

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY OF THE DAY!

FIRST READING: Isaiah 22:19 - 23

The Lord's servant will receive the key of the House of David. What the servant does. God confirms.

SECOND READING: Romans 11:33 - 36

The riches, wisdom, and knowledge of God are too deep for humans to fathom. God's judgments are inscrutable and unsearchable. All things come from God, through God, and for God.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 16:13 - 20

At Caesarea Philippi, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Upon this rock I will "build my church." Then he gave to Peter the keys to heaven's reign, Finally, Jesus ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that He was the Christ. Peter's reply to Jesus' query in today's Gospel brings a surprising response for Jesus. Because of his faith, Peter is given great responsibility. Listening to today's readings, perhaps we will hear God challenging us too with unexpected responsibility. What is God inviting you to do today?

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday Mass (Sunday Observance):

6:00 PM: Birthday blessings for Irene Morris rb The Delgardo family.

Sunday Masses:

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

10:00 AM: Birthday blessings for Renee Grieg rb The Grieg family.

6:00 PM: God's continued healing and deliverance for the Haitian community.

Daily Masses:

Mon. Aug. 28, 6:00 PM: St. Augustine Birthday blessings for Jada George rb Her grandmother.

Tues. Aug. 29, 7:00 AM: St. John the Baptist Rose & Richard Cook (deceased) rb Estelle Farro.

Wed. Aug. 30, 7:00 AM: St. Fiacre Birthday blessings for Tyrone Hodge, Jr. rb Cleopha Rawlings.

Thurs. Aug. 31, 7:00 AM: St. Aidan of Lindisfarne Birthday blessings and God's guidance and protection for Makil Bedminster rb Mona Bedminster.

Fri. Sept. 1, 7:00 PM: St. Giles Deceased families of Eustache and Titre rb Her children.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

ETERNAL CANDLE: This week the Eternal Candle is burning for God's continued blessings and healing for Bishop Elliott Thomas. You can request the Eternal Candle for your loved ones' birthdays or any special occasions.

CASSI HILL PILGRIMAGE: Thank you to all those who participated in one way or another in making the Cassi Hill Pilgrimage a success. May Our Lady of Cassi Hill intercede on your behalf. Once again, thank you.

SYMPATHY: On behalf of Holy Family parishioners, Rev. Kerly François, Rev. Neil Scantlebury and Deacon Peter Laurencin extend sincere sympathy to Lorelee Hendricks and family on the passing of her brother, Lee Hendricks, who died on <u>Saturday, August 12, 2017</u>. The funeral Service for the late Lee *Hendricks* will take place on *Friday, September 1, 2017*, at Holy Family Church. May his soul and the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.

FOOD FOR THE POOR: This weekend we will collect non-perishable items for our less fortunate brothers and sisters within our community. As always, we thank you for your generosity and may God continue to bless you and your family abundantly. Once again, thank you.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: There will be another planning meeting next Saturday, September 2, 2017, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Thank you for your ministry during the last school year and we look forward to your continued cooperation in the new school year. Once again thank you. Religious education classes will begin on *Saturday, September 16, 2017*, at 9:00 a.m. in the church. All parents and guardians are encouraged to attend the opening mass. Please register your child or children early for CCD class. Forms can be picked up from the church office or at the entrance of the church. Additional information will be provided later.

FUN DAY: Families for Christ at Holy Family Church is hosting a Family Fun Festival on Saturday, September 9, 2017 from 11:30 am – 4:00 pm in the church's parking lot, with registration for CCD. The Family Festival is a fun filled community outreach to invite children and their families from neighboring communities to have fun on Saturday and worship on Sunday. Donations of the following items are needed to make this event a success: Hot dogs, hamburgers & buns, candy, sodas, water, juice boxes, popcorn and monetary donations. Please drop off donations at the church office during the week and at the church on Saturday and Sunday.

USHERING MINSTRY: Being a member of the Holy Family Church ushers ministry is very rewarding. We are open to both men and women of our parish. If you are a caring, reliable and dedicated person, the usher ministry needs you for Saturday mass 6:00 p.m., Sunday masses at 7:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. There is a sign-up sheet on the table at the back of the church. Please indicate which mass you would be an usher along with your name and telephone number.

LUNCHEON: Holy Family church will be hosting a luncheon on *Sunday*, October 8, 2017, to honor the members of The Children of Mary. This celebration is in commemoration of the 70th anniversary of Cassi Hill and the 100th anniversary celebration of Our Lady of Fatima. This luncheon will start at 12:30 p.m. in Upper Columban Hall. Donation: Adults - \$50.00.

A young boy approached an enlightened person and asked him as to what must he do to have a God-experience. The enlightened one closed his eyes and remained silent for some time. The young man asked again, "what must I do to have a God experience?" The enlightened one opened his eyes, smiled at him and again closed his eyes. The young man in his restlessness repeated his question a third time. Now the enlightened one opened his eyes, smiled at the young man and told him, "I told you twice. Seek the Lord in the inner silence of your heart and you will have a God-experience. The closed eves help you only to open your inner eyes to see God enthroned in your heart. The atmosphere of external silence is only but an attempt to experience inner silence. Once you open this cave of your heart with the keys of inner silence and deeper awareness you stand face to face before God." Today's readings provide us with three insights into our disposition to have an authentic experience of God:

a) Deeper meaning of the word 'Key': The most important word in today's readings is KEY. In the First Reading, God promises to give the keys of the house of David to Eliakim with sole authority over his royal household. In the Second Reading, St Paul articulates the richness of the divine mystery which is inaccessible to human intellect. In the Gospel we see Jesus promising keys of the kingdom to Peter.

b) Two keys which help us to open the divine treasure: The two questions that Jesus asked his disciples reveal two keys that a person may use in order to know God in Jesus: knowledge or theology ("who do people say I am?"), and experience or spirituality ("who do you say that I am"). The danger in using only the first key is to limit oneself to theology. The danger in using only the second key is to ignore the light of reason in our spirituality. Thus Jesus couples the second key with revelation ("My Father has revealed

LITURGY AND 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: **383**

Last Weekend's collections FIRST COLLECTION: \$5,179.36 SECOND COLLECTION: Youth Ministry: <u>\$1,150.05</u>

Our Bishop's Appeal contribution now amounts to \$33,757.00, 84% of our goal of \$40,000.00. As always we thank you for your continuous contribution towards our Bishop's Appeal. Once again, thank you.



this to you.").

c) The need to combine both the keys: We need both the keys because 'theology without spirituality is like bones without flesh, and spirituality without theology is like flesh without bones.' Which of the two keys do I use often in order to find our treasure in God?

As Christians, we can hardly stop advocating marriage simply to avoid countering contemporary sensibilities, or out of a desire to be fashionable or a sense of helplessness in the face of human and moral failings. We would be depriving the world of values that we can and must offer. It is true that there is no sense in simply decrying present-day evils, as if this could change things. Nor it is helpful to try to impose rules by sheer authority. What we need is a more responsible and generous effort to present the reasons and motivations for choosing marriage and the family, and in this way to help men and women better to respond to the grace that God offers them.

We also need to be humble and realistic, acknowledging that at times the way we present our Christian beliefs and treat other people has helped contribute to today's problematic situation. We need a healthy dose of self-criticism. At times we have also proposed a far too abstract and almost artificial theological ideal of marriage, far removed from the concrete situation and practical possibilities of real families. This excessive idealization, especially when we have failed to inspire trust in God's grace, has not helped to make marriage more desirable and attractive, but quite the opposite.

- Pope Francis, (Amoris Laetitia)