

January 20, 2019 – Second Sunday Ordinary Time

MAY JESUS CHRIST BE PRAISED
NOW AND FOREVER!!!

SPIRITUAL PONDERINGS

Ten Reasons to Go to Mass

“If we really understood the Mass, we would die of joy.” – St. Jean Vianney.
Some more reasons, why it is important to go to Mass each Sunday. Some more reasons, why it is important to go to Mass each Sunday.

6. Mass is Our Chance to Say Thank You (Salvation in Remembrance)

It is important to realize that God does not enter into a quid pro quo relationship with us. (I scratch your back you scratch my back.) God loves us and He does so unconditionally. Gratitude then is not about keeping God on our side. Gratitude is in a sense about justice. When someone gives you, a gift should say thank you. What do we have that God has not given to us? People who live lives where they practice gratitude are some of the happiest people I know. On the other hand, those who are in-grateful are often very unhappy people.

A phrase that is close to my heart is “Salvation Lies in Remembrance.” The word “salvation” may best be translated “right relationship”. When I am experiencing salvation, I have a good relationship with God and others. Gratitude therefore is almost essential for good relationship because no one wants to be taken for granted.

In my own life there was a particular time in which I was feeling pretty depressed and I was seriously considering leaving the seminary. Before I could make that decision, one of the priests on the seminary staff sought me out and spent a few hours talking to me. He helped me put things in the right context. Later in the school year that same priest asked me to help with a vocation summer camp for teenagers. I am pretty certain that I would have told that priest “no,” because I did not have a good experience as a teen myself. I chose to remember how this priest had helped me out earlier in the year. Instead of saying “no,” I told him “yes” and had one of the most formative experiences of my life. The need for good youth ministry is still something I get passionate about today.

I know that I only agreed to help that priest because I remembered how he had helped me. Coming to Mass helps motivates me to say “yes” to whatever it is that God is asking me to do. I have a greater desire to do God’s will because I remember how He was therefore me as an individual but also as a part of the human family.

7. Mass helps us know our True Value

How do you measure the worth of another human being? How do you measure your own self-worth? These are important questions because they

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Sunday

The world generally gives its best pleasures first; afterwards comes the dregs and the bitterness. But Christ reverses the order and gave us the feast after the fast, the Resurrection after the Crucifixion, the joy of Easter Sunday after the sorrow of Good Friday – Fulton Sheen

Monday

Why go through all the effort of making new wine just to ruin it.

Tuesday

God does not create things wanting us to destroy it.

Wednesday

“Cheap grace is the mortal enemy of the church” — Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Thursday

“Whenever Christ calls us, his call leads us to death.” — Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Friday

“Christian love draws no distinction between one enemy and another, except that the more bitter our enemy’s hatred, the greater his need

often determine what motivates us in life. These are also questions that a world often promotes the wrong answer to. Like Judas who knew the price of everything but knew nothing about an item or person true value (Mathew 26:9) the world tells us that we should base our value and the value of others on how useful they are to us. This type of thinking is what philosophers call utilitarian philosophy. A car is only available as much as can get you from one point to the other. Whether consciously or subconsciously many of us determine our value using this thought process. I am only worthwhile when I can be of use to the people around me. The moment when I cannot produce because of illness and/or old age I become worthless.

The second way we place a value on something is how rare and unblemished an item may be for example a diamond. We can therefore seem worthless because we seem to be very common and/or ordinary with nothing that really separates me from others.

God invites us to come to Mass so that we may discover our true value. First, we realize that we are not just mere human beings but that we are also through Baptism Sons and Daughters of God. We also learn the price Jesus paid to redeem us. We have been purchased (or ransomed) by God who willingly gave up His Son so that He could have us. He did this while we were still sinners proving our true worth (Romans 5).

We come to Mass without an admission fee. Yes, a good Catholic helps to support his or her parish financially but this is no way a fee to approach the altar. We come to Mass no matter what our social status is: slave or free/rich or poor (1 Corinthian 12). We come to Mass because we are loved and thus invited by God to take part in his wedding feast.

By spending an hour with God on a Sunday morning we discover that we are more than what we produce. We are loved by God for who we are. In all the Gospel accounts of Jesus' Baptism, we hear the Father say from heaven "You are my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased." This happens before Jesus turns water into wine, cures one person or is even tempted by the devil because God's loves unconditionally.

One of the first leper Jesus cures tells Jesus "if you wish to make me clean you can," and Jesus does make Him clean (Mark 1:40). There is no bargaining. In fact, the one thing Jesus tells Him to do "Don't publicize it and the man does anyway making Jesus' life even more difficult (Luke 17:11&ff). When the nine lepers do not come back and thank Jesus for his generosity Jesus does not make them ill again. These stories and many more like them let us know that Jesus does not desire a "quid pro quo" relationship with us. (I scratch your back and you scratch my back). God desires a loving relationship with us. He will love us and He hopes (and not forces) that we will love Him. By the very fact that God does not force us to love Him, shows us how much love and respect God has for us. No master would care about his slaves in the similar way. (John 15:15)

of love. Be his enemy political or religious, he has nothing to expect from a follower of Jesus but unqualified love. In such love there is not inner discord between the private person and official capacity. In both we are disciples of Christ, or we are not Christians at all." — Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*

Saturday

"The community of the saints is not an "ideal" community consisting of perfect and sinless men and women, where there is no need of further repentance. No, it is a community which proves that it is worthy of the gospel of forgiveness by constantly and sincerely proclaiming God's forgiveness...Sanctification means driving out the world from the Church as well as separating the Church from the world. But the purpose of such discipline is not to establish a community of the perfect, but a community consisting of men who really live under the forgiving mercy of God." — Dietrich Bonhoeffer



BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

January 20 2019 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Lectionary: 66 Gospel JN 2:1-11

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servers, "Do whatever he tells you." Now there were six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washings, each holding twenty to thirty

gallons. Jesus told them, "Fill the jars with water." So they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, "Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter." So they took it. And when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine, without knowing where it came from — although the servers who had drawn the water knew —, the headwaiter called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves good wine first, and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one; but you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs at Cana in Galilee and so revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him.

Spiritual Reflections: Fulton J. Sheen wrote in his book *The Life of Christ*: "There is a striking parallel between His Father's bidding Him to His public death and His mother's bidding Him to His public life. Obedience triumphed in both cases; at Cana, the water was changed into wine; at Calvary, the wine was changed into blood."

Spiritual Questions:

1. What role does obedience play in faith?
2. Why is obedience so hard?
3. How can obedience to God's will going to change you?
4. How does Jesus' obedience inspire you?
5. What are things that you can do to help you become more docile to God's will?



A HEALING PRAYER.

O Jesus, Good Shepherd, You heal the sick and assist the needy. I lift up to you those who are suffering from the sin of abortion. You know what it is like to endure pain. Look kindly on those who have had or have assisted in the sin of abortion today and heal them. Restore them to strength of soul and body.

Give Your gift of wisdom to physicians who have performed abortions or desire to do so May they be guided by the Holy Spirit in all they do and thus repent from their evil ways. Bless the nurses who work in the abortion industry so that their hands will become instruments of peace and caring like they were intended to and not instruments of death. Please touch all who work within the abortion industry in a way that allows them to turn away from the culture of death and that allows them to begin to embrace the culture of life.

Bless, the efforts of everyone who strive to promote the dignity of human life. O Jesus, grant our world Your healing grace of love and peace. Amen.



Please join us in praying a special prayer each month for Catholics who have fallen away from their faith.

A SPIRIT TO KNOW YOU

Gracious and Holy Father, please give those who do not know you intellect to understand you, reason to discern you, diligence to seek you, wisdom to find you, a spirit to know you, a heart to meditate upon you, ears to hear you, eyes to see you, a tongue to proclaim you, a way of life pleasing to you, patience to wait for you and perseverance to look for you. Grant all those who are searching for you a perfect end, in your holy presence, a blessed resurrection and life everlasting.



This Week's Trivia

Identify the title of the following Cross images.

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.  | 2.  |
| 3.  | 4.  |

- A. ___ Celtic Cross
- B. ___ Maltese/Beatitude
- C. ___ Greek
- D. ___ Latin

Last Week's Answer

Match the Biblical Character with the Symbol(s) that represent him.

1. Adam 2. Abel 3. Noah 4. Abraham

- A. -4- Altar/Stars
- B. -2- Shepherd Staff/Lamb
- C. -1- Pickaxe/Apple
- D. -3- ark/dove/olive branch

DUC IN ALTUM:

CAUTION

Only read this section if you want to go deeper in your faith

CAUTION

Take a moment after receiving communion to pray one of the following prayers:

THE ANIMA CHRISTI

Soul of Christ, sanctify me; Body of Christ, save me; Blood of Christ, inebriate me; Water from the side of Christ, wash me; Passion of Christ, strengthen me; O good Jesus hear me; Within your wounds hide me; separated from you, let me never be; From the evil one protect me; At the hour of my death, call me; And close to you bid me; That with your saints, I may be praising you forever and ever. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

My God, enable me to bear Thee, for Thou alone canst. Cleanse my heart and mind from all that is past. Wipe out clean all my recollections of evil. Rid me from all languor, sickness, irritability, feebleness of soul. Give me a true perception of things unseen, and make me truly, practically, and in the details of my life, prefer Thee to anything on earth, and the future world to the present. Give me a true instinct determining between right and wrong, humility in all things, and a tender, longing love for Thee. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER HOLY COMMUNION

What strength hast Thou not imparted to my soul, good Lord, by means of this holy communion! Oh! How much I need it. The road I have to traverse is so difficult, that without Thee I should fear to venture upon it. In a short time I shall return to my daily occupations; I shall continue my life of yesterday; I shall be exposed to the same temptations, I shall find myself with my usual faults. But Jesus, thou Who didst help the saints, Thou by Thy grace, help me to preserve in all my words and actions, modestly, meekness, and humility. Help me to make Thy presence within me visible to all; let others see in me the sweetness of Thy charity, generosity, and kindness. Amen.

CATHOLIC PRAYER:

A PRAYER FOR JUSTICE

Jesus, Divine Overlord of the Heavens, Enforcer of all spiritual decrees, Chief Judge of the Final Judgment, Your Laws are multiculturally righteous. Grant me values that seek justice, to uphold all Christian moral ethics, and to aid the victims of injustices. As You forgave the worst of sinners, equip me with a non-judgmental ability to forgive all offenders of Your Laws, and to support their healing process. You are the true direction to justice!

Wake Me Up Lord

Wake me up Lord, so that the evil of racism finds no home within me. Keep watch over my heart Lord, and remove from me any barriers to your grace, that may oppress and offend my brothers and sisters. Fill my spirit Lord, so that I may give services of justice and peace. Clear my mind Lord, and use it for your glory. And finally, remind us Lord that you said, "blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God." Amen.





Humor

