



# Parish of St. Joseph of the Palisades

6401 Palisade Ave. West New York, NJ 07093

(201) 854-7006 Fax: (201) 861-7799

E-mail: [info@saintjosephpalisades.com](mailto:info@saintjosephpalisades.com) Website: [www.saintjosephpalisades.com](http://www.saintjosephpalisades.com)

Served by: Rev. Helber Victoria, *Pastor*. Rev. Richard DeBrasi, Rev. José Luis Soto, Rev. Edinson E. Ramírez, Rev. Fernando Diaz; Rev. Msgr. Robert Harahan, Weekend Assistant

## Mass Schedule

### *St. Joseph*

#### Monday to Friday

8:30 am English

#### Monday to Friday

7:00 pm Spanish

#### Saturday

9:00 am Spanish

5:00 pm English

6:30 pm Spanish

#### Sunday

8:30 am Spanish

10:30 am Spanish-Main Church

10:30am Spanish-Lower Church

10:30 am Spanish-Com. Center

12:00 pm English

1:30 pm Spanish

6:00 pm Spanish

### Office Hours:

#### Monday to Friday

9:00 am—5:00 pm

5:00—8:00 pm

#### Saturday & Sunday

9:00 am—3:00 pm

## VISITAS AL SAGRADO CORAZÓN DE JESÚS

de Santa Maria Margarita de Alacoque (1647-1690)



### Primer Viernes del Mes

Agosto 4

6:00 p.m.

Todos están

cordialmente invitados!

*“Jesús manso y humilde de corazón  
haz mí corazón  
semejante al tuyo.”*

### *IHM Mass Schedule*

#### Saturday

4:00 pm Meditation Hour  
in the small Chapel

#### Sunday

10:00 am English

Confession between Masses

12:00 pm Spanish



Scan the adjacent barcode to open the Parish webpage.

Escanee el código de barras adjunto para acceder

## Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel



**Academy of St. Joseph**  
Principal, Mrs. Lauren Lytle  
6408 Palisade Avenue  
West New York, NJ 07093  
201-861-3227  
[stjosephpalisadeselem.com](http://stjosephpalisadeselem.com)

**Religious Education Office**  
Mrs. Laysa Mercedes  
Adult Faith Formation/Youth Group Coordinator:  
Mr. Marco Guerrero  
6408 Palisade Avenue, West New York, NJ  
(201) 868-0305  
[religioused@saintjosephpalisades.com](mailto:religioused@saintjosephpalisades.com)

**Music Director:** Mr. Ramon Restituyo  
**Parish Administrative Assistant:** Nube Parra  
**Parish Bookkeeper:** Mrs. Graciela Giacomello  
**Parish Secretary:** Mrs. Millie Benitez  
**Parish Trustee:** Ivon Campuzano

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE 17th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**INTENCIONES PARA EL 17 DOMINGO DEL TIEMPO ORDINARIO**

**JULY 29-30, 2023**

**ST. JOSEPH'S - 64<sup>TH</sup> Street**

**Saturday, July 29**

**5:00pm English** + Lillian Cook  
+ Gloria Cannizzo

**6:30pm Spanish** + Carlos y Margarita Cantero  
+ Elfa Calix

**Sunday, July 30**

**8:30am Spanish** + Isabel & Elias Giraldo  
+ Maria González

**10:30am UC Spanish** + Maria E. Mendez  
En accion de gracias por la vida

**10:30am LC Spanish** + Everto y Hortencia Pedrera  
+ Jose Alcizar

**12:00pm** For the people of the parish

**1:30pm Spanish** + Marta González  
+ Alicia Maravillas

**6:00pm Spanish** Todas las almas del Purgatorio  
+ Edilberto Bolivar

**Monday, July 31**

**8:30am** + Ignatius Pizzo  
+ Anthony Pizzo

**7:00pm Spanish** + Antonio Castellanos  
+ Alfonso Antequera

**Tuesday, August 1**

**8:30am** + Marina Carcich  
+ Michael Jean-Luc Bruballa

**7:00pm Spanish** + Adolfo y Alberto González  
+ Laura Cintra

**Wednesday, August 2**

**8:30am** + Dee Santos

**7:00pm Spanish** Cumpleaños de Jose Hernández  
Por la protección de Genaro y Cali Chonay

**Thursday, August 3**

**8:30am** Health of Mark Clarke  
+ José Mendez

**7:00pm Spanish** Salud de Adalgisa Rosario  
Por todos los matrimonios del mundo

**Friday, August 4**

**8:30am English** + Rev. Elmer Quizon, OSJ

**7:00pm Spanish** + Juan y Alberto Aracena  
+ Pedro Rodríguez

**Saturday, August 5**

**9:00am Spanish** Community Mass

**IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY**

**Sunday, July 30**

**10:00am** + Maria Carcich

**12:00pm Spanish** + Mario Ruilava  
Almas del Purgatorio

**VIVIR LA LITURGIA -  
INSPIRACIÓN DE LA SEMANA**

Seguir a Cristo tomará todo lo que tenemos. ¿Estamos preparados para darlo todo? Al final de nuestras vidas, esperemos poder decir con verdad que vendimos todo lo que teníamos para comprar el campo que contenía el gran tesoro.

**Sacrament of Baptism - Sacramento de Bautismo:**

Sundays with prior registration. Call the rectory for information.

*Domingos con inscripción previa. Para información llame a la rectoría.*

**Sacrament of Reconciliation - Confesiones:**

Saturdays/Sábados: 4:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Monday-Friday/Lunes a Viernes 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

**Sacrament of Matrimony - Matrimonios:**

Registration one year prior to the date of marriage. Call the Rectory for appointment.

*Registrarse un año antes de la boda.*

*Llamar a la rectoría para una cita.*

**Pastoral Care of the Sick - Enfermos:**

Family member must call the Rectory to notify a priest.

*Un familiar debe llamar a la rectoría para informar al sacerdote.*

**Funerals - Funerales:**

All deceased Catholics are to have a funeral Mass before being buried. Arrangements made through the Funeral Home.

*Todo difunto católico debe ser llevado a la iglesia para la Misa de Funeral antes de recibir cristiana sepultura. Arreglos a través de la funeraria.*

**Religious Education - Catequesis:**

English: Sunday 10:45 a.m.

Academy of St. Joseph

Español: Domingos, 9:15 a.m.

Academy of St. Joseph

**Parish Membership - Miembros de la Parroquia:**

Every Catholic family should register in the parish.

*Todo católico debe registrarse en la parroquia.*

**Readings for the week of July 30**

**Sunday:** 1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12/Ps 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-128, 129-130 (97a)/Rom 8:28-30/  
Mt 13:44-52 or 13:44-46

**Monday:** Ex 32:15-24, 30-34/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23/  
Mt 13:31-35

**Tuesday:** Ex 33:7-11; 34:5b-9, 28/Ps 103:6-7, 8-9, 10-11, 12-13/Mt 13:36-43

**Wednesday:** Ex 34:29-35/Ps 99:5, 6, 7, 9/Mt 13:44-46

**Thursday:** Ex 40:16-21, 34-38/Ps 84:3, 4, 5-6a and 8a, 11/Mt 13:47-53

**Friday:** Lv 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34b-37/Ps 81:3-4, 5-6, 10-11ab/Mt 13:54-58

**Saturday:** Lv 25:1, 8-17/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8/Mt 14:1-12



## **“El justo brillará como el sol”: Honrando el cuerpo o las cenizas de un ser querido.**

Reflejando indirectamente dos puntos claves sobre la Encarnación (el primero que el papel de la Virgen María no era la de una mera madre sustituta, y el segundo que el cuerpo de Jesús se formó de manera real del cuerpo de su madre, de tal modo que no fue el fantasma de un hombre o algo como un ser humano en apariencia, sino verdaderamente y plenamente humano), el Teólogo y padre Ronald Knox dice “todos sabemos hasta que punto la manera de hacer un regalo forma parte de ese regalo y pone de relieve lo que vale; nos gusta la finura y la delicadeza en el modo de regalar algo: el estuche, la envoltura, las cintas...todo tiene importancia. Así es como se espera que sea un regalo. Si tu padre te fuera a dar algo realmente espléndido y valioso, no esperarías que lo sacara de un cajón, una caja de zapatos y te lo tirara en medio de la habitación, diciendote “aquí tienes un regalo.” (*El Credo a Camera Lenta*, p. 85). Con estas palabras el Padre Knox quiso dar a entender que nuestro cuerpo que es el verdadero ser humano. Por eso una de las fases de la segunda Venida, como lo indica indirectamente el Evangelio de este domingo, es la reunión del alma con el cuerpo, o también las almas de nuestros difuntos con sus cuerpos. Se nota la unidad estrecha y stricta de alma y cuerpo en esta vida cuando por ejemplo hay un dolor de estómago y uno se pone de mal humor o le resulta difícil orar o concentrarse. Como dice Knox, una “indigestión”, que es cosa del cuerpo, ha dado lugar a un mal humor, que es asunto del alma.” Hay numerosas implicaciones que esta afirmación fundamental tiene para corregir ciertas actitudes exageradas y puritanas sobre el cuerpo, pero aquí me gustaría desacar, después de algunas interrogativas que surgieron dentro del ministerio del duelo sobre que se debe hacer con las cenizas de un difunto, que hay que tratar a las cenizas con la misma dignidad y procedimientos que el cadáver que parece ser el ser querido intacto. Sería algo casi inexplicable y perturbador si alguien guardase el cadáver la que fue su ser querido en la casa, quizás dentro de un congelador gigante para evitar la descomposición, o lo tirase en algún río o bosque; pero con las cenizas algunos son más dispuestos a conservarlas o esparcirlas por la razón de que no expieren o no asemejan el difunto salvo el vínculo emocional. Tanto el cadáver como las cenizas no son el ser querido vivo y completo como fue en la vida, y por la misma razón tanto la cremación como el entierro del cadáver no toca el alma y no impide la resurrección, porque en la resurrección se trata de un cuerpo nuevo y glorificado (“los justos brillarán como el sol”), y no lo que se ha descompuesto quizás de manera total en este mundo. De ahí que la Iglesia permite la cremación con alguna forma de entierro o sepultura en un lugar sagrado, especialmente como voluntad del difunto, pero NO permite tirar las cenizas en el agua o en el aire, ni guardarlas en la casa, ni usarlas para hacer piezas de joyería. Hay razones teológicas, psicológicas y prácticas. Una razón teológica es la alta dignidad del cuerpo como parte integrante del alma, contra una visión que reduce el ser humano a un puro materialismo o a “la madre naturaleza” o una liberación del alma de la “envoltura” del cuerpo. En cuanto a los vivos que están haciendo un proceso de duelo, una razón psicológica para no conservar las cenizas en un lugar no-sagrado es el apego que no ayuda a sanar la pérdida y “soltar” el difunto. Una razón práctica sería la de asegurar unas condiciones estables y respetables para la conservación de las cenizas de generación en generación a través de las mudanzas de residencia y “distancia mental” entre una generación y otra con respeto al difunto.

- P. Richard DeBrasi



### **Se necesita su ayuda**

Para servir mejor a nuestra parroquia, le estamos pidiendo a las personas interesadas en ser un Ujier, Ministro de la Eucaristía, Lector, o ayudar en otros ministerios, que llamen a la oficina parroquial. Agradecemos su ayuda.



### **Libro de Recetas**

Nuestra parroquia está bendecida por ser una comunidad multicultural. Como parte de la celebración de las numerosas herencias que componen esta parroquia, estamos pidiendo a los feligreses que presenten una receta favorita de familia. Estas recetas serán compiladas y publicadas en un Libro de Recetas.

Por favor, traiga su receta a la oficina parroquial. Estamos deseando tener el Libro de Recetas listo justo a tiempo para el cierre de nuestro año de aniversario en marzo de 2024.

**ORA POR LAS  
VOCACIONES**



## CHURCH OF ST. JOSEPH OF THE PALISADES

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6401 Palisades Avenue \* West New York, NJ 07093 \* Tel: (201) 854-7006 Fax: (201) 861-7799

Apreciados amigos:

Grandes épocas merecen grandes celebraciones, y este es un año histórico para **San José de Palisades** y queremos invitarte a las celebraciones de nuestro...

### 160 Aniversario Parroquial

1863-2023

En **Septiembre** celebramos el **120° Aniversario de la construcción** de nuestra hermosa iglesia. En **Diciembre** celebramos el **70° Aniversario** de la apertura de nuestra **Capilla del Inmaculado Corazón de María** y lo haremos en grande con una Santa Misa y Cena.

En **Marzo de 2024** cerraremos nuestro Aniversario con una **Gala Especial** en honor a **San José**, nuestro **patrono**.

Como un “detalle propio de la ocasión”, haremos y publicaremos un *diario histórico conmemorativo* parroquial.

La publicación del **Diario del 160° Aniversario de San José de los Palisades** estaría programada para Diciembre, justo para la celebración de la Capilla de IHM. Le invitamos a agregar a su familia como recuerdo de la iglesia que muchos han llamado su segundo hogar. Consulte el formulario adjunto.

Contamos con tu apoyo para celebrar y seguir haciendo historia en nuestra comunidad de West New York, Guttenberg, y North Bergen.

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Dear Friends:

Great milestones deserve celebrations, and this is a milestone year for **Saint Joseph of the Palisades** in a number of ways and we want to invite you to join in the celebrations of our...

### 160th Parish Anniversary

1863-2023

In **September** we celebrate our **120th Anniversary of our beautiful church** building, with updated work for spiritual formation. In **December** we mark the **70th Anniversary** of the opening of our **Chapel of the Immaculate Heart of Mary** with a Mass and dinner. In **March of 2024** we will close the year with a **gala celebration in honor of our patron, St. Joseph**.

We invite you to be included in our historic journal.

The **Saint Joseph of the Palisades 160th Anniversary Journal** is scheduled for publication in the December Edition for our IHM celebration. We invite you to add your family and its memories to this keepsake of what has been called a Second Home to so many, your Parish of Saint Joseph of the Palisades. See the form attached.

Please support us as we gather together to celebrate this important part of this community of West New York, Guttenberg, North Bergen, and beyond.

Sinceramente / Sincerely,

Rev. Helber Victoria

Pastor

Email: [info@saintjosephpalisades.com](mailto:info@saintjosephpalisades.com) Website: [www.saintjosephpalisades.com](http://www.saintjosephpalisades.com)



# CHURCH OF ST. JOSEPH OF THE PALISADES

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## 160th Anniversary Journal 1863-2023

- 1863:** First Documented Parish Baptism
- 1903:** Cornerstone of St. Joseph of the Palisades our new church building
- 1953:** First Mass at our Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel
- 1973:** Opening of the Parish Charismatic Prayer Group

Please print my message as follows (or see attached picture and message):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gold Page .....\$200         | <input type="checkbox"/> Half Page ..... \$ 50               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Silver Page.....\$150        | <input type="checkbox"/> Quarter Page..... \$ 25             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full Page.....\$100          | <input type="checkbox"/> Friends of St. Joseph donor... \$10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Three Quarter Page.....\$ 75 | <input type="checkbox"/> St. Joseph supporter..... \$ 5      |

Authorized Parish Representative: \_\_\_\_\_

Return this form with payment to:

Anniversary Journal Committee  
 St. Joseph of the Palisades Parish  
 6401 Palisade Avenue  
 West New York, NJ 07093

*Parish Seal*

**Note: Deadline for all ads: November 1, 2023**

Note: St. Joseph of the Palisades is a 501.C3 organization.



## XVII Domingo Ordinario



### **Canción de Entrada**

#### **Alegría de Vivir**

##### ***Estríbillo:***

***Cantando la alegría de vivir,  
lleguemos a la casa del Señor;  
marchando todos juntos como hermanos,  
andemos los caminos hacia Dios.***

Venid, entremos todos dando gracias;  
venid, cantemos todos al Señor,  
gritemos a la Roca que nos salva,  
cantemos la alabanza a nuestro Dios.

### **Liturgia de la Palabra**

Primera Lectura: 1 Reyes 3, 5-13

Salmo Responsorial: **Cuanto amo tu voluntad, tu voluntad, Señor.**

Segunda Lectura: Romanos 8, 28-30

Evangelio: Mateo 13, 44-52 o bien 13, 44-46

Homilía

### **Canción de Ofertorio**

#### **Salmo 150**

##### ***Estríbillo:***

***Alaben a Dios en su santuario. Alaben a Dios. ¡Aleluya!  
Alaben a Dios. ¡Aleluya!***

Por el firmamento de su fuerza  
y por sus grandes hazañas,  
por su inmensa grandeza, alaben a Dios.

Alaben con trompetas y cuerno.  
Alaben con cítara y arpa,  
al compás de panderos y danzas, también.

Alaben con laúd y con flauta.  
Alaben con platillos sonoros.  
Todo cuanto respira, alabe al Señor.

### **Canción de Comunión**

#### **Oh Señor, Delante de Ti**

Oh Señor, delante de ti, mis manos abiertas  
reciben tu pan. Oh Señor,  
espiga de amor, llena mi corazón.

##### ***Estríbillo:***

***Y entre tus manos, oh Señor, guárdanos, guárdanos;  
dinos lo que es amor...(bis)***

Oh Señor, sendero de amor, mi alma en  
silencio escucha tu voz. Oh Señor, Maestro y Pastor,  
dinos lo que es amor.

Oh Señor, con fe y hermandad, mi pueblo  
celebra la fiesta Pascual. Oh Señor, en torno a  
tu altar sella nuestra amistad.

### **Canción de Salida**

#### **Gracias, Señor**

##### ***Estríbillo:***

***Hoy, Señor, te damos gracias, por la vida,  
la tierra y el sol.  
Hoy, Señor, queremos cantar,  
las grandezas de tu amor.***

Gracias, Padre, mi vida es tu vida,  
tus manos amasan mi barro,  
mi alma es tu aliento divino,  
tu sonrisa en mis ojos está.

Gracias, Padre, tú guías mis pasos,  
tú eres la luz y el camino,  
conduces a ti mi destino,  
como llevas los ríos al mar.



## 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time



### Entrance

#### Gather Us In

Here in this place, new light is streaming,  
Now is the darkness, vanished away,  
See, in this space, our fears and our dreamings,  
Brought here to you in the light of this day.

Gather us in the lost and forsaken,  
Gather us in the blind and the lame;  
Call to us now, and we shall awaken,  
We shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young our lives are a myst'ry,  
We are the old who yearn for your face,  
We have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,  
Call to be light to the whole human race.

Gather us in the rich and the haughty,  
Gather us in the proud and the strong;  
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly,  
Give us the courage to enter the song.

### Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: 1 Kings 3: 5, 7-12

Responsorial Psalm: **Lord, I love your commands.**

Second Reading: Romans 8: 28-30

Gospel Acclamation: **Alleluia!**

Gospel: Matthew 13: 44-52 or 13: 44-46

### Offertory

#### Faith of Our Fathers

Faith of our fathers! Living still  
In spite of dungeon fore and sword:  
O how our hearts beat high with joy,  
Whene'er we hear that glorious word:

#### Refrain

**Faith of our fathers, holy faith!  
We will be true to thee till death.**

Our fathers, chained in prisons dark,  
Were till in heart and conscience free:

And truly blest would be our fate,  
If we, like them, should die for thee.

#### Refrain

Faith of our fathers! Faith and pray'r  
Shall win all nations unto thee;  
And through the truth that comes from God,  
We shall all then indeed be free.

#### Refrain

### Communion

#### You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

#### Refrain

***You satisfy the hungry heart with gift of finest  
wheat; Come give to us, O saving Lord,  
the bread of life to eat.***

As when the shepherd calls his sheep, they know  
and heed his voice; So when you call your fam'ly,  
Lord, we follow and rejoice.

#### Refrain

With joyful lips we sing to you our praise and  
gratitude, that you should count us worthy,  
Lord, to share this heav'nly food.

### Recessional

#### Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

Joyful, joyful, we adore you, God of glory,  
Lord of love; hearts unfold like flowers before you,  
Opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;  
drive the dark of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
fill us with the light of day!

All your works with joy surround you,  
earth and heav'n reflect your rays,  
Stars and angels sing around you,  
center of unbroken praise;  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird and flowing fountain,  
Praising you eternally!



## **“The Just Will Shine Like the Sun”: Honoring the body or ashes of a loved one.**

Indirectly reflecting two key points about the incarnation (first, that the role of the Virgin Mary was not that of a mere surrogate mother or a kind of wrapping paper, and second, that Jesus’ body was actually formed from his mother’s body in such a way that it was not the ghost of a man or only human in appearance, but truly and fully human), theologian Fr. Ronald Knox says: “If you are given a [gift] by your father for a Christmas present, you like it to be wrapped up in shiny paper with robins on it, and tied with gold string. That’s the idea of the thing, that’s what you expect. If your father is going to give you something really expensive, you don’t expect him to take it out of a drawer and throw it across the room at you and say, “Hi, here’s a [gift].” The thing has got to be done properly.” (*The Creed in Slow Motion*, p 66) With these words, Father Knox was trying to convey that our body is not just a disposable paper that leaves behind after death “the pearl” of the souls within that was actually the true and completed human being. But this is false. That is why one of the phases of the second coming, as this Sunday’s Gospel hints at, is the “reunion” of the soul (and the souls of all the deceased) with a body. Even in this life the organic unity of soul and body is noticeable when, for example, you get a stomach ache and become cranky, or find it difficult to pray or concentrate. As Knox puts it, “indigestion, which is a matter concerned with the body, has given rise to a bad temper, which is a matter concerned with the soul.” There are many implications this fundamental view of body and soul has on negative and puritanical attitudes about the body; but here I would like to highlight, after some questions that came up within our parish’s bereavement group about what should be done with the ashes of a loved one, that the ashes should be treated with the same dignity and procedures as the embalmed body that seems to resemble for an instant the person who walked this earth while alive. It would be somewhat difficult to understand and perhaps unsettling if we heard that someone took home the corpse of what used to be their loved to be kept inside a giant freezer to delay decay, or perhaps just thrown into a river. Yet when it comes to ashes, many are disposed to keep or scatter them for the apparent reason that they do not expire or make us feel we are not doing what we shouldn’t be doing with a more or less intact corpse. Both the corpse and the ashes are no longer the complete loved one as they were in this life; and for this same reason neither does a cremation nor the burial of a corpse “touch” the soul or prevent the resurrection, because in the resurrection we are after all dealing with a new and glorified body (“the just will shine like the sun”) and not something that might have completely decomposed in this world after thousands of years. The Church therefore allows cremation but with some form of burial or storage in a sacred space, especially if that was the intention of the deceased; but the Church does not allow the ashes to be scattered, or kept in a house, or used to fashion jewelry or other objects. There are theological, psychological, and practical reasons for this teaching. One theological reason is the dignity of the body as that which the soul had animated in this life, against any view that reduces the human person to pure materialism or “mother nature,” or a liberation of the soul from the “prison” of the body. For those who are mourning a loved one, a psychological reason for not keeping the ashes is an unhealthy attachment that does not help heal the loss and “let go” of the deceased. Finally, a practical reason would be to ensure safe and respectable conditions for the conservation of the remains across the generations who might move from place to place or grow mentally distant from the deceased and become neglectful. - Fr. Richard De Brasi

## **WHY DO WE DO THAT? - CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED**

### **Kissing the Altar at Mass**

**Question:** Why do priests kiss the altar at the start of Mass?

**Answer:**

Our churches and chapels are filled with symbols. We might think of the more common symbols (like the crucifix, statues, stained-glass windows, vestment color and altar cloths) as well as major symbols (such as the paschal candle and the baptismal font). But there are some things that we can take for granted in our sacred spaces, because unfortunately, they seem to just be part of the building, including three of the main symbols of our liturgy: the ambo (lectern), the chair for the priest celebrant, and the altar.

These three objects are placed in a specially designated area called the sanctuary. They are the places where the Word of God is proclaimed, where the priest prays and presides at the celebration, and where the bread and wine are offered by the priest during the Eucharistic Prayer. Although each of these objects is sacred because of the role they play in our worship, the altar holds a special place. In a document containing the rules and instructions for the Mass — the “General Instruction of the Roman Missal” — we read: “The altar on which the Sacrifice of the Cross is made present under sacramental signs is also the table of the Lord to which the People of God is called together to participate in the Mass, as well as the center of the thanksgiving that is accomplished throughout the Eucharist” (no. 296).

One of the ways that we recognize the importance of the altar is when the priest and deacon kiss the altar at the beginning of Mass. Kissing is an ancient act of devotion. Remember, we also kiss the cross on Good Friday, and the deacon or priest kisses the “Book of the Gospels” after the Gospel is proclaimed. This act of devotion reminds us that the altar is a symbol of Jesus, the “living stone” (see 1 Peter 2:4), the foundation stone of our faith. It is a symbol gesture, but it is a powerful reminder of the One on whom our faith is built and in whose name we gather as the “household of faith” (see *Galatians 6:10*).



# GOSPEL MEDITATION

17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Our culture seems more polarized and divided than ever. Into this wounded situation, our Catholic faith has a healing remedy to offer: the gift of wisdom. When the Lord offers to give King Solomon anything the monarch desires, he requests “an understanding heart” (1 Kings 3:9). In his polarized situation, the King doesn’t ask for power to defeat his enemies. He asks for a wise and understanding heart to judge right from wrong. This wisdom is elevated and fulfilled in Jesus who teaches us to bring forth “both the new and the old” (Matthew 13:52).

In our fractured society, we Christians should stop pining for political power to crush our perceived enemies. That often just makes things worse. Rather, it’s much more useful to beg for the grace of true wisdom which transcends both sides of the aisle. This places us in a fresh position from which we can help our culture see what is true and good all across the ideological spectrum. Sometimes we’ll look like liberals (e.g., in our love for the poor and marginalized) and other times like conservatives (e.g., in our sexual ethics and views on religious freedom). Because this wisdom is free from ideological narrowness, it will help to heal these painful fractures. Lord Jesus, this week, pour into us your healing wisdom.

## QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

### First Reading:

The young King Solomon asked the Lord in prayer for a wise and discerning heart, and it was granted to him. What gift would you ask from the Lord?

### Second Reading:

Paul teaches the believers in Rome that God calls us “according to his purpose.” Do you have a sense your purpose in life? If so, what is it?

### Gospel:

Jesus offers several kingdom of heaven parables to the disciples: buried treasure and fine pearls (a priceless discovery) and the large catch of fish (an invitation to all). With these parables, what do you think Jesus is teaching us about the kingdom of heaven?

## LIVE THE LITURGY

Following Christ will take everything we have. Are we ready to give it all? At the end of our lives, let us hope we can say truthfully that we sold all we had in order to purchase the field which contained the great treasure.



### Please Consider Helping

In order to better serve our parish, we are asking anyone interested in becoming an Usher, Eucharistic Minister, Lector, or helping in other Ministries, to call the parish office. Your help is greatly appreciated.



## 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY JUBILEE ARCHDIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE

**Saturday, September 16, 2023**

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Parish Office (201) 854-7006 or  
Edgar Angamaraca (201) 233-5249.  
The cost for the bus ride is \$45.00.



## Food Pantry

Our Parish distributes food once a month to more than 200 families in need. Please help us by bringing some canned food to the parish office. Thank you for your continued help to our food pantry.

The next food distribution will be **Saturday, August 19.**

# GROWING WITH THE *Gospel* CYCLE A



## COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time • Matthew 13:44-52

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