

September

26

2021



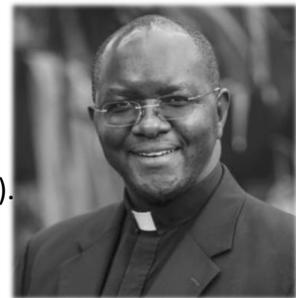
Any who give you a  
cup of water to drink  
because you belong to Christ,  
amen, I say to you,  
will surely not lose their reward.

Mark 9:41

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear St Bridget Family,

Today we celebrate the Twenty Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time. It is also four weeks now since we were visited by Hurricane Ida, a visit that became the second-most damaging and intense hurricane to make landfall in Louisiana (after Hurricane Katrina). The day after the storm, with no power, no communication, debris everywhere... it seemed doom and gloom, but four weeks later, we are still here and we are making progress. Utilities are slowly and progressively being restored, there is a ray of hope.



In this period of recovery from such a major disaster we gather today as a people of faith to worship our Lord and God. Our God has been and continues to be with us in and through this major trial in our lives. As we contemplate what befell us four weeks ago, we may have many questions with no answers. We only find comfort in our faith in God, who knows and is in control of it all.

One of the profound and initial God moments for me in the aftermath of the storm was the outreach to our diocese by priests and parishioners from different parishes in the Dioceses of Lake Charles and Lafayette. They came with basic emergency supplies for the people of our Diocese and helped in various other ways. Sister Miriam, who heads Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Lake Charles, came with a State lite phone that enabled Bishop Fabre to make some urgent calls. Those acts of kindness and selflessness a day or two after the storm were clear manifestations that **God is with us** in all this.

In the gospel reading today, Jesus said that anyone who gives water to those who are thirsty and in need will receive a reward. I pray that the people who reached out to us and continue to reach out to our Diocese may receive the rewards promised by Jesus. I also pray that, as a community of faith and disciples of Jesus, we ourselves may take advantage of this opportunity to earn some rewards. Last Sunday, I was delighted at how we, as a parish community, reached out to those in need and I pray that we may continue and build on it.

My dear brothers and sisters, in the gospel reading, Jesus also reminds us that every evil deed in our lives will bring us harm and not good. It is for this reason that He warns us to get rid of evil in our lives. Jesus uses the literal image of the body and its parts. In this illustration, He is telling us that even if something is near and dear to us (like a body part) if it causes us to sin, we must not delay in changing things around. In other words, Jesus is warning His followers that occasions of sin are to be ruthlessly dealt with. Jesus urges us to make the costliest sacrifices in order to avoid sin and consequences of sin, the ultimate consequence of sin being damnation, separation from God in Gehenna forever!

The words of Jesus about cutting off one's body parts (hand, foot, eye) must not be taken with crude literalism. The point Jesus is making is that serious sin is to be avoided at any cost. We ought to be prepared to go any lengths in order to eliminate evil from our lives. The aim of Jesus as we read in other illustrations in the gospels is to impress clearly in each one of His followers the truth and reality that **the Kingdom of God (or the gift of Eternal Life) is worth any and every sacrifice.**

As we continue on our journey of life and as we recover from the devastation left by hurricane Ida, let us look for and take advantage of every opportunity to reach to those in need. In so doing we shall be earning heavenly rewards. Let us also strive to rid ourselves of every sin and evil that clings to our lives.

Thanks and God bless,

*Fr. Simon Peter*

# SUFFERING AND GOD'S PLAN

BY JAMES WASHINGTON

Our suffering is an integral part of God's plan to ready us for the struggle of spreading the good news of Jesus Christ. Suffering in some ways is a prerequisite for strengthening one's spiritual muscle.

Take notes on this. "No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but (rather) painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it." Hebrews 12:11.

As far as I'm concerned, we're all in training, believe it or not, to fight in God's war. Whether being forged in a fiery furnace or stuck in a tailspin of perceived despair and hopelessness, each one of us is being battle-tested in anticipation that one day, we will be called to arms.

This struggle, these experiences, bring about wisdom, a spiritual wisdom from a spiritual perspective that I believe must be shared. It must be. Otherwise, God keeps you in a perpetual classroom where life constantly gives you a new place to go to the bathroom. You haven't learned anything, so life keeps kicking your ... well, you get the picture.

When you finally realize the one trying to tell you something is God, then a wondrous thing begins to happen. You listen more intently and learn more eagerly. Like the child who discovers walking leads to the joy of running, the possibilities seem endless. The mind says, "Tell me more." The spirit says, "Thank you, Jesus." At that very moment, it is my belief that God lets us know we're able to withstand, overcome, rise above and win the battle of carrying the message of salvation: Christ is savior.

At that moment, we also move from being in the classroom to being on the battlefield where Satan keeps score. You remember those days back in school when you actually studied and were prepared for the test? Confidence oozed from you. When God has been the lesson planner, the study partner, the instructor, it doesn't matter how much Satan wants it to be a Netflix night.

"Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him." James 1:12.

Our job then is to recognize and represent – to recognize the hell we're going through is not without purpose. The most important message of the day is to understand who (Jesus) has suffered the most and why. "It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom." Luke 12:32.

## TODAY'S READINGS

**FIRST READING** | (Numbers 11:25-29)

**PSALM** | (Psalm 19)

**SECOND READING** | (James 5:1-6)

**GOSPEL** | (Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48)

## PROCLAIM THE WONDER OF GOD

The gift of the Spirit is given freely, not according to human expectations, but according to the generosity of God. Joshua wants Moses to stop Eldad and Medad from prophesying in the camp, when they were not with the others as the spirit was bestowed on them. Moses, so close to God's mind in the matter, wishes everyone could possess the spirit of God and proclaim it to the nations.

Psalm 19 celebrates the perfection of God's law, and how it brings joy and delight. It is better than the finest gold or the sweetest honey. Moreover, God gives the wisdom of the prophets to everyone, especially the simple and lowly ones, even to children. It is the "little ones" who proclaim the wonder of God to all.

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## FEAST OF FAITH

### The Lord's Prayer

The Eucharistic Prayer ends with the great "Amen," the acclamation of assent by the assembly. Then the Communion rite begins with the Lord's Prayer. We pray this prayer in many contexts, both inside and outside the Church's liturgy. Here, in the context of the Mass, the Lord's Prayer is profoundly eucharistic. When we ask for our "daily bread," we are asking for the gift of the Eucharist. When we ask God to forgive us as we forgive others, we are seeking forgiveness and purity of heart before we approach the altar to receive the sacrament of the Lord's Body and Blood—"so that what is holy may, in fact, be given to those who are holy" (General Instruction of the Roman Missal, 81).

At Mass, a prayer for peace is inserted between the prayer and the doxology. In this prayer, called the embolism, the Church asks God for freedom—freedom from sin and all anxiety and distress. We are living in an in-between time; even as we rejoice in Christ's presence, we await his coming in joyful hope.

—Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

## THIS WEEK'S READINGS

**MONDAY** | Zec 8:1-8; Ps 102:16-21, 29, 22-23; Lk 9:46-50

**TUESDAY** | Zec 8:20-23; Ps 87:1b-7; Lk 9:51-56

**WEDNESDAY** | Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12a; Ps 138:1-5; Jn 1:47-51

**THURSDAY** | Neh 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12; Ps 19:8-11; Lk 10:1-12

**FRIDAY** | Bar 1:15-22; Ps 79:1b-5, 8-9; Lk 10:13-16

**SATURDAY** | Bar 4:5-12, 27-29; Ps 69:33-37; Mt 18:1-5, 10

**SUNDAY** | Gn 2:18-24; Ps 128:1-6; Heb 2:9-11; Mk 10:2-16 [2-12]

## THE SANCTUARY LIGHT | IN MEMORY OF

September 26th—October 2nd      Tristan Ables by Ma Maw and Family  
 Hilda Pollet (BD) by Sharon, Rachel, Tanya, Maggie, Owen and Max  
 Wilfred, Marie and Tim Hebert by Sandra Hebert

## MASS INTENTIONS

September 25th	4 PM	Tristan Ables by Ma Maw and Family Wilfred, Marie and Tim Hebert by Sandra Hebert
September 26th	8:30 AM	Loyd and Ruth Olin (WA) by The Olin Family Ronnie Thomas by Steven and Brenda Arceneaux
	10:30 AM	Anthony "Rod" Rodrigue Claire Babin by Bobette Talbot
October 2nd	4 PM	Gina Benoit Boudreaux by Dale and Cecile Benoit Wilfred, Marie and Tim Hebert by Sandra Hebert
October 3rd	8:30 AM	For our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren— May God watch over them by Ronnie and Betty Thomas Ruth Olin (B) by The Olin Family Ronnie Thomas by Michael and Sylvia Langlinois
	10:30 AM	Claire Babin by Sharon, Rachel, Tanya, Maggie, Max and Owen Ralph Melancon by Ava Percle Antoinette V. Fanguy (B) by Margaret and Burnelle Landry Sally Pertuit (B) by Margaret and Burnelle Landry

## PRAYER LINE

**To be added to the prayer line, call Nina Richard at 446-1206** or the rectory at 446-6801. In the charity of your prayers, please pray for the sick, elderly, and homebound. Please pray for: Elaine Ables, Susan Arceneaux, Heidi Ardoin, Donnie Aucoin Jr, Jacob Aucoin, Jeannie Aucoin, Sara Aucoin, Elvin Babin, Tommy Badeaux, Chad Barrilleaux, Ronnie Bednarz, Chuck Beebe, Gertrude Benoit, Fr. Paul Bergeron, Mitzy Bettridge, Gretchen Bilello, Preston Billiot, Alvin & Gail Blanchard, Dennis Blanchard, Ronald Blanchard, Lynn Bonneval, Aline Boudreaux, Emile "Jay" Bourgeois, Patricia Bourgeois, Connie Bouterie, Emma Del Broussard, Susan Caillouet, Gary & Sheila Cavalier, Bessie Chiasson, Randy Chiasson, Jane D. Clement Bryce Comeaux, Huey Cortez Sr., Martha Cortez, Randy Davis, Cary Davis, Jr., Dorothy Didier, Barbara & Ronni Duhon, Linda Ekiss, Avery "Brother" and Sonja Fonseca, Melissa Fontana Darin Fonz, Robin Ford, Marie Fournier, Alisa Frederick, Dante Galliano, Toby Gambarella, Leigh Ann Gardner, Carrie Gibbens Belinda Gil, Brandon Gil, George Gil, The Gil Family, Carrie Mae Givens, Austin Gros, Bryan Gros, Chad Gros, George Gros, Rosebella Gros, Kendra Guillot, Myles Harris, Joy Hebert, Katie Hebert, Jerrell Hebert, Sr., Cheryl Henderson, Jessie Hoffpauir, Samara Holland, Kristen Koppel, Eldine LaFleur, Jackson LaFleur, Mona Lambert, Elmay Landry, Joyce Landry, Craig Landry, Mark Landry, Barbara Nell Lapeyrouse, Allie LeBlanc, Emily LeBoeuf, Evelyn Leger, Tammy Babin Loney, Tim Long, Payton Martin, Keith Matherne, Rick Melancon, Asher Miller, Savannah Miller, Emma Mire, Bethany Moore, Meghan Naquin, Misty Naquin, Shannon Naquin, Eric Olivieri, Annie Ordoyne, Kara Pellegrin, Sherry Pennison, Lisa Pennison, Kenneth Pitre, James Pierce, Kip Pierce, Sharon Prejean, Ed Raidl, Kerri Reynolds, Bryce Richard, Ella Richard, Gladys Richard, Lorita Rodrigue, Susan Rodrigue, Cynthia Rogers, Danielle Samanie, Chester Sanchez, Karla Saunier, Kathy Savoie, Earline Simmoneaux, Penny Simmons, Brenda Sonier, Mike Stegall, Louis Stevens, Melissa Tardiff, Trish Templet, Pierre & Mary Theriot, Cammie Thibodaux, Lacey Thibodeaux, Thibodaux Family, Chris Troups, Joyce Troups, Ricky Turner, Sara Day Vignes, Allison Walters, and Wanda Wawrose, Freddie Webre, Anna Wooten. **Please notify the office when names can be removed.**



# TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SEPTEMBER 26, 2021

*Behold, the wages you withheld from the workers  
who harvested your fields are crying aloud;  
and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts.*

James 5:4

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Dea Claraeque by Jean-Francois Millet  
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A wrestling match of sorts takes place in this section of Mark's Gospel. Jesus tries mightily to describe what it will mean to be his followers, and the disciples try mightily to avoid the subject. They point to an outsider, and the dangers *he* poses. Jesus turns the tables and asks his disciples to look within themselves: how are *they* a danger to Jesus and his work? Jesus uses graphic language, invoking self-amputation, to underscore his point.

Sometimes our most difficult obstacles lie deep within. Like our hands and feet, some attitudes and habits are deeply a part of us, and their removal would be traumatic for us. Yet we know that some beliefs (such as idolatries based on race, wealth, or gender) or behaviors (such as addictions) seriously harm ourselves and many others. We need a prayerful, non-neurotic watchfulness about our inner life. When necessary, we need a fierce resistance to anything that places us or others in danger.

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## UNITY IN CHRIST

Jesus, in today's Gospel from Mark, says "whoever is not against us is for us." Mark was speaking to his own Christian community. From its beginnings, there were tensions in the Church about who speaks for Jesus. Jesus himself always called for unity of heart and a diversity of expression as a sign of the truth of the Gospel. It is no secret that in Christian history and continuing today, divisions have seriously damaged the message and cause of Christ.

In our own time and place, cultural and political divisions have reduced our ability to solve problems and to live together in a just and peaceful society. Perhaps this is a time for Christians to step up, to remember that our unity in Christ is far deeper than the differences that we perceive. We are called to reach out and listen to each other, to honor each other as members of the Body of Christ. Christians can lead the way, and show everyone watching how it's done.

Today's Readings: Num 11:25–29; Ps 19:8, 10, 12–13, 14; Jas 5:1–6; Mk 9:38–43, 45, 47–48



Our Father in Heaven,  
through the intercession  
of Our Lady of Prompt  
Succor, spare us during  
this hurricane season  
from all harm.  
Protect us and our homes  
from all disasters of  
nature.  
Our Lady of Prompt  
Succor, hasten to help us.  
We ask this through  
Christ our Lord.

Amen.



## Welcome All!

**WEEKDAY MASSES**  
MONDAY—FRIDAY 8 AM

**WEEKEND MASSES**  
SATURDAY | 4 PM  
SUNDAY | 8:30 AM  
10:30 AM

**CONFESSIONS**  
SATURDAY | 3 PM — 3:50 PM  
SUNDAY | 7:30 AM — 8:20 AM  
10:00 AM — 10:20 AM

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"All those  
who love  
the poor  
in life,  
will have  
nothing  
to fear from  
death."

- St. Vincent de Paul  
9/27/2021

*"And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you,  
whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.'"*

# **VOLUNTEER**

*To Donate or Volunteer, please visit the following link:  
<https://catholiccharitiesht.org/volunteer>*



## **St. Gabriel** THE STRENGTH OF GOD

"Gabriel was sent to Mary.  
He came to announce the One  
who appeared as a humble man  
to quell the cosmic powers.

Thus God's strength  
announced the coming of the  
Lord of the heavenly powers,  
mighty in battle."

## **St. Michael** WHO IS LIKE GOD

"Whenever some act of  
wondrous power must be  
performed, Michael is sent,  
so that his action and his name  
may make it clear that no one  
can do what God does by his  
superior power."

## **St. Raphael** GOD'S REMEDY

"Raphael means God's remedy,  
for when he touched Tobit's  
eyes in order to cure him, he  
banished the darkness of his  
blindness. Thus, since he is to  
heal, he is rightly called God's  
remedy."

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