

SAINT PHILIP NERI CATHOLIC CHURCH

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UPDATE

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time ♦ July 18th, 2021

Sunday Masses: Vigil on Saturday @ 4:00 p.m. Sunday @ 7:30, 9:00, 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Daily Masses: Monday-Friday: 6:15 and 9:00 a.m.

Confessions: Saturday: 2:30-3:30, anytime by appointment

Scripture Insights

Jeremiah's indictment of leaders who abandon the people is at once powerful and disturbing. The priests, rulers, and false prophets in the period just before the exile had predicted that God would never allow Jerusalem to fall. All the people had to do was wait a little longer for God's vindication. Jeremiah knew that something different was going to happen: Jerusalem would be destroyed by the Babylonians, and in 587 BC, it was. He saw that the false hopes and promises raised by the rulers had left the people of Jerusalem scattered like the sheep so many of them had pastured in the hills surrounding the city. The leaders had driven them away from God. However, God promises to gather the sheep and bring them back by raising up shepherds for them.

Women's ACTS Retreat

This week, Thursday evening to Sunday morning, 23 women from our parish are making an ACTS Retreat at Lumen Christi Retreat Center in Schriever. These are: **Tina Bordelon, Joanie Boudreaux, Sandra Brehm, Megan Caire, Julia Courtney, Liz Crawford, Rebecca Desporte, Leslie Gambino, Debbie Garon, Kathleen Gauchet, Debbie Gremillion, Carolyn Horos, Kathy Hoyt, Ruby Kirsch, Debbie Lorentz, Paula Nulty, Vicki Occhipinti, Nina Rule, Gail Schneider, Betty Spurlock, Paula Toal, Candy Viola, Wendy Whittaker.**

We earnestly ask you to spend one hour praying for them while they are on retreat. There is a poster on display at the church entrance (porte-cochere side) where you may choose a specific hour to spend in prayer while they are on retreat. We really want this to be an exceptionally blessed and grace-filled experience for each of our retreatants and your commitment of prayer is sincerely appreciated. Thanks!

Points of Interest

Thank you for your generous contribution last Sunday of \$3,800 to Missionhurst Missionaries.

We are also planning an ACTS retreat for men which will take place **Thursday evening, September 9th to Sunday morning, September 12th.** Everyone who is at least twenty-one years old is strongly encouraged to attend. More details will be in next week's *Update*. Today there is a Commissioning Ceremony at the 11:00 a.m. Mass for the Men's Retreat's presenting team.

Baptized in the Spirit: **Joseph Paul Cox**, child of James & Courtney Cox
Liam David Guillotte, child of David Guillot and Simone Bacchus
Remy Elise Albert, child of Brent & Kacey Albert

Please pray for **Maureen Coughlin, Robert Stewart, Jr., Patricia Martin** and **Anthony Bonura**, who died recently.

Natural Family Planning Week begins today.

Collection for Black and Indian Missions, today, July 17/18

The National Collection for Black and Indian people is the Church's concern for evangelizing the Black and Indian peoples of the United States. The funds are distributed as grants to dioceses throughout the US, supporting evangelization programs which otherwise would cease.

Saint Sharbel Makhlouf (*Feast Day, July 24th*)

Youssef (Joseph) Makhlouf was a shepherd in a small Lebanese village. He was raised by an uncle after his father died when Youssef was just 3. Youssef was a faithful disciple of Jesus as a member of the Catholic Maronite Church. Maronites are part of the Eastern Rite, or branch, of the Church. Their example of lifelong prayer inspired Joseph. When he was 23 years old, he walked for 10 hours to the Maronite monastery and asked permission to join the order.

The monks welcomed Joseph. They gave him a new name as a sign that he had left his old life behind him. His new name was Sharbel, after a famous monk who died as a martyr. In 1858, when he was 30, Sharbel completed his priestly studies and was ordained.

Some Maronite priests are called to live apart from the community as hermits so that they can deepen their relationship with God. Sharbel asked permission to become a hermit. At first his request was denied, but eventually his superior felt that he was ready for this strict way of becoming one with the Lord. Sharbel spent the rest of his life—from 1875 until he died in 1898—as a hermit, fasting and praying for others. Word of his holiness spread. People would travel great distances to ask him to pray for their needs. He was named a saint in 1977.

This Week's Scripture Readings: July 19th-25th

Monday: Exodus 14:5-18; Mt 12:38-42

Thurs: 2:Cor5:14-17; John 20:1-2, 11-18

Tues: Exodus 14:21—15:1; Mt 12:46-50

Friday: Exodus 20:1-17; Matt 13:18-23

Wed: Exodus 16:1-5, 9-15; Matt 13:1-9

Saturday: Exodus 24:3-8; Matt 13:24-30

Sunday: 2 Kings4:42-44; Ephesians 4:1-6; John 6:1-15

Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist

This being the Year of the Eucharist and St. Joseph, we have scheduled a four-session series, *Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist*. The sessions are carefully designed to help participants discover the powerful way that God is present to us in the Eucharist, inviting us into an intimate union with himself. Over four successive Wednesdays, we will examine the effects of the sacrament and its setting in the Mass, explore the scriptural foundation of the sacrament, and discover the beauty and transformative power of the grace God offers us in this sacrament.

The Presence series utilizes session videos and a study guide for each participant. Sessions will be in the Meeting Rooms of the Parishioners' Center on **Wednesday mornings at 9:45 a.m. and evenings at 7:00 p.m., September 1st, 8th, 15th & 22nd**. Sessions will be a little over an hour.

Session 1: God is with Us

Session 3: Bread for the Journey

Session 2: The Story of the Eucharist

Session 4: Biblical Foundations of the Eucharist

In order for us to have sufficient study guides, we need you to fill out this registration form and drop it off at the Church Office by Monday, August 23rd. A goodwill offering will be taken up to offset the cost of the study guides.

Yes, I would like to sign up as a participant in Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist

Name _____ Email Address _____ Phone _____

