

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 24, 2025

Strengthen your drooping hands and your weak knees.
Make straight paths for your feet,
that what is lame may not be disjointed but healed.

-- Hebrews 12:12-13



Daily Mass

Week of August 25th – 29th

Monday: 8:00 Intentions: Isaac Pablo Matias
Tuesday: 8:00 Special Intentions
Wednesday: 8:00 Jack Robert Nelson+
Thursday: 8:00 Vicky Cotter+
Friday: 8:00 Owen & Zelda Burns+



Please remember the sick in our Parish, especially, Maria Corrales, Dan McDonald, Lorraine Heine-mann, Lisa Wemple, Sarah Wren, Marian Flandick, James Breen, Janet Laurent, Anil Siu, Peggy Del-son-Rini, Frank Rini and Cecilia Uyeda.

Weekly Collections

August 17, 2025

\$5,700.00

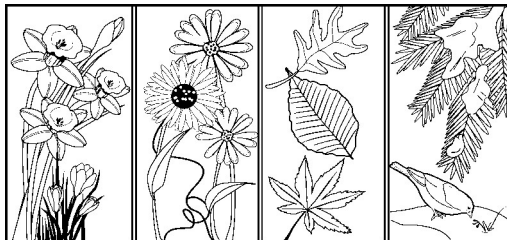


Our Parish would like to extend congratulations & best wishes to:

**Christine Elizabeth Flynn
&
Peter Ryan Hession**

who were married on Saturday, August 16th.

May all their lives be filled with happiness and joy.



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School's open!
Please drive carefully!



My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As I have shared with you before, the Gospel according to Luke is my favorite of the four gospels. His theological perspective and the themes that he emphasizes are compatible with my feelings about Jesus.

Luke paints a picture of our Lord that is com-
passionate, forgiving and encouraging. His uplifting style
makes his gospel a joy to read, that is most of the time.

Last week's gospel passage is an exception.

The tone of our Lord's message is both negative and harsh:

"Do you think that I have come to establish peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division."

These words of Jesus would seem more appropriate in the Gospel of Mark rather than in the Gospel of Luke; but, it is in Luke that we read them.

The fact that we find these words on the lips of Jesus in the most gentle of the four gospels challenges us to deepen our understanding of the cost of discipleship.

The invitation to live in relationship with our Lord is not all sweetness and light. There are times when being a disci-
ple is quite demanding and even painful.

Those of you who have come to know me, know that I would prefer not to reflect on this aspect of discipleship. But, this week's gospel will not allow me to ignore the fact that the Good News is sometimes Harsh News.

Love, Fr. Leo

Today's Readings

First Reading -- Brothers and sisters of every race and language will be brought to Jerusalem (Isaiah 66:18-21).

Psalm -- Go out to all the world and tell the Good News (Psalm 117).

Second Reading -- Strengthen your drooping hands and your weak knees (Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13).

Gospel -- People from east and west, north and south recline at table in the kingdom of God (Luke 13:22-30).

Faith Formation Begins Soon Register Now!

Religious education and sacrament preparation for kids in Kindergarten through 9th grade begins on Sunday, September 14th. Register before Monday, September 1st, for a \$25 discount. For more information about the program, please click on the Faith Formation tab on the Parish website at: <https://corpuschristipiedmont.org>. If you have any additional questions, contact Rebecca Pelle at: familyfaith@cc-parish.org.

Corpus Christi Men's Club Welcome BBQ!

The Men's Club is having its New Member Welcome BBQ and Cornhole Tournament for prospective and existing members. This free event happens on Friday, September 5th, starting at 5:00 p.m. on the Corpus Christi School Blacktop. If you are new to the Corpus Family and are wondering, "What is the Men's Club about," then this low-key and fun event is the ticket! Festive beverages are also provided. For more details and registration, go to: <https://www.ccmensclub.org/event>.

Upcoming Grief Support Ministry Meeting!

The Grief Support Ministry invites you to a gathering on Sunday, September 7th, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Gibson Center, to provide support during times of sorrow, whether from a recent loss of any kind, or one that continues heartache. It will be an opportunity to share stories in a safe environment, offer comfort to one another and provide ways to cope. All parishioners and their friends are welcome! If you have any questions, please call Helen Merkle at (510) 459-0690.

Reflections on the Reign of God!

A threefold message is developed in today's readings. First, everyone is called to proclaim God's glory and receive salvation. Second, salvation is not for the unprepared. Like a loving parent, God gently corrects and disciplines those who have been called. Often, suffering may be part of the formation process. We learn to accept it as Jesus once accepted his cross. Third, some people who are treated with contempt and disdain by the self-righteous actually do have a place in God's kingdom. We need to take these lessons to heart. Recall your initial excitement upon hearing God's word. How has the Good News that once struck your fancy taken deeper root in your life? Look again at the crosses you have been given. How are others transformed when they see how you have accepted and grown from your sufferings? Finally, are there some people you imagine as not invited into God's kingdom? Why do you feel this way about them? For a moment, imagine them on the inside and yourself on the outside. How can this be possible? Always try your best to enter by the narrow gate, gladly proclaiming God's glory.

Readings For The Week August 25th -- 30th

Monday: First Reading 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5, 8b-10;
Psalm 149;
Gospel Matthew 23:13-22

Tuesday: First Reading 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8;
Psalm 139;
Gospel Matthew 23:23-26

Wednesday: First Reading 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13;
Psalm 139;
Gospel Matthew 23:27-32

Thursday: First Reading 1 Thessalonians 3:7-13;
Psalm 90;
Gospel Matthew 24:42-51

Friday: First Reading 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8;
Psalm 97;
Gospel Mark 6:17-29

Saturday: First Reading 1 Thessalonians 4:9-11;
Psalm 98;
Gospel Matthew 25:14-30

Treasures From Our Tradition!

Eastern Catholic and Orthodox Christians share a love for the Byzantine liturgy because it is during the Eucharist that the Church is most true to its identity, expresses its integrity and discovers its vocation. Eastern Catholic and Orthodox Christians celebrate essentially the identical liturgy, with only very slight variations. It is a fairly complex ritual weaving together three separate layers of prayers: a liturgy prayed in the sanctuary by priests, often hidden by a curtain or screen; a liturgy sung by the assembly and led by a deacon in front of a screen formed of painted icons; and a third layer of private prayer by the priest, who prays in support of the deacon and the faithful. It is an eyes-wide-open experience, gorgeous in visuals, and filled with the sound of God's people singing prayer. The energy of the worship centers on the presence of Christ, largely through an awareness of heaven touching earth when the Church gathers to celebrate.

In the late twentieth century, Latin Rite Catholics were encouraged to embrace a style of worship that was "full, conscious and active," a value that has never been lost in the East. The liturgy has great impact in its beauty, in its poetry and contemplation, and by the actions of bowing, signing with the cross, and chanting that are required of the assembly. Contact with the Eastern Church reveals some key values that have been obscured in our own Church and are slowly being recovered.

Fragrant Forgiveness!

Forgiveness is the fragrance a violet sheds on the heel that has crushed it.

-- Mark Twain