

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church Newsletter

August 23, 2020

My Dear Parishioners,

On behalf of our staff, I would again like to thank everyone for your thoughtfulness and generosity during these trying times. All of your kind notes and letters with their encouraging words and promises of prayers bring smiles to our faces. All of the donations help “keep the lights on.” Please remember that all of you are in our prayers, and we are praying hard for the day things get back to normal, and we can all be back together.

If one does a search on the word “Spirituality,” hundreds of websites and thousands of book titles pop up. The assumption of most of these websites and books is that “Spirituality” is a very personal thing and something we develop on our own. So according to this mind-set, church, liturgy, sacraments, and good sound instruction are not needed. All that is needed is a little determination and a self-help book to get closer to God and to reach Heaven. Moreover, these authors and bloggers all make it sound so good and so easy.

However, in reality, we know that so much is beyond our control and beyond our own limited power. That is why we rejoice every weekend and at every Mass that God does know this and does care. We rejoice that God does take an active role in our Spiritual lives. We rejoice that Jesus Christ came into this world to help us do what we cannot do on our own. We rejoice that He is constantly pouring His Grace into our hearts through His Sacraments. We go to bed at night with the confidence that Jesus Christ is working through His Church and through true religion to give us all the helps we need. God is so good! Praised be Jesus Christ, now and forever!

Accepting that we need God and His Grace, furthermore, is a great act of humility. Humility is the single greatest trait of a Saint. This week we celebrate the Feasts of St. Rose of Lima and St. Louis of France who were both very humble people.

St. Rose is the first Canonized Saint of the Americas. As a child she was already devote. Her devotion grew as an adult, and she became a third order Dominican. She was known for her penances and long hours of contemplation as well as her charity towards the poor.

St. Louis of France was the perfect Christian ruler as he was equally concerned with the spiritual wellbeing of his subjects as for their physical wellbeing. To this effect he strove to set good example by living a very devote, virtuous, and generous life. He supported the Church and encouraged the practice a true religion. He defended Christian Europe and the Holy Sites against the Moslems. He himself also demonstrated a Christ-like love of the poor, not just feeding them but very often eating with them.

I have included excerpts from the writings of St. Rose and St. Louis in this week’s newsletter along with this Sunday’s readings.

Let us continue to pray our Rosaries and Chaplets for the end of the pandemic and a return to normalcy.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us!
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, pray for us!

Fr. Michael J Pawelko





From the writings of St. Rose of Lima, virgin

Let us know the love of Christ which surpasses all understanding

Our Lord and Savior lifted up his voice and said with incomparable majesty: “Let all men know that grace comes after tribulation. Let them know that without the burden of afflictions it is impossible to reach the height of grace. Let them know that the gifts of grace increase as the struggles increase. Let men take care not to stray and be deceived. This is the only true stairway to paradise, and without the cross they can find no road to climb to heaven.”

When I heard these words, a strong force came upon me and seemed to place me in the middle of a street, so that I might say in a loud voice to people of every age, sex and status: “Hear, O people; hear, O nations. I am warning you about the commandment of Christ by using words that came from his own lips: We cannot obtain grace unless we suffer afflictions. We must heap trouble upon trouble to attain a deep participation in the divine nature, the glory of the sons of God and perfect happiness of soul.”

That same force strongly urged me to proclaim the beauty of divine grace. It pressed me so that my breath came slow and forced me to sweat and pant. I felt as if my soul could no longer be kept in the prison of the body, but that it had burst its chains and was free and alone and was going very swiftly through the whole world saying:

“If only mortals would learn how great it is to possess divine grace, how beautiful, how noble, how precious. How many riches it hides within itself, how many joys and delights! Without doubt they would devote all their care and concern to winning for themselves pains and afflictions. All men throughout the world would seek trouble, infirmities and torments, instead of good fortune, in order to attain the unfathomable treasure of grace.

This is the reward and the final gain of patience. No one would complain about his cross or about troubles that may happen to him, if he would come to know the scales on which they are weighed when they are distributed to men.”

St. Louis' Spiritual Testament to his Son



My dear son, in the first place I teach you that you must love the Lord, your God, with all your heart and all your strength; unless you do so you cannot be saved. You must guard yourself from everything that you know is displeasing to God that is to say, from all mortal sin. You must be ready to undergo every kind of martyrdom rather than commit one mortal sin.

If God sends you tribulation, you ought to endure it, giving thanks, realizing that it is for your good, and that, perhaps, you have deserved it. If however the Lord confers some benefit on you, you must humbly thank him, and be on your guard not to become the worse for it, either through vainglory or in any other way. You must not offend God with the very gifts he has given you.

Assist at the Divine Office of the Church with joyful devotion; while you are present in church do not let your gaze wander, do not chat about trifles, but pray to the Lord attentively, either with your lips, or meditating in your heart.

Be compassionate towards the poor, the destitute and the afflicted; and, as far as lies in your power, help and console them. Give thanks to God for all the gifts he has bestowed upon you, so that you will become worthy of still greater gifts. Towards your subjects, act with such justice that you may steer a middle course, swerving neither to the right nor to the left, but lean more to the side of the poor man than of the rich until such time as you are certain about the truth. Do your utmost to ensure peace and justice for all your subjects but especially for clergy and religious.

Devotedly obey our mother, the Roman Church, and revere the Supreme Pontiff as your spiritual father. Endeavour to banish all sin, especially blasphemy and heresy, from your kingdom.

Finally, my dear son, I impart to you every blessing that a loving father can bestow on his son; may the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and all the saints, guard you from all evil. May the Lord grant you the grace to do his will so that he may be served and honored by you, and that, together, after this life we may come to see him, love him and praise him for ever. Amen.



Sunday Mass Readings

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reading 1: [Isaiah 22:19-23](#) (121A)

Thus says the LORD to Shebna, master
of the palace:
“I will thrust you from your office
and pull you down from your station.
On that day I will summon my servant
Eliakim, son of Hilkiah;
I will clothe him with your robe,
and gird him with your sash,
and give over to him your authority.

He shall be a father to the inhabitants
of Jerusalem,
and to the house of Judah.
I will place the key of the House of
David on Eliakim’s shoulder;
when he opens, no one shall shut
when he shuts, no one shall open.
I will fix him like a peg in a sure spot,
to be a place of honor for his family.”

Responsorial Psalm: [Psalm 138](#)

R. (8bc) Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

- ▶ I will give thanks to you, O LORD,
with all my heart,
for you have heard the words
of my mouth;
in the presence of the angels I will sing
your praise;
I will worship at your holy
temple. **R.**
- ▶ I will give thanks to your name,
because of your kindness
and your truth:

- when I called, you answered me;
you built up strength within me. **R.**
- ▶ The LORD is exalted, yet the lowly
he sees,
and the proud he knows from afar.
Your kindness, O LORD,
endures forever;
forsake not the work
of your hands. **R.**



Sunday Mass Readings

Reading 2: [Romans 11:33-36](#)

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How inscrutable are his judgments and how unsearchable his ways!

For who has known the mind of the Lord

or who has been his counselor?

Or who has given the Lord anything

that he may be repaid?

For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

Alleluia: [Matthew 16:18](#)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

► You are Peter and upon this rock I will build my Church and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel: [Matthew 16:13-20](#)

Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi and he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” They replied, “Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter said in reply, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus said to him in reply, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” Then he strictly ordered his disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

Christmas Bazaar & Craft Fair News

It is with great regret that we have made the difficult decision to cancel this year's Christmas Bazaar & Craft Fair scheduled for December 5th & 6th due to the pandemic. The Christmas Bazaar is not just an important fund raiser, but it is also an important community builder, so cancelling it is a great loss to our parish.

We are still planning on doing the Christmas Bazaar Parish Raffle, and more information will follow.

We value your support and look forward to hosting our Annual Christmas Bazaar & Craft Fair in 2021.

Parish Food Pantry Needs

OLSH Food Pantry Team are still providing for many families and need donations. Here's the list of food pantry needs:

- Deodorant
- Coffee
- Hand soap
- Can chicken
- Floss
- School Supplies (all kinds/ all grade levels)
- Toothbrushes (soft)
- Laundry detergent
- Cleaning supplies
- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Juice

If you are facing difficulties where the Parish Pantry can help, or if you know of someone else in need, please do not hesitate to contact Deacon Gary and Pat Schoenenberger at **(215) 230-8897**. We assured that all contacts remain confidential. We will be happy to fill your shopping list the best we can and bring everything out to your car for you. We are here to help. Stay safe and God Bless.