

Today’s Gospel reading is taken from a chapter of Matthew’s Gospel, which is sometimes called the “discourse on the Church” or the “church order” discourse. In this part of Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus speaks more directly about matters of Church discipline and order. In today’s reading we find one of only three instances in which Jesus uses the word *church* in Matthew’s Gospel. In Matthew’s record of Jesus’ teaching, we can hear echoes of the kinds of issues faced by the early Christian community.

In the first part of the “discourse on the Church” (Matthew 18:1-14), Matthew addresses the Christian community’s concerns about rank. Jesus responds to the disciples’ question about who is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Jesus indicates that those who wish to enter the kingdom of heaven must be like children, and he cautions those leaders who might lead these “little ones” astray. He also responds with the parable of the lost sheep, indicating how God will seek out and bring back those “little ones” who have strayed.

In today’s Gospel reading, Matthew 18:15-20, Jesus addresses a common occurrence in the Christian community: a dispute between two members of the Church. Jesus outlines a procedure for settling such matters fairly. The victim should privately address the offender and attempt to resolve the dispute without outside involvement. If that fails, then the victim should bring two or three witnesses and confront the offender again. If the dispute is still unresolved, the matter should be brought to the attention of the entire community. If the offender refuses to adhere to the reparations prescribed by the community, then Jesus suggests that the offender may be expelled from the Church.

Jesus does not discourage disagreement within the community of the Church; he acknowledges the reality of conflict and error and offers his disciples a means for addressing such matters. It is in the conclusion to this teaching that the message of hope is found: Jesus is present with the community and will guide the community in its relations. If decisions are taken in prayer, then the community can be assured of God’s assistance. --Loyola Press



sheila.kowalewski@gmail.com.



A Second Collection will be taken up next weekend (September 12/13) for the Catholic University. Catholic University is the national university of the Catholic Church. Gifts to the National Collection – the only second collection taken for higher education in the U.S. – support students during this crucial time and help the university conduct critical research that will serve parishes and dioceses throughout the country. Envelopes are available at the exits of the Church.



The 9:00 a.m. choir is seeking new members to join the voices in the loft. If you have considered joining—or feel unsure—please visit us one Sunday. All voice types are welcome: from sopranos to basses. We rehearse every Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. to prepare for the following Sunday Mass.



WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....\$9,401.09
Weekly Online Collection.....\$8,531.00
May God Bless You for your generous and faithful support

MASSSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY	SEPTEMBER 7
1 Corinthians 5:1-8; Luke 6:6-11	
6:30 a.m.	Ms. Edna Spell
8:15 a.m.	Int. Ms. Tiffany Wilson
TUESDAY	SEPTEMBER 8
Micah 5:1-4a; Matthew 1:1-16, 18-23	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Cedric Riche
8:15 a.m.	DiNardo Family Tree
WEDNESDAY	SEPTEMBER 9
1 Corinthians 7:25-31; Luke 6:20-26	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Jeremy Forehand
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Victoria Cole
THURSDAY	SEPTEMBER 10
1 Corinthians 8:1b-7, 11-13; Luke 6:27-38	
6:30 a.m.	Dr. Malcolm Latour
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Camille B. Durkin
FRIDAY	SEPTEMBER 11
1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22b-27; Luke 6:39-42	
6:30 a.m.	Int. Mary & Roy Smith
8:15 a.m.	Int. Mr. Scott Schwartz
SATURDAY	SEPTEMBER 12
1 Corinthians 10:14-22; Luke 6:43-49	
8:15 a.m.	Mr. Phillip Howard
4:00 p.m.	Ms. Kay Brochard
SUNDAY	SEPTEMBER 13
Sirach 27:30—28:7; Romans 14:7-9; Matthew 18:21-35	
7:30 a.m.	Congregation
9:00 a.m.	Int. Mr. Marco St. John
11:30 a.m.	Marie and Irwin Obernuefemann
5:30 p.m.	Ms. Carol Gordon



Pray for Our Parishioners and Friends: Beckett Bassenger, Betty Bodin, Michael Bosarge, Bryleigh Brochard, Roland Broussard, Roxie Buckles, Arlene Burns, Mildred “Tootsie” Caillavet, Benny Cantin, Marshall Car, Jennifer Catchot, Clifford Claverie, Scott Claverie, Breanne Dalton, Gina Dasher, Marjorie DuBois, Michelle Dyess, Rose Mary Eagan, Dawn Fountain, Nija Fountain, Barbara Fournier, Gordon Gaethe, Caroline Gautier, Ansley Gilich, Julian Galloway, Margie Gammon, Sandra Grantham, Richard Harrison, Trent Hartzog, James Hebert, Margaret Hebert, Olivia Hood, Mary Jo Hoogstra, Jeff Janus, Ashley Jensen, Fr. Jey Jordan, Lora Jordan, Otis Kaufman, Myra Kittle, Bill Kortman, Mary Krystosek, Daisie Laborde, Carol Latham, Nelda Latour, Judy Lesso, Mary Lewis, Gordon Mathieu, Shellie McDaniel, Mrs. McKinney Steve Merkel, Thelma Miller, Iva Misko, Edward Necaie, Donna and Edward Necaie Jr., Terèse Nicovich, Shirley and Travis Norman, Cody Parker, Scott Parker, Kathy Pasquini, Janice Pepper, The Petitjean Family, Jean Petricca, MaraLou Guice Richards, Charles Wesley Ryan, Jr., Margaret Rucinski, Julia Sarpy, Jimmy Senac, Courtney Severino, Glenn Sigurnjak, Myrt Talbott, Brittany and John Thornton, Sarah Galle Traylor, Rose M. Vail, Margaret Misko VanLoon, Ashley Vickers and Glenn Williams, Sr. and all our Homebound Parishioners.



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN CONSTRUCTION UPDATE
The next phase of our Capital Campaign project has begun. This phase includes construction of the new entrance cover and enclosure of the breezeway between the church and school. The main front entrance and the side entrance by the school will be closed during construction. You will need to use the two side entrance doors near the altar.



September is the Month of Our Lady of Sorrows, which references the sorrows she endured as the Mother of Jesus.

As Catholics, we find great joy in our faith—but we also acknowledge that suffering is part of life. In fact, we go even further and believe that suffering is an essential part of life. That understanding is why we hang the crucifix on our wall and around our neck; we embrace the cross as our path to sanctification.

In that context, it makes sense that we honor Mary as Our Lady of Sorrows. She suffered more than any person other than her Son and she was given more grace than anyone else as well. We can learn from her example, and we can pray for her help in that difficult practice of “suffering well.”

The Seven Sorrows of Mary are portrayed visually with seven swords, often piercing her Immaculate Heart. Devotion to the Seven Sorrows of Mary began in the 1300s after Mary reportedly told St. Bridget of Sweden that it “Would bring great signal graces.” In her 1980’s apparitions at Kibeho, Rwanda, Mary shared that praying the seven sorrows rosary can help us be more penitent and obtain forgiveness for our sins. Whether you pray the rosary or otherwise meditate on Mary’s seven sorrows, they can help you find a deeper understanding of Mary and her Son and bring you closer to them both:

1. Simeon Prophecies Mary's Suffering
2. The Holy Family Flees to Egypt
3. Mary and Joseph Lose Jesus in Jerusalem
4. Mary Meets Jesus as He Carries the Cross
5. Jesus is Crucified and Dies
6. Jesus' Body is Taken Down From the Cross
7. Jesus is Buried

Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Lady of Compassion, I turn to you with filial confidence. You shared fully in the work of our Lord Jesus Christ, whose Death brought life to the world. Help me now to understand the truth about the divine compassion. Teach me to accept the sufferings that come into my life as you accepted obediently your own deep sorrows. Loving Mother of the Redeemer, you consecrated yourself by submitting to the divine plan. Obtain for me the grace to make my own submission to the same wise providence, now and at the hour of my death. Amen.
~DeLong, T (2021, September 15)
Honoring Our Lady of Sorrows. Catholic Women in Business

If you currently have a designated Adoration hour on the We Adore Him website and have not been going for three months or more, your name will be removed from the schedule. If you need to try a new hour, please visit stalphonsus.weadorehim.com to view the schedule and choose a new hour.



Walking With Moms in Need Ministry (WWMIN)
The Second Sunday Donations for WWMIN will be accepted next weekend, September 12th & 13th. This ministry is growing and so are their needs. They continue to need all sizes of diapers, but desperately need sizes 4, 5, 6, and 7. Baby wipes are always needed. They still ask for gift cards of \$20 or less from Visa, Walmart, Target, grocery stores, and fast-food restaurants. Baby necessities, baby equipment, new and gently used baby, toddler, and children’s clothing are needed as well. As always, we thank you for your kindness, support, and generosity. Contacts: Margaret 228-217-4742 or Mary 228-348-6092.



EVENING OF INTERCESSORY PRAYER
We invite you to join us on Monday, September 14th, at 6:30 p.m. in praying the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Confession will also be available.
Learn how to restore the threshold of authority in your home. Also, when a threshold is no longer guarded, it becomes unmarked. An unmarked threshold is one of the worst things for families, because they no longer have control over their homes.
God appreciates it when we devote ourselves to intercessory prayer for others. Let us pray together with Our Blessed Mother, our greatest intercessor.
EVERYONE IS WELCOME.



HELP SUPPORT OUR OCIA FAMILIES!
We are seeking adults willing to volunteer their time to help care for children on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. while their parents attend OCIA classes. We need at least two volunteers per night. Dates for this semester are: 9/9, 9/23, 10/14, 10/28, 11/4, 11/18, 12/2, and 12/9. This is a beautiful way to serve our parish community, ensure that parents can fully participate in OCIA, and bring others to the Church by supporting families on their faith journey. If you can support this ministry by helping even a few nights, please call Jammie at (228) 806-2641.



Edge is a Catholic Middle School Youth Ministry Program for 6th - 8th graders. For questions, please contact Roxanne Moore at 228-235-8923.
Life Teen is a Youth Ministry Program for 9th and 10th graders. For questions, please contact Jenny at 228-282-0984 or Lori at 228-383-1002.

Both Edge and Life Teen will meet in the Parish Hall on Wednesday, September 9th with dinner at 6:00 p.m. followed at 6:30 p.m. with Group Meetings. A parent is needed in attendance the first night for registration.



Jeff Cavins’ The Bible Timeline: The Story of Salvation offers a powerful journey through Scripture, from Creation to the founding of the Church. Classes meet Wednesday evenings in the Parish Hall at 6:00 p.m. For more information, call Beth at 228-324-4188.

A Biblical Walk Through the Mass: Join us for this six-session study exploring the biblical roots of the liturgy and the meaning of the Mass. Participants will reflect on how we unite ourselves with the Lord as He offers Himself to the Father in the Sacrifice of the Mass. Classes begin in the Parish Hall on Wednesday, September 9th, at 6:00 p.m.
For More Information: Contact Lisa at 228-382-4996.



Classes for Sunday Morning Adult Study are held after the 9:00 a.m. Sunday Mass in the Parish Hall. For more information, contact Sue Mihal at 601-573-0020 or Anne McClellan at 228-327-4040. All are invited to attend.

September 13: UFO’s and the Catholic Church, Daniel O’Connor
September 20: Introduction to the Catechism of the Catholic Church



Classes for the Elementary Youth Faith Formation Ministry Program (Grades K–5) begin Sunday, September 13th from 10:15–11:15 a.m.
Volunteers are needed to help teach 4th and 5th grades. To volunteer or ask questions, please contact Jane Sema at 228-217-1392 or jsema@osstalphonsus.org.



The Sacrament of Confirmation Class is for high school juniors and seniors wishing to be confirmed in the Catholic faith. Registration will be held in the KC Hall on Wednesday, September 23rd at either 4:00 p.m. or 6:30 p.m. A parent is needed to be in attendance for registration. A schedule will be given out at registration and class will be held from 6:30-8:00 p.m. For more information contact Kelley Fountain [228-424-6234](tel:228-424-6234).



The 4th Degree Knights of Columbus are raffling a Luxury Couples Getaway. Three prizes will be awarded:
* Beau Rivage spa day, dinner, and a room with a view
* Beau Rivage his-and-hers spa day
* The President Buffet dinner for four
The drawing will be held Sunday, November 8, 2026, during the Peter Anderson Festival. Tickets are \$10 each or three for \$20 and are available by contacting Chuck Nannery at 228-875-0267.

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS