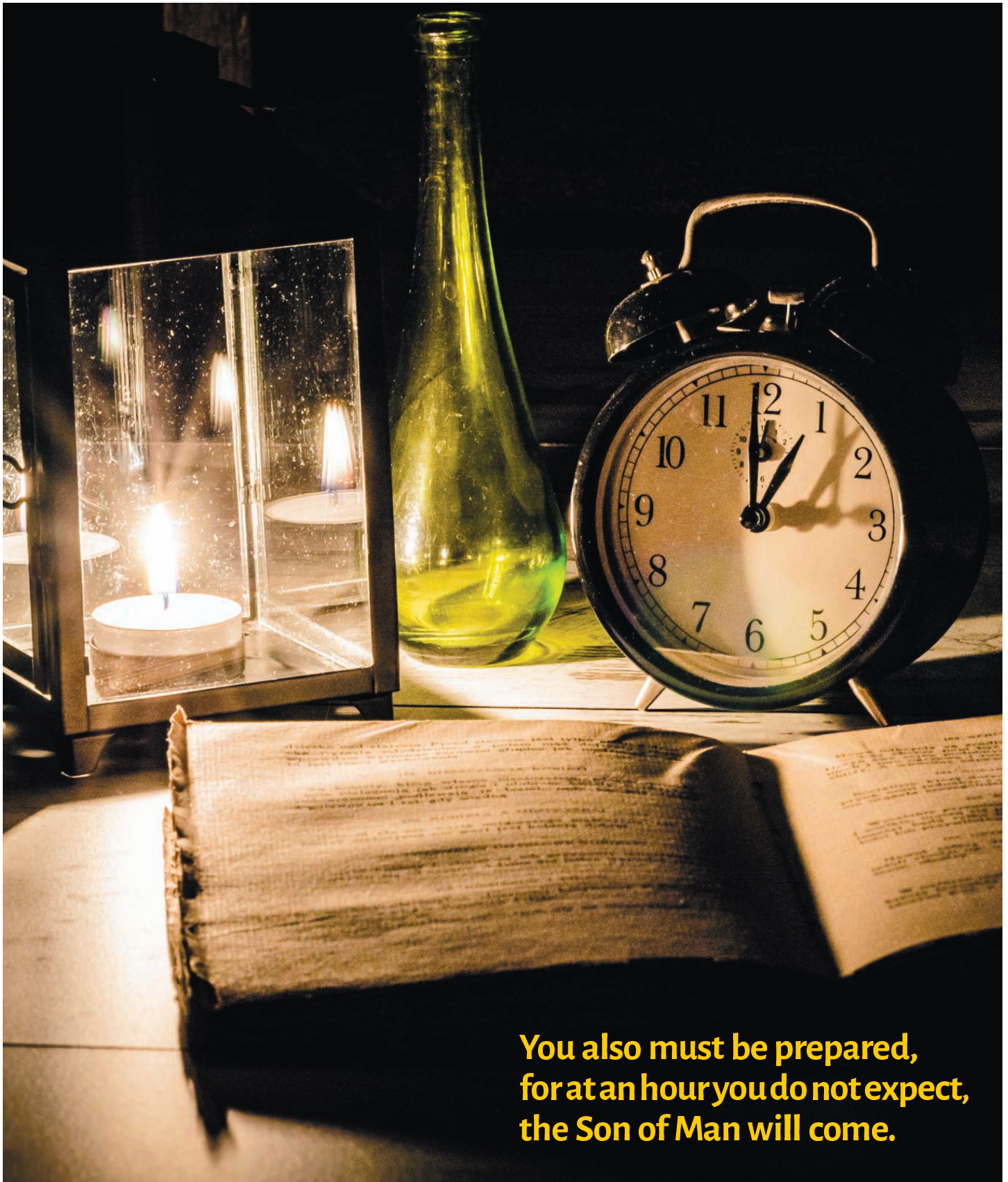


The Bulletin

St Anne of the Heights • Jersey City, NJ

August 7, 2016
Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



**You also must be prepared,
for at an hour you do not expect,
the Son of Man will come.**



SAINT ANNE OF THE HEIGHTS CHURCH

3545 Kennedy Blvd., Jersey City, NJ 07307
Tel: 201-360-0838 Email: info@sahjerseycity.com
Fax: 201-721-5996

Parish registration:
General parish feed:
Website:

sahjerseycity.com/register
[@stah_nation](https://twitter.com/stah_nation)
sahjerseycity.com

Pastoral Team

Fr. Nigel Parish Priest
Fr. J. Ranieri Weekend Assistant
Msrgr. L.J. Miller Weekend Assistant
Fr. D.X. Stump, S.J. Weekday Assistant
Mrs. J. Waddleton & Lt. J. Carroll Trustees

Weekly Planner

SUNDAY 8/7 19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

10 AM & 12 PM Baptism *Church*

MONDAY 8/8

3:30—4:30 PM Legion of Mary *Cent Hall*

TUESDAY 8/9

12:15 PM Bingo *Cent Hall*

FRIDAY 8/12

12:15 PM Bingo *Cent Hall*

SUNDAY 8/14 20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

10 AM & 12 PM Baptism *Church*

Sick List

Let us pray for the sick (People will remain on sick list for 2 weeks unless otherwise notified): Juliet Nawrocki, Doreen Busacca, Kathleen Link, Orlando Basile, Marie Carlson, John Norton, Patricia Kucinski, Frank McNamara, Jennifer O'Connor, Donna Tuzzo, Matt Bolger, Lawrence Shin, Lupe Pena, Frances Kearns, Josephine Cermak Rowan, Steve & Rachel Mastin, Diane Shea, Joseph Callandrillo, Humberto Quintana, Julia Annicchiarico, Javier Vega, Jennifer Moloughney, Antoinette Maddi, Carol Jordan, Anthony Biggio, Sammy DeLeon, Shane Quinn, Alice Daly, Sadie Krieger, Dolores DelMonte, Dianne O'Sullivan, Carl Carlson, Larry Bello, Miyuki Campbell, Diane Albert, Meghan Connaughton

Baptism Information

Families are asked to please contact the Rectory for further information on preparing for the sacrament of Baptism.

Sacrament of Matrimony

In accordance with archdiocesan policy, couples contemplating marriage are asked to begin the sacramental preparation program at least one year in advance of the wedding date. Please contact the Rectory for further information.

August Prayer Intentions of the Holy Father

UNIVERSAL: Sports — That sports may be an opportunity for friendly encounters between peoples and may contribute to peace in the world.

EVANGELIZATION: Living the Gospel — That Christians may live the Gospel, giving witness to faith, honesty, and love of neighbor.

Ministry to the Sick

We hope to give to all the sick and aged in our parish the opportunity to receive the Eucharist. If you or someone you know can no longer get to church, and would like a Eucharistic Minister to bring you Communion, please call **St. Anne's Rectory at 201-360-0838 or email: info@sahjerseycity.com**

Novena of Masses — August 2016

Requested for	Requested by	Gen Reilly	Rosary Society	† Pastor Gonzales, Sr.	Family
† Teodoro Ducusin	Family	Jill Fasani	Pat Roda	† Pastor Gonzales, Jr.	Family
† Eugene Salati	Salati Family	Jill & Eddie	Pat Roda	† Purificacion Gonzales	Family
† Leonardo Amisola	Villanueva Family	Heather Dempsey	Loretta Dempsey	† Bob Farrell	Paige Aly
† Carmen Iris Rivera	Linda & Munoz Family	† Susan Turturiello	Belen Reineman & Family	† Hung Thi Nguyen	Van Nguyen
26 th Wedding Anniversary 8/15/16	Pacita & Gary Monteleone	† Eric Duma	Olivia Marquez	† Bartolomeo Camporeale	Rosa Mastrogiovanni
† Agnes Cassely	Loretta Dempsey	† Demetrio Origenes	Olivia Marquez	Thanksgiving	Family
† Deborah Scott	Loretta Dempsey	Robert Bradley	Marie Bradley	Living and † Deceased	members of the Fiola family
† Cathy Burke	Rosary Society	Jackie	Marie Bradley		Jewel
		Baby Melody	Marie Bradley		

Mass Intentions • August 8th—14th 2016

Mon 8/8 9 AM Novena
Tues 8/9 9 AM Novena
Wed 8/10
9 AM † Christina Burke
7 PM Special Intention
Offered by O.L. Perpetual Help Group

Thurs 8/11

9 AM † Kay, Walter & Butch Kwiatkowski
Offered by Ruth Cullen

Fri 8/12

9 AM John Shin *Offered by Family*

Sat 8/13

9 AM Lawrence Shin *Offered by Family*
5:30 PM † Christina Burke
7:00 PM † Mark Kendall
Offered by Family

Sun 8/14

8 AM † Christina Burke
10 AM † Basilio Fernandez
Offered by Family
12 PM † Helene Clifford
Offered by Marie Carlson

Sanctuary Gifts • August 7th—13th 2016

Gift	In memory of	Requested by
Altar Wine	Philomena Bartolone	Parish Intention
Altar Bread	Agnes Cassely	Parish Intention
Sanct. Lamp	Carmine Salvemini	Parish Intention
Altar Candles	Thomas Howes	Fran & Steve Keams & Family

Sunday Readings

First Reading: **WIS 18:6-9**
Psalm: **PS 33:1, 12, 18-19, 20-22**
Second Reading: **HEB 11:1-2, 8-19**
Gospel: **LK 12:32-48**

Weekday Readings

Mon Memorial of Saint Dominic, Priest EZ 1:2-5, 24-28C / PS 148:1-2, 11-12, 13, 14 / MT 17:22-27
Tue EZ 2:8—3:4 / PS 119:14, 24, 72, 103, 111, 131 / MT 18:1-5, 10, 12-14
Wed Feast of Saint Lawrence, deacon and martyr 2 COR 9:6-10 / PS 112:1-2, 5-6, 7-8, 9 / JN 12:24-26
Thu Memorial of Saint Clare, Virgin EZ 12:1-12 / PS 78:56-57, 58-59, 61-62 / MT 18:21-19:1
Fri EZ 16:1-15, 60, 63 / Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 / MT 19:3-12
Sat EZ 18:1-10, 13B, 30-32 / PS 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19 / MT 19:13-15

Family Faith Formation

Please contact Rectory for more information.
Please follow the Twitter channels of the parish:

[@sah_promise](https://twitter.com/sah_promise) Faith Formation Grade K—1
[@sah_goodnews](https://twitter.com/sah_goodnews) Faith Formation Grade 2—3
[sah_venture](https://twitter.com/sah_venture) Faith Formation Grade 4—6
[sah_visions](https://twitter.com/sah_visions) Faith Formation Grade 7—8

Family Faith Formation Registration:

sahjerseycity.com/ccd

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND ADDRESSING ABUSE:

The Archdiocese Has Long Recognized the Pain of Child Sexual Abuse

Since his arrival in 2001 and his participation in the drafting of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, Archbishop Myers has on many occasions either individually or with bishops in the United States, with the Holy Father, and with clergy throughout the world, acknowledged publicly the pain that sexual offenders inside the Church have inflicted on the innocent. At Chrism Masses before the entire presbyterate and parish representatives of the Archdiocese, in media interviews, in statements issued by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, and in essays and columns, Archbishop Myers has stated that "a Church which spends the largest portion of its resources and the largest portion of its personnel in serving children, can never, and will never, condone anything which harms those children... We also extend our apology and our assurance of support and help to those who have been harmed and who are seeking healing and support."

Beyond words, however, are actions. Assistance to victims, training and background checks of staff and volunteers, reporting accusations to civil authorities, removing clergy with substantiated accusations — these are clear indications that the Archbishop and the Archdiocese abhor child abuse.

What's more, 20 years ago, the Archdiocese was one of the first dioceses in the country to establish a formal Review Board of experts with legal, law enforcement, clinical and investigative background to examine allegations of abuse and recommend to the Archbishop action under Church law.

Banns

The families of Mr. Kiran Kumar and Miss Lakshmana Vasu Pamela announce the couple's intention to wed, in India, on Wednesday August 17th, 2016.

To Serve or Be Served

Let's be real. It's awesome to be at an all-inclusive resort, a five star hotel, or a top restaurant, and be catered to like you were royalty, people bending over backwards to make sure you are happy.



No matter who you are and no matter the simplicity you have been able to create in your life, being pampered is a wonderful experience.

But Jesus taught us, *Whoever wishes to be great among you shall be the servant*, (Mark 10:43).

Can you and I bring that pampering experience and service mentality into our daily lives when interacting with others? Imagine a world where everyone desired to serve one another with the same vigor of those in a great hotel.

Imagine politicians that truly sought to be servants. Imagine a world where neighbors were always genuinely concerned about the needs of those who lived around them.

We are called to this stewardship way of life because we truly are our brother and sister's keeper. We have been given gifts by God to enrich the lives of those around us for His greater glory. If we seek to transform our world into the one we are imagining, we must begin somewhere. We must begin with ourselves. The world will be transformed, one servant at a time.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6

Jesus is transfigured on the mountain in the presence of Peter, James, and John.

On August 6, our liturgy invites us to celebrate the feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord. Our Gospel for this liturgy in Cycle C is the same as the Gospel proclaimed on the second Sunday of Lent. Recall that on the second Sunday of Lent in each Lectionary cycle the Gospel reading proclaims the story of Jesus' Transfiguration, each time from a different Gospel. This feast calls to our attention the importance of this event in Jesus' life, further affirmed by its report in each of the Synoptic Gospels: Matthew, Mark, and Luke.

In Cycle C, our Gospel for this day is taken from the Gospel of Luke. The context for Luke's Transfiguration story is similar to that found in both Matthew's and Mark's Gospel. The Transfiguration occurs after Peter's confession that Jesus is the Messiah and Jesus' prediction about his passion. In each of these Gospels, a discussion of the cost of discipleship follows the Transfiguration.

In each Gospel, Jesus takes three of his disciples—Peter, James, and John—to a high mountain. While they are there, Elijah and Moses appear with Jesus. In Matthew's and Mark's Gospel, there is reference to a conversation among Jesus, Elijah, and Moses, but only Luke's Gospel includes the detail that this conversation is about what Jesus will accomplish in Jerusalem.

Elijah and Moses are both significant figures in the history of Israel. Moses led the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and received from Yahweh the Ten Commandments. Appearing with Jesus at his Transfiguration, Moses represents the Law, which guides the lives of the Jewish people. Elijah is remembered as one of the most important prophets of Israel who helped the Israelites stay faithful to Yahweh. Some believe that Elijah's return would signal the



Transfiguration, by Raphael

coming of the Messiah for the Jewish people. This belief is evidenced in the question posed by Jesus' disciples after they have witnessed the Transfiguration. The appearance of these two important figures from Israel's history indicates Jesus' continuity with the Law and the prophets. They also reveal that Jesus is the fulfillment of all that was promised to the people of Israel.

Upon seeing Jesus with Elijah and Moses and having witnessed his Transfiguration, Peter offered to construct three tents for them. Luke's Gospel reports that Peter's offer was made in confusion. As if in reply to Peter's confusion, a voice from heaven spoke, affirming Jesus as God's Son and commanding the disciples to obey him. This voice from heaven re-

calls the voice that was heard at Jesus' baptism.

In his Transfiguration, we see an anticipation of the glory of Jesus' Resurrection. In each of the reports of the Transfiguration, Jesus instructed the disciples to keep secret what they had seen until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. The disciples' confusion continued as they wondered what Jesus meant by "rising from the dead." Until they also witness his passion and death, the disciples cannot possibly understand Jesus' Transfiguration. We, however, have the benefit of hindsight. In our hearing of it, we see in this event an anticipation of Jesus' Resurrection, a foreshadowing of Christ's glory in heaven, and the promise of our own resurrection.

Fathers Whose Children Have Died

The needs of fathers who have suffered the loss of a son or daughter are unique. The Office of Family Life Ministries of the Archdiocese of Newark invites all grieving fathers to a morning of prayer, sharing, and discussion, away from societal expectations, in the hope it will provide a special place of understanding and healing. The Support Group for Fathers Whose Children Have Died will meet on Saturday, September 17, 2016 at Notre Dame RC Church (in the Parish Center), 359 Central Avenue, North Caldwell at 10:00 AM. Pre-registration is requested. **Please call the Office of Family Life Ministries at 973-497-4327 for information, directions and registration.**

Hospice training course



Do you want to do volunteer work that *really* makes a difference in the lives of the terminally ill and their families? Volunteer roles include companionship for the patients, emotional support for patient and family, errands and telephone reassurance. Please consider the following: volunteer training program, Hudson Hospice Office, 93 Clerk St, Jersey City, NJ 07305. This program consists of six classes on six consecutive Tuesdays. Participants must attend all six classes. Tuesday mornings 10am to Noon or Tuesday evenings 7pm to 9pm. The classes begin August 23, 2016 and end September 27, 2016. **For further information, please call Sister Carol at 201-433-6225**

Dominican college

An informational session interested in undergraduate and graduate degrees, including undergraduate online programs is scheduled for Wednesday, August 10, 2016 from 5:30 PM until 7:30 PM in the Hennessy Center. This event will provide an opportunity to learn about our programs and to meet our faculty and admissions counselors. Information about financial aid, grants and scholarships will also be available. **For more information**



NEXT SUNDAY

Mission Cooperation Sunday Appeal

The annual Missionary Cooperation Plan Appeal will be made at the conclusion of all Sunday liturgies on the weekend of August 13/14. This year we are having Sister Restituta Nyinoweitu of the Evangelizing Sisters of Mary. Sister will be arriving on Friday, August 12th and departing on Sunday, August 14th. She will need transport, to and from, Newark Liberty Airport, and room and board for her entire stay with us. If you can assist, please call Fr. Nigel.



(Top) Sr. Mary Wambui, Evangelizing Sisters of Mary, shares the Good News of Christ in Pastoral Ministry. We also empower and educate the vulnerable families and single parents how to improve their livelihood.

Bishop Sisto Mazzoldi Secondary School in Kenya (right), started by ESM to support many girls whose families would not afford high school education, with Sr. Boniconcilli Ngabirano (Matron) on the left and center is Sr. Monica Massawe (Principal)



Education is the best way to give the young women a better and different future.

tion please contact Brian Fernandes, Vice President for Enrollment Management at brian.fernandes@dc.edu.

Pilgrimage

Catholic Pilgrimage sponsored by Our Lady of Mt Camel to Fatima/Lourdes and Paris, September 12 – 22, 2016. Daily Mass, Breakfast and Dinner Daily. Air from NY JFK For a flyer of more info, call Cathie or Mike Milano at 1-800-773-2660

Class of 1972 Graduates!!

Looking for 1972 Graduates from St. Anne's Grammar School JC Heights. 45th Anniversary Reunion Celebration Scheduled for 2017.

Please contact: jam24336@aol.com and/or look for our page on Facebook "St Anne School JC Heights Class of 72"

Growing in FAITH™

Discovering **hope and joy** in the Catholic faith.

August 2016

Saint Anne Church, a Roman Catholic community,
Putting the J.C. in Jersey City for over a hundred years!

One Minute Meditations

St. John Vianney

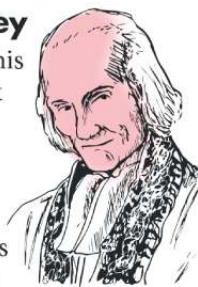
Difficulties with his studies almost cost St. John

Vianney the priesthood. Ordained because of his goodness, he had a gift for reading souls. As the Curé (pastor) of Ars, France, he was faced with people who were indifferent to Christ and comfortable in their lifestyles. To remedy this, he fasted and prayed for hours daily. He often spent as many as sixteen hours a day hearing confessions. His spiritual insight and example reclaimed thousands of lapsed Catholics.

A source of grace

Prayer isn't a luxury—it's a vital source of grace and strength. Making time for daily prayer is especially important when we're busy. In the morning, commit your day to God's care and service. Whether something causes you worry, anger, or happiness, say a quick prayer. Thank God for his help at the end of the day.

"Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive" (Matthew 21:22).



You can make the world a better place

Each of us has the ability to make a difference in the world. In fact, for Catholics, acting for the common good is a requirement. "It is the duty of citizens to contribute along with the civil authorities to the good of society in a spirit of truth, justice, solidarity, and freedom" (Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC), #2239).

Be informed, be decisive, and be heard. Pope Francis said, "...good Catholics immerse themselves in politics by offering the best of themselves so that the leader can govern." Government is meant to be a partnership between citizens and those they elect. Look past the newsy gossip about candidates and

do your research of upcoming local, state, and national elections so you can make excellent, informed decisions in the voting booth.

Be the best at what you do. No matter what you do for a living, whether you feel your efforts make a difference or go unnoticed, always do your best.

"Whatever your task, work heartily, as serving the Lord and not men" (Colossians 3:23).

Our actions cannot be defined by others, but by what God asks of us and what we owe to ourselves.

Be active. When Jesus was among us, he comforted those who were sad, fed people who were hungry, gathered close friends, shared love, alleviated suffering. Do the same.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Is the pope infallible?

Jesus named St. Peter as the head of his Church, and promised to send an Advocate to guide the Church. "The Advocate...will teach you everything and remind you of all that (I) told you" (John 14:26).

St. Peter's successor, the

pope, is preserved from error by the Holy Spirit when he teaches by virtue of his supreme authority on a matter of faith and morals to the whole Church. That teaching, considered infallible, is then binding on the whole Church.



We are happiest when God comes first

God's love for each of us is personal, individual, and never ending – and there is no lasting happiness without him. Yet without our intending, our relationship with God can fade into the background of a busy life. Try these tips for staying centered:

Make time with God a priority. Try not to skip devotions. For example, if you miss your morning prayer, make it up later in the day. If called away from your time with Scripture, pray a rosary later instead. Stay connected



with the one who loves you most.

Attend Mass every Sunday and do whatever is necessary to receive Holy Communion. It is in the Liturgy that Jesus is truly present to us.

Benefit from your time together.

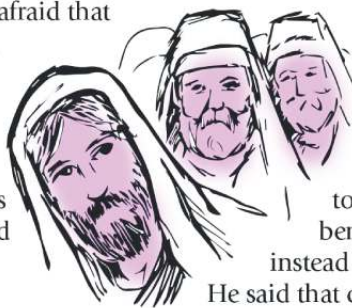
Pay God first. It takes money to do God's work in the world and the top funding source for the Catholic Church's ministries is her generous people. Set aside a portion of every paycheck for charity just as you do for your rent or mortgage. Write that check first.

from Scripture

Luke 14:1, 7-14, Unreciprocated kindness

Jesus was under close and careful scrutiny by the Pharisees who were watching for a misstep in order to discredit him. They were afraid that his "radical" ideas would undermine the religion and tradition they protected. Nonetheless, he never let this critical scrutiny by his opponents keep him from saying and doing the right things.

As Christians, we must never succumb to pressure to do what is politically or socially correct at the expense of our spiritual beliefs and obligations. For example, there is a cultural value to "networking" –



entertaining people who can further our personal or professional goals. There is usually an exchange of favors implied in this kind of a relationship, "you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours."

In this parable, however, Jesus urged us to forget about obtaining benefit or admiration and instead serve people in need.

He said that doing favors for and being kind to the disadvantaged can be very rewarding and will bring blessings to the host. The guests won't be able to reciprocate, but God will certainly repay the kindness.

Q & A What do we get from prayer?

What do we get from spending time with someone we love? Prayer is spending time with God, our beloved, and learning to receive, experience and return his love in a genuine relationship. There is nothing more lovely or fulfilling than God.



We are told to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17), not because God needs our prayers, but because it's good for us. "Prayer is the raising of one's mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God" (CCC, #2559). However, prayer is about more than asking God for goodies.

In prayer, we thank God for his blessings, praise him for his goodness, and express sorrow for our sins. Through prayer, we find strength, peace, and comfort in difficult times.

In addition to God, prayer also connects us to each other. Intercessory prayer—praying for someone else—is powerful. Jesus responded in amazing ways to people who prayed for their friends (Mark 2:5, Matthew 15:28, Matthew 8:13). It starts with a personal relationship and prayer.

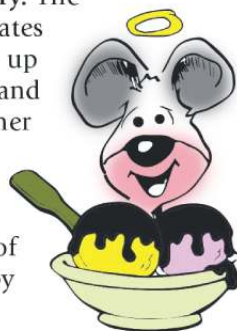
Feasts & Celebrations

August 6 – Transfiguration of the Lord (1st Century). Tradition says that Mt. Tabor was the site of the Transfiguration during which Christ showed his disciples the splendor of his beauty. The Lord appeared radiant in the company of Moses and Elijah, and a voice said, "This is my beloved son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him" (Matthew 17:5).

August 14 – St. Maximilian Mary Kolbe (1941). A Polish Franciscan, St. Maximilian was arrested by the Nazis in 1941 and imprisoned at Auschwitz.

When the jailers chose ten people to execute as punishment for an escape attempt, he substituted himself for a man with a family. He and nine others were stripped, starved and killed by lethal injection.

August 15 – Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Assumption celebrates Mary's being taken up into Heaven body and soul at the end of her life. Although already a common belief, it was declared a dogma of our faith in 1950 by Pope Pius XII.



Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.
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(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible)

Pope Francis' homily at the closing Mass of the World Youth Day 2016

Dear young people, you have come to Krakow to meet Jesus. Today's Gospel speaks to us of just such a meeting between Jesus and a man named Zacchaeus, in Jericho (cf. Lk 19:1-10). There Jesus does not simply preach or greet people; as the Evangelist tells us, he passed through the city (v. 1). In other words, Jesus wants to draw near to us personally, to accompany our journey to its end, so that his life and our life can truly meet.

An amazing encounter then takes place, with Zacchaeus, the chief "publican" or tax collector. Zacchaeus was thus a wealthy collaborator of the hated Roman occupiers, someone who exploited his own people, someone who, because of his ill repute, could not even approach the Master. His encounter with Jesus changed his life, just as it has changed, and can daily still change, each of our lives. But Zacchaeus had to face a number of obstacles in order to meet Jesus. At least three of these can also say something to us.

The first obstacle is smallness of stature. Zacchaeus couldn't see the Master because he was little. Even today we can risk not getting close to Jesus because we don't feel big enough, because we don't think ourselves worthy. This is a great temptation; it has to do not only with self-esteem, but with faith itself. For faith tells us that we are "children of God... that is what we are" (1 Jn 3:1). We have been created in God's own image; Jesus has taken upon himself our humanity and his heart will never be separated from us; the Holy Spirit wants to dwell within us. We have been called to be happy for ever with God!

That is our real "stature", our spiritual identity: we are God's beloved children, always. So you can see that not to accept ourselves, to live glumly, to be negative, means not to recognize our deepest identity. It is like walking away when God wants to look at me, trying to spoil his dream for me. God loves us the way we are, and no sin, fault or mistake of ours makes him change his mind. As far as Jesus is concerned – as the Gospel shows – no one is unworthy of, or far from, his thoughts. No one is insignificant. He loves all of us with a special love; for him all of us are important: you are important! God counts on you for what you are, not for what you possess. In his eyes the clothes you wear or the kind of cell phone you use are of absolutely no concern. He doesn't care whether you are stylish or not; he cares about you! In his eyes, you are precious, and your value is inestimable.

At times in our lives, we aim lower rather than higher. At those times, it is good to realize that God remains faithful, even obstinate, in his love for us. The fact is, he loves us even more than we love ourselves. He believes in us even more than we believe in ourselves. He is always "cheering us on"; he is our biggest fan. He is there for us, waiting with patience and hope, even when we turn



in on ourselves and brood over our troubles and past injuries. But such brooding is unworthy of our spiritual stature! It is a kind of virus infecting and blocking everything; it closes doors and prevents us from getting up and starting over. God, on the other hand, is hopelessly hopeful! He believes that we can always get up, and he hates to see us glum and gloomy. Because we are always his beloved sons and daughters. Let us be mindful of this at the dawn of each new day. It will do us good to pray every morning: "Lord, I thank you for loving me; help me to be in love with my own life!" Not with my faults, that need to be corrected, but with life itself, which is a great gift, for it is a time to love and to be loved.

Zacchaeus faced a second obstacle in meeting Jesus: the paralysis of shame. We can imagine what was going on in his heart before he climbed that sycamore. It must have been quite a struggle – on one hand, a healthy curiosity and desire to know Jesus; on the other, the risk of appearing completely ridiculous. Zacchaeus was public figure, a man of power. He knew that, in trying to climb that tree, he would have become a laughingstock to all. Yet he mastered his shame, because the attraction of Jesus was more powerful. You know what happens when someone is so attractive that we fall in love with them: we end up ready to do things we would never have even thought of doing. Something similar took place in the heart of Zacchaeus, when he realized that Jesus was so important that he would do anything for him, since Jesus alone could pull him out of the mire of sin and discontent. The paralysis of shame did not have the upper hand. The Gospel tells us that Zacchaeus "ran ahead", "climbed" the tree, and then, when Jesus called him, he "hurried down" (vv. 4, 6). He took a risk, he put his life on the line. For us too, this is the secret of joy: not to stifle a healthy curiosity, but to take a risk, because life is not meant to be tucked away. When it comes to Jesus, we cannot sit around wait-

ing with arms folded; he offers us life – we can't respond by thinking about it or "texting" a few words!

Dear young friends, don't be ashamed to bring everything to the Lord in confession, especially your weaknesses, your struggles and your sins. He will surprise you with his forgiveness and his peace. Don't be afraid to say "yes" to him with all your heart, to respond generously and to follow him! Don't let your soul grow numb, but aim for the goal of a beautiful love which also demands sacrifice. Say a firm "no" to the narcotic of success at any cost and the sedative of worrying only about yourself and your own comfort.

After his small stature and the paralysis of shame, there was a third obstacle that Zacchaeus had to face. It was no longer an interior one, but was all around him. It was the grumbling of the crowd, who first blocked him and then criticized him: How could Jesus have entered his house, the house of a sinner! How truly hard it is to welcome Jesus, how hard it is to accept a "God who is rich in mercy" (Eph 2:4)! People will try to block you, to make you think that God is distant, rigid and insensitive, good to the good and bad to the bad. Instead, our heavenly Father "makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good" (Mt 5:45). He demands of us real courage: the courage to be more powerful than evil by loving everyone, even our enemies. People may laugh at you because you believe in the gentle and unassuming power of mercy. But do not be afraid. Think of the motto of these days: "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy" (Mt 5:7). People may judge you to be dreamers, because you believe in a new humanity, one that rejects hatred between peoples, one that refuses to see borders as barriers and can cherish its own traditions without being self-centred or small-minded. Don't be discouraged: with a smile and open arms, you proclaim hope and you are a blessing for our one human family, which here you represent so beautifully!

That day the crowd judged Zacchaeus; they looked him over, up and down. But Jesus did otherwise: he gazed up at him (v. 5). Jesus looks beyond the faults and sees the person. He does not halt before bygone evil, but sees future good. His gaze remains constant, even when it is not met; it seeks the way of unity and communion. In no case does it halt at appearances, but looks to the heart. With this gaze of Jesus, you can help bring about another humanity, without looking for acknowledgement but seeking goodness for its own sake, content to maintain a pure heart and to fight peaceably for honesty and justice. Don't stop at the surface of things; distrust the worldly cult of appearances, cosmetic attempts to improve our looks. Instead, "download" the best "link" of all, that of a heart which sees and transmits goodness without growing weary. The joy that you have freely received from God, freely give away (cf. Mt 10:8): so many people are waiting for it!

Finally let us listen to the words that Jesus spoke to Zacchaeus, which to be seem meant for us today: "Come down, for I must stay at your house today" (v. 5). Jesus extends the same invitation to you: "I must stay at your house today". We can say that World Youth Day begins today and continues tomorrow, in your homes, since that is where Jesus wants to meet you from now on. The Lord doesn't want to remain in this beautiful city, or in cherished memories alone. He wants to enter your homes, to dwell in your daily lives: in your studies, your first years of work, your friendships and affections, your hopes and dreams. How greatly he desires that you bring all this to him in prayer! How much he hopes that, in all the "contacts" and "chats" of each day, pride of place be given to the golden thread of prayer! How much he wants his word to be able to speak to you day after day, so that you can make his Gospel your own, so that it can serve as a compass for you on the highways of life!

In asking to come to your house, Jesus calls you, as he did Zacchaeus, by name. Your name is precious to him. The name "Zacchaeus" would have made people back the think of the remembrance of God. Trust the memory of God: his memory is not a "hard disk" that "saves" and "archives" all our data, but a heart filled with tender compassion, one that finds joy in "erasing" in us every trace of evil. May we too now try to imitate the faithful memory of God and treasure the good things we have received in these days. In silence, let us remember this encounter, let us preserve the memory of the presence of God and his word, and let us listen once more to the voice of Jesus as he calls us by name. So let us now pray silently, remembering and thanking the Lord wanted us to be here and has come here to meet us.

Kracow, Poland, July 31, 2016

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