

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

What is excommunication?

Every so often I am asked this question. The term refers to the highest level of penalty the Church issues for the gravest offenses.

"Certain particularly grave sins in our excommunication, the most severe ecclesiastical penalty, which impedes the reception of the sacraments and the exercise of certain ecclesiastical acts, and for which absolution consequently cannot be granted, according to canon law, except by the Pope, the bishop of the place or priests authorized by them.. In danger of death any priest ... can absolve from every sin and excommunication." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1463)

Excommunication is something people bring on themselves. It requires a willful, intentional, serious violation of core beliefs and the precepts of the faith. A person's words and actions cause grave harm and lead others into the same serious sin.

Certain sins automatically bring this highest level of spiritual punishment. Before the church announces an excommunication, she has sought the repentance and conversion of the person or persons involved. There have been attempts at dialogue, often formal letters of admonishment as well. The church makes great effort to explain the sin, to point out errors, and to help a person amend his /her ways. At times people have refused to see the truth and have caused scandal and confusion by the public nature of their sin.

In St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians, Paul criticizes the community for not removing a church member. A young man has married his stepmother and caused scandal, confusion, and division. This is considered an incestuous union. "The one who did this deed should be expelled from your midst." (I Cor 5:2) St. Paul goes on to explain "the need for separation between the holy and the unholy." Of how bad yeast can affect the good.

"But I now write to you not to associate with anyone named a brother, if he is immoral, greedy, an idolater, a slanderer, a drunkard, or a robber, not even to eat with such a person...Purge the evil person from your midst." (I Cor 5:11, 13, plus commentary from St. Joseph Edition Study Guide).

Probably the most famous excommunications are Martin Luther and King Henry VIII of England. Luther was a priest and monk, knowledgeable in the faith, who chose to go another way. A vow of obedience did not stop him from public dissent and denial of Church teaching about grace, the meaning of Christ's death and resurrection, and the meaning of Christ's humanity. He rejected almost 1,500 years of Church tradition and called the Catholic Church the New Babylon.

King Henry VIII did not receive an annulment of his first marriage and decided to make himself head of the Church of England. His denial of papal authority (Pope as the ultimate earthly authority on spiritual matters) and his scandalous conduct led to his excommunication.

In the 1960s, Archbishop John Cody excommunicated a Catholic Louisiana judge and her supporters for blocking the desegregation of schools and publicly dissenting against Church teaching on the equality of all human beings. This was after months of attempted dialogue and the judge attacking the Catholic Church in the local media.

Recently a number of politicians who profess to be Catholic have revealed that they have been asked to refrain from receiving Communion/Eucharist. This is a form of private censure that is often one last warning before excommunication. Their bishops did not reveal these instructions. The politicians did as a way of gaining sympathy. Sadly their public dissent continues as they vote against pro-life issues.



Prayer

Why Must We Pray?

This is one of the most fascinating questions I am asked. It is a sign of a person struggling spiritually or a person asking a deep question in a casual way. Before answering, I usually try to get some context or background.

Here I ask some other questions that people don't ask because the answer to the above question seems to me. Why must we breathe? Why must we eat? Why must we sleep? Why must we think?

Prayer is essential for the soul as the other activities are essential for the body. If we don't pray, we don't have a spiritual life and we spiritually die. Our relationship with Christ requires the food, wisdom, and energy that comes from prayer. The Holy Spirit (Word Pneuma in Greek) is the Breath of God our souls require. Breath in me Lord and help my prayer life to be as natural as breathing.

U. S. CATHOLIC HISTORY



In May 1740, General James Oglethorpe, founder of the British colony of Georgia attached St. Augustine, then part of the Spanish Catholic colony of Florida. The British siege lasted 38 days, during which most residents sought refuge in the Castillo de San Marco (castle of St. Mark). Two Spanish warships finally outran the British water blockade and their arrival let to a British withdrawal.

"The Roman Catholic Church continued its spiritual life unencumbered by outside religious and political threats," for the next 23 years. (Cross & Crozier: The History of the Diocese of St. Augustine, 26)



"2010" Weekly Budget.....	\$5,350.00
Offertory collected July 25 th	\$4308.03
Difference.....	-\$1,041.97

Second Collections

Second collection July 25th " Missed Collection".....\$ 282.00

Campaign '10 Pledges:

Total donations made (from pledges) as of 07/04/10.....	\$96,015.00
July 25 th collection.....	\$ 622.00
New Campaign total donations from pledges.....	\$96,637.00

Next Week's Second Collection

Next week's second collection will be for our St. Vincent de Paul Society.

STEWARDSHIP

Our air conditioning bill is way up this summer. Any extra help is greatly appreciated.

News from our Knights



The Knight's of Columbus are sponsoring a spaghetti dinner on Saturday, August 21st. The dinner will follow the 5:30 p.m. Vigil mass downstairs in the parish hall. Proceeds from the dinner will in part benefit St. Clement's own seminarians and the Knight's. For more information please contact Rocco Pittarese at (678) 848-9328.

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 1, 2010

First Reading: Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23

What profit comes to a man from all his toil?

Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11

Seek what is above, where Christ is.

Gospel: Luke 12:13-21

The things you have prepared, to whom will they belong?

Living the Paschal Mystery

If most of us take time to think about the way we live, we would have to admit that the pressures of everyday life tend to be our main focus. We are concerned about calendars and schedules, bills and getting ahead, sickness and health. Our lives tend to be so busy that our immediate goal is to get through another day. What would happen if we would truly take some time to think about what we possess (and where we store it all!) and what possesses us?

It takes conscious effort to ask the question, to whom do we belong? In some sense this is a question about priorities and putting God truly at the center of our lives. The answer must be more than an intellectual commitment to grow in our relationship with God and have God as our center. We must stop building our relationship with God and have God as our center. We must stop building (using) larger storage barns and begin changing the way we live so that our priorities are evident. Practically speaking, this probably means settling for fewer possessions. But with God at center, we really gain everything--fullness of life. ~Living Liturgy

Stewardship Thought

Jesus urges us to be rich in what matters to God. The psalmist warns us against hardening our hearts. Are our hearts open to what really matters?

Saturday July 31, 5:30pm.....James Eischen (RIP)
Sunday, August 1, 8:30am.....Jim & Carolyn Hill (40th Wedding Anniversary)
Sunday, August 1, 10:00am.....(Spanish Mass) Our Parish Family
Sunday, August 1, 11:30 am.....Our Parish Family
Sunday, August 1, 1:00pm.....(Spanish Mass) Our Parish Family
Sunday, August 1, 7:00pm.....Our Parish Family
Monday, August 2, 12:15 pm.....Communion Service (TBD)
Tuesday, August 3, 12:15 pm.....Communion Service (TBD)
Wednesday, August 4, 12:15pm.....Communion Service (TBD)
Wednesday, August 4, 6:30 pm.....Rosary
Thursday, August 5, 12:15 pm.....Communion Service
Friday, August 6, 12:15 pm.....1st Friday Mass in English
Friday, August 6, 7:00 pm.....1st Friday Mass in Spanish/ Adoration
Saturday August 7, 5:30pm.....Robert Baumeier (RIP)
Sunday, August 8, 8:30am.....Our Parish Family
Sunday, August 8, 10:00am.....(Spanish Mass) Our Parish Family
Sunday, August 8, 11:30 am.....Our Parish Family
Sunday, August 8, 1:00pm.....(Spanish Mass) Our Parish Family
Sunday, August 8, 7:00pm.....(Spanish Mass) Our Parish Family

SPIRITUAL WARFARE



Satan is the King of Distractions. He is one who can take a little glitter and make it seem like something exciting, fun, and worth a lot of our time. Lucifer, the fallen angel of light, wants his false lights to distract us from Christ, the Light of the world. He wants the light inside of us to become weak and dim through temptation and sin. By the light of day we see road dangers a lot better than at night. By the light of faith, we still temptations for what they are and avoid spiritual dangers. Let us avoid the spiritual darkness of sin and the glitter of earthly distractions and seek the divine joy of closeness with Christ.



Please pray for the people who are suffering:

Donna Thibault - respiratory illness, Barbara Smith- cancer, Marty McKinnon- ovarian cancer, Cayla Johnson-hydrocephalus, Joe Campbell-follicular lymphoma, Tonya Isham-tumor, Curtis Lunt-ill health, Melissa Silva-health, Juanita Rochester-cancer, Chuck Terry-prostate cancer, June Macejkovic-heart condition, Fr. Denis Kolumber-health, Ernie -leukemia, Maria Farias- breast cancer, Jeanne Walraven-health, Jean Seitz-cancer, Angie Defalco-health, Erna Wyatt-health, Jim Rorer-special intention, Michael Llop-brain tumor, Erik Bigelow-special intention, Janice Miller-health, Jaden Bates-health, Roy Davies- safety, Chris Wable-health, Jim Wable-lung cancer, Marilyn Clayton-health, Ashlie Warren-health, Jenna Proctor-health, Jeff Elder-health, Serge Kastorsky-cancer, Terry Alan-bladder cancer, Lisa Clark-failed surgery, Betty Maddox-chemo, Donald Hicks-health, Jeff Bigelow-health, Cindy Wilson-health, Audrin King-cancer, Bud Murphy-health, Geri Harper-breast cancer, Joanne Silvers-kidney cancer, Pam Bagley-lung cancer, T.J. Rushing-tumor, Richard Parker Sr.- alzheimer's, Florice Schneider-health, Grace Headley-cancer surgery, Grace Grant Orange-lung cancer, Dana Real-seizures, Sissy Steele-heart-attack, Mathias Roberts-surgery, Christopher Burger-health, Barbra Christian-breast cancer, Janet Shiney-health, Ea Grace Cichran-hydrasephalyiss.

Parish School of Religion



It's that time of year again when we are preparing our children for their return to school. St. Clement's is now offering open registration for our parish religion classes. If you are still in need of a registration packet you may pick one up from the table in the narthex, or download the packet offline from our parish website, www.stclements.org. Completed packets can be returned to the office. Classes will begin on August 15th in English, Wednesday August 18th in English, and Saturday classes in Spanish August 21st.

Archdiocesan News

A HUGE GARAGE SALE will be held on Fri., Aug. 6, and Sat., Aug. 7, from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at **ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL CHURCH**, 490 Arnold Mill Road, Woodstock, in the parish hall. All proceeds benefit the St. Vincent de Paul Society food pantry and financial assistance programs. Contact: (770) 516-0009.

HOLY SPIRIT CAREER MINISTRY based at Holy Spirit Church, Atlanta, is **COMPILING A LIST OF CATHOLIC PARISHES WHO OFFER JOB MINISTRIES**. Given the challenges people face in today's job market, and the cost of gas for those who are seeking employment, the need for the list is paramount to help people find nearby job ministries and those most specific to their needs. The information compiled will be shared with all, to help those in the community each parish serves. Contact: E-mail job ministry information to Caroline McCoy-Hansen at caroline@careerministry.org or call (770) 794-6651.

A CHILDREN'S PRAY DATE WITH JESUS will be held at **ST. BRIGID CHURCH**, 3400 Old Alabama Road, Johns Creek, on Fri., Aug. 13, at 4:45 p.m. Deacon Leo Gahafer leads an hour of prayer that includes praise music, brief silent adoration and open dialogue. Families are invited to this opportunity to introduce children to Jesus in the Eucharist. Prayer ends at 5:30 p.m. and is followed by playtime and a picnic from 5:45-7 p.m. at Newtown Park. Order pizza with the group or bring a picnic. St. Brigid's Mom's Group hosts. Contact: Kara Tollefson at ektollefson@gmail.com or Jaime Groesser at jaimegroesser@yahoo.com.