



The Catholic Community of Divine Savior

# Family Faith Focus

Volume 8, Issue 48

June 28, 2020

## Dates to Remember

- June 27: 4:00 PM Mass
  - June 28: 9:00 AM Mass
- Reservations are required. Space is limited.
- Please see our parish website for more information and links to view Sunday or weekday Masses online.

## Restoring a Spirit of Hope and Peace

All of us are quite aware of, and deeply worried by, the disturbing social and political situation of the world today. Our world is increasingly a place of violent conflict, hatred and brutal atrocities, committed even in the name of God and of religion. Our response must be one of hope and healing, of justice and peace. Our efforts must aim at restoring hope, righting wrongs, maintaining commitments, and thus promoting the well-being of individuals and of peoples in a renewed spirit of fraternity and solidarity, cooperating generously for the common good. A people with this spirit can live through many crises, tensions and conflicts, while always finding the resources to move forward, and to do so with dignity. And God bless America!

—Pope Francis

Address to U.S. Congress  
(September 24, 2015)

## Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Matthew 10: 37-42**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his apostles:

"Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

"Whoever receives you receives me,

and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me.

Whoever receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive

a prophet's reward, and whoever receives a righteous man

because he is a righteous man will receive a righteous man's reward.

And whoever gives only a cup of cold water to one of these little ones to drink because the little one is a disciple—

amen, I say to you, he will surely not lose his reward."

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



## A Fourth of July Prayer

We lift up our hearts, O God, on this day of celebration  
in gratitude for the gift of being Americans.

We rejoice with all those who share

in the great dream of freedom and dignity for all.

With flags and feasting, with family and friends,

we salute those who have sacrificed

that we might have the opportunity

to bring to fulfillment our many God-given gifts.

As we deny all prejudice a place in our hearts,

may we also declare our intention

to work for the time when all people,

regardless of race, religion, or sex,

will be granted equal dignity and worth.

Come, O gracious God, who led your children Israel from slavery,

keep us free from all that might hold us in bondage.

Bless our country and join our simple celebration

that we may praise you, our Source of freedom,

the One in whom we place our trust.

— Edward Hays

## Sunday Gospel Connection: June 28, 2020

### Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time — Cycle A

#### Matthew 10:37-42

**Gospel Background:** Today's Gospel is the conclusion of the instructions and consolations that Jesus offers to his disciples in Chapter 10 of Matthew's Gospel. In this passage, Jesus summarizes both the costs of discipleship and its rewards. Once again our understanding of the Gospel is strengthened by considering the context in which it was written and the perspective of Matthew's audience.

The conditions of discipleship outlined in Matthew's Gospel may appear harsh. Yet they underline for us a truth—choosing anything with one's whole heart has consequences. Choosing life with Christ means that every relationship we have must be understood from a new perspective. For many in Matthew's community, this choice brought division to their family.



Matthew also outlines the reward of hospitality offered to Jesus' followers. In today's Gospel, Jesus explains the difficulties of discipleship, yet reveals that those who welcome the disciples have also welcomed him.

Today's Gospel also highlights for us the importance of hospitality in the Christian life. To welcome another in Jesus' name is to extend hospitality to Jesus himself. We have many opportunities in our daily life to reach out to others, to be a welcoming presence and a sign of God's love.

**Family Connection:** One can tell a lot about a family by the way they welcome others into their home. Despite parental efforts to elicit the best behavior from their children, family efforts to entertain guests are sometimes difficult. Practicing a spirit of Christian hospitality within the family can be an occasion to reflect upon the importance of this virtue. A family spirit of hospitality is a sign of faith.

When your family gathers, ask each person to consider the following questions about manners: What does it mean to be a good host? What does it mean to be a good guest? Invite each person to share their thoughts and experiences about being a guest or a host. When they have finished, read aloud today's Gospel, Matthew 10:37-42.

Ask family members to describe what Jesus says about hospitality extended to his disciples. (Those who receive Jesus' disciples also receive Jesus himself; hospitality to Jesus' disciples will be rewarded.) Then encourage family members to talk about what it means to be a good guest or a good host. You might also talk about ways in which your family's hospitality might be improved upon. Conclude in prayer together that your family grows to be one in which Christian hospitality is experienced by all. Pray together the Lord's Prayer or today's Psalm.

For more information and Sunday Connection resources visit:

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/13th-sunday-of-ordinary-time-a-sunday-connection/>

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