

The Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time



WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

"You shall not have other gods besides me." (*Deut 5:7*) "You shall not have other gods besides me." (*Ex 20:3*)

There are many different types of false gods that are prevalent in the United States today. Addictions are false gods as people choose the addiction over everything and everyone else, including God. They become substitutes as people rely on something or someone more than God. Other false gods are the distractions, diversions, and activities that we choose over prayer, over church on Sunday, over reading the Bible, over essential things (eating, sleeping, etc.). People sometimes ignore basic needs over something far less important or something unnecessary.

Monday's gospel for daily mass spoke of the sadness caused by worldly things and choosing them over God: "Jesus said to him, 'If you wish to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.' When the young man heard this statement, he went away sad, for he had many possessions." (*Matt 19:21-22*) He chose His possessions over Christ and risked losing eternal life.

Tuesday's gospel shows the apostles struggling with this challenge and wondering whether following Christ is worth it. "And everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands for the sake of my name will receive a hundred times more, and will inherit eternal life." (*Matt 19:29*)

The question becomes: Now or later? Earthly things or eternal life?

Idolatry "remains a constant temptation to faith. Idolatry consists in divinizing what is not God. Man commits idolatry whenever he honors and reveres a creature in place of God, whether this be gods or demons (for example, satanism), power, pleasure, race, ancestors, the state, money, etc. Jesus says, 'You cannot serve God and mammon.' (*Matt 6:24*) (*Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2113*) "The worship of the one God sets man free from turning in on himself, from the slavery of sin and the idolatry of the world." (2097)

As in Biblical times—and other times in history—people today are increasingly choosing other gods: Alcohol, Drugs, Empty Relationships, Sex detached from marriage and life (adultery, eroticism, pornography, etc.), Fashion, Gambling, An Excess of Material Things, Anything New, New Belief Systems, High Risk Adventures, Technology, etc. All of these revolve around me-centered choices. What's in this for me, what I can have now, and what I can have better and more of than anyone else? More adrenaline, more excitement, more rushes of good feelings—all for five minutes.

"Now the works of the flesh are obvious: immorality, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, rivalry, jealousy, outbursts of fury, acts of selfishness, dissensions, factions, occasions of envy, drinking bouts, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God." (*Gal 5:19-21*)

"What would be the names of some of the many gods of our times? There are of course the traditional false gods of pleasure, power and wealth. Then there are the false gods of pursuing alleged self-perfecting experiences through mind-altering drugs and entering into union with the gods of the cosmos through the stars.

"To prove to self that one is absolutely free people choose to follow the false gods of modern culture: alcohol, sex, casual drugs, financial success at all costs, controlling others through violence and oppression and finding comfort in independence and opulence.

"Finally, there is the false god of trying to be an authentic human being without a value system of belief and ethics to judge what being authentic really means. (*Archbishop Edward Gilbert, "Advent and False Gods"*)

"Do not love the world or the things of the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, sensual lust, enticement for the eyes, and a pretentious life, is not from the Father but is from the world. Yet the world and its enticement are passing away. But whoever does the will of God remains forever." (*I Jn 2:15-17*) "Do not conform yourself to this age." (*Rom 12:2*)



"2010" Weekly Budget.....	\$5,350.00
Offertory collected August 15 th	\$ 6219.80
Difference.....	+\$ 869.80
Second Collections	
Second collection August 15 th "Mary Chapels".....	\$ 1,015.36

Campaign '10 Pledges:

Total donations made (from pledges) as of 08/01/10.....	\$97,157.00
August 15 th collection.....	\$ 0
New Campaign total donations from pledges.....	\$97,157.00

Next Week's Second Collection

Next week's second collection will be for Catholic University.



Prayer

"Adoration is the first act of the virtue of religion. To adore God is to acknowledge him as God, as the Creator and Savior, the Lord and Master of everything that exists, as infinite and merciful Love. 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve,' says Jesus, citing *Deuteronomy*.

"To adore God is to acknowledge, in respect and absolute submission, the 'nothingness of the creature' who would not exist but for God. To adore God is to praise and exalt him and to humble oneself, as Mary did in the Magnificat, confessing with gratitude that he has done great things and holy is his name. The worship of the one God sets man free from turning in on himself, from the slavery of sin and the idolatry of the world.

"The acts of faith, hope, and charity enjoined by the first commandment are accomplished in prayer. Lifting up the mind toward God is an expression of our adoration of God: prayer of praise and thanksgiving, intercession and petition. Prayer is an indispensable condition for being able to obey God's commandments. '[We] ought always to pray and not lose heart.' (*Lk 18:1*)" (2096-98)

Family



Satan's two primary targets are the family and the Catholic Church. Recently I have become aware of a number of our families going through different family crises. To help our families, I am adding a family section to my bulletin notes and to other bulletin information. When we come across prayers, quotes, resources, ideas, that will help families, we will place them in the bulletin each week.

"Father, help us to live as the holy family, united in respect and love. Bring us to the joy and peace of your eternal home. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen." (*Sacramentary*)

First Reading: Isaiah 66:18-21

They shall bring all your brothers and sisters from all the nations.

Second Reading: Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13

Those whom the Lord loves, he disciplines.

Gospel: Luke 13:22-30

They will come from east and west and recline at table in the kingdom of God.

Living the Paschal Mystery

We all claim to know Jesus; after all, we are for the most part faithful church-goers who weekly eat and drink in his company. This gospel warns us that this isn't enough. There is an urgency about our paschal mystery living; we don't have forever to make up our minds to respond to God's offer of salvation. Each day we must take up our own cross, die to self, and live for the sake of others. This is how we enter through the narrow gate and how we get to know Jesus intimately enough to receive salvation: we must live and act like Jesus. Becoming least is a metaphor for dying to self. This is what Jesus asks: that the first become the last. Yes, what limits the scope of salvation is not God's reach but our response. ~Living Liturgy

Food for Thought

Today's reading from Isaiah describe the Israelites bringing their offering to the Lord "in clean vessels." The gift of myself-my patient endurance and fidelity to the will of God-is as important as the monetary gift I offer.

- Saturday August 21, 5:30pm.....Eleanor Schwark (RIP)
- Sunday, August 22, 8:30am.....Our Parish Family
- Sunday, August 22, 10:00am.....(Spanish Mass) Our Parish Family
- Sunday, August 22, 11:30 am.....Howard Jones (RIP)
- Sunday, August 22, 1:00pm.....(Spanish Mass) Our Parish Family
- Sunday, August 22, 7:00pm.....(Spanish Mass) Our Parish Family
- Monday, August 23, 12:15 pm.....Daily Mass
- Tuesday, August 24, 12:15 pm.....Daily Mass
- Wednesday, August 25, 12:15pm.....Daily Mass
- Wednesday, August 25, 6:30 pm.....Rosary
- Thursday, August 26, 12:15 pm.....Communion Service
- Saturday, August 28, 5:30pm.....Our Parish Family
- Sunday, August 29, 8:30am.....Our Parish Family
- Sunday, August 29, 10:00am.....(Spanish Mass) Our Parish Family
- Sunday, August 29, 11:30 am.....William Maguire (RIP)
- Sunday, August 29, 1:00pm.....(Spanish Mass) Our Parish Family
- Sunday, August 29, 7:00pm.....Our Parish Family

SPIRITUAL WARFARE



"Beloved, I urge you as aliens and sojourners to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against the soul." (I Pet 2:11)

"Spiritual warfare is **self-denial** in the power of the Spirit, and **alertness** against the enticements of the world, particularly its constantly pressurizing Christians to a materialistic and selfish lifestyle. . . The means of daily **personal prayer**, a steadily increasing familiarity with and devotion to the **word of God**, fasting and **penance**, making new attempts at **promoting social justice**, frequent participation in the **sacraments**, enlisting the powerful intercession of Mary in the context of an **authentic Marian devotion**, etc., are all recommended. . . For those of us who are serious about spiritual warfare, they are the **basics** of ongoing, ordinary, all-year-round spirituality." (Fr. Fio Mascarenhas, "Spiritual Warfare Made Easy")

Stewardship

Thank you for your continued generosity. Our electricity bill for the church building for the last 30-day period (mid-July to mid-August) was more than \$1,750!—the highest ever. Our other utility bills are

up slightly, but nothing compared to electricity. We will be looking at ways to conserve and make energy saving improvements.



Today we thank Mrs. Helen Jones for donating the beautiful flowers that you see at the altar this week. The flowers are to honor the memory of her dearly departed husband Howard Jones. May he rest in peace with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In his name we pray...Amen.

Our Seminarians

It's that time of year when our seminarians must return to their theological studies in various parts of the U.S. As we all know, sometimes being away from home for long periods of time can take an emotional toll on us. Let us not forget our own seminarians by dropping them a few lines of encouragement. Even if it is just a line of hello and hope you are well or a picture that your little one drew, your love and support will be greatly appreciated.

For current address information please see the bulletin board outside the parish office. Thank you.

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 Shinee-health, Ea Grace Cichran-hydrasephalyiss, Tom Lindzy-health, Nina (Ninas Flower's)-health, Billy Tolley-health, Linda McCoy-health.

Archdiocesan News

Blessed Trinity Shrine Retreat, Ft. Mitchell, Ala., offers a weekend retreat "**HEALING OUR IMAGE OF GOD TO HEAL LIFE'S HURTS**" on Sept. 3-5. This retreat will use Eric Erickson's eight stages of development to heal negative memories and strengthen positive memories. With this firm developmental foundation, participants will experience a God of love healing them in their past, present and even future crises. The presenter is **JESUIT FATHER MATT LINN**, internationally known author, retreat director and healing minister. Contact: (334) 855-4474 or Blessed Trinity Shrine Retreat, 107 Holy Trinity Road, Ft. Mitchell, AL 36856 to register.

The **SECOND POLISH PIEROGI FESTIVAL** will be held Sat., Aug. 28, from 1-8 p.m. at **ST. MARGUERITE D'YOUVILLE CHURCH**, 85 Gloster Road, Lawrenceville.