

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church Newsletter

September 13, 2020

My Dear Parishioners,

This coming Friday begins Rosh Hashanah for our Jewish friends. Rosh Hashanah can be translated as “the first of the year,” and for our Jewish friends marks the beginning of their New Year and the beginning of the solemn High Holy Days. The High Holy Days conclude after 10 days with the observation of Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement).

The original name for Rosh Hashanah was the Feast of Trumpets. The Feast of Trumpets was established by God Himself through Moses: *And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to the people of Israel, saying, in the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall observe a day of solemn rest, a memorial proclaimed with blast of trumpets, a holy convocation. You shall not do any ordinary work, and you shall present a food offering to the LORD (Leviticus 23:23-25).*

Rosh Hashanah is really a two day feast that is celebrated in a variety of ways with a variety of foods. There is the traditional blowing of the shofar, the ram’s horn, as a reminder of God’s mercy (referring to Genesis 22 and the sparing of Isaac). There is the baking of the round challah loaves signifying the “rounding of the year.” These challah loaves can also be braided in crowns signifying God’s Kingship or ladders signifying the ascent and descent of people on the Day of Judgment. There is also the eating of honey, as a reminder of the sweetness of the New Year, along with many other traditions.

With the Feast of Rosh Hashanah, Jews pray that their names will be inscribed in the “Book of Life” and then sealed in the book on Yom Kippur. This book of life was then referred to in the New Testament, especially in the Book of Revelation. In Revelation, the Books are opened, and those whose names are in the Books receive an eternal reward, and those whose names are not written unfortunately receive eternal punishment: *Next I saw a large white throne and the one who was sitting on it. The earth and the sky fled from his presence and there was no place for them. I saw the dead, the great and the lowly, standing before the throne, and scrolls were opened. Then another scroll was opened, the book of life. The dead were judged according to their deeds, by what was written in the scrolls. Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the pool of fire (Revelation 20: 11-12, 15). Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.....The treasure and wealth of the nations will be brought there, but nothing unclean will enter it, nor any[one] who does abominable things or tells lies. Only those will enter whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life (Revelation 21: 1-2, 26-27).*

“The treasure and wealth of the nations,” are really God’s holy ones. May we all be counted as the treasure and wealth of the nations, and may all of our names, including the names of God’s Chosen People, be written in the Book of Life, and may our Jewish friends have a very Happy New Year!

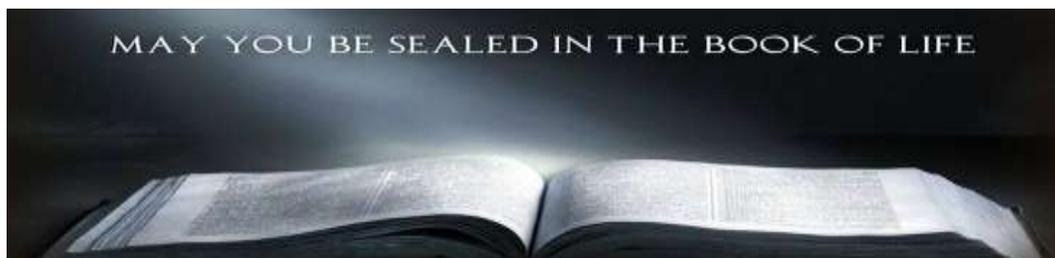
Along with the readings for the Twenty Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time, I have included a teaching from Pope St. Leo the Great on peacemakers and the glories that await them.

Let us continue to pray our Rosaries and Chaplets for our first responders and 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 Sermon by St. Leo the Great on the Beatitudes



The blessedness of seeing God is justly promised to the pure of heart. For the eye that is unclean would not be able to see the brightness of the true light, and what would be happiness to clean minds would be a torment to those that are defiled. Therefore, let the mists of worldly vanities be dispelled, and the inner eye be cleansed of all the filth of wickedness, so that the soul's gaze may feast serenely upon the great vision of God.

It is to the attainment of this goal that the next words refer: *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.* This blessedness, dearly beloved, does not derive from any casual agreement or from any and every kind of harmony, but it pertains to what the Apostle says: *Be at peace before the Lord,* and to the words of the prophet: *Those who love your law shall enjoy abundant peace; for them it is no stumbling block.*

Even the most intimate bonds of friendship and the closest affinity of minds cannot truly lay claim to this peace if they are not in agreement with the will of God. Alliances based on evil desires, covenants of crime and pacts of vice – all lie outside the scope of this peace. Love of the world cannot be reconciled with love of God, and the man who does not separate himself from the children of this generation cannot join the company of the sons of God. But those who keep God ever in their hearts, and are *anxious to preserve the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace,* never dissent from the eternal law as they speak the prayer of faith: *Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*

These then are the peacemakers; they are bound together in holy harmony and are rightly given the heavenly title of *sons of God, co-heirs with Christ.* And this is the reward they will receive for their love of God and neighbor: when their struggle with all temptation is finally over, there will be no further adversities to suffer or scandal to fear; but they will rest in the peace of God undisturbed, through our Lord who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever.

Amen.



Sunday Mass Readings

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reading 1: [Sirach 27:30-28:7 \(130A\)](#)

Wrath and anger are hateful things,
yet the sinner hugs them tight.
The vengeful will suffer
the LORD's vengeance,
for he remembers their sins in detail.
Forgive your neighbor's injustice;
then when you pray, your own sins
will be forgiven.
Could anyone nourish anger
against another
and expect healing from the LORD?

Could anyone refuse mercy to another
like himself,
can he seek pardon for his own sins?
If one who is but flesh cherishes wrath,
who will forgive his sins?
Remember your last days,
set enmity aside;
remember death and decay,
and cease from sin!
Think of the commandments, hate not
your neighbor;
remember the Most High's covenant,
and overlook faults.

Responsorial Psalm: [Psalm 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12](#)

R. (8) The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in

- ▶ Bless the LORD, O my soul;
and all my being, bless his
holy name.
Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits. **R.**
- ▶ He pardons all your iniquities,
heals all your ills.
He redeems your life from destruction,
crowns you with kindness
and compassion. **R.**
- ▶ He will not always chide,
nor does he keep his wrath forever.
Not according to our sins does he deal
with us,
nor does he requite us according
to our crimes. **R.**
- ▶ For as the heavens are high above
the earth,
so surpassing is his kindness toward
those who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west,
so far has he put our transgressions
from us. **R.**



Sunday Mass Readings

Reading 2: [Romans 14:7-9](#)

Brothers and sisters: None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For this is why Christ died and came to life, that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Alleluia: [John 13:34](#)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

► I give you a new commandment, says the Lord: love one another as I have loved you.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel: [Matthew 18:21-35](#)

Peter approached Jesus and asked him, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times. That is why the kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who decided to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the accounting, a debtor was brought before him who owed him a huge amount. Since he had no way of paying it back, his master ordered him to be sold, along with his wife, his children, and all his property, in payment of the debt. At that, the servant fell down, did him homage, and said, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back in full.' Moved with compassion the master of that servant let him go and forgave him the loan. When that servant had left, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a much smaller amount. He seized him and started to choke him, demanding, 'Pay back what you owe.' Falling to his knees, his fellow servant begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.' But he refused. Instead, he had the fellow servant put in prison until he paid back the debt. Now when his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were deeply disturbed, and went to their master and reported the whole affair. His master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to. Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?' Then in anger his master handed him over to the torturers until he should pay back the whole debt. So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives your brother from your heart."

METANOIA

A JOURNEY WITH CHRIST INTO CONVERSION

JOIN US FOR A NEW VIDEO SERIES

This 10-part series featuring Fr. Dave Pivonka, TOR, President of Franciscan University and founder of The Ministry of the Wild Goose, leads us on a journey with Christ into conversion. Each of the episodes explores areas of our life where conversion is so often necessary. Join us for the most important journey of our lives, a journey of grace, hope, repentance, and transformation.

- Join us Sunday evenings starting September 20 in the OLSH cafeteria from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm for 10 consecutive Sundays
- This is an adult faith formation program (18 & older).
- To register - please email your interest to deaconhoyer@outlook.com
- Facilitators - Deacon Gregg Hoyer and Doreen Hoyer
- We are limiting the participants to 14
- We will follow safety imperatives to keep appropriate social distancing and all will wear masks
- It is important that all registrants commit to the program by attending and participating
- This is for anyone in any stage of their faith journey
- This is not a "class" or study, there are no requirements other than having an open heart
- The format is watching a video, discussion, and the reflection/prayer



FEATURING FR. DAVE
PIVONKA, TOR
OF THE WILD GOOSE

For more information on the series and the ministry visit:
www.thewildgooseisloose.com



**HE GAVE
IS BLOOD
FOR US**

*"We're All IN This
Together"*



**WE GIVE
OURS FOR
OTHERS**

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart American Red Cross Blood Drive

Monday, October 5th
2:00 – 7:00 PM

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Gymnasium

To Schedule an Appointment: redcross.org
and type Sponsor Code = sacred heart

** For a limited time, the American Red Cross will test ALL blood, platelets, and plasma donations for COVID-19 antibodies as an additional health service for our donors. **

OLSH Blood Drive Coordinators:
Sandy Lyle: slyle@comcast.net
Judi Gerhart: jagstar54@yahoo.com

USA

THANK YOU!

We collected enough stamps for the Christmas Bazaar Parish Raffle mailing! Thank you for your generosity. All Parish Raffle tickets will be mailed this year, as we don't want people gathering in the Church Narthex. Please be on the look-out for your envelope in the mail this fall. Good luck!

FOREVER

PRAYER RALLY FOR OUR NATION

We invite you to join us for a solemn gathering to pray and fast for repentance for the Church and our nation. We come together as the Body of Christ to stand as a witness to the world and support for each other in these turbulent times.

Saturday, September 19th

1:00 ~ 3:00 PM

Plumstead Christian School Grounds

5765 Old Easton Road

Plumsteadville, PA 18949

(Rain Date: Sunday, September 20th from 2:00 ~ 4:00 PM)

Please bring a chair and adhere to social distancing guidelines
Masks are optional as we will be outdoors

This event is sponsored by the Bucks County Pro-Life Coalition
For more information, please contact Pat or Terry at defendlife@voices4life.blog