**Bulletin for August 25, 2024 Presiders**: Saturday –5:30pm Fr. Shayne Duvall Sunday– 8:30am & 11:30am Fr. Steven Henriksen

# TO WHOM SHALL WE GO?

#### **JOHN 6:68**

#### TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



St. Frances of Rome Catholic Parish

2119 Payne St. Louisville, Ky 40206 <u>stfranrome@sfrlou.org</u> 502-896-8401 Fr. Shayne Duvall: Pastor Fr. Steven Henriksen: Associate Pastor

*Mass Schedule* Monday, Wednesday & Friday-8:30 a.m. Saturday-5:30 p.m. Sunday-8:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. Rosary after each weekday Mass

### Readings for the week of August 25, 2024

#### Sunday:

Jos 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b/Ps 34:2-3, 16-17, 18-19, 20-21, 22-23 (9a)/Eph 5:21-32 or 5:2a, 25-32/Jn 6:60-69

#### Monday:

2 Thes 1:1-5, 11-12/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 4-5/ Mt 23:13-22

#### **Tuesday:**

2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17/Ps 96:10, 11-12, 13/ Mt 23:23-26

#### Wednesday:

2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18/Ps 128:1-2, 4-5/ Mt 23:27-32

**Thursday:** 1 Cor 1:1-9/Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mk 6:17-29

#### Friday:

1 Cor 1:17-25/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 10-11/ Mt 25:1-13

#### Saturday:

1 Cor 1:26-31/Ps 33:12-13, 18-19, 20-21/ Mt 25:14-30

#### Next Sunday:

Dt 4:1-2, 6-8/Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5 1a/ Jas 2:1-5/Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27/ Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23



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#### **Gospel Meditation** Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

The famous Russian novelist Fyodor Dostoyevsky said, "Love in action is a harsh and dreadful thing." In the Gospel reading this week, Jesus does something harsh and dreadful — he watches his own disciples abandon him. What could possibly be loving about that?

Well, we notice the context is Jesus' teaching about eating and drinking his body and blood. His followers hear this and say, "**This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?**" (John 6:60). We shouldn't imagine we'd do anything different, because not even the ones who stay, like Peter, seem to understand what Jesus is saying. Then we hear this devastating line, "**Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him**" (John 6:66). Besides the night of the Last Supper, only now do Jesus' disciples abandon him. And, painfully, Jesus just lets them go.

The best way to make sense out of this is love. Jesus is God's love in action. He wants to become one with those whom He loves. He wants to love them as His own body. Yes, the oneness manifested in the Eucharist sounds harsh and dreadful because it is rooted in love which is willing to risk abandonment and separation to attain its goal: to be one body with the beloved. It is both terrifying and wonderful that Jesus will risk losing us in order to be one with us. Our response? Lord, we cannot grasp a love so great, but please help us never to abandon it, either.

- Father John Muir

"The words I have spoken to you are Spirit and life. But there are some of you who do not believe." And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by my Father." As a result of this, many of his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him. - Jn 6:63c-64a, 65-66

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

#### St. Leonard's Summer Picnic is Saturday, September 7th from 5-10pm right after the 4pm Mass.

St. Frances of Rome has a history of partnering with St. Leonard at the Gift Card booth. The proceeds for this booth go to benefit the United Crescent Hill Ministries Food Pantry Ministry. There are still several open spots for the Gift Card booth, and any help you'd like to give would be most welcome. Just scan the QR

code to sign up, or call picnic volunteer coordinator, Teresa Riggs at (502) 819-9276.



#### **Questions of the Week**

#### Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

#### **First Reading:**

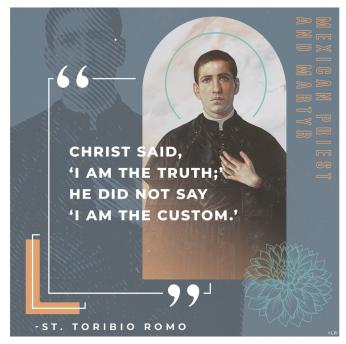
Upon entering the Promised Land and remembering the Exodus from Egypt, both Joshua and all twelve tribes of Israel pledged their faithful to God alone. What has God done in your life that you can acknowledge and celebrate?

#### Second Reading:

Toward the end of his letter to the Ephesians, Paul takes up the topic of husbands and wives. He speaks of the importance of mutual respect and love. What do you add as key parts for a successful marriage?

#### Gospel:

John tells us that many of Jesus's disciples stopped following him because they found some of his teachings too hard to accept. What keeps you following Jesus?



## CATHOLIC

#### To Whom Shall We Go?

A friend of mine, who is a far better Christian than I can ever hope to be, once shared with me that her family sneers at her belief system and lifestyle.

She believes in fairy tales they tell her. She's looking for simple solutions from a kind-faced man in the sky because she doesn't want to grapple with complicated answers to complicated problems.

Religion, they argue, is the easy way out.

As she spoke about this, her voice became unsteady. Not with anger, but with emotion. "I would never call this life easy," she said. "If I was looking for something that was easy, I wouldn't choose Catholicism."

What was unspoken was *why* she has chosen Catholicism. I know the answer, but only because I know her. I knew her before she chose it wholeheartedly, and I know her now, and I see the difference. I see that these words are written so clearly across the days of her life: "Master, to whom shall we go?"

Once the truth is known in your soul, you see, it can never be unknown.

Following Christ is not about easy answers and simple teachings. Sure, it all sounds very basic: love one another as I have loved you. What could be more straightforward?

But what does that mean? What does that look like in daily, modern life, in a world full of the fallen, whose flaws have given us rough edges and weakened wills?

I'll tell you what it looks like — it looks like a struggle. It looks like failure and mess and confusion and losing your way and finding it again, all because you remembered that within you there is a compass pointing due north. It's a constant state of wandering in the dark, following a Voice that asks you to go where you're afraid to go. And you follow the Voice not because it's the only voice there is and not because it's the voice that says what you want to hear, but because it's the only one that speaks the truth, and the truth pulls on you in a way you can't quite resist.

When Christ asks, "Do you also want to leave?" he is not gaslighting us. It's a genuine question. We are free to go. We are not prisoners.

But we have heard the words of everlasting life, and now we can only have peace if we follow where they lead.

"As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." — Joshua 24:15

- Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

#### Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

#### **Question:**

What kind of religious practices should we begin, once we marry, to help us practice our faith each day?

#### Answer:

Your spiritual life as a couple is important. The sacrament of Marriage is a gift and a grace, but living it well isn't always easy! It requires intentionality and perseverance. Growing your spiritual life as a couple also requires a plan. Life can be incredibly busy. There's never "enough time" for everything we want to do. But we can live by our priorities. If we don't prioritize prayer, we'll find it slowly disappear from our lives.

If you're not already praying individually, that's a good place to start. If your schedules are similar, take some quiet time at the same time to help hold each other accountable. Praying together is also important! You could start by looking at the religious practices of your family and of families around you that you respect. Talk with your spouse about the ones who make the deepest impression on you or were most meaningful when you were young. Think about what you want your future children to experience. Making faith a commitment now will mean it is engrained habit when you grow your family. Ultimately, these faith practices should help us grow in our love for God and for one another.

#### **Outreach and Stewardship in Our Community**

#### UCHM Pantry Needs for August: Help your neighbors

Our Neighborhood does a terrific job keeping our pantry stocked, but inevitably, we run short of items every week. This month we need help restocking the following:

- Baby diapers, all sizes—we're out of diapers as of August 1st
- Baby wipes and Toilet paper -we run out of this weekly.
- Some of our unhoused visitors need can openers and batteries.
- Personal care items such as soap, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste, tooth brushes, floss.
- Grocery and gasoline gift cards.
- Cleaning items such as dish soap and laundry detergent (we prefer pods, which we an split up to distribute to many families, but we'll take any donation!
- Canned foods such as black beans, white beans, chick peas. We have ample supplies of corn and green beans at the moment.
- Meals in a box or can such as macaroni and cheese, Spaghetti O's, Beefaroni, canned stew, canned soup, chili. If pop-top cans are available, they're nice to have on hand.
- Canned or packaged meats such as tuna, chicken, Spam, Vienna sausages.

#### Everyday Stewardship - Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

#### Submission as Stewardship.

We aren't comfortable with the idea of submission. Our society champions equality, and rightly so — but it's a mistake to think that submission is at odds with equality. To submit ourselves fully, we must first be free. We must first be our own masters. God has granted us that freedom with the salvation He offers. We are no longer the slaves of sin. Now He asks us to be subordinate to one another, in the name of Christ.

What a completely uncomfortable task! What He's asking is for us to be subordinate to the person who irritates us the most. The person we really can't stand. The person who doesn't respect us or appreciate what we have to offer. The person we think we're smarter than, more talented than. The person we envy.

That's the real challenge of stewardship, isn't it? Subordination. Inconveniencing myself by giving of time, of money, of relationship. Putting the needs or wants of another above my own when they haven't done anything special to earn it.

I invite you to consider the cross — the most radical expression of submission, and of stewardship, that ever existed. If there was ever someone who deserved superiority, isn't it the God who let Himself be nailed to a tree, who gave so freely of His life, His body, His blood, His everything?

To look at him in his agony is to truly understand the beauty of submission — of laying down what you have for the good of the other.



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#### **Coming Events**

#### Dr. Louie Hehman Solo Piano Recital

September 8, 3PM Holy Trinity Church

*This performance is free and open to the public!* 

Featured Works: Margaret Bonds, Spiritual Suite Robert Schumann, Carnaval, Op. 9 Duke Ellington, Selected Standards



#### An Open Invitation to Holy Trinity's Senior Programs

All senior parishioners are invited to participate in Holy Trinity's senior programming that starts right after Labor Day this year. All you have to do is RSVP for the luncheon. There are no dues, and all lunch costs are covered by voluntary donations.

The first program is Steve Buttleman, the Kentucky Derby's official bugler since 1996.

Date: Tuesday, September 3, 2024

Time: 11:30 Lunch (Donations Requested)

12 Noon Program

Location: Holy Trinity Multi-Purpose Building

**RSVP BY AUGUST 26** by responding to Mary Scott Herrington at 502-897-5207 ext. 1110 or <u>mherrington@htparish.org</u>. Watch this space for information about upcoming programs!

#### Prayer

Dear God, give me the faith to trust Jesus always. Amen.

#### **Mission for the Week**

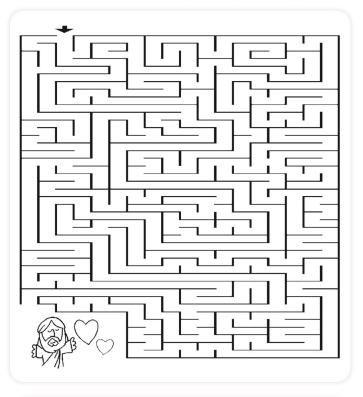
Have you ever learned something about God that was hard to understand? Talk about it with your family, and together pray for each other. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you learn what God wants you to.

#### **Sharing the Gospel**

After Jesus compared himself to manna, and said that he was sent from heaven, many of his followers turned away from him. They just could not accept what Jesus was saying. It was too hard for them to understand. We have something they did not have. We have the Holy Spirit to help us. Sometimes what we learn might be hard for us to understand, too, but we never need to walk away. We can have faith in Jesus. We can ask him to help us.

#### Now color the picture!

Unscramble words from today's Gospel reading:





©LPi

#### Stewardship of Treasure -from the August 18th weekend

Collection 8/18/2024 \$2,761 Loose Collections \$296 Online giving \$895 Amount Needed Weekly: \$7,481 **YTD vs Budget: \$3,265 Behind** 

#### **Text Donations**

You can now donate to our parish using text messaging! You can use the following phone number to make a donation. Just text "**Give**" to 502-743-4434. It's super easy, and much appreciated.

#### Mass Intentions for the Week and 2024 Prayer List

Saturday, August 24 5:30PM People of the Parish

Sunday, August 25 8:30AM Arnold Brown † 11:30AM Judy Wayne †

Monday, August 26 8:30AM Bob Despain 🕇

Wednesday, August 28

8:30AM Barbara Jones

Friday, August 30 8:30AM Senters Family

Saturday, August 31 5:30PM People of the Parish

Sunday, September 1 8:30AM Arnold Brown † 11:30AM S. Hayden Family **Zoey Abner Rita Batcheldor** Herminda Baylon Kirk Bergman **Ann Burton** Jerry Clayton Jordan Collie **Abby Cornell** Tammy Lee Cotton Randy Davis Walt Dries Mark Eastridge **George Effinger Patricia Elliott Mary Elmore Katie Evers Curtis Farrah** Allie & Masey Goatley Donna Grafton Michelle Hagan Virginia Hammond Makenna Harrod Pat Haunz Jim Hausman **Robert Hausman Terry Hickey Betsy Hilinksi** Erin Hohman Joseph Hohmann Rita Hohmann Janet Kessler Mary Francis Kleyer Erna Krone Margaret Lanham Ana Lucia Lister & Family **Bob Liter** 

Alphonse Lukau **Reece McCrae** Joyce McKiernan Anne McMahon **Greg Metry Joyce Mitchell** Lisa Murphy Don Mirka **Donald Moore Margaret Moore Toni Mullins** Jovce Niehoff Therese Nietupski Freda Nicholson Theresa Oliver Kim Osborne Nancy Ostertag Annie Pendleton Liz Pottinger Susan Rappa Raleigh Ridge **Duke Rutler** Lisa Runvon Ed Schoenbaechler Jeff Schulz Norman Scott **Garland Sharpe David Sheehan** Jodie Sherman Bob Silva The Spink Family **Elvin Stampley Barbara Stoll Kameron Sutton** Lawrence Toebbe Audrev Vaghei Helen Vittitow Linda Waddell **Teri Wells** 

Diane West Gerard White (son) John Elvis Williams Leora Williams Dennis Wine Jack Woodward Arthur Woolery Mary Wright Tina Young