

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

FEBRUARY 13, 2022



THIS WEEKEND'S READINGS

First: Jeremiah 17:5-8
Second: 1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20
Gospel: Luke 6:17, 20-26

FOCUS: Blessed are those who trust in the Lord.

So often we can be the source of our own suffering. Worldly pursuits and desires for wealth, status, promotion and the like deceive us into placing our hope in people and things rather than the Lord. This life is fading and only God can offer us true satisfaction in the kingdom of heaven.

LITURGY OF THE WORD: Jeremiah proclaims the

Lord's message: "*Cursed is the one who trusts in human beings ... Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord.*" Saint Paul asserts that if Jesus had not risen from the dead, the Corinthians' faith would be in vain. In the Gospel, Jesus speaks to the crowd of disciples, giving examples of those who are blessed and those who experience woe.



MASS INTENTIONS

5 p.m.: Jean Simmons, Maura Cleary
and Cassandra Drew Polman

10 a.m.: Michael Faso, Oswaldo Rivero
and Mark Vulaj

TREASURER'S REPORT

February 6-13: Totaled \$ 5,862.21

Envelopes: \$ 3,379.29 – Online: \$ 2,482.92

THANK YOU!

CLW HITS A MILESTONE

Because Fr. Sean said "Go for it" back in the mid-'90s, our Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLW) celebrated its 25th anniversary last weekend – albeit a year late because of COVID-19.

Necessity is said to be the mother of invention. In this case, it was an actual mother who planted the seeds during a conversation with Peg Hoblin, then the director of religious education. The mother lamented that she could not concentrate on the readings because of her rambunctious son. Peg recalled hearing about churches that had a parallel activity for children during that portion of the Mass. Could St. Paul's develop its own program?

Peg recruited Ernie Martin, a kindergarten teacher and catechist, and the two strategized approaches to bring God's message to children on their level.

"There were no models to follow," says Ernie.

So along with a Children's Lectionary that offers simpler readings, they came up with the idea of the "butterfly bag" to add a visual component.

"They come in so eagerly and can't wait to see what's in the butterfly bag," says Ernie, recalling that the first one, to highlight "light of the world ... salt of the earth," contained a flashlight and pretzel. "And the pretzel was shaped like praying arms." In this week's, there will be a poster of the Beatitudes to display. And the photo below illustrated Mary visiting her cousin, Elizabeth, with a picture and a "Hail Mary" bookmark.

Children leave with Keynotes for Families to encourage conversation. If the child returns the Keynotes with the answer to the week's question, he or she can choose a small Christian-themed gift from the Treasure Chest.

Although COVID-19 put CLW on hold for more than a year, Ernie was thrilled when Fr. Sean OK'd its return in September with safety protocols followed.

She finds it hard to believe that she's been with the program since its inception - for which she credits her love of the wee ones and the joy she receives in sharing her faith. Now she is even teaching children whose parents participated more than two decades ago. "It's heartwarming to see all the enthusiasm."





UNDERSTANDING THE SYNOD

Pope Francis has called the universal Church to Synod, 2021-2023: "Communion, Participation and Mission."

What is a synod? Simply put, a synod is a meeting or assembly of church leaders. "Synodality" refers to the way that these synods make decisions. It is a model that includes listening to a broad range of people and then discussing the issues together with the goal of hearing where the Holy Spirit is calling the church.

Practically, Pope Francis has said this means not entering the discussion with the idea that there will be "winners" who get their way and "losers" who do not, but leaving agendas at the door, speaking with parrhesia (a Greek word that appears in the New Testament and means "frankness," "boldness" or "courage"), listening humbly and being open to others' ideas.

In theory, no topic is off-limits, and disagreement is welcome. After the discussions, the bishops of the synod draft a document and vote, paragraph by paragraph, to approve it. The pope uses that document to inform his decisions following the synod. It will be useful to you to listen as Cardinal Dolan explains Synod 2021-2023: www.archny.org/synod

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

CONDOLENCES

We extend our deepest sympathies to Susan and Howie Schmid upon the death last week of her mother, Virginia Trochmyczuk. Please keep them in your prayers.

ROTARY EAST FOOD DRIVE

For the third year, Walkill East Rotary and the Town of Crawford and its Police Department are joining forces to sponsor a Food Drive between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Saturday, February 26. Non-perishable items can be dropped off at the Crawford Senior and Community Center, 115 Route 302, Pine Bush.

St. Paul's Food Pantry, which has served four new families since January and is very grateful for your donations, will be one of the pantries to benefit.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY



Saint Valentine was a third-century saint who is celebrated on February 14. Little is known about his life, and the legends might actually be combining two different saints with the same name. Still:

- St. Valentine was a Roman priest martyred during Claudius' reign.
- He was a bishop of Terni, Narnia and Amelia, during which time he baptized a judge and his 44-member household.
- He was imprisoned for marrying Christian couples and aiding Christians who were being persecuted by Claudius.
- St. Valentine attempted to convince Claudius of Christianity. Claudius became enraged, commanding him to renounce his faith or be beaten with clubs and beheaded. St. Valentine refused.
- While imprisoned, he healed the jailer's blind daughter. On the day of his execution, he left her a note signed "Your Valentine."
- St. Valentine was executed outside the Flaminian Gate on February 14.
- In 1969, the church removed St. Valentine from the General Roman Calendar because so little is known about him. However, he is recognized as a saint, listed in the February 14 spot of Martyrology.

