

Readings for the week of June 9, 2024

Sunday:

Gn 3:9-15/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 (7bc)/2 Cor 4:13—5:1/Mk 3:20-35

Monday:

1 Kgs 17:1-6/Ps 121:1bc-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8/Mt 5:1-12

Tuesday:

Acts 11:21b-26; 13:1-3/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6/Mt 5:13-16

Wednesday:

1 Kgs 18:20-39/Ps 16:1b-2ab, 4, 5ab and 8, 11/Mt 5:17-19

Thursday:

1 Kgs 18:41-46/Ps 65:10, 11, 12-13/Mt 5:20-26

Friday:

1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-16/Ps 27:7-8a, 8b-9abc, 13-14/Mt 5:27-32

Saturday:

1 Kgs 19:19-21/Ps 16:1b-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10/Mt 5:33-37

Next Sunday:

Ez 17:22-24/Ps 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16 (see 2a)/2 Cor 5:6-10/Mk 4:26-34



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Jesus asks us a stunning question this week: **“How can Satan cast out Satan?”** To enter into this question opens up the often-hidden dynamics of what Jesus has done and is constantly doing. If we’re honest, our response to some degree is: “How *else* can we cast him out? Satan is *precisely* how we cast out Satan!” But Jesus wants us to see this finally does not work. Here’s what I mean.

Satanas names the demonic mechanism by which we render wholeness through accusation. When we face a threat, we seek something to protect us (e.g., more money, social status, security, power, etc.). Rivals inevitably arise for these things and so do tensions. Accusation presents itself. “I’ll never be successful unless I get ahead of that guy.” “She’s already trying to get ahead of me.” “That group of immigrants is trying to take our jobs.” And so on. The accusation grows into a fear-inducing threat — things will break apart — no, they already are! Hurry! We inflict violence on the victim and — as if by magic — peace ensues. For a time. Soon fresh accusations are required to hold new chaos at bay, until there is no community left at all. This is essentially humankind’s sad history in a nutshell.

Jesus’ cross and resurrection unmasks this broken system of “casting out Satan by Satan” and ushers in a new one he calls “the Kingdom of God.” He reveals that the dynamic of accusation is nothing compared to his power of divine mercy and love. The cross (and not Satan) is the real power to tear down strongholds of sin and cast out Satan. This is why he describes himself as the **“stronger man who ties up the strong man to plunder his house.”** This week let’s notice the ways we **“cast out Satan by Satan,”** and then refuse to do it anymore. Because in the long run, that divided house cannot stand.

— *Father John Muir*

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

In the Family Way

Look here: there is no one more family-oriented than me. I drive a minivan. I wear mom jeans. I wipe unidentified gunk off of kids' faces without a second thought.

I'm all about family, but I'm not always a fan of what "family" has come to mean in the modern lexicon. Family values. Family-friendly. Family-oriented. It's usually a synonym for "non-offensive." Soft. Moderate. Nice.

It's all fine, I suppose. But is it genuine? Creating a family, bringing that family physically into the world, was the hardest and most painful thing I ever did. The care and keeping of that family — the teamwork with my spouse, the feeding and watering of the children, the teaching of the writing and the reading the and praying — it's very hardcore. It's not all stuffed animals and peekaboo. It's a mental, spiritual, and physical challenge that daily brings me to my knees.

I'm not even talking exclusively about parenting young children. I'm talking about being part of a family in any way — being a son, being a daughter, being a sister and cousin and uncle. Families are complicated and strange and messy. Sometimes boundaries need to be drawn, or they need to be crossed. Sometimes walls need to be put up or torn down. It's never easy. It's never simple.

But I've never known someone who didn't want to be part of a family in some way, whether that's a blood family or one created by circumstance. And there's a reason Christ creates a family ("Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother") and not a club.

A family is a crucible, yes — but what comes out is so much more beautiful than what went in. For all the effort and even pain that is sometimes involved in a family relationship, there is nothing more defining, more fulfilling.

We are part of Christ's family, and what we can expect from that is certainly not a life of simple, clear-cut, undemanding discipleship. We can expect confusion. We can expect discomfort. But we can expect to be perpetually drawn to the heart of one who loves us without hesitation, without condition.

In the end, we're family.

"Here are my mother and my brothers." — Mark 3:33

- Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

How do I bring God into the work of my daily life?

Answer:

Whatever your daily work, you have an opportunity to encounter God and to follow His commandments in love. In the New Testament, we see that most of the Apostles didn't have a previous religious position. They were fishermen, tax collectors, and political activists. St. Paul was a tentmaker. Among the saints, we have doctors, lawyers, farmers, and stay-at-home moms. No matter your daily tasks, God can be present there!

One way concerns behavior. Start with an examination of conscience. Look at areas where you tend to struggle to imitate Christ at work. Do you gossip? Does brimming frustration become impatience at home? Pick one sin you struggle with, then choose a virtue to strengthen that area. If you tend to speak poorly of your co-workers, resolve to stop and to say one kind thing a day instead.

Another way relates to perspective, particularly your perspective of others. Jesus' incarnation reminds us of the value of every human being. Jesus is God, and each of us is created in God's image. When you encounter another person, you have an opportunity to see God in a new place and a new way — in that person in front of you. Genuinely listen to them and be present to their concerns. Loving your neighbor is loving God! Our relationship with God and the love He inspires in our hearts shouldn't remain only at church on Sunday. We can — and should — let our faith animate our lives!

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

"I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers." (Gn 3:15)

Psalm:

With the Lord there is mercy, and fullness of redemption.
(Ps 130)

Second Reading:

Since we have the same spirit of faith,
according to what is written, *I believed, therefore I spoke*,
we too believe and therefore we speak. (2 Cor 4:13)

Gospel:

And if Satan has risen up against himself
and is divided, he cannot stand;
that is the end of him. (Mk 3:26)

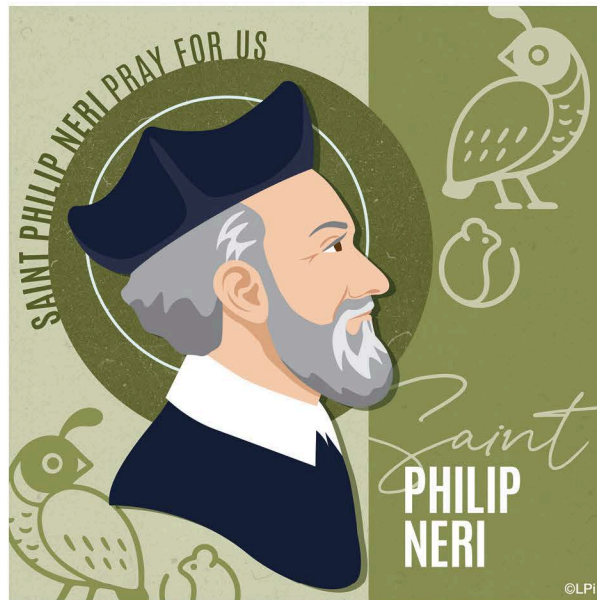
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

God's family is not a country club — you don't need the right pedigree or the proper connections to join. Christ claims everyone who does the will of God. Let us call upon the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts, that we may live in kinship with Christ.

Observances for the week of June 9, 2024

- Sunday:** 10th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Tuesday: St. Barnabas, Apostle
Thursday: St. Anthony of Padua, Priest and Doctor of the Church
Friday: Flag Day
Next Sunday: 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Father's Day



Saint of the week

St. Philip Neri was an Italian priest who served both the rich and poor of Rome with a jovial spirit. He founded The Congregation of the Oratory, a secular order which includes priests and brothers and does not bind them under religious vows, but instead by a *bond of charity*.

Prayer of Identity

Dear God,
In the garden You asked, "Who told you that you were naked?"
Who told me all kinds of things about myself — lists of flaws and failures a mile high.
It wasn't You.
Plant Your truth inside of me.
Speak to me about how You see me.
Remind me that I am Yours,
chosen from eternity for You.
Amen.

“How can Satan drive out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand; that is the end of him.”

- Mk 3:23-26

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Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading:

We hear how Adam and Eve disobeyed God and listened to the serpent, who tricked them into eating the forbidden fruit. How can you more intentionally listen to God’s voice this week?

Second Reading:

Paul urges the Corinthians to be confident that despite our current afflictions and discouragements, God has given us an abundance of grace and has prepared for us eternal glory. Who might need to hear this message of hope from you?

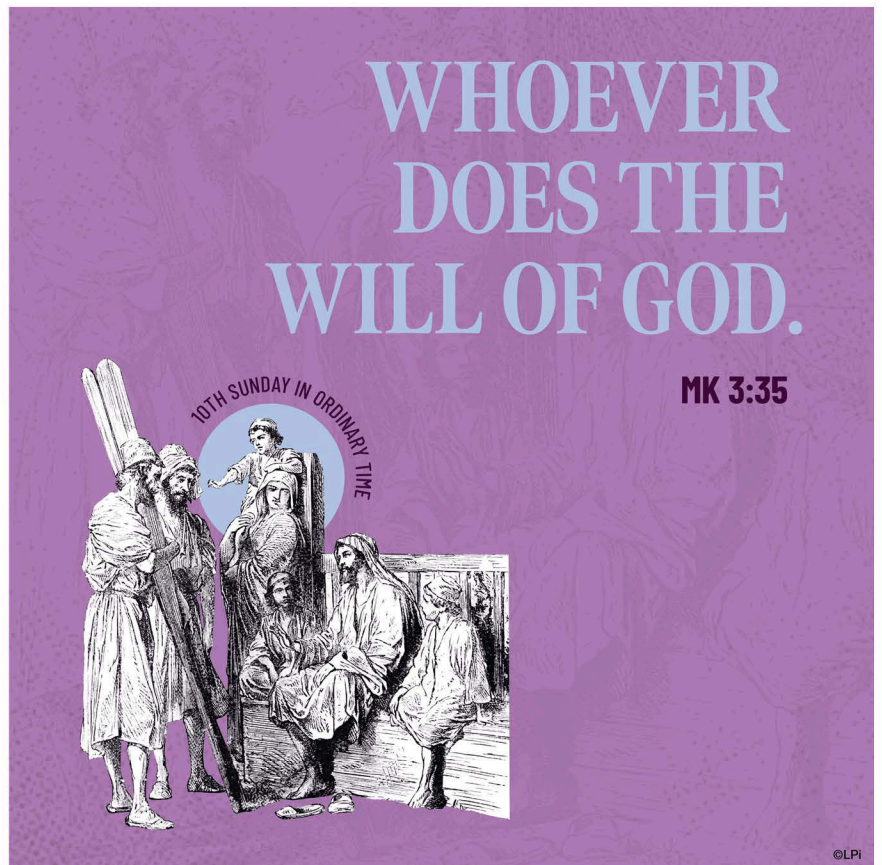
Gospel:

As he began his public ministry in Galilee, Jesus redefined “family” as whoever does the will of God. What would you say is “the will of God?”



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With the Lord
there is mercy,
and fullness
of redemption.
Psalm 130



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He said to them in reply, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” And looking around at those seated in the circle he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.” - Mk 3:33-35

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