

SEPTEMBER 6, 2020 TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

MASSES FOR THIS WEEK

Saturday, September 5th

4:30 Special Intention for Gary Cross by Maureen & Ron Blizchuk

Sunday, September 6th

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:30 Majdi Litnik by a Friend

Monday, September 7th

Tuesday, September 8th

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Wednesday, September 9th

St. Peter Claver

Thursday, September 10th No Mass

Friday, September 11th

Saturday, September 12th

The Most Holy Name of Mary

REFLECTION

Today's readings are all about relationships. Among the many lessons we have learned from the global pandemic is the deep importance of the relationships and communities in our lives. Our families, neighbors, friends and parish family need us, and we need them to be our best selves.

St. Paul gives us simple instruction in our second reading from Romans to guide us in our dealings with others, reminding us what Christ Himself taught: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love is the overarching principle that guides us to be good stewards of our relationships.

In our Gospel passage from Matthew, Jesus further refines this instruction on good stewardship of our relationships, even when they involve conflict. He says, "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have won over your brother."

Jesus teaches us to confront the offending person directly and discretely — with the goal of restoring the relationship if possible. This is how we steward our relationships even through rocky waters. Jesus also speaks to us of the power and beauty of community life. "If two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted by my heavenly Father. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

Christian stewards, God has designed us in such a way that we must help each other on the journey towards heaven. Let us take care to steward our relationships well.

www.catholicsteward.com/blog/

SEASON OF CREATION

The season is observed annually, and runs from September 1, the Day of Prayer for Creation, and through to October 4, the Feast of St. Francis, who is the patron saint of ecology in many traditions. The theme of this year's celebration is Jubilee for the Earth.

This season is a special time for the Creator and each other. Some of us pray, some of us do hands-on projects, some of us advocate. We all protect creation. The momentum continues long after the season ends. By seeding ongoing prayer, changes in lifestyle, and advocacy, the season grows hope in our communities each year. It's powerfully good work that's urgently needed!

Excerpt from joint statement issued by the presidents of The Council of Bishops' Conferences of Europe (CCEE) and the Conference of European Churches (CEC):

"This year, the COVID-19 pandemic revealed how deeply the globe is interconnected. We realised more than ever that we are not isolated from each other and that conditions related to human health and well-being are fragile. Impact of the pandemic forces us to take seriously the need for vigilance and the need for conditions of sustainable life throughout the earth. This is even more important when considering the environmental devastation and the threat of climate change."

For more information and ways to observe this season, please visit www.SeasonofCreation.org

Donations to Lebanon

If you have not already done so and wish to make a donation to assist those affected by the horrendous explosion in Beirut, you can make an online donation directly to Development and Peace – Caritas Canada. at <https://www.devp.org/en> As a member of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, Development and Peace will be participating in the matching fund launched by the Canadian Government and the Humanitarian Coalition to help the people of Lebanon.

LAUDATO SI' RETREAT: AN INTRODUCTORY IMMERSION

Saturday, September 12, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. EDT

The goal of the Laudato Si' Retreat is to help participants embark in this journey of "ecological conversion", to transform the way we relate to our Creator, all of Creation and our most vulnerable brothers and sisters.

The four-hour retreat will include reflections on the encyclical, guided meditation, interactive exercises, time for personal reflection and journaling, and small group reflection. We will experience three moments inspired by the encyclical:

Hear Creation's Song

Hear Creation's Cry

Answer Creation's Call

To register go to: <https://gccm.controlshift.app/events/laudato-si-retreat-an-introductory-immersion>

THE SPIRITUAL ROSARY PILGRIMAGE

A Biblical Journey through the Life of Christ with His Mother

Begins Sept. 8 – The Birthday of the Blessed Mother

Concludes Oct. 7 – The Feast of the Holy Rosary

4 weeks · 20+ Speakers · 5 Keynote talks

20 scriptural meditations – 1 for each of the mysteries of the Rosary.

Find out more and register here:

<https://www.parousiamedia.com/the-spiritual-rosary-pilgrimage/>