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To report an incidence of suspected child sexual abuse, please contact your local law enforcement agency, or you may confidentially contact WV Child Protective Services at 800-352-6513. To report suspected cases of sexual abuse by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, please contact the Diocese at 888-434-6237 or 304-233-0880.

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The Lewis County Catholic Times

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 Saint Boniface Catholic Church, Camden and Good Shepherd Mission, Glenville, West Virginia
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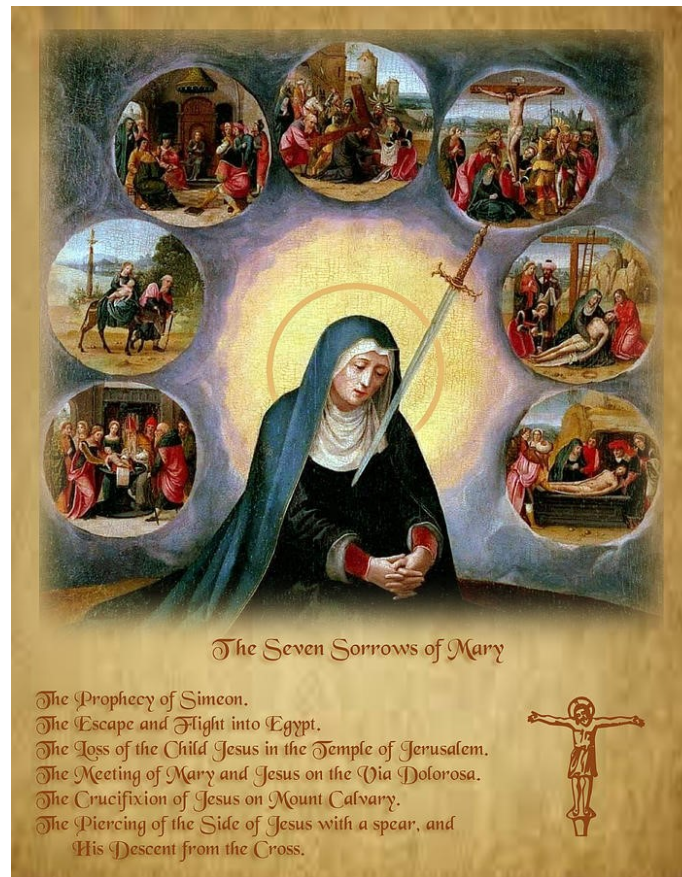
September Overview

The month of September is dedicated to Our Lady of Sorrows, whose memorial the Church celebrates on September 15. September falls during the liturgical season known as Ordinary Time, which is represented by the liturgical color green. During September, as in all of Ordinary Time (formerly known as Time After Pentecost), the Liturgy does not focus on one particular mystery of Christ, but views the mystery of Christ in all its aspects. We follow the life of Christ through the Gospels, and focus on the teachings and parables of Jesus and what it means for us to be a follower of Christ. During Ordinary Time we can concentrate more on the saints and imitate their holiness as Christ's followers.

This month the main liturgical feasts are St. Gregory the Great (September 3), St. Peter Claver (September 9), Holy Name of Mary (September 12), St. John Chrysostom (September 13), Exaltation of the Holy Cross (September 14), Sts. Cornelius and Cyprian (September 16), St. Robert Bellarmine (September 17), St. Januarius (September 19), St. Andrew Kim and Companions (September 20), St. Matthew (September 21), Sts. Cosmas and Damian (September 26), St. Pio (September 23), St. Vincent de Paul (September 27), and St. Jerome (September 30).

The feasts of the Birth of Mary (September 8), Our Lady of Sorrows (September 15), and Sts. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael (September 29) are superseded by the Sunday liturgy.

Fr. Faber on the Seven Sorrows

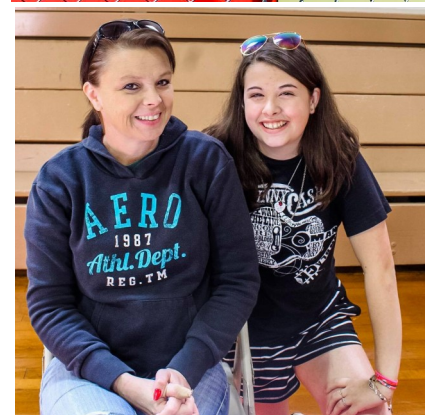


God vouchsafed to select the very things about Him which are most incommunicable, and in a most mysteriously real way communicate them to her. See how He had already mixed her up with the eternal designs of creation, making her almost a partial cause and partial model of it. Our Lady's co-operation in the redemption of the world gives us a fresh view of her magnificence. Neither the Immaculate Conception nor the Assumption will give us a higher idea of Mary's exaltation than the title of co-redemptrix. Her sorrows were not necessary for the redemption of the world, but in the counsels of God they were inseparable from it. They belong to the integrity of the divine plan. Are not Mary's mysteries Jesus' mysteries, and His mysteries hers? The truth appears to be that all the mysteries of Jesus and Mary were in God's design as one mystery. Jesus Himself was Mary's sorrow, seven times repeated, aggravated sevenfold. During the hours of the Passion, the offering of Jesus and the offering of Mary were tied in one. They kept pace together; they were made of the same materials; they were perfumed with kindred fragrance; they were lighted with the same fire; they were offered with kindred dispositions. The two things were one simultaneous oblation, interwoven each moment through the thickly crowded mysteries of that dread time, unto the eternal Father, out of two sinless hearts, that were the hearts of Son and Mother, for the sins of a guilty world which fell on them contrary to their merits, but according to their own free will.
 — Fr. Frederick Faber, The Foot of the Cross.

Save the Date

The Annual Homecoming Mass and Picnic at St. Bernard Church in Loveberry will be Sunday, October 6. Mass will begin at 3:00 p.m. followed by the picnic at 4:00 p.m. Meat, drinks and paper products will be provided. Please bring a covered dish and enjoy the afternoon. While it is called a homecoming, **EVERYONE** is invited! If you have never visited St. Bernard Church—here is your chance. You won't be disappointed!

Scenes from the 2nd Annual St. Patrick Parish Carnival



Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

The first reading is taken from the Book of Sirach 3:17-18, 20:28-29. In today's reading we have a few more of the words of wisdom on humility from this saintly man who spent his life meditating on the law of God revealed to the Chosen People.

The second reading is from St. Paul to the Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24, in which he contrasts two scenes. One is the giving of the Old Covenant, and the other is the assembly of those justified by the New Covenant. The reason why the Church has selected these verses is the same reason that St. Paul had when he wrote them. He wanted to impress on the Jewish converts the superiority of the Christian religion over that of the Old Testament, which they had practiced until their conversion.

The Gospel is from St. Luke 14:1, 7-14, in which Jesus had been invited to dine in the house of a leading Pharisee. The Pharisees were so convinced of their own perfect knowledge and observance of the law, that they thought nobody else could possibly know it or observe it as perfectly as they did. In a very simple parable, Jesus told them where their pride would lead them.

A proud Christian, that is, a proud follower of the humble Christ, is a contradiction in terms. Christ, the Son of God, lowered himself to our level when He took our human nature. He was born in a stable, reared in the obscure village of Nazareth, earned his meager meals as a country carpenter, died on a cross as a malefactor with two thieves as companions and was buried in a God's banquet. Thank God, there are few whose pride leads them to these extremes, but there are far too many who set themselves up as judges over their neighbor and appoint themselves as the models to be imitated by all others.

There is a little demon of pride in each one of us. There is a natural inclination in

each one to esteem ourselves a little better in most ways, if not in all, than our neighbor. We must keep this demon in check and not let him grow in us. Any gifts of mind or body that we have are from God — our duty is to use them properly and to thank God for the loan of them. If He gave greater gifts to another, I thank God for it. That other was able to make better use of them than I would. I have enough gifts to go on. I shall not be judged on the use or abuse of gifts which I did not receive.

If I use all the gifts which God gave me, to help my neighbor, the spiritually poor, the lame and blind, to heaven, instead of keeping myself aloof from them as the Pharisees did, then my judgment will be easy. I shall be "repaid in the resurrection of the just."

The proud Christian sets himself up as a critic of God's wisdom. He muses: God forgives sinners too easily. God doesn't know them as well as I do. That conversion cannot be trusted, it will not last, he says. The "sinners" prosper, they are blessed with good health, a happy family, more than their share of the world's goods, and here am I who never failed God, who always did what was right and even more, and I am neglected by God. God doesn't know his real friends!

These are the questionings of a proud soul. Such Christians raise themselves above their neighbors in their own minds. They choose the first places, and from their self-appointed heights they look down on their fellow guests at stranger's grave. Could He have done more to induce us to listen to his counsel when He said: "Learn of me, for I am humble of heart?"

Yet, there are Christians who are proud. Like the Pharisees of old, they thank God that they are not like the rest of men. They shun any contact with sinners. They cover their ears when any scandal is mentioned. Yet they never miss the gossip and are always ready to condemn offhand the unfortunate giver of scandal, without knowing the extenuating circumstances.

— Excerpted from The Sunday Readings Cycle C, Fr. Kevin O' Sullivan, O.F.M.

Attention All High School Students

The Dead Theologians Society will resume meeting on Sunday, September 15 at 6:00 p.m. in the parish meeting room at the St. Patrick Church office. The Dead Theologians Society is a national organization that seeks to engage high school students through prayer, catechesis, and social activity that is rooted in the Catholic tradition and based on the Lives of the Saints. DTS meetings are open to all Catholic high school students and are held in the parish meeting room of St. Patrick Church in Weston. For more info, text @dts-weston to 81010.



Commentary for the Readings in the Extraordinary Form: Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

"A Samaritan (seeing the robbers' victim) was moved with compassion, bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine, and took care of him. And Jesus said, 'Go and do thou also in like manner'" (Gospel).

St. Bede suggests that this victim is Adam and the human race robbed by Satan (pictured at left). Jesus, our Divine Rescuer (pictured at right), comes to pour "wine and oil" into our "wounds": the "life"-giving Wine of His Precious Blood (PostCommunion), the "cheerful...oil" of all His Sacraments (Communion Verse).

Otherwise, having left the "Jerusalem" of Divine Life, how could we "run without stumbling" (Prayer) lifeless into the Dead Sea next to "Jericho"? "We are not sufficient of ourselves. Our sufficiency is from God." Without Jesus the Ten Commandments would be dead "letters upon stones" (Epistle)

What Christ does for us, we "in like manner" are to do unto others, friend and foe. "Samaritan-charity" is Christ's own teaching.

Excerpted from My Sunday Missal, Confraternity of the Precious Blood

Laborers for the Harvest

O Jesus, Good Shepherd, raise up in all parish communities, priests and deacons, religious, consecrated lay people and missionaries according to the needs of the whole world, which You love and want to save.

We entrust to You in a particular way our parish community; create in it the spiritual atmosphere of the first Christians in order that it may be a cenacle of prayer where we lovingly receive the Holy Spirit and His gifts.

Assist our pastors and all consecrated souls. Guide the steps of those who have generously welcomed Your call and prepared themselves for Holy Orders or the profession of the evangelical counsels. Direct Your loving gaze to the many well-disposed young people and invite them to follow You. Help them to understand that only in You they can achieve their fulfillment.

We entrust these great desires of Your Heart to the powerful intercession of Mary, Mother and model of all vocations, and beg You to sustain our faith in the certainty that the Father will listen to what You Yourself have instructed us to ask for.

Amen.

~ Pope John Paul II