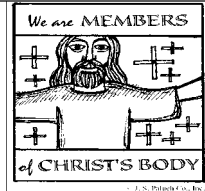


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21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 27, 2006

As for me and my household,
we will serve the LORD.-- *Joshua 24:15b*



Upcoming Parish Events

Mon. Aug 28—
Bible Study & Prayer Group,
7:30 pm, Chapel

Fri. Sept 1—
First Friday: Confessions,
6:30 pm
Holy Hour
7:00 pm: Adoration, Benediction, Evening Prayer,
Mass at 8 pm

AACC Youth Grp,
6:30 pm, Scanlan Hall
Prince of Peace,
8:30 pm, Scanlan Hall

Sat. Sept 2—
Burmese mass,
10:-00 am

Reflection

Today's Gospel also speaks of the moment of truth and choice. The Twelve have a right to pause here and consider. Jesus assures timorous people of good heart that the decision they make is not the result of their courage, but rather a manifestation of their faith in God. The followers of Jesus will not arrive at the truth of his life and words and work except by the action of the Father. This is reminiscent of Jesus' words to Nicodemus another time in another place: "What is born of flesh is flesh and what is born of spirit is spirit" (John 3:6).

At the start of this discourse, which occupies the whole of the sixth chapter of John, thousands pursued Jesus. Now only a few remain. He asks the Twelve poignantly and pointedly, "Do you also want to leave?" We almost do not want Jesus to be this vulnerable, but he is. The response of the Twelve echoes the first reading, "Master, to whom shall we go? [We] are convinced that you are the Holy One of God" (John 6:67-68).

"We are convinced that you are the Holy One of God." We try this one for size; we say it aloud to see if we can say this honestly. This choice of the Twelve is also ours to make a first time--and again, and again, as one choice opens to another, as one day follows another. As followers of Jesus Christ, our life is no less valuable, our response no less valued than that of the Twelve. Jesus is no less driven to ask us and to know our response. As persons baptized into the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, no response is small; all are consequential. We are invited to see to it that the daily choices we make originate in the Spirit and draw their strength from there. Thresholds lie before us, thresholds to the cross. But we have to make the choice.

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK, SAINTS & SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday, Aug 27: Jos 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b; Ps 34; Eph 5:21-32 [2a, 25-32]; Jn 6:60-69

Monday: **St. Augustine,** 2 Thes 1:1-5, 11-12; Mt 23:13-22

Tuesday: **The Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist,** 2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17; Mk 6:17-29

Wednesday: 2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18; Mt 23:27-32

Thursday: 1 Cor 1:1-9; Mt 24:42-51

Friday, Sept 1: First Friday, 1 Cor 1:17-25; Mt 25:1-13

Saturday: **Blessed Virgin Mary,** 1 Cor 1:26-31; Mt 25:14-30

Sunday, Sept 3: Dt 4:1-2, 6-8; Ps 15; Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22; 27; Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Full Plate Program: Thanks for your support of this program. Pls. bring your donations of canned foods and dry goods & place them in the green bins at the church entrance. August menu items: 1 bag of rice, 2 cns of vegetables, 1 canned ham (or other canned meat), 1 plastic bottle of cooking oil. No glass items, please. Thanks.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*We will have **Holy Hour at 7:00 pm this First Friday, September 1st. There will be Adoration, Benediction and Evening Prayer.** Plenary indulgence is gained from saying the Evening Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament — provided one goes to confession and communion (both) on the same day. Fr. Labib will be available for confession a half hour before Holy Hour. **Mass will follow at 8:00 PM.** These services will be held regularly on First Fridays from here on if there is enough participation/interest. Please spread the news to everyone who might be interested.

***Second collection** next weekend will be for tithing. Please be generous.

*Some dates are still available for **Mass Intentions** for the rest of the year. You may also want to reserve your dates for next year. If you call the office we will be happy to help with that.

***Church donations** may now be made to STM **electronically.** Please call the office if you would like to sign up.

*September 8, 9, 10 we will have **our Annual Family Camp at Occidental.** If you are interested to go, please call the office.



***RCIA:** Adult classes for preparation for **Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation** are offered at STM. If you would like to become Catholic or have been baptized but not made your 1st Communion or your Confirmation, pls call **Suzanne Hockel at (415) 8266834** or e-mail or call the parish for more information.

Pilgrimage to Rome

Fr. Andrew and Fr. Govindu are organizing a **Pilgrimage to the Shrines of Italy** from **November 12-22.** The 11-day Pilgrimage to the Shrines in Rome (including an audience with the Holy Father), Giovanni Rotondo (Padre Pio), Lanciaio (Miracle of the Eucharist), Assisi, Florence, Venice & Milan runs to about \$2,680, including airfare. **Pls register your names asap.** Contact Fr. Andrew or Elvira, our Secretary, for further info & registration.

Others

*September is recruitment month for St. Mary's Cathedral Choir of Boys and Girls. The choir is free & open to boys and girls in grades 3 thru 8. No prior experience is necessary. Pls. call Dr. Christoph Tietze at (415) 567-2020 ext 213 or send an email to tietze@stmarycathedralsf.org for more info or to set up an audition.

MASS INTENTIONS

Aug 27—Sept 2, 2006

8/27 Sun 10:00 am Agelio Altares†
8:00 pm People of STM
8/28 Mon 8:30 am Alicia Santizo†
8/29 Tue 5:30 pm Agelio Altares†
8/30 Wed 8:30 am Joaquin, Sabina, Paulino Gonzalez†
8/31 Thu 5:30 pm Vincent Duc Luu†
9/01 Fri 8:30 am Laura & Mario Biagini†
1st Friday 8:00 pm John Silva (hlg.)
9/02 Sat 8:30am Special Intention
5:00pm Poor Souls In Purgatory

Please call the office to schedule. Participating in Mass you offer is appreciated.



All the sick people in our parish especially John Silva, Rhona Palencia, Mary

Lee Burke, Florentino Sotto, Jr., Rolando Pineda, George Crawford, Restituto de Guzman, Michael Karney, Majida Totah, William & Deena Tannous, Issa Barakat, Jamileh Massis, Nazzal Nazzal, for deceased Reynaldo Mendoza & Raymond Masaganda. We also pray for the safety of family members of our parishioners who are in the Middle East.

Thank you for your contributions. Please remember us in your prayers.

Your offerings for the weekend of **August 20th:**
\$3,662



Actual Construction & Repairs Money in Bank is:
\$110,172

*Please continue to support our Construction fund. We need to repair the Skylight, upgrade the lights in the church and upgrade Carroll Hall. **Thank you!***