that is to say, a duty, on the part of man. . . . Man must work, both because the Creator has commanded it and because of his own humanity, which requires work in order to be maintained and developed. Man must work out of regard for others, especially his own family, but also for the society he belongs to, the country of which he is a child, and the whole human family of which he is a member, since he is the heir to the work of generations and at the same time a sharer in building the future of those who will come after him in the succession of history." (St. John Paul II, *Laborem Exercens* [On Human Work], no. 16)

"Work is a good thing for man—a good thing for his humanity—because through work man not only transforms nature, adapting it to his own needs, but he also achieves fulfillment as a human being and indeed, in a sense, becomes 'more a human being'." (*Laborem Exercens*, no. 9)

"All these rights, together with the need for the workers themselves to secure them, give rise to yet another right: the right of association, that is to form associations for the purpose of defending the vital interests of those employed in the various professions. These associations are called labor or trade unions." (St. John Paul II, *Laborem Exercens*, no. 20)

"I would like to remind everyone, especially governments engaged in boosting the world's economic and social assets, that the primary capital to be safeguarded and valued is man, the human person in his or her integrity: 'Man is the source, the focus and the aim of all economic and social life.'" (Pope Benedict XVI, *Caritas in Veritate* [Charity in Truth], no. 25, quoting *Gaudium et Spes* [The Church in the Modern World], no. 63)

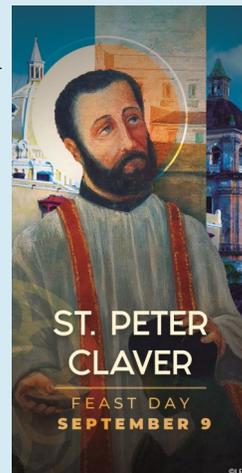
"The economic sphere is neither ethically neutral, or inherently inhuman or opposed to society. It is part and parcel of human activity and precisely because it is human, it must be structured and governed in an ethical manner." (*Caritas in Veritate*, no. 36)

"In many cases, poverty results from a violation of the dignity of human work, either because work opportunities are limited (through unemployment or underemployment), or 'because a low value is put on work and the rights that flow from it, especially the right to a just wage and to the personal security of the worker and his or her family.'" (*Caritas in Veritate*, no. 63)

From USCCB.org

Saint of the Week **St. Peter Claver, SJ,** **Priest 1580-1654 Feast Sept.9**

Born in Catalonia Spain in 1580, Saint Peter Claver studied at first at the University of Barcelona and then joined the Jesuits. He became friends with fellow brother Saint Alphonsus Rodriguez who encouraged him to be a missionary in the New World. Accordingly, Saint Peter went to Cartagena, a city in present-day Columbia where he was ordained in 1615.



Cartagena was a center for the slave trade, and the young missionary knew where he could best serve God. He proclaimed himself, "the slave of the Negroes forever." As ships would arrive with their human cargo, Saint Peter and a group of interpreters would rush into the hold with food and medicines. When the slaves were moved to pens to await sale, the saint continued to work among them, communicating God's love with acts of generosity and teaching the Catholic faith.

He also led missions in the interior, refusing the hospitality of plantation owners and preferring to stay in the slave quarters. He organized charitable societies and is said to have baptized and catechized more than 300,000 enslaved persons.

Saint Peter Claver died on September 8, 1654. He was canonized with his friend Saint Alphonsus Rodriguez in 1888, by Pope Leo XIII. He is the worldwide patron saint of African Americans and of enslaved people.

Reflection

Celebrating St. Peter Claver "Who is my neighbor?" Jesus' answer to this question was the parable of the Good Samaritan. In short, the person you least expect. Peter Claver was born in 16th century Spain. Peter became a Jesuit and was deeply influenced by the missionary call. At age 30, he set out for modern-day Colombia. At the time, Cartagena was one of the largest slave markets in the New World. As a priest, Peter knew his role was spiritual service. He quickly dedicated his ministry to these "neighbors" whom the world rejected. When a slave ship entered the harbor, Peter would rush on board with food, water, and a human touch. He introduced some slaves to Christ in a more formal way. As these new converts were moved to plantations, he would visit them, stay in their quarters, and advocate with the masters to act humanely. St. Peter Claver called himself "the slave of the slaves forever." May we, too, have a powerful sense of our neighbor.

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Parish Ministries & Events

Whether you are new to the parish or have been here for many years, we encourage you to share your time, talents and treasures in support of the mission of our parish community.

Contact Jennifer Langham at the Parish Office for more information about events and to connect with a group: 360-458-3031x1 / jennifer@saintcolumbanyelm.org



"The parish is where the Church lives. Parishes are communities of faith, of action, and of hope. They are where the Gospel is proclaimed and celebrated, where believers are formed and sent to renew the earth. Parishes are the home of the Christian community; they are the heart of our Church. Parishes are the place where God's people meet Jesus in word and sacrament and come in touch with the source of the Church's life."
 —Communities of Salt and Light, USCCB

Altar Society
 Meets every Thursday after Daily Mass to clean the church.

Daughters of Mary
 St. Columban Catholic Church, Yelm, WA
Monthly Meeting
 September 26th, 6:00 PM
 Parish Hall
daughtersofmary@saintcolumbanyelm.org

HAPPY LABOR DAY!

PEOPLE SHOULD EAT AND DRINK AND ENJOY THE FRUITS OF THEIR LABOR, FOR THESE ARE GIFTS FROM GOD.
 -ECCLESIASTES 3:13

©LPi

Knights of Columbus
 Council 17152 / Assembly 3947
 CHARITY + UNITY
 FRATERNITY + PATRIOTISM
Next Council Meeting:
 Sept. 20, Begins with Vespers in the Church at 5:30 PM
Next Assembly Meeting:
 Sept. 19, 6:00 PM
 Join us for our next breakfast!
 Sept. 24, after the 10:30 Mass

Prayer Groups
 Rosary Group
 Mondays 7pm, Church
 Spanish Group
 Tuesdays 6:30pm, Church

Society of St. Vincent de Paul
 Monthly Meeting
 Sept. 21, 7:00 PM
 Parish Hall

St. Peter's Circle
 St. Peter Mission Tenino
 Next Meeting
 Sept. 12th 9:30 AM

Counters Needed
 Contact the parish office for more information

Saturday, September 30, Following the 5:00 PM Mass

Knights of Columbus
 St. Columban Council 17152

Purchase Tickets after all weekend Masses

Thank for supporting our parish

Outside Notices & Events

Religious Vocation Discernment Retreat

What is God's Dream for YOU? Come & See!

Sept. 29-Oct. 1, 2023 **Los Altos Hills, CA**

Join us for a chance to meet some Daughters of Charity and experience how we live. You'll have the opportunity to participate in prayer, Mass, and sharing. See what being a Sister is all about!

<https://daughters-of-charity.com/retreats/>

DAUGHTERS of CHARITY
OF ST. VINCENT de PAUL

Vocation  Discernment



LABOR DAY



safeTALK: A Suicide Prevention Workshop



Saturday, September 16 | 9am – 12pm

Holy Family Parish

7045 120th Ave NE Kirkland, WA 98033

Please join us for **safeTALK**, a suicide intervention workshop facilitated by the Archdiocese of Seattle's Catholic Lifesaver Corps.

Who can attend?

Middle and High School Students.
Parents and community members are highly encouraged to attend as well.



Scan QR code for more information

CONSIDERING DIOCESAN PRIESTHOOD

TRUE HEART

Ten Weeks to Christ

WHICH PATH WILL YOU TAKE?

"How do I pray?" "How can I know what God wants me to do?" "Where is the Lord leading me?"

Around the Archdiocese of Seattle, discernment groups led by priests are forming for young men to address these questions. Using True Heart from the Sacred Story Institute these young men will be engaging spiritual exercises to help them grow closer to the Lord, consider their vocation more deeply, and grow in openness to following God's will in their lives.

If you are interested in joining one of these groups, please contact us at vocations@seattlearch.org or (206) 382-4276



Holy Family School is a private Catholic school located in Lacey.

See holyfamilylacey.org or call us at (360) 491-7060 for further information. All for the Glory of God! Learning for today, preparing for tomorrow.



Pope John Paul II High School

Have you considered the value of a Catholic, college-prep high school?

At Pope John Paul II High School, students and families find a welcoming, faith-filled community where they are seen, heard, and belong. Every student is nurtured, challenged, and transformed for a lifetime of courageous leadership and service through discovery and development of their God-given gifts.



Project Rachel—Hope and Healing After Abortion

English: (206) 920-6413 / Español: (206)-450-7814 Email projectrachel@ccsww.org If you are suffering from the experience of an abortion, you do not need to walk alone. Project Rachel Western Washington offers a compassionate and confidential environ-

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land - March 11-20, 2024

Join Fr. Anthony Davis of St. Barbara Parish, Black Diamond, in a Tour of the Holy Land, March 2024, provided by **Holy Land Tours, LLC**. More information can be found on their site: www.stbarbarachurch.org/post/pilgrimage-to-the-holy-land RSVP with Young Kim oldkim@aol.com



A **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend** is a time to rejoice in the beauty of your marriage, family and faith. It's a great time to rekindle your romance, learn new communication tools and enjoy a weekend away from distractions.

The next Seattle Area Weekend will be November 3-5 at Holy Rosary Pastoral Center, Edmonds, WA. For more information call 206- 772-2344 or sign up at www.seattlewwme.org



PARTNERS IN THE GOSPEL

Read the latest update and Archbishop Etienne's Pastoral Letter inked on our website saintcolumbanyelm.org



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2023

22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



“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 will find it.” - Mt 16:24b-25

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Whenever I speak, I must cry out,
violence and outrage is my message;
the word of the LORD has brought me
derision and reproach all the day. (Jer 20:8)

Psalm:

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God. (Ps 63)

Second Reading:

I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God,
to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice,
holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship.
(Rom 12:1)

Gospel:

“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 will find it.”
(Mt 16:24-25)

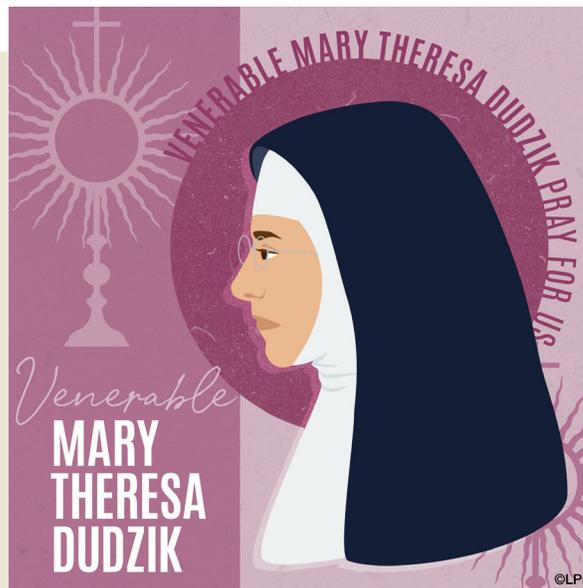
Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

A love of suffering does not come naturally to us as humans. We have no instinct to throw our arms around a rough and heavy cross — no, we shy away from it. But as adopted children of God, crafted lovingly in His image, our inheritance is the grace to do what feels so impossible.

Observances for the week of September 3, 2023

- Sunday:** 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday: Labor Day
Friday: The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Saturday: St. Peter Claver, Priest
Next Sunday: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time;
Grandparents' Day



Saint of the week

Venerable Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik became known as Chicago's Apostle of Mercy due to her work in the late 1800's and the early 1900's serving the poor and abandoned. She founded the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago — the first women's religious congregation in Chicago.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, you inflamed the compassionate heart of Mother Mary Theresa with the heroic virtues of charity and mercy. If it is your will, may she be declared Blessed for your honor and glory and may she inspire others to imitate her love for the needy, poor, and suffering of our world. This we ask through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer Source: <https://mothertheresadudzik.com/prayers.html>)

Readings for the week of September 3, 2023

Sunday:

Jer 20:7-9/Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 (2b)/
Rom 12:1-2/Mt 16:21-27

Monday:

1 Thes 4:13-18/Ps 96:1 and 3, 4-5, 11-12,
13/Lk 4:16-30

Tuesday:

1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Lk
4:31-37

Wednesday:

Col 1:1-8/Ps 52:10, 11/Lk 4:38-44

Thursday:

Col 1:9-14/Ps 98:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6/Lk
5:1-11

Friday:

Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30/Ps 13:6ab, 6c/
Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 or 1:18-23

Saturday:

Col 1:21-23/Ps 54:3-4, 6 and 8/Lk 6:1-5

Next Sunday:

Ez 33:7-9/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 (8)/Rom
13:8-10/Mt 18:15-20



Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Isn't it easy to relate to Peter? One moment Jesus announces Peter's deep communion with God the Father. The very next, when he rejects the logic of Jesus' suffering and death, Jesus calls Peter Satan. We Christians shouldn't be too shocked when we experience both spiritual highs and lows, when we perceive breathtaking contradictions in our hearts.

Like the great apostle, you and I are recipients of unfathomable graces. God dwells in us, calls his beloved children, and takes care of our every need. And we also continually fail to embrace our sufferings with trust in Jesus. We know the truth of the creed, but we easily scorn the weight of the cross.

The good news is that, like Peter, we are never abandoned by the Lord even at our worst moments. Peter will eventually learn the beauty of the cross when he is willingly crucified. But it took time for him to get there. And it takes time for us, too. This week let's not be too shocked at these divisions in our hearts but accept them and patiently seek to be more obedient to Jesus' cross-shaped plan for us.

— *Father John Muir*



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(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Choosing the Cross

I've been called a lot of things in my life, but I've never been called "Satan," at least not to my face.

It seems to me the worst name you could call a person, and today we hear it straight from the lips of Jesus. It's just one of the many small reminders strewn throughout Scripture that Jesus preaches meekness, but he is not mild — not when mildness serves no purpose, anyway.

And here, when Peter is trying to deter Jesus from making the right choice, mildness serves no purpose at all.

Can we blame Peter? I certainly can't. I'm sure I would have said the same thing to my own dear friend. He is, in today's Gospel, wholly unwilling to embrace the cross — he's afraid of it, even — but aren't we all, in the end, afraid of our cross? I am. It's no sin, it's only human. Fear is natural. Self-preservation is a reflex.

What Christ speaks of today is a choice, one we are all faced with, again and again, just as Peter is. We will not always respond perfectly; Peter does not respond well today. He does not respond well on Holy Thursday.

But on his last day, on the day of the ultimate choice? On that day, he chooses the cross.

We marvel at first responders who put themselves in harm's way for the sake of others, because to do so is not human, it is divine. I have to believe that if even a firefighter's loved one threw themselves in his way, he would still charge toward the flames, crying, "Get behind me."

Christ runs into the burning building for us, shaking off not only his own fear (and he had it, I promise you — he was human, too) but the fear of everyone who loved him.

"Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God..." — Romans 12:1

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

What does the Church say about suicide?

Answer:

Unfortunately, despite the Church's clear teachings in resources like the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults, there are still many people who are confused about what the Church teaches regarding the tragic reality of suicide.

While we hold that all life is sacred, we are also all-too aware that psychological, emotional, and even physical illness — as well as extreme anxiety, fear, and abuse — can lead individuals to take their own lives. Speaking to this, the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults reflects, "Although suicide is always objectively sinful, one should not despair of the eternal salvation of persons who have taken their own lives. By ways known to him alone, God can provide the opportunity for salutary repentance. The Church prays for persons who have taken their own lives" (pg. 294). The text also states the reality of illness or other extreme influences can "diminish the responsibility of one committing suicide" (pg. 293).

Parishes and grief support groups should show special care and concern for those families that have lost a loved one to suicide. And communities should always try to be mindful of those who might be at risk of suicide or self-harm.

If someone is contemplating suicide, please know that help is available, including the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (988).

“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 will find it. What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? Or what can one give in exchange for his life?” - Mt 16:24b-26

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Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the loneliness and ridicule he endures for answering his prophetic call. Who do you turn to in times of personal sadness and distress?

Second Reading

Paul challenges us not to be conformed to the present world “but be transformed by the renewal of your mind.” What can you do this week to grow in your thinking as someone who believes in Jesus?

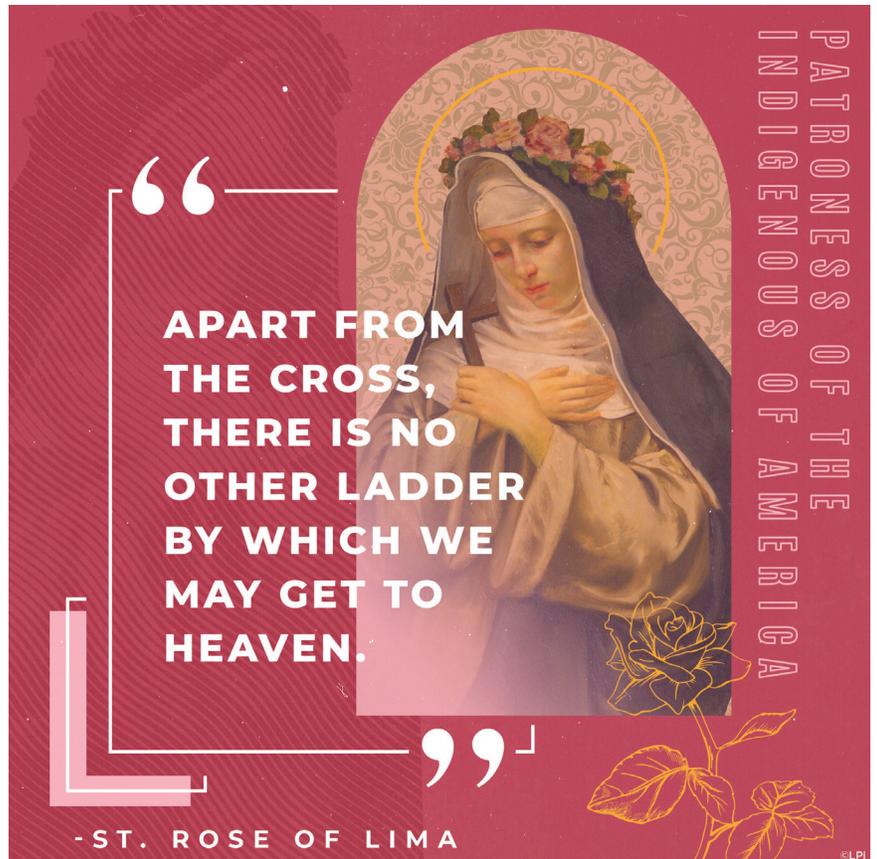
Gospel Reading

Peter is resistant to Jesus’s revelation that as the Messiah, he is destined to suffer and die before rising. How do you react to news difficult to hear?



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“What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? Or what can one give in exchange for his life? For the Son of Man will come with his angels in his Father’s glory, and then he will repay all according to his conduct.”
- Mt 16:26-27

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Prayer

Thank you, Jesus, for giving up your life to save mine.

Mission for the Week

Every day firemen, policemen and soldiers give up their lives to protect yours.

Thank God for them.

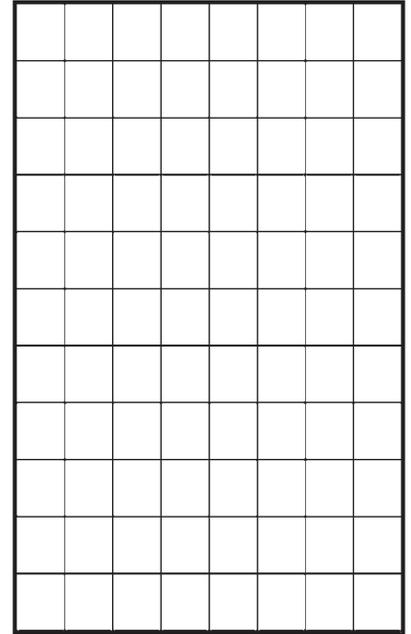
Sharing the Gospel

If it were up to Peter, Jesus would never have died on the cross. Peter did not want to see his dear friend get hurt. It could have been tempting for Jesus to listen to Peter. But Jesus did not come to be happy or comfortable. Jesus came to die on the cross and rise again. He came to take your sins away. Jesus gave up his own life so that your life could be saved. He did it for you.

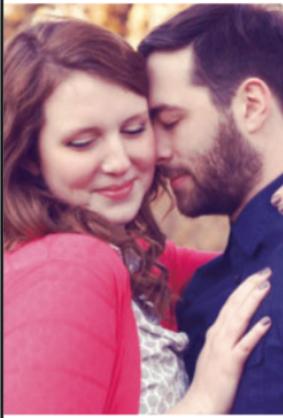
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