

# ST. STEVEN'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Through actively living the sacraments, our community is made new by  
Christ to love God and one another.



## Members of the Ministry of Lector, St Steven's Parish

A lector is appointed to read the word of God in the liturgical assembly. Accordingly, he reads the lesson from sacred Scripture, except the Gospel, in the Mass and in other sacred celebrations; recites the psalms between the readings, in the absence of the cantor; presents the intentions for general intercessions when the deacon or cantor is absent; and may also direct the congregation in song. If necessary, he also assumes the responsibility of instructing any of the faithful called upon to read the Scriptures in any liturgical celebration.

Do you feel called to this ministry? Contact Ministry Leader:  
Virginia Sigillo, [sigillovirginia@gmail.com](mailto:sigillovirginia@gmail.com)



# SUNDAY'S READINGS

## FIRST READING:

Who can know God's counsel,  
or who can conceive what the LORD intends? (Wis 9:13)

## PSALM:

In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge. (Ps 90)

## SECOND READING:

Perhaps this is why he was away from you for a while,  
that you might have him back forever,  
no longer as a slave  
but more than a slave, a brother. (Phmn 9:15-16)

## GOSPEL:

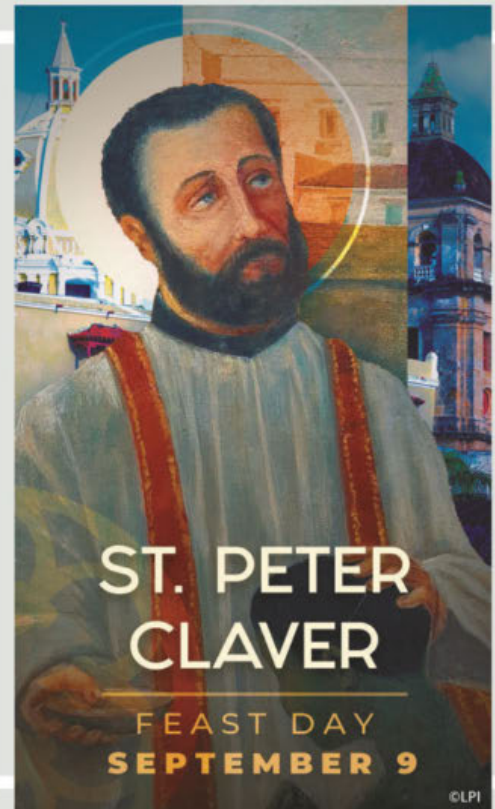
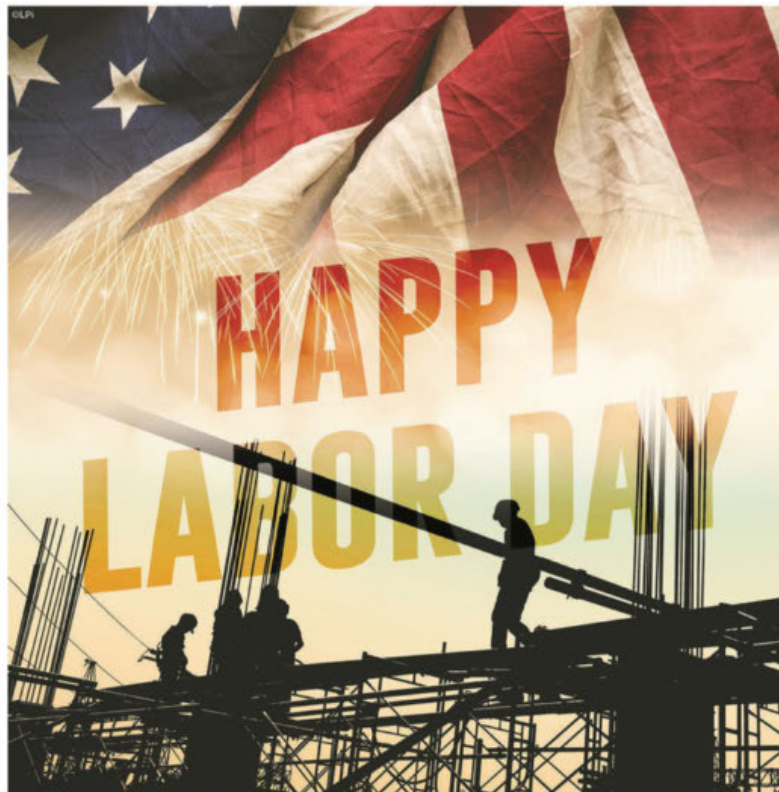
"Anyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions  
cannot be my disciple." (Lk 14:33)

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## OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 4, 2022

- Sunday: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Monday: Labor Day  
Thursday: The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
Friday: St. Peter Claver, Priest  
Next Sunday: 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Patriot Day; Grandparents' Day



## Saint of the Week

Born in Catalonia Spain in 1580, Saint Peter Claver studied at first at the University of Barcelona and then joined the Jesuits. He became friends with fellow brother Saint Alphonsus Rodriguez who encouraged him to be a missionary in the New World. Accordingly, Saint Peter went to Cartagena, a city in present-day Columbia where he was ordained in 1615.

Cartagena was a center for the slave trade, and the young missionary knew where he could best serve God. He proclaimed himself, "the slave of the Negroes forever." As ships would arrive with their human cargo, Saint Peter and a group of interpreters would rush into the hold with food and medicines. When the slaves were moved to pens to await sale, the saint continued to work among them, communicating God's love with acts of generosity and teaching the Catholic faith. He also led missions in the interior, refusing the hospitality of plantation owners and preferring to stay in the slave quarters. He organized charitable societies and is said to have baptized and catechized more than 300,000 enslaved persons.

Saint Peter Claver died on September 8, 1654. He was canonized with his friend Saint Alphonsus Rodriguez in 1888, by Pope Leo XIII. He is the worldwide patron saint of African Americans and of enslaved peoples.

## REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

On this twenty third Sunday of ordinary time, the church celebrates the spirit of commitment and self-sacrifice of Christ. The spirit of self-sacrifice motivates one to do the unimaginable. It was this spirit that made Jesus give up everything, including his own life for our sake. So, through this same spirit, we can become true disciples of Christ.

Today's first reading draws our attention to the depth of the wisdom of God. He alone knows his intentions for humanity. However, this intention has been fully revealed in Christ who willingly sacrificed himself in order to save us. So, it is the spirit of wisdom that helps us to penetrate into the mystery of God's intention revealed in Christ. In this way, this mystery becomes spirit and life for us.

In the second reading, Paul sent back Onesimus to Philemon in the spirit of sacrifice. Although Paul needed Onesimus and had every right to retain him, he allowed him to return to his former master Philemon who equally needed him. Philemon also had to sacrifice something. He has to drop all his misgivings against Onesimus. So, he was admonished to receive Onesimus as a brother rather than as a slave. Hence, Paul teaches us that we can equally sacrifice our own comfort in order to restore that of others. Also, we must be ready to make some sacrifices in order to repair and restore relationships. There is nothing we cannot sacrifice for the sake of God and humanity.

In today's gospel, Jesus invites us to imbibe his spirit of commitment and sacrifice in order to be true disciples. He says: "If any man comes to me without hating his father, mother, wife...and his own life too, he cannot be my disciple." What does Christ mean by "hating"? He simply teaches and calls us to learn to make sacrifice, and to be committed to our missions and calls.

Christ is not literally calling us to hate the members of our family in order to be his disciples. He loved and obeyed his own parents. Also, His mother Mary was one of His first and best disciples. So, we too must love members of our family. He is not in any way preaching the gospel of hatred. Rather, he wants us to be more committed to his ministry. He wants us to be willing to sacrifice our own comfort whenever duty calls.

Maximilian Kolbe did this in the Auschwitz concentration camp in 1941 by offering his life for a fellow prisoner, so that he might live to take care of his family. Christ wants us to imbibe Paul's spirit of sacrifice and commitment.

To be Christ's disciple, means being ready to make sacrifices. Carrying our cross and following Christ also means subduing our own will in order to do His Will. That is, being ready to give up anything. Without commitment and sacrifice, we remain attached to our will, and so, cannot be true disciples of Christ. Without it, we cannot see the needs of others.

Finally, commitment and sacrifice help us to give up anything in order to gain all. It disposes us to be better disciples of Christ. It helps us to be better husbands, wives, parents, and children. It helps us to be better leaders and even servants. In the spirit of commitment and sacrifice, the wisdom of God becomes fully alive and active in us. It also helps us deepen our trust in God's divine providence and protection.

Fr Wilfred

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**WOOHOO!!** September 5<sup>th</sup> is **LABOR DAY**

Labor Day 2022 will occur on Monday, September 5. Labor Day pays tribute to the contributions and achievements of American workers and is traditionally observed on the first Monday in September. It was created by the labor movement in the late 19th century and became a federal holiday in 1894. Labor Day weekend also symbolizes the end of summer for many Americans and is celebrated in cities and towns across the United States with parades, picnics, barbecues, fireworks displays and other public gatherings. For many Americans, particularly children and young adults, it represents the end of the summer and the start of the back-to-school season.

**St Steven's parish prays:** As the sun rises to bring in the new day: We remember those who descend into the earth, their work begins in darkness, pulling from the earth, the resources we steward. We remember those who work inside a building away from the light and brightness of the day. We remember those who work outside in the harsh elements of our world, the bitter cold and sweltering heat. We remember those who do not have a job to go to, who are struggling to meet the needs of their daily living expenses, for whom the day becomes long and arduous. As the sun sets to bring in the evening of rest: We remember those who work in the night. We remember those who are trying to recover from their labor and toils of the day. We remember those who participate in unsafe and dangerous work. We pray for a renewed sense of dignity in their lives and in their work. God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the worker. Make a place in our hearts for compassion to the men and women who labor tirelessly for basic necessities. Ensure a place for the men and women who are struggling to find work. Grant us your wisdom to greet and care for those who are unable to work due to illness or circumstances that prevent their participation. Be with the children who are not able to run and play, but instead must put in a hard day's work to help their family afford to eat, to live. Be with us all, Christ Jesus, as we go about the busyness of our work. Hold us accountable not only for our actions, but most importantly to each of our neighbors. May we continue to work together to bring about your reign! We ask this in your holy name, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### 23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME





## MASS INTENTIONS & CELEBRANTS

### Weekend of September 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>—[23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time]

4:00 pm	<i>Pro Populo</i> ..... Fr. Wilfred
8:00 am	✠ Dave & Debbie Dingeldine..... Fr. Wilfred
10:00 am	✠ Eleanor Lyons..... Fr. Wilfred

### Monday, September 5<sup>th</sup>—[Weekday 23]

8:00 am	✠ Thomas McMullen..... Fr. Wilfred
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### Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>—[Weekday 23]

8:00 am	✠ Barbara Hardy..... Fr. Wilfred
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### Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>—[Weekday 23]

8:00 am	✠ Quisqueya Pineda..... Fr. Wilfred
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### Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup>—[Feast—The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary]

8:00 am	✠ Bernadette Zerrenner..... Fr. Wilfred
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### Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup>—[Memorial—Saint Peter Calver, Priest]

8:00 am	✠ Jack Harris..... Fr. Wilfred
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### Weekend of September 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>—[24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time]

4:00 pm	✠ Robert Blondin..... Fr. Wilfred
8:00 am	<i>Pro Populo</i> ..... Fr. Wilfred
10:00 am	✠ Benedict Holgado..... Fr. Wilfred

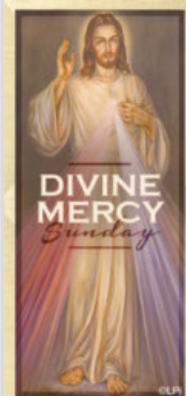
## SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Paul & Anne DeRose	66
Ron & Nancy Miller	64
Edward & Carol Wray	62
Daniel & Mary Halloran	61
Jim & Connie Fetterman	58
Pat & Nina Scinto	58
Richard & Elizabeth Landino	57
Dennis & Carol Languell	55
Martin & Mary Rosso	54
Albert & Linda McCabe	53
Jim & Judie Janowski	51
Chuck & Donna Poulson	49
Peter & Anne Marie Boyko	49
Steve & Diane Dugan	48
Dennis & Pamela Bisby	40
Don & Beth Young	34
Gary & Dorothy Vacin	19



**Spirit Fire Charismatic Praise & Worship Prayer Group will resume weekly meetings every Monday mornings from 10am till 12pm in Classroom 2 beginning September 12th.**

**Please join us in praising the Holy Spirit in song and tongues as well as listening to teachings and talks presented by Catholic Charismatics from throughout the community.**



**St. Steven's Divine Mercy Cenacle will begin meeting on Tuesday September 13, at 9:30 AM in Classroom 3.**

We are a group of people who meet weekly for discussion on Scripture, the Catechism of the Catholic Church and writings of St. Faustina. We will present an introductory video "I am a Voice Crying for Mercy." Followed by discussion and answers to questions about meetings.

For more information contact:  
Lyne Boucher. 480-612-4746 or Elaine Thie. 208-416-1055

## VOLUNTEER

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for the Front Desk  
Monday –Fridays

8:30am –12:pm

&

1pm –4:30pm

480-895-9266



## **Bishop Dolan invites you to begin National Suicide Prevention Week (Sept. 4-10, 2022)**

by praying for those who have died by suicide. Join him for the 9 a.m. Mass on Sunday, Sept. 4, at Ss. Simon and Jude Cathedral, or tune in live on AZTV Channel 7, YouTube, or Facebook.

You are also invited to submit the names of loved ones who have died by suicide. The names submitted will be read aloud during the Mass as we remember the gift of their lives.

### **WHY DO CATHOLICS LIGHT CANDLES IN CHURCH?**

Candles have been part of the Church's worship from the earliest times. In the days before electricity, candles and oil lamps were the ways that people lighted buildings. Even today, we often still depend on candles during power outages, relying on their flickering flames to bring light into the dark.

Like our ancestors, we also light candles on special occasions. Think about a festive family meal or a romantic dinner for two — there will often be candles on the table, special objects for a special event. We light candles on birthday cakes and carry them in processions. We also place candles at makeshift memorials that appear when there has been an accident or act of violence. In these moments, their light casts aside a different kind of darkness — the darkness of grief, fear, and death.

The custom of the early Christians lighting candles and lamps at the tombs of the martyrs gave way to the practice of having candles at Mass, honoring the sacredness of the celebration.

As Christians decorated their worship spaces with statues and icons, they would burn candles in

front of sacred images and the relics of the saints, basically “shining a light” on what they held to be sacred. When pilgrims would visit these shrines, they would often bring candles to light before the image or relic. These candles came to be a symbol of the person, and their prayer and the burning these candles came to be understood as an extension and continuation of the prayer that was offered. What began as a practical way to provide light has come to be a symbol of the hopes, desires, loves, losses, fears, and faith of everyday Christians offering their prayers to God and his saints.





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