

**TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY
TIME**

SEPTEMBER 3, 2017

When Jesus says, "Get behind me, Satan" to Peter, we can only imagine the shock and hurt Peter experiences. Peter tried to persuade Jesus to turn away from the cross, Peter was a stumbling block out of deep concern and love. The hardest temptation to resist comes from protective love. Satan was speaking through Peter's loving heart.

Satan is the force which deflects us from the way of God. It is any influence which wants us to turn back from God's will. It is any power which seeks to make human desires take the place of the divine imperative. Do we try to make life too easy for those we love, instead of allowing them to make life great? Do we support them in putting up with difficulties, accepting adversity? Do we advise them to escape responsibility or consequences, to take the easy way?

Peter is told, and we are told, too, "Get behind me." "Follow me." Christian life is a challenge: self-denial, sacrificial service, and perfect obedience. In every life there is some Jerusalem, some hard choice, some frightening path. No one wants a cross; no one wants an agony. But, in following Jesus, we are offered crosses. Christians are called to say "no" to self and "yes" to God.

May we supply stable support and life-giving love for those who lean on us. May we never be a stumbling block to others.

Father Ricardo

FATHER RICARDO'S DESK

Last week I began what I hope will become an opportunity for discussion among parents and children and a reminder for all of us that Sunday Mass is an amazing moment of time, filled with grace and beauty, and a supreme miracle. A time not to be missed.

Through the centuries, the Church, which is both our Mother and Teacher, has used every segment of the liturgy as a way of instructing her children.

Last week we eavesdropped on a little voice, "Why do we come here?" If we watch and listen carefully, we are answered with signs, movements, sounds, and even words. We enter the church as individuals. Ushers greet us, we find a pew and settle in with family, or friends, or on our own. It is a quiet time to quiet down, to silence the noise of our lives, to get ready for the Mass to begin.

The Entrance Hymn is the introduction to the whole action of the Mass and the first step in unifying us as not one person, but an assembly of persons. Our voices blend in one voice, as we stand to greet the procession.

The procession is a universal ritual demonstrating the movement of all human life, step by step. The cross which leads the way shows us that we are moving – step by step – again – to Calvary and the altar of sacrifice. The altar servers carry candles, we are moving step by step – again – to the supper table in the upper room. The Book of the Gospels comes next; we are going to hear the Word of God. The priest comes last, in the "person of Christ." He will perform the sacrifice for us.

As we arrive at the place of sacrifice, we make the Sign of the Cross. All of us. Together. The Sign of the Cross announces us as Catholic Christians. It is one of the first things we need to teach our children. (Admittedly, that can be a task). The ritual is the first and most basic act of faith.

We say: In the **NAME** NAME, singular noun. We are calling on one God. Then we list three titles of the one God: Father, Son, Holy Spirit. Three Persons, one God. The Blessed Trinity. That's it, the central belief of our faith. There is one God, who is known to us through the Father who creates us, the Son who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit who sanctifies us.

At the same time, we take our right hand and invoke God in our minds and hearts and our whole being. By doing this we cover ourselves with God and state our belief in the Cross as the turning point in human history. The Sign of the Cross also situates us with Pentecost: in the Church, among people who willingly carry crosses. And so, we begin.

IN MEMORY

On Monday, September 11th, we will have two masses for all those who have suffered from all forms of terrorism throughout the world. We will remember, in particular, Tommy Linehan, a young man who grew up in our parish and perished in the 9/11 attack. A special page in his memory has been entered in our Memorial Book at the Shrine of Saint Ann in the back of the church.

The 8:45 morning mass, as usual, and another at 7:00pm will be celebrated for all of those affected. Parishioners are invited to attend these memorials as a way of remembering and of praying for peace in the world.

The late Brian Doyle wrote a book called *Stories Are Prayers*. "Leap" is a prayer-story he wrote in response to 9/11.

A couple leaped from the south tower, hand in hand. Their hands reached for each other and their hands met and they jumped. Their hands reaching and joining are the most powerful prayer I can imagine, the most eloquent, the most graceful. It is everything that we are capable of against horror and loss and death. It is what makes me believe that we are not craven fools and charlatans to believe in God, to believe that human beings have greatness and holiness within them like seeds that open only under great fires, to believe that some unimaginable essence of who we are persists past the dissolution of what we were, to believe against such evil hourly evidence that love is why we are here.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

As students leave for college and other ministers retire or move away, we have fewer Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers. We also need more altar servers. Please consider volunteering for these ministries. You may call the parish office for more information.

RCIA

Our Adult Program for the preparation of the Sacraments (RCIA) is open. Please contact our parish office, or Father Ricardo directly.

C.C.D.

Registration forms are available in the vestibule of our church. Please return them to the parish office as soon as possible.

THE END

All good things must come to an end – including the summer holidays. Good-bye to our summer time friends. Best wishes to the children returning to school. We will miss you all.

MARIAN PILGRIMAGE

The Diocese of Paterson is offering a Pilgrimage to the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on October 21, 2017. For further information please contact Jean or Roger Grey at 973-764-8843

WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT

We are pleased to announce the union of Andrew Moore and Sarah Sledgeski who will receive the sacrament of marriage here at 3:00 pm on Friday, September 29, 2017. Please keep them in your prayers as they begin their married life together.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS
SUPPORT OF OUR PARISH. GOD BLESS YOU**

August 27th

1ST Collection: \$ 3,584.50
2nd Maintenance: 954.00

This Week's Events

**Tue. 6:30pm - Community Rosary
7:00pm - Holy Hour**
Wed. 7:00pm - Rosary Meeting - hall
**Thur. 10:00am - Legion of Mary - hall
6:30pm - Legion of Mary - chapel
6:30pm - Youth Group – hall
7:30pm - Antioch - hall**

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 3

8:00am +Anna Mercedes Sanchez req. by Bill and Eileen Aquino
9:30am +Jim Talt req. by Family
11:00am +Joseph Perillo req. by Donna and Tony Macerino
1:00pm Polish Mass

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 4

8:45a +Robert Helmrich 8th Anniv. req. by Family

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 5

8:45am +Joseph Mastrangelo req. by his Wife

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 6

8:45am To Thank All Who Pray for Me req. by Ted Dugas

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 7

8:45am Jerezy & Beata Chciuk req. by Mary Ann Mastrangelo

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 8

8:45am +Joan Pelosi req, by Barbara McCrum

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 9

8:45am +Edward Becker req. by Susan Weissbach and Angela Ericksen
5:00pm +Anna Mercedes Sanchez req. by Rosary Society

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 10

8:00am +Thomas V, Linehan req. by Murphy Family
9:30am +Theresa Neubauer req. by Donna & Tony Macerino
11:00am +Nicholas Chicuk req, by Kayla & Paul Andrews

PEASE REMEMBER AND PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

*Aidan Alvarez, Scott Anderson, Baby Grace Andrews
John Apgar, Artie, Ray Bonomini, Maddy Brancato, Tina
Brightly, Janet Brunke, Rose Bruno, Roberta Busch, Jerry
Calcagno, Carolina Chmarney, Louis Cimaglia, Teresa
Contento, Aibhlinn Coyle, Elizabeth Copeland, Patricia
and Paul Corbutt, Doug Crum, Joan Dahl, Nathanael
Davenport, Jean Marie Day, Alice DeLorenzo, Courtney
Dignan, Eileen Donahue, Katie Drago, Bonnie Dubovich,
Roseann Dundon, Jim Ecker, Barbara Etzel, Eva
Ferlauto, Debbie Fuentes, Kay Gallo, John Gonzalez,
Florence Guilfoyle, Barbara Hellwig, Christopher Hoehl,
Jean Jones, Julianna Klinger, Carly Kosen, Emily Lewis,
Brian Linke, Henry Mancuso, Rose Martis, Fran and Larry
Marsh, James McAlary, Pat McDermott, Kathy Nestico,
Jennifer Oldham, Janis O'Neill, Theresa and John Orso,
Joan Quest, Maura Reagan, Mary Reynolds, Linda Ross,
Ron Shelly, Lou Pra Sisto, Father Patrick Sullivan,
Alexander Truong, Mary VanDyke, Pat and Jim Van
Gorder, Vincent and Debbie Ventriglia, Russy Wright,
Nick Zayatz*