

# Our Lady of Lourdes Parish

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**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  
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#### Parochial Vicar

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#### Parish Secretary

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#### Liturgy Coordinator

Barb Ridge  
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### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday: Closed  
 Tuesday & Friday: Please Call for Appointment  
 Wednesday: 9:30am - 3:00pm  
 Thursday: 9:30am - 3:00pm  
 Please leave a message if no one answers and your call will be returned.

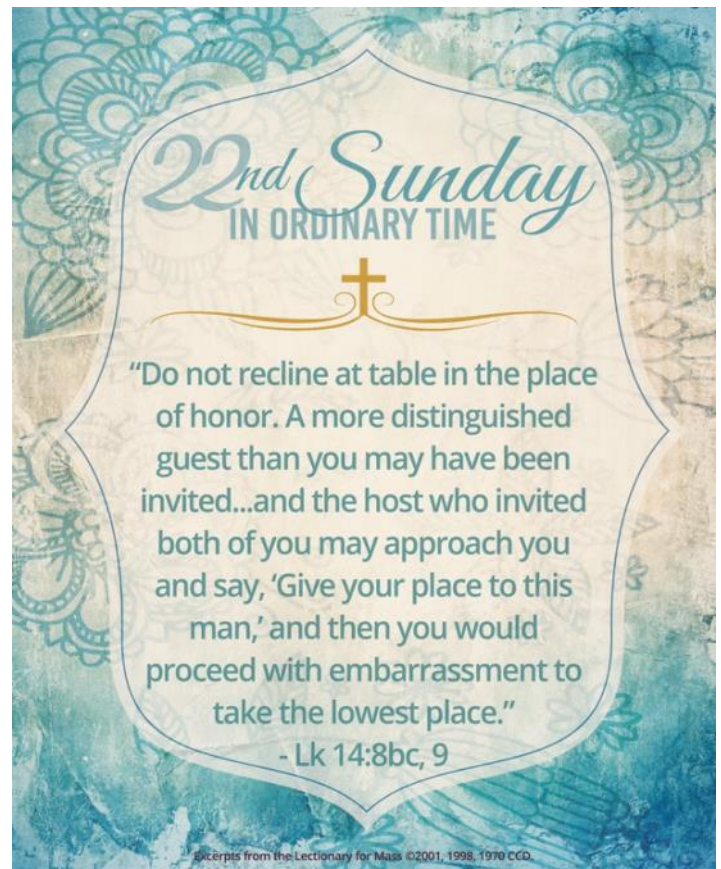
### FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP (AUGUST 20 – AUGUST 21)

Donation	\$3,598.00
Donation Online	\$1,542.00
Maintenance Fund	\$25.00
Debt Reduction	\$0
<b>Total Donation</b>	<b>\$5,165.00</b>

**2022 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL GOAL**  
**\$24,876, Gifts Received \$35,645.00**

 **Annual Catholic Appeal**

**TOGETHER WE CAN**  
**be Christ to Others**



## Seeing Myself as God Sees Me

Homily by Father Joseph Vu

Humility doesn't have a good name.

- It may conjure up images of degradation and abjection
- Or we may think that it means becoming a doormat for others to step on.

But those ideas are both off-target. And God thinks that true humility is vital: in fact he tells us so in the readings we just heard.

However it's important to understand what humility really means. Humility means seeing ourselves through God's eyes.

- To belittle the gifts God has given us would actually be a subtle form of pride.
- St Benedict used to say that if a monk had a wonderful singing voice and degraded his own ability it would be displeasing to God. So we should recognize the good, and thank God for it.
- However we also need to recognize what is evil in us. The pride, the vanity, the laziness, the lust, and the plain old selfishness that we give in to should bring us on our knees before God to ask for his mercy.
- When St Theresa of Avila asked Christ what true humility meant, he replied: "To know what you can do, and what I can do."
- And that also brings us to a peaceful humility in our relationship with others. We are not frustrated by others' sinfulness or lack of virtue, because we know that we're just like them.

The first reading today, from the Book of Sirach, exhorts us: "Child, conduct your affairs with humility...

Humble yourself the more, the greater you are, and you will find favor with God."

Jesus reprises this idea in the gospel, and declares that "Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

He's calling us to see ourselves as God sees us: sinners infinitely loved by God, and in desperate need of his mercy.

### Humility through prayer

How do we grow in humility, in this ability to see ourselves as God sees us? St Catherine of Sienna, one of the 4 women doctors of the Church, gives us a path to follow: persevering in prayer.

Anyone who has tried to pray knows that distractions are a common obstacle.

- We try to pray, and we start thinking about the bills or the soccer game or the person who cut us off in traffic earlier in the day.

But St Catherine tells us that these distractions are allowed by God to help us to grow in humility.

God revealed to her that he permits them "out of love, to preserve (the soul) and make it grow in the virtue of humility... receiving with humility the good times and the bad, accepting with love the love with which I give my graces..."

God went on to reveal to her that the person "should be humble therefore...and receive joy or the lack thereof according to my will, not according to its own will."

So when we persevere in prayer even when we're distracted, we come to a greater humility. We know our own weakness, and we also know how much God loves us, and wants us to be with him in prayer.

As we prepare to receive the gift of gifts, the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, we ask him to give us the joy seeing ourselves as he sees us, and to make us truly humble of heart.

# WORSHIP & MEDITATION



## FIRST READING

Humble yourself the more, the greater  
you are,  
and you will find favor with God.  
(Sir 7:18)



## PSALM

God, in your goodness, you have made a  
home for the poor. (Ps 68)



## SECOND READING

You have approached Mount Zion  
and the city of the living God.  
(Heb 12:22)



## GOSPEL

“For every one who exalts himself will be  
humbled,  
but the one who humbles himself will  
be exalted.” (Lk 14:11)

*Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001,  
1998, 1970 CCD. The English translation of Psalm  
Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981,  
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## GOSPEL MEDITATION

### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

People who are concerned with their own advancement and agenda have little room for anyone else. With an almost addictive pursuit of esteem and acknowledgment from others, they become little more than entitled embodiments of the vice of pride. Public humiliation or embarrassment can hit them hard. While avoiding humiliation and embarrassment may be advantageous to obtaining worldly success, they are much less desirable motivations for entering the Kingdom of God. Avoiding embarrassment is a self-serving motivation. Pride and all of its manifestations have no place on God's agenda, neither do worldly success and fulfillment. In fact, we have been clearly told that if we love our lives, we will lose them. Therefore, if you really want to find your true station in life, learn to give yourself away.

While this may sound foolish to secular ears, it actually makes perfect sense. God, who is love, makes each of us in His image. Love, and therefore God, is in our DNA. That being the case, love is never love if it is kept to oneself or hoarded. Love needs to be shared and given away. Therefore, it is the only proper motivation for entering the Kingdom of God. The door to happiness is only opened when we realize that all we are and all we have is due only to God's grace. Without God we are nothing.

Love is the remedy for pride and protects us from ourselves. God asks us to be humble. Only when we are free from the traps of pride and arrogance that we can begin to follow the path to true humility. Only one who is humble can rightly love and be of service to God. “God makes use only of the humble as his instruments (Jean-Pierre de Caussade).” The humble one does not need others to give them worth and value. Their self-esteem comes from the much more secure foundation of God. Only those who are entirely free can give themselves freely to others. Love must always be our motivation for doing all things. Be content that God has invited you to the banquet of life. Concern yourself with accepting the invitation, and don't worry about where you will sit.