

OUR LADY OF LOURDES

CATHOLIC CHURCH
AND SCHOOL

JUNE 25, 2023

TWELFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME



RECONCILIATION

Sat. 3:00-4:00pm

Wed. 12:00-12:30pm

MASS TIMES

Sat. 9am, 5:00pm Sun. 9:00am, 11:30am,
1:30pm (Español), 5:00pm

Mon/Tues/Thurs/Fri. 8:30am

Wed. 9:00am Jueves. 6:30pm (Español)

PERPETUAL ADORATION CHAPEL

The Adoration Chapel is open 24/7

For Baptism, Matrimony and
Anointing, please call the
parish office.

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Patrick A. Keane, Pastor
(919) 861-4604

Chris Sutton, Principal
(919) 861-4610, csutton@olls.org

Jannine LeBlanc, Assistant Principal
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(919) 755-6287

Bob Bowerman
Lauren Hackett
Jason Lemansky
Tom Longo
Barbara McMorran
Kenya Reynard
Kelli Cross

Finance Council

Chair: Jeff Yardley
(919) 219-0752

Ellen Crowley
Kate Duncan
Tom Dunham
Jason Sandner
Curt Williams

School Advisory

Chair: Reed Murphy
(919) 624-0298

Dcn. Byron Champagne
Kelli Cross
Cara Fothergill
Cathy Gephart
Anne Holder
Jannine LeBlanc
Marjorie Shaughnessy
Chris Sutton

PARISH MEMBERSHIP

Active members of our parish are identified by their generosity of time, talent and treasure.

NOTICE

CALENDAR & MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, JUNE 24

9:00am - † James & Rosemary Opeka
5:00pm - † Jim Ambrose

SUNDAY, JUNE 25

9:00am - † Pat Steele
11:30am - † Kay & Anne Marie Bittle
(Español) 1:30pm - Pro Populo
5:00pm - † Joseph Robert Fink

MONDAY, JUNE 26

8:30am - Georgia Mamoiné

TUESDAY, JUNE 27

8:30am - † Frances Costello

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27

9:00am - † Thomas B. Aldridge, Jr.

THURSDAY, JUNE 28

8:30am - † Pat Perlick
(Español) 6:30pm - Ana Isabel Sanclemente

FRIDAY, JUNE 29

8:30am - Hugues Lefebvre

SATURDAY, JUNE 30

9:00am - † Candelario Bello
5:00pm - † Patricia Perlick

SUNDAY, JULY 1

9:00am - † Arthur Levine
11:30am - Terry & Dana Bogan
(Español) 1:30pm - Pro Populo
5:00pm - † Jean Cheffiott

**Regular
Office Hours**

Monday - Friday
8:30am - 4pm

Website

ourladyoflourdescc.org

Adoration Chapel
oll.weadorehim.com

OLL Flocknote

ollraleigh.flocknote.com

THE MISSION OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH

is to invite and lead all people to know and love Jesus Christ and to live their Catholic faith through word, sacrament, community, evangelization and service.

MINISTERIO HISPANO

HISPANIC MINISTRY

Oficina Parroquial: 919-861-4600

La Misión de la Parroquia de Nuestra Señora de Lourdes es invitar y dirigir a todas las personas a conocer y amar a Jesucristo a vivir su fe Católica a través de la palabra, los sacramentos, la comunidad, la evangelización y el servicio.

Enlace Misas en Vivo por Youtube: (Youtube Live stream)

Para unirse en cualquier momento con las misas celebradas en Nuestra Señora de Lourdes en directo por nuestro canal de Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/OurLadyofLourdesCCRaleigh>

Comité Ministerio Hispano

Hispanic Ministry Commtte

Roderico Roblero: (919) 986-5294

Yulisa Díaz: (919) 798-8338

Alberto Borrayes

Celeny Arreaga

Edvin Chaj

Fernando Velásquez.

Coordinadores Ministerio Hispano

Hispanic Ministry Coordinators

Bautismo (clases): Edilmar López 919-349-5036

Coros: Juan Gómez 919-896-0849

Eventos: Laura Rosas 919-576-6111

Formación Adultos: Filomeno Méndez 919-559-8314

Grupo de Mujeres: Ilda Baltazar 919-601-8032

Grupo de Oración: Celeny Arreaga 919-641-9792

Jóvenes Adultos: José Velásquez 843-492-8103

Lectores: Hortencia Escobar 919-592-3872

M. Extraordinarios: Jesús Méndez 919-819-7007

Monaguillos: Dominica Díaz 919-822-4224

Santo Rosario: Carmela Roblero 919-454-5251

Sacristanes: Orlando Morales 919-338-4384

Visita Enfermos: Darinel Morales 919-428-8691

Ujieres: Maribel González 919-345-1943

HORARIO MISAS EN ESPAÑOL

Jueves 6:30 pm

Domingos 1:30 pm

HORARIO MISAS EN INGLES

Lunes, Martes, Jueves y Viernes 8:30 am

Miércoles 9:00 am Sábados 9:00 am y 5:00 pm

Domingos 9:00 am, 11:30 am y 5:00 pm

CONFESIONES

Miércoles (Inglés): 12:00 pm, hasta las 12:30 p.m.

Jueves (Español): Después de la misa de las 6:30 pm.

Sábados: (Inglés/Español) 3:00 p.m.

BAUTISMOS PARA NIÑOS MENORES DE 7 AÑOS

Requisitos:

- Papás tienen que estar registrados en nuestra parroquia.
- Presentar copia del acta de nacimiento del niño(a)
- Llenar la forma pre-bautismal.
- Papás y padrinos asistir a la platica pre-bautismal y a la misa.
- Los padrinos no pueden estar viviendo en unión libre.

Para más información , comunicarse con:
Edilmar López al: 919-349-5036

VISITANDO Y LLEVANDO
LA COMUNIÓN A LOS ENFERMOS

Pastoral Care

Si usted tiene algún familiar o conocido de la comunidad que se encuentre enfermo y desea que se le visite, bien sea en la casa donde éste reside u hospital, o se le lleve la Santa Comunión, puede comunicarse con **Darinel Morales** al 919-428-8691.

GRUPO DE ORACION

Hispanic Prayer Group

Todos los Viernes a las 7:15 p.m. en el Salón Fallon Center.

El Grupo de Oración tiene como objetivo fortalecer la fe de sus miembros y acercarlos mas a Dios a través de Oración, predicas y alabanzas.

Para más información comunicarse con:

Celeny Arreaga al: 919-641-9792

GRUPO DE JOVENES ADULTOS 18 a 30 años

Hispanic Young Adult Group

El Grupo de Jóvenes Adultos se reúnen todos los domingos de 10:00 am a 12:00 pm en el Salón 202 del Fallon Center

El Grupo Jóvenes de Adultos se reúne para tratar temas diversos que les ayudan en su crecimiento Espiritual, Emocional y desarrollo de liderazgo. Además de organizar diversas actividades que motive a los jóvenes a participar de la vida y misión de la iglesia.

Para más información, comunicarse con:

José Velásquez al: 843-492-8103

GRUPO DE MUJERES

Hispanic Women Group

El Grupo de Mujeres se reúne todos los sábados de 6:30 pm a 8:30 pm en el salón 201 del Fallon Center.

El Grupo de Mujeres tiene como objetivo ayudar a las Mujeres a descubrir y fortalecer su identidad, así mismo incrementar y empoderar su autoestima y por supuesto mejorar su relación con Dios y su relación matrimonial y su rol como madre.

Para más información, comunicarse con:

Hilda Baltazar al: 919-601-8032

BODAS / MATRIMONIOS

Wedding

Está pensando en casarse por la Iglesia?

El primer paso, es hacer una cita con el Padre Patrick Keane (el habla español). 919-861-4600

Para más información, sobre el proceso para contraer matrimonio, por favor comunicarse con:
Roderico Roblero: 919-986-5294

ADORACIÓN PERPETUA ANTE
JESÚS SACRAMENTADO

Nuestra Parroquia de Nuestra Señora de Lourdes tiene una Capilla para la Adoración Perpetua las 24 Horas.

Todos estamos invitados a pasar unos momentos orando en silencio ante la presencia de nuestro Señor Jesús Sacramentado.

Clases de Catecismo Para Adultos

Faith Formation Claeses for Adults

Este programa es para personas mayores de 17 años que no estén bautizadas y para personas que solamente les hace falta la Primera Comunión y la Confirmación.

Este programa de formación de adultos es también para personas que deseen convertirse al catolicismo y para aquellos bautizados que deseen aprender un poco mas de su fe católica.

Requisitos:

-Llenar la forma de registro.

-Para los que no están bautizados, presentar el acta de nacimiento.

-Para los que le hace falta la primera comunión y confirmación, presentar el certificado de bautismo.

Para más información, comunicarse con:

Filomeno Méndez al: 919-559-8314

PARISH AND DIOCESAN NEWS

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Ann Marco,
wife of Jim Marco and sister of Maria House.

May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

SANCTUARY CANDLES

A 14-day
CHURCH SANCTUARY
CANDLE
will burn
in memory of
Mr. & Mrs.
Thanh Khong

A 14-day
CHAPEL SANCTUARY
CANDLE
will burn
for the healing of the
Lefebvre Family

Pro-Life Corner

Pray for the most vulnerable among us— the unborn, persons with disabilities, the poor, the sick, and those near death: May their unique gifts be recognized, and may we treat them as the gifts that they are.

FATHER'S DAY RAFFLE RESULTS

Congratulations to
Jason Jonczak,
who won the St. Joseph statue on
Father's Day!

The raffle earned \$2,360
for school expansion.
Thank you to all who participated!

The Our Lady of Lourdes Praesidium
invites you to say the Rosary 30 minutes prior to the 9:00
am Mass on the First Saturday of each month.

Our Lady's promise: "I promise to assist at the moment of death, with all the graces necessary for salvation, all those who, on the first Saturday of five consecutive months shall confess, receive Holy Communion, recite five decades of the Rosary, and keep Me company for fifteen minutes while meditating on the fifteen mysteries of the Rosary, with the intention of making reparation to Me."

Mark your calendars. We look forward to seeing you!

OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY JUNE 4 2023	NEEDED	ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE
YTD OFFERTORY (7/1/22-6/4/23)	\$ 1,448,548	\$ 1,433,729	- \$ 14,819

OLL SCHOOL EXPANSION FUND:
BUILDING THE LEGACY

\$72,421.40

The Bishop's Annual Appeal is in progress.

Statistics for Our Lady of Lourdes are as follows.

PARISH GOAL	\$219,962.59
Amount Given	\$192,276
Percent of Goal	87%
Number of Donors	370
The pledge average is \$594.49.	

Thank you for your generosity!

MASS ATTENDANCE Weekend of June 18

5pm Saturday: 227
9am Sunday: 398
11:30am Sunday: 206
1:30pm Sunday: 326
5pm Sunday: 177

TOTAL: 1,334

The Bread of Life prayer group will not be meeting on Wednesday night at 7 pm in the upper church for the months of June, July, and August however, we will continue in prayer weekly for the prayer requests in the prayer box in the church and the online prayers received at the parish.

If anyone has particular needs for prayer you can email
Ann Franzel at ron_annz@yahoo.com

*Please Pray for
our Sick &
Suffering*

FRANK BELL
ALICE CARRIGER
KATHLEEN CHARLESWORTH
MYLES CHARLESWORTH
JANET CHIAVETTA
DANA CASH
ELEANORA CEFALU
CAROL CUSIMANO
ANDREW DILILLO

BARBARA GRANT
LOUISE GUYTON
GREG HOBBS
JOE KORST
ANNETTE LEFEBVRE
LIZ LORSCHIEDER
FRANK JANASIEWICZ
DEACON TOM MACK
ED MACKO

EILEEN MACKO
CHRISTINE MARTIN
JULIA MEYERS
LOUISE NANCE
RICHARD POLLARD
IRMA CRUZ-QUINONES
MARY REDMOND
DAN & KAREN RITCHIE
JOELLE ROEHRL

MARY-LOUISE SAUTER
ALLISEN SCHULT
NANCY URBEN

Pilgrimages with Fr. Pat Keane

www.pilgrimages.com/frkeane



❖ Medjugorje - \$2,664

October 26 - November 3, 2023

Visit the Holy sites of Medjugorje including Apparition Hill, Cross Mountain, St. James Parish, and the Risen Christ statue have been visited by 40 million people. You may do Medjugorje only, or continue with two days in Dubrovnik.

❖ Medjugorje & Dubrovnik - \$3,014

October 26 - November 5, 2023

After pilgrimage to Medjugorje and Mass for the day, take two additional days to visit one of the best preserved 600 year old cities in the world, still occupied by 5,000 inhabitants.

❖ The Holy Land - \$6,168

May 19-28, 2024

Tel Aviv · Caesarea · Nazareth · Cana · Tiberias · Sea of Galilee · Jordan River · Mt. Tabor · Jerusalem · Gethsemane · Ein Karem · Bethlehem · Qumran · Jericho · Dead Sea · Mt. of Olives · Mt. Zion · Church of the Holy Sepulchre

❖ Jordan & The Holy Land - \$7,198

May 16-28, 2024

Amman · Petra · Kerak · Madaba · Mt. Nebo · Jerash
as well as the Holy Land destinations listed above

TRIPS INCLUDE...

- † Round-trip airfare
- † Airport taxes & fuel surcharges
- † Centrally located first class hotel
- † Transfers as per itinerary
- † Tour escort throughout
- † Breakfast & Dinner daily
- † Wine with dinners
- † Sightseeing and admissions fees as per itinerary
- † Daily Mass & spiritual activities

...and more; see individual trip listings



JUNE 29

THE SOLEMNITY OF STS. PETER & PAUL



VENERATION OF THE TWO GREAT APOSTLES, PETER AND PAUL, has its roots in the very foundations of the Church. They are the solid rock on which the Church is built. They are at the origin of her faith and will forever remain her protectors and her guides. To them Rome owes her true greatness, for it was under God's providential guidance that they were led to make the capital of the Empire, sanctified by their martyrdom, the center of the Christian world whence should radiate the preaching of the Gospel.

St. Peter suffered martyrdom under Nero, in A.D. 66 or 67. He was buried on the hill of the Vatican where recent excavations have revealed his tomb on the very site of the Basilica of St. Peter's. St. Paul was beheaded in the Via Ostia on the spot where now stands the basilica bearing his name. Down the centuries, Christian people in the thousands have gone on pilgrimage to the tombs of these Apostles. In the second and third centuries the Roman Church already stood pre-eminent by reason of her apostolicity, the infallible truth of her teaching and her two great figures, Sts. Peter and Paul.

A partial indulgence may be gained on this feast day, June 29th, by anyone who makes devout use of a religious article blessed by any priest--but "if the article of devotion has been blessed by the Sovereign Pontiff or by any Bishop, the faithful, using it, can also gain a **plenary indulgence**, provided they also make a profession of faith (e.g. the Apostles Creed), as long as the usual conditions are satisfied."

ST . PETER

Peter's original name was Simon. Christ Himself gave him the name Cephas or Peter when they first met and later confirmed it. This name change was meant to show both Peter's rank as leader of the apostles and the outstanding trait of his character — Peter (in Hebrew *Kephas*) the Rock. Peter was born in Bethsaida on the Sea of Galilee. Like his younger brother Andrew, he was a fisherman and dwelt at Capernaum. Peter's house often became the scene of miracles, since the Master would stay there whenever He was teaching in that locality. Together with his brothers John and Andrew, Peter belonged to the first of Jesus' disciples (John 1:40-50).

After the miraculous draught of fish on the Sea of Galilee, Peter received his definitive call and left wife, family, and occupation to take his place as leader of the Twelve. Thereafter we find him continually at Jesus' side, whether it be as spokesman of the apostolic college (John 6:68; Matt. 16:16), or as one specially favored (e.g., at the restoration to life of Jairus' daughter, at the transfiguration, during the agony in the garden). His sanguine temperament often led him into hasty, unpremeditated words and actions; his denial of Jesus during the passion was a salutary lesson. It accentuated a weakness in his character and made him humble.

After the ascension, Peter always took the leading role, exercising the office of chief shepherd that Christ had entrusted to him. He delivered the first sermon on Pentecost and received the first Gentiles into the Church (Cornelius; Acts 10:1). Paul went to Jerusalem "to see Peter." After his miraculous deliverance from prison (Easter, 42 A.D.), Peter "went to a different place," most probably to Rome. Details now become scanty; we hear of his presence at the Council of Jerusalem (Acts 15:1), and of his journey to Antioch (Gal. 2:11).

It is certain that Peter labored in Rome as an apostle, that he was the city's first bishop, and that he died there as a martyr, bound to a cross (67 A.D.)—upside down, because he did not think himself worthy of dying the same way Christ did. According to tradition he also was the first bishop of Antioch. He is the author of two letters, the first Christian encyclicals. His burial place is Christendom's most famous shrine, an edifice around whose dome are inscribed the words: *Tu es Petrus, et super hanc petram aedificabo ecclesiam meam.*



ST . PAUL

Paul, known as Saul (his Roman name) before his conversion, was born at Tarsus in the Roman province of Cilicia about two or three years after the advent of the Redeemer. He was the son of Jewish parents who belonged to the tribe of Benjamin, was reared according to the strict religious-nationalistic party of the Pharisees, and enjoyed the high distinction of Roman citizenship.

As a youth he went to Jerusalem to become immersed in the Law and had as a teacher the celebrated Gamaliel. He acquired skill as a tent-maker, a work he continued even as an apostle. At the time of Jesus' ministry he no longer was at Jerusalem; neither did he see the Lord during His earthly-life. Upon returning to the Holy City, Paul discovered a flourishing Christian community and at once became its bitter opponent. When St. Stephen impugned Law and temple, Paul was one of the first at his stoning; thereafter his fiery personality would lead the persecution. Breathing threats of slaughter against the disciples of Jesus, he was hurrying to Damascus when the grace of God effected his conversion (about the year 34 A.D.).

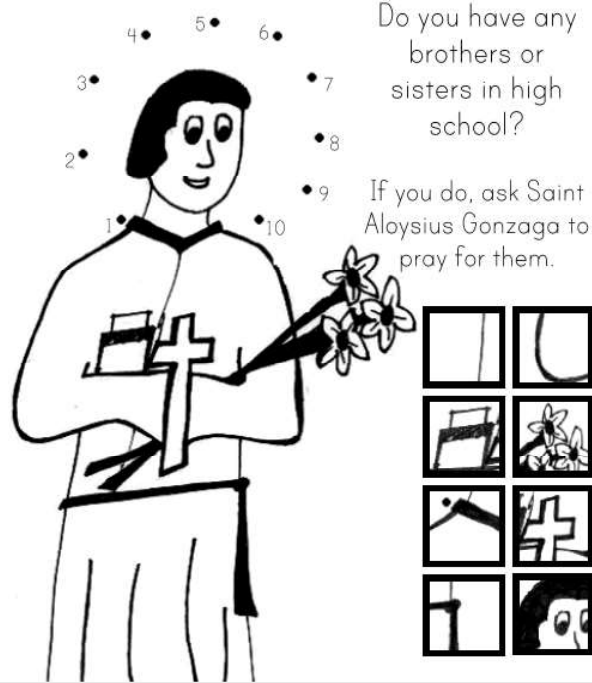
After receiving baptism and making some initial attempts at preaching, Paul withdrew into the Arabian desert (c. 34-37 A.D.), where he prepared himself for his future mission. During this retreat he was favored with special revelations, Christ appearing to him personally. In Jerusalem Barnabas introduced him to the Christian community. The following years (38-42 A.D.) he spent at Tarsus until Barnabas brought him to the newly founded Christian community at Antioch, where both worked a year for the cause of Christ; in the year 44 he made another journey to Jerusalem with the money collected for that famine stricken community.

Paul's third and last missionary journey (54-58) took him to Ephesus, where he labored three years with good success; after visiting his European communities, he returned to Jerusalem for a fifth time (Pentecost, 58). There he was seized by the Jews and accused of condemning the Law. After being held as a prisoner for two years at Caesarea, he appealed to Caesar and was sent by sea to Rome (60 A.D.). Shipwrecked and delayed on the island of Malta, he arrived at Rome in the spring of 61 and passed the next two years in easy confinement before being released. The last years of the saint's life were devoted to missionary excursions, probably including Spain, and to revisiting his first foundations. In 66 he returned to Rome, was taken prisoner, and beheaded a year later. His fourteen letters are a precious legacy; they afford a deep insight into a great soul.



Saint Aloysius Gonzaga

Saint Aloysius Gonzaga was sick as a child and had to stay in bed most of the time. Does that sound boring? He wasn't bored, he was excited to be stuck in bed! He spent the whole time praying and reading about the saints.



Year A: Twelfth Sunday of Ordinary Time



PWALORDPINTOYOUROWAPK

BEANSWERQPEMEO

Lord, in your
great love,
answer me.

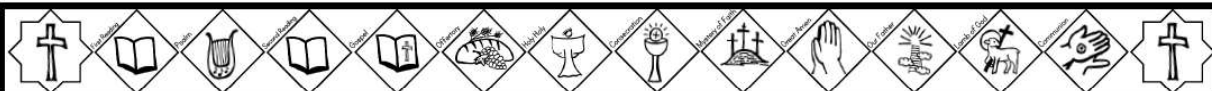
BEPGREATPWLEKEA

LPWOALOVEPWAOKETJAISKEJAO



Before Mass, dip your fingers in holy water and pray the Sign of the Cross. The holy water reminds us of our Baptism.

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Jesus said,
"So do not be afraid; you
are worth more than..."

13 1 14 25

19 16 1 18 18 15 23 19

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	

Gospel



Jesus knows and loves everything about us. He even knows how many hairs are on your head!

JUNE 28

ST. IRENAEUS, BISHOP & MARTYR



ST. IRENAEUS was born in the year 120; he was of the Greek tongue, and probably a native of Asia Minor. His parents, who were Christians, placed him while still young under the care of the great Saint Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna. It was in this holy school that he learned the sacred science which later made him a great ornament of the Church and the terror of her enemies. Saint Polycarp cultivated his rising genius and formed his mind to piety by his precepts and example, and the zealous young scholar was careful to reap all advantages offered him by the solicitude of such a master. Such was his veneration for his tutor's sanctity that he observed all the acts and virtues he saw in that holy man, the better to copy his example and learn his spirit. He listened to his instructions with an insatiable ardor, and so deeply did he engrave them in his heart that the impressions remained vivid even in his old age. In order to confound the heresies of his age, this Doctor of the Church acquainted himself with the conceits of the pagan philosophers, and thereby became qualified to trace every error to its sources and set it in its full light. By his writings he was already known to Tertullian, Theodoret and Saint Epiphanius, who speak of him as a luminous torch of truth in the darkness of those times.

After Irenaeus had spent a number of years in combat against the eastern gnostics and philosophers of error, Saint Polycarp determined to send him to Gaul, where many of the heretics of Asia Minor had already migrated to pursue the Catholic religion, which was beginning to find roots there. With a company of about forty Christians, the valiant soldier of Christ ascended the Rhone to Lyons to rejoin and aid Saint Pothinus, its bishop. Saint Pothinus was already advanced in age, and his church's neophytes could not always distinguish truth from the gnostic aberrations. Saint Pothinus received the apostles with joy and soon ordained Saint Irenaeus.

A hundred times he exposed himself to martyrdom by his zeal, acting as the right arm of the aging bishop, but God was reserving that crown for him twenty-five years later. When Saint Pothinus had glorified God by his splendid martyr's death in the year 177, Irenaeus was chosen to be the second bishop of Lyons. The persecutors imagined that Christianity had been stifled in Lyons, and they ceased their pursuits for a time.

This great Doctor of the Church wrote many important works, of which the most famous is his *Adversus Haereses*, *Against the Heresies*, in explanation of the Faith. By his preaching, Saint Irenaeus in a short time converted almost the whole country to the Faith; the Christians of Lyons became models by their candor, their estrangement from all ambition, their poverty, chastity and temperance, and in this way confounded many adversaries of their religion. Saint Irenaeus continued to imitate what he had seen done by his beloved master, Saint Polycarp, himself the disciple and imitator of Saint John the Apostle. One can readily imagine the excellence of the administration and the breadth of charity reigning in the Church of Lyons.

Finally he suffered martyrdom there, with many others, in the year 202, under the Emperor Septimus Severus, after eighty years spent in the service of the Lord. The imperial decrees renewing the persecutions arrived at Lyons at the time of the celebration of Severus' tenth year of reign; the pagans found amid the celebrations an opportunity to take vengeance on the Christians, who refused to participate in the debaucheries which accompanied these feasting. Assassins armed with daggers, stones and knives filled the city with blood, and thousands of Christians won, with their bishop, the crown they had always admired as the greatest glory God could grant His servants.

TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

On the Gospel of this day ; St. Matthew 10 :26-33

What our Lord said to His Apostles applies to all Christians in the practice of their faith. By the very fact of living our faith openly and fully we are apostles by example. If we are always truthful and faithful to our promises, if we are honest in all our dealings, if as employers we pay a just wage and treat those working for us not as "hands" but as whole men and women, if as employees we give an honest day's work for an honest day's pay, if we live chaste lives whether in single life or in marriage, we are true Christians. Above all, if we have true love of God and show our appreciation of all that he has done for us, and if we prove that love, by helping his other children, our neighbors, we are a light shining in the darkness, because we are helping others to see the true meaning of the Christian religion.

This true light is needed more today perhaps than ever before. Our world is three quarters pagan or neo-pagan. The neo-pagans are those who once were Christians but abandoned their religion, sometimes through their own fault, but more often than not, because of the bad example they were given by their fellow Christians. These are worse off spiritually than the pagans who have never heard of Christ or the true God. These latter have at least some idols, some ancestral deities, to whom they pay respect. The neo-pagans have only themselves to venerate, and they can find little spiritual uplift in this form of religion.

A large majority of today's teenagers, in most so-called Christian countries, have come to despise, or at least to neglect, the religion of their ancestors. In most cases the cause of this is that Christianity was never really put into practice in their own homes. There are cases of very black sheep coming out of very white Christian homes, but these are cases of weak personality—they prefer to follow the mob rather than try to force their way against it. On the whole, the decline of religion among today's youth is due to bad example from their elders.

In today's gospel message, our Lord is asking each one of us to be a fearless apostle. We will be, if we live up to our religion at home and abroad. "Have no fear of men," He tells us, "don't mind what your fellowmen think of you, if you object to obscene language in your work-place. Don't fear what will be thought of you if you say your grace before and after meals in a public restaurant or hotel. Don't take that extra drink just because your companions at the party might ridicule your control ..."

These acts and many others like them, may seem trivial to some but they are giving testimony to the faith that is in us. Those who scoff at such things at first, may begin later to look into their own hearts, and come to realize what it is to be a man of principle. Eventually they may become men of principle themselves.

Let us remember our Lord's promise "Everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven."