



Sacred Heart Cathedral

Roman Catholic Diocese of Prince George

SOLEMNITY, OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

“It is important to continue to know Jesus’ identity, the truth that He reveals, the kingdom that He creates and brings about. Only then, that we can continue to persevere welcoming in our lives that belongingness He offers those who believe and follow Him.

Let us renew our allegiance, our loyalty, our commitment to Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe by persevering to follow His commandment of love; by imitating his examples of mercy and by living our lives in humble service to our brothers and sisters especially the poor, the sick, and the needy.

Let our listening to His voice continue to direct our way of living. Let our celebration of this Solemnity makes us brave and courageous proclaimers, witnesses of the reign of Jesus Christ both in the private and public aspects of our lives.”



Fr. Rectorino

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“Hearing and knowing about the end, which is to come, even if we do not know when it will all take place, should not frighten us. It is not meant to scare us. It is not meant to sow seeds of fear in us. Rather, **it is inviting us to put our hope and trust in the Lord.**

Upon His return, the world as we know it now will be renewed, changed, and transformed radically – the world of sin, division, hatred, and injustice will fail one day. It will fail and the new world is coming, **when Jesus, the Son of Man, returns in power and glory: there will be a new heaven and a new earth. That is God’s promise. He is going to fulfill it!**

For the mean time, ***where and what shall we cling to?***

We shall continue to hold onto the words of Jesus.

He said, *‘Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.’*

Knowing, believing, and trusting God’s Word should give us strength and courage to carry on with our life’s journey. He continues to be with us as we face life and its challenges.”

Fr. Rectorino





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Roman Catholic Diocese of Prince George

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“The poor widow in the Gospel has placed her total trust in God. **She is free to let go even the little that she has, for she knew God will take care of her and her needs.** She gave from the authenticity and genuineness of her heart. This is both an inspiration and challenge for all of us.

When we give from the heart, we make space for God to act in ways we might never anticipate. Generosity is not just a virtue. It is a way of living that draws us closer to God and helps us to see the world more as God does... **When we give and it hurts, it must be true giving, because true giving involves sacrifice on the part of the giver.**

May the examples of the two widows whom we have met in the readings today, teach us to constantly trust the power and providence of God. **May we not be wrapped-up in self-concern but live lives of authentic generosity.”**

Fr. Rectorino



THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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Roman Catholic Diocese of Prince George

“**Love of God and love of neighbour.**’ This short and clear commandment expressed the whole of the Law of God. It sums up the whole of our Christian life. It is so simple to read, and yet we know for ourselves, it is difficult to put into practice. It easier said than done.

Why is it important to know the first commandment? It is because next to knowing is doing. Our knowledge of it should lead us to action. Our love of God should take supreme - ‘God first,’ so that it directs the standard of all our loving. Everything else in our lives will flow from our love of God.

The love of God must occupy one’s entire being. **Our commitment to God must take priority over everything else.** When we persevere to live in that way, we will find that over period of time, our love of God dictates the way we are relating with others.”



Fr. Rectorino



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THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“ Like the blind beggar in the Gospel, **we too need to recognize our need for God’s mercy. We too, need to know who God is and welcome the relationship he continuously offers us.**

We may not be physically blind. We may not be in the same poor situation as Bartimaeus. **But whenever our choices and decisions in life are contrary to God’s virtues, and whenever we do not welcome God and his ways, it is equivalent to being a blind beggar, even worse!**

In the end, because Bartimaeus had professed faith in Jesus, he was no longer blind, he was no longer poor. He had seen the Light. He is richer and able to leave his own security and comfort having found and welcomed Jesus in his life. **May our faith and trust in our Lord be strong enough to live our lives and to face many life’s concerns and challenges. ”**

Fr. Rectorino



TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“If I am going to summarize the response of Jesus to the demand that James and John had asked of him, Jesus basically were telling them: **‘Go back to the meaning of your BAPTISM! Be serious about it! Understand what it means to be baptized, to be counted as one of my followers!’**

We should be able to understand the words of Jesus, the words that He said to the disciples, and He is telling the same to us today... **Being baptized, being part of the Church that Jesus himself had established, WE ARE CALLED TO SERVE.**

The way we live our lives as baptized should not only be limited in praying, in attending Mass, in listening to his words and teachings, in receiving communion, **it must also be manifested and lived out in our life of service to others especially to those in need.”**

Fr. Rectorino





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TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“Eternal life is a gratuitous gift of God.

We do not merit it. It is offered to all who will accept Jesus as The Way, The Truth, and The Life.

This promise of eternal life is a great reason for our thanksgiving. For those of us who may not have many material wealth that this world offers, we can still rejoice. We can still give thanks. **We are included to those who are given the promise of eternal life.**

If we are claiming it now that we already made a decision to accept Jesus – then, **He should be our highest priority.** He alone (to know him, to love him, to serve him).
Everything else is secondary.”



Fr. Rectorino

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“The Sacrament of Marriage was originally intended by God, wherein man and woman become one; they should live permanently, in union with each other, in fruitful partnership, companionship and friendship; and not to be separated...The Lord has spoken and that should be heard, followed, and obeyed!

The people were bringing children to Jesus... Jesus used that moment again to communicate about the truth of the Kingdom of God. **He emphasized the importance of being little and humble, of coming to him, of leading others to him; and not to be the one to hinder others in approaching Jesus.** In addition, this statement of Jesus also highlights another characteristic of married life: the procreative aspect of the Sacrament of Marriage.

Children are supreme gift of marriage. Married couples cannot say to themselves, *“we do not want to have children; we’ll just have pets.”* No. They can’t. They shouldn’t! God intended for man and woman to be joined together in marriage; and **among the purposes of marriage is the raising of children – fruitfulness, propagation of life!** ”

Fr. Rectorino



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TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“Followers of Jesus must **eliminate in their lives of discipleship attitudes, conducts, behaviours, and lifestyles that are contrary** to the way of life being introduced by Jesus.

In other words, a disciple of Jesus must always undergo **a process of conversion:**

- **Following Jesus involves a desire to be changed and transformed by him.** So that, once we have decided to know and follow him, we will leave behind everything in our lives and lifestyle that are not consistent to his ways, teachings, and values.
- **Following Jesus requires the whole of us: the totality of our being, not just parts, not just portions....** A significant, radical decision on our part is needed! You know, we cannot be half hearted, neutral, or lukewarm in our relationship with the Lord.”

Fr. Rectorino



TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“The disciples themselves have their own weak limitations; they were not perfect; they did not always understand Jesus and his teachings; but up to this point – they kept on following Jesus; and Jesus allows them to follow him...

Same with each one of us, we all have our own weaknesses and limitations. **Let's keep in mind the Lord is never giving up on us. He continuously invites us to be with him, to follow him, to learn from him and his ways.** Let's persevere therefore to follow him despite our own weaknesses and limitations. If we allow it, over time, the Lord will continuously transform those weaknesses and limitations into strengths and abilities that will best serve his Kingdom.

Just like what he did to the twelve. He did not condemn or denounce them. **Rather, he showed them what real greatness is all about, that is found in humility and service.**”

Fr. Rectorino





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TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“Our knowledge of Jesus should lead us to a relationship with him. The relationship we have with him will continue to develop, deepen, and strengthen through our constant listening to God’s word and regular celebration of the sacraments.

Today, imagine yourself in front of our Lord Jesus, and He, Himself is asking you – “*But who do you say that I am?*” What will be your response? How much do you know Jesus? What is the status of your relationship with him?

Remember, when we get to know Jesus and welcome the relationship he offers us, our life is change forever. We can face burdens of life knowing that we are not alone. **He is with us. He suffers with us. We will rise with him.”**

Fr. Rectorino



TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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“ **Salvation is offered to all.** The acceptance of God’s offer of salvation could happen in different levels or stages. In the case of the man who was deaf and who had an impediment in his speech:

- **Communal level** – people brought him to Jesus;
- **Personal level** – he allowed himself to be touched by Jesus; so that he experienced God’s healing power.

We, too, because of evil temptation in this world falls into committing sins. **Our senses become impaired due to sins and unnecessary baggage we carry in our lives’ journey.** We become enslave of our prejudices, biases, or interpretations. We become deaf of what others have to impart on us; and we are unable to speak the truth in love...

We, too, need a **private time with God.** We, too, need the **hand of God** to be laid over us. We, too, **need the touch and saliva of God, the sighed of God** in order for us to experience his healing. We, too, need the **power of the voice of God** telling us “*Ephphatha*” – be opened. ”

Fr. Rectorino





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TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“For Jesus, lips and hearts are meant to be integrated... Rituals and traditions are good. We need it in the church even today. But they must be connected to real life. They should help us in our relationship with God and holiness of life. Our rituals and traditions should lead us towards salvation. That means, life with God.

We are called to an authentic relationship with God and with our fellow human beings. We are called to an interior conversion of the heart.

We just need to humbly acknowledge we are all work in progress!

May the rituals and traditions that we observe in the church help us in our relationship with God and with one another. I end with the words from St. James, *“be doers of the word and not merely hearers who deceive themselves.”*”

Fr. Rectorino



TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**“The firm and consistent statements of Jesus...
was met with divided responses.**

- He is the Bread of Life that came down from heaven.
- Partaking of his flesh and blood means communion with Him.
- Only those who eat his flesh and drink his blood will benefit from the life that God wants to give.

**Then and now followers of Jesus
are constantly being asked:**

- *Do you believe him or not?*
- *Do you accept him or not?*
- *Will you leave or stay?*
- *Are we also shocked or scandalized by his words and teachings?*

**We, too, have to make up our mind about Jesus
and his claim that He is the Bread Life. The decision
is ours. I do know, choosing Jesus will bring us the
fulfillment of life that he promised.”**

Fr. Rectorino





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TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“The Church is clear in her teaching of the real of presence of Christ in the Eucharist...
**This calls us for greater reverence
as we approach our Lord in the Eucharist.**

Reverence should not be limited only into our gestures and postures like that of genuflection and kneeling...

But greater than our gestures and postures are our humble desire and intentional act to purify our hearts and minds, our whole selves so that we can worthily receive Him in the Eucharist. Hence, the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

We need to develop that as part of our Christian journey to regularly engage to an examination of conscience and benefit from the grace of the Sacrament.

Diligence is another aspect of reverence. The act of being intentional to be here – coming on time, paying attention to how our Lord Jesus gives himself to us, and participating consciously and actively...”

Fr. Rectorino



NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“Many people want to live a longer life. There is nothing bad about it. But consider what Jesus offers us in the Eucharist. **He offers not only prolongation of life rather an eternal life. Meaning, to live forever with God in heaven.**”

Why do I need to attend Mass?

Because in every Mass, we encounter the very presence of God. Every Mass is an action of God! So that, in every Mass, we should be paying attention as to how God comes to us, how God speaks to us, and how God offers Himself to us!”

Fr. Rectorino





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EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“In every offering of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, we have a free access to the Bread of Life. Jesus gave Himself to us and left us the Sacrament of the Eucharist for our nourishment – for the salvation of our souls.

Faith in our Lord Jesus – coming to Him, believing in Him, accepting Him – these are the ways in which followers of Jesus will benefit from the food that endures for eternal life.

May we humbly, faithfully, and gratefully come to Jesus, the Bread of Life, accept Him, believe in Him, receive Him in the offering of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass both in the Word of God that we hear proclaimed and during our reception of His Body and Blood at Communion time.”



Fr. Rectorino

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“In the miracle of **multiplication of loaves and fish performed by Jesus** that fed and satisfied more than five thousand people, we should remember:

- **We cannot underestimate the power of God, what He can do for us especially in our times of needs.**
- **When we offer to the Lord and place in His hands the little that we have, He is able to multiply them. Trust Him! Have faith in Him!** Be a part of another miracle of Jesus. Do not hesitate to offer Him even the little that you have.
- **Jesus, the Bread of Life is the One who satisfies all our hunger and thirst.**

May every celebration of the Holy Eucharist that we participate in, **be an avenue for all of us to see the goodness of God wanting to provide for us, to feed us, and to satisfy us.**”

Fr. Rectorino





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SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“Upon their return, they gathered around Jesus, told Him all that they done and taught. Let's imitate the gestures of the apostles:

- **Return to Jesus.** Speak to Him. Listen to Him. He is our source of strength, courage, and determination to carry on with our God given mission.
- **Spend time with Jesus.** In our time of rest, commune with the Lord. No matter how extensive our needs and obligations are, our lives do not only depend on human labours or toils. Life is not just about working.
- **Give justice to our identity as Christians.** As Jesus' present followers our very presence should reveal to others, we are His present disciples.

Jesus offered Himself to be the Shepherd who will guide, provide, and protect the crowd, who were described as sheep without a shepherd.

In the presence of our Lord Jesus, **we will find guidance; in His providence we will be satisfied; under His careful watch, we will find safety and security.**”

Fr. Rectorino



FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“Baptism made us sharers in the Church’s mission. The twelve were called and sent out two by two. We too, are called and sent:

- The Lord gave us companions, partners, collaborators, co-workers in the mission.
- We were given instructions by the Lord. We are to be mindful of Jesus’ words, instructions, and commands.
- Live a simple life; depend on God’s providence.
- Be opened with how others will receive us and the message we bring. Never impose. Invite and attract by way of witnessing to the faith.
- Be extensions of the Lord’s presence. In other words, be another Christ.
- Lastly, remain faithful to our calling and to the One who called and sent us.

These are not always easy to do. Nevertheless, know that despite our weaknesses and failings, God calls and sends us. He has trust and confidence in you and me.”

Fr. Rectorino



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FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“This episode in the life of our Lord Jesus is a great source of inspiration and encouragement for all of us who follow Him, who at times may also encounter people who are not welcoming of us and the message that we bring to them.

Do not be discouraged when in doing the tasks of bringing the Good News, we experience non-receptivity or rejection. Remember, our Lord Jesus Himself had experienced being rejected and yet, He did not allow that to be an obstacle for Him to fulfill His mission. **Don't be discouraged! There is joy, there is a sense of fulfillment when we bring the Good News to others.**

Let's keep going, preaching, teaching, and witnessing. Hopefully, by doing so, the hearts and minds of all who will see and hear us will be awakened.”

Fr. Rectorino



THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“ The Scripture readings on this Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time tell us:

- **God desires life for all of us, not death.**
- **Faith is essential in our life's journey. We are invited to get closer to Jesus. Our proximity or closeness to Jesus matters.**
- **The healing that is offered by our Lord Jesus is more than just physical healing. It includes spiritual healing, wholeness.**

We are given this blessed opportunity at the offering of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass **to see, to hear, to touch, to experience the real presence of our Lord Jesus.**

**Look at Him! Listen to Him!
Experience His healing power.**

Let us continue to approach Jesus in humility and faith. As we approach Him, let's listen to His voice telling us, *“Your faith has made you well, go in peace... Do not fear, only believe.”*”

Fr. Rectorino





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TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“The disciples called upon Jesus amid a great windstorm. **They were mindful that Jesus is with them: He sails with them, He journeys with them. He is present to them and their needs.** Ultimately, He is in control. He has the power to stop the wind and calm the sea.

If we keep in mind that the Lord is with us in our journey, we will face every storm with strength and courage brought by that knowledge. We are in relationship with him, He will protect us, He will save us, and He will not abandon us.

When you are confronted with a storm in life, what do you do? Where do you go? Who do you call to seek assistance or refuge? ”

Fr. Rectorino



ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“God is constantly at work in our respective lives. His work is on-going. **Often, we may not fully understand His methods because He works in His own mysterious ways: there is something hidden and invisible to God’s way of working.** Yet, He is working powerfully even in the tiniest aspect of our lives. He can do great things in and through our ordinary, everyday actions that can seem insignificant to us and to others.

We need to accept that fact: **God is at work in our respective lives.** Allow Him to do His beautiful work in and through you. He will bring it to fulfillment. Trust Him. Put your faith in Him and His ways.

In the words of Cardinal Thomas Collins,
“Surrender – to the power of God, to the plan of God, to the providence of God. We are in His hands, and he loves us...””

Fr. Rectorino





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TENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“The Gospel on this 10th Sunday in Ordinary Time tells us:

- **Keep on doing the good**, the right, the true, the beautiful, and the holy. Never get tired.
- **Evil is real.** Do not underestimate its power. The devil is also equally at work to pull us to another direction, to destruct or destroy us.
- **Be clear** with your very identity and mission.
- Division is not an identity of the community that Jesus established on earth; **unity is!**
- **We continue to belong to the family of God** and are brothers and sisters to the Lord and to one another when we ourselves do the will of God.

Remain firm and strong in persevering to do what is good, right, true, beautiful, and holy. Never allow the power of evil to win over us. Remember, we are not agents of the devil. We are all adapted children of God – that’s our real identity. We shouldn’t be a source of division but rather unity. Let our words and deeds always reflect that we belong to the family God.”

Fr. Rectorino

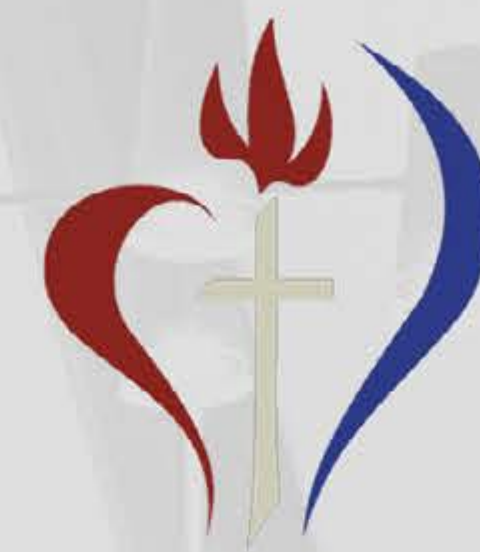


SOLEMNITY, THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

“Sinful as we are, Jesus desired that we become **partakers of His Body**. That’s how intimate God wants to be with each one of us. In the Eucharist, Jesus gave Himself to us, His Body and Blood...

The Eucharist that we receive should **continuously change and transform us in such a way that God’s love is incarnate in us and in the respective circumstances of our lives**. *We cannot just keep on receiving, taking, eating, and drinking and yet, we remain unchanged...*”

- **What does it mean for you to receive Jesus in the Eucharist?**
- **What are you being called to do and to be?**
- **What have been the changes in your life brought by your constant reception of the Eucharist?**



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SOLEMNITY, THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

“**LOVE must be our most distinct mark as Christians.** Every time we mark ourselves with the Sign of the Cross, we acknowledge:

- God is a **communion of love.**
- We **affirm and renew** our faith in the One God, three Divine Persons.
- We have a **Father** (God the Father), a **brother** (God the Son), and **companion** in the journey (the Holy Spirit).

We have heard it so many times: **GOD IS LOVE.** While it is true that the mystery of the Most Holy Trinity is hard for us to fully grasp and understand, but from what we know about our Triune God, **we are called to live it; we are expected to live it. How? By sharing in the very nature of God who is LOVE.”**





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SOLEMNITY, THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

“The Solemnity of the Ascension of our Lord tells us heaven is real and Jesus wants to bring all of us there! Meanwhile, He left us with a mission.

The mission in the work of evangelization. He calls us to be faithful and generous sharers in His work. He is continuously working with and through us – allow Him to do so!

May we be His hands, eyes, voice, heart, and feet that make Him present and active in the world around us.

This is both an invitation and challenge for all of us to carry within us the presence of our Lord – all the time.”



SOLEMNITY, PENTECOST

“Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to the disciples, to the Church He had established, so that the Holy Spirit will be the Church’s constant companion until the end of the age.

In fulfilling our respective tasks as present disciples of our Lord, may we be mindful that the **Holy Spirit is with us to guide, strengthen, and sanctify us.**

Yes, the Holy Spirit is continually being bestowed upon us. **We need to be grateful recipients of the Spirit.** Let us renew our manner of receiving.”



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SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

“Jesus invites us to remain in His love.
To do so, we need to know and obey His
commandments.

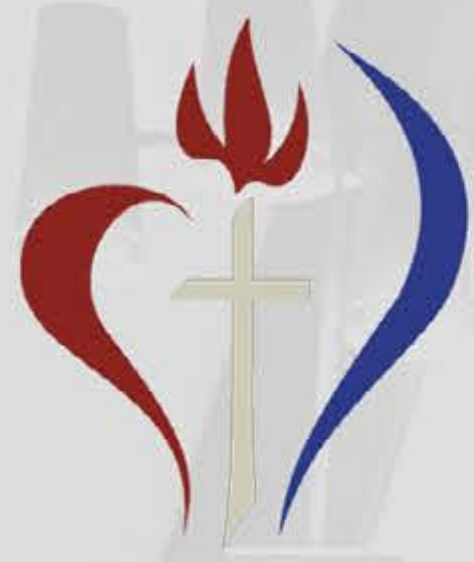
**To love is to accept God’s nature that
He shares with us.** We have heard it many
times: **GOD is LOVE.** And so, when and if we
imitate God’s love, we are allowing God to
let His very nature to be present in us; to flow
within us; and to be experienced by others
through us. **As present disciples of our Lord
Jesus, we are called to love like Jesus.
To love is to go with the style of God.**

Over the course of our lives...
**may we constantly remain in God’s
love,** regularly present to Him fruits of our
obedience to Jesus’ commands, enjoy
Jesus’ offer of friendship, and attain that
real joy only Him can give.”



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FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

**“Life with God brings us life,
abundant life, eternal life.
Life without God leads to death.**

It is not the branches that determine closeness or attachment to the vine. It is the vine itself who chooses to be connected to the branches and gives life to them. **We need to be opened and receptive to the life being given by the vine.**

The choice is ours. Will we choose to keep united to the vine so that we can continue to experience the life He gives us? Or will we choose to be cut-off from Him forever and experience death? **You make a choice!”**



FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

“Jesus uses the image and metaphor of the shepherd and sheep. It pertains to the relationship that he has with all those who belong to his fold. It is also his desire that all will be gathered as one flock under the care of one shepherd. Let us pray that:

- we may **acknowledge who we are in relation to Jesus, the Good Shepherd:** we are sheep who belong to his flock.
- we may **see the value of each other in journeying together.**
- we may **continue to develop a familiarity with the voice of our Good Shepherd** so that we can better listen to him, obey his commands, and follow his directions.
- **our motivation in fulfilling our respective vocations in life will be genuine love and care;** so that, we too, could freely lay down our lives for the sake of those whom we love and in imitation of Jesus, our Good Shepherd.”



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THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

“God can perceive our doubting and disbelieving. He, Himself will enlighten us when we doubt the reality of His existence. **He will find ways to make his presence obvious. He will let us experience him anew.**”

The disciples saw our risen Lord, doubted Him, and eventually came to believe in Him. **We too are called to come into personal relationship with our risen Lord** through prayer, reading of Sacred Scriptures, the celebration of the Sacraments of the Church, and the events of our life.

May we persevere to grow our knowledge of Him, our faith and relationship with Him be strengthened, and over the course of time, **may we too become His authentic witnesses!**”



SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY)

“We are all beneficiaries of the mercy of God given to us by Jesus, our risen Lord. We have a free access to God’s forgiveness and mercy. Let us avail the graces that flow from the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Jesus, our risen Lord shares with us His peace. He gives us the experience of being forgiven despite of our weaknesses, failures, and sinfulness. Let’s receive it with joy and thanksgiving.

Jesus models to us God’s mercy. May it be an invitation for us to imitate Him. **He entrusts us to be instruments of forgiveness and reconciliation. Let’s humbly ask for the grace to fulfill it in our lives.”**



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SOLEMNITY, THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

“The resurrection faith springs forth from an experience of the empty tomb:

- **The empty tomb attests to Jesus’ Resurrection.**
- **The empty tomb demonstrates the power of Jesus’ love over the darkness of sin and death.**
- **The empty tomb proves that Jesus is true to His promise. It is another manifestation of God’s faithfulness.**

On her first encounter with the risen Lord, Mary Magdalene did not recognize Jesus. It was only through Jesus calling her by name that she finally recognized that it was Jesus whom she was seeing! **God meets us where we are in the same way that He appeared to Mary Magdalene and spoke to her, and made known to her that He is alive!**

This is the good news that we celebrate: Jesus has risen from the dead! He appeared to Mary Magdalene and will continue to appear to other disciples and make His presence known. Let’s proclaim it to all!”



PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

“Holy Week is an opportunity to look at ourselves as to how we have truly acclaimed Jesus as King and centre of our lives. Hearing the Passion Narrative, it should lead us to realize the depth of God’s love for all of us.

This calls for a response. It calls for a deeper appreciation of that love. We may not be able to reciprocate in the same way as He has loved us, but we can always try, give it a try.

May the hour of Jesus’ passion continue to increase and strengthen our faith to the Son of God who willingly offered and sacrificed Himself for all of us.”



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FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

“The response of Jesus is not only meant for them but for all to hear and to know; we will not just see Him; we are also invited to learn from Him and His ways:

- death is the means to gaining life.
- to see Jesus is to follow Him.
- to follow Jesus is to embrace the Cross.

Let this be a source of comfort as we behold Jesus on the Cross, and as we follow Him and carry our respective crosses in life, *“Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.”*”



Fr. Rectorino

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

“God’s love for the world is so deep and so magnanimous that nothing is spared for its salvation, not even God’s only Son.

When we think of it, God does not have many sons, He has One and only Begotten Son, Jesus, and yet, **God allowed His own Son to be sacrificed on the Cross so that the world may be saved through Him.**

God’s love embraces the whole world, including those who truly love God, those who never think of God and those who reject the love of God. **Everyone is included in God’s infinite love.**

Through Jesus, eternal life is made available for us – the door of heaven is now open! Lent is a special time for us to have a deeper appreciation for God’s love for us. You are love by God.”

Fr. Rectorino





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THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

“ Jesus ‘cleansed’ the temple by driving out everything that are not consistent to its identity as the house of the Father. He did all of these for the purification of the sinful humanity.

On the Cross, Jesus offered Himself as an ultimate sacrifice once and for all. He became the new sacrifice.

On this Season of Lent, we need to see and recognize our failures, weaknesses, and sinfulness as to how we did not live up to the dignity of being members of the Body of Christ and temple of the Holy Spirit.

Let us meet the Lord with humble and contrite heart in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

There, because of God’s mercy and compassion, we will experience cleansing, forgiveness, and healing.”



Fr. Rectorino

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

“Listening implies acceptance of what had been heard and an action will follow.

In response to the command of God the Father: accept Jesus' words, believe His teachings, and do whatever He tells us.

Jesus gave His disciples a glimpse of what lies ahead and is meant to encourage His followers to hold on and faithfully face daily trials and carry crosses in life.

Let's persevere to follow the footsteps of Jesus. Let's remember that the Passion leads to the glory of the resurrection. As commanded by the voice of the God the Father, *“listen to him.”*”

Fr. Rectorino





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FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

“How Jesus had faced and overcame Satan’s temptations should lead us to imitate him. It is both source of our strength and inspiration as we take up battle against evils in this world.

We too need to:

- **remain true to our identity as adapted sons and daughters of God.**
- **be faithful to God and our relationship with Him through his Son, Jesus.**
- **constantly place our trust to the Word of God.**

When we fall to temptations, know that God is waiting for us to make amends. **We are given this venerable and sacred time, the Season of Lent, so that we can grow closer and deepen our relationship with God.** May we take every opportunity to approach Him in humility admitting our sins and acknowledging our need for Him.”



Fr. Rectorino



ASH WEDNESDAY

“God knows the deepest motivation of our hearts. Nothing escapes the mind and heart of God. God notices everything that we do. God knows us inside and out.

The ashes to be imposed on our forehead are beautiful reminders:

- **We came from God;** we belong to God; we will return to Him.
- **We are all sinners;** we need God’s mercy and forgiveness.
- **We are all invited to live in God’s LOVE;** we are His adapted sons and daughters through Baptism.”

Fr. Rectorino



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SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“In the reign of God, there are no outcasts. God’s desire is for all to be part of His kingdom.

When you are feeling so miserable and as if everybody else has abandoned you, **remember Jesus is always present, wanting to stretch out His hand to you, to touch you, to embrace you, to assure you, you belong to God and His kingdom!** You can always come to Him. He will make you happy. He will make you whole again.

That’s what He did to the person with leprosy in the Gospel. **That’s what He wants to do to each one of us, if we will only approach Him with humility, faith, and trust.”**

Fr. Rectorino



FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“The legitimate concern we bring in our prayer to Jesus becomes His concern too! With Jesus, we know, God is not distant. He is interested with our well-being.

- Prayer is an **avenue for us to communicate with God** – we speak; God listens. God speaks; we listen.
- Prayer **assures us of God’s guidance.**
- Prayer **prepares us for the challenges** we will face in life.

Like Jesus, His communion with God the Father in prayer gave Him a clear direction in knowing the will of the Father and in fulfilling His mission. And so, with us too, when we pray, it helps us to know God’s will in our lives.”

Fr. Rectorino



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FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“Our Baptism joins us to Jesus and His many tasks. That’s why we need to know Him more and His words. **Allow Him to continue to have authority over us.**

Once we know His words, hopefully, they become our words too that we can share them to others. We are invited to speak His words to others as in our Baptism we share in the prophetic ministry of Christ.

May our constant listening and devotion to God’s Word influence the way we live our lives transforming us prophetic witnesses in the world.”

Fr. Rectorino



THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“As Jesus proclaims the reign of God, **He invites us not only to be part of God’s kingdom. He also shares with us the task of proclaiming God’s kingdom to all.** Therefore, we are to bring the good news of salvation wherever we go and whatever we do.

Through Baptism, we are called by God to do the work of evangelizing the world. May our words and actions constantly communicate God’s presence. **And through us, may others come to know Jesus – His love, His mercy, His compassion.”**

Fr. Rectorino





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SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“The key to **deepening our knowledge and strengthening our relationship** with the Lord is to “**come and see**” where He is staying: to spend time in his company, learning from Him, getting to know Him more, and growing in relationship with Him. “**Come and see.**”

- **It is along the paths of our daily lives that we can meet the Lord.** He is not distant. He is near us. He is with us.
- **It is an invitation that gives us freedom to respond.** He does not force us, nor impose Himself upon us.
- It is an **experience that opens the possibility of a lifelong relationship** with the Lord.

When we “**come and see**” where the Lord is staying, and remain with Him like the first disciples, **we will discover that He alone can give the answer to the deepest longing of our hearts.**”



Fr. Rectorino



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SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

“God had chosen and prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of His Son. **When God the Father decided that His Son come to this world, He had chosen Mary to be the one to give flesh to His only Begotten Son.** It means Jesus’ flesh and blood came from His mother, Mary. And so today, we honour Mary as the Holy Mother of God.

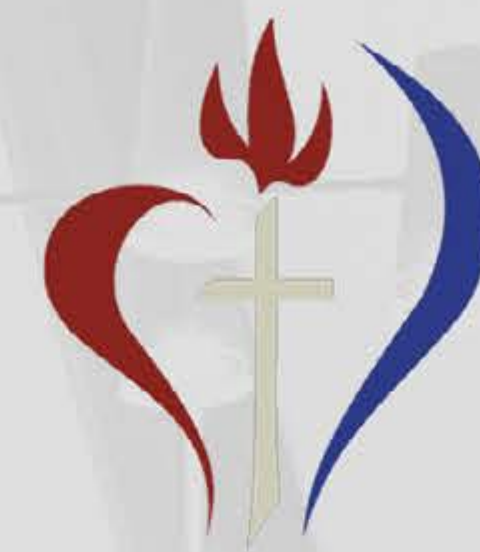
This Solemnity of Mary is a great opportunity for all of us to educate ourselves of Mary’s role in the history of our salvation. We need to equip ourselves with the knowledge about Mary and her role in the plan of salvation, so that, we can also share to others about her, and the great work and contribution she had given in the history of our salvation.

Today, we look at Mary and thank her for saying ‘yes’ to God’s plan. We look at her and see her many qualities which we can imitate. We ask her to continue to intercede for us. May our every devotion to Mary truly lead us to her Son, Jesus.”

Fr. Rectorino



FEAST, THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH



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“The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph is:

- **obedient to the law of the Lord.**
- **united with each other; they supported one another in building up their home where each one is nurtured in love and holiness.**
- **model for all Christian families.**

As followers of Jesus, we are all called to a life of holiness.

As we celebrate this feast, may we remind ourselves that **each of us**, in our different state of life **are called to persevere to live holiness of life.** We turn to the **Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph and ask them to help us to be obedient to God’s laws and commands.** Like them, may we, at all times, **manifest love, respect, and concern for one another.** May our respective **homes be a solemn place that nurtures holiness.**”



Fr. Rectorino



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SOLEMNITY, THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

“Christmas is a feast of giving. On Christmas day everyone is thinking of giving something. *I am not just talking about material things.* **It is a feast of giving because we were first recipients of the greatest Gift of God to humanity, His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ –** who dwells among us, to be with us, to live with us – to accompany us in our journey.

Hopefully, **God dwelling among us will continue to transform us; to change us to the image and likeness that God desires us to be.**

Christmas is a feast of giving and that giving is born out of God’s love for all of us. Over period of time, we are invited to imitate that love. **We are invited to spread His love – to let others experience God’s love through us.”**

Fr. Rectorino



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“ From the story of the Annunciation, we learn God has a plan for each one of us. **We are invited to continue to pray, discern, and discover our purpose, our mission.** [Ask yourself: Why am I here? What am I here for? What is God calling me to do?]

The answer will be revealed to us, if, like Mary, we will be constantly open to:

- **hearing God’s word,**
- **uniting ourselves with Him through prayer,**
- **spending time in discernment.**

Hopefully, like Mary, when we discover God’s plan for us, we will also say, “**Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word.**” ”



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SOLEMNITY, THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

“The Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord is affirming this beautiful truth: God is not hidden. He came to this world to be with us. He allowed Himself to be found by those who are genuinely searching for Him. He is continuously changing the lives of those who accept Him.

Like the wisemen, let us search for Him, and when we find Him, **offer Him gifts of sincerity of heart (our faith and trust in Him), acceptance of His teachings, and obedience to His commands.** Then, adore and worship Him.”



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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“ If we try to understand ourselves and our identity as rooted in our knowledge and relationship with Jesus then that’s going to change how we see ourselves at home, in our places of work, in our relating and interactions with others including with our families, friends and even with strangers and our enemies.

In other words, the real answer to that question **depends on our knowledge about Jesus and our formed relationship with Him as our Lord and Master.**

The good news that **we can rejoice about, is that, we too, can become credible, faithful, and authentic witnesses of Jesus like John the Baptist,** if we allow our relationship with Him to take supremacy over anything else.”

Fr. Rectorino

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“Our whole life is a time of preparation to meet the Lord.

John the Baptist’s call – *‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight’* is applicable then and now.

Constantly we need to pause and examine ourselves: *[What needs to be repaired? What needs fixing? What needs special attention currently? What’s crooked? What’s rough? What are hindering me to becoming a better person?]*

Of all the roads that we travel on, the most important road is the one that we create in our hearts for the Lord to enter our lives.”

Fr. Rectorino



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FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“We need to recognize the presence of God in the here and now. If we fail to see him through the many ways in which He comes to us, I don't think we will be able to identify Him when He comes again.

Let us continue to **create a space of welcome for Him – in our minds, hearts, and whole selves.** Let us resolve to live a prayerful life, that is, a life focus on the ways in which our Lord comes to us. May we be constantly **alert, watchful, attentive, and awake** eagerly waiting to always welcome Him.”

