

Saint John XXIII Roman Catholic Church

3390 Portage Avenue

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3K 0Z3

Telephone: 204-832-7175 • Fax: 204-885-2447

Email: office@johnxxiii.ca • Website: www.johnxxiii.ca

Office Hours: *As announced in the schedule for the week*

SACRAMENT OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

SUNDAY LITURGIES (MASSES)

*Due to limits imposed by public health orders,
please call ahead of time to make reservations*

WEEKDAY LITURGIES

You may call ahead of time to make reservations

ASSISTANCE TO THE SICK AND SHUT-IN

For emergencies, you may contact the parish office

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSIONS)

As circumstances permit, when the Pastor is available
at times announced in the schedule and/or by appointment



PARISH BULLETIN

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – June 28, 2020

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – July 5, 2020

PARISH PASTORAL TEAM

Pastor: Reverend Fr. Robert Polz

204-832-7335 rpolz.johnxxiii@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant: Joanna Mason

204-832-7175 joanna@johnxxiii.ca

Pastoral Assistant: Sharon Camier

204-832-7206 sharon@johnxxiii.ca

Head Custodian: José Barrera

204-888-9340

Ministry Coordinator/Office Volunteer: Lynda Hunt

204-832-7175 lynda@johnxxiii.ca

Music Ministry: Donna Vendramelli

204-888-8200 d_vendramelli@mymts.net

Trustee: Loris Vendramelli

204-888-8200 loris@mymts.net

Building and Maintenance Chair: Claude Precourt

204-898-1893 cfp3899@gmail.com

Trustee: William Gould

204-832-7175 william.d.gould@gmail.com

Fundraising and Development Committee

204-832-7175 call if interested in serving

Parish Stewardship Committee

Facilitator: Loris Vendramelli

204-888-8200 loris@mymts.net

Parish Pastoral Council

Facilitator: Laurette Burch

204-885-6988 burchd@mymts.net

FAITH FORMATION: In regular circumstances, catechism sessions for children (K to Grade 8) are held on Sunday mornings, September through May, from 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. Periodically other programs, workshops, and/or study sessions are offered for adults. Contact our Pastoral Assistant (Sharon) for further information.

SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION (BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION, EUCHARIST): Contact the parish office for further information.

SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK: Contact the Pastor (Fr. Robert).

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE: Arrangements for preparation and celebration should be made at least six months in advance.

CELEBRATION OF CHRISTIAN FUNERALS: Contact the parish office before finalizing arrangements with funeral directors.

Happy Are We Who Come to His Table!

"All praise to you, Jesus, in the Blessed Sacrament!"

Congratulations and prayerful best wishes
to the young people of our parish
who are receiving their first Holy Communion
over the next few Sundays:

Sunday, June 28th at the 11:45 a.m. Mass:

HOLLY NIKOLE HIEBERT, JARON MATTHEW REMOLACIO

Sunday, July 5th at the 9:00 a.m. Mass:

ALBERT BRAVO JR., TOM PAULO RAPHAEL SADAYA, EDAN - JAN STEPIEN

Sunday, July 5th at the 11:45 a.m. Mass:

JOHANNA KATHLEEN CABURNAY, KRISTOFF RAE PARAGAS

Sunday, July 12th at the 9:00 a.m. Mass:

IOANNI MABINI, TALIA PATRICIA MOLINA-KARP

Sunday, July 12th at the 11:45 a.m. Mass:

EURIELLE IMELDA ELOEHI HAYBLE, REIGH FREDRITZ SANTOS JEQUINTO



HOLY COMMUNION DURING MASS AND OUTSIDE OF MASS

We continue to provide opportunities for parishioners to come to church for prayer and the celebration of the Sacraments, especially the reception of Holy Communion. Please note we need to respect the current Phase 3 protocols including limiting gatherings inside the building to **50 people** at any one time. **PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE AHEAD OF TIME TO MAKE RESERVATIONS to take part and receive Holy Communion at Mass and/or for the reception of Holy Communion Outside of Mass.** We request everyone to make reservations beforehand for all weekend liturgies. Nevertheless, given the recent increase to 50 people, for weekday liturgies you may register beforehand or take your chances for "rush seating" provided space is available. In the latter case, you will still need to register your name upon arrival.

HAND SANITIZING, FACE COVERINGS, ETC.

All assisting ministers, parishioners and visitors are to SANITIZE THEIR HANDS UPON ARRIVAL and to observe appropriate PHYSICAL/SOCIAL DISTANCING (i.e. stay 2 metres apart) during their time at the church.

In most cases, the wearing of a face covering (mask) is left to the discretion of the individual. Further instructions concerning this and other procedures for assisting ministers and those faithful in attendance will be communicated beforehand or at appropriate times during each celebration.

The offertory procession at Masses is suspended at this time. **An OFFERING BOX to receive your collection envelopes is available in the narthex on a table near the main aisle or you may drop your donations off at the parish office.**

If at all possible, we ask that you USE THE WASHROOM AT HOME before you come to church. We need to sanitize areas appropriately after you leave the building. It is an even bigger job if someone has to guess your tracks all through the building and downstairs into the washrooms. Please be respectful of your place in the greater picture for the good of all.

Let us all continue the everyday activities that can help reduce exposure to COVID-19 and protect the health of one another: wash your hands often with soap and water; sneeze or cough into your sleeve; avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth; IF YOU ARE SICK or in a vulnerable state, PLEASE STAY AT HOME.

LIVESTREAMING OF SUNDAY MASS FROM SAINT JOHN XXIII CHURCH

We continue to livestream from Saint John XXIII Church the celebration of Sunday Eucharist each Saturday afternoon during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic. If there are any glitches uploading the livestream of these liturgies on Saturday afternoon, we will do our best to upload them as soon as possible afterwards so you can access the Mass anytime on Sunday. To access livestreaming of liturgies via YouTube and/or an archive of liturgies posted online, go to links found on the home page of our parish website www.johnxxiii.ca



PARISH OFFICE NOW OPEN – WEEKDAY AFTERNOONS AS ANNOUNCED

While the parish facility is accessible in the afternoons to offer some limited in person assistance at the office and for personal prayer in church, **ALL VISITORS must respect proper COVID-19 protocols including social distancing and sanitization measures. Please USE THE WASHROOM AT HOME before you come to church. The wearing of a face covering (mask) is very much encouraged. IF YOU ARE SICK or in a vulnerable state, PLEASE STAY AT HOME.** We continue to do our best to answer emails and respond to telephone voice mail messages in a timely fashion. For further information, please consult our parish website at www.johnxxiii.ca or call and leave a message at 204-832-7175.

TABERNACLE LAMP OFFERING

June 28 – July 11, 2020 *For the conversion of sinners by the infinite merits of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, requested by a parishioner*

If you wish to have the Tabernacle Lamp in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel of Saint John XXIII Church burn in memory of a loved one, to honour a special occasion, or for a particular intention, you may make arrangements through the Parish Office. Call or email for assistance. The offering to cover one week (from Sunday through Saturday) is \$25.00.



PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE OF OUR COMMUNITY IN NEED OF HEALING AND COMFORT

Darrell Aucoin, Gladys Barton, Annette and Maynard Bates, John Baziuk, Catherine Blaquera, Freda Broughton, Bill Camier, Marilyn Crakewich, René Defries, Alice Edwards, Ray Fleury, John Foucart, Audrey Fraser, René Gobeil, Helen Hallack, Darryn Hellofs, Bev and Steve Hewitt, Rosario Jequinto, Tracy Kingsland, Amanda Klaasen, Angela Krassie, Maureen Kuntz, Marie Mangin, Norman Mangin, Yvonne Mason, Deb McEnturff, Frances Mijker, Susan Murphy, Zonia Patson, Shirley Payment, James Polz, Larrie Pushka, Owen Robertson, Janice Skene, Joe Wallack and Helen Yankoski, and all those affected by the Coronavirus.

COVID-19 PROTOCOLS: For the latest updates regarding COVID-19 protocols and other news and events in and around the Archdiocese of Winnipeg, please go to the archdiocesan website: www.archwinnipeg.ca

THE WORD AMONG US *Daily Meditations for Catholics*: Canadian Edition with CCCB approved Mass readings. Copies of the summer July/August issue are now available. Call the parish office to reserve your copy. **Price \$5.00 each.**

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2019: Copies of the parish financial statement for 2019 are now available for parishioners to pick up. See the pamphlet rack at the south entrance, or you may request a copy at the parish office. If you wish, you may check out the parish bulletin published June 21, 2020 for some further comments on our current financial situation.

TWO WEEK SCHEDULE FOR JUNE 28 – JULY 12, 2020

N.B.: As circumstances suggest, the schedule below may be subject to change.

Sunday, June 28	
4:00 pm Saturday	THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME MASS (livestreamed) – “Pro populo” – reservations full
9:00 am	MASS – <i>In thanksgiving for plants donated by Arbo Flora, requested by parishioners of Saint John XXIII Parish</i> – call office for reservations
11:45 am	MASS – “Pro populo” (Intentions of parishioners) – call office for reservations <i>This Mass will include the First Holy Communion of some children of the parish</i>
Monday, June 29	
SOLEMNITY: SAINTS PETER AND PAUL, Apostles	
<i>Parish office closed Monday</i>	
<i>MASS (offered in private) – Berto Albertacci+, requested by Delia Pohlen</i>	
Tuesday, June 30	
FERIAL	
12:00 pm	Praying of the “Angelus”
12:10 pm	MASS – <i>Margo Sinclair+, requested by Joanna Mason</i>
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Parish Office Open in the afternoon
1:00 pm – 3:45 pm	Adoration Time (Blessed Sacrament Chapel) – ring door buzzer for access
Wednesday, July 1	
FERIAL – “CANADA DAY”	
<i>Parish office closed Wednesday – Canada Day holiday</i>	
<i>MASS (offered in private) – Intentions of pastor and staff, requested by anonymous</i>	
<i>Our Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions – pray at home today</i>	
Thursday, July 2	
FERIAL	
<i>Parish office closed Thursday</i>	
<i>MASS (offered in private) – For deceased Priests and Bishops+</i>	
Friday, July 3	
FEAST: SAINT THOMAS, Apostle	
12:00 pm	Praying of the “Angelus”
12:10 pm	MASS – <i>Greg Moeller (health), requested by Joy Sigue</i>
12:45 pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
1:00 pm – 3:45 pm	Adoration Time (monstrance on altar in main worship space) – ring door buzzer for access
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Parish Office Open in the afternoon
1:15 – 3:00 pm	<i>As circumstances permit, Fr. Robert may be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation</i>
3:00 pm	Recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy – ring door buzzer for access
3:45 pm	BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
4:30 pm	Rehearsal with children for First Communion for 9:00 a.m. Mass July 5 th (tentative)
6:00 pm	Celebration of First Reconciliation
6:30 pm	Rehearsal with children for First Communion for 11:45 a.m. Mass July 5 th
Saturday, July 4	
FERIAL	
4:00 pm	MASS (livestreamed) – “Pro populo” (Intentions of parishioners) – call office for reservations
Sunday, July 5	
THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	
<i>Masses today will include the First Holy Communion of some children of the parish</i>	
9:00 am	MASS – “Pro populo” (Intentions of parishioners) – call office for reservations
11:45 am	MASS – “Pro populo” (Intentions of parishioners) – call office for reservations
Monday, July 6	
FERIAL	
<i>Parish office closed Monday</i>	
<i>MASS (offered in private) – Intentions of José Barrera, requested by anonymous</i>	
Tuesday, July 7	
FERIAL	
12:00 pm	Praying of the “Angelus”

12:10 pm	MASS – <i>Intentions of the Agcaoili and Balisi families, requested by Hermalyn Agcaoili</i>	
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Parish Office Open in the afternoon	
1:00 pm – 3:45 pm	Adoration Time (<i>Blessed Sacrament Chapel</i>)	– ring door buzzer for access
Wednesday, July 8	FERIAL	
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Parish Office Open in the afternoon	
1:00 pm – 3:45 pm	Adoration Time (<i>Blessed Sacrament Chapel</i>)	– ring door buzzer for access
6:45 pm	OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTIONS	
7:00 pm	MASS – <i>In thanksgiving, requested by Laurette and Doug Burch</i>	
Thursday, July 9	FERIAL	
	<i>Parish office closed Thursday</i>	
	<i>MASS (offered in private) – For deceased Priests and Bishops+</i>	
Friday, July 10	FERIAL	
12:00 pm	Praying of the “Angelus”	
12:10 pm	MASS – <i>Mark Patson (birthday), requested by Zonia Patson</i>	
12:45 pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
1:00 pm – 3:45 pm	Adoration Time (<i>monstrance on altar in main worship space</i>)	– ring door buzzer for access
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Parish Office Open in the afternoon	
1:15 – 3:00 pm	<i>As circumstances permit, Fr. Robert may be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation</i>	
3:00 pm	Recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy	– ring door buzzer for access
3:45 pm	BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT	
5:30 pm	Rehearsal with children for First Communion for 9:00 a.m. Mass July 12 th (<i>tentative</i>)	
6:30 pm	Rehearsal with children for First Communion for 11:45 a.m. Mass July 12 th (<i>tentative</i>)	
Saturday, July 11	MEMORIAL: SAINT BENEDICT, Abbot	
4:00 pm	MASS (livestreamed) – “ <i>Pro populo</i> ” (<i>Intentions of parishioners</i>)	– call office for reservations
Sunday, July 12	THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME <i>Masses today will include the First Holy Communion of some children of the parish</i>	
9:00 am	MASS – “ <i>Pro populo</i> ” (<i>Intentions of parishioners</i>)	– call office for reservations
11:45 am	MASS – “ <i>Pro populo</i> ” (<i>Intentions of parishioners</i>)	– call office for reservations

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

June 28, 2020

2 Kings 4:8-12a, 14-16

A woman of Shunem makes room for a prophet.

Psalms 89:1-2, 15-16, 17-18

God keeps promises with all fidelity and kindness.

Romans 6:3-4, 8-11

Death has no power over the one baptized into the death and life of Christ.

Matthew 10:37-42

Whatever is done for the sake of Christ will not go unrewarded.

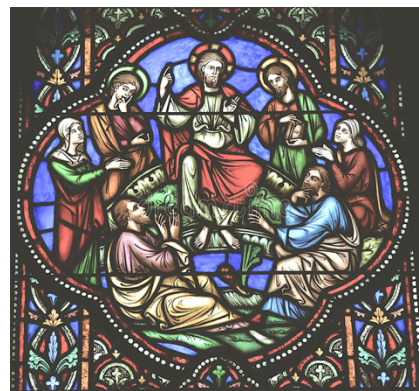
GLANCING THOUGHTS

The Love of the Lord

In the Gospel Reading, Jesus seems to recommend an inhuman attitude: you are not to love your mother or father or your child more than Jesus. In fact, you are not to love your own life more than Jesus. If you do, you will lose what you love.

What does it even mean to compare loves in this way? If you have more than one child, you can love each one equally, can't you? Why think that your love of your child is in competition with your love of Jesus? But if it is, honestly, why wouldn't you love your child more?

Well, think about it this way. To love someone is to want to be united with that person somehow. If your mother sends you lots of gifts but never cares to be near you, you wouldn't think she loved you, would you? More than that, if, when your



mother came to visit you, she constantly opposed everything you yourself value, you would have a sense of your distance from her; and that distance would make you feel lonely with respect to her even while she was there visiting you.

And now you can see how loves can be in opposition to each other. If your adult son is selling drugs to teenagers, you can be at one with your son only if you no longer care about those teenagers. But then you will be at a distance from the Lord because the Lord cares about each one of his people. So in wanting to be united with your drug-dealing son, you would be willing to be separated from the Lord. And then you would not be worthy of the Lord, would you?

The good news is that if you do love the Lord, then you will be united with him; and in being united with him, you will also be united with everyone else united with the Lord. The love you have for your child, the love you have for your mother or father, have their full home in your shared love of the Lord. And that is why the Lord says that a person who loses his life for the Lord will find it. Real union, and the real love, peace, and joy that union brings, are possible only in the love of the Lord.

– Eleonore Stump

Eleonore Stump is Professor of Philosophy, Saint Louis University
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FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

July 5, 2020

Zechariah 9:9-10

The territory of the just king stretches from sea to sea.

Psalm 145:1-2, 8-9, 10-11, 13cd-14

Our God's name is to be blessed forever.

Romans 8:9, 11-13

We do not belong to the world that is passing, but to the world without end.

Matthew 11:25-30

Those who labor and are burdened find rest in Christ.



GLANCING THOUGHTS

Lightening the Load

In the Gospel, Christ says that his yoke is easy and his burden is light. But how can this be true? Doesn't each Christian among us have a heavy burden to carry?

Nobody needs me to list what things make a person's burden heavy. Everyone can look at his own life and make that list. And even if there is some person who has no worries or sadness for himself, he must be a very lonely person if he is not carrying a burden for someone else whom he loves. So, in what sense is Christ's yoke easy and his burden light?

To see why Christ's saying really is true after all, consider the condition Christ sets for getting the gift he offers to us, the easy yoke and the light burden: "Come to me," he says.

To come to someone is to be willing to be united with that person. It is to be open to him, to let his will make a difference to what you yourself will and do. This isn't safe, generally speaking.

But when the person to whom you come is Christ himself, the vulnerability which openness brings with it is more than matched by the love Christ gives. In the gift of that love, everything that might be loss is turned into gift given and gift received, to be returned again in love.

Even death is like this. You do not have to face death as if it were a depredation. Within the love of Christ, what might be only irrevocable loss of your life can become a sharing with Christ too. You can offer your life as gift to Christ, with Christ, for Christ, as you go through death to arrive at life in love in Christ.

And if even the heavy load of death can be lightened in this way, then what Christ says is true about every other heavy burden, too: in coming to him, in shared love with him, we will find that his yoke is easy and his burden is light.

– Eleonore Stump

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Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time.

Sunday, Jun 28, 2020

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Welcome, prophet

Younger generations are quick to tell older ones how wrong they are about everything. But wise elders don't dismiss challenges to their perspective lightly—especially when they have some truth to them. A prophetic word may at times come more naturally to the young: free of the accretions of habit and with no comfortable niche to defend (yet). Take time today to talk across the age gap. Hear the words

to another generation's songs, consider their protests, withhold instant judgment. Having a conversation partner, as we've learned from the time of isolation, is worth the investment.

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Kings 4:8-12a, 14-16; Romans 6:3-4, 8-11; Matthew 10:37-42 (97). *"Whoever receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward."*

Monday, Jun 29, 2020

SOLEMNITY OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES

A matching set for all eternity

Saints Peter and Paul are together the patrons of Rome, where both were martyred around the same time. The two men had their differences, but they were central in establishing the Christian faith, which eventually won over the Roman Empire despite fierce opposition from officials. Saint Augustine wrote: "Both apostles share the same feast day, for these two were one . . . Let us embrace what they believed, their life, their labors, their sufferings, their preaching, and their confession of faith." Amen.

TODAY'S READINGS: Day: Acts 12:1-11; 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18; Matthew 16:13-19 (591). *"Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."*

Tuesday, Jun 30, 2020

FERIAL or MEMORIAL OF THE FIRST MARTYRS OF THE HOLY ROMAN CHURCH

Holiness involves dying a little each day

Tertullian, one of the first Christian theologians, wrote: "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church." The church's first martyrs are commemorated a day after the feast of Saints Peter and Paul—who tradition says were also victims of Nero's slaughter, beginning in 64. And martyrs aren't meant to be just a memory but also a model. Look no further than first responders and essential workers to see modern examples of those following the model of self-sacrifice for the sake of others. Offer a sign of gratitude for their service.

TODAY'S READINGS: Amos 3:1-8; 4:11-12; Matthew 18:23-27 (378). *"Why are you terrified, O you of little faith?"*

Wednesday, Jul 01, 2020 – Canada Day

TODAY'S READINGS: Amos 5:14-15, 21-24; Matthew 8:28-34 (379). *"Seek good and not evil, that you may live."*

Thursday, Jul 02, 2020

FERIAL

The healing power of compassion

Jesus healed in ways we consider miraculous, not because he had anything to prove about his power, but because his compassion urged him to alleviate suffering in whatever ways he could. His teaching and his healing went hand in hand: Both were focused on bringing us to wholeness. When he calls the paralytic man his son or child, it displays a mark of the tenderness he feels for all of us. Jesus draws us close in a healing embrace. Accept his healing today.

TODAY'S READINGS: Amos 7:10-17; Matthew 9:1-8 (380). *"Courage, child, your sins are forgiven."*

Friday, Jul 03, 2020

FEAST OF SAINT THOMAS, APOSTLE

Beyond all doubt

Thomas may have started out doubting, but once he saw and touched the truth, his faith took him very far indeed. It is said he traveled to the southwest coast of India in the year 52 and spent the last 20 years of his life there planting Christianity. To this day, "Saint Thomas Christians" in India trace their origins back to the apostle. In fact, Thomas is so popular that India has issued a commemorative stamp in his honor! Doubt does not oppose faith, it makes faith possible.

TODAY'S READINGS: Ephesians 2:19-22; John 20:24-29 (593). *"Thomas answered and said to him, 'My Lord and my God!'"*

Saturday, Jul 04, 2020 – USA: Independence Day

TODAY'S READINGS: Amos 9:11-15; Matthew 9:14-17 (382). *"The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast."*

Sunday, Jul 05, 2020

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

God's here, in the flesh

A small boy resisted saying good night. His father told him, "Don't worry, I'm in the next room." The child pleaded, "But I need you here." Taking a religious tactic, the father said, "You're not alone; God is always with you." Placing both hands on his father's cheeks and drawing his face level to his own, his son replied: "But God don't have no skin." The child perceived that a faceless, invisible God is not of much help on those dark nights when we need a friend near. But God does have skin in the game. The divine Presence is as close as our concern for each other.

TODAY'S READINGS: Zechariah 9:9-10; Romans 8:9, 11-13; Matthew 11:25-30 (100). *"Although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to little ones."*

Monday, Jul 06, 2020

FERIAL or MEMORIAL OF SAINT MARIA GORETTI, VIRGIN, MARTYR

The power of "I forgive you"

As 11-year-old Maria Goretti lay dying after being stabbed for rebuffing the sexual advances of a 21-year-old man who lived on her farm, she forgave her attacker. That act alone is shocking enough. But her attacker was so affected by her forgiveness that he repented in prison, prayed to her every day, sought the forgiveness of her mother, attended Maria's canonization in 1950, and became a lay brother. Makes it pretty hard for anyone to justify a grudge, much less retribution.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Hosea 2:14, 15b-16, 19-20; Matthew 9:18-26 (383). "Courage, daughter! Your faith has saved you."*

Tuesday, Jul 07, 2020

FERIAL

Wonders never cease

The Seven Modern Wonders of the World were identified on this day in 2007, counterparts to the seven ancient wonders that predate the earthly life of Jesus. Two of these modern monuments—the Colosseum in Rome and Christ the Redeemer statue in Rio de Janeiro—could be the bookends to Christian history. The Colosseum, symbolic of Roman emperors' power, was where early martyrs died while Christianity was outlawed. The colossal Redeemer statue celebrates Christ's ongoing presence in the world. It was used recently to honor pandemic healthcare workers. It proclaims that Christ's love endures now as it did in the time of the Colosseum. Proclaim that love in your own life.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Hosea 8:4-7, 11-13; Matthew 9:32-38 (384). "They made idols for themselves, to their own destruction."*

Wednesday, Jul 08, 2020

FERIAL

The cure for what ails us

Anointing of the Sick is one of the seven sacraments of the church. In its pre-Vatican II life, this sacrament was called Extreme Unction and was reserved for the time of death. Now the church invites all who are seriously sick or experiencing the challenges of advanced age to receive the grace of this sacrament. Celebrated at home, in a church, or in a healthcare facility, often in the presence of loved ones, this sacrament offers those who are sick the peace, strength, and courage of the Lord who himself knew the pain of human suffering. Draw on God's healing powers and encourage others to do so as well. COVID-19 has complicated pastoral visits, especially in medical facilities, so consult with a priest or chaplain about the wisest course of action.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Hosea 10:1-3, 7-8, 12; Matthew 10:1-7 (385). "Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority... to cure sickness and disease of every kind."*

Thursday, Jul 09, 2020

FERIAL or MEMORIAL OF SAINT AUGUSTINE ZHAO RONG, PRIEST, AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS

Faithful unto death

When Christianity first emerged, members of the early church were often persecuted and even killed. Although the targeting of Christians has waxed and waned over the centuries—depending on the political powers and their attitude toward the faith—Christians continue to suffer at the hands of civil authorities and religious extremists, as did the subjects of today's optional memorial, Augustine Zhao Rong and companions, who were martyred in China over a 300-year period. In honor of these Christian martyrs, take a moment today to learn more about interreligious cooperation, an ongoing effort the Holy Father has championed.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Hosea 11:1, 3-5b, 8c-9; Matthew 10:7-15 (386). "Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give."*

Friday, Jul 10, 2020

FERIAL

Don't get comfortable

As Christians, we not only face the hardships of daily existence, but also the challenges arising from living out a faith that demands justice. When it comes to justice, there is no comfort zone for Christians to sit back and watch. The gospels and the long tradition of Catholic social teaching call us to more. No matter your gender, race, or ethnicity, you must be willing to act: to challenge the racist or sexist joke, to support minority-owned businesses, to see yourself in the "other." Catholic leaders are now especially to stand with people of color who are disproportionately infected with and dying from COVID-19. How are you being called beyond your comfort zone?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Hosea 14:1-9; Matthew 10:16-23 (387). "Behold, I am sending you like sheep in the midst of wolves; so be shrewd as serpents and simple as doves."*

Saturday, Jul 11, 2020

MEMORIAL OF SAINT BENEDICT, ABBOT

A rule to live by

Saint Benedict's wisdom has guided people for centuries. Among the gems of his *Rule*: The search for security, wealth, and salvation is futile. Instead, treat each hour as a gift. See in each day reasons for joy. Reverence the tools of work like the vessels of the altar. Small, daily brush strokes create the stunning canvas. Important decisions should be made with consultation, gaining the richness of different viewpoints. Learn from relationships not to take oneself too seriously. Know the value of silence. Choose one of these guidelines to follow each day for a week. Then start again!

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 6:1-8; Matthew 10:24-33 (388). "And even the hairs of your head are all counted."*

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