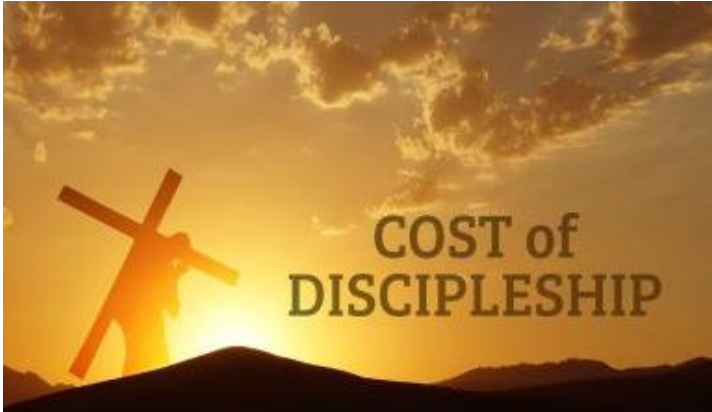

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

SEPTEMBER 4, 2022



THIS WEEKEND'S READINGS

First: Wisdom 9:13-18b

Second: Philemon 9-10, 12-17

Gospel: Luke 14:25-33

FOCUS: *Faithful discipleship demands complete surrender to God.*

While each of us can name important people and relationships that have a claim on our hearts, the Scriptures today remind us of what needs to be the highest priority for each of us. Jesus states unequivocally that just as he will lay down his life on the cross, each of us who wish to be faithful disciples will be asked to make sacrifices in our own lives.

LITURGY OF THE WORD:

The author of the Book of Wisdom observes that it can be difficult to comprehend God's ways, saying that what is within our grasp we find with difficulty; but when things are in heaven, who can search them out? Saint Paul writes to Philemon from prison, asking him to welcome Onesimus as a brother, not a slave. In the Gospel, Jesus speaks to the crowd, saying: "Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple."



MASS INTENTIONS

5 p.m.: Michael Faso, Ben Misir and Maureen Myers

10 a.m.: Ken Russ, Jim Botti and the Ryan,
Borst & Costello Families

TREASURER'S REPORT

August 21-28: Totalled \$ 4,864.96

Envelopes: \$ 2,601.00 – Online: \$ 2,263.96

THANK YOU!

*It is our special task
to order and throw light
upon all the affairs of the world
in line with the teachings
of Jesus Christ: "Let the laity also,
by their combined efforts,
remedy the customs and conditions
of the world."*

Lumen Gentium, 36

SO, WHAT IS SOCIAL JUSTICE?

Clothing runs, food drives, home-building projects are corporal works of mercy, not social justice. Social justice, which is linked to the common good and the exercise of authority, results when "associations or individuals ... obtain what is their due, according to their nature and their vocation." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1928)

This correct understanding of social justice was made clear by Pope Francis when he observed: "The duty of social justice ... requires the realignment of relationships between stronger and weaker peoples in terms of greater fairness." (World Day of Peace, 2014); It "upholds the fundamental human right to a dignified life." (Meeting with Political, Economic and Civil Leaders in Paraguay.)



WHY I ENJOY BEING A CHURCH VOLUNTEER

A Greeter has said: "I've been a Lector, a Eucharistic Minister and am now a Greeter in our church.

"I've found that volunteering at church not only helps our community but has also increased my own self-confidence. Being a volunteer has given me a sense of accomplishment, and I just feel good about being able to help people."



BACKPACKS BLESSED

Along with a new outfit and school supplies waiting to be used for the first time, about two dozen of our students will also begin the start of a new academic year with something most of the other kids won't have: A blessed backpack with a tag to prove it!

Fr. Sean's meaningful blessing and prayer have become an end-of-August tradition. Afterward, many of the families, including some new faces, headed to Deacon John Hall for brownies, cookies, juice and coffee. By all accounts, it was a successful social with most of the goodies gone and some folks mingling for 45 minutes.

CHILDREN'S MASS

Our Religious Education students will have something very special to look forward to this year: Periodic Children's Masses!

The first one has been scheduled for 10 a.m. **Sunday, October 2**, at which the children will greet, read the Word of God, sing and present the gifts. Sign-up sheets will be in the hall beginning next weekend.

Although the homilies will be written and delivered with the youngsters in mind, everyone is welcome to attend and be inspired by their innocence.

BOOK CLUB'S NEXT CHAPTER

A moving autobiography titled "The Sun Does Shine" will be the first selection for fall. In his autobiography, Anthony Ray Hinton, who spent 30 years on death row for a crime he did not commit, illustrates how a person's imagination, humor and joy cannot be stolen – even if his freedom has been.

Participants will meet from 10-11:15 a.m. via Zoom beginning **September 20**, when the first five chapters will be covered. It is helpful to note passages to discuss while reading.

New members are very welcome and can contact the church office (845-361-3107) or Deacon Carl (carlloc@yahoo.com) for further details.

MEETING/NOMINATION REMINDERS

Our **Parish Meeting**, in conjunction with a **Coffee Social**, will take place after the 10 a.m. Mass **next Sunday, September 11**. This will be an opportunity for you to give feedback on the Sunday Mass schedule. However, no decision will be made until after the Ministry Fair the weekend of October 15-16.

In order to return to two Masses on Sunday, there would need to be an increase in volunteers, including archangels, greeters, choir members and lectors. At the Ministry Fair, parishioners will be able to speak with members of the various ministries to ascertain which might be a good fit.

Also on September 11, **Parish Council nomination forms** will be available in the church vestibules for the three seats that will be vacated in January of 2023.

The Parish Council, which meets on the second Monday of each month, serves as an advisory committee to Fr. Sean. Nominees must be at least 18 years old, Catholic and a registered parishioner. A term is three years with the option to run for a second three-year term. Nomination forms must be returned to the office by Monday, October 3.

SELL AND/OR FIND TREASURES NEXT SATURDAY

Find new things and sell the old, one person's trash is another one's gold. Our St. Paul's Youth Ministry (SPYM) program is hosting a **Yard Sale** as a fundraiser that will link sellers and treasure-hunters while building community.



From 9 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturday, **September 10**, St. Paul's parking lot will be turned into a Community Yard Sale. Aspiring sellers can rent two parking spaces to display their goods at a cost of \$25. Got more stuff? Three parking spaces are \$35. Everyone else is invited to wander the rows of no-longer-wanted wares in search of that must-have rare find at a great price.

The Youth Ministry will also have snacks and water available for purchase. All funds raised from space rental and snack purchases will go directly to supporting SPYM's outreach.

Email saintpaulsym@gmail.com to secure your spot or call Chris at 845-248-3120

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