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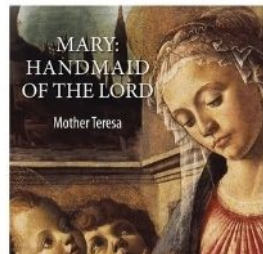
Regina Frazier,  
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**FORMED**  
PICK OF THE WEEK

**Mary: Handmaid of the Lord by St. Teresa of Kolkata**

St. Teresa of Kolkata is known throughout the world as a woman who was totally committed to the Gospel. In this inspiring talk, she shares her insights on the Blessed Virgin Mary as a model of womanhood and perfect discipleship. She shows us that we, too, can do the will of God by saying "yes" to the Lord in the big and little things in our lives; nothing is too insignificant.

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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.

## Twenty-Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time

The first reading is taken from the Book of Sirach 27:30, 28:7. In the verses read today, Sirach tells us that we must forgive our neighbor if we want God to forgive us our own sins. We must be merciful if we hope to obtain mercy from God. We must not seek revenge on a neighbor lest God should take vengeance on us. If we remember our end in life we will keep God's commandments and we will not be angry with a neighbor who offends us.

The second reading is from the St. Paul to the Romans 14:7-9. In these three verses St. Paul emphasizes the fact that through our baptism we have been made members of Christ's mystical body, we have become brothers of Christ, intimately united with him in his death and resurrection. Whether living or dead we belong to Christ. It was for this purpose, to unite all men closely to himself not only in this life but especially in the next, that Christ became man and "dwelt among us."

The Gospel is from St. Matthew 18:21-35. On reading or hearing this story of the merciless servant, each one of us would rightly judge him a mean, low type of man, a heartless man, who puts himself outside the pale of mercy. He throttled his fellow-servant for a paltry debt of ten dollars, and would not listen to the poor man's plea for mercy. When we hear what the king did to this heartless servant we heartily approve and say: "It served him right, he got what he richly deserved."

We had better stop and think for a moment today and reflect that we ourselves may be that merciless servant



described in the parable. Every time we have sinned mortally we have incurred an unpayable debt to God. Each time we have received absolution we have come out of God's courtroom as free men. A weight greater than a million dollar debt has been lifted from our shoulders. A fate worse than generations of earthly imprisonment — that is, eternal slavery — has been spared us because of God's loving, infinite mercy. How then can it happen that we could be so heartless, mean, and foolish as to refuse to forgive a neighbor for some offense he has committed against us?

Yet it happens, and it may be that there are some among us here today who continue to have enmity in their hearts against neighbors who offended them. In their hard-heartedness they cannot get themselves to forgive and forget. Are these not following in the footsteps of the merciless servant? Will they not receive the punishment of the merciless servant — a punishment richly deserved? This will be the fate of all unforgiving

Christians; they will meet an unforgiving God when they are called to settle their accounts.

That day has not yet come for us. We still have time to put our affairs in order. We still can forgive all our enemies from our heart. If we do not, we are cutting ourselves off from the possibility of having our own sins and offenses forgiven by God. We have the solemn word of our divine Lord for this in the lesson he draws from the parable "So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you (that is, deliver us up to eternal slavery) if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."


Excerpted from The Sunday Readings by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.

## Commentary for the Readings in the Extraordinary Form: Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

"Young man, I say to thee, arise." And he who was dead . . . began to speak. And (Jesus) gave him (to his mother" (Gospel).

Holy Mother Church, like unto "a widow," weeps for the return of every sinner (figure in background) as if for an "only child"; that the Christ-Life might return to the godless, to the apostate.

"I say to thee, arise." Though alive we may be dead! Go to



Him in prayer, "morning" and "night" (Gradual); and in the Sacraments also, that His Life-giving "graces" may save us from our death-dealing "inclinations" (PostCommunion).

"While we have time, let us do good to all men," that they, too, may be reborn, renewed in this Christ-Life. "Instruct . . . (one who is) doing something wrong . . . Bear one another's burdens, and so you will fulfill the law of Christ" (Epistle).

Excerpted from My Sunday Missal, Confraternity of the Precious Blood

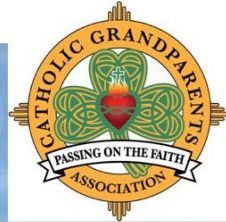


### 2020-2021 RCIA Begins September 16

RCIA will begin on Wednesday, September 16 at 6:00 p.m. with Mass in the church. After Mass, we will continue the session in the parish meeting room. We will wear masks and practice social distancing. If you know someone who wants to become Catholic or just inquire and learn about our faith, please contact the parish office at 304-269-3048 or by email at secretary@spchurchweston.net. You may also email the RCIA coordinator, Jesse Cunningham at caufdrop45@gmail.com.

The RCIA program is intended to be a formation process and one of the biggest parts of the formation is to attend Mass. Not only on Wednesdays for our sessions but on Saturday or Sunday as well. After all, attending weekend Mass is something you will be doing for the rest of your life if you do choose to join the church. Every Catholic church in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston has specific guidelines to follow. Fr. DeViese has done an excellent job at St. Pat's implementing these guidelines. One of our parishioners even makes masks for people who need them.

### **Happy Grandparents Day (September 13, 2020– Feast of St. Joachim and St. Anne**



Wishing Grandparents everywhere a Happy, Holy, Joyful  
“Grandparents Day”

We pray that your day may be filled with the love and peace of The Lord

May St. Joachim & St. Anne, Parents of Mary, Grandparents of Jesus bless you, your children and your Grandchildren



With love and our prayers from  
Catherine Wiley, Founder and all of us here at  
The Catholic Grandparents Association

### The Exaltation of the Holy Cross of Jesus

By Deacon Paul O. Iacono September 14, 2012

**T**oday we celebrate the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

During the first 280 years of its life the Catholic Church was severely persecuted. The symbol of the Cross, the symbol of public humiliation and excruciating death, was rarely used in our Christian iconography. But this doesn't mean that the early Christians were reluctant to express their devotion to the Cross. Writing in the year 204, the Christian theologian Tertullian said: “At every going in and out, when we put on our clothes, when we sit at table, in all the ordinary actions of daily life, we trace upon the forehead the sign [of the Cross].”

In the year 313, the Emperor Constantine signed the Edict of Milan which proclaimed toleration for the Christian faith within the Roman Empire. Constantine's mother, Helena, made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and with the support of the local bishop, excavated the area known as the site of Golgotha.

Tradition states that portions of the true Cross, with a partial nameplate still attached was found, resulting in Constantine ordering that the Church of the Holy Sepulcher be built over the site. The church was dedicated nine years later, with a portion of the Cross placed inside it.

So the feast that we celebrate today marks the dedication of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in the year 335. That Church was unfortunately destroyed by the Muslims in the year 1009, only to be rebuilt centuries later, with the new occupants, all Christians from different Rites of the Catholic Church, vying for control of the site.

Unfortunately, even among our brother Christian Churches – Orthodox, Latin, Ethiopian, Coptic, there have been numerous clashes and conflicts over the control of the site. It is as if these guardians of the Church had not internalized the meaning of the true Cross, the meaning of what happened on that site 2000 years ago, the meaning of the supreme sacrifice of God's love.

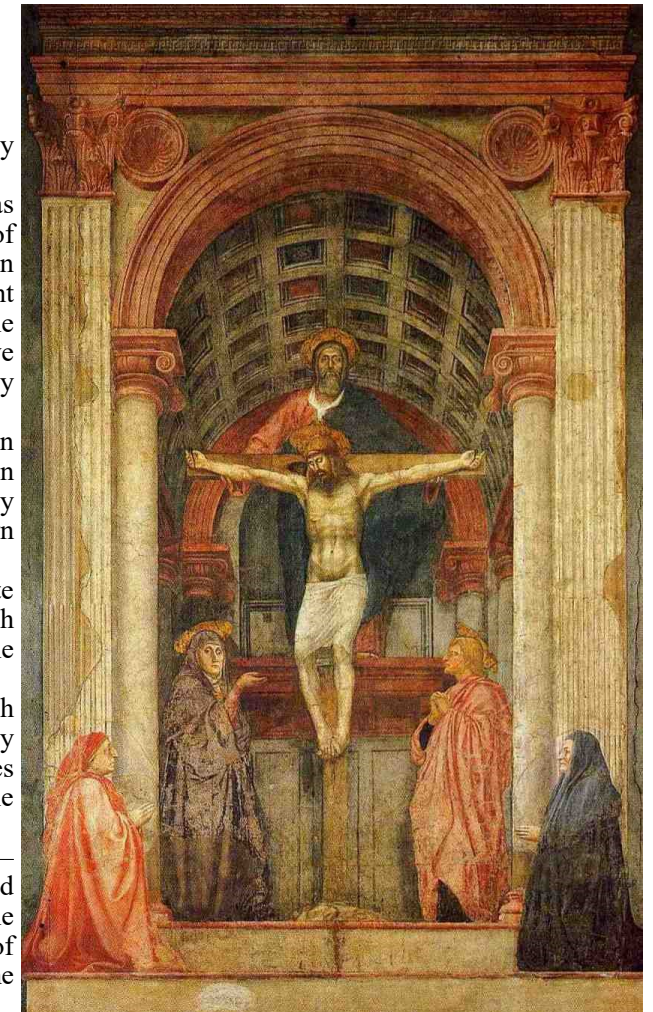
Our Holy Scriptures tell us that Moses lifted up the bronze serpent, a sign of sin, and the people were healed. Jesus makes an analogy of the serpent with the healing power of the Cross, since it is a sign of our sin and our redemption.

The meaning of the Cross takes on a new dimension as a result of the Father, through the power of the Holy Spirit, resurrecting Jesus from the dead. The Resurrection transforms the Holy Cross into a sign of Christ's victory over sin and the opportunity that we have to personally choose to accept His victory and make it a part of our life.

God, through the instrument of the Holy Cross, shows us the level of His love for His creation. The Father shows His love for us by giving us the best He has, His Son, and His Son shows His obedience and trust in the Father, through His willingness to become a perfect offering, a pure sacrifice, back to the Father on our behalf.

Let us pray that we, on a daily basis, attempt to imitate this profound love of God. Our love is strengthened by the truth of our faith, and by the historic reality of the Cross. When we do this we will understand that the crosses that we carry, and the sufferings that we endure, unite us to the Lord, and help us transform our lives into His.

Copyright © 2012 Deacon Paul O. Iacono All Rights Reserved. Notes on the painting: The above fresco painting and its close-up were completed by the Italian painter Masaccio during the years 1425-27. It is currently located in the church of Santa Maria Novella in Florence, Italy. This is a very important painting in the history of western liturgical art for it combines the images of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit (the white dove that appears as a scarf or collar around the Father's neck). Current research mentions that the brilliant engineer and architect, Philip Brunelleschi, may have been consulted by Masaccio since he had continued the research into the ideas of linear perspective. You can view this sense of linear perspective in this painting in the three dimensional aspect of the vaulting behind the figures. Brunelleschi had continued the studies on linear perspective that were started by the famous painter from Siena, Peter Lorenzetti, in the early 1300's.



### Parish Membership & Benefits:

To be considered an “active” member of any parish (and thus eligible for Sacraments, sponsor eligibility, and the “Active Parishioner Rate of tuition” at a Catholic school), the parish takes into account the following things. First, to receive a discount at a Catholic School or to receive a sacrament, **the children MUST attend weekend Mass.** Second, family & individual involvement in parish life and ministries are taken into consideration. Mass attendance is only able to be tracked accurately via collection envelopes. If you are not receiving envelopes currently, please contact the appropriate person at your parish. Parishioners over 18 should register as a household to help us keep records accurate and up-to-date.