



22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 29, 2021

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish

235 North Front St. New Bedford, MA 02746

Sat., Aug. 28th—22nd Sunday Ordinary Time

4:00 PM +Paul Willette (anniv.)
Req. Ann Bodzioch Robinson

Sun., Aug. 29th--22nd Sunday Ordinary Time

10:00 AM +Alice Sieczkowski Kennedy
(5th year anniversary)
Req. Family

Monday, August 30th—Weekday

7:30 AM +Frank Slowik
Req Daughter Pat Monteiro & Family

Tuesday, August 31st—Weekday

7:30 AM +Leo Langevin (10th anniv.)
Req. Cousin, Nancy K.

Wednesday, Sept. 1st--Weekday

7:30 AM OLPH Parishioners,
Living & Deceased

Thursday, Sept. 2nd—Bl. John Francis Burte

7:30 AM +William J. Hoder

Friday, Sept 3rd—St. Gregory the Great

7:30 AM Benefactors of the Franciscan Order,
Living & Deceased

Saturday, Sept. 4th—Blessed Virgin Mary

7:30 AM +William J. Hoder

Sat., Sept. 4th—23rd Sunday Ordinary Time

4:00 PM +Bill Regula
Req. OLPH Choir

Sun., Sept. 5th-23rd--Sunday Ordinary Time

10:00 AM +Jonathan Fontaine
Req. Joan Cyr

THIS WEEK THE CHURCH CELEBRATES...

World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation (September 1st). This optional observance offers "individual believers and communities a fitting opportunity to reaffirm their personal vocation to be stewards of creation, to thank God for the wonderful handiwork He has entrusted to our care, and to implore His help for the protection of creation...."
--Pope Francis, August 6, 2015

Blessed John Francis Burte (September 2nd), a Conventual Franciscan priest, one of many priests who were martyred during the French Revolution. The Civil Constitution of the Clergy, drawn up during the Revolution, required all priests in France to take an oath that amounted to a denial of the Faith. When John Francis refused, he was arrested, then, with 13 diocesan priests, martyred on January 21, 1794. Pope Pius XII beatified him in 1955.

St. Gregory the Great (September 3rd), a Benedictine monk who was put in charge of the Church in Rome before Rome became a diocese. Later, after becoming bishop and then pope, Gregory sent missionaries to convert England.

A learned theologian and prolific writer, St. Gregory is recognized as one of the first four great doctors of the early Church (the other three being Saints Ambrose, Augustine, and Jerome). He is the first pope known to have called himself *servant of the servants of God*.

FIRST FRIDAY. In the late 17th century, Jesus appeared several times to Sister Margaret Mary Alacoque. Among His revelations to her was, *“I promise you in the excessive mercy of My Heart, that My All-Powerful Heart will grant to all those who receive Holy Communion on the first Friday for nine consecutive months the grace of final repentance.*

They shall not die in my disgrace nor without receiving the sacraments. My divine Heart will be their refuge in that last moment.”

This Friday will be the first Friday of September. Will you join us for Mass? We’re looking forward to seeing you.

FATHER CONRAD HAS RESUMED First Friday Communion visits to our housebound parishioners. If you have a family member who is unable to be with us for Mass because of illness or age, and who would like a visit each month to receive Holy Eucharist and, occasionally, the Sacrament of the Sick, please contact the parish office to inform us.

OUR THURSDAY EVENING BINGO is growing by the week! This is very good. However, we really need additional volunteers. Our OLPH volunteers are being assisted by non-parishioners. GOD BLESS THEM, EACH ONE! A simple “thank you” does not suffice to express our gratitude to every volunteer who makes our bingo possible.

But, again, we need more OLPH volunteers. The tasks are easy, but important to the ongoing success of our games. Please speak to Joanna Hunt, Chris Regula, or Kevin Michalski for more information about how a few hours of your time will mean so much to your parish. Thank you in advance.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Just over a century ago, the Miracle of the Sun, one of the most spectacular miracles in human history, was witnessed by more than 40,000 people in Fatima, Portugal. It was October 13, 1917.

Blessed Mother had visited three shepherd children there on the 13th of the month from May to October that year. During these appearances, Our Lady of Fatima warned about the dangers of communism and totalitarianism about to be born in Russia; she also foretold the Second World War and the assassination attempt upon John Paul II.

Our Heavenly Mother mapped out a course by which the world could prevent and overcome these and other disasters, namely, by **praying the rosary daily** for peace in families and peace worldwide.

By means of the following simple requests, she explained how the **First Saturdays of the month** (for five or more months in a row) could be used to bring peace to the world:

1. **Pray the rosary daily** for peace.
2. **Repent.**
3. **Consecrate ourselves** and specifically Russia to her Immaculate Heart.
4. **Observe the “Five First Saturdays of Reparation”** by attending Mass and receiving Communion on the First Saturday of the month; going to confession close to the First Saturday; praying the Rosary and meditating an extra 15 minutes on its mysteries.

In all trials, the grace of God and the prayers of Blessed Mother will be ours if only we ask.

Peace and Blessings,
Father Conrad

Law Versus Values

That is a very difficult choice to place before people. Why can't we choose both? Actually, that is the ideal.

Law is a legislated way that a group lives out a value. We value safe highways, and so we legislate traffic regulations, speed limits, and so forth. We value communal prayer, and so we devise liturgical calendars and worship ceremonies. Usually, the way we live out a value changes more frequently than the value itself. However, it often happens that people become so attached to a custom or law, though unfamiliar with the underlying value it embodies, that a change of custom becomes very disruptive. This certainly happened in the Church after the Second Vatican Council, which took place in the 1960s.

This seems to be the source of tension in today's Gospel scene. Washing hands before eating was a ritual custom here, not just a hygienic one. It probably originated with priests who bloodied their hands while sacrificing animals. Eventually, ritual washing became one of the 613 customs that Pharisees expected every Jewish man to observe. Referred to as "a hedge around the law," such customs served to ensure the law itself was protected and would not be broken. Jesus' disciples did not observe this ritual, and so they were criticized.

Jesus immediately came to their defense. He did not disparage the value of appropriate ritual behavior. Rather, he accused his opponents of clinging to out-of-date practices while disregarding underlying values. Practices are external; values are internal. Laws and customs can change; fundamental principles and standards endure.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR *Reflection*

- * *Do you have a favorite religious practice? The rosary? Communal singing? What religious value does it reflect?*

*[Jesus said,]
"Nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person; but the things that come out from within are what defile."*

MARK 7:15



Dear Padre,

I recently had a spirited discussion with a Protestant friend regarding Romans 8:26. He believes his “perfected prayer of being filled with the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues” is addressed in that verse. What does the Church say about this verse?

Romans 8:26 says, “In the same way, the Spirit too comes to the aid of our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit itself intercedes with inexpressible groanings.”

I’d be careful not to interpret this passage too narrowly and limit its application only to the gift of speaking in tongues. In fact, its application is much broader and actually can be applied to all Christian prayer.

When it comes to praying effectively, all of us can use some extra help. We get that help from the Holy Spirit. Scripture scholar Joseph A. Fitzmayer, SJ, maintains that the Holy Spirit actually plays an active and dynamic role in helping Christians pray effectively by interceding on his or her behalf. In effect, the Holy Spirit expresses for us the inaudible prayers and groaning of our hearts, for which we have no words. So, when we pray, the Holy Spirit is actually present to us and makes up for what we are lacking in our prayer due to our own human weakness.

Fr. Scott Katzenberger, CSSR | Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

Let us try asking ourselves: Am I open to the action of the Holy Spirit?...This is a prayer we must pray every day: “Holy Spirit, make my heart open to the word of God, make my heart open to goodness, make my heart open to the beauty of God every day.”

GENERAL AUDIENCE, MAY 15, 2013

Calendar

Monday
AUGUST 30
Weekday
1 Thes 4:13–18
Lk 4:16–30

Tuesday
AUGUST 31
Weekday
1 Thes 5:1–6, 9–11
Lk 4:31–37

Wednesday
SEPTEMBER 1
Weekday
Col 1:1–8
Lk 4:38–44

Thursday
SEPTEMBER 2
Weekday
Col 1:9–14
Lk 5:1–11

Friday
SEPTEMBER 3
St. Gregory the Great,
Pope and Doctor
of the Church
Col 1:15–20
Lk 5:33–39

Saturday
SEPTEMBER 4
Weekday
Col 1:21–23
Lk 6:1–5

Sunday
SEPTEMBER 5
Twenty-third Sunday in
Ordinary Time
Is 35:4–7a
Jas 2:1–5
Mk 7:31–37

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