

Rev. Nicholas Glisson, Pastor
His Excellency, Michael Barber, SJ, Bishop – Diocese of Oakland



Notes from Fr. Nick

Staying Safe and Staying Sane

On August 2nd and 3rd I joined my priest support group at the Russian River for some prayer time and a little rest and relaxation. We had scheduled a full agenda, but we quickly realized that we were all so tired that we scratched most of our plans and just tried to relax and sleep. It was the first time I had been away from the rectory overnight since Thanksgiving. Until we broke our routines, none of us realized the magnitude of stress we're working under or, for that matter, just how hard we've been working. I returned from the getaway, not refreshed, but aware of how deeply I still need some down time.

Unless you have been able to take a vacation this summer, I suspect you might have the same experience. Everything we do — whether at home, at work, when we shop or recreate — has become more difficult. We've been forced to live in close quarters with our families, and yet maintain appropriate protocols of safe-distancing. The lack of clear guidance from elected and appointed authorities causes us to second-guess even the most mundane activities, and there is no shortage of criticism when we don't meet other people's standards.

There is a need to balance staying safe and staying sane. While that may sound easy, clarity about how we are to behave in public isn't always quite so obvious — a 30-foot distance? At that spacing, some of our streets are too narrow for two people to pass safely on opposite sides. Six-foot spacing with a facemask may not be perfect, but it's more workable. Is it safe to dine *al fresco* (outdoors)? Can we travel to a county where restrictions aren't quite so severe? Opinions vary, and while strict quarantining within one's home is safest, can one remain sane with no social contact? All of us have to work out how we can ethically interact and, at the same time, diminish transmission of the virus as far as possible.

The opposite side of the problem is the need for alone time. One couple in our parish were nearly 'empty-nesters', but when the epidemic started, all their children returned home. While the parents are grateful to have their six children safe and accessible, they are now 'underfoot' again. Open plan house designs are all the rage, but when there are few doors to close for privacy, they can create familial discord.

How are you caring for yourself, your family, and others around you? Are you taking time for yourself? When we assumed the quarantine would last only three weeks, we had different expectations versus what we have now, at six months and counting. It's probably time to make some course corrections.

For myself, wearing a facemask in public has become more of a priority. I'm actually surprised how many—often young people—disregard this common-sense precaution. On the other hand, the need to decontaminate items we bring into our homes (e.g., groceries) may not be as crucial as initially suggested. Throughout the crisis, I have taken a daily walk. Exercise is essential, but even more important is my need for reflection, and this is best done outside my home-office-church environment.

Maybe the hardest adjustment I have had to make is being prohibited from singing at Mass. Liturgy without music is like food without salt. Yes, it still nourishes the soul, but the joy is taken out of it. I am aware that singing is one of the most effective means of virus transmission, but I have to catch myself regularly to observe this protocol.

In the near future, the parish will suggest some ways we as a community can maintain our sanity as well as safety. Among these are more virtual meetings, possible ways to gather safely, and creative ways we can join in prayer. Let me know if you have some ideas to share. Sometimes a great idea can be thwarted by some minor practicality, but often a little brainstorming unearths things easily implemented that make a big difference. In the meantime, stay safe, stay sane, and keep up your prayers.

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Faith in Jesus Christ.*

*We live the Gospel,
and we care for others."*

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SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 4:00 pm
(and by appointment)

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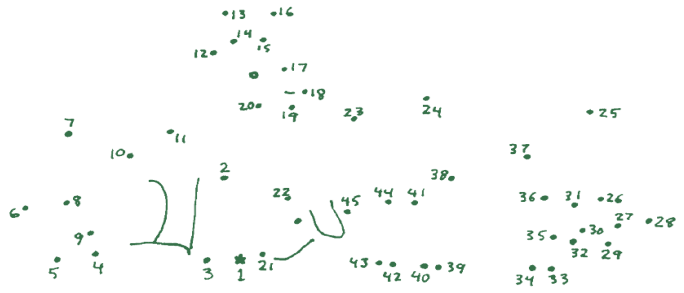


The Kids' Bulletin

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 16th, 2020

thekidsbulletin.com



In today's Gospel reading, a foreign woman was asking Jesus to cure her daughter. But Jesus said that He was sent to care for the children of Israel, not foreigners.

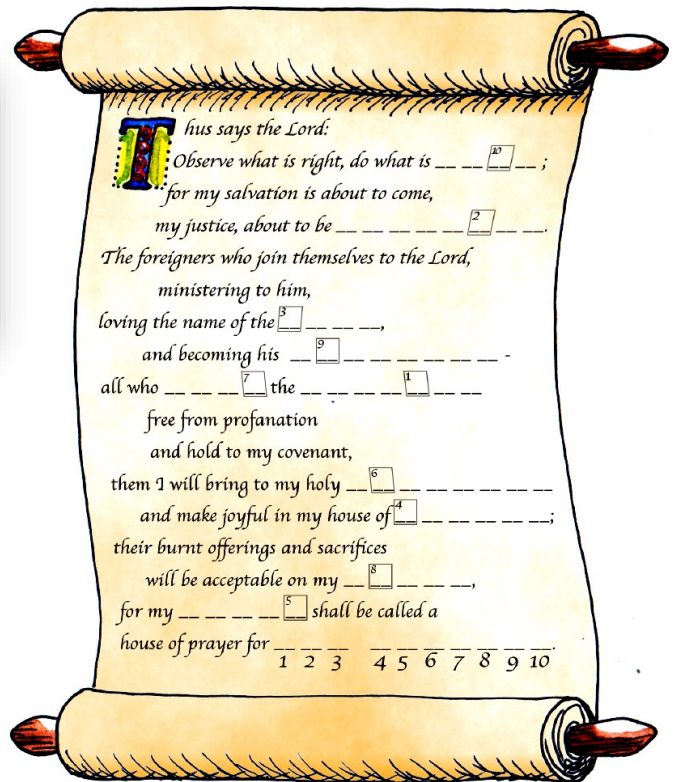
The woman replied to Jesus, "But even the _____ eat the scraps that fall from their master's table!"

*What did she say she was like?
Connect the dots to find out!*

Isaiah 56 Fill-in-the-Blanks

Use the words below to fill in the blanks.

Then use the marked letters to fill in the appropriate spaces at the end.



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August 16th, 2020 — 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Collections for the week ending August 9 th , 2020			
Sunday	Actual	Budget	Difference
08/09/2020	\$7,798.24	\$8,829.00	-\$1,030.76
Year-to-Date	\$263,842.16	\$293,699.00	-\$29,856.84

Thank you all for your weekly donations.
We are in the office Monday through Friday.

Sign up for a JustFaith Group

Last week we announced that the Parish Council has decided to initiate a small-faith group series called *JustFaith*, which combines Catholic spirituality with social justice awareness. The goal is to support the “conversion of faith” to which our Church calls us in the wake of George Floyd’s murder. Over a period of 8 weeks, this *Faith & Racial Equity* series will support prayerful discussion of these issues. Some groups will meet in person (observing sanitary protocols), while other groups may be ‘virtual’.

Questions? Reactions? Interested in participating? Please email **Dennis Smith** (duhwight3@hotmail.com), **Claire Broome** (cvbroom@gmail.com) or **Kristin Collins** (krstnclns@hotmail.com). Or call the parish office: 526-4811.

UPDATE on Request to Support Two Sisters from our Sister Parish in Mexicali

[Doña Maria Teresa](#) and the Ladies of Charity of Mexicali have asked us to consider an additional request regarding the education of orphaned sisters Laura and Cinthia from Santa María de Guadalupe, [our sister parish in Mexicali](#). Their schools will be starting up virtually in the Fall, and their grandparents have neither a computer nor internet. We are therefore asking if you would consider making a somewhat larger initial donation. If so, please visit marymagdalen.org/donate and select ‘Mexicali’ for a one-time or periodic donation. Or you may send or drop off a check at the office.



Mass Intentions

Saturday	5:30	Sally Campbell RIP
Sunday	8:00	Virginia Louise Abrahamson RIP
	9:30	Madge Huntington RIP
	11:30	For the People of the Parish
Monday	8:30	Intentions of Angela & Joe Hansen
	5:30	Intentions of Dorothy Portner
Tuesday	8:30	Justine Hume RIP
Wednesday	8:30	Intentions of Angela & Joe Hansen
Thursday	8:30	Intentions of Angela & Joe Hansen
Friday	8:30	Intentions of Angela & Joe Hansen
	5:30	Juan Vinh RIP
Saturday	8:30	Beulah Daly RIP

Peace & Justice Notes

“The death penalty is inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person.” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2018)

2020 Executions: The Federal government has scheduled two more executions for September, and 41 inmates throughout the U.S. are scheduled to be executed in 2025; 31 of these inmates are in Ohio. Ironically, the City of Cleveland recently paid an \$18 million settlement to three death-row exonerees who had been wrongfully convicted and sentenced to death in 1975 based on coerced (and later recanted) testimony by a 12-year-old boy. Police fabricated and withheld evidence to implicate the three then-teens, who were finally released after serving a combined 80 years on a wrongful conviction. **Since 1973, more than 165 death-row inmates have been found innocent and released.** To learn more, visit: deathpenaltyinfo.org deathpenalty.org catholicmobilizingnetwork.org

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

In June, the U.S. Supreme Court blocked the Trump Administration’s attempt to end DACA; however, on July 28th, the Administration defied the Supreme Court ruling and instead issued new DACA rules that include rejecting all initial DACA applications and shortening the DACA renewal period from 2 years to 1 year. This means that the government will not accept any new DACA initial applications, and plans to reject and return all initial applications submitted to date. This regulation is in defiance of the June Supreme Court ruling.

Scripture Readings for the Week

16 th	20 TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Isaiah 56:1-7 / Rom 11:13-32 / Matt. 15:21-28
17 th	Weekday Ezekiel 24:15-24 / Matthew 19:16-22
18 th	Weekday Ezekiel 28:1-10 / Matthew 19:23-30
19 th	Weekday [St. John Eudes, Priest] Ezekiel 34:1-11 / Matthew 20:1-16
20 th	Memorial [St. Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church] Ezekiel 36:23-28 / Matthew 22:1-14
21 st	Memorial [St. Pius X, Pope] Ezekiel 37:1-14 / Matthew 22:34-40
22 nd	Memorial [Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary] Ezekiel 43:1-7ab / Matthew 23:1-12

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