

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SEPTEMBER 19, 2021

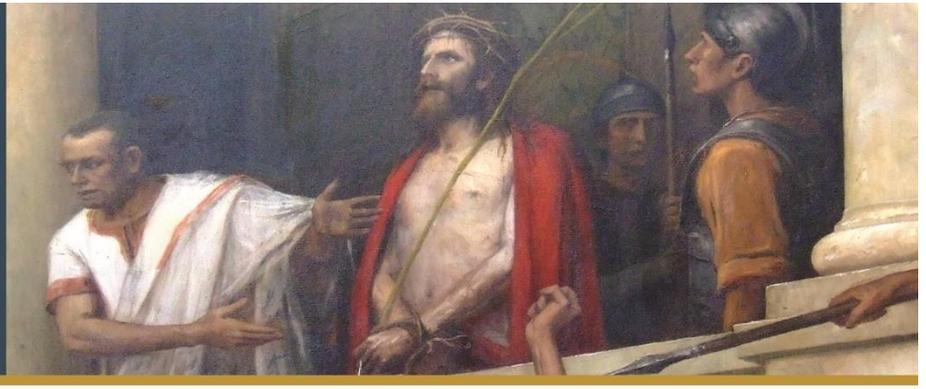
Whoever receives
one child such as
this in my name,
receives me;
and whoever
receives me,
receives not me
but the One
who sent me.

Mark 9:37



SEPTEMBER 19, 2021

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TWO PATHS

Today's first two readings present a striking contrast between two pathways in life. In Wisdom and the letter from James we are told of the path of the wicked, which leads to oppression and violence. We also hear of the path of the faithful, which leads to peace and human flourishing. Then our Gospel reading from Mark takes our reflection farther. The choice is shown to be not so simple or obvious. The path of faithfulness means following Jesus' lead, to expand our circle of care toward everyone, especially the most vulnerable. This path also includes opening ourselves to suffering and trials, as we face resistance from within and from outside us. The two paths essentially diverge over whether we refuse or accept God's love. Each day we face such choices as God invites us into the divine circle of care and enlists us to extend our own circle to those around us.

WHO IS HONORED

Today's Gospel passage has two parts: Jesus' announcement again of his coming suffering and death, and a scene with the disciples arguing about who is the "greatest." Mark places these scenes next to each other to emphasize the disciples' failure to understand. Their petty argument was the opposite of what Jesus had described as the way to follow him. The disciples were following the common understanding of group status: to honor the influential and those who seem to contribute the most. Jesus points to the opposite: he honors the vulnerable, the "least" in the community; in this case, a child. And he honors those who welcome the child.

Mark was addressing his own community in the early Church, who were seeking to learn how to live their faith. His questions may be important for us too. Who is honored in our faith community, and why? How do we honor those whom we set as examples? Who benefits from this different kind of "greatness"?

ASK THE HARD QUESTIONS

Twice in today's Gospel, Jesus' disciples are reduced to silence. First when Jesus describes his future suffering and death, and again when caught in their argument about who is the greatest. Perhaps they were afraid to really understand his teachings because of what it might cost them. Maybe they were afraid of being seen as ignorant by Jesus and especially by each other. What if they had dared to admit their confusion and ignorance and asked Jesus hard questions? Would Jesus have welcomed them?

Jesus presents a child who is to be welcomed and embraced. The child sets an example: it is the child who knows that he or she doesn't know. The child is free to ask "childlike" questions, and is open to answers. What if, in the intimacy of our prayer, we asked Jesus our own hard, embarrassing questions: about life, about ourselves and our relationships, about God? How might our relationship with God then change?

TODAY'S READINGS

Wisdom 2:12, 17–20
Psalm 54:3–4, 5, 6–8
James 3:16 — 4:3
Mark 9:30–37

The Son of Man is to be handed
over to men and they will kill him,
and three days after his death the Son of Man will rise.

Mark 9:31

Weekly Mass Intentions

Sunday, September 19

5:00 pm.....Rob & Suzanne Haney 51st Anniv.

Weekly Parish Activities

Sunday, September 19

St. Mary

8:30 am..... Confession

9:00 am..... Holy Mass

Our Lady of Guadalupe

10:00 am..... Confession

10:30 am..... Holy Mass

Sacred Heart

11:00 am.....Confession

11:30 am..... Holy Mass

St. Brendan

3:15 pm..... RCIA

4:30 pm..... Confession

5:00 pm..... Holy Mass

7:00 pm.....Al-Anon_Meeting

Monday, September 20

8:00 am.....Daily Mass (St. Brendan)

Tuesday, September 21

8:00 am.....Daily Mass (St. Brendan)

12:00 pm..... Al-Anon Meeting (St. Brendan)

Wednesday, September 22

6:30 pm.....Daily Mass (St. Brendan)

Thursday, September 23

8:00 am.....Daily Mass (St. Brendan)

7:00 pm.....Al-Anon Meeting (St. Brendan)

Friday, September 24

8:00 am.....Daily Mass (St. Brendan)

Saturday, September 25

8:00 am.....TMIY (St. Brendan)

4:30 pm..... Confession (St. Brendan)

5:00 pm.....Holy Mass (St. Brendan)

7:00 pm..... Confession (St. Mary)

7:30 pm..... Santa Misa (St. Mary)

THE MEANING OF DISCIPLESHIP

September 19, 2021

The geography of today’s Gospel is significant. Jesus is completing his ministry in Galilee and beginning his journey to Jerusalem, where he will meet both death and resurrection. The prediction of his death placed here is the second of three in Mark’s Gospel, and as usual it is the occasion for an important teaching on the part of Jesus. Today that lesson is tied to the need for his disciples to embrace a ministry of service. A play on words in Aramaic would have linked the words “child” and “servant,” thus turning Jesus’ gesture of placing a child in their midst into an illustration of his understanding of himself as the Servant of the Lord. It is that same awareness of the meaning of their ministry that Jesus (and Mark) wishes to instill in the disciples. Theirs must be a ministry of service if they are to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. And that service might even require of them that they be “handed over” to death. What would have been—in the culture of Jesus’ day—an ordinary discussion of social status (“who is the greatest”) becomes in Mark’s context a key insight into the meaning of discipleship for the disciples and for us.

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EL SIGNIFICADO DE SER DISCÍPULOS

19 de septiembre de 2021

La geografía del Evangelio de hoy es importante. Jesús completa su ministerio en Galilea y comienza su viaje a Jerusalén, donde se encontrará con su muerte y resurrección. La predicción de su muerte que aparece aquí es la segunda de tres en el Evangelio según San Marcos, y como de costumbre, es ocasión para una enseñanza importante de parte de Jesús. Hoy esta lección está ligada a la necesidad de un ministerio de servicio. Un juego de palabras arameas vinculaban las palabras “niño” y “servidor”, y por eso el gesto de Jesús de tomar “a un niño [poniéndolo] en medio de ellos” indica cómo se veía a sí mismo: como el Siervo del Señor. Es esta misma conciencia del significado del ministerio que Jesús (y Marcos) desean inculcar en sus discípulos. El ministerio de ellos deberá ser de servicio para que puedan seguir las huellas de Jesús. Y ese servicio podría incluso requerir de ellos que se “entregaran” a la muerte. ¿Cuál habría sido, en la cultura del tiempo de Jesús, una conversación normal sobre el estatus social (“quién es el más importante”) se convierte para Marcos en una idea clave sobre el significado de qué es ser discípulos para sus seguidores de entonces y para nosotros.

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Office: Open M-F from 9-3.

Please call (254-965-5693) or

email stbrendancc@gmail.com

with questions or to make an appointment.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Ezr 1:1-6; Ps 126:1b-6; Lk 8:16-18

Tuesday: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13; Ps 19:2-5; Mt 9:9-13

Wednesday: Ezr 9:5-9; Tb:13:2, 3-4abefghn, 7-8; Lk 9:1-6

Thursday: Hg 1:1-8; Ps 149:1b-6a, 9b; Lk 9:7-9

Friday: Hg 2:1-9; Ps 43:1-4; Lk 9:18-22

Saturday: Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a; Jer 31:10-12ab, 13; Lk 9:43b-45

Sunday: Nm 11:25-29; Ps 19:8, 10, 12-14; Jas 5:1-6; Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

Giving: During this challenging time, we depend on donations to keep our parish family going. Please take advantage of online giving by visiting our parish website at www.stbrendanscc.org and click Donate Now-Online Giving. **Prefer Mail?** Make check payable to your parish and mail to 1444 W. Washington St. Stephenville, TX 76401

TMiy: The Fight of Faith equips and enables men to engage in the cosmic, spiritual battle raging in our day. Biblical identities will emerge to inspire heroic lives of service to a calling greater than ourselves. Join us for food, fellowship and faith **Saturdays, 8 AM at Newman Hall**. All men are welcome. Learn more at tmiy.org

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) classes in English have begun on **Sundays, from 3:15-4:45pm at Newman Hall**. If you are interested in becoming Catholic, were Baptized Catholic but haven't received the Holy Eucharist or been Confirmed, or if you would like to learn more about our Catholic faith, you are invited to attend these classes. For further information please call Rita Wisner 254-965-5257.

This weekend we are blessed to be hosting a priest representing Cross Catholic Outreach. This official Catholic ministry was founded to link parishes in the U.S. with priests, religious brothers and sisters, and laypeople working in Church missions overseas. Please be generous in your response to his appeal. Brochures with a donation envelope will be provided if you wish to support this worthy Catholic ministry.

The Knights of Columbus will sponsor a "Knight of Charity" October 16th at Bella Vita Ranch. This will be an evening with friends, great food, great entertainment, and for a great cause. This year's proceeds will go directly to Choices Clinic and Life Resource Center, Catholic Charities, and the St. Brendan's and Sacred Heart Building Funds. Included will be a social, dinner, music, and live and silent auctions. The social begins at 6:00 p.m. Dinner at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$175 or \$2,000 for a table of 8. For Reservations of more information, contact: Karmichael Ramos: 806-685-5182 — Zach Schlumpf: 214-505-6140 -- Frank Volleman: 254-977-9888

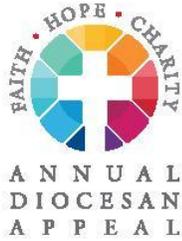
Upcoming Second Collections: September 25-26: Hurricane Ida Relief

October 23-24: World Mission Sunday (Propagation of Faith)

CCM is looking for volunteers to help cook meals throughout the semester. Please contact Nathan if you are interested or would like more information on how you can help CCM grow!

A rummage sale will be held September 24-25 at St. Mary's Church. Donations can be brought to family life center AFTER Labor Day. Contact your favorite Helping Hands members for questions.

PRAYER CORNER: Please pray for the different intentions of each person this week for: Baby Shiloh, Mike Hill, Sam Pier Family, Bill Cook, JoAnn, Mary Lou Pannell, Leslie Kay Hughes (RIP), Bill Svadlenka, Florin Schlautman, Acuña family, Madeline, Mark, Wendi, Kristina, Mike Roberts, Bob Haschke's Mom, Maria Cruz, Eddie Dunn, Julie Vecera, Paul, Gordon, Pelletier Family, Vicki Rawlings, Alfredo Pulido, Richard Petronis, Lou Hinzman, Bill O'Neal, Norman Moore, Ranisa, Bole Family, Jody Cornell, Tye Coapland, Neide Gonsalves, Jackie Demetruk, Natal Mello, Poplin family, Carl Volleman, John McCarthy, Irma Lopez, Jennifer Lancaster and Family, Della Munson and Husband, Ismael M, Mack McCormick, Ann Blair, Paulette Jones, Amanda Nicholson, Jocelyn Lewis, Rudy Guerrero, Nursing Home Patients, all the homebound and ill, and for all the souls in purgatory.



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I give thanks to the Lord for the light of a new dawn which we all head towards together after a year and a half of so much chaos, confusion and hurt. Together we have weathered many storms over the last 18 months.

We have emerged more keenly aware of all that we have in our lives for which to give thanks to the Lord. Even through the darkness and uncertainty, God has faithfully carried us onward towards the hope of the new future. I am always especially filled with hope each time I encounter one of the many thousands of people who are so grateful for the support of their Catholic community during times of crisis.

Just as the apostles proclaim after Jesus calms the storm at sea, "Who then is this, who commands even the winds and the sea, and they obey him?" we are reminded of just how powerful Jesus' ability to bring peace is.

With the waves crashing around the boat and the apostles fearing for their lives, Jesus says but one word, and the storm subsides. It is in times of great suffering which we realize most how much we need the strength and support of each other. Jesus has given us all the gift of each other to provide the support and strength which we need to survive and draw ever closer to Him.

As a witness to the great generosity of spirit I see daily among each of you in the Diocese of Fort Worth, I am reminded that there is much to be grateful for. In gratitude for Jesus' care for each of us, we look to Him as the source of hope for all those He calls us to care for.

Your support of the Annual Diocesan Appeal provides essential functioning and support for our financially struggling parishes, as well as ministries, education and outreach programs which affect thousands in the Diocese of Fort Worth. From incarcerated persons to college students, children preparing for the Sacraments, to men and women discerning a call to serve the Church through the priesthood and consecrated life, no story is forgotten.

It is a big task, but together we can bring the light of Christ to all.

Next week is Commitment Weekend for the Annual Diocesan Appeal. The chosen scripture theme for this year's campaign, "Let Us Give Thanks," from Psalms 107 reminds us to remember in gratitude our many blessings. We are striving for 100 percent participation from every family. Even if you have not supported the appeal in the past, please consider a monthly recurring gift to this important effort. With trust in the calming word of Jesus and in thanksgiving to the Lord, we gratefully respond in stewardship for the common good of all.

Your story is not forgotten by God. Your support never goes unnoticed by Him who created all. I am grateful beyond measure for your generosity.

May God bless you!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Michael F. Olson, STD, MA
Bishop of Fort Worth

FAITH CORNER

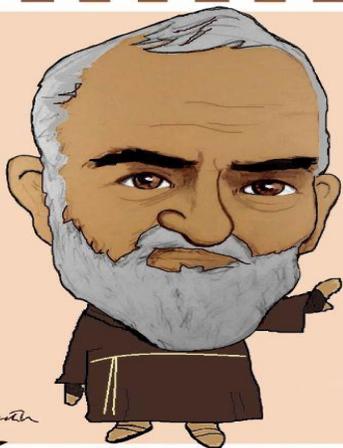
FEAST OF FAITH: Doxology and Amen

“Doxology” comes from a Greek word meaning “words of praise.” The Eucharistic Prayer ends with a doxology addressed to the triune God: “Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.” It is an exclamation of praise, honor, and glory to God, reminding us that we receive everything from God through the Son, in the power of the Spirit. At the consecration, the priest held up the host and then the chalice for us to see and adore. During the doxology, the host and chalice are held up again, but this time they are held up and offered to God the Father. With the doxology, the Eucharistic Prayer ends, as it began, with words of praise addressed to the Father: truly, it is right and just to give God praise, and we assent to this in our whole-hearted acclamation, “Amen.” Never was more meaning packed into so short a word. This “Amen,” sometimes and fittingly called “the great Amen,” is our response to the entire Eucharistic Prayer. —Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

FIESTA DE LA FE: La fracción del pan

Uno de los primeros nombres que se dio a la celebración eucarística era precisamente este: “la fracción del pan”. De hecho, Lucas es muy preciso al relatarnos que los discípulos de Emaús lo reconocieron “en la fracción del pan”. En la celebración, el sacerdote fracciona la hostia o el pan y deposita una parte menor en el cáliz que contiene la Sangre del Señor, significando así la gloriosa resurrección, un misterio pascual total. Esta acción de partir un mismo pan antes de compartirlo nos recuerda que somos miembros de un solo cuerpo. El pan es precisamente para eso, para compartirse y esta acción de partir el pan nos recuerda la obligación moral que tenemos de compartir nuestro propio pan con quien tiene hambre y, de hacer que la vida propia sea ese mismo pan de vida que comulgamos. El pan ha de ser compartido sin medida alguna, tal y como la vida misma ha de compartirse. Cristo mismo realizó esta acción: “tomó, bendijo, partió y compartió”. Es necesario romper nuestra vida para darla a los demás, a ejemplo de Cristo. —Miguel Arias, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

saint snippets



Pray, hope,
and don't worry.

St. Pio of Pietrilecina

20th-century Capuchin friar, priest and mystic who bore the stigmata. Countless healings and miracles have been attributed to his intercession.

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September 23

If you've ever wanted to understand the Bible, this podcast is for you!

In *The Bible in a Year* podcast, **Fr. Mike Schmitz** walks you through the entire Bible in 365 episodes, providing commentary, reflection, and prayer along the way.

Listen and... Read the ENTIRE Bible, feel more confident about your understanding of Scripture, experience the transformative power of God's Word in your daily life, and start seeing the world through the lens of Scripture. Tune in and live your daily life through the lens of God's word! Click here: [Bible In A Year](#)

Saint Pio of Pietrelcina (1887-1968)

September 23

Did the World War II American flyer really see Padre Pio in midair, preventing the bombing of his village below? Did Pio actually "bilocate" in Italy, the Holy Land, even America, as countless witnesses testified? Or "read hearts" before penitents spoke? What of the stigmata, Christ's wounds imprinted on Padre Pio's hands, feet, and side? John Paul II, who as a young man visited Pio, never mentioned these extraordinary elements at the canonization. Instead, the pope spoke of "trials accepted with love," referring perhaps to sanctions restricting Pio's faculties for hearing confessions and celebrating public Mass, imposed because of criticism, later discredited, sent to the Vatican; of Pio's offering his sufferings in union with Jesus' passion for a suffering world; of his continual availability to sinners seeking direction and absolution; of Padre Pio's prayer that blossomed in charity, especially through his "House for the Relief of Suffering," a healthcare facility that anticipated by decades today's holistic partnering of medical science and spirituality. Finally, how comforting for us "ordinary" Christians, this extraordinary saint's most frequent advice: "Pray, hope, and don't worry!"

—Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.



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