



The Catholic Community of Divine Savior

Family Faith Focus

Volume 8, Issue 47

June 21, 2020

Dates to Remember

- June 20: Our church reopens for Mass at 4:00 PM. Reservations are required. Space is limited.
- Please see our parish website for more information and links to view Sunday or weekday Masses online.

Bible Background

Gehenna: Before the time of Jesus, Gehenna was a ravine or deep gorge outside of Jerusalem where idolatrous human sacrifices by fire took place that incurred the wrath of God. Jesus uses the term in today's Gospel for a place where the wicked, who are not worthy of the Kingdom of God, will suffer in fire for eternity. The term is a synonym for Hell, an eternal place of fire and darkness for those who reject God's love mercy.

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Matthew 10: 26-33

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to the Twelve:

"Fear no one. Nothing is concealed that will not be revealed, nor secret that will not be known.

What I say to you in the darkness, speak in the light;

what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops.

And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy

both soul and body in Gehenna.

Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin?

Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father's knowledge.

Even all the hairs of your head are counted.

So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

Everyone who acknowledges me before others

I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father.

But whoever denies me before others,

I will deny before my heavenly Father."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer for Fathers

Almighty God, through the gift of our fathers you reveal your actions and wisdom showing us the glory of your love and care.

Continue to bless and guide these holy men you have given us in our lives.

Support them in their Christian vocation to lead holy lives of respect and dignity bearing witness to your Son, Jesus Christ.

May their witness of faith and love shine on them and their children giving hope and encouragement.

For those fathers who have lost a child, give them your loving touch of healing, consoling them with your gentle care.

For those fathers who have gone before us, bring them to the joy of your eternal banquet where with your Son and Spirit you bring the fullness of communion.

Help us always honor our fathers with profound respect and care, and so honor you, who are one God, forever and ever.

— Fr. John Thomas Lane, SSS

Give Us This Day, June 2020

Sunday Gospel Connection: June 21, 2020

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time — Cycle A

Matthew 10: 26-33

Gospel Background: As we transition this week back to the Sundays of Ordinary Time, we continue to follow the Gospel of Matthew. Chapter 10 begins with Jesus summoning and sending the twelve disciples to proclaim the kingdom of heaven and also predicting that the disciples will face difficulties in their mission. Many people will not receive them well, even within the land of Israel. Even family members will turn away from the disciples because of the disciples' commitment to Jesus and the kingdom (Matthew 10: 1-25).



Today's Gospel offers the disciples consolation against this difficult truth. This section of Matthew's Gospel should be read in the context of Matthew's intended audience, a Jewish-Christian community. The Gospel alludes to the dangers and persecutions that this community has most likely already faced and will continue to face. To reassure this community, Matthew recalls for them the encouraging words of Jesus that we read today.

In this Gospel passage, Jesus might be understood as putting suffering in perspective. The disciples of Jesus are called upon to keep their focus on God. Those who can harm the body do not have ultimate power; God does. Still persecution and suffering can not be avoided or prevented. But Jesus reassures his disciples that God knows and cares about what happens to his children.

We might not face the same type of persecution, but we do experience difficulties as we endeavor to live a Christian life. Sometimes we let the opinions of others prevent us from doing what we know to be right. We need the reminder that what God thinks about us is more important. We are reassured by the promise that God cares for us and protects us.

Family Connection: It is not only individuals who need reassurance about God's love and protection. Communities need this reassurance as well, including the community of the family. Children rely on the confidence of their parents for this assurance. Parents can help the entire family's growth in trust and confidence in God by witnessing ways in which daily family needs are entrusted to God's care.

As the family gathers, distribute pieces of paper to each person. Tell them to write or draw ways in which they believe that God's help is needed for each person and for the family as a whole. Each slip of paper can then be collected in a basket.

Invite one member of the family to read aloud today's Gospel, Matthew 10:26-33. Recall together how well God knows your family and thank God for this wonderful grace. Conclude by praying together for each of the needs identified on the slips of paper. After each need is read, pray together, "God, we trust you because you know us so well." Conclude by praying the Glory Be to the Father.

This practice might become a regular part of your family's prayer. Set the basket in a place of prayer and encourage family members to add other needs throughout the week. Perhaps your family can pray for these things together during a family meal.

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For more information and Sunday Connection resources visit:

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/12th-sunday-of-ordinary-time-a-sunday-connection/>