

ST BRIDGET CATHOLIC CHURCH

From the beginning of creation,
God made them male and female.
For this reason a man shall
leave his father and mother
and be joined to his wife, and
the two shall become one flesh.

MARK 10:6-8



OCTOBER 3, 2021

Dear St Bridget Family,

On this Twenty Seventh Sunday of the year, the Church invites us to reflect on the institution of marriage. This is a very important institution for the welfare and stability of any society. Where you find strong and stable marriages, you find a strong and stable society. Social Scientists have demonstrable evidence that individuals raised stable families are more likely to flourish in life than those who are not. The biggest threat and danger to this very important institution is divorce and this threat has affected and continues to affect our communities and our world. Jesus Himself had to deal with it.



In the gospel reading today, the Pharisees question Jesus about the lawfulness of divorce. Under specific conditions, divorce was an accepted practice at the time of Jesus among the Jewish people. It was regulated by the Law of Moses, as found in Deuteronomy 24:1-5. This law only permits that a husband may divorce his wife if he finds her to be indecent. This is the justification that the Pharisees reference when Jesus inquires about the commandment of Moses. In reply, Jesus quotes from the Book of Genesis and counters that God's original intention was that men and women would become one flesh in marriage. Jesus describes the teaching of Moses as a concession made to God's original intention because of human stubbornness.

In private, Jesus' disciples question Him further about this teaching on divorce. It is to His disciples that Jesus lays out the implications of His teaching by explaining that remarriage after divorce is adultery. Jesus' teaching was more restrictive than the teaching of the Pharisees, which permitted remarriage. Jesus further distinguished His teaching from the cultural norms of His time by applying His words equally to men and women. Jewish culture permitted only that a husband may divorce his wife. Wives were not permitted to divorce their husband for any reason, including adultery.

At first glance, the final part of today's Gospel seems unconnected to the previous teaching about divorce. However, when read together, these passages present a strong picture of Jesus' emphasis on the importance of family. God intended for women and men to be joined together in marriage. Among the purposes of marriage is the raising of children. By welcoming children and fostering their relationship with God, parents and families bear witness to the Kingdom of God.

At the end of today's Gospel, the people were bringing their children to Jesus, and again Jesus' disciples show that they just don't get it. Recall that in the Gospel for each of the past two Sundays, Jesus has taught His disciples the value and importance of these "little ones" in the Kingdom of God. Yet in today's Gospel, the disciples try to prevent people from bringing their children to Jesus. Jesus reprimands His disciples and welcomes these children. Again Jesus offers these children as an example of the kind of complete trust and dependence upon God that ought to be the attitude of all believers.

My dear brothers and sisters, one of the key challenges to marriage is the lack of seriousness with which some undertake the marital relationship. There are marriages that should never have taken place. There are marriages that for one reason or another do not measure up to the standards of the Church such as when the couple is too immature to make a lasting commitment, or they are getting married for wrong intentions. When this happens, one of the parties can file for an annulment. It is important to note that an annulment is not a divorce. A divorce says that the marriage no longer exists because one or both parties want to get out. An annulment on the other hand, is an official declaration by the Church that the marriage was not valid from the beginning. The Church does not support or grant divorce.

Let us today pray for all those who are married and for those preparing for marriage, that the Lord may grant them the grace to strengthen their marital bonds.

Thanks and God bless,

Fr Simon Peter

IT'S ALL ABOUT COMMITMENT

BY TONI AGNESI

He said in reply, "Have you not read that from the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female' and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, no human being must separate." –Matthew 19:4-6

I am a fan of committed marriages. Whenever I hear of a couple celebrating 50 or 40 or even 25 years together it makes me smile. It amplifies the "two become one flesh" commitment we read about in the bible. With all the talk about gay marriage in the news, I think we miss the boat on what we should really be talking about; commitment! Long term commitment! The "committed to doing whatever it takes to make this relationship work" commitment! A few years back, Diane and I attended an out of state wedding. The ceremony was beautiful and the reception was amazing and the wedding cost more money than either of us could ever imagine.

At the reception, I had the opportunity to talk with the groom, whom I had just met, and offered him my wishes for a long and healthy marriage. "Well, if it doesn't work out we can always get divorced" he shot back laughingly!" His response shocked me because his apparent lack of commitment was obvious. The marriage lasted less than six months. It is said that between 40% and 50% of all marriages end in divorce and the number is even higher (60%) for second-time marriages. And, the number one reason people get divorced is, you guessed it, commitment.

A 2012 study at UCLA's Relationship Institute, followed 172 couples for 11 years and found that people's understanding of commitment can mean two things. For some it is "*I really like this relationship and I want it to continue.*" And, things go well until there are problems, conflicts, and pressures of life circumstances. Once these things happen, and the relationship isn't going well, the marriage is over. A deeper understanding of commitment goes like this, "*I'm committed to doing what it takes to make this relationship work.*" This kind of commitment requires sacrifices, and couples who are willing to make sacrifices in their relationships become better problem solvers. Having a great marriage takes work. When the groom at the wedding said "if it doesn't work," he missed the point. IT doesn't work, YOU DO!

Here are a few things you can do to have this deeper understanding of commitment.

Pray together. Ask God for unity in your marriage and ask for the strength to handle life's challenges together.

Tell each other, I Love you. Do it every day, several times a day. Reinforce that you are willing to make those sacrifices necessary to make the marriage work.

Be friends. Couples who spend time together, genuinely enjoy each other's company, and consider their spouse their best friend are willing to go the extra miles when times are tough.

Build family traditions. Recalling special moments together with family and each other are a precious reminder of the love and memories that bind a couple together.

Attend Mass or Religious activities together. Divorce rates are much lower for couples that share their faith experiences together, attend services together, and make their faith a central part of their relationship. As Christians, we call it a Christ Centered Relationship.

Laugh. You will enjoy each other more when you can find the humor in life and the not so funny situations.

When elderly people are asked, "what was the secret to their long and successful marriage?" They will tell you, "it's commitment!"

TODAY'S READINGS

FIRST READING | (Genesis 2:18-24)

PSALM | (Psalm 128)

SECOND READING | (Hebrews 2:9-11)

GOSPEL | (Mark 10:2-16 [2-12])

THE BARRIERS THAT SEPARATE US

We live in a society that has many technological avenues for stimulation and entertainment, one in which the urban population exceeds the non-urban. It is curious that loneliness is a prevalent malady. It is easy to reach out and touch someone, we are told. But—in truth—it is not all that easy, and statistics from the mental health field will reinforce that opinion. Today's readings are about the ways in which we can authentically reach out: God touches Adam to create a mate and end his solitude; God-in-Jesus takes on human flesh and death in order that we might come to glory; Jesus reaches out to the children whom the disciples had tried to keep away, showing us the manner in which we must approach the loving embrace that awaits us in heaven. Until that day, however, we must remember that ours is a sacramental church, a church of signs of the love of God. And so we are called to reach out continually to ease the loneliness and the barriers that separate us from one another and, therefore, from the love of Christ.

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FEAST OF FAITH

The Sign of Peace

“Greet one another with a holy kiss,” wrote Saint Paul to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 16:20), and he said the same thing to other communities as well. The holy kiss, the sign of peace, has been a hallmark of Christians from the very beginning. In giving and receiving the sign of peace, we are not giving something of our own, but something that Christ has given to us. “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you,” Jesus told his disciples (John 14:27). Jesus comes to us when we gather together in community. We celebrate the Eucharist not just to receive spiritual nourishment to help us on our solitary way to salvation, but to be transformed into one body, the Body of Christ in the world. As we receive the Eucharist, we are not only united to Christ; we are united to each other. It is never easy to live in community, and we hurt each other on the way. So we need to turn to each other in a sign of reconciliation and forgiveness, to look into each other's eyes, and give and receive the peace that is not ours, but Christ's.

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

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

MONDAY | Jon 1:1 — 2:2, 11; Jon 2:3-5, 8; Lk 10:25-37

TUESDAY | Jon 3:1-10; Ps 130:1b-4ab, 7-8; Lk 10:38-42

WEDNESDAY | Jon 4:1-11; Ps 86:3-6, 9-10; Lk 11:1-4

THURSDAY | Mal 3:13-20b; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 11:5-13

FRIDAY | Jl 1:13-15; 2:1-2; Ps 9:2-3, 6, 16, 8-9; Lk 11:15-26

SATURDAY | Jl 4:12-21; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Lk 11:27-28

SUNDAY | Wis 7:7-11; Ps 90:12-17; Heb 4:12-13; Mk 10:17-30 [17-27]

THE SANCTUARY LIGHT | IN MEMORY OF

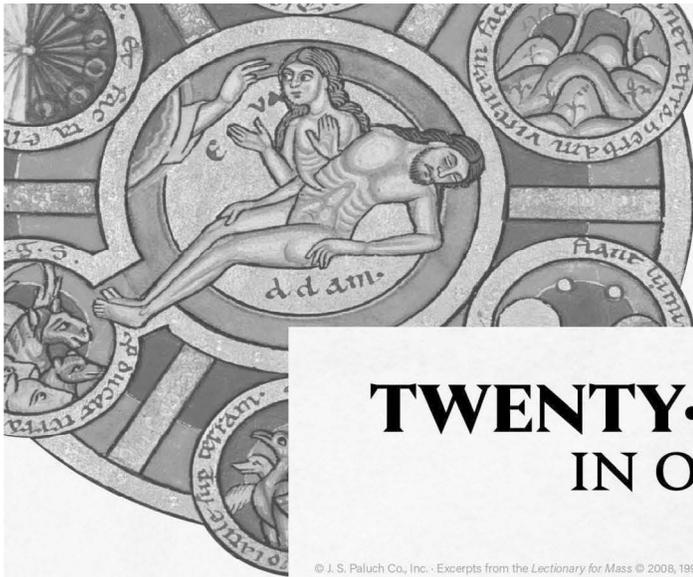
October 3rd — October 9th Henry “Smitty” Smith by Maureen and Children

MASS INTENTIONS

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 John L. Ables by Louis and Delsie Stevens and Families 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
October 5th	8 AM	Charlotte Kamiya (DA) by Charles and Anita Cavalier and Family Laurie Hebert by Mom and Dad
October 8th	8 AM	Henry “Smitty” Smith by Maureen and Children
October 9th	4 PM	Oscar and Hilda Pollet by Louis and Delsie Stevens and Families
October 10th	8:30 AM	Anthony “Rod” Rodrigue Brian Bartel by Sharon, Rachel, Tanya, Maggie, Owen and Max
	10:30 AM	Ronnie Thomas by Peter and Karen Gulotta

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 Barrileaux, 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 Touts, Joyce Touts, Ricky Turner, Sara Day Vignes, Allison Walters, and Wanda Wawrose, Freddie Webre, Anna Wooten. **Please notify the office when names can be removed.**



From the beginning of creation,
God made them male and female.
For this reason a man
shall leave his father and mother
and be joined to his wife,
and the two shall become one flesh.

MARK 10:6-8

Detail, Anonymous, *The Creation of the World*, Germany, c. 1170s

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

OCTOBER 3, 2021

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Today's passage from Mark's Gospel is in the context of Jesus' teaching about the kingdom, or reign, of God. A common understanding was that entering the kingdom was based on family origin, or achievement, or status in the community. Jesus pushes back on this, and presents a child as a model of receptivity and openness.

This is not to suggest that adults must somehow reject the wisdom gained through adult experience and return to childhood. Adult maturity also includes the difficult journey, usually later in life, of letting go of illusions that we have built up about our own virtue, skills, and autonomy. Jesus' teaching pushes back against our culture, which honors energy and vigor, expertise and achievement. These valuable gifts can fail us if we cannot accept our dependence on God who provides and cultivates these gifts. We can accept God's graciousness in our life when we open our hearts as a child does.

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PROUD TO BE HUMAN

This is the first of seven consecutive Sundays that we will share passages from the Letter to the Hebrews. The letter is an extended sermon by an unknown author directed to a Christian community where likely many were converts from Judaism. The author attempts to link Jesus to the story of the people of Israel, building toward an image of Christ as God's perfect high priest. Christ the High Priest is described as the central link between humanity and God.

When we reflect upon the life and death of Jesus, we can more deeply accept that through Jesus, God knows what we humans experience. Jesus the High Priest embraces his humanity. In today's passage, the author claims that Jesus is proud to be human, proud to be our brother in the family of God. The letter to the Hebrews is not only a celebration of Christ, it is an affirmation of the dignity of our own human life.

Today's Readings: Gen 2:18-24; Ps 128: 1-2, 3, 4-5, 6; Heb 2:9-11; Mk 10:2-16 [2-12]



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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October 4th

"I have been
all things unholy.
If God can work
through me,
He can
through anyone."
-Francis of Assisi

**ST. FRANCIS,
PRAY FOR US**

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*"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>

Our Lady of the Rosary

*O Virgin Mary,
grant that the thy Rosary may be for me each
day, in the midst of my duties, a bond of
unity in my actions, a tribute of filial piety,
a sweet refreshment, an encouragement to
walk joyfully along the path of duty. Grant,
above all, O Virgin Mary, that the mysteries
may form in my soul, a luminous atmosphere,
pure, strengthening, and fragrant, which
may penetrate my understanding, my will,
my heart, my memory, my imagination, my
whole being. So shall I acquire the habit of
praying while I work, without the aid of
formal prayers, by interior acts of admiration
and of supplication, or by aspirations of love.
Amen.*

*Feast Day
October 7*



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