

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:

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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 27 – AUGUST 28)

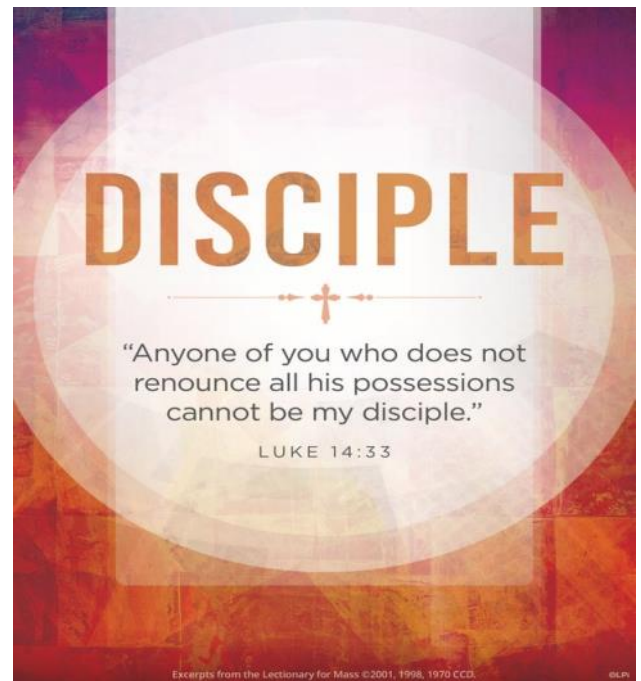
Donation	\$4,596.71
Donation Online	\$1,332.00
Maintenance Fund	\$90.00
Debt Reduction	\$0
Total Donation	\$6,018.71

2022 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL GOAL \$24,876

GIFTS RECEIVED \$37,552.50

 Annual Catholic Appeal

**TOGETHER WE CAN
be Christ to Others**



23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time - C

Homily by Father Peter Doan

All of us have crosses in our lives. Crosses occur when our happiness and our hope are threatened in ways we cannot avoid. For some of us, our crosses are relatively small. For others, they are overwhelming. Sickness can be a cross; unemployment can be a cross; war can be a cross; emotional problems, guilt, anxiety, depression, anger... can be a cross. It can be a habit of jealousy eating at us or the fear of growing old. Whatever our crosses are, they are with us. When we wake up every morning, they face us. We may for a while forget about them, but soon they reappear at our side, claiming our attention. If we are able to dispel or escape our crosses, we certainly should. But most crosses are not easy to shake off.

Jesus' words in today's gospel about crosses seem harsh and demanding. "Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple." At first, it seems like Jesus is giving us a cross to test us, to see if we can carry it. If we cannot do so, we are unable to follow him. But this understanding is certainly false. God does not give us crosses. God is the source of goodness, not the source of evil. Crosses come to us because of our imperfection and the imperfection of our world. God does not send us crosses. They come to us because we are human and weak.

When Jesus said this he was on the road to Jerusalem. He knew that He was on his way to the cross; the crowds who were with him thought that he was on his way to an empire. In the most vivid way, he told them that those who followed him were not on they way to worldly power and glory, but must be ready for a loyalty which would sacrifice the dearest things in life and for a suffering on a cross.

The crosses just come to us. We turn a corner in our life and suddenly we realize, "I'm going to have to deal with sickness, or divorce, or rejection, or unemployment." All of us would rather avoid these troubles, but they come to us and we have no choice but to take them up and carry them. But what we can choose is how we carry them. We can choose to let our crosses absorb all of our energy and joy, or carry them and at the same time remain open to life.

So, what is Jesus trying to say when he talks about the cross? He is offering us a way of dealing with crosses in our lives. The important word in Jesus admonition is the word "carry". What Jesus is trying to tell us is that it is only by carrying our cross, by taking it up, that we will be free. Now you and I usually do anything other than carry our cross. We deny the cross, pretending it's not there. We try to go on with life as usual. But the denial only pushes down our fear and our anger within us. It eventually boils up and explodes. We stare at the cross, saying over and over, "How can this be happening to me?" But our staring only paralyzes us and robs us of life. We try to drag the cross behind us, pushing ahead, saying "This is not going to stop me!" But in time, the cross wears us out, and we collapse in exhaustion.

The only effective way to deal with the cross is to carry the cross, to consent to it. We must lift the cross to our shoulders and say, "Yes, this is my cross, and since I cannot avoid it, I will accept it." Once we put the cross on our shoulders, we are free to move forward into life. Yes, at times the cross is heavy. It is a burden. But it need not prevent us from love and hope. And Christ, who carried his own cross, will be with us. As long as we deny the cross, or stare at the cross, or drag the cross, Jesus can do nothing. But once we take up the cross, and begin to carry it, Jesus is immediately at our side, supporting us, and saying, "Be courage. Let's take this one step at a time. Follow me into glory."

WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 4, 2022

- Sunday:** Wis 9:13-18b/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14-17/Phlm 9-10, 12-17/Lk 14:25-33
- Monday:** 1 Cor 5:1-8/Ps 5:5-6, 7, 12/Lk 6:6-11
- Tuesday:** 1 Cor 6:1-11/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b/Lk 6:12-19
- Wednesday:** 1 Cor 7:25-31/Ps 45:11-12, 14-15, 16-17/Lk 6:20-26
- Thursday:** Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30/Ps 13:6ab, 6c/Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 or 1:18-23
- Friday:** 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22b-27/Ps 84:3, 4, 5-6, 12/Lk 6:39-42
- Saturday:** 1 Cor 10:14-22/Ps 116:12-13, 17-18/Lk 6:43-49
- Next Sunday:** Ex 32:7-11, 13-14/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 17, 19/1 Tm 1:12-17/Lk 15:1-32 or 15:1-10

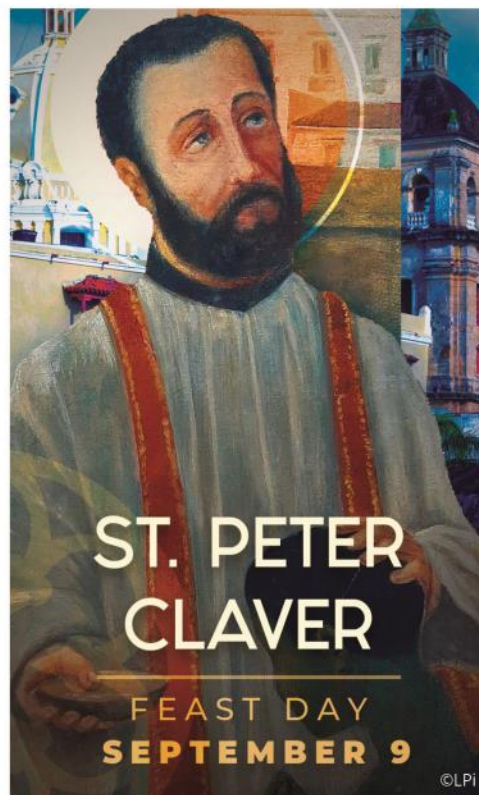
OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 4, 2022

- Sunday:** 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Monday:** Labor Day
- Thursday:** The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Friday:** St. Peter Claver, Priest
- Next Sunday:** 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Patriot Day; Grandparents' Day

LIVE THE LITURGY

Inspiration for the week

"Stand up straight and don't slouch!" Many a child has heard these words bellowed from their mother's lips. We need the perspective of others to help us understand when we are not walking as straight as we could be. God sends us the Holy Spirit to correct and guide us so that our paths through life can be straight. Without this assistance, how we see and understand ourselves and the world around us is incomplete. We will also lack the virtue of fortitude. It takes courage to listen to the Holy Spirit and devote ourselves to the task of discipleship. We have to put aside things that the world says are necessary and follow a path placed before us by Jesus Christ. Jesus is asking us to follow him. We must consider what we have to do to be free enough to do so. God needs us to show the world a complete picture of what life is meant to be, correct its vision and tell it to stand up straight!



SAINT OF THE WEEK

Born in Catalonia Spain in 1580, Saint Peter Claver studied at first at the University of Barcelona and then joined the Jesuits. He became friends with fellow brother Saint Alphonsus Rodriguez who encouraged him to be a missionary in the New World. Accordingly, Saint Peter went to Cartagena, a city in present-day Columbia where he was ordained in 1615.

Cartagena was a center for the slave trade, and the young missionary knew where he could best serve God. He proclaimed himself, "the slave of the Negroes forever." As ships would arrive with their human cargo, Saint Peter and a group of interpreters would rush into the hold with food and medicines. When the slaves were moved to pens to await sale, the saint continued to work among them, communicating God's love with acts of generosity and teaching the Catholic faith.

He also led missions in the interior, refusing the hospitality of plantation owners and preferring to stay in the slave quarters. He organized charitable societies and is said to have baptized and catechized more than 300,000 enslaved persons.

Saint Peter Claver died on September 8, 1654. He was canonized with his friend Saint Alphonsus Rodriguez in 1888, by Pope Leo XIII. He is the worldwide patron saint of African Americans and of enslaved peoples.