

God Bless



Dear Friends,

The readings for this weekend are about rejection and weakness. These are not words of consolation we want to hear. In the Gospel, Jesus returns to his home town. (Mk. 6:1-6). He comes to the synagogue to teach. His friends and neighbors are astonished at his words of wisdom. Instead of being proud of Jesus, they speak words of disbelief. In colloquial language they ask, "Who does he think he is? Where did he get this knowledge? We know his parents. His father is a mere carpenter, not a learned scholar. We know his sisters and brothers." Mark says, "They took offense at him." (Mk. 6:3) How did Jesus respond to his detractors? He did not back down, but told the truth. A prophet is not welcome in his own town. Because of their harsh opinions, he could not work many miracles there.

Jesus is following the pattern of many prophets in the Hebrew Scriptures. So many were unheeded, especially the prophet Jeremiah. Some prophets were even killed. Jesus' words are a comfort, but also a challenge. His teaching, "love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you" (Mk. 5:44) is a good example. Today's Gospel is only the first story of many people who treat him with disdain, object to his teaching, and ridicule him for eating with people on the margins of society (tax collectors like Zaccheus and Levi, known as Matthew).

St. Paul, in his letter to the Corinthians, also met with physical, emotional, and spiritual pain. He asked Jesus to be relieved of it. Jesus responded, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." (2 Cor. 12:9) Paul says, "I will ... boast of my weaknesses, in order that the power of Christ may dwell with me...for when I am weak, then I am strong." (2 Cor. 12:10) Here is a man that endured persecution, beatings, torture, imprisonment, and eventually martyrdom. I am sure Jesus' words to him were comforting and encouraging.

What do these readings mean for us? Most of us have experienced rejection, pain, disappointment, and grief. Could Jesus' words to Paul, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness" apply to us, as well? I believe so. I invite you to reflect on difficult times in your life. You may ask yourself, "How did I ever get through that time?" It is God's grace often working through you and other people he sends to you. Who prayed for you, supported you, loved you, embraced you? Often people you don't even know may have prayed for you. I know this lesson from my women's group and prayer relay!

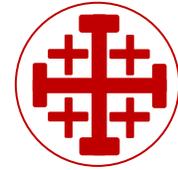
How do we handle rejection? It isn't easy, especially from people who are important to us. It feels like we are not enough, not worthy, invisible, and insignificant. What did Jesus do? He knew in his very being that he belonged to God. It is God who gives us our being, our very soul, and because of that we are dignified, blessed, and sacred. We are eternal.

We have important lessons in these readings. We learn that Christ is our strength, our model, and our peace. We can trust him with our lives!

Peace,

Ar Joanne

MASS INTENTIONS



Monday, July 6
8:30 Rose Ferrero

Tuesday, July 7
8:30 Bill Higley

Wednesday, July 8
NO MASS

Thursday, July 9
8:30 Father James Cafone

Friday, July 10
8:30 Sophie Colavito

Saturday, July 11
5:00 Patrick McCormick

Sunday, July 12
8:00 Marjorie Perna
10:00 Geraldine Manella
12:00 A.J. Rotonde
6:30 Christina Kelliher

The Flowers, Bread and Wine
have been donated by
the Pace Family in memory of
Hon. Aldo A. Nastasi

JOIN US TO BURY THE TIME CAPSULE



As our final event of our 100th Anniversary celebration, we will bury the Sacred Heart Time Capsule in the front garden of the church on July 18th after the 5 PM Mass.

Please join us to mark this special event. The time capsule will contain mementos from our parish and will be reopened in 25 years.

PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS CONCERT will take place on Saturday - July 18th at 8pm. at St. Anthony's, 199 Walnut Street in Northvale. Featuring our very own musician Corinn Somers and Father Jerry of St. Anthony's. Mark your calendars for this fun night out ... more information to come.

HUNGER DOESN'T TAKE A VACATION Please help the hungry in our community. Bring food donations to church. Collection in the lobby. For many families the summer months are filled with fun and relaxing vacations. Unfortunately, for many of those we serve through the faith-based food pantries, summertime means increased hardships. Many of the families we assist depend on the school lunch and breakfast programs to help fill their children's nutritional needs. To provide three meals a day for hungry children places an even bigger demand on their very limited family resources. Your support can make an important difference.

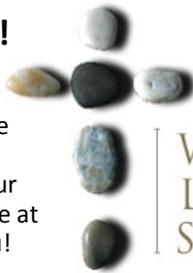


Mark your calendars for the
SACRED HEART CARNIVAL

Sept. 10 -13

Thank You to our Volunteers!

Over the past months, dedicated volunteers have answered to our campaign's needs of time and talent! The phone, mail, and reception volunteers exceeded all tasks fervently. Without your help, we would not be successful! We are at approaching our goal in large part to you!



WE ARE
LIVING
STONES

St. Joseph-Sacred Heart Endowment Fund

The St. Joseph-Sacred Heart Endowment Fund was established a number of years ago to support Catholic education in parochial schools. It is open to students that belong to either the Parish of St. Joseph in Demarest or Sacred Heart Parish in Haworth. Partial scholarships will be available for the 2015-2016 school year. Eligible students must be enrolled in a Catholic school. Priority will be given to elementary school students, followed by high school students. Please complete the form below and return to the parish office. In order to qualify, applications must be received by **October 15, 2015**.

Student' Name _____

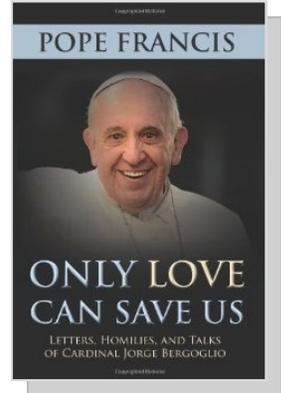
Address _____

Tel. No. _____ Grade _____ Parish _____

Deacon Vincent's
SUMMER READING

ONLY LOVE CAN SAVE US

As Pope Francis speaks from a new and much larger pulpit, it is easy to forget not only the many challenges he faced as Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio in Buenos Aires, Argentina, but also the many events that shaped the perspective he is now sharing as pope.



This collection of homilies, letters, and talks from his years as cardinal in Argentina reveals his consistent love for the poor and joy in Christ as he covers a wide range of topics of interest to all Catholics - marriage, prayer, faith, education, evangelization, the elderly, children, the homeless, vocations, and more.

SHARE your
FAITH with the
children of **OUR** parish!



I want to thank all those in our parish who have volunteered to help spread the Gospel Good News this coming year through our elementary religious education program. It is "coming together" with much help from the Holy Spirit who is nudging people to say "YES" and they are responding!! We still have a few empty spots that need a generous, faith-filled person - like yourself! **NO EXPERIENCE IS NEEDED.** You will be trained and learn more about your Faith, too.

If interested in teaching a first, second or third grade class or being a classroom aide in a first, second or third grade class on Tuesday afternoons from 3:45 to 5:00 p.m. each week PLEASE, call me or e-mail me ASAP at 201-387-0080 or sreginacd@yahoo.com. God will certainly bless you AND you will gain far more than you give. Those who volunteer are waived the fee for the program for their child or grandchild (a small token of gratitude!) Looking forward to hearing from you.

THANK YOU.
Sister Regina