August 16, 2020
20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Theme: All Are welcome

Isaiah 56:1, 6-7
Isaiah 56-66, the third and last part of the prophetic book, addresses the Jewish community that has returned from the Babylonian exile. The community continues to restore the land and rebuild the temple. Building on the work the author wrote during the exile, this part of the Book of Isaiah begins with a stress on observing and doing what is right and just. Ethical living is what God requires for salvation to be revealed.

The question of acceptance or inclusion of foreigners was a major concern for the returned exiles. Some counseled exclusion and purity of race and worship. Others, like Isaiah, understood God to be accepting and inclusive. If foreigners enter into relationship with the Lord, keeping the Sabbath holy and holding to the covenant promises, then the Lord invites them to the holy mountain, the temple, and the house of prayer. Their offerings and prayers will be acceptable to the Lord, for the Lord’s house is “a house of prayer for all peoples” (v. 7). God and salvation is accessible to all.

Romans 11:13-15, 29-32
In this passage, Paul continues to grapple with the question of why most of his people have rejected the Gospel. Addressing Gentiles in Rome who have accepted the Gospel, Paul hoes that the blessings they have received by accepting the Gospel will make his people jealous and move them toward accepting the Gospel as well. In the divine plan, Paul optimistically understands the Jewish rejection of the Gospel as the means through which the Gentiles have been reconciled to God. If rejection brings about such good results, Paul imagines that Jewish acceptance will activate the life that is ours eternally from God.

Paul stresses that the Gentiles who were distant from God have been reconciled to God because of the rejection of the Gospel by the Jews. Now, the Jews have distanced themselves from God by not accepting the Gospel. Paul’s hope is that, seeing the mercy extended by God to the Gentiles, Jews will also accept the Gospel and be reconciled to God in Christ. Human disobedience and rejection of God are used by God as a means of displaying love and mercy to all. No group can claim to have cornered God’s love and mercy. Being open to all people so they can know God through us is a challenge that we all face in our daily interactions with people of diverse backgrounds.

Matthew 15:21-28
Jesus’ healing of the Canaanite woman’s daughter tormented by a demon brings to the surface many issues concerning relationships between Jews and Gentiles. The consequences of breaking boundaries seem to enlighten all to the nature of God and the ministry of Jesus. Jesus crosses into Gentile territory (Tyre and Sidon) and a woman from a nation (Canaan) historically despised by Jews approaches him on behalf of her sick daughter. Both actions would have been seen as culturally negative. Yet, through the dialogue and interaction that ensues, both parties, along with the disciples and Matthew’s community, learn an important lesson. Jesus displays the typical Jewish mindset that his ministry and God’s salvation are exclusively for the Jews, referring to her as a dog, the common slur of Jews toward Gentiles. This closed mindset does not deter a mother’s love, as the mother reminds Jesus that even the dogs are fed
scrap from the children’s table. Her faith
overwhelms Jesus, who directly heals her
daughter. Thus, we learn that Jews and Gentiles
alike are part of God’s family.

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Saturday, August 15
20th Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:30 PM + Mass for the Parishioners of All Saints

Lector: Bobbi Jo Haden

*The lift will be operated/available ONLY on Sunday at the 8:30 AM Mass.

Sunday, August 16, 2020
20th Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:30 AM + Bob Lauzonis
Of. Edna Littlehale

Lector: Melanie LaSota

Monday, August 17
Weekday in Ordinary Time

Tuesday, August 18
Weekday in Ordinary Time

Wednesday, August 19
Weekday in Ordinary Time

Thursday, August 20
Weekday in Ordinary Time

Friday, August 21
Weekday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, August 22
21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:30 PM + Frank & Joe Anterock
Of. Dolores & Louise

Lector: Bobbi Jo Haden

*The lift will be operated/available ONLY on Sunday at the 8:30 AM Mass.

Sunday, August 23, 2020
21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:30 AM + Mass for the Parishioners of all Saints

Lector: Karen Seiler

Readings for August 23, 2020
Isaiah 22:15, 19-23
Romans 11:33-36
Matthew 16:13-20

Prayers for the Sick
We pray for the members of our parish and its extended
gamily: Chuck Cooley, Roberta Zook, Dan & Madeline
Fotovich, Joe Granata, Stella Millantz, Thomas Lill, Stella
Trillow, Roberta Cholewinski, Pat Smith, Vicki, Ron &
Nancy Dzikowski, Patrick Schade, Don & Christina Sherge,
Marianne Fairs, Brian Kaminski, Graci Falkner, Susan
Krasousky, Jackie Duffy, Tatum Neace, Joe McGrath, Barb
Yates, Fran Kolodziek, Janet Snak, Teresa Stacy, Sharon
McGrath, Jackie Pivetz, Joe Sliwinski & Brady John Koter.

Cemetery Gates
Our parish cemetery gates will be open from 10:00 AM –
6:00 PM on Saturdays & Sundays.

Closing Gates
Saturday/Sunday, Aug. 15th/16th     Kurt Niedzwiecki
Saturday/Sunday, Aug. 22nd/23rd    Sheryl Green
Saturday/Sunday, Aug. 29th/30th     Carol Krasneski
Saturday/Sunday, Sept. 5th/6th/7th  Jack Dunmyer
Saturday/Sunday, Sept. 12th/13th    Mike/Nancy Zurovcik
Saturday/Sunday, Sept. 19th/20th    Ed Haden
Saturday/Sunday, Sept. 26th/27th    Jeanne White

If you would like to volunteer to close the gates on
Saturdays and Sundays you are asked to contact Fr. Sr.
Rick by calling the rectory at 412-276-2462.

Altar Flowers
We are accepting Altar Flower requests. If you would like
to request Altar Flowers you are asked to call the rectory
with the following information:

• Name of person(s) you are requesting Altar
Flowers for at Main Altar or Side Altars.
• Person who is requesting the Altar Flowers.

You can then put a $40.00 check in the collection basket
at church or send the check to the rectory. Requests will
be honored on a first call first served basis.
We have received pledges from 74 parishioners or 45.6% of our membership for our church renovation project for our 100th Anniversary Celebration. Our pledge total: $30,992.00 per year. If you have not made a pledge prayerfully consider doing so in light of how God has blessed you and your love of his church. We have currently collected $86,306.00 toward the pledged amount of $93,000.00.

Parishioners are reminded to fulfill their pledge made to the church restoration. We still need to collect $6,694.00 of the monies pledged.

Church Renovation Pledges

Parish Finances

The Parish Committee arrived at the following guidelines concerning parish finances for the remainder of 2020:

+ We will continue to encourage weekly giving and ask that those who have chosen not to attend weekly Mass please make every effort to continue their weekly donations. If possible, we ask that you consider increasing your donation to make up for the decrease in fund raising.
+ We will not be doing any fund raising activities for the remainder of this year. This will keep our parishioners safe and well as there will not be cooking in the enclosed kitchen area and we will not have to deep clean the kitchen area and auditorium.
+ We encourage all parishioners to participate in the quarterly raffle program. Tickets can be obtained for the September Raffle by contacting Lynn Gaglia.

These are difficult and unusual times and we are trying to be physically responsible and keep everyone safe.

Fr. Sr. Rick & The Parish Committee

Questions for Reflection:

The Canaanite Woman persisted in her request for healing even when Jesus tested her faith:

1. How do you respond when you petition the Lord through prayer but don't receive an immediate response?
2. Name a few important “discipleship qualities” that the Canaanite woman demonstrates?
3. Which one would you personally like to emulate?
4. How can you begin to practically do so in your daily life?
5. How can you, as a disciple, help others take their relationship with the Lord more seriously?

Public Celebration of Mass

We have begun the reception of Holy Communion. We will continue to take the following precautions:

1. We will receive Holy Communion at the end of Mass.
2. We will begin with the St. Joseph side of the church (3rd Ave.) then Blessed Mother side of the church.
3. You will be directed to come forward to receive Holy Communion, maintaining 6ft social distancing, once you receive you will depart the church by the side aisle saying a prayer of thanks.
4. Masks will be worn until just prior to reception, you will drop your mask below your chin, not take it off, and after receiving, then put your mask back up over your mouth & nose.
5. Parishioners are asked NOT to say Amen out loud, in order to protect your pastor from any possible exposure.
6. Communion will be placed on your tongue, our normal practice, and there will be no intinction.

Please continue to practice the following:

* Please remember your social distancing of 6ft at all times, inside and outside of the church building and remain seated on the side of the pew you are directed to.

* Please remember that your mask, covering your nose and mouth, MUST remain on during the entire Mass.

* If you are ill, coughing, sinus congestion, we ask you to please stay at home and celebrate virtually.

* The lift will be operated/available ONLY on Sunday at the 8:30 AM Mass.
Suggested Prayers

Prayer for Youth
Loving and kind Father, because you created us in your image and likeness and determined that one generation should follow another in order to continue life, keep in your tender and steadfast care the youth of the Church. May they come to know and understand that true happiness can be attained when they live in harmony with your teaching. May they, like our Lord and Savior in his youth, grow “in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.” Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Prayer in Time of National Anxiety
I come to you, Lord, in this time of uncertainty and confusion that has gripped our nation. I pray that our leaders and representatives in government are filled with your peace, strength and courage. May your gifts of wisdom and understanding, fortitude and counsel be sought and utilized by them for the well-being of all people. By their belief and trust in you may they provide capable leadership, promote unity and peace, and be attentive to the concerns of all people. May your Church provide support and comfort; and help strengthen our hope for peace through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayer for Our Community
O Great Love, thank you for living and loving in us and through us. May all that we do flow from our deep connection with you and all beings. Help us become a community that vulnerably shares each other’s burdens and the weight of glory. Listen to our hearts’ longings for the healing of our world. [Please add your own intentions]. . . Knowing you are hearing us better than we are speaking, we offer these prayers in all the holy names of God. Amen.

Prayer for Social Justice
One God, in Three Persons, Creator of one human species, in many hues: all who pray to you are descendants of Adam and Eve, all members of one race called "human."

Forgive the blindness that causes our eyes to notice and magnify those things we regard as different in others. Teach us to see clearly, that we, your children, are far more alike than we are different. Help us to put aside the racial prejudices embedded within us, and to see within us, and to see within every person the Child of God you created, our sister or brother, destined for glory. In the name of the One who died for all persons, of all colors, Jesus Christ.

Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia

Act of Spiritual Communion
Most loving Jesus, I adore you in the Most Blessed Sacrament, in which you are truly present. I love you above all things and I long for you in my soul. Since I cannot receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart and heal my soul. I embrace you and unite myself to you; may I never be separated from you. Inflame my heart with the fire of your love, my Lord and Savior. Amen

Church Repairs
In the very near future we will begin replacing the planter wall in front to the auditorium at the Third Avenue entrance. The wall is bowing and will eventually fall. The new wall will have drainage so that we will not have this problem in the future.

The repairs to the brick and mortar throughout the front of the church, on the towers, and behind the façade above the rose window have been reset and mortared. Much of the brick and mortar had to be reset and the cross above the rose window had to be removed due to cracking and deterioration. Hopefully, this will address the issue of water entering the church and causing the plaster damage problem in the choir loft. We will be contacting Century Interiors (sometime during the winter months, this will give us time to discover if the repairs were sufficient to stop the water from entering the church) to repair the choir loft and some other small areas of the church that need repair. Once all repairs are complete we will give you the total cost of both projects.

Holy Water
There have been some requests by parishioners for holy water for their homes. This is usually obtained during the Easter Season but we were not publically celebrating Mass. If you would like Holy Water for your home you are asked to bring a small jar (container) to church on the weekend of August 23rd/24th and I will fill it for you. This will be done following the distribution of Holy Communion.

Fr. Sr. Rick