



Our Lady of Lourdes Parish

10243 12TH AVENUE SOUTH
SEATTLE, WA 98168

MAILING ADDRESS:
P.O. BOX 69206
SEATAC, WA 98168 - 9206

206-735-7598

WWW.DUCMELODUCSEATTLE.ORG

WELCOME!

Thank you for celebrating with us today. We invite you to come and worship with us again. If you would like to be a member of our faith community, please take a moment to register. We would love to have you as our spiritual companion.

MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY

5:00 pm Vigil Mass (Vietnamese)

TUESDAY - FRIDAY

6:00 pm (Vietnamese)

SUNDAY

8:30 am Mass (English)

10:30 am Mass (Vietnamese)

Livestream (Facebook and Youtube)

12:30 pm (Vietnamese for Youth)

ANOINTING OF THE SICK MASS

1st Friday of the Month - 5:30 pm Adoration
6:00 pm Mass

CONFESSIONS

Saturday 4:30 pm - 4:50 pm
Sunday 8:00 am - 8:20 am
Tuesday - Friday 5:30 pm - 5:50 pm

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish



PARISH STAFF

PASTOR:

Father Joseph Vu, S.D.D., STL
Frjoseph.vu@ollpsea.org

Parish Secretary

Thu Thai Duong
thu.duong@ollpsea.org

PA Administration/Bookkeeper

Jadelyn Manuel
jadelyn.stoll@gmail.com

Administration/Data Entry

Michelle Miller
Michelle.Miller@ollpsea.org

Administration/Data Entry

Monica Schwarz
Monica.schwarz@ollpsea.org

Safe Environment & Facilities Manager

Tang Nguyen
Tang.nguyen@ollpsea.org

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Saturday, Sunday, Monday: Closed
Tuesday - Friday: 9:00am - 3:00pm
Please Call for Appointment

PARISH OFFICE 206-735-7598

Sacrament of Anointing the Sick: Ext. 1

Parish Staff: Ext. 2

Administrative Support: Ext. 3

Please leave a message if no one answers and your



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FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP (JULY 22ND - JULY 23RD)

Donation	\$5,805.00
Donation Online	\$1,455.00
Maintenance Fund	\$555.00
Debt Reduction	\$0
Total Donation	\$7,815.00

Annual Catholic Appeal 2023 GOAL \$36,577

As of 7.30.23, Gifts Received \$20,536

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Annual Catholic Appeal

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Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

"Because you have asked for this—
not for a long life for yourself,
nor for riches,
nor for the life of your enemies,
but for understanding so that you may know what is
right—
I do as you requested." (1 Kgs 3:11-12)

Psalm:

Lord, I love your commands. (Ps 119)

Second Reading:

For those he foreknew he also predestined
to be conformed to the image of his Son,
so that he might be the firstborn
among many brothers and sisters. (Rom 8:29)

Gospel:

"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a
field,
which a person finds and hides again,
and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and
buys that field." (Mt 13:44)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Following Christ will take everything we have.
Are we ready to give it all? At the end of our
lives, let us hope we can say truthfully that we
sold all we had in order to purchase the field
which contained the great treasure.



Seventeenth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Homily by Father Paul Vu

Mt 13:44-52

What is my most precious treasure?

The Word of God on this 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time gives us a choice for our eternal destiny: wise or foolish; be a good person or a bad person; happiness or suffering; Heaven or Hell? It all depends on the wish and choice of each of us starting today and right now.

In the Gospel we have just heard, Jesus tells us three parables: a treasure buried in a field, a merchant looking for precious stones, and the selection of good and bad fish. The first and second parables have the same content, describing people who have determined for themselves what is the most precious and are ready to have it at any cost.

During a retreat, I heard the story of a woman, a mother sharing that: After the events of 1975 in Vietnam, to escape the cruel rule of the communist government, she crossed the border and immigrated in the United States. Because she did not want her children to be poor and suffering like her later, she worked two or three jobs to have a lot of money. After more than 10 years, she had a house, a new car, a lot of money in the bank, everything is available. Except for one thing, her son was taken to prison for drug. At that time, she realized that money is not the most precious thing, but love is everything. Because love is God and God is love.

The third parable is a picture of the end of the world, the day when God judges everyone. The day the angels of the Lord will separate the good from the bad. At that time, each person will receive their own consequences while living, whether to suffer in Hell forever or enjoy eternal happiness in Heaven.

Let us not let all the fleeting things of this life tempt us, not allowing us to consider God as our treasure, the most precious jewel in our lives. Otherwise, when we close our eyes and die, when we appear before God's judgment, we will have regrets. By then it was too late! Because when we were alive, we chose our own destiny.

The future fate of each person does not come naturally or predestination, but it begins today, from our desire and freedom to choose through our thoughts; thinking leads to action; repetitive action becomes a habit; habit will become nature; and ultimately that nature will determine our fate.

I pray that each one of us has the motivation to ask God for the wisdom to know the right and the wrong, the courage to desire God, and the support for one another to prioritize God in our lives.

Liturgical Life

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

The Falling Action and the Field

In my freshman year of high school, I was fairly miserable at identifying the five essential elements of plot (exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution).

To this day, the only reason I remember anything about them at all is because my English teacher used episodes of Scooby Doo to illustrate the different elements. Falling action vs. climax is where I got tripped up, the two are similar, and only discernible if you examine them relative to each other.

Every Scooby Doo episode has a big dramatic sequence (the climax) where the ghost/monster/zombie chases The Gang through the haunted mansion. The falling action is what comes immediately after: searching for her glasses that she lost during the chase, Velma bumps into a pulley wheel disguised behind a tapestry and realizes the ghost/monster/zombie is actually the janitor in a costume, hooked up to an elaborate cable system jerry-rigged throughout the mansion. Meddling kids.

I confused the two because, to me, they are *both* equally dramatic: the chase and the fallout.

It occurs to me that, if you look at the course of salvation history, we are living in the falling action, not the climax. Take the parable of the treasure in the field: we have found the treasure. But we haven't yet bought the field.

I often make the mistake of thinking I am still lost in the climax, searching for the truth. But I know exactly where the truth is.

What I need to be concerned with is this: am I doing what I need to do to buy the field?

"Wonderful are your decrees; therefore I observe them. The revelation of your words sheds light, giving understanding to the simple." — Psalm 119

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Why do priests kiss the altar at the start of Mass?

Answer:

Our churches and chapels are filled with symbols. We might think of the more common symbols (like the crucifix, statues, stained-glass windows, vestment color and altar cloths) as well as major symbols (such as the paschal candle and the baptismal font). But there are some things that we can take for granted in our sacred spaces, because unfortunately, they seem to just be part of the building, including three of the main symbols of our liturgy: the ambo (lectern), the chair for the priest celebrant, and the altar.

These three objects are placed in a specially designated area called the sanctuary. They are the places where the Word of God is proclaimed, where the priest prays and presides at the celebration, and where the bread and wine are offered by the priest during the Eucharistic Prayer. Although each of these objects is sacred because of the role they play in our worship, the altar holds a special place. In a document containing the rules and instructions for the Mass — the "General Instruction of the Roman Missal" — we read: "The altar on which the Sacrifice of the Cross is made present under sacramental signs is also the table of the Lord to which the People of God is called together to participate in the Mass, as well as the center of the thanksgiving that is accomplished throughout the Eucharist" (no. 296).

One of the ways that we recognize the importance of the altar is when the priest and deacon kiss the altar at the beginning of Mass. Kissing is an ancient act of devotion. Remember, we also kiss the cross on Good Friday, and the deacon or priest kisses the "Book of the Gospels" after the Gospel is proclaimed. This act of devotion reminds us that the altar is a symbol of Jesus, the "living stone" (see 1 Peter 2:4), the foundation stone of our faith. It is a symbol gesture, but it is a powerful reminder of the One on whom our faith is built and in whose name we gather as the "household of faith" (see Galatians 6:10).

To learn more, see the "Catechism of the Catholic Church" (no. 1382-1383).