20th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“There is a baptism with which I must be baptized, and how great is my anguish until it is accomplished!” - Lk 12:50

MASS SCHEDULE

WEEKEND: SATURDAY 5 PM
SUNDAY 8:15 AM & 10:30 AM

WEEKDAYS: TUE—FRI 7:30 AM

HOLY DAYS: 7:30AM & 6:30 PM

RECONCILIATION
THUR & FRI: 7:00 AM
SAT: 4:00 PM
People didn’t care very much for what the Prophet Jeremiah had to say. He was telling people that unless they repented, Jerusalem was going to fall and the people of Judah would be taken into captivity by the Babylonians. This was going to happen, Jeremiah said, because people refused to repent and return to the laws of God and the practice of the faith and their covenant with God. It wasn’t merely a question of whether “God was going to punish them,” but the people of Judah were making these choices themselves, and they were going to have to reap the consequences of those choices...the consequences of their sins. The people of that day did not like to hear the message that sin has consequences, just as many today don’t like that message (here we are many centuries later, and there is nothing new under the sun). People very often mistake speaking the truth in charity and love for rendering judgment. Jeremiah was telling the people of Jerusalem and Judah what the consequences of their sins and poor choices were going to be if they did not repent, and they didn’t want to hear it...so some of the “princes” wanted to “shut Jeremiah up.” This can happen when we take a stand for what is right. History would prove Jeremiah’s predictions correct. Today when we speak of the ancient history of the Jewish people, the Babylonian Captivity is something that features prominently in the discussion.

The writer of the Epistle to the Hebrews (we can’t say for sure who that was, but tradition has held that it may have been St. Paul) calls on his readers and hearers to “rid ourselves of every burden of sin that clings to us” and to keep “our eyes fixed on Jesus,” saying that we need to remember the kind of resistance Jesus received from sinners for proclaiming the truth. We should recall this so we don’t grow weary and lose heart...

And then we have the very words of Jesus. It needs to made clear, lest anyone take the words of Our Lord completely out of context, that Jesus is not calling on any of us to foment conflict with our family members, or our friends, or anyone else in society. He isn’t calling on us to be deliberately hurtful to people, such a posture would not only be the opposite of the life Jesus calls on all of us to lead, but it does a disservice to the faith we profess to sow such discord on purpose. Remember that St. Peter and St. Paul both went out of their way in their sacred writings to encourage people to pray for their leaders and be appropriately loyal to the state...despite the horrendous persecution the Roman Empire was subjecting them to for being Christians. Neither Jesus nor any of the Apostles in their sacred words or writings, however, said that because we loved and were charitable to our enemies that conflict would not happen. What Jesus is reminding us of is the reality that we can’t fail to stand up for the truth of God, we can’t fail to believe and act fully as a disciple of Christ because we are afraid it might bring conflict with others, even in our own family or among close and dear friends. The truth inevitably will bring that conflict without our intentionally trying to bring it about.

If there is anyone here who is a convert to the faith, you might have some idea what Jesus means when he warns that conflict will happen if we stand for the truth. I am a convert myself, and while I can happily share with you that there isn’t much conflict over my conversion today, back when it happened it was no small thing indeed. I came to understand that I was going to have to stick to my guns, even with members of my own family who I dearly loved and had no wish to quarrel with. Perhaps some might have a son or daughter who has left the faith, or is not living a life fully in accord with it. Maybe the situation could be reversed, and it is a parent who is even in error (yes, it happens!), or a brother or a sister...and we feel called to hold to those principles and teachings of the faith by taking a principled stand on some matter that may seem trivial to the World, or even to some fellow Catholics, but we might feel that we would be condoning a wrong if we participate in that activity, attend that event, or do something we don’t feel comfortable with in fully-formed good conscience. Conflict is not what we want in a situation such as this, but we will almost certainly get it.

Jesus is warning us that if we are going to be his disciples, conflict with others is not what we should seek, but sometimes it is going to be what we find ourselves having to endure. This is certainly true in today’s culture, which is growing increasingly relativistic and pagan, even in our part of the country, the so-called “Bible Belt.” If we are going to live the faith, conflicts with family and friends, as well as with the wider world, will almost certainly be unavoidable. As Jesus himself reminded us, “you cannot serve God and Mammon.”

When we might experience those conflicts in our lives, even though it can be difficult, we are not called to respond in anger, but in love, in charity, in kindness, and also in firmness and resolve. If those we cherish see that our fear of giving offense causes us not to stand for the faith we claim to believe, then they will believe, at least subconsciously if nothing else, that our faith and our beliefs are only as deep as our lips. Continued...
It is very hard for any of us to be a doer as well as a hearer of the Word. In times of conflict it is especially difficult, but we should remember that those people around us are watching us to see if we believe what we profess, if we have the consistency that Jeremiah did. We often hear Father Patrick speak of priests who have been persecuted or killed for the sake of the faith. When this happens, it isn’t because the priest wanted to die, but because they were willing to sacrifice everything for the faith, even their life if necessary. Jesus reminds us that this call of self-sacrifice applies to each and every one of us, not only a precious few.

St. Maximilian Kolbe
Courage and sacrificial love mark the life of St. Maximilian Kolbe. He became a priest of the Franciscan order. Dedicated with evangelization, he published a magazine to teach the Catholic faith and encourage devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. During the Nazi occupation of Poland, Fr. Kolbe was arrested and sent to Auschwitz. One day a prisoner escaped from the camp. The Nazi punishment was harsh. For one escapee, 10 must die in his place. The guards picked 10 men at random. One began to beg for his life on behalf of his family, and another man stepped forward and offered to take his place. Fr. Kolbe was sentenced, along with the other nine men, to death by starvation. For this “martyr of Auschwitz,” a life of devotion culminated in one heroic, Christlike act.

Enrollment for the 2019-20 school year is still open, and we are excited—last year our enrollment increased over 10%, and we are anticipating even more next school year. We are asking YOU to spread the word, and help us with our goal to increase enrollment! If you know of anyone, ages Prek-8 grade, looking for a high quality, AFFORDABLE, Catholic education, that emphasizes the values of faith, inclusivity and love, please send them our way and we will give them a tour and show them what we are all about! Doug Lieser: dlieser@communityofsaints.org; School Office: 651-457-2510—we communicate calls in English or Spanish. Please and thank you!
Please pray for the sick who have asked for our prayers

Koz Kosmicki Sr. Mary Madonna Ashton, CSJ
Kathy Olsen-Roebke Jim Bruhn
Kevin Conroy Judy Fuglie
Yvonne Hain Grayce Hartman
Bill Holzmer Geri Loder
Randy Gillette Theresa Skillrud
Myrt Milner Margaret Overman
Jim Schema Shari Bergman
Tom Van Hale Carol Lucio
Becky Thomas Frank Strut
Barb Thompson Marla Hawley
Darrel Junk Vi Stewart
Gloria Powers Deb Mankowski
Simon Scott Mildred Hoff
Bob Bringgold Mark Goossens
Marlene Brickley Bill Reynolds
Anita Mahler Marcy Jansen
Marge Willer Dustin Bergh
Cathy Derr Gretchen Bidwell
Alice Hamilton Patty O’Brien
Jim Glenn Lyndon Baker
Chris Cheney PJK
Anna Elia Max Kruzel
Jeanne Cosgrove Linda Pelletier
Sandy Lotzer Joan Woods
Karen Kapphahn Bill Novotny
Steve Wenner Tom Lehmann
Carlos Garcia Alex Bussiere
Fred Friedrichs Jack Zensen
John Rose Dave Vonarx
Paul Rebholz Marcia Bennett
John Jablonski Billy Boomgaarden

Readings for the week of August 18, 2019

Sunday: Jer 38:4-6, 8-10/Ps 40:2, 3, 4, 18 [14b]/Heb 12:1-4/Lk 12:49-53
Monday: Jgs 2:11-19/Ps 106:34-35, 36-37, 39-40, 43ab and 44 [4a]/Mt 19:16-22
Tuesday: Jgs 6:11-24a/Ps 85:9, 11-12, 13-14 [cf. 9b]/Mt 19:23-30
Wednesday: Jgs 9:6-15/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 [2a]/Mt 20:1-16
Thursday: Jgs 11:29-39a/Ps 40:5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [8a and 9a]/Mt 22:1-14
Friday: Ru 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22/Ps 146:5-6ab, 6c-7, 8-9a, 9bc-10 [1b]/Mt 22:34-40
Saturday: Rv 21:9b-14/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18 [12]/Jn 1:45-51

Mass Schedule & Intentions

MONDAY AUG 19 NO MASS
TUESDAY AUG 20 7:30 AM ROD SMITH+
WEDNESDAY AUG 21 7:30 AM MARION NOVOTNY+
THURSDAY AUG 22 7:30 AM ALL PARISHIONERS
FRIDAY AUG 23 7:30 AM END TO ABORTION
SATURDAY AUG 24 5:00 PM DR. PAUL & LOUISE BURNS+
SUNDAY AUG 25 8:15 AM TOM KALISZEWSKI+
          10:30 AM RICK & MARYANNE LAWRENCE+

Liturgical Minister Schedule

LECTORS

| AUGUST 17        |      | 5:00 PM |
| SATURDAY        |      | ANNE LARSON |
| AUGUST 18        | 8:15 AM ~ ANITA KALISZEWSKI |
| SUNDAY          | 10:30 AM ~ MARYANN NOVOTNY |

Ushers—August 2019

SATURDAY 5:00 PM LARRY BIDWELL & MARY HOLZMER
SUNDAY 8:15 AM JAY COLBURN & BILL MARLOW
SUNDAY 10:30 AM NORM METHNER & DOUG KRECH
Parish Information

Fr. Antony Skaria ............................................ 651-451-1863
E-mail: frantony@sjvssp.org
Office Hours: Monday—Friday 9:00am—3:00pm
Parish Phone Number: (651) 451-1863
Parish Website: www.sjvssp.org

Deacon: (in the office Tuesday mornings) Deacon Scott Wright
Phone: (651) 646-3991
E-mail: skwright@stthomas.edu

Accountant: Patrick Dold
Phone: (651) 451-1863
E-mail: pat@sjvssp.org

Director of Religious Education Jill Vujovich–Laabs
Phone: (651) 248-2300
E-mail: jill@sjvssp.org

Maintenance Kent Trkla
Phone: (651) 500-3414
E-mail: kent@sjvssp.org

Community of Saints Bridget Kramer
Phone: (651) 457-2510
E-mail: bkramer@communityofsaints.org

Ministries and Committees

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<tr>
<th>Ministries</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADORATION</td>
<td>Carole Mulcahy</td>
<td>651-457-1146</td>
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<tr>
<td>BAPTISM/RCIA</td>
<td>Deacon Wright</td>
<td>651-646-3991</td>
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<td>MOBILE MEALS</td>
<td>Mary Lundsten</td>
<td>651-455-7886</td>
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<td>COFFEE &amp; DONUTS</td>
<td>Nancy Schneider</td>
<td>612-584-8850</td>
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<td>COMMUNITY CARE/LIFE</td>
<td>Deb Luskey</td>
<td>651-451-9934</td>
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<td>CRAFTERS</td>
<td>Carol Lokhorst</td>
<td>651-335-5161</td>
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<td>DECORATIONS</td>
<td>Marge Willer</td>
<td>651-335-8119</td>
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<tr>
<td>FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN</td>
<td>Mary Ann Novotny</td>
<td>651-457-2333</td>
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<td>FUNERAL LUNCHEONS</td>
<td>Barb Reichstadt</td>
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<td>Mary Kaliszewski</td>
<td>651-451-3563</td>
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<td>Joe Kaliszewski</td>
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<td>MUSICIANS</td>
<td>Lori Lencowski</td>
<td>651-457-4501</td>
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<td>NEIGHBORS</td>
<td>Mary Holzmer</td>
<td>651-455-6778</td>
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<td>PARISH TRUSTEES</td>
<td>Tom Boser</td>
<td>612-251-0538</td>
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<td>Laura Kosmicki</td>
<td>651-306-1478</td>
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<td>PIG ROAST/SJV FEAST DAY</td>
<td>Tom Boser</td>
<td>651-455-4502</td>
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<td>PRAYER GROUP</td>
<td>Barb Tinucci</td>
<td>651-451-8329</td>
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<td>PROJECT HOME</td>
<td>Mary Ann Novotny</td>
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<td>REDUCE—REUSE SALE</td>
<td>Ken Rouse</td>
<td>651-455-9743</td>
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<td>Joyce Athmann</td>
<td>651-451-1183</td>
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<td>USHERS</td>
<td>Ken Schult</td>
<td>651-455-2516</td>
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<tr>
<td>VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR</td>
<td>Doris Bringgold</td>
<td>651-451-1645</td>
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**IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER:** On December 18th, 2015, a law was signed that permanently makes the IRA Charitable Rollover available. This rollover does not expire & allows donors 70 ½ or older to make charitable contribution directly from their IRA. For more information, please call the office at 651-451-1863.

**Have you considered your stewardship through EFT’s?**

EFTs are one way to make contributions consistent, no hassle with filling out a check along with saving a tree! No paper envelopes. It is very simple.

Fill out a form from the Parish Office, decide how much and when you contribution is taken from your bank account and into SJV’s bank account. With a voided check, we submit the info & you are done. No worry about forgetting your envelope at home or what you wrote your check amount for, SJV’s bank & yours keep track of that. Call us today.

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Have you considered your stewardship through EFT’s?