



Lift Your Eyes and Live

Today's first reading from the Book of Numbers gives us a powerful image that speaks directly to our lives of faith. The people of Israel, worn out by their journey through the desert, grew impatient and began to complain against God and Moses. They had forgotten the mighty works God had done—the deliverance from Egypt, the parting of the Red Sea, the manna in the desert—and instead focused only on their discomfort. Their complaints blinded them to God's goodness. As a result, God permitted the seraph serpents to afflict them. But even in punishment, God's mercy was revealed: when the people repented, He gave them a remedy. By looking upon the bronze serpent lifted on the pole, they were healed. This story is more than history—it is a mirror of our own spiritual struggles. Like the Israelites, we too can become impatient on our journey. When life feels like a desert, when difficulties weigh us down, it is easy to forget God's blessings and instead complain, grumble, or even doubt His presence. How often do we focus on what we lack rather than what God has already given? The people of Israel had food and protection, but they chose to see only what was missing. The serpents remind us of the destructive power of sin. Complaints and ingratitude may seem small, but they can poison our hearts and separate us from God. Yet the bronze serpent also reminds us that God does not leave us without hope. Just as the Israelites looked upon the serpent and were healed, so we are called to look upon Christ lifted on the Cross. He took upon Himself the poison of sin so that we might live. The Cross, which at first seems like a symbol of death, becomes for us the source of healing and eternal life. We can see this truth even in our daily lives. Imagine a person constantly complaining about their work, their family, or their situation. The more they dwell on complaints, the more bitter and unhappy they become—like being bitten by serpents again and again. But when someone shifts their gaze from problems to gratitude, from self-pity to trust in God, healing begins. Their circumstances may not immediately change, but their heart is renewed. So dear friends when sin or discouragement bite us, we must lift our eyes to the Cross. Only there we find true healing. The Israelites found life by looking at the bronze serpent; we find eternal life by looking at Christ crucified. So let's, in every struggle, turn our gaze to Him who transforms our wounds into the promise of new life.

Amen.
Fr. Joseph Puthen

Saturday, September 13

5:00 p.m. † Odilia Ramirez on the 1st anniv by the family
† Ruben W. Villa by Dolores & Gilbert Mireles
† David Longoria by Tim & Raydell Boerjan
† Susan Garza (anniv) by the family

Sunday, September 14

8:00 a.m. PARISHIONERS
9:30 a.m.(E) † Guadalupe Ramirez (birthday) by the family
† Mario Villarreal by Jacob & Gustavo Villarreal
† Rafael & Beleser Garza, Jr. (anniv's) by the family
11:15 a.m. † Emilia De Leon by Elsa Saenz
† Eutiquio Villarreal (anniv) by the family
† Jason Martinez (birthday) by the family
For Healing, Nora Perez by the family

Monday, September 15

NO COMMUNION SERVICE

Tuesday, September 16

7:00 a.m. For healing, Nora Perez by the family

Wednesday, September 17

7:00 a.m. † J.J. De Leon by Bro Martin Francesco, OFS & Mary Helen Villarreal

Thursday, September 18

7:00 a.m. † Rebecca Casas (birthday) by Gloria Richardson

Friday, September 19

7:00 a.m. † Pepe Garza (birthday) by the family

Saturday, September 20

5:00 p.m. † Maria Luisa Carrion (birthday) by Socorro Saenz
† Enrique & Sulema Gutierrez by the family
† Rebecca Casas on the 1st anniversary by the family
† Middy Duarte by Joyce Mauldin
† Zulema Almaraz by the family

Sunday, September 21

8:00 a.m. PARISHIONERS
9:30 a.m.(E) † Jose Rolando Perez (5th anniv) by the family
11:15 a.m. † Jay Salgado Munoz by Martin Cuellar
† Dolores Huerta (6th anniv) by the family
† Juan Jay De Leon by the family
† Esmeralda Del Bosque Gutierrez (birthday) by the family
For Healing, Nora Perez by the family

~Flowers on the Altar~

Odilia Ramirez on the 1st anniversary
By the family



Parish Tithes and Offerings September 6 & 7

Sacred Heart Parish

Regular Collection: \$3128.00

Online Giving: \$1105.00

Second Collection: \$826.00

St. Anne Mission

Regular Collection: \$406.00

Second Collection: \$89.00



Parish Meetings & Events

Sept 16 Knights of Columbus Council Meeting: 7:00 pm Hall
 Sept 17 Adoration from 8:00 am. to 7:00 pm. Schoenstatt Chapel
 Sept 21 Catechetical Sunday: Blessing of all Religious Ed
 Teachers at 11:15 am Mass
 Sept 23 Guadalupe Meeting: 7:00 pm in the Parish Hall
 Sept 24 Adoration from 8:00 am. to 7:00 pm. Schoenstatt Chapel



**Knights of
Columbus**

Family of the Month

Deacon Richard & Mary Costley



The Goodness of God

By Fr. Demetrius Dumm, OSB

The truth that Jesus came to reveal to us is not concerned with our sinfulness or the inevitability of death or any other discouraging reality. We can discover all those things on our own. He came to reveal to us something that we have great difficulty in believing, that is, that God loves us so much that, if we really understood it, we would not fear anything that could possibly happen to us. Of course, it is easy to say that God is good and loving and merciful. But saying it and knowing it in the depths of one's being are quite different matters. And if there is one thing that is of overriding importance in John's Gospel, it is the desire to lead us from a merely verbal and superficial form of faith to a deeply personal experience of the love of God.

The goodness of God means that he wishes to share his eternal life with us. Of course, this is our own most earnest wish. However, this cannot happen unless we *believe* in Jesus and embrace the message that he gives us. It is crucial that we understand what believing in Jesus means. It does *not* mean simply to believe that he existed or that he worked miracles and preached eloquently in Galilee. Nor does it mean to believe that he died on the cross and rose from the dead. One can accept the truth of all these statements without really changing one's life. Rather, to believe in Christ means that we accept, not only the facts about his life and death and resurrection, but also *the significance of these facts for our own lives*. In other words, we must come to understand that we need to be committed to the same *unselfish love* that we see in Jesus and that found its most perfect expression in his dying for us on the cross.



Memorial Bricks

We will be placing an order for memorial bricks very soon and for anyone who is still interested you can come by the Parish Office to pick up your order form. Once we have at least 5 bricks, all of the same size, then we can place an order.

You can come by the Parish Office to pick up your order form.

Let Go and Let God: The Difference Between Forgiveness and Letting Go

By M.C. Holbrook—Years ago, someone I once knew suffered a loss in her life. I reached out and tried to comfort her as best I could, but, if I am being honest, I did not feel compassion for her. At least, not the level of compassion that comes from the heart, the kind in which the suffering of the other is unceasingly on one's mind and prayers, as if planted there by the Holy Spirit. Whatever compassion I felt for this person was but a drop compared to the compassion that I *lacked*. And I couldn't figure out why. Normally, suffering elicits in us a greater capacity to love, enough so that our petty concerns and differences shrink down to size. Why, in this case, did this not take place in me? The truth is, this person had hurt me in the past, and although I could say I had sincerely forgiven her, I still had not "let go." I had to learn the difference between forgiveness and letting go. Forgiveness is the act of the will we make, regardless of our feelings, that we are going to love the person who has hurt us—a free-will *choice*. Letting go is another matter entirely. When we don't let go of our grievances with others, we do not accept them as they are. We remained shocked and scandalized by behaviors that they have "always" displayed, as if we should expect their involuntary personality flaws to change, simply because these flaws irritate and provoke us. It is normal and even understandable to be disturbed by objectively irritating, inappropriate, and sometimes harmful behavior. But if we do not accept others as they are, then the problem lies with us, not them: the one whose heart needs changing most is our own. It is our unconditional acceptance of others, exactly as they are, that will enable us to love them as Christ loves us all. Finally, if we have tried to accept others as they are but seem to repeatedly fail, let's understand that letting go takes grace. It is a movement of love propelled by the Holy Spirit that makes our efforts at acceptance come to fruition. To let go of resentment, after all, is not something that we are capable of doing on our own. How does one make oneself not feel what one is feeling? One cannot . . . but God *can*. It could very well be that our humble acceptance of our weakness and struggle is the very means by which Jesus saves our offender's soul. The poking and prodding with which they disturb us is our reminder to offer continual prayers that God might pour out His grace upon our difficult circumstance. When the grace of letting go will come, we do not know. So, **Let Go and Let God.**

VOCATIONAL CROSS



5:00 p.m. Mass

Sept 13-Sept 20 Edna Balderas
 Sept 20-Sept 27 Claudia Cantu
 Sept 27-Oct 4 Mary Costley

8:00 a.m. Mass

Sept 14-Sept 21 Gloria Richardson
 Sept 21-Sept 28 Oralia & Rosendo Garcia
 Sept 28-Oct 5 Connie & Arturo Garcia

11:15 a.m. Mass

Sept 14-Sept 21 Gilbert & Dominique Alegria
 Sept 21-Sept 28 Rick & Cindy Salinas
 Sept 28-Oct 5 Carlos & Elvie Salinas

St. Anne Misson

9:30 a.m. Mass

Sept 14-Sept 21 Connie Perez
 Sept 21-Sept 28 Laura Gutierrez
 Sept 28-Oct 5 Alma Martinez

Prayers Before Mass

Schedule for Saturdays at 4:25 pm



SEPT 06 Marisa Benavides
 13 Jessica C. Lopez
 20 Mary Costley
 27 Esmeralda Hinojosa
 OCT 04 Martha Ruiz
 11 Edna Balderas
 18 Martha Ruiz
 25 Mercy M. Longoria



September:

The Seven Sorrows of Mary

Mary's Immaculate Heart is often depicted as pierced by seven swords, representing the sorrows that she experienced with and alongside her Son.

In perfect obedience to God and His will, Mary consented to her Son's passion and death, entering into his sorrow in a way only a mother can.

Pray the Seven Sorrows Rosary

Altar Society Schedule

For the Month of Sept:

Joyce M. & Enedelia S.

Cleaning the side altars

Irene E. & Enedelia S.

have the privilege of cleaning the sanctuary

September 14-27



The Sanctuary Candle in the Church is burning for:

Salvador & Esperanza Gonzalez

By Gloria Richardson

The Sanctuary Candle in the **Guadalupe Chapel** is burning for:

Jose & Herminia Costley, Raymond & Mylene Costley

By the family

The Sanctuary Candle in the **Schoenstatt Chapel** is burning for:

Jesus, Jesusa & Omer Carbajal

By the family

The Sanctuary Candle in **St. Anne Mission** is burning for:

By



Prayer Blanket Ministry



This ministry will be making blankets for people in our parish who are seriously ill. These blankets will be blessed and given to everyone on our list. Prayer is very powerful and we ask everyone in our parish to pray for these individuals on the prayer list:

9-14-25

Neri Almendarez
 Jake Alaniz

9-07-25

Margarito Riojas
 James & Anna Grossman

8-31-25

Elizabeth Salazar
 Terry Duarte
 Enrique Saenz
 Lisandro Moreno, Jr.
 Michelle Pena
 Maria Elena Salinas
 Kindra Vannest
 Jacob Soliz
 Belinda Reyes

8-24-25

Agueda A. Garza
 Diana Arevalo

8-17-25

Nora Ruiz