



## 12<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME JUNE 24<sup>TH</sup>, 2023



### CHRIST OUR LIGHT CATHOLIC CHURCH

ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON  
OFFICE AND MAILING ADDRESS: 510 MANLEY STREET • NAVASOTA, TX 77868-3926  
LOCATION: 9677 SOUTH HWY. 6  
(936) 825-3920 • FAX (936) 825-7612  
WEBSITE: [CHRISTOURLIGHT.ORG](http://CHRISTOURLIGHT.ORG)

#### PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Giovanni Hung Nguyen

#### Permanent Deacon

Garry Janota  
Russell Pasket

#### Mass Schedule

Sunday Mass:  
Saturday Vigil: 6:00 pm  
Sunday: (English) 8:00 am  
Sunday: (Spanish) 1:00 pm  
Weekday Mass:  
First Saturday 9:00 am  
Wed, Thurs, Fri 8:30 am  
Tuesday 6:00 pm (English)  
Thursday 6:00 pm (Spanish)

#### Reconciliation Confession

Tues, Thurs  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays  
5:00 – 5:45 pm  
Confession by appointment:  
Parish Office  
Tel: 936-825-3920

#### Confesiones

Los martes, jueves y el segundo  
y cuarto sábado a las 5:00-5:45 pm  
y por cita 936-825-3920



# PARISH LIFE

## Rosary Prayed in Common

Tues & Thurs: 5:40 pm  
Wed & Fri: 8:10 am  
Saturday: 5:15 pm  
Sunday: 7:15 am & 12:15 pm

## P.E.R.A. (Perpetual Eucharistic Reparative Adoration)

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. following the 8:30 AM Masses and will be reposed at 9:00 PM on Wednesdays, Thursdays at 5:45 PM before the 6:00 PM Spanish Mass and Friday at 9:00 PM. The "Church and the world have a great need for Eucharistic worship. Jesus awaits us in this sacrament of love. Let us not refuse the time to go to meet him in adoration, in contemplation full of faith, and open to make amends for the serious offenses and crimes of the world. Let our adoration never cease. "Please call Mary Rangel @ 936-419-9024

## SUNDAY COLLECTION

CORPUS CHRISTI SUNDAY  
06/11/2023 \$ 4,004.01

## DIOCESAN SERVICES FUND 2023

2023 Parish Goal..... \$ 26,000.00  
2023 Total Paid  
(activity thru 6/21/2023) \$ 16,710.00  
Difference Goal vs. Paid \$ 9,290.00  
Participants..... 48

## PARISH REGISTRATION

To our new parishioner, we welcome you to Christ Our Light Parish. Please register at the parish office or ask one of the Hospitality Ministers to help you. For parishioners moving out of the parish or changing your address or phone number, **please** notify the parish office: 936-825-3920 or by email: shepherd@christourlight.org

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

English Baptism preparation is completed via an on-line video class. Spanish Baptism Classes will be held in person. Please call for Rosa or Felisa for class dates and times. All Documents, forms and classes must be completed prior to the next upcoming scheduled Baptism date, turned in, and approved by the Pastor.

The Sacrament of Baptism is a communal celebration; therefore, private baptisms are not celebrated at Christ Our Light.

Upcoming English Baptisms will be held on July 22, 2023, and October 28, 2023, at 11:30 AM. Spanish Baptisms will be held on October 14, 2023, at 11:30 AM.

For English Baptism, contact Susan Pilger at 979-219-1360. For Spanish Baptisms, contact Rosa Torres at 936-419-8974 or Felisa Paz at 979-255-4361.

## WEDDING PREPARATION

Contact: Jennifer Nguyen, jnguyen9@twu.edu or parish office for registration information. The standard preparation time for weddings is 6-9 months in advance of the desired date. All engaged couples must attend an information session.

## MEMORIAL CANDLES

The Candle Stands are electrical. Anyone wanting to light a candle may do so by pressing the red button and give an offering. The candle will burn for 12 hours. Memorial Candles burning for one year are \$150.00 each. Come by the parish office to schedule and pay your offering of \$150.00 for your Memorial candle.

Photo cover: "Calling of the Apostles," by Ghirlandaio Domenico, 1449-1494, Italian. (Wikimedia Commons)

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK JUNE/JULY

SUNDAY  
JUNE

25

GATHER BOOK #1022  
TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY  
TIME  
Jer 20:1-11  
Rom 5:12-15  
Mt 10:26-33 (94) Pss IV

MONDAY

26

Gn 12:1-9  
Mt 7:1-5 (371)

TUESDAY

27

Saint Cyril of Alexandria,  
Gn 13:2, 5-1  
Mt 7:6, 12-14 (372)

WEDNESDAY

28

Saint Irenaeus, Bishop and  
Martyr  
Gn 15:1-12, 17-18  
Mt 7:15-20 (373)

THURSDAY

29

SAINTS PETER AND PAUL,  
APOSTLES, Solemnity  
Vigil: Acts 3:1-10  
Gal 1:11-20  
Jn 21:15-19 (590)

FRIDAY

30

[The First Martyrs of the  
Holy Roman Church]  
Gn 17:1, 9-10, 15-22  
Mt 8:1-4 (375)

SATURDAY

JULY  
1

USA: Saint Junipero Serra,  
Priest; BVM  
Gn 18:1-15  
Mt 8:5-17 (376)

## OUR HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR JUNE 2023

For the abolition of torture  
We pray that the international  
community may commit in a concrete  
way to ensuring the abolition of torture  
and guarantee support to victims and  
their families

ALTAR FLOWERS THIS PAST WEEKEND  
WAS DONATED BY  
DANIEL MURILLO & FAMILY.  
OUR PARISH THANKS  
THE MURILLO FAMILY!

THE RECEPTION IN HONOR OF  
FR. GIOVANNI  
& ALL FATHERS  
LAST SUNDAY - 8:00 AM MASS WAS  
FROM THE LEGION OF MARY  
PLEASE THANKS THEM FOR THEIR  
GENEROSITY WHEN YOU HAVE A  
CHANCE TODAY.



## MASS INTENTION

### SUNDAY, JUNE 25

8:00 AM People of the Parish

1:00 PM Vinta Pena †

### MONDAY, JUNE 26

No Mass

### TUESDAY, JUNE 27

6:00 PM David † and Chase † Kurten

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28

8:30 AM Louis † and Loreina † Klevenski

### THURSDAY, JUNE 29

8:30 AM Archie † and Dolores † Wetuski

6:00 PM\* Adolfo Reyes †

### FRIDAY, JUNE 30

8:30 AM Thanksgiving Mass for Brian Besnette

### SATURDAY, JULY 01 - VIGIL MASS

9:00 AM (1<sup>st</sup> Saturday) English Legion of Mary

6:00 PM Joe † and Leona & Pasket

### SUNDAY, JULY 02

8:00 AM Benefactors of Memorial Fund

1:00 PM\* Serafin † and Rosa † Murillo

\*Spanish

## THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

### MONDAY, JUNE 26

5:00 PM Spanish Legion of Mary, CH Cry room

### TUESDAY, JUNE 27

5:00 PM to 5:45 PM Confession, CH

7:00 PM English Choir Practice, CH

### THURSDAY, JUNE 29

5:00 PM to 5:45 PM Confession, CJ

12:00 PM English Legion of Mary, CH Cry room

7:00 PM Spanish Choir Practice, CH

### FRIDAY, JUNE 30

6:00 AM TMIY Men's Group, SPH

### SATURDAY, JULY 01

10:00 AM St. Vincent de Paul Meeting, SPH

### PRAY for THE CONTINUING RECOVERY OR COMFORT OF

the infirmed and  
homebound  
members of our  
community:

Andrew Castillo  
Braxton Castillo  
Jo Ann Clepper  
Frank Crouch  
Elizabeth Culmer  
Eva Estrada  
Liz Estrada  
Lois Finke  
Fabryna Hitchcock  
Liz Johnson  
Rachel Kammel  
Mary Ann Knowles  
Liz Kubricht  
John Lawrence  
Christian Mills  
Leslie Mills  
France Munoz

Primitivo Zamorano

Anita Olguin  
Julian Olguin  
Matthew Oliver  
Cecelia Pearson  
Angelina Peterson  
Wallace Peterson

Irene Ramirez  
Lucila Rivera  
Zek Rueda  
Rosalinda Salazar  
Josh Sechelski  
Sherrie Shiflett  
Lydia Torres  
Jessie Torres  
Polly Uilkie  
Jessie Valadez, III  
Crystal Winkler  
David Woehler

Trần Thị Tuyết Mai  
Kim Sechelski

### Call the parish office

when a member of  
our community has a  
need to be  
remembered in  
prayer, 936-825-  
3920. Also, if you  
have added a name to  
the prayer list, please  
call to let us know  
when to remove the  
name from the list.  
Thank you.

## PARISH DIRECTORY

ADMINISTRATION & BOOKKEEPER  
Nelda Kurten

COORDINATOR OF MUSIC  
Leo Hock

PASTORAL LEADERSHIP TEAM  
Chair: Michael Culver  
Teresa Morales  
Jason Katkoski  
Laura Quirino,  
Sam Pry  
Diane Le Flore

FINANCE COUNCIL  
Teresa Morales  
Carolynn Katkoski  
Jose Coronilla

BUILDING COMMITTEE  
Danny Clark  
Richard Krolczyk  
Joe Rangel

COORDINATOR OF LITURGY  
Sr. Angelia

COORDINATOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION  
Carolynn Katkoski

SACRISTAN  
Samuel Pry

RE BOARD  
President: Brandi Tejada  
Vice President: Jessica Herrera  
Secretary: Teresa Morales  
Lucy Coronilla  
Jason Katkoski  
Allyson Sweeney

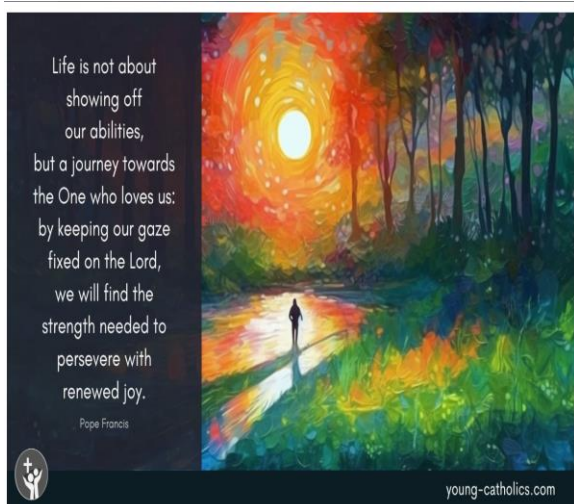
DISASTER RECOVERY PLAN  
Jason Katkoski  
Bill Heathcott  
Gregorio Gonzalez

YOUTH MINISTER COORDINATOR  
Jessica Herrera

SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE  
SICK  
Contact Parish Office

PREPARATION OF MARRIAGE  
Deacon Gary Janotta  
Deacon Russell Pasket  
Jennifer Nguyen, EMBA  
[Inguyen9@twu.edu](mailto:Inguyen9@twu.edu)

Bulletin & Weekly Announcement Deadline  
10 days in advance for new layout  
Monday before noon for rush  
announcement  
Email: [shepherd@christourlight.org](mailto:shepherd@christourlight.org)





# PARISH LIFE

Jeremiah 20:10-13 Psalm 69:8-10, 14, 17, 33-35

Romans 5:12-15

MEDITATION: MATTHEW 10:26-33

You are worth more than many sparrows. (Matthew 10:31)

In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks to the twelve apostles as they prepare to go out and preach the good news. He's urging them to take courage and to trust in their heavenly Father's care. His words would help them as they began their missionary expedition but would also help them for the rest of their lives. Although they might face suffering or rejection, they could draw strength from remembering that they are "worth more than many sparrows" (Matthew 10:31).

The disciples probably had to cling to these words often as they went forth to witness. Not everyone accepted their preaching, and they couldn't work miracles as consistently as Jesus had (Matthew 17:16-20). But it didn't matter because their worth came not from what they did but rather from who they were: children of God. They could rely on their Father's care for them no matter what. They could trust that his love wasn't based on their success or accomplishments. It was based on the fact that he had created them in his image and likeness. He loved them, eternally, simply because he is love.

Jesus speaks these words to you today: You are worth more than many sparrows. The same Father in heaven who cared for those disciples cares for you. He sees your every joy and every difficulty and loves you through all of them. He even loves you when you stumble! He rejoices when you witness to his goodness and delights when you care for your family. He values you when you are confined to bed and all you can do is offer him your pain. He sees it all. He loves you, not because of what you do, but because of who you are.

You are more than the sum of your successes and failures. You are a beloved child of your Father in heaven—you are worth more than many sparrows.

"I trust in you, Jesus, because you care for me."  
The Word Among Us



Photo Submission: COL-Legion of Mary- Thursday 6/15/23  
Second Training with the EMHC for The Homebound & The Sick

Salmo 69 (68), 8-10. 14. 17. 33-35 Romanos 5, 12-15

Mateo 10, 26-33 - MEDITACIÓN: JEREMÍAS 20, 10-13

Mis perseguidores caerán por tierra y no podrán conmigo. (Jeremías 20, 11)

El profeta Jeremías no había tenido una buena semana. Fue arrestado, golpeado y encarcelado. Luego, habiendo sido liberado, pronunció un oráculo de destrucción en contra de Jerusalén y ofreció una oración llena de resentimiento acusando al Señor de haberlo "engañado" (Jeremías 20, 7). Y como si fuera poco, oró para pedir la oportunidad de ver la destrucción de sus enemigos, ¡y disfrutarla (20, 12)! La lectura de hoy no es exactamente la clase de oración que Jesús tenía en mente cuando dijo: "Amen a sus enemigos, y oren por quienes los persiguen" (Mateo 5, 44). Tan solo pensemos en las palabras de misericordia de Jesús en la cruz para ver cómo es que él realmente quiere que su pueblo responda a la persecución y la enemistad. Resulta consolador saber que aun un gran profeta como Jeremías tenía días malos. Nos da algo de perspectiva sobre nuestra propia vida. ¿Quién entre nosotros no ha deseado vengarse de alguien que le ha hecho daño? Sabemos que está mal, pero a veces es difícil resistirnos al resentimiento y la venganza. La verdad es que el cambio requiere tiempo y esfuerzo. Tenemos que seguir examinando nuestros pensamientos, nuestros motivos y guardando silencio hasta que desarrollemos las virtudes que reflejen el amor perfecto e incondicional de Jesús. También debemos seguir esforzándonos por mantenernos cerca del Señor para que su amor continúe formando nuestro corazón. Pero, recuerda: ¡No estás solo! Tú eres parte de una Iglesia llena de santos, tanto famosos como desconocidos, que demuestran que ese cambio es posible. También tienes amigos a quienes puedes pedir apoyo cuando lo necesites. Y lo que es más importante, tienes al Espíritu Santo, que te recuerda el amor de Jesús y te da su gracia. Jeremías tuvo muchos más días buenos que malos, porque nunca se dio por vencido; tampoco nosotros debemos darnos por vencidos. "Señor, te pido que me enseñes a amar a todos, aun a aquellas personas que hacen mi vida difícil."

## FATHER'S DAY TRIVIA

After one year of being our Pastor, can you answer these trivia questions about Fr. Giovanni?

- 1) Where is this photo (on the left) taken place twice a month?  
My place \_\_\_\_\_ Parish Hall \_\_\_\_\_ Nursing Home \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) What is the effective way to see Father on Sunday?  
After 8am \_\_\_\_\_ After 7pm Sat \_\_\_\_\_ After 1pm Sun \_\_\_\_\_  
At St. Stanislaus since he serves two parishes \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) When did Fr. Giovanni start to discern as Priest?  
9 yrs. old \_\_\_\_\_ High School \_\_\_\_\_ College \_\_\_\_\_ Graduate \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) Where was Fr. Giovanni ordain as Priest?  
Viet Nam \_\_\_\_\_ Italy \_\_\_\_\_ US \_\_\_\_\_ All 3 countries \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) How many languages is he fluent in?  
One \_\_\_\_\_ two \_\_\_\_\_ three \_\_\_\_\_ four \_\_\_\_\_ none \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) When is Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)?  
Anytime \_\_\_\_\_ Tues & Thurs \_\_\_\_\_ Before Mass \_\_\_\_\_  
Ask Father \_\_\_\_\_ Easter \_\_\_\_\_ All correct \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) When is Anointment of the Sick?  
Anytime \_\_\_\_\_ Third Sunday after Mass \_\_\_\_\_ Whenever you see  
Father \_\_\_\_\_ By appointment \_\_\_\_\_ All correct \_\_\_\_\_

## 1ST PHOTOS OF POPE FRANCIS SINCE HIS OPERATION



On the morning of June 15, 2023, Pope Francis visited patients in the Pediatric Oncology and Child Neurosurgery Department of the Gemelli Polyclinic Hospital, announced the Vatican Press Office, which shared photos of the meeting.

These are the first images of the Pontiff since his operation on June 7 for an intestinal hernia with a risk of occlusion. The department of Pediatric Oncology and Child Neurosurgery is located on the 10th floor of the hospital, which is the same floor where the apartments of the pontiff are located. Pope Francis visited young patients, their families, and the medical staff in a wheelchair. The children welcomed him with drawings.

Pope Francis could be discharged soon: Yesterday, June 14, the Gemelli medical team announced plans to let him leave the hospital "in the next few days."

According to the Italian daily Il Fatto Quotidiano, Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re, dean of the College of Cardinals, announced in an e-mail to the cardinals that the Pope could return to the Vatican today or tomorrow, June 16.



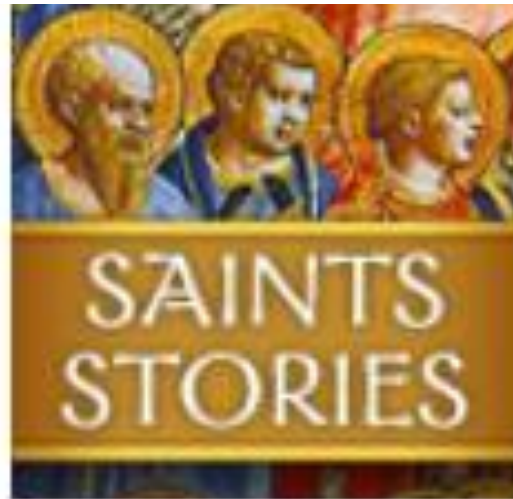
<https://aleteia.org/2023/06/15/1st-photos-of-pope-francis-since-his-operation/>

### ANSWERS TO TRIVIA QUESTIONS:

- 1) Nursing Home
- 2) After 1 pm Mass COL
- 3) 9 yrs. old
- 5) Four: Latin, English, Vietnamese, Spanish
- 6) Tues & Thurs. & All correct
- 7) Third Sunday after Mass & All correct

**Please Thanks Fr. Giovanni for his sacrifice and dedication when you see him at Mass today.**

## Saint Prosper of Aquitaine



**FEAST  
DAY  
JUNE  
25TH  
2023**

Are human beings saved by grace or by works? Must we seek God, or does God come after us? Are some predestined to damnation or are all free to embrace salvation? Such questions that still divide Christians today embroiled St. Prosper of Aquitaine in lifelong controversies on the issue of grace versus freedom of the will.

We first meet Prosper Tiro around 425 as a participant in the Semi-Pelagian controversy that rocked the church in southern France. Semi-Pelagians minimized the role of grace in the first steps of becoming a Christian. John Cassian and others vigorously opposed Augustine's strict views that special grace was required for salvation and thus many were predestined to damnation. Prosper, a monk and lay theologian, championed Augustine. And in 428, a letter from Prosper prompted Augustine to write a major book on predestination.

In 431, Prosper went to Rome and obtained a letter from Pope Celestine I that affirmed Augustine and his views, and urged the French bishops to quell the dispute peacefully. But it raged on. For several more years Prosper wrote extensively, defending and popularizing Augustine's teaching.

In his book *The Call to All Nations*, Prosper seems to have mellowed somewhat, allowing that God mercifully made the grace of salvation available to all human beings. In the following excerpt Prosper describes the interplay of grace and free will:

When the word of God enters the ears through the ministry of preachers, the action of the divine power fuses with the sound of the human voice. The soul passes from one will to another will. Although the will that is driven out lingers on for a while, the newborn will claims for itself all that is better in human beings. Thus the law of sin and the law of God do not dwell in the same way and together in the same person. Then the tempter tries to ambush a person through external things, but the mind strong with God's help prevails. For there are occasions for struggle, and these greatly benefit the faithful. Their weakness is buffeted so that their holiness may not yield to pride. All good things, especially those conducive to eternal life, are obtained, increased and preserved through God's favor.

Prosper spent the last part of his life in Rome where he served as secretary to Pope St. Leo the Great. During that time he wrote the *Chronicle*, a universal history from Adam's fall to the Vandal's conquest of Rome in 455. He died in Rome around 465

Loyola Press – Saint of the Day





**SAN JOSÉ CLINIC  
RECEIVES A  
\$100,000  
ENDOWMENT  
DONATION  
FROM THE  
CHARITY GUILD  
OF CATHOLIC  
WOMEN**

**ROSENBERG** — San José Clinic, a leading nonprofit healthcare organization dedicated to providing critical services to those in need, is thrilled to announce a momentous gift of \$100,000 towards its endowment for health equity from the Charity Guild of Catholic Women. This contribution, marking the Clinic's second century of care, was presented at the Charity Guild Installation Luncheon, where Katherine Parsley, Interim CEO & President, accepted the award on behalf of the organization. "We are immensely grateful to Charity Guild of Catholic Women for their remarkable

contribution to our endowment for health equity as we embark on our second century of care," said Katherine Parsley. "This donation will expand our efforts in providing critical healthcare services to the underserved and uninsured populations in our community, making a profound difference in the lives of those in need."

San José Clinic has been a pillar of healthcare in the Greater Houston community for over a century, and this significant donation reaffirms the Clinic's unwavering commitment to its mission. By combining compassionate care with innovative programs and services, San José Clinic strives to create a healthier and more equitable future for all. Jean Phillips, a longtime San José Clinic Advisory Board Member and representative of the Charity Guild of Catholic Women, expressed her enthusiasm for supporting San José Clinic and their enduring commitment to healthcare access and outcomes. She stated, "We are honored to contribute to the exceptional work of San José Clinic as they enter their second century of care."

The Clinic's dedication to providing accessible healthcare to underserved communities aligns perfectly with our organization's mission. We hope this donation will empower San José Clinic to continue making a lasting impact in the lives of those who rely on their services."

For more information on San José Clinic, including our mission and impact, please visit our website at [www.sanjosecclinic.org](http://www.sanjosecclinic.org). For 100 years, San José Clinic has grown into a leading healthcare provider of quality healthcare services for Individuals and families in the Greater Houston area, and surrounding communities who struggle the most with accessing care. The clinic is a proud member of the United Way Partner and a ministry of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. San José Clinic operates as a 501(c)3 and continues to uphold the standards of both the National Association of Free and Charitable Clinics and the Texas Association of Charitable Clinics.

San José Clinic provides healing through quality healthcare and education with respect and compassion for those with limited access to care. It is a Texas Medical Center member institution, a United Way partner and a ministry of the Archdiocese of Galveston - Houston. Source: Fort Bend Herald. June 13, 2023

<https://www.sanjosecclinic.org/>



**Are you thinking about becoming  
a Catholic Christian?**

**Do you want to follow Jesus  
Christ through the Catholic Church?**

RCIA is the first step in a lifelong journey of discipleship! This is the Catholic Church's process to bring people, through study, spiritual growth, and community, into the heart of the Kingdom of Heaven. We have various classes and programs available, sacramental preparation and Catholic Church teachings. We would love to talk with you about where you are on your faith journey and how we can help you become the Catholic Christian you have always wanted to be.

Please call our Religious Education office at 936-825-1869 to learn more about our Fall programs.

## **BIBLE STUDY COMING THIS FALL**

**Great Adventure Catholic Bible Class**

**For Fall, 2023**

**at**

**Christ our Light Catholic Church**

**Adventures in the Gospel of Matthew**

**The King and His Kingdom**

**Monday Evenings, 5:15 PM – 7:00 PM**

**St. Patrick Hall, Navasota TX**

**WATCH THE BULLETIN FOR START DATES**

**For additional information contact:**

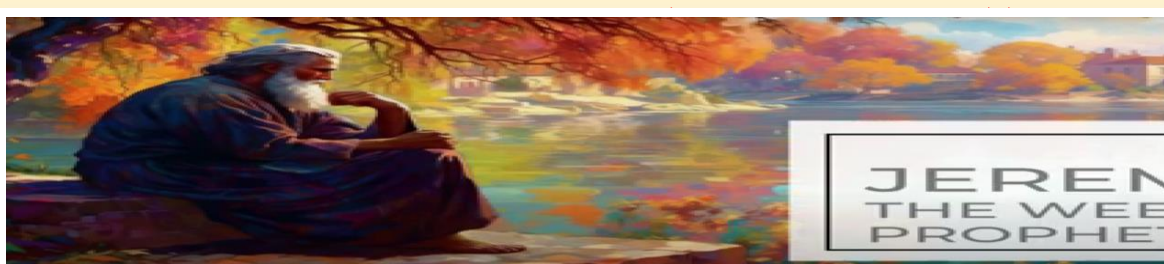
**Mike or Helen Kimball**

**Bible Study Coordinators**

**281-923-8314 – 832-771-3001**

**The Great Adventure – A Journey through the  
Catholic Bible**

**73 Books. One Story. Your Story.**



## JEREMIAH THE WEeping PROPHET

### MASS READINGS 12TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

- **First Reading** – [Jeremiah 20:10-13](#): The prophet expresses his frustration and anguish over the opposition he faces for delivering God's message. Despite the hardships, Jeremiah reaffirms his trust in God and acknowledges that God is with him, giving him strength and protecting him from his enemies.
- **Responsorial Psalm** – [Psalm 69](#): Call upon the Lord in faith, seeking His loving response. Endure insults and shame, trusting in His boundless kindness and mercy. Rejoice, for the Lord hears the cries of the poor and oppressed, and let all creation join in praise.
- **Second Reading** – [Romans 5:12-15](#): Sin and death entered the world through one man, Adam, but through the one act of righteousness by Jesus Christ, grace and eternal life are made available to all who believe. Through Adam's transgression, humanity was condemned, but through Christ's sacrificial death and resurrection, God's gift of forgiveness and justification abounds, offering reconciliation and abundant life to those who receive it.
- **Gospel** – [Matthew 10:26-33](#): Jesus encourages His disciples to fearlessly proclaim His teachings, assuring them that whatever is hidden will be revealed and their actions will be brought to light. He emphasizes that they should not fear those who can harm the body, but rather fear God who holds ultimate authority over both body and soul, and promises that those who acknowledge Him before others will be acknowledged by Him in return.

### THEMES FOR THE 12TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

The readings for the 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A are a call to trust in God. Although our circumstances can be unsettling or frightening, God is always caring for us. The first reading Jeremiah trusts in the Lord even though he is being plotted against. The psalm expresses hope that God will hear our prayers in times of distress. The second reading reminds us that Jesus rescued us even though we are sinners. And in the gospel, Jesus tells us "Fear no one" and that we are loved and cared for by God.

- **Perseverance in the face of opposition**: The first reading from Jeremiah portrays the challenges and opposition that the prophet faced in fulfilling his calling. Despite the persecution, Jeremiah remained steadfast in his faith and trust in God. This theme encourages believers to persevere in their faith, even when confronted with adversity or opposition.
- **Trust in God's faithfulness**: Jeremiah exemplifies unwavering trust in God's faithfulness and protection, recognizing God as a "dread warrior." This emphasizes reliance on God's strength during difficulties. The Gospel stresses trust in God's providential care, assuring disciples of His awareness and urging trust in His guidance, care, and protection.

- **Redemption and salvation**: The second reading for the 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A delves into the concept of redemption and salvation. It discusses how sin entered the world through Adam, leading to death and separation from God. However, through the gift of Jesus Christ, redemption is offered, and believers can be reconciled with God. This theme emphasizes the transformative power of Christ's sacrifice and the opportunity for new life and salvation.
- **Fear and courage**: The Gospel reading from Matthew addresses fear and courage in the context of proclaiming the message of Christ. Jesus reassures His disciples not to fear those who oppose them but to trust in God's providence and protection. This theme encourages believers to overcome fear and rely on the courage that comes from faith in God.
- **God's care for individuals**: The Gospel reading further emphasizes the value that God places on each individual. Jesus affirms that God's care extends even to the smallest details of His creation. This theme reminds believers of their worth in God's eyes and reassures them of His intimate knowledge and care for them.

### The Significance of Jeremiah

The Book of the Prophet Jeremiah is a powerful and profound testament of God's relentless love, mercy, and justice. Through Jeremiah's prophetic voice, we witness the interplay of divine revelation, human struggle, and the unwavering faith that sustains us in challenging times. The story of Jeremiah serves as a beacon of hope, reminding us that even in the midst of uncertainty and adversity, God's plans for us are always for our good and His glory. In a world filled with distractions and shifting values, Jeremiah's unwavering commitment to God's truth challenges us to examine our own lives. Are we willing to stand firm in our faith, even when it goes against the prevailing culture? Like Jeremiah, we are called to be faithful messengers, speaking truth into a world hungry for meaning and purpose.

We must resist the temptation to conform to societal norms that contradict the teachings of Christ and instead boldly proclaim His message of love, mercy, and justice. Jeremiah's prophecies of impending judgment and the call for repentance may seem harsh, but they are ultimately rooted in God's deep love for His people. They serve as a reminder that sin has consequences and that God desires our hearts to turn back to Him. Just as Jeremiah called the Israelites to repentance, we too are called to examine our lives, seeking forgiveness for our shortcomings, and turning to God with sincere hearts.

Furthermore, the book of Jeremiah offers a profound message of restoration and hope. Even in the midst of judgment and exile, God promises to restore His people. Through the prophecy of a new covenant, Jeremiah points to the coming of Christ, who would establish a covenant that surpasses the old, offering forgiveness, reconciliation, and eternal life to all who believe in Him. This message of redemption and restoration reminds us that no matter how far we may have strayed, God's grace is always available to lead us back to Him. As we reflect on the life and words of Jeremiah, let us be inspired by his unwavering faith and obedience. Let us be challenged to examine our own lives, aligning our actions with God's will and seeking to live out our faith authentically. May we draw strength from the promise of restoration and hope, trusting that God's love and faithfulness endure through all generations.

The book of Jeremiah invites us to journey alongside the prophet, experiencing the depths of human struggle and the heights of divine calling. Through his life and words, we are reminded of the timeless truths of God's love, justice, and mercy. May we embrace the lessons learned from Jeremiah's prophetic ministry, allowing his message to shape our lives, deepen our faith, and inspire us to be faithful messengers in a world that longs for the hope and redemption found in Christ.



## Don't Worry! God Cares About You!

In today's Gospel reading Jesus tells us not to fear those who can kill us. He tells us that God pays attention to the sparrows, which are just little birds. How much more He cares about us, His people!



What Jesus says reminds us that we should always remember that God loves and cares for us. We don't need to live in fear, because God always wants what is best for us.

Sometimes bad things happen to us - we can become poor, we can lose friends, we can get hurt or sick. But God is still caring for us through those times. These things can help remind us of how much we need God. Just food and possessions and other people and even our health are not enough

Every time you see a picture of Jesus remember that God is caring about you right now! Thank Him for His love and try to share His love and care with those around you!



Answers to Fill-in-the-Blanks: LIGHT, PROCLAIM, BODY, CANNOT, FEAR, SPARROWS, PENNY, FATHERS, OF, NOT, MORE, EVERYONE, BEFORE, BUT, God cares for you!

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## The Kids' Bulletin

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
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In today's Gospel reading Jesus says that God sees even little things. What little things did He mention? Connect the dots to find out!



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