

13th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY OF THE DAY!

FIRST READING: 2 Kings 4:8 - 11, 14 - 16a

A woman of influence provided a room for Elisha. In gratitude, he promised the woman, who had no child, that within a year she would bear a baby boy.

SECOND READING: Romans 6:3 - 4, 8 - 11

As Jesus conquered sin through death and resurrection, so his faithful have died to sin and come alive in God through baptism.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 10:37 - 42

Jesus told His apostles that people who seek only themselves come to ruin. Those who deny themselves for His sake discover themselves. Those who welcome prophets receive great rewards; those who welcome holy persons welcome the Lord.

While Jesus in today's Gospel does call us to sacrifice, His emphasis (and that of the first reading) seems to be on the rewards that disciples can expect. Discipleship is not without cost, but God's gratitude is boundless. Let us listen today for what God is asking each of us to do, and let us pray for the willingness to do it without counting the cost.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday Mass (Sunday Observance):

6:00 PM: Cleopatra Hobson (d) rb The Children of Mary.

Lucia Ramos (d) rb Olga McBean and family.

Sunday Masses:

7:30 AM: Birthday blessings for Velma Henry rb Velma Henry.

10:00 AM: God's deliverance and blessings for John Durand rb His mother.

6:00 PM: God's continued blessings for the Haitian Community.

Daily Masses:

Mon. July 03, 6:30 PM: *St. Thomas, Apostle* God's blessings and deliverance for Omi Francis rb His grandmother.

Tues. July 04, 7:00 AM: *St. Elizabeth of Portugal* Gerson Eusebe (d) rb His family.

Wed. July 05, 7:00 AM: *St. Anthony Mary* Birthday blessings and God's continued guidance and protection for Alma Wells.

Thurs. July 06, 7:00 AM: *St. Maria Goretti* Birthday blessings for Crystal Brown rb The Brown, Doute, Ferrell and Smith families. Fri. July 07, 7:00 PM: *Blessed Roger Dickenson, Ralph Milner and Lawrence Humphrey*

Clifford John (d) rb His family.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



SECOND COLLECTION: This week's second collection goes towards the **Renovation Fund.** Next week's second collection will go towards the **Diocesan Seminarians.** As always we thank you for your generosity.

ETERNAL CANDLE: This week the Eternal Candle is burning for *birthday blessings and God's protection for Anthony Renal.* You can request Eternal Candle for your loved ones' birthdays or any special occasions.

THANK YOU: On behalf of Holy Family parishioners, Rev. Kerly François, Rev. Neil Scantlebury and Deacon Evans Doway extend sincere thanks to the missionaries who worked tirelessly in cleaning and painting Upper Cloumban Hall, the Shrine and the church last week. We pray God's continued blessings on each of them and their families. Once again thank you and God bless.

CONGRATULATIONS: On behalf of Holy Family parishioners, Rev. Kerly François, Rev. Neil Scantlebury and Deacon Evans Doway extend congratulations to all 2017 graduates. We pray God's continued blessings and guidance in all your future endeavors. Once again, congratulations.

FAMILIES FOR CHRIST: Family Sunday is every first Sunday of each month starting with Families for Christ meeting at 9:15 a.m. in Lower Columban Hall followed by family mass at 10:00 a.m. All are welcome. Interested volunteers please contact Sheryl Griffith at 352-348-6979. Please be guided accordingly.

OFFICE CLOSED: Please note that the church office will be closed **ALL** day on <u>Monday, July 3, 2017 and Tuesday, July 4, 2017</u>, in observance of **VI Emancipation Day and Independence Day** respectively. Please be guided accordingly.

BAPTISM CLASS: Baptism class will commence on <u>Monday July 10, 2017</u>, at 7:00 p.m. in Lower Columban Hall, and will continue every Monday in July. Application forms for Baptism can be collected from the church office and should be completed before the start of the program. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

PRAYER GROUP 40TH ANNIVERSARY: The Holy Family Catholic Charismatic Prayer group is celebrating its 40th anniversary on July 4th. The celebrations will begin with a Thanksgiving Mass on <u>Monday July 3, 2017</u>, at 6:30 p.m. There will be a half hour of Praise and Worship beginning at 6:00 p.m.

An invitation is extended to everyone to join them on <u>Wednesday July 5, 2017</u>, during the All Day Adoration to spend some time in adoration and worship to the Almighty God. At 3:00 p.m. the Divine Mercy Chaplet will be sung. This will be followed by an interlude of Praise and Worship, the Holy Rosary and a period of intercessory prayer. All members, past members and the entire Holy Family parish are invited. Come and present your prayers and petitions to the Lord. The anniversary celebrations will end with a healing service on <u>Monday July 10</u>, <u>2017</u>, at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome.

FATIMA CELEBRATIONS: The Children of Mary invites everyone to a series of celebrations celebrating the hundredth year of Our Lady's appearance to the children in Fatima. The next celebration is *Thursday, July 13, 2017* at Our Lady of Cassi Hill Shrine at 7:00 p.m. Fr. Tuchard Gula, will be preaching along with devotions to Our Lady. The celebrations will continue on the 13th of each month until *October 13, 2017.* Your participation will be greatly appreciated.



The liturgy of the Word centers on the theme of hospitality. The practice of receiving a guest or a stranger graciously was common to many social groups throughout the period in which OT and NT were composed. It was a sacred duty observed heartily and more stringently than many a written law. The guest was treated with respect and honour and was provided with shelter and food for his animals, water for his feet, rest, and a sumptuous feast. He enjoyed protection, even if he were an enemy, for three days and thirty six hours after eating with the host (the time sustained by his food). But special nuances of hospitality, particularly with regard to the guest and host played by God or Christ, serve to distinguish the notions of the biblical writers from those of their contemporaries. A significant feature of hospitality that emerges from the OT is Israel's deep sense of God as its host. Conscious of its formation from descendants of Abraham, Israel knew and treasured its identity as a pilgrim people (Deut 26:5-22), especially during the Exodus journey when it received manna from God in the wilderness (Exod 16-17). Having taken possession of the Promised Land, Israelites nevertheless remembered that their home belonged to God and that they, like their ancestors, remained sojourners and passing guests in God's eyes. Precisely as inhabitants of the land, they pictured themselves being led into green pastures and feted at the table of the divine king in the presence of their enemies. When Israel's prophets looked forward to an era of perfect peace, it was no accident that they envisioned God entertaining the people at an endless feast (Amos 9:13-15; Joel 3:18).

Throughout their early history, the Jews prized hospitality as a virtue. Particularly the synagogue served as a hostel or meeting place for travelers seeking accommodation. At the Sabbath eve meal visitors were welcomed. Among the rabbis, scholars were to be given precedence in the receiving of food and lodging. The patriarch Abraham emerged as a special exemplar of hospitality among many Jewish groups. Some rabbinic stories portray Abraham as the founder of inns for travelers, the inventor and teacher of grace after meals, and the missionary host who insists that his guests praise the God of Israel for the meal or pay cash for it. The ministry of Jesus also manifests the theme of hospitality. Jesus' proclamation of the kingdom is frequently

LITURGYAND WORD

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Every week the report on stewardship will include our gifts of time, talent, and treasure. In gratitude to God, we give of our first fruits to help fulfill God's mission of love here on earth.

Attendance: Last Weekend: 451

Last Weekend's collections FIRST COLLECTION: <u>\$4,797.80</u>

SECOND COLLECTION: Peter's Pence: <u>\$1,450.16</u>

Our Bishop's Appeal contribution now amounts to \$28,693.00, 72% of our goal of <u>\$40,000.00</u>. As always we thank you for your continuous contribution towards our Bishop's Appeal. Once again, thank you.

LITURGY AND WORD CONT'D

symbolized by images of food and drink especially at festive meals. Thus the kingdom is compared to a great banquet, and Jesus ends his ministry with a ceremonial meal at which words about eating and drinking in the kingdom are spoken. The majority of Jesus' parabolic sayings have to do with the production and use of food and drink or the providing of homelike refuge for God's creatures. What seems to lie behind such teaching is a conviction held by Jesus that God is revealing himself powerfully as Israel's host.

Jesus was very much dependent on hospitality for his daily care and lodging. Christians in their travels would seek out Christian brethren, partly for protection but mainly to share fellowship. Hospitality was the chief bond which brought the early churches a sense of unity for they helped each other.

Perhaps the most winsome of all reflections on hospitality by early Christian writers is found in Heb 13:2 where believers are urged to receive strangers graciously on the ground that "thereby some have entertained angels unawares." Clearly the allusion is to Abraham's enthusiastic reception of the three heavenly messengers (Gen 18:1-15). But Jesus too may come as a stranger.

