

TWELTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JUNE 25, 2023

“They that are planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God.”

—Psalm 92:14

ENTHUSIASM AND GRAMMAR

There is a good reason that the writings of St. Paul don't show up as examples in grammar textbooks. Today's reading is a case in point. It begins with one of those long Pauline run on sentences that leave lecturers gasping for breath. So what? Take a closer look at how Paul's fervor for his subject matter derails the grammar. There is something admirable about being so caught up in his convictions that the words cannot come fast enough to express them, much less in an orderly fashion. Scripture scholars usually take this grammatical ineptness as a sign of a passage's early importance in the Christian community, something they were so ardent about that their language never got refined.

What leaves us in this condition? Re-telling the plot line of an action movie or the play-by-play of a sporting event? When was the last time any of us was so excited by our faith in Christ that we were left grasping for words, stumbling over our own errors in speech? It may be bad grammar, but it is an excellent way to inspire others with the message of Christ!

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The LORD has rescued the poor from the clutches of the wicked (Jeremiah 20:10-13).

Psalm — Lord, in your great love, answer me (Psalm 69).

Second Reading — The grace of God overflows for all (Romans 5:12-15).

Gospel — All who acknowledge Jesus before others will likewise be acknowledged by Jesus before the Father (Matthew 10:26-33).

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Tuesday: St. Cyril of Alexandria

Wednesday: St. Irenaeus

Thursday: Sts. Peter and Paul

Friday: The First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church

~~~~~PRAYER CORNER~~~~~

PRAYER FOR A FRIEND

I will pray for you, my friend. I will name you in my heart before God and ask all His blessings be upon you. I will think of you at the close of each day and pray that God's peace be with you. I will ache for you in your sorrows and disasters and rejoice with you in your joys and triumphs. I will love and care for you as I love and care for myself. Amen.

REFLECTION

Today's Gospel passage is taken from Jesus' instruction to his disciples as he sends them forth to carry on his mission of preaching and healing. He asks them to live simple lives and to expect opposition and rejection. After having foretold future opposition and persecution, Jesus encourages his disciples to stand firm. Three times they are urged, "Do not fear!" "Do not be afraid!" Instead of shrinking from their task, they are to proclaim the gospel boldly because they will be protected, just as Jeremiah was assured of God's protection. Hence, Jesus commands his disciples not to fear their persecutors. He presents before them the image of the sparrow to reinforce the disciples' trust and hope in God. The readings hint at the opposition the future Christians will encounter as they carry on the work of Jesus in the world. Jesus' words encourage us to persevere in doing the work of Jesus. They assure us that we will be successful, despite the opposition we encounter.

We need not be afraid because our life is in the hands of a loving God. Sometimes we are afraid that we will make a wrong decision. At other times, we are afraid of what others will think when we speak up for Jesus. We are afraid of what the future will bring to our children. We are afraid of growing old. Sometimes we are afraid of what declining health will bring us. At the root of these fears is the fear of loss. Every fear we have is grounded in the knowledge that we have something or someone to lose. I can lose my job, family, house, money, reputation, health, and even life itself. Rejection and loss are the basis of our fears. But we forget one thing: whatever trouble or crisis affects us; we know that God understands it better than we ourselves do. Our Heavenly Father knows exactly what is happening. What a release from fear it is to know that God is with us; that our life is in the hands of a loving God!

"Do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows" (Matthew 10:31). The last verse of Psalm 27 sums it up: "Trust in the Lord. Have faith; do not despair. Trust in the Lord."

HOPE

Hope never abandons you, you abandon it.

OUR GIFTS RECORD

	Offertory	Development
Last Week's Collection	\$2,727.00	\$2,249.00
Number of Families contributing	50	46
Total Pledge for 2023	\$160,375.00	\$163,292.00
Pledged to Date (23 Weeks)	\$77,440.00	\$78,550.00
Received to Date	\$65,907.00	\$53,983.00
Envelopes Outstanding	\$11,533.00	\$24,567.00

LADIES OFFERTORY RECORD

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2023
\$92.00	\$4,692.00

Fifteen ladies contributed last week.

PARISH LIFE CENTER HALL FUND WEEKLY REPORT

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2023
\$79.00	\$48,775.00

Three people made a P.L.C. contribution last week.

BICENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN

GOAL	\$165,000.00
Total Pledged	\$210,300.00
Total Received	\$71,565.00

CATHOLIC APPEAL OF SOUTH CAROLINA (BAA)

Amount given to date	2023 GOAL
\$4,261.00	\$19,882.00

POOR BOX totaled \$129.00.

3 CHILDREN contributed \$4.00.

FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH ARE OFFERED BY:

1. Pat Thomas in loving memory of Bunk's Mary Catherine on the 3rd Anniversary of her death;
2. and a Parish Member in thanks to St. Expedite.

THANK YOU to two parish members for their donations in thanks to St. Expedite.

SPECIAL COLLECTION The second collection next weekend will be for the *Peter's Pence Collection*. Please be generous.

DON'T HESITATE TO PRAY

*Don't hesitate! Stop and pray,
For God loves to hear from you each day;
He's waiting and listening for your faintest cry-
Unto the Lord lift up your eyes.*

*Don't hesitate! The day will be brighter
And all your sorrows and burdens lighter,
If you take some time to share with Him-
Choices will come easy, decisions not so dim.*

*Don't hesitate! For now is the time
That God wants you to pray... His love you'll find.
He has blessings abundant to all who come
And ask that His loving will be done.*

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday: For the repose of the soul of Pete Sherlock on the 57th Anniversary of his death.

Tuesday: For Pete Suedle and Mary Louise.

Wednesday: For the repose of the soul of Barney Pole on the Anniversary of his death and for the repose of the soul of Pat Brute Costello on the Anniversary of his death.

Thursday: In honor of the Infant Jesus of Prague and St. Joseph for all the sick and for all the holy souls in purgatory.

Friday: For the repose of the soul of Mikey Joe Riley on the 12th Anniversary of his death.

READERS

Sat. June 24th, 4:00 P.M. Mary Martha & Paris
Sun. June 25th, 10:00 A.M. Jimmy Joseph & Lauren Ashley

Sat. July 1st, 4:00 P.M. Macy & Julie Ann
Sun. July 2nd, 10:00 A.M. Jimmy Joseph & Lauren Ashley

READERS – WEEKDAYS

Monday - Christina
Tuesday - Macy
Wednesday - Monroe
Thursday - Lauren Ashley
Friday - Paris

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS - WEEKDAYS

Monday - Theresa Hun
Tuesday - Jack's Mary Rita
Wednesday - Julie Ann
Thursday - Cathy Carroll
Friday - Rosie Cat

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS – WEEKEND

Saturday 4:00 P.M. **June 24th**
Right Jack's Mary Rita
Left Cathy Carroll

Sunday 10:00 A.M
June 25th Ned's Rose Marie
July 2nd Ned's Rose Marie